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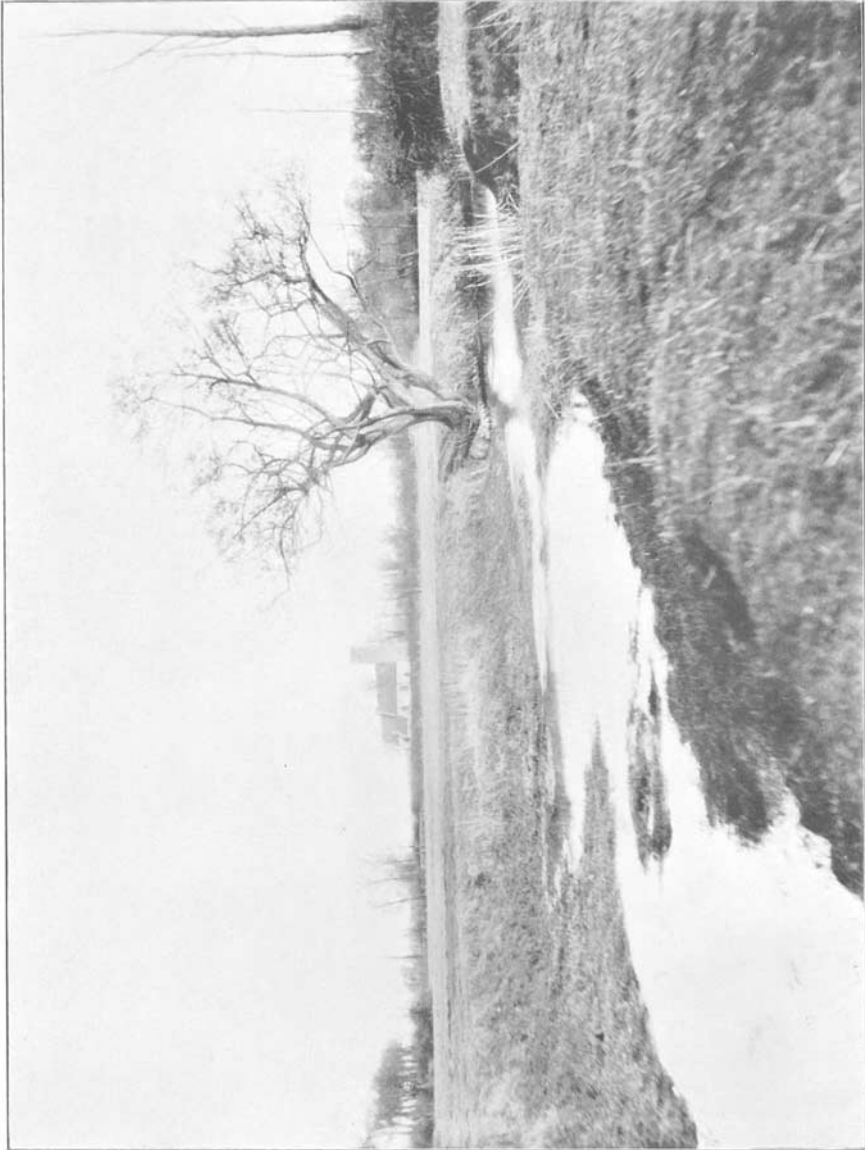
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St Mary's Church and Dam Meadow, Forncett.

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OF A
NORFOLK MANOR

1086—1565

BY

FRANCES GARDINER DAVENPORT, Ph.D.

OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH IN THE
CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON

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TO
LUCY MAYNARD SALMON

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PREFACE.

SOME explanation of the circumstances which led to the writing of this book may serve to make clear the point of view from which the subject is considered.

During the year 1895-6, in connection with a course in Economic History in Radcliffe College, I transcribed a number of Court Rolls of the manor of Moulton, Norfolk, belonging to the Library of Harvard University. In the summer of 1896 a search in England for other material relating to Moulton failed to bring to light further important documents concerning that manor; but a comparatively rich series of manorial documents was found to be in the possession of the steward of the adjoining manor of Forncett. The owner of Forncett Manor, Mr A. C. Cole, most kindly allowed an examination of these, and to facilitate the work consented to deposit them in the Public Record Office. Through the courtesy of the officials of the Public Record Office, permission was obtained to consult the rolls there. Mr Cole has since presented these rolls to the Cambridge University Library, where they now are.

Some of the results of this study of the Forncett records were printed in a paper on the "Decay of Villeinage in East Anglia" (*Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, N. S. XIV., 1900), part of which is reprinted with some additions and alterations on pages 88-97 of this book.

A fellowship held from the Association of Collegiate Alumnae during the year 1902-3 made possible a further examination of the Forncett MSS. and the completion of this volume.

Preface.

