

CHAPTER XIV.

THE FINCHAMS OF FINCHAM.

The value of any statement that pretends to the importance of an historical record depends, of course, like other truth, on its authorities. These in the case of the Fincham family are unusually abundant and good. Very numerous Deeds of sale or gift, &c., marriage settlements, and wills, at Stow ; together with Wills, Inquisitions, &c., at the public offices, have yielded a large amount of original and unquestionable evidence for our purpose. Anything herein that is not thus specifically authenticated is taken from the History of Norfolk, or other well known literary publications, Visitations of the Heralds, or genealogical MSS. in the British Museum, or elsewhere.

“It was the custom of the Normans, begun in the days of King Edward, and generally followed after the Conquest, to assume the name of the town or village in which they took their principal manor.”¹

To Fincham came NIGELLUS, but the name being common, it is uncertain whether he was one of those (about twelve) who are so called in the Domesday Record, amongst whom was *Nigellus Medicus*, the King's physician. At any rate the name is not recorded there in connection with Fincham. He might indeed have been sub-eneffed by the first Earl Warren, but more probably by his successor, as the said Earl died at Castle-Acre in 1089, only three years after the completion of the survey. Be this as it may,

¹ *Hist. of Norf.*, vol. ix, p. 246.

it appears certain, from the history of the Priory of Castle-Acre, that in the reign of William II. one "*Nigellus de Fyncham*" gave his tithes to that monastery.¹

From him, it has been assumed, descended the ancient family of Fincham, residing in this village for nearly 500 years, and connected with some of the best families of the county. But early records bearing upon this point are so scanty and obscure, that it is impossible to settle this question with any degree of certainty.

In the construction, therefore, of the Fincham pedigree, all that we can do throughout the eleventh and twelfth centuries is to select and connect certain individuals of successive generations styled "*de Fyncham*," according to the dates and internal evidence of the many ancient deeds in which their names are found ; not without some misgiving as to their being really in every instance members of the same family. For it must be confessed that there is great difficulty in rightly discriminating and identifying the names of persons in those early times. Surnames were not then general, and although the family holding the chief manor frequently took their name from the place, yet others also are described as the sons of so and so, *of (de)*, or *living in*, the same place, without being at all related to each other. Thus "*Lawrence son of Richard son of John de Fincham*," (*Early Deed*, sans date,) might simply mean that a person named Lawrence, whose father was Richard, and grandfather John, was *of*, or *living in*, Fincham ; that they were merely inhabitants of the place, and not that they took their surname from it. This will presently appear from a list of names taken from numerous Deeds, where all are styled "*de Fyncham*," but most of them certainly were not of the family of Fincham Hall. With these remarks and limitations, applicable to three or four

¹ Dugdale, *Monast. Angl.*, vol. i, p. 626.

generations, we proceed with our account, in the hope that at some future time a further search into the public records will clear the way for a more perfect elucidation of their early history.

I. NIGELLUS DE FYNCHAM was lord of Fincham Hall Manor in the time of William II, and gave his tithes to the Priory of Castle-Acre. -- *Bl.*

II. OSBERT DE FYNCHAM, whose exact relationship to Nigellus has not been ascertained, lived in the reign of Henry II, (*Bl.*), and had issue :-

- I. REINER, eldest son, who died without issue. -- *Bl.*
- II. ROBERT, of whom as follows.

III. ROBERT DE FYNCHAM, heir to his brother Reiner, (*Bl.*), had two sons :-

- I. John, son and heir, as will appear.
- II. RICHARD, "son of Robert." --*Deed, s. d.*¹

IV. JOHN DE FYNCHAM (1) was son and heir to Robert. --*Deed, 34 Edward I.* It will be desirable to designate him *the first*, and so on with others, on account of the extraordinary frequency with which the name of John occurs. He was witness to a deed of grant to the Priory of Castle-Acre. He married Margaret, and had issue :-

- I. RICHARD, eldest son and heir, as will appear.
- II. JOHN (2), brother² to "Richard, son of John, son of Robert." -- *Deed, s. d.*

¹ This deed is given *in extenso* in the Appendix.

