On Sutton Court and Chew Magna.*

BY SIR EDWARD STRACHEY, BART.

SUTTON COURT is the Court or Manor House of the Manor of Knighton Sutton, which is one of the three Suttons (the others being Bishop Sutton and Sutton Wick) included in the territory of Chive granted by the so-called Charter of Edward the Confessor to Wells Church. It was called Knighton Sutton, or *Sutton Militis*, because held in knight's service, and not by base tenure as was Bishop Sutton, and John Strachey says he is inclined to think it consisted of the six hydes held, at the making of the General Survey of Domesday, by Robert, of the said Bishop, part of the said manor. There were,

* This paper, or its substance, was read by me at the request of the Members of the Society on the occasion of their visit to Sutton Court. It is now printed by the wish of the Committee; but while I am very sensible of the honour they thus do me, I fear that it cannot be of much interest to those to whom the place itself is unknown. A set of plans would also be required to make clear the successive alterations of the house, of which the latest were made by myself in 1858-60, under the directions of Thomas H. Wyatt, Esq., with as much care to preserve the old building as was consistent with the necessity of making it habitable.—E. S.

about 1737, six "livings" within the said tithing or manor, including the Court or Manor House. These are now (1867) reduced to Sutton Court, Sutton Court Lodge, Knighton Sutton Farm, and a cottage.

If John Strachey is right in supposing that Knighton Sutton was held by Robert when the Domesday Survey was made, there was probably at that date some dwelling where Sutton Court now stands. The earliest parts of the existing building are the Square Tower with turret stair-case, and the Great Wall. The Tower is built on the plan of the Peel Towers, with three rooms one over the other. The present entrance door-way has existed as long as I (E. S.) remember, but I found traces of a window having been there before the door. The ceiling beams between the ground and first floors are the original, at least they are older than the arch into the hall, as a portion has been cut out to make room for the arch. On the first floor there was a window in the west wall, and another of which the label remains in the same wall on the second floor. This label was taken down before I could prevent it, and it looks as though it had been replaced too high up. The room on the first floor had a plain ceiling with a wood cornice, entirely decayed, of the pattern of that now in the south porch. What remains of the Great Wall, belongs, I presume to the same date as the tower : in my childhood it returned on the east from the point at which it now ends to the end of the terrace, with large gates in the middle of that wall, and I suppose that it may have been continued all round the line now formed by the lower terrace walls, as these all follow the lines of old foundations of walls which in my childhood were much higher than now, and the two pillars at the steps leading to the south avenue are now only about one third of their then height, when

they had a gate corresponding to that in the north court, and no doubt the wall was in proportion to the gate in height. The lines of walls and gates, with others which have now disappeared, are laid down in John Strachey's plans. I found a considerable mass of foundations at the south east corner of the lower terrace, large enough for a tower, and there is an indication of some building there in one of those plans. I conjecture that "Building Bess," of Hardwicke, or Mrs. Baber, (of whom hereafter) may have cut down the old walls on the south in order to make them suitable for a terraced garden.

That part of the battlemented wall which now connects the coach house and laundry with the house, does in fact run into the house, forming the north wall of the kitchen and hall, and so meeting the tower.

In this tower then, and within the battlemented wall, probably lived William de Sutton, holding of the Bishop by knight's service, and who in the Michaelmas Term of the 16th year of Edward II, (A.D. 1322), pleaded that William, Le Parson's servant had trespassed in his Close, called Crondell's, and to which William replied that he was servant to the Rector of Stanton Drew, who had right of pasture there after the corn was carried off. And John Strachey, who quotes this record from the Placita, adds that "a Close of that name belongs [in his own day] to a tenement called Parsons', because the owner for many descents had that surname."

This William de Sutton, of whom we here get a glimpse, may have fought at Bannockburn, or in the civil wars which were now just over for the time; but when the Rector of Stanton Drew disputed his right to the pasture of Crondell's, after the knight had reaped his corn from it, the knight instead of resorting to the force

which in those disorderly days might have seemed the more obvious remedy against the parson's servant and the cows he was driving into the field, was content to sue him before the king's judges, like a peaceful citizen. Perhaps the parson gained the day, since more than four hundred years after the land was called "Parson's Tenement," and had been so long enough to give that surname to its possessors.