No attempt has been made in this work to consider the history of Forncett Honor, or to treat of other than economic conditions in Forncett Manor.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the many kindnesses that have lightened a laborious task. My best thanks are due to Mr A. C. Cole, Mr Hubert Hall, and especially to Professor W. J. Ashley, under whose direction the work was begun. I am also much indebted for advice and assistance to Professor J. F. Jameson, Professor F. W. Maitland, and Mr W. J. Corbett. Miss E. M. Leonard has kindly supplied the photograph of St Mary's Church, which serves as the frontispiece of the book.

F. G. D.

May, 1906.

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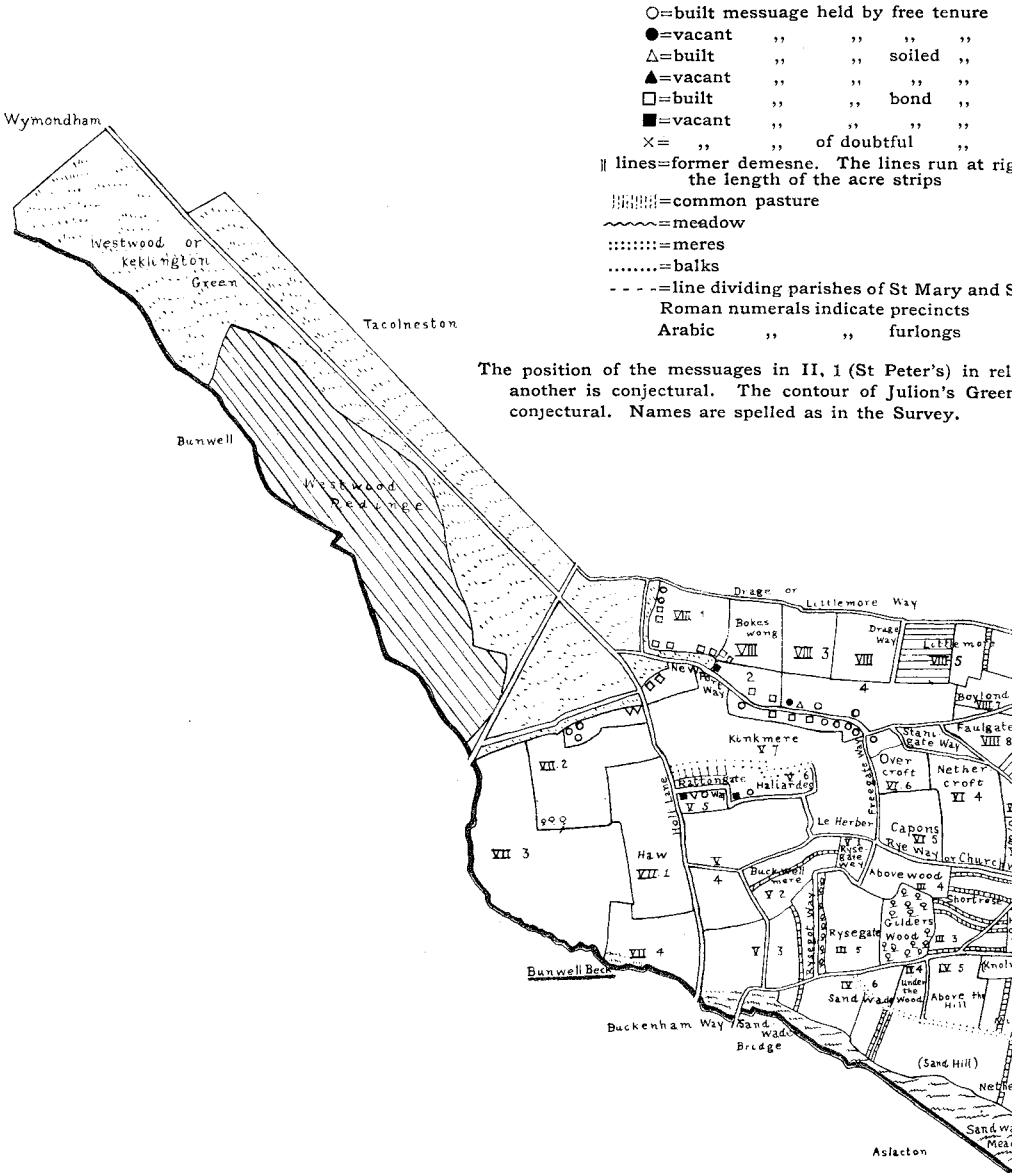
PLATES.

St Mary's Church and Dam Meadow, Forncett	<i>frontispiece</i>
Open fields in Tacolneston, formerly included in Forncett St Mary's parish	<i>to face p. 26</i>
MAP	<i>opposite p. i</i>

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Map of the parishes of
FORNCETT ST MARY AND FORNCETT ST
 made from a descriptive Survey of 1565

Scale, three inches to one mile



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