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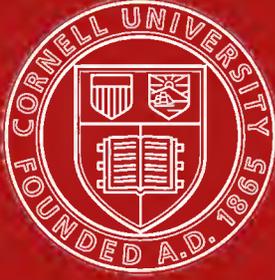
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Chronicles of Finchampstead



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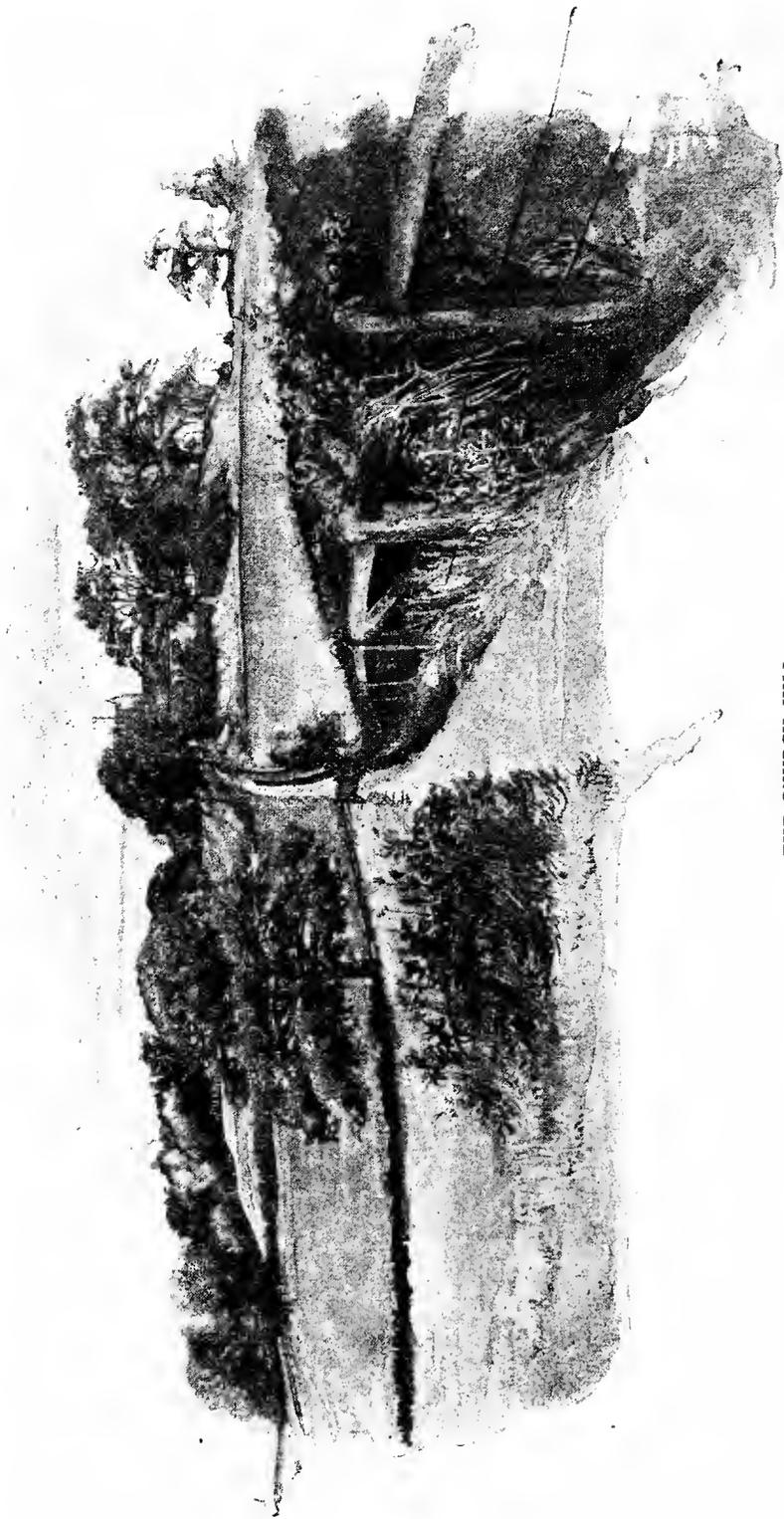
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Chronicles
OF
Finchampstead



THE CHURCH HILL



Chronicles
OF
Finchampstead

IN THE
COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE

BY
WILLIAM LYON

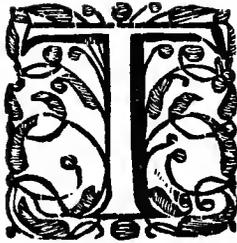
LONDON
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
AND NEW YORK

1895

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PREFACE



THESE Chronicles had their origin about five years ago in a desire to write a short account of Finchampstead for its parish magazine. I soon discovered the difficulty of the task, owing to there being no local materials available for such a purpose. I was therefore compelled to seek the information I required from external sources, and my original intention has thus become expanded beyond the limits of a parish magazine.

It is seldom that the laborious study of a small country parish can repay the long microscopic research which it involves, or that its chronicles can be of much interest to any but the local few who have a taste for such a subject ; and I fear that these Chronicles will prove no exception to this opinion.

The history of a parish cannot be rightly understood unless read in the light of contemporaneous history. In my

endeavour to throw a little of this light upon what otherwise would have been only a heap of uninteresting dry bones, I hope I shall not have wearied my readers by leading them occasionally into what may seem unnecessary digressions.

It is difficult to abstain from giving to others what has been a source of interest or pleasure to ourselves. The lives of the Bishops of Winchester and Salisbury, in whose dioceses Finchampstead was formerly included, present a special temptation of this kind : they are full of the most interesting matters connected with our national and parochial history.

Our archbishops and bishops, in early times, were not only ecclesiastics but statesmen, and sometimes even warriors. I have studied the lives of all the bishops who have presided over Berkshire from the seventh to the eighteenth century, in the hope of presenting a short *résumé* of them, but I have, at last, refrained from carrying out that intention so fully as I had wished from fear of overloading my principal subject. If I have occasionally narrated what may be well known to some of my readers, it must be kindly remembered that these Chronicles were intended for others less well informed.

It is much to be regretted that, since the dissolution of the monasteries, the clergy have not emulated the example of the abbots and monks of old in their laudable efforts to collect and preserve the records of their own times, and of those which preceded them. How little should we have known of our early history had it not been for the chronicles which they collected, and which have been transmitted to us from those nurseries of learning and religion in the early days of Christianity !

There is at present no good county history of Berkshire.

If the incumbent of every parish could be induced to regard himself as the chronicler of his own parish, and would keep a record of every incident connected with it likely to be of interest to posterity, and would leave his records as an heirloom to be kept up by his successors, what valuable materials would exist for the future county historian !

It is with the hope of contributing something towards this object that I have ventured to publish the results of my researches.

EAST COURT : *May* 1895.



Erratum.

Page 209, line 25, *for* 2,400 *read* 24,000.



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CHRONICLES
OF
FINCHAMPSTEAD

CHAPTER I

The Roman Road



IN tracing the history of our ancestors in Finchampstead, our thoughts are at once carried back to the Roman occupation of our country during the first four hundred and twelve years of the Christian era, for it was during this period that the Roman road, the line of which passes through our parish, was constructed. This road formed part of the great military road from London to Bath and elsewhere, and is one of the most remarkable illustrations of the Roman power in Britain. The portion of the road in which we are more especially interested is that which led from Staines (or Pontes, the old Roman name), where it crossed the Thames, to Silchester.

CHAP.
I
A.D.
84-412

Lt.-Col.
COOPER
KING,
1887,
'History
of Berks.'

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I

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A survey of the road was made in 1835 by students of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and I am indebted to General Clive, the governor of that institution, for being permitted to examine the survey, plan, and report, from which the following description is taken.

NORDEN'S
'History
of Windsor
Forest,'
1608

The course of the road leads from Staines to the well-known 'Wheatsheaf' Inn at Virginia Water, and crossing the southern bend of the lake, ascends the hill close by the tower called the Belvedere. That part of Virginia Water which was crossed by the Roman road was only excavated in the latter part of the last century, and the lake itself was not formed until about the year 1752. In Norden's time (1608) it was a mere stream, running from west to east, but the Romans, who were always careful to provide water for travellers along their great roads, no doubt made use of this stream for that purpose.

Lt.-Col.
COOPER
KING'S
note to
Professor
RUPERT
JONES'S
paper

In Windsor Park the line is, for some distance, lost, but becomes well defined near the Sunninghill road, where vast quantities of Roman pottery have from time to time been discovered; it then passes near Charter's Pond, King's Beeches, and the back of Windlesham Hall, and continuing towards Bagshot reaches a place called 'Duke's Hill,' whence its south-westerly direction diverges considerably to the westward, making an angle of about 25°. Here, in 1783, many fragments of Roman pottery were discovered. The road from this point proceeded along the north side of Rapley Lake, in the grounds attached to Bagshot Park, and passed between the two westernmost of four ponds, which lie south of Rapley Farm. At this point the water, either by neglect or design, has been allowed to cut through the old roadway, thus forming one instead of two ponds.

The late Mr. Hughes in his interesting 'History of Windsor Forest' (1890) states that he believed he had discovered a branch road from this spot to Winchester, passing near Barley Pound Farm, between Froyle and Crondal.

This discovery, if confirmed, would satisfactorily explain the angle which the road makes at Duke's Hill, and would also tend to set at rest a more important question which has been a subject of much controversy amongst antiquaries for

a very considerable time, viz. the locality of Vindomis, a town of the Sægontiaci, mentioned in the Antonine Itineraries as having been fifteen miles from Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) and twenty-one from Venta Belgarum (Winchester). The difficulty in determining the position of Vindomis has always arisen from the uncertainty of the position of Calleva Atrebatum. Camden in the sixteenth century assigned Wallingford as the site of Calleva, and Silchester as that of Vindomis, while in later times Reading and other places have in turn been suggested. But recent discoveries having conclusively established the fact that Silchester is the site of the ancient Calleva, the position of Vindomis can now be more easily decided upon.

Horsley was of the same opinion as Mr. Hughes in regard to Vindomis being near Barley Pound Farm. Attention was drawn to this spot in the year 1836, by Mr. Long, a learned antiquary, as the site of an important Roman settlement; and he described the discoveries which had been made there about twenty years previously. He distinctly stated, however, that he could not agree in thinking that Farnham and its vicinity was the ancient Vindomis; but it may be remarked that at that time Silchester had not been accepted as the site of Calleva. Now Barley Pound fulfils two important conditions in favour of Vindomis; for if measured on the ordnance map in a straight line it is thirteen miles from Silchester and nineteen from Winchester, which would be nearly equivalent to the fifteen and twenty-one respectively of Roman miles above mentioned, allowing for slight deviations. Stukeley also considered that a Roman road existed from Silchester to Farnham. So far, therefore, as discoveries have as yet gone, the locality of Barley Pound would appear to be the most probable one for Vindomis.

The position of Farnham and its vicinity was undoubtedly one of great consequence in the very earliest times. It stood at the intersection of two ancient and important highways, that already described as leading from Winchester to London, and another cutting it at right angles coming by way of Basingstoke from the western regions, and proceeding eastward to Guildford and onwards by way of the chalk ridge

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H.L.L.,
H.L.,
February,
1836.
Privately
printed by
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SON &
SON,
Farnham

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known as the 'Hog's Back.' On approaching Farnham from Basingstoke this road traversed the gravelly height of the Lady (or Law-day¹) Common, a lofty hill which rises to the north-west of Farnham. On the northern encampment of this bleak and barren height, a remarkably fine old camp, and a triple vallance at its entrance, existed in good preservation in 1836, although diggers and squatters have since threatened it with demolition. On the southern side, an eminence overhanging Farnham, adjoining the road from Basingstoke as it descends into the town, was selected in 1110 by Henry de Blois, brother of King Stephen, for the construction of a castle (one of the twelve hundred said to have been built in the dreadful reign of that monarch), which has survived the vicissitudes of many wars, and still remains the palatial appendage of the See of Winchester.

After this digression I will resume the tracing of the Roman road at Rapley Lake, on its way to Finchampstead.

Leaving Rapley Lake, the road ascended the plain of Easthampstead, a sandy and barren heath of great extent even within living memory. The ascent of the road to this commanding plateau is distinctly marked by a deep fosse on one side, but the rectilinear direction hitherto preserved appears here to have been changed, in order to avoid a deep and muddy ravine, and the line bends northwards so as to pass by the head of the ravine, afterwards regaining its former direction. This part of the road ran through Wickham Bushes. In the immediate vicinity is the strong entrenchment well known as Cæsar's Camp, a fortress probably of British origin, adopted by the Roman generals on account of its excellent site.* This camp crowns the summit of the height projecting from the plateau, and is strengthened on the side of the latter by a double parapet and ditch. This loop road, or deviation from the straight course, may possibly have been formed also for the easy movement of troops from Cæsar's Camp to the road in either direction.

At Wickham Bushes have been found the remains of a Roman town or village, where Roman pottery and coins have been frequently dug up. It appears to have been supplied

¹ Cf. Mr. Long's paper.

with water, as a large pond still exists on the north-east side of it. Looking at the area which the camp covered, it has been estimated to have accommodated as many as 9,000 men. Thence the road proceeded direct towards Crowthorne, where there is another pond the edge of which is straightened by the line of the old road, and continued straight onwards, crossing Ravenswood Avenue, where it entered Finchampstead parish, until it reached Finchampstead Heath Pond, the road again here having evidently been utilised as an embankment for forming the pond.

In the tithe map of 1844, the road is shown as making a curve to avoid the pond. But Mr. Walter, on acquiring possession of the property in 1850, restored the road to what was doubtless its original course, as is shown in a much older map of this district. The road gradually leaves the present 'driftway,' or grass drive, on ascending the hill leading to the modern lodge known as 'Roman Lodge,' and may be traced by a cutting on the right-hand side of the green drive; it then crosses the road leading to Wick Hill Farm, and straightway proceeds to a point near Ridge Farm, until it reaches the lane leading from the 'White Horse' Inn to the 'Nine Mile Ride,' where it can be distinctly traced on the left-hand side for a short distance, until the lane makes a sudden bend to the right, down a steep hill. At this point the course of the road enters the fields belonging to Webb's Farm, and at about 720 yards' distance, in a field known as 'Six Acres,' at a spot marked on the ordnance map, a Roman milestone was discovered in 1841 by the point of a plough coming in contact with it, a representation of which from a photograph is given on p. 6.* The milestone was removed to 'Banisters,' where it now lies in the garden. The line of the road through the 'Six Acres' field of Webb's Farm can still be clearly traced in summer by the appearance of the crops. The road entered the field on the eastern side of it, about three chains (or sixty yards) from the south-east corner of it. The present occupier of this land (Mr. Pigg) has had the soil removed from the surface of the road in one place, showing the road to have been formed upon a sandy soil by means of a binding gravel to the depth of

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Rev. W.
GOOD-
CHILD,
M.A.,
'Frag-
ments of
Local
History,'
1878

88 yards
from the
E. side,
50 from
the N.
side, 250
from the
W. side

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built on the site of a still more ancient British one. The walls are nearly two miles in circumference, and enclose an area of about a hundred acres. Portions of the walls are still standing; they are 13 feet high, and in some places 8 feet thick. It may well be called the Pompeii of England, for, of all the remains of our ancient Roman cities, there is not one that can compete with Silchester in the grandeur and preservation of its walls, and in the multiplicity of coins and other antiquities which are continually being discovered within its precincts.

Icen eld
or street of
the Icenii

From this place radiated five or six military roads in different directions—to Bath and Caerleon, in Monmouthshire; to Winchester; the Portway to Old Sarum, Salisbury, and Exeter; the Old Street to Wantage; the Iknield Street to Dorchester, in Oxfordshire; the Imperial Way to London and Colchester, and probably one to Vindomis. These several great high-roads must have been frequently traversed by the Roman armies during their occupation of this country, not to mention all the commercial and other traffic which must have passed along them. It should be remembered that at the period under review there was a vast forest called Anderida, known by the Saxons as Andredsweald, or 'wooded land,' which extended for nearly 120 miles in length by 30 miles in breadth, and comprised the tract between the North and South Downs, the valley of the Weald (wooded land), and a great part of Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, and the borders of Wiltshire. This forced the Romans to make a great détour, by way of Silchester and Winchester, in going from London and the banks of the Thames to Portsmouth, Chichester, and the South Coast. Thus we may imagine how great must have been the traffic which passed through Finchampstead along this Roman road.

(H.
LONG.)
H.L.L.,
H.L.,
1836.
Printed
for private
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tion by
NICHOL-
SON &
SON,
Farnham

Silchester is now admitted by the best archæologists to have originally borne the prehistoric name of *Caer Segent* or *Segont*, and to have been a stronghold of the *Sægontiaci*, a native British race who were driven westward before a wave of invasion, when a tribe of Belgic Gauls called *Atrebat*es overflowed from out of their own territories, near Autun in Gaul, into Britain, and securely established themselves in this

part of the country, still retaining their ancient settlements in Gaul.

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I

During the Atrebatian period Silchester bore the name of Calleva (Calleva Atrebatum), a name retained by the Romans, and continued to be used up to the date when the Antonine Itineraries were compiled. We do not possess the means of determining the precise period of the composition of these Itineraries, but as they are attributed to the Emperor Hadrian and his immediate successors, the Antonines, we may conclude that the roads and places mentioned therein must have been in existence about the year 180 A.D.

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In support of the opinion that the Sægontiaci were former occupants of Silchester, it may be mentioned that in 1732 a stone was discovered there bearing the following inscription in honour of their god, the Sægontiac Hercules :

DEO HERCULI
SÆGONTIACORUM
TITUS TAMMONIUS
SIENII TAMMONII FILIUS
VITALIS
OB HONOREM

This great city passed through many vicissitudes ; the excavations which have been recently carried on disclose the wondrous fact that some of the buildings erected by the Romans were built upon the remains not of one only, but of three successive buildings, all erected one above another, age after age.

The Roman coins which have been found there, belonging to each of the three Roman periods of the buildings, range from A.D. 37 to A.D. 410, which latter date was only two years before the hasty departure of the Romans from Britain.

The most important discoveries at Silchester have been the Forum with its Basilica, a dwelling-house of great size, supposed to have been the official residence of a Roman of some rank ; a bronze Eagle, found among the ruins of the Forum, and presumed to have been the Imperial Standard of a Roman Legion.

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It has been conjectured that the Eagle was lost in a deadly struggle between the Romans themselves, about the year A.D. 300. We know that for ten years there had been a defection from the Imperial rule under the usurper Allectus and his predecessor Carausius, and that Constantius Chlorus had repaired to Britain to put down the revolt, which resulted in the death of Allectus. There is a tradition that Constantine the Great was the restorer of Silchester, and this seems quite possible, as the place may have been destroyed during the struggle which immediately preceded his reign, and have been built by him on its own ruins. Constantius Chlorus died at ³⁰⁶ York in 306, and it was there that his son Constantine the Great, who was present at his father's death, was proclaimed Emperor in Britain, Gaul, and Spain by the Roman soldiers.

See letter
to the
'Times'
from Mr.
W. H.
ST. JOHN
HOPE,
June 9,
1892

Previously to 1892, no traces of Christianity had been discovered among any Roman remains in England, but in June of that year the foundations of a small basilica were found at Silchester, which there is reason to believe were those of a Roman Christian church.

As Christianity was not tolerated, and certainly not promoted, by the Roman government until the reign of Constantine, this basilica of Roman origin could not have existed earlier than the fourth century; and it is extremely interesting, as being the earliest indication which has been met with of Christianity having been allowed in England during the Roman occupation of the country.

In 321, Constantine is said to have ordered the observance of Sunday throughout his dominions, and in 323, on becoming sole Emperor, he promoted the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.

⁴¹² The Romans abandoned Britain in A.D. 412, and soon afterwards Silchester fell a prey to the assaults of the Saxon hordes, who burnt it to the ground; the city, it is stated, being finally destroyed in A.D. 493 by the Saxon chief Ella, in his march from Sussex to Bath.

Silchester owes its name to the Saxon 'Selceaster,' the great castrum or camp, which word ultimately became Silchester.

What a quarry must the ruins of this place have afforded in a locality naturally devoid of any building stone! Much of the material is said to have been taken to build the Abbey of Reading in the twelfth century, and, three centuries later, some of these very stones are said to have been taken down the river Thames to Windsor, to build the houses of the 'Poor Knights;' and Queen Elizabeth, we are told, gave two hundred loads of fine stone from the Abbey to the corporation of Reading.

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Such is a brief epitome of what is known about Silchester. For fuller particulars I would refer to a very interesting account of the place by the Rev. J. G. Joyce, late rector of Strathfieldsaye, in the 'Archæologia,' vol. xlvi. 1881, published by the Society of Antiquaries; and the 'Archæological Journal,' No. 117, 1873.

The memorials of the conquerors of the world must ever be interesting to posterity, and the more so as they become more rare. Although little now remains, that little ought to be saved from entire oblivion.





CHAPTER II

Introduction of Christianity into Berkshire

CHAP.
II

A.D. 635



THE next great object of interest to us in point of antiquity is our parish church; but, before entering upon its consideration, let us take a short survey of the progress of Christianity in this part of England, and particularly in Berkshire, from the earliest time of its introduction.

We must not forget that Christianity was introduced into England in the first century; and that, although it suffered persecution for a time under the Roman government, it existed here until the fifth century, when it was broken up by the Saxon Conquest.

I have already referred in the previous chapter to the remains of what appears to have been a Roman Christian church at Silchester. A full description of this discovery has been given by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope in the following copy of a letter to the 'Times,' dated June 9, 1892.

DISCOVERY OF A ROMAN-BRITISH CHURCH AT SILCHESTER

To the Editor of the 'TIMES'

Sir,—I trust you will allow me to trespass on your space to announce a discovery of the greatest possible interest that has

just been made at Silchester, where systematic excavations, under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries, have now been resumed for the third successive season.