In 1346, on the aid of forty shillings on every knight's fee granted, 20th Edward III, for making the king's eldest son a knight, William de Sutton, probably the same William as had the plea twenty-four years before, is charged for half a knight's fee here, (which must have been his tower at Knighton Sutton,) which Walter de Sutton formerly held of the Bishop of Bath.

In 1429, Knighton Sutton had passed into the possession of the St. Loes, but whether by marriage or purchase is not known. For, Anno 7 Henry VI, by an Inquistion taken at Axbridge, John de Sancto Laudo is certified to hold that quarter of a knight's fee which William de Sutton formerly held.

This family of the St. Loes is said to take name from the town of St. Laud in Normandy, over the gates of which their arms were to be seen in the 17th century. When they came to England is uncertain, for their name is not in the Battle Abbey Roll, and though their arms were, when John Strachey wrote, within a Garter impaling Ancel in the roof of their aisle at Chew, yet, he says, neither Ashmole nor Hylan have their names among the knights or registers of that order. The first mention of them in this county is that, 47 Henry III, John de Sancto Laudo holds half a fee in Niweton and Puppelow. John de Sancto Laudo was sheriff of Dorset and Somerset

for six years, from 1284 to 1290, in Edward I's reign, and the lists of their manors show them to have been a great family. Their pedigree and arms are given by John Strachey, and he observes that St. Loe of Newton was he whom Leland calls Lord Seintelo, from a young brother of whom Sir John St. Loe of Sutton, was descended.

One of these St. Loes no doubt added the Manor House at Sutton Court to the Tower. The archway, as I have said before, was cut through the south wall of the Tower to connect it with the Hall. This connection made necessary some variation from the ordinary plan of the Tudor Manor House. The plan of the house as I recollect it, and indeed much of the house itself, must have been what it was from the first. In the Hall, the Minstrels' Gallery, of black oak, ran along the west wall: and below was one entrance door to the north, in a line with which the north avenue was planted, and a corresponding door with porch on the south. There was a large square-headed door into the kitchen near the south end of the west wall, and a pointed arch, (from which the present doorways in the hall are copied) in the same wall nearer the north-west corner. This latter opened into a narrow dark staircase, partly in the wall and partly projecting into the kitchen, which led to the gallery, and so into the rooms over the porch and kitchen, and to rooms to the north in a line with the tower. Part of the old roof timbers of the hall, black with smoke, but not carved, remained in my time, and a very large Tudor arch, extending almost from the present door to the archway in the north wall marked (and under the plaster still marks) the ancient fire-place. The present south porch I presume to have been originally the bay window of the Hall. The door is modern, but the two side windows are old. I found them built up in their pre-

sent places. The St. Loe arms, now inserted under the kitchen window, were found by me on the west wall of the kitchen, concealed by other buildings.

The original window of the panelled room adjoining was smaller than the present, and I found between the buttresses and the window a built-up doorway. The room itself would seem to be later than the south porch, as the porch window on that side has been blocked up by the room, within which it comes. That window is of red sandstone, not of Dundry stone as the other old ashlar work is, and is of very ancient character.

The plans of John Strachey, with my recollections of the house, and the plans made before my alterations, enable us to form a tolerable notion of what the house formerly was in many respects. The old roof, walls, floors, and ceilings, which were in great decay when I came to Sutton Court, must have been to a great extent those of the original Manor House. The stairs in the principal part of the house were solid blocks of oak, used as stone is now.

In 1518, 9 Henry VIII, Elizabeth, late wife of Thomas Sydenham, and second wife of Nicholas St. Loe, before she married Sydenham, is certified to hold this manor, which could be only in dower, or else as guardian to Sir John St. Loe, son of Nicholas, who died 24 Henry VII, 1509, seized, among other estates, of Levithie, Sutton, Camerton, Puckerston, Farmboro, Stoke, and Sincross of the Bishop.

Leland, who wrote about 1534,* came here by way of Pensford, which he describes as "a praty market towne,

* Hearne says (Preface v.) that Leland obtained the king's commission for the purpose of visiting all places containing records, in the 25th year of his reign, which would be 1534. But in the title by Burton in Hearne, Vol. i., p. 1., we read "begunne about 1538, 30 H. 8."

occupied with clothing: there comythe doun a Streme that ſervythe dyvers Tukkying Mills." He goes on :—"From *Pensford* to *Southetoune* Village. Here hathe *Ser John* Seint Lo an old Maner Place, 2 long Myles by Hylly and encloſyd Ground meatly well woddyd. Ser John Saynt Lo deſcendithe of a Yongar Brothar of the Lords Seint Lo, and hathe litle of his Lands. For the laſt Lorde Saint Lo lackynge Heyres Malle, the Land deſcendyd by Heires generall onto the Lord Hungerfordes and the Lord Botreaux.

