

have been the case. The domain of Stinctuna, as it is put down in Domesday Book, or Stinton, as it was later known, is situated about fourteen miles in a direction due north from the city of Norwich. The land rising by a gentle slope all the way, at this point reaches a considerable elevation; so that on looking back one may see the spires of old Norwich with all the country lying between. From this position of the grounds the domain was called in the popular local language "The Highdown Manor." Hence the family became known as the owners of the High Down Manor, and the name H-c y-d-o-n, was probably pronounced originally *Hydon*. The first time we find it was attached to *Thomas de Heyton*, Justice Itinerant in Norfolk, in the reign of Henry III, A. D. 1221. At what time he became Judge I have not been able to learn, but probably one or more years before the date just mentioned. The office was a new one, and one of great importance in that day, for it was connected with that most significant of all the changes in the British constitution, the execution of Magna Charta. One of the five provisions of that instrument was that the King should appoint justices in each county having the royal authority to decide *cases of appeal*, and they should hold court in different important places in the county; an arrangement similar to our United States Circuit Court. This took place in 1215. King John died the next year, before he had carried out these promises. His son, Henry III, being then only nine years old, the government was carried on during his minority by a regency: for the first three years under the good Earl of Pembroke, and after November, 1219, by Herbert de Burgh. They proceeded to fulfill the King's promises. It is possible that 1221 was the date of Thomas de Heydon's commission. If that is so, it was issued under the regency of Herbert de Burgh. So *Thomas was the first Judge in Norfolk under Magna Charta*. In order to receive such an appointment he must have been a man of note, distinguished for attainments, and his family one of high consideration. We are told that the family belonged to the original order of Knights who came over with the Conqueror. They must early have been somewhat distinguished to have received after the conquest the allotment of so important a Manor and town as that of Stinetuna, which seems beyond the proportions of a simple "Knight's fee."