

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



VOL. 1 No. 4

1950

Fourth Annual General Meeting

Held at the Council Offices, Leatherhead, on 15th November, 1950

THE Report of the Executive Committee for 1949-50 is summarised in Secretarial Notes. The Accounts to 30th September, 1950, were duly adopted as presented and the Officers were all re-elected.

At the previous General Meeting a resolution had been passed that a strong protest should be made against the projected demolition of the old Tollgate Cottage, Effingham. The protest had been made and endorsed by the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society, the Historical Association (mid-Surrey Branch) and the Surrey Archaeological Society.

The County Council had replied that it had been decided to acquire the building but the question of its demolition was in abeyance. The Meeting in 1950 again discussed the matter very fully and arranged for an expert examination of the building to be made by Mr. Foster Elliott, A.R.I.B.A. (This has been carried out and, at the time of going to press, further negotiations for its preservation are in progress.)

Following the precedent set at the last General Meeting a lively debate on any topics submitted followed formal business. The main items were : (i) the programme of "beginners" talks proposed by the Committee—and which is in hand ; (ii) the preservation of local prints and illustrations ; (iii) local trees worthy of preservation ; (iv) future excavations. All matters raised have been noted for implementation if, and when, possible.

Briefly the OBJECTS of the Society are :—

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

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

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

The yearly membership fee for all adult Members (to include one copy of the Society's Proceedings) is seven shillings and sixpence. Apply to the Hon. Treasurer : Mr. S. E. D. FORTESCUE, Pond Meadow, Preston Cross, Gt. Bookham (Bookham 2683).

It is regretted that a few small errors crept into the last number and the following amendments should be made :—

Page 1 (Contents)	Delete "Park" from "Pachesham Park."
„ 8 (facing)	Transpose captions to illustrations Nos. 2 and 3.
„ (para. 4)	For "Ballards" read "Ballands".
„ 19 (The Bookham Caves)	For "Blagdon" read "Bagdon".

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Leatherhead and District Local History Society
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OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR

1950-51

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. Treasurer: S. E. D. FORTESCUE

(Pond Meadow, Preston Cross, Great Bookham. Tel. : Bookham 2683).

Hon. Programme Secretary: C. T. FISHER

("Silver Birches," Leatherhead Road, Great Bookham. Tel. : Bookham 2232).

Committee Members: F. B. BENDER

S. N. GRIMES

Hon. Auditor: W. H. TAYLOR

Hon. Librarian: Vacant.

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

SECRETARIAL NOTES

I have pleasure in reporting that during 1950 the progress of recognition of, and interest in, the Society and its work has been even more marked, both inside and outside the locality. Indeed your Hon. Secretary and other members have had a quite strenuous time dealing with requests for lecturers, guides, articles for local publications, and historical information by residents (and others) regarding their buildings and other matters. It is gratifying that, to date, all requests have been satisfactorily met. Attempts to ensure the preservation of special buildings and other historical relics in the district have not been altogether unsuccessful.

Sub-committees were formed for dealing with special activities for the 1951 Festival year and to carry out a proposal that a local guide to the extant buildings of historic interest should be published. These activities are in hand and the local guide to buildings is included in this issue. The guide, which has been prepared by Messrs. J. H. Harvey and F. B. Bengier, will also be published separately. The map has been made by Group B.

The Committee, with the support of the General Meeting, proposes to initiate—if facilities can be obtained, and subject to adequate support by attendance—a series of talks on the elements of the subjects with which this Society concerns itself. These will, it is hoped, encourage members who profess ignorance of subjects, which nevertheless interest them, to take a more active part in the Society's work and render some assistance which is sorely needed if the Society's expansion maintains—as it should—its present pace. A programme has been drawn up and it is hoped to commence these talks in the autumn of 1951. They will be in addition to the monthly general fixtures.

New members during the year 1949-50 resulted in a net increase of 17 after deducting resignations. The total of all members at 30th September, 1950, was 169 and is increasing.

The following fixtures were arranged during the year 1949-50 :

December 10th	A talk by Mr. A. T. Ruby on "The Life and Times of Sir Eustace de Hacche."
January 17th	A lantern lecture by Mr. E. E. Oldershaw on "The Roman Wall."
February 15th	A talk by Mr. G. H. Smith on "The Shiers of Slyfield and the Slyfield Chest."
March 15th	A lantern lecture by Mr. W. C. Cocksedge on "A talk about Windmills."
April 19th	A lantern lecture by Mr. C. W. Phillips on "Air Photography."
May 27th	A conducted tour, by invitation from the local Countryside Protection Society, of the restored buildings known as Sweech House (Messrs. Bengier, Elliott and Harvey) and an Exhibition of old photographs and other illustrations of the district.
June 17th	A visit to Penshurst by coach.
July 15th	A conducted tour of old Ashtead (Mr. F. B. Bengier).
August 19th	A conducted tour of Great Bookham Church (Mr. John H. Harvey, F.S.A.).
September 30th	A nature history ramble and fungus foray (Mrs. M. P. Topping, Ph.D.).

The Groups have continued their activities and details appear in later pages. Steady progress continues without any specially spectacular item to record, except, perhaps, the successful excavation at the Mounts of the trackway from the old road to the moat.

I am pleased to report that Mr. A. Day, of Tudor Villa, Hawks Hill, Leatherhead (L'hd. 2907) has accepted the long vacant office of leader of the Photographic Group and already much good work has been done. The Society's pleasure will, however, be much counterbalanced by their great loss suffered through the sudden death of Mr. G. H. Smith, leader of the Historical Records Group. Mr. Smith's office has been accepted by Dr. A. Kiralfy, LL.M., Ph.D.

The third number of the "Proceedings" has not failed, it is believed, to live well up to the standard of preceding numbers. If and when funds permit the publication will be increased in size.

Copies of the first three numbers are available for purchase by members and non-members, price 3s. each.

It is with much regret that I have to record the resignation, as Hon. Editor, of Mr. S. G. Blaxland Stubbs, O.B.E., F.R.S.A., due to ill-health and pressure of other work. On behalf of all members, the Society's thanks are expressed to Mr. Stubbs for having so successfully launched the Society's publications. Again, however, the Society has been most fortunate in getting Mr. C. J. Songhurst of 93, Links Road, Ashtead (Ashtead 3439) to fill the breach.

Mrs. Butler has again been a most industrious and regular helper in the indexing of the Society's Accessions. More help is, however, required if the never-ceasing stream of new material is to be up to date.

The Accounts (printed elsewhere) disclose, the Committee are glad to record, the maintenance of an excess of receipts over expenditure. Nevertheless subscriptions and sales do not cover administration costs—however rigidly controlled—and printing the "Proceedings." Donations and grants (for which the Society is most grateful) are an essential feature to maintain this balance and build up a small reserve for future contingencies. The financial position is still such as to form a harassing restriction on the Society's activities and your Committee's desire for its development and expansion.

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

Mr. W. G. Mayer, Hon. Librarian, is moving his address and has been obliged to relinquish his office. As a temporary measure the Hon. Treasurer is acting as Librarian, and requests for items should be made to him.

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

Reports of the Separate Groups

GROUPS AND LEADERS

- "A": *Historical Records, MSS and Other Written Records.*
Dr. A. Kiralfy, LL.M., Ph.D., 44, Orchard Close, Fetcham.
- "B": *Architecture, Buildings, Surveying, etc.*
Mr. R. Foster Elliott, A.R.I.B.A., Bridge Cottage, Dorking Road, Leatherhead.
- "C": *Photography.*
Mr. A. Day, Tudor Villa, Hawks Hill, Leatherhead.
- "D": *Archaeology.*
Capt. A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A., The Old Quarry, The Warren, Ashtead.
- "E": *Natural History.*
Mrs. M. P. Topping, Ph.D., Angroban, Fir Tree Road, Leatherhead.
- "F": *Arts, Crafts, Folklore, Dialect, etc.*

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

Ashtead. The work on the Ashtead Court Rolls in 1950 proceeded even more rapidly than was anticipated in the 1949 Proceedings.

Rolls from the Public Record Office up to 1546 were completed, and, in addition, photostats were obtained from the Croydon Reference Library and completely recorded to 1578. Further work on the records from Kingston Record Office covering the period 1599-1645 is well in hand and is completed up to 1638.

Finally, and at the same time, work has been done by the Chairman on a further set of records contained in a book on loan from the Croydon Reference Library covering the period 1650-1678. It is anticipated that in the next year all the Court Rolls up to 1691 will have been dealt with, leaving only the more recent records, those still in the possession of the present Lord of the Manor.

Some very interesting material, of great importance for the early history of Ashtead, has recently come to light, through enquiries which were instituted by the late Mr. G. H. Smith. Briefly, this concerns three XIIIth century charters, hitherto unpublished, which between them fill in the early history of the Manor, from c. 1130 to 1200 and which link up with the already published XIIIth century history of the Manor.

Mr. Smith also provided, during the year, references to published material concerning the early history of Ashtead Church and its Ministers and which has now been extracted for our records.

Fetcham. Considerable progress has also to be recorded here. Work on the Parish Registers has been completed and Mr. J. G. W. Lewarne is now dealing with the records as to the incumbents and the Charity Accounts. Much interesting material has been extracted and it is hoped that some at least will be available for publication at an early date.

The Bookhams. A difficulty which has arisen over convenient opportunities to examine and copy the Parish Registers of Great Bookham has prevented a start on this work, but it is hoped suitable arrangements can soon be made. Mr. G. H. Smith's researches into the Shiers family and the Slyfield Chest are recorded in full elsewhere in this issue of the "Proceedings."

Pachenesham. A full investigation into all available documents relating to the Manor prior to its acquisition by Sir Eustace de Hacche in 1286 has been made in the hope that more light would be thrown on its early history. Facts additional to those already recorded in County Histories are few, though interesting, and lead to the conclusion that the Manor as held by Sir Eustace quite probably consisted of bits and pieces of territory acquired by him from various sources. The indiscriminate use in early documents of "Leatherhead" (and its variants) and "Pachenesham" (ditto) make it almost impossible to trace the history of its apparent components with any certainty. The investigation continues.

General. Mr. L. E. Buckell continues his research into the military history of the area, but progress cannot be rapid since so little has hitherto been done and much research is necessary. Military formations whose officers and men were largely drawn from this area have been, generally, well written up, but more local detail is desirable. Many families in the district had members with strong army connections and/or who greatly distinguished themselves, and this will form a fascinating study in itself. Information must also be collated about formations which were brought into our area for training or defence; the Canadian Army in the last war is an example and it is interesting to know that the Dieppe Commando raid was planned from Leatherhead. Mr. Buckell APPEALS TO ALL LOCAL RESIDENTS, PAST AND PRESENT, to let him know of any old photographs, newspaper cuttings, old uniforms, badges or other mementoes which they may possess connected with the Volunteers, Yeomanry, Militia or Territorials of the district.

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

OWING to an unfortunate accident sustained while on holiday, Mr. Elliott was prevented foremost of the year from arranging for active work by the Group. The survey of the year's work at The Mounts was therefore carried out by the Ordnance Survey to whom the Society's grateful thanks are due. Mr. Elliott was sufficiently recovered to undertake the inspection of, and report on, the Effingham Tollgate Cottage at the end of the year. Much of his enforced period of inactivity has been spent in collaborating with Group " C " in a pictorial record of the historic buildings in the area and the preparation of a pictorial map showing the location of each. It is expected that the completion of this map can be recorded in our next issue.

