

# — The Filby Association —

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE MANORS OF FILBY NORFOLK

Researched and written By  
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Glossary and Additional Material

By  
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### Introduction

The collection of these Notes has represented many hours of reading and copying extracts from published historical documents that make up the British National Archives copies of which are to be found in some of the larger county Reference Libraries. This daunting task, spread over a period of more than a year, was undertaken by Philip Skelton with the original intention of writing a history of the village of Filby in Norfolk, similar to the one he had written for the village of Newnham in Northamptonshire. However he soon discovered that in the case of Filby there was not just a single Manor whose boundaries coincide with those of the present Parish, but instead he found a whole group of Manors, the boundaries of which seemed to have 'moved with the times.' This fact plus the difficulty of trying to conduct local research in Norfolk from his home in Sussex proved a little too much as a retirement pastime for a gentleman with four score years of his allotted span already behind him. So with great reluctance he advised that he could take the task no further but passed on to us his 50 pages of notes.

It is therefore a matter of considerable satisfaction to the Filby Association that they have been able to make this interesting collection of data available to others who share the urge, not only to learn more about their heritage of local history, but who also wish to make a contribution to its collection and preservation. Here then is a foundation on which future enthusiasts can build, since it serves as a survey of the site, plans for construction and sources for the acquisition of materials with which to build. It is thus a 'do it yourself' kit as well as a challenge to a younger generation who are beginning to discover the treasure of moral experience and example which our ancestors have left behind for our future use and guidance in times of need. Was this need ever greater than now?

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It is our hope that copies of this modest work will find their way into the genealogical section of a few reference libraries on both sides of the Atlantic and since it may be seen by, and prove useful to, some to whom the name of Filby is unknown, it would seem appropriate to offer a few words of explanation as to how and why these Notes came to be written at all.

In the beginning there was a civil engineer living in Kansas City named Ellsworth L. Filby who, as a retirement hobby in 1961, decided to try finding out from where in England his grandfather had been taken to the U.S.A. in the early part of the last century. His persistent enquiries stirred the imagination of many others who shared a similar surname, with the result that in 1968 The Filby Association came into being with the objectives reproduced at the end of this page.

One of the earliest supporters of the movement in England was the late Dr. Frederick A. Filby, M.Sc., PH.D. (London) F.R.I.C. who in 1972 wrote an article on Master Adam de Fileby said in 1290 to have been the Abbot of Langley Abbey in Norfolk. This story of Adam de Fileby was seen in The Filby Association Newsletter by Philip Skelton whose great grandmother was a Filby born in Norwich. The common interest prompted him to add more to our knowledge of Adam de Fileby and these Notes are a continuation of that process.

The purpose of this pedigree of origin is to ensure that these co-operative efforts of the 'Filbys' are not to be mistaken as coming from professional historians. On the other hand should any reader recognise that he is being confronted with the work of enthusiastic amateurs, then like the sportsmen of former times we shall feel more complemented than offended?

It should also be appreciated that in volunteering to type these pages from Philip Skelton's handwritten notes, Douglas Hamley transformed a wish into an achievement and whilst he would not claim that there are no typing errors, we feel obliged to remind the reader that much of the strange spelling results from the earlier reproduction of hard to read ancient script, sometimes in abbreviated medieval Latin, written long before Dr. Samuel Johnson had produced the first English dictionary of standard spelling. An example of this difficulty was brought to light by a recent television play based on Winston Churchill's reference to the Paston Letters. This leads me to believe that the witness named in the 1416 entry on page 24 of these Notes should read William Paston not Caston but we have reproduced what was copied. The original sources are liberally quoted for those who wish to check for themselves and they now have the added advantage of knowing where to look. We hope therefore that these Notes will encourage you to go treasure hunting yourself through the pages of history.

June 1975

FREDERICK N. FILBY

————— THE FILBY ASSOCIATION —————

An organisation of people the world over with the surname of Filby or its variants Filbey, Filbee, Philby and Philbey devoted to furthering the study of the name derived from the village of Filby in Norfolk, England, - the genealogy of the various families with the name and the support of the parish

Church at Filby on special projects considered highly desirable but not within the financial resources of the Parish vestry.

There are no annual dues or assessments but anyone desiring to help the Association through donations

should contact the Secretary-Manager.

The yearly SAGA can be expanded if desired and funds permit. Family data will be welcomed as research is encouraged on a hobby basis.

The Association is not incorporated and is a not for profit organisation.

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE MANORS OF FILBY NORFOLK.

### FILBY.

I can find no information about Filby in pre-historic times. The Romans came to England in A.D. 43 and the inhabitants of Norfolk were then Celtic people, and the Celtic tribe in Norfolk was the Iceni. Their revolt in A.D. 61 under their Queen Boadicea against Roman authority is part of our national history.

The only noticeable Roman relic in the neighbourhood of Filby is the villa or mall settlement at Caister, near Yarmouth.

The Romans left England soon after 400 A.D. and fresh immigrants came to Norfolk. These were Angles, Frisians and Saxons from N.W. Germany and the Low Countries. From about the middle of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, Norfolk was subjected to many Danish invasions and became part of the Danelaw, receiving large numbers of Danish settlers especially in East and West Flegg. Filby is in East Flegg.

That this was so is quite evident from inspection of a map of the district. It is surprisingly noticeable that almost all the names of places in the two Fleggs are Danish recognisable by the "by" ending, and moreover that with one or two exceptions, such as Ashby, the rest of Norfolk has place names which are Anglo-Saxon in origin.

The Victoria County History of Norfolk, Vol. 1, page 347 says "Guthrum's Danes did not, like their northern kindred, drive out a portion of the earlier population and establish themselves as a superior class among the remainder, but settled among the original East Anglians on a footing of comparative equality. This view is supported by an examination of physical traits in the population of Norfolk. There is, according to Dr. Beddoe (Races of Britain pp 64, 254) sufficient evidence to show that this region was very densely settled by a population almost exclusively Teutonic, i.e. it is more Anglian than either Danish or British, though a Scandinavian district is marked not only by the local place-names, but also by a remarkably tall, blond race occupying the hundred of East and West Flegg."

Again, the Victoria County History of Norfolk, Vol. 2 says "the two hundreds of East and West Flegg must at a comparatively recent period have been an island. The place names of Flegg seem to point to an early settlement of Scandinavians since nearly all of them end in "by", and a purely Danish community could be most simply established in a district with definite boundaries from which the earlier inhabitants could be easily excluded. The large proportion of small freeholders in Flegg is thus in all probability not accidental, but due to its specifically 'Danish' character."

The Viking (Danish) period is generally reckoned to be from 700-1000 A.D. They were pagans - using pagan forms of burial - until 878 A.D. when Guthrum, their leader, was converted to Christianity, but. Vol., 1 of Victoria County History says that it is fair to assume that the last limits of pagan burials were about 700 A.D.

The waterways separating the two Fleggs from each other and from the mainland gradually became silted up, first to marsh, and then the Fleggs joined to the mainland.

There is one other important thing to note before we can go on to fully documented history, and that is the creation of the Broads. The British Encyclopaedia says it is shown conclusively that the Broads originated as peat cuttings in the late Saxon and early medieval times which were abandoned due to a rise in sea level." It is presumed that this rise filled the cuttings with water. The dating is very obscure, and I do not think the Broads are mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. "The Medieval Times" date from 1066, the Norman Conquest, and I suppose a rough estimate might be that the peat cuttings were begun say about 800 A.D. and were flooded in the late 11th Century or early 12th Century.

### **THE DOMESDAY SURVEY 1086.**

We now come to the Middle Ages, and find that the first documented references to Filby that are in the Domesday Book of 1086. It should be explained that what we popularly know as the Domesday Book is really two books, the second one named "Little Domesday Book" and seems to have been compiled after the other book, and contains more detailed information, but covering three counties only, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Before discussing Domesday, I should add that I can find no Angle-Saxon charters in connection with Filby in Birch's "Cartularium Saxonici." I have not searched Kemble's "Codex Diplomaticus" but think it unlikely there would be any Filby charters there.

The following accounts of Filby have been taken from the Victoria County History Vol. 2.

The lands of William de Warrene. East Hundred of Flec. In Phileby Tuold holds 1 freeman of Estgars. T.R.E. 1 plough land and 9 acres then 1 villein then as now 3 bordars and 1 plough on the demesne and half a plough belonging to the men and 2 acres of meadow then 3 salt pans now 2. Then it was worth 8 shillings now 16 shillings. This is of the exchange of Lewes. (Note:-. T.R.E. means Tempus Rex Edwardi - Time of King Edward the Confessor and is taken to mean January, 1066. Similarly T.R.W. means at the time of King William the Conqueror taken as at the time of the Survey in 1086. Hence "then" means 1066 and "now" means 1086).

Exchange of the lands of Isaac. East hundred of Flec. In Filebey 4 freemen of the same together with 118 acres of land and 1 bordar then as now 2 ploughs and 4 acres of meadow and 23 salt pans. And it is worth 5 shillings. This Stanhart holds.

The land of St. Benet of Holm. Food for the monks East Flegg. In Philebay .St. Benet holds now as then 1 plough land and 20 acres. Then as now (there were) 4 bordars and 1 plough on the demesne and 3 acres of meadow and 1 salt pan. Now (there is) 1 rouncey (horse) and 3 freemen by commendation only (with) 42 acres. Then as now 1 villein and 1½ ploughs and 1½ acres of meadow. They are worth 3 shillings.

Land of William Scohies. East Flegg. In Filebey one freeman with 1½ plough lands and 13 acres. Then as now 2½ borders and 2½ ploughs and 13 acres of meadow 5 salt pans (and) 1 church (with 5 acres) and it is worth 6 pence. They were then worth 40 shillings now 80 shillings. The King and the Earl have the soke.

The Lands of Rabellus the Car enter (Artificis). East Flegg. In Phileby (Filby) R(alf) Stalara held 2 plough lands and 47 acres as (pro) a manor T.R.E. Then (there were) 8 villeins afterwards and now 6 and 2 borders. Then as now (there was) 1 plough on the demesne and 1 plough belonging to the men and 14 acres of meadow. Then as now 2 rounceys and 1 beast. Then (there were) 7 swine now 10. And (there are) 3 sokemen with 15 acres. Then as now they had 1½ ploughs and 1 acre of meadow. And there are 14 freemen (with) half a plough - land and 6 acres. Then as now they had 2½ ploughs and 1 acre of meadow. It was then worth 40 shillings afterwards and now 50. The King and the earl (have) soke over the freemen. And it is 1 league and 25 perches in breadth and (renders) 2 shillings of geld whoever holds there.

Encroachments in Nordfulc. East Flegg. In Philebey 1 freeman held 51 acres T.R.E. Then Alwin had only the commendation of his wife and the said wife had nothing out of this land. And Earl R(alf) was seized of this land when he suffered forfeiture and Robert Bund held it at cass (censum) in the Kings hand. Afterwards the said Alwin R(oger) Bigots predecessor seized it under (sub) Godric and Stenart his son held it and for this Roger Bigot has given pledge (and) does not claim this land as part of his fief. Now Godric keeps it in the Kings hands. And there is on that land 1 plough and 1½ acres of meadow. It is worth 5/-.

(Note:- Soon after the Conquest in 1066, Ralph Guader or Wader who is said to have been of an English father and a Breton mother and had commanded a band of Bretons at Hastings, received a grant of the consulate or earldom of the East Angles viz of Norfolk, Suffolk and part of Cambridge and was, in 1071, styled Earl of Norwich. In 1075 he conspired with Waitheof, Earl of Northumberland and Roger, Earl of Hereford, to rebel against the King. The rebellion failed, and the greater part of Ralph's lands went to the house of Bigot which succeeded to the earldom some generations later. Earl Ralph seems to have been Ralph de Beaufou. There were two of them, father and son, the elder being a brother of Earl Godwin and dying around 1070). The Domesday Records are not easy to interpret and Filby seems even more difficult than other places. This is because the Manors are so fragmented and one - that named "Filbies Manor" lies some 30 miles away from Filby village, just to the west and north-west of Diss.

All that Blomefield tells us. about this manor as being associated with a Filbie family is that a family named de Morley held it in 1335 when it went to John de Filbie who paid 3 roots of ginger or ld per annum to the capital lord of Brisingham in lieu of all services, and then no information until "In 1460, John Lancaster, lord of Boyland Manor had purchased it".

Reference to my 'List of Events' that appears later in this work, shows that there was a John de Fileby a witness in a transaction of land in 1333; also a John de Fylby who gave evidence in 1358 that his father, Richard Filby was keeper of the hundred of Disce (Diss) in 8 Edward 111 (1335), and that John himself was then, in 1335, aged 36 years and more. In 1336, John de Phileby of Co. Norfolk was a mainpernor before the

King in Chancery on behalf of 3 men. I cannot however, find any evidence of later Filby's who might have held Filbie Manor, but I do think that the John mentioned in my 'List of Events' was the same man who held that Manor in 1335.

I think - though that is not historical evidence that John de Filbie or his Filby heirs did not stay long in this manor, perhaps only 15 or 20 years, but they gave their name to it, and then left it for good. I think therefore that the history of Filbies Manor has little to do with the Filby family, and nothing at all to do with Filby village.

To complicate matters further, at the Inclosure of 1802, it is said "Charles Lucas Esq. is lord of the manors of Filby Cleres, Filby Giggs Bovill in Thrigby, Filbys in Filby and Filby Holme Hall." It is surprising that there was a "Filbys in Filby" as it suggests that the other estates were not in Filby parish. I expect the local people are quite aware of all these places, and that there is no mystery about them, but short of contacting a knowledgeable local person to guide me, I am at a loss to delve into this aspect further.

Before the Inclosure Award was made, the manors were surveyed by John Clegg and found to contain 312 acres 1 rood and 29 perches. If this was spread equally over the 5 manors listed above, each would be about 62 acres. Even if taken all together, the 312 acres is very, very small for a manor.

Returning to Domesday, there is much that can be discussed in its relation to this work such as the sub-sequent histories of the various manors or estates, the measurements of the estates, the Assessments for Danegeld, etc., but these aspects have not been tackled by me; they would prove difficult but full of interest.

### **THE HISTORY.**

There are histories written by Blomefield (? 1770) and by T. Hugh Bryant (1899) and by 'Chambers' (1829).

Victoria County History has only published two volumes (1901 and 1906) about Norfolk, and they do not take Filby history later than Domesday. The most 'readable' of the histories is that by Bryant, though inevitably he has had to follow Blomefield to a great extent.

To supplement these histories, I have added to this work a list of events in Filby and historical extracts relating to people called Filby which can be used to check information not contained in Bryant's history ("Bryant's Norfolk Churches: East and West Flegg" by T. Hugh Bryant, Norwich: Norwich Mercury Office 1899.)

So now we will begin to trace the history of each of the estates listed in Domesday, beginning with the one that the artificer, Rabellus held... During the reign of Edward the Confessor, Ralph Stalre was lord of the manor and was still so at the time of the Survey in 1086. However Stalre was expelled from the property, and the Conqueror gave the lordship to Rabel the artificer, who had charge of the military engines used for battering down strongholds and fortified positions. The King and the Earl of Norfolk had the soc of the freemen.

Rabel and his heirs do not seem to have held the lordship for long, and it appears to have been in the Kings hands until the reign of Henry II but during the whole of that reign, it was held by William de Cheney, a son of Robert Fitz-Walter.

William de Cheney's daughter and co-heiress, Margaret, who was alive in 1223 and 1225 but seems to have died in 1266 married Hugh de Cressi whose descendant, Stephen de Cressi, died without children, and so the lordship returned again as an escheat to the Crown. Almost at once, about 1266, King Henry III granted it to his brother in law, William de Valencia, Earl of Pembroke. The Earl had the lete, assize and wreck at sea granted to him by Edward I in 1286. In the year before, 1285, he (the Earl) had granted to Roger de Colvile and Ermyntrude, his wife, late the widow of Stephen de Cressy, for dower, 5 marks rent per annum besides other dowers in Buckinghamshire. When William de Valencia died in 1296, his son Audomere, also Earl of Pembroke, inherited this estate. Audomere de Valencia is also known to us as Lymer de Valence in modern text books. He seems to have died in 1324. In 1321, he seems to have married Mary, daughter of Guy de Castillon, Count of St. Poi, and gave her Filby, Sutton and Possewyk in dower. That was on the 12th. April and the dower was confirmed on the 5th June and again on the 5th August, 1321.

In 1324, the escheator in Norfolk was ordered to deliver to Mary, late wife of Amer de Valence, a great number of lands belonging to the dead Earl, and these included Fylby, Co. Norfolk of a yearly value of £16.18.10½d. In 1325, another inquisition showed that the late Earl had knights fees in 12 places including Filby, which was held (? subenfeodatio) by Michael de Poningges and his tenants.

These lands were ordered to be delivered to Elizabeth Comyn, kinswoman and co-heiress of Aymer de Valence. Nevertheless in 1327, the escheator for Norfolk was ordered to hand over the seven fees from the twelve places, including Filby, to Thomas le Blount and Juliana, his wife, kinsman and co-heir of Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke. It seems that Filby was held by Michael de Porynges and his tenants at the yearly value of £40.

Somehow the manor went by marriages etc. to David de Strabolgi, Earl of Athol (he died around 1376). It is not very clear, but apparently Mary, daughter of Guy de Castillon and widow of Aylmer de Valence (see above), was known as Mary de Sancto Paulo, Countess of Pembroke, and she had Filby and various other places in dower. In the year 1356, David de Strabolgi, who seems to have inherited these places from Aymer de Valence - subject to the dower to Lymer's widow - applied to have the dower lands transferred to himself and Elizabeth, his wife. They were disappointed as Mary de Sancto Paulo retained possession of the lands until her death in November, 1368. When David de Strabolgi died in 1376, the estates of the honours of Pembroke, including Filby, went to the new Earl, John de Hastynge, for 7 knights fees which were held by Michael de Porynges and his tenants. John de Hastynge however died in the same year, 1376, and his heir was his son, also John de Hastynge, then aged 2 years or more. There is a mysterious note in the Inquisitions Post Mortem Vol. XIV that the late John de Hastynge seems to have disposed of Filby long before he died, and it is not clear how this could have happened.