² It might have been the wife of this John to whom the following extract refers :-
 "Richard de Odiham, (Bailiff of the Hundred), put in prison (imprisonavit)
 "Christian wife of John de Fyncham, and took of her five shillings for her release." -
Rolls of the Hundred, temp. Ed. I.

III. LAWRENCE. -- *Deed, s. d.*, from Richard to his brother John.

IV. PETER, Clericus, married Matilda--*Deed, 1 Edward II.*¹

V. RICHARD DE FYNCHAM, son and heir to John (1), as by a pleading in the 43 *Henry III*. Also "son of "Margaret." --*Deed, 34 Edward I*. His seal consisted of the following legend round a *fleur de lis* in its centre, "S' "RICARD' F' IOH'IS." -- *Deed, 34 Edward I.*² (See *plate of seals*, No. 3.) He married Agatha, and had issue :-

VI. LAURENCE DE FYNCHAM, "son of Richard, son "of John." -- *Deed, s. d.* His son was

VII. THOMAS DE FYNCHAM, "son of Laurence, son "of Agatha." --*Deed, 13 Edward II*. He married Amicia, and was dead before 18 *Edward III*. He had two sons :-

I. WILLIAM, son and heir, of whom presently.

II. ROBERT, who married Isabel -- *Deed, 7 Edward II*.

VIII. WILLIAM DE FYNCHAM, "son of Thomas, son of "Laurence." -- *Deed, 18 Edward III*.

The History of Norfolk next gives *Adam* son of *William and Julian* de Fyncham. If this be so, then there were at least two Adams de Fyncham about this time, and it becomes doubtful whether the foregoing were the ancestors of the Fincham family. For the present, at any rate, this early pedigree must stand alone, wanting authentic connection with that which follows.

¹ This has been discovered since the pedigree was printed.

² There is another deed, sans date, whereby Richard, son of John de Fyncham, grants land to John de Fyncham, the *Chaplain*, but the seal is rather different, viz., "S' RIC' F' IOH'IS," and the writing earlier. This deed also is given *in extenso* in the Appendix.

IX. ADAM DE FYNCHAM, the great man of the family, and perhaps the founder, was the son of THOMAS, “le pesteur,” or “pistor,” the baker, and CICILIA his wife, who were living in 24 *Edward I* (1296). This appears not from any one single deed, but from many, and from a book, in which he caused to be entered the purchase of divers pieces of land in Fyncham and elsewhere. He was born circa 1270, and was Attorney General¹ to Kings Edward II and III.

In some early deeds he is called “Attornatum Regis,” and “Clericus Regis,” in reference to his office. He had a brother Geoffry living in 1296. -- *Deed, 24 Edward I*. His wife was Annabill, daughter of David Downe, of Snettisham. -- *Inquis. ad quod dam.*, 11 *Edward II*. He died in 1338, and was buried in St. Martin's church, in Fincham, next to his wife ; leaving a sister Catherine, and the following issue :-

- I. JOHN (3), son and heir. -- *Will* of his father.
- II. RALPH, of Stoke Ferry. -- *Ibid.*
- III. WILLIAM, who had a daughter Annabill. -- *Ibid.*
- IV. THOMAS, as by *Fine, 22 Edward III*.
- V. SIMON. -- *Deed, s. d.*, and 23 *Edward III*.
- VI. ALICIA, who married probablyde Freuze, and had a daughter Alicia. -- *Will* of her father.

Contemporaries, if they can be correctly so called, of the name “de Fyncham,” at this period are very numerous, and it is impossible to ascertain accurately which of them are related to the family. The following selection of names, however, taken from sundry Deeds,² will be found interesting, if only as marking in

¹ ATTORNEYS GENERAL for England :-

- A.D. 1319. Adam de Fyncham, 12 Edward II.
 1321. Geoffry le Scrope, 14 Edward II.
 1325. Adam de Fyncham, 18 Edward II.
 1328. Adam de Fyncham, 2 Edward III.

Heydn's *Book of Dignities*, p. 242.