REPORT OF GROUP " C " : Photography

DURING 1950 the photographs of the year's excavations at The Mounts were most skilfully and successfully taken in spite of atrocious weather. The completed illustrations constitute a very extensive record of the work on the site ; many of them were shown at Captain Lowther's lecture to the Society and the Surrey Archaeological Society last December. Photographs were also taken of the Tollgate Cottage, Effingham. The Group has commenced work on a large programme to record some 70 old buildings in the district. The photographs are needed also for the large illustrated map which the Society is preparing through Group " B." The work has been handicapped by the weather which has been consistently unsuitable at week-ends, but under new and energetic leadership much progress has been made. In due course prints will be filed with the County Record Office and The National Buildings Record.

REPORT OF GROUP " D " : Archaeology

By A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.

OWING to the exceptionally wet weather experienced during the summer and autumn, a very limited amount of excavation was carried out during 1950. Also, since the site on the downs, to the south of " Highlands Farm," was (owing to the growing of a late hay crop) not available to us for excavation this year ; investigation of the group of barrows which were discovered there (as " crop-marks " exposing their ring-shaped ditches, and which were found by Mr. Hope-Taylor, F.S.A., during the war) has had to be left to a future occasion.

Instead, a further period of work under Mr. Ruby's direction and, as in previous years, with the assistance of some members of Group " D ", was carried out at " The Mounts." Despite the very bad weather, the short period during which the work was continued, and the relatively small number of helpers, the results achieved were of considerable importance, as can be judged from Mr. Ruby's interim report on this work which is appended to this report for 1950.

Evidence of occupation during the " post-pagan " Saxon period—i.e. from about 700 to 1066 A.D.—is seldom plentiful, even at important centres such as London, and our area of Leatherhead and District has proved no exception. During 1950, however, a bronze pin of about 800 A.D. (with a polygonal, faceted head, each facet being ornamented with an impressed ring with a central dot) and several shreds of pottery of this period were recovered from a garden on the former Leatherhead Common Fields on the east side of Leatherhead and presented to the writer.

With this material, found during gardening operations, was a small quantity of pottery of early mediaeval date and of types that suggest further occupation at this site during the Norman period and extending into the XIIIth century. The Society is indebted to Mr. Nash for this important find.

The bronze pin (fig. 1) of which the lower or pointed end is missing, can be matched by others, some identical and others similar, found during excavations at *Whitby Abbey* (1943. *Archaeologia*, Vol. 89, pp. 61 and 63, figs.) and at *Southampton* (1950. Excavations, of the Saxon town known as *Hameoch*, carried out by Mr. Maitland-Muller, who kindly brought the pin which he found to compare with the Leatherhead specimen).

As the site of this find is not one which offers the possibility of excavations being undertaken there, it is unlikely that anything will be learnt about the exact nature of the occupation. Whether a farm or cottage occupied the site in Saxon times, or whether the land was then, at that early date, " Common Land," and cultivated in the usual long

narrow strips, is possibly not ascertainable. The latter is, however, a possibility, in which case the bronze pin and few shreds of pottery which have been found there may have been left there by those tilling the fields; the one being lost and the others—the pieces of vessels that served as their “dinner pails” ?—accidentally broken during use.

Of the six pins of this type from the Whitby Abbey site, the dating appears to be about 657-867 (the Abbey was destroyed by the Danes in the latter year and not reoccupied until about 1180).

The pin from the Saxon Southampton site, though of about the same period, cannot be dated any more closely, though it was from one of a series of pits containing much pottery and several other objects of Saxon date.

Several other finds from within our area were reported during the year, but none was of especial consequence. It cannot, however, be emphasised too strongly that the immediate reporting of any find, or suspected find, is of the greatest importance in most cases if it is to be followed up on the site, especially is this so in the case of sites where building or drainage work is in progress.

In addition to helping with the excavation, and to the salvage and reporting of finds, Group “D” members were able to attend several lectures during the year which were especially for those members of the Society interested in archaeology. We express our grateful thanks to those who kindly came and lectured to the Society during the winter months.

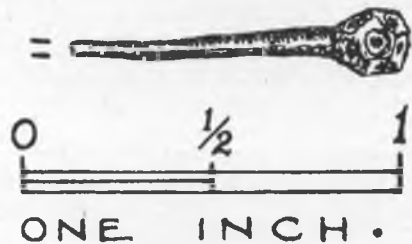


FIG. 1.
Saxon pin of bronze
with faceted head,
from Leatherhead.

Fourth Interim Report on the Excavations (May-September, 1950) at “The Mounts,” Randalls Road, Leatherhead

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

THE object of the excavation undertaken in 1950 was to find, if possible, the situation of the probable track or “drive” leading from the moat around the manor-house (excavated 1947-9) to the old road to Kingston. A road along the northern edge of the plantation in which the site of the manor-house is situated is indicated in Mr. John Harvey’s article in Vol. 1, No. 2, of this Society’s “Proceedings,” pp. 8-10, and a map of the Randall’s Estate made in the first years of the XIXth century indicates the earlier existence of such a road although by then it had ceased to be a through road or highway. The fixing of any such track would, it was realised, give the exact position of the bridge across the moat and also assist in confirming the position, inside the moat, of the main entrance to the house and of an entrance gate or gate-house nearby.

The main objective has been achieved. Unfortunately, lack of time and labour prevented the full investigation of a number of problems which arose during the excavations, but it is hoped that these also will be solved in due course.

The work, which commenced on 6th May and ended 23rd September, has been carried out by volunteer members of this Society. It has been confined to Saturday afternoons only, except that Mr. F. G. Carruthers, F.S.A., and I also spent there the whole of the week commencing 18th September. I must specially mention Mr. Carruthers and Mr. R. G. Austin for their constant attendance. Messrs. A. L. Boxall, J. C. Ellis and K. Waite have also done yeoman service while other members, including juniors, have given valuable help on several occasions.

The ground explored lies to the N. and N.W. of the manor-house site and slopes gently towards the N. It is closely wooded and is covered with small bushes, ground ivy, brambles, nettles and other wild growth necessitating much clearing. The roots of the trees and their predecessors have, in places, wrought havoc with the remains of the track and the old road. The subsoil is the usual yellow clay above which is a brown layer, consisting of mixed earth and clay, and the "plus" of leaf humus. This humus is of an almost uniform depth of 4-5 inches.

The Entrance Track (or "Drive"). Activities commenced by probing in the flattest area outside the moat as shown by the Level Survey of 1947. After only one false start, a hard metallated layer which proved to be the track was found at a depth of 7 inches below the surface (trench TK 1, pl. 1). One sherd, of a 13th century pot-lid, and a number of tile fragments and small oyster shells identical with those found among the foundations of the manor-house were in the surface and indicated the track as the one sought. A trench (TK 2) cut parallel with the first and 9 feet 6 inches to the N., showed the same track.

A small trial pit, halfway between the first trenches and the N. edge of the plantation, showed the direction of the track and a trench (TK 3) was cut 40 feet from the plantation edge and along the south edge of a well-defined depression, running W.-E., which suggested the probable site of the old highway.

Since the edges of the track were not easily identified in this trench, owing to a covering of large flints—obviously "tumble" trenches (RD 1 and 2) were cut at right angles and across the depression above mentioned. These gave the road surface much of which was in a good state of preservation.

Returning to the trench TK 3 this was widened in places and eventually the track's edges were disclosed by cutting down to the natural subsoil and working inwards until the sides of the track were reached.

Work was then transferred to the moat end of the track and trenches TK 4-7 were cut. The track was followed to its end and where it had slipped down with the edge of the moat. Sections in each end of trench TK 1 to fix the edges of the track and a full section in TK 2 was all that time (and bad weather) permitted.

(The actual plotting of the position of the track was kindly undertaken for us by the Ordnance Survey.)

From the edge of the moat to the road off which it branched, the track is approximately 130 feet in length. Its width (apart from the courtyard—see below) appears from sections in TK 1 and 2 to have been about 12 feet but to have broadened out considerably at its junction with the road. Here the sections gave a width of nearly 14 feet but it may well have been another 18-24 inches wider at the east end, where considerable disturbance caused by tree roots made its exact limits very uncertain.

The track is composed of a base of large chalk flints lying on the natural clay with a covering of smaller flints, small cobblestones, 3-4 inches long, and gravel. Roman tiles and bricks were frequent in the lower courses. There was a definite sprinkling of chalk particles and lumps at the side of the track with a scatter of stones at the level of the track surface.

The "vertical" sections were a little disappointing in that they did not always show at all well in their faces the clearly defined beginning of the basic flints as they could be seen horizontally in the cuts. The section in TK 2 does, however, give a fair correspondence. The surface was very irregular and there appears to have been no "camber." At the west end of the section the lowered surface corresponds with another section where tiles appear to have been used for repair work.

At both ends of the track an extensive area of large flints, overlying a surface which appears to have corresponded with the surface of the track, proved a problem which occupied much unproductive time and labour. These large flints were clearly not part of the track surface. In many places, particularly at the north end, thin layers of earth between them indicated a gradual arrival on the site, suggesting a fall of stones spread over a long period.



PLATE I

Surface of entrance road
near moat (looking east).



PLATE II

Surface of old highway.

At this north end this "tumble" covered all the excavated area and had even spread over the south edge of the road. This is easily accounted for by the slope from the end of the track to the road. The difference between the road surface and the "tumble" is clearly shown. The flints beyond the trowel in pl. II proved to be only a single layer on the earthen slope down the bank.

Much time was spent on an unsuccessful attempt to find a satisfactory explanation for this scatter of flints. Indications exist that at this junction of the track and the road the metalling was extended laterally to form a base for stone pillars for an entrance gate or wall: or, as the large lumps of chalk suggest, possibly a small gate house at the western end. These stones would have fallen gradually over the track and down the bank, the lower courses being on top, where, indeed, several pieces of Roman bricks and roof tiles were found.

There was a similar scatter of large flints at the moat end where again the metalling was widened, but here to an area which suggests the existence of a "courtyard" at the beginning of the bridge. Time did not permit the ascertainment of the actual area of this "courtyard."

No "tumble" was found in the trial pit halfway along the track though it is to be admitted that the pit was not sufficiently large to state with certainty that none was in that area.

It is pretty certain that some structural work once existed both by the bridge across the moat and at the junction of the track and the old highroad, but of what it consisted will probably never be ascertained.

The Highway. The course of the road can be traced visually along the N. edge of the plantation with comparative ease by means of a depression and, in places, a line of trees. The trenches RD 1 and 2 disclosed a surface in quite good preservation made of stones and gravel, but sectioning must await a later opportunity.

It will be seen from the surface contour that the road appears not to have taken up the full width of the depression, the distance between the N. and S. gullies being only 20 feet. The N. edge of the road has probably slipped, giving a picture of greater width than originally existed. It is, however, fairly certain that the N. gully—in which was found a land drain with a late XVIIIth century clay pipe bowl just above it in the same strata—was cut through the road to insert the drain and does not represent its northern limit. The south gully was filled with mould and was probably an original ditch between the road and the hedgebank from which the mould had come. A few pieces of tile and one or two flints had slipped down into this ditch which has not, however, yet been completely excavated.

Just east of RD 2 is a large pond lined with flints. This clearly had been cut out of the road, after its disuse, apparently as a field-ford for cattle. The depression of the road—later assisted by the land-drain—would form a natural drain to keep the pond supplied. The exploration of this hollow, the sectioning of the road and further cuts to prove its course should form the objective of a further season's work.

General Conclusions. The large rubbish pit within the moat with its evidence of use since about 1200 A.D., indicates that the early manor-house was unlikely to have been far away from its later site, that which it occupied in 1292. There seems no reason why de Hacche should have built a fresh entrance track from the highway, and the quantity of Roman material in its lower courses and the one piece there of early cooking pot suggest, though they do not establish, the existence of the track since about 1200 A.D.

