

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



VOL. 1

No. 8

1954

OCCASIONAL NOTES

Old Deed Discovered

THE Local Council came in possession, during 1954, of an old Deed, which turned out to be a document dated 1307, by which a Henry Pinchum granted to John Payn (both local worthies) his interest in the rents of two acres of land "which lie on the north side of the highway which runs from Leatherhead to Ashtead" (*que jacent ex parte aquilonia regie vie que ducit de Ledderede versus Estede*). It is understood the document will be deposited with the Kingstons County Record Office.

Old Theatre Playbill

MISS HAZEL VINCENT WALLACE, managing director of The Leatherhead Repertory Theatre, received the gift of an interesting playbill announcing a performance to be given at THEATRE, LEATHERHEAD, on 23rd July, 1807. The show was to consist of "She Stoops to Conquer" (the author was not mentioned!) to be followed by a "Double Hornpipe," by the Miss Jerrolds (and) a song by Mr. Russell; the whole to conclude with a Musical Entertainment called "The Review," or "The Wags of Windsor." Evidently the audience of those days expected to get its moneysworth! The bill added that "Leatherhead Volunteer Band will attend." Miss Wallace was good enough to allow this Society to make a photostat of the playbill for its archives.

The fact that no previous mention or knowledge that a theatre existed in Leatherhead at that date aroused some excitement in the Society. The result of the research then made is epitomised in the following extract from a letter sent by your Hon. Secretary to the *Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, in whose columns the matter had first been announced.

"No contemporary documents refer to a theatre in the town (or village as it would then be regarded) and it is difficult to believe that a proper theatre as we now think of that word would exist; or to recollect any building or site which could then have housed it. One of our members, Mr. F. Bastian, has, however, produced a reference which is the probable solution. In his 'Story of Congregationalism in Surrey' (1908), Mr. E. E. Cleal relates how, in 1816, 'a large barn in the centre of the village (Leatherhead) which had frequently been used by strolling players' was leased and fitted up as a Congregational place of worship. This barn is known to have been used as a 'meeting house' and to have been replaced on the site, in 1844, by the Congregational Chapel which stood until quite recently on the site of the present Co-operative Stores in North Street.

"So 'The Theatre, Leatherhead' must have been a large barn behind what is now the National Provincial Bank. It was, of course, customary to use barns for that purpose (hence 'Barnstormers') and their wooden structure made it easy to fit them up with 'Boxes, pit and gallery' (though not up to the standards of the modern theatre!) The situation of Leatherhead probably made it a constant halt for strolling players in the course of their journeyings in South Eastern England, and it may even have been that the frequency of its use caused the barn fittings to assume some degree of permanency."

A.T.R.

Eighth Annual General Meeting

Held at the Council Offices, Leatherhead, 18th November, 1954

THE Report of the Executive Committee, for 1953-4, a summary of which is included in "Secretarial Notes," and the Accounts to 30th September, 1954, reproduced elsewhere, were duly adopted as presented. The members of the Committee, other than Mr. C. T. Fisher (who had resigned), and the Hon. Auditor were re-elected *en bloc*. A brief discussion arose on the methods of providing transport for distant fixtures and the matter was eventually left to be dealt with by the Committee. A Motion from the Chair that members so wishing should have monthly reminders of fixtures on payment of an annual fee of 2s. 6d. was approved.

After formal business the meeting listened with great interest to a talk by Dr. M. P. Topping, on "The post-Glacial History of the British Flora."

Briefly the OBJECTS of the Society are:—

To institute, promote and encourage the study of local history, architecture, archaeology, natural history, folklore and similar subjects appertaining to Leatherhead and surrounding districts; including the search for, recording, and preservation of, historical records and other material; a library for members' use; lectures, debates, exhibitions and tours; fieldwork; photography of historic features; and (as a long term objective) the compilation and publication of a history of the Leatherhead district.

A real interest in the locality is the only necessary qualification for membership; those with any specialised knowledge are, of course, doubly welcome, but this is not essential. The Society hopes to help those who have little or no special knowledge to improve or acquire it. Provision is also made for Junior Members at a nominal fee.

Persons who would like to keep in touch with local history but have no time to take an active part can join as Non-Active Members. They have all the other privileges of full membership.

The yearly membership fee for all adult Members (to include one copy of the Society's Proceedings) is seven shillings and sixpence. Apply to the Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. E. D. FORTESCUE, Englands, High Street, Gt. Bookham.

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OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR
1954-55

Chairman: Capt. A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary: A. T. RUBY, M.B.E.
 (53 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham. Tel.: Leatherhead 3127).

Hon. Asst. Secretary: P. G. SHELLEY
 (Beechcroft, Hawks Hill, Fetcham. Tel.: Leatherhead 2696).

Hon. Treasurer: S. E. D. FORTESCUE
 (Englands, High Street, Great Bookham).

Hon. Programme Secretary:

Committee Members: F. B. BENDER
 S. N. GRIMES

Hon. Auditor: J. G. W. LEWARNE

Hon. Librarian: Miss A. SKINNER

Hon. Editor of the "Proceedings": C. J. SONGHURST

SECRETARIAL NOTES

I have pleasure in reporting that during 1954 your officers continued to be kept busy with requests or information, lectures, articles, etc., all indicative of the lively interest that is maintained generally in the Society's work.

Membership at October 1954 stood at 179.

The following fixtures were arranged during 1953-54.

1953

November 18th (At the Annual General Meeting). A reading by Mr. J. G. W. Lewarne from Dalloway's "History of Leatherhead" (published 1821), followed by a discussion.

December 5th A lantern lecture by Mr. Bernard Rackham, C.B., M.A., F.S.A., on "Surrey Stained Glass."

1954

January 28th A talk by Mr. C. W. Phillips, M.A., F.S.A., on "The Ordnance Survey and Archaeology."

February 25th A talk by Dr. M. P. Topping on "Current Aspect of Natural History," followed by a talk by Mr. L. S. Baynton-Williams, F.R.G.S., on "Maps."

March 25th A lecture by Mr. J. H. P. Sankey, B.Sc., on "Wild Flowers."

April 24th A visit to Albury Park, house and gardens.

May 22nd A visit to Loseley House and Compton Church.

June 24th An evening visit to the Romano-Celtic temple at Farley Heath, with a descriptive talk by Capt. A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.

July 17th A visit to Ham House, Richmond.

August 14th A visit to Fetcham Church (guide and lecturer Mr. J. G. Lewarne) followed by a visit to, and tea at, Badingham College (formerly Fetcham Park) by the courtesy and kindness of the Rev. A. Wilkie.

September 18th A Fungus Foray on Box Hill, leader Dr. M. P. Topping.

Your Committee repeat their invitation to all members to send in suggestions for new, or repeated, lectures, visits, etc.

The continual bad weather throughout the year prevented much (if any) field work by most of the Groups. Nevertheless, new volunteers will be welcomed and employed at the first opportunity.

The Proceedings for 1953 were unfortunately delayed as it was hoped to include the full publication of the excavations in 1952 and 1953 at Lee Wood, Effingham. Due to various causes it was found impossible to complete the report in time and, in consequence, other material had to be substituted. The full Report on the "dig" will be published as soon as possible.

Mr. C. T. Fisher has been obliged to resign as Hon. Programme Secretary, having removed from the district. At the time of writing, volunteers for the vacant post are required and are invited to send in their names.

The Accounts to 30th September 1954 (printed elsewhere in this issue) show that, at the date to which the previous Accounts were made up, there was a balance in hand (excluding £1 17s. 6d. for subscriptions paid in advance) of £59 16s. 7d. Various receipts during the year as shown on the debit side of the account amounted to £75 14s. 8d. including £1 17s. 6d. above-mentioned; £33 2s. 2d. has been spent on miscellaneous expenses, as set out on the credit side, and receipts have therefore exceeded expenses by £42 12s. 6d., the balance in hand being increased by that amount. This increase does not, however, include the usual grant of £15 from the Surrey County Council not received at the time the Accounts were made up and was also subject to payment for the 1953 Proceedings. The net result was that current expenses were not met from current receipts. The position is a cause of some anxiety to the Committee.

Donations of any size to either the Library or General Funds will always be most welcome.

Subscriptions can be paid by banker's order and any member who wishes to employ this method should get into touch with the Hon. Treasurer who will gladly forward the necessary form.

Thanks to the good work by Mr. F. Bastian the indexing of the Society's archives is, for the moment, up-to-date. Checking has now been commenced.

A. T. RUBY, *Hon. Secretary.*

Reports of the Separate Groups

GROUPS AND LEADERS

"A": *Historical Records, MSS and Other Written Records.*

Dr. A. K. R. Kiralfy, LL.M., Ph.D., 168 Cobham Road, Fetcham.

"B": *Architecture, Buildings, Surveying, etc.*

"C": *Photography.*

Mr. A. Day, 2, The Mount, Leatherhead.

"D": *Archaeology.*

Capt. A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A., The Old Quarry, The Warren, Ashtead.

"E": *Natural History.*

Mrs. M. P. Topping, Ph.D., Angroban, Fir Tree Road, Leatherhead.

"F": *Arts, Crafts, Folklore, Dialect, etc.*

REPORT OF GROUP "A" : MSS., Historical and Other Records

Ashtead.—The Group's work here during 1954 has been centred on a study of the ten folio volumes of Ashtead Accounts, 1691-1722, which have recently come to light in the Guildford Muniment Rooms. Work on these will constitute the main historical research for the Ashtead workers for some years to come. So far, they have been studied in some detail down to 1710; items concerning Ashtead, the Howard family's town house in Duke Street, Westminster, and their property at Castle Rising in Norfolk have been extracted separately and will form the subject of separate studies.

The Accounts give a full picture of the running of the Manor and include the Estate Expenses such as the Stable Book covering payments for hay and fodder, and the Cellar Book which shows what wines were laid in and, of even more interest, the wines consumed and by whom, thus indicating those present at the table. Among guests so indicated are Sir Robert and Lady Clayton of Marden Park, who were frequent visitors to Ashtead Park. Other persons of note who figure in these volumes of accounts are:—Sir Godfrey Kneller, the portrait painter (who painted the portraits of Sir Robert Howard and his family, which portraits were still at Ashtead in 1877, but cannot now be located); Lord Godolphin; Thomas Tompion, the celebrated clockmaker; Henry Purcell the musician, who taught music to Lady Diana Howard and her two daughters (after his death Purcell's widow and daughter were, as the accounts show, cared for by Lady Diana). There are also references to the Duchess of Marlborough, Sir John Vanbrugh and to an unknown visit to Ashtead by Queen Mary at a date when King William III was paying a visit to his troops on the Continent.

The personal accounts disclose everything which the family spent day by day on themselves, their clothes, their servants and a host of other matters. The details are especially prolific and entertaining when the family were in town, as they were every winter.

Of great local interest are the names of local tradesmen and details of what they supplied—Bookham Fair regularly supplied the family with cheeses. Among the more unexpected entries are:—(8th September, 1712) "Pd. for an umbrella 7s. 6d." and (6th October, 1708) "Pd. for seeing the outlandish Pickture, 1s."

Fetcham.—Work on Fetcham material at the County Record Office and the Public Record Office continues steadily and will clearly occupy a long time. A transcript of "Copyhold Lands in the Parish of Fetcham, 1787" (County Record Office) has now been completed and an up-to-date plan of Fetcham churchyard with inscriptions is nearly completed.

