

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



VOL. 1

No. 9

1955

## OCCASIONAL NOTES

**AN 18th Century Mark of Servitude Found in Leatherhead.**—During repairs carried out in 1923/1924 to the old cottages in Mansion Alley, Church Street, Leatherhead, the object illustrated as colophon was found concealed behind wooden skirting in one of the rooms; and it has lately been handed to me for identification by Mr. Herbert Reeves, who lived at The Mansion for a number of years.

It is an iron ring, with an inside diameter of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches; the exterior surface of the ring being flat, the interior convex. At one side of its diameter the ring is hinged, the hinge projecting on the outer side, so that the interior is smooth. On the opposite side the ring is secured by a barrel lock,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, brazed to projecting lips forged out from the exterior surface of the ring. The ring separates at one end of this lock when it is unfastened, so that the unfastened ring has at one end a flat stub from which projects a fastening screw, and on the other end the barrel into which the screw is secured. In order to unlock the barrel screw a special double-ended key is provided. The end of this key, which has two projecting tines, is inserted first, to unscrew and remove a plug having on it a wormed screw. The key is then reversed and the other end of it inserted. The action of this is first a right-turning screw until it reaches a point where it grips the retaining screw of the lock, when the action is reversed to unfasten and expel the screw on the left-hand portion of the ring from the barrel on the right-hand portion. These actions are, of course, reversed for locking the ring.\* On the surface of the ring, just below the plug-hole of the barrel lock, is stamped the word **HARD**, while on the other side, near the hinge, appears the number "4." The key bears the number "2" just below the plug-releasing tines.

Another example of such a ring is illustrated in *Country Life*, 23rd February, 1956, page 344, where a correspondent to that journal states it to be a slave ring, such as was used where negro boys and girls were owned as servants in large houses. It has been suggested, on the other hand, that the present object might be a handcuff for securing the wrists of a prisoner behind his back; but experiment shows that the ring is not large enough to hold two wrists together, and is too large for one.

The general appearance of the ring is also that of a date subsequent to Lord Mansfield's famous judgment of 1772, which laid down that a coloured slave setting foot in Britain became *ipso facto* a free man; by which date slavery had, in any case, become unfashionable in England. The ring has certain characteristics of objects made in quantity for the Government, possibly by one of the early industrialists such as Mathew Boulton. It is difficult to attribute even an approximate date to it, but it would be fair to suggest that it was made some time between 1780 and 1810.

Its exact use must remain a matter of speculation, but it may well have been the mark of servitude which was worn around the upper arm or leg of a convict; and the word **HARD** stamped upon it may afford a clue in that connection, for The Hard at Portsmouth was the place alongside which the convict hulks were moored. How then, it may be asked, should such an object come to be concealed in a cottage in Leatherhead? The solution of this which I offer is purely speculative, but is perhaps worth offering. To begin with, any convict wearing the official badge of servitude would, if he escaped, be a marked man as long as he wore it. It would thus be a necessary preliminary to his escape that he should possess himself of the key and unlock the ring. But, having done so, he must then take care not to jettison the ring and key (indestructible objects) in any place where, being later found, they might afford a clue to the direction in which he had gone. It might well have been, therefore, some time before the convict was able to find someone who was ready to help him in this respect. The most usual route from Portsmouth to London in those days was the old road following the approximate line of Stane Street through Dorking and Leatherhead, and so any fugitive making for London may well have come this way.

For the purely factual part of this account I am much indebted to Mr. Norman Cook, F.S.A., of the Guildhall Museum, who examined the ring and made enquiries for me. F. B. BINGER.

**FETCHAM Parish Church.**—Attention is drawn to an excellent little booklet, *Fetcham Church Guide*, recently published. This is the work of our member Mr. J. G. W. Lewarne and should be in the hands of all who live in Fetcham or worship in that church: indeed, it is of interest to all our members wherever they may be. This scholarly account of a church which has, in various forms, occupied the same site for some 1,000 years, is a model for others; clearly showing its author's enthusiasm and revealing much of the wide and original research which has resulted in its compilation. A. T. R.

\* A similar lock is fitted to a pair of handcuffs now in Guildford Museum.

## Ninth Annual General Meeting

*Held at the Council Offices, Leatherhead, on 16th November, 1955*

**T**HE report of the Executive Committee for 1954/1955 (a summary of which is given in "Secretarial Notes") and the Accounts to 30th September, 1955, reproduced elsewhere in this issue, were duly adopted as presented. The members of the Committee and the Hon. Auditor were re-elected *en bloc*. A general discussion followed on a number of points raised by members. On a suggestion for two "outside district" visits instead of one in the summer, the meeting was in favour: on a discussion relative to the threatened demolitions in Church Street it was explained that the Society did, in fact, make all possible protests where the building or site was of sufficient historic interest to justify its action. Other suggestions for photographic records of buildings likely to be destroyed; for re-registration by members of their Group interests; for further liaison with the Urban District Council; and for a special celebration for the Society's Tenth Annual General Meeting, were noted for consideration and action.

At the conclusion of formal business, the members listened with interest to a talk with lantern slides on "Coins and the Local Historian," given by Dr. J. P. C. Kent, Ph.D., M.A., of the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum.

**PROCEEDINGS**  
of the  
**Leatherhead and District Local History Society**  
**Vol. 1, No 9**  
**1955**

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**OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR**  
**1955-56**

- 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. BENGER  
 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 requests for information (including a record number of inquiries for names for roads and even for houses), applications for lecturers, etc., indicate that interest in the Society's work is well maintained and continues to keep your officers fully occupied. Much work is required "behind the scenes" in meeting these requests, in maintaining the activities of the Society, in dealing with applications for membership and the despatch of circulars, action in respect of development threats and many other items not obviously apparent in the absence of opportunities for exciting fieldwork.

Membership has been fully maintained, but the much hoped for real increase has not yet materialised.

The following lectures and visits were arranged and took place during the year:

- 1954
- 18th November (At the Annual General Meeting.) A talk on "The Post-Glacial History of the British Flora," by Dr. M. P. Topping.
- 11th December A lantern lecture by Mr. J. H. Harvey, F.S.A., on "Thomas Clay's Survey of Great Bookham in 1615."
- 1955
- 25th January A talk by Mr. L. A. Edwards on "Inland Waterways," with special reference to Surrey waterways.
- 22nd February A talk on "The Howards of Ashted," by Captain A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A.
- 22nd March A lantern lecture by Mr. John Brooke on "Fungi."
- 30th April A visit to Polesden Lacy.
- 21st May A visit to Mickleham Church, conducted by the Rector of that parish, followed by a talk at Burford Bridge Hotel on "The Locks of Norbury and Fanny Burney," by Mr. F. B. Benger.
- 25th June A visit to Petworth, Sussex.
- 9th July A ramble on Ranmore Common, with talks by (1) Mr. W. H. E. Rivett on the geological features of that district, and (2) by Miss J. C. Brown on the local vegetation.
- 18th September A conducted tour of Epsom, its celebrated well and old buildings in the town, led by Mr. P. G. Shelley and Mr. R. S. Wells, C.B.E. Mr. Wells is particularly thanked for having so kindly conducted the party over his own house and explained its history and architectural features.

As was explained at the Annual General Meeting, a projected "dig" during 1955 fell through as further air photographs revealed that the site was of no interest. Unfortunately, no other site is at present in view, but members will appreciate that sites cannot be made to order. No opportunity for fieldwork for Groups B and C arose, but it is expected that Group C will find more work available during 1956.

It is much regretted that the issue of the *Proceedings* was again delayed, but this was entirely due to difficulties with the printers.

The Society's Library has, since its establishment at the County Library, been much more patronised by members, and your Committee hope that this feature of the Society's services will increase in interest and utility. Miss A. Skinner resigned as Hon. Librarian to the Society on leaving her post at the County Library. Mr. J. C. Williams, who succeeded her there, has kindly accepted the position of Hon. Librarian to the Society.

The Accounts to 30th September, 1955 (printed elsewhere in this issue), show that the balance in hand is £108 0s. 10d., an increase of some £5 10s. 0d. over the previous year. Again, the Accounts do not show the receipt of the Surrey County Council grant of £15 (for 1955—since received) nor the cost (not ascertained at the time of writing) of the 1955 *Proceedings*. The net result will, once more, be—at the best—a bare meeting of expenses from receipts and, possibly, a loss.

Members are urged to do their utmost to secure additional members in order that a more stable and satisfactory financial position may be attained. In this time of ever-rising prices, your Committee are most anxious to avoid, if possible, any increase in the annual subscription.

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.

Indexing of additions to the Society's archives is in progress.

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

**F**ETCHAM. Work on the records of this parish continues steadily and energetically, but much of it must be spread over several years and it is difficult to point to many items or tasks that can be said to be completed at any time. Among these few, the Fetcham Enclosure Award and the Tithes Apportionments have been copied and examined and the Churchyard Plan has been finished. Many tasks initiated in earlier years continue.

**Leatherhead.** The accumulation of material relating to the leading Leatherhead families of the 16th and 17th centuries has been almost completed. The families of Skeet, Rogers, Godman, Gardiner and Sands dominated the scene for several generations and thus impart a certain unity to this period of local history. Information has also been gathered about the Bludworth family, about which even *The Victoria County History* is confused; and a start has been made with the Daltons. In several instances interesting links with national history have been discovered.

During the year the welcome news was given that a number of missing Court Rolls and Rentals of Pachenesham Manor had come to light. These covered, roughly, the 1330s; one of the early 15th century and most of the 16th and 17th centuries. They have been deposited at the County Record Office, Kingston-on-Thames. Those previous to A.D. 1500 have been studied and throw some light on the later period of the manor after the manor house had been destroyed. These facts have been incorporated into the monograph prepared by your hon. secretary on the history of the early manor and will be published in due course.

The documents since that date are being studied by Mr. F. Bastian who, meanwhile, records that in 1588 and also in 1599 a certain George Vargis was chosen as Constable for Leatherhead. This name is also found near West Horsley, alternative spellings including "Vergis," "Varges" and "Verges." Mr. Bastian ventures on the speculation whether Dogberry's headborough in *Much Ado About Nothing* was named after this individual. As a basis for this contemplation, Mr. Bastian points out that, while the exact date of this play is uncertain, the conclusion of Grace R. Treney, who edited it for the Arden *Shakespeare*, is that it was "probably written between the composition of *Henry V* and *As You Like It* in the latter part of the year 1599," and wonders whether William Shakespeare had occasion to visit Edmund Tylney, Her Majesty's Master of Revels and Masques, at the Mansion, Leatherhead, in connection with *Henry V* and thus by some means met the Constable to immortalise him (or at least his name) in his next play.

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

**T**HE first two of the proposed series of maps of the Leatherhead area have been prepared and No. 1 appears elsewhere in this issue with the first of some short articles by your hon. secretary on the picture of the district as disclosed by the maps. The final drawing of the maps for publication has been done by Mr. H. L. Meed.

## REPORT OF GROUP "C": Photography

There is no special item of interest to record during 1955.

## REPORT OF GROUP "D": Archaeology

### A REPORT

*on the Investigation of the moated site in "GREATLEE WOOD," Effingham (1952-1953) identified as that of the Manor House of "EFFINGHAM-LA-LEIGH" MANOR—of early mediaeval date.*

by A. T. RUBY, M.B.E.  
A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A.

### Introduction

THE following report has been compiled jointly by Mr. A. T. Ruby and myself. Mr. Ruby, who was in charge of work at the site for both seasons, having written that part dealing with the actual excavations, while I have written the remainder, and prepared the drawings of the pottery and small finds. The photographs for the plate illustrations taken at the site were the work of Mr. E. J. Blake and, owing to the trees and undergrowth on the site affecting the light, were taken with difficulty.

The report is divided into the following four sections:—

1. Notes on the History of the Manor.
2. Report on the Excavations.
3. The Small Finds.
4. The Pottery.

A. W. G. LOWTHER.

### 1.—Notes on the History of the Manor

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

THE following extract from Manning and Bray's *History of Surrey* (Vol. 2, pages 710 and 711) is, in default of any deeper research into the history of this manor which may yet be undertaken, worthy of recording here.

"The Manor of Le Lye, Ley or Legh, appears to be that which is mentioned in *Domesday* to be held by Oswald. Oswald de la Lega (Legh), in presence of William Giffard, Bishop of Winchester, granted to Hugh Abbot of Chertsey all the tithes of his Lordship, of his land de la Lega, and of Effingham; witness God and his Angels. These were afterwards confirmed to the Abbey by Bishop Giffard, and being after that granted by Abbot John de Rutherwyk and the Convent to the Priory of Merton, the grant was confirmed by Henry Wodelok, Bishop of Winchester, they paying yearly to the Abbot of Chertsey 50s. They are here said to have belonged formerly to Philip de la Lega (*Chart. Chertsey Abbey in Exchequer*, pages 30-35). [Date of this 'deal in tithes' between Chertsey and Merton (at a convention) was 23rd July, 1308—A.W.G.L.]

". . . Edward I. Nicholas de Newenham held of William de la Lye the fourth part of a Knight's fee here by the service of 6d. homage and suit to his Court de la Ley, and paying 10s. towards every scutage of 40s. (*Edw. I, Rot. 5, 6*). Perhaps this Nicholas was the same as Nicholas le Gros who had a grant of free warren here in 13 Edw. I, 1285 (*Cart. 13, Edw. I, n.12*).

"5 Edward II, 1312. Walter de Geddinge held this manor jointly with Maud or Matilda, his wife, and died leaving her surviving, and leaving Thomas, his son and heir (*Esch. 5, Edw. II, n.60*). Walter was Sheriff in 31 Edward I, 1302; in 1304 he had a grant of free warren here (*Cart. 33, Edw. I, n.74*). In 1307 he again was Sheriff. He is buried in the Church. (See monumental inscription No. 1).

"10 Edward II, 1317. Thomas de Geddinge died seised of the third part of a curtilage in Effingham, held of the Earl of Gloucester by 4d. a year, and other lands paying 5s. 5½d. and doing suit to his Court at Est Court. He also held 40 acres at Polesden, of the Manor of la Legh, which was in the hands of Matilda de Geddinge; and he held two acres of wood and 29 acres at la Place in Effingham, of the same Manor. He also held of Peter le . . . at la Place, a hall, chamber, granary, and dove-house, by the service of 1d. The Jury found that Walter, son of Walter de Geddinge, the brother of Thomas, was the heir apparent of Thomas, aged 24, but that the wife of Thomas was pregnant as it was said, and near her time, and she had married after the death of Thomas (not saying to whom) (Esch. 10 Edw. II, n. 42). We hear no more of this family.

"2 Edward III, 1329. William de Bohun had a grant of free warren to him and his heirs in Effingham la Legh (Cart. 2, Edw. III, n.60). In the 8th of that reign, William de la Legh, son and heir of William de la Legh of Hertynge in Sussex, had lands in Effingham.