The quantity of roof tile in TK 2, may indicate a patching up of the track. Fragments of tile were found everywhere on the top of the track, but not in such size or quantity as to suggest their presence was other than accidental apart from the patches just mentioned.

It does not appear that the track was ever used after the abandonment of the site. Apart from the XVIIth–XIXth century items found near the highway, only one item later than 1400, a fragment of a XVIth century bowl was found near the moat.

REPORT OF GROUP "E" : Natural History

THE active members of Group "E" have now settled down to a definite programme of work. A detailed analysis of the flora of that part of Mickleham Down which was ploughed and sown with cereals during the war is being made. The last crop was in 1948 when the area was sown with *Dactylis Glomerata* (Cocksfoot), a grass not commonly found in the chalk grassland flora. Although this grass is still plentiful the Down appears to be returning to the wild condition. There are a few isolated patches of Down which were not ploughed and where the original downland plants remain; these appear to be spreading into the grassbelt. The most conspicuous this summer (1950) were: *Senecio jacobaea* (Ragwort), *Hypericum perforatum* (Perforated St. John's wort), *Clinopodium vulgare* (Basil), and *Bartsia odontites* (Red Bartsia), the latter being particularly plentiful. *Plantago lanceolata* (Repwort Plantain) was a striking feature at the edges of the grassbelt. *Potentilla reptans* and *Ranunculus repens*, both creeping plants, were seen to be penetrating strongly even into the clumps of *D. glomerata*. Here and there in the grass area are patches of bare soil and these are being colonised by chalk-loving plants such as *Linum catharticum* (Purging Flax), *Euphrasia officinalis* (Eyebright) and *Asperula cynanchica* (Squinancy Wort).

Careful lists and counts have been made and it is hoped that by this means it will be possible to record the changes which occur in the flora during the transition from ploughed land back to chalk down. Membership of the Group is small and volunteers would be welcome to help in the recording.

Data concerning the distribution of certain Southern and Southern-Continental* species of plants which occur in S.-E. England have been collected by individual members of the Group. It is hoped in time to plot distribution maps for these species in the Mole valley. The hot dry summer of 1949 was favourable as these plants need a long warm season in order to set viable seed. In 1950 *Iberis amara* seedlings were more conspicuous than usual, probably for this reason. Luckily, from the point of view of this study, the summer of 1950 was cold and wet so that in contrast one would expect a diminution in the number of seedlings in 1951.

During the winter months several indoor meetings were held. At one of these Mr. Sankey (Assistant Warden at Juniper Hall Field Centre) gave a talk on "The Badger," which was illustrated by a film of his own making. On another occasion Mr. and Mrs. J. Dallas invited members to a lantern lecture which was much enjoyed.

M. P. T.

* *Iberis amara*
Ajuga chamaepitys
Salvia pratensis
Linaria repens

Linaria spuria
Phyteuma tenerum
Cynoglossum montanum
Iris foetidissima

THE SHIERS OF SLYFIELD AND THE CONTENTS OF THE SLYFIELD CHEST

By the late Mr. GEORGE H. SMITH

(EDITOR'S NOTE.—*The following is a paper read by the late Mr. Smith at a meeting held on 15th February, 1950. Subsequently Mr. Smith handed his MS to the Society for publication. We consider ourselves most fortunate that such a valuable document is available and can be published as a memorial to a so valued fellow-member and hard-working sharer in the work of this Society.*)

MANY members will recall to mind the pleasant visit the Society paid, in the summer of 1948, to the delightful old mansion known as Slyfield House, on the banks of the River Mole, at the north-east corner of the parish of Great Bookham.

"Slyfield," according to "The Place Names of Surrey," means "Slippery place," and no doubt in the early mediaeval days, before the land was drained and the river kept clear of weeds, this must have been an appropriate name for the site.

In the Domesday Book of 1086 we are told that Chertsey Abbey holds the Manor of Great Bookham, and that there is a mill on the manor, which suggests that this mill may have been on the site of what was afterwards the Slyfield Mill.

The Slyfield Family

The opinion of the late Mr. P. M. Johnston in S.A.C. XVI, p. 181, that the ancient family of Slyfield gave their name to the house, cannot, I think, be maintained in view of the derivation of the place-name quoted above. But, no doubt, the Slyfields are one of the oldest Surrey families.

In the Chertsey Abbey Court Roll, published by the Surrey Record Society, there is an entry under the third year of Edward III (1330), "Admission of Nicholas de Slyfield to holding of father, who becomes guardian." This Nicholas was apparently the youngest son, as the Custom of Borough English, or succession of the youngest son, was held in the Manor of Great Bookham until altered in 1339 to primogeniture.

How long before 1330 the Slyfields had lived here I know not, but they appear to have been in continuous occupation until 1614, when Edmund Slyfield sold his Estate in Great Bookham and Fetcham to Henry Bretton.

It would appear that the Slyfields had, during the course of the ages, risen in status from small holders on the manor to gentlemen with a coat of arms—*gules*, a fess engrailed *argent*, between three saltires *or*; and, in addition to holding Slyfield as copyhold they had also acquired the freehold of the quasi-manor of Great Bickney in Fetcham, with other lands formerly belonging to the Priory of Merton.

No doubt as the fortunes of the Slyfields increased so also did their dwelling house, and from the yeoman's wattle and daub hut it had become a considerable mansion by the time Queen Elizabeth honoured the squire of Slyfield by a visit when on her journey from Sheen Palace to Guildford.

That the Slyfields at this period possessed a considerable amount of property is shown by the will of Edmund Slyfield, Sheriff of Surrey, in 1582, dated 2nd December, 1590, a copy of which is in the Leatherhead Parish Chest. In this he leaves to Elizabeth, his wife, for life, the Manor of West Clandon and the advowson of the church there and the Manor of Papworth in Send. Incidentally, the will shows that the eldest son who succeeded to Slyfield and the youngest, or fourth, son were both named Henry.

Mr. J. H. Harvey has very kindly shown me a copy of the will of Henry Slyfield, which was proved 2nd November, 1598, and which, in addition to the property at Clandon and Send, mentions lands in Cheshire, Berkshire and Bolney in Sussex. He was succeeded by his eldest son Edmund, the last of the Slyfields to hold the Slyfield Estate.

This Edmund Slyfield, who succeeded to the Estate in 1598, was in trouble with the High Court in 1611, and again I am indebted to Mr. Harvey for seeing the Indictment. The Attorney-General charged Edmund Slyfield with having used in his property of 200 acres in Bookham and Fetcham, "without any warrant or kingly grante, Divers Liberties and franchises, That is to say to have and enjoye all goodes and chattles of wayfes and strayes . . . and the goodes and chattles of felons and fugitives" within his lands "likewise to convert and dispose to his own proper use," "And also to have and use . . . free warrant, to the greate losse of our said Lord the Kinge and his kingelie prerogative."

Whether as a result of this case or not, it appears from certain bonds in the Chest that Edmund found it necessary to borrow from time to time, and in February, 1614, Henry Bretton of Slyfield and Dennis Bretton of London acquired the property known as Great Bickney in Fetcham for £200 and in March, Henry Bretton bought Slyfield House and lands in Great Bookham.

In November, 1614, the former estate of the Slyfields passed into the hands of George Shiers, of London, a wealthy lawyer, who paid £3,080 for the "Manor and lands called Slyfield."

(May I digress for a moment to stress the desirability of research into the history of both the Slyfields and Shiers families. With regard to the latter, the one or two attempts that I have seen at genealogy have been incorrect, owing to the confusion between the family of George Shiers, Esqre, of Slyfield, and his contemporary and kinsman George Shiers, yeoman of Great Bookham, the wife of each of whom was named Mary.)

The Shiers Family

Upon obtaining possession of the property, George Shiers appears to have commenced to rebuild the mansion, perhaps incorporating some portion of the old building and considering that the existing house is but a portion of the Shiers building, it will be agreed that Slyfield in the XVIIth century was a house of considerable size and great architectural interest.

To anyone wishing to make a study of the house I commend two articles on "Slyfield Manor" by Mr. Arthur Oswald in "Country Life," April 16th and 23rd, 1938, and also the account of the house in the Victoria County History, with its fine photographs.

In passing, I would call attention to the dog-gate at the foot of the principal staircase, which was *not* intended to prevent her ladyship's pet King Charles spaniel from sleeping in its mistress' room, or to stop the squire's sporting dogs from rousing him too early from sleep; but to insure that the "bau-dogs," probably half-savage mastiffs, were kept on the ground floor to be ready to deal with any attempt by "strong rogues and masterless men" to break into the premises. A grim reminder of the state of the countryside in the early XVIIth century.

In the overmantel in the parlour there is a coat of arms, Shiers impaling, what Mr. Oswald has identified as those of Rutland of Mitcham. This, I believe, is the only clue we have to the identity of Mary, the wife of George Shiers. A reference to the Mitcham registers records the baptism of Mary, daughter of William Rutland, gentleman, December 3rd, 1587. I think the following is the true genealogy of Shiers of Slyfield:—

George Shiers, who died in 1642 and was buried in Great Bookham church, married Mary Rutland, who was alive in 1654, but the date of whose death I have not been able to trace. They had two sons and seven daughters.

The daughters were:—

- (1) Mary, born in 1612 and died in 1617.
- (2) Elizabeth, married William Glascock, a lawyer of some eminence.
- (3) Anne, who married in 1646, Charles Fitch of Woodham Walter, Essex.
- (4) Margaret, married George Polley, of Shoreham, Kent.
- (5) Jane, who married 30th May, 1655, Sir Thomas Nightingale of Stevenage, Herts. Baronet. The entry of this marriage in the Register of St. Olave's Southwark states that they were married by Thomas Lee, Esq. It will be remembered that during the Commonwealth only civil marriage was permitted.
- (6) Mary, who died unmarried in 1647.
- (7) Alice, married to someone named Newie.

Edward, the eldest son and his brother Robert, were admitted to the Inner Temple in November, 1633 (S.A.C. XIV, p. 28). The fact that Edward was not called to the bar has given rise to the theory that he died young, but he acquired property at Kirby Misperton, in Yorkshire, and also in Hertfordshire, and outlived his brother.

Mr. Oswald, in the article before quoted, says that "in 1648 they (Edward and Robert) drew up an elaborate indenture whereby, for a consideration of £2,100, the elder brother renounced his rights and interest in Slyfield, which is described as now in the tenure and occupation of Mary Shiers their mother." This may be so, but it does not quite agree with the terms of George Shiers' will, proved 22nd June, 1642, in which he leaves Slyfield to his wife for life, with remainder to Robert, his second son.

Robert Shiers was called to the Bar in 1641, called to the Bench in 1660 and chosen Reader in 1667. He was appointed an Examiner in Chancery in 1656 by Sir William Lenthall, Master of the Rolls; died 20 June, 1668, aged 52, and was buried in Great Bookham Church.

Robert Shiers married in 1656, Elizabeth, daughter of William Wilde of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. I am not sure whether they had three children or five, but, with the exception of George, born in 1660, the others died in infancy.

In the Calendar of Inner Temple Records, Vol. III, p. 8, is recorded "Special admission of George Shiers, son of Mr. Shiers of the bench, at the request of his father, 26th January, 166-.", i.e. before he was two years old!

George Shiers was educated at Exeter College, Oxford. He succeeded to the Slyfield Estates upon reaching his majority and was created a baronet in 1684, dying unmarried the next year.