It was in 1377 that the Norfolk escheator was ordered to hand over the manor of Filby to Elizabeth and Thomas de Percy (they were husband and wife) as heirs of Mary de Sancto Paulo and David Strabolgi.

An inquisition held in 1378 into the possessions of Mary de Sancto Paulo, Countess of Pembroke, shows that at Filby, the manor (extant given) was held of the King in chief by knights service and the late Countess had held it in dower by assignment of the King, the reversion belonging to the-right heirs of David de Strabolgi, late Earl of Athol. 'The heirs were Elizabeth aged 13 years and more and Philippa aged 13 and more, daughters and heirs of the late Earl of Athol, (Elizabeth was married to Thomas de Percy, see above. These two ladies seem as if they may have been twins).

The second husband of Elizabeth de Percy was Sir John Scroop (Blomefield) whilst Philippa married Sir John de Halsham and appears to have died in 1396 possessing West Lexham, Stevekeys, Kerbrook, Filby, Possewyk and Holkham, and her husband, Sir John de Halsham, inherited these places from her, but there may have been some trouble in his taking over the property because the escheator for Norfolk was ordered in 1415 (19 years after the death of Philippa) to meddle no further with these properties as the King has taken fealty of the said Hugh Halsham.  
(\* and ten other places)

It would seem therefore, that Sir John Halsham had died in 1415 and that probably Sir Hugh was his son - at any rate, his heir.

The Halsham descent now becomes a bit obscure. In 1434 Sir John Halsham enfeoffed John Hachet and John Brown, parson to the church of Possewyk, of the manors of Filby, Possewyk, Stukey, West Lexham and Karbroke. It seems probable that this Sir John was the son of Sir Hugh. Then we have Hugo Halsham who inherited these places in 1442 and presumably was the son and heir of the last mentioned Sir John who probably died the same year.

According to Blomefield, the heiress of the last of the Halshams, brought the whole estates to John Lukenore. It was in the year 1464 that Geoffrey Boleyn died having purchased Filby and eight other Norfolk manors, whilst two years later, Philby, Possewyk, West Lexham and Carbrook, value 100 marks yearly, went by inheritance to John Leukenore Esquire and Jane, his wife.

Blomefield then goes on:- In 1464, Sir Jeffrey Boleyn died seized of it (i.e. Filby and the other places) having purchased it of the feoffees of the Halshams, and in 1551, Sir James Boleyn conveyed it to Thomas Clere Esquire of Stokesby, son of Robert Clere Esquire. This Thomas married Ann, daughter and heir of Robert Gygg Esquire, and was lord of Stokesby.

#### **THE OTHER FILBY ESTATES. - FILBY, HOLME HALL.**

I want now to turn to the other Filby estates as listed in Domesday Book and to take next Earl Warren's lordship:-

Before the Conquest, it was held by a freeman named Estgar, but by the time of the Survey, he had been deprived of his land which was given to Earl Warrene with a

man called Tuold under him. The estate was valued at 8 shillings in King Edwards time, and 16 shillings at the time of the Survey. According to Blomefield, Richard Aguillon was lord in the reign of Henry II, and his daughter and heiress, Isabel, married Sir Robert de Holm who was also lord of Holme Hall. Their son, Sir Gyles, was lord of this manor in 1240 and held it of Earl Warren by a quarter of a knights fee.

Sir Robert de Holm, one of the justices of trail-baston in 1275, had the assize of bread and beer, view of frankpledge etc. Gyles de Hulmo claimed these rights in 1286. There is a note in the "Testa de Nevill" of the time of Henry III and Edward I that Isabella de Hulmo held Fileby from Earl Warenne by a quarter of a knights fee. In 1290, Gyles and Joan, his wife, and 'one of the same name' were alive, but dying around 1291 without issue, the estate came to \_\_\_\_ de Plumstede by the marriage of Alice, sister and heir of Giles.

John de Plumstede held his first court at Filby in 1324, and Alice, his daughter and heir, brought it to Sir Edward de Illey who died lord in 1349.

It was in 1367 that Sir Richard de Illey, son of Sir Edmund, sold to William de Toperoft, burgess of Yarmouth, the third part of this lordship of Holm Hall in Filby, and also granted an annuity of f5 per annum to Ralph Norman and others of Filby, and of his manor of Plumstede Parva. About this time, a lady named Alianore de Burghwood had a third part which she conveyed to Ellen Colyn of Yarmouth who held it in 1386, and Isabel Gegges who conveyed it in 1402 in trust to Matthew de Salle, parson of Stokesby, with all its rents etc. John, son of Ralph Norman (see above) held two parts of this manor in 1373, whilst John Norman, senior, held it in 1402.

Matthew de Salle granted the Gegges part in trust to William de Frisseby, rector of Filby, in 1412, and Edmund Norman, son of John, died lord in 1444. In the following year, John Lynford of Statham, released to Sir John Fastoff the two parts that Norman held, but this was in trust for about this time, Wm. Pickering and Cecily, his wife, held not only the third part called Burghwood, but also Normans two parts purchased from his executoirs. William Pickering settled the estate on John Paston Esquire who then released it to Nicholas Pickering in 1450.

There is a document in the Bodleian Library described as a certificate by Robard Banynghari, confessor to Nicholas Pekeryng senior of Filby, Co. Norfolk, his wife, Sir Henry Pekeryng, son of Nicholas, and others, that the claims made by William Pekeryng on his dead fathers property were by anticipation disallowed by his father whose dying words are recorded in the deed. The document is not dated, but is about 1465.

There was an agreement in 1466 between Elizabeth Clere, lady& owner of a life estate in Ormesby, and some of her tenants in Filby and-other places, that the tenants should pay her a specified sum of money in lieu of "Many grete rents and services, sommes of money and custumes called gersumes, poundscore, rownoles, hervest-werks cariages, plowsilver, relievies etc". In 1474, Edmund Jenney and Catherine, his wife, impleaded as heirs to Illey in her right, John Pick-ering on account of this manor. After this, the Pastons held it and Sir William Paston died

seized of the property in 1555. It was on the death of another Sir William Paston in 1614 that he was found to have held it of Thomas Lere Esquire, as of his manor of Stokesby, in soccage and 10s rent per annum.

### **THE ABBEY OF ST. BENNET OF HOLM**

The Abbey of St. Bennet of Holm held a lordship at the time of the Confessor consisting of 1 carucate of land and 20 acres with 4 bordars, 1 carucate in demesne and three acres of meadow, one salt-work and 3 freemen held, under commendation only of the Abbot, 42 acres 1 villein a carucate and a half with an acre and a half of meadow valued at 3 shillings.

In the year 1275, William de Valentia, one of the heirs of de Cheney of Horsford, held 42 acres of the Abbot. At the dissolution of the religious houses; this land was granted to the See of Norwich.

### **THE LAND OF WILLIAM SCOHIES.**

He had a carucate and a half of land with 13 acres 2 bordars and the moiety of another, and 2 carucates and a half with 13 acres of meadow, 5 Salt-works, a church with 5 acres valued at 6d. of which a freeman was deprived.

Hugh held it at the Survey under William de Scohies when it was valued at 80 shillings, before 40 shillings. The King and the Earl had the soc. This went with Scohies manor of Stokesby. The tenths were £9, deducted £1.

### **ROGER BIGOT.**

Ancestor of the Earl of Norfolk, held at the Survey, a lordship of which 4 freemen were deprived who held together, 118 acres of land, a bordarer, 2 carucates and 4 acres of meadow and 2 salt-works and the moiety of another, valued at 5 shillings and Stanart held it under Bigot.

The above is described in the Survey as "exchange of the lands of Isaac". Neither Blomefield nor Bryant are very clear, but they seem to suggest that the above lordship went to the ancient family of De Filby, who assumed their name from this town, and were lords of this manor.

Sir Ralph de Fileby and Isabel, his wife, were living about the year 1280, and Robert de Fileby was lord of East-Hall in 1315. In 1331, he was living and had 2 daughters and co-heirs; Joan married to Richard de Berking and Isabel to John de Holbeck who held it by equal moieties. Then in 1336, Richard de Berking and Joan, his wife, settled the moiety and the advowson on the Church on their heirs, both he and John de Holbek holding it of the\*Earl Marshal and presenting alternately to the living. The portion held by the Berkings went to the Gyggs family, being held by Robert Gygges in 1434 who was then patron of the church. This afterwards passed to the family of Clere of Stokesby apparently in 1551 when Ann, daughter of Robert Gygges married Thomas Clere of Stokesby.

## REVIEW OF THE HOLDINGS OF THE CLERE AND GYGGES FAMILIES.

Let us now review the position in the early 16th. Century; the two main families in the neighbourhood of Filby were the Cleres of Stokesby and the Gygges of Sparham (in 1434).

(\* in 1350)

1. The land which at Domesday was held by Rabel, had in 1551 become Thomas Clere's of Stokesby by his marriage to Ann Gygg.
2. The land which was held by Earl Warren at Domesday known as Filby Holm Hall was held by Isabel Gegges in 1402, in 1466 by Vaizabeth Clere of Ormesby, and in 1614 by Thomas Clere,
3. The land of Roger Bigot at Domesday, known as East Hall went in 1434 to Robert Gygges whose daughter married Thomas Clere of Stokesby.
4. The land of Wm. Scohies at Domesday had gone, at an early date to the manor of Stokesby, afterwards held by the de Cleres..
5. The land of St. Benet at Hulme went at the Dissolution to Norwich Cathedral.
6. Filbies manor which lay just west of Diss seems to have been held by John de Filbie in 1335, but I think the Filbies left about 1350 or 1355, and it does not really come into the history either of the Filby family or the Filby village.

At the Inclosure of 1802, there were the following manors:-

Filby Clercs )	There is no evidence that I have found
Filby Gigs )	to say which of these was 1 above and which was 3 above.

Filby Holm Hall was 2 above.

Filbys in Filby:- I suggest that this was 4 above, owing to the presence of the church and 5 acres of land and Bovills in Thrigby. No information yet about this, but we have so far only progressed to the late 15th. Century or early 16th. Century.

If only we had the ,Inclosure Mapl Its absence is most disappointing.

**LIST OF EVENTS CONCERNING FILBY VILLAGE AND PEOPLE CALLED FILBY.**

- 1165 The Abbot of Hulmo had payment of 47 shillings from Filebi.
- 1166 Felebi pays seven shillings for re-stocking and 8 pence for rent.
- 1167 Id Vic redd comp de C.S. de firma de Filebi in turo L.S.
- 1168 In Vic redd comp de C.S. de firma de Fileby. In turof libaut. Et Quiet est.

Taken from the Pipe polls Vol. 8, 9, 11 and 12 respectively.

Note:- The Pipe Rolls series begin at 31 Henry 1 (1131 A.D.) I only read 12 of the volumes.

After 1140 From King Stephen, the monks of St. Benets received the two hundreds of Flegg. In the valuation of St Benets, the entries under Filby are:- Transcriptum Roberti fil Walteri de terra de Filby.

The above taken from Dugdales Monasticon Anglicarum tells us very little.

Temp. Richard .1

Filby, Norf'. Willelmus Bil ponit se in magnum assisain domini regis de xxiiij acris terre in Filebi quas Renerus de Waxstanesham poscit versus eua et petit inde recognitionom ultumipse habeat magus jus tenere terrain illam in dominico suo an predictus Reinerus tenencli de eo per ij solidas servicii.

(Cat. Curia Regis Rolls..Vol. 1 p.3.)

Memo:- In a book 'Mediaeval Cartularies of Great Britain' by G.R.C. Davis, we. are told that there are records of St. Benet of Hulme, Norfolk, in the British Museum, Cotton Galba E 11 written about 1275-1302. It may be that this may contain some information about Filby, but I have not been to the British Museum (Manuscript Room) to see if it does.

1201 Erneld Bille dat dno PX XI sol p hunda seisena advocaovis ecclie de Fileby que ei adjudicata fuit cora justic p recog. ultine P sertacron. (Rotuli de Oblatis et Finebus Temp. John p. 131)

1200 Ernoldus Bil optulet se iij die versus Nicholaum Pincernari de Placito assize ultima presentationis ecclesia de Phillebi (Filebi) et ipse non venit vel se essoniavit. Ideo consideratum fest quod Nicholaus re summoreatus quod ,sit in octabis sancti Hilarii spud West monasterium ets et onnes recognitores altachientus etc. Ernoldus ponit loco suo Henricum de Brom' ad lucranda etc. Et Ernoldus optulet domini regi demidien marcam ut in brevis suo contin-eatur quod vice comes tot el tales apponet ad recognitionem faciendum quod assisa non remaneat. (Curia Regis Vol. 1 p. 350)

1201 Hilary Term 2 John. Assissa venit reconiture quis advocatas tempore preis presentavent ultimam personem qui mortua est ad Ecclesiastes de Filebi que vacant est quasi Ernoldus Bill pelt versus Nicholaum Pincered.. Et science's est quod Nicholaum Pincered in XV dies post festering sancti Martini non venit vel se

essentialist et consideratum fuit quod serum on ureter quod asset in Octabis sancti Hilari etc. et tunc se essoniavit et nullum fuit esonium. Idea desideratum est quad assisa capitulate curators decent quad Williams Bil rafter Eternal presentation ultimate persona felicity Thomas Lrch' que ortuus ect. Consideratum est quad Ernoldus Bil habeat breve ad episcopum ut recipiat idoneam persona: ad illum ecclesiam per ejus presentationem. (Cat. Curia Regis Vo. 1. p. 399)

- 1223 Vitalis Engann per attornatiutat suun petit versus Margeria de Chelsey terciam partem novem caracaterum terre cum ports in Horsford, Fileby, Blikeling at in Ling' ut jus suun etc. at tercia• partei duarum caracatarum terre cum Darts in Possex.ric' ut jus suua et Margeria venet at petit inde visua Habeat Dies datus est eis a die sancti martini in XV dies et interim etc. Item Vitelis petit versus priorissam. de Karhou terciam partem j carucate terre cum\_ ports in Wrokesham ut jus suum etc at priorissa venit et petit inde visua. Habeat Dies datus est eis a die sancti martini in XV dies, at interim etc. Et priorissa amovet attornatos suis quos prius posuit et vult sequi. (Curia Regis Rolls 7-9 Henry 111 p. 122)
- 1225 Ernoldus Bil optulit so quarti die versus Margerian de Cressy de placite Tuo-4 esset auditora assisam ultime presentationis ipse araclavit versus ear.: ad ecclesiam de Fileby que vacat etc. of Margaria non venet etc. et suamonitio etc. judiciun. Resin; aoneatur quod sit a die sancti Michaelis in XV dies nisi du.vtiatarii pruiet etc a(.7. assisa, novi desseisine capiendas [etc. et](#) vice cones habeat corpis omnium recognitorum. (Curia Regis Rolls 9-10 He ell Page 133).
- 1232 Dispute between Sarra, late wife of Josceleni de Burgo (by attorney) and Matillidem de Filleby over an acre of land and appurtenancies in Burgo. (C.R. Rolls Henry 111p. 510)
- 1254 Norwich taxation of 1254: Phileby:-  

R. de Thurkesby de dominico iiiij mart	£2.13.4.
Hosp...Normanni de doainico xv sol	15.0
- 1263 Madister Pdcardus de Fyleby tenet octavem partem unius feodi in Midelton. (Calendar of Close Rolls)
- 1268 A long account in latin about some of the property of William de Valencia including Phileby and West Lecheshan once the property of Margerie de Cressi, ctaughter of one William de Chenne. (Cal. of Close Rolls).
- 1266 Nov. 2. Grant at the instance of Master Ldan de Fileby, Kings clerk to the bailiffs and good men of Shrewsbury that they may receive all the customs which they have been accustomed to receive by letters patent for the enclosing of their town, for three years from 411 Saints 50 Hen.111. (Calendar of Patent Rolls).
- 1266 Dec. 12. Presentation of Robert de Fileby to the church of Chelmundeston (Nr. Ipswich) void by the resignation of Master Adam de Fileby, directed. to the bishop of Norwich. (Cal. of Patent Rolls).