Leatherhead.—Mr. F. Bastian is engaged on the history of several prominent families in the area. His researches have disclosed a number of points at variance with information heretofore accepted and, when available for publication, will prove of much interest.

REPORT OF GROUP "B" : Architecture, Buildings, Surveying, etc.

WORK has commenced on a long-contemplated series of Maps of the district showing the area as it appeared, or is conjectured to have appeared, at various stages of its history. So far, only the basic map on which the information is to be inserted has been prepared, but it is hoped that at least the first one will be completed during 1955.

REPORT OF GROUP "C" : Photography

There is no special item of interest to record during 1954.

REPORT OF GROUP "D" : Archaeology

The Editor regrets that Captain Lowther was unable to complete this report in time for publication.

REPORT OF GROUP "E" : Natural History

THERE is little to report for the summer of 1954 as the surveys of the vegetation on Mickleham Downs and White Hill were not made in detail this year.

The Fungus Foray was again held in the Box Hill wood on 18th September, and several laden baskets of fungi were taken back to Juniper Hall for examination. The number of species collected was not so large as in 1953; in particular, there were not so many specimens of *Boletus* or *Russula*. The False Death-cap (*Amanita mappa*) and The Blusher (*Amanita rubescens*) were again found in the beechwoods, but not such fine specimens nor in such large quantities as last year. The "earth-stars" (*Geaster triplex*) were found in abundance in their usual habitat but few were fully open. The younger members of the party collected several Stink-horns (*Phallus impudicus*) and this year the smaller orange Dog's Stink-horn (*Mutinus caninus*) was also found.

The fruit bodies (or "eggs") of the Stink-horns, like those of many other fungi, are formed on white cords which spread through the layers of soil and litter. Other toadstools have long rooting stipes which arise from a tangle of thin threads (the mycelium) which inhabits buried wood or roots of trees. A particularly fine specimen of one of these, *Collybia radicata*, was found, and careful digging and excavating disclosed that the underground "rooting" portion was 23 inches long. This must surely be a record for Surrey!

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT BIRD NOTES

By GORDON DOUGLAS

WITHIN a radius of some five miles of the Leatherhead traffic lights, we have no less than 80 species of wild birds breeding regularly. When it is realised that the total number of breeding species and sub-species in Great Britain barely exceeds 200, we must consider ourselves favoured. Such a restricted area, as that under survey, usually lacks variety of terrain, as is indeed the case here. We have no seaboard, large sheets of fresh water, mountains, vast moorlands, or marshes likely to attract a much greater variety of bird life.

One of the chief attractions is the fine varied woodland: oak, pine, larch, spruce, and beech; with lesser copses and shaws (locally called rews) of ash, elm, maple, hazel, etc., and perhaps more important still, thickets of thorn and bramble. Add to these the chalk hills to the south, the river Mole that meanders like a crooked diameter through the circle, and the beautiful commons at Bookham, Ashted, Epsom, Effingham, Oxshott, Esher, and Headley—these make up our principal bird resorts. Unfortunately, Epsom and Effingham commons are still three parts under the plough. Building continues to increase, and many fields and rough pastures have recently been lost for good.

Leatherhead is, as near as can be seen, in the very centre of the county of Surrey. It does not lie on the main migratory route, of birds going to and from the south in autumn and spring. In spring and autumn, Wheatears are sometimes seen in small numbers on Epsom Downs or Effingham Golf Course, for a few days only, before moving on. Occasionally a flock of Golden Plover, Greenshank, or other of the Limicolae may be heard at night passing overhead, and remind one of northern moors. At the end of April, when walking beside the river Mole, between Fetcham and Cobham, I have sometimes been delighted with the sight of a Common Sandpiper, following the bends of the river northwards. Flocks of small birds are sometimes encountered in fields or on commons in spring, before dispersing for their breeding stations. Not much more is likely to be seen of the impressive passage of birds to and from the Mediterranean and beyond—the huge flocks of small birds, the countless hosts of Waders, which breed in Scotland, Scandinavia, and the Arctic, Wild Geese and Ducks, which are such a feature of more favoured districts.

I should now like to give some special reference to two of the rarer, and more interesting, of our breeding species: and perhaps at a later date, extend to other birds of this part of Surrey, where I was born.

The Woodlark is a scarce and very local resident, confined to certain special, small areas, entirely to chalk and sand, I believe, in this part of the country. The Woodlark has the strongest likes and dislikes, and being scarce, can indulge them without fear of overcrowding—the horror of most wild life. A well-drained soil seems essential, with short grass or herbage, and thinly-scattered trees (not woods as its name implies). Thus the chalk uplands and sandy heaths are the spots best suited to it. I have noted them on Box Hill, White Downs, Fetcham Downs, and Norbury Park; Walton and Banstead Heaths; Wisley, Fairmile, and Esher Commons. Even in these favoured places they are far from plentiful, two or three pairs at the most make up the modest total for each breeding station. Here they can be found from February to Autumn; for the rest of the year they wander in small flocks, never far, I think, in search of the all-important food.

Chiefly insectivorous, they do, however, eat a quantity of seeds, especially in winter. I have noticed that the young are mostly fed on quite large caterpillars, in preference to other foods, no doubt for their moisture content. I once had an excellent view of a hen bird, trying to swallow a 3-in. lizard; the struggle lasted some five minutes, but I was unable to see the final result. However, on going quickly to the exact spot, I was unable to find the unfortunate reptile. A few minutes later this bird returned to its nest under a small spray of gorse, and incubated her four eggs.

The Woodlark is a little smaller than the Skylark, and can be distinguished by its richer plumage, and more pronounced whitish eye stripe, and above all, by its conspicuously shorter tail. This is particularly noticeable on the wing, giving it a rather Bat-like appearance. The flight is weak, undulating, and hesitant. Quite different from its larger relative, is the song of this superb vocalist. The notes of the Skylark are well known, and rightly praised for their excellence, but the Woodlark, to my ear, excels. The notes are more liquid, flute-like, and softer, but unfortunately it is not so often heard. Not only is it a much rarer and more local species, but also a much less frequent performer. Only in soft weather, and generally for much shorter periods is it likely to sing well, and one may spend many hours in a known haunt, without hearing a note. The song is more often uttered from the top of a bush or tree, than on the wing or on the ground, although sometimes it will sing for long periods in the air. In Devonshire, one May, I heard a Woodlark singing most beautifully at 2.0 a.m.

The nest is of grasses, lined with a little hair, and is placed in a hollow or scrape, usually hidden in short grass, heather, bracken, or by some spray such as bramble. The eggs are usually three or four in number, rarely five, and are speckled grey or brown over a whitish ground. Laying is mostly completed by early April, but I have twice seen young leaving the nest at the end of March, which means that the eggs must have been laid in late February. A second brood is frequently reared in late May or early June.

The Grasshopper Warbler is a very scarce and local summer visitor to the county, and has become scarcer since the war. It inhabits low-lying commons and rough pastures, with scattered bushes, bramble, and coarse grass; and in other localities than this, marsh, osier beds and heaths, but shows generally a preference for damp situations. Bookham and Ashted Commons are resorts of this species. Epsom and Effingham Commons were, until mainly ploughed up, and may still hold the odd pair or two. Apart from these I know but few occasional breeding stations in the district; and as they are only very thinly scattered in these, it can certainly be claimed a rarity. In only very few places in Great Britain is it much more abundant.

Having wintered in certain Mediterranean countries, these Warblers reach central Surrey by the end of April, and at once their peculiar song can be heard. The song, that has given the bird its name, has been likened to the noise made by Grasshoppers, but is certainly louder, and can perhaps be better described as a continuous reeling, or spinning sound, which can be heard up to half a mile under favourable conditions, by those with good hearing. It is most frequently heard shortly after dawn, and again the last hour or so before dark, but is occasionally heard at any other hour, even at midday or midnight. From the centre of some bush, commonly a briar, it pours forth this strange sound for long periods. At this time it can be stalked with ease if care is taken; then it will be seen with head thrown back, beak open, and tail oscillating rapidly in time with its vibrating trill. If approached too near, or without caution, the sound stops suddenly; the bird drops down quickly, and makes a stealthy mouse-like disappearance into the long grass or some thick cover; appearing a short way off, it flies to some other bush, perhaps 50 yards away and begins again its fascinating song.



Wood - Lark



Grasshopper - Warbler

The Grasshopper Warbler is a small and slender bird, its upper parts brown, with darker flecks; underneath, pale grey to buff. The tail is long for the size of the bird, reddish-brown, and rounded at the end. Both sexes are alike in colouring.

The cock, when not singing, and the hen, are most inconspicuous and easily overlooked. Seldom taking wing, they live low down in thick cover, skulking and feeding out of sight, often in overgrown ditches.

Their food seems entirely insect in all stages of development from egg to imago; Diptera, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Odonata, Ephemeroptera, and Hemiptera have all been observed taken. I have noticed the young mainly fed on small green caterpillars, and occasionally flies, but they are also said to take Woodlice, Aphis, and Spiders to the nestlings.

The nest which is made entirely of dead grasses, with an occasional leaf or two, is compact and deep. It is hidden very carefully deep down, but usually not quite on the ground, in coarse grass or some low-growing shrub with coarse grass growing through it. The eggs which are usually six in number, or five, but rarely four or seven, are a very striking mottled pink, and take a fortnight to hatch. Both birds share the duties of incubation, and are often very tame at the nest; whilst I have been examining the young or eggs, one of the adults has on occasion run across my feet like a mouse. At such times it utters a low ticking note. Laying begins in mid-May, thus the young are normally hatched in early June, leaving the nest in the middle of that month. A second brood is sometimes reared in July and early August. Adults and young have mainly migrated by mid-September, but they seem to leave this district a full month earlier.

FETCHAM PARISH REGISTERS

By J. G. W. LEWARNE

THESE registers consist of three volumes covering the period from 1559 to 1812 as follows:—
Baptisms, Marriages and Burials up to 1712.
Marriages from 1713 to 1754 and Baptisms and Burials from 1713 to 1812.
Marriages from 1755 to 1812.

Separate volumes are kept for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for subsequent years.

THE FIRST VOLUME

This is a narrow parchment book rebound in vellum about 25 years ago and covers the years 1559 until 1712, recording 665 baptisms, 148 marriages and 455 burials. The entries are arranged in groups—marriages up to 1659, baptisms until 1643, followed by burials to 1657, and further similar groups.

Entries prior to 1599 were transcribed in a beautiful and regular hand in accordance with the ordinance of 1597.

The first marriage recorded is:—

“Item.—Blundell and Sybil his wife were married the four and twenty day of November Anno domine 1560.”

It will be noted that the maiden name of the wife is not mentioned. The fifth entry, however, provides the first instance where this information is included, viz.:—

“Item.—Henry Goaker and Anne Neale were married the fifteenth day of October in the year of our Lo 1570.”

but in some later entries the maiden name is again not stated.

The first baptism recorded is:—

“Imprimo.—Francis Ranousd daughter of Robert Ranousd was baptised the seventh of Aprill Anno 1559.”

and the first burial is:—

“Imprimo.—Audery Game daughter of John Game was buried 28 of May 1562.”

There are three burials mentioned in 1562, two in 1563, and then an unexplained gap until 1584. There is no such break in baptisms or marriages.