Upon the death of Sir George Shiers the properties became vested in his mother, Elizabeth Shiers, who resided at Slyfield until her death, after two years of suffering from cancer, on August 14th, 1700, at the age of 66.

According to Manning and Bray (Vol. II, p. 692): "In 1693 Mrs. Shiers settled this estate (Slyfield) and the manor farm of Tollimores and another estate in Herts. on herself for life, remainder to Hugh Shortrudge, clerk, and the heirs of his body, remainder to herself in fee, with power to revoke and appoint new user. She afterwards made a will and gave her estate to charitable uses of which Exeter College, Oxford, was to have a considerable part. The will not being legally made, Dr. Shortrudge set it aside, but fulfilled her intentions by vesting it in Trustees."

Hugh Shortrudge, D.D., formerly a Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, and tutor of Sir George Shiers, was instituted Rector of Fetcham, 28th March, 1683. After acquiring Slyfield he resided there until his death, 28th March, 1720, aged 68. His successor, Thomas Croft, was instituted to the rectory 16th August, 1720. The Fetcham Vestry Book contains an eloquent tribute to Dr. Shortrudge. The Leatherhead Register records the marriage of his brother, "Thomas Shortrudge of the parish of Halesworth in the county of Suffolk, clerk, and Mrs. Jessie Michell of this parish," August 24th, 1720.

In 1714 Dr. Shortrudge suffered a recovery of all the property in Herts. and Surrey and by this means established his title beyond challenge. The following year he formed a trust to succeed to all his estate upon his death, and to dispose of the profits according to the directions contained in the trust deed. These directions are somewhat involved, but after some small legacies to relatives, about £220 per annum was to be paid to Exeter College, Oxford, on behalf of Mrs. Elizabeth Shiers (who is named as a Benefactor at Commemorations, and whose portrait is hung in the College Hall). The remainder of the income was to be paid in equal portions to the Incumbents of Effingham, Great Bookham, Leatherhead and Shalford, upon certain conditions, one of which is that the vicar preaches a sermon in the parish church on the 30th of January—the anniversary of the execution of King Charles I.

It may be worth recording that the first trustees were Sir Francis Vincent, Bart., of Stoke d'Abernon, Sir Thomas Heath, Kt. I think of Cobham, Edward Nicholas, Esqre., of West Horsley, Christopher Buckle, Esqre., of Banstead, and George Stanlake, gentleman, of Leatherhead. (Stanlake was an attorney and lived in a mansion at the end of North Street, which afterwards belonged to the Fleetwoods, but which has now been destroyed.)

The Slyfield Chest

We now come to the Slyfield Chest and its contents. There can, I think, be no doubt that it was made for Robert Shiers. It is a very strong and well-made article, four feet long, two feet wide and two feet high, covered with skin, now almost hairless, secured with metal studs which also mark the date it was made—1663. It has three locks with handsome lock plates, each requiring a different key and the two side locks have a secret catch, now out of action. Only the centre lock is now in use.

The story of the chest appears to be that, having been made for Robert Shiers to contain the title deeds, etc., of his various properties, he also used it as a deposit for any papers he wished to preserve and this use was continued by his son, Sir George, and also by Mrs. Elizabeth Shiers. On her death it went with the other effects to Dr. Shortrudge and so to his trustees. Under the terms of the trust, one of the four Incumbents mentioned was to take it in turn to act as Trustees' Attorney and Agent, to manage the property and make an Annual Statement to the Trustees, of whom Mr. Stanlake acted as Secretary and Adviser. The contents were, from time to time, needed for reference by Mr. Stanlake and the chest was deposited at Leatherhead Vicarage. When, or why, it was removed to the church is unknown, but probably it took place when the Vicarage was rebuilt during the incumbency of the Rev. Robert Laxton, 1752-67.

It is a very curious thing that a bequest which forms a very large proportion of the value of the endowment of Leatherhead Vicarage and the deposit of the Slyfield Chest in the Church, is not mentioned in the Vestry Minute Books. The only mention of the benefaction occurs in a complaint of the Vestry

in 1771 to the Vicar that "duty has been greatly neglected and enquires whether he will do his duty . . . according to Dr. Shortrudge's Charity."

The chest contains, at the present time, between 600 and 700 documents, comprising Trust accounts and Minutes of Trustee's meetings, leases, title deeds including wills, legal papers and miscellaneous items. Some of the deeds are written in Secretary or Courthand, some are in Latin, and a few are in Latin and Courthand. With very few exceptions they are in good condition and some are noteworthy for their beautiful handwriting.

The Trust accounts and Minutes of the Trustees' meetings do not call for comment, except that one minute adopted at the Trustees' Meeting on June 4th, 1743, reads: "It is agreed that so much of Slyfield House and the appurtenances be pulled down by the direction of the Acting Vicar with the consent of his Brother Vicars in pursuance of the power Reserved by Doctor Shortrudge's original Deed of Settlement for that purpose as they shall see fit." This, therefore, is the date when the mansion was reduced to its present size.

The leases and title deeds, apart from those relating to properties in Great Bookham and Fetcham to be mentioned later, chiefly relate to lands in the parishes of Hatfield, Datchworth, Digswell and Welwyn in Hertfordshire, which formed the bulk of the Trust Estate. Several of these date from the time of Queen Elizabeth. Amongst these deeds is a document relating to land apparently held from the Crown on a serjeantry, and for the sale of which there is a Licence 1st April 3rd Charles I (1627), with a good specimen of the Great Seal attached. I have been able to obtain a photostat of the Letters Patent relating to this licence.

Robert Shiers seems to have been a man of considerable wealth and purchased property in Kent, Essex, Lincolnshire, Worcestershire, Norfolk, London and Pembrokeshire. Amongst the London deeds is a counterpart lease dated 21st August, 1670, for a tenement on the west side of St. John's Lane, Clerkenwell, called by the name of the "Bayliffe of Engles House." The said "Bayliffe" was a high officer of the Order of St. John—The Knights Hospitallers.

The legal papers include Questions in Dispute between Exeter College and the Trustees with Lord Chancellor King's opinion, 1 Sep. 1727, Releases of claims to George Shiers, and Receipts. Amongst the "releases from Errors" is one from Azarias Shiers, citizen and Leatherseller of London (who I think was a brother of George Shiers) dated 20 July, 1622. There is also a Quitclaim dated 22nd April, 1611 by Francis Shiers of Gainsborough, one of the executors of his father Raphe Shiers, to George Shiers, which may indicate that Raphe and George Shiers were brothers. Francis Shiers was Vicar of Gainsborough. Another item is two copies of a memorandum, dated 10th December, 1641, that George Shiers and his son Robert attended Inner Temple Hall to pay £400 to John Hale of Diggeswell, in the presence of Edward Shiers and William Bamfield. This appears to have been important as the copies are preserved in a small box.

The miscellaneous items include several sheets of the oaths sworn by Robert Shiers' clerks on their admission. These are signed by the Master of the Rolls, and I have had the pleasure of showing surprised visitors the signature of Julius Caesar! There are two copies of the appointment 8th November, 1643, of Sir William Lenthal, Speaker of the House of Commons to be Master of the Rolls, vacant by the death of Sir Charles Caesar, Kt., by order of the Houses of Lords and Commons. Interesting documents are the "Examiner's Oath in the High Court of Chancery" and another copy as altered 15 December, 1649, substituting the Lord Protector for the King.

One would very much like to know what lies behind the two following documents—20th June, 1660, Petition of Nicholas Strode, an Examiner, to Sir Edward Hyde, Lord Chancellor, complaining that Robert Shiers has not delivered documents, etc., to him. On this is written a note by Sir Edward Hyde to show R. Shiers this petition and "to deliver up or attende me tomorrow to shew cause." The next day there is an order from the Lord Chancellor to Robert Shiers to deliver records, etc.

The Trust Deed specifies about sixty properties in the parishes of Great Bookham and Fetcham, often giving the Field Name and boundaries of the plot and probably most of the estate could be identified on the old plans of Great Bookham and Fetcham preserved at the Kingston Records Office, such as the map of the Manor of Great Bookham 1615-18 (S.C. 15/15).

The oldest document now in the chest illustrates the then legal method of conveying land on sale to another owner. I feel it is worth quotation.

"19 March, 11 Henry VIII (1520)

Thomas Hylder, son and heir of Richard Hylder for 20 marks 3s. 4d. paid by Henry Hylder my brother—have bargained and sold to the said Henry Hylder all my lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, rents, reversions and services in hamelett de Slyfeld or elsewhere in parish of Magna Bokeham, which were late of the said Richard Hylder my father—with warranty." This deed is endorsed "Possession and seisin given by Thomas Hylder in his own person to Henry Hylder in presence of Thomas Polstede, John Casleton, gentleman, Thomas Hudson, John Dudley, John Gardyner, John Elyot, Walter Hudson, Richard Wylkyn, John Blundell, Richard Gardyner, junr., John Hudson, Will. Hilder and others then present."

Here we have the deed setting forth the intention of the parties and the endorsement shows that the seller goes to the property with the purchaser, and in the presence of witnesses, gives him a clod of the actual soil, and acknowledges the transfer to the new owner.

After the enactment of the Statute of Uses in 1535 the transfer of land was by Lease and Release. The Vendor leased the property to the Purchaser for one year at a nominal rent and the next day released the reversion.

Of course all the properties have been sold a long time ago and the proceeds invested in Trustee Stock.

Some of the Great Bookham land was copyhold and there are some XVIIth century copies of Court Rolls and Fines of the Manor of Great Bookham and a stray copy of a Rental of Quitrents of the Manor of Banstead, 4 Aug. 1634.

It may appear somewhat strange that the will of Robert Shiers, proved 28th April, 1669, only disposes of his property in Pembrokeshire, but there is a deed in the chest dated 23rd December, 1661, which conveys his estates to trustees on behalf of his wife upon his death and there is also his marriage settlement.

In a catalogue of deeds which were at one time in the chest, but are now missing, are three items which may be of interest :—

An account of the Royalties of Fishing belonging to the Manors of Slyfield and Bigney.

A copy of the Court Roll containing a licence to the Trustees to let three copyholds for a term not exceeding twenty-one years for 7s., being a groat for each year. Oct. 28 1728.

A counterpart lease dated 20 June 1729, from the Trustees to John Tickner, of 3 Water Corn Mills and a messuage and lands in the parish of Great Bookham "at £28 payable quarterly at Slyfield House and also a couple of Fat Pullets and one full third part of all eels to be caught by the said John Tickner at the said mills or waters thereto belonging and also ye yearly rent of £5 for every acre and proportionable for a greater or lesser quantity which he shall plough or dig up during the term."

Amongst the personal papers in the chest are two dated 22 November 1645. "Memo. Vincent Corbet gift to my cosen Robert Shiers one silver snuffers and one velluitt cheare with all the stools thereunto belonging": and "Vincent Corbet sold to Elizabeth Shiers for 40/- in hand and 40s/- more to be paid 1 Jan. 1648." one velluitt petticote, one mantle, and one wroighte sheete with the cartains and vailleinces, and all my lynnyn whatsoever, all which was left unto me as executor unto my said ffather."

It was with considerable surprise that I noted one document executed by Dr. Hugh Shortrudge by his mark and not by signature. Later I found a similar execution of another deed, but in this case the attorney in attesting the document, added a note to the effect that Dr. Shortrudge was unable to sign his name as he was suffering from an attack of gout!

Great Bookham Church

The South Chapel in Great Bookham Church was the private chapel of the Slyfields, having, no doubt, been built by one of them. The Chapel was attached to Slyfield House and passed with the House to the Shiers and so to Dr. Shortrudge, who, in the Trust Deed, directed that no-one after him was to be buried within the rails of his chancel, which was to be kept in repair by the Trustees.

