

HISTORY
OF THE
SIDERFIN FAMILY
OF
WEST SOMERSET.

By
JAMES SANDERS, J.P.,
of South Molton,
Devon.

man
5-

HISTORY^c
OF THE
SIDERFIN FAMILY
OF
WEST SOMERSET.

BY
JAMES SANDERS, J.P.,
OF SOUTH MOLTON.
DEVON.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
FORT WATTS & CO. LTD.
100, QUEEN'S ROAD, LONDON, W.

EXETER:
W. J. SOUTHWOOD AND CO., "DYNAMO" WORKS,
1912.

PREFACE.

While turning the pages of Savage's interesting *Hundred of Carhampton* in Somersetshire, I came across certain records of one William Siderfin.

My mother having been a Siderfin, my attention was at once aroused, and I resolved to pursue the study of the *annales* of the family to which he belonged. My main reason was the natural interest one must feel in his ancestors, their occupations, their services to the State or to society, their habits and manners, their prosperity or adversity. The pursuit of this subject became fascinating, and furnished a welcome relief from the routine duties and commercial engagements of a busy life.

I have thought it desirable to put into a permanent form, through the printing press, the result of these researches, believing that this record may prove entertaining to those who may trace any connection, either by descent in the direct line or by the alliance of marriage, with the family of Siderfin.

Moreover, the students of archæology and local history who know the district of West Somerset may be prepared to accept the humble contribution of a novice in their craft to their gathered store of information.

No pretensions to literary merit are made by the writer, and criticism should be disarmed by this admission on the part of one whose motto is "Deeds, not words."

The ancestral home of the Siderfin family cannot be determined, but Luxborough seems to provide the chief material for this memorial, in the form of parish registers, etc. In the early days Selworthy; Wootton Courtney and Minehead in the later period.

And my thanks are due to Sir Maxwell Lyte, Sir C. H. Chadwyck Healey, E. T. MacDermott, Esq., Rev. F. Hancock, and other gentlemen, for permission to use extracts from their books.



History of the Siderfin Family of West Somerset.

The first mention of the name I find in the *Hundred Rolls of Somerset* :—

(1) "ROTULI HUNDREDORUM," Somerset, Vol. II., page 127, the 4th year of Edward I. (A.D., 1274)—"Lib 'un Man'ium de Brigford' (Brushford) Jurator' dicūt qđ đui liboz man 'ioz hnt furc' and assiām pan' and cvis' set nesciūt qo warāto. Iđ de Vic' capientibz muna Dicūt qđ Ričs de Meyesmor' cep' p̄ reddita desseysina C sot de hōibz Johis de Repariis sciit de Sampson' de Hasle Johē Brum *Robto de Sidernefenne* wīlł Binoptheweye," etc.

THE TRANSLATION.

Hundred Rolls, Somerset, Vol. II., page 127, the 4th year of E. I. (A.D., 1275-6)—The Free Manor of Brigford (Brushford).

The jurors say that the lords of free manors have a gallows [the power to inflict capital punishment] and the assize of bread and ale but they do not know by what warrant. And with respect to sheriffs taking payments they say that Richard de Meyesmor took for rent* from the men of John de Repariis (Rivers), namely from Sampsan de Hasle, John Brum, Robert de Sidernefenne, William Binoptheweye, etc.

* Of disseisin one hundred shillings.

6 THE SIDERFIN FAMILY OF WEST SOMERSET.

(2) I cannot make out exactly what Sidernefenne meant. Perhaps it meant altogether "the side of the herne or corner of the valley by the fen or swamp." In Kelly's Directory of Somersetshire for the year 1875 a farm called Venn Southern Venn or Fen is referred to in Brushford parish. *Binopthewe* evidently means William who lived "by no pathway," Brushford was then, I think, within the metes and bounds of Exmoor Forest; but there were freemen who paid a hundred shillings quit rent—a large sum of money in those days. Repariis was, I believe, another form of spelling for Redvers.

After this I find no trace of this family, they may have migrated into Devon.

There was no doubt a John Siderfin who died previous to 1551, who had a son William.

Savage's *Hundred of Carhampton*, p. 259, contains the following:—"In the reign of Queen Elizabeth there were some proceedings in Chancery in which James Foster was plaintiff, and Robert Siderfinne defendant, respecting a lease of Land parcel of the Manor of Luxborough of which Manor, John Foster, the plaintiff's grandfather was Lord and after him James Foster the plaintiff's Father who demised the said Land to William Sidervin deceased. (a) Note Calendar of proceedings in Chancery, p. 292, No. 54."

This William Sidervin (note difference in spelling), married a Wilmot *Foster*, who were the parents of the aforesaid Robert Siderfinne.

CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS.

ELIZABETH, F. 3. 54. (*Without date.*)

Transcript (mem. 1.)

To the right honorable Sir Thomas Bromleye knight
Lord Chauncellor of England.

Humble complayninge sheweth unto your good Lordshipp your pore and daylye oratour James Foster. That where one John Foster deceased graundfather unto your said orator was in his Lyfe tyme lawfullie seased in his demeanne as of Fee of and in the Mannor of Luxborowe

257
S11426
152206

6 THE SIDERFIN FAMILY OF WEST SOMERSET.

(2) I cannot make out exactly what Sidernefenne meant. Perhaps it meant altogether "the *side* of the *herne* or *corner* of the valley by the *fen* or swamp." In Kelly's Directory of Somersetshire for the year 1875 a farm called Venn Southern Venn or Fen is referred to in Brushford parish. *Binopthewe* evidently means William who lived "by no pathway," Brushford was then, I think, within the metes and bounds of Exmoor Forest; but there were freemen who paid a hundred shillings quit rent—a large sum of money in those days. Repariis was, I believe, another form of spelling for Redvers.

After this I find no trace of this family, they may have migrated into Devon.

There was no doubt a John Siderfin who died previous to 1551, who had a son William.

Savage's *Hundred of Carhampton*, p. 259, contains the following:—"In the reign of Queen Elizabeth there were some proceedings in Chancery in which James Foster was plaintiff, and Robert Siderfinne defendant, respecting a lease of Land parcel of the Manor of Luxborough of which Manor, John Foster, the plaintiff's grandfather was Lord and after him James Foster the plaintiff's Father who demised the said Land to William Sidervin deceased. (a) Note Calendar of proceedings in Chancery, p. 292, No. 54."

This William Sidervin (note difference in spelling), married a Wilmot *Foster*, who were the parents of the aforesaid Robert Siderfinne.

CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS.

ELIZABETH, F. 3. 54. (*Without date.*)
Transcript (mem. 1.)

To the right honorable Sir Thomas Bromleye knight
Lord Chauncellor of England.

Humble complayninge sheweth unto your good Lord-
shipp your pore and daylye oratour James Foster. That
where one John Foster deceased graundfather unto your
said orator was in his Lyfe tyme lawfullie seased in his
demeasne as of Fee of and in the Mannor of Luxborowe

THE

Eve with
Divers of
are custom
memorie o
and used
same Man
soe seased
thereof of
the same
Foster no
as sonne
entered
fullie se
Soe hit
shortlye
Laste pa
betweene
thone p
deceased
certaine
which th
one Ten
pasture
Landes
writinge
pretende
sion and
and awa
who up
the said
ment wa
understa
lease th
the said
Teneme
Luxboro
terme o
mannou
in the se

Sidernefenne meant,
the herne or corner
Kelly's Directory of
led Venn Southern
ish. *Binophetweye*
by no pathway,"
netes and bounds
men who paid a
money in those
form of spelling

they may have

ded previous to

, contains the
ere were some
r was plaintiff,
lease of Land
Manor, John
and after him
ised the said
e Calendar of

in spelling),
rents of the

e.)

le knight

good Lord-
ster. That
unto your
ased in his
Luxborowe

Eve with th'appurtenaunces in the Countie of Somerset
Divers of the Landes and tenementes of whiche Mannour
are customarie Landes and bye all the tyme whereof the
memorie of man is not to the contrarie have benne dimisable
and used to be demised bye Copey of Courte rolle of the
same Mannour. And the sonne John Foster beinge thereof
soe seased aboute thirtye two yeares nowe Laste paste Died
thereof of suche an estate seised bye and after whose deathe
the same mannour descended and came unto one James
Foster now Lykewise deceased Father unto your said oratour
as sonne and heire unto the said John Foster who
entered into the same Mannour and was thereof law-
fullie seased in his demeasne as of Fee accordinglye
Soe hit is yf hit maye please your good Lordshipp that
shortlye after that is to saye aboute thirtye yeares nowe
Laste paste certaine controvercie and variaunce grewe
betwene the same James your said oratours Father of
thone partye and one William Siderfinne nowe alsoe
deceased of thother partye touchinge and concerninge a
certaine Interest and terme for yeares not yeat expired
which the same William then pretended to have of and in
one Tenement and Fowerscore acres of Land meadowe and
pasture or thereabouts parcell of the said customarie
Landes of the said mannour of the demise and graunt in
writinge of the saide John Foster as the said Syderfinne
pretended whiche variaunce afterwarde by their submis-
sion and agreement was compritted to the determinacion
and awarde of one Thomas Pearce and Richard Elseworthie
who upon examinacion theirow bye the consent of eche of
the said parties did awarde forasmuche as the said Tene-
ment was Copyhold Lande and that they could not directlie
understand that the saide John Foster ever made anye suche
lease therof unt[o the sa]me William Siderfinne that therfore
the said James Foster should make an estate of the said
Tenement bye Copey of Court rolle of the said mannour of
Luxborowe Eve unto the [said William] Siderfinne for the
terme of his Lyfe accordinge to the custome of the same
mannour and that therupon the same William should bringe
in the said pretended Lease and surrender the [same wil]h

all thstate he challenged bye the same into thandes of the said James Foster Whereupon the same James Foster shortlye after at a Courte holden within the said Mannour bye cople of Court rolle accordinge to the custome of the same mannour did graunte the said Tenement unto the said William Siderfinne for the Terme of his lyfe accordinglie who willinglye accepted therof and was contented to relinquish his former Claime in respect of the said pretended Lease and then and theare faythfullye promised in the presence and hearinge of the said Thomas Pearce and Richard Elseworthy and of one Walter Putham John Howe with others that he would not onelye bringe in and deliver the said pretended Lease into thandes of the said James Foster, but also that he would not at anye tyme after that make anye challenge or claime to the said Tenement bye reason of the same Lease but would hold himselfe to the said estate bye Cople And afterwarde the same William Siderfinne enjoyed the saide Tenement bye the space of sixe or seaven and twentie yeares bye vertue of the said graunt by Cople and did his Suytes and services and appeared att the Courtes of the said Mannour as a copiholder of the same Tenement And afterwarde the said James Foster the Father by sufficient appearaunce in the Lawe graunted the said Tenement unto your Oratour for the terme of threscore yeares determinable upon the deathe of your said Oratour and of suche woman as he shoulde First have to his wife The said Terme to beginne immediatlye upon and after the Deathes of the said William Siderfinne and of Willmote his then wife Who by the custome of the same mannour was to enjoye her Widows estate in the said Tenement after the Deathe of her said Husband or other surrender or Forfeture of the said estate by Cople after which and aboute two yeares now Laste paste the said William Siderfinne Died upon whose death an heriott was paide and other ceremonies of the said Custome observed And the said Willmott then his wife was after his said death admitted tenaunte and entred into the said Tenement and thissues and profites therof toke for her Widows estate accordinge to the custome of the said Mannour as afforesaid

and according
afforesaid un
same Willm
Oratour into
for him to de
the said W
tracion of h
his handes
by the said
pounded fo
unto the sa
afforesaid
claim to be
alsoe befor
into the s
the posses
your said
yeares y
trarie to
the said
Oratour
and for
meane
wherof
and in e
Pearce
Howe
of the s
not Lil
be pro
premis
for re
remed
by the
please
graun
Subpo
comar
taine

