

## The Story of Newton Mrs Bean

When Mrs Warner urged me to look into the history of Newton, I didn't think there would be anything to look into, and my naturally slothful nature put off doing anything about it. But during the time we had no Rector, I had occasion to look into the Church Chest, where music had been stored and found a brown paper parcel at the bottom with the paper, well and truly nibbled by mice. It was a complete set of Parish Overseers' accounts, from 1685-1840. Then Mr Arthur Vince found the tithe map behind the coach house door at the Rectory and brought it to me. So I thought I had got something to start on.

The history of Newton does not begin with the River Box. If you scratch East Anglia you uncover Rome and before Rome you would find inhabitants stretching back and back in time.

But the first written reference begins alongside the River Box in the Great Survey of 1086; The Domesday Book.

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D7334976>

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D7334967>

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D7317986>

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D7335028>

Newton was a Saxon settlement for protection from the Danish threat, as its Saxon name suggests - 'Neutun' - Newtown or Fort.

Domesday book says 'Neutune' or 'Neutuna' or 'Niwetuna'.

*Names: Arnold; Beorhtmaer, free man; Leofsunu, free man of Archbishop Stigand; Miles; Miles de Belefol; Ralph; Sigeric, free man; Warenger,*

*Adelund; Arnulf; Peter; Ralph; Ralph the Fat; sokemen*

*Men of Alwine; Beorhtmaer, son of Cwengifu; Godric, free man of Earl Harold TRE; Miles de Belefol; Ralph; Ranulf, brother of Ilger; Roger de Rames*

*Aelfric, free man of Earl Harold; Uhtred, man of Earl Harold*

The other bit of evidence is in the Geological map of the district and the historic fact called the Invasion of the Danes.

In your imagination do away with the roads and buildings and grow a forest from the Green to Edwardstone and from Goldings to Assington and you will have a fair idea of our village in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century or perhaps earlier.

If you look at the map you will see that Newton is a sort of knot of highish land between the valleys of the Stour and Box in a clay belt having a strip of heathland - light soil - dividing it into a big and little bit, sloping towards the Box from the Goldings end. The rainfall is low, the supply of water is spasmodic and hangs about on the flat land in wet weather and drains off towards the Box by a winter stream, which dries up in the summer and is liable to be a trouble in winter. The heavy clay land will support good grain but the green soon looks parched.

[https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/Data/Sites/1/media/atlas/atlas\\_saxons.pdf](https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/Data/Sites/1/media/atlas/atlas_saxons.pdf) Map early saxon 1575



Newton was a Saxon settlement for protection from the Danish threat, as its Saxon name suggests Neutun - Newtown or Fort.

When the Danes started making life difficult for the Saxons some people retreated further up the valley of the Box into the higher forest land, perhaps by crossing of the ford from Edwardstone and certainly up the river in canoes from Boxford to Sayham Hall.

Stand on Boxford Lane and just beyond Rogers Lane and look across to Edwardstone, turn a shade to the left and look towards Rogers and between Boxford Lane and Rogers' lies the Sayham Hall valley. You can see the dip beyond the sugar beet.

The map marks springs along this tributary valley so even if the stream was a winter flow the springs would keep running. Here is a good place to settle: high land commanding a route through the forest, and a water supply. Take away the farm from the valley and build some wooden shelters on the higher land and there you have the first Newton settlement of Saxon times.

Now stand by the gate opposite Trotts and look towards the tower of Newton Church; someone pushed on up the little valley until they reached the top. The 200ft contour line runs up to a point near Newton Hall and the Church. Through the forest they came to scrubby land, with I suppose, rabbits galore, easy to dig and water not very far down; the high land was a good place for a lookout, you could see anyone coming. That makes two settlements.

What about the ones who came across the ford? It would be worth getting up the hill on the other side. A perfect place. The Dane would wholly get it if they got past the Sayham Hall fort (Rogers' as it is now) This may all be imagination but look at the map and consider the position in 1066 and 1086. The Great Survey gives all the details of 33 parishes and 118 manors in the Hundred of Babergh. You can see how close the manors were together if you look across the fields.

They had a settled, if an intricate method of government, built up after the peace with the Danes. Canute had established the Benedictines at Bury in 1020 and Edwards the Confessor had endowed the Abbey in 1043. The survey notes the number of inhabitants and their status, and the state of agriculture in the manors with its valuation for tax and its measurements. Many of the manors were provided for spiritually with a church endowed with a living and clergy who combined the clerical and spiritual duties.

After 20 years of Norman rule, Sayham Hall is rated higher than Newton Hall (Hall means there was a manor house with the necessary land and the people to cultivate it). There are two references to a church in Sayham and none in Newton. Had the Saxon church at Newton burnt down - they were all of wood and thatch - or was it a clerical error?

Then the man with 20 acres of free land at Sayham, maybe a sort of sub manor, half under the Lord of Sayham and half under the Abbot, but independent of both to a certain extent - was this Rogers?

A topographical dictionary of England - Newton Hall

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-dict/england/pp409-413a#h3-0014>

### Newton-Near-Sudbury (All Saints) (1848)

**NEWTON-NEAR-SUDBURY** (*All Saints*), a parish, in the union of **Sudbury**, hundred of Babergh, W. division of **Suffolk**, 3¼ miles (E.) from **Sudbury**; containing 443 inhabitants. It comprises by measurement 2197 acres, of which 40 are common or waste: the soil is various, but chiefly a rich loam on gravel; the surface is pleasingly undulated, and a small brook flows through part of the parish. The living is a rectory, valued in the king's books at £17. 3. 9., and in the gift of St. Peter's College, Cambridge. The church has some remains of Norman architecture.

The Great Survey was a thorough census made possible by this system; known as the Feudal system. All land was the King's ultimately - it is still the Queen's if you delve into the question, because the land can only be private property up to a point - so the Crown is a safeguard. The King was responsible for the defence of the land, so he gave out regions to the great Lords, the tenants in chief, who promised to stand by him. They in turn let out the land to the men who would both cultivate it and pay him back in service and food.