"A good pece of Ser John Saint Lo Lands comythe to hym by De la Rivers Dowghtar and Heire, his Fathers Wyfe or Mothar.

"From Southetoune unto Chute a Myle and halfe by fayre encloſyd Ground. It is a praty Clothinge Towne and hathe a fayre Churche, and at the Southe Syde of the Churche is a fayre Maner Place of the Byſhope of Bathe.

"There be dyvers Paroche Churches there about that ones a Yere do Homage onto Chute theyr Mothar Churche.

"There hathe bene good makynge of Clothe in the Towne.

"Ser John St. Lo Graund Fathar lyethe in a goodly Tombe on the Northe Syde of the Churche."

Sutton Court then was an "Old Manor Place," when Leland, collecting by way of New Year's Gift to Henry VIII, his personal observations of the actual state of England, arrived there, riding from Pensford through the "enclosed fields and meetly wooded hills," which still remain as in the days of St. Loe. He appears to have stayed several days at Sutton, as he gives the distances from thence to the neighbouring places of which he describes the fair parks and woods, and dwelling-places, with a picturesque detail that shows that he was actually visiting them as he wrote. He tells us what no doubt Sir

John St. Loe told him of the family pedigree, visited the pretty clothing town of Chew, and its fair Church and Manor Place of the Bishop, and it may have been the sight of the several gates through which the daughter churches yearly sent their processions to the mother church (and which gates to the churchyard are remembered by inhabitants of Chew now living) that led him to mention the fact that they "yearly did homage unto Chute their mother Church." Then he rode to Midsomer Norton "by somewhat hilly and enclosed ground." He says, "I passed over a pretty brook a 2 miles or I came unto Northeton. It ran down on the left hand as I rode."*

It may have been three or four† years later that Sir John St Loe welcomed another guest to his Old Manor Place,—Hooper, afterwards Bishop and Martyr,‡ whose family were retainers of the St. Loes, and who now claimed his lord's shelter from the storm of the Six Articles, within the old towers, and the battlemented walls, and the meetly wooded hills round them.

Sir John St. Loe died 30th Henry VIII, 1539. His grandson Sir William St. Loe was Captain of Queen Elizabeth's Yeoman Guards, and Chief Butler of England, and first married a daughter of Mushamp, whose arms, three butterflies, were, (says J. S.) in Mr. Lyde's parlour at Sutton,—now the Knighton Sutton Farm-house.

He then married Elizabeth Hardwicke, afterwards called "Building Bess," and who had four husbands, Barlo, Sir W. Cavendish, Sir W. St. Loe, and George Earl of Shrewsbury. She built "2 stately rooms at Sutton," the Great Parlour,

* Hearne's Leland 1711, Vol. vii., pp. 84, 85.

† The Six Articles were enacted in 1539.

‡ My authority is a short notice of Hooper in a small quarto book of Martyrs, which I quote from recollection.

and the Chapel over it. The Great Parlour was a kitchen in my childhood, as it had been for about a century. It was wainscotted, with the now closed windows open to the north, with window-seats; and two smaller windows, to the east, instead of the present large one, which was put in by the second Sir H. Strachey. The Chapel, which was a drawing-room when the Parlour was a kitchen, is said to have been dedicated to St. John.* I found the remains of a carved oak roof which still exists, but so much decayed, mutilated, and patched, that I could not restore it. On the west wall of the chapel are the corbels which must have supported an external pent-roof to some form of gallery and stairs for entering the chapel. The external doorway now behind the south east buttress of the great parlour was removed by me from its original place as the doorway to the chapel, where it had been built up, just below the corbels. There was also a doorway built up in the north wall of the house, near the present entrance of the passage to the chapel, and which no doubt led to a gallery under the pent-roof. But of this mode of communication no traces were visible in my childhood, except the corbels and the chapel doorway high in the wall. There was probably a like communication below, as there were doors in the adjoining corners of the great parlour and the lobby, as may be seen in the drawings of the house before my alterations.