and accordinge to the said arbitrement and composicion afforesaid untill aboute halfe a yeare nowe Laste paste the same Willmott alsoe died After whose Deathe your said Oratour into the said Tenement did enter as Lawfull was for him to doe Wherupon one Robart Siderfinne sonne of the said William pretendinge to have taken thadministration of his said Fathers goodes havinge gotten into his handes the said Lease for yeares supposed to be made by the said John Foster as afforesaid and which was compounded for in respecte of the said estate made by cople unto the said William Sidefinne and by him enjoyed as is afforesaid and promised to be delivered uppe and no further claim to be made unto the said Tenement by the same as is alsoe before declared hathe of Late by colour thereof entred into the said Tenement and expulsed your said oratour from the possession of the same and the same deteyneth against your said oratour myndinge to enjoye the same for divers yeares yeat not expired of the said pretended Lease contrarie to all right and equitie beinge the onlye thinge which the said James Foster appointed and Lefte unto your said Oratour for his porcion of Livinge In consideracion wherof and forasmuche as your said Oratour hathe no waye nor meane to be holpen touchinge the said pretended Lease wherof there are divers yeares yet enduringe but chieflye and in effecte onlye by the testimonye of the said Thomas Pearce and of the said arbitratours and of the said John Howe and Walter Putham and certaine others Tennauntes of the said Mannour whoe are verye aged and impotent men not Like by the Course of nature longe to Leve nor able to be produced anyewhere to Depose their knowledge in the premisses in anye accion which your said Oratour shall use for recoverie therof and soe is Lyke to be without all remedye to his utter undoeinge for ever unless he be holpen by thorder of this honorable Courte Hit maye therfore please your good Lordshippe the premisses considered to graunte the Queenes Majesties moste gracious write of Subpena to be Directed unto the said Robarte Siderfinne comaundinge him bye the same at a daye and place certaine and under a certaine payne therin to be Limited and

appointed personallie to appeare before your Lordshippe in the Queenes Majesties Highe courte of Chauncerie then and there to shewe cause unto your Lordshippe and the same Courte why a comission should not be awarded unto certaine Indifferent gentlemen by your Lordshippe and the same Courte to be assigned to take the Deposic^{ions of the}saide Thomas Pearce Walter Putham John Howe and others touchinge the premisses and the same to certifie and retorne into her Majesties said Courte of Chauncery there [*to remain*] of recorde emongest other her Majesties recordes in perpetuam rei memoriam and your said oratour shall daylye praye for your Lordshippe in honour Longe to continewe.

Abstract (mem. 2.)

Sworn before Matthew Carew.

THE ANSWER OF ROBERT SYTERFEN TO THE BILL
OF COMPLAINT OF JAMES FOSTER.

Denies truth of bill. Says that John Foster, plaintiff's grandfather, was seised of the manor of Luxborough Eve; that he died about forty years ago; that James Foster, son of said John, "in consyderacion that One Willim Syterven father unto the Sayd nowe defendant shoulde Espouse and Take to wyffe One Wilmott foster daughter unto the Sayd John Foster," leased the tenement in question to the said William and Wilmot about 26 Henry VIII. [1534-5] for 60 years, as Wilmot's marriage portion. Denies the variance, submission and award, and the suits and heriot. "But he sayeth that one Alexander baker in the ryght of one Johan Foster wydowe who claymed the Sayd Mannour for term of her lyffe by force of A devyse made by one John Foster her husband Sonne and heir unto James Foster wrongfully for a Heriott Toke A Colte of the sayd William Sytervens, the Sayd Colt Beinge not Taken uppon the tenement but uppon A Common therunto adjoyninge." Wilmot, defendant's mother, died half a year since, leaving defendant as her sole executor. Witnesses named in the bill are well able to appear at the county assizes, and plaintiff has already taken suit against defendant at the common law. Prays to be dismissed with costs.

Abstract (mem. 3.)

THE REPLICATION OF JAMES FOSTER, COMPLAINANT, TO
THE ANSWER OF ROBARTE SYDERFYNNE, DEFT.

Maintains the truth of his bill. Prays as he before
hath prayed.

*[The rejoinder of defendant, Chancery Proceedings,
Elizabeth, F. 1. 8.]*

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.

CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS. BILLS AND ANSWERS.

ELIZABETH, F. 1. 8.

Transcript.

WALROND.

The rejoynder of Roberte Siderfeyn defendant to the
replication of James Foster complainant.

The said Defendant by waye of Rejoynder sayeth in all
and everie thinge as he in his said Answere hath before said
and doth and will verifie and averr all and everie thinge and
things in the same conteyned to be Just and trewe in
manner and forme and to suche effect as in the said
Answere is conteyned and that the said John Foster
especiallie for the advancement in marriage of the said
Wilmothe his daughter to and with the said William
Siderfyn did about the tyme mencioned in the said Answere
Graunte and Assuer by his dede Indented the said Tenement
conteyned in the said bill of complainte unto the said William
and Wilmoth To have and to hold the same tenement unto
the said William and Wilmothe their executors and assignes
for and during the whole and full terme of threescore yeares
to be accompted from the daie of the date of the said dede
indented And that the same demise and graunte was thonlie
portion that the said John Foster did in anie manner of sorte
geve assuer or convaye unto the said William Siderfyn for
takinge of the said Wilmoth to his wedded wiefe And
further that the said Lease is neyther a pretended or fayned
Lease but a Lease lawfullie obtayned and derelie procured
in that the said William mought have had a some of money
in recompence of maryage farre excedinge the valeue of the
said Lease And also that the said James Foster the nowe
complaynaunte ne yet the said James Foster sonne of the

said John Foster mought with equitie or good Conscience impeache the said Lease Lauffullie made as aforesaid And that the Lease is not determynd or made voide by anie award had or made as in and by the said bill of Complainge is pretended but remayneth good and avaylable to the defendant as executor of the last will and Testament of the Wilmothe beinge the . . . * our as in the said Answere is sett fourthe especiallie for y^e the said William Siderfyn neyther d . . . his said estate or was admitted at anie tyme tenaunt to the said tenemente in anie Courte holden in and . . . [M]annor by Reason of anie graunte pretended by the Complainant to bee to hym made by copie of Courte Rolle of th . . . ne yet was the said James Foster in anie sorte abell to graunt Lawfullie by copie of Courte Rolle the said . . . said William Siderfin in that the same being before demised by dede indented (as the said defendant the . . . ll to make good prooffe) was noe longer copiehold landes nor of the nature thearof; ne yet demisable by the Cus[*tom*] of the said Mannor And farder for Rejoynder the said defendant sayeth that the suite exhibited into this most honorable Courte is rather of purpose commensed against the defendant by expences in Lawe to be sustayned in and about the same and so consequentlie in Respect of the charge to inforce him to geve over his Rightfull estate by the constraynement then on anie Juste cause ministred by the said defendant And also sayeth that the Complainant cannot Justlie thincke that the said William having suche an estate in the said tenemente to hym and the said Wilmothe made as aforesaid would or could be contented ne yet anie consionable Arbitrators would thincke expedient to alter and change so certain and Assured terme for many yeares into a defesabell estate by copie of Courte rolle of the said Mannor, and of noe validitie in the Lawe And also that the said persons particularlie named in the said bill of Complainge and every of them are verie well abell to travell as witnesses and be produced by the said Complainant unto the Assises to bee holden in

[*Some words missing in 7 lines owing to a hole in the parchment.]

the Countie
suite comen
defendant
therefore th
by the direc
for that th
exhibited i
the said C
for the tit
said perso
travell as
the tryall
humbly p
examine
that the
indifferen
their tes
and set
to be re
not hea
avoyde
said de
Honor
Answer
No
154
John
Wm.
Deaco
of the
to W
Deaco
borou
Ca
sayde
T
Syde

the Countie of Somerset for the triall of an Issue upon a suite comensed by the said Complaynaunte against the said defendant when they be at Issue Redie to goe to triall And therefore the said defendant hopeth that it shalbe ordered by the direction of this Moste Honorable Courte as well as for that the said Complainant* hath before the said bill exhibited into this most honorable Courte taken suite against the said Complaynaunte* by the Course of the Common Lawes for the titell and triall of the said Lease and also for that the said persons nominated in the said bill are very well abell to travell as before is declared as Witnesses to anie place where the tryall of the said cause shalbe and also further most humbly prayeth that the said Complainant be not suffered to examyne anie witnesses touching the surmised matters but that the same witnessess in proper person for the more indifferent Juste and equall tryall maye be prodused wherebie their testimonie maye the more lyvelie and truelie appeare and set fourthe without that anie other matter materiall to be rejoyned unto and in the said replicacion conteyned and not heare-in the sufficientlie rejoyned unto confessed and avoyded traversed or denyed are trewe all which matters the said defendant is Reddie to averr and prove as this most Honorable Courte shall award and prayeth as he in his said Answere before hath prayed.

No evidence of the result can be obtained.

1546. On the 2nd of January, 37 Henry VIII., 1546, John Wyndham, Esqr., by bargain and sale conveyed to Wm. Sytffin messuages and Lands at Donyford in St. Deacons (? Decumans), and by bargain and sale dated the 6th of the same month in the same year John Wyndham conveyed to Wm. Sittffyn† messuages and Lands at Donyford in St. Deacons (? Decumans), Cutcouche an Capella de Lowex-boroughe annex.

Cattall gyuen to the mayntenace of Lyghts w^t in the sayde Chapell.

Three Kyne remaynyng in the custody of Will^m. Sydernym and Roger Grenslade praysed at xl^s and xvj.

* [sic.]

† (Sittffyn must be a contraction for Sitterfin or Sederfin.)

Gc
929.2
S1142
15220

14 THE SIDERFIN FAMILY OF WEST SOMERSET.

shepe remaynyng w^t the same William and Roger praysed
at xxxij^a lxxij^a

(Note—*Somerset Chantries*, A.D. 1548, Som. Record
Society, Vol. II., pages 46-7.)—Thus shewing they lived at
Luxborough prior to this date. This William Setherfin was
proceeded against in Court of Requests. (See Hancock's
Minehead, page 115.)

After the dissolution of the abbey of Bruton, and the
forfeiture of its possessions, the advowson of Minehead
seems to have led a shuttle-cock kind of existence. From
the dissolution of the Abbey, up till 1551, the rectory was
held by the king, but in this latter year, according to the
papers quoted below, Edward granted it to John Belmayne,
Esquire. This good gentleman, however, found when he
proceeded to take possession that the king's right to a por-
tion of the temporalities was disputed; and that William
Setherfen of Cutcombe, and Christian Setherfen, widow, and
certain of their children held various lands and tenements
belonging to the parsonage of Minehead in Cutcombe and
Luxborough, and the tithes thereof under a lease to John
Syderfen from the last abbot of Bruton. Belmayne sought
redress as follows:—

COURT OF REQUESTS, HUNT'S SERIES, BUNDLE 19, No. 10.

To the Kinges most Royal Majestie.

In most Humble wyse shewyth and complayneth unto
your Highness John Belmayne, Esq., that whereas your
Majesty was seised in your demesne as of fee of the parson-
age of Mynehedd and Cutcombe with the rights and appurts
in co. Somerset late parcel of the possessions of the late
monastery of Brewton in co. Somerset: and so seised by
Letter Patent dated 31 March in the 5th year of your reign
(1551) your Highness granted and to farm let to plt. the said
parsonage with all the houses, buildings, barns, tithes, rents,
reversions, etc. in Mynehedd and Cutcombe to the said
parsonage belonging great trees and woods growing upon
any part of the said premises only excepted: to hold to plt.
for 21 years paying yearly to your Majesty for the same
£27 12s. 4d.