² Many of these Deeds do not measure more than half a square foot, are all in Latin, and in excellent preservation.

some instances the trade or occupation of the individual named ; and amongst them are authorities for previous statements concerning the origin of the family.

DEED.

- S. D. Roger¹ son of Walter son of Peter de Fyncham.
 S. D. Richard son of Robert de Fyncham.
 S. D. Andrew son of Roger de Fyncham.
 S. D. Adam son of Hugh de Fyncham.
 S. D. Matthew son of Roger, and Andrew his brother.
 S. D. Walter son of John de Fyncham.
 S. D. Simon *faber* son of William de Fyncham.
 S. D. Adam son of John son of William de Fyncham.
 S. D. Roger son of Stephen to Andrew his son.
 S. D. Henri son of John de Fyncham.
 S. D. Henry son of David de Fyncham. *pastoris*.
 S. D. Lawrence son of Richard son of John de Fyncham.
 S. D. Reginald son of Richard de Fyncham.
 S. D. THOMAS *le pesteur* de Fyncham and CECILIA his wife.
 24 Ed. I. THOMAS de Fyncham *pistor* and CECILIA his wife.
 6 Ed. II. ADAM de Fyncham and CECILIA his mother.
 10 Ed. II. ADAM (son of THOMAS *pistoris* de Fyncham) and ANNABIL
 his wife.
 S. D. John Tristrem to ADAM son of THOMAS *le pestur*.
 S. D. John (4) the *merchant*, son of Ralph de Fyncham.
 S. D. Hugh son of John the *merchant*.
 18 Ed. II. ADAM de Fyncham, *Annabil* his wife and *John* their son.
 14 Ed. III. John (5) son of Katherine do Fyncham.

In addition to the above, we have from other sources :

A.D.

1256. HAMON DE FYNCHAM, mentioned in the will of Walter de Suffield, Bishop of Norwich. -- *Hist. of Norf.*, vol. iv., *Norwich*.
 1304. JOHN DE FYNCHAM (6), Rector of Caistor. -- *Ibid*, in *Caistor*.

¹ When Reginald de Hemington was Bailiff of the Hundred, he took of John son of Roger de Fyncham, one mark, *to save his neck*, (ne decolleret eum). -- *Rotuli Hundredorum 3 Edward I*. The Lord of Clackclose Hundred in those days, be it remembered, had a prison and *gallows* in his service. -- See *Bl.*, in *Clackclose*, vol. vii.

The number of individuals called “de Fyncham” may be accounted for by the fact that there were no less than 13 manors or lordships in the village, and any of the lords might be so styled. And hence Sir Samson Talbot, Knight, is sometimes called *Sir Samson de Fyncham*. We have also “Walter son of John de Hoo,” called in another deed *Walter de Littlewell in Fincham, son of John the Knight at Hoo*. Martin Godsib also, Rector of North Lynn in 1332, and of Barton St. Andrew's in 1344, is called *Martin de Fyncham*. -- See *Bl.* in *North Lynn* and *Barton*.

The WILL of Adam de Fyncham is a document of great interest and value. The original, in Latin, is in the muniment room at Stow, and I can find nothing so old by half a century in any of the Registry offices at Norwich, or the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in London. It is dated, Wednesday next after the feast of the Assumption, in the eleventh year of Edward III. (1337). It will be found, with notes appended, in a subsequent chapter.

X. JOHN DE FYNCHAM (3), son and heir to Adam, succeeded his father in Fincham Hall. He married, first, Alice daughter and heiress of Robert de Cawston and Alice his wife, (*Deed, 20 Edward III.*.) by whom he had issue :-

- I. JOHN (7), son and heir. -- *Heraldic Visitations, &c.*
- II. THOMAS, who had, circa 1400, by gift of his brother John, the Manor of West Winch, now called Fincham's in West Winch. He appears to have been the first of the family settled there, and of whom but little is known.¹ There were several descendants of this branch residing in Lynn for a long period, having a mansion house and garden in what was then called *Fincham street*, but now *New Conduit street*.
- III. ALICIA, married to Laurence Trusbutt, of Shouldham, Esquire. -- *Marr. Sett., 17 Richard II.*

¹ For some account of this branch, as well as of Fincham's Manor in West Winch, compiled by Mr. Swatman, see *Memorials of West Winch*, by the Rev. G. Eller, M.A., Rector. 1861.

