

## CHAPTER XV.

### THE FINCHAMS OF OUTWELL.

This very respectable and prolific branch of the family descended from John Fincham, *Junior*, (14b), of Fincham, the younger of the two brothers of the same name, and making the 20th John already noticed. He went to Outwell about the year 1485, having married, or being about to marry, Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Deerham, of Crimplesham, Esquire ; and grand-daughter of Gilbert Haultoft, Esquire, of Outwell, a baron of the Exchequer in the reign of Henry VI. With his wife he inherited Lord Bardolph's manor in Outwell, and the manor of Vernon's (also "jure uxoris,") in Elme, which Haultoft had purchased of William de Grey, of Merton, and Christiana his wife, October 2nd, 15 Henry VI (1436).<sup>1</sup>

Connected with this inheritance was the chapel of *St. Nicholas*, in the church of St. Clement's, in Outwell.<sup>2</sup> It forms the eastern extremity of the north aisle, and was probably founded by Gilbert Haultoft, who gave lands to find a chantry-priest to say mass in this church. His Will also contains a curiously-expressed instruction for the reparation of the chapel

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<sup>1</sup> *Add. MSS.*, Br. Mus., 8839, p. 146.

<sup>2</sup> There are two other chapels in this church. That on the south side, corresponding with the chapel of St. Nicholas, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was the burial place of the Bells of Beauprè Hall. The other, on the north, extending into the churchyard about 18 feet, is called the Lynn chapel, from a Cambridgeshire family of that name. It had the date MCCCCXX in one of its windows in Blomefield's time. It is now used as a vestry. The whole church has during the present year, 1862, undergone very extensive reparations, at an expense of £2000, under the superintendence of the Rev. H. Wright, the Rector.

of St. Christopher, an ancient hermitage in Outwell, in these words : “Item volo quod executores mei faciant de novo the “roofe of Christopher Chapple, et exalcent muros melius “quam nunc est.”<sup>1</sup> The chapel of St. Nicholas was beautiful, especially in its windows, which were very rich in stained glass, of which only one mutilated figure now remains. “In “the middle of this chapel to the north,” says Cole the antiquarian, who visited it about 1763, “there lies an old grey “marble with a piece of brass, and this inscription :-

**Hic jacet Margareta Haultoft quondam uxor Gilberti  
Haultoft unius baronorum saccharii nuper domini Henrici  
VI regis Angliæ cujus anime propicietur Deus.**

Mr. Cole then goes on to say : “This Margaret Haultoft, as “I take it, was mother [really the grandmother] to an heiress, “who married a Fincham ; for the Fincham arms quartering “Haultoft are in stone on the outside of this chapel, and “several times within, so that a son by this marriage was the “founder thereof.”<sup>2</sup> This conclusion, which but for its being also in Blomefield I should not perhaps have noticed, must surely be erroneous. The existence of the brass itself to this day, with its inscription, copied above, to the memory of the grandmother of John Fincham's wife, sufficiently indicates that the chapel was founded by her husband Haultoft, if not before his time. In confirmation of this I find it stated in another MS. that the said Gilbert Haultoft “built the chapell “in the parish church of Outwell, with the window adorned “with the arms of his family, &c., and was buried there.”<sup>3</sup> The Fincham arms, &c., were doubtless put up at subsequent times, extending

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<sup>1</sup> Will dated 10th January, 1457 ; proved 7th October, 1458. -- *Stow*.

<sup>2</sup> *Cole's MSS.*, Br. Mus., vol. viii, pp. 108-9-10.

<sup>3</sup> *Add. MSS.*, Br. Mus., 8839, p. 146.

down to James I, when the family pew was erected, which also was embellished with the same insignia and other devices. The panelling of this pew has been preserved, and is intended to adorn the Lynn chapel, now used as a vestry.

There is also in this chapel of St. Nicholas an old brass effigy, with the following inscription beneath it :-

*Here lieth Richard Owadryng Esquier whiche decessid  
ye XXXIX day of September the yer of our Lord  
MCCCCCXI on whos soule ieshu have marcy. Amen.*

Also,

*Maria daughter of William and Lucy Castell  
died 13th Jan : 1801. aged three years.*

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*Quam Deus amat cito moritur.*

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To proceed with the family history, now at the fourteenth generation, and the first of Outwell :-

XIV(b). JOHN FINCHAM (20) by Elizabeth his wife had issue two sons, Thomas and Simon, and four daughters. By his Will, proved in D. C. May 26th, 1527, he gives the manor of Deepdale to his wife.<sup>1</sup> He orders "fyve cuppes of silver "gilte" to be made, for his nephew John and four daughters. His wife died in the following year, and Deepdale reverted to the Finchams of Fincham. She is buried in the chapel of *St. Nicholas*. From their two sons descended two distinct families at Outwell, which, after

<sup>1</sup> See also *Post Mortem Inquisition* taken at *Bishop's Lynn*, Oct. 29th, 19 Henry VIII (1528).

exhibiting a very numerous progeny in both branches, were united again by marriage in the 5th generation. I can only mention the beads of each successive generation of the two families. The rest will be found in the regular pedigree printed herewith.<sup>1</sup>

XV(b). THOMAS FINCHAM,<sup>2</sup> the elder son, married Joan ....., and had issue two sons and five daughters. Richard, his eldest son and heir died s. p. in 1602.<sup>3</sup> The second son was

XVI(b). ROBERT FINCHAM, who held lands in Oldfield and Needham, in Elme. He married Cecilia daughter of Nicholas Steward, by whom he had four sons and seven daughters, of whom his eldest son and heir was

XVII(b). EDWARD FINCHAM, born in 1566. He inherited the Elme estate, and married Jane daughter and heiress of Richard Sterling, of Dedham, in Essex, Esquire. He died in 1631. His Will was proved July 1st of that year, D. C. He had a numerous family of five sons and six daughters. Of these his eldest son and heir was

XVIII(b). THOMAS FINCHAM, born in 1619. He married Frances Richmond, of Haddenham, and, having left Outwell, died at Norwich in 1666. He had sold his Elme property in 1656 to Richard his youngest brother, who was buried in the north aisle of the church of that parish, and the following elegant

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<sup>1</sup> The best MS. for this pedigree is Harl., 1534, p. 48. One or two others give Mary Oldham as mother to John Fincham, and other errors.