Now so it is that divers charters and evidences, and also certain counterfeit writings and indentures of no force in the law supposed to have been made by the late Abott of Brewton as well to William Setherfen of Cutcombe and Christian Setherfen widow as to certain of the children of the said William and Christian have come into the hands of the said William and Christian who by colour thereof not only claim certain lands and tenements parcel of the said parsonage in certain hamlets called Cutcombe and Luxborough and to all the tithes there being parcel of the said parsonage of Minehead, but have also unjustly entered into the said lands and tenements taken the tithes and defforced plt. from the same to his great loss, so that he will be unable to pay the said rent to your Majesty unless remedy be made. As the reversion of the said parsonage belongs to your Highness great prejudice and disinheritance may ensue for want of the said evidence, and by the not examining and lack of the trial of the truth of such pretended writings and indentures of Leases and other conveyances as the said William and Christian or their children claim by, to be had now whilst it is known that they are untrue.

And whereas many of the witnesses who know the truth are very old and impotent persons not able to travel and not likely to live long, by whose death it might happen that the truth concerning the premises could not be tried: It may therefore please your Majesty to grant plt. your Letters of Commission under the Privy Seal to be directed to certain men of worship inhabiting the parts there near adjoining, giving them authority to call witnesses and examine them, and then to certify to the Court of Requests what has been done in the matter.

THE ANSWER OF WILLIAM SITHERFYN TO THE BILL OF
COMPLAINT OF JOHN BELMAYNE.

Deft. says that long before the King had anything in the said rectory and parsonage of Cutcombe, William Bishop of Maior and late Abbot of Bruton, in co. Somerset, was therefore seised in his demesne as of fee as in the right of the late Monastery of Bruton: and so seised, with the

16 THE SIDERFIN FAMILY OF WEST SOMERSET.

assent of the Convent of the said Monastery, by good conveyance in the law, granted and to farm let to deft., certain lands and tenements in Luxborough in the tenure of John Sytherphyn, father of deft., being parcel of the parsonage of Cutcombe, together with all the fruits and tithes of the corn of Lukkesbrough: to hold to deft. for his life, by force, whereof deft. is seized of the same in his demesne as of freehold and has taken the tithes thereof. Deft. also keeps all the charters, evidences, etc., concerning his estate and title in and to the premises.

Plt., in his replication, says that the "pretensed" lease supposed to have been made by the said John Abbot of Bruton is insufficient in the law.

The above bill is endorsed: "At Grenewiche, 14 May, 7 Edw. VI. (1553). A writ to be directed to the said William Setherfyn and Christian Setherfyn personally to appear at Westminster in the Octaves of Holy Trinity next to make answer."

This man must have had a pretty good experience in Law, but no residence mentioned.

EXTRACTS—SOMERSETSHIRE WILLS.

William Sidervin, Luxborough, Somt. gent.

Will dated 20th Aug. 1568. Proved 16th May 1572 (Taunton Registry).

To be buried in the chancel Residue to my son Robert and Wilmot my Wife to dispose of my goods as shall seem best to the pleasure of God and the weal of my soul Mr. Alexander Sydenham of Coombe Sydenham family a witness. Wilmot Foster.

This man had one son Robert and a daughter called Jone, who married William Webber, ? 1602.

In *Somerset Muster Roll*, 1569, we find in the Tything of Luxborough:—

Thomas Webber, "archer";

James Foster, billman;

Thomas Greenslade, pikeman;

Robert Suddervin, archer; armour, one tything corslet furnished.

Wm. Sethervine,

James Foster, and others; viij pair Almain rivets furnished.

Gleen's *Somerset and Armada*, 1580:—

Carhampton (certificat of the Souldiours in Somerset) 240 able men; 20 corslets prov. with pikes, etc.; 14 harquebusses; 31 bows and arrows; 80 bills and almayne; 1 demi lance; 10 light horse.

Among list of pike and shotmen, *Hundred of Carhampton*, Robt. Syderfin, pikeman.

MUSTER ROLL OF THE HUNDRED OF CARHAMPTON.

Among 240 men fit for service (1580) (Armada) we find Robt. Syderfyn as a Pykeman:—

In 1580 our own hundred of Carhampton is returned as having ready two hundred and forty men fit for service. These consisted of two hundred and ten footmen, of whom twenty reckoned as "Corselets" are furnished with pikes, swords and daggers, fourteen as "harquebusses" with norriens sword and dagger, thirty one with bows and sheafs of arrows, sword and dagger; eighty with billes with almayne rivets, sword and dagger. There were also one demi-lance fully equipped and ten light horse.⁽²⁾ Mr. Luttrell and his fellow workers must have been very busy to have got such a force ready! The men from Carhampton and eight other hundreds were under the command of Sir John Stawell of Cothelstone, a portion of whose beautiful old manor house is still to be seen. Mr. Emanuel Green gives us the names of the pikemen and the "shot," i.e., those who had been instructed presumably in the use of the arquebus, etc., and who were under the command of George Sydenham of Coombe Sydenham.

We print the list as some of the names are Minehead names:—*Pikemen*: Willm. Poole; Willm. Welche; Cove-naante Harris; Robt. Syderfyn. *Shot*: Walter Frauncke Corporall; Thos. Elsworthie Decenier; John Uppington; John Hill.

(2) *Ibid* p. 21.

18 THE SIDERFIN FAMILY OF WEST SOMERSET.

In 1641 a Protestation was entered into all parishes before two of his Majesty's Justice of Peace "to support the Protestant religion against all Popery, etc." Among the parishes in the "Hundred of Carhampton" was Cutcombe names as follow: Re winter clerk; George Baker and John Milton, churchwardens; Laurence Widlake, John Thorne, William Syderfin, Willyam Welshe, overseers; and in Selworthy "and there is none that hath refused and all have been willing to take it. John Siderfin with the rest."

Shewing there was a John Siderfin at Selworthy in 1641.

John Hill Minister.

Robt. Phelp, } Wardens.
John Stote, }

Wilmote Siderven, will proved 1579, mentions son Robert and daughter Jone Webber, also a granddaughter Jone, but no mention of property.

The son Robert had eight children, William, born 1585; Robert, 1587; Thomas, 1590; Janet, 1596; Elizabeth, 1597; Jone, 1602.

The Visitation of Somerset made in the year 1623 by Henry St. George and Sampson Lennard under Camden:—

Dunster, 15 Aug. 1623—Robert Gitterfen, of Loxborough, gent. (also spelt in the column giving list of gentry, Robert Sitterfyn, gent.)

There is no mention of any of this family bearing arms, yet Collinson, in *History of Somerset*, mentions "Arms, three cups,"—Siderfin.

No doubt this family migrated to other parishes, for we find in the Subsidy Rolls, 21 James I., 1624, and later, at Mynehead we find Robto Saydersin.

FROM THE SUBSIDY ROLLS, 21 JAMES I, 1624, MYNEHEAD.

John Baker	...	in bonis	vli	xijs	iiijd
Nicholas Brooke	...	"	vli	xijs	iiijd
John Squirke	...	"	vli	xijs	iiijd
William Blackwell	...	"	vli	xijs	iiijd
Robto Saydersin	...	"	iiijli	xs	viijd
Walter Coffin	...	"	iiijli	viijs	
Walter Slocombe	...	"	iiijli	viijs	

Peter Punter	...	in bonis	iiijl	viijs	
Johan Hatsell	...	„	iiijl	viijs	
17 Charles I., 1642.					
Andrew Blackewell	...			iijs	
Peter Kidner	...			ijs	vijd
Thomas Sydertyn	..			iijs	vjd
Gyles Moore	...			ijs	id
Hugh Muttlebury	...			vjs	iijd
Raters	Robert Quirke, junr.			—	
	Robert Hayman			—	
	Robert Sydertyn			iijs	viji
	Richard Pearce			ijs	ixd
	Rice Jenkyns			ixs	iiijd
13 Charles II., 1673.			s.	d.	
John Burnard	...		2	6	
Robert Syderfin	...		2	6	
John Giles	...		1	0	
John Bond	...		1	0	
George Hayman	...		2	6	

After 1641 the churchwardens no longer sign the registers, and on the expulsion of Mr. Knolles, the customary paid registrar seems to have taken them over. The following note occurs under the date 1653:—"Bee it remembered that the 24th day of November, 1653, William Atwell, of Mynhede, was the sworn Register their according to the Act of Parliament in that case made and pvided. (Signed) Tho. Siderfin."

Thomas Siderfin was a local Justice of the Peace. The Siderfin family appear to have been either Dutch or Italian merchants, who early settled at Croydon, in the parish of Timberscombe.

CHRISTIAN SIDERFIN, Luxborough, Somt., widow. Will dated 28th Novr., 1644. Proved 4th July, 1648. My daughter Mary Gyldes (?) of Dunster, widow. My sons William, Thomas and Robert Siderfin. Wilmot Siderfin my daughter. Thomas and Philip, sons of my son Thomas Siderfin.

This was the wife of William (eldest son of Robert), she was called Webber. Thomas, the third son of Robert, was brought to the Law, and lived at South Wheddon.

THOMAS SIDERFIN the elder, of Luxborough, Somt., gent. Will dated 6th Nov., 1675. No proof. To be buried at Luxborough. To the poor £10. Johan my wife. My son Robert Siderfin. To my son Thomas Siderfin £50 and all my law books. To all my children "on peece of Barbary gould." My grandchild Da . . . (?) and Johan my wife Exixs. South Wheddon and grandchildren, Thomas and James Darch, £10 each; sealed three cups; £20 to poor of Carhampton; £20 do. poor of Dunster.

This man evidently bore arms, as this will is sealed with his crest and arms, "3 cups (covered)." He gave to his son Thomas a tenement called Crodon (Croydon); to wife tenement in Alcombe and 12 acres in Alcombe Marsh; to son Robert pasture or meadow grounds called Loveleases, in parish of Mockeluy; to son Robert tenement called South Wheddon. He also edited Siderfin's Law Reports, 1657-1670.

It is recorded in the entries of marriages twenty-two were celebrated between 29th Sept., 1653, and 11th July, 1657, before Justices of Peace, according to form prescribed during the Commonwealth, nineteen of which were celebrated by Thomas Siderfin, two by George Luttrell, and one by Charles Stayings, of this form:—"Be it remembered that a contract of marriage betwixt Hennerly Wattes of Porlock single man and Joan Barker of the parish of Culboone singlewoman hath bin publyshed three severall Lordes dayes in the Church of Porlock according to Act of Parliament in that cause provided by mee John Raymond Register."

"Be it remembered that Hennerly Wattes of Porlock and John Barker of Culboone were married in the presence of John Raymond David Weler and others according to the Act of Parliament in such cause provided by Thomas Siderfin one of the Justices of the peace of the Countey of Somerset the 6th of February, 1656.

Thos. Siderfin.'

In a will of Edmund Knolles, of Minehead, merchant, 1647—executors, Thomas Syderkyn, of Carhampton, and John Question, of Dunster.

Marriage licences at the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury at London :—

1665. March 30th, Thomas Siderfin, of the Middle Temple, Esq., batchelor, 28, and Elizabeth Lightmaker, of Great St. Bartholomew, London, spinster, 17, daughter of Saphira Lightmaker, of same, widow, who consents ; at Christ Church, St. Michael's, Crooked Lane ; St. Mary's, Savoy, or All Hallows, Honey Lane, London.

In the Carhampton Hundred Benevolence granted, Charles II., 1662 :—

Robert Syderfin, Minehead	...	2s. 6d.
Robert Syderfin, Timberscombe	...	5s. od.
Wm. Syderfin, Luxborough	...	10s. od.
Thos. Syderfin, Luxborough	...	10s. od.