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II
A.D. 635

Close to the south-east corner of the Forum, in the centre of the city, and in the angle formed by the intersection of two of the main streets, the excavations have disclosed the foundations of a small Basilica, which, from its plan and arrangements, there seems every reason to believe was a Romano-British Christian church.

It stood east and west, and consisted of a nave 10 feet wide and 29 feet long, ending in an apse at the west end, with two aisles 5 feet wide, and rudimentary transepts each about 7 feet square. Across the eastern end of the building was a narrow narthex, about 7 feet square. The total external length was 42 feet.

The central part retains its floor of coarse red tesserae, but in front of the apse, in the centre of what was the chancel, is a panel, 5 feet square, of finer mosaic, of black and white checkers, with a border of red and gray lozenges on a white ground. On the panel doubtless stood a wooden altar.

Owing to the destruction of the walls by the plough very little is left above the floor level, but it is possible to make out the arrangements with some degree of certainty.

About 11 feet east of the church, in the court or atrium in which it stood, is the base of a platform, 4 feet square, built of tiles. On this probably stood the fountain, and a small pit lined with flints immediately in front of it seems to have been made to carry off the water.

No signs of a baptistery have yet been met with, but a large well, carefully lined with wood, has been opened out close to the apse, and other interesting features are beginning to appear.

Since the date of this building is possibly as early as the middle, and probably not later than the end, of the fourth century, we may fairly claim to have laid bare the foundations of the oldest church yet discovered in Britain.

The small size of the building is also interesting, since it increases the probability of our finding other such churches in

CHAP.
II

A.D. 635

the 100 acres within the city walls, which enclose an area two-thirds the size of Pompeii.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE.

Burlington House, W. : June 9, 1892.

These remains, if finally accepted as those of a Christian church, would tend to show that a definite type of church arrangement had been adopted in England in the fourth century. Sir Gilbert Scott tells us¹ that in all the schools of architecture which owe their origin to Rome or Byzantium, the apsidal termination is found ; that there was always an apse in the pagan Basilica, and that the apse was much in vogue in the time of Constantine. It was a peculiarity of the basilican plan that the apse and altar were almost always at the west end, and the narthex and the principal entrance at the east end. All this we find illustrated in the remains at Silchester. The clergy would have been seated against the curved wall of the apse, in the centre of which would be the bishop's throne. The celebrant stood with his back to the bishop and his face towards the congregation, and, therefore, while he faced the people he faced also towards the east.

In the sixth and later centuries churches were frequently built with an apse at each extremity, the origin of which is attributed to the growth of the monastic system. The monks required another altar of their own, and more lofty screens for their enclosure than was consistent with the Basilica plan. This was met by making an apse at the east end, and adding another altar there for the religious, leaving the altar in the western apse to serve as the people's altar.

As time went on the celebrant officiated at the eastern altar, but retained his former position, standing upon the westward side of the altar and facing the east, and thus the position of the congregation became gradually reversed ; the priest then became their leader or representative, facing the same way as they did. This may perhaps explain what has been a stumbling-block to many in the nineteenth century.

Canterbury Cathedral, which is said to have been originally

¹ G. G. Scott's *Essay on English Church Architecture*, 1881.

'erected by the labour of Roman believers,'¹ and restored by St. Augustine in the sixth century, had a western sanctuary ; it was destroyed by fire and rebuilt by Archbishop Lanfranc in the eleventh century, with an eastern apse only. The archbishop and clergy occupied the same position in the apse as is above described. In the middle ages the seats of the clergy were gradually removed from the apse to the choir, formed in the body of the church, and the bishop was left alone in the centre of the apse. At Canterbury the archbishop's seat remained in its primitive position until about the year 1840, when Archbishop Howley withdrew his throne to a more humble situation in the choir.

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II
A.D. 635

There is no evidence of the existence of Christianity amongst the Saxons in Berkshire earlier than the seventh century. The mission of St. Augustine to Canterbury and to the south-east of England, in A.D. 597, does not appear to have extended itself to the kingdom of the West Saxons, in which Berkshire was included.

The first preacher of Christianity to the Saxons in Berkshire was Birinus, who received consecration from Asterius,² Archbishop of Milan, and who was sent into Britain by Pope Honorius in 635. He had promised 'that he would sow the seed of the holy faith in the inner parts, beyond the dominions of the Angles, where no other teacher had been before him.' On his arrival in Britain we are told that 'he first entered the nation of the Gewissæ' (the ancient name of the West Saxons), and 'finding them all most confirmed pagans, he thought it better to preach the word of God there than to proceed further.'

635
Venerable
BEDE,
Book iii.
ch. vii.

This missionary bishop succeeded in converting Cynegils, king of the West Saxons, together with many of his people, A.D. 635. The king was baptised at Dorchester in Oxfordshire ; and Oswald, the Christian king of the North Humbrians, who is said to have been instrumental in the conversion of Cynegils, 'was his godfather,' or, as the Venerable Bede expressed it, 'Oswald received him as he came forth from baptism,

'Anglo-Saxon Chron.'
vol. ii.
pt. i.
Venerable
BEDE,
Book iii.
ch. vii.

¹ Sir Gilbert Scott, quoting Eadmer, precentor of the cathedral in the eleventh century.

² Canon W. Bright, D.D., *Early English Church History*, 1879, p. 146.

CHAP.
II
A.D. 635

and by an alliance most pleasing and acceptable to God, first adopted him, thus regenerated, for his son, and then took his daughter in marriage.' These two kings (says Bede) gave to the bishop the city called Dorcic (the Durocina of the Romans, Dorchester on the Thames) as his episcopal see, which thus became the first bishopric of the kingdom of the West Saxons, which included Berkshire. Birinus died in 650, and was buried at Dorchester. His bones were many years afterwards removed to the church of SS. Peter and Paul at Winchester, where they are said to be still preserved.

Venerable
BEDE,
'Anglo-
Saxon
Chron.'

Dorchester, as we know, is in Oxfordshire, and had previously to this period formed part of the kingdom of Mercia, which had not at that time embraced Christianity, and did not do so until after the death of its king, Penda, in 655. The river Thames had been the boundary between the two kingdoms of Mercia and of the West Saxons, who were continually at war with each other; but about 628 the West Saxons had succeeded in defeating Penda, king of Mercia, and in annexing to their kingdom that part of Oxfordshire in which Dorchester is situated. Thus it became the first seat of the bishops of the West Saxons, or Wessex.

Dorchester subsequently passed over again to Mercia, and became an episcopal see in that kingdom. In 821 it was again brought under the rule of the West Saxons, and its bishopric was eventually transferred to Lincoln in 1075.

And here it will not be irrelevant to say a little more about the good king Oswald, whose memory must have been held in great veneration in the diocese of Dorchester in those early times, being, as he was, so closely connected with the christianising influence of this part of the country.

I believe that we possess in Finchampstead a token of this veneration in a well which is known as 'Dodswells,' or 'Dozell's Well,' which we may reasonably suppose to be a corruption of 'St. Oswald's Well.' This 'most Christian king,' as he was called, succeeded to the kingdom of Northumbria on the death of his uncle Edwin (A.D. 633), who was slain in battle with Penda, king of Mercia. Oswald reigned only nine years, and was then himself killed in battle with the

same pagan king, at a place called Maserfield, the ancient name of Oswestry in Shropshire, August 5, 642. The Venerable Bede, writing in the seventh century, says: '*Many miracles are said to have been wrought in the place where Oswald was killed, or with the earth carried from thence. Many took up the dust of the place where his body fell, and putting it in water thereby did much good to their friends who were sick; this custom came so much into use that, the earth being carried away by degrees, there remained a hole as deep as the height of a man; nor is it to be wondered at that the sick should be healed in the place where he died, for when he lived he never ceased to provide for the poor and infirm, and to bestow alms on them and assist them.*'

CHAP.
II
A.D. 642
BEDE,
Book iii.
ch. ix.

There are numerous wells existing in various parts of England dedicated to St. Oswald, and it seems only natural that there should be a similar memorial of that good king in Berkshire, when we remember the close intimacy which subsisted between our king Cynegils and Oswald, by reason of their common zeal for the faith, as well as by the bonds of marriage.

The existence of a remarkable well in Finchampstead in the tenth and eleventh centuries is referred to in the Saxon Chronicles, in which mention is made of a well there which 'boiled up with streams of blood, whose waters made red all others where they came, to the great amazement of the beholder,' and so great was the superstition of that period that this occurrence was regarded as the usual precursor of some national calamity, such as the death of the king, or floods, famines, &c.

There are several ways of spelling 'Dozell's Well.' It is found in an old terrier of the glebe land of the rectory, dated 1638, spelt Dozell, which is the name of the field adjoining the old well. In 1783, in another terrier, it is spelt 'Doswell' and 'Dossell,' and in the ordnance survey map of 1871, in which the spot is marked, it is spelt 'Dodswell.' The well was situated¹ on the right-hand side of the road, adjoining the glebe land, leading from Finchampstead village to Eversley

See copy
in Appen-
dix,
No. 75

¹ The field which adjoins it is shown in the tithe map, 1841, as 'Well Dorsell's Field,' containing 5 acres 2 roods 1 pole.

CHAP.
II

A.D. 66

Bridge, on the top of the rising ground immediately before coming to the house originally known as 'Elm Bank,' which name was changed to 'South Court' in 1892. The well was accidentally destroyed about the year 1872, by deepening the ditch on the roadside : this information was obtained from the labourer who deepened the ditch. The well is said to have possessed marvellous curative properties, especially for eye-diseases, and persons now living can remember that people were in the habit of coming from great distances to the well, and either dipping handkerchiefs in it or carrying the water away.

After this digression, which shows at least that Finchampstead, even one thousand years ago, was not an obscure village, unknown beyond the confines of its own parish, let us return to its diocesan history.

Agilbert was the second bishop of the West Saxons whose see was at Dorchester ; but, being ill acquainted with the language of the people, Kenwalk, the king, son of Cynegils, selected Wina, one of the monks of his church at Winchester, and sent him to Gaul for consecration, and placed him in Winchester as bishop of the south part of his kingdom, A.D. 660. Agilbert, being displeased at this, retired to Gaul, and Winchester then became the sole bishopric of Wessex. It is said that when Oswald and Cynegils selected Dorchester as the see for Birinus, they had agreed to partition Mercia between them, and Dorchester would in that event have been more central for the capital of the southern kingdom than Winchester, but that when in later days the kings of Wessex saw no prospect of an extension northwards they drew back from Dorchester, and transferred the 'Bishop's stool' to Winchester under Hedda in 676. Kenwalk built the church at Winchester, which became the parent of the present cathedral, and under its walls nestled the monastic house which became the nursery of Christianity, which gradually spread throughout the diocese.

Cynegils endowed this monastery with a large grant of land extending some miles around the city ; and some of these estates remain to the present day in the hands of the Dean and Chapter of Winchester. Bishops Leutherius and Headda succeeded Wina.

660
Rev.
G. W.
KITCHIN,
D.D.,
Dean of
Winches-
ter, 1890

On the death of Bishop Headda (Hæddi) in 703, Ina, king of Wessex, in 705 divided this immense bishopric of Winchester, by creating the diocese of Sherborne in Dorsetshire. Among the conflicting statements of historians, there is some difficulty in determining whether Berkshire and Wiltshire were placed under Winchester or Sherborne.

CHAP.
II
A.D. 705

We learn from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles that the boundary between the two dioceses was Selwood Forest (Seal-wud-scire), which occupied the western border of Wilts; that all the country to the west of Selwood was allotted to Sherborne, and all to the east of it to Winchester.

'Saxon
Chron.'
vol. ii.
pt. i.

This division would clearly bring the eastern part of Wilts and all Berks within the diocese of Winchester, and this view of the division is supported by strong collateral evidence, and is held by the greatest authorities on the question, but the arguments in support of it are too lengthy for insertion here. Some weight must, however, still attach to the considerations put out in Haddan and Stubbs's 'Concilia,' vol. iii. p. 548 (1867), viz. '*The two West Saxon dioceses contained a considerable number of small monasteries, such as Bradford, Frome, Tisbury, Nursling, Chertsey, and perhaps Abingdon. The boundaries of the two are uncertain, and it is possible that until the time of Edward the Elder the two bishops ruled in common, or the Bishop of Sherborne acted in subordination to the Bishop of Winchester.*'

Winchester certainly occupied the first place among the Saxon churches, and had precedence of Sherborne; the Wiltshire and Berkshire bishops in 909 had no proper cathedral-monasteries, and may have been regarded as inferior.

Aldhelm was consecrated by Archbishop Brihtwold as first Bishop of Sherborne in 705. He was doubtless one of the most learned and interesting personages of his time, and exerted a powerful influence in the spread of Christianity in Wessex. He was a kinsman of Ina the king; he had received his early education in Malmesbury Abbey, where he had been a monk, and of which he ultimately became abbot.

Although the Christian religion was only adopted by the West Saxons in the seventh century, it had been planted

CHAP
II

A.D. 705

among the Britons, as already stated, at a much earlier period. The Venerable Bede tells us that Aldhelm, when he was as yet only a presbyter and abbot of the monastery which they call *'the city of Maldulf,'*¹ wrote by command of the Synod of his nation an excellent book against the error of the Britons in that they do not keep Easter at the proper time, and that they have many other practices contrary to ecclesiastical purity and peace; and brought by the reading of the book many of those Britons who are subject to the West Saxons to the Catholic celebration of the Lord's Supper.'

The Anglo-Saxon Church had derived its Liturgy from the Gallican Church, whose Liturgy had been established in Gaul by the Church of Ephesus, which had been connected with St. John; and this would account for its slight deviation from Roman practices.

It would seem that Aldhelm, whilst Abbot of Malmesbury, before he became a bishop, had already been doing much of a bishop's work; and there is reason to suppose that many of the early abbots were more like bishops presiding over a large district with a body of clergy belonging to it, but with no definite jurisdiction. Aldhelm is said to have been instrumental in founding the Benedictine Abbey of Abingdon, in Berks, before he became bishop, and thus he became connected with Berks as well as Wilts. This circumstance may perhaps have led William of Malmesbury to regard Aldhelm as having been Bishop of Berks. Aldhelm founded monasteries at Frome and Bradford, in Wiltshire, and he appears to have been allowed by a General Council on the Nadder, Wilts, in 705, to retain the abbacy of each of them, together with his bishopric of Sherborne.

There still exists an interesting memorial of this good Bishop Aldhelm, at Bradford-on-Avon, near the large Norman church of the twelfth century. It is an ecclesiola, or little church, which is said to have been built by St. Aldhelm and dedicated to St. Laurence; it is about forty-one feet long, the chancel being eleven feet broad, and the nave sixteen feet. For some years this building was used as a schoolroom, but it has since been restored to its pristine use as a church, and

PARKER,
'Dioceses
of Eng-
land,' 1888

HADDAN
and
STUBBS,
vol. iii.
p. 275-6.

PARKER,
'Dioceses
of Eng-
land,' 1888

¹ Maldunesbury (the name of Malmesbury as it appears in ancient charters).

its altar has been reinstated. William of Malmesbury, writing in the twelfth century, mentions this church as existing in his day, and if this building, as it is believed to be, is the identical building of St. Aldhelm, it must be one of the oldest Saxon churches to be found in England, and is of the greatest value from an historical point of view. Aldhelm died in 709 and was canonised.

These two dioceses of Winchester and Sherborne continued as arranged in A.D. 705 until A.D. 909, when, on the death of Denwulf or Denewulf, twenty-first bishop of Winchester, and of Asser, eleventh bishop of Sherborne, both of which events occurred in 909, a further extension of the episcopate in the kingdom of Wessex took place, by the creation of the bishopric of 'Wiltshire,' the see or seat (sedes) of which was established at Ramsbury, in Wilts, with a residence also at Sonning, in Berkshire. Ethelstan was the first bishop of this new diocese, and Berkshire from that time (909) was separated from Winchester and came within this new diocese of 'Wiltshire.' There were, successively, ten bishops of Wiltshire or of 'Ramsbury and Sonning,' as they were more commonly known, between A.D. 909 and A.D. 1055. Herman, who was the last of them, in 1055 tried to remove the See of Wiltshire to Malmesbury Abbey, and to make that his cathedral, as there was no chapter of clerks nor cathedral at either Ramsbury or Sonning; but though King Edward the Confessor, to whom he had been private chaplain, consented to the transfer, Earl Godwin, on behalf of the monks of Malmesbury, obtained a reversal of this permission, whereupon Herman retired to the monastery of St. Bertin, in France, where he remained for three years, until the See of Sherborne became vacant; when, in A.D. 1058, he was appointed to its bishopric as twenty-fourth bishop of Sherborne, and united with it the bishopric of Wiltshire, otherwise called 'Ramsbury and Sonning.'

In 1075 Bishop Herman removed his See from Sherborne to Old Sarum, in accordance with the desire of William the Conqueror that all bishops' sees should be brought from unwallled villages to fortified places.

In 1076 Bishop Herman began to build the cathedral of Old Sarum, but died before it was finished. His successor,

CHAP.
II
A.D.
909-1076

LELAND,
'Episcopi
Wiltonen-
ses'

CHAP.
II
A.D.
1076-1836

the famous Bishop Osmund, the chancellor of William the Conqueror, completed it. This bishop is best known by his having introduced into his diocese a new or modified ritual and Liturgy, known as the 'Use of Sarum.' Every bishop in those days had power to make changes in the mode of conducting Divine service in his own diocese.

The 'use' of the Saxon Church was first superseded by Bishop Osmund, and the 'Use of Sarum' afterwards became the one most extensively adopted all over England, but especially in the south.

Bishop Osmund died in 1099.

About 1218 it was found desirable to change the site of the cathedral from Old Sarum to Salisbury, about two miles distant, and the cathedral now existing was then commenced, and in 1260 became the cathedral of the diocese, and it is one of the finest specimens of thirteenth century cathedrals in England.

Berkshire continued within the diocese of Old Sarum, and afterwards of Salisbury, until the year 1836, when, by an Order in Council dated October 5, 1836, it was transferred to the diocese of Oxford.

Under
Act of
Parlia-
ment, 6
& 7 Will.
IV. c. 77

There have been ninety-eight bishops in 1,257 years successively presiding over the county of Berkshire.

It thus appears that Finchampstead must have been originally, from A.D. 635 to A.D. 705, within the diocese of Dorchester-on-Thames; from A.D. 705 to 909, under the bishops of Winchester; from A.D. 909 to 1058, under the bishops of Ramsbury and Sonning; from A.D. 1058 successively under the bishops of Sherborne, Old Sarum, and Salisbury until A.D. 1836; and from 1836 within the diocese of Oxford.





CHAPTER III

Finchampstead Church



R. JOHN OLDRID SCOTT, F.S.A., the eminent architect, who advises the Oxford Diocesan Board in regard to church buildings, has kindly favoured me with the following remarks upon this church :

CHAP.
III

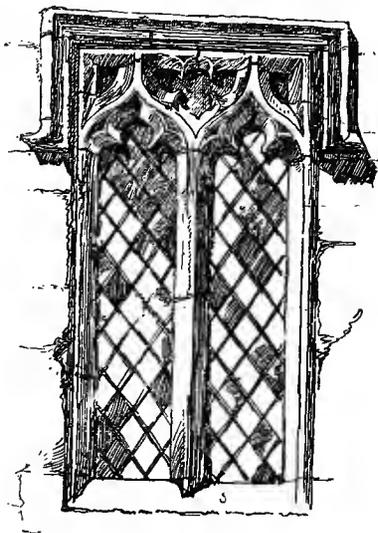
'The present church,' which is said to have been dedicated to St. James, *'is clearly of great antiquity, and although it has undergone considerable alterations from time to time, it still retains the walls at least of the original church, which may have been built as early as the Conquest, or, possibly, somewhat before that time. The church consisted of a nave and chancel, which ended in a simple apse. The nave was lighted on the north side by three small windows placed*

CHAP.
III

high up in the walls, two of which can still be traced through the plastering; and probably there were similar windows on the south side, and also in the apse. The oldest parts which now remain are the south wall of the nave, in which later windows have been inserted; the north wall of the nave, into which two arches have been introduced communicating with the aisle; and the whole of the apse.' Mr. Scott considers that 'the original chancel arch was removed in the fifteenth century, to make way for the one we see now, and that at the same time the western of the two arches in the north wall of the nave was inserted to give access to the aisle which had been, or was then being, added. The other arch is modern. The wide opening in the north wall of the chancel is very late; probably it was built in 1590, when the outside north doorway into the aisle was inserted which bears that date. The history of the aisle is very puzzling, and it will not be solved until the plaster which covers the wall inside and out is partly removed, and the masonry exposed. The roof is of different dates, and some of the timbers have been previously used for some other purpose than they now serve.

'All the windows in the nave and apse are insertions; the window on the south side of the apse, and that towards the west end of the nave belong to the fourteenth century, and are very pleasing in design; the other is modern.

'The aisle windows are of different ages, the small one near the door (i.e. the N.E. window) being the oldest; it is probably Decorated in style; the other (i.e. the N.W. window) being a century later. The font is a fine Norman one, apparently of very early date; its base is modern.



SOUTH APSE WINDOW

'The piscina and credence in the south wall of the apse are extremely interesting, being, as far as I know, unique. The details of the beautiful column seem to me to belong to the beginning of the twelfth century.

'None of the wooden fittings remain, but parts of the pulpit seem to have belonged to a late screen of excellent design. The nave roof is very good in style, and has been carefully restored; it belongs to the fifteenth century. The fine brick tower, which was built in 1720, is very striking in design, and certainly of much interest from the time of its erection. It adds much to the character of the church, and suits the admirable site on which it stands.