"The *Magna Britannia* mentions the ruins of an antient seat belonging to the family of At Lee of this place, overgrown with bushes. In the upper part of the Parish is a house still (1810) called 'Lee House'; and in the lower part is a wood called 'Lee Wood,' in which is a moat nearly square, inclosing something more than an acre of land, now overgrown with copse, wood, and trees. The house and woods belong to Mr. Brockholes' estate (Inform. Rev. W. Farley, Vicar.)

"This manor was sold by John Legh, Esq., to Henry VIII (probably in his 35th year, when he sold Paddington to him; see page 141. It was granted by Edward VI to William Lord Howard, as mentioned under the Manor of Effingham, and has been absorbed in and passed with that, ever since."

The inscribed brass plate of Walter de Geddinges in Effingham Church is described by Major Heales in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. IX; notes made by him in 1884. In 1914, Mill Stephenson (*Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. XXVIII) could read only five of the words it had become so worn and damaged.

It appears to have read originally:—

✠ VA(L)TER : DE : GEDDINGGES : GIST :  
 ICI : D(I)EV : A : SA : ALME :  
 FA(I)CE : MERCI.

Apparently, too, it may refer either to Walter who died in 1312, or to his son of this name, and who may have died about 1330. It seems, however, in view of the father's importance (having on three occasions been Sheriff of the County) more likely that the brass formed part of his tomb and dates to 1312.

From the foregoing, it appears fairly certain that the de Geddinge (or de Geddinges) family were the first actual occupants of our moated manor-house site of whom we have any record, and that they were there as tenants of the de la Leghs. It is, however, possible that Nicholas le Gros, who was granted free warren here in 1284, was the tenant of the demesne at this earlier date and this may be capable of proof or disproof.

However, if, after the death of the brothers Thomas and Walter de la Legh, William de Bohun was the final tenant to reside here, it would accord fairly well with the date of the latest pottery which the excavations have produced, since the latter appears to be of the mid-14th century. This is the very latest to which it can be dated and a slightly earlier terminal date is perhaps (by comparison with the pottery from The Mounts) more probable. In this case it may well be that the site was never again occupied after the death of the last of the de Geddinges, and sometime between 1320 and 1330 it was finally abandoned.

Even at its best, a manor house on such a site, surrounded by wet and water-logged land for much of the year, can never have been a healthy one, and this, as well as increasing ideas of comfort as regards manor houses in the 14th century, must have had much to do with the final abandonment of dwellings of this type.

## 2.—Report on the Excavations—1952 & 1953

By A. T. RUBY, M.B.E.

THESE excavations were carried out by members of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society and of the Surrey Archaeological Society and with the welcome help of one or two other volunteers. The work, in 1952, was preceded by a contour survey of the site made by members of Group "B" of the Leatherhead Society under Mr. Foster Elliott, and again with other voluntary help. Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. A. E. Murrells, owner of the site, for having granted permission for the excavations to be carried out.

The objective of the work was limited to ascertaining the value of the site, its date, and what (if anything) of structural or datable value might be found there. This aim can be said to have been attained, and it is clear that the site is rich in interest and is one which requires, and merits, full excavation—one carried out on a larger scale than is at present possible. The brief period which could be devoted to the work (eight days in 1952, and only week-end work in the summer of 1953) while adequate for a trial excavation was not enough for anything more extensive (such as the two months' continuous work that were needed to deal with the area within the moated area at The Mounts in 1949, quite apart from that in the two previous seasons). It is hoped that a full season can be arranged in the not too distant future when there is little doubt that results of considerable interest and archaeological importance will be obtained from this site.

### THE SITE

The earthwork is situated in a wood (Greatlee Wood) to the west of the road from Effingham village to the railway (map ref. 10785488). It consists of a roughly square area, an acre in extent, surrounded by a moat, now of varying width. It is thickly covered by young trees, oak, birch, hazel, etc., but large trees have at the present time all been removed. The comparative absence of undergrowth made a welcome change from the work at The Mounts, which we carried out in previous years. The subsoil consists of clay with "rafts" of sand and patches of a mixture of the two near the surface. The whole area is damp and waterlogged during much of the year, and, apart from reasons of "defence," it is difficult to understand why it was chosen for a dwelling site.

The site plan (Fig. 3) shows, by an irregular solid line, the contour of the edge of the area inside the moat, the contour bending back by the causeway on the south side to the outer banks of the moat. This central area does not vary in height by more than 1 foot, except at the two south corners where the dotted lines indicate areas between 2 and 3 feet higher than the contours. This extra height might be due to successive clearing out of the moat on various occasions. In the north corner of the site is a large depression (now a pond) dropping some 18 inches to the edge of the water in it. Possibly, as found at the Preston House site near Banstead by Mr. Hope-Taylor, this pond is an original feature of the site.

The edge of the water in the moat at the date of the survey is shown by the broken lines nearly surrounding the central area. This edge is some 3 feet below the contour line representing the perimeter of that area, and the outer bank climbs up again to a height above the water line varying from 7 feet on the south, to only 2 feet on the north. The high ground on the south, outside the moat, would suggest that the site was not chosen primarily for its defensive capabilities, unless, as at Preston House mentioned above, there was originally a separate defensive outwork, or tower, situated there.

The broken parallel straight lines show the situation of a "ride," or clearing, through the wood which, because of its open nature, was chosen for setting out the baseline of the initial survey.

The causeway interrupting the moat to the south may be the original entrance, or (if, as at The Mounts, entrance was by a bridge over the moat) made after the abandonment of the site and for the purpose of hauling timber, but this is purely conjectural. Eventually, search should be carried out for a metalled road or backway leading to the site, such as that which was found at The Mounts. The position of the trenches dug in 1952 and 1953 is indicated on Fig. 3.

### THE MOAT

The situation of the cut (trench 1) to be made through the moat was selected for a variety of



# FIG 2

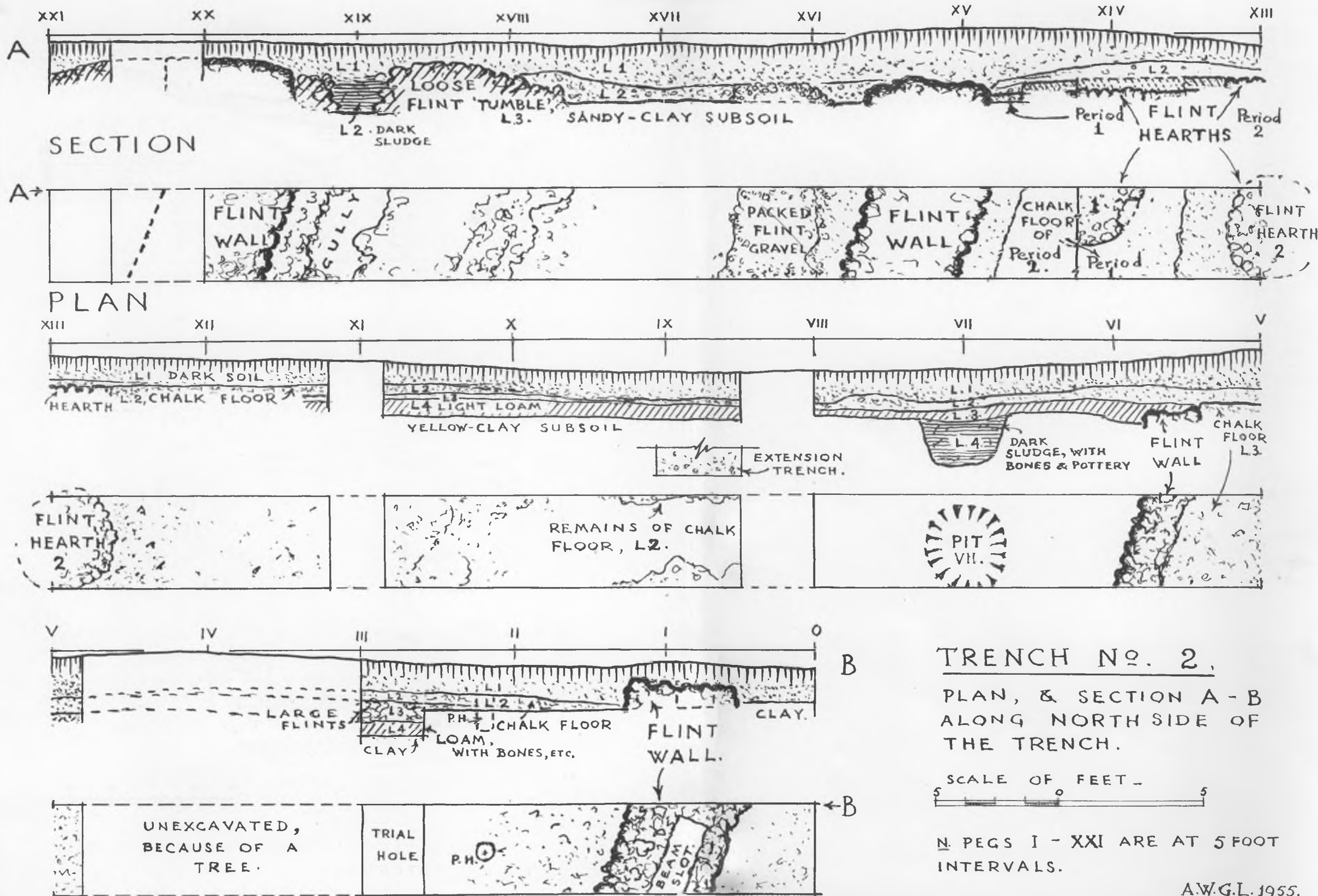


FIG 1

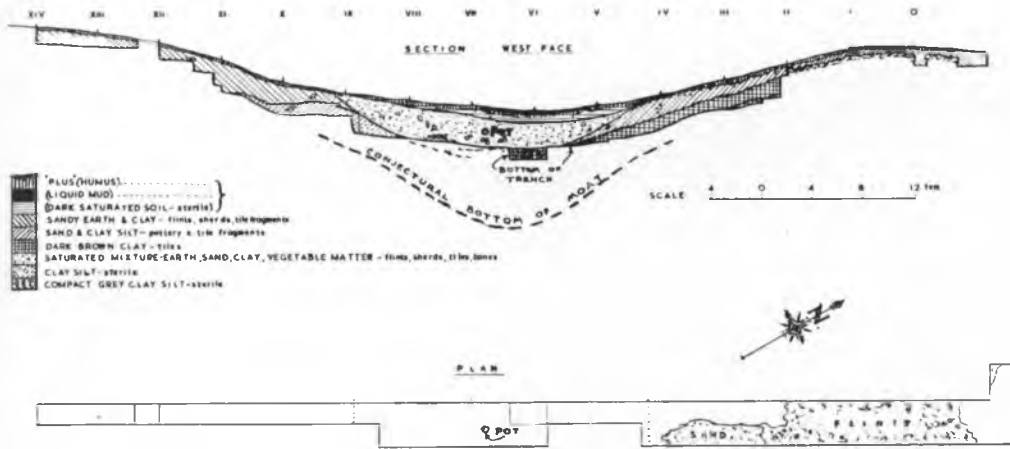
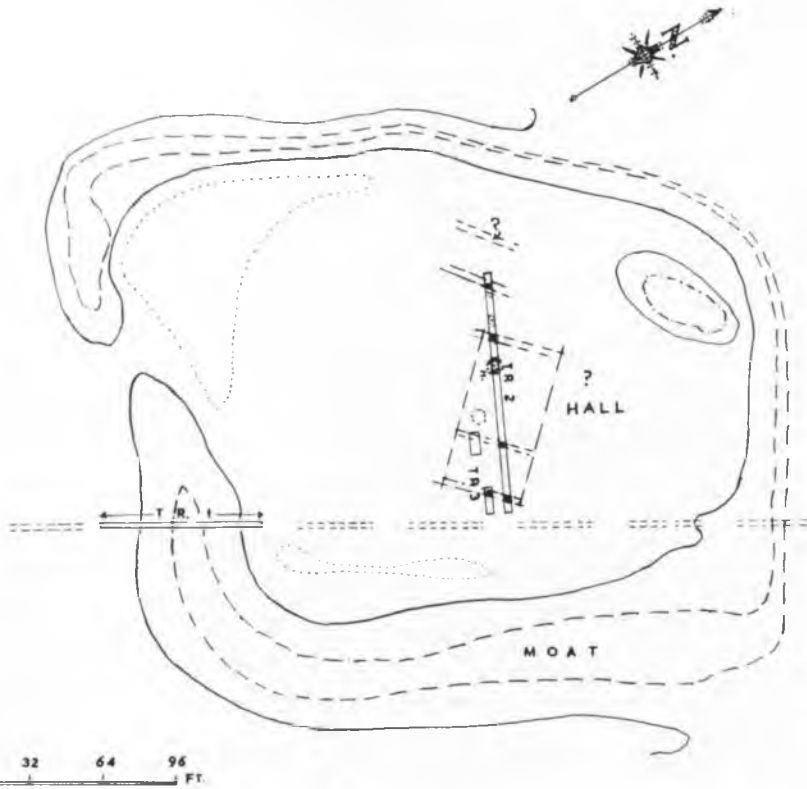


FIG 3



reasons. It was on the survey baseline, and therefore convenient for subsequent plotting: it was at a wide and fairly important looking part of the site (assuming the causeway to be, as suggested, an original feature) with the promise of more results than might be expected from the narrow parts: thirdly (and of most importance), when the work commenced it was actually free from surface water. Unfortunately, intermittent but heavy downpours during the course of the excavations delayed the work and, in the end (as the section, Fig. 1, shows), made it quite impossible to complete the section or discover the original depth of the moat. In the second season (1953) the trench, which had been left open, remained full of water throughout the year and work could not have been resumed there without the use of a pump. A view of the trench is shown on Plate I.

After marking out the trench, the first cut was made in the centre, and the second day's work produced a few fragments of 13th-century pottery and the remains of an almost complete cooking-pot (Plate VI and Fig. 1) with some pieces of animal bones that had apparently been inside it when thrown into the moat. This pot, from its form and ware, is attributable to a date late in the 13th century (*vide* report on the pottery). Some additional volunteer helpers then arrived, enabling the cut to be extended up both slopes. The centre was dug to a depth of 3 feet, the slope to between 2 and 3 feet (Section 1, Fig. 1). This work revealed a layer of thick grey clay, of an appearance and consistency which was uniform throughout the whole trench, sterile of finds, and characterised on both slopes by patches of loose grit, the so-termed "split-peas" of archaeologists. Close to reference peg 9, there was a sudden drop in this level, so sharp as to suggest it was not a natural occurrence. As will be seen from Fig. 1, there was a definite crescent-shaped area of very moist soil and vegetable matter which suggests that, after the sides of the original moat had partially collapsed, the centre may have been re-dug. This could account for the additional height of the inner area in the part of the site. The other levels excavated were of clay and sand in mixtures of varying proportions and clearly formed by a process of silting. By peg 3, a raft of sand was uncovered.

At the top of the inner bank an interesting discovery was that of an area of large flints extending 14 feet down into the moat. Possibly these flints once formed part of a parapet or containing wall round the inner edge of the moat (Plate I).<sup>1</sup> Although a few flints had obviously fallen from the outer bank, no similar flint-strewn area was found on that side of the moat, so far as the trench was carried in that direction.