At the time of the conquest in 1066 Newton Hall was under the Abbot, and Sayham Hall was under the tenant in chief Harold and at his death, it became vacant i.e. it had no tenant in chief.

<http://www.thekingscandlesticks.com/webs/pedigrees/2795.html>

EDWARD ALSTON was Lord of Sayham, Sayme, or Siam Hall, as it is now called, in Newton, near Sudbury, in the Hundred of Babergh, Co. Suffolk. The eldest son of William Alston of Newton, Edward became on his father's death the head of the family, and by the death of his brothers William and Robert,

without issue ?, the sole continuator of the main stock.

When and how he acquired the Manor of Seyme Hall, which does not seem to have been possessed by his father, is not known. However notes from an unnamed Newton historian in the possession of E L Fenn NZ, quoting from the Domesday book in Manors of Suffolk pg 175, say "from Domesday we learn that the Manor of Siam was held by Huthred under the tenent in chief, Harold, in Edward's time . . . . . It is interesting to note that Huthred was still holding the Manor under Ralph de Limesi

. . . . . It seems the Lordship passed down peacefully with the descendants off Ralph de Limesi as tenant in chief, the next date is abt 1550 when it was bought by Edward Alston son of William Alston of Newton Hall and grandson of John Alston of Newton . . . . .".

The Manor was held of the King as of His Honour of Clare by Knight's Service, it was destroyed by fire in 1959 whilst undergoing repairs.

## William ALSTON of Newton SFK [2819]

- Born: Abt 1485, Newton SFK
- Marriage: Ann (Elizabeth) SYMONDS [2820] about 1506 in Newton SFK
- Buried: 30 Jan 1564, Newton Nr Sudbury SFK

William was a prosperous landowner, resident upon and cultivating a considerable estate. His will is dated 18 Oct 1563, and was possibly made at the onset of an illness which proved fatal. In it he left the lease of the Manor of Newton to his son William, who however died in the same year. It was proved PCC 23 Oct 1567, and is the earliest Alston will from the PCC that Cresswell could locate at Somerset House.

The Lay Subsidy (Tax) return for Suffolk dated 1568 mentions William Alston of Newton worth 10 pds in goods to pay 8/4d tax.

### Manor of Newton Hall.

In 1538 is found amongst the Bodlean Charters (30 Hen VIII., Bodl. Ch. 358) a lease for 21 yrs by Margaret Pole the Countess of Sailsbury to William Alston of Newton of this manor, there called "Newton Manor al. Newton Hall" Probably the lease only related to lands held of the manor or the lease was an attempt by the countess to exercise a right of ownership.

There is however amongst the Chancery Proceedings of Queen Elizabeth in 1598 a claim made under a lease brought by Henry Wynterfludd against William Alston snr and jnr to messuages in Newton holden of Thomas Barrowe as of his manor of Newton Hall in Newton by William Houge who granted the lease in question

### The Manors of Suffolk pg 174

Its Lord was Huthred, Newton's was Aelous. They both continued in their manors because William 1<sup>st</sup>, confirmed the Abbot as tenant in chief and gave Sayham Hall to his kinsman Ralph De Limesi with 39 other manors and he kept his tenants. Sayham Hall after a time went to the Peytons, whose name is associated with Boxford, Edwardstone and Waldingfield as well as Newton and eventually after 400 years came to the Alston family.

The next part of the story focuses on the late middle ages, and is told around the Manor of Newton and its Church. If the Saxon church had disappeared another was built sometime between 1086 and 1150 for there is still a bit of it remaining.

In 1199 Jocelyn the Almoner witnessed a deed by which Abbot Sampson bestowed certain income for the upkeep of a hospital 'St Saviour's' in Bury St Edmunds. This was two thirds of the demesne tithes of various manors, of which Newton was one. The priest in charge at that time only had a third of the living.

In 1250 the Manor reverted to the Crown in the reign of Henry III. Newton has been a Rectory since that time. Henry III was succeeded by his Son Edward Ist, of the first Parliament fame and he, or his tenant in chief gave Newton to a John De Mose, who was there by 1285. He must have set to work on restoring the Church as well as the manor. This work went on until the early 14<sup>th</sup> century when it was ready for re-consecration.

1309 is the date of the first Rectory of the new Church. We must imagine the manor as a collection of wood and thatched buildings within a wall or fence and a mound formed by digging out a moat. The church was near at hand on another mound. The church could have been completely restored in the new style, as it is now, but the old manor buildings went long ago, which is not surprising, even though they took the precaution of scattering the buildings with the kitchen well away from the hall. Fire was a constant enemy with all that wood and thatch.

All that is left of Newton Manor is the site - the suggestion of the moat in the duck pond, the dip in the road and the ups and downs near the Church.

John de Mose set about establishing his family in Newton but died before his sons were old enough to inherit. This meant they had to be in ward. Enter Peter de Campis or Peter de Hethe.

The young John died early - married but with no children and his brother Thomas became the Lord of the Manor. John's widow, Ada married the son of Peter de Campis and Peter de Campis himself claimed the right of presentation to the newly consecrated Church in 1309 on account of his guardianship of John, and Ada took a third of the manner in dower as his widow.

The re-consecration of the Church place with all the usual ritual and Gilbert of Wratting was inducted to the living. The old Norman doorway remained in the north side but they went in by the new south door, where the consecration cross had been made. The windows were filled with new Flemish glass and there were new wall paintings. The East window was just east of the little niches by the priest's door. That was the piscina then. The tombs were not there and neither was the porch or the present font. The floor was lower so that you had to go up steps to the Chancel. You could get up to the screen by a little stairway behind the chancel arch. There was a holy water stoup just inside the south door - you can see the trace of it still. The tower was a trouble then, and still is.

Note: The tomb in the south side of the nave may be Ada or and more likely Margaret daughter of Thomas de Mose wife of william de Butvilley.yn.