THE FONT AS ALTERED IN 1855
AND AS IT STILL REMAINS IN 1894

There is a small window in the tower over the western door of Decorated date, which makes it probable that the tower had been rebuilt in the fourteenth century, and therefore the original tower would have been of a still earlier date.'

Mr. Scott concludes his remarks by adding that, *'If it should be necessary to enlarge the church it seems clearly the best plan to add a south aisle. There should be three arches corresponding with the divisions of the nave roof, and when they are being inserted, the greatest care should be taken to preserve any traces which may be found of the original Norman windows. The plastering of the wall is no doubt original, and should be maintained; it looks well, and gives far more individuality to the church than it would have if its walls were faced with flints. The church is of exceptional interest and deserves the most careful treatment.'*

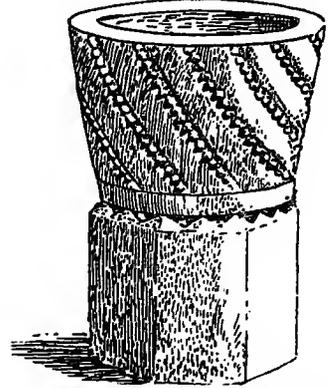
Thus far is the opinion of Mr. Scott.

CHAP.
III

The Font

THE FONT.

The font appears to be older than any other part of the church. Sir Arthur Blomfield considers that it may have belonged to about the year 1030, although, as he says, there must always be some uncertainty in assigning an exact date to such work. The base and shaft on which it now stands are of modern construction; they were made only in the year 1855. I have lately found a drawing of the font, as it existed in the year 1814, in the library of the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral, and I have since been favoured by Mr. C. A. Buckler, the son of Mr. Buckler who made the original sketch in 1814, with a tracing of that sketch, a copy of which is here given.



THE FONT AS SKETCHED BY
J. AND J. C. BUCKLER IN
1814.

The bowl of the font, it will be observed, then stood upon an hexagonal shaft. The mouldings of the circular bowl at the time the sketch was taken were covered with many coats of whitewash, which almost concealed the carved work, and this was only removed in 1855, when the bowl was placed upon its present stand.

*THE PISCINA*The
Piscina

The piscina was discovered in 1855, when considerable alterations were made in the church. Mr. Scott assigns its date to the early part of the twelfth century. It had been bricked up in the wall of the apse and covered over with plaster, probably in 1590, see opposite page.

THE AISLE

With regard to the aisle, I have obtained a copy of the Will of John Banastre, of Finchampstead, dated September 12, 1492, which tends to throw some light upon the arrangement of the church at that date. The following is a copy of the Will :

WILL OF JOHN BANASTER OF FINCHAMPSTEAD,
DATED SEPTEMBER 12, 1492

CHAP.
III

*IN DEI NOMINE AMEN. Anno Domini Millesimo
CCCC Nonagesimo secundo xij^{mo} die mensis Septembris Ego*

P.C.C. 26
Dogett.
Sept. 12,
1492



*Piscina &
Credence
Finchampstead.*

*Johannes Banastre de Fynchampstede Sarum diocesis sanam et
integram habens memoriam condo testamentum meum in hunc
modum In primis lego animam meam Deo omnipotenti beate
Marie virgini ac omnibus sanctis Corpusque meum sepeliendum*

CHAP.
III

in ecclesia parochiali de Fynchampstede predicta coram altare Sancte Trinitatis Item lego ecclesie matri Sarum quatuor denarios Item lego summo altari ejusdem ecclesie parochialis pro decimis meis negligenter oblitis et detentis vj d. Residuum vero omnium bonorum meorum in presenti testamento non legatorum debitis meis primo et principaliter solutis et sepultura mea facta do et lego Margarete uxori mee quam quidem Margaretam meam vero executricem ordino et facio ut ipsa de illis bonis disponat pro salute anime mee prout melius sibi videbitur. His testibus domino Henrico Rolf monacho vicem curati tunc ibidem gerente Ricardo Hall et Roberto Hall et aliis. Dat' die et anno supradictis.

Proved
June 14,
1493

PROBATUM . . . apud Lamehithe xiiii^{mo} die mensis Junii Anno Domini Millesimo CCCC Nonagesimo tercio Juramento etc.

The testator desires to be buried in the parish church of Finchampstead, before the altar of 'The Holy Trinity.' He bequeaths to the mother church of Sarum 4 denarii (4*d.*); he directs 6*d.* to be placed on the 'High Altar' of his parish church, in satisfaction of his tithes carelessly omitted to be paid. It was very usual in mediæval times, and especially in the fifteenth century, for testators to leave a small sum in satisfaction of 'tythes and oblations' which they might have omitted to pay in their lifetime; and the amount bequeathed seems to have been no actual measurement of the extent of the omission, as the bequest seldom exceeded xij*d.* (1*s.*). Even bishops thought it necessary to make this provision in their Wills—*e.g.* Thomas Polton, Bishop of Worcester, A.D. 1432, left 10*s.* for tithes omitted to be paid. One of the witnesses to John Banastre's Will appears to have been a monk, who was taking his turn as priest at that time. The Will was proved at Lambeth, June 14, 1493.

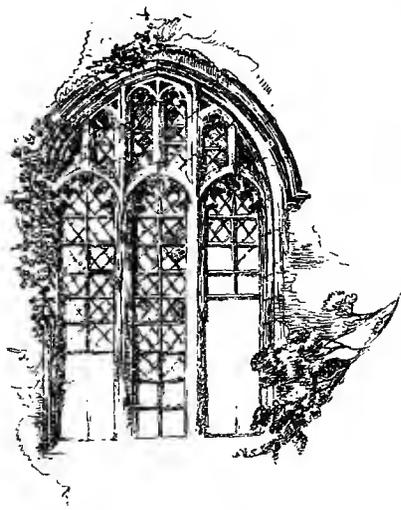
Chichele Register, Lambeth Palace, f. 438; also 'Visitations and Memorials of Southwell Minster,' Camden Soc. 1891, pp. 109, 114, 118, 133, 137, &c.

From this it would appear that there were at least two altars in the church in 1492-93; the 'High Altar,' and the altar dedicated to 'The Holy Trinity.' There would also, most probably, have been a third, dedicated to the patron saint of the church, St. James. The question therefore arises, where was the altar to 'The Holy Trinity?' There could hardly have been room for an altar in the nave, and there cer-

tainly would not have been a second one in the apse. It is probable, therefore, that in 1492 there was a chantry chapel where the north aisle now is, and that the altar of 'The Holy Trinity' was in that chantry.

Early in the fourteenth century it became a common practice to form chantries in churches, and it existed, though to a less extent, in the thirteenth century. It was usual, also, to provide an endowment for the perpetual provision of ecclesiastics to chant masses for the founder, or for those named by him.

In small churches, the chantry was usually at the east end of one of the aisles ; and, in such cases, there often occurs between the chancel and the chantry an arched recess in the wall, such a recess generally containing the tomb or effigy of the founder.



EAST WINDOW OF AISLE

The altar of the Holy Trinity probably stood at the east end of this chantry, and the testator was no doubt buried in front of it, in accordance with his Will, although no trace of either now remains.

The monk, Henry Rolf, who was a witness of the Will, was probably the chantry priest ; he was certainly not the rector of the parish, as

Walter Dudston, No. 14 on the list of rectors, was the rector at that time.

It would seem likely that John Banastre had been a benefactor to the church, as otherwise he could hardly have claimed to be buried in front of the altar in this chantry.

The question, therefore, arises, what was the benefaction which entitled him to this distinction ?

Mr. Scott tells us that the east window of the aisle and the chancel arch appear to belong to the fifteenth century ;

CHAP.
III

we may therefore suppose that this east window in the aisle, which probably replaced the original one in the chantry, and the chancel arch, were the benefactions of John Banastre. We may now form a conjecture as to the date of the original chantry.

See
Chapter
IV. on
'The
Manor'

According to Mr. Scott's opinion, the more eastern of the two windows on the north side is 'probably Decorated;' and therefore we are led to the conclusion that the original chantry was founded near the end of the thirteenth century, either by Sir William Banastre, who was the last Lord of the whole Manor of Finchampstead, or by his two daughters, between whom the Manor was divided into the East and West Court moieties.

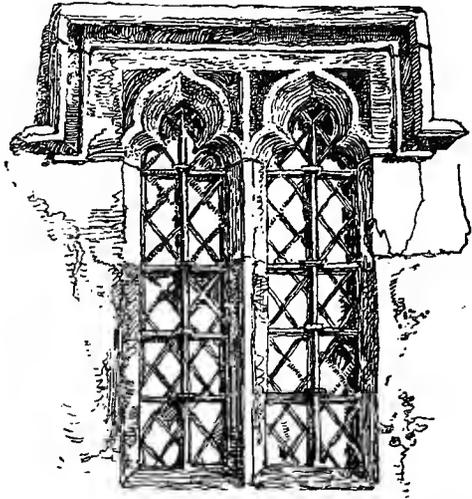
John Banastre, whose Will we are considering, was no doubt a descendant of the last Sir William Banastre, and would, therefore, naturally be entitled to interment in the family chantry.

If this view be correct, it is likely that an effigy or some other memorial of the founder would have been placed

in a recess in the wall in the south side of the aisle, where there is now a large archway between the aisle and the apse.

In 1590, some further alterations appear to have been made in this north aisle or chantry; the initials 'T. H.' and '1590,' placed over the entrance door, doubtless refer to Thomas Harrison, who was the owner of the East Court moiety of the Manor at that time. The alterations may have consisted in the conversion of the chantry chapel into the existing aisle, by the removal of the altar dedicated to the Holy Trinity; the destruction of any memorial of the founder

See
Chapter
V., 'East
Court
Manor'



NORTH-EAST WINDOW OF AISLE

of the chantry which might have been there, and the forming the existing low archway into the chancel. Mr. Scott attributes this archway to 'T. H.' in 1590. It is also very probable that the insertion of the more western window in the north wall of the aisle took place at the same time.

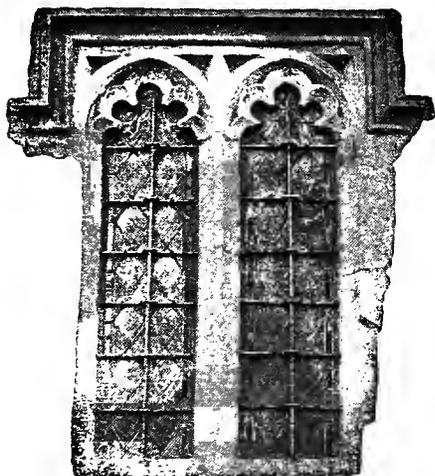
CHAP.
III

There is another possible way of accounting for the archway between the aisle and apse. It might originally have been what was termed an 'Easter Sepulchre,' or 'Pascal,' which is still found in some of our old churches, either in the form of a simple arched recess in the chancel wall or an

e.g.
Hawton,
Notts.

altar tomb of the founder, which was generally situated on the north side of the chancel in the vicinity of the high altar. In and upon it was solemnly enclosed the Host, which was kept there for worship from evensong on Good Friday till the dawn of Easter Day, &c.

Rev. E. L.
CURTS



NORTH-WEST WINDOW OF AISLE

In the iconoclastic crusade against chantries in Edward VI.'s and Elizabeth's reigns, the Easter Sepulchre would have been a special object of destruction.

The concealment of the piscina and credence in the apse was probably also effected at that period.

I can find no faculty for any of these alterations in the Salisbury register. The See of Salisbury was vacant from February 15, 1588, till 1591. It was not unusual for Queen Elizabeth to delay filling vacant bishoprics in order to gain the benefit of their revenues.

Thomas Harrison may therefore have taken advantage of his freedom from episcopal control, and indulged the puritanical spirit of the age by the changes indicated; the destruction of the chantry would, moreover, have been in accordance with the

CHAP.
III

statute of 1 Edward VI. c. 14, which ordered the removal of chantries, and granted their revenues to the Crown.

This explanation of the chantry and aisle would also account for the present appearance of the roof of the aisle, which has been a puzzle to many architects : the short timbers, which were evidently not intended for their present use, are just of the length which would have been required for the original small chantry, and furnish an interesting memorial of the early history of this aisle.

We may now use the data we possess for forming an opinion upon the age of the church.

Mr. Scott tells us that there is a little window over the western door of the tower, which belongs to the fourteenth century, which makes it probable that the present brick tower, erected in 1720, replaced one which had been erected in the fourteenth century. Again, if a tower had been erected in the fourteenth century, that tower most probably had replaced one of still older date, as our church is of much earlier date than the fourteenth century, and the date assigned by Mr. Scott to the piscina is the early part of the twelfth century, while the date of the font is the early part of the eleventh century, A.D. 1030. It is quite possible, therefore, as Mr. Scott has remarked above, that our present church may have been built 'somewhat earlier than the Conquest,' which would bring its date nearly to the same as that which Sir Arthur Blomfield has assigned to the font, viz. 1030.

Chapter
IV.

In the Chapter on the Manor it will be shown that the Manor of Finchampstead was originally held under the Crown by Earl Harold, the brother-in-law of King Edward the Confessor. On the death of Earl Harold in 1066, the Manor reverted to the Crown, and remained in its possession until Henry I. bestowed it, about A.D. 1123, upon Robert Achard, who granted it, together with its advowson, to Alard Banastre on knight's service, and it continued in that family for upwards of two centuries.

Here we have a distinct recognition of a church in Finchampstead in the early part of Henry I.'s reign. It is not likely that any church building took place in Finchampstead between 1066 and 1123, as there was no lord of the manor to interest

himself in it ; we are therefore led to the conclusion that either there was a Saxon church in Finchampstead in Earl Harold's time, which was replaced by the present one in the early part of the twelfth century, by Alard Banastre or his son ; or that the present church has existed since about 1030. At what earlier date there may have been a church here there are no reliable means for determining.

When, however, we consider the important position which our church occupied on the great Roman road ; that this road continued to be extensively used as the great western road to London from the third to the twelfth century ; that Finchampstead was a well-known place in Saxon times ; that there were Bishops of Ramsbury resident so near as Sonning between 909 and 1070 ; that there was a flourishing manor of Finchampstead from 1050 to 1066, possessing its mill (the ancestor of the present 'New Mill') ; a lord of the manor probably resident with his villeins, bordarii, and serfs, we cannot resist the conclusion that there must have been a Christian church on this spot at a much earlier period than we have as yet reached, and that in all probability a Pagan temple preceded the earliest Christian church.

The Danish incursions which caused such ravages in Berkshire, and especially around Reading, in the ninth century, would most probably have destroyed any church which might have existed in Finchampstead at that time.

It may be observed that there is no mention made in 'Domesday Book' of any church in Finchampstead, although fifty-six churches in Berkshire are referred to in that book. But this constitutes no reason against the existence of a church in Finchampstead at that time, for churches were rarely, if ever, mentioned in Domesday, except in connection with land yielding a revenue to the Crown, as the object of William the Conqueror in appointing the Commission which resulted in 'Domesday Book' was to ascertain the revenues obtainable from the country.

Let us now return to the description of the church subsequently to 1590.

The only faculty in the Salisbury Diocesan Registry, connected with Finchampstead Church, relates to the tower.

e.g. See particulars of Crondal (Hants) in Domesday, where a church is mentioned, 'Ibi ecclesia de xx solidis et xij serui.' ('There is a church there worth 20 shillings.') 'Crondal Records,' p. 10, 1890

It 'was granted in 1720 to Thomas Johnes¹ of Finchampstead, gentleman, to build a tower to the church, in lieu of the steeple then lately taken down.'

On a stone slab on the face of the tower is the following inscription :

'The foundation of the Tower was laid Anno Domini 1720. John Banister, Edward Ellis, Churchwardens. Finished Anno Domini 1721. John Banister, Thomas Solmes, Churchwardens.'

The Rev. Richard Rogers was rector when the tower was rebuilt. There is a tradition that the bricks of which the tower is built were made out of the ground now forming part of the north-east corner of the glebe land, then known as 'Brickells;' this land was at that time an unenclosed part of Windsor Forest, but was added to the glebe in 1818, under the Windsor Forest Enclosure Act.

There are six bells. The tenor bell bears the following inscription :

'Thy praise and glory, Lord, we will resound
To all the listening nations round,
And with our tongues and voices raise
To Thee, O God, our songs of praise.

'1792. Thomas Allen and John Soane, Churchwardens.'

The fifth, fourth, third, and second bells also bear the date of 1792. In 1885 a treble bell was added, bearing the following inscription :

'To the Glory of God, and in commemoration of the Rev. Edward St. John, M.A., Rector of this Parish, attaining the 80th year of his Age, this Bell was given by some of his Parishioners and Friends. Anno Domini 1885.'

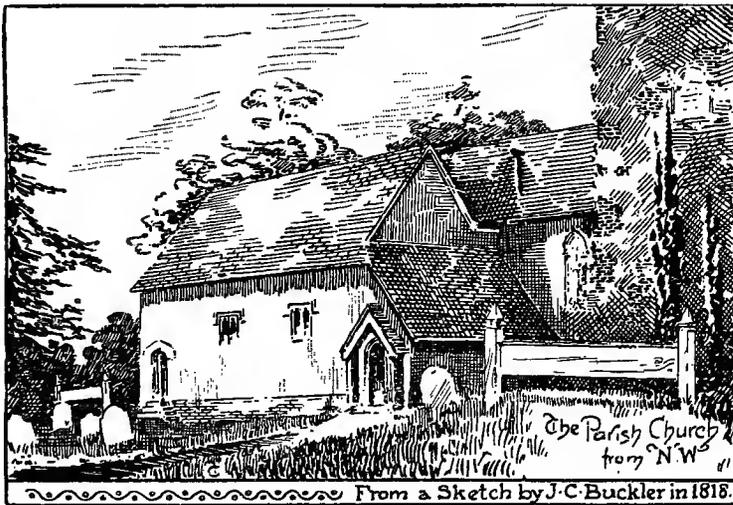
In 1855 the church underwent considerable alterations, but unfortunately no plans, nor any description of what was done, have been preserved among the parish records, and I have been unable to obtain any very exact information as to the changes which then took place.

Some of the alterations consisted in substituting the present open sittings for high pews; opening the smaller arch between the nave and the aisle; an introduction of a more modern window on the south side of the nave.

¹ Supposed to have been a tenant of West Court, which was not occupied by the owner at that date. See Chapter on the Manors.

In removing the whitewash from the walls of the chancel or apse, coloured fresco paintings were discovered ; but as they were considered to be in an imperfect condition, the walls were re-whitewashed, as they now remain.

With much difficulty I have discovered that the late Mr. Clacey, of Reading, was the architect employed to superintend the alterations ; but, unfortunately, there are no drawings nor specifications in possession of his representatives. The only reliable information which I have been able to obtain is from Mr. Morris, the present county surveyor of Berkshire, who, in his youth, assisted Mr. Clacey in the alterations in



question. Speaking from memory only, he tells me that the roof of the nave was ceiled prior to 1855 ; that the ceiling was removed, and the ancient timbers of the roof were opened to view ; also that the wooden panelling, now in the roof of the chancel, was removed thither from the eastern end or bay of the nave roof ; that the present east window in the apse, and the present porch entrance to the nave, were substituted for others previously existing.

Mr. C. A. Buckler, the present Surrey Herald, for whose kind assistance I have already acknowledged my obligations,

CHAP.
III

has given me a tracing of a sketch which his father made of the church in 1818, which enables me to present the etching on preceding page which will show the form of the old porch entrance to the nave as it existed at that date.

It will be observed that the old porch had a 'lean-to' roof against the west end of the north aisle, the top of which is still marked on the wall by a 'string-course.'

I have also been furnished by a friend with another sketch of the old porch, the date of which is unknown; but it seems probable that this sketch is intended to represent the same porch as the one on the preceding page, which is believed to have been erected by Thomas Harrison in 1590.



The porch now existing was only erected in 1855, when other alterations in the church were made.

THE PULPIT

The pulpit deserves special attention. Mr. Scott tells us that parts of it seem to have belonged to a late screen of excellent design. The existence of the wood panelling in the roof over the eastern bay of the nave, referred to in the last page, tends to show that there may have been a rood-loft above the screen, from which the Gospel would have been read. Previously to 1855 the pulpit stood between the two south windows of the nave, where there is now a monument in memory of the late Rev. Edward St. John, of Ashe Park, and opposite to the western archway opening into the aisle; it was removed to its present site when the church was reseated in 1855, and the central opening into the aisle was then made. The date of the pulpit is probably James I.'s reign, when the

pulpits in most of our parish churches had their origin ; before the introduction of pulpits the 'sermon' was delivered from the altar steps.

The brass desk and candle branches on the pulpit were the gift of the late Mr. John E. Leveson Gower, of Bill Hill, in 1885. Mr. L. Gower had lived at Warren Lodge in Finchampstead for many years, and was greatly interested in all parochial matters, serving as churchwarden, and taking the lead in everything which tended for the good of the people. On the passing of the Education Act in 1870, he took an active part in the establishment of the school on the voluntary principle as a Church school, and became chairman of the committee from 1871 to 1884, when he left the parish for Bill Hill, to the great regret of everyone in Finchampstead. He died January 21, 1892. It is hoped that the brass fittings of the pulpit will serve as a perpetual memorial of this good parishioner.

On reference to the Oxford Diocesan Registry, it appears that no faculty was applied for authorising any of these changes.

On referring to the Incorporated Church Building Society, Dean's Yard, Westminster, I learn that a grant of 60*l.* was made in 1855 in aid of these alterations, which were estimated to cost 535*l.* ; and the Society made the grant conditional upon one hundred and forty seats (140 seats) being reserved for the free use of the poor, the rows of seats being numbered 1 to 26. Considering the period at which these alterations were made, they show that the Rev. Edward St. John and those who assisted him were somewhat in advance of the age in their desire to render the House of God more worthy of His worship.