### THE CENTRAL AREA

When work was resumed, in 1953, attention was turned to the central area, and trench 2 was set out as an exploratory trench to pass through the centre of the site, in a region which had been partially cleared of undergrowth for the purposes of the survey. Even so, it was not possible to avoid entirely the interruption of the line selected, since some large roots and tree stumps were present at points along it and would have taken up too much time to remove.

After marking out the proposed trench, 3 feet in width and extending for as far as seemed convenient, a start was made on the work. A slight rise in the ground, and some flints on the surface, had suggested possible structures underlying at one point, and work here was almost immediately rewarded by the discovery of a flint and mortar wall and of another similar wall nearby (Fig. 2—walls at pegs 15 and 1). The subsequent work throughout the length of the trench can best be described as a whole with reference to the trench plan and section (Fig. 2 reproduced in segments on account of its length).

The general sequence of the levels and their composition was: first the humus (unstratified topsoil, but with many shreds of pottery both in and upon it); level 1, a dark, brownish earth with chalk particles in it in places; level 2, a chalk, or chalk "cob," floor with, in places, an earlier chalk floor beneath it; level 4, a light sand and clay soil, except in pit 7 and the gully at peg 19 where level 4 consisted of a dark sludge or silt material; level 5, the natural subsoil, consisting in places of greyish sand or of a yellowish sandy clay and, elsewhere, of a yellow clay, free from sand.

Starting from the eastern end (peg 0) and proceeding westward, the features uncovered (Fig. 2) were: a wall of flints, some dressed, 2 feet wide and with a "beam slot" (apparently for a



PLATE I.  
SECTION OF MOAT (TRENCH 1) LOOKING SOUTH.  
FLINT 'SPILL' IN FOREGROUND



PLATE II.  
TRENCH 2 SHOWING RUBBISH PIT VII

sleeper beam) set nearer the outer side; a length of chalk "cob" floor (level 2) with a post-hole in it; at peg 3, beneath an area where the chalk floor had been built, a trial hole exposed a packed collection of flints, 9 inches to 10½ inches thick and resting on a layer (level 4) of loam containing pottery, charcoal and some bones, and resting immediately above the subsoil.

At this point, the trench was perforce interrupted by the presence of a tree, but the part beyond (peg 5 to peg 8) yielded most of the pottery found and also much building material. By peg 6 the remains of another flint wall came to light, and at peg 7, a small rubbish pit (termed pit 7) was found. It was some 18 inches deep and 24 to 30 inches in diameter (Plate II). This pit contained one or two flints, part of six or more large cooking pots of shell-gritted ware, and one sherd (part of the rim of a cooking-pot) of dark ware, without shell-grit, and some oyster shells. Just beyond the pit were a number of loose chalk blocks, in level 1, and, presumably, debris from some structure.

From this point as far as the next baulk, that at peg 11, the trench was taken down to the subsoil through a chalk-floor level (level 2) which, for most of its length, was at a depth of some 9 inches from the surface. Near peg 9, where the chalk ended, a short bay was cut at right-angles to the main trench in order to see whether a wall ran parallel to and just outside the main trench (as then seemed possible), but the cut in question disproved this and, at its northern end, a spread of tightly packed pebbles was found. No flints appeared in the main trench at this point, and the break in the chalk floor found here (as well as the chalk blocks at peg 8) showed that some "robbing" had taken place here at some date.

To return to the main trench—the area from peg 11 to peg 15 was of considerable interest. There was first a chalk "cob" floor, with a few flints embedded in it and, 7 feet farther along, a hearth of fire-cracked flints laid in concentric rings (Plate III) approximately 3 feet in diameter and on the same level as the floor. (Cf. the similar but larger, 6 feet diameter, hearths at The Mounts.) The floor terminated abruptly some 18 inches beyond the hearth, and excavation disclosed another smooth level chalk floor at a depth 6 inches lower down, and thus of an earlier period. The chalk floor on the higher level showed, on examination, that it was composed of some four distinct layers with a line of charcoal between each, as though it had been laid down in separate "spreads" (a wet mixture of earth and chalk, and each dried by wood or charcoal fires before the next layer was spread upon it. Alternatively, these layers could have been formed by successive renewal of the floor, from time to time, with new materials. Large chalk blocks just beyond are to be seen in the right foreground of Plate IV. Plate III shows the upper hearth in the centre and set in the "period 2" laminated, chalk cob, floor; the earlier, and lower, chalk floor appearing in the left foreground.

Beyond the cut carried down to the lower chalk floor, there was a thin continuance of the upper floor on the same level as before and, on being cut away, it was found to cover a lower hearth of fire-cracked flints, contemporary with the lower floor.

The western limits of the lower floor were not determined, but, about 1 foot from peg 15, it had disappeared as was shown by a trial hole taken down to the natural subsoil. The base of another wall at this point, of large flints set in mortar, has a width of 3 feet 6 inches, but it is possible that part of this width was due to outward "spread" of the remaining few courses of flints. Further work to determine the width of the foundations by cutting through it was not considered desirable at this early stage in the excavation.

The western edge of this wall was established by a cut, carried down to the subsoil, but 2 feet farther on there was a level ledge, 2 feet wide, of packed small flints, quite easily distinguished from the debris of the wall itself. This ledge, 9 inches from the surface, ended abruptly and the next eight feet of the trench contained no special features as far almost as peg 18. The section at this point implies another area of disturbance. At peg 20 the base of yet another flint wall was found, the upper surface, after a width of 2 feet, falling to a level some 7 or 8 inches lower. A layer of flints and debris adjoining this wall was spread over an area extending as far eastwards as beyond peg 18. For 12 inches each side of peg 19 this spread was interrupted, and here appeared what seems to have been a "gully," or "gutters," cut into the layer of flint rubble and (like a similar feature at The Mounts) probably designed to receive rain water from the roof, and situated at the foot of an outer wall.



At peg 20, the trench was again interrupted for 3 feet through the presence of a large tree stump, but traces of the wall were still present at the final peg, No. 21. (Plate IV gives a general view, looking eastwards, from peg 18.)

### TRENCH 3

For such time as remained available, short lengths of trench were dug at two convenient points parallel to trench 2 and at its eastern end. These, designated "trench 3," show remains of a wall in line with that at peg 1, with disturbed ground outside it, and traces of chalk floor inside. The more easterly section was not completed, but, apart from further traces of a chalk floor, it was filled with building debris and bore much evidence of post-occupational "robbing."

### BUILDING MATERIALS

Apart from a few tile fragments from under the flint debris at peg 21, all tiles and dressed stones found occurred east of peg 8 (trench 3, between pegs 5 and 7 had a particularly large quantity of broken roof tiles) and one helper succeeded in finding here one complete roof tile—an object which had failed to turn up at The Mounts in the four seasons' work there, and despite the many cart-loads of broken roof tiles uncovered there. [This tile, slightly convex, is of a brown colour and coarse texture, and measures  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $10\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The two irregular-shaped holes for the pegs (or oak "pins") to hang them on the battens, are  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches apart and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches from one end of the tile.]

Dressed blocks, or pieces of blocks, of "Reigate sandstone," showing tooling or axe marks, were found both in the wall at places and loose in the debris. A considerable number of iron nails, of varying sizes, turned up, including the 2-inch headless "spikes" used for securing the battens to the rafters. One nail,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches long, rectangular in cross-section, and with a flat round head, is in an almost perfect state of preservation, apparently through accidental preservative treatment due to its having been in a fire.

(The pottery from the excavation is, like the few small finds, described further on.)

### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The site has clearly been occupied from at least the late 12th to the early 14th century. The *Victoria County History* (Surrey, Vol. 3) records that the manor of Effingham la Leigh (one of three Effingham manors) was alleged Chertsey Abbey property as early as A.D. 675; that it descended with Effingham Place Court (another of the three manors and at one time the Lord High Admiral's property) to Lawrence Downe who died seised of it in 1478<sup>2</sup>; that after that date there is no trace of it as a separate manor and it apparently became amalgamated with Effingham Place Court: that the moated enclosure in Lee Wood is probably the site of the old manor house of La Leigh.

The period of the manor extended as above from A.D. 675 to 1478, but this does not, of course, mean that there was necessarily a manor house in existence over the same period, nor that it was always on the same site. The finds to date do not suggest any such extended occupation. Indeed, they would more nearly accord with the disuse of it soon after 1320 when, according to *V.C.H. (op. cit.)* John de la Leigh "released all his right in the manor of La Leigh to Master John Walewayn, apparently with remainder (as in Effingham Place Court) to Wm. de Bohun."

The few fragments of Roman bricks, tiles and pottery found do not suggest any pre-Conquest occupation of the site. They may well have been brought from the Roman site found by Mr. Sheppard Frere at Chatley Farm, Cobham,<sup>3</sup> which is only some three miles or so distant, in the same way as Roman tiles from Ashted Common found their way to The Mounts.

With only one trench excavated, it would be idle to speculate to any extent on the actual size, shape or type of the manor house. It does seem clear, however, that extensions and reconstructions took place from time to time during its existence. The outermost walls of flint are 100 feet apart, a much greater span than at The Mounts, but it is possible that the wall at peg 15 was the western end, which would give a more reasonable length of 70 feet. The long

<sup>1</sup> For similar feature, cf. excavations at Northolt *Archaeological Newsletter*, Vol. 4, No. 7, page 111.

<sup>2</sup> *Chanc. Inqns. P.M.*, 18 Edw. IV, No. 14.

<sup>3</sup> *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. 50, page 73.

stretch of chalk "cob" floor in the centre indicates that it was not a case of there being two buildings side by side in this area. The great chalk blocks suggest interior walls or partitions, and there is little doubt that a complete excavation, if undertaken, would disclose a medieval manor house plan of considerable interest.

The use of tiles for the roof-covering is to be noted. The hearth at peg 13, which is similar in appearance to the late 13th-century hearths at The Mounts, will be worth watching when further excavations take place, to see if it is as near to an outside wall as were the two hearths of Sir Eustace de Hache at that site.

### 3.—The Small Finds

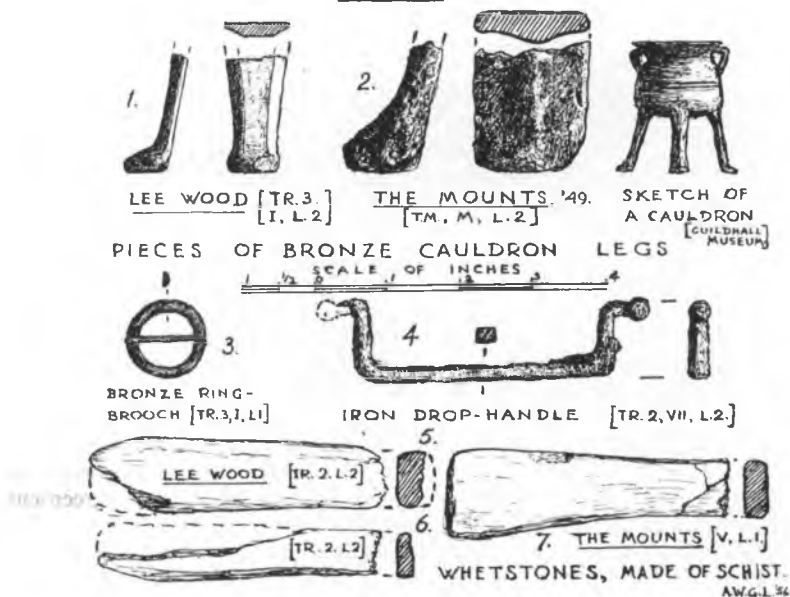
By A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A.

AS at The Mounts, and unlike most Roman sites excavated, few objects of the type termed "small finds" came to light during the excavations. Apart from such items as nails (both the ordinary type with flat round heads and headless "spikes" for securing laths, of which many were found) or staples, which had been employed in the construction of the buildings on the site, only the five objects here described were found.

1. Broken foot from the leg of a cast-bronze cauldron, such as the one figured here which is in the Guildhall Museum, and was found in London, in Water Lane. A similar, but larger and more roughly made foot, No. 2, was found in the excavations at The Mounts. Both are probably of a date about 1280-1300, but there is too little known about mediaeval bronze cauldrons to arrive at any closer date.

3. Bronze "ring-brooch," complete with pin. A common mediaeval type, it, like the last-mentioned objects, cannot be dated closely, but the following about them is quoted from the London Museum's Mediaeval Catalogue, page 274: "The plainer forms of circular brooch, consisting simply of a ring of metal and a transverse pin, had a more varied use. They are most frequently represented as worn at the throat; where the blunt pin passed through two prepared slits and fastened the opening of the undergarment, a usage identical with that of the more elaborate decorated brooches. Plain circular brooches worn in this way can be seen on the sculptured figures of the 12th-century doorway at Valcabrière (Haute Garonne), and in the 13th-century representations are very common, e.g., on the sculptures of Wells Cathedral, circa 1235-

**FIG 4**





1240; . . . on effigy No. 10 in the Temple Church, London, 1250-1275. In the 14th century the undergarment is not ordinarily visible at the neck, but the use of these brooches continued as before. Two were found in Oxford, associated with burials of White Friars, whose house was founded in 1318."

4. Iron drop-handle, of rectangular section, and with plain knob terminals. No parallels have been found by the writer, but the type, as part of the furniture of a drawer (or chest of drawers?), is often found at Roman sites; e.g., the similar handles, but of bronze, found at the excavations at Richborough (Second Report, Plate XV, Fig. 1, and Third Report, Plate XII, Fig. 1).

5 and 6. Whetstones of micaceous schist, and, 7, a similar one from The Mounts. On whetstones of this material and their assignment to Norman times, the London Museum's Mediaeval Catalogue records, page 293: "In the Museum are a number of hones of micaceous schist that are almost certainly early mediaeval (12th century). Hones of this material are absent from prehistoric and Roman deposits in this country, but have been found at a number of sites of the Norman period, but not later, in south-eastern England. The stone is foreign to the south of England, but extensive deposits are found in Brittany, and hones of the local schist have been found at a few early mediaeval sites in France. See G. C. Dunning in *Proceedings of the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society*, Vol. II (1937), page 682.

The two specimens from Lee Wood were both found with pottery of probable 13th century date, but, as both are well worn from use, as well as being broken, they are likely to have remained in use for a considerable period, as do their more modern counterparts at the present day.

#### 4.—The Pottery

Report by A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A.

**SUMMARY:** As with the pottery found at the Pachesham site, the Lee Wood pottery falls into three main classes, viz.: 1. Shell-gritted ware (heavily gritted with pounded oyster shell); 2. Hard, sandy ware, very similar to some Roman coarse ware; and, 3. Glazed ware, both early, "patchy"-glazed vessels and, later, well-glazed ware of a very hard red or brown-red clay.

These three general types do not, in themselves, belong to separate periods, or assist one in arriving at the date of the individual vessels concerned, though the varieties within each group, which have to be studied separately, belong to distinct makes which can be identified by both the ware (white sandy ware, hard red ware, etc.) and differing types of vessel for which it was employed.