John de Fincham married secondly Christiana, daughter of Robert, or Richard, Chappe, or Chapps, of Wolverton. Their son was Edmund Fincham, of Watlington, who was the progenitor of a very respectable branch who lived at Rougham through many generations, and of whom see further in the printed pedigree. He died between the years 1371 and 1374, at which latter date the said Christiana was the wife of Simon de la Hay (*Deed, 48 Edward III*). He was buried most probably in St. Martin's church, next to his first wife. I have not discovered any Will ; but an Inventory of his goods, already mentioned in the account of the Hall, will be found with the Wills of the family.

Contemporary¹ also with this John we have :-

A.D.

1349. ADAM DE FYNCHAM, chaplain to the Free Chapel of St. Margaret, Hilburgh. -- *Bl.*
 1349. JOHN DE FYNCHAM (8), Rector of St. George's, Southacre. -- *Bl.*
 1357. JOHN DE FYNCHAM (9), of Wolverton, merchant. -- *Rolls of Parl.*, vol. ii, p. 456.
 1366. JOHN DE FYNCHAM, probably the same, Mayor of Lynn. -- *Hist. of Lynn.*

XI. JOHN DE FYNCHAM (7) was son and heir to the preceding. He married Katherine daughter of Briston, of Briston, in this county, Esquire, with whom he had divers lands in Stody and Hunworth, with the manor of Harthill in the same. He alienated lands to the Prior of Ely in 1393. His seal was a shield containing three finches circumscribed IOH. FINCE. HAM. -- *Deed, 20 Richard II.* (See *Plate of Seals, No. 1.*)² His issue by Katherine his wife were :-

¹ Blomefield says that about this time, (40 Edward III), William de Fyncham was one of the King's judges ; but the judge in question was *William de Fyncheden*, Knight, of Etwelle, in Derbyshire. -- *Dugd. Orig. Jurid.*

² These seals are presented by Mr. Dashwood, from his "Sigilla Antiqua."

- I. SIMON, son and heir.. -- *His father's Testament.*
- II. GUY, who inherited his mother's manors in Hunworth and Stody. -- *Deed, 13 Henry IV.*
- III. THOMAS, "brother to Simon." -- *Deed, 7 Henry V.*
- IV. CHRISTIANA, a nun at Crabhouse¹ in Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen.
- V. MARGARET, married probably to ... Swarthing. -- *Harl. MS. 1534.*
- VI. A daughter, married to John Shouldham. -- *Ibid.*
- VII. A daughter, married toBatchcroft. -- *Ibid.*

He was buried with his wife in St. Martin's church. He has left two Testaments. The first is dated on Christmas Eve, 13 Henry IV (1411). From this, though "being of no strength at all," I may quote that he gives to the church of St. Martin in Fincham "ten pounds of silver,"² and to the church of St. Michael "forty shillings of silver." His *last* testament is given with the other wills.

Contemporaneous with the above were :-

A.D.

- 1382. JOHN DE FYNCHAM (10), Vicar of Breccles Magna. -- *Bl.*
- 1383. HUGH DE FYNCHAM, Canon of the Priory of Wormegay. -- *Ibid.*
- 1388. SIMON DE FYNCHAM, Rector of Fransham Magna. -- *Ibid.*
- 1400. SIMON DE FYNCHAM, Rector of Gayton Thorpe. -- *Ibid.*

XII. SIMON DE FYNCHAM, generally written at this time and afterwards SYMEON, was son and heir to John. His name is among the gentry of the county,³ as returned by the King's Commissioners in the 12th Henry VI (1433). He married Elizabeth, one of the five daughters and coheireses⁴ of John Tendring, Esquire, of Brockdish, in Norfolk, and had :-

¹ For some account of this nunnery see the *Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society*, vol. for 1858, by the Rev. G. H. Dashwood.