TENTHS AND FIRST FRUITS

We have further corroborative evidence of a church and rector of Finchampstead, in A.D. 1291, in the fact that this benefice is shown to have paid 'tenths' to Pope Nicholas III. in that year, the annual value of the tithes at that date being stated as having been 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and the 'tenths' to have amounted to 8*s.* 8*d.*

'Taxatio
Eccle-
siastica
Anglie et
Wallie'

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1291

The words of the record are as follows :

	Taxatio Ecclesiastica Papæ Nicholai.			
	Decanatus Rading. Sarum Sp.			
Ecclesia de Finchampsted . . .	Taxatio	£4	6	8
		Decima	£0	8 8

The above value of the benefice would perhaps have been equivalent to about 220*l.* of our present money, augmented probably by offerings which were not included. The quantity of land under cultivation at that period was considerably less than at the present time, which would to some extent account for the difference in value. In the time of Henry VIII., when the King took possession of the tenths which had been paid to the Pope, the tithes were valued at 12*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, according to 'Valor Ecclesiasticus,' vol. ii. p. 155.

BURN'S
'Eccles.
Law,' and
STE-
PHEN'S
'Comm.
on Black-
stone'

It may interest some of my readers to know the origin of 'tenths' and 'first fruits,' to which the clergy are still liable. Under the feudal system of land tenure, when any of the king's tenants *in capite* died, the king was entitled to receive from the heir one year's profit of the land before the institution of his successor. The popes, who claimed to be feudal lords of the Church, took advantage of this for claiming, in like manner, from every clergyman in England, the first year's profits of his benefice, as 'first fruits,' or *primitiæ*. This claim was first asserted in the reign of King John or Henry III. The popes also claimed as due to them, by Divine right, the tenth part of the yearly value of all ecclesiastical benefices, after the example of the high priests among the Jews, who received from the Levites a tenth part of the tithes. The value upon which the 'first fruits' and 'tenths' were to be levied was fixed by a commission appointed by Pope Nicholas III. in 20 Edward I. (1291-92). These 'first fruits' and 'tenths' were taken away from the Pope during the Reformation, and were transferred to the King by an Act of 26 Henry VIII. cap. 3 (1535); and by other Acts of Parliament have since merged in what is now known as 'Queen Anne's Bounty,' and are appropriated to the augmentation of small livings.

MONUMENTS

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1580

Before quitting the church we must notice the monuments. There is not one of an earlier date than 1580. This may be partly accounted for by the great destruction of monuments in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries by the Puritans. A still further destruction took place during the revolutionary times of the seventeenth century. In January 1641, commissioners were sent into every county 'for the defacing, demolishing, and removing all images, altars, or tables turned altar-wise, crucifixes, superstitious monuments, and reliques of idolatry, out of all churches and chapels.' So that any monuments which may have escaped destruction in the preceding century may have been demolished by this commission.

The oldest monument now remaining is that of Henry Hinde, of East Court, on the north side of the chancel arch, who died in 1580, the particulars of which will be found in Chapter V. on 'East Court Manor.'

The author of 'Antiquities of Berkshire' gives a list of the monuments existing when he visited Finchampstead. He does not tell us the date of his visit; but as he says that James Goodyer was patron of the living, and Richard Rogers the incumbent, it must have been between September 29, 1709, and March 9, 1710, as James Goodyer died on March 9, 1710, and Richard Rogers was instituted September 29, 1709. Elias Ashmole died in 1692, and therefore he could not have visited Finchampstead in 1709. These particulars could not therefore have been given by Elias Ashmole, but were possibly supplied by his editor. All the monuments which he mentions are still existing. He also alludes to the 'Miraculous Well'—'Dozell's Well,' described in Chapter II. page 17.

By ELIAS
ASHMOLE
published
1723

At the entrance to the chancel, and in the floor of the chancel, are two brass plates in memory of 'Richard Marshe, Citizen and Grocer of London,' fully described in Chapter V. on 'East Court.' 1613

In the floor of the centre of the nave is a good brass in memory of Elizabeth Blighe. (See Chapter V.) 1635

- CHAP. In the north aisle a black marble sarcophagus, in memory
III of Richard Palmer. (See Chapter V.)
- A.D. 1670 In the floor of chancel. 'Here lieth the body of Peter
1687 Sparke, who died September 28, 1687, æt. 80.' He was
living at East Court Manor House in 1661. (See Chapter V.)
- 1728 In floor of chancel. 'Here lieth the body of Mary Bra-
bent, Widow and Relict of Doctor Brabent, late Rector of
Berkhamsted in the County of Hertford, who died 14 June,
1728.' She was daughter of Richard Palmer, Lord of the
East Court Manor from 1661 to 1670. (See Chapter V.)
- 1733 In floor of chancel. 'Here lies the body of Sarah St. John,
daughter of Ellis St. John, died 16 January, 1733, æt. 8 months.'
Daughter of the following.
- 1786 Floor of north aisle. Rev. Ellis St. John, Clerk, Rector
of this Parish and Lord of the Manor of West Court, died
19 July, 1786, æt. 79.
- 1797 Elizabeth, Relict of Rev. Ellis St. John, and only daughter
of John Pollen, Esq., of Andover, died 14 October, 1797,
æt. 91.
- 1791 Ann Mears, third daughter of Rev. E. St. John, died
14 September, 1791.
- 1810 Mary St. John, died 2 July, 1810, æt. 62. Daughter of
Rev. E. St. John.
- 1817 Elizabeth St. John, died 29 August, 1817, æt. 82. Daugh-
ter of Rev. E. St. John.
- 1784 'M. C. 1784.'
- 1850 On the south wall of the nave. A brass plate set in grey
marble records the death of the Rev. Edward St. John, of
Ashe Park, born 1778, died April 4, 1850, and of Mary his
1851 wife, who died October 31, 1851, 'whose bodies lie buried in a
vault in this Church yard.' Edward was brother of the Rev.
Henry Ellis St. John. (See Chapter VI.)
- In the tower. A large broken slab covers a vault under
the floor of the tower, in which are interred the remains of
Thomas Harrison, of East Court, born in 1530, died February 25,
1602, æt. 72; also the remains of Elizabeth, his third wife, who
1602 died in September 1612. On this slab was also recorded,
1612 though now illegible, that his first wife was Alice, daughter of
Richard Warde of Hurst, and that his second wife was

Katherine, the widow of Thomas Anton, of Stratfeildsay. (See Chapter V. p. 118.)

CHAP.
III
A.D.

There are two other vaults at the west end of the nave, of which there is now no external appearance ; one in which the Rev. Thomas Bright, Rector of the parish, was buried in 1684. In his Will, an extract from which will be found in Chapter III. (p. 73), he desired to be buried in ' the Vault ' at the west end of the church, which would seem to indicate that there was one particular vault at that time in which he could claim burial ; but there is now no appearance of it. 1684

The other vault is that of Charles Palmer, lord of the manor of East Court, who in his Will ' desired to be buried *in his own Vault* at the west end of the church,' and he was so buried (Chapter V. p. 132); but it does not now appear. 1712

These vaults must have been hid from sight by the new flooring which was laid down in 1855. There must have been other vaults or sepulchral memorials in the church of which no external traces are now visible, as the burial register and wills record the burial of some of the Tattershall family in the seventeenth century, who were lords of the manor of West Court ; and of John Banistre in 1492, who, as has been already shown, was ' probably buried at the east end of the north aisle.' Possibly there may have been some memorial of the Tattershalls under the ' stall ' seats in the chancel, which may have been covered over when the floor of the chancel was raised one step in 1855, as I suggest in Chapter VI.

CHURCH FURNITURE, ORNAMENTS AND PLATE

During the Reformation, about the middle of the sixteenth century, a great spoliation of gold and silver plate and other valuables belonging to churches took place. When Henry VIII. swept away the monasteries, and obtained possession of the valuable plunder which they contained, church officers concluded that their turn would come next. Their fears were increased by the grant of chantries and their valuable contents to the King by the Parliament of 1545, so that vestries were found parting with their plate before it could be seized, and applying

CHAP.
III
A.D.
1549-50

the proceeds to the repair of their churches and other uses. In the second year of Edward VI. the chantries were finally dissolved, and such plate and other valuables as had not been already sold were seized by the King, after allowing one chalice in a small parish and two in a large one to be retained.

King Edward VI. appointed a commission on January 16, 1553, to take an inventory of all Church goods in the several counties. The object of these inventories was not in the interest of the Church, but of the King himself, who writes in his journal under date of April 21, 1552: 'It was agreed that commissioners should go out to take certificate of the superfluous church plate to *mine* use, and to see how it hath been embezzled.' It will be interesting to some of our parishioners to know what sort of church furniture and clerical vestments were in use in Finchampstead Church after the Reformation in the fifth year of Edward VI. We are indebted to Mr. Walter Money, of Newbury, for a copy of the inventory taken by the commissioners, dated August 1, 1552, who has transcribed from the original records all the inventories of furniture and ornaments remaining in certain of the Berkshire churches in the last year of Edward VI.:

'Finchamsted, August 1, 6 Edward VI. (1552). Richard Hedges and William Holway, churchwardens. Thomas Hicklinge, rector.

'A littell chales of siluer wth a cover of siluer percill gilt.¹ Thre belles whereof is owing for one of them which of late was new caste L^s, a littell sanctus bell. Too old copes,² Too olde Vestmentes,³ a Crosse of copper and gylte. A Corporas⁴ case of red velvet, one olde silke clothe hanging before the hie Aulter, one surplis. Two stremers and one baner clothe, a Pixe⁵ of Latin.⁶ One oyle boxe of Tynne. A Bible and a

¹ Percill gilt, gilt inside only, or partially gilt.

² Cope, the mantle or outer garment of a priest. It was without sleeves, open in front, and fastened round the neck with a morse or brooch.

³ Vestment, a comprehensive term denoting the whole dress of the celebrant.

⁴ Corporas, corporal, a cloth of white linen, on which the elements were consecrated. The corporal cloths when not in use were carefully preserved in a case somewhat resembling a portfolio, usually made of silk and enriched with embroidery.

⁵ Pyx, the vessel used for holding the little box, or pix, in which the Holy Eucharist was preserved, and usually in the form of a cross of gold or silver.

⁶ Latten or laten, an alloy of copper and zinc.

paraphrasis, and all the said percelles sauſſie to be kepte and p^rserued.

CHAP.
III

The 'littell chales of siluer with a siluer cover' mentioned in this inventory seems to have disappeared during the next forty years, possibly in pursuance of an order which went forth about 1567, that the chalice should be exchanged for a 'decent Communion cup.' There is still in the possession of the Rector of our parish an old chalice and a pewter flagon, which have for many years ceased to be used. They were submitted in 1890 to Mr. Arthur Irwin Dasent, a great authority upon church plate, who reported as follows :

The
'Little
Chalice'
existing
in 1552



FROM A DRAWING KINDLY MADE FOR
ME BY MISS B. C. WROUGHTON

'HALL MARKS ON CHALICE

1. *Date-letter for 1591 (Roman letter capital O).*
2. *Leopard's head crowned.*
3. *Lion passant.*
4. *Maker's mark, HL, in a shaped shield.*

Chalice
and Paten
of 1591

*Weight, 14 oz. Height, 7³/₈ inches.
The Paten forming cover to above,
same marks.*

Paten

'This interesting chalice is quite plain with the exception of a small beaded ornamentation round the foot ; it is in good preservation, although the hall marks have become somewhat indistinct from perpetual cleaning in the course of three centuries. I was at first inclined to think the date-letter might be a Roman letter

CHAP. III
A.D. 1593

capital Q instead of O, in which case the date would be 1593 instead of 1591, but I think it is of the earlier year. A reference to the churchwardens' accounts¹ for that period will possibly corroborate this opinion.'

As this chalice bears the date of 1591 or 1593, it was probably presented about the same time as the alterations in the aisle were made by Thomas Harrison in 1590, above referred to.

It is not known when *silver* chalices became universal; but we read that Henry de Blois, nephew of Henry I., who was Bishop of Winchester from 1129 to 1171, presided over a synod at which it was decreed that all chalices must be of precious metal; consequently, the next time the clergy were taxed, the Bishop ordered that every rector should bring the amount of his taxation in the form of a silver chalice. When the chalices were brought, he returned them as a gift to the several parishes for the use of the Holy Communion, and he himself paid the cost of them to the King out of his own purse.

Rev. E. L.
CUTTS

The old pewter flagon is late seventeenth or early eighteenth century, but so little is at present known of the various marks found on pewter vessels, that the precise year of manufacture cannot be ascertained.

THE PARISH REGISTERS

It is stated that only eight parish registers are known to exist of an earlier date than 1538.

W. AN-
DREWS,
F.R.H.S.,
1890

In 1538 an order was issued by Thomas, Lord Cromwell, the Vicar-General of the kingdom, for the establishment of registers.

The order was as follows :

'The curate of every parish shall keep one book or register, which book he shall every Sunday take forth, and in presence of churchwardens or one of them write and record in the same all the weddings, christenings, and burials made the week before; and for every time the same shall be omitted shall forfeit to the said church iij' iiijs^d.'

In 1597 and 1603 it was determined by canon that the

¹ Unfortunately the churchwardens' accounts do not exist.

records should be written on parchment and copies deposited in the bishops' registries. Careful provision was in each case made for the custody of the keys of the parish chests in which the originals were deposited. As a result of these orders, the older paper registers were *copied* into parchment books; and thus many of the *older* parchment registers are not really the originals. This system continued until 1812 (52 Geo. III. chap. 146, 'Rose Act'), when printed schedules were established. In 1836 (6 & 7 Will. IV. chap. 86) the present system was established.

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1597

There are no registers now in Finchampstead of an earlier date than 1653. In the Diocesan Registry at Salisbury, however, there is the copy of a Finchampstead register from 1609 to 1653 (though it is in a very imperfect state), which shows that the original register for that period ought to be in the Finchampstead parish chest, but it has disappeared.

In 1653 an Act was passed by the revolutionary Parliament for the better registration of births, deaths, and marriages, and from that year our registers have been preserved; but the direction of Lord Cromwell that the parson should make the entries has unfortunately not been observed, and this duty has too generally been performed by persons whose writing and spelling frequently make the entries unintelligible. There is an old register from 1783 to 1834 which requires careful repairs and binding. This register has evidently been kept by a very illiterate person; the commonest names are misspelt, and the writing frequently renders the name uncertain. This register has been transcribed into a 'parchment book,' in accordance with canon law, as far as the year 1812; but on comparing the transcript of baptisms with the original record I find several inaccuracies and some omissions, so that it becomes the more imperative that the original should be carefully preserved.

In 1698 began a curious practice, during the incumbency of the Rev. John Brandon, of describing the *condition* of the persons registered: viz. Mr. John Banister is distinguished as 'a rich man,' Richard Hunter as 'a poor man,' John Martin as 'not worth six hundred pounds,' &c., &c.

In 1710 we find the first record in our registers of 'burying in woollen.' This was in pursuance of an Act of 30 Charles II.

CHAP. (1678) 'for lessening the importation of linen from abroad
 III seas, and for encouragement of the woollen trade.' It pro-
 A.D. 1710 vided that 'no corpse shall be buried in any shroud or other
 thing than what is made of sheep's wool only,' or be put in any
 coffin lined with anything but sheep's wool only, under a
 penalty of 5*l.* This Act was repealed by the 54 Geo. III. in
 1815, although the Act of 1678 had been practically dis-
 regarded some years before. The last entry of such burial
 in the Finchampstead register was on July 19, 1793, in the
 case of 'Elizabeth, the wife of William Beck,' who was
 'buried in woollen.'

THE VESTRY MINUTES

The earliest minutes which are found in the parish chest begin only from March 25, 1848. There is nothing in the parish chest of an earlier date, except a few old musty highway and poor rate accounts.

Under date of January 17, 1852, there is an entry in the vestry minute book which reveals the manner in which the parish business of Finchampstead was conducted at that time. It is as follows:

'Resolved, to meet at the hour of 6 o'clock in the evening, on the last Thursday in every month, by the inhabitants of the parish of Finchampstead, at the sign of "The Greyhound Inn" in said parish, as per agreement made on the 15th January, 1852, and signed by the principal ratepayers of the said parish.'

This arrangement appears to have continued until 1861. I have been informed by a parishioner who used to attend these meetings that the parish chest was removed to 'The Greyhound' during this period, and was accessible to anyone. We cannot therefore be surprised that the parish records are so lamentably deficient. There are no terriers of church or parish property; no churchwardens' accounts; and the register of baptisms, marriages, and burials from 1609 to 1653 has disappeared.

It is difficult to imagine what business the vestrymen so assembled could have found to occupy them. Judging from the minutes which record their proceedings, the formation of a

club for the extermination of sparrows seems to have been a subject in which they took great interest.

These frequent 'vestries' at the public-house may have been an agreeable excuse for a convivial meeting; but they are in striking contrast with the efforts made in later years to form a 'vestry' once a year, when it has been difficult to bring together a sufficient number to make a quorum.

It seems scarcely necessary to add that the rector of the parish does not appear to have attended these 'meetings.' Possibly the absence of a proper vestry may have had something to do with these somewhat irregular proceedings, as the only place available as a vestry was, and still is, the church tower, which is not suitable for vestry meetings, and is equally unsuitable for the use of the clergy, as it is a thoroughfare for everyone going up to the organ gallery; and until a few years ago it was also used as the 'bell-ringing chamber.'

The only interesting objects in this vestry are two oak chests, one of which was intended for the parish records, and bears the initials 'B. L. and I. T.,' and date 1690. The other appears to have been a vestment chest; it has a sloping top or lid, with the initials 'R. H.' and flowers carved upon it. It is 5 feet long by 1 foot 11 inches wide and 2 feet deep. They are mentioned in the terrier of July 21, 1783 (Appendix, No. 76).

THE CHURCHYARD

The original churchyard, we are told in the terrier of 1783, contained 'rather more than a quarter of an acre.' But according to the Tithe Commutation Report of January 3, 1844, it contained 2 roods 12 poles.

There are two yew trees of great antiquity at the north-east and south-east angles of the church.

In 1866, according to a resolution of the vestry dated August 16 of that year, an addition was made to the churchyard by including in it the piece of ground at the western end, on which two almshouses then stood, which will be more fully described under the head of 'Parish Charities and Lands.' The present boundary wall of the churchyard, opposite the

CHAP.
III

A.D. 1886

western door of the church, appears to have formed the outside wall of one of these cottages.

At the end of this wall is a small shed, erected at the expense of Mr. John Walter, to contain the parish bier, which was presented to the parish in 1886 by Mr. and Mrs. W. Lyon, of East Court.

See Chap.
iv.

1881

The churchyard was also considerably enlarged in 1881, and the brick wall which surrounds this addition was put up at the sole expense of Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood. These two additions were consecrated at the same time in 1881. The four fine oak trees, the elm trees, and the hollies which are now included within the churchyard, were previously just outside the boundary of the original churchyard, and are remnants of the ancient forest trees which once surrounded the Church Hill.

The oldest tombstone in the churchyard whose inscription is legible is that of John Webb, dated 1710; and there are only nine dated within that century. The following is a list of the names which are now legible:

EPITAPHS IN CHURCHYARD

- | | |
|--|---|
| Baily, Thomas, 1767, July 5, æt. 52 years. | Bell, John Thomas, Esq., 1866, Oct. 28, æt. 81, of Hyde Park Gardens and Finchampstead. |
| Baily, Thomas, of Yateley, 1820, May 20. | Boumberger, John William, 1810, April 8, æt. 38. |
| Banister, Richard Hawthorn, 1783, May 28, æt. 60. | Buchanan, Ann Alice, wife of Rev. A., 1893, July 15, æt. 38. |
| Banister, Martha Hawthorn, 1827, Jany., æt. 91. | Dean, Thomas, 1880, April 22, æt. 79. |
| Banister, Thomas, 1794, Sept. 13, æt. 48. | Fyshe-Palmer, Charles, Esq., 1843, æt. 74. |
| Banister, Martha Hawthorn, 1782. | Fyshe-Palmer, Rt. Hon. Lady Madelina, 1847, æt. 75. |
| Banister, William, 1789, July 22, æt. 38. Son of Richard and Martha. | G., 1820, æt. 86. |
| Banister, Samuel, 1787, Oct. 28. | Goodchild, Charles, 1806, March, æt. 30. |
| Banister, John, 1792, Jany., æt. 41. | Grove, James, 1865, June 9, æt. 65. |
| Banister, Thomas, 1877, Oct. 20, æt. 59. | Grove, Sarah, widow of James, 1871, June 13, æt. 65. |
| Banister, John, 1821. | Grove, Jane, wife of James George, 1862, Sept. 16, æt. 21. |
| Bedford, Alice, wife of Henry, 1883, Dec. 12. | Grove, James, son of Jane, 1875, June 17, æt. 15. |
| Bell, Julia, wife of John Thomas Bell, Esq., 1861, Dec. 2, æt. 76. | |

EPITAPHS IN CHURCHYARD—*continued*CHAP.
III

- Hewett, Anne, wife of Charles, 1843, æt. 44.
 Hewett, John, 1825, Sept. 23, æt. 69.
 Hewett, Elizabeth, wife of John, 1832.
 ('As you do live on earth so lived I once,
 Until the Lord called me hence, and here I lie,
 With my dear husband mouldering in the dust,
 In hope to rise again to meet the Just.')
 Holton, Edward, 1861, May 11, æt. 8 years.
 James, Daisie Maude, 1880, Jany. 11, æt. 9 months.
 James, Primrose, 1884, June 22, æt. 3 months.
 James, Anne Conquest, 1889, Dec. 12, æt. 48.
 Kelsey, Annie, 1889, April 8, æt. 22.
 Kemp, Melita, 1889, Oct. 2, æt. 36.
 Kemp, Isabella Mary, 1889, Oct. 3, æt. 2.
 Lewis, Elizabeth, 1876, May 12, æt. 67.
 Lewis, William, 1877, March 29, æt. 74.
 Leveson-Gower, Harriet Jane, 1878, April 23, æt. 52.
 Lindey, Mary, daughter of Robert and Betsy Ferrier, 1868, Aug. 18, æt. 29.
 Lyon, William Edgar, 1886, March 22, æt. 17.
 Marshall, Moses, 1869, May 14, æt. 63.
 Marshall, Jane, wife of Moses, 1870, Feb. 23, æt. 64.
 Marshall, Richard, 1873, Nov. 20, æt. 96.
 Marshall, Ruth, wife of Richard, 1873, Nov. 28, æt. 85.
 Marshall, Hannah, wife of Isaac, 1810, April 8, æt. 38.
 Milam, George, 1893, March 21, æt. 69, 'Siste, Viator.'
 Molyneux, Edmund James, son of Edmund and Sarah, 1891, Jany. 22, æt. 3 months.
 Oliver, Richard, 1738, March 19, æt. 71.
 (Three tombstones apparently same family. Epitaphs illegible.)
 Over, William, 1811, Feb. 23, æt. 31.
 Over, Jonathan, 1830, May 15, æt. 71.
 Over, Elizabeth, 1827, May, æt. 74.
 Over, William, 1813, May 3, æt. 65.
 Over, John, 1833, æt. 30.
 Over, Charles, 1859, Oct. 26, æt. 40.
 Over, George, 1839, May 7.
 Over, Ernest Charles, 1887, Jan. 15, æt. 30.
 Roberts, William Adam, 1884, Nov. 7, æt. 26.
 St. John, the Rev. Henry Ellis, of West Court, ob. Aug. 27, 1842, æt. 66.
 St. John, Sarah, wife of Rev. Henry Ellis, 1831, æt. 51.
 St. John, Henry, son of same, 1852, April 2, æt. 48.
 St. John, Elizabeth, widow of same, 1864, Oct. 27, æt. 84.
 St. John, John, of 'Banisters,' 1874, April 9, æt. 64.
 St. John, Catherine, his wife, 1867, Feb. 14, æt. 29.
 St. John, Julia, 1884, July 21.
 St. John, Rev. Edward, rector of parish, 1892, Jan. 17, æt. 86.
 St. John, Edward (clerk), 1850, April 4.
 Slyfield, Mary, 1860, June 9, æt. 27.
 Smith, Robert, 1807, æt. 75.
 Smith, Anne, wife of Robert, 1818, Aug. 30, æt. 85.
 Smith, Jane, wife of Henry, 1874, Sept. 30, æt. 59.
 Soane,¹ John, 1798, Feb. 26, æt. 78.
 Soane, Frances, wife of John, 1802, Feb. 5, æt. 77.
 Sparvell, Thomas, 1879, March 4, æt. 86.