It is illuminating to trace the life of a medieval Fetcham family through the years by means of the parish registers and a suitable subject is one with an uncommon name, e.g.:—

“Item.—Philomusus Adeane sonn of John Adeane was baptised the 31st of July Ano Dom 1572.”

No record appears in the Fetcham registers of his marriage but we find from the entries that he had four daughters and three sons. The surname is shown variously as Adeane and Deane. The children were:—

“Anne Adeane daughter of Philomusus Adeane was baptised the 8th of Aprill Anno 1593”;
John baptised 9th February 1594; Mary baptised 17th September 1597; Thomas baptised 8th August 1599; Elisabeth baptised 8th December 1601; James baptised 28th May 1604; Margaret baptised 12th April 1607.

Mary lived little more than eight months for she was buried 3rd June, 1598. Thomas was buried on 13th March, 1609, aged nine years.

We further learn that “Mary Deane wife of Philomusus Deane was buried 14th of Octo 1611” and “Philomusus Adeane was buried the 13th day of March 1612.” The latter, therefore, died at the early age of 40 and was survived by five of his seven children. Only one further reference is made to this branch of the Adeane family by the note of the burial of John Adeane on 21st June, 1620.

We know from other sources that the family had long been settled in the neighbourhood, the earliest known reference being to a Thomas Adeane in 1488. A Robert a Dene was the Pachenesham parish aletaster in 1524-25 and a John Adeane was a Fetcham churchwarden in the middle of the 16th century, and (or a person of the same name) was fined in 1588 for “selling his bear and not filling his vessel.” An Edward Deane was parish overseer *circa* 1600. Philomusus, himself, was a brewer and also owned a

tanyard. We know nothing of what happened to his orphans. The 1620 burial might have been that of the churchwarden, but, if so, he must have been extremely old.

Some of the general entries are very cryptic. Thus:—

"Father Bouth was buried the 8th July Ano 1599."

"Buck's wife was buried the 4th day of Octob 1611."

"Old Mother Lucas buried September 25th 1630."

Further early entries of interest include:—

"Thomas the sonne of Thomas Downe and Ursula his wife was baptised ye 3rd of March 1632, ye first child yt was baptised in ye new font."

"Mary Pinner ye daughter of William Pinner alias Marshall and wife baptised ye 25th day of February 1626" (the first example of an alias).

The following is the first mention of twins:—

"John and Margaret twin children of Simon Carpenter and Alice his wife was baptised the 20th daie of March 1638."

As the pages of the registers are turned many tragedies are revealed. For example:—

"Richard Neale his child was buried the 8th day of Maie 1609."

"Robert Neele sonne of Rich Neele was buried 24 May 1609."

"A child nursed at Richard Neeles was buried 7th of July 1609."

The entries differentiate between persons of substance and the humbler parishioners:—

"Mr. Henry Vincent was buried May ye fifth 1631."

"Anthony Rous Esquire was buried the 27th day of February 1631."



Fetcham Church (circa 1870) before the South aisle was built

During the Civil War, parish registers suffered in the general confusion of the Anglican Church and were for the first time regulated by Act of Parliament on 3rd January, 1644-45, a few days after the execution of Archbishop Laud. At the end of the first volume of the Fetcham registers is the memorandum "That this register is very defective especially during the unnatural rebellion begun in 1641 till the happy restoration of our Sacred Liberties in the year 1660." Further, on a page loosely inserted, is this remark:—

"On this note I ought in justice to remark that the memory of the Restoration was so powerful in the Revd Ministers mind that he forgot to enter in this register any marriages from 1660 to Sept 1685, nor more than 23 baptisms from 1660 to June 1683, many of those irregularly inserted and he omitted also any entry of burials from 1660 to Feby 1684/5."

To this note John Bolland (who was Rector of Fetcham from 1818 until 1834) added:—

"I believe the above remark was written by Dr Sherson, father of the late Rector Am. Kirk Sherson."

The system of parochial registration by clergy broke down during the Commonwealth and so, on 24th August, 1653, an Act was passed whereby the clergy were required to give up their books to laymen, who were called "Parish Registers." These new officials were to enter in the books all publication of banns, marriages, births and burials, with names and dates, and were empowered to charge a fee of 12s. for every certificate of banns or entry of marriage, and of 4d. for every entry of birth or burial. After 29th September, 1654, no marriage was to take place without the Register's certificate that he had published the banns on "three successive Lord's Days at the close of the Morning Exercise in the public meeting place called the church or chapel or (if the parties preferred it) in the nearest market place on three successive market days." It now became a common practice for marriages to be celebrated by the ministers and mayor jointly. The first entry in the Fetcham registers after the passing of the 1653 Act is as follows:—

"The purpos of marriage between William Seaman and Elisabeth Marshall both of this Parrish published March the 18th, the 25th, and April the 1st the say'd parties were married April the 14th 1655."

Then follows one similar entry in 1655 and two entries of marriage without mention of banns in 1658 and 1659. The next marriage does not occur until 1685 when the normal frequency is resumed.

At the restoration of the Monarchy the clergy recovered possession of the registers.

An Act passed in 1666 had as its purpose "the encouragement of the woollen manufacturers and the prevention of the exportation of moneys for the buying and importing of linen." This early example of trade protection enacted that after 25th March, 1667, no person should be "buried in any shirt, shift or sheet other than should be made of wooll onely." This Act was largely ignored and a more stringent one was passed in 1678 which obliged the clergy to make an entry in the register that an affidavit had been brought to them within eight days after burial certifying that the requirements of the law had been fulfilled. Thus the first entry of burial after the entries recommenced shows:—

"1684/5 Anne the wife of John Slydee was buried February 14th. Recd a certificate within eight days."

In some parishes the upper classes regarded the Act more as a tax to be paid than a law to be observed. But it was not until the third decade of the 18th century that a transgression (recorded in the second volume of the registers) occurred at Fetcham:—

"1730 May 9th Buried Arthur Moore Esq.—I give notice to the churchwardens yt I have received no affidt upon June ye 15th under my hand, William Western, Curate."

Two other entries are relative to this point:—

"Feb 5th 1750 Martha Monk Spinster Buried. Mem. I give notice to John Blundell Ch'warden that I have received no affidt for Martha Monk upon Feb. 19th. Under my hand Henry Warner, Rector."

"Feb. 7th 1752 Thomas Revell Esquire Buried in Linnen."

This law fell gradually into disuse long before the statutes of Charles II were finally repealed.

Returning to the 17th century entries in the first volume, a certain amount of detail is now shown which was not given previously, and this coincides with the appointment of Hugh Shortridge as rector (as to whom see these *Proceedings*, Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 17 and No. 4, p. 11). The marriages now show the parishes of the parties concerned, e.g.:—

"Thomas Edgar of the Parish of St Martins Ludgate in London and Anne Duie of the Parish of St Clements Danes were married Septemb. 4th 1690."

"1691 Joane the daughter of Elisabeth Smallbones of the Parish of Wakefield in the County of York was buried June 2nd. Recd a certificate within eight days."

The day of birth is shown in the baptisms from 1695 to 1699 and it is interesting to note the practice at that time of christening the infant within a few days of birth, e.g.:—

"Thomas the son of Thomas Downs and Sarah his wife Born the 13th Baptized February 14th 1695."

The Parliament of William III, however, made a novel use of the parish registers to replenish the exhausted exchequer. Amongst the taxes "for carrying on the war with France with vigour" a graduated scale of duties was imposed in 1694 for five years upon marriage, births and burials. This was very unpopular and allowed to expire, but the registration of births was generally discontinued and not renewed until the new system was established in 1838.

Before leaving the first volume of the registers the following entries are quoted because of some unusual feature:—

"1686/7 Jane the wife of John Woodyer of Effingham being found dead in the highway in this Parish was buried Feb. 7th."

"1695 George Hager (who by the accidental firing of his pistoll was killed on his way marching through the Parish on the road with other soldiers) was buried August 26th."

(The war with France was being carried on at this period and possibly these troops were on their way to the coast.)

"1696/7 Henry Deane a Nurse Child of Willm Walker was buried Jan 25th."

"1696/7 A stranger who was found dead in a ditch in the common was buried Feb 28th."

"1698/9 Robert Moor junr who was killed by a barn falling upon him was buried Feb. 10th."

"Sept 8th 1705 Ed Gibbons accidentally killed by ye fall of Mr. Moore's wall was buried."

"Thomas Moss and Sarah Hill were married by a prov. licence Nov 12th 1706."

THE SECOND VOLUME

The second book of Fetcham registers is of large octavo size in parchment, bound in vellum and contains baptisms and burials from 1712 to 1812 and marriages from 1712 until the passing of Hardwick's Act in 1753. Recorded therein are 42 marriages, 738 baptisms and 637 burials. It is curious to note that of these 42 marriages no less than 15 instances involve both parties from other parishes. Further, no marriages are recorded between 1st November, 1741 and 19th May, 1747.

Interesting items noted as the pages are examined include:—

"1715 Richard the son of John Edmonds and Anne his wife was bapt. April ye 17th--
N.B. The parents were vagrants."

"1718 February 12th Baptized privately Thomas the son of George and Eliz Parslew."

"Thomas Parslew the son of Geo Parslew was buried Feb 12th, Recd an affidit."

"1720 Hugh Shortridge, Doctor of Divinity was Rector of this Parish thirty seven years, he dyed the 28th March and lyes buried at Great Bookham Church in the Chancel belonging to Slyfield House; his distemper was the gout, fatal to his family and which he laboured under many years. The poor lost in him a good Patron, his servants a good Master, and his friends a good friend—he was aged 68 years 3 months."

Those acquainted with the "Legends of Leatherhead" will remember the fictional story of the Indian Boy called Zebedee who was a servant of a Mr. Pluss, the lord of the manor of Fetcham and will be interested in the following references:—

"1720 September 24th Baptized Zebedee an Indian boy somewhat under twenty years old belonging to Arthur Moore Esq."

On a flyleaf in the register is mentioned the fact that he is to be known as Zebedee Lovemore. Other relative entries include:—

Burials.—"1733 April 25th Willm Lovemore infant."

"1745 July 26th Mary Dr of Zebedee Lovemore."

"1754 July 2nd William S of Zebedee and Mary Lovemore Distiller."

"1774 Mary W. of Zebedee Lovemore from Epsom Burial Fees 10/-."

"1782 Dec 15th Zebedee Lovemore from Leatherhead Burl fee £1.1.-."

In 1724 an entry reveals that:—

"William the son of Adam Hill, Clerk, and Elizabeth his wife daughter of Sir Thomas Cuddon late Chamberlain of London was born August the tenth about ten minutes after ten in the morning and baptized August 26th."

At the other end of the social scale is:—

"1729 March 9th Elizabeth ye daughter of a travelling woman born in the lane."

"1740 July 9 Buried the child of a travelling woman."

In 1747 the burial entries show the occupation or station of the deceased. One notes "labourer," "farmer," "bricklayer," "taylor," "thatcher," "miller," "grocer," "shoemaker," "servant," "gentlewoman," "gardener," "publican," "huntsman," "coachman," "parish-poor," and "life-guard-man."

In the entries of baptisms and burials one's attention is attracted by many evidences of family tragedy. It is sufficient to quote one example:—

Baptisms.—"1758 Feb 12 John the son of John and Sarah Longhurst, Blacksmith."