Thus, at the same date as the earliest coarse, shell-gritted cooking-pots (of about A.D. 1200) were in use at The Mounts, vessels made of a thin hard ware, vastly superior to the shell-gritted pots, were being used and the two kinds were found together in stratified layers of the earliest occupation. It is clear that these large and fairly brittle shell-gritted pots were made locally. Not only, owing to their size (though some few found were fairly small) and brittleness, could they not have been brought from afar, but they are surfaced with red-ochre, a material (in its yellow, unburnt, state) present in the local clay. The other types of pottery were, however, clearly imported from a variety of different sites as the widely varying types of clay of which they are made indicates.

Owing to the smaller extent of the work at Lee Wood compared with that carried out at The Mounts, a much smaller quantity of pottery was found at the former site and only a small proportion of it was found in sealed or stratified levels. The only small pit (apparently filled with rubbish, rather than having, as that at The Mounts, been made expressly as a receptacle for the kitchen refuse) was that, termed pit 7, in trench 2. The ruins of shell-gritted pots found in it are all of early type, as shown by comparison with those from the extreme bottom of the large rubbish pit, of *circa* A.D. 1200, at The Mounts, with which they are in very close agreement, both as regards shape and ware.

A point that is noteworthy regarding the earliest shell-grit pots from both sites is that, though identical as regards rim-section (e.g., Nos. 2, 3 and 4, which are exactly the same as one



## A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY—Pt. II

By JOHN HARVEY, F.S.A.

WHILE Bookham had made great progress in the 12th century, still evidenced by the structures of the two churches, the 13th saw the achievement of an urban status hardly warranted by the facts, and unequalled in later times. For, on the 15th June, 1243, Henry III granted to Abbot Alan of Chertsey and the convent there the right to hold a market at their manor of "Bocham" every week on Tuesday, and a fair for two days every year on the eve and day of Michaelmas. The annual fair had dwindled to one of a single day on Michaelmas by 1548, and died out soon after 1792; the weekly market cannot be traced in later records, and it is likely that it soon fell out of use. But the fact that it was ever granted proves that Bookham, under the rule of the abbots, had made great advances in prosperity at the very time that Leatherhead was declining from its ancient status as the county town.<sup>1</sup> This is confirmed by Bookham's network of roads already described, and certainly in full use at the time.

The earliest of the Bookham charters copied into the Chertsey Cartulary<sup>2</sup> is of the time of Abbot Martin (1197-1206) and records a grant to William "chaplain" of Bookham of 1 acre of land which Gilbert le Huchier held and on which the said William has built his houses, and 22 acres next Polesden Wood on the left-hand of the road which leads to Dunleye. The witnesses to this grant, made at Chertsey, were not local men, but the next deed, granted by Abbot Adam (1207-1223) is witnessed by a whole series of parish chaplains including "E. chaplain of Bocham" (presumably Edward). In this charter, John Saracen of Bookham and his wife, Beatrice, daughter of Roger de Esse (Ash), obtained 5 acres which had belonged to Therric the bailiff, and the messuage which Robert, son of Gonnilde, had held of the abbot in the township of Bookham, to be held by rent of 2s. 6d. In the 15th century these lands belonged to Edmund Shaa, trustee for John Norbury who had acquired the Polesden estate in 1470 from Thomas Slyfield.

The early history of the main Slyfield estate, at the north end of Bookham, is obscure, but it may have been the half-hide of land "in Slifeld" disputed between Robert, son of John, and Adam de Aldham in 1207-1208.<sup>3</sup> Before the end of the century it was in the hands of William de Slifeld, a witness to local deeds as late as 1301,<sup>4</sup> and who may have been the son of Geoffrey and Alice de Slifeld, living in the district in 1262.<sup>5</sup>

Little Bookham continued in the family of Hansard, one William Hansard being mentioned in 1189 and another at several dates between 1210 and 1244. This William's sons, Sir John Hansard (died 1275) and James Hansard, and the latter's son, James (born 1245), held the lordship of Little Bookham from the Honor of Bramber as sub-tenants of the family of Braose until about 1300.

At the other end of the social scale, serfs were disposed of or mentioned by several of the deeds enrolled in the Chertsey Cartulary. Abbot Alan (1223-1261) acquired from Alda Bluet of Bookham the latter's bondman, Richard de la Watere, while Abbot John Medmenham (1261-1272) exchanged a certain "nativus," Ralph Blunt, "with his appurtenances in Great Bookham for ever" for two "nativi" or "villani" of Henry de Doune, namely Thomas de la Sale of Eastwich and Gilbert Broune of Preston. In 1292, Abbot Bartholomew de Winton granted to Peter atte Felde of Bookham a tenement once of Gilbert atte Felde, with a messuage and land which Robert and John, brothers of Peter, had held in bondage; Peter was to pay 6s. rent yearly. In this, and many other instances, substantial money rents were taking the place of services, long before the great pestilence of 1349. But earlier plagues may have had something to do with the growing freedom from servile status, for in 1292 the abbey was allowed to appropriate the revenues of the church of (Great) Bookham, void by the resignation of John de London, late rector, on condition of presenting a suitable vicar to perform the services: the reason given was that "the funds of the monastery have decreased in various ways, both by exactions and by pestilences and inundation of waters affecting the animals, flocks and other things."<sup>6</sup> Although a few labour services on the demesne lands survived after 1300, the essential change to a money economy had already taken place in 13th-century Bookham.

By about 1300, Chertsey Abbey no longer farmed Bookham by means of the labour services of serfs, in the way described in most books on the manorial system. This had given place to a

predominantly money economy, where even those of theoretically servile condition held their lands by a title almost as indefeasible as freehold. Though this tenure remained verbally "at the will of the lord" until the extinction of the manorial system in our own century, it already formed in 14th-century Bookham a title which could only be forfeited by gross negligence or waste committed in the tenement. This high status of the villein at Bookham was somewhat exceptional, though conditions were similar on the other manors of Chertsey Abbey.<sup>7</sup>

In another respect, Bookham played an unusual part in the development of the law of landholding. Whereas freeholds passed by law to the eldest son, manorial customs as to land held in villeinage (later copyhold) differed from place to place. The usual rule was for such land to pass to the youngest son (the so-called custom of Borough English); this was generally the case in Surrey, and remained so until 1339 in Bookham. But in that year the homage (villein tenants) of the manor of Great Bookham came in a body to the abbot's steward, Brother Richard de Dumbelton, and headed by Gilbert Leuwyne and Thomas atte Hacche, asked that the lord (the Abbot of Chertsey) should change the custom by which the youngest son of a serf inherited, into the national custom of primogeniture. The old custom, they said, was to the grave damage of the whole homage and tenants of the manor. Later in the same year, the same request was made by three other manors of Chertsey Abbey: Epsom, Sutton and Coulsdon. In each case the change in custom was granted, on payment by the tenants of each manor of 40s., a sum equal to quite £240 in the values of to-day. The whole homage of Bookham at the time consisted of some 40 to 50 tenants, so that, on the average, each was prepared to pay about £5 to £6 for the privilege.

This curious transaction is possibly the most outstanding occurrence in the whole history of Bookham, and requires some explanation. It is not obvious why the copyholder should benefit by the descent of his holding to his eldest rather than to his youngest son. Indeed, over a number of generations it would be to the financial disadvantage of the family, for in the same period there would be fewer descents to younger sons, and consequently fewer heriots and fines (death duties) would have to be paid. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that Bookham demanded the change on psychological grounds: the villeins felt that they should be on the same footing as freeholders, and were ready to pay in hard cash for the satisfaction of having their first-born as their heir, the same as the King or any peer of the realm. Other manors were at first eager to follow the fashion; but the fact that the remaining 11 manors of Chertsey Abbey never attempted to change the old custom suggests that on mature reflection it was seen that the advantages were illusory. It remains a striking fact that the inhabitants of Bookham in the early 14th century should have been the first in England, so far as we know, deliberately to bring the local rule of inheritance into line with the law of the land, a step not to be given universal application for another 600 years.

The high money rents and dues paid have already been mentioned. They varied greatly, and it is difficult to arrive at any clear picture of the value of houses and land. Normally each villein paid an annual rent and was also mulcted heavily upon inheriting, having to pay a "heriot" or death duty of the best beast on his land, and then a "fine" for admission to the tenement for his own lifetime. In addition to the heriot paid to the lord of the manor, the second-best beast had to be handed over as a "mortuary" due to the rector of the parish. It has here to be remembered that after 1292 the Abbot of Chertsey was both Lord and Rector of Great Bookham.

<sup>1</sup> See *Proceedings*, Leatherhead & District Local History Society, Vol. 1, No. 1 (1947), page 11.

<sup>2</sup> Public Record Office, E.164/25.

<sup>3</sup> *Curia Regis Rolls*, Vol. V, pages 119, 205, 273.

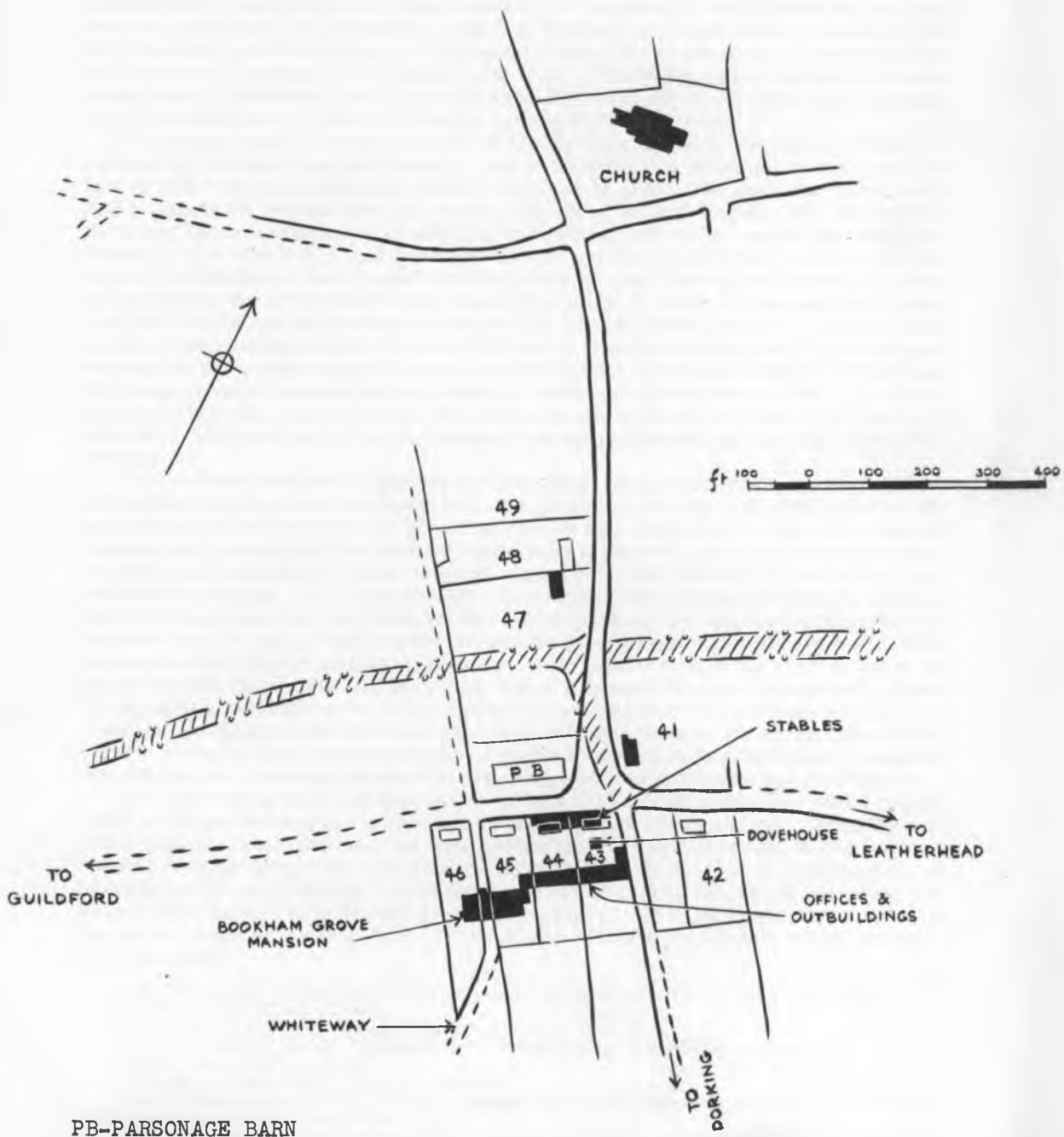
<sup>4</sup> Deed of Adam le Yunge, "Slyfield Chest," Surrey County Record Office, Kingston.

<sup>5</sup> *Surrey Fines* (1894), page 41.

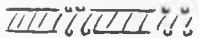
<sup>6</sup> *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1281-1292, page 493.

<sup>7</sup> See E. Toms, editor: *Chertsey Abbey Court Rolls Abstract*. Surrey Record Society, No. XXXVIII, 1937, pages xvi, xxix; also No. XLVIII, 1954.

<sup>8</sup> Money values cannot be exactly expressed, but it is possible to obtain a general mental picture by the use of a suitable multiplier. G. G. Coulton: *The Meaning of Medieval Moneys* (Historical Association Leaflet No. 95, 1934) showed that 40 was approximately the right index in 1934 to translate the values of circa 1300-1348. We have to multiply this again by three to allow roughly for the great depreciation of the last 20 years.



- PB-PARSONAGE BARN
- 43-ROBT.CROWCHER
- 44-THOS.ROGER
- 45-EDM.GARDENER
- 46-EDW.HILDER

 = MODERN ROAD

REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION FROM  
 MR. JOHN HARVEY'S ENLARGEMENT FROM THE  
 MAPS OF BOOKHAM BY THOMAS CLAY, 1614-16,  
 AND MESSRS. SPURRIER & PHIPPS, 1797-98.

on the outside) shows that these vessels were "cooking-pots," and not (as sometimes termed) merely "stooze vessels." The main feature of these rims is their sharply outbent "beaded" section, with a slight hollow immediately inside the rim. The whole section is somewhat reminiscent of that of "Neolithic B" pots of so-called "Peterborough Ware." There is probably little difference in date, if any, between the varying rims Nos. 5-14, of which Nos. 5, 6, 8 and 11-14 were found together in pit 7, with No. 2.