¹ See p. 34. Name inscribed on tenor bell as churchwarden in 1792.

CHAP.
III*EPITAPHS IN CHURCHYARD—continued*

Sparvell, Elizabeth, wife of above, 1892, Jan. 9, æt. 88.	Twine, Martha, his wife, 1859, Feb. 8, æt. 75.
Stephenson, Sarah, 1869, Oct. 24, æt. 95.	Walden, Caroline, daughter of James and Anne, 1812, Feb. 2, æt. 6 weeks.
Stephenson, James, son of Sarah, 1878, Sept. 29, æt. 59.	Walden, Jane, 1817, Sept. 1, æt. 31 years.
Spratley, James, 1879, Feb. 29, æt. 79.	Webb, John, 1710, May 5. An hour- glass and cross-bones on headstone.
Spratley, Ephraim, 1862, Jan. 6, æt. 56.	(Described in Register as 'Wheeler,' and as the first body 'buried in woollen' in Finchampstead.)
Spratley, Charles, 1862, May 17.	Westall, William, 1887, Nov. 21.
Spratley, Elizabeth, wife of James, 1883, Oct. 18.	Westall, Sarah, his wife.
Spratley, Jemmie, 1887, Nov. 12, æt. 62.	(W.) Flora Eleanor, 1863, July 10, aged 40 days. ('Buried with us in Baptism.')
Spratley, Jonathan, 1888, May 6, æt. 60.	Wood, Emma, 1891, Dec. 24, æt. 29.
Toms, Lydia, wife of Thomas, 1805, Oct., æt. 76.	
Twine, Thomas, 1849, May 24.	

THE JUBILEE OAK

On the little green in front of the principal entrance to the churchyard stands an oak tree, which was planted on June 21, 1887, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession. The tree was planted with great ceremony in the presence of the late rector, the Rev. Edward St. John, who was then in his eighty-first year, the principal inhabitants, and all the children of the parish. It is hoped that some day a memorial stone may be placed near this tree, to record its origin and preserve it from destruction.

THE RECTORY

The earliest description of the rectory which I have been able to obtain is from a terrier in the Diocesan Registry of Salisbury, dated January 1, 1608. There is no terrier of church property in Finchampstead either in the parish chest or in the possession of the rector.

There are other terriers also at Salisbury for the following years :

May 27, 1623	Partly decayed.	CHAP. III
1631	” ”	A.D. 1608
1635	” ”	
1638		
Oct. 1, 1677		
Dec. 30, 1704	Partly decayed.	
July 21, 1783	Complete.	

I have selected the terriers of 1608, 1638, and 1783 as the most perfect, and as giving the best account of the possessions of the church of Finchampstead. A copy of each of these will be found in the Appendix at p. 275.

Appendix,
Nos. 74,
75, 76

From these terriers it appears that in 1608 there were a parsonage house, orchard, and ten several closes of land, containing altogether 62 acres.

Parsonage
house

In 1783 we have a detailed description of this house, which seems to have been a very suitable one; and the extensive farm buildings, also fully detailed in the terrier, existed until 1892-93, when they were replaced by those now standing. This old rectory house, which stood between the present rectory stables and the old farm buildings, was removed in 1845. It had not been occupied as the rectory since the death of the Rev. St. John Rogers in 1743. From that date until 1845, the rectors of Finchampstead were also owners of the West Court Manor, and had resided at West Court. On the institution of the Rev. Edward St. John to the rectory, in 1842, Bishop Wilberforce, who was then Bishop of Oxford, required that the new rector should reside in the rectory house. The old rectory had fallen out of repair and was unfit for occupation. The Rev. Edward St. John, therefore, obtained a faculty¹ in 1845 for taking down the old rectory house and building the present one, suitable for both squire and parson, which occupies one of the most beautiful and commanding situations in Berkshire.

The garden, which was near the old parsonage, is described as consisting of one acre, and as having been 'fenced with a brick wall' on the north. The glebe lands had in-

The
garden
Glebe
lands

¹ The faculty under which the old rectory house was removed and the new one erected, is the first and only faculty recorded in the Oxford Diocesan Registry as having been granted to Finchampstead parish.

CHAP.
III

creased to $69\frac{1}{4}$ acres, by the addition of $7\frac{1}{4}$ acres called 'The Parsonage Meadow,' at the extreme south-east corner of the parish, bounded by the river Blackwater on the south, and by 'West Moor,' in the parish of Sandhurst, on the east. We are not told by whose benefaction the addition was made. Next we learn what tithes were payable in 1783, viz. :

Tithes

There were tithes in kind of all sorts of grain, wool, lambs, pigs, geese, wood, honey, apples, and all other fruits, and of fish in ponds. For the milk of a cow *4d.* was paid ; for a sucking colt, *6d.* ; for an acre of meadow, *4d.* ; for an acre of upland grass, if mowed, *2d.* There was only one meadow in the parish for which tithe in kind was paid, and that was called 'Moulson Meadow,' and was situated near the river, the next field but one to 'The Parsonage Meadow,' above mentioned. The rector received, for marrying with banns, *5s.* ; with license, *10s.* ; for publishing the banns, *2s. 6d.* ; for churching women, *6d.* There was also a yearly payment of *4d.* to the parish clerk from every family in the parish ; for every wedding the parish clerk received *2s. 6d.* if by banns, and *5s.* if by license ; and for making a grave and tolling the bell, he received *2s. 6d.*

Fees

In the terrier of 1783 will also be found a full detail of the names and situation of the several pieces of land constituting the $69\frac{1}{4}$ acres of glebe. It will be found that these were scattered over several parts of the parish.

Acts of
55 Geo.
III. c.
122, and
56 Geo.
III. c.
132

In 1818, under the award of the commissioners appointed for carrying out the enclosure of Windsor Forest, a further addition of about 27 acres was made to the extent of the glebe lands. What remained at that date of the unenclosed portion of the Forest was allotted to the several landowners, according to their respective possessions ; and the rectory received its share. Exchanges were made between the neighbouring landowners, which were confirmed by the commissioners, and which resulted in the rectory obtaining a compact estate of 99 acres, 0 roods, 26 poles. A statement of the details of which this acreage is composed, taken from the Tithe Commissioners' Report of 1844, will be found in the Appendix at page 279.

There are two other matters in the terrier of 1783 which

deserve attention. 1. Allusion is made to the road which led to the church through the rectory grounds, past the farm buildings, along the eastern side of the glebe lands, and across a field which now forms part of the East Court Manor, but which, in 1783, was an unenclosed part of Windsor Forest. This road is specially mentioned in the 'Award' of the Windsor Forest Enclosure Commissioners above referred to, and was reserved as a carriage road, 20 feet wide, from the north-east corner of the glebe lands called 'Brickells,' or 'The Brick-kiln Field,' across a twenty acre field marked No. 84 on the Award Map. 2. Mention is also made of 'two little houses in the churchyard, and *one other on the common*, that are to be given to some poor people by the rector, to be kept in repair by the parish.' These 'little houses,' which no longer exist, will be dealt with under the head of 'Parish Charities and Lands.'

CHAP.
III
Church
road

TITHES

On January 3, 1844, the vexatious system of gathering tithes according to the ancient mode of levying them came to an end, and in lieu thereof a commuted sum became chargeable upon the owners of the lands subject to the payment of tithe, which sum was to be regulated each year by the average price of wheat, barley, and oats during the preceding seven years; 100*l.* of tithe was made up of certain proportions of wheat, barley, and oats, when their prices were respectively 7*s.* 0¼*d.*, 3*s.* 11½*d.*, and 2*s.* 9*d.* per bushel.

Tithe
Commu-
tation
Report,
1844

The total acreage of Finchampstead was stated to be	a.	r.	p.
Whereof the land subject to tithe was	3,926	1	18
Lands not subject to tithe	172	3	27

By the
Ordnance
Survey
of 1871
-72,
the acre-
age is
3,943; in
1831, II
Geo. IV.
c. 30, it
is stated
as 4,130;
and in
'Windsor
Forest
Enclosure

A detail of these lands is given below.

The lands not subject to tithe were :

The church glebe	a.	r.	p.
Churchyard	99	0	26
Chapel	0	2	12
Roads	73	0	22
Total	172	3	27

RECTORS OF FINCHAMPSTEAD

CHAP.
III

Let us now look at the list of rectors of Finchampstead since the year 1297, which has been obtained from the Diocesan Registry of Salisbury, in which diocese, as has been already stated, Berkshire was included from that time until 1836, when it was transferred to the diocese of Oxford. They are numbered 1–28 for the convenience of reference only, but it must not be supposed that there were no rectors before them. There was doubtless a long list of rectors previously to 1299; but the diocesan records of earlier date are said to have been destroyed in the Jack Cade insurrection, when Bishop Ayscough was murdered, in 1450. There is evidence of there having been a rector in the reign of Henry III., between 1216 and 1272 (see paper No. 2 in the Appendix), where ‘Alexander the Clerk’ is named as ‘holding a purpresture of one rood in the town of Finchamstede.’

LIST OF RECTORS AND PATRONS SINCE 1299

No.	Date	Clericus	Patronus	Remarks
1	6 Kalends February, 1299	Henricus de la Huese	Johannes et Petrus de la Huese, husbands of the daughters and heirs of Sir William Banastre	Lords of the Manor of East and West Court respectively
2	2 Ides October, 1311	Johannes de Grantham	Johannes de la Huse, miles, et Petrus de la Huse	as above
3	Kalends August, 1317	Adam de Ulveton, per resignationem Johñis de Grantham	Johannes de la Hoese et Petrus de la Hoese	Same as above
4	—	John Olivier	Not recorded	—
5	18 February, 1361	Hamond de la Soler, per mort. John Olivier	Johannes de Foxle	Lord of the Manor of East Court

CHAP.
III

A.D. 1391

LIST OF RECTORS AND PATRONS—continued

No.	Date	Clericus	Patronus	Remarks
6	26 April, 1391	Walterus Kenardusley, per exchange with Hamond atte Soler	Philip Baynard et Roger atte Felde	Trustees of John Colneye or Collee, of West Court, who was a minor
7	19 April, 1393	Adam Stakpol, per exchange Walter Kynhardesle	Not recorded	The East Court Turn
8	6 May, 1395	Walterus Harden, per exchange with Adam Stakpole	Philip Baynard et Roger atte Felde	Trustees of John Colneye or Collee, of West Court, who was a minor
9	8 October, 1401	Johannes Longle, per resignation. Walteri Harden	Rogerus Curson, miles	The East Court Turn
10	15 August, 1415	Johannes Ladd, per exchange with Johannes Longlegh	Johannes Collee et Elizabeth his wife	Lord of the Manor of West Court
11	11 March, 1432	Johannes Fietham	Thomas F o x l e, armiger	Lord of the Manor of East Court
12	29 October, 1455	Willus. Jamys, B.A.	Stephanus Colley, No. 7	Lord of the Manor of West Court
13	7 December, 1465	Willus. Mytton	Hugo Pakenham	Lord of the Manor of East Court
14	15 March, 1487	Walterus Dudston, per mort. Willus. Mytton	Johannes Perkyms, armiger	Lord of the Manor of West Court, No. 8
15	16 December, 1503	Johannes David, alias Myttyns, per mort. Walteri Dudson	Edmundus Pakenham	Lord of the Manor of East Court
16	12 March, 1505	Johannes Bromowych, per resign. Johannis Myttons, alias David	Johannes Pkyms (Perkyms)	Lord of the Manor of West Court
17	Not recorded	Thomas Hicklinge	Not recorded	The turn of East Court

LIST OF RECTORS AND PATRONS—continued

CHAP.
III

A.D. 1564

No.	Date	Clericus	Patronus	Remarks
18	18 January 1564	Willus. Gill, per mort. Thomas Hicklunge	Johannes Marvin knt. et Elisabeth his wife.	No. 9 in West Court descent
19	25 May, 1592	Samuelem Marshe, per mort. Willi Gill	Thomas Harrison (generosus)	No. 9 in East Court
20	23 August, 1660	Thomas Bright, M.A., buried 28 December, 1682	Thomas Marsh	The turn of West Court
21	9 June, 1682	John Brandon, B.A., per mort. Thos. Bright, buried 2 May, 1709	Richard Palmer, armiger	The turn of East Court
22	29 Septem- ber, 1709 ¹	Richard Rogers, buried 11 May, 1736	James Goodyer (generosus)	The turn of West Court
23	4 May, 1738 ²	St. John Rogers, M.A., buried 9 May, 1743	King George II., 'by lapse for this turn'	St. Mary Magdalen Hall, Oxford
24	30 July, 1744	Ellis St. John, buried Feb. 1786	Ellis St. John (clerk)	The turn of West Court
25	18 October, 1786 ³	Ellis St. John, M.A., buried 17 May, 1809	(Not mentioned in Diocesan Reg.) James Clithero, Esq.	The turn of West Court
26	29 Septem- ber, 1809	Henry Ellis St. John	Henry Ellis St. John (clerk)	Lord of the Manor of West Court
"	12 May, 1819	Henry Ellis St. John, per ces- sion of himself, ⁴ buried 3 Sept., 1841	Ditto	Lord of the Manor of West Court

¹ *Liber Institutionum*, P.R.O., Series B.

² *First Fruits Composition Books*, vol. xxix. May, 11 Geo. II.

³ From Public Record Office. No record in Salisbury Diocesan Register between 164 and 1660.

⁴ It is not understood for what purpose the Rev. H. E. St. John resigned and was re-instituted in 1819.

LIST OF RECTORS AND PATRONS—continued

A.D. 1842

No.	Date	Clericus	Patronus	Remarks
<i>From Oxford Diocesan Registry</i>				
27	8 October, 1842	Edward St. John, LL.B.	Mrs. Elizabeth St. John	West Court Manor
28	3 March, 1892	Rev. R. Tomlin- son	John Walter, Esq.	Owner of the whole advowson

The first thought which must strike every one on reading the long lists of bishops of our diocese, and rectors of our parish, is that our church does not date, as so many ignorantly imagine it does, from the Reformation in the sixteenth century. In the sixteenth century important changes were made in the Church of England by our rejection of the supremacy of the Pope of Rome, and of the additions to the Catholic faith and ritual which had crept in during the middle ages; but it must be evident to every student of history that our Church has existed since the first introduction of Christianity into England, more than eighteen hundred years ago; and that our Church ministry is derived in a direct line from the Apostolic Church of Christ Himself.

It would be instructive and interesting if, in every church, a list of its rectors were exhibited in some conspicuous place, to bring before the people the antiquity and continuity of the Church of England.

The foregoing institutions embrace a period of 593 years, during which time there have been 27 rectors of Finchampstead. The first presentation on the list was made by John and Peter de la Huese (1299), variously spelt 'Hoesse,' 'Huse,' and 'Huese.' They had married two sisters, daughters and co-heiresses of the last Sir William Banastre, Lord of the Manor of Finchampstead. We find these two families living respectively at East Court and West Court, and *conjointly* presenting the first three rectors on the list. Further information respecting these and other patrons will be found in the chapters on the Manors of East and West Court.

Between 1317 and 1361 a division of the advowson of the

church appears to have taken place ; and from that time down to 1709 (No. 22 on the list of rectors) the patronage was exercised *alternately* by the owners of the West Court and East Court moiety of the Manor. The date of the appointment of No. 4 is not recorded, but it was probably made by the widow of Peter de la Hoese, and third owner of the West Court property, as the appointment of No. 5 was made in 1361 by Sir John de Foxle (Foxley), who was then owner not only of Bramshill, but also of the East Court moiety of Finchampstead Manor, and of its moiety of the advowson. Nothing is known of the personal history of any of these rectors until we come within the seventeenth century. The only interest attaching to them is in relation to the history of the times in which they severally lived ; and in this connection the list of rectors furnishes us with matter of the deepest interest affecting the Church of England. The history of the bishops of our diocese which we possess enables us to form a good idea of the character of the clerical life in the diocese. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the shortness of the period for which the rectors of Finchampstead held their appointment is striking, and also the frequent vacancies caused by 'exchange.' At first it would seem as though this parish had been less attractive in those days than it has since become. Possibly the value of the tithes may have had something to do with it, owing to the smaller proportion of the manor which was then under cultivation. But more probably there were other causes to account for this state of things. The character and learning of the clergy had become greatly deteriorated. We read of instances of the clergy being so ignorant of Latin as to have been unable even to understand what they read in church. Many were appointed so young to the charge of parishes, that a license for five years was frequently granted to them for the purpose of studying at Oxford, their churches being meanwhile entrusted to the care of some neighbouring vicars, and even unordained persons were sometimes appointed to hold recories for pluralists.

The Church of the 'Middle Ages' had at this time sunk into a very low state of spiritual decay.

CHAP.
III

The Pope had claimed and exercised the right of intruding foreigners into the higher English benefices, and even the archdeaconry of Berkshire and the deaneries of Salisbury and of other cathedrals were held by Italian cardinals and priests. The sale of pardons, dispensations, indulgences, and the taxation of the clergy had produced great national irritation.

Oxford University in the middle of the fourteenth century had attained the position of being the greatest seat of learning in Europe, in regard not only to the number of the students, but to her intellectual supremacy also.

The decay of the University of Paris during the English wars with France in the fourteenth century had contributed to this. Franciscans flocked to Oxford not only from England and Ireland, but from the greater part of Europe, and produced some of the greatest scholars and thinkers who have ever adorned that University. John Wycliffe was one of these. He was Master of Balliol College, and to him the Church was indebted for exposing the evil lives of the clergy and the errors of the papacy, and for the *first English translation of the Bible*. He organised an order of itinerant preachers or 'simple priests,' as they were called, who obtained the scornful sobriquet of 'Lollard,' or 'idle babblers,' and met with great persecution. Wycliffe died in 1384, but the progress of the new doctrine which he taught continued.

In 1455 we find the first mention of a rector of Finchampstead with a university degree ; it is also observable that 1468 is the first year in which a vicar of St. Mary's Church, Reading, is recorded in the same diocesan register as having had a university degree. Perhaps, if we were to examine the institution of other parishes in the Salisbury diocese about the same date, we might find similar instances of the introduction of clergy with a university degree. It was at this period (1450-82) that Richard Beauchamp succeeded to the bishopric of Salisbury. He had the assistance of several suffragan bishops, and proved an active and zealous bishop in regard to church building and restoration, as well as in the promotion of the social good of the diocese, though there seems to have been little progress made in its spiritual improvement. The selection of candidates for ordination who had university degrees

was no doubt adopted with a view to raising the standard of learning among the clergy. Bishop Beauchamp designed and superintended the conversion of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, for the solemnities of the Order of the Garter; and, in recognition of his services in that work Edward IV. conferred upon him and his successors (the Bishops of Sarum), for ever, the office of Chancellor of the Order of the Garter. We cannot here omit noticing Bishop Lionel Woodville (Widville), who succeeded Bishop Beauchamp, as the cause of his death is associated with the history of the death of the Duke of Buckingham, described in Chapter VII. on 'Banisters.' This bishop was brother-in-law to King Edward IV., whose wife Elizabeth was the bishop's sister and widow of Sir John Grey of Groby. He is said to have died of grief occasioned by the persecution of his family under Richard III., who caused his brother-in-law, the Duke of Buckingham, to be beheaded at Salisbury.