Over the chimney in the Great Parlour were the arms of St. Loe, with nine quarterings, and bearing the date 1558, and under written, "J. S. Margt S." Margaret St. Loe appears to have been the daughter of Fitz Nicholas and the mother of Sir William St. Loe. And it would

* The Rev. T. B. Johnstone of Clutton tells me that my father told him this.

seem as though this must have been *their* heraldic achievement, but put up in the great parlour by "Building Bess," with the date 1558, which was the year in which her husband Sir W. St. Loe died.

John Strachey says these arms were "formerly over the chimney, but given [I suppose by him] to Col. St. Lo of Little Fontmell, Dorset," the then living descendant of Sir W. St. Loe's brother Edward.

I suppose that "Building Bess" may also have panelled the dining room walls and put up the present carved oak chimney piece. The stone part is modern, its arch copied from one which I found behind a modern chimney piece in the little parlour. The little parlour and the lobby were wainscotted with the same pattern panel. The lobby had a double window seat, unhappily destroyed with the panelling.

Sir W. St. Loe disinherited his daughters by his first marriage, and gave his estates to "Building Bess," who gave this of Knighton Sutton among others to her second son Charles Cavendish, whose son was created Earl of Newcastle by Charles I. It is named in his wife's account of their estates. It was let on lives to Edward Baber, Esq., of Chew Magna: his widow (a descendant of the old Somersetshire family of Cross of Charlinch and Blackmore), afterwards purchased the reversion, and eventually left it to her son John by her second husband William Strachey, whose ancestors held lands in Saffron Walden, Essex, in the 4th Elizabeth. The name (Strech') appears in the Inquisitions of 46 Henry III, and 23 and 29 Edward I. Sir John Strachie, or Streeche, was knighted at the Investiture of Edward Duke of Cornwall, the Black Prince, in 1337, and in the 20th Edward III held Roynton, Sandford, and Athelardston. His son John was Sheriff of Devon in

1380, and of Dorset and Somerset in 1384, and bore the arms which the family still bear. His granddaughter Elizabeth married John Speke, of White Lackington in Somersetshire.

The picture over the Hall chimney piece is the Countess of Newcastle, with Mary of Orange, to whom she was governess. The pictures of Mrs. Baber and her son John Strachey are also among the portraits.

John Strachey was a friend of John Locke, whose father lived in the neighbourhood, at Belluton near Stanton Drew. In Lord King's life of Locke are several letters from Locke to John Strachey, of which Lord King says they "were probably returned to Locke after the death of the friend to whom they were written." They are written, two or three from Cleve in 1664, one from London and one from Oxford in 1665, and one from London June 15, 1667. The following passages refer to Sutton :—"Throw by this in some corner of your study, till I come, and then we will laugh together, for it may serve to recal other things to my memory, for 'tis like I may have no other journal."—"That private observation I have made [as to the apprehensions of a French invasion in 1665] will be fitter for our table at Sutton than a letter, and if I have the opportunity to see you shortly, we may possibly laugh together at some German stories : but of my coming into the country I write doubtfully to you, for I am now offered a fair opportunity of going into Spain with the Ambassador : if I embrace it I shall conclude this my wandering year; if not, you will ere long see me in Somersetshire."—"I write to you from London as soon as I came thither, to let you know you had a servant returned to England, but very likely to leave it again before he saw you—as I have the satisfaction that I hope shortly to see

you at Sutton Court, a greater rarity than my travels have afforded me: for, believe it, one may go a long way before one meet a friend. Pray write by the post, and let me know how you do, and what you can tell me of the concernment of

Your most affectionate friend,
J. Locke."

"The Dutch have burned seven of our ships in Chatham. It is said this morning the French fleet are seen off the Isle of Wight. I have neither the gift or heart to prophecy, and since I remember you bought a new cloak in the hot weather, I know you are apt enough to provide against a storm. . . . Things and persons are the same here, and go on at the same rate as they did before, and I, among the rest, design to continue

Your faithful friend and servant,
J. L."

