

**GENEALOGICAL
MEMOIRS OF THE
FAMILIES OF
COLT AND COUTTS**

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Genealogical memoirs of the families of Colt and Coutts by Charles Rogers

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BY THE

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GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS.

FAMILIES OF THE NAME OF COLT IN ENGLAND.

IN Domesday Book we find, among the possessions of Earl Roger in Staffordshire, the lands of Colt and Coltone, while lands in Coltune, in the same county, were held by Robert de Stafford. The names Reginald le Colt, in Shropshire; Robert Colt, son of Richard Colt, in the county of Canterbury; William le Colt, in Wilts; and Ranulph Colt, in Norfolk, occur during the reign of Edward I.¹

Thomas Colt, in the reign of Edward IV., owned extensive estates in the counties of Essex and Suffolk. He died in 1476, and was buried in Roydon Church, Essex.² The estate of Nether Hall, Essex, was acquired in the reign of Edward IV. In the thirteenth year of Edward IV.'s reign, we find among the inquisitions one of "Johanna, who was the wife of William Parre, knight, formerly married to Thomas Colt," and the tofts there referred to were at Carlisle and Raughton in Cumberland. In an inquisition of the fifteenth year, in which she

¹ Domesday Book, sub "Statfordseire;" Rotuli Hundredorum, i. 531; ii. 87, 276, 357.

² Wright's History of Essex, vol. ii., pp. 299, 300.

is similarly designated, there appears an extensive list of possessions in Berkshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Essex, and Suffolk.¹

Colts of
Newhall.

Thomas Colt was succeeded by his son, John Colt of Newhall, whose daughter Jane married Sir Thomas More. A quaint account of the union is given in the "Life of Moore," by M. T. M.,² a great-grandson of Sir Thomas :

"Sir Thomas More, hauing determined by the aduise and direction of his ghostlie father to be a married man, there was at that time a pleasant conceived gentleman of an ancient familie in Essex, one Mr. John Colte of Newhall, from whome Sr. Henry Colt that now liueth, is lineally descended, that invited him to his house, being much delighted in his companie, and proffered vnto him the choyce of anie of his daughters, who were young gentlewomen of verie good carriage and complexions, and very religiously inclined, whose honest and sweete conuersation, whose vertuous education enflamed Sir Thomas not a little; and although his affection most serued him to the second, for that he thought her the fayrest and fauoured; yet when he thought with himselfe, that this would be a grieue and some blemish in the eldest, to see her yonger sister preferred before her, he, of a kinde of compassion, settled his fancie vpon the eldest, and soone after married her, with all her friends' good liking.

"Now when he began to be clogged with wife and familie, children also began to growe fast vpon him; for his wife, whose name was Jane Colt, as long as she liued with him, which was but some six yeares, brought vnto

¹ Cal. Inquis. post mortem, Richard II., p. 72. For several interesting notices of Thomas Colt, and others of the name, see "Materials for History of Henry VII." (Rolls series), vol. i., p. 127, etc.

² Pp. 46-48. This posthumous work is dedicated to "the High and Mightie Princesse, our Most Gracious Queene and Sovereigne, Marie Henriette, Queene of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland, Ladie of the Isles of the British Ocean."