Eastern Division.—Thomas Syderfin, of Luxborough, Esq., Barrister of Law, do the present to his Magestie 20s. in hand paid.

ANN SIDERFIN, of Lambeth, widow. Will dated 22 Mar. 1686—Proved 5th March 1706 (74 Poley.) To be buried at Lambeth near my husband and mother My aunt Gee and her two sons Orlando and John Gee My cousin Gilbert East, etc.

In the will of Sir Francis Rolle, of Shapwich, Somerset, Knight, 1686, proved—indenture of lease 3 Dec, 1685, between the said Sir Francis Rolle and Sir Halswell Tynte, Bart., Alex. Thistlethawyte, Esqr., Thomas Siderfin, Mid. Temple, Esq. and Richard Rolle, as trustees for wife and children.—B. 134 Collinsons II. 26.

RICHARD BLACKFORD, of Dunster, Somerset (one of the King's Masters Extraordinary in the Court of Chancery.)

Will dated Jan. 8th 1688—Proved April 4th, 1689. Mentions my cousin Robert Siderfin—My cousin John Quirch.

HISTORY OF TAUNTON, 1678.

The following gentlemen were first members of the Corporation :—Roger Gale, Mayor, and 2 Aldermen, 11 capital Burgesses, 11 inferior Burgesses, and a Town Clerk. Thomas Syderfin, Recorder,

The first Mayor it was directed should be sworn into his office by Peter, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Sir William Portman, Bart., and Thomas Synderfin, Esqr., or any of them, etc.

In 1662 we find Francis Moore and Elizabeth his wife transferring to John Worth one-sixth part of Wychanger. In 1682 the whole estate was evidently settled in that year John Siderfin and William Pincombe acquired it, no doubt as trustees from Mary Worth, widow, and John Worth.

THOMAS SIDERFIN of the Middle Temple, London, Esq. :—Will dated March 17th 1678. Proved 15 June 1681 by Ann Siderfin, the Relict (98 North). To my wife Ann, George Evelyn and Henry Pollexfen Esqre and my brother Robert Siderfin, my messuages of Crodon, Manors of Exton and South Quarne (in Exton). Lands in Carhampton, Somerset and in Lambeth, Withypole, Hawkridge, Cutcombe, Luccombe, Timberscombe and Lands elsewhere, in trust to pay my wife £1000 and £100 a year during widowhood and my daughter Anne £2000 at 21 years of age and £50 per annum and if they die the premises in Somerset to my brother Robert Siderfin his heirs male of his body—Wife Executrix in presence of Robert Darch, Wilmote Westrene, William Jordan, wife's mother Ann Hinde.

THOMAS SIDERFIN, of Luxborough, Somerset, deceased. Administration 4th November 1687 to his Relict Mary Siderfin and his Daughter Christian, wife of John Worth (Taunton Registry).

MARY SIDERFIN (daughter of John Radford of Okeford, granddaughter of Nutcombe, of Nutcombe, Co. Devon), of Luxborough, Somerset, widow of Thomas Siderfin. Will dated 19th November 1689. Proved 10th October 1693. My grandchild Susanna Worth £100 at age 21. Her sister a silver tankard and gold ring. My grandchild Christian Worth £200 at age 21. My grandchildren Mary Worth and Sarah Worth £100 each. Residue to my daughter Christian Worth.

1681. ROBERT SIDERFIN, bachelor (son of Thomas Siderfin) and Kath. Potkins, spinster, married at St. James', Duke Place, 3 February, 1680-1.

KATHERINE SIDERFIN, alias Graves of Croydon in Carhampton, Co. Somerset, but dying at Exeter. Adminstration November 23rd, 1686, to her husband Robert Siderfin.

ANNE WITTEWRONG, born 13th February, 1656-7 (a marriage license was granted between her and Lovet Crompton, of Eldstow, Beds, 10th February, 1684-5, which, however, did not take place); married 13th June, 1687. As below, the daughter of Sir John Wittewronge, first Baronet of Rothamstead, knighted 1640, Sheriff of Herts. 1658, created Baronet 2nd May, 1662. Will proved 3rd July, 1693; three times married.

1687. June 13th. Robert Siderfin, of the Middle Temple, Esq., widower, and Anne Wittewrong (daughter of Sir John Wittewronge, Bart.), of Harden, Herts, spinster, 30, at her own disposal, at St. Nicholas, Cole Abbey, London, or Harden aforesaid.

1688. *March of William of Orange through Somerset*, by E. Green, page 31, King James II.

Robert Syderfin, Baldwin Malet, Warwick Bamfylde, John Anthill, a Catholic, Charles Staynings to be Deputy Lieutenants.

Glancing at these answers those rather favourable appear next on the list; then come the late Deputy Lieutenants whose more decided replies make their intentions clear.

Then follows a list of Catholics and Dissenters proposed to be added to the Commission of Peace in divers parts of the County of Somerset, and some of them to be both Justices of Peace and Deputy Lieutenants. (Robert Syderfin is in this list).

An account of Corporations and other Burrows of County of Somerset who are for taking off Penall Laws and Tests, and who have interest to be chosen Parliament men, etc.

Mynehead—Francis Luttrell (who will not comply), hath soe much interest there that it will be difficult to oppose him. Robert Syderfin, a barrister, hath a good interest, and John Speke if he be not chosen for the County.

1688. Mynehead is a Corporation, the Election popular; the towne belongs to Col. Luttrell, of whom we can yett give not account, who he proposes will be chosen here,

24 THE SIDERFIN FAMILY OF WEST SOMERSET.

except the Sheriff can improve the interest of John Speke and Robert Sinderfin (who both right), which he hath promised to doe.

In the first revision of Deputy Lieutenants in December, 1685, the following names were submitted to the King:—

Lord Fitzharding,
Francis Paulett, Esquire,
Sir Wm. Bassett,
William Lucy, Esquire.

New ones.

Sir Hugh Tynte,
Sir Thomas Bridges,
Edward Strode, Esquire,
Edward Clarke, Esquire,
Robert Siderfin, Esquire,
Baldwin Mallett, Esquire,
Warwick Bamfield, Esquire,
John Anthill, Esquire,
Charles Steynings, Esquire,

to be Justices of Peace, etc.

In the revision, 1688, the list included Robert Synderfin.

DIARY OF MR. JUSTICE ROKEBY, EXETER MUSEUM.

1688. Harrington v. Smith; Mes. Rep. 82, 103, 128; Syderfin 41, 42, reports divers special cases adjudged in Court de Bank de Roy, A.D. 1683; folio Syderfin, 513, 1, 5, British Museum. On circuit Taunton, 2 April, 1694. I came from Exeter in ye morning for fear of losing commission, and Bro. Powell stayed to try some cases yt were upon his hands, but he ended them soe as he came to Taunton about 8 of ye clock at night; he lodged at one Mr. Bird's, an Attorney and Towne Clerk.

Robert Syderfin, Esqre., High Sheriff, a good man and well affected to the Government; Bicknell, Under Sheriff. I entered 59 cases, tryed 49.

FROM MACDERMOT'S *Forest of Exmoor*.

JAMES BOEVEY OF LONDON, MERCHANT.—James Boeve or Boevey, the first owner of Exmoor, was of Dutch extraction. His father, one Andrew Boeve of Courtrai in Flanders, was brought to England in 1573 at the age of seven by his

parents, who being Huguenots fled from the persecution of the Duke of Alva.

However, his appetite for litigation had not decreased with age, and the law officers of the Crown seem to have been ever ready to assist him. A few days before the landing of William of Orange at Tor Bay, we find the Attorney General lodging a bill in the Exchequer against Robert Siderfin, who in 1681 had succeeded his brother Thomas as lord of the Manor of Exton, Hawkridge and Withypool. It is to this bill that the extracts from the Rolls of the Exmoor Forest Court refer. The cause of the trouble was evidently that Siderfin had been impounding some of the forest sheep and cattle found on Hawkridge and Withypool Commons. Boevey having discovered that the foresters in Tudor times had laid claim to these commons as part of the forest, renewed his pretensions, not only as to Hawkridge and Withypool, but inferentially to all other commons, and further developed his theory of the Royal Manor. The action is ostensibly for the recovery of documents, which are alleged to be in Siderfin's possession, but it includes a claim to the commons, and this was the real object in view. That Siderfin had got hold of any of the forest records seems highly improbable.

After James Bovey's death, January, 1696, his widow, Mrs. Margaret Bovey, succeeded to his interest in Exmoor Forest under provisions of his will. Mrs. Boevey kept the forest for eight years, and on the 26th April, 1704, sold the residue of her term—fifteen years—to her husband's old adversary, Robert Siderfin of Croydon in Carhampton Parish, who had already acquired the reversionary lease for thirty one years granted to Lord Arundell, of Trerice, in December, 1678. How he obtained this lease is not apparent; Lord Arundell had died in October, 1687, and his son John, the second baron, in June, 1698.

Robert Siderfin, who thus became entitled to Exmoor Forest for forty six years,—to be exact, for a term ending on the 21st July, 1750, was the representative of a family which had long been settled in Luxborough, in November, 1645, and is described in the register as "ye sonne of Thomas Sidderfin," the latter was a justice of the peace during the

time of the Commonwealth. Robert succeeded to the Croydon property and the Manors of Exton, Hawkrigde and Withypool as well as South Quarne in 1681, under the will of his elder brother, Thomas Siderfin. He was a barrister by profession and Sheriff of Somerset in 1694. Whether he still owned all the property is a little doubtful in view of a private Act of Parliament which was passed in 1700, entitled "An Act for vesting the Manor of Exton and other lands in the County of Somerset, late the estate of Thomas Siderfin, Esquire, deceased, in trustees to be sold for payment of debts." We do not know what was done in pursuance of this Act. Robert Siderfin certainly held Croydon till his death, and perhaps Hawkrigde and Withypool too. If so the lord of these manors was once again after an interval of more than four centuries forester of Exmoor, Richard de Plessy, who died in 1289, having been the last to hold them with the forestership.

In 1706 we find the new forester following the example of his predecessor by going to law with some of his neighbours. It seems that the right on the forest claimed by the suitors at large, or borderers, were not generally recognized even at this time; so with a view to settling the question Siderfin filed his bill in the Exchequer in Michaelmas term, 1706, against the following persons:—John and Lewis Hache, of South Molton; Nicholas, George and William Shapland, William and George Barrow, John and Daniel Smith, and William Kingdon, all of North Molton; John Mogeridge, of Molland, and David Bale of Linton.

In this he shows his title to "a large tract of land heretofore the Forest and Chace of Exmore" under letters patent of the 15th January, 12 Charles II. (1661), whereby the same was leased to James, Marquis of Ormond, and his assigns for 31 years in reversion.

From these pleadings we see that at this period Exmoor was regarded merely in its aspect of a great sheep pasture, and that the forest and forestal rights were in danger of being forgotten by the forester himself, who speaks of it as "a large tract of land heretofore the Forest or Chace of Exmore," while the defendants do not believe it to be a

forest at all and doubt whether it ever was one. It is pretty evident that during the last half century Mr. Boevey had only concerned himself with the revenue-producing possibilities of his property, and had allowed the rights over the deer claimed by his predecessors to lapse. From his statement that the prices for agistment had been usually if not always the same, Siderfin was evidently ignorant of the fact that they had been fixed by Boevey in 1655, and that he could alter them if so minded. This ignorance seems to have been shared by all the succeeding foresters. The defendants pervert the truth very conveniently in their answer by omitting to mention that the right of pasture in the forest, confirmed to the lord and tenants of North Molton by the decree they quote, was limited to the time between sunrise and sunset, and that they had therefore no right to leave their sheep in the forest at night, which fact, of course, made a considerable difference to the value of their right of common. The defendants who lived in Molland and Lynton did not put in any answers to the bill, so we do not hear whether they claimed the same right as the North Molton men, and if so, on what grounds. Siderfin does not appear to have proceeded with the action. After this time all the borderers with one or two exceptions seem to have been treated alike, paying half the rates which strangers paid; at least this was the case in 1736 and subsequently.