- 1266 Dec. 12. Grant at the instance of Master Adam de Phileby, Kings clerk to the bailiffs and good men of Stafford that they may take the courage which they have been accustomed to take, for five years from. All Saints 50 Henry 111. (Cal. Patent Rolls)
- 1267 Dec. 8. Protection with clause until midsummer for Master Adam de Phileby going as the Kings envoy to the Court of Rome. (Cal. Patent Rolls).
- 1267 William de Valence held Filby and West Lexhanias the inheritance of Stephen de Cressy or Robert de Cheney. (Blomefield Vol. 3).
- 1268 Protection with clause for one year for Master Adam de Phileby going to the Court of Rome for the business of Roger de Mortuo Mari. (Cal. Patent Rolls).
- 1268 July 9. Pardon for the long and faithfull service of Master Adan de Phileby Kings clerk to him and Thomas de Phyleby, Adam de Runton, William Pye and all his men of their trespass last year at Fyncheham in invading Master Reynold de Cressenhale, Henry de Marham and other men of the said Reynold, maltreating them and carrying away their horses arms and other goods, on condition that they stand their trial if any will proceed against them. (Cal. P. Rolls)
- 1270 July 16. Phileby, Norfolk mentioned in a grant of land to William de Valence exempting him from debts on the lands incurred by pervious omers. (Cal. Patent Rolls).
- 1271 Jan. 16. Simple protection without clause for 2 years for Master Adam de Filbey going beyond the seas. (Cal. P. Rolls).
- 1272 Feb. 4. Protection with clause until Christmas for Master Adam de Filby. (Cal. P. Rolls)
- 1272 Protection with clause, -voluLau.s.-until, Michaelmas for Master Adam de Fileby going to the Court of Rome. (Cal. P. Rolls)
- 1272 Sep. 6 Protection with clause volunus until Christmas for Master Adam de Fileby going to the Court of Rome. (C.P.R.)
- Temp. Henry 111-Edward 1. Dna M?gar lc Cressyz../.;s:4.1,9.6:',orAlnrR, and Val' Prafua in Fileby.  
Feoda con Warenn. Isabella de Hulmo qurtia feocli milit in Fileby de eodem. (Testa de Nevill pp 284 and 287)
- 1273 Jan. 13., The King granted to Master Adam de Fileby who is about to set out to the Ronan Court by the Kings licence that Philip le Poer and Thomas de Fileby may be his attorneys at all places and suits until Christmas next. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1273 Aug. 1, William son of Palk de Phileby imprisoned at Norwich for the death of William son of Henry de Trikeby where with he is charged has letters to the Sheriff of Norfolk to bail him. (Cal. Close Rolls)

- 1275 Nov. 25. Ralph Byl of Fyleby acknowledges that he owes Master Adam de Fileby 70 quarters of Barley to be levied in default according to the market price in Co. Norfolk at the time when it ought to be delivered from his lands in. Co. Norfolk. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1277 July 6. Licence for Jahn Tregoz to demise for life to Adam de Phileby his manor of Retyr, Co. Hereford. (Cal. Patent Rolls)
- 1279 Aug. 28. Protection with clause (volumus) until a year after Michaelmas for Master Adam de Fileby going beyond the seas. (Cal. Patent Rolls)
- C.1280 Sir Ralph de Filby and Isabel, his wife, were living about 1280. (Blonefield Vol 3. p.1.)  
- (Better known to us as Roger Mortimer.)
- 1280 Nov. 26. Master Adam de Fileby came before the King on Friday, the Feast of St. lake and sought to replevy his land in Beleburn and La Rode which was taken into the Kings hands for his default before the justices in. Eyre in Co. SouthaMpton against Walter de Broweys and Alice, his wife. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1281 June 6. Protection with clause (volumus) for one year for Master Adam de Fyleby going beyotd the seas as the Kings envoy. (Cal. Patent Rolls)  
Letters for Master Adam de Fileby going beyond the seas as the Kings envoy nominating Robert de Fileby and William. de Billokeby his attorneys for one year. (Cal. Patent Rolls)
- 1283 Same nominations as above.
- 1283 Oct. 20 In anassignment to Eleanor the Kings Mother of 141 knights fees and one sixth of a knights fee from the honour of Peveril of London, the name of Adam de Fileby appears as liable for c of a knights fee'in GreatHaylesle. (Cal. Patent Rolls)
- 1283 Oct. 13 Master Adam de Fileby acknowledges that he owee.to Master Walter de Bathonia 22 marks 9s. Od, to be levied in default of payment of his lands and chattels in Co. Cambridge. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1285 May 8 Licence for the alienation in mortmain by Master Adam de Filby to the prior and convent of Kenilworth of a messuage and a carucate of land in Huchenden. (Cal. P-tent Rolls)
- 1285 June 12. Ralph Bil of Fileby acknowledges that he owes to Master Adam de Fileby 60 narks to be levied in default of payment on his lands and chattels in Co. Norfolk. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1286 Sept. 2. Letters for Master Adam de Fileby going beybund the seas nominating John de Tany and William de Bonevill his attorneys for one year and the like for Master Robert de Fileby going beyond the seas nominating the same for one year. (Cal. Patent Rolls)
- 1287 Apr.30. Master Robert de Bekingham acknowledges that he owes to Master Adam de Fileby £20 to be levied in default on his lands and chattels in Co. Nottingham.

(Cal. Close Rolls)

- 1287 May 11. Master Adam de Filby acknowledges that he owes Walter de Welnok (sic) Abbot of Westrdnster 10 marks to be levied etc. in Co. Buckingha. (Cal, Close Rolls)
- 1287 June 3. Thomas de Verdon and Henry de Preess acknowledge that they owe Master Robert de Fileby 110 marks to be levied etc. in Cos. Bucks and Northants. Witness Edmund, Earl of Cornwall. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1287 June 30. Presentation of James de Ispannia to the church of Aldech in the diocese of Lincoln void by the death of Master Adam de Fileby, late parson there and in the Kings. gift by reason of the voidance of the hospital of St. Leonards, York, C.P.R.)
- 1287 July 3. Thomas de Feleby going beyond the seas nominating Master Robert de Fyleby his attorney for one year. (Cal. Pat. Rolls)
- 1287 Nov. 2. Enrolment of agreement between William de Goys and Master Robert de Fileby whereby William grants to Robert for life all the lands that he had in Dokesworth except the advowson of St. Peter's Church to wit the lands that Robert previously had of William, at fern for 10 years by indented deed made between them and enrolled before the justices rendering therefor 8 marks yearly. As Robert has satisfied William beforehand for the rent for 10 years from St. Nicholas 15 Edw for which period William acquits him William grants that if Robert dies within that period his heirs executors or assigns shall hold the lands until the end of that term. William also grants that Roberts executors or assigns may remove at their will all Roberts goods found in the lands at his death and at the end of the first of the aforesaid years and that the corn then sown shall remain to them to be removed in the following autumn. He also grants that all the lands held shall remain to Robert or his assigns until he or they shall be satisfied for any damages grievances and expenses sustained through failure of warranty of William or his heirs by the decision of approved and lawful men of the neighbourhood. Robert grants to William power to enter and distrain for the term if then unpaid.  
Witnesses:- Sir John Aubernoun, knight, Sir Henry de Lacy, knight, Ralph de Dokesworth, Tristran de Hingeston, William Hardal of Whittlasford.  
Memo:- William and Robert came in the Chancery on Wednesday after All Saints and acknowledged the aforesaid deed. (Calendar of Close Rolls)
- 1287 Nov. 28. Letters for Master Richard de Merewell and John de Possewyk, executors of the will of Master Adam de Fyleby going beyond the seas nominating Germus de Sancto Egidio their attorney for one year. (Cal. Pat, Rolls)
- 1288 May 7. Master Robert o.e Fileby going beyond the seas nominating William de Bonevile and Adam de Hanewell his attorneys until Christmas. (Cal. Pat. Rolls)
- 1288 June 10. Robert. Abbpt pf Reding es acknowledges that he owes to Master Richard de Marlowe and the other executors of the will of Master Adam de Filby 10 marks to be levied etc. on his lands and chattels in Co's. Berks and Oxford. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1289 June 18. Master Robert de Fileby going beyond the seas nominating William de

Bonevill and Nicholas de Branston his attorneys until. Easter. (Cal. Pat. Rolls).

- 1289 July 29. John Paulyne owes Master Robert de Fyleby marks to be leveied in default on his lands etc in Co. Middlesex. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1290 Adam de Filby, Abbot of Langley Abbey. (Blomefield)
- 1291 Dec. 18. Master Robert de Fileby parson of the church of Middleton going beyond the seas nominating John de Fleg and Nicholus de Bramelton until Easter. (Cal. P. Rolls)
- 1293 Dec.10. Pardon to Nicholus de Bramleton of his outlawry for non-appearance before the justices of the Bench to render to Master Richard de Merlawe (Marlow) and John de Possewyk executors of the will of Master Adam de Fyleby account for the time that he was the said Adams Bailiff in Godyhestre provided that he surrender within 40 days to Cambridge gaol. (Cal. Pat, Rolls)
- 1294 Oct. 18 Protection with clause volumus for one year for Master Robert de Fyleby parson of the church of Middleton by Bannebury who with a great number of other clergy has granted the King a moiety of his benefices and goods. (Cal. Patent Rolls)
- 1296 Jan. 1. Protection with clause volumus until Easter for Walter de Filleby going beyond the seas with William de Valence. (Cal. Pat. Rolls)
- 1296 The estate of the late William de Valencia, Earl of Pembroke. In Filebi the manor (extent given) held of the King in chief by service of 1/3 of a knights fee undecipherable.....aged 27 is next heir. (Inquisition Post Mortem Vol. 3 No. 378)  
This was dated Saturday the eve of St. John the Baptist 24 Edward I.
- 1299 Oct, 19. Letters for Ayner de Valence going beyond the seas nominating Richard Simon and Walter de Fileby his attorneys for one year. (Cal. Pat. Rolls)

Note:- In the "Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to 1500" by A. B. Emden 1963 page 247:-

Robert de Fyleby (Filebi) Mag by 1286. Plaintiff in action on question of account against Henry le Fol de Fulburn at Cambridge sessions 1298-9. Rector of Middleton Cheney, Northamptonshire,  
\* Mag above = Master in the Privy Seal.

- 1301 July 16. Licence for Rymer de Valence to grant to Richard Simon land and rent to the value of £30 in the manor of Fileby, Co. Norfolk which he holds in chief until he can assign to the said Richard land and rent to the value of £20 a year elsewhere in England or in parts of Pembroke. (Cal. Patent Rolls)
- 1302 Hundred of Est fleg. Dominus Adonarus, de Valencia tenet manerim de Fyleby pro tercia parte j.f.m.i.c. de domino rege. (Feudal Aids Norfolk Vb. 3. p. 389)

Memo:- the meaning of the seperate letters is:- j = one, f = feodum, n = nilitis and

i.c. = in capite

Hence Adonarus de Valencia had the manor of Fylby held by 1/3 part of one knights fee in chief.

- 1310 Oct. 23. In a complaint of entry and assault at Billingford Co. Norfolk, the name of Walter Ubbe of Fyleby is given as one of the accused. (Cal. Pat. Rolls)
- 1315 Robert de Filby was lord of East Hall in 1315, He was alive in 1331 and had two daughters: Joan married Richard de Berkins and Isabel married John de Holbek, (Blomefield)
- 1315 Feb. 4. Walter de Phileby was a witness in an assize of novel disseisin at Drayton, Co. Norfolk. (Cal. Close. Rolls)
- 1316 Hundred of Est fleg. Et est in nanu Johannis de Claverynge Fyleby. Ado marus de Valencia. Egidius de Hulmo heredes Roberti de Fileby (Feudal Aids Vb1.3.p469)
- 1318 Licence for the alienation in mortmain to the prior and convent of Weybrigge by Walter de Fileby of 12 acres of land in Clipesby, Ouby and Burgh in Flegg, Co. Norfolk to find a chaplain to celebrate divine service for his soul and the souls of his wife, ancestors and heirs in the chUreh of Fileby. (Cal. Pat. Rolls)
- 1319 Robert de Filby presented, by Lady Joan de Claving to St. Margarets church ? at Somerton. (Blonefield).
- 1319 Inquest ad quod damnum mentions that John de Claving has. Fylebi, Possewicke manor and Roydon manor (Suffolk). (Quoted in Cal, of Charter Rolls)
- 1320 June 15. Dispute between John de Claving demandant and Tyner de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, deforciant, concerning a messuage 50 acres of land and 28 shillings of yearly rent in Fyleby, also for properties in Possewyk and Reydon. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1320 Sept. 18. Robert, abbot of Bernay staying beyond the seas nominates a fellow monk and John de Fileby to be his attorneys for 3 years. By fine of 20 shillings at the instance of Master John de Everdon. (Cal. Pat.Bolls)
- 1321 In this year, reference is made to one Nicholas de Filby.
- 1321 April 12. Lymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, grants marriage dower to Mary, daughter of Guy de Castillon, Count of St. Pol on his Marriage to her, and the dower includes the manors of Filby, Battin and Possewyk. This was confirmed on 5th June 1321 and an inspeximus and confirmation were again given on the 5th. August, 1321. (Cal. Pat. Rolls)
- 1323 Gregory de Felmyngham. Protection of the lands etc. which were of the said Gregory 4th. July 16 Edward II. Norfolk: Maulteby, Fileby, and Felmingham, Bekham, Suth Biryngham, Keryngeby, Stokosby, Runham, Marchhom, Ormesby and Tunstall in which 2 messuages 60 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 2 acres of turbary, 20 acres of salt marsh, 20 acres of rushes, 4 shillings rent and 4 bushels of

salt held by divers other lords by divers services all of which descended to John de Elmyngan and James Rythways his kinsmen and 2 of his heirs. (Inquisition Post Mortem Vol. 5 No. 430 and also another book of Inq. P.M. "sivo escaetarum.")

- 1323 Dec 27. Enrolment of partition of lands that belonged to Gregory de Felmyngan. Among the various properties is mentioned the rent of 4 bushels of salt in Malteby, Filby, Haryngby, Stoksby, Runham, Marchham, Ormesby and Thunstall, and quoting line of descent from Gregory. There are also 30 acres of arable land in Fyleby and the other places mentioned above extended to 60 shillings, 15 acres of salt marsh extended at 15 pence, 10 acres of rushbed extended at 15 pence, 2 acres of turbary extended at 6 pence, 2 acres of meadow extended at 12 pence and a rent of 2 bushels of salt extended at 4 pence and 2 shillings rent from certain free tenants which go to Christiana sister and 3rd heir to Gregory and to James de Whitewell and Alice, his wife. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1324 Jan. 28. William de Fylby of Mountsorrel accused with many others of entering the manors of Hugh le Dispenser, Earl of Winchester, in the County of Leicester. (Cal. Pat.Rolls)
- 1324 Nov.24 To John Bloumvill escheator in Co.'s Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Essex and Hertford, order to deliver to Mary, late wife of Lymer do Valencia, Earl of Pembroke, the following lands of the earl's which the King has assigned to her in dower (Note:- There are a great many lands listed including the manor of Fylby Co. Norfolk with a yearly value of £16.18.10d.) (Cal. Close Rolls).
- 1325 Aymer de Valence. Inquisition of 28th. Aug. 18 Edw. II. He had 7 knights fees in 12 places including Filby, held by Michael de Poningges and his tenants. (Inc. Post Mortem. Vol. 5. p. 330 No. 518).
- 1325 March 22. This document lists pages of the lands etc. that are to be delivered to Elizabeth Comyn, kinswoman and co-heiress of Aymer de Valentia, late Earl of Pembroke. Among them, under fees in demesne were 7 fees in 12 places including Filby. (Cal. Close Rolls).
- 1327 Richard de Fyleby, parson of the church of Stokesby. (Cal. Pat. Rolls). March 8th.
- 1327 Feb. 15. Commitment during pleasure to the Kings Clerk, Richard de Fileby of the keeping Kynges Mersshe by Yarmouth at the yearly rent at the Exchequer of as much as others have rendered for the same hitherto. (Cal. Fine Rolls).
- 1327 Feb. 15. Order to John Blouvill escheator .- in Norfolk. The King has assigned to Thomas le Blount and Juliana, his wife, kinsman and co-heir of Aymer de Valentia, Earl of Pembroke, the 7 fees from the 12 places mentioned above (1325) including Fileby which Michael de Ponynges and his tenants hold of the yearly value of 40. (Cal. Close Rolls)
- 1328 Feb. 12. Walter de Filby on a commission of oyer and terminer to try various persons charged with carrying away the goods of the Queen Isabelle at Great Yarmouth and assaulting Walter Stampart her servant. (Cal.P.R.) The above is a copy of a previous notice dated Oct.1328.

- 1331 Mar,10 ?alter de Filby attorney for Alice, late wife of Edward Burnel going on pilgrimage to Santiago. (Cal. Patent Rolls).
- 1331 Joh'es de Shardelowe et mag'r Robertus de Fileby, Fulbourne pro visu fraci flegiz et aliis libertatibz. (Cal. Inq. Post Mortems sine escheator)
- 1332 Rogero de Fyleby mentioned under Magna Jernamutha paying for North Mydleton vj shillings. Also Ricardo de Fyleby pays iiij shillings and Nicholas de Fyleby pays xij pence.  
(From Subsidy Roll of 6th. Edward 111).
- Aymer de Valencia late Earl of Pembroke 19 Feb. 5 Edw. III held (among others) the manor and the reversion of the manor of Filby, all doubtful and pleadable. (Pst. Mortem Vol. 7. p. 292 No. 391).
- 1333 Walterus de Fileby et alij pro mag'ro et Fribz Hospit sei Egadij de Norwyca. Fileby terr' et ten in eisdem locis. (Cal. Inq.. Post Mortem s.e.)
- 1331 Nov.4. Walter do Fileby and John Cleves hold an inquisition about some land. (Cal. Close Rolls).
- 1333 Dec. 20. John de Fileby is a witness in a transaction of land at Bicham Welle, Norfolk. (Cal. Close Rolls).
- 1334 Walter de Fyleby mentioned in an Inquisition ad quod danuun. (Cal. Rot. Chart. et Inq.)
- 1334 March. 1. Licence for the alienation in mortmain by Walter de Fileby and others of messuages and land in many parts of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. (Cal. PateRt)
- 1335 Feb. 26. Walter de Fyleby on a commission to enquire into a case of theft and assault at Beccles. (Cal. P.R.)
- 1335 John de Fylbie was lord of some land in Brisingham parish and partly in Roydon. It is said that the land was 30 acres in demesne and with several copyholders and cottagers and Fylbie paid 3 roots of ginger or 1d per year in lieu of all services to the lord of Brisingham. This land became known as Filbies Manor and was close to Diss, some 30 miles from Filby village. The Filby family do not seem to have stayed there very long, as they had gone by 1460. (Blomefield).
- 1335 June 4. Licence at the request of the bishop of Norwich for the alienation in mortmain by Walter de Fyleby and two persons to the Master and brethren of the hospital, of St. Giles, Norwich, of the advowson of the church of St. Peter at Mundham and for the appropriation of the church by the latter. (Cal. Pat. Rolls).
- 1335 John de Filbie lord of Filbies manor in Brisingham (near Diss). (Blomefield).  
John de Fylby aged 36 and more says that Richard his father was keeper of the hundred of Disce in 8 Edward III (This was in connexion with proving a man's age.) (Inq. Post Mortem Vol. 10 No. 400).

NOTE:- This should be under date 1358 not 1335.

1336 Feb. 11. John de Phileby of Co. Norfolk, is a mainpernor before the King in Chancery on behalf of 3 men. (Cal. Close Rolls).

