

SHALFORD.



“A SCATTERED village in the vale of the river Pant, or Blackwater, five miles w.n.w. of Braintree. Has in its parish 832 souls, and 2,407 acres of land—finely undulated, having a varied but fertile soil. For a long period most of the parish was held of the Manor of Clare, and was divided into five manors, several of which were afterwards united. Richard Marriott, Esq., owns a great part of the soil, and is lord of the principal manors, has a handsome seat here called Abbots Hall.” Shalford Hall, now a farmhouse, is a large square building, formerly belonging to the Northwood, Thompson, Moore, and Raymond families. The present house is probably but one wing of the original structure. Other estates and reputed manors are “Nicholls,” “Sherne Hall,” “Redfants,” and “Wymers.”

The Prebend of Shalford for the Diocese of Wells was founded in 1174, by Hamo Fitz Geoffrey, who endowed it with the Rectory and the advowson of the Vicarage.

Algar, Earl of Mersia, with Godere, were the possessors of this parish in the time of Edward the Confessor. At the time of the Survey, nearly the whole of it was held immediately under the King, by Otto, the goldsmith (master of the royal mint). The small remaining portion was in the possession of Walter (Cocus), the cook, as well as Ashwell Hall. The lands held by the King were afterwards given to the Queen, Matilda, with those of Wethersfield and Finchingfield.