

CHAPTER II

THE STORY OF THE MANORS

FOR the first recorded notice of Milton we have to go back to the days of William the Conqueror and the great book he compiled, called *Doomsday*, or *Domesday Book*, in which are set down the various Baronies held by his nobles, with the several Manors of which each consisted.

From its pages we find there were two Manors of Milton even then. Their story is a lengthy one, and to understand their significance it is necessary to see how they came into being.

After the Battle of Hastings and his subsequent coronation, William the Conqueror seized the lands of all who had opposed him. He also compelled those English lords who had submitted to him to surrender their lands, regranteeing them to their owners on their swearing allegiance. The King took care to look after himself first, and the lands he appropriated formed the Royal demesne. Of the rest of the confiscated lands he made grants to his followers, several of whom received each a great many of these estates. In disposing of them, the Conqueror was shrewd enough to realise that if he granted to anyone several estates so as to form one large, undivided portion of land, it might prove in course of

CHAPTER III

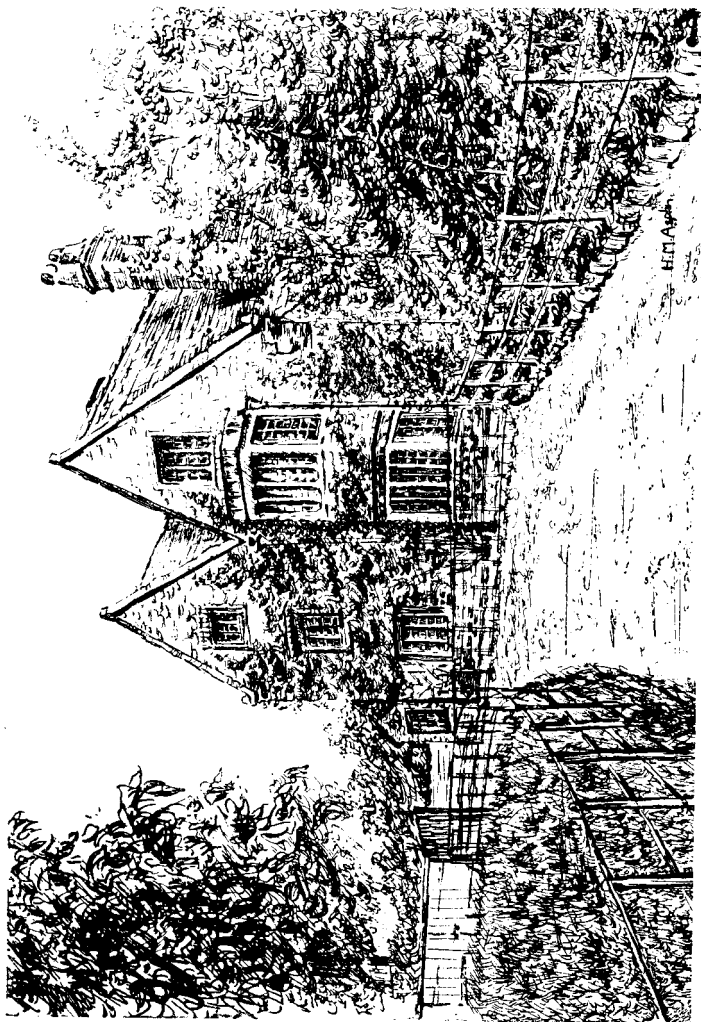
THE NAME OF MILTON

“WHAT’S in a name?” Sometimes a great deal, and so it is with the name Milton Malzor. It carries us back to Celtic and Roman days, to the Saxon township and the great Norman lords.

The suffix “ton” is a little history in itself. It tells us that long before the Norman Conquest and before the incursion of the Danes, our village was surrounded by a strong fence and a ditch as a rough fortification. The name given to this fence and ditch was the “tun,” from which we have “town” or “township,” and hence Milton.

Why was it called Mil-ton? At first sight it would seem to be simply a contraction of its other name, Middleton, being the “middle town” of the neighbouring villages of Collingtree, Rothersthorpe and Blisworth, each of which is distant a little more than a mile away.

Another meaning, and probably the correct one, is suggested by the difference in spelling in *Doomsday Book*. There the name is given three times, and in each case differently—Molitone, Mideltone and Mildetone. Further, it will be seen that one item about Milton reads: “There is a mill rendering thirty pence.” This is



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more than a coincidence with regard to the name.