² Ten pounds was a very large sum indeed at that time, and it is most probable that the gift was in contemplation of a new church.

³ Fuller's *Worthies*, vol. ii, p. 141.

⁴ *Bl.* v, 337.

- I. JOHN (11), son and heir. -- *Will* of his father.
- II. LAWRENCE, citizen and member of the Fishmongers, Corporation, London. By Elene his wife he had issue one son. -- *Will*, in D. C.
- III. WILLIAM, whose wife's name was Elizabeth.
- IV. NICHOLAS, in holy orders, who built the Vestry of St. Martin's church, and is buried there. His Will is very curious, and has already been quoted. I may here produce another extract. "Item : I wyll that the sayde "chyrche-wardens schall fynde v tapyr of wax in the "bason that hangyth afore oure ladye, every tapyr of "halfe a pound, unto the sum of v shillings by the yer, "and yerly to bren every dobyll fest ii of the seyde "tapyr, and every pryncypall fest to bren all v "tapyr." --Dated Oct. 2, 1503, and preserved at *Stow*.
- V. ELEANOR, apprenticed to W. Rothay and Ann his wife, silk throwsters, and married probably Elwyn. -- *Deed*, 25 *Henry VI*.
- VI. ALICE, married to John Batchcroft, Esq., of Bexwell. -- *Harl. MS.*, 1534.

To Simon de Fyncham we are indebted probably for the fine tower of our church, for which see in the account of the church of St. Martin. He was buried there in 1458, and his wife Elizabeth in 1464. His Will and Testament are distinct documents, and are given hereafter. The seal of Simon de Fyncham was elaborate and beautiful, viz., the Fincham arms, with the circumscription SIGILLUM SYMEONIS FYNCH --, and three *finches* separating the words. -- See *Plate of Seals*, No. 2.

Among his contemporaries were :-

A.D.

1445. WILLIAM FINCHAM, of Rougham, Esquire. -- *Will*, at Norwich.
1449. JOHN FINCHAM (12), from Rougham, Rector of Rainham St. Margaret. --Bl., in *Rainham*.
1458. JOHN FINCHAM (13), from Rougham, Rector of Stiffkey. -- *Ibid.* *Will*, at Norwich.

Fincham Seals.

1.



1. Seal of John Fyncham of Fyncham to a deed confirming to Gregory atte Lathe and Sir Henry Brampton late vicar of Stradesete, a Messuage and Croft in Fyncham. 20. R. II.

2.



2. Seal of Simeon do Fyncham, appended to various deeds. temp. Hen. V. and Hen. VI.

3.



3. Seal of Richard son of John de Fyncham, to a deed whereby he grants to John de Fincham, Chaplain, half an acre of land in Fincham. S. D. temp. Hen. III.

XIII. JOHN FYNCHAM (11), dropping the “de” before the surname, as the Norman-French about this time fell into disuse, was son and heir to Simon, and married Beatrix the daughter of Henry Thoresby, a wealthy merchant at Lynn. -- *Marr. Sett.*, 24 *Henry VI* (1446). He was steward for the manors of the Abbot of Ramsey, who was Lord of the Hundred of Clackclose, this Hundred being bounded on the East, in part, by the celebrated earthwork called the *Devil's Dyke*, towards Beacham Well, the origin of which has not been satisfactorily made out. It is in all probability a territorial boundary, and not a military work.¹

Fincham Hall was probably built by this John Fyncham. The remarkable feature of his family was his having two sons of the name of JOHN, living at the same time in man's estate. The residuary clause of his Testament proves this, as well as the Will of his elder son, and a deed by which certain lands are conveyed from one to the other. -- *Deed*, 11 *Henry VII*. They are called respectively the *elder* and the *younger* John.² He left issue :-

- I. JOHN (14a), the *elder*, son and heir. -- *Will* of his father.
- II. JOHN (14b), the *younger*, of Outwell. -- *Will* of his father.
- III. HENRY, married Elizabeth daughter of Stephen Fabian. -- *Visitn.*, 1619.
- IV. SIMON, Rector of Watlington, and probably of Ringstead parva. -- *Bl. Will*, at Norwich, 1512.
- V. THOMAS. -- *Will of Simon*, his grandfather.
- VI. MARGERIE, a nun at Blackborough, in Middleton, and afterwards Prioress there. -- *Deed*, 24 *Henry VII*.