John Strachey married Jane, daughter of George Hodges, of Wedmore, Elm, and Buckland. Their son John was the antiquarian, of whose map of Somerset and MS. Collections I have already spoken. He published two papers on the Coal Fields of Somersetshire in the Philosophical Transactions, 1719-25, on which he founded a Tract entitled "Observations on the different strata of earths and minerals, &c., 1727:" and in 1739 an "Index to the Records," which was the only book of the kind until the government publication of the Records now in progress. The Map of Somersetshire was engraved and published; but the History remains in manuscript, though in great part, if not entirely, written out fair for the press. The printed proposals for their publication are as follows:—

London, *July* 24. 1736.

PROPOSALS

For Printing by SUBSCRIPTION,

SOMERSETSHIRE

ILLUSTRATED;

IN

A *Topographical Deſcription* and a *Natural* and *Geographical Hiſtory* of that County.

By Mr. *STRACHEY*.

In the General Hiſtory is included ſome Account of the *Belgi*, *Cangi*, and *Britiſh* Inhabitants:

The Progreſs of the *Roman*, *Saxon*, and *Daniſh* Conqueſts in theſe Parts.

Their VALLA, particularly the Courſe of *Wandſditch*, the *Foſs*, and several other *Roman* and old Roads are traced:

Their Towns, Fortifications, Camps, and Temples deſcribed, and many of their Pavements, Inſcriptions, Coins, *&c.* explained.

The Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory of the Biſhopricks, Abbeys, Priories, Nunneries, Chantries, Hermitages, Free Chappels;

Containing the Lives of ſuch Prelates, Abbots and Churchmen who have made any figure in the Learned World. Particularly a compleat Liſt of the Biſhops of *Wells*, and Abbots of *Glaſton*, and of ſuch other Abbots and Incumbents of Churches as can be recovered.

The ſeveral DONATIONS and GIFTS to ſuch Houſes, and their DISSOLUTION, not only from printed Authors, but from the Archives and Regiſters of particular Churches and Pariſhes; and from other Manuſcripts.

The old and new *Valor Beneficiorum*, and their ſeveral Patrons and Dedications.

In the GENERAL DESCRIPTION are ſet forth the Bounds, Diviſions, Rivers, Soils, Perambulation of the Foreſts, Agriculture, Manufactures, Manners and Dialect of the People, the Markets, Fayres and Revels; the Sheriffs Turns, the Hundred and County Courts; an exact Liſt of the Rates and Proportions of each Diviſion and Tything to the Land-Tax.

In the TOPOGRAPHICAL Part is included the Genealogical Hiſtory of the antient Land-Holders, taken from *Dooms-day*, the *Red Book*, and many other Records of the Exchequer, *Leland*, *Cambden*, *Dugdale*; and ſeveral Corporation Charters, and Deeds in private Families, ſhewing their Alliances with moſt of the Nobility and Gentry in other Counties of *England*, and their Arms.

Interſpers'd every where with the NATURAL HISTORY of the Baths, Medicinal Waters, Earths, Minerals, Coal, Stone, Metals, and Foſſils; alſo of Animals; Remarkable Perſons, as Phyſicians, Lawyers, Poets, Writers, &c.

Following moſtly the Method of Sir *William Dugdale* in the Topographical and Genealogical Part, and of Dr. *Plott* in the Natural Hiſtory.

Subſcriptions are taken by Mr. LEAKE, at *Bath*; Mr. COSLY, at *Briſtol*; Mr. CODRINGTON, at *Bridgwater*; Mr. NORRIS, in *Taunton*; Mr. BROWN, in *Wells*; Mr. WICKHAM, at *Frome*; Mr. SENEX, in *Fleet-Street*; Mr. STAGG, in *Weſtminſter-Hall*, Bookſellers; the Rev^d. Mr. DODD, at *Charleton Mackerel*; Mr. WOODFALL, Printer, without *Temple-Bar*: And by the Author in the Country.

PROPOSALS.

THERE will be above 200 Coats of Arms of antient Families extinct, beſides thoſe of the Subſcribers to the Map and Book; which will be engraved and inſerted in the Places where their Families flouriſhed or had their Seats; And ſuch Subſcribers who have not their Reſidence in the County, ſhall have their Arms and Names in ſeparate Plates, as an Appendix.

Beſides which, there will be ſeveral Copper-Plates.

The Book is now ready for the Preſs, and will contain near 200 Sheets in Folio, on a very good Paper and the ſame Letter with theſe Propoſals. For which,

Half a Guinea to be paid at ſubſcribing, and one Guinea more on Delivery of a perfect Book in Quires. But if many more Memorable Materials ſhould be communicated whilſt the Work is printing, the Subſcribers are deſired on Delivery to pay one Shilling for every five Sheets added.