The mill would make the village of great importance, for there the people of the district would bring their corn to be ground. It was no ordinary thing to possess a mill in those early days. In fact it was a great privilege which could only be obtained and maintained by special permission, for the lord of the manor was very jealous of his rights. The musty pages of history are occasionally illumined by curious stories of those who had the temerity to transgress these rights by building unauthorised mills. One instance tells us how Abbot Sampson of St. Edmundsbury (1173-1203) disposed of a mill erected without permission on land that was the builder's own freehold. He heard that Herbert the Dean had built a windmill, and Sampson gave orders to his carpenters to go and pull it down. Herbert, getting to know of this, went immediately to the Abbot to protest against such an act of injustice. He claimed that he could surely build a mill on his own freehold. He protested that the use of the wind ought to be free to everyone and that he had built it only to grind his own corn on his own premises. "By God's grace," roared the Abbot, "I will not eat bread till your mill is plucked up. Not even the king himself can do such a thing within the liberties of the Abbey. Away with you, and before you return home you shall hear what has become of your mill." Dean Herbert, however, forestalled the Abbot, for he rode post-haste to his house and when the carpenters

arrived at the place they found no mill to put down. Richard de London, Abbot of Peterborough (1273-99), for a similar reason, destroyed a mill that had been erected at Oundle without his sanction, as it interfered with the profits of his own mill there.

From these instances we see that a mill, being of importance, conferred some distinction upon the place where it stood. As a mark of that distinction, our village was given the name of Milton, derived in the first instance from Molitone.

It is only fair to say that there is a difference of opinion as to the identity of the Molitone of *Doomsday*. It has been claimed as Mollington in Oxfordshire because the names Molitone and Mollington are somewhat similar. However, the similarity between the names Molitone and Mildetone, another of the names for Milton in *Doomsday*, must not be overlooked. I have also been told that since Molitone is given as being in Foxlea Hundred, it could not possibly be our Milton. To that argument it is sufficient to say that William Peverel's estates in Foxlea Hundred were situated at Brackley, Molitone and Courteenhall, and this particular manor of Milton could very well be in the same hundred as Courteenhall, as both parishes adjoin each other. Further, since Molitone forms part of William Peverel's barony, or the "Honor of Peverel," and we find that in the reign of Henry III John Malesoures held one knight's fee, or manor, in Milton and Collingtree "of the Honor of Peverel," it is clear that William Peverel had

land in Milton which is not catalogued in *Doomsday*, if Molitone is not our village. There is no reason for such an omission in this case.

The evidence certainly points to the fact that the Molitone of the Honor of Peverel in *Doomsday* is the Milton of the Honor of Peverel in the reign of Henry III, and the late Mr. Stuart Moore identified Molitone as "Milton or Middleton Malsor."

This being the case, Molitone gives us the key to Milton. There are three sources whence it could have been derived, the Celtic *melyn*, the Roman *mola* or the Anglo-Saxon *mylen*, all meaning a mill. Each source has its claim upon our attention.

The Celtic derivation is by no means an impossible one as there are other Celtic names in the district. Collingtree, for instance, is purely Celtic. The suffix -tree is a corruption of "trev," as may be seen from *Doomsday* and mediæval Wills, while the sound of the "v" survived even as late as 1779, for in the Enclosure Award it is spelt Colingtrough. "Tref" or "trev" is the Celtic for town, and we have a similar instance of its corruption in Coventry, which was originally Couan-trev. Add to this the fact that Collingtree Church is dedicated to St. Columba, sometimes known as St. Columb, a Celtic saint, and we have the name at once—Colum-trev, the town or place of St. Columb. This survives with very little difference as Colestrev in *Doomsday*. Another local instance of a Celtic name is that of the River Tove at Towcester, which is similar to the Welsh names

Teify, Tav, Taff and Towy. Hence, as names of Celtic origin are sometimes met with in the neighbourhood, it requires no great stretch of the imagination to derive Molitone from *melyn*, as it may well be a relic of Celtic times.

However, the Roman *mola* may seem phonetically to have even a stronger claim than *melyn*, to form a component part of Molitone, as only one letter needs to be changed,—Mola-tone. The Romans, as we know, were in the neighbourhood; their great road, Watling Street, is not far away, running through Towcester where they had a camp or station; and the Nene Valley was a favourite resort of theirs to judge from the number of villas and other traces of occupation that have been unearthed. So this conquering race may possibly have given the name to this village, because of its mill.

Finally, we have the Anglo-Saxon *mylen*, which would give us Mylen-ton, with an easy transition to Molitone or Mildetone and thence to Middleton and Milton. Where the mill was, there, too, was the village or "ton."

Milton is a very common name, and for this reason was probably found inconvenient by the powerful Malesoure family who were lords of the manor of the Honor of Peverel from the reign of Henry III to Edward III. Accordingly, they caused it to be known as Middleton or Milton Malesoure, afterwards contracted to Malzor. The same family stamped their name on one of the Thorpes in this county where they had a manor, so that it became Thorpe Malzor.