Gilbert Wratting lived only a year and during the next Rector's ten year incumbency Thomas de Mose had married again and died and his daughter and heir was Margaret. She married William de Butvilley.yn whose arms are in the south window by the lady altar. He came from Flixton and no doubt there are records of him there.

At about the same time (1285) John de Mose took over the manor of Newton and we hear of a Robert Carbonell who held land in Newton and Waldingfield.

The Butlers, deBures, Greys and Peytons all had land in Newton and there had been a constant swapping and purchase of land and rights so as to get rid of isolated bits and consolidate estates.

Just as manors were a source of income, so were heiresses, they carried their inheritance to their husbands and as widow they kept thirds of estates in dower.

This happened in the person of Christiana Latimer. She married, being her father's heir, and survived her third husband Thomas de Mose of Newton Hall. Her first husband was John Carbonell of Waldingfield, who was dead by 1302 leaving her with two sons. She then married de Bosco

of Assington. By the time she married Thomas de Mose, she must have been very wealthy. She was the step mother of Margaret de Mose.

Christiana left her wealth to Alice Carbonell (her granddaughter of her 2<sup>nd</sup> son John) of Waldingfield. Her elder son William held the Carbonnell manor at Waldingfield and her step daughter (Margaret de Mose to become Butvilleyne) held the Newton Hall Manor.

It is alleged that Alice married Ralph Butler.

Margaret Butler (Butvilleyne) appears to have inherited in 1393 and seems to have been a widow or unmarried. Butlers went to another branch of the family in 1410.

All Newton Butler property and that of Waldingfield eventually came to rest in the Crane family through the marriage of the next inheritor of Butlers. The Cranes settled at Chilton Hall and held the manors of Chilton, Waldingfield and Newton Butlers.

TOMB

NAVE

The lady in the nave could be Ada (1310) or Christiana de Mose (1325/30) or even Margaret de Butvilleyne (1330/40).

It was found during restoration work in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. With the exception of the Butler tomb and the porch the church was finished by 1320-30 - the chancel was lengthened and a new East window, the sedilia and piscina. Fragments of the early glass remain in the south window of the nave.

The 14<sup>th</sup> century was full of disturbance and change. There was also over population, famine, pestilence, war and unrest. The plough teams moved up and down the big fields behind Newton Hall, Butlers and Sayham Hall. If you want to know what they looked like go around the church and look at the window corbels. There are pictures on the Luttrell Psalter with the men and women working in the fields. They get in the harvest, they ploughed and sowed. At Sammas they drove down the cattle to Shafford



meadows and brought it back at Martinmas to kill and salt for the winter. Their wooden houses burnt down but it didn't take long to put up another two roomed hovel. They lived in acute discomfort with a complete lack of privacy and the death rate was appalling. They were a quarrelsome and litigious lot, but they had respect for the King's commissioners; (except Christiana, she was alleged to have pushed John de Welnetham in a pit and jumped on him, and he was the King's representative forsooth).

There was an outbreak of sorts between Newton Hall and Greys Hall. There was a lot of land transference particularly at Sayham Hall. The second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century is a bit obscure. The Black Death of 1349-50 makes a cleavage. It brought down the population and such a sudden cataclysm disturbed the economic pattern and led to great unrest.

So far as Newton was concerned the upheaval had already taken place - the de Mose - Butvilley era was over and de Bohm, Earl of Northampton became Lord.

For the next 30 years, there is litigation about the manor and adversary of the church. Eventually, Newton Hall came to rest in another woman Maud or Matilda Francys, daughter and heir of Sir Adam de Francys - a wealthy Londoner moving in court circles.

Another heiress, another 3 marriages and a 100 years of political upheaval and civil war.

Newton lost one Lord after another during that 100 years. Maud married 3 times, and her third husband was the Earl of Salisbury, who lost his head on behalf of Richard II. Maud got the manor back after a time.

Manors were still important, the people paid their rent in food and work although money was beginning to replace the work bargain. People went on working on the land in spite of the Peasants Revolt and the march on London and Simon of Sudbury's head being stuck up on London Bridge.

Maud brought up her son and stepson, and Newton came eventually to the stepson's daughter. The title of Salisbury was revived in her husband

and the Salisburys held the manor until Henry VII seized the crown after the battle of Bosworth.

#### THE PULPIT

Richard Moody made his will on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1466. He and his family worshipped at the church. Although he left no money to build a pulpit, it seems that his family daughter Margery, son in law Thomas Salmon, grandchildren Richard and Letitia Salmon, daughters Agnes, and Margaret felt that in his memory a pulpit would be provided. The pulpit invites us to 'Pray for the souls of Richard Moody and Letitia his wife'. There would be no better symbol of the indestructibility of faith in the long run, than that pulpit which has withstood time, intolerance, apathy and violence. It is a rebuke to those who would despise the past, sentimentalise over it or imbue it, with a goodness it did not have. It reminds us of the part that ordinary people have played in the history of our Parish in performing their daily duties, in work and home and church. It helps to create that atmosphere in our church of which even complete strangers become conscious and I can't help thinking that Richard Moody really had the last word 'Pray for the souls of Richard Moody and Letitia his wife'.

Not a single house remains in Newton earlier than that of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. What does remain is the land, with the tradition of work on it, the skill in cultivating it handed down from generation to generation as men have found a better way of doing the same thing times out of number.

The sites of houses remain in the holdings of small tenements on which house must have succeeded house. The spiritual life has been handed down in like manner in a continuity that has withstood the passion and prejudice of passing generations. And there stands the pulpit looking back to the past and also to the future.

#### THE WAR OF THE ROSES

The Manor of Newton was held by Warwick the Kingmaker. Butlers in Newton was included in the manors of the Cranes of Chilton and about this time the present building of Chilton Hall took shape, the moat being the last, probably to be dug in these parts.

At the death of Warwick the Kingmaker, the manor was given by Richard III to Queens College Cambridge, which has been founded by the wife of Henry VI.