"1759 Oct 28 William the son of ditto."

"1761 Jun 28 Mary the daughter of ditto."

"1763 Jun 5 Ann the daughter of ditto."

"1764 Dec 30 Sarah the daughter of ditto."

"1766 Jan 19 Richard and Jane (twins) the son and daughter of John and Sarah Longhurst."

Burials. — "1765 Apl 20 Sarah the daughter of John and Sarah Longhurst."

"1766 Jan 26 Jane the daughter of ditto."

"1766 Jan 29 Richard the son of ditto."

"1766 Jun 19 John Longhurst."

"1767 Jul 23 Mary Longhurst a girl."

Thus, in the space of little more than two years, four children and the father were buried.

The practice of giving more than one name did not come into vogue until a comparatively late date and the first instance of multiple Christian names in the Fetcham registers is:—

"Baptised 1761 Decr 3, Dorothy Louisa the daughter of Edmund (and Martha) Waller."

Later, the village gives its name to a child:—

"Baptism 1772 Aug 2nd Wm Fetcham, son of Robt and Harriot Kirke from London."

The first example of three Christian names is:—

"Baptism 1786 Nov 2nd Georgiana Mary Anne daughter of the Honble Lord and Lady Kinnaird. Born Octr 25th preceding."

Towards the end of the 18th century the then rector, Rev. J. C. Knowles, who was also Vicar of Effingham, entered the age at death and certain other details in many of the burial entries:—

"1774 Sept 18th Francis Kettle late servant to Mr Dunford."

"1778 Feby 17th William Collier Horse Dealer."

"1780 Feby 4th William Tibbels accidentally killed."

"1783 Jany 5th James Martyr an ancient man and a pauper."

"1784 Jany 18th Thomas Wakefield a servant boy."

The Stamp Act of 1783 imposed a duty of 3d. on every entry in the parish register. The new tax fell lightly on the rich but pressed heavily on the poor and as the latter were unable to pay in many instances the clergy had a direct inducement to keep their good-will by making the registers defective. Paupers certainly appear in the Fetcham registers and one may conclude that the rectors there did their work conscientiously. There is a note in the registers "1783 Oct 1st Stamp Act commenced" and, subsequently, each year on October 1st an entry appears to the effect that the tax has been paid. Thus in 1788 "Paid tax so far to Mr. Wilson of Dorking."

An examination of 100 deaths between 1795 and 1812 reveals the following ages:—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	12
1 to 20	...	...	...	...	22
21 to 40	...	...	...	...	13
41 to 60	...	...	...	...	21
Over 60	...	...	...	...	32

It will be noted that over one third died before age 20.

Examples of longevity include:—

"1782 June 23rd Jane Daw aged 90."

"1783 Jany 5th James Martyr an ancient man and a pauper."

"1784 Novbr 25th John Port aged 84 a pauper."

"1786 March 12th Frances Kidwell a pauper aged 82."

"1800 Augt 31st Joseph Filewood aged 88 years."

"1803 Decr 20th Thomas Pethers (pauper) aged 81 years."

"1804 Feb 26th William Mills pauper aged 83 years."

"1809 Jany 1st John Rodgers a pauper aged 90 years."

The penalty of age often was poverty as is seen above, and in some cases ended in tragedy, e.g.:—

"1808 Jany 5th James Goibble, a pauper of Great Bookham who drowned himself, about 80 years."

Some of the descriptions are somewhat exaggerated, e.g.: "Burial 1789 March 22nd Simon Freeland, an ancient man." Checking with the Christenings shows his age was, in fact, about 74, which few would now regard as "ancient."

THE THIRD VOLUME

In 1753 Lord Hardwick's Marriage Act was passed and, with some small adjustment, remains in force to-day. It provided that all marriages were void unless they were solemnised by licence or banns in some church or chapel in which banns had heretofore been published. In 1754 a new register in the prescribed form was commenced in Fetcham. The new form of entry was not at first understood for, in 1757, Mr. Warner (the then rector) notes "the foregoing eight registers are transcribed from Thomas Lownd's Register Book, whose form of registering is very confused by the marriages and the Publication of Banns being blended together." Instead of a bald record that a marriage had taken place, the two parties of the marriage and the witnesses were required to sign the register. As a comment on the literacy of the day it is noticed that of 97 marriages registered between the years 1754 and 1805 no less than 93 of the 194 parties of the marriages were unable to sign their names and used a mark.

The foregoing registers contain no mention of briefs, but include a sprinkling of interesting points relating to parochial history. These mainly deal with alterations and additions made at the church, and a list of charges made for fees. There is included a lengthy and conjectural description of the Hawk's Hill Saxon burials by the Rev. Henry Warner, but many of his theories have been disproved by subsequent discoveries.

REGISTERS FOR 1812 ONWARDS

Separate registers were kept for baptisms, marriages and burials and, in the main, conform to the set pattern. They give a record of family fortunes but do not include any features which deserve mention within the scope of this article.

GENERALLY

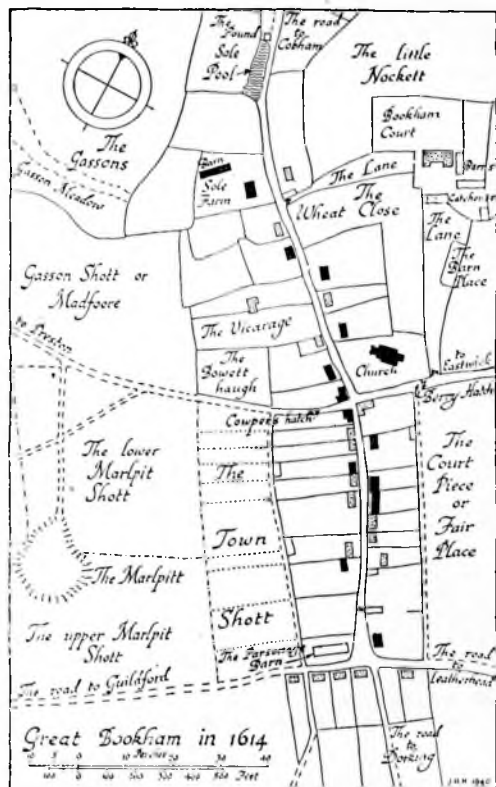
It will be seen the parish registers contain, as is usually the case, a rich mine of information regarding parish history. The registers, together with the vestry books, charity registers and information from other sources will form the basis on which the author hopes at a future date to compile the full story of the social structure of Fetcham Village from late medieval times onwards.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM

By JOHN HARVEY, F.S.A.

BOOKHAM is at the geographical centre of Surrey; the exact spot lies near Goldstone Farm. In shape the ancient parish was long and narrow, stretching from the ridge of the North Downs to the River Mole, a distance of 5½ miles, while its breadth is little over 1 mile. This shape had been reached in Saxon times, and remained essentially unaltered for at least 800 years.

Long before the village or its boundaries came into existence, the chalk uplands had been inhabited by Neolithic men, whose discarded arrowheads and implements of flint delight the gardener-antiquary. Little direct evidence for the Roman period in Bookham has been found, apart from an earthen pot of brass coins of the 3rd century A.D., turned up at Bagden Farm about 1716. It is only with the Anglo-Saxon period that we reach the threshold of history.



THE TOWN OF BOOKHAM, ADAPTED FROM THOMAS CLAY'S MAP.
Buildings which survive, wholly or in part, are shown solid black; other houses stippled; vanished barns and outbuildings in outline.

The early Teutonic colonists of the 5th and 6th centuries pushed up the river valleys and as the country became settled met other tribes on the watersheds. This process led to the formation of the hundreds, the early divisions of the county, with boundaries lying along the ridges and across infertile tracts. Central Surrey was included in the Hundreds of Copthorne and Effingham, with a single Moot (meeting-place) shared between them. In pagan times this may have been at Horsehead Cross in Fetcham,¹ but by the 13th century it had become fixed at Leith Pit, where the Lower Road crosses the boundary between Bookham and Fetcham, which is also that between the two joint hundreds. There the Hundred Court was held, and nearby was the gallows.

Investigation of place-names makes it possible to reconstruct something of the tribal history of the district, and shows the keen eye for natural features possessed by the Saxon settlers.² But it is not until the Christian period of the 7th century that documentary references are found. The Venerable Bede relates that Earconwald, who became Bishop of London in 674, had founded a monastery at "Ceortesei" by the Thames, and according to a charter whose original dated from about 675, the Bishop and Frithwald, viceroy of Surrey, granted to the Abbey 20 dwellings at "Bocham cum Effingham." Though this charter exists only in a later and spurious form, it is accepted that it preserves a genuine tradition. The grant was confirmed by four Saxon Kings: Offa in 787, Athelstan in 933, Edgar in 967, and Edward the Confessor in 1062.

Athelstan's coronation at Kingston in 925 is an historical landmark, when Surrey first appears as a district of national importance. The famous stone at Kingston was probably an actual boundary mark, symbolising the meeting-point of the four spheres of influence: Kent, Wessex, Mercia, and Middlesex. Surrey, which had been the "South region" of the Middle Saxons, became a part of Wessex by the end of the 7th century, and for this reason Bookham was historically always within the diocese of Winchester.

Bookham was one of a deliberately laid-out system of parishes which follow the northern slope of the Downs from Croydon to Guildford, taking advantage of the several sorts of land. Towards the high, southern end were beech-woods, which gave Bookham its name: the dwelling at the beech trees; at the opposite end, separated from the River Mole by rich water-meadows, was a forest of oak growing on the London clay. In between lay downland, much of it already ploughed, well drained by the chalk subsoil. An outcrop of Thanet sand marks the northern edge of this downland, and along this ran the accommodation road which linked village to village (the Lower Road). The main settlement (Great Bookham High Street) was laid out on a gravel bed which had silted up in Bookham Dean (i.e. valley). Wells sunk in the chalk provided a good water supply. The regular plots on each side of the straight street, and the corner site allocated to the church, show that Bookham is the outcome of deliberate town-planning.

The earliest surviving written description of Bookham is that made by the surveyors of William the Conqueror, who about 1086 compiled what has ever since been known as Domesday Book. The survey was an assessment for purposes of taxation, and omits much that we should like to know. But

¹ See *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. L (1949), 157-161.

² English Place-Name Society, Vol. XI (1934); *S.A.C.*, L, 161-4.

its precise particulars can be interpreted in the light of later history, and of the topography of the parish, or rather parishes, for it is in Domesday that the distinction between the two Bookhams first appears.

Among the properties of Chertsey Abbey is numbered "Bocheham," undoubtedly the later Manor of Great Bookham. In the time of Edward the Confessor (i.e. in 1065) this had been valued at 26 hides; but 20 years later it was reckoned at only 13 hides. In theory the township had been reckoned to consist of 26 free families and their dependents, each family supported on the produce of a hide of land, usually about 120 acres. On this assumption the area of the township would have been 3,110 acres; and, in actual fact, the area of the later Manor was very little more than this, about 3,170 acres. This remarkably close correspondence between theory and fact may be coincidence, or it may indicate (as is indeed suggested by the layout of parishes and of the village streets and plots) that a serious land-survey had already taken place in Saxon times.

