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PAGE: 181 & 182 --- Manor of Buckland Newton Dorset. Newman of Fifehead Magdalen---Henry, Earl of Northampton, and Thomas, Earl of Suffolk, Lords of the Manor of Buckland, by lease date 1st Feby., 6 James I [1609 - date confirmed by fine levied in due course of law] granted to Thomas Newman the Elder of Fifehead Magdalena, Gent., the scite [site] of the manor and manor house of Buckland, with the appurtenances, one close [building] called The Moore, 3 A., two closes [buildings] called The Willowdeares 3 A., one close [building] called Courte Croftes, 2 A., one parcel of heathie and fursey ground called Furursey Croftes, 25 A., one parcel of heath and baren [barren] ground called Brode Downe, 71 A., all situate in Buckland, for a term of 98 years, if Thomas Newman, the Yr [younger], Robert Newman and Mary Newman, [children of the lessee] or any of them, should so long live, under the old accustomed rent of 26/8.

Thomas Newman, the elder, by deed dated, 5th June, 5 Car. 1 [1630], assigned all the premises, except Fursey Crofe and Brode Downe, and all the cottages at a certain place called Rotten Rewe or New Streete, in Buckland, for the remainder of the term and lives, (all of whom were then living), to Richard Carter, of Brockhampton, in Buckland, who sold them shortly after to Matthew Derby, of Dorchester, Gent.

According to Hutchins [John Hutchins History of Dorset], the manor of Buckland came into the possession of the Napper [Napier] family, and from them to the Sturts, [Sturt family] to whom it still belongs. Perhaps someone, connected with the locality, may know something of the situation of the Manor house, although as it was destroyed so far back as the reign of James 1, it is not very probable that any means of identification remains.

It should be remembered, too, that as Buckland, previous to the dissolution of monasteries, was the property of the Abbey of Glastonbury, the manor house was not the mansion of a resident lord, but most likely only a Grange or superior farm house and therefore, not so worthy of preservation.

The Newman's of Fifehead Magdalen, were lessees of that manor under the Abbot of St. Augustine's, Bristol, and a long pedigree of the family is given in Hutchins, (Vol. iv., p. 57,) but the names of Thomas Newman and his children do not appear in it - at any rate no Thomas Newman to whom the description in the lease is applicable, there was a family of the same name who were the owners of the manor of North Cadbury, and said to be allied to the Dorset family, but it remains for some competent correspondent to prove the connection.

The deed from which the above abstract is taken is in the Dorset County Museum Library.

Transcriptions by Harold Biggs 12-09-2013, husband of Lynne Robinson Biggs, 10th great-granddaughter of Thomas Newman of Fifehead 1569-1649. E-Mail h_biggs@bellsouth.net.