1336 Mar. 16. Licence for William son of William Loveday to enfeoff Richard de Fileby of a messuage, 120 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow and 40 shillings rent in Great Wyburgham held in chief. (Cal. Pat. Rolls).

1336 Feb. 13. Walter de Feleby on another commission to enquire in the County of Suffolk that merchants and others have for some time been exporting and importing wools, hide and wool fells and other merchandise in ports and places on the coast between Gt. Yarmouth and Ipswich where custom or other prests due to the King are not collected. (Cal. Pat. Rolls).

(This order is repeated under date Feb. 20. 1336).

1336 Will'us fil Will Loveday feoffavit Recurm de Fileby Wilburgham Magna 120 acres terr' etc Cantabrig. (See entry above taken from Patent Rolls). (Cal. Inq. Post Morten,)

1337 Oct.17. Order to the escheator on this side of Trent to deliver to Henry de Filby brother and heir of Richard de Filby tenant in chief the lands late of his said brother, he having done homage. (Cal. Fine Rolls Vol. V.)

1333 Richard de Filby is now dead. Writ 26 Sept. 11 Edward III. He held a small amount of land and Henry de Filby, his brother who was aged 40 years and more is given as being his next heir. They lived at Great Wilburgham. (Inc. Post Morten Vol.8 No.93)

May 21. Licence. for £20 which Elizabeth, late wife of Thomas de Percy, knight, and John de Halsham and Philippa, his wife, have paid to the King for him to enfeoff John de Lincoln, clerk, and Walter Topclyf (of a great many lands in Northumberland and Nottinghamshire) and Filby and Possewyk in Norfolk. Note:- Thomas de Percy is termed the younger. (Cal. Pat. Rolls).

1344 26 Sept. Mention is again made of the death of Richard de Filby and that Henry, his brother, aged 40 years and more was his next heir. (Inq.P.M.)

C1343 John de Filby, parson of Winterton and Walter de Filby of Great Yarmouth trustees convey Stalham Hale and Vaux Hall in the parish of Burgh together with the advowson to Robert Clere and Alice, his wife, remainder to Robert their son. (Blomefield).

For further related information, see note after item dated Dec. 5 1396.

1344 June 29. The following has little to do with Filby, but illustrates a disturbance at Gt. Yarmouth in which some Filby men were involved.

Whereas Peter de Ripper of Gt. Yarmouth is indicted before William de Sharesull and his felleow justices of oyer and terminer in the county of Suffolk of having ridden with banner displayed in the said county taking men and imprisoning

them. until they made ransoms at his will, and perpetrating homicides arsons and other evils against the peace, the King for the good service of him and the other men of the same town has pardoned the treason, the felony and trespass aforesaid as well as all other felonies, plunderings, oppression, taking of arms and victuals to his enemies, imprisonment of men and excesses saving the Kings action against those who plundered the ship 'la Tarita lately coming to Flanders under his protection and against those who have concealed and kept back from the subsidies customs, money or other goods and things,

And the like pardon to the following, all of Great Yarmouth:- (here follows a list of 308 men, all named: including Nicholas de Filby, Roger de Filby and Richard de Filby). (Cal. Pat. Rolls).

- 1346 Hund. of Est flegg. Comitese de Penebroke tenet manerium de Fylby pro tercia parte j.f.m. quod Adomarus de Valencia quondam tenuit de rege i.c. 13 shillings and 4 pence.

Johannes de Filby paid 10 shillings for land in Thirkeby.

Stephenus de Tatershall tenet in Fylleby unum quarterum f.m, de heredibus Thome de Ponyngges et heredes de comite Penebrokis et comes de rege et hoc per inquisitionea et nichil per registrum. 10 shillings. (Feudal Aids Norfolk Vo. 111 pp 505/6).

- 1349 Walter Filby, Rector of Winterton, presents Walter Fraceys to St. Marys church.

- 1350 Nov. 6. 23 Edward III. An inquisition taken at Filby 14 May 24. Edward III about land at Runham. Thomas de Essex died 20 Oct. 23 Edward III and Robert, his son, aged 6 years and more is his heir. (Cal. I.P.M. Vol.9 No.260)

Henry de Filby. Writ to the escheator to enquire as to the lands and heir of the said Henry and who has been in possession of his lands since his death and received the issues - 20 Jan. 39 Edward III. The inquisition was, taken at Newmarket on Wednesday after the Purification 40 Edward III (1367). The property was in Great Wilburghan and was a messuage and 4 acres of meadow held of the King by grand serjeantry. Henry died on Thursday after the inter-vention of the Holy Cross 23 Edward III (1350) and Roger Loveday his kinsman aged 30 years and more is his heir to the premises. The King received all the issues etc. since his death by the escheator by reason of the minority of his heir. (Inq. Post Mortem Vol.XII).

See also entry under date 1366.

- 1356 July 18. Licence for David de Strabolgi, Earl of Atholl, to enfeoff Elizabeth de Burgo, Nicholas Dammory and John de Leuse, clerk, of the manor of Styvekeys, Co. Norfolk held in chief and of the remainder of the manors of Fylby in the same county .....expectant on the demise of Mary de Sancto Paulo, Countess of-Pembroke who holds the same in dower, and for them to regrant the premises to him and to Elizabeth, his wife, and his heirs.

(Note:- Mary de Sancto Paulo did not die at this date, and the property did not go to David de Strabolgi until 23 Nov. 1368) (Cal. Pat. Rolls).

Nov. 5. Pardon to Geoffrey Frend outlawed in the Co of Norfolk on a plea of trespass of Richard de Filby. (Cal. Patent Rolls.)

- 1358 Proof of age of John, son and heir of Thomas Fabel. John de Fylby aged 36 years

and more sayd that Richard his father was keeper of the Hundred of Disce in 8 Edward III before the said heirs birth. (Gal. Inq. Post Mortem Ve1.10 No.400)  
See also entry under date 1335.

Nov. 16. The view of Frankpledge and amends of bread and ale in the manor of Falbourne, Co. Cambridge, which once belonged to Richard de Filby and now pertain to the King to go to William de Fulburn. (Cal. Fine Rolls Vo. V11).

1359 July 30. Walter de Filby and a number of other men from the vicinity of Great Yarmouth accused of various felonies. (Cal- Pat. Rolls).

Robert de Berking grants by deed to Roger de Estreford clerk, all his part of the manor of Rollesby and Filby except a rood of land called "Olf-Mill-Mount" and the advowson of Filby church paying 20 marks yearly . (Blomefield).

1366 Henricus de Filby had a messuage and land in Wilburghan Cambridge. (Gal. Inq. Post Mortem). See also entry under date 1350).

1367 Henry de Filby and Roger Loveclay, kinsman, held the land (a messuage and four acres) in Great Wilbursham. (Cal. Inq. P.M. Vol.XII No.13).

1375/6 In the Cal. Inq. P.M. Vol. XIV, 1374-1377, 48-51 Edward III and Inquisition No. 148, page 160, there are long lists of the properties of John de Hastynges, Earl of Pembroke. He held Filby and 10 other places for 7 knights fees which were held by Michael de Ponynges and his tenants.

1376 Following the above entry: John de Hastynges died on 16 April 49 Edward III. His heir was John de Hastynges, his son, aged 2 years and more, but the Earl seems to have disposed of Filby long before his death. (Inq.P.M. Vol. XIV).

1377 Order to John Heth, escheator in Norfolk to hold the manors of Fryby (sic) and Kerbrook and to deliver them to Henry de Percy to hold the same with the issues since the death of Mary de Sancto Paulo, late Countess of Pembroke for as long as they shall remain in the Kings hands. (Cal. Fine Rolls Vol.VL11.)

Notification to John Heth, escheator in Norfolk, to hand over the manor of Filby, Co. Norfolk, to Elizabeth and Thomas de Percy (Elizabeth was his wife) as heirs of Mary de Sancto Paulo and David Strabolgi. (Cal. Fine Rolls Vol.IX)

1378 Inquisition taken at Filby on Saturday after St. Ambrose in 51 Edward III about the possessions of Mary de Sancto Paulo, Countess of Pembroke, At Filby the manor (extent given) held of the King in chief by knights service. She held it in dower by assignment of the King, the reversion belonging to the right heirs of David de Strabolgi, late Earl of Athol. Elizabeth aged 13 years and more and Philippa aged 13 years or more, daughters and heirs of the said Earl, are next heirs to the manor. (Inq. P.M. Vol. XIV).

Escheat de anno quinguesima primi Edward III: Maria de Sancti Paulo Comitessa de Pembroc held Jernemuth Parva, Kerbroke manor, Filby manor and Foxley manor - with extents given. (Cal. Inq. P.M.).

- 1384 Lug 11, L long list of people concerned in the insurrection against the Abbot of Bury St. Edmunds which includes the name of Nicholas Philby, chaplain.(not necessarily the chaplain of Filby). (Cal. Close Rolls).
- 1389 Grant by Denise, late wife of William. Clore, Geoffrey Somerton and Robert attr Northouse to Elizabeth, daughter of Dame Katharine Braunch of a yearly rent of a ld for the term of the life of (John Clere) from lands including Filby - 12 Richard II. (Cal. of Ancient Deeds, Vol. V p.2. No. A 10438).
- 1388/9A fine of 1388/9 about the advowson of Filby was unearthed by John Selot, chamberlayne of Wynterton manor and sent to his patroness Elizabeth Clere about 1456. (Bodleian MS Top. Norfolk C2 fol.59).
- 1396 Philippa uxor Joh'is Halsham una filia at heredum David de Strabolgi con Argyll (sic). She had West Lexham, Stevekeye, Kerbrook, Fylby, Possewyk and Holkham. (Cal. Inc'. P.M. s.e.).

Dec. 5. An order to the escheator in Norfolk to take the fealty of John de Halsham and give him the livery of the manors of West Lexham, Stevekeye, Karbrooke, Fylby and Possewyke held in chief by knights service. (Cal. Close Rolls).

Ref. entry under C. 1343. Robert de Clere seems to have married, at Blickling, Ales, daughter of Sir John Filby of Filby, knight, but the date of the marriage is not given. In 1340, Sir Robert was escheator for Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridge and Huntingdon and was one of the knights of Parliament for Norfolk in 1343, and with Bartholomew Bateman his partner, had £10. 8. 0. for 26 days attendance. He returned again in 1345 - 1347 - 1351 and in 1356 attending only 24 days, he had £5 for his expenses. (Blomefield).

- 1401/2 Bartholoneus Elys tenet in Thyркеby j quart, f.m. de Alicia Caly ut de manerico suo de Ouby nuper Johannis Caly et eaden Alicia de domino Thoma Moumbray milite i.e.  
 Johannes Halsham tenet in Fylby di f.m. de eodem Thoma.  
 Johannes Halsham tenet in Fylby j quart j.f. de episcopo Londonienci et episcopo Herfordensi et aliis feoffatis ut de manerio de Sutton et iiden feoffati de Thoma Moumbray chivaler ut de manerio suo de Fornesete et idea Thomas de rege i.c. (Feudal Aids p. 644 Norfolk Vol. 111).

- 1400 Dec. 8. John de Bresyngham, the younger, citizen of Norwich, to Ralph de Fylby, merchant citizen of Norwich, and Margery, his wife, daughter of the said John, quit claim for property in Norwich. (Cal. Close Rolls).
- 1412 Agreement between Robert Kent of Ormesby of the one part and William Ide of the same and Joan, his wife, of the other part for the Marriage of Thomas, son of the said William and Joan, with Margaret Dunnyng, daughter of the said Robert; viz the said Robert is to give 6 marks with the said Margaret and the said William and Joan are to make an estate in fee simple by recognizance in Court before the steward and tenants of the said town to Nicholas Wace, Vicar of the church Ornesby, John Seyye and Robert Kent of land and heath with a capital messuage in Ormesby, Filby and

Hennesby and the said Nicholas and others named shall then re-enfeoff the said William and Joan in the said premises for their lives with remainder in fee to the said Thomas and Margaret. Dated Sunday before St. Edmund the Archbishop 13 Henry IV. (Catalogue of Ancient Deeds. Vol. IV No. 6661 p. 65).

- 1415 Order to the escheator for Norfolk. The manors of West' Lexham, Stevekey, Kerbrook, Filby and Posewyk and the advowson of Stevekey and Posewyk (which are held of the King by knights service). To meddle no further as the King has taken fealty of Hugh Halsham and for a certain fine paid in the hanaper has respited his homage until a certain day yet to come. (Cal. Fine Rolls).
- 1415 16 May. An order to the escheator in Norfolk to say that Hugh Halsham has done fealty for several estates in Norfolk including Filby. (Cal. Fine Rolls Vol. 14p.109).
- 1416 John Halsham, armiger, held Filby, west Lexham. Stevekey, Kerbrook, Posewyk and Holkham. (Cal. Inq. P.M.).

Feoffment by Denise, late the wife of Clere of Ormesby, to William Clere and Robert Clere, her sons, and Robert Gosselyn of Depham chaplain, of a messuage which formerly belonged to William atte Wode and Margaret, his wife in Ormesby with a piece of land containing one acre in the croft adjoining a piece of pasture, 2 pieces of turbarry in the same town and seven pieces of arable in Ormesby, Scowtely and Fylby (positions described), Witnesses: Robert Mauteby, John Fastolf and Caston esquires and others (named).  
(Cat. of Ancient Deeds Vol. IV p. 247 No A 7984).

1428 Est fleg Hundred. An inquisition held at Filby die lune proximo ante festum sancti Barnabi apostoli mine regis Henrici sexti post conquestum. Hugo Halsham miles tenet manerium de Fylby in medietate de domino rege quod nuper fuit comitissa de Pembrok Heredes Willelmi Narburgh tenent in Thryckeby unum quartorum f.m. in medietate de heredibus Johannes Caly quod nuper fuit Johannes Filby. Johannes Berkyng, et Henricus Warner tenent in Filby de f.m. quod nuper fuit Johannes Holbek Holbek and Ricardi Berkyng in medietate de heredibus Johannes Caly. Heredes Johannes Norman et Willclaus Pykeryng tenent in Filby unum quarterium f.m. quod nuper fuit Stephani Tateshale in medietate de heredibus Thame Poynges. (Feudal Aids Norfolk Vol. III).

1429 20 March. Grant by Oliver Groos and Nicholas Wychyngham esquires to Robert Clere, son and heir of John Clere son and heir of Clere (of Ormesby) in accordance with the last wills of the said William and John, of the reversion of the manor of Ormesby with the advowson of the church of Wynterton and of the chapel of Est Somerton and of all other lands and tenements etc. formerly belonging to the said William in Ormesby, Hemesby, Wynterton, Somerton, Scoubeby, Mauteby, Filby and "Castreo" in Flegg, certain lands and tenements called "Vernons" and "Taverhans" excepted all of which premises are held by Elizabeth, late the wife of the said John Clere, for her life, of the demise of the present grantors.  
Dated 20 March 7 Henry VI.  
(Cat. Ancient Deeds Vol. IV p. 65 A 6658)

1430 Confirmation by Robert Clere esquire, son and heir of John Clere esquire, son and heir of Willim Clere esquire of Ormesby the older to his mother, Elizabeth, of her

life estate in the manor of Ormesby and other property in many places including Filby which had belonged to the said William Clere and which she had by the demise

- 1430 of Robert Groos and Nicholas Wynehyngham esquires who together with Robert Berneye, knight, Willian Appilyerd esquire and others since deceased had them by the gift and enfeoffment of Robert atto Northhouse certain lands and tenements etc. called "Vernons" and "Taverhams" view of Frank Pledge in Winterton Court Baron and Haven Courts and certain tolls from small boats called "Bote toll" in .Tynterton excepted.  
10 April 8th. Henry VI.  
(Cat. Ancient Deeds Vol. IV A 7640 page 195.)
- 1430 ?Deed poll by Robert, son and heir of John, son and heir of William Clere of Ormesby, more or less reciting what is on A 7640 above. (Cat. Ancient Deeds Vol.IV p. 211 No. A 7758).
- 1451 Robert Kent of Filby appointed to be one of the collectors of the 15th. and 10th. taxes. (Cal. Fine Rolls Vol. XVI.)
- 1430 William Pykerynge of Filby pays 100 shillings as part of the money to be raised by the King to repay the Mayor and commonalty of the City of London £6,666.12.16½ (sic) for money that they had lent him. (Cal. Patent Rolls).
- 1434 Oct 23. Licence for 10 shillings paid in the hanapor for John Halsham, knight, to onfeoff John packet and John Brown, parson of the church of Possewyk, of the manors of Filby, Possewyke, Stukey, West Lexham and Karbroke. (Cal. Patent Rolls 1429-36 p. 428).
- 1399-1413 Memo. In the index to the Calendar of Close Rolls 1399 — 1413, there is a reference to a brother Robert of Fylby of the Order of Friars Minors.
- 1442 Hugo Halsham mile now has Filbye, West Lexham, Stevekey, Kerbroke, Poscwyk and Holkham. (Cal. Iraq, P.M. sine escheq.)
- 1442 March 27. Pardon for £20 paid in the hanaper to a number of people including the Bishop of Norwich for entering without licence the manors of Filby, Possowyk, Stukey, West Lexham and Kerbroke in Co. Norfolk, an acre of land in the manor of Filby excepted. (Cal. Patent Rolls).
- 1444 The Will of Edmund Norman of Fylby translated by Mrs. John Buck of Colchester. The will is dated 6 Dec. 1444 and Bloamfield Vol. XI states that Edmund Norman son of John Norman died in 1444 seized of the manor of Holm Hall Filby. He was buried at Cromer. He left 40d to the high altar of Filby church and 10 marks for the repair of Fylby church or to make and introduce a new window in the north part of the said church at the west end. He also left 40d for the repair of the Chapel of St. John the Baptist in Fylby church. He left many other legacies.  
(Brit. Museum Additional Ms 34888 folio 10).
- 1445 Nov. 2. Pardon to Robert Inglose late of Dilham Co. Norfolk esquire, late parson of

the parish church of Fylby Co. Norfolk for not appearing to answer William, Bishop of Lincoln, late Bishop of Norwich touching a debt of 26 marks. (Calendar of Patent Rolls).