CHAP.
III.
A.D. 1450

The state of the clergy generally, and more especially of the inmates of the religious houses, was at this time deplorable. In 1489, a 'bull' was issued by Pope Innocent VIII., censuring in strong terms their dissolute lives, and giving authority to Archbishop Morton for their correction.

About this period a gleam of light began to break upon the darkness which had hung over the Church. The translation of the Bible into English, the invention of printing (a printing press had been set up at Oxford in 1477), and the study of Greek, or the 'new learning,' as it was termed, which was promoted by Dean Colet and Erasmus, and became the key by which the teaching of the New Testament could be unlocked, were among the most powerful means for bringing about the enlightenment of the sixteenth century. Salisbury Cathedral can claim the distinguished honour of having had as one of its prebendaries Dean Colet, afterwards Dean of St. Paul's and founder of St. Paul's School, who, in the words of Dean Milman, 'stood forth among the churchmen of his day with almost all the virtues, and few, if any, of the infirmities of his order.'

Nicholas Shaxton became Bishop of Salisbury in 1535, at the very moment when papal supremacy in England received

CHAP. III
A.D. 1534 its death-blow. The Act declaring the King to be supreme head of the Church was passed in 1534; next followed the dissolution of the monasteries, due chiefly to their unshaken loyalty to the papacy—the lesser ones, 376 in number, whose income did not exceed 20*o*l. a year, in 1536; the larger ones in 1539.

1536 In 1536 the English Bible was ordered to be set up in the parish churches, chained to the desk on which it lay, that the
1538 people might read it for themselves; and in 1538 Bishop Shaxton issued injunctions to the clergy of the Salisbury diocese to teach the people the Lord's Prayer and the Creed in their own tongue, and to read the Epistle and Gospel at High Mass in the English language.

Bishop Shaxton was a member of the commission appointed to revise our church services, which resulted in the adoption
1544 of an English version of the Litany in 1544, and of an English
1547 version of the Communion Service in 1547. Nicholas Shaxton was Bishop of Salisbury for only four years, from 1535 to 1539, when he was deprived of his bishopric at the same time as Latimer, for not being able to subscribe his assent to the 'Six Articles' embodied in an Act of Henry VIII.'s Parliament, which maintained the doctrine of Transubstantiation, and several practices of the Roman Church, under the terrible penalty of burning. His faith, or his courage, afterwards failed him, and he recanted and preached at the burning of Anne Ascue, with three companions who suffered for the denial of Transubstantiation.

W. T. JONES
1547 Within three weeks of that 'frightful holocaust' he preached again at Paul's Cross, and then again recanted, and wept sore, and prayed the people also to forgive him his 'myss.' He died in 1556, having after his deprivation of the See of Salisbury acted as a suffragan in the Diocese of Ely. On the accession of Edward VI. in 1547, the 'Six Articles' statutes and the severe enactments against Lollardism were repealed.

John Capon (or Salcot) succeeded Shaxton as Bishop of Salisbury in 1539. He had been Abbot of Hyde (Winton) and of Holme; and he is said to have obtained first the See of Bangor as a reward for his having assisted Henry VIII. in his divorce proceedings against Queen Katharine, and secondly

the See of Salisbury for his having aided the King in his suppression and spoliation of the abbeys and monasteries. He appears to have accommodated his religious principles to the various changes which took place during the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Queen Mary, without forfeiting the good opinion of his sovereigns. The abolition of the Papal supremacy, which had been effected by Henry VIII. and continued by Edward VI., and the introduction of the first English edition of our Book of Common Prayer in 1549, were all reversed under Queen Mary, without apparently disturbing the conscience of Bishop Capon, who still held on to his bishopric until 1557, when he died. During his episcopacy many suffered martyrdom for maintaining the same opinions which he had held, among whom were Archbishop Cranmer and Bishops Ridley and Latimer; but Bishop Capon saved his own life by conforming to every change.

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1539

It was probably during the episcopacy of Bishop Capon that Thomas Hickling became the seventeenth rector of Finchampstead. His appointment is not recorded in the Salisbury Diocesan Register. His predecessor was appointed in 1505, and his successor in 1564; so we may assume that he was rector about the middle of this eventful period, in which Green, the historian, tells us that 'ecclesiastical order was almost at an end; priests flung aside the surplice as superstitious; patrons of livings presented their huntsmen or gamekeepers to the benefices in their gifts, and kept the stipend.' The appointment of Thomas Hickling would probably have been made by the owner of East Court, whose turn it was to present. His name is attached to the return of church plate in Finchampstead in 1552.

THOMAS
HICK-
LING

1505

On the death of Bishop Capon in 1557, the See of Salisbury became vacant for nearly three years, until 1560. In the meanwhile Queen Mary died (1558), and Queen Elizabeth succeeded to the throne; and as all of Queen Mary's bishops refused to take the oath of Queen Elizabeth's supremacy, with the exception of the Bishop of Llandaff, all their Sees became vacant.

On Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne, in 1558, Jewel returned to England, preached at Paul's Cross in 1559

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1560

his celebrated sermon against the errors of Popery, and in 1560 was appointed bishop of our diocese of Salisbury. He had been one of the advanced reformers in Edward VI.'s reign, and an exile in Germany in Queen Mary's reign. Bishop Jewel complained that his predecessor Capon had impoverished the bishopric by giving away or selling all the ecclesiastical dignities and houses, and in alluding to his diminished income he would playfully remark that 'a Capon had devoured it all.'

Bishop Jewel entered upon his episcopate when the English people were almost mad with a panic hatred of Rome. Sects were growing up all round the Church, agitating for the destruction of Episcopacy and the subjection of the English Church to the Presbyterian discipline; not a third of the clergy were licensed to preach; many were neglecting the duties of four or five parishes at once; few had anything that could be called education; and in one diocese alone four hundred benefices were vacant. While such a force was pressing on to the assault of Episcopacy, it was upheld by Jewel and Whitgift, not in the strength of its exclusive claim, but simply as an allowable form of government rendered authoritative by the appointment of the State; and thus the outward framework of the Church of England was preserved from the destruction which threatened it during the first thirty years of Queen Elizabeth's reign.

In 1562, Bishop Jewel's 'Apology of the Church of England' was published by the Queen's authority as the public confession of the Catholic and Christian faith of the Church of England, and to explain our departure from the See of Rome. A copy of this 'Apology' was ordered to be kept in every church, which order was duly observed throughout the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I. It was written in Latin, and spread into all countries. It was translated into English by Lady Bacon, wife of Sir N. Bacon, Keeper of the Great Seal. Bishop Jewel died in 1571.

The Church of England is greatly indebted to Bishop Jewel for his having been instrumental in raising up another renowned defender of our Church, of which he was himself so bold a champion. Richard Hooker was the son of poor

Rev. F.
PAGET,
D.D.,
Dean of
Christ
Church,
Oxford,
1889

parents at Exeter. Jewel discerned in the boy Hooker dawnings of genius which his parents were unable to cultivate. Jewel assisted him in his education, and in 1567 sent him to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, at his own expense, and afterwards supplied him with a pension which enabled him to pursue his studies, and eventually to become the most powerful opponent of Presbyterian and Puritan principles of his time. He held the sub-deanery of Salisbury Cathedral, and was Vicar of Boscombe within the same diocese, and it was while living there that the first four books of his 'Ecclesiastical Polity' were written.

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1567

Rev. W.
H. JONES,
'History
of Dio-
cese of
Salisbury'

In 1559, the third and last revision of our Book of Common Prayer was completed, and from thenceforth until now the Liturgy of our Church has been in the language of the people.

Immediately afterwards broke out that spirit of Puritanism which led to the destruction of the reredoses, pictures, ornaments, monuments, rood and other screens in our churches; and efforts were made to efface the distinction between the chancel and the nave; but Queen Elizabeth, through Archbishop Parker, peremptorily ordered the partitions to be restored, and, further, the disfigured walls above the altar to be hidden; and she also directed the table of the Decalogue to be set up, which we still find in Finchampstead Church, and in many others of our old churches, and which is still required by Canon 82 of 1603. It was at this period that fresco paintings on the walls of our churches were destroyed, and most probably the frescoes in Finchampstead Church alluded to above (p. 35) were at this time covered over by whitewash. Before the English translation and printing of the Bible, its teachings had been presented to the unlearned by means of frescoes or wall paintings, pictorial representations which were regarded by the Puritans as superstitious and idolatrous.

The Puritans seem to have been ignorant of the truth of those well-known words of Horace :

'Segnius irritant animos demissa per aurem,
Quam quæ sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus, quæque
Ipse sibi tradit spectator.'

'What is sent through the ears influences the mind more tardily than what is placed before the faithful eyes, and which the spectator delivers to himself.'

CHAP. III
A.D. 1564

It was the common practice of Puritans to wear their hats in churches, and to receive the Holy Communion standing, under a bigoted belief that the attitude of kneeling was idolatrous. Queen Elizabeth issued injunctions for correcting these and other acts of irreverence.

GREEN

The want of poetry and imagination in the common Puritan character condemned half the popular observances in England as superstitious. It was superstitious to keep Christmas, or to deck the house with holly and ivy; it was superstitious to dance round the village maypole; it was flat popery to eat a mince-pie; and the long struggle between the Puritans and the playwrights ended in the closing of every theatre.

1564-92

THOMAS HARRISON

William Gill, No. 18 on the list, was rector from 1564 to 1592, when the alterations in the church, as described above, were carried out by Thomas Harrison, the owner of East Court; we may therefore conclude that William Gill and Thomas Harrison were equally imbued with the Puritan spirit of the age.

1570

In 1570 the final act of separation from Rome was accomplished by the excommunication of Queen Elizabeth by Pope Pius V., when it became a matter of plain loyalty and patriotism to abjure Rome in everything. The Jesuit mission to this country of Campion and Parsons, the massacre of St. Bartholomew, the Spanish Armada, all contributed to intensify the hatred of the Church of Rome. Hence a stronger wave of Protestantism swept over the whole country.

The bishops who ruled over the Diocese of Salisbury during the next seventy years were hardly equal to the emergencies of the times. Puritanism became even more powerful. It may be mentioned in passing that Bishop Edmund Guest (or Gheast), who was Bishop of Salisbury from 1570 to 1576, was the last Bishop of Salisbury who resided at Sonning, as the palace at Sonning passed into the hands of the Crown by exchange during his episcopacy. Bishop Piers, who succeeded him in 1577, was translated to York in 1588, when the See of Salisbury remained vacant for three years, and it was during this vacancy that the alterations in Finchampstead Church mentioned above were made in 1590.

To attempt a full description of the origin and decline of

Puritanism from the close of the sixteenth to the latter end of the seventeenth century would be beyond the scope of my present object, which is to confine attention as closely as possible to influences which were at work within our own Diocese of Salisbury ; and in this connection I cannot omit the name of Laud, who in his early life was intimately connected with Reading and Hurst, in Berkshire, and who was one of the most powerful opponents of Puritanism. He was born at Reading, October 7, 1573, son of a clothier on the north side of Broad Street, and was educated at the Reading School. On the accession of Charles I. to the throne in 1625, Laud was appointed to the bishopric of London, and in 1633 he was promoted to the See of Canterbury. Laud's chief object was to raise the Church of England to what he conceived to be its real position as a branch, though a reformed branch, of the great Catholic Church throughout the world, protesting alike against the innovations of Rome and the innovations of Calvin, and basing its doctrines and usages on those of the Christian Communion in the centuries which preceded the Council of Nicea. In Laud's view, episcopal succession was of the essence of a church, and by their rejection of bishops the Lutheran and Calvinistic Churches of Germany and Switzerland had ceased to be churches at all. He therefore exerted all the powers of his high position for the suppression of Puritanism. 'Puritan rectors and vicars were scolded, suspended, and deprived.'

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1600

A great Puritan emigration to Massachusetts, or the States of 'New England,' in North America, was the result of this persecution.

Mr. Gladstone has summed up the character of Archbishop Laud in the following remarkable words :

'He was the first Primate of all England, for many generations, who proved himself by his acts to be a tolerant theologian. . . . He gave to the Anglican polity and worship what was in the main the impress of his own mind. He then sank to the ground in that conflict of the times which he made and helped to exasperate ; but his scheme of Church polity—for his it largely was—grew up afresh out of his tomb, and took effect in law at the Restoration. And now, with the mitigation which

Romanes
Lecture
on 'Medi-
æval Uni-
versities,'
by the
Right
Hon. W.
E. Glad-
stone,
M.P.,
1892

CHAP. *religious liberty has acquired, it still subsists in all its essential*
 III *features, not as a personal or party opinion, but as embodied*
 A.D. 1645 *alike in statute and in usage, with no apparent likelihood of dis-*
appearance or decay. Dealing still exclusively with the quan-
titative aspect of the case, and wholly apart from merit
or demerit, I conceive that he, Henry VIII., and Queen
Elizabeth, form a triad of persons who have had the largest
share in giving to the momentous changes of the sixteenth cen-
tury so much of their form as is strictly and specifically British.'

Laud was a statesman as well as an ecclesiastic. He lived in evil times, when Church principles were violently opposed, and he fell a victim to the fury of the Republican Parliament, which charged him with high treason, and after an illegal trial condemned him to be executed, which sentence was carried out on March 10, 1645.

1592 Samuel Marshe (No. 19) succeeded William Gill as rector in 1592, on the nomination of Thomas Harrison, of East Court, and held the appointment until about the year 1645. Further particulars about him will be found in Chapter V. on East Court. In 1645 we know that the Church of England was virtually disestablished. Episcopacy was abolished in that year by an Act of the 'Long Parliament : ' there was therefore no Bishop of Salisbury.

OLIVER
 CROM-
 WELL'S
 Parlia-
 ment.
 January 3,
 and Au-
 gust 23,
 1645

The Act of Uniformity had been repealed, and the Book of Common Prayer had been forbidden to be used in any church, chapel, or place of worship in England or Wales, and *even in private* ; penalties were imposed upon those who disobeyed the order. Bishops and clergy were removed from their offices, the episcopal estates and the Palace of Salisbury were sold. Finchampstead from 1645 until 1660 was without any duly ordained minister, so far as our information goes. We read of many parish churches being at this time served by unordained and uneducated persons ; and possibly Finchampstead Church may have been served in this manner. The seventy years from 1592 to 1660 are about the saddest in the history of our church.

1660 In 1660 Thomas Bright, M.A., appears as rector (No. 20). His appointment is not recorded in the Salisbury Diocesan Register ; it is found only in a return made to the Public

Record Office. This was the year of the restoration of monarchy and church government. The death of Cromwell on September 3, 1658, had put an end to his government and the reign of 'confusion.'

CHAP.
III

A.D. 1658

October
25, 1660

The Rev. Thomas Bright was instituted on the nomination of 'Thomas Marsh' on August 23, 1660. It was the turn of the owner of West Court to nominate, but the patron (George Tattershall) was a Roman Catholic, and was consequently disqualified for appointing; it is supposed, therefore, that he had delegated his right of presentation to Thomas Marsh, who appears to have been a parishioner residing in a house called 'Phipps Land,' on the East Court Manor,¹ the name of which place does not now exist.

We learn from history that 'many ejected clergy and unordained ministers' returned to their posts at this time. Bright may have been one of these. The bishop of the diocese, Brian Duppa, who had been appointed to the See of Salisbury in 1641, had been an exile from his diocese from 1645 to 1660. This good bishop had been formerly tutor to Prince Charles, afterwards Charles II. On the suppression of Episcopacy by the Long Parliament in 1645, Bishop Duppa had retired to Oxford to wait upon the unhappy king, Charles I., and he remained with him until he was executed in 1649, when he went to Richmond, Surrey, until the restoration of Charles II. At Richmond he established some almshouses, which have been rebuilt in recent years. In 1660 he was translated from Salisbury to Winchester, and Bishop Henchman succeeded him at Salisbury.

Bishop Henchman had been the friend of Charles II., and had aided him in his escape after the battle of Worcester in 1651.

The Bishop's Palace at Salisbury and the estates of the See had been sold by the Long Parliament. We need not therefore be surprised that in these troublous times there should have been some irregularities in the appointments and records of parish priests. Bishop Henchman's episcopate of

¹ Will of Charles Palmer, March 3, 1711, proved November 25, 1713, and Chapter V., page 132, 'East Court Manor.'

CHAP.
III

Salisbury was very short ; in 1663 he was translated to the See of London.

A.D. 1660

In 1660 the religious characteristics of the country may be described as Episcopalian, Independent, Presbyterian, and Puritan. Cromwell had been an Independent, and Cromwell saw that Independent principles were exactly suited to the times, which were republican and revolutionary.

1662.
Act of
Uniform-
ity

On the restoration of monarchy in 1660 a great reaction set in ; Puritanism had become hateful to the nation at large. In 1662 an Act of Uniformity was passed restoring the use of the Prayer Book in all churches, and requiring from all rectors and vicars unfeigned assent to all contained in it, and declaring that no person shall be capable of holding any benefice, or of administering the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, without episcopal ordination. Under this Act about 2,000 unordained rectors and vicars were required to resign their livings. The disabilities thus laid upon Nonconformists were not the act of Convocation but of Parliament. It was not the clergy who persecuted dissent, but the laity. It was the national will that proved intolerant, and determined to suppress it.

The thirty years from the restoration of monarchy in 1660 to the accession of William and Mary in 1688-89 present a melancholy picture of the Church of England. The fanaticism of the Commonwealth had deprived the country of all definite religious teaching. Our churches had been desecrated and robbed of almost every architectural ornament and object of ecclesiastical art.

A whole generation had sprung up out of this disorder, with no knowledge of anything high or ennobling. There must have been great difficulty in finding duly qualified clergymen to supply the places of the 2,000 ejected ministers. Macaulay in his 'History of England' at this period has given us a very one-sided and unfavourable description of the clergy who were suddenly called upon to supply these vacancies. We cannot be surprised that many of them may have deserved the severe things which have been written of them, but that it was *not true* concerning the large majority, there is abundant evidence to prove.

Between 1663 and 1689 there were three bishops of Salisbury—Earles (or, as he is more usually called, Earle), Hyde, and Seth Ward.

Bishop Earles had been chaplain and tutor to Charles II. when Prince of Wales, and was one of the prebends of the cathedral who had been ejected during the Commonwealth, or 'Reign of Confusion.' He was a learned and good bishop, but only held the See for two years.

Of Bishop Hyde, from 1665 to 1667, nothing remarkable is recorded.

Bishop Seth Ward held the See from 1667 to 1689. The chief feature of his episcopacy is the rigour with which he carried out the penal enactments against 'Nonconformists.' Towards the end of his episcopacy he was unable from the infirmities of old age to attend to his duties, and in the distant northern parts of his diocese it is recorded that there had been no confirmations within the memory of the inhabitants. We may therefore assume that Finchampstead had been seriously neglected in this respect.

Bishop Seth Ward died on January 6, 1688-89, within a month after the crown of England had been accepted by William and Mary on the abdication of James II. The bishopric of Salisbury was then immediately conferred upon Gilbert Burnet, who had been chaplain to the Princess Mary when in Holland, and to the Prince of Orange, and had taken an active part in promoting the succession of William and Mary to the throne.

Bishop Burnet found matters in the diocese at a very low ebb indeed when he succeeded to the episcopate. One of the first difficulties with which he had to contend was the refusal of some of his clergy to take the oath of allegiance to the new dynasty. He was imbued with the spirit of toleration, and he made great efforts to overcome the scruples of the nonjurors. He soon devoted himself earnestly to his episcopal duties; he was very active in preaching and confirming throughout his diocese, and in catechising the youth of the towns he visited. He was especially interested in the preparation of candidates for the ministry, and *the abolition of pluralities, non-residence, and sale of presentations.*

CHAP.
III

A.D. 1663

II. M.
LUCK-
OCK,
D. D.,
Dean of
Ely,
'Bishops
in the
Tower,'
1887

1663-89.
Bishop
EARLES

Bishop
HYDE,
1665-67.
SETH
WARD,
1667-89

1689

Bishop
BURNET

JONES'S
'History
of Salis-
bury Dio-
cese,' 1880

CHAP.
III

A. D.
1688-89

Bishop Burnet's episcopate was a source of much good to his diocese. He was an active politician, an historian, a theologian, and a steadfast maintainer of the Protestant character of the Church of England. He held the See for about twenty-five years, until 1714.

We have now reached the beginning of 'the Georgian period,' or, as it has been somewhat more appropriately termed, 'the glacial period' of our Church history, when party strife abated, and the Church again fell into a state of lethargy and deadness. There is nothing to be found in the lives of the twelve bishops from Bishop Burnet's time to that of Bishop John Fisher to awaken interest, or to relieve the monotony of the worldly-mindedness of both bishops and clergy down to the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

Lord Stanhope has expressed with much felicity one and perhaps the main cause of the decadence of the English clergy at this period. He says: '*They were entirely out of sympathy with the Hanoverian dynasty: they could not be transformed into loyal subjects by force. The course pursued was to select bishops with a view to their political conformity, and to plant them among a clergy, whom except occasionally they appear to have simply let alone. No attempt was made either to supply deficiencies or to furnish a remedy for abuses. Privilege remained intact, for none would invade the hornets' nest, and indolence and greed had their unrestricted reign.*'

Now that I have concluded my sketch of the episcopacy of our Diocese of Salisbury down to the year 1836, when our county and parish were transferred to the Diocese of Oxford, my readers will form their own opinion upon the probable condition of the Church in Finchampstead during the same period. Of the personal history of its rectors we know little or nothing. In the chapter on the West Court Manor will be found some further information relating to the family of St. John, of whom more is known from their having been owners of the Manor as well as rectors. It may, however, be interesting to note here a few particulars which I have been able to find respecting some of the rectors.