In 1719 Mr. Siderfin had some trouble with one John Dennicombe, a recently evicted tenant of Simonsbath Farm, who brought an action against him in Chancery. From the pleadings we learn that in 1702 Mr. William Smith, "agent to Madam Bovey," had let the farm, then about to become vacant, to Dennicombe at a yearly rent of £9. This seems by the way a very low figure; probably it was difficult to get a tenant at all owing to the loneliness of the place. Later on the rent was generally £35 a year. In May, 1704, Dennicombe had taken the farm from a new forester on a five years' repairing agreement, and had given him a bond for £500 to observe its conditions. "During the term the premises fell into very great decay and became ruinous for want of repair."

Siderfin gave the tenant notice to repair, but the latter said he was too poor to lay out the money and asked his landlord to do the repairs, promising to repay him. So in 1706 the latter spent over £20, and "new covered and tiled a barn at a cost of over £10."

After the five years were up Dennicombe was allowed to remain as a yearly tenant till 1717, when he was given notice to quit. "About Lady-day, 1718, the Plaintiff's wife came to the defendant at his dwelling at Croyden and asked him to let them remain in part of the dwellinghouse till Midsomer, promising to deliver up possession of the other part and also of all the land except the garden forthwith, and of the rest of the house and the garden at Midsomer." To this Siderfin consented, but when 'Midsomer' came Dennicombe refused to go, whereupon the former "caused your Orator to be arrested on the Bond, and for want of special bail carried to Ivelchester Gaol where he still remaineth." This was the usual method of treating debtors in those days. 'At the winter assizes in Hillary Term last' (1719) Siderfin brought an action for ejectment, and according to the plaintiff, "taking advantage of your Orator's poverty and imprisonment snapt a judgement." Accordingly the bailiffs of the Sheriff of Somerset turned the rest of the Dennicombe family out upon the moor on the 22nd April 1719, and duly gave possession of Simonsbath House to Mr. Siderfin. Four days later the suit in Chancery was commenced, the plaintiff alleging that he had spent large sums in the last year on improving and manuring the farm, etc., etc., and that Siderfin had promised never to turn him out. The latter made answer on the 14th July denying that he had ever made any improvements or spent five shillings on the farm, which was in a very much worse state than when he took it, and concludes by alleging that "the complainant or his family have broken, burnt or otherwise destroyed the gates, floors, and timbers of the said house to the value of £10 and more." No doubt firewood was scarce on Exmoor.

Whether John Dennicombe got the relief he sought or ended his days in Ilchester Gaol, we know not.

The Marquis of Ormond's lease of January 1661, came to an end on the 21st July, 1719, but this made no practical difference, as Siderfin held Lord Arundell's reversionary lease of December, 1678, which then began to run. Strictly speaking, the term which he had bought from Mrs. Boevey expired a month earlier, as the last month of the thirty-one years had been reserved by the Marquis when he transferred the lease to James Boevey in 1661, but this fact had no doubt been forgotten.

Robert Siderfin died in July, 1720, and was buried at Luxborough on the 14th of that month. He had been married four times; Ann, daughter of Sir John Wittewronge of Rothamstead in Hertford, whose death on May 5th, 1708, is recorded by an inscription on the floor of Luxborough Church, being referred to in his will as his third wife, while he left a widow, Elizabeth by name. One of the two earlier wives was "Katherine Siderfin *alias* Graves," administration of whose estate was granted to him in November, 1686. By one of the earlier marriages he had two sons, Walter and Robert, but neither is referred to in his will, by which he left all his lands in Somerset and Devon, subject to a charge for the payment of his debts, to his wife Elizabeth, and made her residuary legatee and sole executrix.

The will is dated 14th June, 1715. Like his elder brother Thomas, Robert Siderfin died in debt, and the widow having renounced probate of his will, administration was granted to Robert Darch as principal creditor on the 22nd June, 1721.

This Robert Darch, a Presbyterian minister at Bishop's Hull, near Taunton, was the second of four brothers, nephews of Robert Siderfin. His eldest brother, Thomas, lived and owned land in Luxborough, where he died in August, 1734. There is an inscription on the floor of Luxborough Church recording his death and that of his widow, Sarah, who is described as "a father to the poor and eminent for the practice of virtue and true religion." Two other brothers, James and Philip, the latter of whom seems to have been also a Presbyterian minister, are referred to as 'my nephews' in Siderfin's will and given legacies of £100

each. The Darch family had long been resident in Luxborough; in 1598 a James Darch of Luxborough, was joint plaintiff in a lawsuit concerning Exmoor with Thomas Webber, the deputy forester.

After Siderfin's death his interest in Exmoor Forest, probably by some arrangement among the creditors, became divided between two persons, the principal of whom was this Robert Darch. In the rental of the crown lands compiled in 1734 the tenants of Exmoor Forest are named as "Robert Darch and another" and from the fact that Darch purchased the tithes from the Cressets in 1723 we may infer with tolerable certainty that he was then in possession of an interest in the Forest itself. 'Another' was presumably the John Hill who 'passed and allowed' before two witnesses, the accounts of the deputy forester, which were furnished to Darch's widow and son in 1737 and 1743 respectively. Very likely he was a grandson of Boevey's deputy forester who lived at Newland in Withypool in 1678. A third John Hill appears as owner of Newland and Higher Lanacre in 1819. From the terms of Darch's will, combined with the absence from these accounts of any rent for Simonsbath Farm, it seems that this belonged solely to Darch, and that Hill had a half share in the forest only, exclusive of the farm. However this may have been, Darch had the predominant interest as sole owner of the tithes besides his share of the forest.

Darch died on the 31st January, 1737. Among the pamphlets enumerated in Mr. E. Green's *Bibliotheca Somersetensis* appear the following:—"Grove, Henry A funeral sermon occasioned by the death of the late reverend Mr. Robert Darch, of Hill Bishops, in the County of Somerset, who departed this life Jan. 31st, 1737, ætat 65." From another entry in the same work we gather that at the funeral of Robert Siderfin's third wife, Darch himself had entertained the mourners with a discourse considered worthy of printing:—"Darch, Robert (Hill-bishops). A sermon preach'd at the funeral of Mrs. Anne, the wife of Robert Siderfin, Esq., one of her Majesties justices of the peace for the County of Somerset, at Timberscombe, May 13th, 1708."

West Somerset, BY CHADWYCK HEALEY.

East Harwood is no doubt to be identified with the estate held in 1325 by Nicholas de Harwood of the Lord of Luccombe by the service of one fourth part of a Knight's fee. In 1634 it was in the possession of one Richard Stephens⁽¹⁾; in 1679 it was in the possession of one Richard Siderfin⁽²⁾; and in 1688 of Robert Siderfin⁽³⁾; in 1714 Robert Merring, George Lugg and Thomasina his wife appear to have been possessors.⁽⁴⁾

East Harwood the larger has been joined to Timberscombe, as from 25th March, 1883.

"Wychanger." Mrs. Mary Worth, will proved, 1699^(a) by John Worth, her son. To her daughter, Sarah Worth, she gave all her interest "in a messuage known as Broadmead in Selworthy," also certain chests "standing in the gallery and hall chamber at Witchanger" including the "great chist" in the gallery "on which her harpsicords stand," she gave a piece of gold of 20s. to her daughter-in-law Christian^(b) wife of her son John Worth, and for legacies to her fower grandchildren, daughters of her said son, John Worth, viz., to Christian and Mary £5 apiece, and unto Susannah and Sarah £3 apiece, to their brother, Thomas Worth her grandson, she bequeathed her "silver bolle."

Oare. In 1668, John Question, of Dunster, held two undivided fifths of the Manor and advowson which he conveyed by a deed, 20th Jany. in that year to John Quirke or Quirche, of Periton in Minehead. In March, 1677, Robert Burgoyne, of Tiverton Castle, conveyed to John Quirke by deed, one undivided fifth part of the Manor and advowson, and in March, 1694, Quirke obtained a conveyance of another fifth from Francis Burgoyne, of Cranbourne, in Dorset, and Catherine, his wife.^(c) In 1676 Richard Spurrier, widow,

(1) Som. Fine, Trin., 10 Chas. I. (2) Ibid., Trin., 31 Chas. II.

(3) Ibid., Mich., 4 Jas. II. (4) Ibid., Hil., 1 Geo. I.

(a) Taunton Will.

(b) Siderfin mar. John Worth at Luxborough, 9th Feby., 1681. Miss Sarah Worth, by will, proved 1699, names her sister-in-law, Christian Worth.

(c) Haliday Nun., also Som. Fine, Hil., 20 and 21 Chas. II., Trin., 30 Chas. II., and Trin., 6 W. & M.

took from Hanibal Gidleigh another fifth of the Manor and advowson.⁽⁴⁾ These conveyances would seem to represent the whole Manor, but that there were outstanding interests in some other families in plain by the fact that in 1728 Warwick Hawkey and his wife passed their interest in one-fifth to trustees, and in the following year the Rev. Francis Tucker and Jane his wife were also deforciantes to a fine of one fifth of the Manor.⁽⁵⁾ These two fines no doubt dealt with one and the same fifth part, because we find that on the 29th June, 1729, by a deed of that date Mr. Hawkey and his wife and Mr. Tucker and his wife together conveyed one fifth part of the Manor to Peter Spurrier absolutely.⁽⁶⁾

In the pedigree of the Worths of Luccombe and Timberscombe I find "John Worth, of Luccombe, mar. Christian, dau.

Bur. 15 Feby., 1715-6, at Luccombe. Hs Will dated 23 April, 1715, proved 24 March, 1715-6 (Taunton), Exor. of Will of his mother and sister.

of Thomas Siderfin of Luxborough to whom she was ad. 4 Nov. 1687; named in the Will of her mother, Mary Siderfin, dated 19 Novr., 1689, proved 10 Oct., 1693, at Taunton; administration of her father's estate granted to her and her mother 4 Novr., 1687."

Thomas John Cecilla, Sarah Mary Susan =

Robert Cutcliffe, of Ilfracombe, Christian =

John Bradford (?) Washfield =

Arms—"Arg. an eagle displayed with 2 necks, sa. beaked and legged or." Crest—Arm erect holding eagle's leg, couped thigh.

LUCCOMBE. There are five bells in tower cast in 1759 by William Evans, of Chepstow. The Churchwardens' Account contains entry: Paid Mr. Siderfin for drawing the agreement between Mr. Evans and the parish, 2s. 6d., etc.

Bossington was sold in 1694 by Sir John Sydenham to William Blackford, of Dunster, for £2,200, son of Richard

(4) Deed of conveyance, dated 30th Mch., 1676. Som. Fine Mich., 3 Chas. II.

(5) Som. Fine, Mich., 3 George II.

(6) Halliday Nun.

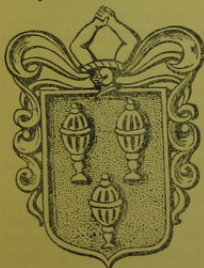
Blackford, of Dunster, a Master in Chancery; also Holincote of William Martyn; this son William married Elizabeth, dau. of John Dyke, of Tixton; and Elizabeth Blackford, dau., mar. Edward Dyke, of Tixton. Sidwell, dau., married Thomas Dyke, whose son Thomas, and Mary his wife, their dau. Elizabeth Dyke, only dau. and heiress, mar. Sir Thomas Acland 1744-5; 7 Jan., that's how it came into the Acland estate.