Henry VII took it back and later we find it again in the Salisbury family in the person of Warwick's granddaughter Margaret de la Pole, Countess of Salisbury. She was 'the' Meg, friend of Catherine of Aragon and governess of Princess Mary. Her story brings little credit to the Tudors - being one of the judicial murders on a trumped up charge. She touches the history of Newton when a year or so before her execution she leased part of the land of Newton Hall to William Alston.

This is the first mention of the Alston family who occupy the chief place in the village in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Alston came from Middleton and I think the first freehold property of the family in Newton, was then tenement known as Priors, since it is the subject of the charity of his son.

We now come to the time when we can actually see some of the history of our village as we go about our own job of making history.

Some of our oldest houses were built or re-fashioned in the Tudor period. These houses came down the social scale in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and are now on the way up again. In fact they are now almost a status symbol.

The next source of information is the Parish Records, the contents of the Parish Chest - Parish accounts, registers and the charities - the customs adhered to in the memory of our older inhabitants.

### The Alstons

The Alston story covers the period roughly from 1538 to the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century - 200 years.

William Alston of Middleton, leased part of Newton Hall when he occupied Sayham Hall. His son William, left 10/- endowment to the poor of Newton on Priors.

Sayham Hall was of the Honour of Clare at that time and I think Priors may have been a part of it and came into the market at the time of the dissolution that is, it was not part of the Manor.

Edward Alston, son of the second William left a similar charge on Burchetts. This was in accordance with the policy of the time in dealing with the state of the poor, after the upheaval caused by the change over in church agreement.

The Alstons Charities were administered by the Church. This was by law - there were penalties against indiscriminate alms giving to protect the public against the 'sturdy rogues and beggars' you know 'hark, hark the dogs do bark'.

The Alstons spread over the farmland of Newton, Boxford, Assington and Lavenham farming the land providing ministers for the church and marrying their daughters into similar families. They later acquired knighthood and this accounts for the ten stars which may be seen on one of the slate slabs in the chancel where they are all buried.

But Newton, unlike Assington never had a 'big house' of the aristocracy. The Hall was a yeomans farm. There was never a resident justice of the peace, you had to go to Boxford or Melford.

The Alstons were chairmen of the vestry by virtue of being the Rector of the Parish, or church wardens in their turn by being chosen by the vestry. They seem to have been modest and level headed, hard working people and they held the fort in Newton Church through the most dangerous and difficult period in the history of the church, which came in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when it was in danger from the passion and prejudices, the ignorance of the Commonwealth and the excesses of the Civil War.

The Alstons gave the church some silver in 1628.



## The Manors of Suffolk 1905 by W A Copinger transcription

### NEWTON HALL MANOR.

This was given by Theodred Bishop of London to St. Edmunds, and belonged to the Abbot, as we have seen at the time of the Domesday Survey when Aelons held it of him. In 1285 it was held by John de Moese and passed to his son and heir John. On his death in 1308 a third part went to his widow Ada in dower and she remarried William de Pappworth. On Ada's death the whole passed to her first husband's brother and heir Thomas de Moese at whose death it went to his daughter and heir Margaret. In 1316 the manor was vested in Sir William de Botevilleyn or Butvillein who was married to Lady Julian and on his death the manor passed to his son and heir Thomas. A William de Blunvill had had a grant of free warren in Newton as early as 1267.\*

In 1345 Thomas sold the manor and advowson by fine to William de Bohun Earl of Northampton and Elizabeth his wife. This William de Bohun was one of the heroes of Cressy and was a distinguished person in the stormy times in which he lived. He was created Earl of Northampton the 17 March 1337 upon the advancement of the Black Prince to the Dukedom of Cornwall. The Earl was installed a Knight of the Garter and held several important offices in the State. His wife Elizabeth was a daughter of Bartholomew de Badlesmere one of the coheirs of her brother Giles and widow of Edmund de Mortimer. In 1354 a fine was levied of the manor and advowson by Peter Fanelore against this William de Bohun and Elizabeth his wife, the same being then held apparently by William de Clopton for life, 3 and in 1359 another two other fines were levied, the first of the manor and advowson and the second of the manor alone by Adam Fraunceys, Thomas de Langeton chaplain and Gregory Fanelore against Peter Fanelore, 4 and by Gregory Fanelore against John Osckyn, John Barton and Thomas de Langham chaplain, 5 and the manor and advowson became

vested in Adam Fraunceys afterwards Sir Adam. From Sir Adam the manor seems to have passed to Peter Fanelore, for he certainly held in J 373 as amongst the Ancient Deeds in the Record Office is a Bond of this Peter Faneloure to Sir John Milys on account of a loan with note endorsed for voidance on Peter securing to Sir John lands in Newton, a rent in his

1 Dora. ii. 360. Feet of Fines, 33 Edw. III. 8.

' Chart. Rolls, 51 Hen. III. 4. ' Feet of Fines, 36 Edw. III. 21.

J Feet of Fines, 28 Edw. III. 27.

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manor there and the advowson of Newton Church bought by him from Peter. 1 And in the same depository is a deed actually effecting a transfer by Peter Fanelore to Sir John Milys therein described as of Clissley, parson of Bradewell, of lands and rents in the Manor of Newton with the advowson of Newton Church. 2

A Parliamentary Petition relating to the manor by Peter Fanelore is referred to in the 34th Report of the Deputy Keeper. 3 Whether Peter was son or brother of Sir Adam Fraunceys does not appear to be clear, but on the death of Peter the manor appears to have passed to Sir Adam's daughter Maud who married 1st John Aubrey, 2nd Sir Alan Buxhull, knt. K.G., and 3rdly Sir John Montacute Earl of Salisbury. By her 2nd husband Sir Alan Buxhull, knt. Maud Fraunceys would seem to have had a son also called Sir Alan Buxhull for we find a settlement of this manor made by him as late as 1436. The father Sir Alan Buxhull must have died before

1383- .