¹ It was certainly considered and used as such by the Abbot, as Sir H. Spelman has stated, “fossa centuriam Clackclose muniens et distermians appellatur *Bicham* “*ditch*, et devenit terminus *libertatum Ramesiensis Ecclesiae*.” -- *Icenia*, p. 141.

² This and other similar instances are quoted in *Notes and Queries*, vols. viii, ix, x. Also, “Hugh de Gournay is frequently named in Deeds as H. de G. *Junior*, probably from his having an elder brother of the same name.” -- *Record of the House of Gournay*, p. 128.

- VII. ELIZABETH, married Kervile, of the Wiggshall family. --*Cole's MSS.*
 VIII. ALICE, married Miller, of Kent. -- *Harl. MSS.* 1534.

He died in 1496, and a *Post Mortem Inquisition* was taken 12 *Henry VII* (1497), at *Hingham*. He was buried, together with his wife Beatrix, in St. Martin's church. He is said to have purchased the manor of Burnham Deepdale in 1474. -- *Memorials of West Winch*, p. 106. His will is very long, and only about half of it is transcribed, relating to the foundation of a chantry in St. Martin's church. -- See the Will.

Contemporary with him were :-

A.D.

1479. "Brother THOMAS FYNCHAM," Canon of Old Buckenham. -- *Bl.*
 1486. SIMON FYNCHAM, Fellow of C.C.C.C., and Rector of St. Benet's, said to be his younger brother. He died in 1512. -- *Lamb's Hist. of Corpus Chr. Coll.*, p. 311.

XIV(a).¹ JOHN FYNCHAM (14a), called *the elder* John, son and heir of the preceding (*P.M.I.*), was 44 years of age at his father's death in 1496. He married, first, Alice daughter of Thomas Bedingfield, Esq., of Oxburgh. -- *Marr. Sett., March 3, 1469*. By her it does not appear that he had any children. She lies buried in the parish church of Merton, in this county, near to her sister Mary, the wife of William de Grey, of the Walsingham family. Her epitaph is as follows :-

Hic jacet Alicia quondam uxor Johannis Fyncham filii senioris Johannis Fyncham, que quidem fuit filia Thome Bedyngfeld Armigeri, et soror Marie Grey, et que quidem Alicia obiit XXII die Maii Anno Domini MCCCCLXXII.² cujus anime propicietur Deus. Amen.

¹ Henceforth the letters (a), (b), (c), &c., placed next to the number of the generation, XIV(a), &c., denote the several branches of the family.

² Misquoted in Blomefield as 1464.

He married, secondly, Jane daughter of John Tey, Esq., of the county of Essex, and Margaret his wife, -- *Marr. Sett.*, 22 *Edward IV* (1482). By this marriage he had issue :-

- I. JOHN (15), son and heir. -- *Will* of his father.
- II. ALICE, wife to Humphrey Kervile, of Wiggshall St. Mary's. -- *Kervile Pedigree*.
- III. MARGARET, who married probably William Skipwith, who is called "my brother Skipwith" in the *Will* of her brother John.

He died in 1499, and is buried in St. Martin's church, with Jane his wife, who it appears had married secondly Sir Philip Tilney, Knight, of Suffolk.¹ His Will and Testament are with the others.

Contemporary with him was :-

A.D.