The arable land of Great Bookham was sufficient for 19 ploughs, of which one was in demesne (i.e. worked directly for the Abbey), while 32 villeins and four bordars employed 18 ploughs. The villeins were not slaves, but tenants by local custom "bound to the soil"; each villein and his family would usually have arable land amounting to about 30 acres (a virgate or yardland, one-quarter of a hide), together with rights of common; the bordars were cottagers with small quantities of land, perhaps from 3 to 5 acres. There were also three serfs, who were actually bondmen of the Abbot. The only inhabitant mentioned by name is one Gunfrey, who held 1 hide in which he had a plough; he was a freeholder, unlike the villeins. The survey also mentions the existence of a church, of a mill (no doubt Slyfield Mill) worth 10s., and 6 acres of meadow, the valuable water-meadow alongside the Mole. The woodlands were worth 80 hogs, and another 30 hogs would be yielded from the herbage; these numbers of swine were those paid to the Abbot by the villeins for the right to run their pigs in the woodlands and over the fields after harvest. The usual rate of payment was one in seven, which would imply that the wastes of Bookham fed nearly 800 pigs. The survey concludes with the valuation of the manor: £16 in the time of King Edward, and in 1086, £15.

Separately, among the lands of laymen, another "Bocheham," Little Bookham, formed part of the fee of William de Braiose, who had sublet the manor to one Halsard; in the time of Earl Harold it had been held by Godtovi, and it was then assessed at 5 hides; at Domesday for only 2 hides. The land was sufficient for three ploughs, of which one was in demesne, working the "home farm" for Halsard. Three villeins and four bordars had one plough between them; this total of only two ploughs implies that the available land was not fully under cultivation. There were 4 acres of meadow, evidently at the lower end of the parish, and the lord received 11 hogs from the pannage of the woods and the herbage. In King Edward's time the manor had been worth 50s., but this had increased to 60s. by the time of the survey. The discrepancy between a lowered assessment and increased valuation is noteworthy; the former, according to J. H. Round, indicated a temporary reduction in liability conceded by the Conqueror to his companions; the latter seems to imply that Halsard's administration of the manor was progressive.

Domesday Book was not a census, and it is impossible to use its figures to provide a close estimate of the population, but allowing some five or six members to each household, one may suggest a total population for Great Bookham of some 200 to 250, and of Little Bookham about 40 or 50 souls. Gunfrey's free land in Bookham may have been the nucleus of the later subordinate manor of Eastwick; Halsard was almost certainly the ancestor of the Halsard family, who continued as immediate lords of Little Bookham until the end of the 13th century.

Little remains of the Bookham seen by the Domesday surveyors of 1086. The landscape has been utterly changed and only part of one building remains: two windows and a little walling from the early Norman church of Great Bookham. These windows were found in 1913 by the late Philip M. Johnston, above the later north arcade of the nave. This arcade was inserted in an existing wall, to avoid demolition. The church in its original form was about 50 ft. long by 20 ft. wide, and covered the nave of the present church from the Tower to the Chancel Arch; there may have been a small square or apsidal chancel to eastward. The coloured patterns on the reveals of the eastern window, even though they may not date from the 11th century, are the earliest work of decorative art so far found in Bookham.

In Norman times the church was served by a rector; Chertsey Abbey did not appropriate the advowson until 1292, when the old rectory became the vicarage. Thus from the 13th century, and very possibly from the 7th, the parsonage house of Bookham stood on the same ground that the "Old Rectory" does to-day. This house itself dates only from the early years of the 19th century; in 1933 it was sold by the church authorities, who bought the present rectory. Little Bookham Manor House (now Manorhouse School) probably stands on its Domesday site, but the old Manor House of Great Bookham, on a site close by Park View, has disappeared, and so has Slyfield Mill, which lasted into the 19th century. But we may feel sure that most of the plots on either side of the High Street have been inhabited sites for over 1,000 years.

Something of the aspect of the Bookham countryside in the 11th century can be pieced together from later sources, and though we must not picture a static village where nothing ever happened, the same essential features remained constant from the time of Domesday, and indeed earlier, until the close of the 18th century. The ancient parish fell into certain natural divisions, which provided the skeleton for its history. Starting at the north there was the river with the mill and water-meadows, behind which rose wooded slopes of heavy clay land continuing for over a mile. Part of the northern

slopes became enclosed as time went on, trees were cleared, and a little settlement of independent farms grew up, later known as "Northend" from its position in relation to the village.

Beyond these farms southwards stretched, and still stretches, the wild expanse of Bookham Common, in part thickly wooded. Across it ran a valley whose small stream was dammed to form a fish-pond. Further on the enclosures began again, alongside the lanes which led to the village and its hamlets, Eastwick and Preston. At the centre of the parish were church, manor-house and High Street. Gates or "hatches" shut off the streets of the village from the wandering cattle on the commons, and there were also hatches where hedged lanes led off the common land. Although the gates across the roads have disappeared, several still stand on the smaller lanes leading from Bookham and Ranmore Commons.

Around the houses of the village stretched the Common Arable Field, more than a square mile in extent, running up to the Polesden boundaries on the south, and filling the whole width of the parish between Fetcham on the east and Effingham on the west. The open fields of these parishes carried on in one unbroken sweep along the slope of the Downs. No fences or hedges broke the rolling sea of crops except where the groups of village plots stood out like islands, or peninsulas of uncleared woodland stretched out from the waste. This ploughland was on the chalk, which provided good drainage, so that the soil never became waterlogged. For this reason no vestiges can be traced of the old individual strips, which in the Midland counties may still be distinguished by their humped contours, showing as a series of tall and narrow reversed S-curves across the pastures. These ridge-and-furrow strips were produced by constant turning with the plough from each side towards the centre of the strip to drain the soil, while turning the plough-team at each furrow's end made the curved plan.¹

At the summit of the sloping field began the great beech-wood from which Boc-ham, the village by the beeches, took its name. Bocwode or Southwode, stretching across the valley to the further heights of Ranmore, must always have been an inviting forest beside which to dwell, and the enterprising Saxons Poll and Bacga left us their names attached to the sections of the valley, Poles-dene and Bag-dene, in which they made their homes. Polesden, indeed, seems to have been a name applied to the valley as a whole.²

For about 100 years after the compilation of Domesday Book hardly anything is heard of Bookham in documentary records, which are scanty indeed. Yet we know from the fabric of Great Bookham Church that it was considerably enlarged during the 12th century, a narrow aisle being first thrown out upon the south side about 1140, while some 50 years later there was a more extensive reconstruction. At the end of the reign of Henry II, or early in that of Richard Coeur-de-Lion, the Norman north wall of the nave was pierced with the early Gothic arches that still remain, and the foundations laid for a massive western tower. The bowl of the font probably belongs to this period, and it may originally have stood against the eastern face of the central pier of the north arcade, whose unusual plan is otherwise difficult to explain. These successive enlargements suggest both a growing population and increasing prosperity, while the method of building an arcade into an existing solid wall and then cutting away the old masonry from beneath the new arches after an aisle had been built proves a considerable degree of structural knowledge and ability on the part of the builders. Although the care of the nave was always the affair of the parishioners, they would doubtless have found it easy to engage a master mason of standing, through the good offices of the Abbot of Chertsey or his steward.

At Little Bookham the first church itself belongs to the years around 1100, and was perhaps endowed by the Halsard of Domesday. Hardly more than a manorial chapel at first, it was enlarged by the middle of the 12th century with a south aisle like that added at Great Bookham, and belonging to the same extremely narrow type, as has been shown by the recent excavations of Mrs. Blair. The promise of development in Little Bookham was not ultimately fulfilled, and this aisle later disappeared, presumably owing to the very small number of inhabitants, who neither needed the additional space, nor could afford its maintenance.

In the absence of written records of the period, a little information may be gleaned by examination of the early names applied to places and fields in Bookham, and which even though they are not found written down until the 13th or 14th centuries, certainly derived from the 12th century if not before it. A road system already existed, and as has been seen included the main north-south line of the High Street and the Lower Road crossing it at Great Bookham Church, as well as the highway from Leatherhead to Guildford running straight across the southern end of the High Street, for it was not until the 18th century that the awkward diversion was made to avoid the mansion of Bookham Grove. The roads and lanes leading southward across the Downs must have been of considerably greater importance than they are now, the Dorking Road being described as the King's Highway which leads to Dorking soon after 1200, while even earlier there is a mention of the way which leads to Dunley, undoubtedly referring to the ancient lane now represented by Townshot Close, which in the 12th century ran parallel to the High Street, crossed the Guildford Road just west of Bookham Grove, and bore off in a south-westerly direction through the open field, then over the hill just west of the manor house of Polesden, entered Ranmore Common at Trespass Hatch and ultimately joined the Old Drove Road

¹ See C. S. and C. S. Orwin: *The Open Fields* (1938).

² See *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. L (1949), 161-164.

on the ridge of the Downs on its way to Dunley Hill. The section of this lane which crossed the open field was known as White Way, no doubt from the chalky soil. Further west was Preston (now Chalkpit) Lane, worn deep into the ground along the boundary between Great and Little Bookham, and further east lay Elfare (now Crabtree) Lane, leading to the very early enclosed fields in Mickleham parish called Elfare, a corruption of Aylivehawe, the haw or close of Aethelgifu, a Saxon lady.

Next to Elfare on the Bookham side of the boundary lay the Vynye, later Vines and now Phoenix Farm, which got its name from growing grapevines. English wine, though sharp, was a normal product of the southern counties in Norman times. Other names certainly in use during the 12th century, and recorded from soon afterwards, were Blakemanneshacche (Blackmanshatch) at the southern end of the High Street, and Bocwode (Beechwood) for the heavily wooded part of Ranmore Common, from whose beeches the township took its name. Blaceman or Blackman is a known Old English personal name, indicating someone swarthy or possibly the village smith. The central area of the open field surrounding the village was divided into sections, shotts or furrows, each bearing its own name, and of these a number are undoubtedly very ancient. West of Great Bookham village and along the north side of the Lower Road lay Madfoore (Mead Furrow), and south of the road Earborne Hill, the sloping part of the field above the periodic spring of the "Ear" or gravel bourne. Between this and the Town Shott was Marlpit Shott, surrounding the great marl pit from which Bookham derived much of the chalk spread on its fields instead of fertilisers. South of the Guildford Road were Bookham Dean (valley), occupying the lowest dip of the Bookham Grove Estate, and on the higher ground next the Dorking Road, Goldstone, a mysterious name presumably deriving from a sacred or boundary stone long since lost. (Goldstone Farm has merely borrowed the name, and never included any part of the old field called Goldstone). South of these again were Whiteway Hill and Whiteway Bottom, along the old lane. East of Dorking Road, which near the village was Hole or Hollow Hedge Way (from running sunk between two hedges), lay Hollowhedge on the site of the Recreation Ground, with Hollowhedge Bottom in the dip beyond, bounded by Clerk's Hedge at the north end of Crabtree Lane. Much of the land north of the Lower Road belonged to the demesnes of the manor and was enclosed with permanent hedges. Perhaps the very earliest of these fields was that called The Bartons, just east of the churchyard, for its name actually means a demesne farm, and still earlier a threshing floor (*here* barley or corn; *tun*, a fenced or enclosed area).