Sir John de Montague the 3rd husband of Maud was, as Dugdale says,

" a great favourite of the King ; he was one of those whom that monarch [Rich. II.] suborned to impeach Thomas of Woodstock Duke of Gloucester as also the Earls of Warwick and Arundel in the ensuing Parliament." He was appointed Marshal of England in the absence of Thomas Holland Duke of Surrey at the time employed in Ireland. " It is reported of this Earl," says Dugdale, " that though upon the deposal of King Rich. II. (to whom he had been most obsequious) he had such fair respect from King Henry IV. that his life was not brought in question ; nevertheless he confederated with the Earls of Huntingdon and Kent in designing his destruction, and accordingly came with them to Windsor Castle, under the disguise of Christian players with purpose to murder him and his sons, and to restore King Richard. But finding that their plot was discovered they fled by night to Cirencester in the county of Gloucester. Whereupon the townsmen, being much affrighted at their coming thither with such numbers at such unseasonable time, stopping up all the avenues, to prevent their passage out, there grew a sharp fight betwixt them, which held from midnight until three of the clock next morning, so that being tired out, they yielded themselves desiring that they might not suffer death till they could speak with the King, which was granted ; but that a priest of their party setting fire to the town to give them an opportunity for escape so irritated the inhabitants that (neglecting to quench the fire) they brought them out of the abbey in great fury and beheaded them about break of the day." The Earl was one of the most zealous of the sect called " Lollards," and on his death the 5 Jan. 1400\* he was attainted and his estates forfeited. 3

It is true that the King restored some portion of the forfeited estates to his widow and children, and his son Thomas de Montague was subsequently restored and regained the title. The manor does not seem to have been forfeited, possibly because the inheritance of the Earl's wife, for we find that in 1425 Maud, the Earl's widow, was still in possession, and in that year died seised both of the manor and the advowson. 6 On her death the manor passed to Sir Alan Buxhull her son by her second husband, and therefore her heir. Davy makes Thomas the next Earl of Salisbury the party to whom the manor passed, but this was evidently a guess, as he found subsequently the manor in the possession of Richard Nevill Earl of Warwick

1 Ancient Deeds, 47 Edw. III. A. 3829. 4 I. P.M., 1 Hen. IV. ir.

' Ancient Deeds, 47 Edw. III. A. 3929. 5 I.Q.D., 1 Hen. IV. 33.

3 No. 3352, App. p. 58. 6 I.P.M., 3 Hen. VI. 31.



the husband of this Thomas's only daughter and heir. But a deed still preserved amongst the Ancient Deeds in the Public Record Office shows the guess to be a delusion and discloses how the manor did actually devolve. It seems that by a deed practically amounting to a settlement dated the 10th March 14 Hen. VI. John Wollston and Richard Phylip who had had a grant from Sir Alan Buxhull demised to this Sir Alan both the manors of Newton Hall and of Wyke and the advowson of Newton Church to hold to the said Alan and his heirs with remainders to Richard Nevill Earl of Salisbury and Alice his wife and her issue, Elizabeth wife of Robert Lord of Wyllughby, Anne wife of Lewis John and late the wife of Sir Richard Hankeford, knt., and the heirs of the said Elizabeth and Anne. 1 It will be seen that these were Sir Alan Buxhull's connections by the marriage of his mother, for Alice was the only daughter of Thomas de Montague last of the name, Earl of Salisbury the eldest son of Sir John de Montague Earl of Salisbury who had married Sir Alan Buxhull's mother, and Elizabeth and Anne were the sisters of Thomas. Sir Alan Buxhull no doubt died without issue, and the manor passed according to the entail to Richard Nevill 2nd son of Ralph 1st Earl of Westmoreland, and Alice his wife. Alice was, as we have said, the only daughter of Thomas Montague the Earl of Salisbury whom Davy supposes to have been seised of the manor. We can hardly pass by this celebrated man without a word. Polydore Vergil describes him as " a man for hawtines of courage and valiancie rather to be compared with the auncient Romanes than with men of that age," and in his account of the reign of Hen. VI. says of him : " He might have ordeyned and done many thinges after his own fantastic, for he was a man alwaye of most ready witt and mature judgement, valiant to enterprise great matters and in greatest daunger frollike ; neyther body nor minde would ever yield to painfulnes nor travaile, by reason whereof there was none in whom the men of warre had more confidence, nor under whom they durst so well attempt any daungerous exployte." He served in the wars abroad under the Duke of Bedford, and was the general sent by him to recover Melun and was ultimately slain at the siege of Orleans in 1429. Polydore Vergil gives the following quaint account of the unfortunate accident which caused the death of this great captain : " The siege of Orleance continued the more part of winter, with great perill, many woundes, and much slaughter ; for the Englishmen, in cruell assaultes, did everywhere eyther kill or wounde many of their

enemies. Againe, the towne valiantly defending, requited them the like ; when, as in the meane space, the chaunce was that the Earle of Salisbury, loth to tarry longer, and desirous to winne the towne, one day early before sonnrise, began to viewe the same againe more earnestly then he was wont, out at a certaine windowe of buildings which he had in an high place, to theintent he might espye where to give commodiously a newe assault; which he thought mightily to assay as one inflamed with desire eyther to winne the towne by force, or to cause it yeelde. While that he was busied in this order, and by the space of 60 days did vehemently annoy the citizens, behold even sodenly eyther an yron or stone pellett shott out of a brasen peece with great force right against the place where he stoode, did strike and breake thone side of the windowe, and drove certaine shilvers thereof into his face, wherewithall he was so wounded as that he dyed thereof two dayes after. He left one Alis, his onely daughter, very like him in conditions, vertue, and honor, whom, as we shall hereafter shewe, one Richard Nevill took to wife. But howe great losse the common wealth sustained through

1 Ancient Deeds, 14 Hen. VI. B. 2786.

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his untimely death appered evidently incontinent. Truely from that day forth the English forrain affaires beganne to quaile ; which infirmitie though the English nation, as a most sounde and strong body, did not feelee at the first, yet afterward they suffered it as a pestilence and sicknes inwardly, by litle and litle decaying the strength ; for immediatly after his death the fortune of warre altered, as hereafter shalbe declared in place convenient ; wherefore the death of the earle was much lamented of all the captaines in generall, who, neverthelesse, after that they had performed all thinges for his buriall, mainteined the siege and sought to atchieve that which the Earle of Salesbury had in mind determind, which was, by what meane they might eyther take the towne by force, or, at the least, compell the citizens to yeelde." The Earldom of Salisbury was revived in favour of Richard Nevill the husband of the only daughter of the last Earl. He engaged in the Wars of the Roses serving the Duke of York, and was present at the battle of St. Albans. He defeated Lord Audley at Blore Heath in 1456 and again fought at Northampton in 1460, when he was appointed Lord Great Chamberlain of England. At the battle of Wakefield, however, he sustained defeat, and his 2nd son Thomas fell with the Duke of York.