1485. THOMAS FYNCHAM, of Hockwold, Norfolk, and many years Fellow of King's Hall, Cambridge.² In his will, dated January 8th, 1517, he calls himself *cousin* to the above, and to John Fyncham, junr., of Outwell, but we have not been able at present to place him in the pedigree.³ "The arms of Fyncham are "engraved five times on the garden wall on the right-hand of the "King's gate in Trinity College, Cambridge, that wall being built "by Thomas Fyncham, a Fellow of King's Hall, near the "seniority in 1485." -- *Cole's MSS.*, Br. Mus.
1509. THOMAS FYNCHAM was Rector of Bixton. -- *Bl.*

XV(a). JOHN FYNCHAM (15), son and heir to the last-mentioned, married Ela daughter of Gregory

¹ It seems that he resided here occasionally after this marriage. An official document is thus addressed to him : "For Sir Philip Tylney, Knight, of Fyncham, "Norfolk, alias Kelsale, Suffolk." -- *State Papers*, 6th Henry VIII, No. 5250.

² King's Hall was incorporated with Trinity College by Henry VIII.

³ In the Court Books of Hockwold-cum-Wilton, 23 Henry VII (1507), is this : "John Fyncham, late of Hockwold, deceased." Who was this John Fyncham ? He left a will (not yet discovered) in which he mentions a son "Robert," according to said books.

Adgore, or Edgar, of Suffolk, Esquire, Serjeant-at-Arms. –
Marr. Sett., Nov, 26, 1519. Their issue was :-

- I. JOHN (16), who died young, probably before his father (1540), not being mentioned in his Will. In the pedigree he is called “posthumous,” because the parish register has his burial in 1542. But I am convinced that this is incorrect, as it certainly is for the burial of his mother and sister, both set down in the same year.
- II. THOMAS, second son and heir, (*Will* of his father), of whom presently.
- III. ELA, “mayde dowhter to John ffyncham Esquier,” according to her own Will, dated February 19th, 32 Henry VIII (1540-1). By this Will she gives “ten shillings to the church of St. Martin's, fyve shillings to St. Michael's, and fower pence to each of the inhabitants of the towne of Fyncham. Item to my brother Thomas my trussing bedde¹ with all belonging thereto.” -- This Will was proved March 8th following (1540-1). -- *Norwich*.

He died November 11th, 1540. A *Post Mortem Inquisition* was taken at *Norwich Castle*, September 19th, 1541. His Will is recited in it, and will be found with the other Fincham Wills. He was seized of the manor of Burnham Deepdale, &c. Ela his wife died two months after her husband, January 21st, 1540-1. Her Will is dated the same day, January 21st, 32 Henry VIII (1540-1), and proved the same day with her daughter's.² *P.M.I.* taken at *Ipswich*, October 8th, 1541. She bequeaths to her son Thomas “all “my harnes,³ and weapons mete for the warres. twenty

¹ *Trussing*, from the French “trousser,” to pack up close. Few things were oftener specified in early wills than beds. Edward the Black Prince bequeathed several, as did his father Edward III. And John of Gaunt also bequeaths “my other “beds called in England *trussyng* beds.”

² The dates of the wills, their probates, and the deaths of Ela Fincham. and Ela her daughter, all occurred within the three months of the double notation of the year 1540-1 ; and some of them being according to the *civil* and others the *historical* year, the difficulty of making out a true account is apparent.

³ *Harness* formerly meant “accoutrements” in general, whether for man or horse. -- See 1 Kings, xx, 11, and xxii, 34.

“shillings for mending the highways of Fincham. Item viii
“pence to every householder in the towne. Item to my son
“Thomas iii ringes of golde – my marieng ringe, my
“howsband's signet ringe, and one with a dymonde and two
“letters.” -- *Consistory Court, Norwich*.

Contemporary with them were :-

A.D.

1532. SIR JOHN FYNCHAM (17), (Rougham branch), parish priest of St. James's church, Norwich, and buried there. -- *Will*, at Norwich.