There are many memorials of the Slyfields and Shiers in Great Bookham Church, including the large marble monument in the North Aisle to Robert, Elizabeth and Sir George Shiers. George Shiers left a bequest to the poor of Great Bookham and his grandson, Sir George, made a similar bequest to Fetcham. The one, and only, Ecclesiastical document I have found in the Chest is the Faculty granted by the Chancellor of the diocese of Winchester, dated 17th May, 1718, for setting up a marble in Detcham Church relating to Sir George Shiers charity, which is now on the east wall of the porch.

General

I am very much indebted to the Vicar of Leatherhead for permission to examine the contents of the Chest and for the great interest both he, and the Churchwardens, have taken from time to time in the work. I am especially grateful for their permission to report to the National Registry of Archives, as this Society's correspondent to that Registry, of the existence of the documents. A first stage Report has been sent to the Registry and a third stage Report is in course of preparation, but, with the great quantity of documents to deal with, it will of necessity take some time.

The preservation and safe keeping of documents is a matter of the greatest importance for local historians, but to be of use not only must the document be preserved, but its existence must be known. To my notice has recently come an instance of this, with a brief account of which I will conclude my paper.

Prebendary James Dallaway, Vicar of Leatherhead 1804-1834, was a F.S.A., an important antiquary, a prolific writer on the arts and heraldry and has been noticed in the Dictionary of National Biography. He printed, but did not publish, two letters to Richard Duppa, Esq. to accompany "Etchings of Views in the Vicarage of Leatherhead" by his wife, 1821. This, of course, is common knowledge, but it is not so well known that Dallaway intended to write a history of Leatherhead. Unfortunately he did not get very far with his project.

There is, however, in the Muniment Room at Guildford, a school exercise book of notes headed "Miscellaneous Collections for an Account of the Parish of Letherhead in the County of Surrey, J.D. 1807." There are a few notes on the De Ledred family and some references to Pachesham which are well known. Of Thorncroft he says, "The spacious house of timber frame which had been inhabited by the Daltons for several generations was taken down by H. C. Boulton Esq. after his purchase (1772) and rebuilt from a plan of Sir Robert Taylor" Of the Manor House he writes: "A handsome brick house in the South Street, was built about 1720 by George Ballard Esq. By his son it was sold to — Grinsted in 1767 and in 1803 to J. T. Bell, Esq."

?
surely
1766

That the projected "Account" was intended to be comprehensive is shown by the note—"Lat. and Lon. of Leatherhead church . . . as taken by Lindley for his Map of Surrey : 51.17.31 north ; 19 min. 28 sec. (west). In time 1 min. 9 9/10 sec."

The book came to the Muniment Room with the archives of a Surrey Estate which the owner had placed on deposit and I am indebted to Miss Dance, the Archivist, for calling my attention to this interesting document. There is not the least clue as to the reason for this manuscript of Dallaway getting into this collection, but it does, I think, show that there may be in existence much more documentary information than we are at present aware.

Since writing the above the contents of the Chest, with the exception of ten documents, have been placed on deposit at the County Record Office, Kingston, where they will be available for study.

LEATHERHEAD AND FETCHAM UNDER KING HENRY III (Notes from the Assize Rolls of Surrey)

By Dr. A. KILRAFY *Kilrafy*

(1) **The Records.** Few legal records are available for the period prior to the accession of King Henry III. The records of the central court, the "Curia Regis," which had not yet divided into the courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas, have been transcribed and printed officially, for the reign of King John. Only two of these printed entries have any real local significance. In one case in 1205 an action was brought to recover land in Leatherhead and Fetcham (three Curia Regis Rolls 308) and in 1207 a similar claim was made to land in Leatherhead (four Curia Regis Rolls 9). To date, only the very first years of Henry III have been printed, and it will be many years before the whole of the central judicial records of this long and eventful reign are in print. The labour of searching all the unpublished rolls of the central court would be considerable. They are very numerous and Surrey entries are scattered about them. If the rolls of John's reign are any guide, the number of cases concerning Leatherhead likely to be found as a result of this process would not be considerable. Fortunately it is possible to supply much information from another source. Mr. J. H. Harvey had drawn the Society's attention to the fact of numerous references to this district in the early Surrey Assize rolls and all these rolls for the reign of Henry III have been examined. No earlier Assize rolls survive, so that this series is probably the earliest profitable source of local material. The rolls have many advantages from the researcher's point of view. They are smaller and easier to handle than the central rolls ; all Surrey cases are together ; criminal cases are sub-divided according to Hundreds, so that entries for our Hundred of Copthorne are easy to find ; most civil actions are Petty Assizes in the days before 1285, and these actions refer to the parishes in which the land was situated. Assize rolls resemble the central rolls in being about nine inches wide and thirty inches long, written in an archaic hand and in abbreviated Latin of the mediaeval vintage.

(2) **The Assize System.** The system of sending judges or commissioners of assize on regular circuits dates from 1166, the date at which the main jurisdiction of the early assizes was fixed, viz. petty assizes relating to dispossession of freehold land, and receipt of accusations or presentments of crime by grand juries. Surrey was not the subject of a General Eyre but was visited on many occasions by the usual judges of Assize. Records of eight such visitations exist during the reign of Henry III, but there were probably others, the records of which have not been preserved. The earliest session, that of 1225, was held before a bench presided over by a very distinguished judge, Martin of Pateshull (or Pattishall), later Dean of St. Paul's. He was the mentor of Henry de Bracton, author of the greatest mediaeval treatise on English law. (For further details of Pateshull's life reference may be made to the Selden Society's Publications, vol. 53, pp. xvi-xx.) This Assize was held at Guildford. In 1235 and 1241 Surrey Assizes were held at Bermondsey before William de York, Provost of Beverley Abbey in Yorkshire, a skilled lawyer who later became Bishop of Salisbury. York was a regular judge of the Bench at Westminster, the nascent court of Common Pleas. The 1255 Assize was held at Bermondsey before Gilbert de Preston, that of 1259, an important political event, before Hugh Bigot, Chief Justiciar of England. The 1263 Assize was held before Martin de Littlebury. We know from other records that Bigot was accompanied by Preston and Thurkelby in 1259 and the names of the other associate justices on these circuits can in fact often be discovered by references to feet of fines, to enrolments of their commissions and in other ways.

(3) **Fetcham Boundaries.** Perhaps the most interesting cases recorded at this time, from our point of view, are two cases which relate to the boundaries of Fetcham parish. The revival of the practice of "beating the bounds" justifies some mention of these. In the first case, in 1248, there is a reference to an Assize (or jury enquiry) held at Brockham, in a dispute between John D'Abernon and Holy Cross Hospital at Reigate. The hospital owned land and had tenants at West Humble (near Box Hill Station). It claimed rights of common of pasture in Fetcham, which were only in part conceded by D'Abernon. The interest of the case lies in its reference to contemporary landmarks. D'Abernon admitted that the Master of the Hospital could graze livestock between a ditch known as Grimesditch, presumably south of Fetcham, on the Downs, and some ploughed land near Patrick's Way. This track is described

as running from Polesden Lacy towards Fetcham Church (A.R. 870 m. 1d). The other case, in 1225, is less important but does illustrate the continuity of local history. One Richard de Ledrede sued Nicholaa de Fecham for depriving him of common of pasture in Thorncroft. The defendant's bailiff, "Provost Michael of Fetcham," showed the court that Richard's land was actually in Fetcham parish and did not extend to Thorncroft which was in Leatherhead parish, though on the left bank of the Mole (see Leatherhead Guide,* map p. 155) (A.R. 863 m. 2).

(4) **Local Landlords.** The rolls throw some additional light on important local landowners referred to in the Leatherhead Guide. A Gilbert le Hore referred to in 1255 is probably of the same family as Walter le Hore referred to in the Guide (p. 160) (A.R. 872 m. 10d). Philip de Thorp, a local grand juror in 1241, is probably of the same family as Walter de Thorp (A.R. 869 m. 2d). The De Mickelhams are probably the family which sent Robert and Roger de Mickelham as grand jurors to the 1241 Surrey Assizes from Copthorne Hundred (A.R. 867 m. 17). The name "De Ledred" is too descriptive to be used for reliable identification. On the rolls a number of men are so described—Richard in 1225 and 1235, Humphrey in 1241, Theodore in 1241, Aldwyn in 1255, Ralph and Adrian in 1259. Richard was a grand juror and may be of the prominent De Ledred family. A few of the families deserve separate mention.

(5) **The Baingiards.** These are referred to on p. 163 of the Guide. They seem clearly to be the same family referred to in an interesting entry in the year 1241 (A.R. 869 m. 2d). The daughter of "William Baynard" brought a quasi-civil appeal of rape against one William Belemund. Her father and uncle are referred to in the record as "William Bainguard" of Ockham and "William Bungnard" of Leatherhead. The appeal of rape dates from 1275 but there was already a similar appeal based on forcible access ("violentus concubitus"). Rape was often an "aristocratic offence" in the Middle Ages, not an indecent assault. A man of family but reduced means would carry off an heiress and hope to induce her to marry him, which provided a complete defence to the action. The woman usually agreed, for her good name's sake. Hence the barbarous punishment of the convicted ravisher was usually avoided. Women of means were thus particularly the subject of attack, if they had no brothers to inherit before them.

(6) **The Oxecrofts.** These are referred to in the Guide as local landlords. A William de Oxecroft occupied eight acres of land in Leatherhead in 1241 (A.R. 867 m. 11d). He had married Isabelle, daughter of William Appodurle and Appodurle gave his daughter and her husband the land in dispute, in "frankmarriage," a form resembling the later entail of 1285. As they had no surviving children when Isabelle died Appodurle wanted his land back. But Oxecroft was held entitled to live on it for the rest of his life, as tenant by the curtesy, since he and Isabelle had had a child during their marriage. William de Oxecroft is still in possession of the eight acres in 1255 when Maude, wife of William Appodurle claims dower out of it (A.R. 872 m. 15).

(7) **The Aperdeles.** This family are referred to in the Guide in connection with the reign of Edward III, but they were already important landowners under Henry III. The name is spelled in various ways, e.g. Appeldurlee, Malepdurle, etc. In 1241 we hear of John and William of Appeldurle as members of the grand jury of Copthorne Hundred, and they were no doubt related, since John became pledge for William's appearance in litigation in the same year. When William died, sometime before 1255, he left a wife Maude (or Matilda) and an eldest son William, as well as a younger son Henry. At any rate, when William sought to withhold some of his father's land from Henry, William stressed that he was the "first-born son" of William senior (A.R. 872 m. 15d, in a defence to the action). In 1259 Henry and one Hugh of Appeldurle were grand jurors. In 1263 Henry sued his mother Maude and his brother William (A.R. 874 m. 10d). In the same year a John de Appeldurle represents the family on the grand jury.

(8) **The Dabernons.** A printed record in 1205 refers to an action against Walter Dabernon for land in Leatherhead and Fetcham (Curia Regis Rolls, Vol. 3, p. 308). A Walter Dabernon is fined for not attending the Assizes in 1235 (A.R. 864 m. 16). There are references to a John Dabernon in 1248 and 1255, possibly the same man who was Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1264 (A.R. 870 m.1d, A.R. 872 m. 7d).