The Earl himself was made prisoner when his head was immediately cut off and placed on a pole over one of the gates of the city of York, " for," as Polydore Vergil says, " a spectacle to the people, and a terror to the rest of the adversaries." This unfortunate event happened 31st Dec. 1460 and the manor passed to his eldest son and heir Richard Nevill surnamed the Stout, Earl of Warwick, who thereupon became 2nd Earl of Salisbury. This nobleman is known to history as the King Maker. He espoused the cause of the Yorkists and commanded the van at the Battle of Northampton and though sharing in the reverses of his party later he out-generalled the Lancastrians and reaching London before his adversaries proclaimed the young Earl of March as Edw. IV. and established him on the throne by his great victory of Towton Field. He received for his services the offices of Lord Great Chamberlain and Lord High Steward, and not unnaturally obtained large grants from the Crown. So enormous indeed were his acquisitions that it is said his revenue amounted independently of his own family property to four score thousand crowns a year. It is well known how later he re-established Hen. VI. on the throne, and finally fell at the Battle of Barnet in 1471. His hospitality was so great that it is said that in his London house 6 oxen were usually eaten at breakfast and every tavern full of his meat, " for who that had any acquaintance in his family should have as much sodden and roast as he might carry upon a longer dagger."

He married Lady Anne Beauchamp daughter of Richard 5th Earl of Warwick and left 2 daughters, but the manor with the other possessions of the great Earl were forfeited to the Crown.

The Crown in 1484 granted the manor to Queen's College Cambridge in perpetual frank almoign,<sup>1</sup> but Hen. VII. resumed the grant and the manor was again vested in the Crown. In 1538 however we find amongst the Bodleian Charters a lease for 21 years by Margaret Pole mother of Cardinal Pole, and the Countess of Salisbury to William Alston of Newton of this manor, there called " Newton Manor al. Newton Hall." <sup>2</sup> Probably the lease only related to lands held of the manor or the lease was an attempt by the

<sup>1</sup> D.K.R. 9. App. ii. p. 96. Grant to \* 30 Hen. VIII., Bodl. Suff. Ch. 358. Royal College of St. Margaret and

St. Bernard, Cambridge. Pat. Rolls,

<sup>2</sup> Rich. III. pt. i. 12.

countess to exercise a right of ownership. There is, however, amongst the Chancery Proceedings of Q. Elizabeth in 1598 a claim made under a lease brought by Henry Wynterfludd against William Alston sen. and jun. to messuages in Newton holden of Thomas Barrowe as of his manor of Newton Hall in Newton by William Houge who granted the lease in question. 1 At all events it is certain that in 1543 the manor was granted by Hen. VIII. to Thomas Barrow, son of Thomas Barrow, son of Richard Barrow, of Wynthorp co. Lincoln, and the particulars for the grant will be found in the Record Office,' and the grant itself is entered on the Originalia Rolls of the same year.' Thomas Barrow who was of Shipdenham co. Norfolk was the son of Thomas, son of Thomas, son of Thomas, son of Richard Barrow of Winthorp co. Lincoln, married Mary daughter and coheir of Henry Bures of Acton, and had by her Thomas, William, and Henry (who was executed in London with Rookwood), and amongst other children a daughter Anne married 1st to Sir Rafe Shelton and 2ndly to Sir Charles Cornwallis. Thomas Barrow the grantee died in 1590. Thomas his eldest son having died he was succeeded by his (Thomas's) son William Barrow who lived at Westhorp and married 1st Frances daughter of Sir Robert Wingfield of Letheringham but had by her no issue. He married for his second wife Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Daundy of Cretingham, and had by her with three other children a son Maurice.

William Barrow died the 24 Dec., 1613, and was buried at Bury, 4 when the manor passed to his widow Elizabeth and on her death in 1634 to their son Maurice Barrow. 3 He died in 1666 at the age of 69, and by his will dated 1665-8 6 he desired to be buried at Westhorpe and left 500 for the erection of his tomb. He devised the manor to his cousin Maurice Shelton the elder. Maurice Shelton was of an ancient family connected with both Norfolk and Suffolk. Sir Ralph Shelton who was Sheriff for Norfolk in 1570 married for his second wife a sister of William Barrow as above mentioned, and from this marriage Maurice Shelton was the second in descent. On Maurice Shelton's death the manor passed to his son and heir Maurice Shelton of Barrington who married Martha dau. of Robert Appleton of Great Waldingfield and died the 7 Oct. 1680 leaving a sole daur. and heir Martha married to Lisle Hacket of Monksworth Hall co. Warwick, but the manor passed to Maurice's brother Henry Shelton who married Hester only daughter of Sir John Churchman of Illington co. Norfolk and dying in 1690' the manor passed to his son and heir Maurice Shelton. He married twice, first Arabella daughter of Sir John Duke of Benhall and secondly

Margaret daughter of the Rev. John Randall of Bury St. Edmunds and died without male issue in 1749."

The manor now belongs to Earl Howe.

Arms of Barrow : Sable, 2 swords in Saltire, the points upwards argent, hilted and pomelled or. betw. 4 fleur-de-lis of the last of Fraunceys : Gul. a chevron erm. between three doves volant proper.

SAYHAM al. Si AM OR SAXHAM HALL MANOR.