- 1447 Letter of attorney to deliver seisin to Elizabeth late the wife of Robert Clere esquire deceased of the manor of Ormsby, the advowson of Wynterton church and Est Somerton chapel and all their lands etc. in Ormesby, Hemsby, Somerton, Scroby, Mauteby, Filby and Castre in Flegg in accordance with the indenture made to her. 20 Oct 25 Henry VI. (Cat. An. Deeds Vol. IV page 214).
- 1451 Jan 20. A list of Sir John Fastolf's possessions and the appointment of trustees in case. of Sir John's death. The list includes Filby but the Last Will and Testamont of Sir John is not shown so that we do not know, from this document who inherited Filby when Sir John did die. (Cal. Close Rolls).
- 1456 A letter from John Selot, Chamerlayne of the manor of Wynterton to his patroness, Elizabeth Clere, about the advowson of Filby, quoting a fine of 1388/9. (Bodleian Library M.S. Top Norfolk C 2 fol. 59).
- 1458 Counterpart of a demise by Elizabeth Clere of Ormesby to Walter Hagh of Filby of a great deal of scattered property some of it in Filby. Dated Monday before Lady Day 36th. Henry VI. (Cat. Ancient Dec..ls Vol V p. 265 No. 12225).
- 1462 March I. Licence for 100 shillings paid in the hanaper for Thomas Hoo and Richard Bruyn esquires to enfeoff George Neville, Bishop of Exeter and others with the manors of Filby, Possowyk, West Lexham and Karbrokc Co. Norfolk and the advowsons of the churches of Filby and Possewyk except one acre of land of West Lexham. held in chief to fulfil the Will of Geoffrey Boleyn, citizen and Alderman of London. (Calendar of Patent Rolls).
- 1464 Feb. 9. Demise of the manors of Filby, Possewyk, West Lexhan and Carbroke Co. Norfolk the Will of Geoffrey Boleyn, citizen and alderman of London. Dated 8th. March 2nd. Edward IV.

This document is rather confusing and it is not clear to me whether these manors went to Thomas Hoo and Richard Bruyn (they were probably trustees of Geoffrey Boleyn's estates) but if they did, they seem to have handed the properties over almost at once to a great number of other people. (Calendar of Close Rolls 1461-68 P. 207).

- 1463 Nov. 15. "I would ye should nako much of the parson of Filby the bearer hereof, and nako him good cheer if you may". Written by Margaret Paston to her son Sir John Paston. She does not however give the parson's name, but it seems likely to have been Robert Inclose. (The Paston Letters).
- 1464 Golf'r'us Boleyn has Filby and 8 othcr Norfolk Manors. (Cal. Inq. P.M.' sine escheat).
- 1464 Certificate by Edmond Clere of Stokesby, esquire, John Berkyng of Rollesby, gentleman, John •Paynot of the same and John Man of Ormesby of their having

heard Walter Shipdam, one of the auditors of Sir John Fastolf at Filby in his own house, acknowledge the truth of a statement made there by William Barker, another of Sir John's auditors, as to certain rents paid by Sir John to Elizabeth Clere's tenants of Ormesby etc. 4 Feb. Saturday after Candlemas Day. 3rd. Edward IV. (Cat. Ancient Deeds Vol. IV p. 67 No. A. 6671).

- 1465 A document described as a certificate by Robard Banyngnam confessor to Nicholas Pekeryng senior of Filby, Co. Norfolk, the wife of Nicholas, Sir Henry Pekeryng son of Nicholas and others that the claims made by Pekeryng on his dead fathers property were by anticipation 'disallowed by his father whose dying words are recorded in the deed not dated but about 1465.  
(This seems to be a concocted statement i.e. a forgery to support a case, if necessary against William Pekerynge. Anyway John Peking got the property); the death bed statement of Nicholas Pekeryng. The other witnesses were Roger Sylnerym, John Herte of Cotoneshalo (?), Robard Yoxhale, Richard Hawe, Robardo Crannfras (?), John Case. (Bodleian M.S. Douce Charters C.I.)
- 1466 April 4. 3rd. Edward IV. This purports to clear up the inheritance of Philby, Posscwyk, West Lexham and Carbroke, value 100 marks yearly.  
I am not clear from this document, whether these places went to John Leukemore esquire and Jane, his wife, or to Thomas Hoo, esquire. (Cal. Close Rolls).
- 1466 Agreement between Elizabeth Clere, lady and owner of a life estate in Ormesby and certain persons holding lands and tenements in a numer of places including Filby of the said Elizabeth by which the tenants pay her a specified money rent in lieu of "many grete rents and services, sommes of money and custumcs gersumes, poundscore, rowmoles, harvest workes, cariages, plow silver, relievies and ----".  
The tenants to sue only to four courts holden in the said manor yearly etc.  
22 August, 5th. Edward IV. (Cat. Ancient Deeds Vol. IV p. 68 No. 6678)
- 1466 Nicholas Pyckering buried in the steeple of Herringby Church. (Blomefield).
- 1492 Walter Lemyngton of Filby, Norfolk, appointed a collector of taxes. (Cal. Fine Rolls Vol. 22 p. 162 No. 407).
- 1492 Fooffment by Henry Heyton, knight, son and heir of John Hoyden. to Philip Calthorpp esquire and others of the properties which John heydon together with Reginald Rous and others had by the enfeoffment of Robert Clere, the elder, esquire, since deceased. 25 March 8th Henry VII.  
(Cat. Ancient Deeds Vol. IV No. L 7857).
- 1506 May 15. Licence for 100 shillings paid in the hanaper for Thomas Burgoyne and Thomas Randolf, clerk, to enfeoff Thomas, Earl of Surrey and others, to the use of Thomas Boleyn and his heirs for the fulfilment of his last Will of the manors of Filby, Posscwyk, West Lexham and Karbrooke Co. Norfolk, and the advowson of the churches of Filby and Possewyk. (Cal. Patent Rolls).
- 1506 Simon White, esquire, (of Wramplyngham) had the advowson of the church of Fylby with its appurtenances in the towns of Shotesham, Stoke Holy Cross,

- Saxlyngham near Norwich, Wetton and other towns worth £10, held of the manor of Fornsite by service of ½ a knights fee and 2 shillings rent yearly. He died 3 Sept. 21st. Henry VII. (Cal. of Inq. 2nd. Series Henry VII Vol. 2 No. 249).
- 1507 Simon White, esquire. Among his property in Norfolk is the manor of Shotesham called "Whytes Manor" with the advowson of the church of Filby with all its appurtenances in the towns of Shotesham, Stoke Holy Cross, Saxlyngham near Norwich, Wotton etc. (Inq. Post Mortem).
- 1555 At the Dissolution of the Religious Houses in the 26th. year of Henry VIII, the First Fruit Office recorded:- Filby remit 10 s. 8 d. and:- From. King Stephen the monks of St. Dennets afterwards (i.e. after 1140) received the two hundreds of Fleg. In the valuation of St. Denet's under Filby are recorded:- Carta Henrici regis Roberto filio Waltori. (Monasticon Anglicanum pages 62 and 97).
- 1547 Grant of a great many lands to the Dean and Chapter of the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Norwich, and portions of tithes of several places including Filby and all possessions in Filby and the other places which used to belong to the Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Norwich (Cal. P. Rolls).
- 1548 Sept. 29. For £1,045.19. 0½d. paid in the Augmentations by Thomas Woodhouse of Waxham, Norfolk, esquire, a great deal of land which included 1 acre of land in the tenure of John Brownyng in Fylbye, Norf'.  
(All these big grants seem to have been the possessions of various religious houses that had been suppressed). (Cal. Patent Rolls).
- 1550 12 March. Richard Filby mentioned in a transaction of messuages which had belonged to the late Holy Trinity in Wyndesore. (Cal. Pat. Rolls).
- 1552 Sept. 21. Pardon Roll, Mary. George Filby of Furnyfalles Inno, Holborn, Co. Middlesex; gentilman. (Cal. Patent Rolls).
- 1552 Whereas Henry Marsham late of Fylbye Norf, 'yoman' alias late of Gt. Yarmouth, Norf. 'yoman' is indicted of having on 8 Aug. 4th. Edward VI of malice aforethought assaulted John. Drye at Fylbio aforesaid and with 'a dagger' worth 4d., given him a wound under 'le armehole' of which, he immediately died, where upon Marsham was imprisoned in Norwich Castle and (was) before Richard Southwell, knight, Roger Townsend, knight, Christopher Heydon, knight, Thomas Clere, knight, Thomas Woodhouse, knight, Thomas Gawdye, esquire, Richard Catlin, esquire, John Walpole, esquire,. John Spencer, esquire, and other justices of gaol delivery there on 26 May 5th. Edward VI (be) acquitted of the said felony and only found guilty of flight.  
'Pardon to the said Henry Marsham for the said murder and flight and restoration of doods forfeited or lost thereby.  
(This man. seems to be the same one who was on the pardon roll of Mary, June 1554, and on the pardon roll of Elizabeth in 1559 (se below). He seems to have been a specialist in getting pardons!).
- 1554 June 1. Pardon Roll, Mary. Henry Mershan of Magna Jernomuthe Co. Norfolk, 'merchaunt' alias late of Fylbe Co. Norfolk, 'yoman'. (Cal. Patent Rolls).

- 1559 Pardon Roll of 1st. Elizabeth. Henry Morsham alias Marsham of Great Jernomuthe Co. Norfolk, 'yoman' alias of Fylby Co. Norfolk 'yoman' alias of Straton next Duxton Co. Norfolk, merchant. (Cal. Pat. Rolls).
- 1559 Pardon Roll 1st. Elizabeth. George Filbyo alias Fylbye of Grays Inn in the parish of St. Andrew in Holbourne, Co. Middlesex, alias late of Furnyfalls Inne in Holbourne in the suburbs of London. (Cal. Pat. Rolls).
- 1564 Oct. 6. Charter grant by Sir William Woodhouse of Hyklying, knight, to Roger Ward, 2 acres, 3 roods in 6 pieces in Filby.  
(Card Catalo[uo in Norfolk and:Norwich Record Office).
- 1592 Thorlas Stafford, Rector of ffybye, M. of artes, preacher. This is from a report on the Clergy of Norfolk and their status in 1592/3• Taken from Norfolk Archaeology Vol. 18 page 95.
- 1600 12 May. Edmond Fyssher married Lyddoa Browster, both of the parish of Philbo, at Upton.
- 1600 1st. June. Edmond Mitchells of Filbo parish married Elizabeth Deyrton (daughter of the late Vicar) of Upton at Upton.  
(Last two items Norfolk Parish Pocisters Vol. 1 by Phillimore).
- 1603 Rector Thomas Stafford reports that in Filby there were:- 100 Communicants, no recusants and no persons who did not receive. Patron:- Charles Cleere.  
(Norfolk rchaoology Vol. 10 p. 49).
- 1605 Deed of Feoffment. Thos. Warde of Filbey, yeoman, son of Roger Warde of the same, yeoman, deceased, to William Hill of Mautby, yooman. An acre and a half of land in two pieces in Filbey. (Card Cat. at N. and N. Record Office).
- 1606 10 Sept. Indenture - sale (1) Richard Love to Filbey, yeoman, (2) Roberto Love of Hardloy, Gent. 30 pieces of land containing 21½ acres in Filbey.  
(Card Cat. at N. and N. Record Office).
- 1612 16 April. Deed of Feoffment. Indented. Edmond Marryett of Fulby yeoman, son and heir of William Marriot of the same, husandman, deceased, to William Ward of Maultby, yeoman. 7 pieces of land in Filby.  
(Card Catalogue N. and N. Record Office).
- 1613 26 July. Indenture - Lease for 5,000 years.  
(1) Thomas Tompson of Barnards Iane, London, gent.  
(2) John Hill of Fillby yeoman.  
2 pieces of arable land containing ½ acre and ½ rood in Filby. Peppercorn rent.  
(Ref. as last item).
- 1618 10 Dec. Deed of Feoffmont:- Charles Clore of Stokosly esquire, and Elizabeth, his wife, to Joanna Jex of Filby, widow of John Jex of the same, husbandman, and her sons and daughters. A piece of land with a cottage built thereon in Filby.

(Ref. as above).

- 1619 7 Aug. Deed of Feoffment. John Will of Filby, yeoman, to John Rowe, burgess and alderman of Magna Jeromuth. Lands in Filby. (Ref. as above).
- 1633 18 Jan. Deed of Feoffment. Simon brightmer of Thrygby, gent., to Edmond Merriett of Filby, yeoman. 4 acres and 3½ roods of land in Filby. (This document has an armorial seal). (Ref. as above).
- 1633 Indenture Feoffment (1) Simon Brightmer of Thrigby, gent.  
(2) Edmund Merriett of Filby, yeoman. 5 acres and 1 rood of land in Filby. (Ref. as above)
- 1633 An extract from the Court Rolls. General Court for the manor of Filby Cleres held 22 April 1633. Licence to John Rowe to pull down a certain tenement. (Ref. as above)
- 1636 4 Oct. Feoffment by Joanna Jex of Filby, widow of Richard Jex of the same, husbandman, and Rebecca Jex of the same, spinster, to Thomas Jex of the same, husbandman, and Ann his wife. Land with a cottage on it in Filby. (Ref. as above).
- 1637 10 Jan. Deed of Feoffment. Joanna Jex of Ormesby St. Margaret, widow, and Thomas Jex of Ormesbye, husbandman and Anne his wife, and others, to William Jex of Laistiffe, Suffolk, husbandman. A piece of land with a cottage on it in Filby. (Ref. as above).
- 1638 24 April. Extract from Court Roll (Filby Cleres). Admission of Bartholomew Spore and Thomas Spore, his son, under the Will of William Spore, deceased. (Ref. as above).

Authors Note:- This entry may be a bit obscure, though not to anyone acquainted with Manor Court Rolls:-

William Spore was a tenant of the manor by copyhold, and when he died, his heirs had to go to the manor court for permission to enter William's copyhold property which would only be withheld if someone else with a better claim turned up. In this instance, there could be no better case because of the bequest by Will, and so it is certain that Bartholomew and Thomas Spore would be admitted and so it was, as is shown by the above entry.

- 1644 23 Jan. Deed of Feoffment. Edmund Bubby of Ormesby St. Michael, yeoman, to Robert Brightmer of Thrigby, gent., and Rose Warde, daughter of William Warde of Ormesby St. Michaels, gent. 4 acres of land in Filby (Ref. as above).
- 1645 25 Feb. Indenture - Bargain and Sale (not enrolled):-  
(1) William Warde of Ormesby St. Michael, son and heir of Roger Warde of Filby, gent. deceased.  
(2) John Rowe of Great Yarmouth, gent.  
Messuages, lands, tenements in Filby with a schedule of the premises annexed. (Ref. as above).
- 1646 Final Concord and Counterpart. John Rowe, gent. plaintiff and William Warde, gent., and Anne, his wife, deforcians, about land in Filby.

(Judging from the next entry, it seems that William and Anne won). (Ref. as above).

- 1646 30 Oct. Extract from Court Roll. General Court with leet for the manor of Filby Cleres. Admission of William Warde and quitclaim to John. Rowe. (Ref. Card Catalogue of Norfolk and Norwich Record Office).
- 1652 25 June. Deed of Feoffment:- Jeffrey Love of Winterton, clarke, to John Rowe of Great Yarmouth, merchant. 30 pieces of land in Filby. (Ref. as above).
- 1661 17 Dec. The only marriage of anyone named Filby being married at Filby church:- Thomas Mentrope and Elizabeth Filby on 17 Dec. 1661. (Ref. Card Index at N. & N. R.O.)
- 1662 24 May. Indenture - Mortgage for £100.  
(1) Henry Brichtmer of Rainham, gent.  
(2) Millicent Barker of Mattishall, widow.  
Messuages, lands and tenements in Filby. (Ref. as above).
- 1680/3 Marriages at Mautby by people of Filby:-  
Joseph Griffin and Francis Rush, both of Filby, married by licence on 24 August 1683.  
John Swayne and Anne Manchep, both of Filby, by licence 7 March, 1680/1  
Edmund Durrant and Elizabeth Nud, both of Filby by licence 2 March 1680/1  
Willian Cossey of Filby and Mary Hewet (? of Mautby) were marricd 28th. Feb. 1834.
- Other marriages of Filby people have been:-  
Benjamin Humphrey of Filby and Ann Barber by licence 15 dec. 1778.  
John Norfor of Filby and Susanna Watson 1 Nov. 1791.  
John Gooch of Filby and Mary Durrant 21 March 1805.  
John Skoyles of Filby and Mary Howard by licence 25 Dec 1818.  
The above were all married at Hemsby. (Phillimore's Norfolk Parish Registers).
- 1663 Indenture 1 Jan. Settlement on the marriage between Thomas Cooper and Susan Rowe.  
(1) Thomas Cooper of Great Yarmouth, merchant,  
(2) John Rowe of Caister Holy Trinity, gent and Susan Rowe, single woman, his daughter. A messuage, lands and tenements in Filby. (Ref. Card Index at N. & N. Record Office).
- 1663 4 Jan. Indenture - Bargain and Sale.  
(1) John Rowe of Caister Holy Trinity, son and heir of John Rowe, deceased, burgess and alderman of Great Yarmouth, and Anne his wife.  
(2) Thomas Cooper of Gt. Yarmouth, merchant. Messuages, lands and tenements in Filby. (Ref. as above).
- 1663 15 Marriage Indenture assignment:-  
(1) Francis Dunham of Ormesby St. Michael, yeoman.  
(2) John Dunham of Shouldham, miller, John Raynor of Marsham, thaxter, Alice Woods of Brampton, widow, and Agnes Dunham of Hoverham, single woman.

Copyhold lands of the manor of Filby Cleere. (Ref. as above).

