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The Manor of Warnham and Denn in Warnham

Land in Warnham, held in demesne of the Lords of Bramber, the Norman family of de Braoze, is known of as early as 1210, but the connection between this land and the later estates in the parish known as the Manor of Warnham or the Manor of Denn (Denne), or Denn in Warnham is not clear.

The earliest mention we have found of the Manor of Warnham is in 1272, on the death of William de Say, in a writ directing that custody of the Manor of Warnham be delivered to John de Bretagne "by reason of the custody of the lands and heirs of William le Marshall granted to the said John by Henry III because the Manor is of the inheritance of the same heirs". (William le Marshall was the second Earl of Pembroke who married as his second wife Henry III's sister Eleanor. His daughter Eva married William de Braoze, the Lord of Bramber Rape). This custody of the Manor is probably the Superior title, because we find that in 1262 John d'Oyley held the Manor by right of his wife, an heiress of the Tregoz family.

The Manor remained in the d'Oyley family for five generations when it passed in 1370 to Joan, sister of Thomas d'Oyley, and wife of Thomas Lewknor. Their son, John, died in 1409 seized of the Manor and was succeeded by his daughter, Joan, who married John Barttelot of Stopham. Thereafter it remained in the Barttelot family, together with the Manor of Stopham and several other estates, for some seven or eight generations, when on the death of Walter Barttelot in 1641 he was succeeded by his five daughters as co-heirs. At this time the demesne lands were severed from the Manor by a Deed of Partition and passed through Jane Barttelot to her husband, Christopher Coles of Pulborough. The actual site of the Manor has not been established but most probably it was in the area of the present Denne Farm.

After Christopher Coles' death in 1675 Jane Coles was described as the Lady of the Manor but there is no mention in the Parish registers of any Coles, so it is doubtful whether they were ever resident in Warnham and probably held other lands elsewhere. About 1690, Jane Coles sold the Lordship of the Manor to Henry Cowper of Strood, in the parish of Slinfold, who was one of the two MPs for Horsham in 1700.

By this time the status and holdings of the Manor had changed very considerably as from the records it is clear that there were a number of substantial land-holders, such as the Carrylls, Michells, Agates and Rapleys, holding by purchase or by lease other considerable properties in the Parish of Warnham. The demesne lands, had been separated from the Lordship as stated above and some of these were claimed at various times as Manors or "reputed" Manors by their new owners. In this way Manors of Kingsfold and Slaughterford alias Powers, were still held of the Manor of Denne and appear to have continued to pay quit rents and heriots to the Lord of the Manor until quite recent times.

The Lordship of the Manor of Denne passed from Henry Cowper to his son Edward and thence to his niece, Anne Upton who married Maj.Gen. John Leland. The latter, in 1801, sold the Lordship (and Strood) to John William Commerell, Sheriff of Sussex. He was succeeded about 1845 by his grandson, William Augustus Commerell whose executors in 1859 sold the Lordship of the Manor of Denn to Thomas Wisden. The last titular Lord of the Manor of Warnham and Denne in

Warnham was Lt.Colonel Thomas Faulknor Wisden of Broadwater who died in 1904. His executors had by 1914 disenfranchised the residual land in the ownership of the Manor, most of this having passed into the Warnham Court estates of the Lucas family.

Meanwhile the former demesne lands of the Manor, including Denne farmland other areas mainly in the North of the parish, were successfully claimed in 1695 by John Evershad of Evershad in Surrey, and this title passed to his cousin John Young and in turn to the latter's nephew, George Luxford. He conveyed this estate to John Collier of Hastings in 1755. On Collier's death in 1766 it passed to his daughter, Cordelia, wife of Hon. James Murray, and in 1800 to Collier's grandson, Edward Milward, who owned Denne Farm in 1800. John Lanham owned it in 1806 and sold it in 1814 to the Duke of Norfolk, who seems at the time to have made several purchases of land in the parish. In 1821 however it was sold by his executors to John Shudi Broadwood of Lyne House, Newdigate who by 1830 owned over 1000 acres in the Parish of Warnham. Denne Farm remained in the ownership of the Broadwood family until 1967.

The reputed manors referred to above included the Manor of Fusts, at one time in the ownership of the Carylls and later the Shelleys. It was situated in the Warnham Place – Warnham Pond area. In the eighteenth century a Manor of Hollands (or Hallamps) appears. The Manor house of this estate was roughly on the site of the Red House and this and its land eventually became part of the Warnham Court estate.

The Manor of Slaughterford alias Poers or Powers, stemmed from land given by Sir Roger de Covert to Stephen de la Poer of Thakeham on his marriage with his daughter, Isabel de Covert, about 1324. Its lands eventually covered the area corresponding to the present Endes Place estate. Its Manor house, known as the Old House, is shown in early maps. It was a mediaeval hall added to or rebuilt about 1660 and was destroyed by fire in 1830.

Records show an unidentified estate known as the Manor of Warnham descended with Roffey Manor in the Hoo and Copley families between 1457 and 1616 and may represent lands in Warnham held of Roffey, but clearly not part of the Manor of Warnham and Denne.

There is also a record of a suit by King Henry VIII in 1546 claiming the Manors of Rusper, Prestwood, Warnham and Hewells and tenements in those places from Sir Robert Southwell and his wife Margaret. Earlier, in 1540, the Close Rolls show the cession of the Church and the Rectory of Warnham from Sir Robert Southwell to the King. The explanation of this would be interesting as Sir Robert Southwell and his brother, Sir Richard, were both active in the suppression of the monasteries and it is possible to speculate that the Nunnery at Rusper, which held the impropriation of the Church in Warnham and the Rectory of Warnham were part of Sir Robert's spoils when it was suppressed in 1537. Sir Robert was knighted in that year and was made Master of the Rolls in 1542. The Rectory of Warnham and the impropriation of the Church were transferred to the Deanery of Canterbury ; but the explanation for the transfers of the Manors to the King is not clear. Nor is its connection with the Manors of Roffey and Warnham etc in the ownership of the Copleys referred to above.