(To be continued)

PEN SKETCHES OF OLD HOUSES IN THIS DISTRICT

By F. B. BENDER

4.—NORBURY PARK, MICKLEHAM

ONE of the greatest hindrances which exists to the study of local history in this part of Surrey is the disappearance of the bulk of the manor records of those properties held by the Stidolph family in the 16th and 17th centuries. For a time this family held the manors of Pachenesham in Leatherhead, Headley, and Mickleham with Norbury; and our only clue to the possible fate of these records is a chance remark by the county historians, Manning and Bray (ed. 1804 II.670), that a certain Leatherhead document "with other curious old deeds" was destroyed by the agent when Anthony Chapman purchased some of the Stidolph estates from the Tryon family in 1766. We can only hope that this act of vandalism was limited in scope, and that one day the Stidolph manor rolls will turn up, for then much which is now obscure may be clarified; but this *lacuna* will serve to explain why, in dealing with Norbury's history before 1766, I am obliged to draw largely from the county histories and have not much original information to impart, though anyone familiar with the best county history (Manning and Bray) may spare me a blessing for abstracting the meat from those somewhat weighty volumes. A good deal has been written during the present century about Norbury Park in the 18th century: but in this I have had my own share, and therefore feel less diffident in summarising it here.

At the time of the Norman Conquest, Norbury became part of the great Honour of Clare (an aggregation of properties given to Richard of Tonbridge, Lord of Clare, as a reward for his support of William the Conqueror; held in chief without claim by the king as final overlord), and in Domesday Survey it is noted as held of Richard by one Oswold, a conforming Saxon who had held it previously of Edward the Confessor. The next chief tenant of whom we have record was Odo de Dammartin in the 12th century; whose family continued to hold it until 1315, when William Husee held "the manor called Le North Bury" from Gilbert, Earl of Clare, by service of half a knight's fee, value £10 per annum. He was granted free warren there by Edward II, and in 1326 had licence for an oratory in his manor house. These personal favours suggest that Husee was actually resident in the manor house, and not an absentee landholder. We cannot be certain, of course, where the manor house of those days stood; but in 1774, when William Lock bought Norbury, he is stated to have pulled down part of the old mansion standing in meadows near the river Mole, and to have converted the remainder into a *ferme ornée*. The situation and condition of the house now known as The Priory, at Mickleham, suggests that it was originally the old manor house, and may even embody parts of the mediæval building.

The arrival of Husee at Norbury should be noted, for his descendants in the male or female line continued to hold the property until 1766. A span of 440 years in one family is no mean record, even for

mediaeval times. In 1425, William Wymeldon (who had married Isabel, daughter and heir of a later William Husee), enfeoffed the manor to trustees with remainder to his son Ralph. Ralph was dead in 1431, and the trustees conveyed the property to William Wymeldon, his son and heir. This William had a son and two daughters. John Wymeldon, the son, died without issue, and his sisters became co-heirs. Isabel, the elder sister, married Thomas Stidolph; and in 1499 partition of the Wymeldon estates took place by which Norbury passed to Stidolph and his wife.

The Stidolphs were a Kentish family, but from the time of this marriage they became of increasing importance as landowners in this part of Surrey, and by degrees accumulated large estates in Headley, Leatherhead, and Mickleham. It is not necessary here to recall each of the Stidolph generations which, for the next century and a half, reigned at Norbury. A quotation from John Evelyn's Diary (27th August, 1655) is worthwhile, however, to give a landscape impression of the scene at that time:—

"I went to Box-hill to see those rare natural bowers, cabinets, and shady walks in the box copses: hence we walk'd to Mickleham, and saw Sir F. Stidolph's seate environ'd with elme-trees and walnuts innumerable, and of which last he told us they receiv'd a considerable revenue. Here are such goodly walks and hills shaded with yew and box as render the place extremely agreeable, it seeming from these ever-greens to be summer all the winter."

If we remember that the age of walnut in furniture had then just begun we may understand the value of the trees. John Aubrey, writing in 1700, asserted that there were not less than 40,000 walnut trees in the vale of Mickleham; and the story of these groves is completed by James Dallaway the Leatherhead historian, who, writing in 1821, tells us that they were planted in avenues between Thorncroft and Mickleham in the reign of Elizabeth I, and, having grown to full perfection, were cut down to supply the British Army with gun-stocks during the American War of Independence. By that time the age of walnut in furniture had given place to the age of mahogany, and such was perhaps the inevitable end of these trees; but should any United States subscriber to our *Proceedings*, wandering through an American museum, happen upon a captured British musket, he may reflect that he is looking at wood from trees which John Evelyn saw. We, here in Surrey, must console ourselves with a stripping of less than 200 years, a solitary survivor or orphan, standing between Weir Lodge bridge and The Priory, in the bend of the river.

Sir Francis Stidolph's son, Richard, was created a baronet by Charles II in 1660. He left no male issue, and his property was inherited by his two daughters: Frances, who married Lord Astley, and Margaret, who married Thomas Tryon. Margaret and her husband had a son James, whose seat was Bullwick, Northants; and this James Tryon had two sons, Charles and James. Charles inherited his grandmother's share of the Stidolph estates, and Lady Astley left her share to James, in her Will dated 9th July, 1691. In 1705, the brothers entered into an arrangement whereby James purchased Charles's share, and thus became owner of Norbury. James Tryon, in his Will of January 1722, left all his property to his nephew Charles Tryon, who in 1728, having married Lady Mary Ferrers, settled on her various lands including Norbury as a jointure; but subject to this, his Will of 1743 devised the same to his eldest son Charles. Lady Mary Tryon resided at Norbury until 1764, when she surrendered her life interest to her son Charles, to enable him to sell the property. Before he could do this, however, he had first to settle with a Mr. Sewallis Shirley in 1765, who seems to have represented the descent of that interest which had come down from the Honour of Clare, for in 1480 a William Shirley is mentioned as having had a similar claim. This would appear to have been an interesting survival of a feudal fief, most of which were abolished during the Commonwealth period.

Charles Tryon sold Norbury in 1766 to Anthony Chapman of London. There is no evidence that Chapman lived at Norbury—he seems to have been purely a land speculator. Though he is said to have been responsible for felling the walnut groves of the Mickleham vale, his ownership does not fit with the date of the American War, for he sold Norbury in 1774 to William Lock.

William Lock's occupation of Norbury not only forms the most interesting period of its history; it had the greatest effect on its landscape appearance as we see it to-day. Lock was much influenced by (if indeed he was not himself one of the instigators of) that radical change of taste which came about in the middle of the 18th century, the landscape section of which is generally associated with the name of Dr. William Gilpin, who coined the word *picturesque*. This was a revolt from the formal and stylistic treatments of the 17th and early 18th centuries, and in landscape it was founded upon a genuine observation of the natural contours of the land, which was treated in such a manner as to emphasise its best features. The overworked word *picturesque* meant, for Gilpin and Lock, that quality of landscape fit to make a picture and therefore artistically satisfying; to us this is so accepted a matter that we hardly give it thought, but it should be realised that at that time it was a new conception. This change of taste, later to be brought to final perfection by Humphrey Repton, had a most profound influence on the landscape of England, and through it on the national literature.

William Lock (he always spelt his name thus, though his son and other members of the family later added an *e*) was born in 1732, and was the natural son of William Lock (died 1761) thrice M.P. for Grimsby. It would appear that his father took a conscientious interest in this love child; for the first record which we have of him after birth is as a young man of 17 making the Grand Tour. In Venice, he met Richard Wilson, the artist, and this acquaintanceship ripened to friendship. They travelled together in leisurely fashion to Rome. It is said that during this journey Lock discovered Wilson's genius for landscape painting. If this was so, it alone entitles Lock to fame. It is a pity that the friendship did not last, perhaps owing to Wilson's known *gaucherie*, for Lock would have been an ideal patron for

Wilson, and Wilson much more suited for Lock's interest than Thomas Lawrence who later enjoyed it. During this Italian journey, also, Lock was associated with Charles Towneley, the archaeologist, in investigating the new discoveries at Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli. Little is known of him for the next ten years, but in 1761 his father died, leaving him a considerable fortune, and he became a very wealthy man according to the standards of those days. It is to his credit that he was not thereby tempted into some of the profligate habits of the time, and that throughout his life his standards seem to have been exemplary. His principal interest was in art and taste, and he soon established a reputation as the impeccable virtuoso. In January 1767, he married Frederica, daughter of Sir Luke Schaub, the diplomatist; and three sons were born of this marriage before Lock purchased Norbury in 1774 (William 1767; Charles 1770; and George 1771). Two daughters and another son were born after (Augusta 1775; Amelia 1777; and Frederic 1786).



During the first years of their marriage Lock and his wife spent a good deal of time abroad, and it appears that he bought Norbury whilst in Italy and commissioned Thomas Sandby, the architect (brother of Paul Sandby the artist) to design a new mansion house when in Rome. If this was so, it is probable that Lock had some previous knowledge of the estate and its situation, since it fitted so perfectly his disposition and tastes. The new mansion was built on the southern escarpment of the Norbury hill, affording magnificent views down the Mole valley, and was in the Palladian style, as may be expected of an owner of his background and predilections. Perhaps inspired by the frescoed walls which he had seen in Italian palaces, Lock decided that the walls of the drawing-room between the windows should be covered with landscapes, and he commissioned George Barrett the elder to do this for him. The figures were introduced by Giovanni Cipriani and the cattle by Sawrey Gilpin. The ceiling, simulating the sky as seen through a circular trellis, was painted by Pastorini. Barrett is said to have taken three years to complete his task. We reproduce a little water-colour drawing by him, showing the yew woods near the house. I like to think that the figure holding a walking-stick is that of William Lock.

A few years after coming to Norbury, Lock sold his town house in Portman Square, and thereafter Norbury was his only home. The fame of the house and its owner spread wide amongst the *cognoscenti*, until even such exacting critics as King George III and Dr. Samuel Johnson spoke with respect of William Lock.

We have no clue as to how Fanny Burney first came to know the Locks. She met Mrs. Lock in London in April 1784, and was invited to stay at Norbury as soon as she was able. It may be that her first visit was in August of that year, for she wrote from Norbury to Mrs. Piozzi on 10th August, and to Queeney Thrale on 11th September; and she was there again in October, staying until November. Soon after this Susan Burney, Fanny's sister, who had married Capt. Molesworth Phillips, an officer of marines who was with Capt. Cook when he was done to death on the beach at Hawaii, came to live at the house at the foot of Mickleham Street, opposite Weir Lodge bridge, and thereafter hardly a day passed without pleasant intercourse with the Lock family. In 1785, to please her father (Dr. Charles Burney, the musician) Fanny accepted a Court appointment as second Keeper of the Robes to the Queen; and her visits to Norbury came to an end for a while. But the place and the family were constantly in her thoughts and her diary, and when her sister Susan Phillips, during one of her daily

visits to Norbury, was brought to bed there of a boy, the matter was the subject of interested questioning by George III and his consort at Windsor. Two years later, when Fanny fell ill of a fever at Windsor, Mrs. Lock and Susan Phillips took turns to visit the Castle and nurse her back to health. It is from Susan Phillips' letters that we have an entertaining picture of life at Norbury and the visitors there during the next few years.