The Malesoures were descended from three

followers of the Conqueror, and were a proud and dominant family. John Malesoures, who first settled in Milton, seems to have been fond of litigation, for at the Northampton Assizes held on June 25th, 1247, he summoned the Master of St. John's Hospital for having sued him in a Court Christian. Four years later (1251) he brought another action against the Master of the Hospital, asserting his claim to a quarter of a knight's fee in Rothersthorpe as his by right.

Like many another old and powerful Norman family, the elder branches died out, leaving only the younger sons of younger sons to perpetuate the name. Consequently this great house is now represented by those who occupy much humbler stations in life, but the families named Malsher or Melcher in the neighbourhood are of blue-blooded Norman stock and can boast as ancestors those great lords who lent their name to the village where they once held sway.

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time a source of danger to the Crown. Hence we find that, large as was the territory granted to any Norman, it was in several scattered portions, so that he could not become too powerful in one neighbourhood. These vast possessions were termed Baronies.

The King was then, not only in theory but actually, the owner of the land, the supreme lord, so that all who occupied land were his tenants. The great barons, or any other tenants who held direct from the King, were called tenants *in capite*. They held under the king a *fief, fee* or *feud* (hence the term *feudal system*), by which, in return for their right to hold the land, they swore to be faithful to the King and to perform certain services, such as providing knights or men-at-arms for his armies when necessary.

The barons, who had all come over with William, divided their vast possessions amongst other Normans, who were called knights or vassals. The estate granted to each knight became known as a *knight's fee*, because the knight held it under a *fief, feud* or *fee*, by which he was to do service to the baron.

The estate held through each knight's fee was called a manor, and he who held it was known as the lord of that manor. Each barony was also called an honor, because it consisted of several knights' fees and so conferred a position of honour upon its owner.

It is probable that the manor was the same as the old Anglo-Saxon *mark*, which was an area of territory occupied by a village community. It

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consisted of the township or group of houses ; the arable land, divided into several plots for growing crops, but used in common when fallow or between reaping and sowing ; the meadowland, common to all after the hay had been carried, and the waste lands, over which the members of the township had rights of pasturage, taking wood, etc. Each mark was ruled by an excellent system of self-government in an assembly of freemen. It was, as a rule, of the same extent as the parish, and several marks made up what was called the hundred, which again was governed by the votes of the freemen. At the Conquest, we find that the old Anglo-Saxon independence came to an end, for in the manorial system the whole of the land in a manor was given to one man for his knight's fee, so he became its lord and all the people on that manor had to swear to do him service. As the King, too, was the supreme lord, every owner of land, whether he were "baron or squire, or knight of the shire," held it either directly or indirectly of the King. Therefore, for each estate, dues had to be paid annually to the Crown.

In course of time, William thought it advisable to find out exactly how much land each man had and what money should be paid to the Crown. So in 1080 or 1085 he appointed Commissioners who visited each county and every hundred and township. In each hundred a jury was empanelled who declared on oath the extent and nature of each estate, the amount of arable and pasture lands, the woods and mills, and the name of the owner of each, with the number of

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slaves that each man had. They also ascertained the value of the land both before and after the Conquest, with the amount due from it to the Crown. They found there were about 700 chief tenants and 60,215 knights' fees. These facts are all carefully recorded in *Doomsday Book*, which may be seen in the Museum of the Record Office in Chancery Lane, London.

As soon as the book was completed, William summoned all the landowners in the country to meet him at Salisbury in 1086, where all, whether his chief tenants or sub-tenants, had to swear allegiance to him. This was a most important step, for other feudal lords could only summon the aid of their immediate vassals, but William could now call not only upon his vassals, but the vassals of his vassals.

In these ancient pages of *Doomsday Book* we find that two men held lands at Milton as part of their baronies, William Peverel and Goisfrid Alselin. The records are in Latin and the following are translations :

"WILLIAM PEVEREL'S LAND.

IN FOXLEA HUNDRED

Ambrose holds of William four hides in Molitone (Milton). There is land for four ploughs. In demesne there are two ploughs, and three serfs ; and four villeins and five bordars with two ploughs. There are sixteen acres of meadow. It was and is worth four pounds. Gitda held these lands freely in King Edward's time."

It may here be mentioned that William Peverel was a powerful lord and was the founder

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of the Abbey of St. James, at Northampton. The land at Milton that formed part of his Barony was formerly held by Gitda "freely in King Edward's time." In all probability, this Gitda was Earl Goodwin's Countess, who bore the same name, and therefore would be the mother of King Harold, who was slain at the Battle of Hastings.

"GOISFRID ELSELIN'S LAND.

IN COLESTREV HUNDRED

Goisfrid Alselin holds of the king three hides and a half in Mideltone (Milton), and William holds of him. There is land for nine ploughs. In demesne there is one plough; and sixteen villeins, with the priest and five bordars, have seven ploughs. There is a mill rendering thirty pence, and two acres of meadow. Wood three furlongs in length and two furlongs and a half in breadth.