EXTRACT FROM *Somerset Incumbents*, p. 375—HAWKRIDGE, WITHTHPOOL:

Date of Institution.	Incumbent.	How vacated.	Patron.	Ref. to Bishop's Reg.
1693, Sep. 15.	Nic. Millary	Per Mort.	Rob. Kidder	6.
		G.P.	Syderfin,	
			*arm.	

The following is a copy of seal on a document dated 1700, in Dunster Castle, when Robert Siderfin was trustee for Tregonwell Luttrell, a minor.

1690. Robert Siderfin signed the Churchwardens' Accounts for Porlock as Justice of Peace.



The lords of the castle and manor of Dunster and of the hundred of Carhampton as lords paramount have for time immemorial claimed and taken all wrecks from the sea from a place called the Foreland situate in the parish of Countisbury in the county of Devon . . . to Shurton Bars, in the parish of Stogursey. In the third year Edw. IV., as stated

above, the honour of Dunster was confiscated by the King and given to Sir William Herbert. In the grant of the estate "the wreck of the sea which belonged to the castle"

* The title armiger is usually limited to the person in possession of the estate.

is expressly mentioned. When (1 Hen. VII.) all Sir James Luttrell's estates were restored to Sir Hugh, his son, by act of Parliament, this right, amongst others, is specified. "Wrecca Maris" is mentioned in a "Bargain and Sale," 4th June, 1680, of Francis Luttrell, Esq., to John Tregonnell and Thomas Siderfin, Esq. Again in a settlement of the same property made by Francis Luttrell, Esq., on his marriage and in all subsequent settlements, "wreck of the sea" is expressly mentioned. Accounts exist of wreckage taken by the owners of Dunster castle at or near Culbone 1770, at or near Porlock, 1763, 1770, 1771, 1784, 1804, 1811, 1830, 1852, 1872; Dunster warren, 1771, 1807; Donniford, 1773; Old Cleve, 1771; Watchet, 1810, 1817.

POLITICAL HISTORY OF MINEHEAD ON ACCESSION OF JAMES II.

Amongst those who were appointed as deputy lieutenants as friends to the king's cause are :—"George Musgrave, of Huish Barton, near Minehead; John Speak, eldest son to George Speak ⁽¹⁾ near Ilminster; Robert Syderfyn (of Croydon) and Charles Steynings (of Holnicote)."

The views of the various boroughs were next inquired into, "and of those persons (in them) who are for taking off the Penall laws and Tests and who have interest to be chosen Parliament men from some of the Corporations such persons be removed." Some of the Somersetshire towns returning members were in favour of the King, but at Bridgewater and her daughter "creek" of Minehead the spirit of the great admiral who had helped to curb, in the earlier part of the century, the tyrannous temper of the house of Stuart still lingered. With regard to Bridgewater, we have the ominous note :—"This corporation must be totally altered." And at Minehead things were just as hopeless. "Francis Lutterell (who will not comply) hath soe much interest there that it will be difficult to oppose him," is the report to the king. It is, however, added that "Robert Syderfin, a barrester," who had already been bribed with the office of

(1) The ancient Somerset family of Speak, or Speke, held the Manor of Alcombe for a long period. Hence their connection at this time with Minehead affairs.

deputy-lieutenant, or as we saw above, "hath a good interest, and John Speak, if he be not chosen for the County."

Besides these returns, Mr. E. Green—to whose researches the writer is indebted for much of his information on this period—tells us that emissaries were sent out from the court to see what the prospects of the king's cause really were in the borough. Nathaniel Wade, John Jones, and Richard Andrewes were appointed to visit this district.

Of Minehead these worthy gentlemen report that it "is a Corporation, the election popular. The town belongs to Col. Luttrell, of whom we can yett give not account. Who he proposes will be chosen here, except the Sheriff can improve the interest of John Speak and Robert Siderfin (who are both right) which he hath promised to doe."

The will of Richard Blackford, of Dunster, Somerset, one of the king's Masters Extraordinary in Chancery, is dated Jan. 8th, 1688, and was proved by his widow, Elizabeth, 4th April, 1689, in the Probate Court of Canterbury, entry 48. He bequeaths "To my daughter Dyke, wife of Edward Dyke the fee simple of the messuage called Foxcombe in Hawkrigde. To my daughter Sidwell, the interest and fee of the messuage called Culverwell, in the parish of Bicknoller, but William Blackford to have power to pay his sisters £100 each and take the land." Mentions besides his sister, Mary Coffin, cousin Robert Siderfin, his sister Hawkins and her son.

The will of Elizabeth Blackford, dated 23rd October, 1693, was proved in the Probate Court of Canterbury, 23rd May, 1699, by her two daughters, Elizabeth Dyke and Sidwell Dyke, the residuary legatees. She mentions her late husband's two sisters, her kinsfolk, Mr. John Quirke and his wife, Mr. Walter Coffin (then residing at Allerford) and his wife, my cousin Mr. Robert Siderfin and his wife and Joan Atkins, Mr. Edward Haberfield.

The large sums paid out in relief of travellers and others coming "by pass" for so many years appears now to have excited disapproval in the parish, and we find the following entry in the hand of the Vicar as chairman of the vestry meeting, held on April 14th, 1691:—Agreed upon by the

unanimous consent of the parish that the Churchwardens for the future (for regulation of excessive disbursements upon travaylling persons) doe pay unto travellers and wandering persons if they see necessity the Sums hereunder specified and no more :—

To a man	3
To a woman	2
To a child	1

The entry is signed by the Vicar, Samuel Bengoe and by all present at the vestry, viz: Tho. Quirke, Richard Stoat, John Quirke, Adam Bodman, Thomas Giles, Robt. Siderfin, Edmund Spurrier, William Saffin, Willm. Blake, John Giles, Will Wade, John Hobhouse, Jos. Alloway, Charles Hill, George Hayman.

Will of Charles Staynings, 1693. In the name of God Amen. I Charles Staynings of Holnycote in the County of Somerset Esqre being of perfect mind and memory (I bless my God for the same) and not knowing the certaine time of my departure I doe make and appoint this my last Will and Testament revoking and annulling all former Wills and Testaments by me heretofore made. Impr's. I committ my body to the dust to be decently buried by my Executor here named in my Great Grandfather's Grave next my wife as my Trustees and Executor shall direct and my Soul I give to the Great God that gave him. Item. I give and bequeath unto Robert Siderfin of Croydon in the County of Somerset Esqre and Richard Troyte of Stream in the same County Clerk and to the Survivor of them and to the Executor and Administrator of such survivor All my messuages lands tenents mills and hereditamts with the appurten'nces lyeing within the severall p'ishes villages or tythings of Nether Stowey and Over Stowey in the aforesaid County of Som'sett, etc.

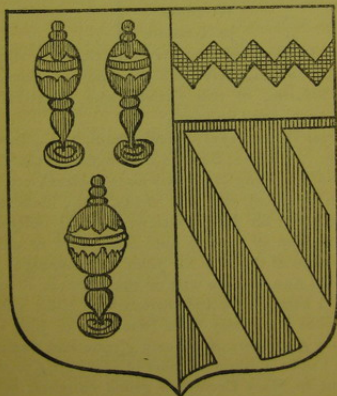
Signed, sealed, published and declared by Charles Staynings Esqre to be his last Will and Testament in the presence of us—John Garland Rectr de Sellworthy, Elias Falvey Rectr de Oare, Edward Stoate, Will Siderfin. 14th Febr'y.

1694. Robert Siderfin was High Sheriff of the County of Somerset.

1690. Robert Siderfin signed the Churchwardens' A/cs. Timberscombe Parish.

In Sir Maxwell Lyle's *Lords of Dunster*, page 100, Tregonwell Luttrell, of Dunster Castle, the only son of Colonel Francis Luttrell, and Mary, dau. and heiress of John Tregonwell, of Milton Abbot, died in 1703, before attaining his majority, Robert Siderfin, of Croydon, was one of his trustees; the estates passed to his uncle, Colonel Alexander Luttrell.

1708. In Luxborough Church there is a stone in the floor with the following inscription:—Here lyeth the body of Ann, the wife of Robert Siderfin, of Croydon, Esqr., and daughter of Sir John Wittewronge, of Rothampstead, in the County of Hertford, who died May 5th, 1708. "In specheatoe resurrectionis," with the arms: "Three cups Siderfin impaled Bendy of six (arg. and gu.) on a chief sa a bar indented." WITTEWRONGE.



Coat of Arms as taken off in Luxboro Church.

Carhampton } A certificate made by Robert Court and
 Hundred, } Thomas Longs y^e 17th day of May, 1707,
 Wootton } for y^e paying off of £147 10 9 within y^e
 Courtney } tything aforesaid being of Land Tax granted
 Tything } to her Majesty of 4s. y^e £ for carrying on
 y^e war against France and Spain.

		£	s.	d.
Sir Hugh Stuckly, or y ^e occupier	...	06	12	00
Mr. Ralph Coombs, Rector	...	19	12	09
John Worth, Gent	...	05	07	06
John Siderfin	...	05	07	06
Mary Quirck, per y ^e occupier	...	01	15	04
John Trill, or y ^e occupier	...	00	02	06

and various others, to the total of £147 10 09

May 27th, 1707.

Sworn and allowed by us :

Seal	R. Siderfin	} Commissioners.
"	W. Blackford	
"	Jo. Worth	
"	W. Blake	
"	Jo. Gardner	

1717. In Wootton Courtney Church, on a stone in the floor of the nave :—Here lyeth the body of Mary, the wife of John Siderfin, of this Parish, who departed this life Oct. 3rd, 1717, aged 69 years.

Somerset House, 1721, Buckingham, 116.—In the name of God, &c. I Robert Siderfin of Croydon in the County of Somerset after giving directions as to funeral, etc.

I give after all my just debts, &c., Ann my third wife daughter of Sir John Wittewronge. I obliged myself to pay the sum of £1000 unto such child or children or grand children of the said Sir John Wittewronge, and as I and the said Ann my late wife or the survivor of us should appoint. I hereby give and bequeath to Ellen daughter of Samuel Gibbs of Horsley Park (late wife of John Cooke of Cranbrook) £400 part of the said £1000 said Samuel Gibbs and John Cooke £300 other part of the said £1000 in trust to pay out to Mary Crompton grand daughter of Sir John Wittewronge and now wife of John Crompton late Cheapside,

London, for term of her natural life and the said husband shall not intermeddle and after her death £300 among her three children. I give three children of the eldest daughter of James Wittewronge of Lincolns Inn by Thomas Bennett her late husband the sum of £50 part of the £1000. I give to the children of Ellen the wife of Henry Foxcroft of Calcott in the County of South'ton, another daughter of James Wittewrong sum of £150 residue of said £1000 to be equally divided in accordance with settlement made by me on marriage said Ann late wife.

I give to the poor of Carhampton £5. I give to two nephews James and Philip Darch sum of £100 as soon as raised by sale of lands. I give Elizabeth my now wife her heirs assigns for ever all my Manor, Messuages, Lands, &c. situate in Cornless Somerset and Devon and other in the Kingdom of England subject to payment debts legacies. £4 for each servant. Dear wife Elizabeth sole executrix.

In Witness:—

Wyatt Swinland
Escott Bowden
Augustine Siderfin

1st year of the Reign George I, 14 June, 1715.

1708. *Bibliotheca Somersetensis*, by F. S. A. Green, Vol. II., p. 347: Darch, Robert, of Hill Bish (Bishops Hull) Sermon preached at the Funeral of Mrs. Anne, wife of Robert Siderfin, Esqr., one of Her Majesty Justice of Peace, Croydon, Somerset, at Timberscombe, May 15th, 1708.

1700. An Act for Vesting the Manor of Exton and other lands in the county of Somerset late the Estate of Thomas Siderfin Esqr. deceased in trustees to be sold for payment of debts 11. 12. Will c. 10. A.D. 1700.