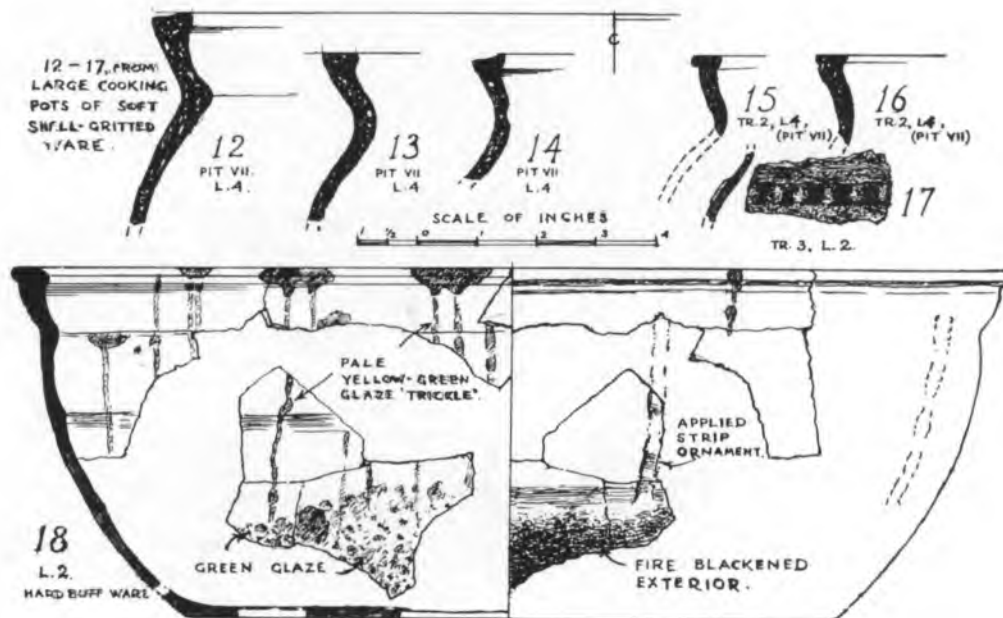
No. 8 has what may be intended for ornament on the rim, but which, on the other hand (in the absence of any further rims so indented), may be accidental indentations formed, in handling, before the pot was fired, though some of the earliest pottery from The Mounts had finger-formed ornament along the rim.

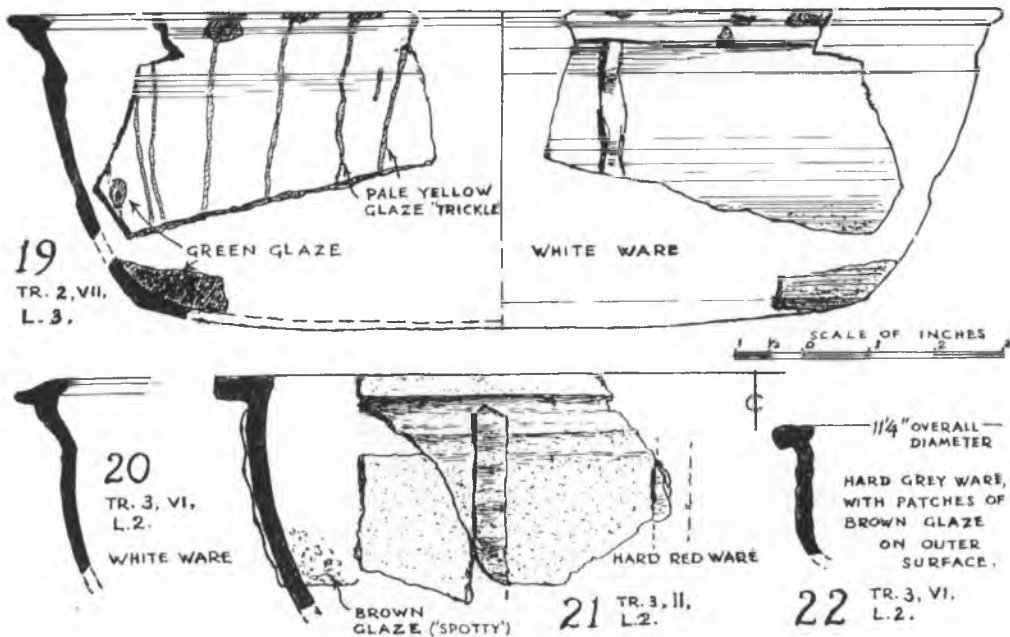
No. 11, apparently an early piece and probably brought to the site from some distant pottery kiln, is of very hard grey-ware with red-brown surfaces, contains only a little and very fine shell-grit and more coarse sand, or quartz particles. It is probably earlier than 1200 in date and resembles certain of the earliest pieces found at The Mounts.

Nos. 15, 16 and 17, from cooking-pots of a type made of very thin, but quite hard, shell-grit ware which, at The Mounts (where it was found in the upper filling of the main rubbish pit and formed the latest type of shell-grit ware at that site), probably dates *circa* A.D. 1250-1280. As well as its thinness and toughness, a feature of this final shell-grit ware is the bright-red colour of the inner surface, with its smooth ochre coating, while the outer surface is rougher and of a purple-brown colour.

Of the earliest "mottled-glaze" wares, pieces of some coarse white-ware flagons (including a handle) were found and date about A.D. 1260, or slightly later. (Pieces of one of these flagons were found at The Mounts in a "rake-up" layer of clay and debris underneath the tile-built "scree wall" in Sir Eustace de Hache's hall and, therefore prior to A.D. 1290.)

Of a type of large and deep bowl, of hard white ware, with applied ornament and thick, or mottled, green glaze on the bottom inner surface and some spots and patches (probably largely accidental) on the rim or elsewhere, several were represented by fragments found. Nos. 18, 19 and 20 are typical of this group, of which pieces representing several dozen vessels were found at The Mounts and in levels which could be dated *circa* A.D. 1290-1300. They are ornamented externally by the application of (widely spaced) "ribbon strips," pressed on to the





outside before firing, in vertical undulating pieces and in a sort of "pastry-making" technique. Part of the rim and side of one of these bowls was found in the excavations on the south side of Little Bookham Church in 1953.<sup>1</sup>

No. 21 is in a very hard, light-red ware, and is a slightly later type of the bowls just described. The glaze on the bottom inner surface is of a brown or yellow-brown colour, the rim is square and angular, and the applied strips, more regular and closer spaced. Pieces of a number of these distinctive early 14th-century bowls were found, both at this site and at The Mounts.

Finally, in an extremely hard brownish-red, to purple, ware with greenish-brown internal glaze, is the type of bowl figured as No. 22, found in trench 3, level 2. Pieces of flagons of this same ware occurred in upper levels at both sites, and seem to date about 1310-1330.

Again, as at The Mounts, no pieces of the distinctive Cheam<sup>2</sup> ware turned up at this site, both sites having been abandoned, it seems, in the first half of the 14th century.

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society*, Vol. 1, No. 5, page 10, Fig. 3.

<sup>2</sup> The Cheam mediaeval pottery kiln, excavated by the late Mr. Marshall in 1923, is described, with its contents of pottery, in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. XXXV, pages 79-97. (It is dated late 14th century from the pottery types found in the kiln, especially the series of flagons.)

## REPORT OF GROUP "E": Natural History

The annual surveys of the vegetation on Mickleham Down and White Hill were repeated during 1955. The changes in the vegetation on both sites are now more gradual and there is nothing of special interest to record.

In July there was an expedition to Ranmore Common. Mr. W. H. E. Rivett gave a talk on the geology of the district during the walk and pointed out the geological features of the landscape. An exhibition of geological specimens was arranged in the tea-garden so that members could examine them during tea. After tea a visit was paid to White Down, Effingham, a part of the chalk escarpment below Ranmore, and Miss J. Brown conducted the party to a chalk erosion slope on the site of an anti-tank trench. This site, now in its ninth year of re-colonization, was dominated by Ploughman's Spikenard. A few plants of *Ajuga Chamæpitys*, ground pine, were also found, but they appeared to have decreased in number, probably due to the wet summer of 1954 and to increasing competition. The previously recorded colonists, *Linaria elatine* and *Linaria spuria*, could not be found. The erosion slope vegetation was compared with that of a nearby piece of typical chalk downland where a number of bee orchids were seen.

## A CARTOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THE AREA

### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

WITH this issue we commence what we hope will be a series of maps of the Leatherhead district, showing the area as it appeared, or as it is conjectured to have appeared, at various stages of its history.

Great changes have occurred since the first world war when, mainly for economic reasons, the system of lords of the manor largely disappeared from the area, and parts of it were "developed." In Fetcham, for instance, the Hankey family had squired it for some 150 years and few, perhaps, realise how great was the effect of the change on that parish. Even more drastic and deplorably extensive changes have taken place since the second world war, due partly to the housing shortage and also, it is feared, to lack of appreciation or pure unawareness of the character and beauty of the area which are being slowly and callously destroyed in the name of progress and modernisation. No one who knew the district in the 1920s can contemplate with equanimity the changes that have been made—with more in prospect.

The task of this Society is, however, to note and record these changes as and when they occur in an objective manner and only as individuals regret them as they show against the scene which nature and the requirements of rural agriculture formerly presented. The purpose of these maps is to try to show the changes that have taken place over the centuries and the slow and dignified pace of its development—a pace consonant with an obviously predominant love of the natural district by our predecessors which, at the same time, did not neglect such advances as were needed to keep in step with the conditions of the times while preserving the character as well as the characteristics of the area.

It may create no wonder that the district has been occupied by man from prehistoric times but, since early man was not troubled with aesthetic views on his surroundings, it may not be out of place first to consider the reasons for his choice. The first map shows the contours of the area, at 25-foot intervals and this, with the two next maps—to be published in our next issue—showing the geology and ancient vegetation, will, together, throw some light on the probable attractions of the area to primitive man. Pending publication of these next two maps, when such possible attractions can be discussed, we can, in the meantime (in order to follow them) note certain points on the first map.

From near the centre of the bottom edge of the map the river Mole runs northwards to about the centre of the map and then turns north-west by west. On the south of this westerly reach the land gradually rises by some 400 feet to overlook the valley of the Bookham-Dorking Road (about 500 yards from the bottom of the map to the west of the river). On both sides of the south-north reach the land rises much more steeply (even precipitously in places) to attain, on the east, an increase of some 550 feet in height at the summit of Box Hill (in the south-east corner). On both sides of this reach, rushing streams (no longer in existence) anciently cut deep clefts in the chalk where, e.g., the Bookham-Dorking Road and Headley Lane (the ravine running north-east from the main Dorking Road about 1,200 yards from the bottom of the map) now are. To the north and north-east of the river the land rises much more gradually, but the presence of many small hills or knolls is a feature of this part of the area.

The River Mole, itself, was, of course, on a much higher level in ancient times, gradually cutting its way down and leaving traces of its former positions in the terrace gravels which will be seen on the geological map. The bed of the river rises some 75 feet between a point a little below Slyfield (on the north-west of the map) to Burford Bridge (on the extreme south). The only streams of any size now flowing into the River Mole within the area of the map are the Rye Brook (rising in Ashted on the north-east corner), the stream along the west boundary of Little Bookham (following closely the Grid line 12E) and a small one crossing Oakland and Woodland Roads (running into the Mole about 700 yards north of the Rye Brook).

*(to be continued)*



In the early 14th century, the rents paid for cottages with a small plot of garden and up to 1 acre in the fields varied from 1s. to 4s. 6d., while the combined cash value of heriot and fine at each inheritance averaged about 4s. 6d. Heriot and fine on a half-virgate farm (15 acres) averaged about 10s., and upon a virgate (about 30 acres) 20s., while the yearly rents might be about the same. Since heriot and fine would only be paid on the average at fairly long intervals, such as 20 years, this meant a real total rent of perhaps 2s. 6d. for a cottage, 10s. 6d. for a half-virgate, and 21s. for a virgate. These sums must be multiplied by a factor of about 120 to reach an idea of 1955 values, giving rentals of some £15, £65 and £130 respectively.<sup>8</sup> Moderate as these rents appear in the urban Bookham of to-day, they are substantial for a rural community, and a great deal of ready money might have to be found to pay the fine on a large farm, as when John Leuwyne succeeded his father, Gilbert, in 1340. On his father's two messuages, one with a virgate and the other with 2 acres of land, he had to pay £3 6s. 8d., the equivalent of £400 now.

## PEN SKETCHES OF OLD HOUSES IN THIS DISTRICT

By F. B. BENDER

### 5.—BOOKHAM GROVE, GREAT BOOKHAM

THE upper main road between Leatherhead and Guildford is of great antiquity. It is mentioned in documents as early as 1279; but it certainly existed in Saxon times, for burials of that period have been found beside it, and Mr. John Harvey, F.S.A., has shown beyond reasonable doubt that the Saxon hundred meeting place (Horse-head Cross) was beside the road near Park Corner, Fetcham. (*Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. L (1949), pages 157-161.) In 1953, when foundations were being dug at the Bookham Grove housing estate, human remains were found beside the former line of the Guildford road where it crosses the estate, and Captain A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., deduced from the bone formation of the skulls that they were those of Danes, quite possibly stragglers trying to make their way back towards the Thames after the rout of the Danish army at the battle of "Aclea" in A.D. 851.

At this particular point (Bookham Grove) on the Guildford road there existed from early mediæval times a double crossing of roads or tracks running in a southerly direction. Proceeding toward Guildford there was first the crossing of the line of Great Bookham High Street and Dorking road. Mr. Harvey has shown in the previous issue of these *Proceedings* that Great Bookham Street was consciously laid out in town-planned fashion, and that it connected the Saxon accommodation road along the Thanet sands (Lower road) to the Guildford road. Dorking road (that towards Bagden) was described as a King's Highway soon after 1200; so that this crossing or junction must have had some importance from the first. Not far further westwards, a lane, now represented on the northern side by Townshot Close, crossed the Guildford road and proceeded in a southerly direction, first between two inhabited strips and then across the great open common fields. This lane, mentioned in the 12th century as the way to Dunley, was probably used principally as a drove road, and constant driving of flocks and herds along it, no doubt, in time wore away the loam surface and revealed the chalk, for it became known as the White Way. Until the 18th century, the Guildford road itself ran straight forward after passing its junction with Dorking road, without the present dangerous and awkward diversion to the north. This old road system can be clearly seen in Thomas Clay's survey of 1614, a diagram of which is here reproduced by permission of Mr. Harvey who has traced the whole survey and elucidated most of it.

On the southern side of the Guildford road, immediately beyond the High Street-Dorking road crossing, will be noted four dwelling-house sites; three of them between Dorking road and the White Way, the fourth, west of White Way (No. 43, 44, 45 and 46 on the plan). These four dwellings stood upon the site of the present Bookham Grove mansion and its outbuildings, and Mr. Harvey has given the following account of them:—

Next to the corner of the Dorking road was a copyhold tenement (No. 43) acquired from John at Hatche by the Abbot of Chertsey in 1339 and in 1342 granted to John Godewyn. Later it passed to John Sewale; in 1433 the tenant was Hugh Taylour; towards the end of the 15th century it belonged to John at Style; later to Thomas Hull and Joan, his wife (possibly a daughter

of Style). In 1538 it was acquired by Robert Crowcher, in whose family it remained until 1630, when it was sold to William Gosden junior, whose heirs, in 1650, disposed of the property to John Arnold. Arnold's daughter, Elizabeth, died in 1690 when, no heir claiming the property, it was taken into the hands of the Lord of the Manor, Francis, 5th Baron Howard of Effingham. This house had been let to Henry Ellis in 1622, who occupied it until the 1640s; Robert Strudwick succeeded him for some years until, in 1656, John Freeman was in occupation of the premises.