This manor was held in Edward the Confessor's time by Hathrad under

1 C.P. iii. 244. \* For will see Raydon Hall Manor in

\* 35 Hen. VIII. D.K.R., App. ii. p. 164. Samford Hundred.

O., 35 Hen. VIII. 4 Pars Rot. 8. ' His will is dated the 23 Apl. 1688 trans-

4 His will is dated 23 Dec. 1613. ferred to the principal Registry 16

\* As to Maurice Barrow and the Shelton Dec. 1690.

family see Barningham Manor in \* His will is dated 1746 and was proved Blackbourn Hundred. at Sudbury.

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Harold with soc and sac and 2 carucates of land. There were 3 villeir 7 bordars, 4 slaves, 2 ploughteams in demesne and 2 belonging to the men^N wood for 6 hogs, 4 acres of meadow and a church living with 30 acres of free land, also i horse, 3 beasts, 17 hogs, 60 sheep, 17 goats and half right of advowson to a church living with 8 acres of free land. By the time of the Domesday Survey the bordars had risen to 20 and the beasts to 8, the hogs to 20, the sheep to 103, the goats to 35 and there was an additional half ploughteam belonging to the men ; but the slaves had come down to one and there was no horse. A freeman also half under Huthrad and half under the Abbot of St. Edmunds by commendation but wholly as to soc of the Abbot had 20 acres which he could sell without the necessity for any licence. The whole was then valued at 60 shillings but had been in Saxon

times valued at 40. It was half a league long and 4 quarantenes broad and paid in a gelt 6<f .'.

The Domesday tenant in chief was Ralph de Limesi 2 a relation of Robert de Limesi Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry and, according to Kelham, a nephew of the Conqueror, though Dugdale makes no mention of such a relationship. This was one of the forty-one manors in England bestowed upon him by King William besides the lands of his wife Christina one of the sisters of Prince Edgar Atheling grandson of Edmund Ironside brother to Edward the Confessor. Ralph de Limesi founded at Hertford a priory of Benedictine monks subordinate to the Abbey of St. Albans in the time of Abbot Paul and died in 1093. He was succeeded by his son Ralph who married Halewise and the manor passed on his death to his son Alan and then to Alan's son Gerard de Limesi who married Amy daughter of Trian de Horne-lade of Bidun- Limesi and to their son John de Limesi who married Alice daughter of Robert de Harcourt. John de Limesi died in 1198 and was succeeded by his son Hugh de Limesi who died in 1223 without issue. In 1346 we find Sir Robert de Royton lord and he died in 1361 and the manor passed to his son Sir John de Royton who was living 10 Hen. VI. He was succeeded by his son Sir John de Royton and he by his son and heir another Sir John Royton who died in 1416 and was succeeded by his son and heir Thomas de Royton who died in 1484 and the manor passed to his grandson Sir Robert de Royton, who died in 1518. On his death he was succeeded by his son Sir Robert de Reyton. The next lord we meet with is one Alnott about 1550, but soon after the manor passed to Edward Alston.

This family seems originally to have come from Essex. As early as the time of Edw. I. we find a William Alston, of Stisted, in this county, for want of warranty of Brockscroft in Stisted granted and conferred to John de Carpenter of Naylinghurst in Braintree, so much of the better land in Stisted except his mansion house there. John Alston of Newton, descended from the above-mentioned William of Stisted, was father of William Alston of Newton who by Anne his wife daughter of Thomas Symons had a son and heir Edward Alston who resided at Saham Hall in Newton and married Elizabeth daughter of John Coleman by whom he had two sons William his successor in this manor and Thomas of Edwardston. William was born at Newton in 1537 and married Mary Holmsted of Maplested co. Essex by whom he had several children whose descendants became settled at Marlesford, Polstead, Lavenham and various other places in Suffolk and the adjoining counties. In the Calendar of Pleadings relating to the Duchy of Lancaster in 1600 will be found a suit as to a relief respecting the lands in

1 Dom. ii. 4286. \* See Overhall Manor, Cavendish, in this

Hundred.

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Newton by Alston against Turner, 1 and in the same Pleadings the same year is a suit as to rent, fealty and suit of Court, and as to the tenure of the Manor of " Seyham Hall " by the Attorney-General against William Barrow lord of Newton Hall Manor.'

Of this family Sir Thomas Alston of Odel in Bedfordshire knt. was created a Baronet June 13th 1642, and Joseph Alston of Chelsea was created a Baronet in 1681.

There is amongst the Harleian Charters in the British Museum a grant in dower of this manor in the early part of the 13th century. The manor is there called " Say ham al. Siam." 3 And in the same collection is a grant of goods in the manor in 134&. 4

Edward Alston M.D. who died the 21 July 1705 aged 25 years, the Rev. Edward Alston B.D. of East Bergholt and rector of Newton who died the 18th Feb. 1722 aged 79 years, and Samuel Alston of East Bergholt who died the 9 Oct. 1752 aged 66, are buried at Newton. A Thomas Alston was baptised in Newton in 1713 and was buried there in 1785, and he, according to Page, appears to have been the last of the family who resided in Newton. Edward his son married Frances daughter and heir of Daniel Constable of Manningtree co. Essex and settled there, whose son Edward Daniel Alston died at Palgrave and the Rev. Edward Constable Alston of Cransford Hall and vicar of that parish in the middle of the last century his only son was the representative of that branch of the Alston family. Though the manor in 1656 seems to have passed to one Gunton and in 1847 to have been in the possession of Thomas Lazzell Tiffen, which latter gentleman resided at the Hall, the Alstons were retaining land in the parish during Alston's period, according to Page. Arms of Alston : Az. Ten estoiles or, four, three, two, and one.

BOTELERS al. BUTLERS OR BUXTONS MANOR.