To this manor pertain two hides, less one virgate, in Colestrev (Collingtree). There is land for four ploughs. Two socmen and five villeins have these there. There are three acres of meadow.

In Torp (Rothersthorpe) there is half a hide belonging to Mildetone (Milton). There is land for one plough, which is there, with one villein. The whole was worth four pounds; now it is worth six pounds."

These extracts give us instances of the two kinds of tenures.

In the account of William Peverel's land in Milton, we read that "Ambrose holds of William four hides in Molitone." This means

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that Ambrose held one knight's fee at Milton, or in other words was lord of a manor, in extent four hides of land, situated at Milton and forming part of William Peverel's barony. Ambrose was a "Knight of the Honor of Peverel," and held this manor through his fief or fee, that is, his condition of service to William Peverel, his overlord.

In the account of Goisfrid Alselin's land we read "Goisfrid Alselin holds of the king," i.e. he holds *in capite*, being chief tenant. Further in the same "and William holds of him," means that William holds under Goisfrid Alselin one knight's fee, or was lord of a manor at Milton under the same conditions of service as Ambrose held under Willam Peverel. William's manor consisted of three and a half hides in Milton, with the other lands specified in Collingtree and Rothersthorpe.

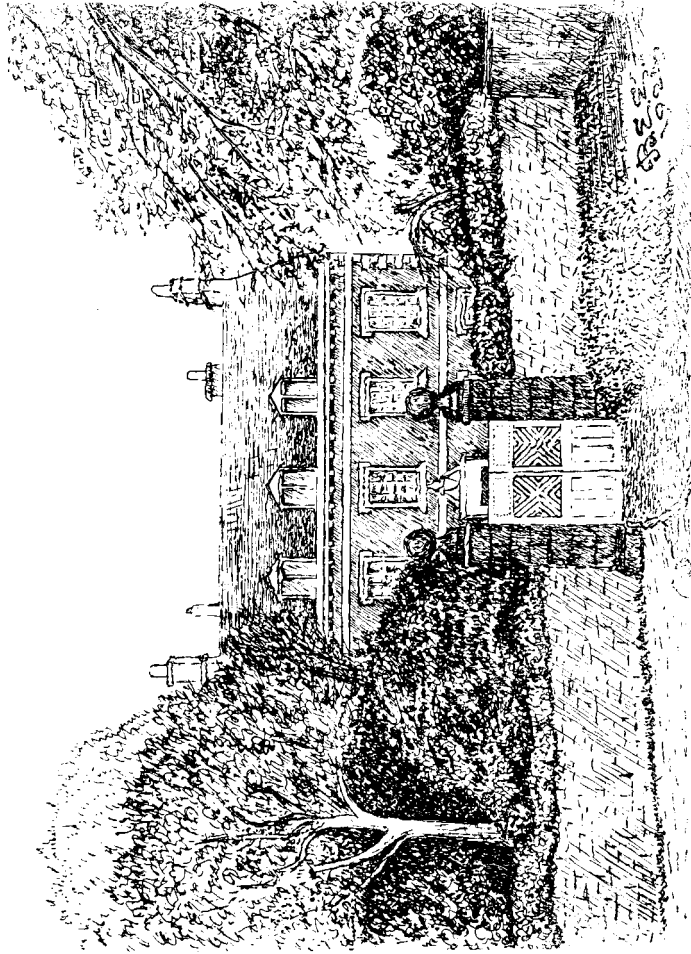
From this we see that there were two distinct manors at Milton, each with its lord.

Before we proceed to the story of the two manors, an explanation of some of the terms in the *Doomsday* extracts is necessary.

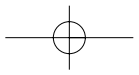
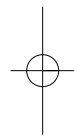
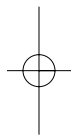
The "hide" was the unit of assessment, and was a measure of land equal to as much as a plough could plough in a year. Hence it varied, but generally consisted of about 120 acres.

The "virgate" was a quarter of a hide.

Of Ambrose's manor we are told "there is land for four ploughs. In demesne there are two ploughs, and three serfs." There was land sufficient for four ploughs. The demesne was the land kept by the lord of the manor for his



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own use, and here we see it was sufficient to occupy two ploughs.

The "serfs" were no better than slaves. In Anglo-Saxon times they were probably the descendants of those Ancient Britons who, when the country was seized by the Saxons, had remained in the neighbourhood, unable to tear themselves away from the land of their fathers. In Norman times their number was probably increased by the poorer of the conquered Saxons.