To the west of "Crowchers" was another copyhold (No. 44), held for a long period by the family of Rogers of Sole Farm, Bookham. On the death of John Rogers in 1590 it passed to his son, Thomas, on whose death in 1600 the premises passed to his son, Thomas, aged 7½, and were leased to Clemencia Bithewood. Later occupiers were Nicholas Edes, who took a 21 years' lease in 1629, and members of the Rogers family. The descent of this property has not been traced beyond 1663, when it was held by Robert Rogers and his wife, Anne.

Westward, again, was a freehold tenement (No. 45) known as Beales in the 17th century. In the reign of Elizabeth I this belonged to John Gardener, yeoman, who left it to his son, Ralf Gardener. Ralf, dying in 1604, in turn left to his brother, Edmond, "my house called Bales in Bookham." The property descended to Edward Gardener who died in 1635, leaving it to his younger brother, John, then aged 19. As a freehold, and thus becoming more loosely attached to the manor, it is not mentioned further in the Court Rolls. The western boundary of Beales ran along the ancient track known as the White Way.

West of the White Way lay a section of the open field known as the Lower Shott in Bookham Dean, with strips running at right-angles to the Guildford road. The easternmost of these strips, forming part of the copyhold estate of Edward Hilder, admitted tenant in 1588, had been enclosed by 1615, when the surveyor Thomas Clay noted that a cottage was built upon it (No. 46). Just after the survey was made, Hilder disposed of the land to Robert Arnold, whose daughter, Jane Thrusley, sold the cottage, in 1676, to George Howard, younger son of Sir Charles Howard, knight, Lord of the Manor 1651-1672, and brother of Francis who, in 1681, became 5th Baron Howard of Effingham on the extinction of the senior line. George Howard was baptised at Great Bookham on 10th April, 1647, and died there on 13th December, 1684.

One of the central sites (Nos. 44-45), though it is not clear which, had, in the middle of the 13th century, formed two messuages; the eastern held by Thomas de Oveton, the western by Walter le Smyth. In 1279, Isabella, daughter of Walter, conveyed this messuage to John de Aperdele, and in the same year he resold it to Alice of Bookham, called "de Nywenham," who was already in possession of the Oveton property adjoining. As a widow, Alice (then Alice atte Putte) sold both messuages to Richard Randolf and Alice Deneman who, in 1344, disposed of them to Henry Kent, and he, in turn, to the Abbot of Chertsey.

Elizabeth Arnold, the holder of No. 43, in 1680 sold land in the common field, adjacent to her tenement holding, to George Howard; and this was apparently the commencement of the gradual combination of all the properties. It seems possible that George Howard acquired also the freehold of Beales (No. 45). He may have lived in the old house for a time, but it is probable that he did not survive long enough to undertake its rebuilding and enlargement. But, as we have seen, his brother, Francis 5th Baron Howard of Effingham, became possessed of No. 43 (the tenement nearest to Dorking road) in 1690. When Bookham Grove was acquired by the local authority after the 1939-1945 war there still existed a well-designed brick and tile dovecote, which may be presumed to have been built by Francis Howard when No. 43 fell into his hands. Dovecotes were, by manor custom, the prerogative of the lord of the manor, and were usually built on demesne land conveniently near to the common arable fields, so that the pigeons could find provender close at hand. The Bookham open fields were immediately to the south of these four tenements. Francis Howard, 5th Baron Howard of Effingham, was Governor of Virginia in the reign of Charles II.

It was George Howard's son, Thomas, who transformed Beales (No. 45) and the cottage on the other side of the White Way (No. 46) into a shooting box and found it necessary to apply for powers to divert the drove road in order to join the two properties. On 18th February, 1720/1721, the Vestry of Great Bookham consented to the Hon. Colonel Howard diverting "ye lower End of ye Whittway from ye East side of his hous." According to Manning and Bray it was at about

the same time that Thomas Howard procured the diversion of the Guildford road to its present course, so that it branched from High Street at a point further north, the intervening land being incorporated into the curtilage of Howard's house to form a lawn and plantation. We have no proof that Colonel Thomas Howard (who died in the winter 1752/1753) acquired the remaining two tenements (Nos. 43 and 44) but it seems likely that either he or his son, Sir George Howard, did so. Sir George Howard sold the property to Vice-Admiral Thomas Brodrick, and it was the latter who built the greater part of the present house with its offices and outbuildings which cover the sites of all the earlier tenements. The front door of the house is exactly on the line of the old White Way. Brodrick was serving actively at sea until about 1760, and perhaps his acquisition of Bookham Grove dated from about that time. It is likely that he came there because he wished to live near his old superior officer, Admiral Edward Boscawen, who resided at Hatchlands, West Horsley. The symmetry of Brodrick's house at Bookham Grove has been ruined by later additions, but in any case, the design is not an inspiring one, with a rather mean pediment and cornice; though, no doubt, it was a handsome enough dwelling in Brodrick's time, surrounded by the great open fields on its southern and western sides.

Thomas Brodrick was a good example of the 18th-century sea dog, of the pattern which paved the way for Nelson and the tacticians of the Napoleonic era. He entered the Navy *circa* 1723, became a lieutenant in 1739, and distinguished himself in command of a storming party in that year when Admiral Vernon attacked Porto Bello. Two years later, as a commander, he was at the siege of Cartagena, following which he was promoted to captain. He served in the Leeward Islands, 1744-1748, and became Rear-Admiral in the Mediterranean in 1756. He was



promoted Vice-Admiral in 1759 and served under Boscawen against De la Clue in that year and at the blockade of Toulon and Cadiz. He was one of the judges at the court-martial of Admiral John Byng in 1757, who was shot "*pour encourager les autres.*" On his way out to the Mediterranean in 1758, Brodrick hoisted his flag in the *Prince George* as convoy to a merchant fleet. The ship took fire at sea on 13th April, and was totally destroyed. Of 745 passengers and crew, only 260 were saved. There was some difficulty in getting away the admiral's barge, and when he entered it he found that it was much overladen. He therefore stripped off his clothes and jumped in the sea where he swam for an hour before being picked up by one of the merchantmen. The barge, as he had foreseen, was overturned. A seaman had the presence of mind to don the admiral's jacket, and was rescued when it was assumed that he was Brodrick.

Brodrick died in January 1769, and Bookham Grove was sold to Sir Alexander Grant; and on Grant's death, in 1773, to a Mr. Dalbiac. The latter sold it in 1775 to John Dawnay, Viscount Downe in the peerage of Ireland. Lord Downe was evidently living in some style at the Grove for, in 1780, he was taxed for 12 male servants, the largest number in Bookham. He died in that year and his widow continued to reside at the Grove until her death in 1812. The property is described, *circa* 1789, by James Edwards the topographer, as follows: "On the south is *Bookham Grove* the seat of Viscountess Downe. The house is a handsome brick building which appears of a modern erection, and executed in taste; adorned with suitable plantations,

good gardens, etc., the greatest part of which is surrounded by spacious common fields." (*Companion from London to Brighthelmston.*) Manning and Bray (1809) state that Bookham Grove had 72 acres attached, which seems to indicate that in the intervening period part of the common fields had been enclosed. In 1815 the Hon. Marmaduke Dawnay headed the list of contributors to a house-to-house collection in aid of the dependants of those killed at Waterloo.

In November of the following year a sale of furniture and farm stock took place at the Grove, which is described in the handbill (a copy of which is possessed by this Society) as the property of Anthony Horne, Esq., deceased. Horne may have been the bailiff or farmer of the Grove farm, who lived in the offices to the east of the mansion proper; but the title of *esquire* given to him seems to indicate someone of more consequence, and it is possible that he took a lease of the Grove shortly before his death. In 1817, however, the Hon. Catherine Dawnay (died 1821) was in occupation and was assessed for rates on £94; and the Dawnays continued to live there during the greater part of the 19th century for, in 1850, Brayley noted the then owner as Hon. William Henry Dawnay, M.P. for Rutland, and, in 1876, James Thorne, F.S.A. *Handbook to the Environs of London*, notes it as the seat of Viscountess Downe. The family held the advowson of Great Bookham 1879-1903.

Various other owners succeeded the Downe family and in the period between the two world wars the fringes of the property on the south and west were sold and developed. Its existence as a separate dwelling had become unlikely by the time of the outbreak of war in 1939, and shortly after the war it was acquired by Leatherhead Urban District Council for use as a housing estate, the house itself being divided into flats. The English social scene has never been a static one, and the history of Bookham Grove exemplifies social change through the centuries.

A note should be added here regarding the inn which existed on the north-east corner of the junction of High Street with Guildford road (see No. 41 on the diagram map) known as "The Saracen and Ring." The building still exists, though, alas, no longer as an inn. The site is described as a curtilage in 1517 and 1548, but as a tenement by 1592; so that the earliest part of the existing house may belong to the second half of the 16th century. Before taking the name of "The Saracen and Ring" this inn was known as "The White Hart" (the White Hart was, of course, a common inn sign in Surrey, since it was one of the badges of the Earls of Arundel from mediaeval times onward). Mr. John Harvey gives the names of the following licensees: in or before 1789 until 1834 or after, John Brown; in 1838, George Wood; in or before 1840 until 1845 or after, James Ottaway; in or before 1865 until 1874 or after, William Clapshaw. There is an amusing account of a night spent in this hostelry in *A Saunter Through Surrey*, by M. C. Turner, 1857, where it is stated that the then landlord had selected the sign as a mark of respect to the Dawnay family of Bookham Grove; the saracen and ring both figuring in the family crest. The following quotation from Burke is given by Turner: "Sir William Dawnay was made a general in the fourth (year) of Richard I, at Acon, where, having slain a Saracen prince, and afterwards killing a lion, he cut off the paw and presented it to the king, who immediately, in token of approbation, took the ring off his finger, and presenting it to Dawnay, ordered, that to perpetuate the event, he should bear as a crest a demi Saracen, with a lion's paw in one hand and a ring in the other; and this ring still remains in the possession of the family." Turner describes a cricket match between the clubs of Great Bookham and Cobham which took place in a field at the rear of "The Saracen and Ring." Great Bookham won handsomely, partly due to the efforts of the landlord, "who is celebrated in the annals of the pastime." The house had lost its licence by 1895, one wonders whether as the result of the activities of a local lady (perhaps influenced in her youth by the example of Sir Walter Farquhar of Polesden, an apostle of temperance) who made it her business to buy up and close every ale-house and tavern in Bookham which came into the market. The remarks of James S. Ogilvy in his *Pilgrimage in Surrey* (1914) on this are so pertinent and so applicable to the afflictions of all classes at the present day that they may be fittingly used to close this article. "Nowadays," (wrote Ogilvy), "we suffer from a plague of people who adopt a mission to correct the faults of their poorer neighbours by precept, and there is a danger that the free-born Englishman may become an extinct species in the country districts; he is seldom allowed to keep a pig, but he is always compelled to assist in keeping a bevy of inspectors; he is lectured, advised, and exhorted about

everything he eats, drinks, or wears; he becomes a decimal point in columns of statistics, and his ways of life are made the subject of inquiries by people in committee rooms—people who are full of fads and theories, who have never trudged the dusty highways, or toiled in the sun-smitten fields, and most of the time do not know what they are talking about; almost the only thing an old working man in the country can call his own is his rheumatism, and he is not always left in undisturbed possession of that.”

## 6.—POLEDSEN, GREAT BOOKHAM

THE name Polesden Lacey, by which this house and estate are now known, is a historical misnomer, for it properly belongs to a reputed manor of that name in the parish of Mickleham which was united with the manor of High Polesden in Bookham in 1784, but which no longer forms part of the estate. It serves to remind us, however, that the name Polesden was originally that of a district rather than of a manor; being the Saxon name for that dry lateral valley which splits the North Downs at this point and runs down from Effingham to the Mole at Westhumble. This was, in Saxon times, the dene or valley of Poll, probably one of the Teutonic settlers of the 5th and 6th centuries. We may wonder whether he was the same that gave his name to Pulborough in Sussex, a place, like Westhumble, near to the line of that Roman road, Stane Street, up which no doubt these invading Saxons made their way from the coast. Be that as it may, this cleft in the North Downs abounds in Saxon names: Craiden, Hogden, Polesden, Bagden, Ashcombe, and Elfare (this last a corruption of Aylivehaw, the haw or close of Aethelgifu a Saxon lady). I refer the reader to an interesting note on the early history of this valley by Mr. John Harvey, F.S.A., in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, (Vol. L, 1949, pages 161-164).

We are, therefore, here concerned with the Bookham manor of High Polesden, and the earliest references to this are to a family taking its name from their property. It is difficult to sort out these early mediaeval owners: the first of them seems to have been Herbert de Polesdene, who was selling land “in Polesdene” in 1198 (*Feet of Fines*). The Chertsey Cartularies refer to a Richard de Pollesdene in 1244 and again between 1261 and 1272, almost certainly the owner of the Polesdene holding in Great Bookham (*P.R.O. E. 164/25*); his successor was John de Polesdene who was a witness to charters dated at Bookham in 1273 (*B.M. Add. Roll 5569*) and 1278 (*P.R.O. E. 164/25*). In 1332, William de Crofte was in possession (he was assessed to pay 6s. 7½d. to a Lay Subsidy: *Surrey Record Society*, No. XXXIII, 1931) and continues to appear at intervals as a witness to charters, etc., until 1345 (*P.R.O. E. 164/25*). In 1336 an agreement is recorded between William de Crofte and Nicholas de Bergh, holding the tenement of Polesdene which used to be held by John de Polesdene (Lansdowne MS. 434, *Surrey Record Society*, Vol. XXXVIII) and this indicates that at least as early as that date a house existed at Polesden. In 1470, the manor of High Polesden was conveyed by Thomas Slyfield and Anne, his wife, to John Norbury who, in 1491/1492, enfeoffed trustees to hold it for the use of Robert Castleton and Elizabeth, his wife (daughter of Sir Henry Norbury). Robert Castleton died 23rd December, 1527; there is a brass for him at Long Ditton. He was J.P. for Surrey and Clerk of the Pleas in the King’s Exchequer, son of William and Emma Castleton. In 1545, John Castleton, son and heir of Robert and Elizabeth, who is described by Manning and Bray as of Long Ditton, died seized of Polesden, held of the king as of his manor of Great Bookham; John Castleton’s son and heir, William, being then aged 7. In 1548 a survey of the superior manor of Great Bookham shows William Castleton as holding a tenement and four virgates of land in Polesden “late of Thomas Slyfield once of John Pollesden” (*P.R.O. E. 36/168*) and, in 1562, he is mentioned in the Great Bookham Court Rolls as being due to pay a relief for “certain lands in Pollisdon Lacy,” the earliest mention of the “Lacy” suffix. He and Elizabeth, his wife, are mentioned in 1572 and 1584. Thomas Clay’s Survey of Bookham, 1614/1616, shows another William Castleton (probably the son of him previously mentioned) as holding Polesden as a freehold of 391 acres, paying rent of 32s. a year and suit of court, plus heriot and relief. The map indicates a small farmhouse of L plan, in no way comparable with Slyfield as it then was. In 1630, William Castleton and his wife, Phoebe, conveyed the manor to Anthony Rous and Anne, his wife.