I have already mentioned above that the earliest rector

who can be found as having received a university education was William Jamys (James), No. 12 on the list, in 1455. I have searched the Oxford and Cambridge University Calendars from 1500 to the present time with the following result.

There is no record of any other rector than No. 12 who had received a university education until we come to No. 19, Samuel Marshe, instituted May 25, 1592, on the nomination of Thomas Harrison, of East Court. He matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxon, November 24, 1581, æt. fifteen; M.A. from Lincoln College, March, 1588; afterwards Canon of Sarum.

No. 20. Thomas Bright,¹ whose name is not found in the Diocesan Registry, but only in the Public Record Office, is recorded as having been M.A., but his name does not appear in either the Oxford or Cambridge Calendar.

No. 21. John Brandon is described as the son of Charles Brandon, of Maidenhead, gentleman; matriculated at Oriol College, Oxford, March 8, 1661-62, æt. seventeen; B.A., 1665; Vicar of Wargrave, 1669, when twenty-four years of age; Rector of Finchampstead in 1682. He became one of the Lecturers of Reading.

No. 22. Richard Rogers, son of Mr. John Rogers, of Basingstoke, 'pleb.,' matriculated at Balliol College, Oxford, March 11, 1699-1700, æt. 17; B.A. 1703; M.A. from New College, 1706; Master of Free School, Odiham, Hants, and Vicar of Potterspury, Northampton, 1707-8; Rector of Finchampstead, 1709; and also of Dogmersfield, Hants, February 26, 1718-19. Died May 5, 1736. Mr. Ellis Mews (who afterwards assumed the name of St. John) was owner of the manors and advowsons of both Dogmersfield and Finchampstead from 1712 to 1725.

No. 23. St. John Rogers was the son of the preceding Richard Rogers, No. 22. His name is not found in the calendar of either Oxford or Cambridge University. All

¹ In his Will, dated December 20, 1680, proved December 10, 1684, British Museum, 58609 A, he desires 'to be interred in "the Vault" at the west end of Finchampstead Church.' He bequeaths his 'lands in Bramcott, Warwickshire,' and also his house and land in Finchampstead East Court, called 'Cowdries or Newhouse,' to Thomas, the grandson of his brother, William Bright.

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1455

FOSTER'S
'Alumni
Oxonien-
ses.'
H. R.
LUARD'S
'Graduati
Cantabri-
gienses.'
ANDREW
CLARKE'S
'Register
of Oxford
Gradu-
ates,' vol.
ii. pt. ii.
p. 107

'Athenæ,
iv. 505;
'Fasti,'
ii. 281,
D. or B.;
FOSTER'S
'Alumni
Oxon.'

RAWL.
W. 280.
BAKER'S
'North-
ants,'
ii. 222

CHAP.
III

A.D. 1737

Vide
Chapter
on East
Court,
p. 132

For pedi-
gree, see
p. 167,
West
Court
Manor.
JOSEPH
FOSTER'S
'Alumni
Oxonien-
ses,' 1892

that can be traced of him is his baptism, April 30, 1714, and his institution on May 4, 1737, on the nomination of 'the Crown by lapse,' the principal of St. Mary Magdalen Hall, Oxford, who was then owner of the East Court moiety of the advowson, having failed to nominate within the prescribed time. St. John Rogers could not have been more than twenty-four years of age, if his baptism, as above stated, took place within the year of his birth. He died May 9, 1743.

No. 24. The Rev. Ellis St. John, the first of his family who was Rector of Finchampstead, was born in 1706. He matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, April 2, 1723, æt. 17. It is not stated in the University Calendar whether or not he took any degree. On the death of his father in 1728-29, when he was about twenty-two years of age, he succeeded to the West Court Manor, and to a moiety of the advowson of the church of Finchampstead. He married about 1731-32, and in the register of baptism he is recorded as the father of several children born between 1733 and 1744, and he is described as an 'Esquire' as late as 1741, and as a 'Rev.' in November, 1744. We may therefore conclude that he was residing at West Court as a country gentleman between 1729 and 1744. In March, 1744, the Rev. St. John Rogers, Rector of Finchampstead, died. It was the West Court turn to present to the vacancy. In the Diocesan Registry at Salisbury there is the following entry:

'Orders celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Father in the Chapel within the Palace of Sarum on Wednesday, the 25th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1744, being St. James's Day. Ellis St. John, instituted to the Rectory of Finchampstead, in the county of Berks and Diocese of Sarum, was ordained Deacon.'

'Orders celebrated by the said Rt. Rev. Father in the Chapel within the Palace at Sarum on Sunday, the 29th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1744. Ellis St. John, instituted to the Rectory of Finchampstead, in the county of Berks and Diocese of Sarum, was ordained Priest.'

It would therefore seem from this record, if rightly expressed, that Ellis St. John was instituted to the Rectory of Finchampstead on his own presentation, *before he was in holy*

orders, and that there was only an interval of four days between his ordination as deacon and his receiving priest's orders. In the register of institutions, however, the date of institution is stated to have been July 30, 1744. It is clear, therefore, that he could have had no training as a curate before entering upon the charge of the parish. With such an exhibition of episcopal laxity, we cannot be surprised if the clergy sometimes failed to realise their high calling. The 'Right Rev. Father's' name was Thomas Sherlock, who was Bishop of Salisbury from 1734 to 1749. The acquisition of Church property by the Rev. Ellis St. John is somewhat remarkable. We find him first in possession of a moiety of the advowson of the church of South Moreton, a small parish in the north of Berkshire. In 1755 he obtained possession of the other moiety of the advowson of Finchampstead, which had formerly belonged to the East Court Manor, but which had been alienated from it under the will of Charles Palmer, lord of that manor in 1713, to the Principal of St. Mary Magdalen Hall (now Hertford College), Oxford. The way in which this was effected was as follows :

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1744

P.C.C.,
November
5, 1713

The Rev. Ellis St. John and the Principal of St. Mary Magdalen Hall were owners of the alternate right of presentation to the rectory church of South Moreton, above referred to, and it was agreed between them that the Rev. Ellis St. John should surrender his alternate right in the advowson of South Moreton in exchange for the college alternate right in the advowson of Finchampstead, and this exchange was confirmed by a private Act of Parliament on July 17, 1755.

27 & 28
George II.
c. 6.
'History
of Winch-
field,' by
Rev.
C. F.
SEYMOUR,
1891

In 1767, the Rev. Ellis St. John purchased the advowson of the Rectory of Winchfield, which from 1290 until that time had always been attached to its ancient manor, and it continued in the possession of the West Court family of St. John until the year 1848. The Rev. Ellis St. John died February 19, 1786, in the eightieth year of his age, having been Rector of Finchampstead for forty-two years.

No. 25. The Rev. Ellis St. John (son of No. 24) was born in 1740. Matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, April 1, 1757, took his B.A. degree in 1760, and M.A. in

CHAP. III
A.D. 1786

1764; married about 1774. He was not ordained in the Diocese of Salisbury. He succeeded his father as Rector of Finchampstead, October 18, 1786, on the presentation of James Clithero, whose name is only recorded in the Public Record Office, and not in the Diocesan Register. No other particulars about him can be traced, except that he died at the King's Arms Inn, Oxford, in 1809.

J. RICHARDS,
'Coll. Berks.,'
vol iv.
28663,
British
Museum

'Account
of Winchfield,'
by
Rev. C. F.
SEYMOUR,
1891

No. 26. The Rev. Henry Ellis St. John (son of No. 25), born 1776. Matriculated at Worcester College, Oxford, May 19, 1795. Signs the registers as curate of Finchampstead, between 1799 and May, 1800; became Rector of Winchfield, Hants, in 1800, vice Rev. Richard Pollen, his kinsman, when he was twenty-four years of age, and held it until 1839. Rector of Finchampstead on the death of his father in 1809, on his own presentation of himself. Previously to 1809 he is described in Foster's 'Alumni Oxonienses' as residing at Horton, Bucks. In 1810 he purchased the advowson of the church of Barkham, Berks, from Major General John Leveson-Gower, and became Rector of that parish, in addition to the rectorship of Winchfield and Finchampstead.

In the baptismal register of Finchampstead, under date of October 4, 1810, there is the following entry, which gives the dates of the birth of his children, viz. Henry, Edward, Anne, and John, who had been respectively born in 1804, 1805, 1808, and 1810, viz.: '*December 8, 1805, Edward, son of H. E. and Sarah St. John; Henry, July 22, 1804, son of Rev. H. E. St. John and Sarah his wife; Anne, April 28, 1808, daughter of Rev. H. E. St. John and Sarah his wife; John, April 6, 1810. All privately baptized before and admitted into this (sic) church on October 4, 1810. November 29, 1811, Paulet, born June 3, 1811, son of Rev. Henry Ellis St. John and Sarah his wife.*'

Sarah, the wife of the Rev. H. E. St. John, died in December, 1831, æt. 51, and was buried at Finchampstead. The Rev. Henry Ellis St. John afterwards married Elizabeth Alexander, whose name appears in the Diocesan Registry as having inherited from her husband the advowson of the family 'livings' of Finchampstead and Barkham.

The Rev. Henry Ellis St. John died September 3, 1841. Elizabeth, his widow, died October 27, 1864, æt. 84, and was buried in the family vault in Finchampstead churchyard.

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III
A.D. 1805

No. 27. The Rev. Edward St. John (son of No. 26), born December 8, 1805. Matriculated at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, April 1824; LL.B. from Downing College, Cambridge, in 1831.

FOSTER'S
'Alumni
Oxonien-
ses' and
H. R.
LUARD'S
'Graduati
Cambri-
gienses'

In 1839 he was presented by his father to the family living of Winchfield, vice the Rev. E. G. Meyrick, D.D., Vicar of Ramsbury, and master of the school at Ramsbury where the Rev. Edward St. John and his brothers had been educated, and held it until 1844, when he vacated it in favour of his brother, the Rev. Paulet St. John, who held it until 1849, when he exchanged it for the Rectory of Mottisfont, Hants, which had become vacant by the death of the Rev. Oliver D'Oyley St. John. The advowson of Mottisfont had for a long period been in possession of the family of Goodyer St. John, the brother of the first Ellis St. John (No. 24).

On October 8, 1842, the Rev. Edward St. John was instituted to the Rectory of Finchampstead, this being the first institution to Finchampstead recorded in the Oxford Diocesan Registry; and in November of the same year he was instituted to the family living of Barkham, both of these institutions being made (as recorded in the Diocesan Register) on the presentation of 'Mrs. Elizabeth St. John, widow.' He thus became rector of three parishes at the same time.

In 1848 the Rev. Edward St. John sold the advowson of Winchfield to the St. John Mildmay family, of Dogmersfield. In 1862 he sold the advowson of Barkham to the Rev. Arthur Roberts, who was then curate of Barkham; and in 1863 he resigned the Rectory of Barkham in favour of the Rev. A. Roberts.

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of Winch-
field,' by
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1891

In March, 1864, the Rev. A. Roberts sold the advowson of Barkham to Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood, and in the same year, 1864, the Rev. Edward St. John sold the advowson of Finchampstead to Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood, and thus the advowson of Finchampstead, for the first time since

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1892

the existence of the Manor, was entirely severed from the West Court moiety of the Manor ; but it thus reverted to the owner of the East Court moiety of the ancient Manor from which it had been alienated by Charles Palmer in 1713. The Rev. Edward St. John died January 17, 1892, in the eighty-seventh year of his age and the fiftieth year of his ministry as Rector of Finchampstead, much beloved by his parishioners and friends.

The foregoing records of the rectors of Finchampstead reveal the fact that the practice of the clergy holding livings in plurality, of which Bishop Burnet complained in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, continued until near the middle of the nineteenth century.

The general habits of the clergy during that period, and the manner in which they endeavoured to discharge their duties to two or more parishes at the same time, are too well known to need description. In the exercise of their patronage as owners of advowsons their main consideration appears to have been their own pecuniary advantage, or the benefit of their family. In one instance, and probably there are many others like it, a presentation to a 'living' was made in satisfaction of a family debt. The sacred character of an advowson seems to have been entirely lost sight of in the last century and a half.

In regard to the family of St. John, from the year 1744, it should be borne in mind that they were large landowners as well as rectors of the parish, and combined in their own person the twofold character of squire and parson. As late as the year 1844 they resided in the manor house of West Court, and not in the old rectory ; we must not, therefore, be surprised to learn that some of them were excellent sportsmen, while they doubtless discharged their duties as clergymen in accordance with the general habits of the clergy of the Georgian period.

Happily a great change for the better began about fifty years ago, soon after Berkshire had been brought within the Diocese of Oxford. In 1845 Bishop Wilberforce became Bishop of Oxford, and under his episcopacy there was a great revival of spiritual life throughout the diocese.

Reference has been already made to the Rev. Edward St. John's efforts in 1855 to render the House of God more worthy of His worship ; and it has been also shown (see p. 34) that in 1885 his parishioners testified their appreciation of his long service among them by presenting a sixth bell (a treble) to the church, in commemoration of his attaining his eightieth year.

CHAP.
III
A.D. 1885

The following letter from Mr. St. John in reply to that presentation of the bell is so characteristic, that it may very appropriately be inserted here :

' The Rectory, Finchampstead : Dec. 9th, 1885.

' My dear Parishioners and Friends,—Before thanking you for the affectionate address so kindly presented to me on Tuesday last, I feel it my bounden duty to offer my heartfelt thanks to God, in that He has prolonged my life to the entry of my eightieth year and the fiftieth of my ministry amongst you, and for the innumerable blessings vouchsafed to me during my long life.

' To God's special mercy I owe it that I was permitted to meet you at the church on the 8th inst. I am much moved by your esteemed token of respect in commemorating the event by placing "a Treble" to the peal in our parish church, and the record it will convey with it.

' It is a great happiness to me to know how many kind and dear friends I have in my parishioners, and to find how sincere has been the union between pastor and flock for so many years.

' Let me hope (under God's blessing) that the friendship that has hitherto existed may be unbroken during the time I may yet be spared and allowed to prolong my ministry amongst you.

' That God's blessing may be with you and protect you through life is the devout prayer, my dear parishioners and friends, of

' Your affectionate old Rector,

' E. ST. JOHN.'

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III
A.D. 1832

It has been my happiness to enjoy Mr. St. John's friendship for the last twelve years of his life. He was an excellent specimen of the squire-clergyman of the old school, and was much beloved by his friends. It would be beyond my present object to attempt to give a biography of the Rev. Edward St. John. I will only add that his memory will be long affectionately cherished in Finchampstead.





CHAPTER IV

Finchampstead and its Manor



FINCHAMPSTEAD in early days was essentially a forest parish, surrounded on all sides by wild heaths and woodlands, within the boundaries of Windsor Forest, the hundred of Charlton (or Cherledon, as in Domesday Book), which included Barkham, Hurst, Whitley, Shinfield, Sonning, Early, and part of Swallowfield, and within the county of Berkshire.

It is also found in the records of Cookham and Bray in later times.

The present parish of Finchampstead contains, according to the Ordnance Survey Map, 3,943 acres, or 3,646 acres of rateable land, and about 300 acres of non-rateable land, roads, and river, as it has a share of the river Blackwater.

The origin of the name of our county has not been conclusively settled.

Camden, the historian, says that the ancient Latin writers termed it Bercheria, and the English Saxons Berrocscyre, which name, some authorities say, is derived from Berroc, a boxwood which grew in great abundance; while others say it is from Berroc, or Barroch, a Gaelic word for the birch, which abounds in this county.

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IV

A.D. 1086

The Hundred Rolls
of 4 Edward I.
1276

T. J. PET-
TIGREW,
F.R.S.

CHAP.
IV

A.D. 800

Leland derived the word from Berrock, a disbarked or bare oak, beneath which the Saxons held their councils when the State was in more than ordinary danger.

In the ninth century the name of the county was known as Barocscire; and in Domesday Book (1085-86) it is written Barrochesscire, Berokescire, Berche-scire, and hence our modern Berkshire.

Of the origin of the name of Finchampstead there is less doubt: it is clearly Saxon. The 'ham,' home, and 'stede,' stead or place, suggest that it was the place of the home or 'homestead' of some powerful family or tribe, perhaps bearing the name of 'Fyng,' or Fynch, as one of the earliest modes of spelling the word was 'Fyngamstede' or 'Fynchamstede.' In Domesday Book it is spelt 'Finchamestede.'

Windsor Forest is one of several forests mentioned in Domesday which had never been disposed of in the first distribution of lands, and from the earliest Saxon times has been considered as belonging to the Crown. Its ancient name was Wyndlesore, Windles-ofra, or Wyndleshora, which Camden derived from the winding course of the river Thames, though more modern historians have derived it from a small stream called Vindles, or Windles, which gave the name of Windlesham.

For the origin of Windsor Forest we look back in vain through centuries of changeless existence, into a past almost too remote for history. The Romans first opened it up by their great western road, already described. Canute made laws for his hunting in it, and other Saxon kings made use of it for the same purpose; but it was reserved for Norman times to institute those terrible forest laws which inflicted the severest penalties upon those who transgressed them. Whoever killed a hart or a hind was to be blinded. Any one disguised who killed a rabbit, or was even seen in a rabbit warren, or was found unlawfully taking fish out of a pond, or killed a stag in a park or enclosure, whether disguised or not, might suffer death.

We are indebted to William the Conqueror for the earliest description which exists of the Manor of Finchampstead. Domesday Book, which is a register of all lands held in the

time of King Edward the Confessor, showing their extent and yearly value at that time, the homage of each manor, and whether any advance could be made, gives us the following account of Finchampstead in 1086 :

CHAP.
IV
A. D.
1042-66

*'Rex tenet in dominio Finchamestede :
Heraldus (Comes) tenuit. Tunc pro V
hidis modo non geldat sed reddit
firmam in Radinges Terra est XV
carucatae.'*

*'In dominio est una et XVI villani
et VIII bordarii cum XIII carucis.
Ibi VI servi et molendinum de VII
solidorum et VI denariorum et VIII
acre prati.'*

*'Silva de cc porcorum valet VIII
libras et valuit.'*

This description may be thus paraphrased, viz. : The King (William the Conqueror) holds Finchampstead in demesne (*i.e.* as owner of the land ; it was part of his estate of Windsor Forest). Earl Herold (Harold) held it 'as of fee' (in the time of Edward the Confessor). Then, he not only paid for 5 hides,¹ but rendered entertainment at Reading (*i.e.* the King and his followers for one or three nights, which was an ancient form of tenure). The arable land is 15 carucates.² In demesne (*i.e.* in the lord's estate) there is one manor and 16 villeins³ (or partly free tenants), and 8 bordarii⁴ (or poorer tenants), with 14 ploughs.

There are 6 serfs and a mill of the value of 7*s.* 6*d.* (equivalent to about 22*l.* 10*s.* of our present money) (*i.e.* which yielded to the King 7*s.* 6*d.*), and four acres of meadow land. There is wood pasture for 200 pigs. It is valued at 8*l.* (or

¹ Hide was the term used in Edward the Confessor's time for the measurement of land, and was variable in quantity from 70 to 150 acres : it denoted the quantity of land which could be managed by one plough of oxen in a year, and included the meadow and pasture land necessary for such tillage.

² Carucate was the term introduced by William the Conqueror instead of hide, and was derived from the French word *charrue*, or Latin *carruca*, a plough.

³ Villans, or villeins, from *villa* (Latin), a small country farm : men who had small portions of land and cottages attached to them, for which they were dependent on the lord of the manor to work for him and to serve him.

⁴ Bordarii, or borderers, a lower order of dependents or labourers than villeins. Cottagers who worked on the lord's land held their cottage and land on condition of supplying their lord with poultry, eggs, and other small provisions for board. (Kennett.)

CHAP.
IV

A. D. 1086

about 480*l.* of our present money), and was valued at the same sum in the time of Edward the Confessor.

It is impossible to form any accurate estimate of the extent of the manor here described, owing to the uncertain quantity represented by the term 'hide' and 'carucate,' which are variable quantities.

Earl Harold was the son of Earl Godwin (Earl of Kent), the most powerful English earl, and brother-in-law of Edward the Confessor, who had married his sister Edith (Elgitha). Godwin and Harold were King Edward's chief advisers, and on the death of Earl Godwin, in 1053, Harold became the virtual ruler of the land, owing to the weak and timid disposition of the King. King Edward was an ardent supporter of the 'regular' clergy, and was greatly under the influence of the Abbot of Westminster, who induced him to build and endow the Abbey Church of Westminster, which was not completed until the year before his death (1065). One of the last acts of his life was to endow his Abbey Church of Westminster with the Crown lands at Windsor and all its surrounding forest. The King's charter conveying this endowment was in these words: '*To the praise of Almighty God, I have granted as an endowment and perpetual inheritance, to the use of those that serve the Lord, Windleshore with its appurtenances.*' The King died January 5, 1066. Earl Harold succeeded him as King, but before the close of that year Duke William of Normandy invaded England, and established his right to the throne by conquest at the battle of Hastings, October 14, 1066, where Harold was slain.

The monks of Westminster did not long enjoy their possession of Windsor Forest. William the Conqueror soon discovered what a good hunting-ground Windsor Forest would afford him; so he persuaded the Abbot of Westminster to exchange it for some fertile lands in Essex; and in the charter for effecting the exchange it is stated: '*With the consent and by the favour of the reverend Abbot of Westminster, I have agreed for Windlesora for the royal use; that place appearing proper and convenient on account of its nearness to the river and the forest, and its suitableness for hunting, and*

many other royal conveniences: in exchange for which I have given Wokendune and Feringhes in Essex.

CHAP.
IV

A.D. 1086

William the Conqueror then built the Norman castle at Windsor, which, with subsequent additions, has ever since been the residence of the kings and queens of England.