On the east wall of the north aisle of Selworthy Church we find the following brasses:—

Robert Siderfin, gent., who died Jan. 20th, 1714, aged 25. Walter Siderfin, gent., who died March 21, 1731, aged 40.

In memory of John Clarke, of West Lynch, in the parish of Selworthy, who departed this life 26 Feb., 1796, aged 90 years.

The earliest existing baptismal register of Selworthy has been somewhat carelessly kept in days gone by. The first entry as to position is that of the baptism of one Mary Taylor, in 1712, but at the bottom of the page follow the records of the baptisms of John and William Knight, in 1668 and 1672 respectively, and on the following page come entries concerning the Coffin and Siderfin family dated as early as 1653.

The next book of the marriage registers is an equally handsome volume measuring 10 inches by 14½ inches. It is well bound, and on the cover is a red label on which is printed in gold letters: "James White and Robert Siderfin, Churchwardens."

WILLIAM SIDERFIN, of Minehead, Somerset, gent. Will dated March, 1716. Proved 17th Decr. 1723 (Taunton Registry). My niece Rachael clothier (?) £50. Residue to Mary my Wife. Exix. Sealed with 3 cups. Mentions the Quirckes of Minehead.

In Minehead Church the Royal Arms are fixed with William Siderfin and Hugh Payne, Churchwardens, 1704.

MARY QUIRKE, of Periton, Minehead. Widow. Will dated 3rd March 1728. Proved April 29th 1730. (Mentions) My son-in-law Walter Siderfin. My daughter Alice Siderfin.

ROBERT QUIRCK, Minehead, Somt., gent. Will dated 19th June, 1731. Proved 9th July, 1731. My uncle Mr. Robert Siderfin, Exor. To Robert my son my kinsman Mr. Walter Siderfin, all my estate in Old Clevee.

The other expenditure is mostly for the poor living in the Church House and the maintenance of the building. The accounts, which for nearly fifty years are entered in this book, are for the most part well kept, and give us some interesting details as to local prices in this district. The book itself in 1739 cost 8s, and was purchased of one Mrs. Wood. A pair of "stockins" for Wm. Edwards cost 1s. 1d., but a pair for Joan Clements was obtained for 8d. A pair of shoes cost about 5s. for a man (Joseph Kent) and 2s. 6d. for a woman; and Mrs. Siderfin was paid, it is recorded, 8s. for a pig for the house. The general expenses of Joseph Kent, who, alas! did not live long to enjoy his new

shoes, amounted to 17s. 8d. The hire of a horse to carry "Mary Waltham to Minehead" was but 6d.

TIVINGTON. Poor Rate paid 1745.

	s.	d.
Thomas Greenslade	8	10
" "	0	10
Joan Kent, wid.	9	0
Wm. Kent	2	0
Benj. Alloway	2	0
Benj. Coffin	3	10
George Lawfull	2	5
Ven. or Occupier	1	6
Joan Blackford for Barley Ground ...	1	4
John Kent	1	6
Mich. Snow, "New Mead"	0	7
Thomas Trill	3	0
" "	0	4
" "	1	10
Austin Syderfin	2	5

The Siderfins, whose name is spelt in many different ways, were landowners from an early period in the hill country. Their residence, Croydon, in Timberscombe parish, has still many points of interest about it. One of the family, Robert Siderfin, who died in 1708, has a monument to his memory in Luxborough Church. The arms on the monument and in a seventeenth century deed at Dunster Castle are "three covered cups." The family were connected with the Steynings, of Holnicote.

Orchard. Paul Orchard, Esq., holds to him and his heires of the Lord of this Mannr severall parcellls of land lying in the parish of Minehead, part of the ffarme of old knowle, and the same Paul Orchard with Mr. Robert Siderfin alsoe hold to them their heires of the Lord of this Manor a messuage and Tenement att Veniford in Minehead now in the possession of the said Robert Siderfin by ffree suite to the Courts of this Mannr and the yearly rent of 11d. payable at Michas.

The dealings with the Manor in those days were complicated, for we find that in 1705 Robert Quirke, "the eldest son and heir at law of John Quirke, decd.," mortgaged his

share of the manor, then said to be three-fifths, to Walter Coffin, of Selworthy, as a trustee for the latter's sister, Mary Quirke. Mary Quirke bequeathed her interest in this mortgage as to one-third to her daughter Mary Question, another third to her daughter Alice Siderfin, who was wife of Walter Siderfin, and the remaining third to the four sons of her daughter Isott Quirke, namely John, James, Robert and Thomas Quirke. ⁽¹⁾ In 1757 John Quirke, of Timberscombe, son and heir of Robert Quirke, conveyed the fee simple in trust in the three-fifths to Alice Siderfin. She devised ⁽²⁾ these shares and her interest in the mortgage debt to her nephew, John Short, in trust for his children by his wife Elizabeth. The Short family had already become interested in the estate by reason of the devolution of a share of the mortgage. It is unnecessary to deal with all the collateral interests; suffice it to say that a suit was begun in the Court of Exchequer to realize and divide the estates of Alice Siderfin, ⁽³⁾ under which in due course the Siderfin-Short interest in the estate was put up for sale at the "House of John Mountstephen, known by the sign of the Luttrell Arms," in Dunster, on the 24th March, 1788. ⁽⁴⁾ By this sale the ownership of the manor and advowson was divided after many centuries, during which the advowson had been appendant to the manor. Mr. Nicholas Snow, a direct ancestor of the present owner, became possessed of the shares of the former. The rest of the estate was at that time in the ownership of Mr. Nicholas Snow.

1759. Mr. Siderfin drew up the agreement for casting the bells of Luccombe Church.

WILLS.

THOMASIN SIDERFIN, Selworthy, widow. Will dated 2nd July, 1709. Mentions son, Robert Siderfin. Cousin Robert Siderfin, of Linch. Grandsons, John, Robert,

(1) Her will dated 3 March, 1725, proved Taunton, 20 April, 1730.

(2) Will dated 11 April, 1766, proved 30 Sept., 1768. P.C. C. 362, Tucker.

(3) Short v. Jones, Excheq. : B and A. Geo. III., Som. 449 Exch. dep. 29 Geo. III. Hil 13.

(4) Advt. sale in poss. of Chadwich Healy

Augustine, Thomas, various small legacies, and granddaughters, Jane, Susanna.

Witness :—Thomas Trill
John Harrison
Joane Trill

1732. ROBERT SIDERFIN, Selworthy, yeoman. Will dated 4th Feby., 1731-2, proved 9th August, 1732. Mentions 4 sons, Robert, John, Augustine and Thomas and three daughters, Elizabeth Goodgroom, Jane Siderfin, and Susanna Kent, all rest to my wife Elizabeth sole executrix.

Witness :—Thomas Trill and Thomas Kent.

1733. MARY SIDERFIN, of Exton, wife of John Siderfin, of the same parish, tanner. Whereas before my intermarriage with my said husband by my Deed indented and bearing date the 8th Dec., 1718, I did assign and settover certain leasehold tenements or estates, etc., unto Edmund Cording, of Exton, and George Langdon, of Winsford, in trust for the several uses, ends, intents, etc., therein mentioned. I give etc., unto my husband's granddaughter, Joane Siderfin, ten pounds. To my cozen, Anne Hobbs, the younger, of Winsford, 40s. To Edward Barnes, the younger of Exton, 10s. All the rest residue and remainder of my said leasehold tenements or estates and all other goods, etc., etc., unto Edmund Cording, the younger (son of aforesaid E^d. Cording) to and for his own proper use for ever. And I do make him, the said E^d. Cording the y^r sole Executor.

Will dated 7th January, 1729.

1740. Elizabeth Siderfin, Selworthy, widow, dated 9th Decr. 1738. Mentions daughters Jane, Elizabeth Goodgroome, Susanna Kent; sons, Robert, John, Thomas, Augustine.

1747. Mary Siderfin, Minehead, widow of William Siderfin, no mention of children or lands, dated 18th June, 1746, sealed (3 cups).

1762. Augustine Siderfin, of Selworthy, School Master. Mentions son, Robert, daughter-in-law, Grace Siderfin. To son John all his right title, interest, property, claim,

term of years, etc., to one estate called Lower Knowle, in Tivington, in Selworthy, during his life, but in case son John shall die before son Robert, then estate called Lower Knowle to granddaughter, Mary Siderfin, daughter of son John. Will dated 13th January, 1760.

1783. JOHN SIDERFIN, of Cutcombe, Cordwainer. Will dated 28th April, 1761. Mentions son-in-law, John Greenslade. All his children 1/- apiece. Wife Joan Siderfin, sole executrix.

1788. ROBERT SIDERFIN, of Selworthy. Will dated 15th April, 1781. Mentions sons John, Robert, Thomas, to the two latter sons the testator gave all his right and interest in estate in Bratton in Minehead. Wife Grace, sole executrix.

1795. JOAN SIDERFIN, of Cutcombe, widow. Will dated 1st September, 1792. To daughter, Joan Wheddon, dwelling house, gardens and field of ground, known by name of Gammons in parish of Cutcombe, for life, then to daughter Mary Siderfin. To son John all the Meadows known by name of Ven. Meadows right, title and interest in and yet to come in my said meadows, situate at Selworthy. Also to son John, an estate called Lower Knowle in Selworthy after the death of his uncle, Robert Siderfin. Grandson Thomas Greenslade. Two daughters and daughter-in-law, Joan Wheddon: Mary Siderfin and Joan Siderfin.

Daughter, Joan Wheddon, sole executrix. *Seal broken*

1799. GRACE SIDERFIN, of Knowle, Selworthy, widow. Will dated 13th December, 1773. Mentions son John, daughters Mary Potter, Betty Rewe, Grace Langdon, Joanna Siderfin. Son Robert and Joanna executors.

1746. ROBERT SIDERFIN, of Minehead, gent., admon. granted to Alice Syderfin, the mother and administratrix.

1759. THOMAS TRILL, of Selworthy, yeoman. Will dated 31st Dec., 1757. I give John Siderfin son of Robert Siderfin £5 at the age of 21, my kinsman, Robert Lovelase, 20/- one year after my decease John Lovelase 30/- one year after decease and George Lovelase 20/-, and my kinswoman, Elizabeth Kent 10/-, all rest and residue of my

lands, goods and chattels of what kind soever to my daughter Grace Trill and make her my sole executrix.

Witness :—John Siderfin,
Robert Siderfin,
John Goold.

A CURIOUS WILL.