Anthony Rous was a relative of Francis Rous the Parliamentary leader of the Civil War period who became Speaker of Cromwell's "packed" Parliament of 1653, and who was nominated by the Protector to sit in the Lords but died before the writ was issued. Anthony Rous must at once have set about building a new house as a residence for himself, for the house which stood on this site until the early part of the 19th century was dated 1631 above the main entrance (as shown in the illustration reproduced from a drawing in the Minet Public Library), and this is confirmed by the Grangerised copy of Manning and Bray in the British Museum (Printed Books, Crach. I, Tab. 1-3b, Vol. XV, page 691). The elevation shown at the top of this drawing faced eastwards; the right-hand portion of the elevation shown beneath faced south, the buildings to the left of it being later additions. It seems clear from the drawing that no part of the mediaeval house survived this rebuilding. One wonders whether Anthony Rous survived to enjoy his new house, for an Anthony Rous, Clerk of the Pipe of the Exchequer, died 20th January, 1631/1632 and was buried at Fetcham Church. The Polesden Rous was succeeded by his son, Samuel, who is recorded frequently at Bookham from 1656 to 1685, and the indications are that Samuel was very young in 1631. Mrs. Anne Rous, widow of Anthony, was in occupation of Polesden in 1674, when she was taxed on 12 hearths. "Mr. Rowse" (presumably her son, Samuel) was taxed on only two, and was possibly living elsewhere in Bookham. In 1680, Samuel Rous (now described as J.P.) with Elizabeth, his wife, made conveyance of the manor and, in 1685, settlement upon his daughter, Elizabeth, on her marriage to Thomas Harris of Grays Inn (Marcham, *Surrey Deeds*, pages 181, 182). She survived Harris and married secondly Edward Symes of St. Andrew Holborn. In 1713, Edward Symes and his wife suffered a recovery of the manor; this was probably a legal transference to the second marriage. Elizabeth Symes survived her second husband and, in 1723, jointly with Thomas Harris, the son of her first marriage, sold Polesden to Arthur Moore of Fetcham Park. The younger Harris was an attorney at Dorking. It is unlikely that Arthur Moore, the celebrated economist who could not manage his own economy, ever lived at Polesden, for it was at about this time that he was engaged in the profuse expenditure on his Fetcham house which ultimately led to his ruin. In 1729, a year before his death, he sold Polesden to his brother, Colonel Thomas Moore, who had been Paymaster of the land forces in Minorca and in the garrisons of Dunkirk and Gibraltar. Colonel Moore is said to have lived at Polesden for a time, but he had moved away by 1733 (*Surrey County R.O. S.C. 3/89*). He died in 1735 and there is a monument to him in Great Bookham church which, though a fine piece of statuary, depicts him rather ridiculously habited in Roman military costume and in an extremely awkward posture. According to a paper in the Bodleian Library (*MS. North c.14, f.19*) this monument was made by Carter. Other papers relating to Polesden are scattered throughout the North Papers in the Bodleian, including building accounts (*MS. North c.62*). These latter refer to the erection of the western wing added to the south side with the polygon room beyond it, designed by James Stedman, which are to be seen in the lower half of the illustration from a drawing in the Minet Public Library. The additions, carried out between 1735 and 1748, must have been executed for William Moore, M.P., for Banbury, son of Arthur Moore of Fetcham, to whom Polesden passed on Colonel Moore's death. According to Manning and Bray, William Moore lived at Polesden. On his death in 1746 his executors were empowered by Act of Parliament to sell his estates, including this, to meet his debts; and in the following year Polesden was purchased by Francis Geary, Captain R.N., for a sum of £5,500.

Francis Geary was a friend of Lord Hawke and Admiral Boscawen. When Boscawen's second son, William, entered the navy, it was to Geary that Boscawen's widow entrusted him (Aspinall-Oglander, *Admiral's Widow*, 1942, page 15). Although Geary spent a long life of service at sea, and was fortunate in taking prizes, he never had the opportunity to distinguish himself in any important engagement, though he was highly regarded by his contemporaries (Campbell, *Naval History of Great Britain*, 1818, Vol. VI, pages 185-196). Like Admiral Brodrick of Bookham Grove, he was one of those chosen by Boscawen (then at the Admiralty) to preside at the trial of the unfortunate Admiral Byng. The degree of intimacy between Boscawen of Hatchlands, Geary of Polesden, and Brodrick of Bookham Grove is a matter which should form an interesting subject of naval research. Their residence, so far inland, can now only

be explained by the proximity of the London to Dorking road, which was much used in the 18th century by naval travellers from London to Portsmouth. Presumably "The Admiral's Road" was made to enable Geary to reach Polesden in his chaise direct from the top of Hawk's Hill—and the name stuck. Geary rose to become Admiral of the White in 1778, and was created a baronet in 1782. A picture of Polesden in his time is provided by James Edwards' *Companion from London to Brighthelmston*. In the part written *circa* 1789 Edwards says: "About one mile and a half south of Great Bookham is Polesden, the seat of Sir Francis Geary, Bart., situated on an eminence with a lawn on the acclivity of the hill, from whence you have a diversified prospect to the south over a deep vale which terminates at a small distance by the rising hills covered by venerable beech woods, and the fertile vale consisting of a beautiful assemblage of trees, fields and cottages, composes an agreeable scene. A narrow prospect through the vale to the east is very extensive." It was probably during Geary's time that the magnificent terrace walk (then 900 feet in length) was constructed, for the date 1761 is engraved on its foundation wall. Geary's eldest son, Cornet Francis Geary, was killed in an ambush whilst leading a troop of General Burgoyne's Light Dragoons in December 1776 during the American War of Independence. A fine monument in Great Bookham church depicts the incident. Admiral Sir Francis Geary died in 1796, aged 86, and his second son, Sir William Geary, was shortly afterwards elected M.P. for Kent and moved to his estate at Oxonhoath. He immediately leased Polesden to Richard Brinsley Sheridan, whose trustees negotiated for the property and completed the purchase in 1804.

James Edwards, in the second part of his *Companion from London to Brighthelmston*, 1801, describes the road along the top of the Downs from Dorking to Guildford, and at 2 miles 1 quarter 56 rods from a point near the King's Head, Dorking, remarks: "A white house (the seat of the late Sir Francis Geary, Bart.), called Polesden, lies about 1 mile north from hence. It appears over a wood situated on an eminence, and has been described in page 41 of this work [the *circa* 1789 portion]. Sir Francis died in 1796, and his son, Sir William, the same year was chosen Knight of the Shire for the county of Kent, after which he sold his estates in Surrey. Polesden was . . . occupied by Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Esq., member of Parliament."

The large map of the parish of Great Bookham, surveyed in 1797/1798, shows that the east front of the old mansion of 1631 was about 90 feet long; also that Sheridan was already in occupation, and that the pleasure grounds extended only to the bottom of the valley south of the house. The fields and copses of the far slope had not then been landscaped but were farmed; the eastern end (400 feet) of the terrace walk had not yet been made.

According to the *Annual Biography*, 1817 (quoted in *A Picturesque Promenade Round Dorking*, 1822), the estate was purchased by Sheridan's trustees in 1804, chiefly with the fortune of Sheridan's second wife, Esther Jane (daughter of Dr. Newton Ogle, Dean of Winchester), whom he married on 27th April, 1795. In the particulars of the sale of 1804 to Sheridan's trustees it is stated that the mansion house and land comprised about 341 acres, and that the terrace walk in the gardens was 900 feet in length. The purchase was made pursuant to the Marriage Settlement between Richard Brinsley Sheridan and Esther Jane Ogle, daughter of the Rev. Newton Ogle, D.D., Dean of Winchester and Susanna, his wife, formerly Susanna Thomas, one of the three daughters of the Rt. Rev. John, Bishop of Winchester, deceased (who left property by will of 28th November, 1778).—Deed of 24th April, 1795 (copy among Polesden title, deposited by the National Trust at Surrey County Record Office). It would be an impertinence to recapitulate here the life of Sheridan, famous orator and dramatist (author of *The Critic*, *The School for Scandal*, *The Rivals*, etc.) and close friend of Fox and the Prince Regent. It is sufficient to point out that during the time that he owned Polesden he was Treasurer of the Navy in the Government of "all the talents" 1806/1807, and at the height of his fame, though constantly fighting a rear-guard action against his creditors. He appears to have taken a keen interest in Polesden, to have been fond of playing the squire (not unlike some men of a similar kind in our own time), entertained his tenantry, and formulated schemes for rebuilding the house and improving the grounds. The long terrace was extended under Mrs. Sheridan's direction, and we may surmise that the Sheridans were responsible also for the obvious landscaping of the valley below the house, so much in the manner of Humphrey Repton and so highly successful. By the time of

Sheridan's final illness and death in 1816 he had so pulled the old house of 1631 about that it became a heap of ruins (Edward Churton, *The Railroad Book*, 1851, page 263) only fit to be demolished, as perhaps Sheridan himself intended. One of Sheridan's grand-daughters ("the three graces," children of his son, Tom) married Captain Blackwood of Bookham Lodge. Mary Howitt in her autobiography (1889) has a curious story which relates how she and her husband, whilst driving near Bookham in July 1837, were accosted by two young women dressed as gypsies, who solicited alms. They proved to be Helen Selina Sheridan (the Hon. Mrs. Blackwood) and her younger sister, the Duchess of Somerset. Mrs. Blackwood would then have been 30, and it seems rather late in youth for such a *jeu d'esprit* on her part, but it may have been a sort of *pastiche bergere* in the manner of Marie Antoinette and the Petit Trianon. Mrs. Blackwood was afterwards Countess of Dufferin and Countess Gifford.

Two years after Sheridan's death in 1816, the estate was purchased by Joseph Bonsor. He pulled down the ruins of the old house and, in 1824, built another to the design of Thomas Cubitt, the master builder who had amassed a fortune by laying out Belgravia and who, 30 years later, was to build (shortly before his death in 1855) a house for himself on the other side of the Polesden valley at Denbies. The chief feature of this new house was its colonnade of eight Ionic columns on the south front, which remains to this day, though most of the Cubitt house has disappeared. Bonsor died in 1835 and was succeeded by his son, also named Joseph. About the middle of the 19th century, the estate was bought by Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart., of whom all that I know is that he appears to have been a Temperance Reformer (*vide* M. C. Turner's *Saunter Through Surrey*, 1857, page 204). His daughter, Mary Blanche, was the second wife of the 2nd Lord Raglan (son of the Crimean commander)—a photograph of Great Bookham High Street decorated for the wedding (in 1871) is extant. On Farquhar's death in 1896, Polesden was bought by Sir Clinton E. Dawkins, K.C.B., and it is much to be regretted that his desire to have a larger house led him to practically destroy the pleasant Cubitt house (except for the Ionic colonnade) and to build around it a new house to the designs of Mr. Ambrose Poynter. This is the house which we see to-day, somewhat mellowed by time, comfortably suiting its surroundings, but too closely fenestrated and lacking the relief of plain wall surfaces to its exterior.

In 1906 the estate was purchased by Captain the Hon. Ronald Fulke-Greville and his wife, the only daughter of Rt. Hon. William McEwan, Scottish millionaire and Liberal Member of Parliament. Captain Greville died in 1908, and the last chapter of Polesden's history as a private house is closely woven with the character, tastes and activities of his widow. Mrs. Greville entirely remodelled the interior of the house, and added the rounded bays to each of the wings of the east front. On the death of her father, she installed at Polesden the works of art which she inherited from him, to which, in due course, she added considerably. Mrs. Greville was a woman of great strength of character, who lived very much at the centre of things and was in a position to form accurate judgments on the course of current events, so that she exerted considerable influence upon the social and political life of her time. Her house parties at Polesden were renowned (there is an amusing account of one of them and an excellent character study of Mrs. Greville in Sir Osbert Sitwell's *Laughter in the Next Room*, 1949, pages 43-45, 155-158), and she had the gift of bringing together people of diverse social background in an easy atmosphere. Amongst those who were her guests at Polesden were King Edward VII, King George V and Queen Mary, Edward Prince of Wales, and King George VI and his consort who spent there the first part of their honeymoon. Mrs. Greville and her circle mirror the last phase of the Whig aristocratic period in England, which disappeared so poignantly in 1914 just when, after a prolonged and somewhat coarse middle period, it had commenced to flower once again with such rich promise. Like a dying fire, a few sparks glowed into life again after the first German war, amongst them Polesden and its chatelaine. It is probable that she foresaw the inevitable changes which were to come and that she had the courage and integrity of mind to face them, for when she died in 1942 she left her whole Polesden property of 1,000 acres, the house and its collections, with a large endowment, to the National Trust as a memorial to her father; with the direction that the gardens should be regularly open to the public and that the house should be shown as a furniture and picture gallery. As one walks round the glittering state rooms, with their sumptuous furnishings of eclectic Edwardian taste, one senses that here is crystallised for ever





*The Old House in 1631, from a drawing in the Minet Library*

that cultured cosmopolitan world to which she belonged, which went down into the mud and blood of the Flanders Plain between 1914 and 1918. On the other hand, the gardens and pleasure grounds have the spaciousness and grace of the 18th century, and they probably reflect the life of the Gearys and Sheridans with some reminder of Mrs. Greville's foreign visits in the form of stonework of Italian origin. Mrs. Greville lies buried in a yew alcove near to the house.

Mrs. Greville's collection of pictures, now permanently part and parcel of the property, are of better general quality than those found in many country houses and were obviously selected with the advice of an expert. In the dining room are English portraits by Lely, Richardson, Reynolds, Raeburn and Lawrence; and in the hall, corridors and elsewhere, are Dutch pictures by Ruysdael, Terborch, Pieter de Hooch, van Goyen, van der Heyden, Teniers and Cuyp. On the stairway is a fine collection of Italian 16th-century majolica, in the hall is the reredos by Sir Christopher Wren from St. Mathew's, Friday Street, London, and in the upper part of the hall hang three 17th-century panels of Mortlake tapestry and three panels of Brussels tapestry. In the dining room is a collection of 17th- and 18th-century silver.

There are three elements which contribute to the making of every English country house—the land around it, the house itself and the continuing mark which all those who have lived in it have left on the place. Polesden, like so much else that is beautiful in England, was born of privilege. From the privilege of wealth and position arose our country houses, and from the privilege of copyhold, and later enclosure, arose our wonderful pastoral scenery. Where privilege is matched by duties there is much to be said for it, even if there is also much against it. There are lessons to be learnt from history, but one that our age has not learned is this; for we perhaps are too busy pulling down the old edifice of privilege, and erecting new privileges which have no duties attached, so that they are immediately considered as rights. But Polesden has passed out of the area of this conflict, and its loveliness is available for the refreshment of English men and women; to-day, tomorrow, and for always.



I should not have been able to attempt these articles on Bookham Grove and Polesden without the help of Mr. John Harvey, F.S.A., whose knowledge of the history of Bookham is unrivalled. If they contain information not to be found in print elsewhere, the credit must be his and I most gratefully acknowledge it. The Society's records have also proved of great value and assistance.

## ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA to PEN SKETCHES OF OLD HOUSES IN THIS DISTRICT

### No. 3.—THE MANSION, LEATHERHEAD. (*Proceedings*, Vol. 1, No. 7)

It will be remembered that I put forward arguments for believing that Edmund Tylney, Master of the Revels to Queen Elizabeth I, lived at The Mansion. I am pleased to say that this hypothesis has now been confirmed as fact by the researches of Mr. F. Bastian, a member of this Society who has been working on the history of local families and who has examined the Court Rolls of Pachenesham, 1576-1602, which came to light and were deposited in the County Record Office in 1955. By relating an entry in these to other documents, Mr. Bastian was able to show that a strip of copyhold land lay between The Mansion and Devonshire Cottage, and that this copyhold land was let by licence (granted to Richard Rogers, freehold owner at that date of Devonshire Cottage) dated 3rd October, 1588, to Edmund Tylney. The land is described in the licence as "to the north of the house of the said Edmund."

Mr. Bastian has also drawn my attention to *Chancery Bills and Answers, Bridges*, 421/216, by which it appears that Charles Howard, 2nd Earl of Nottingham, was, in fact, owner until his death in 1642, and was succeeded in title by his widow, Mary. When she died, the property went to Charles Cokaine (probably her nephew) and later to Cokaine's son, Bryen, Viscount Cullen, who sold it to Anthony Taylor, in whose possession it was in February 1662/1663. By comparing the Surrey Hearth Tax returns for 1664 and 1674, Mr. Bastian has shown that in 1664 Anthony Taylor was in possession of The Mansion, but that in 1674 Alexander Akehurst was the owner. This is a much earlier date than hitherto known for Akehurst's ownership and it, incidentally, throws grave doubt upon the legend that Judge Jeffreys visited The Mansion in 1688 when in fear of arrest, and upon occupation of The Mansion by the Bludworth family. Local legends, however, often contain truth; and it may be that though Akehurst owned the house from 1674 until about 1738, he had let it to the Bludworth family. As Mr. John Harvey has pointed out, "swapping" of country houses was quite a usual feature. Nevertheless, the cellars of Thorncroft (which undoubtedly belonged at that time to the Bludworths) would provide a much better hiding place than those of The Mansion, if indeed, at the particular date of the visit, Jeffreys needed to hide at all, which is in doubt (see Montgomery Hyde, *Judge Jeffreys*, 1948).

### No. 4.—NORBURY PARK, MICKLEHAM. (*Proceedings*, Vol. 1, No. 8)

Mr. John Harvey, F.S.A., has pointed out to me that there can be no doubt at all that the site of the old manor house of Norbury is that now occupied by The Priory; for Rocque's map, which was surveyed a few years before William Lock built the new mansion on the hilltop, shows an extensive house on the Priory site, marked *Norbury*. This house is described, some 12 years after the older part had been demolished, in an article in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1787, as appearing to be one of the oldest family residences in Surrey, being built of wood with plaster panels. Incidentally, the name Priory is a mistaken transfer from the fact that the Norbury estate includes certain parcels of land which at one time belonged to Reigate Priory, as shown in the Tithe Award Map of 1838.

I offer apologies for a foolish error in speaking of the description of the walnut trees in John Aubrey's *History of Surrey*. If this description was written by Aubrey himself it cannot date from as late as 1700, for Aubrey collected the main part of his Surrey material in 1673 and died in 1697. It may emanate from his editor, Rawlinson, who used other material without acknowledgment. All that one can say with certainty is that it first appeared in print in 1718/1719. Even so, the figure of 40,000 trees must be suspect, for the article in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1787, quoted above, states that at fourpence a tree the fruit would produce £100, which indicates 6,000 trees. Nevertheless, James Edwards, in his *Companion from London to Brighthelmston* (section written circa 1789) repeats the story of 40,000 trees.

In my article I wrote that there was no evidence that Anthony Chapman lived at Norbury when he acquired it from the Tryons; but the *Gentleman's Magazine* article of 1787 says that he resided there for some time. It therefore seems probable that he was living in the old manor house from 1766 until he sold the estate to Lock in 1774, and as he truly seems to have been a land speculator he may well have cut down the walnut groves.

I should have mentioned that there is a description by William Gilpin of Barrett's mural paintings in the Norbury drawing room. It is to be found in his *Observations on the Western Parts of England*, 1798, and in it he says that the landscape on the south wall depicts the real view towards Box Hill and Dorking.

James Edwards (op. cit.) mentions that Lock's new mansion was supplied with water raised from a depth of 361 feet by a horse-operated engine constructed by a Mr. Cole near Westminster Bridge.

Alexandre d'Arblay and his wife moved from Phoenix Farm to Fairfield House (now called The Hermitage) at Bookham, apparently in 1794 before the birth of their son, and stayed there until late in 1798 or early in the following year, when they moved into Camilla Lacey.

As a footnote to the purchase of Norbury by the County Council in 1930, it should be mentioned that in 1932 the freehold of the house and grounds and about 40 acres of the park were purchased from the County Council by Dr. Marie C. Stopes who is the present owner and occupier of the house. The rest of the park remains the property of the County Council and is well served by numerous footpaths, though there is not public access to the whole on account of agriculture and shooting. F. B. BENDER.

## ASHTEAD AND ITS HISTORY—Pt. IX

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

### **The Early Stuart Period (1603-1660) and John Lawrence's Map of Ashtead (1638)**

**T**O return to the main story, after the digression made by the last two articles of this series, we now come to the Early Stuart period and will consider the history of the manor and its tenants during the reigns of James I and Charles I (1603-1649) during the Commonwealth and up to the Restoration (1660).

Of course, there is little evidence of the big events of English history during this eventful period to be seen reflected in the records of Ashtead, even for the period of the Civil War. Ashtead was far removed from any fighting, or even such minor skirmishing as that which took place during the running fight through Ewell (in July 1648), though it is obvious that these events must have had some effect on the lives of most of the tenants, as I will explain.

For the period under review, a fairly complete run of "court rolls" is still in existence, though with one or two minor gaps (e.g., the records for the 13 years 1620-1633 and the six years 1646-1651 are missing) so that it is easy to obtain an idea of the changes which took place from the business transacted at these Manorial Courts. The arrival in the area of certain new freehold, or copyhold, tenants can be noted though very often, as in the case of the Stydolf family of Headley, they resided outside the parish and rented from the Lord of the Manor (or the Lady of the Manor more exactly, as at this period the widowed Anne, Countess of Arundel, owned Ashtead Manor), certain land which adjoined their own properties.

Thomas Stydolf is the first of this family to be mentioned as holding land here, in 1599; he was followed by Sir Francis (? his son) in 1604. On Sir Francis Stydolf's death, in 1655, his Ashtead property passed to his "only son and next of kin" (as the court rolls tell us) "Richard Stydolf, Esq." This freehold property, we learn, was held at only a nominal rent of four pence per annum, and consisted of about 36 acres called "King's Grove," "Pulverland," and "Jane's Field," and which we can identify from the surviving map of 1638.

Although they lived outside the manor and, apart from the land which they held here, can have had little to do with Ashtead, the Stydolf family, or families (owning as they did both Mickleham and Headley Manors), are worthy of more than a passing mention. Also there is a matter concerning one of the family, a certain William Stydolf, which seems to have a special bearing on the state of affairs during the Civil War and Commonwealth.

He, William Stydolf, is first mentioned in the Ashtead rolls in 1638 and as a freehold tenant, but his holding is not indicated on the Lawrence map which was prepared in that very year. What is more strange is that in the court rolls there is no inkling as to what part of the manor he held, either on his admission (? in 1638) or on his death (in 1666 or 1667). His name just disappears, though that of his widow is mentioned, for two further years, and then it, too, disappears, and again without any explanation.

It is likely that a detailed study of the documents concerning Headley Manor, which have recently been deposited in the muniment room at Kingston, would explain the position, but this is work which still remains to be done. Meanwhile, one can only note the following points obtained from the Ashtead documents, plus one or two other sources.

Sir Francis Stydolf and his son, Richard, were both "Royalists" and, no doubt for special services to the King, Richard was created a baronet on the Restoration. William Stydolf, on the other hand, is treated very differently for, from 1660 until his name disappears, the "esquire" is omitted from after his name (which is not even honoured with the suffix "gent") and which now is relegated to a position low in the list of tenants, amongst the "lesser fry" of the manor. It is therefore perhaps fair to conjecture that he was a "Roundhead," and that he fell from grace when Charles II came to the throne and when Sir Richard Stydolf (whom the Ashtead documents show to have been absent) returned to his property.

A list of those who paid "compositions" (i.e., fines for their return) of "sequestered" estates (dated 1655) includes that of William Stydolf, with relation to Headley Manor, and the

payment of £1,746, a considerable sum of money for those days and far in excess of other payments in the county with few exceptions. One is (subject to the results of further research) inclined to conclude that William, in effect, "purchased" the estates of his royalist kinsman, but that he was ousted from them at the Restoration. He may, on the other hand (as with several families which had members on both sides in the Civil War), have been acting in collusion with his relative and doing his best to preserve the family estates intact.

Another family which at this period obtained some Ashtead land, and retained it for several generations, was that of the Mynnes of Epsom (manors of Horton and, later, Woodcote). They retained the freehold tenancy of a piece, of about 15 acres (on the east side of Farm Lane, and also bounded by the Epsom Road and the Ashtead-Epsom boundary), which remained with the family until, on the death in 1652 of George Mynne, it passed, with the Woodcote property to Richard Evelyn, who had married George Mynne's daughter, Elizabeth.

One of the more important, and, to us, more interesting, of the people who came to Ashtead at this period was the copyhold tenant Mr. John Pepys (spelt on the Lawrence map, "Mr. Peeps," but correctly in the court rolls, which is not surprising seeing that the Stewards of the Manor, George Duncumbe, Esq., *circa* 1590-1650, and, after him, Sir Edward Thurland, 1650-1674, were both lawyers of distinction). John Pepys was a distant cousin of the celebrated diarist Samuel (of whom Arthur Bryant, the historian, has written much in recent years) whose diary will be known to all readers, especially those passages in which Pepys describes how he revisited Ashtead and the spots which he knew as a boy when staying at his cousin's house.

John Pepys obtained his holding in Ashtead in May 1637, by being granted the copyhold of lands which, until then, had been held by a "Richard Turner, Senior, gentleman." His daughter, Jane, married one John Turner, Sergeant-at-law, and (according to Bryant, *The Man in the Making*, page 42) "a wealthy Yorkshire lawyer." Possibly he was connected with the Richard Turner who formerly held this Ashtead property but, as the rolls which must have contained the entries made when he obtained it are lost (i.e., between 1619 and 1634) a possible source of this information is missing. Anyhow, Samuel's cousin, Jane Turner, is referred to many times in his diary.

The Pepys' Ashtead holding, shown clearly on the Lawrence Map, is thus described in the Court Roll for 14th January, 1638:—

"One messuage, and 2 enclosures adjoining, called Perrycrofte, and 3 enclosures . . . facing upon Griggs Lane at the south end and upon the east, called Ridons" (the present grounds of Forest Lodge) "containing in all about 27 acres, and 5 acres and 3 rods of land lying dispersedly in the common fields, returning a rent per annum of 13/- and, by pannage, of 2/-. And, moreover, 8 acres of land, recently Michael Richbell's, lying dispersedly in the common fields of Ashted and held at an annual rent of 3/-, by apportionment. And, in addition 8 acres of land lying dispersedly in Marling Pitt" (i.e., the site of the present "Warren Estate," including the old chalk pit formerly used for "marling," or liming, the fields of Ashtead).

Certain lesser holdings, all of which are made over to "John Pepys Esquire and Anne his wife," are then specified, together with their rents which have to be paid to the Lord of the Manor (Henry Lord Maltravers). These holdings include "A piece of land lying in Eastend of Ashted adjacent to the aforesaid mansion ('Domum Mancionali(s)') and leading to an enclosure and a barn called Blakes Barne towards the west, which very piece of land the Lady Elizabeth, recently Queen, at the court held here on the 13th Sept. in the 33rd year of her reign, conceded to John Browne her servant and Alice his wife and their heirs, to hold at a rent of 4d. per annum, paid at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel."

It is interesting to note that the whole of the property taken over by John Pepys was, in addition to the piece granted by Queen Elizabeth to John Browne, held by the latter at the date of his death, in 1611, when it passed to his nephew, another John Browne. (A contemporary copy of the will of John Browne senior is still in existence, and gives much useful information, including the news that Sibill, the sister of John Browne junior, was married to one James Otway, and thus it explains the intervention of John Browne in a dispute, at a later date, between two members of the Otway family.)

# LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## Account for the Year ended 30th September, 1955

<i>Dr.</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		<i>Cr.</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balances at 30.9.54—				By Printing and Duplicating ... ..		16 10 0
General ... ..	80 11 11			„ Postages, Stationery and Sundry Dis-		
Library Fund ... ..	18 1 2			bursements ... ..		10 15 3
		98 13 1		„ Subscriptions and Affiliation Fees—		
„ Subscriptions—				Surrey Record Society ... ..	1 0 0	
158 at 7s. 6d. (including £3 16s. 0d.				South Eastern Union of Scientific		
received in 1954) ... ..	59 5 0			Societies ... ..	12 6	
11 at 1s. (Junior Members) ... ..	11 0			Council for the Promotion of Field		
		59 16 0		Studies ... ..	1 1 0	
„ Subscriptions paid in arrear for 1954						2 13 6
(2 at 7s. 6d.) ... ..		15 0		„ Printing the Society's "Proceedings" for		
„ Subscriptions paid in advance for 1956				1953 ... ..		54 14 3
(12 at 7s. 6d.) ... ..		4 10 0		„ Balance at Banks—		
„ Surrey County Council Grant ... ..		15 0 0		Library Fund ... ..	18 1 2	
„ Sale of the Society's "Proceedings" ... ..		3 16 8		General ... ..	88 17 6	
„ Donations ... ..		6 16 0		„ Cash in Hand ... ..	1 2 2	
„ Interest on Bank Account ... ..		1 9 6				108 0 10
„ Visits:						
Receipts ... ..	40 13 3					
Expenses ... ..	38 15 8					
		1 17 7				
		<u>£192 13 10</u>				<u>£192 13 10</u>

### Library Fund

<i>Dr.</i>	£ s. d.		<i>Cr.</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
	<u>£18 1 2</u>			
				<u>£18 1 2</u>

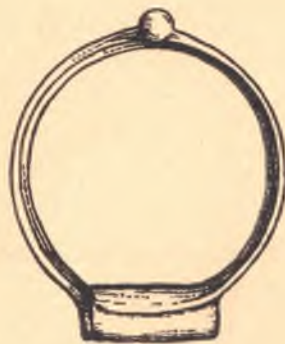
*Note.*—The accounts do not include items for the value of archives, equipment and library.

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

Audited and found correct.

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

26th October, 1955.



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