- 1666 25 Sept. Receipt. Thomas Spore of Westhall (Suffolk), yeoman, received of Rachel Lincolne of Gt. Yarmouth, widow, £150 for the surrender of Copyhold lands of the manor of Filby. (Ref. as above).
- 1668 15 June. Extract from Court Roll. General Court of Filby Cleeres. Surrender of Thomas Spore and Margaret, his wife, to the use of Rachel Lincolne of Gt. Jeremuth, widow. (Ref. Card Index in the N. & N. Record Office).
- 1670 6 May. Deed of quitclaim. Edmond Osborne of Hovingham. yeoman, to John Dunham his brother in law, - lands mortgaged. (Ref, as above).
- 1673 1 Oct. Indenture - Mortgage.  
(1) John Dunham of Shouldham, miller, James Lane of Foulshan, inn-holder and Alice, his wife, John Raynor alias Rennes of Marsham, thaxtor, and Anna, his wife, and others.  
(2) William Turner of North Elmham, gent.  
(Ref. as above)
- 1673 1 Oct. Bond for Performance of Covenant.  
John Dunham of Shouldham, minor, James Cane of the same, inn-holder, John Ragnor alias Rennes of Marshan, thaxter, and Edmund Osborne of Hovingham, yeoman, to William Turner of B. Elmham, gent. (Ref. as above).
- 1676 18 Oct. Extract from Court Roll of Filby Giggs. Admission of Thomas Crowe, son of Nicholas Crowe, deceased. (Ref. as above).
- 1676 18 Oct. Extract from Court Roll of Filby Cleeres. General Court with leet. Admission of Robert Rowe and surrender to the use of his will,. (Ref. as above).

There are some 36 other cards in the index at the Norfolk and Norwich Record Office, and those relate to small pieces of business similar to the ones quoted above. I did not copy them.

There are also 12 more cards relating to Filby in connection with other places which I did not copy.

### **FILBY ENCLOSURE.**

The statute authorizing enclosure is 42 George III 1802.

Charles Lucas esquire was Lord of the Manors of Filby Cleres, Filby Giggs, Bovill in Thrigby and Filbys in Filby and Filby Holm Hall in Co. Norfolk. He was also Patron of the Rectory of Filby and Christopher Taylor, clerk, was the incumbent thereof and entitled to certain Glebe lands.

Reason for the enclosure; - fields inconveniently situated.

The Commissioners for the Enclosure were:-

Goore Cubitt of Catfield, esquire,

Thomas Francis of Marthan, gentleman,

Nathaniel Paler of Great Yarnouth, gentleman.

A survey was made John Clegg, who stated that Filby contains 312 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches.

Initially, the Commissioners dealt with the Roads and Highways beginning at Filby Bridge. First the road being the present Turnpike road beginning at Filby Bridge and proceeding on its present course to the cottage belonging to William Narburgh the elder and Richard Narburgh, where it enters the old enclosed road.

Second, one other road being the present Turnpike Road beginning at the N.E. corner of an old enclosure belonging to Charles Lucas, esquire, and proceeding thence on its present till it enters the parish of Caister.

Third, one other road branching out of the first described road at the N.E. corner of the first allotment therein after made to the bovises of Peter Teasdale and proceeding in a S. direction to the Public House called the Fox and Hounds thence in nearly the same direction, on the West side of Filby Street till it enters the old enclosed road leading to Thrigby near the cottage belonging to William Pollard.

Fourth, one other road branching out of the second described road at the N.E. corner of the first allotment hereinafter made to Robert Pottingill the younger and proceeding thence in a Southerly direction and in a straight line to a Gate at the N. end of a Lane which enters the parish of Mautby.

Fifth, one other road branching out of the second described road at the N.E. corner of the 2nd allotment herein made to the said Charles Lucas in respect of his right of soil and proceeding thence nearly in Southerly direction and in a straight line to a Gate called Pearces Gate where it enters the said parish of Mautby.

Sixth, one other road beginning at the S.W. corner of the 4th allotment hereinafter made to the said Charles Lucas and proceeding thence in an Easterly direction to the S.E. corner of the 3rd allotment hereinafter made to the Surveys of the Highways for a public watering place.

Seventh, one other road commencing at the S.E. corner of an old Inclosure belonging to the Said Charles Lucas called the Meadow Piece and proceeding thence in an Easterly direction till it enters the parish of Ormsby.

And we, the said Commissioners, hereby set out and appoint the following private roads within the said parish of Filby viz:-

First, one private road branching out of the first described public road at the N.E. corner of the garden belonging to the Trustees of the Turnpike Road and proceeding thence in a S.W. direction to the S.E. corner of an allotment hereinafter made to William Barber.

Second, one other private road branching out of the public road, thirdly described at the S.E. corner of the 1st. allotment hereinafter made to William Pettingill and proceeding thence in a N.W. direction to the S.W. corner of the first allotment hereinafter made to William Pettingill.

Note:- There are 14 pages of the findings of the Commissioners and each page is 30" x 18". It is more than I am able to give here, especially as the space available for a copy to be made was unsuitable. Moreover the absence of an Inclosure Map is a great handicap, and to me makes the written explanation rather meaningless.

However, here are the costs of the Inclosure Commission:- The amounts payable were:-

Charles Lucas for his of right of soil.....	£60. 0. 0.
" " for the allotments in respect of all other rights.....	£737. 8. 0.
William Manning .....	12. 0.
" " as feoffee of the Meeting House .....	£5.11. 0.
Edward Church and Thomas Clowes .....	£4. 19. 0.
James Symons .....	£1.16. 0.
Edward Rising .....	£4.11. 0.
John Jay .....	£24.11. 0.
William Barber .....	£5.12. 0.
Elizabeth Ward .....	£2. 2. 0.
William Pottingill .....	£12. 5. 0.
William Yarburgh the elder and Richard Narburgh .....	£21. 4. 0.
James Everson .....	£4.17. 0.
Thomas Skoyles .....	£19.14. 0.
Francis Tennant .....	£5.12. 0.
William. Dixey .....	£5.16. 0.
The Devises of the said Peter Teasdale .....	£15.12. 0.
Alliam Jay .....	£5.10. 0.
Abbot Upolier .....	£7. 5. 0.
Russel Johnson .....	£22.18. 0.
John Norfor .....	£2.14. 0.
Robert Pettingill the younger .....	£19. 8. 0.
Benjamin Wymb,erley Salmon .....	£1. 1. 0.
LIA.gail Ramey .....	2. 0.
Duncan Fulcher .....	£23. 0. 0.
John Barker Huntington .....	£5.13. 0.
Edmund Palmer .....	£7. 4. 0.
Thomas Green .....	£7. 1. 0.
Fanny Bussey .....	£9. 4. 0.
Robert Gopeman .....	£11. 4. 0.
Lim Frosdike .....	£10. 0. 0.
Francis Martin .....	£11. 3. 0.
Tilliam Pollard .....	£4.11. 0.
	<u>£1,080. 0. 0</u>

to be paid within one month to William Steward of Great Yarmouth, gentleman, the solicitor under the said Act at his office in Great Yarmouth. The Award put into action Nov. 1804.

**FILBY MINOR RECORDS.**

Filby Cleres Court Books 1654-1715 (505 pp)

The first general Court of Robert Cooch, gent. lord of the manor aforesaid with the leete and attornemont of all and the tenants as well as freeholders and copy holders thereof the seventeenth day of April in the year of the Lord God according to the computation of the Church of England one thousand six hundred fifty and fewer by Roger Wade your Steward there.

To this Court came Thomas Trowlett, clerk, Thomas Flockdale, Robert Button in the right of his wife, Nicholas Holmes, Edmund Rowe, John Mathewes, Thomas Trico, Thomas ....? Henrie? Jaxx and others, tenants of this manor and did attorne to the lord of the manor aforesaid and did make fealty to the said lord for all their lands ..... as well freeholders as copyholders and customarie with everie of them hold of this manor by free deed or by copy of Court roll  
..... some unimportant items omitted .....

It is commanded the Baylif that he doth distrene Sir William Paston, Baronet, John Rowe, gent., Anne Birde, widdowe, Thomas Larwood, Elizabeth Narburgh, widd., Thomas Spore, Sarah Hunt, widdowe, Jane Tanner, widdowe, Henry Skryghtmer, gent., William Savole in the right of Elizabeth his wife, late the wife of Edm....., Ambrose....., John Pottingall, John Nudd, Luke Warner, Edward Manthorpe, Edward Dawkings, William Englishe, Thomas Adams in the right of his wife, John Thamond?, gent., Robert Brightmer, gent., William Ranyngham, Tenants of the manor aforesaid to be here at the next Court to be holden for this manor as well as to attorne Tenents as to do fealty to the said lord of the same manor for all their lands etc.... as well freeholders as copyholders which they and everie of them doo hould of the manor

The Inquest of	)	Edmund Rowe,	Henrie Stapps ?Clapps
Office	)	Nicholas Holmes	Thomas Prior
	)	Thomas Leorye?	Thomas ? Tunce
	)	Thomas Flockdale	Robert Button.

Admission of Thomas Webster after the death of his father, Bartholomew Webster (1/2 acre of copyhold land and a barn) Fine 2/- Heriot 3/4d Fealty.

Thomas Websters death (same court as above) had 1/2 acre of copyhold land and a barn in East Heath in Filby between the land and..... of Sir William Paston, Baronett, as well on the part of the N. as on the part of the S. and abbutteth upon the lands of the said Sir William Paston towards the east and upon the lands now or late of Thomas Spore towards the west being parcel of one acre in the East Heah in Filby late Maryan Skirryes? widow and with the said Thomas Webster had to him and his heirs of the surrender of William Marke and Elizabeth, his wife, as by the rolls of the general Court, which the residue of the leete holden for the manor aforesaid the sixth and twentieth day of April in the yeare of the reign of the late sovereign Lord Charles, King of England the..... (a pity the date is missing).... appeareth that Thomas Webster in his only son and next heir who being present in Court craveth the favour of the lord to be admitted tenent into the same half acre of copyhold land as to his right and inheritance. To the wich said Thomas Webster the son, the lord of the manor aforesaid by the Steward of his said Court delivered thereof scisincty the rodd to hold to him and his heirs at the will of the lord according to the custom of this manor by the ancient rents and services therefore due and

accustomed to be made. . . . . And he paid the lord a fine and did his fealty.

There are 10 pages of this Court meeting all about surrenders and admissions and I can see nothing of special interest. Apparently at the same time there was a meeting of the Court Leete: Richard Dawkin was essoigned according to common custom by Edward Dawkin. Robert Kempe Was essoigned as above said by Robert Button. Richard Marriott, Marten Wilson, William Marriott were essoigned Amorye Amyngham. Nathaniel Stanton was essoigned as above said by Robert Robinson. Thomas Clapp was essoigned as above by Henry Clapp (?Slapp). Luke Wilson was essoigned as above said by Robert Hylton. (Essoign is an excuse for not appearing in Court).

The rest of the huge volume (1674-1715) would take me several weeks to "translate". It would be of great help if someone with plenty of time to spend in the Norfolk and Norwich Record Office (NNRO) and with the skill (not very great) needed to read the non-modern English undertook this task.

Filby Cleres, 1914-1917. Records the sales of the parcels of copyhold land to freehold and the extinguishing in 1917 of the whole manor. These documents are in beautifully written clear modern English.

Filby Cleres June 1812 - Oct. 1910. 462 pp of easy modern English give the history over this period which seems only to need summarising.

Filby Cleres 1747 - 1812. A list of all the Courts Baron held in this period. Very clear and easy to read. 335 pages need summarising.

Filby Cleres 1716-1745. 157 pages. From 1761 - 173/ inclusive the records are in Latin. The Courts Leet are from 1716-1741 inclusive. I can not see any Court Leet after 1741 and perhaps that is when they ceased to be held.

Filby Cleres 1914 - 1935. 116 pages, very clear.

The above are all Manor Court Books i.e. in bound volumes. The Court Roll of Filby Clercs 1620 - 1624 could not be found by the archivist in charge of the Search Room, so I was unable to see it.

There is also a Court-Roll of the manors of the Honor of Clare, including Filby 1772 - 1774 in the Public Record Office (Ref. LE3/59/8). I have not seen this Roll, but note it here for the information of other researchers.

FILBY GIGS. 1658 to about 1922. Bound volume of about 160 pages.

1658 John Boarch - Steward. Only two jury men apparently, namely Nicholas Crowe Elizabeth Narburgh. Both Sworn.

1658 Oct. Edmund Durrant, Luke Warnes, Nich. Crowe. All three Sworn.

1659 June Edmund Durrant, Nich. Crowe, Thos. Narboro. All three Sworn.

(Obviously a small manor and small business. Only 2 or 3 jurymen instead of the normal

12. I have never seen the name of a woman on a jury before this); and so on practically continuous, but with short Gaps from 1638 - 1928. It was about 1922 that the copyhold system broke down by virtue of the 'Law of Property Act, 1922', Schedule 12 and the 'Law of Property Act, 1925' -Schedule I, Part 2.

It would seem that Filby Giggs was included in the 1802 Inclosure with Filby Cleres. The volume about Filby Giggs should not be difficult to "translate" apart from the time needed to do so.

FILBY HOLME HALL. 1632 - 1914. (Note: the card index in the N.N. Record Office is not always correct about these dates. This is not the fault of the N.N.R.O. staff who have inherited the books and cards from some other source).

Court of Willi Paston 17 Oct 1632. Records in Latin.

The Homage Willis Warde Edward Marriott

Ricus Taylor John Narborowe

Only 4 jurymen. The Court records seem to be signed by any two of them.

1672 Court of Robert Gooch, gent. Thomas Cooper, gent. ) homage  
 ....Dymerlands )

1676 A special court. All the court records are in Latin up to 1727.

1712 Thomas Durrant ) homage  
 Willus Pottingall )

1736 This is the first court record written in English.

Two petitions, both acknowledging the possession of land in free and common soccage held of the lord, Richard Gay Lucas, clerk, lord of the manor. John Temy Esquire, Steward.

The Filby Holme Hall book has 205 pages. It ends in 1914 but then has a summary of the compensations etc. following the Land Acts leading to the breakdown of the copyhold system.

**RENTALS FOR THE MANORS 1809 - 1834.**

I had to be content with copying one sample:-

1809 - A rental of the manors of Filby Cleres, Filby Giggs, Bovills in Thrigby and Filbys in Filby and Filby Holme Hall.

(C = Cleres, G = Giggss, B = Bovills, H = Holm Hall

<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Manor</u>	<u>Free or Copy</u>	<u>Rent</u>
Ayers, Anthony	C	Copy )	1/9d.
late Fookes		)	
late Comans		)	
Alexander, Henry	H	Copy	9d.
late Clowes			
Barber; Wm.	C	Copy	1/8½d.
late Norfor			

<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Manor</u>	<u>Free or Copy</u>	<u>Rent</u>
Barber, George	C	Copy	8d.
Dix, William	C	Copy	8d.
Fulcher, James	C & B	Copy	8/7d.
Frosdick, Edward	B	Copy	6d.
Frosdick, Ann	C	Free	3/3d.
Humphrey, Benj.	C	Copy	1/1½d.
Jay, John	C	Copy	1/8½d.
Jay, Elizabeth	C	Copy	3/2d.
Johnson, Russell	C & B	Copy	8/10d
Knights, Edward	H	Copy	1/11d.
Lacon, E.H.	C	Free	1/6d.
Lucas Rev. Richard	C	Free	2/6d.
Lect fee	C	---	10/-
Manby, John	C	---	9d.
Manship, Will	C & B	Copy	3/-
Martin, Fras	C	Coipy	5d.
"    "	G	Free	1/-
Narburg, William	C & G	Copy	9/7d.
Norfor, John	C & B	Copy	3/5d.
Pettingill	C	Free	6d.
Palmer, Edmund	D	Copy	2/6d.
Reynolds, F.R.	C	Copy	1/1½d.
Ramey, Abigail	C	Free	3/5d.
"    "	D	Free	7/3d.
"    "	C	Copy	9/-
"    "	B	Copy	3/3d.
Skoyles, Thomas	C	Copy	9d.
"    "	C	Free	1/9d.
Smith, Mary	G	Free	6d.
Thornton, Thos	C & B	Copy	4d.
Tubenhams, Edward and Elizabeth	B	---	2/6d.
			<u>£ 4. 19. 8d.</u>

The next rental is for 1813 and amounted to £4. 10. 8. The rentals then seem to go on to 1829 or later, but they are in a great muddle. Many items not paid at all, some paid after several years and so on. The rents for 1829 came to £3. 7. 4. The rentals for 1826 and 1827 were in a separate book which now appears to be lost.

#### LAND TAX RETURNS:

The Norfolk and Norwich Record Office holds these for 1781 to 1832 with a few gaps. I copied the year 1805 as a sample:-

Ayres, Anthony	4/-	Manning, Will'm Esq're	8/-
Bussey, William	4/- + 4/-	Norfor, John	12/-
Basing, Edward	4/-	Narburgh, William	£1. 8. -.
Barber, William	4/-	Pollard, William	4/-
Crow, Benj.	4/-	Pettingal, Robert	£1. 8. -.
Dixon, Thomas	4/-	Pycoke, John	8/-

Dixon, Robert	4/-	Ramey, Abigail Mrs	£5. 4. -.
Everson, James	4/-	Rectory	£12. 8. -.
Eade, William	4/-	(Rev. Christopher Taylor)	
Fulcher, Duncan	£2. 4. -.	Salmon, Rev. William	12/-
Frosdike, Ann	16/-	Symonds, James	8/-
Green, Thomas	4/-	Skoyles, Thomas	4/-
Gaimer, Robert	8/-	Tennent, Francis	8/-
Humphry, Benj.	£1. 16. -.	Teasdale, Peter	4/-
"    "	12/-	Warnes, Jonathan	16/-
Johnson, John	1/8d.	Warde, Widow	4/-
Huntington, John Esq.		£1. -. -.	
Lucas, Charles (lord of the manor)		£73. -. -.	

It looks as if the rate was 4/- in the £1.