(9) **The Del Brocks.** These were an important family. Robert del Brock was a grand juror in 1235 (A.R. 864, m. 16). His wife Agatha and he were involved in litigation with Ralph del Brock in 1241 (A.R. 867 m. 12d). Ralph is elsewhere described as a miller of Leatherhead (A.R. 869 m. 2d). In 1263 Ralph was important enough to be one of the two electors who chose the twelve grand jurors of Copthorne Hundred (A.R. 874, last membrane).

(10) **The De Boxes.** In 1241 Henry de Box was one of the two hundred electors (A.R. 867 m. 17). He died about 1255 and left a wife Beatrice and a son Giles (A.R. 872, m. 10d). He owned a number of houses and plots of land scattered over the Leatherhead and Dorking area.

(11) **Other Families.** In 1255 there is a William Baldwin who owned a number of acres (A.R. 872 m. 14d). His wife Isabella claimed dower out of 58 acres of land and 8 acres of woods in Leatherhead. The defendant denied that she had ever been lawfully married to William, and the question of the

* Published by the Urban District Council in 1950. The historical notes therein were provided by this Society.—ED.

validity of the marriage was submitted to the Bishop of Winchester, as a spiritual issue. A Simon Baldwin is also referred to at this time (A.R. 872 m. 36). John de Cherbourg is a grand juror in 1235 and 1241 (A.R. 864 m. 16 ; A.R. 869 m. 2d). In 1259 his servant was fined for a minor offence (A.R. 873 m. 8). Adam Drew was an elector of grand jurors in 1241 (A.R. 867 m. 17) and a Walter Drew was a grand juror in 1263 (A.R. 874, last membrane). Nicholas Malmeins was a grand juror in 1235 (A.R. 864 m. 16) and is still referred to in 1255 (A.R. 872 m. 10d). The Pinzons are another family of note. As early as 1207 they were landowners in Leatherhead (4 Curia Regis Rolls, p. 9) and occasional references to them recur. There are several cases involving Fitzroberts but it is not yet clear whether these are all the same family.

(12) **Points of Law.** A selection of cases on a local basis gives an interesting cross-section of thirteenth century law, though not calculated to produce any unusual cases of legal interest. One case illustrates the working of the frankpledge system of collective responsibility and the groping towards the trial by petty jury of criminal cases (A.R. 872 m. 36, A.D. 1255). One William Nele of Leatherhead was arrested on suspicion of theft on the occasion of the sheriff's tourn, probably held at Leatherhead. He was handed over to his fellow tithing members for production at the Assizes. They did not keep him in custody and were fined for an escape, but William voluntarily appeared and stood trial. No petty jury as yet existed in criminal cases but the procedure adopted was one common since the abolition of the ordeal in 1215, viz. to submit the issue of guilt or innocence to a joint board made up of the grand juries of several Hundreds, in this case the Hundreds of Cophthorne and Effingham as well as jurors from separate towns, possibly Kingston and Guildford. William was acquitted of the charge. In general the district was quiet and relatively free of crime, and apprehended criminals usually turned out to have come from other Hundreds. Thus in 1241 suspicion of many thefts fell on John le Page of Wandsworth. He fled before arrest and the case was passed over to Brixton Hundred (A.R. 869 m. 2d).

Inanimate objects which caused a death were forfeited in the Middle Ages as "deodands," a survival of ancient ritual. When a man was killed at Pachenesham mill in 1235 by a cart, the cart was forfeited in this way (A.R. 864 m. 16).

Civil cases are almost entirely concerned with land. Since the Assize was the competent court for these. A few debt cases are tried, but usually concern rents granted out of land, or sales of land. From 1207 until the end of the Middle Ages a procedure of "attaint" was used against civil juries who had come to a verdict contrary to the evidence. The theory was that they were perjured, because local juries were supposed to have personal knowledge of the true facts, usually whether A or B had an older possession of land. This attaint procedure, which resulted in fines and imprisonment for the jury, and reversal of their verdict, was used in 1241 in the dispute among the Del Brocks about land in Leatherhead and Pachenesham (A.R. 867 m. 12d). The attaint jury of 24, chosen on the basis of quantitative superiority, vindicated the original jury on most points. The 24 do not contain any local names and must have been drawn from the body of the county generally, thus they include people described as "of Pirford," "of Addington," "of London," and "of Windsor." Probably this was done for impartiality. It is difficult to imagine a local Leatherhead jury of 24 convicting 12 of their neighbours of perjury.

It is pointed out in the Guide (pp. 17, 159) that Leatherhead was "ancient demesne" of the Crown, i.e. held by King Edward the Confessor just before the Conquest. This point is raised in cases recorded in 1263 (A.R. 874, m. 1, m. 2), but it does not seem to have made much difference. The privilege of ancient demesne, which involved the use of special writs, seems to have been abandoned by failure to claim it, and it was now too late to revive. Villeins on ancient demesne had a privileged status over unfree farmers on other estates and the point is worth pursuing.

Many of the cases show the use of "voucher to warranty." A man sued for land would vouch the man who sold the land to him, or his heirs if he were already dead. This enables us to build up a chain of title. In writs of entry we also often get a chain of title laid out in the statement of claim, e.g. that the tenant entered the land as lessee from one X. who bought it from Y. who had a mere life interest and has since died. Unfortunately none of the XIIIth century cases gives the precise name or location of the holdings. All we get is acreage, whether arable, wood or pasture, and the name of the parish.

One case raises the interesting defence of insanity (A.R. 674, m. 10d). Henry of Appeldurle tried to recover some land on the ground that he had disposed of it while insane. The grantees claimed that he had been sane, that he had later ratified the grants, and had given them sealed charters. The court accepted this defence and Henry was unsuccessful.

Such are a few of the more interesting legal points raised by these entries. A grand jury presentment in 1259 (A.R. 873 m. 8) may close this account. Simon, parson of Leatherhead, was charged with holding his own view of frankpledge instead of allowing his men to go to the sheriff's tourn, and his servant Alexander was charged with public nuisance by obstructing a way between Leatherhead and Mickleham.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—*Transcripts of the entries in the Surrey Assize Rolls above mentioned have been made by Dr. Kiralfy and are in the Society's possession.*

LIST OF OLD BUILDINGS
WITHIN THE LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT AREA
SELECTED FOR THEIR ARCHITECTURAL, HISTORICAL OR ARTISTIC
INTEREST, INCLUDING LOCATIONS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

FOREWORD

IN presenting this list to members of the Leatherhead Local History Society and to the public a word of caution is necessary. It should not be assumed that every building mentioned in it will be found an obvious specimen of antiquity and beauty. Many have suffered greatly over the course of centuries from neglect, alterations and accretions out of keeping with the original structures, or the attentions of the cement-rendering fiend. A few have been doctored in recent years in a misguided attempt to accentuate their antiquity. But when all is said and taken into account, we have in this neighbourhood a respectable number of genuine old buildings, and it is in the hope that a greater interest may be taken in their history, *and* in their preservation, that we publish this check list. A great deal might be done at relatively small cost to improve the condition of some. Only when a building falls into an almost derelict condition does it become necessary to attempt a total reconstruction and overhaul, nowadays a highly expensive and difficult operation to perform. All the arguments therefore are on the side of careful maintenance. We appeal to owners to care for their properties, and to ensure that even minor repairs and alterations are carried out under skilled attention. In particular the colours of exterior decoration are a matter of great importance. The Leatherhead and District Local History Society and the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society will always be ready to advise owners or tenants as to where to seek qualified professional advice.

Within the built-up areas a great deal could be done to improve the appearance of *all* properties (both old and new) by a proper use of colour in exterior decoration, and by the display of flower boxes in summer on window ledges and over shop-fronts.

The buildings here listed are all, except in one instance (No. 116), also listed either in the County List of Antiquities or recommended for the Schedules of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. That is a sign of the importance which the authorities are willing to attach to them and to their preservation; but in the last analysis it is the force of public opinion which counts most when a threat arises to demolish some such specimen. We look forward to better times in which an enlightened public opinion and enlightened ownership will produce the means to restore most of these buildings to their original beauty of form. This list is published to stimulate and form that public opinion, and to endeavour to spread the knowledge of which are, and which are not, genuine old buildings.

Acknowledgments should be made to Mr. John H. Harvey, F.S.A., who has worked for a number of years to list the buildings; and to Mr. F. Strange (County Archaeological Adviser) who has personally visited all of them in the course of his duties.

THE LIST

ASHTEAD Civil Parish

1. Parish Church of St. Giles. Mainly late XVth and early XVIth centuries, with re-used Roman materials, and traces of the Norman Church. There is a massive Perpendicular west tower. The east window contains Dutch stained glass of the early XVIth century.
2. Mediaeval sunk trackway at N. end of churchyard. By excavation in 1933 it was determined that this trackway dates from the XIIIth century and led to the early mediaeval manor house, all visible traces of which have now disappeared.
3. Agates Lane. Nos. 60 and 62. XVIth and XVIIth centuries. Half timber and brick.
4. Ashtead Forest. Roman villa. Excavated 1926-1928 by A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A. Period of occupation, *circa* A.D. 60 to *circa* A.D. 200. In all probability the residence of a master brick and tile maker.
5. Ashtead Forest. Triangular earthwork enclosure near the Roman villa site. Probably a Roman work designed to prevent cattle from straying on to bricks and tiles laid out to dry. Site not yet excavated.
6. Ashtead Park. Ashtead Park House. Built 1790 to designs of Joseph Bonomi. Brick with stone dressings.

7. Ashted Park. Headmaster's house. Dated 1734. Brick with low-pitched slate roof, probably of later date.
8. Crampshaw Lane. The Old Bakery. XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries. Brick.
9. Farm Lane. Ashted House. C. 1740. Brick. XIXth century additions, and XXth century alterations.
10. Farm Lane. Ashted Park Farm House. Early XVIIIth century. Brick. Dentelle cornice. An exceptionally fine house, possibly unequalled in the district. On the 1638 Survey Map of Ashted (now in the County Record Office) a house is shown upon this site as held by William Hilder with 20 acres of land. The present house very possibly embodies this earlier building and may have been re-fronted in the late 17th century. The road facade belongs to a style beginning at that time but more common in the 18th century.
11. Ottway's Lane. The Old Cottage. XVIth and XVIIth centuries. Timber framed and weather-boarded.
12. Rectory Lane. No. 12. Fowler's Cottage. XVIth century. A good specimen of this period.
13. Rectory Lane. No. 18 Applebough (formerly Baron's Cottages) and No. 20. XVIth and XVIIIth centuries.
14. Rectory Lane. No. 24. Old Forge Cottage, and No. 26, Wistaria Cottage (formerly Forge Cottage). XVIth century.
15. Rectory Lane. The Old Rectory. XVIIIth century and earlier.
16. The Street. No. 7. XVIIIth century. A weather-boarded frame house. A good specimen.
17. The Street. Nos. 44 and 46. Late XVIIth century. Plaster front with box moulded cornice. Rear portion weatherboarded. Abutting chimneys. Modern shop-fronts inserted to front facade.
18. The Street. Nos. 55 and 57. XVIIth century. Brick. Remodelled in early XIXth century, with iron casements of latter period.
19. Woodfield Lane. Nos. 33 and 35. The Cottage. XVIIIth and XVIIIth centuries.