In September 1792, Susan wrote to Fanny: "We shall shortly, I believe, have a little colony of unfortunate (or rather fortunate since they are safe) French *noblesse* in our neighbourhood. Sunday evening Ravelly informed Mr. Lock that two or three families had joined to take Jenkinson's house, Juniper Hall, and that another family had taken a small house at Westhumble. . . . This house is taken by Mme. de Broglie, daughter of the Marechal who is in the army with the French princes, or rather wife to his son Victor." These *emigrés* appear mostly to have been of the Girondin party, which had lately lost power to the Jacobins; and amongst them were the Marquise de la Chatre, the Comte de Narbonne, the Duc de Montmorency, General Alexandre d'Arblay, and Mme. de Stael. A few later braved the Terror and went back to France to try to rescue part of their fortunes; and fresh ones arrived from abroad, amongst them M. de Talleyrand. It is natural that such gifted people should have soon become frequent and welcome guests of the Locks, even if the upright Mr. Lock seems never to have suspected the questionable basis of intimacy which existed between some of the refugees. That brilliant, yet rather worldly, woman Mme. de Stael, for example, appears to have been pursuing in adversity a love affair with Narbonne; and the rumour of this *liaison* had already reached Dr. Charles Burney when Fanny, released at last from her duties at Court, went to stay at Mickleham in February 1793. He decreed that Mme. de Stael was not fit company for his daughter. Susan Phillips, however, remained on friendly terms with the Frenchwoman, and when Mme. de Stael left England later in the year 1793, she wrote from Coppet in Switzerland, the well-known words which come as a tribute across the years to Lock and his house: "*Douce image de Norbury, venez me rappeler qu'une felicite vive et pure peut exister sur la terre.*"

Alexandre d'Arblay had aroused no such suspicions as had some of the others, and was much attached to Susan Phillips' little son, Norbury Phillips. Fanny could hardly help therefore being much in his company; and interest ripened to affection. They were married at Mickleham Church on 28th July, 1793. Dr. Burney was at first violently opposed to the marriage, but the Locks approved of it, and Mr. Lock's wedding present was a piece of land in his park, upon which they might eventually build a cottage for themselves. For the time being they went into rooms at Phoenix Farm, Bookham, where Fanny was busy with her new novel *Camilla*, for which her publisher had already promised a goodly sum. It was not long before a baby was expected, and perhaps this softened Dr. Burney's heart, for he visited them at Bookham in March 1794. The baby's arrival, however, seems to have changed their minds about their future abode; and it was now arranged that they should rent, with the option of future purchase, a field belonging to Mr. Lock in the Westhumble valley. One unhappiness marred this time; for in 1795, Captain Phillips and his wife Susan left Mickleham. In the following year *Camilla* was published and proved an instant success, reaping a rich harvest for Fanny, from the proceeds of which she built her cottage *Camilla Lacey*, completed in 1798. The first thing placed in the house was a portrait of "dearest Mr. Lock, our founder."

Susan Phillips died in January 1800, and thereafter our picture of the Locks and their Norbury begins to fade, since so much of it springs from the correspondence between the two sisters. Furthermore, in 1802, after the Treaty of Amiens, d'Arblay went back to Paris to try to recover his lost fortune, and Fanny followed him soon after. She was to spend many years in France, divided by Napoleon's lust for power from her beloved friends the Locks. As a footnote it is worthy of recall that, in 1815, she was present at a Paris *salon* attended by the Prince de Talleyrand, as he had become. It must have formed a curious contrast to her memories of his poverty stricken Juniper Hall days.

Charles Lock, William's second son, had married in 1795 Cecilia Ogilvie, daughter of the Duchess of Leinster by her second husband. Charles thus became brother-in-law to Lord Edward Fitzgerald, the Irish insurgent who died of wounds received in resisting arrest in 1798. Charles Lock subsequently became British Consul at Naples, but the interesting story of his quarrels there with Lord Nelson must not detain us here. He died at Constantinople in 1804.

George Lock, the third son, took holy orders and became rector of Mickleham at the early age of 24. His life with his wife and children was quiet and uneventful, and he seems to have inherited more of his father's character than his elder brothers.

William Lock the younger, the eldest son, appears always to have been a difficult and somewhat morose character. As a child he showed promise in the arts, but this does not seem to have matured. In 1801 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Constantine Jennings—"Dog" Jennings as he was known from having bought, in Italy, for a song, a now well-known classical marble statue of a dog. Elizabeth was one of the greatest beauties of her day, and she was on good terms with the tactless and vulgar Caroline, Princess of Wales. In spite of their intimacy with the King and Queen, old Mr. and Mrs. Lock seem to have made the Princess of Wales welcome at Norbury, and it was on the way to visit them in the autumn of 1806 that, riding in her barouche with Lady Sheffield and Miss Cholmondeley, the driver took the cross-roads at Leatherhead too narrowly and the carriage overturned. Miss Cholmondeley died almost immediately of her injuries.

William Lock the younger appears to have lived with his wife at Norbury until the death of his father, on October 5th, 1810. Sir Thomas Lawrence wrote in an obituary notice of the elder Lock, that he



Scene in Norbury Park from a water-colour drawing by George Barrett (1728-1784).

was "the most zealous protector of the Arts, and (out of the profession) perhaps their most enlightened and perfect judge." Joseph Farington noted that Lock left an estate worth £5,000 per annum.

The younger William Lock (who thereafter added an *e* to his name) left Norbury after his father's death, and went to live in Brighton and elsewhere; but old Mrs. Lock continued to live in the house which her husband had built. When, after the long war, Fanny d'Arblay returned to her native land and wished to dispose of her cottage Camilla, young William Locke treated her in somewhat cavalier fashion. From this time onwards he seems to have determined to sell Norbury and go abroad. He was unsuccessful in his endeavours to make a sale privately, and eventually had recourse to auction. In 1819 Norbury was sold thus to E. Fuller Maitland; and so ended a very brilliant chapter in the life of the estate. Before I pass on to its later history, I would like to recommend to my readers Miss Constance Hill's *Juniper Hall* (published in 1904) where, for the first time, the story of the French refugees at Mickleham was told—and very well told, too. In April 1934 I explored the history of Norbury in a slender article in *The Times*; and in 1940 (at an unfortunate time) the Duchess of Sermoneta (born Vittoria Colonna and great-granddaughter of William Locke the second) published *The Locks of Norbury*, which anyone who is interested in the place should read.

Fuller Maitland exchanged Norbury for another house, with H. P. Sperling. In 1848 Sperling sold Norbury to Thomas Grissell. Grissell's family sold it in 1890 to Leopold Salomons, who gained eternal gratitude as the donor of Box Hill to the National Trust. In 1930 it became known that Sir Edward Mountaine, the then owner of Norbury, was contemplating its sale to a speculative builder. If it was to be saved from development, and its character maintained, quick and bold action was needed. The hour found the man. The then Chairman of the County Council (now the Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede) went to Norbury accompanied by the Clerk of the Council, and with a cheque book in pocket; and in Mr. Lock's drawing-room, no doubt with his generous spirit looking on approvingly from the shadows, the County Council became owners of Norbury Park.

Although its history is that of a normal manor, with arable, pasture and woodland, there can be little doubt that some of Norbury's woods have never been entirely tamed by the hand of man, and that they are in fact primeval. The hill ridge from Fetcham Downs to Westhumble has an undefinable yet definite quality of mystery and romance—just the atmosphere in fact which must have attracted William Lock when he purchased the estate in 1774. It is not too much to say that to-day, 145 years after his death, there still lingers here the feeling of his love and care for Norbury, and of the good life which he made within its walls and in its superb surroundings.

(Consult: Manning & Bray. *History of Surrey*; Victoria County. *History of Surrey*; Dallaway. *Leatherhead*, 1821; Hill. *Juniper Hall*, 1904; Sermoneta. *The Locks of Norbury*, 1940).

I am indebted to Dr. Phyllis Topping for the following note:—

Norbury Park is one of the sites in the Mickleham Valley where the Green Hound's Tongue (*Cynoglossum germanicum*) grows. This species is now rare in England, but continues to grow in the Park where it was first recorded by Christopher Merrett in *Pinax Rerum Naturalium Britannicum* in 1666.

ASHTEAD AND ITS HISTORY—VI

By A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A.

Tudor and Elizabethan Ashtead (from 1400 to 1603 A.D.)

MOST of the many great historical events of this period can have produced little or no material change in the lives of the population of Ashtead. For them, as for their ancestors of the previous centuries, their various rural occupations continued to be their main concern.

A change that probably affected most of the inhabitants, however, took place in 1543, during the reign of Henry VIIIth, when the manor passed from private to royal ownership. It is worthy of consideration as to how this change came about.

The de Montforts and their descendants owned the manor from the 13th century (the exact date is unknown) until 1419 when, on the death of Baldwin de Freville*, it passed to a sister of his who had married a Sir Roger Aston. It remained with the Astons, passing from father to son and in 1526, on the death of Sir John Aston, it went to his son Sir Edward Aston who, after leaving the manor to various tenants, disposed of it in 1543 to the king in exchange for royal property in Stafford and Derby.

One may speculate as to the feelings of the people of Ashtead at this severing of the connection with the old de Montfort, Freville and Aston family! The surviving court rolls suggest that the manor was well administered during this period, and the number of occasions on which the tenants were excused the paying of fines or heriots, or on which these were reduced to merely nominal amounts, implies that the lord of the manor took a personal interest in his tenants and their welfare. This may not have been so after the death of Sir John Aston as the court rolls of this later period are badly kept and poorly written. They cease altogether for the period from 1546 to 1572.

It is still too early to say if new material will come to light of the Elizabethan period. Work on surviving documents is now in progress. For the following particulars, therefore, the writer has had to consult the standard authorities (Manning and Bray's *History of Surrey, Brayley and Britton and V.C.H.*).

In 1556, Queen Mary granted this manor to Ann, Duchess of Somerset. It evidently reverted to the Crown as in 1563 Queen Elizabeth granted it to the Earl of Arundel. From him it went eventually to his son Philip, Earl of Surrey, and then to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, reverting again to the Queen when the Duke was beheaded in 1572 for his part in a conspiracy. His son Philip, Earl of Arundel, petitioned the Queen and was granted the "site and demesne lands" of the manor which he sold to Lord Henry Seymour in 1582. Thus, the dwelling or manor-house and its lands became separated from the rest of the manor for a time, but were reunited later when in 1593 Edward Darcy and his wife Elizabeth obtained the dwelling, and in 1595 the Queen granted the manor to Elizabeth Darcy and her two sons for life. There was a lawsuit in 1601 when Henry Newdigate laid claim to the dwelling and demesne lands and it seems that he actually had possession of them for a time. However, Edward Darcy eventually prevailed as he was in possession of the manor-house in 1605 although James I had restored ownership of the property to the Arundels on his accession in 1603.

So much for the chequered history of the manor as regards its owners and occupants at this period. It certainly was not conducive to the smooth running of the property or the well-being of its population.

During the Elizabethan period there was a great increase in the number of merchants and successful tradesmen. They became wealthy and many, whose businesses were in London, acquired property, sometimes entire manors, in the home counties (e.g., Wennington Manor, Essex, which was owned by a London butcher in 1566). Others acquired land which they held as tenants of the lord of the manor, on which they erected dwellings of some pretension little inferior to the actual manor-houses themselves.

