



Wiltshire: the Topographical Collections of John Aubrey, 1659-70 corrected and enlarged by John Edward Jackson. 1862



Extract - Chapter 6 Highworth, Cricklade and Staple Hundred, P.12 - History of Stratton St. Margaret;

Church

From Mr. R. Browne.

"Here is nothing very remarkable either ancient or moderne, only in the N. wall of the Church is an old niche, but without monument. In a windowe on the South side, is the picture of St.Katherine with her wheele and another broken in the first columnne, which I suppose to be St. Margaret the Tutelar saint of this church. Here are no coates of armes, only on the tombe of one LACY alias HEDGES, and one on KEMBLE's tombe. Neither of these have been interred above fourty yeares.

Landowners

Here is likewise a tradition that this was a Market-towne in the time of the Saxons.

Merton, Bishop of Rochester and Founder of Merton College in Oxford, had once the cure of soules here; he afterwards purchased the mannour and gave it to his college."

There was a family of Kemble of Stratton 1565 and 1660.

Walter Redbourn, Rudborn, or De Merton who was in Holy Orders so early as 1237, is said to have been rector here. He gave the Advowson, and lands, to his college, and endowed a Vicarage. The College obtained a fair and market from Henry VI (1447). The Abbey of Turon, of Tirron, had a pension from Stratton in 1291. An Alien Priory here was confiscated and its property given by Henry VI. to Kings Coll. Cambridge.

Stratton is in Cricklade hundred. The name is a corruption of Street-town, from a Roman street which passed through it. The entire parish was held at the Conquest by Nigel, the King's Physician. In Edw. I there were four properties held under the Braose family, as of their Honour of Kington co. Hereford, by Gardun, De la Folye, Feonay, and le Bret. Beside these were other owners, Walerand of Blountesdon, free of service; Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and Margery Ryvers who held under the Crown; and Baldwin de Insula, whose estate seems to have descended in the same curse as that held by him at Sevenhampton.

In 1316 Margaret, Queen of England, had both Strattons in dower. In 1363 Humphrey de Bohun had the manor of Stratton St. Margaret. On the partition of the Bohun estates in 1421 between King Hen. V. and his cousin the Lady Anne Plantagenet then Countess of Stafford, Stratton fell to the latter. In 1414 it had been held by her husband's nephew Humphry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham. In 1445 the "grange within the King's manor of Margrete Stratt" is described as "roofless and the thatch rotten." In 1544 there was a grant to Sir Thomas Brydges. Cheldry, Bonville and Orgoyle were also ancient names here. In Rich. I. a virgate of land was held by the service of attending the army with a horse to carry the lord's clothes. Some of the land belonging to Margery Ryvers and Le Bret above mentioned,

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afterwards belonged to a family of Espringham, by whom they were sold to Burton, and from his representatives were purchased in 1439 by Lord Hungerford who gave them to his younger son Sir Edmund, of down Ampney.

Gough speaks of the Font in the Stratton church as of c. 1280 By order in Council 1852 the Vicarage was transferred from the patronage of the Bishop of Salisbury to that of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol.

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