1540. THOMAS FYNCHAM, of North Runcton (West Winch branch), who died in 1557. -- *Will*, in D. C.

XVI(a). THOMAS FYNCHAM, second son and heir to John and Ela, (*P.M.I.*) was a minor of the age of 12 years at his father's and mother's death, in 1540-1, and the King's ward. -- *Deed*, 34 *Henry VIII*. He married Martha daughter of William Yelverton, of Rougham, in this county, Esquire, and had issue :-

I. WILLIAM, son and heir. -- *Will* of his father.

II. ANN, baptised July 4th, 1551. She married, first, Richard Nicoll, of Islington, Norfolk, Esquire; and secondly, Charles Cornwallis, of Beeston, Norfolk, Esquire. She was his first wife, and was buried at Fincham July 29th, 1584. Sir Charles Cornwallis was H.M. Ambassador at the Court of Madrid, and was knighted May 11th, 1603. He died in 1629, intestate. He appears to have lived here until the death of his wife, having purchased the estate of her brother William. He had a son Charles¹ here, who is not mentioned in the Cornwallis pedigree, having probably died young.

Thomas Fyncham died July 30th, 1551, as appears from a *Post Mortem Inquisition* taken at *Norwich*

¹ *Fincham Register*, anno 1576.

Castle 31st January, 6 Edward VI (1552). He was only 23 years of age, and was buried in St. Martin's church. In his will, which is quoted hereafter, there is this bequest : "To the "*common boxe* in Fyncham vi^{li} viii^s iv^d." In all previous bequests of this kind I have never met with this term. I suppose it was the parish purse in the hands of the churchwardens, for in this very year (1551) an Act was passed, I think the first in England, for the relief of the impotent poor. There were no overseers till 50 years later, the 43rd of Elizabeth.

It was this gentleman against whom the Fincham rebels in Kett's time uttered the horrible threat to "make a carte wey "between his hed and sholders," if he did not at once join them. -- See chap. III.

Martha his widow married, first, William Swanton, of Bury St. Edmund's ; and afterwards John Higham, (misprinted Heighton in the pedigree,) of Gifford, Esquire. She was living in 1577.¹

XVII(a). WILLIAM FYNCHAM, son and heir of Thomas, (*P.M.I.*) was a minor aged two years and 45 weeks at his father's death in 1551. His wardship and marriage were granted, February 17th, 1553, to Sir Edward Warner, Knight. The schedule attached to the deed sums up the value of his estates at £94 16s. 9¼d. He married Audrey daughter of Sir Thomas Lovell, Knight, of Harling, and relict of -- Cooke, of Melton. He sold his Fincham estates to Charles Cornwallis, Esquire, on his coming of age in 1572, and thenceforth this the elder branch of the family began to decline, the ancient hereditaments being gone.² He was "defunct" before 1586.³ I do not find his

¹ "Martha Higham mother to the said Ann and William Fincham." -- *Deed of Sale*, March 24th, 1577. In possession of Mrs. Bland.

² His autograph signature is on a *Deed of Sale* in 1572, in possession of Mr. Hebgin.

³ *Old Deed*, in possession of Mr. J. B. Barsham.

place of burial, nor any Will. It appears, however, that he left a son,¹ viz. :-

XVIII(a). JOHN FYNCHAM (18), who married a daughter of Robert Lovell, of Beacham Well, but his place of residence is not known. The family had left the village, and the estate had no longer a resident lord.

The name, however, at this time occurs at Stow, and there are about thirty entries in the registers of that village down to 1648. But whether the Finchams Stow came from Fincham, or Outwell, or West Winch, is not known. Their position appears to have been that of respectable copyhold or freehold tenants ; and in the Court Books of Stow occasional mention of the name occurs, as for instance :-

26th Elizth. (1584), William Fincham, and Alice his wife surrender and are readmitted to lands, 5 acres, in Newlond, Stow.

40th ibid, (1598), John Fincham (19), gentleman, surrenders a messuage in Downham.

9th James I (1612), Thomas Fincham, son and heir of William Fincham *avi sui* deceased, (*avi* probably for *patris*), admitted to 5 acres and a messuage in Newlond.

There are two or three wills also at Norwich of the Finchams of Stow, which shew their *descent*, in one sense, if not in that for which the search was made. I will quote only one extract. William Fyncham bequeaths to his beloved wife "all my cheese, one goose and gander, and all my cocks and "hennes." Proved A.D. 1610.

¹ *Herald's Visitation*, 1619. *Cole's MSS.*, Br. Mus., vol. ii, p. 12.