Whoſoever, for the embelliſhing this Work, ſhall ſend a Draft or View of their Seats, ſhall have it engraven in a Copper-Plate, and printed on a Sheet of the ſame ſize to bind up with this Volume, and a Duplicate by it ſelf to put where they think fit, at a Guinea and half for each Plate of a Sheet; and for a Church or Monument of their Anceſtors, Half a Guinea on a Half-ſheet. And any antient Coin, Antiquity or Curioſity, of leſs Size, ſhall be inſerted *Gratis*, with the Name of the Perſon communicating it. Of which, there will be ſeveral Copper-Plates.

The Map ſhall be divided into Sheets of the ſize of the Book, to be bound up with it in proper Places.

As a specimen of the History I give part of the account of Chew Magna, which was visited by the Members of the Society after leaving Sutton Court. A comparison with the corresponding account in Collinson will shew that several facts of antiquarian interest had been lost out of men's memories when the latter wrote, and probably this

may be a fair specimen of what would be found to be the case on a complete collation of the two Histories.

"CHEW. The River having passed by Stoke and Wally as before said runs on to Chew-magna or Bishops Chew, the first addition from being the Chief place or Capital of this hundred, the other appellation because it belonged to y^e^ B^p^ and was peculiarly appropriated to his Table.

"In Edw: The Confessor's Charter to Wells Church he confirms to them the Territory of Civve* L mansions in the villages of Littleton Hasele† Dundrig & the Thre Suđtunes—& in Doomsday its recorded—

"Ep: [Wellensis &c;] holds Chivv. he held it in ye time of King Edw: it contributed to the Publick as 30 hydes. There is 50 plough lands, there are 4 hides in demeasne 6 plowlands 14 Servi 30 Villani 10 borderers—Val: £30.

"Of the same Land Rich. holds of the Bishop v hides, Robert vi hides, Stephan' v hides, Aluric vij yard.

"Bishop Ralph de Salop [who presided between y^e^ years 1329 & 1336] appropriated this manor to the Bishop's Table, & Reserving the Tythes of the Demeasne Land, gave the remaining tythes to the Vicar whence it comes to be called a Vicarige endowed, and the Tythes of the Demeasne Land since called Overland from the alienation is p^d^ to the Lord of the Manor.

"'Chew,' saith Leland, 'is a pretty cloathing town, and hath a fair Church. There be diverse paroch Churches thereabout that once a year do homage to Chew, their

* cıþo & Cıþe

† Littleton is now but an house or two in Stone Tything, and Hazle was a large wood cut up not many years since in the Tything of N. Elm, perhaps North Wike adjoining might be the mansion of that Vill.

Mother Church.' It is a peculiar, & in its jurisdiction are the Churches of Stowy, Stoke, Norton Malereward, besides Dundry w^h^ is annexed to it.

"I have before mentioned a matrimonial Lic: granted by the Vic: of Chew to ye Curate of Stoke. I have seen likewise another old writing in the same gent's hands in the following terms:—'Universis pateat per presentes quod nos Officialis Jurisdictionis de Chew Venerab. Patris Dñi Rad. Bathoni Episc: Coñiſs. General. Audivim' computū Steph. White & Thomæ Executor. Test: Dñi Johs White nuper Rectoris Ecclæ de Ubbeleyâ defunct. & Invenim' dict Execut. bona dict defuncti benè & fideliter Administrasse. ipsos ab ulteriori comput'. Absolvim' & ab officio nostro dimissim' pr presentes dat apud Chew Calend. Octob: 1361'—I dont apprehend Ubly was within the Jurisdiction of this Peculiar but that this Commissary Gen: of the B^p^ was also official of this Jurisdiction, and acted in the former capacity.

"The Church is a large building of Three Isles, & seems to have been either rebuilt or thoroughly repaired in the time of Bishop Beckington, whose arms are dispersed in severall parts of it. But the North Isle was certainly founded principally by S^r^ John S^t^ Loe, grandfather to that S^r^ John who in Leland's time lived at Sutton, & whom he says with his Lady lyes there. S^r^ John lyes in armour, his head piece under his head, and a lyon at his feet, a broad collar of SS round his neck—his lady lyes on his Left Hand, both of a large stature, on an Altar Tomb wh formerly stood in y^e^ midst of the Eastern End of the Isle but is now removed to the corner. In the Wainscotted Roof of this Isle are carved 4 Escutcheons, 1. St. Loe. 2. St. Loe impaling Ancel, viz. a Saltire engrailed between 4 Lyons heads all within a garter.