1784. GRACE ESCOTT (Trill), of Dunster, widow of Thomas Escott, of Sandhill in County of Somerset.

Will dated 6 August 1784. After reciting deed of settlement on marriage with her husband give all that messuages etc. called Middle House Great Langford, Hurtstone, two rights in New Marsh, one acre Upper Langford, one piece called the Drang part of the Manor of Alcombe, also dwelling house garden & orchard & appurtenances to John Siderfin son of Robert Siderfin of Selworthy & if no issue, then to Mary Siderfin, Betty Siderfin, Grace Long & Joanna Siderfin sisters of the said John Siderfin as joint tenants, my cousin Jane Clark the dwelling house at Tivington during her life free of rates & taxes & £4 yearly (after her death to John Siderfin) I give my reversionary term estate & interest to commence at death of Joseph Kent all my leasehold messuage etc called Kents in Selworthy part Manor of Blackford on trust to pay same to Ann Sage for her own use & after death to her husband Robert Sage to Mary daughter of Robert & Ann Sage six silver tea spoons marked G.E. my silver tea tongs best set of china, china milk jug stand tea-table and one of my hand waiters made of oak to Ann wife of Giles Bryant the sum of fifty pounds my silver butter dish marked T.T. 1753 one elbow mahogany chair and two single chairs to Mary wife of John Staddon the sum of fifty pounds, my half pint silver cup & one large brass pot, to my cousin Grace Bishop ten pounds, to my cousin Mary wife of John Harris ten pounds, to my cousin John Trill servant to Alexander Fownes Luttrell (clerk) ten pounds, to Ann daughter of Robert Siderfin during her natural life Witch Meadow part of the Manor of Blackford of my estate shall so long continue, also my blue bed, curtains valeons pillows, quilt pair of sheets pair blankets

damask table cloth marked T six blue & white china plates my large common Prayer Book another book Christian Defence one little Bible with a gilt vessell one trunk covered with flowered silk, one green bed rugg, two silver table spoons marked T & I. T. & G. T. 1724, silver hilt case knife and fork to Mary daughter Robert Siderfin all my leasehold messuages etc called Ham Mead, Pound Meadow & oxenlears part of the Manor of Blackford (if she dies without issue then to Thomas youngest son of Robert Siderfin) also to Mary Siderfin my silver pint cupp marked T. T. 1753 and all the rest of my silver spoons and all the rest of my books to Ann wife of Giles Bryant my flowered silk damask pink gown, one yellow silk quilted petticoat to Mary wife of John Staddon my most fashionable green silk gown & one black silk quilted petticoat to Ann wife of Robert Sage my grey second mourning silk gown and one blue silk quilted petticoat and two pairs of stays to Mary Siderfin my other green silk gown and one shaded silk quilted petticoat to Elizabeth daughter of Giles Bryant one silver brooch marked T. T. G. 1684, one spruce chest and my light coulored silk gown and two silver hilt case knives & forks my striped silk quilted petticoat and my silver buckles to Izott Wybourn and Joan Wybourn the sum of twenty shillings to Mary Siderfin fifty pounds and all rest of my household goods & furniture & clothing (except one silver tankard marked T. T. T. 1746^(a) and one long table cloth marked G. T. which I give unto my said brother John Siderfin) all rest goods chattels lands estate, etc., I give to John Siderfin his executors & assignes to be whole and sole residuary legatee & executor.

Witness. Thos. Escott
 Hugh Matthews
 Thos. Morkham

FREEHOLDERS IN SELWORTHY.

Now, besides the rector in right of his glebe, the only freeholders left in the parish other than the owner of the three manors, are the Clarke and Stoate families. The

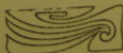
(a) Now in the possession of John Siderfin, Bicknoller.

Clarkes, as already stated, have for a long period lived on their property at West Lynch (while a branch of their family have also occupied East Lynch) and have for many generations taken a leading and honourable part in the affairs of the valley. The Stoates, too, have been connected with the parish for a great number of years. The last of the Selworthy branch of the family, old "Counselloer Stoate," as he was always called, lived at Allerford and must have been somewhat of a character. He was also a man of considerable substance. Another old family connected with the parish is that of Siderfin. This family is probably an offshoot of the family of Siderfin of Croydon, in the parish of Timberscombe, a family of some importance in our district in the seventeenth century.

1814. JOHN SIDERFIN, of Selworthy. Will dated 1st February, 1814. Gives all his lands to Sarah his wife for life then to his son Robert Siderfin subject to legacies, John Siderfin and Elizabeth wife of William Clarke, of East Lynch. Wife sole executrix. Witness John Clark, William Kingdon, Elizabeth Kingdon.

1805. ROBERT SIDERFIN apprenticed to Thomas Grenslade of Taunton, saddler, for four years at premium of £21.

1868. ROBERT SIDERFIN late of Watchet (saddler). Will dated 22nd July 1857. Gives all his lands and personal estate to Elizabeth wife of James Hooper Sanders, subject to legacies to daughters Amelia wife of Walter Hawkes and Mary wife of John Hender Freen. Elizabeth Sanders sole executrix.



PEDIGREE OF THE SIDERFIN FAMILY.

ROBTO-DE-SIDERNEFENNE,

Hundred Rolls of Somerset, Ed. 1., 1274.

JOHN SIDERFIN and CHRISTIAN his wife
of Luxborough,
who lived there about 1300.

WILLIAM SIDERFIN—WILMOT FOSTER
Will dated 1568, of Luxborough, 1534.
pro. Taunton 1572. will pro. 1579.

ROBERT SIDERFINNE,
see Chancery Proceedings, Elizabeth's reign,
died 1612.

WILLIAM—CHRISTIAN
b. about 1385,
died before 1610,
1648.
WEBBER, 1610,
died 1647,
will pro. 1648.

ROBERT—PRISCILLA
bap. 1587,
died 1636.
WEBBER,
1612, of
Luxborough.

THOMAS—JOHAN
bap. 1590,
died 1675.

JANET
bap. 1596.

ELIZABETH
bap. 1597,
died 1668.

JOAN—WILLIAM
bap. 1602.
WEBBER
of Luxborough.

WILLIAM
b. 1615,
d. 1615.

GEORGIANNA
b. 1617,
d. 1617.

THOMAS—MARY
b. 1618,
will 1687.
RADFORD
of Okeford,
will 1693.

ROBERT
b. 1620,
d. 1675.

WILMOT
b. 1613,
d. 1668.

MARY
b. 1612,
mar. Gyldes.

CHRISTIAN
b. 1617,
d. 1617.

THOMAS—ELIZABETH
born 1637,
of Middle
Temple,
1665.
2nd wife—ARN
of Lambeth,
will 1706.

ROBERT—CATHERINE
of Croydon, POLKINS, 1684.
b. 1645.
2nd wife—KATHERINE
GRAVER,
admon. 1696.
3rd wife—ANNE WITTE-
WRONGE, 1687,
d. 1708.
4th wife—ELIZABETH.
will 1721.

ANNE.

ELIZABETH.

THOMAS
b. 1650.

PHILIP
b. 1652,
d. 1661.

CHRISTIAN
b. 1654,
mar. at Lux-
borough,
will 1693.

JOHN WORTH
of Wychemer, 1681,
Luccombe,
will 1715 & 6.

THOMAS
b. 1695.

JOHN
b. 1697,
d. 1730.

CECILIA
b. 1701,
d. 1701.

SARAH
b. 1703,
d. 1716,
will 1716.

MARY
b. 1705,
d. 1715.

SURANNA
mar. Robert
Cutcliffe of
Ilfracombe.

CHRISTIAN
mar. John
Radford of
Oakford.

JOHN
of Wootton Courtney,
b. about 1614.

JOHN
b. 1656,
of Wootton
Courtney.

ROBERT—THOMASIN
b. 1658,
of Selworthy.

THOMASIN
d. 1709,
will 1709.

WILLIAM—MARY TERREL
of Minehead,
b. 1660,
d. 1723,
will 1723.

no issue.

JOHN—MARY
b. 1656,
b. 1648,
d. 1717.

ROBERT—JOANNA KITTENER
of East Lynch,
b. 1680,
d. 1715.
of Wootton Courtney,
1713.

JOHN
of Wootton
Courtney.

MARIA WINTER
of Exton, 1718,
will pro. 1733.

WALTER
of Timberscombe,
b. 1692,

ALICE QUIRKE
of Minehead,
1717 at Luxborough,

JOHN SIDERVIN and CHRISTIAN his wife
of Loxborough,
who lived there about 1500.

WILLIAM SIDERVIN—WILMOT FOSTER
Will dated 1568, of Loxborough, 1534.
pro. TANTON 1572. will pro. 1579.

ROBERT SIDERVIN,
see Chancery Proceedings, Elizabeth's reign,
died 1612.

WILLIAM—CHRISTIAN
WEBBER, 1610,
died before 1648,
will pro. 1648.

ROBERT—PRISCILLA
WEBBER, 1597,
bap. 1596,
died 1636,
of Loxborough.

THOMAS—JOHAN
died 1681.
bap. 1590,
died 1675.

JANEY
bap. 1596.

ELIZABETH
bap. 1597,
died 1668.

JOAN—WILLIAM
WEBBER
of Loxborough,
1602.

WILLIAM
b. 1615,
d. 1615.

GEORGIANNA
b. 1617,
d. 1617.

THOMAS—MARY
RADFORD
of Okeford,
will 1693.
b. 1618,
will 1687.

ROBERT
b. 1620,
d. 1675.

WILMOT
b. 1613,
d. 1668.

MARY
b. 1612,
mar. Gyldes.

CHRISTIAN
b. 1617,
d. 1617.

THOMAS—ELIZABETH
LIGHTMAKER
of London,
1665.
born 1627,
of Middle
Temple,
2nd wife—
will 1681.

ROBERT—CATHERINE
FOLKINS, 1681.
b. 1645,
2nd wife—CATHERINE
GRAVES,
admon. 1686,
3rd wife—ANNE WITTE-
WORTH, 1689,
d. 1708,
4th wife—ELIZABETH,
will 1721.

THOMAS
b. 1630.

PHILIP
b. 1652,
d. 1661.

CHRISTIAN—JOHN WORTH
of Wychanger, 1681,
will 1715 6.
b. 1654,
mar. at Lux-
borough,
will 1693.

ANNE.

ELIZABETH.

THOMAS
b. 1695.

JOHN
b. 1697,
d. 1730.

CECILIA
b. 1701,
d. 1701.

SARAH
b. 1703,
d. 1716,
will 1716.

MARY
b. 1705,
d. 1715.

SUSANNA
mar. Robert
Cutcliffe of
Ilfracombe.

CHRISTIAN
mar. John
Radford of
Oakford.

JOHN
of Wootton Courtney,
b. about 1614.

JOHN
b. 1636,
of Wotton
Courtney.

ROBERT
b. 1658,
of Selworthy.

THOMAS
d. 1709,
will 1709.

WILLIAM
of Minehead,
b. 1660,
d. 1723,
will 1723.

MARY TERREL
of Selworthy, 1698,
will 1747.

NO ISSUES.

JOHN—MARY
b. 1645,
d. 1717.
b. 1656.

ROBERT—JOANNA KITTENER
of East Lynch,
b. 1680,
d. 1715.
of Wotton Courtney,
1713.

JOHN—MARIA WINTER
of Exton, 1718,
will pro. 1733.
of Wootton
Courtney.

WALTER—ALICE QUIRKE
of Timberscombe,
b. 1699,
d. 1732.
of Minehead,
will pro. 1768,
1717 at Loxborough.

ROBERT admon. 1746.

ROBERT—ELIZABETH BLACKFORD
of Selworthy,
b. 1658,
d. 1731,
will 1732.
d. 1738,
will pro. 1740.

ROBERT—GRACE KENT
of Selworthy,
b. 1685,
d. 1768,
will pro. 1788.
of Selworthy,
mar. 1752,
will pro. 1799.

JOHN—CHRISTIAN FINN
b. 1688,
mar. 1733.
d. 1759.

SUSANNA
b. 1733.

JOANNA
b. 1690,
d. 1698.

AUGUSTINE
b. 1692,
will pro. 1762.

MARY DAVIS
of Cutcombe,
mar. 1720.

THOMAS—CATHERINE
of Minehead,
b. 1694,
d. 1770.

JANE
b. 1699.

JOAN
b. 1700,
d. 1761.

SUSANNA—KENT
b. 1705,
d. 1780.

JOHN—JOAN
b. 1753,
d. 1794.
d. 1782,
will pro.
1782.

MARY BETTY
b. 1757,
d. 1759.

GRACE
b. 1762.

JOANNA
b. 1764.

ANN
b. 1767.

ROBERT
of Bratton,
b. 1769.

THOMAS
b. 1776.

MARY
b. 1718,
d. 1718.

BETTY
b. 1719,
d. 1750.

MARIA
b. 1722.

JOANNA
b. 1724,
d. 1762.

THOMAS
1748.