GREAT BOOKHAM Civil Parish

20. Parish Church of St. Nicholas. XIth century remains, substantially enlarged in XIIth century. South Aisle rebuilt (Slyfield Chapel) in XVth century. Chancel 1341, with dated inscription. Important series of brasses, ledger stones and mural monuments, XIVth to XIXth centuries.
21. Bookham Grove. *Circa* 1760. Brick.
22. Polesden Lacey. 1824. Brick with stone dressings. Entrance hall contains Wren reredos from St. Matthew, Friday Street, E.C.4.
23. Slyfield House and Farm. *Circa* 1614. Brick, with moulded brick dressings. Interior contains notable plasterwork ceilings.
24. Eastwick Park (Southey Hall). *Circa* 1833. Brick with stone dressings.
25. Cobham Road. Sheepbell Farm and Barn. XVIth and XVIIth centuries.
26. Church Cottages. Nos. 1-4. XVIIth century. Nos. 5-7. Early XVIIIth century.
27. Church Road. The Old Almshouses. Early XIXth century.
28. Church Road. Corner House (formerly King's Arms Public House). XVIth to XVIIIth centuries. Brick and flint.
29. Church Road. Gables Cottage. XVIth century and later.
30. Church Road. Gothic House. Early XIXth century.
31. Church Road. The Tyrells. XVIIth century with later additions.
32. High Street. Donaldson (clothier) and Cameron (greengrocer). XVIth and XVIIth centuries.
33. High Street. Jackson's Granaries and outbuildings. XVIth to XIXth centuries.
34. High Street. Old Forge Cottage. XVIth and XVIIth centuries. Timber and brick.
35. High Street. Vine Cottage. XVIIIth century. Brick.
36. High Street. Warrell & Sons. M. A. Perry. XVIth century. Early XIXth century shops in front.
37. High Street. Burpham (formerly Franton's). Early XIXth century. Stock brick.
38. High Street. Fairfield House. Early XVIIIth century, with modern additions.
39. High Street. Royal Oak Cottages. Mid XVIIIth century.
40. High Street. Royal Oak Public House. XVIIth century. Timbered, with brick front.
41. High Street. Victoria Cottages. Nos. 1 and 2. XVIth century. Timber-framed.
42. The Street. Old Pound Cottages. XVIIth century and later.
43. Lower Road. Anchor Inn (formerly The Red Lion). XVIIth century.
44. The Street. Eastwick Cottage. XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries.
45. The Street. Halfway (corner of Child's Hall Road). XVIth century and later. Brick and half timber.
46. The Street. Hop Garden Cottage. XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries.
47. The Street. The Hermitage. XVIIIth century with later additions. This house was occupied by Fanny Burney the novelist for a short period at the end of the XVIIIth century, subsequent to her marriage with General d'Arblay.
48. Lower Road. Woodcote. XVIth and XVIIth centuries. Half timber and brick.
49. Townshot Close. Walnut Tree Cottages. *Circa* 1750.
50. Preston Cross. Half Moon Cottage. XVIth century. Half timber with brick nogging.

LITTLE BOOKHAM Civil Parish

51. Parish Church—dedication unknown. XIIIth century, with blocked south arcade. XVth century piscina.
52. The Manor House, near the church. Early XVIIIth century.
53. Manor Farm Tithe Barn, near the church. Probably XVth century.
54. The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane. XVIIIth century, with additions. Brick.
55. Maddox Farm. Various dates back to mid-XVIIth century.
56. Station Road. Foxglove Cottage. XVIIth century. A good specimen of the genuine cottage, as distinct from a copyholder's house later used by cottagers.
57. Station Road. Dawes Cottage. XVIth century. Half timber.
58. Station Road. Old Barn, north of Dawes Cottage. XVIIIth century, weather-boarded.
59. Station Road. Post Cottage. XVIIIth century.
60. Station Road. Rose Cottage. *Circa* 1700-1750.
61. Station Road. The Windsor Castle Public House. XVIth century, with modern alterations.

FETCHAM Civil Parish

62. Parish Church of St. Mary. Nave, XIth century, with XIIth century South arcade, and early XIVth century North aisle. Chancel, XIIIth century, to which period the north transept also belongs. Tower of various dates.
63. Roaring House Farm, barn and outbuildings. (Fetcham Downs.) XVIIIth century. Brick and half timber. The barn weather-boarded.
64. Fetcham Park House. (Now known as Badingham College.) 1710-1718 and later. The architect was William Talmen, contemporary and rival of Wren. It was the home of Arthur Moore, the economist; but his expenditure upon it exceeded his means and he died in 1730 a broken man. A notable feature is the painted hall and staircase by Laguerre.
65. The Salt Box, Lower Road. Mainly XVIIIth century, with some earlier work.
66. The Old Rising Sun, Guildford Road. XVth century. Stone. Formerly of open hall construction, with upper floor inserted. Some of the fine roof braces may be seen on the upper floor. Reputed to have been at one time a chapel.
67. Cobham Road. Orchard Cottage. Mid-XVIIth century. Brick.
68. Cobham Road. Pound Farm House and outbuildings. House XVIth century. Outbuildings XVIIth century. The house timber framed and nogged with brick.
69. Cobham Road. Shamrock Cottage. (Formerly Pound Cottage.) XVIIIth century. Plastered.
70. The Street. Nos. 75 (Yew Tree Cottage) and 77 (Tea Tree Cottage) (formerly Old Cock Inn). XVIIth century. Brick.
71. The Street. Ballands Hall. Early XIXth century.
72. The Street. Home Farm and outbuildings. XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries. Brick.

LEATHERHEAD Civil Parish

73. Parish Church of SS. Mary and Nicholas. Late XIIth century nave, with XIVth century chancel and transepts. Fine XVth century tower of flint and stone. Numerous monuments of various centuries, and fittings.
74. Moated Manor House site (now known as The Mounts) of the Manor House of Pachenesham Magna, of which the earliest occupation period established is *circa* 1200. The moat dug and house reconstructed 1292/3. Site excavated 1947-1950.
75. Stane Street. Roman Road from London to Chichester. Section from Millway to Mickleham Downs.
76. Barrows north-east of Cherkley Court, Leatherhead Downs. Part of a series of evidences of early occupation of which other evidences have been observed by aerial observation at Hambledon Wood near Headley Road.
77. Bridge over the River Mole. 1783, widened on the south side 1824.
78. Bockett's Farm and Great Barn, Norbury Park. The barn, cruciform in plan, is of the late XVIIth or early XVIIIth century. The house early XIXth century.
79. Highlands Farm, Headley Road and Barns. The house *circa* 1800. A fine specimen of a farmhouse of this period. The great barn XVIIth century, with fine wrought iron weather-vane.
80. Barnett Wood Lane. Barnett Wood Farm and outbuildings. XVIIth and XVIIIth century. Brick and timber.
81. Bridge Street. No. 26 (New Bridge Restaurant). Early XIXth century.
82. Bridge Street. Nos. 28, 40, 32 and 34. Terrace of early XIXth century houses.
83. Bridge Street. The Running Horse Public House. XVIth century, possibly earlier in parts. This is the reputed inn of the ale-wife, Eleanor Rumming, who figures in the poem "The Tunning of Eleanor Rumming," by John Skelton, laureate to Henry VIII.
84. Bridge Street. No. 3 (Eldridge). Early XIXth century façade.
85. Bridge Street. No. 5 (Hughes, chemist). Early XIXth century.
86. Bridge Street. No. 15. XVIIth century.



PLATE III

ASHTEAD PARK FARM HOUSE

Early XVIIIth Century. An exceptionally fine house, possibly unequalled in the district. The present house very possibly embodies the earlier building shown on the 1638 Survey Map of Ashtead, and may have been re-fronted in the late XVIIth Century. The road façade belongs to a style beginning at that time but more common in the XVIIIth Century.

87. Bridge Street. No. 17. XVIIIth century.
88. Bridge Street. No. 25. XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries.
89. Bridge Street. No. 27. XVIIIth century.
90. Bridge Street. No. 31 (T. J. Leavey & Son). Early XIXth century quasi-Gothic.
91. Bridge Street. No. 37 (Yardley). Late XVIIIth century.
92. Bridge Street. Nos. 39 and 41. XVIIth century.
93. Bridge Street. No. 43. Early XIXth century.
94. Bull Hill. The Cottage. XVIIth century. Half timber with brick nogging.
95. Church Road. No. 18. Early XVIIIth century. Framed house, weather-boarded. Later addition to south. The older part a fine specimen.
96. Church Road. Nos. 25 and 27. A pair of early XIXth century villas of the "Jane Austen" period. Stucco.
97. Church Street. Nos. 1 and 3. No. 1, early XVIIIth century. No. 3, XVIth or XVIIth century, timber framed with brick nogging.
98. Church Street. No. 17, and cottages Nos. 1 and 2 in close at rear. XVIth and XVIIth centuries.
99. Church Street. No. 33 (The Cottage). Perhaps XVIth century, with a fine XVIIIth century brick facade added to street face. A very delightful specimen of blending of periods creating a unified and pleasing whole.
100. Church Street. No. 35 (formerly Moss Cottage). Probably XVIth century. Brick with timber frame.
101. Church Street. No. 10. Late XVIIIth century, or early XIXth. Brick.
102. Church Street. Nos. 24 and 26. XVIth to XVIIIth centuries. Copyhold of Thorncroft Manor from 1500 to 1863, anciently known as Waytes. Note XVIIIth century fish scale tiling to north face.
103. Church Street. Nos. 28-30. No. 30 mainly XVIIth century. No. 28 used to be glebe holding.
104. Church Street. The Mansion. *Circa* 1739, embodying portions of an older structure, and with later additions. It would seem a fair assumption that the mansion gets its name from having been the manor house of the small manor of Minchin in Leatherhead (*see* Surrey Record Office, Map 15/10). The Minchin manor (Old English 'mynccen' = minchin) belonged until the Reformation to the Nuns of Kilburn. In the XVIIth century the mansion was the residence of Charles Howard, 2nd Earl of Nottingham, son of the great Lord Admiral. He died in 1642 and his widow was living there in 1643 when Royalist bands broke into the house. Later in the XVIIth century the house was the residence of Sir Thomas Bludworth, and it was here that Lord Chancellor Jefferies came in 1689, whilst hunted, to see his dying child and Bludworth's grandchild.
105. Dorking Road. Thorncroft Manor House. Built 1766 from designs of Sir Robert Taylor. The lodge is early XIXth century and was designed by a former tenant, Colonel Drinkwater-Bethune, well known as the author of "The Siege of Gibraltar," a military classic.
106. Dorking Road. The course of the Mole nearest to Thorncroft House is an artificial cutting made by "Capability" Brown. Between and connecting two islands south of The Priory is a bridge built of flint, ornamented with a carved shell pattern on the keystone, which probably dates from Brown's time.
107. Dorking Road. Vale Lodge. XVIIIth century. Brick. The land of Vale Lodge is that anciently attached to the Rectory of Leatherhead, but should not be confused with the Vicarage.
108. Gravel Hill. Sweech House (Nos. 2, 4 and 6). XVIth century, the southern wing possibly earlier. Timber frame and brick with some flint. Great centre chimney has mural painting above fireplace on ground floor. Restored 1949-1950.
109. Gravel Hill. Nos. 16 and 18. Dated on a plaque 1799. Flint, with brick dressing.
110. High Street. Nos. 23 and 25. (Walker and Treanor.) XVIth century. Wooden frame and nogging, covered with rendering.
111. High Street. Nos. 27, 29 and 31. (West, Eastman and Gregory.) Late XVIIth or early XVIIIth century. No. 31 with fine pine panelled room on first floor.
112. High Street. Nos. 43 and 45. (Maison George and Blue Bird.) XVIth and XVIIth centuries.
113. High Street. The Duke's Head Public House. XVIIth century, with XIXth century facade to street.
114. High Street. No. 2 (Wakefield). Late XVIIth century.
115. High Street. Nos. 8 and 10. Early XIXth century.
116. High Street. No. 24 (Bradmere Cottage). XVIIth or early XVIIIth century. Much altered.
117. Kingston Road. Nos. 81 and 83. XVIIIth century, painted weatherboard.
118. Kingston Road. Nos. 109 and 111. *Circa* 1800, painted weatherboard.
119. Oxshott Road. "Rowhurst." XVIth and XVIIth centuries. Brick.
120. Randalls Road. Patsom Farm. XVIth century. Half timber and brick.
121. Randalls Road. Cottage to North of Patsom Farm. Timber frame. Tile hung.
122. Randalls Road. Patsom Cottages. Two blocks on west of Stoke Road. XVIth century. Half timber and brick.