The "villeins" seem to have been of a degree superior to that of the serfs, and were so called because they were attached to the "vill" or estate. They held a cottage and land, purely at their lord's will, and for this they had to render certain menial services. These services were mostly of an agricultural nature, but so uncertain that they never knew from one day to the other what might be required of them. The only claim that the villeins had to their land was the entry of their name on the Court Roll of the Manor. When, in course of time, it came about that conditions were modified, and they were able to sell their holding, their only title to possession was a copy of this entry on the Court Roll, hence we have "copyholders."

The "bordars" were apparently a degree higher than the villeins. They held a cottage and land on the condition of supplying the lord of the manor with small provisions such as poultry and eggs.

The "socmen" were tenants who held of their lord by soccage. By this, a man was enfeoffed

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freely, or in “fee simple,” and his land could not be taken away at the will of the lord of the manor, as that of the lower degrees of tenants could. He was exempt from military service and paid a rent either in money or provisions. It was the duty of the socmen to sit as judges with their lord at the Court Baron of the Manor. In the socman’s tenure of land, as well as that of the lords of the manor, we see the origin of freehold tenure.

There were two courts held by the lord of the manor, the chief being the Court Baron, in which the freeholders sat as judges with their lord. At this court, duties and customs were received, and surrenders of land considered and passed, as well as other business. The Court Leet was another ancient court at which people guilty of encroachments on land, using fraudulent weights and measures, committing nuisances, and so on, were punished. Of this court, the lord of the manor or his steward was the judge.

Notes on Milton were written between the years 1718–21 by William Taylor, the schoolmaster of Heyford. He was one of those employed by Dr. Bridges to collect information and transcribe inscriptions and records for his great *History of Northamptonshire*. These manuscripts are now preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. In them is a reference to the Milton manorial courts :

“The Lord Leimpster (since Mr. Dry’s decease) keeps two courts for this Town, at ye Cock in Cotton End, Northampton, but in the parish of Hardingstone :—First, called Easter Court

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for swearing of parish officers :—the other called Cotton Leet, appointed for such as plow from One Another, and to Endict or present any one for ye Commission of trespasses.”

Two of the old-time parish officers thus sworn in are met with in our records of Milton. They are the Hayward, and the Headborough, and their duties are explained in the chapter on the parish.

For a list of the lords of the two manors I am indebted to the *History of Northants*, by Dr. Bridges, who compiled the names of those who held them up to about the year 1720. In his list of the Lords of Milton, he begins with the Manor of Goisfrid Alselin, but assigns it to Collingtree from the reign of King John, while from the reign of King Henry III he deals solely with the knight's fee of the Honor of Peverel for Milton.

Dr. Bridges begins with the *Doomsday* account of Goisfrid Alselin's land already given, and then goes on to that of the Northamptonshire Survey.

“ In the time of Henry II, Robert de Causho and one Geoffrey were certified to hold in Middleton 5 hides and one virgate amounting to the fourth part of one hide. In this account are included 2 hides and one virgate in Collingtree, which was then reputed a member of Middleton.

“ From Geoffrey Alselin, this Manor with other Lordships in his possession, devolved to Ralph Hanselyn, his successor and descendant ; upon whose decease in this reign, without issue male, it fell to Thomas Bardolf, who married Rose, his sole daughter and heir, and became in right of his wife, the superior Lord of the fee.”

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Now he goes on to the Manor in the Barony of William Peverel :

“ By inquisition taken in the reign of Henry III, John Malesoures was found to hold of William Bardolf one Knight’s fee in Middelton and Colentre of the Honor of Peverel. This William was grandson of Thomas Bardolf by Down, his eldest son. In the 24th. year of Edward I this knight’s fee was in the hands of William Bardolf, who held it of the king *in capite*. In the ninth year of Edward II John Malesoures was Lord of Middelton ; and in the 20th. year of Edward III, upon collecting the aid to make the king’s son a knight, he accounted for one knight’s fee in Midelton and Colyntre, as held of the fee of Bardolf. The successor of William Bardolf was Thomas his son, by whom this knight’s fee, then in the possession of John de Malesoures, was settled on Agnes his wife in way of dower ; and this Agnes surviving her husband, left it at her death, in the 31st. year of this reign, to John Bardolf, her son and heir.

“ From John de Malesoures the Manor of Milton descended to Sir Thomas Malesoures, Knight, who by deed bearing date in the 35th. year of Edward III assigned it to Hugh Malesoures his brother for the term of his life ; with remainder to Amicia, the daughter of the said Thomas and her heirs, and in case of failure of issue, to the heirs of Hugh Malesoures aforesaid. Accordingly by inquisition taken in the 39th. year of the same reign it was found that Hugh Malesoures was at that time in possession of this Manor ; and that the advowson of the church, with 4 acres of land, which were the glebe belonging to it, were in the hands of Thomas Wake, and held of the same

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Manor by homage, fealty, and a certain annual payment. In the 12th. year of Richard II died Sir John Bardolf, seized of three parts of one Knight's fee in Midelton and Colingtre, then in the tenure of Robert le Veer, the husband of Amicia, or as she is called in this record, Anne, the daughter of Sir Thomas Malsores, and by virtue of his marriage with this lady possessed of the Lordship of Middleton.