This manor was apparently held at the close of the 13th century by Robert Carbonell who had a grant of free warren here in 1277- 5 Thomas Carbonel of Great Waldingfield seems to have been lord and to have been succeeded (after the death of his widow Elizabeth in 1325) by his son John Carbonel who had a grant of free warren here in 1301,' and died in 1337 when the manor passed to his daughter and heir Alice married to Ralph Butler. In 1393 Margaret daughter of Ralph Butler and Alice his wife and wife of Thomas Boteler had a confirmation of free warren here, 8 and in 1410 Sir Andrew Butler was lord. He by will in 1429 left the manor to his wife Catherine daughter of Sir William Philip for life. Sir Andrew died in 1430 and on the death of his widow in 1460 it passed to William Crane who had married their daughter and heir Margery. William Crane was succeeded by his son and heir Robert Crane who died the 23 October 1500,' and was succeeded by his brother and heir John Crane who died in 1505, and was succeeded by his son and heir Robert Crane who died in 1550,' when the manor passed to his son and heir Robert Crane who died in 1591, when it

1 Duchy of Lancaster, Cal. to Pleadings, 5 Chart. Rolls, 5 Edw. I.

42 Eli/. 3, 34. ' Chart. Rolls, 29 Edw. I. 8.

' Duchy of Lancaster, Cal. to Pleadings, ' I. P.M., 7 Edw. III. 4.

42 Eliz. 36, 43 Eliz. 22. ' Chart. Roils, 17 Rich. II.

' Harl. 55 G. 6. I. P.M., 16 Hen. VII.

Harl. 54 H. 22. I. P.M., 4 Edw. VI. 84.

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This manor was about 1880 vested in the Rev. T. L. N. Causton, and subsequently in his trustees, but is now vested in Mr. C. Beaumont.

For a fuller account of the Crane family see Chilton Manor in Blackburn

Hundred. w

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/world-of-domesday/order.htm>

## Social Order

The Normans inherited the Anglo-Saxon framework of shires and hundreds as the basis of their administration. This provided a structure through which the King could maintain administrative control. The courts in the hundreds met every four weeks while those in the shires met twice a year. The Norman manor, an economic, political and judicial unit, was introduced in England. It became the basic unit of the Domesday survey. The **manor** was controlled by a 'lord', which might be the King, a baron, a bishop or religious house. Manors varied in size, ranging from just a couple of farms to vast estates.

What was to become known much later as the **feudal** system is reflected in the arrangement of Domesday Book, which groups holdings, manor by manor, under the main landholders, the tenants-in-chief. The medieval manor often contained two elements. The **demesne** land was held by the lord of the manor (the King or one of his tenants-in-chief) for his own use and support. Other land in the manor could be leased to lesser tenants, usually Norman or Anglo-Saxon nobles.

In return for their lands all tenants-in-chief, including churchmen, owed the King military service. This meant providing trained and equipped knights or a cash payment in lieu of this support. In turn, the nobles who held land of the tenants-in-chief, owed them military service or a financial payment.

The system of land holding and taxation set out in Domesday Book was in some ways similar to that which had operated in Anglo-Saxon England. The Anglo-Saxon Kings had needed to raise their own armies and finances at times of external threat. Anglo-Saxon **thegns**, like Norman knights, gave military service in return for land that had been distributed among them by the lord.

The peasant tenantry was land rented out to peasants who were either free or unfree. Rent would have been paid in cash, labour or produce. There were four main groups who comprised the peasant tenantry.

The **freemen** and **sokemen**, both free peasants, formed about 12 per cent of the population as recorded in Domesday. The land held by a free peasant could be considerably large or very small. Their distinguishing characteristic was their freedom, rather than their economic status. The unfree peasants included villans, bordars and cottars. **Villans**, about 40 per cent of the recorded population, were the wealthiest and most numerous of the unfree peasants. Villans could hold substantial areas of farmland, often between 30 and 40 acres, but had to work on the lord's land for two or three days each week. **Bordars** and **cottars**, who owed a greater burden of service to the lord, could have smallholdings of just a few acres of land. On days when they were not working for the lord, peasants could work their own land or participate in other activities, such as carpentry. Unfree women might have produced items of clothing for the lord. The lord exercised other controls over unfree peasants. He could move them between estates and had the power to approve or prevent a marriage.

In most Domesday manors the more specialised workers, such as millers and swineherds, are included in the totals of villans, bordars and cottars, constituting in total about 72 per cent of the recorded population. At the bottom of the social scale were slaves, perhaps 10 per cent of the population, although numbers varied regionally, with a higher proportion in the west and south west. Again, this could to some extent be due to variations in the sort of information recorded in Domesday for different areas. Slaves had no property rights and could be bought and sold by the lord.

Peasants work the land in this image of eleventh century England. The peasant usually occupied a house on the lord's manor, with land and animals. This was in return for working the demesne land and providing other services a number of days of the week.

Each manor had its own customs, but in a peasant family property was usually passed from father to son. The lord would repossess it if there were no heirs. The lord could raise taxes from his villagers and demand rents of corn, meat and fish. If he had a property in town he might receive rents from houses and market stalls as well as taxes on market goods.

Will of Richard Moody, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1466

In the name of God Amen.

I Richard Moody, will that I be buried in St Gregory's cemetery in Sudbury and leave to the High Alter 6/8, and to the High Alter of Newton Church for Tythe forgotten 6/8.

To an honest and discrete Priest for celebrating in the Newton Church for one whole year for my soul and the souls of my kinsfolk 9 marks for his stipend.

I leave to Margary my daughter, wife of Thomas Salmon, one pot, my saltpan, 12 plates, 10 dishes and 6 saucers and 2 chargers. She already has these in her custody. I also leave to the same Margery, 1 mattress, 1 pair of blankets and 40/ in money to Thomas Salmon as marriage portion.

I leave to Agnes, my daughter a pot, 1 salt pan, 2 gallon vessels which she has in her possession xx/ in money.

To my daughter Margaret 6/8.

To Richard Salmon, son of Thomas Salmon, 6/8 for handing over to him by my executors when he comes to the age of 21 years.

I leave to Letitia, daughter of Thomas Salmon, a green belt with silver ornament and best wool and linen hanging and 6/8 in money when she comes to the age of 16.

To the repair of the common way lying next the cordwayners in Newton xx/  
To Thomas Salmon my best fur lined gown.