ASHTEAD AND ITS HISTORY

By A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.

II—The Roman Occupation (43—410 A.D.)

ITS "lines of communication" are a matter of first consideration to an invading army at the present day, and such was the case when the Roman legions entered and occupied Britain. Apart from some rough, unmetalled trackways, the country was then without a "road system" and this they planned and constructed from their first arrival, in conjunction with their new and rebuilt towns.

Certain roads of lesser military importance, but still essential for the main network, would, no doubt, have been made at a later date, and this (together with the fact that it is not mentioned in the 3rd century road-list, known as the "Antonine Itinerary") had caused earlier antiquaries to believe that "Stane Street," the road from London to Chichester (Regnum), was of late construction. Excavations carried out in recent years, however, have proved its construction to have taken place during the latter part of the 1st century A.D.

Stane Street crosses the chalk downland at the southern end of Ashted Parish, and is in alignment with the stretch of this road which can still be seen on Leatherhead Downs. In this area—in fact from a point near Thirty-acre Barn to where it still exists east of Ewell (in London Road Plantation)—it can now only be traced by excavation, as in places, ploughing has covered it with a thick layer of soil. Where it crossed the "coombe" or dry valley, near Thirty-acre Barn, a recently dug trench revealed it in a well-preserved state. The gravel and sand metalling was about three feet thick having been renewed on successive occasions. On higher ground, however, centuries of ploughing has had a contrary effect, and has scraped away almost all vestige of the road.

An interesting find from the upper-metalling of the road in the Thirty-acre Barn section, was that of an iron linch-pin of a well-known Roman type. It is evident from its size that it was used for securing the wheel of a large cart or wagon.

Roman brick and tile works of considerable extent, in use from about 70—180 (or 200) A.D., were found by the writer on Ashted Common (1925). Together with two buildings found at this site, they were excavated during the three succeeding years. The larger building with its own suite of bath apartments at the north-west end, is presumed to have been the residence of the owner (or manager) of the works, whilst the second building, at a distance of about 100 yards from the first—a bath building of the type normally found at Roman "permanent" camp sites—was clearly intended for the use of the workers occupied at this industrial site.

A flint-made Roman road leading to this site was discovered and traced across the Common in a south-easterly direction. It is evident that it must have branched off Stane Street at a point about 200 yards from the south-east corner of Ashted Park. (Reports on these excavations were published in "Surrey Archaeological Collections, vol. 37 and 38, and most of the "finds" are in Guildford Museum).

The only other Roman building at Ashted, of which some remains have been found, was situated on the north side of the Parish Church. Here, the foundations of two walls, forming the north-east corner of a building, probably a villa, were found by the writer (Surrey Archaeological Collections, vol. 42). A small drainage ditch, with Roman pottery and other finds accompanied these foundations, indicating that occupation here had lasted into the 4th century A.D. The building debris, including as it did, much wall-plaster, pieces of tessellated pavement, and of hypocaust flue tiles, proved that it had been a substantial structure provided with heated rooms. Clearly, it was this building that provided the Roman tiles employed in the building of the earliest (Saxon and Early Norman) churches. Many were found when, in the last century, the north wall of the nave was demolished to enlarge the Parish Church.

A few hundred yards south of this villa, in the grounds of "Inward Shaw," Park Lane, were found the remains of an Iron Age and Roman-British Village (mentioned in the previous article in this series). The pottery and coins found at this site proved that occupation continued into late Roman times.

Stray finds of the Roman period, especially coins, have come to light at many points in and around Ashted: "Tyrrells Wood," beside Stane Street—coins, mainly 3rd and 4th century, but including one of *Galba*; "High Warren"—coins of *Allectus*, *Tetricus* and *Constantine I*; High Street, during road work—a bronze key attached to a finger-ring.

In conclusion, brickmaking and farming were evidently the two main occupations in this area during Roman times. That the former did not last beyond the end of the 2nd century was no doubt due to the economic collapse which, as excavations at many sites have shown, affected all the main towns in Britain at that time. The large villas, or country residences (such as the two at Walton Heath) on the other hand, increased in importance and had their greatest prosperity during this very period.

Many started as small farmhouses of a humble type and were rebuilt and extended very considerably. It is, therefore, probable that at this period (until under Constantine the towns came back into importance and a brief prosperity in the 4th century) the inhabitants of this area turned from works designed

to supply the markets of *Londinium*, to seeking employment at the new large villa-estates in the neighbourhood. In these estates we have the fore-runners of the Saxon and Early Norman "manors," It may be more than mere coincidence that such a villa, with its dependent village, appears to have existed almost on the very site of the first Manor-house of Ashtead.

Of the final phase of the Roman occupation and of its submergence in the fifth century, under the flood of the Saxon invasions, no material evidence has, as yet, been obtained from our area. It is from Saxon writings and finds that the subsequent story of our countryside has had to be pieced together. This will be described in the next article in this series.

Reprinted from the "ASHTHEAD RESIDENT."

OCCASIONAL NOTES

IN our last number we published a copy portrait of the Rev. Hugh Shortrudge (or Shortridge) of Fetcham. The original copy is in the possession of the Rector and Churchwardens of Fetcham Parish Church, with whose kind permission we now publish the biographical notes, from an unknown source, which appear on the back of the picture as follows :—

This is a copy of the portrait of the Rev. Hugh Shortridge, D.D., which hangs in the Dining Hall of Exeter College, Oxford. He was baptised at Witheridge, Devon, 20 January, 1651, Matriculated at Exeter College, in 1668, B.A. 1672, M.A., from Trinity Cambridge, 1675. Incorporated from Exeter College, B.D., 1679 and D.D., 1701. Rector of Fetcham, Surrey, 1684–1710. Acquired the Manor of Slyfield in Surrey 1700. Died at Slyfield Manor 28 March, 1720, leaving a will dated 28 Jan. 1708–9 making bequests and benefactions to Exeter College and various charities as recorded on tablets in Great Bookham Church, Surrey (1717), and in Witheridge Church, Devon (1715), the two latter benefactions were made during his life-time. Evidently at one time was tutor at Cambridge.

His father was the Rev. Hugh Shortridge, M.A., the ninth and youngest child of Richard Shortridge and Mary Cade of Witheridge, who were married at St. Kerian's Church, Exeter, Jan. 1611–12. He was baptised at Witheridge 12 Sept. 1627. Matriculated at Exeter College, Oxford, 1641, aged 14 years. M.A., 1647. Vicar of Witheridge 1650–1660. Rector of Ashreigney, Devon, 1660–1699. He married Elisabeth the daughter of the Rev. William Stevens. Both have monuments at Ashreigney. He died Dec. 1699. She died July 1712, aged 87 years.

His brother the Rev. Thomas Shortridge was baptised at Ashreigney 1663 B.A., Exeter College, Oxford, 1683, Rector of Halesworth, Suffolk, 1690. Rector of Thorrington, Essex, 1694–1722. He died in 1722 leaving a will dated 28 Feb. 1721.

His cousin the Rev. Robert Shortridge son of Philip Shortridge of Thelbridge and Loveday his wife, was baptised at Witheridge, 3 August 1676. B.A. Exeter College, Oxford, 1698. M.A. 1701. Petrean Fellow of Exeter College 1701–1719. B.D. 1713. Rector of Clannaborough, Devon, 1707 and Rector of Down St. Mary, Devon, 1717. He died in 1732 leaving a will dated 5th Dec. 1732.

An ancestor of the family "Richard Shortridge of Shortridge in the Hundred of Tiverton" is mentioned in the year 1330 (3rd of Edward II) in the Lay Subsidy Roll for Devon.

The Rev. Hugh, D.D., spells the name "Shortridge" his brother the Rev. Thomas spells it "Shortrudge."

Details of the family were furnished to Exeter College on the 1st May, 1939, and placed in the archives of the College by the Rector, Dr. R. R. Marett.

The family arms comprised a "lion passant, or, murally crowned on a field vert."

Commenting on these notes, Mr. J. G. W. Lewarne writes : "According to the parish Registers his date of death was . . . 28th March, 1720. He was instituted to Fetcham in 1683 and was Rector for 37 years. In the Registers he was stated to be 68 years 3 months of age at his death, and this would therefore make his date of birth probably 20th January, 1652, although I have not yet had time to check it from any other source. As you will have noted, the statement on the reverse of the portrait is inaccurate in the date of death, etc., and I am therefore inclined to trust the parish Registers and put the date of birth in 1652, regarding the date on the portrait as due to confusion with 165½. He was buried "at Great Bookham Church in the Chancel belonging to Slyfield House" . . .

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, PRINTS, CUTTINGS AND NOTES WANTED

No excuse is necessary for repeating the appeals previously made by various means for all old photographs, or other illustrations (views, buildings, personages or activities) relating to the district ; for references thereto from uncommon sources ; for any pertinent literature (deeds, souvenir programmes, sales lists, etc.). It will be appreciated that matters of little apparent current interest may prove of value to later historians ; while a brief and passing reference in some unconnected publication to the district or some person or place therein, may prove the clue to important facts.

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Account for the year ended 30th September, 1950

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.
To Balance at 30.9.49—			
General	25	8	6
Library Fund	21	19	7
Cash in Hand		7	6
„ Subscriptions—151 at 7s. 6d.	56	12	6*
17 at 1s.		17	0
„ Subscriptions paid in advance for 1951	2	3	6
„ Subscriptions 1948/49 paid in arrear		7	6
„ Sale of Society's "Proceedings"	5	13	6†
„ Visits—Receipts	£40	15	3
Expenses	40	9	10
		5	5
„ Donations	3	15	0
„ Surrey County Council—Grant	15	0	0
<i>N.B.</i> —The accounts do not include items for unsold "Proceedings," library, equipment and archives.			
* Including £2 18s. 6d. shown in 1949 account.			
† Including 3s. 0d. shown in 1949 account.			
	£132	10	0

<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
By Hire of Meeting Halls	4	15	0
„ Printing and Duplicating	16	0	0
„ Printing "Proceedings," No. 3	39	10	0
„ Cheque book, postages, stationery, telephone and sundry disbursements	9	17	7
„ Purchase of equipment for excavation and archivist	3	13	9
„ Subscriptions and Affiliation Fees :			
Surrey Record Society	£1	0	0
South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies		7	6
Council for Promotion of Field Studies	1	1	0
		2	8
„ Purchases—Library Fund		14	11
„ Balance at Banks :			
General	£31	18	1
Library Fund	21	4	8
Subscriptions in advance	2	3	6
		55	6
„ Cash in hands of Treasurer		4	0
	£132	10	0

Library Fund

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	21	19	7
	£21	19	7

<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
By Purchase of History of Ewell and Nonsuch and N.C.S.S. pamphlets	14	11	
„ Balance carried forward	21	4	8
	£21	19	7

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

Audited and found correct.
W. H. TAYLOR, *Hon. Auditor.*
26th October, 1950.



SEAL OF "MARY OF ASHTEAD"
(MARIE D'ESTEVE) c. 1160 A.D.