“ In the 7th. year of Henry VI Thomas Parwich¹ was certified to hold one Knight's fee in Midleton and Collingtre: and in the 10th. year of Henry VIII died Goditha Wigston possessed of this Manor which she had held of the King, as of his Manor of Shelford in Nottinghamshire, by the service of one Knight's fee. This lady was formerly the wife of William Perwich, son of William Perwich of Lubenham in Leicestershire, by whom she had issue Rose her only daughter and heir, first married to ——— Keball, and afterwards to William Digby of Kettleby in the same county. Her successor was John Digby, her grandson, a minor 11 years old, who inherited this Lordship as heir to Rose his mother. He married Mary, the third daughter and co-heir of William, Lord Par of Horton, who after his decease was remarried to Henry Brooker Esq. of Lubenham, and transferred the Lordship into that family. In the 7th. year of Edward VI. a fine was levied between Henry Brooke and William Digby of the Manor of Middleton-Malsor and Collingtre, with the advowson of the Church of Middleton. From this Henry they descended to Roger, the son of Roger Brooke his younger brother, who dying in the first year of Queen Elizabeth left them to Mary his daughter, a minor five years of age.

¹ See page 283.

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She died seized of them in the 16th. year of this reign without issue, nor did it appear who was her heir. But in another inquisition it is said that Andrew, John and Richard, the nephews of Henry Brooke, and her father's younger brothers, were heirs in remainder.

“ The next possessor that we meet with of the Manor of Milton is Sir William Samwell, Knight, who by indenture bearing date the 1st. of April in the 11th. of James I conveyed the said Manor with its members and appurtenances, and advowson of the living, together with the Manor House, four yard lands and certain closes in Milton to Sir Sapcotes Harrington, who had married Jane his daughter, and his heirs for ever. Sir Sapcotes Harrington by deed of feoffment dated 11th. of August in the 18th. year of the same reign, conveyed the premises to Sir Francis Hervey and his heirs. From this gentleman they descended to his son Sir Stephen Hervey, Kt. of the Bath, who left them in the 6th. year of Charles I to Francis his son; upon whose decease without issue they devolved with a certain Manor or seignory in gross in Milton and Gayton, to Richard Hervey, Esq. his younger brother. In the 24th. year of Charles I this Richard Hervey in consideration of the sum of £1,500 sold and confirmed the Manor with its members and appurtenances to Richard Glead and Edmund Glead his son, and to their heirs for ever. This Edmund, surviving his father, became possessed of this estate; and by his last will bearing date 25th. April 1679, bequeathed it to Richard his son. He left issue Elizabeth an only daughter, wife to the late Richard Dodwell Esq., his successor in this inheritance and the present Lady of the Manor of Milton.”

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Thus far Dr. Bridges brings us in the list of Lords of the Manor of Milton of the Honor of Peverel. It remains to add that after the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Dodwell, in 1750, the manor passed to Mrs. Elizabeth Nash, who had a daughter named Mary. Mrs. Elizabeth Nash married John Darker, who, in his wife's right, was Lord of the Manor of Milton and Collingtrough and is so described in the Bill for enclosing the open fields and commons in 1779. At her death in 1788, her daughter, Mary Nash, became Lady of the Manor. She married William Blake the younger, of Danesbury, Welwyn, Herts. Their son, William John Blake, inherited it in 1852, and on his death in 1875, the manor passed to his nephew, Colonel Arthur Maurice Blake. In 1877 Colonel Blake sold the property to Mr. James Asplin, of Milton, who remained Lord of the Manor of Milton, of the Honor of Peverel, until his death in 1923.

In his account of the other manor, Bridges gives it under the head of Collingtree.

“ At the general survey (*Doomsday*), Collingtree was certified to be a member of the Manor of Midelstone, and to contain 2 hides wanting 1 virgate, which were then held of the King by Geoffrey Alselin.

“ In the time of King John the Manor of Colintre was in the hands of Will. de le Fremunt, who in the second year of this reign conveyed it, by licence from his majesty, to Simon de Pateshull and his heirs, with the moiety of the advowson of the churches of Middleton and Colintre. In the 5th. year of the same reign a fine was levied between this Simon de Pateshull

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and Margery the wife of Will. de le Fremunt¹ of a third part of his inheritance, which had been settled upon her, the said Margery, by way of dower. And in the 9th. year of Henry III a second fine was levied of the said 3rd. part between Walter the son of Simon de Pateshull demandant and Walter de Gatesbury and Emma his wife one of the sisters and co-heirs of Will de le Fremunt deforcians, to the use of the said Walter de Pateshull ; with covenant that the service due from the said Walter to the king, from this his Manor of Colintre, should be performed by Philip de Quinton, the son and heir of Agnes the elder sister of the said Emma de Gatesbury.