At Ashtead several such dwellings came into existence, apparently at this and later in the early Stuart period but their full story will not be known until work on documents has been carried out. The "Lawrence" map of 1638 suggests that some dwellings are likely to have originated in the previous century. Sale of the property formerly the Merton Priory's holding of "Little Ashtead" resulted in the erection by the new owners named Newdigate, of a dwelling on the site of the present "Ashtead Grange." This may have been the site of the actual dwelling of the "Prior's Farm" of pre-Reformation days. Nearby, on the land once known as "Taleworth's" close to where Harriotts Lane joins Ottways Lane, was a large dwelling (as shown by the symbols of the map referred to, which distinguishes the sizes of houses by the use of separate symbols) occupied by members of the Otway family which figures so largely at all periods, both as tenant-farmers and stewards of the manor.

Two other large dwellings existed, probably dating from this period, the one on the land then known as "Perry Croft" immediately opposite "Ashtead House" in Farm Lane and the other close to the site of "Ashtead Lodge" in Parker's Lane. The former of these later became the tenancy of John Pepys a

* Baldwin de Freville, only son of Sir Baldwin de Freville who died in 1401, died while still a minor in 1419, which explains the passing of the property to his sister Joyce.

cousin of the famous diarist Samuel Pepys. (This will be referred to later in the series.)

Two Elizabethan residents of Ashtead about whom we have some information were a John Brown and his wife Edith. Both were buried in Ashtead Church, where there is a brass inscription to their memory. From it and from certain documents we learn that John Brown was "Sergeant of the Queen's Wood Yard" and that in the thirty-third year of her reign, Queen Elizabeth granted him and his wife a house and land at Ashtead. The piece in question was known as "Blake's," presumably after an earlier occupant. The "Lawrence" map shows this to have consisted of just over four acres. It was situated where the present headmaster's house stands near the east entrance to the park. The whole "lay-out" of this area was altered when the park was formed in the 18th century and the separate holdings into which this land was previously divided were done away with.

Evidently this grant was made upon John Brown's retirement from royal service. His wife, who, according to the inscription, passed away in 1590, must have died soon after they came to Ashtead. The date of the death of "John Browne Esquier" is not recorded on the monument but an early (apparently 18th century) description of the brass (copied from a manuscript in the British Museum) shows that originally the inscription ended "which Edith deceased the first day of July 1590, and *himself* 1611."

Early in the 16th century, probably about A.D. 1520, when Sir John Aston was lord of the manor, the existing fine tower was added to the west end of the church. At the same time several new windows in the prevailing style of the period, commonly known as "perpendicular," were inserted in the place of those of earlier date. However, as in the next article of this series, the writer intends to deal at some length with the history of the church and the alterations to which it was subjected, he will close with a mention of the only other and well-known Elizabethan brass inscription to be found in this building. This (omitting the latin couplet) reads:—

"Under this stone lies Elizabeth, berefte of mortall life,
Christ's faithfull servant Fromound's child and Bodley's loving wife.
Died the 2nd March Anno. Dni, 1591."

The Parish Church of St. Giles

SOME mention of the Church has already been made in these articles, but somewhat disconnectedly, so that it may be opportune at this point to deal with it more fully, even though this involves a return to earlier periods.

The first mention of Ashtead Church, as far as is known, is in the "chartulary" of the Monastery of St. John the Baptist at Colchester, an early mediaeval copy of all the documents which were in the possession of that Abbey and concerned its history, or properties which it owned, from its foundation (by one "Eudo," steward to King William II) about the year 1100, onwards. One of the documents recorded in this chartulary, now in the keeping of Colchester Borough Council, is headed "The Testimony of William Giffard, Bishop (of Winchester, 1107-1129) concerning the Chapel of Estede" and, translated from the Latin, it reads: "William by the grace of God Bishop of Winchester to all faithful persons of the Church, greetings. Know ye that I, by the grace of God have dedicated the Church of Essestede, together with all customs pertaining to it, as a Chapel subject to the Church of Liered (Leatherhead) and I order that no priest shall presume to sing mass there without the permission of the priest of Liered, to whom that Chapel pertains, together with a virgate of land which Lawrence gave to it on dedication, and with all tithes of both lord and peasants. Farewell."

Thus we see that Ashtead Church was already in existence, and apparently as a church of equal status to Leatherhead Church, before this date (about 1120, the date when Eudo was buried at Colchester) when it became reduced to the status of a chapel subject to Leatherhead. Whether, as has been suggested, it was originally built in late Saxon times, or after the Norman Conquest, is still a matter of speculation, but, on balance, perhaps the latter is the more likely.*

Anyhow, it seems clear that it was through Eudo, William's "dapifer" or steward, that both Leatherhead and Ashtead Churches were granted to St. John's Abbey at Colchester. If only we knew something about the "Lawrence" who dedicated land† to the church, presumably at its foundation, we would be on surer ground.

At this early date, the church consisted of a small rectangular building, or, rather, of two rectangles, "nave" and "chancel," set end to end, and connected by a plain, arched opening. The windows, some of which were discovered, and destroyed, when the north wall of the nave was removed for the extensions of 1862, consisted of small, round-headed openings (formed of Roman tiles) with splayed sides, and set high up in the walls. There was no tower, but there may have been a bell affixed to the top of the west-end gable. The pitch, or slope, of the roof would have been much steeper than that of the present roof, and it was probably covered with thatch, or wooden "shingles." Though, for important buildings, they were employed occasionally as early as 1150, roof-tiles did not come into general use until the 13th century, and then only for churches, manor houses, and buildings of a similar standing.

* I must express my thanks to Mr. G. E. Smith, who has made a considerable study of this subject and has kindly assisted me with both notes and advice regarding the early history of Ashtead Church.

† It is quite possible that this is the same glebe land, adjoining Barnett Wood Lane, which the Church held down to recent times.



A document, in the same chartulary, and dated 1198, is from Godfrey, Bishop of Winchester, and it orders that the Abbey of St. John shall be paid annually, and in perpetuity, by "the hands of such as may be instituted by us as vicar of the same church of Estede" the sum of 21s. Ashtead church was still a Colchester advowson in the early 13th century, but by about 1300, the "de Maras" of Ashtead Manor had obtained the advowson and were presenting the rectors.

It is something of a puzzle why at Ashtead there should have been both a rector and a vicar, both of them being officiating priests, as the surviving mention of them shows. This arrangement lasted from 1302 (possibly earlier) until 1482, the vicar being presented by the rector and apparently occupying the parsonage which is shown on the map of 1638 as being at the southern end of Skinner's Lane, though at this date, the rector, Mr. Quennell, lived at a house on the present site of Ashtead Lodge Garden, in Parker's Lane.

The first rector of whom we have knowledge, Robert de Montfort, was instituted some time before 1282 and was here until 1319 when he was instituted to a living in Somerset. His name suggests that he was a relative of the de Montforts who, at this period, were Lords of Ashtead Manor. From October 1317, until he left Ashtead, there are eight entries concerning him in the register of John de Sandale, Bishop of Winchester, chiefly (as I am informed by Mr. Smith) concerning certain "non-payments" or other matters which brought him into conflict with the Bishop, and which may account for his eventual removal to Somerset.

Regarding the founding in 1261 by Mathew de Mara, who then held the manor, of a "chantry" for three chaplains to say masses for the soul of his father Henry, much has been written by the late H. E. Malden (in *Surrey Archl. Collections*, vol. II). There is no evidence for the existence of a separate "chantry chapel," and, in fact, a separate chapel was not a necessity in the establishment of such a "chantry." The one at Ashtead was clearly not properly endowed (i.e., with land) and so, quite apart from the money dissipated in the quarrels which arose over it (as described by Malden) it could not be maintained and had ceased by 1364, long before the final suppression of all such chantries in 1547.

Until the early 15th century, when the tower at the west end was built, successive alterations were not very extensive and consisted mainly of the insertion of new windows. The south doorway from the nave, and the font are of the same period as the tower and were probably provided by Sir Roger Aston.

(The present porch is modern, the south doorway having been blocked up until it was re-opened in 1862.)
The very drastic alterations of the last century have completely changed the character of the building and left little of the earlier structure visible. One can, however, be glad that (as occurred at Epsom, Dorking, and so many other places at this date) the entire structure was not demolished and rebuilt at this period.

Except for a silver-gilt paten, with hall-mark of 1710, the church plate is modern. An account of what the church possessed in 1549 has come down to us, in the inventory of this date, and seems worthy of quoting in conclusion.

“Asheted.

This inventory indentyd and mad the XViiith day of March in the thrd yere of the rayngne of our most Soverayne Lorde Edvard the vi by the grac of God Kynge of Englande, (etc.) of all and syngular the goodes ornamentes and jewelles belongyng unto the parochie church of Asheted in the Cownte of Surrey.

Inprimis: iii belles in the steple wyth theyr necessaries and ii lytyll brasen belles to cary before corses and ii silver chalices, parcellgylt, with silver patentes.

Item, iii coopes, one of nue damaske and the other ii owlde and rent.

Item, iiiii vestmentes wytheyr necessaries, one nue of satan of bryges and the other owlde and simple.

Item, iii surplices and one rotchet.

Item, xiii aulter clothes and ii lynen clothes to cover the fonte.

Item, one herse cloth of blacke bustion, and a care cloth of satan of brydges.

Item, viii towelles and iiiii stremers of lynyn and iii baner clothes of lynyn.

Item, one curten of lynyn to hang before the roode loft, and one lynyn vele with eyryn rynges.

Item, one canapi of red sylke and one of white sepres with a covereyng of red satan and the garlandes of lattyn, and a lattyn pyxt.

Item, a basyn, an ewer potte and holy water pott of lattyn, a lattyn senser.

Item, ii lattyn candelstyckes with v branches a pece, ii lattyn candilstickes for the hye alter and other ii lattyn candilstickes for the other altors, and one grete standyng lattyn candelsticke and a holy water pott of led.

Item, a brasyn pan and ii yern broches and one kercher, iii corpus.”

(Then follow the names of the witnesses, including “Robert Powell, prest, Roger Hamonde and Thon Cooke, church wardens.”)

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Account for the Year ended 30th September, 1954

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.		<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
To Balances at 30.9.53 ---					By Printing and Duplicating	20	16	6
General	£41	15	5		„ Postages, Stationery and Sundry Disbursements ...	6	10	4
Library Fund	18	1	2		„ Subscriptions and Affiliation Fees---			
„ Subscriptions---				59	Surrey Record Society	£1	0	0
161 at 7/6d. (including £1 17s. 6d. received in 1953)	60	7	6		South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies	12	6	
16 at 1/- (Junior Members)	16	0			Council for the Promotion of Field Studies	1	1	0
„ Subscriptions in arrear for 1953				61	„ Visits: Payments	37	10	11
„ Subscriptions in advance for 1955 (10 at 7/6d.; 1 at 1/-; 5/- on account)	4	1	0		Receipts	34	9	1
„ Sale of Society's "Proceedings"	5	1	6		„ Balance at Banks---			
„ Donations	3	4	8		Library Fund	18	1	2
„ Interest on Bank Account	1	9	0		General	84	7	11
				£135		102	9	1
				11 3				
						£135	11	3
						11 3		

Library Fund

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.		<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	18	1	2		By Balance carried forward (there have been no purchases during the year)	18	1	2
				£18				
				1 2				
						£18	1	2
						1 2		

Note.—The accounts do not include items for the value of archives, equipment and library.

S. E. D. FORTESCUE, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct.

J. G. W. LEWARNE, *Hon. Auditor.*



Taxus baccata

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