<sup>2</sup> He is called Sir Thomas Fincham, Knight, in Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

<sup>3</sup> This and many of the dates that follow are derived from the Registers of Outwell parish, which commence in 1559. They contain 59 baptisms, 37 burials and 8 marriages relating to this family.

Latin epitaph, on a brass plate, beneath the Fincham arms, is to his memory :-

*Mihi heri, hodie tibi.*  
*Sub hoc marmore depositæ sunt*  
*Exuviæ mortales viri dignissimi,*  
*Ricardi Fincham, qui vitam non*  
*Reliquit, sed mutavit, 24<sup>o</sup> die*  
*Novembris, anno salutis nostræ 1667,*  
*Ætatis suæ 50.*  
*Per vitam ad mortem transitus* } *est.*  
*Per mortem ad vitam reditus*

The said Thomas Fincham had issue one son, Robert, who died in his infancy, and three daughters, of whom MARY was born in 1626, and, surviving her sisters, was married, as sole heiress, in 1656, to her relative John Fincham, of the Outwell junior branch, (of whom by and bye,) and died in 1658, without male issue.

We revert consequently to the said junior branch, in the second son of John and Elizabeth Fincham, viz :-

XV(c). SIMON FINCHAM. He married Thomasine daughter of Edward Felgate, (in some documents written Gilgatt,) of Ipswich, Esquire, and died in 1538. His Will was proved November 25th of that year. A *Post Mortem Inquisition* was taken at Downham Market, August 30th, 31 Henry VIII (1539). He had two sons and four daughters. His eldest son, John Fincham (21), aged eight years at his father's death, died s. p. His second son,

XVI(c). SIMON FINCHAM, married Ann daughter of John Balam, of Barton Mills, Esquire. He was buried

in 1615, at Outwell, having had issue six sons and five daughters. The eldest was

XVII(c). JOHN FINCHAM (22), baptized December 22nd, 1560. He married, first, at Lynn, Catherine daughter of William Shouldham, in 1589. By this marriage he had one son, John Fincham (23), and Elizabeth an only daughter. Secondly, Mary daughter of John Spence, late wife of J. Dixon, by whom he had six sons and two daughters. He was buried at Outwell in 1621. His Will was proved July 3rd, 1622, D. C.

XVIII(c). JOHN FINCHAM (23), married Christiana daughter of Austin Whale, or Whall, of Catton, Norfolk, Esquire. They appear to have lived some time at Fincham. He was imprisoned in the Bastille at Paris, in the 2nd Charles I, for some supposed political offence during the war with France, and some letters from him relating to that imprisonment will form the contents of Chapter XVII. He was author of "A Treatise on establishing a High Court of "Admiralty in England." -- *State Papers*, James I, p. 520. He died circa 1649. His issue were four sons and four daughters, of whom his eldest son and heir was

XIX(c). JOHN FINCHAM (24), who married Mary daughter of William Barrett, of Outwell. They had four sons and two daughters. In the Outwell Registers he is called John Fincham, *Junior*. His eldest son and heir was

XX(c). JOHN FINCHAM (25), who married, first, his cousin of the fifth generation, MARY Fincham, sole surviving child of Thomas Fincham of the elder branch. She died without male issue, and he married, secondly, Susan Nixon, of Frenze, Norfolk, in 1664. By her he had issue JOHN (26), who died an infant, in 1665. Afterwards JOHN (27), only son and heir, and seven

daughters, as appears from his tombstone in the chapel at Outwell church, although only six of them are there mentioned by name. In 1673 he presented to the living of Frenze, Thomas Wales, A.B. In 1683, to the living of Cockley Cley, William Constable, M.A.

He died and was buried at Outwell. His Will was proved in the same year, in D. C., London. The following is the inscription on his tombstone :-

Within this chancel [sic] lieth the body of  
John Fincham Esq : who departed this life  
March 24th, 1709, in the 80th year of his age.  
Here also lie his wives, Mary and Susan,  
By whom he had two sons and seven daughters,  
Most of them buried in or near this place,  
Viz. : Mary, Frances, John, Jane,  
Catherine, Christian, the last Elizabeth,  
The wife of Matthew Hardy, Gent,  
Who departed this life August 2nd, 1731,  
Aged 61 years, and lieth under this stone.

XXI(c). JOHN FINCHAM (27), only son and heir, left Outwell soon after his father's death, having sold the family estate ; and thenceforth the name does not appear again in the Registers of that parish. He married Ann ....., and went to live at Chawston, in the parish of Roxton, Bedfordshire.<sup>1</sup> His Will was proved in 1726, D. C., leaving his wife Ann sole executrix, and guardian of his only son,

XXII(c). JOHN FINCHAM (28), a minor, who became a member of New Inn, afterwards united to the Middle Temple, London. He died intestate in 1766, and administration of his effects was granted to one Francis *Coffin*, second cousin and next of kin, a name singularly appropriate to the melancholy office of receiving the remains of the last of the Finchams of Outwell !

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<sup>1</sup> From the Title Deeds of Peter Huddleston, Esquire, of Norton, Suffolk, the present owner of part of the Outwell estate.