“ From Walter de Pateshull it descended to Simon, the son and heir of John de Pateshull, his grandson ; upon whose decease in the 24th. year of Edw. I this Lordship came to John his son and heir, who was then in the 4th. year of his age. It was at this time certified to be held of Philip de Gayton. By inquisition taken in the same year John de Pateshull was found to hold one Knight's fee in Midleton and Colintre of Philip de Quenton (more probably de Gayton), who held the same of Robert de Everingham, who held it of the king *in capite*. In the 6th. year of Edw. II he levied a fine of the Manor and in the ninth of the same reign was certified to be Lord of Colintre. In the 20th. year of Edw. III, upon collecting the aid to make the king's son a knight, John de Pateshull accounted for half a knight's fee in Middleton and Colintre as held of the fee of Everingham ; and dying in the 23rd. year of this reign left issue William, his successor in the Lordship of Collingtree. In the 33rd. year of Edw. III died Sir William de Pateshull seized

¹ See page 285.

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of this Manor which he was found by inquisition to have held of Sir John de Meaux by an annual payment of *xxiis. viiid.*, having no male issue his inheritance descended to his sisters; a partition being made between them in the following year, the lands and tenements which had belonged to him in Middelton, Collingtre, &c., were assigned to Alice, the wife of Sir Thomas Wake of Blisworth. Upon the demise of this lady in the 22nd. of Richard II, the Manor of Colingtre devolved to her grandson Thomas Wake, the son of Sir Thomas Wake her eldest son. From this gentleman it descended in the 37th. year of Henry VI to Thomas Wake Esq his son, who left issue Roger Wake his successor in this estate.

“ This Roger was a firm adherent to Richard III, upon whose defeat at Bosworth field his possessions were confiscated and in the 1st. year of Henry VII the Manor of Collingtre was granted to Sir Charles Somerset, who in 1488 presented to the living. But he was afterwards restored to his fortune and in the 20th. year of this reign died seized of the Lordship of Collingtre with the other possessions which he had formerly enjoyed. By his will, bearing date May 12th. 1503, he settles an annuity for life of *X L* issuing out of his Manors of Middleton beside Colingtre and of Colingtre, on William Wake his brother, pursuant to the will of Thomas Wake his father. To this he likewise added another annuity of *V L* arising from his lands and tenements in Middleton and Colingtre. His successor was Thomas Wake Esq., his eldest son.

“ This gentleman appears to have sold the Manor of Collingtree soon after to Oliver Wode, who in the 6th. year of Henry VIII was seized of

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it with the advowson of the church. He left them at his death to Margaret his daughter, the wife of Sir Walter Mantell of Heyford in this county, and afterwards married to Sir James Hayles of Kent who was her third husband. This lady died seized of them in the 15th. year of Queen Elizabeth, and was succeeded by Matthew Mantell the son of Walter, the second son of Walter Mantell and Margaret aforesaid. From these possessors it had the name of Mantell's Manor ; and came afterwards into the hands of William Dry of Milton, who died possessed of it in 1637 and left it to his posterity.

“ In the 25th. year of Queen Elizabeth certain lands and tenements in Milton and Collingtre were given to Theophilus Adams and Robert Adams. These were formerly belonging to Walter Mantell attainted, and are said in the grant to have been concealed lands.”

This concludes all that we can learn of the two manors from Bridges' *History*.

From William Dry, whose tablet is on the vestry wall, this manor passed to his son, another William Dry, who died possessed of it in 1678. His epitaph, in rhyme, is on a stone in the vestry floor. In his Will, dated October 10th, 1677, he bequeathes as follows : “ I do geve unto my Sonne Edward my Statute booke.” This son Edward became the next lord of the manor, and was buried November 19th, 1707. According to the inscription on the tenor bell, he held the office of churchwarden in the year 1686 (page 131). Then in 1721 we find that the Lord Leimpster had the manorial rights, and held two courts annually for the manor (see page 34). This

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Lord Leimpster was afterwards Earl of Pomfret, ancestor of Sir T. Fermor-Hesketh of Easton-Neston, Towcester. At that date, however, the owner of the manor was Mr. Edward Price, who had married Anne, the daughter of Mr. Edward Dry. From Mr. Price the manor became commonly known as Price's Manor, just as a century before it was called Mantell's Manor to distinguish it from the other. The next owner we meet with is James King, whose name occurs in the Enclosure Award. There we find that ten quit rents were yielded by him in return for various small portions of land. These are described as being formerly

“ paid to James King as Owner or possessor of a certain manor in Milton otherwise Middleton Malsor and Collingtree otherwise Collingtrough aforesaid called Price's Manor.”