(Signed) E. Church, Assessor,  
R. Turner ) Commissioners  
Gibson Lucas )

### OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCES.

- (1) Besides the above, the N. and N. R.O. holds Tithe Apportionment, with map of 1838, and Glebe Terriers (no dates given to me).
- (2) Bishops and Archdeacons Transcripts of the Parish Registers. The Registers themselves are in charge of the incumbent.
- (3) Maps. It is distressing that there seems to be very few useful maps of Filby. There should be a map of the Inclosure of 1802 but it is lost, or perhaps never existed. The Tithe Apportionment Map of 1838 could be "reconstituted" by xeroxing part of it and getting the ownerships of each piece of ground from the written summary which corresponds to numbers on the map. The estate map of Barry Love 1736 is puzzling. It shows estates up to Ormesby and other places but I have not yet found Filby (on a small enlarged photo).
- (4) Other possibilities. There seems to be some records of St. "Benet of Holme in B.M. Cotton. Calba. Ell written about 1275-1302. Does it contain anything about Filby?

### EXTENTS

In the list of events it can be seen that the entry in 1296 about the late Earl of Pembroke's estate says that the extent of the manor is given in the original documents. Again in 1378, extents are given and in 1416 the positions of arable land in Fileby are said to be described. Extents vary a treat deal in what they say, but it would be well worth while to go to the Public Records Office at Chancery Lane, London, and see what these extents say especially as we have no other information about the manor land before the seventeenth century.

In a letter dated 23rd. January 1973, the Public Record Office writes:- "Undoubtedly a good many references to the village and manor of Filby could be traced among unpublished records preserved here, in various series such as the Feet of Fines, Rentals and Surveys, Court Rolls and Ministers Accounts. A fairly lengthy search would probably be necessary to locate all the relevant material. Fuller guidance can be provided when you visit our search rooms".

Quite so, it would be a difficult and long drawn out job, but one worth while if it could be accomplished.

### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

- 1742 9th. Oct. St. Mary Coslany, Norwich. Valentine Legate bachelor of the parish of Attlebridge married Mary Filby spinster of the same parish.  
1778 15 Dec. Hemsby. Benjamin Humphrey of Filby and Ann Barker by licence.  
1791 1 Nov. Hemeby. John Norfor of Filby and Susanna Watson.  
1805 21 Mar. Hemsby. John Gooch of Filby and Mary Durrant.  
1812 25 Dec. Hemsby. John Skeyles of Filby and Mary Howard, by licence.

Consistory Court of Norwich Wills Vol. 1. 1370-1550 by M.L. Farrow:-

- 1480 Filby, John Fylby of North Walsham, St. Mary Virgin.  
1473 " Peter Fylby of Wybey St. Mary, husbandman.  
1510 " John Fylby of North Walsham, St. Mary Virgin.

Norwich Archdeaconry Wills, 1604-1660:-

- 1651 Filby, William of Caistor next Yarmouth, husbandman.  
1616 Philby, Henry of Midleton. N.

### FILBY CENSUS FIGURES.

Year.	Population.
1801	332
1811	367
1821	424
1831	464 230 males, 234 females.
1841	553
1851	580 Filby with Thrigby ) Thrigby seems to have had
1861	562 " " " ) a population of about 43
1871	) The information for these years was not in the Norwich
1881	) Reference Library and I have not troubled to seek it elsewhere.
1891	581 144 inhabited houses.
1901	541 132 " "
1911	532 137 " " 262 males, 270 females, area 1430 acres.
1921	540 135 " " 271 males, 269 females, area 1430 acres.
1931	541 150 " " 284 males, 256 females, area 1430 acres.
1941	no census owing; to World War II.
1951	500 153 inhabited houses. 244 males, 256 females.
1961	489 170 " " 243 males, 246 females

### A HISTORY OF FILBY.

There is a splendid history of Filby - the best I have seen so far - in "Bryants Norfolk Churches: East and West Flgg" by T. Hugh Bryant, Norwich: Norwich Mercury Office 1899.

## FILBY HOUSE.

Early Georgian of seven bays and two storeys. Segment headed windows. The doorway with fluted pilasters and a metope frieze. The window above it is altered. Whites Directory says the house was rebuilt in 1833.

From "The Buildings of England" by Nikolaus Pevsner. N.E. Norfolk and Norwich - Penguin Book 1962,

## WHAT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE?

I think there is very little more to be obtained from the Calendars of State Papers. There are some records of St. Benet of Holme in the Cotton collection in the British Museum and were written about 1275 - 1302. This document should be seen (it is in the British Museum Manuscript Room) but I do not think it will tell us much, and possibly nothing at all.

The document referred to is in a bound volume bearing the name Galba E II

There are documents "D. and C. Muniments Res. VIII. Resister late 14 C. temp Edward. III of charts 13 C and 14 C in 54 Folios" which I have not seen. I think it is in the N. and N. Record Office (Norfolk and Norwich Record Office).

There is a Court Roll of the Honor of Clare, including Filby 1772-1774 in the Public Record Office, London, under reference LR 3/59/8. I have not looked at it.

There are many unpublished series of documents in the P.R.O. which may contain information about Filby, but guidance is needed about these from the P.R.O. Staff and, as I think, may be a very laborious task.

Among the property left by past members of Great families as listed in the Inquisitions Post Mortems series, there are occasional mentions of the "extents" of Filby. One such "extent" is Given in Inq. P.M. Vol. 3 No. 378 of 1296 A.D. among the estates of the late William de Valencia, Earl of Pembroke, and another in Inq. P.M. Vol. XIV (the possessions of the late Countess of Pembroke) in 1378 A.D. These extents might be quite valuable to our history. To get them would mean going to the P.R.O. and seeing the original documents (and being able to read and translate them). I should like to do this, but alas, it is now too much for me.

There is a vast amount of work to be done in Norwich. I have set out what Manor Court Books are available, and what I have copied (very little) ... It will be seen that there are over 1,200 pages to be read and copied. There are also nearly 24 lists of rentals, also some Glebe terriers and a Tithe apportionment. There are also about 14 large pages (about 30 x 18 ) to be copied. (The Glebe terriers refer to the Inclosure Award). The large pages are very awkward to handle, but easy to read and are in the custody of the Norfolk County Council Local Department, Martineau Lane, Norwich. It is very unfortunate that there is no map of the Award.

The sort of things that can I think, only be done in the village by someone very much acquainted with the life of the village are these:-

### Matters connected with the Church.

Was the vigil kept on the eve of All-Saints, 1st. November? If so, when did it cease? Was the

"beating of the Parish Lounds" carried out on Ascension Day or on one of the Rogation Days? If so, when did this practice cease or is it still carried out and when? Were "Plough Lights" kept? Was Plough Monday observed? Is there any crypt to the Church? Any underground passages leading from it? If so, where did the passage(s) lead?

Were there any religious processions round the Church, or to the cross (if there was one)?

Was there a Sanctus 'Bell? If so, where was it hung? Where is it now?

Were there any religious disturbances and destruction of religious images and symbols at the time of:-

(a) The Lollards

(h) The Interregnum of 1649 - 1660?

What denomination was the incumbent, if any, in the Puritan times? Was anyone executed on grounds of religion?

What can the Parish Chest reveal to us?

Where there any bequests to the Church and if so, what?

Or any charities for the benefit of old and poor village people?

The Village.

Is there or was there a village cross, and if so, was it a Market Cross, a Preaching Cross, a Memorial Cross or what sort? Where was it situated? Do any of the houses bear peoples initials and a date? Could they be listed and identified with the people whose initials they bear?

Were there any instruments of punishment, Pillory, Stocks, Wipping Post or Ducking Stool? Where were they situated? Was there a village lock-up? Was there a pound (for animals that had strayed)?

Are there any haunted places? Any ghosts, witches or warlocks? Or any smugglers haunts?

Were there any notable disasters, accidents, floods, storms or tempests, serious epidemics of disease (cholera)?

What village crafts were there? Such as lace making, basket work, iron work by blacksmiths, thatching etc.

### **BOOKS TO READ.**

It may be a good thing for me to distinguish between (a) serious history, (b) historical novels) and (c) "costume novels.

The serious history contains only facts which can be authenticated from original documents. Good historical novels are much the same as the serious history ones, inasmuch as they stick clearly too authentic facts but the authors bring more life into it by putting in fictional speeches and conversation and fictional acts of some of the characters. Thus, when Shakespeare makes Henry V and others speak many conversations and make speeches, that is historical novelism. We know the facts about Agincourt, but the speeches are fictional but because the facts are true, these historical novels are well worth reading for their good history.

Costume novels are those when the characters are simply put into the clothing of some

past age, speech modified to make the reader think that that is how the people spoke, and then for the characters to behave as if they were modern youngsters. Some of Georgette Heyers books are like that; they make very good stories but they are not real history.

#### Real History.

Victoria County History of Norfolk. 2 vols. This history is not complete.

Llomfields History of Norfolk published about 1770.

Bryants Norfolk Churches: East & West Flogs, by T. Hugh Bryant, Norwich. Norwich Mercury Office, 1899.

History of Norfolk by 'Chanlersi 1829.

"Local History in England" by W.G. Hoskins, Lonsmans 1959. "How to write a Parish History" by R.L. Pugh, Allen & Unwin 1954.

"The Parish Chest" by W.E. Tate, Cambridge University Press.

"The Manor and Manorial "Records" by Nathaniel J. Hone, Methuen & Co., London, 1906.

"Life on the English Manor" by H.S. Bennett, Cambridge University Press, 1937.

"The Open Fields" by C.S. and C.S. Orwin.

"The Lost Villages of England" by M.W. Beresford, 1954.

"History on the Ground" by Marcus Beresford, Lutterworth Press, 1957.

All the above are serious history. I have selected them for easy, pleasant reading. There are lots more than can be seen in most Public Libraries (Ref. 942.00 etc. etc.)

#### Serious History.

"The Penguin Histories of England" 8 vols. by different authors.

Trevelyan's "Illustrated English Social History" 4 vols. Pelican Books.

The Historical Works of Sir Arthur Bryant.

The Making of the English Speaking Peoples - Sir Winston Churchill.

Battle Histories:- Trafalgar: Oliver Warner

Corunna; Christopher Hibbert

The Agincourt Campaign: Col. A.H. Burne and other accounts of Land Battles by Col. Burne and Drig. Young.

#### Historical Novels.

"The White Company" by Sir. A. Conan Doyle. This has been said to be the best historical novel of the Middle Ages ever written. Norwich people may delight in the character "Black Simon of Norwich".

"Sir Nigel" by the same author - sequel to the above.

"Katherine" and "Devil Water" both by Anya Seton.

"Simon of Leicester" by Willa Gibbs.

All the "Hornblower" sea stories by C.S. Forrester.

Novels by Jean Plaidy and Jane Lane are good .

Novels by Rafael Sabatini and novels by Margaret Campbell Barnes.

Many, many others can be found in the Lending Libraries.

#### Costume Novels.

Most of Georgette Heyer, but there are one or two serious historical novels. She also writes detective stories. Jeffrey Farnel - delightful and seething stories about Sussex, some detective stories. Pirate stories "Black Barthlomeys Treasure" and Martin Conisbys Revenge" are excellent and blood curdling.

#### An odd one.

When you have read the note under 1465 - Events concerning Filby - in which the dying Nicholas Pekeryng threatens a curse on his son, I suggest you read "The Jackdaw of Rheims" a story in a book by R.H. Barham called "The Ingoldsby Legends". This story contains a splendid curse by the Cardinal with Dell, Book and Candle, but the effect of it was very surprising and funny, and the story has a happy ending.

#### Editors Note.

As will have been seen from the introduction to these Notes, they originated from an exchange of views about the thirteenth century, Adam de Fileby. It would therefore seem to be both appropriate and of interest to the reader to include here the two articles as they appeared in the Filby Association Newsletters of 1972 and 1973. Since I have also taken the liberty of referring to Phillip Skelton as one of the "Filbys", some notes on his descent from John Filby, woolstapler of Norwich 1771-1846 are also included together with his 'Thoughts about the name de Filby'.

#### **MASTER ADAM DE FILEBY.**

There were, in the 13th. century, at least two persons of the name of Adam de Fileby. Of the younger, described as Abbot of Abbey in Norfolk in 1290 A.D., and instituted to the church of 'Castor' in 1300, we have, at the moment, no further information. But we have a number of references to the older in various State Papers, Close Rolls and Patent Rolls of the time of Henry III and Edward I, and in the Biographical Register of the University of Oxford.

There does not seem to be any record of his birth or of his early days, nor of his time at the University, and we meet him first in 1257 when, under date March 2nd., 41st. year of Henry III, we read "Presentation of Adam de Fileby to the church at Chelemodeston (near Ipswich, Suffolk), void by the resignation of Henry de Mailing rector thereof; directed to the Bishop of Norwich'. But it is evident that Adam did not settle long in one place, for in the following year he and Henry de Mailing and Philip le Poor (member of a family mentioned in the Dictionary of National Biography) were appointed as Canons of the free church of St. Mary, Stafford, to act as the King's proctors with various legal powers. In 1266, Robert de Fileby was presented to the church at Chelmundeston, vacated by Adam. In 1264 in the Papal Register under date Kal. 2 June 3 Urban IV, Adam de Phyleby is described as Papal sub-deacon, and another reference gives him as sub-dean of St. Mary's, Stafford, in the diocese of Coventry. He was instructed to ensure that the "bailiffs and goodmen of Shrewsbury received all the customs due to them", but in 1268 he travelled to Rome as King's envoy to the Papal Court, a 'protection' (a kind of passport) being granted to him in the previous December.

Those days were undoubtedly days of rough and ready life, as can be seen from the constant complaints made to the King, and Adam and his friends seem to have been far from innocent, for on

July 9th., 1268, we have a record that Henry III issued a "pardon for the long and faithful service of Master Adam de Phyleby, King's clerk, to him and Thomas de Phyleby, Adam de Runton, William Pye and all his men, of their trespass last year at Fyncheham, in invading Master Reynold de Cressenhalde, Henry de Marham and other men of the said Reynold, maltreating them and carrying away their horses, arms and other goods; on condition that they stand their trial if any will proceed against them". But there are no

records that anyone did proceed against them, so we do not know the real truth of the matter. Adam seems to have held a considerable number of ecclesiastical appointments, some at one and the same time ..... and this is in fact charged against him in a letter written in 1263 to Archbishop Giffard of York. He was Rector of Althorpe in Lincolnshire 1268, of Postwick, Norfolk 1271, canon and prebendary of St. Martin's le Grand, London, in 1278. Among the records of that church (which are apparently kept in Westminster Abbey) there is a note that "his garciones" made a murderous attack on a man in Maldon, Essex, in 1285. What became of the case is not known. Adam retained his prebendaryship of Bartonsham in Hereford until his death, and he was also at times archdeacon of Salop, canon of Howden in Yorkshire, prebendary of Laxton, and rural dean of Tutbury.

He made many journeys abroad, the various protections from the King being recorded in the state papers, and the names of those appointed as his attorneys; for example Thomas de Fileby in 1273, Robert de Fileby in 1281 and Richard de Fileby in 1283. In 1286, both Adam and Robert went overseas.

He seemed to have lived at a time when borrowing was extremely common, for the Close Rolls contain a large number of I.O.U.'s from various people who borrowed from one and another. In 1275 for instance, Ralph By1 of Fileby (who is mentioned in other records as owning land in the village of that name) acknowledged that he owed Adam de Fileby "70 quarters of barley to be levied in default, according to the market price in the county of Norfolk, at the time when it ought to be delivered, from his lands in the county of Norfolk". In 1285, Ralf 'Bil' acknowledged another debt to Adam of 60 marks (a mark being about 2/3rds. of a pound sterling). Adam himself however in 1283, owed the executors of the will of Luke de Tany 250 marks to be levied in default on his lands and chattels in Hereford.

In 1280, Adam came before the King on "Friday, the Feast of St. Luke" (De Morgan's Book of Almanacs shows that October 18th. St. Luke's Day, in 1280, did fall on a Friday) and sought to "replevey" (i.e. to recover) his land in Seleburn (might this be Selbourne?) and La Rode which was taken into the King's hand for his default before the justices in eyre (i.e. in circuit) in the county Southampton, against Walter de Droweys and his wife. Once again the result of the suit does not seem to be recorded.

In 1283, Bishop Quivil granted Adam a yearly pension of 5 marks (a little over 3) but it is evident that Adam did not live many years to enjoy this small sum, When he died in 1287, he was in debt ("in magna pecunie summa) to the Chapter at Hereford, although at the same time there is a record that Robert de Dekingham owed Adam £20.

The last reference to Adam is under date June 10 16 Edward I (1288) where Robert, Abbot of Redingges, acknowledges that he owes Master Richard de Merlawe and other executors of the will of Master Adam do Fileby, 10 marks.

**Researched and written by Frederick Arthur Filby, 1971.**

## ADDED COMMENTS BY P.N. SKELTON M.B.E.

(a) Adam de Fileby the younger, described as Abbot of Langley Abbey, Norfolk, in 1290 AD and instituted to the church of 'Castor', but this is very odd and needs more investigation if that were possible.

(b) Adam de Fileby the elder. To me the important piece of information is that in 1268, Adam de Phileby was a Kings Clerk and had then given long; and faithful service to the King. I would guess that he was Monastery trained and was a learned and clever man, and not, I should say, an Oxford University Graduate. The Kings Clerks were what we should now call "Senior Civil Servants" employed to take charge of all sorts of the Kings business, it might be, for instance, in Chancery, or it might be in control of shipping work along the South Coast (and organising the transportation of Armies, and all the supplies to France) or say the control of Customs in Ireland and so and so on. They also acted as attorneys to look after the affairs and estates of important people going overseas. The Kings Clerks were usually of the highest calibre and remarkably efficient and trustworthy (as are Civil Servants today). I don't think they were very highly paid from the Treasury, but rather that they were given sinecure appointments of value from which they could acquire quite a lot of money. I should guess that the ecclesiastical appointments that Adam had were of this nature, and that he never or seldom actually visited or officiated at the various places. He was in other words a pluralist. This was not, in itself a bad thing, because the man holding these sinecure posts had to pay a priest to do the parish duties, but the trouble was that the priests employed to carry on the parish offices were recruited from men of poor quality because they could be got more cheaply. This was recognised by the Church as a scandal and steps were taken, from time to time to stop it (between about 1300 and 1350). It was no stigma on Adam and it was quite the fashion to have such sinecures. I quite agree with the last paragraph (1st. page Adam de Fileby) about borrowing and lending money. Close Rolls show that it was rife all over the country, but I think of it rather in the sense of quite ordinary and honest financial dealings like "Mortgages" and "Bank Loans" rather than the "down at heel" associations with usurious money lenders. The transactions recorded in close Rolls may have been very helpful in difficult years of bad harvests.