3. Y^e^ 5 Wounds of our Saviour. 4. Bp. Beckington viz: his Rebus also, being a Beacon and a Tun, & near the N. dore of y^e^ same Isle 2 Palmers Staves in Saltire between 2 discipline whipps are in the Roof. St. Loe's arms are likewise over the Great Western Dore of the Belfry & on y^e^ outside of the South Isle & on the Church house. B^p^ Beckington came to the See 1443 & y^e^ same year dyed Alicia late wife of John St. Loe Esq^re^ as by a gravestone in y^e^ said Isle appears and on the same stone is cut Here lyeth the Body of Edw. Baber Esq^re^ of Sutton Court in this parish. he deceased 21 Ap. 1665 aged 80. This Isle is still maintained by the possessors of Sutton Court which shows that at the time of its building the St. Locs were resident there.

"In the Chancel are several gravestones of the family of Jones of Stowey, see forward.

"In the upper part of y^e^ S Isle is a family monument first to y^e^ mem: of Edw. Baber Serg^t^ at law who dyed 1578 & Catharine his Wife 1601. whose effigies are at length side by side, y^e^ Serg^t^ in his goun & coif. Francis Baber Esq, who dyed 1643 & Ann Whitmore his Wife who dyed 1650. & in the vault underneath is since interred Edw. Baber Esq^re^ who dyed 1713 & Florence da. of . Bourn Esq. his wife who dyed 17—.

"In a lower window of the said South Isle, as tradition goes, is the Portraiture of one Hautvil cut in oak armed cap a pee & leaning on one elbow cross legged. Of this person are an hundred fabulous tales, as that he was a Saracen, & saving the life of Sir John in y^e^ Holy Land was entertained by him & rewarded by him w^th^ y^e^ manor of Norton, which he taking for 2 little satisfaction called Malereward, but the truth is none of y^e^ family of St Loe were seated here so antient as the Holy War. Moreover

he seems himself by his effigies crosslegged to have been a K^{t} Templar, & of the family of Hautvill, sometime Lord of Norton Hautvil in this parish, as will be mentioned therein. Other ridiculous stories of his gygantick strength & of his Quoit do not deserve a Relation. By this lyes the body of a modern soldier Major Sam̃ Collins who from a private man gradually advanced himself by merit alone to 6 successive commissions in the same regiment of Horse, &c.

"In the South side of the Church the B^{p} had, as Leland calls it, a fair manor house. In my time there was a gallery standing crossing to the Church whence a Window opened to the South Isle, from thence, thro' a hollow which is now shut up, like a cubbord in y^{e} corner next y^{e} Chancel, the B^{p} or any of his family might see the Elevation w^{h} was the height of the devotion of those times without y^{e} trouble of coming into the Church—There was also another Long Gallery standing in my time, wainscotted with Cubbords or Presses for books in the Wainscot, & a fire-place at one end, which was the B$^{p's}$ Library or Study, all which were taken down by Edw: Baber, Esq. about y^{e} year 1698, & nothing of the old building but the Gate-house is now remaining, but there is out of it a good appartment with kitchings & other conveniences erected but only serves for the Farmer who rents the Demeasnes which Demeasne Lands lay chiefly in the Tythings of Knowle & North Elm, & by the accoumpts of John More, Steward there, 8 H. 8. to B^{p} Adrian de Castello the rents of Assize amounted to £31 16s. 6d. the rent of Overland £28 7s. 3½d. referring to the like Account ma y^{e} 24. H. 6. & with Services & additional proffitts 54. 7d. corn, hay, & grass sold with Works & Services &c. £32 10s. 7½d."

Att Wells Assizes
Augst 14th 1716

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT TO PREVENT THE UNNECESSARY CHARGE OF SHERRIFFS.