The award was signed in 1780. A few years later this manor passed by purchase to Joseph Dent, Esq., from whom it has descended to Milton's illustrious son, Sir W. Ryland D. Adkins, K.C.

There are two manor houses in Milton. That of the Honor of Peverel is the gabled Tudor residence at the top of Pluck's Lane, called The Manor, with a very fine dovecote standing a few yards west of the house. In this house dwelt Sir Sapcotes Harrington and his young son, the talented James Harrington, the author of *Oceana*.

The other manor house is known as Milton Manor, and is the residence with the Georgian

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front near the main road to Northampton. In the house is a very fine carved staircase dating from about 1650. The older portions of the house date from Tudor times and earlier. Milton Manor is famous for its lawns well stocked with bulbs, which present a glorious show in spring, of which Sir Ryland Adkins is justly proud.

There being two manor houses, there should be, and there are, two dovecotes. One has been already mentioned. The other stands at the end of the line of buildings to the east of the "Grange." Because of this, it has been suggested that the Grange may have been the site of the old Milton Manor centuries ago. However, this need not necessarily follow, as the dovecote could be situated at some distance from the manor house.

With the exception of the Rector, none should keep doves but the lords of the manors, as they would not dream of allowing their corn to be eaten by their tenants' birds. Also, the doves in winter provided a welcome change of diet from the universal salt meat, for it was an expensive matter to keep beasts for killing as root crops were then not generally grown in England.

It should be noted that as two manors existed in the same place, there should be two mills. The sites where these stood are still distinguished by their names, Mill Banks, near Stockwell, and Mill Close, a little to the east of the church.

Some idea of the privileges of a lord of the manor may be gained from the Will of Edmund Gleed, April 25th, 1679, who bequeathed to his

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son Richard the manor, with the commons and
“rents customes services Court Leetes veiwes
of frankpledge Courts Baron pr'gnisise profitts
of Courts wayfes & strayes felons goods and all
other Royalties franchises libertyes priviledges
com'odities & hereditam'ts whatsoever to ye
said Manor or Seigniory . . . belonging.”

In earlier days the lords of the manor exercised other rights, some of which cannot be written of in a work of this description.

The subject of the manors must not be left without a few words about the remarkable man, James Harrington, who as a boy lived in the old gabled Manor House at the top of Pluck's Lane. He was the son of Sir Sapcotes Harrington and his wife Jane, who was the daughter of Sir William Samwell of Upton Hall. Dame Jane's father bought Milton Manor and gave it to his son-in-law Sir Sapcotes Harrington on his marriage. Their eldest son James happened to be born at Upton Hall on the first Friday in January, 1610, and was baptised at Upton Church on January 16th. During his boyhood he lived at Milton.

He proceeded to Trinity College, Oxford, but left without taking a degree. During his continental travels he visited Rome and while there he refused the privilege of kissing the Pope's toe, which was the usual mode of expressing honour and reverence to the Pontiff. When King Charles heard of this he reproved him for his rudeness, but Harrington declared he would not kiss the foot of any prince after kissing his King's hand.

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After his return to England, Harrington joined the Presbyterian Party, but took no part in the great Civil War. When King Charles, who had been captured by the Scots, was handed over to the English, Harrington was one of the commissioners who received him at Newcastle and brought him to Holdenby House, afterwards accompanying him to the Isle of Wight. Though a strong Republican, Harrington treated the Royal prisoner with such consideration and sympathy that a warm attachment sprang up between them. On one occasion in some dispute he took the King's part so stoutly as to cause great offence and he was told to leave his post, but he continued to serve Charles until at last he was forcibly dismissed. Harrington was allowed to attend the King to the last "memorable scene" itself, on the scaffold at Whitehall. Just before King Charles placed his head on the block, he gave Harrington a token of Royal favour in consideration of his friendship for him.

In 1656 he published his once celebrated book, *The Commonwealth of Oceana*, the manuscript of which is said to have been seized when at the press by Cromwell, but afterwards restored. At the Restoration he was thrown into the Tower on November 26th, 1661, because of his strong Republican views, but was eventually released and died of paralysis in London on September 11th, 1677. He lies buried side by side with Sir Walter Raleigh on the south side of the altar in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster.

Professor Saintsbury's criticism may be of interest: "His imaginary commonwealth,

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Oceana, makes the subject of a very delightful though excessively odd book, wherein the project for a doctrinaire republic is worked out with all the learning, all the quaintness, and almost all the splendour of these mid-seventeenth-century writers, and with a profusion of fancy that never comes very far short of expression suitable to it.”