As regards the pardons, the Rolls are full of them and most of the offences seem fairly small, especially considering that Adan de Fileby lived in the times of Simon de Montfort and all that. I should guess that he was faithful to the King until the battle of Lewes 1264, and then for a few months acted under de Montforts orders until Montfort was killed at Evesham in 1265 and thereafter acted again under the Kings orders.

There is one point that puzzles me namely that in 1268 Adam went to Rome on Kings business and was given "protection", Dr. Filby says this was a kind of passport, and he may well be right, but I have an idea that it was a guarantee that Adam's goods, properties and rights in this Country should not be stolen or interfered with in any way while he was on the Kings business abroad.

In making the above comments on Dr. Frederick Arthur Filbys excellent account of Adam de Fileby, among which I suggested that Dr. Filbys interpretation of the word "Protection" was not correct, I have now looked up the authority on this point, with the help of the British Museum, and I find that I was correct. The word "Protection" did not mean "a kind of passport" for protection on a journey. It meant that while Adam was away on the

Kings business, his property and other rights in this country were under the Kings protection, so nobody could infringe his rights or interfere with his property while he was away and so unable to defend them himself. Nevertheless there were certain things which the Kings protection did not cover, and these were set out in a clause (called *nolumus* or *volumus*) written into the document of protection.

The authority for this is "The Dictionary of English Law" edited by Clifford Walsh, Sweet and Maxwell, London 1959, which defines a Writ of Protection as "a writ which, from a very early period, issued out of the Chancery to subjects absent overseas on the Kings service. It made them free of all suits except some few such as the assize of novel disseisin, the assize of darrein presentment, altaints etc. It could not as a rule be pleaded to a charge of felony nor to any suit instituted before it was issued".

In simpler language, this means that if a person who was going abroad on the Kings business had himself committed an offence against someone else, he could not escape the consequences simply by going abroad. The assize of novel disseisin for instance, was an enquiry into the ownership of property alleged to have been seized by someone else; the "darrein presentment" was to prove or justify, even by personal combat, a quarrel. In other words, a man going abroad, even with the Kings protection could not commit such offences and rely on the King to protect him against the consequences of his own misdoings.

In checking up on what I had written in comments on Dr. Filby's article, I also looked up the authorities about the work of the Kings Clerks. The Chief Authority is a monumental work by Professor T.F. Tout called "Chapters in the Administrative History of Mediaeval England" (Manchester University Historical series Nos. 34, 35, 48, 49, 57 and 64) 6 volumes and some 2,570 pages. Obviously such a work cannot be precis'd or abridged here but it gives a very complete account of the work of the Kings Clerks. Many of whom rose to high rank as Chancellors of the Exchequer, some became Bishops and one or two Archbishops, while others were rewarded with prebendaries and other church benefices in some sort of ratio to the importance of the work they did for the King, and at the lowest end of the scale we find Kings Clerks working as scribes, purchasers of materials and supplies, messengers and so on. Professor Tout gives a "selected" list of Kings Clerks down to 1399AD, but unfortunately gives no mention at all of Adam Fileby, nevertheless there is ample confirmation in Calendars of Patent and Close Rolls of what Dr. Filby wrote about Adam de Fileby and also of other members of the de Fileby family, about which I will write later.

The difficulty we have is in assessing the status of Adam de Fileby in these constant journeys to Rome. Did he go as an Ambassador or senior diplomat, or simply as a messenger taking the Kings letters, or in the company of one of the great lords as, for instance, a secretary? On at least one occasion he went to Rome on the business of others besides the Kings e.g. in 1268 he went to Rome for Roger de Mortuo Mari (better known to us as Roger Mortimer). We can only assess Adam's status by "reading between the lines" of the rewards he got as listed by Dr. Filby. That he was a most trusted servant of the King is obvious, and we feel that as he held many prebendaries and other high church benefices, it shows that he was very nearly of the status of a bishop and may even have become one if there had been a vacancy.

Now a word of explanation about the complaint in Dr. Filby's third paragraph of a pardon to

Adam de Phileby and others for invading Master Reynold de Cressenhalde etc. "on condition that they stand their trial if any will proceed against them". The Calendars of Patent and Close Rolls are full of such pardons. but to a modern reader it seems odd that pardons should be granted on condition that they stand trial. It seems like pardoning a man before he has been tried and found guilty. The explanation is this:- Someone - in this case Reynold de Cressenhalde - makes a complaint of trespass and assault against Adam de Phileby and others, and the court orders them to appear to answer the charge. but owing to lack of communications (newspapers, radio etc.) Adam and the others do not get notice of the courts order to appear. They may have gone about their lawful occasions to other parts of the country e.g. on the Kings business, or gone to sea or simply on business elsewhere, and in consequence do not know that there is a charge against them. So as they do not appear to answer the charge the court declares them outlawed. Sooner or later, these "defendants" return home and are astonished to find that they are on the wrong side of the law, so they go to the court to find out what it is all about. They explain to the Court where they have been and what they have been doing and the court is satisfied with their explanation and pardons them for not appearing to answer the complaints against them, but on condition that they now answer the charge. That makes it sound reasonable. The fact that there are no records (according to Dr. Filby) as to whether anyone did proceed against then suggests that Dr. Filby did not search in the Assize or Quarter Sessions Records, where the case would be recorded, if, in fact, it was pursued by the Complainants, but if Dr. Filby did search in those records and found nothing, it can be taken that the charge was dropped.

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I should like to make .it quite clear that my remarks above are in no way criticisms of. Dr. Filby's work which is both excellent and interesting. My remarks are merely by way of clarification of some points which may seem obscure to modern readers.

P.N. Skelton, Worthing 20 December 1972

### THOUGHTS ABOUT THE NAME "DE FILLY".

About 1200 AD surnames had not been invented, but were begining to be desirable. Villages of perhaps- 200 or 300 people had many with the same baptismal name, such as John, William or Thomas and it became necessary to distinguish them in some way. Let us say that the village was Filby and that it had a dozen men called John. They could be distinguished in about four different ways i.e. by physical appearance; John the Fair, or Dark, or Fat, Tall etc., or by their trade such as Shepherd, Carpenter, Wainwright, Saddler, Tanner etc. or by the place where they lived such as At Well, At Wood, A 'Gate', A 'Beckett' and Towns End etc. There night be a few who had come from other places and might be called after the place they had come from. e.g. John de Norwich, or de Crowmere or de Hemesby etc. The one way of distinguishing all these Johns WOULD NOT BE John de Filby, simply because it would not distinguish them.

(Editors note. It is feasible to say that three brothers could end up with three entirely different surnames in many cases).

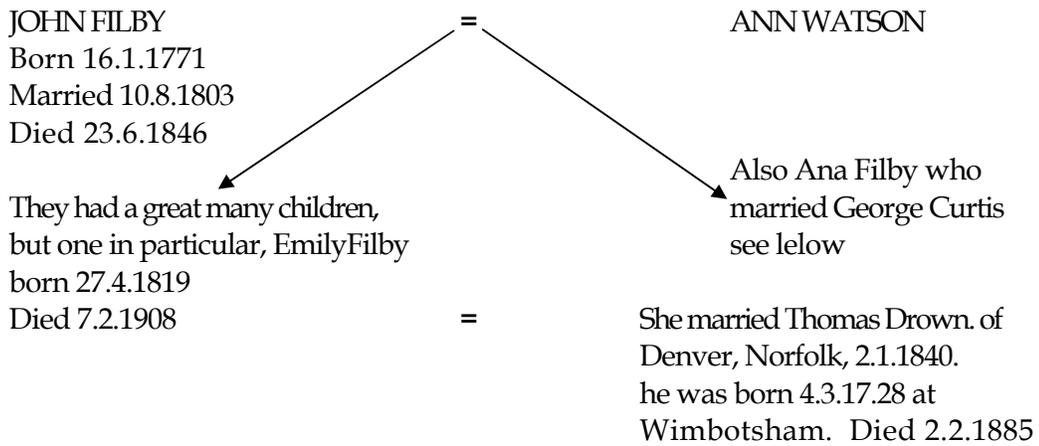
It is to be remembered that a name such as John de Filby means John of Filby or John from Filby and it is the second of these. alternatives which is the real meaning, i.e. someone living in a place other than Filby, but who has come from there. That probably explains why the name Filby is found all over England and the world, except in the

village of Filby itself. Of course, sometimes someone called Filby may return there, but apparently that is unusual. Nowadays there is a tendency for us to think that there is a right way and a wrong way of spelling a name, but we should remember that it was not until the 1750's that Dr. Johnson compiled his great Lexicon (dictionary) and laid down to some extent the way words should be spelt. Before that time there was no thought of any standardization, and a man could use any way of spelling a word that he chose provided that it would be understood by a reader, and he could, and did, spell his name as the fancy took him. Instances have been found where a man has spelt his name in two different ways even in the same document. Thus, when it became fashionable to use a set spelling, members of the same family could, and did, select different ways of spelling their surnames. They may even have thought it desirable to use "Philby" or "Fileby" to distinguish themselves from a brother who preferred "Filby". All the same it was found in practice more convenient to choose one way of spelling a surname than to use several spellings e.g. on cheques. Nevertheless even nowadays I don't think it is in any way illegal to change the spelling of one's name, (unless of course it is done with some intent to defraud).

There is also another consideration, When a couple wish to get married, the incumbent of the church where the wedding takes place has to record it, and asks the man and woman their names. It is often difficult to hear the answers properly due perhaps to local accents of speech, or to bashfulness. It was no use asking the couple how they spelt their names because (until the present century) they could not read nor write and could not, therefore say how to spell their names. So the parson just had to do his best and at one church the spelling may be Filby while at the next the name Philby may be written down and so on.

JOHN FILBY, (WOOLSTLPLER) OF NORWICH 1771-1846

Notes on his descendants P.N. Skelton, M.B.E.



They had more than six children uncluding:-

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Ellen Ann Brown<br>Born 1.2.1841<br>Married<br>William Skelton<br>at Denver 31.7.1861 | Joseph John Brown<br>Born 16.4.1852<br>Married<br>Martha Caroline Sayle<br>on 19.4.1876 | Florence Brown<br>Born 26.11.1856<br>Married<br>John Ashlin Skelton<br>at Southery 12.9.1878 |
|---|---|--|

Note:- Ellen and Florence Brown were sisters and married the Skelton brothers.

The sixth child of William & Ellen was Reginald William Skelton Royal Navy. Served with Capt. Scott on his first 'Discovery/ expedition as Engineer Lieut. Afterwards became Eng. in Chief to the Navy. Knighted in 1931 with rank of Engineer Vice Admiral. He died 5.9.1956. His cabin & relics of the discovery expedition can be seen on board "Discovery" moored at the embankment. Willam & Ellen were my grandparents and Reginald William was my uncle.

The second child of Joseph John & Martha Brown was Harold Arthur Brown, who like his cousin, Reginald William Skelton, became Engineer in Chief to the Navy. Knighted in 1934 as Engineer Vice Admiral, was Director Gen. of Munitions Production 1939-41. & had a number of other appointments. Sec Who's Who 1958. Also Mr. Harold MacMillans book 'The Blast of War' 1939-1945 pp 89,90. Harold Athur Brown was my fathers 1<sup>st</sup> cousin & so my 1<sup>st</sup> cousin once removed

John Ashlin and Florence (Drawn) Skelton had two children:-

1. Herbert Ashlin. Skelton who was an Engineer with the British Aluminium Co. at Foyers, Scotland.
2. Ruth Filby Skelton was a BSc of London University and taught at the. University College.

If the Filby Association over create a "Distinguished Descendants Collection" I would propose the above Reginald William Skelton and Harold Arthur Brown as members.

The Temple of Fame whose Halls arc always full  
And some go in at the door marked 'PUSH'  
And some at the door marked 'PULL'.

I also propose another descendant from John and Ann (Watson) Filby:-

They had a daughter Ana Filly married to George Curtis. She died 23.7.1893, and had 4 children, of whom one, Ann Curtis married Dr. James Taylor (he was born 18.10.1840).

James and Ann Taylor had four children, one of whom was Reginald Taylor who married Beatrice Lake. They had a son Stephen who is now Baron Taylor of Harlow, a Life Peer. His wife is Charity (nee Clifford) who was Governor of Holloway Goal, and in 1959, Assistant Cormissioner and Inspector of Prisons (Women). Soo Who's Who 1958.

I have boon told that Charity, Lady Taylor, was one of triplets named Faith, Hope and Charity, but I do not know if this is true..

The descent therefore is:-

John Filby 1771-1846	=	Ann Watson 1781-1863
Ana Filby 1835-1893	=	George Curtis
Ann Curtis	=	Dr. James Taylor 1840-

Reginald Taylor = Beatrice Lake

Stephen Taylor = Charity Clifford  
Lord Taylor of  
Harlow

Another cousin of mine, Raleigh Ashlin Skelton was Superintendent of the Map Room at the British Museum, and he wrote several books about ancient maps. Sadly he was killed in a road accident 7th. December, 1970.

P.N. Skelton 22.3.1973

## GLOSSARY.

- ACRE - Originally a small field or as much land as a yoke of oxen could plough in one day. From the 13th. century on it became a specific area of land.
- ADVOWSON - The right of patronage or of presenting a clergyman to a living.
- ALIENATION IN MORTMAIN - A legal means by which land could be transferred as a perpetual inheritance as to an Abbey or similar establishment.
- APPURTENANCIES - An accessory or improvement to property.
- ARMIGER - One who is armigerous, i.e. who held a coat of arms.
- BORDAR - A cottage or hut. Usually on the fringes of a manor.  
Hence a cottar who held land at his lords pleasure in return for menial services.
- BROADS - The name used in Norfolk for broad expanses of shallow water as might be formed by a river spreading over adjacent marsh and fen.
- CALENDAR OF ANCIENT DEEDS - Volumes of books detailing ancient deeds relating to land tenure.
- CLAUSE VOLUMUS - Covorage given to a person concerning their rights whilst on the King's business.
- CLOSE ROLL - Documents or Rolls which were delivered sealed or closed being of a private nature.
- COPYHOLD - A type of ownership of land confirmed by a manorial court.
- DEMESNE - That part of a manor used by the lord of the manor.
- DEMISE - A death causing transfer of an estate.
- DEVISEE - One to whom real estate is bequeathed.
- ESCHEAT - An incident of knight service and socage broken by death. The land returned to the Lord Escheator to be regranted as customary.
- ESCHELTOR - An officer of the King administering escheats and forfeits of goods and land.
- ENFEOFFED - Given or surrendered.
- ESSOIGNED - An essoign is an excuse for not appearing in court.
- FEALTY - An oath of faithful service to a King, lord or employer.
- FEE SIMPLE - A fee that is not qualified. An estate of inheritance, an estate in land belonging to the owner and his heirs and assigns for ever.
- FIEF/FEOFF - An estate held of a superior on condition of military or other service.
- FINE - Originally not a punitive payment as now, but more like a registration fee in respect, of a final agreement concerning land.
- FRANKPLEDGE - A system of dividing inhabitants into tithings responsible for each others law abidance.
- FREEMAN - In Anglo-Saxon times, a freeman was a freeholder who by virtue of his 'holding' or possession of a share of the common land was distinguished from the unfree man or tiller of the land which another owned.
- GRAND SERJEANTRY A particular kind of knight service, a tenure by which the tenant was bound to attend on the King in person not merely in war, but in his court and at all times when summoned.
- HANAPER - An office of the English Court of Chancery from which writs were formerly sent out. So called because all writs were once kept in a hanaper (hamper).
- HIDE - A measure of land usually sufficient to support a house hold.
- HUNDRED - The subdivision of a shire.
- HUSBANDMAN - A farmer, a householder who tilled land.
- INQUISITION POST MORTEM - An enquiry into the holdings, services and the successor of a person who held land, usually of the King.

KNIGHTS FEE - A grant of land made in exchange for the services of an armed knight and retainers.

MAGNA JERMAMUTHA - Latin for Great Yarmouth.

MAINPERNOR - A surety for a prisoner's appearance in court at a future date.

MESSUAGE - A holding of land usually with buildings thereon.

MOIETY - One part of an estate divided in two, not always a half.

MURAGE - Money paid for keeping the walls of a town in repair. Usually collected as a toll.

NOVEL DISSEIZIN - A judicial case relating to dispossession of land.

OYER AND TERMINER - An appointment to hear, consider and give final judgment. Usually made by persons appointed by the King.

OUTLAW - A person outside the law and sought by the law not always for major crimes.

PLOUGH - An abbreviation of ploughland, meaning as much land as could be tilled with the use of one plough.

PATENT ROLLS - Documents or Rolls that were delivered in an open state and were not of a private nature.

QUITCLAIM - Money paid in settlement of a claim.

REPLEVY - To recover possession.

RECUSANT - One who refused to attend Church of England services.

SEISIN - Possession as of freehold that could be asserted and maintained by appeal to law.

SEIZED OF - Being in possession of or having taken possession of (usually by legal means).

SORE OR SOC - Privilege of holding court.

SOKEMEN - A feudal tenant of non military land tenure.

TURLARY - The right to cut peat or turf.

TITHE - A tax or levy or similar of one tenth of anything.

VILLEIN - A tenant, a villager being not a freeman in a true sense.

YEOMAN - A lesser freeholder who cultivated his own land,