We whose names are hereunto written observing that notwthstanding a Statute made in the 14th year of King Charles the Second to prevent the unnecessary and unlawful Charge of Sherriffs, yet such persons as have been Sherriffs since that time in the County of Somerst. have been att great Expences Contrary to the said Law, wch we suppose to have proceeded from the apprehensions they have had that those that should begin the reformation might be liable to Censure as men more avaritious than those who preceded in the said office So that for want of good Example the law is Contemned and broken.

(1 First it is therefore agreed by all the persons whose names are hereunto subscrib'd, that no one of the sd persons when he is made Sherriff of the sd County have above thirty livery men nor under twenty for his attendance att the assizes or any other place in the County where his presence shall be required of wch number the livery men wch are to be provided by such Gentlemen as are Subscribrs to these articles shall be part.

(2 Secondly that when any of the sd Subscribrs shall be made Sherriff of the sd County the livery shall be a plain Cloth Coat or Cloak and lined thourough wth Serge a black Staff Edg'd and Sutable javelin wch livery shall serve any other of the sd Subscribrs who shall be afterwards Sherriff, Except the said livery has been made use of three severall years, and then any Subscribr who shall be made Sherriff if he thinks fitt may have a new livery, and ev'ry Subscriber shall accordingly provide for him by Information given by letter from the sd Sherriff according as it is more largely expreſs'd concerning the method for the first Sherriff who shall be of the sd Subscribrs in the fifth Article.

(3 Thirdly no Subscribr being made Sherriff shall by himself or under Sherriff keep any table or bear any mans Expences att his or their ordinary more than their own and Servants.

(4 Fourthly that when any one of the sd Subscribrs shall be made Sherriff of the sd County ev'ry other of the sd Subscribrs shall appear wth one man habited in such livery as aforesd to attend such Sherriff and meet the judges att the aſsizes for the sd County and shall constantly dine wth the sd Sherriff att his ordinary and bear his own and Servants Expences during the whole aſsizes, wch ordinary (bespoke by the sd Sherriff) shall not exceed four shillings for meat beer and ale (all wine to be paid for by those that call for it) nor the Servants Ordinary above twelve pence, and in case any of the sd Subscribrs shall be hindered by any occasion from giving such attendance that then he shall send some other Gentleman to represent him and do in all things as he ought to have done if personally present.

(5 Fifthly for making the attendance on the s^d Sherriff as equall and inexpensive as may be to all the Subscrib^rs. It is agreed that the number of Subscrib^rs shall be equally divided into two Columns those in the first Column to attend the Sherriff att the winter aſsizes and those in the second Column to attend the Summer aſsizes and those that attend the winter aſsizes the first year shall attend the Summer aſsizes the next and So (vice versa) for ev'ry year. And whosoever of the s^d Subscrib^rs shall be first made Sherriff shall divide them into Columns as afores^d and Shall send a Copy of these articles w^th the Columns so divided to Evry Subscriber and shall signifie unto him where the Cloth and Trimming for his livery may be had and shall take such further care that for the Conveniency of Each Subscrib^r it may be bought at some Convenient place for all. Provided that no divisions shall be made into Columns untill the number of Subscribers do Equall or Exceed the number of thirty.

(6 Sixthly it is further agreed that when any Subscriber shall be Sherriff upon notice given by him to the other Subscrib^rs they shall send their Livery Servants to attend him upon any urgent occasion whatsoever w^ch may fall out in the County where such appearance of his and such attendance may be required.

(7 Lastly it is agreed that when any Subscrib^r shall be made Sherriff he shall conform himself in all things according to the Act of Parliament for the restrayning the Exceſsive Charge of Sherriffs. And further it is agreed by the Gentlemen that shall subscribe these present Articles, that if the number of Subscrib^rs hereto shall att any time exceed the number of thirty then those Gentlmen that have Serv'd as Sherriffs before the time of their Subscription shall be excus'd. And that the agreement shall comence and be in force from the time of the Date first w^thin written as to all the present Subscrib^rs hereto. And for the future from the time of Evry other Subscrib^r Setting his name hereunto, and that the Day of such future Subscriptions shall be added to each future Subscrib^rs Name.

Ja Lyde	Geo: Balch
Geo Speke	Samuel Clarke
Jepp Clarke	Jo: Jones
Tho Coward	Jo: Strachey
Joseph Browne	Ed Ryder
Wm Peirs	Geo Musgrave Jn^r
Henery Strode	Francis Newton
Wm Applin	

(From a Manuscript in the possession of Sir E. Strachey, Bart.)