Finchampstead in A.D. 1086 appears to have consisted of about thirty cottages and a mill, which at the present day is represented by the well-known 'New Mill,' and possibly both manor and mill had existed for a long time previously to King Edward's reign. (For the further history of the mill, see Chapter on 'Banisters.')

On the death of Earl Harold, the lordship of the Manor of Finchampstead reverted to the Crown, and continued in its possession until about the years 1100-18, when Henry I. granted Finchampstead and four other lordships, viz., Aldermaston, Spersholt, Challow, and Colthorpe, in the parish of Thatcham, to Robert Achard, together with the advowson of all the churches, fisheries, and other very extensive manorial rights belonging thereto.

The original document under which the grant was made is not now in existence, but it is recited in a confirmation of the grant by Henry III. in 1229; and as Matilda, the Queen of Henry I., is stated to have been one of the witnesses to it, the original grant must have been made between the years 1100 and 1118, in which latter year the Queen died.

I am indebted to the late owner of Aldermaston, Mr. Higford Higford, for the following copy of the charter of Henry III., confirming or renewing the grant of these manors to 'Robert Achard, son and heir of William Achard,' which Robert Achard was the fourth in descent from the original grantee.¹

*CLOSE ROLL, 13 HENRY III. [1229], PART I.
(No. 22), M. 12.*

Henry, by the grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, etc., to the archbishops, bishops, etc., greeting. Know

FOR
ROBERT
ACHARD

¹ I desire also to acknowledge the great assistance I have received from Miss Sharpe, of Ufton Court, in this part of the history of the Manor of Finchampstead; her interesting *History of Ufton Court* contains much valuable information on this part of our subject.

CHAP.
IV

A.D. 1229

ye that we have granted and by our present charter have confirmed to Robert Achard, son and heir of William Achard, and to his heirs, the manors of Aldermaston and of Finchamsted, and Coletop, and Speresholt, and Chawelowe, with all their appurtenances, which King Henry (I.), the grandfather of King Henry our grandfather, gave to Robert Achard, grandfather of the aforesaid William, father of the aforesaid Robert. Wherefore we will, etc., that the aforesaid Robert Achard and his heirs after him may have and hold the aforesaid manors, with all their appurtenances, in churches, in wood and plain, in meadows and pastures, in waters and mills, in vivaries and fisheries, in ways and paths, and in all other places and other things to those (manors) pertaining; with thol and theam, and soc and sac, and infangenethef, by the service of one knight, well and in peace, freely and quietly; and that they may be quit of Shires and Hundred Courts, and of murder and of Danegeld, and of all plaints which to us pertain, as the charter of King Henry, the grandfather of King Henry our grandfather, and the confirmation of King Henry our grandfather, which they have thereof, reasonably testify. The witnesses and date as above. (By the hand of R. [], Bishop of Chichester, etc., at Westminster, on the 14th day of February.)

Mr.
WALTER
MONEY'S
'History
of Alder-
maston,'
1890

1272

Robert Achard appears to have been a Norman knight of some distinction. The term 'Magister meus,' by which he is designated in the grant, seems to imply that he held some office in the King's establishment, or he might have been a professor of civil law, to whom such a title was sometimes applied. The grantee was allowed to hold these five extensive manors by the service of one knight's fee only, while each one of them was of itself sufficient to constitute an entire knight's fee, which was equivalent to a tenement of twelve plough lands, the value of which was, in 1 Edward II., 20*l.* per annum, or about 800*l.* of our present money. We learn from Domesday Book that Finchampstead Manor consisted of fourteen ploughs, so that the value of this manor alone was really greater than one knight's fee.

By the feudal system all land was held upon a strictly military principle; and the holder or owner of it took rank

in the army of the State according to the nature of his connection with it. It was first broadly divided among the great nobility and laity holding immediately under the Crown, who were the lords of the fee throughout the presidency, and they possessed in right of it the service of knights and gentlemen who held their manors under them, and followed their standards in war. Under the lords of manors, again, small freeholds and copyholds were held of various extent, often forty shillings and twenty shillings value, tenanted by peasant occupiers, who thus on their own land lived as free Englishmen, maintaining by their own free labour themselves and their families; thus creating a descending scale of owners, each of whom was dependent upon an authority higher than himself, and thus constituting a perpetually subsisting army of soldiers.

A knight was bound to attend his lord to the war for forty days in every year, if called upon, which attendance was his 'redditus' (rendering), 'rent,' or service for the land he held. There were, besides, various incidental charges to which his estate was liable, such as 'aids,' 'reliefs,' 'primer seisin,' or 'first fruits' on succession, 'wardships,' knighthood,' all of which were sources of revenue to the Crown.

The Manor of Finchampstead was held under the lords of the manor of Aldermaston, as chief lords, who held from the Crown *in capite* from about the year 1120 to the year 1672, when the statute of 12 Charles II., chap. 24, put an end to the feudal system of land tenure, although it had been practically discontinued during the Revolution. The names of the chief lords during the above period will be found in Appendix, No. 1.

Between the years 1118 and 1135, Richard Achard, No. 2, son of Robert, the first grantee, enfeoffed two knights, Alard and John Banastre, respectively, with the manors of Finchampstead and Sylhamsted.

The authority for this statement is the 'Liber Niger Scaccarii,' which contains the certificates of knights' fees for manors held *in capite* of the King in 12 Henry II., on an assignment of 'aid' for marrying Matilda, the King's daughter.

CHAP.
IV
A.D. 1118

1118-35

HEARNE'S
ed. 'Liber
Niger
Scaccarii
and Testa
de Nevill,'
pp. 121-
122

CHAP.
IV

Carta Wilhelmi Achard

Henrico Regi Anglorum Domino suo, Wilhelmus Achard salutem et fidelitatem :

A.D. 1166

Sciatis quod Ricardus filius Achard, meus pater, fefavit tres milites de suo domino in tempore Henrici Regis avi Vestri, scilicet, Alard Banactum, et Johannem Banactum, et Hugonem de Brutinoll. Nec postea aliquis feofatus est.

Pipe
Roll, 20
Henry II.
under Ox-
fordshire,
by MA-
nox, in
his 'His-
tory of
the Ex-
chequer,'
i. 124

The name of Banastre has been preserved attached to the parish of 'Sulhampstead Bannister' to the present day. It would have been difficult to identify *Banastre* under the Latin name of *Banactus*, without the light thrown upon it in the 'Testa de Nevill.'

Their names occur in various Rolls, but only the fact that they held their manors under Richard Achard. Alard Banastre is mentioned as a justice itinerant in the twentieth year of Henry II. (1174), setting tallages upon the King's demesnes in Oxfordshire. He was then Sheriff of Oxfordshire.

The name of William Banastre is next found in 4 John (1203) as having quitclaimed, &c., to the Prior of 'Shireburn,' the advowson of Sulhampstead, in return for which he was to obtain certain spiritual benefits, &c. This William Banastre held the two manors of Finchampstead and Sulhampstead, and is believed to have been the father of William Banastre, Knt., who held the Manor of Finchampstead, and of John Banastre, who held the Manor of Sulhampstead under Robert Achard, No. 5, who was chief lord of the fee in the time of Henry III.

1216-72

The next owner of Finchampstead Manor appears to have been Sir William Banastre, father of Constance and Agatha, and *probably* the son of William last mentioned.

In the Diocesan Registry of Salisbury, under date of 1299, it is recorded that John and Peter de la Hoese, husbands of Constance and Agatha, the daughters and heirs of Sir William Banastre, 'presented Henry de la Hoese to the church of Finchampstead,' from which it is inferred that in 1299 Sir William Banastre had died, and, leaving no son, had divided the Manor of Finchampstead and the advowson of the church between his two daughters. Constance, the elder, had married John de la Hoese and inherited the East Court moiety of the manor and advowson; while Agatha, the younger, had

Ped. Fin.
35 Ed-
ward I.
30, v. 307

married Peter de la Hoesse, and inherited the West Court moiety of the manor and advowson. We thus obtain a regular succession of Banastres holding the manor and advowson of Finchampstead from about the year 1120 to about 1290, viz. :

CHAP.
IV.
A.D. 1120

	Finchampstead	Sulhampstead
1120.	Alard Banastre	John Banastre
1203.	William Banastre	
1216-72.	William Banastre	John Banastre
(about) 1290.	William Banastre	
	Constance and Agatha	

This seems the proper place to consider where the Banastres were likely to have been living before the division of the Manor took place, in the latter part of the thirteenth century.

It was almost the invariable custom for the lord of a manor to reside near his church. In the early days of Christianity the noble or the great landowner had his own chaplain, and he built a church near his own residence, and eventually his holding became the parish, and his chaplain the parish priest. This is one of the origins of churches and parishes, and was most likely the origin of Finchampstead.

There is great uncertainty as to the date of the creation of parishes. Lord Selborne tells us that, in the early days of Christianity, parishes, as such, were unknown. The parish (parochia) usually signified the same as a diocese does now. There was no appropriation of ecclesiastical dues to a particular church, but every one was at liberty to contribute his tithes to whatever parish or church he pleased. By the laws of King Edgar, about 970, tithes were ordered to be paid to the parish church, thus recognising that parishes then generally existed. As Christianity spread, the lords of manors, for the accommodation of their own families and their tenants, began to build churches on their own demesnes or wastes, and obliged all their tenants to appropriate their tithes to the maintenance of one officiating minister. This tract of land, with the tithes so appropriated, formed a distinct parish.

Earl of
SELBORNE
on Paro-
chial
Tithes,
1888

CHAP.
IV.

The parochial organisation had become universal, or nearly so in England, before the end of the twelfth century.

Archbishop Theodore in the seventh century permitted all who built churches and supported a resident pastor to have the right of selecting their priests from the available clergy, and our present system of private patronage is said to have been derived from that practice.

After a long and careful research I have ascertained that the ancient residence of the lords of the whole Manor of Finchampstead was on the hill adjoining the church ; and I think there can be no reasonable doubt that the church was built by one of these lords—possibly by Earl Harold in the eleventh century, or by Alard Banastre in the twelfth century.

The late rector, the Rev. Edward St. John, when in his eighty-fourth year, told me that he could remember in his early days seeing the remains of a very old house near the church, which he had always regarded as the original East Court Manor-house. Mr. St. John was not then aware, nor was I, that the East and West Court Manors had originally formed one Manor.

This house was much superior to an ordinary farmhouse, and contained a large hall with some good tiled pavement. An old resident can also remember seeing in this house a very ancient oak table, which had round places scooped out in it to receive a trencher or wooden basin for each person who dined at it. The brickwork of the wall which still surrounds the garden is of great antiquity. The ground on the south side of the hill, where the house is supposed to have stood, clearly bears traces of terrace walks, which seem to have extended along the south front of the house, as will be seen on reference to the sketch on the opposite page. This ground has every appearance of having been the site of a house of considerable importance.

On this hill doubtless stood the ancient manor-house, which was occupied by the lords of the whole Manor until about 1298, when the Manor was divided into the East and West Court moieties of the Manor of Finchampstead. Its proximity to the Roman road would have made it convenient of access in early times. The Roman roads continued to be

the main roads throughout the country as late as the thirteenth century, and West Court House was built upon this very road in that century ; and doubtless this road was used as the means of communication between West Court and the church for several centuries afterwards. The present road between these two points, known by the name of the 'Common Field Lane,' which was only a 'drift way' until the year 1863, deviates very little from the original line of the Roman road. This road in many ancient deeds is called 'Church Lane,' which would seem to be a more appropriate name.

Until the year 1879-80 there were very extensive farm



buildings adjoining the eastern side of the old churchyard, which no doubt anciently belonged to the old manor-house. These buildings were removed in 1879, and by the munificence of the late Mr. John Walter, the owner of the East Court moiety of the Manor, the site of them was added to the churchyard, and the ground was consecrated by the late Bishop Mackarness in 1881.

Since the foregoing account of the Manor was written, I have discovered a document which fully confirms the opinion that the ancient manor-house was on the church hill.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there had been frequent disputes between the lords of the Manors of

CHAP.
IV.
A.D. 1734
reed executed July
o, 1736

East and West Court as to their respective boundaries, and in 1734 Henry Fish Palmer, the Lord of the East Court Manor, and Ellis St. John, the Lord of the West Court Manor, came to a mutual agreement upon the subject. In a draft deed of agreement dated July 27, 1734, which I have seen, the boundaries are set forth in detail, and in defining the boundary of the East Court Manor, near the church, mention is expressly made of 'the mansion house of East Court adjoining to the said churchyard, in the occupation of John Allwright, together with the plot or hill before it called Church Hill.'

THE FAMILY OF DE LA HOESE

Wilts
'Archæo-
log. Mag.'
vol. xiii.
P. 52

The family of Hoese is exceedingly ancient. The name is variously spelt as Hoese, Heose, Huse, House, Howse, Husee, and Hussey, but these variations are all considered as belonging to one and the same family, now represented by various branches of the Hussey family which are found in several counties, *e.g.* Wilts, Sussex, Surrey, Hants, Shropshire, &c. The origin of the name has been variously derived. The Wiltshire ancestor in Domesday Book, 103, 154, was 'Walter Hosatus,' so called because he was 'hosed,' 'trousered,' or 'booted,' as accepted by descendants whose ancient arms were three human legs (*heusé*) gules, *i.e.* 'red-trousered.' The crest of the Husseys of Wilts is a boot sable, spurred or, topped ermine. We can easily understand how the word Hosatus became Hosé (Norman), Heusé, Husé, Husee (English), and finally Hussey. The spelling followed the various English pronunciations of a Norman name. Sometimes these names have the prefix of *de la*, and sometimes have only *de*, and sometimes the same name is found without any prefix. In the Salisbury Diocesan Registry the name of these patrons of Finchampstead advowson is spelt in three different ways, *viz.* as Huese, Huse, and Hoese, but in each case with the prefix of *de la*; and this prefix appears to have been the distinguishing mark of the Berkshire and Wilts branches of the family.



CHAPTER V

The East Court Moiety of the Manor



CONSTANCE, the elder daughter of Sir William Banastre, married John de la Hoese. It having been shown in the preceding chapter that the original house of the lord of the whole Manor was on the hill adjoining the churchyard, and that it afterwards became the residence of the lord of the East Court moiety of the Manor, we may reasonably suppose that, on the division of the Manor, the elder daughter Constance and her husband, John de la Hoese, resided in that house.

John de la Hoese (I.) appears to have been a second cousin of Peter de la Hoese, of West Court.¹ Their grandfathers were brothers. Peter's grandfather owned the Manor of Padworth, Berks, which descended to Nicholas de la Hoese, the father of Peter, who in a post-mortem inquisition was declared to be the 'next heir to Nicholas.' John de la Hoese, though representing a younger branch, was an older man than Peter, who in 1275 was only fifteen years of age; while John was at that time married to Constance Banastre, and had thereby become Lord of the Manor of East Court.

¹ The Roman numerals after the name of the owners of the Manor show the order of the descent of the Manor.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1275

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1276
Rotuli
Hundredo-
rum,
1812, folio,
vol. i.
p. 15.
Appendix,
No. 2

In the Court Rolls of the Hundred of Cherledon (Charlton), 4 Edward I., A.D. 1276, it is found that in that year sundry small properties¹ in Finchampstead were then held by ten tenants of John de la Hoese *in capite*; these small properties, amounting altogether to about ten acres, are described as 'purprestures,' or encroachments, and had been enclosed in the time of Henry III., between 1216 and 1272; so we see that the practice of 'encroachments,' which had increased enormously by the beginning of the nineteenth century, had a very early origin.

1299

Appendix,
Nos. 2
and 5

The next mention of John de la Hoese (I.) is found in the Salisbury Diocesan Registry, where he is recorded as having, conjointly with Peter de la Hoese, of West Court, nominated to the rectory of Fynchamstede in the years 1299, 1311, and 1317, and he is there described as the 'husband of the daughter and heire of Sir William Banastre.' The only other mention of his name is in a Subsidy Roll of Fynchamstede under date of 1327, and in Feet of Fines of 2 Edward III. (1328), where he grants to Edward Thornhill and Joan his wife one-third part of the Manor of Fynchamstede East Court. John de la Hoese in 1328 would have been about eighty years of age. Joan Thornhill appears to have been the mother of John de la Hoese by a former husband.

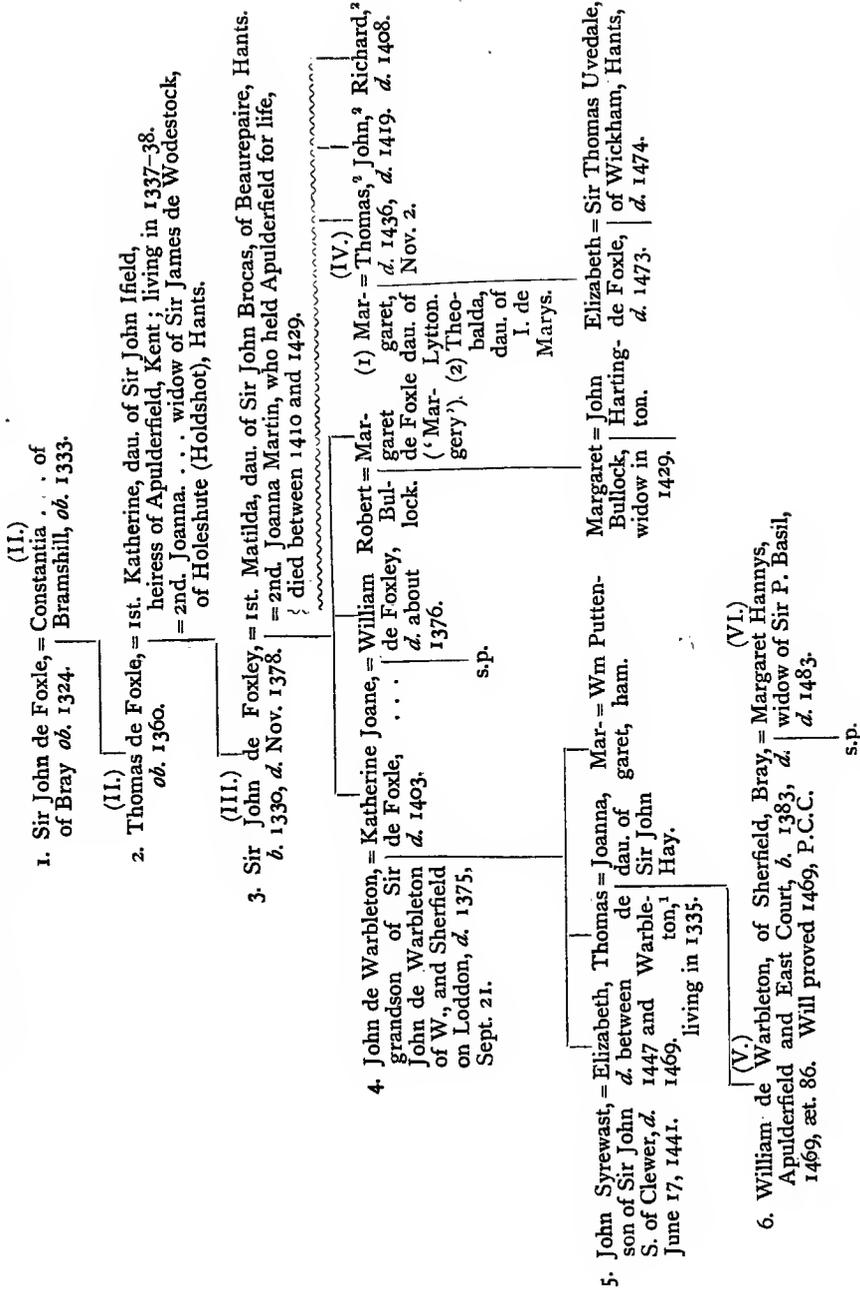
1327

The history of John de la Hoese and of the next descent of the East Court moiety of the Manor is involved in some obscurity. All that we know for certain is that this property, together with its moiety of the advowson, is next found in the possession of the family of Foxle, or Foxley, of Bramshill, but how it came into the possession of that family there is no positive evidence at present forthcoming.

Sir John de Foxle, No. 1 (Foxlee) (Foxley), Baron of the Exchequer in 1308-9, was the founder of this family at Bray, in Berks, and Bramshill, in Hants; the latter place having come to him through his wife, Constantia, who died in 1333. Sir John Foxle, the judge (whom we will call I.), died in 1324.

¹ The Hundred of Sonning had formerly been part of the Hundred of Cherledon (Charlton), but 'was withdrawn by R.' (probably Richard le Poor), 'Bishop of Salisbury, in the time of King Henry III., to the damage of the king's Hundred, but the jury knew not by what warrant; it was worth one hundred shillings.'

PEDIGREE OF FOXLE, OR FOXLEY, OF BRAY AND BRAMSHILL.



Records of Crondal, by . . . Baigent, 1891, pp. 428 and 431.
The Roman numerals above the name show the course of the descent of the East Court Manor.
N.B.—No. II. in the first two generations is hypothetical only. See text.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1360

and was succeeded by his only son, Sir Thomas Foxle, No. 2, who died in 1360, having been twice married, first to Katherine, daughter of Sir John de Ifield, heiress of Apulderfield, Kent; and secondly to Joanna, widow of Sir James de Wodestock, of Holeshute (Holdshot), Hants, who survived Sir Thomas Foxle.

Sir Thomas, No. 2, was succeeded in 1360 by his son, Sir John de Foxley, No. 3, who died in 1378. Sir John married Matilda, daughter of Sir John Brocas, of Beaurepaire, Hants, by whom he had two daughters, Katharine, the elder, who married John de Warbleton, grandson of Sir John de Warbleton, of Warbleton, and Sherfield on Loddon; and Margaret, who married Robert Bullock.

Sir John de Foxley, No. 3, also left three illegitimate sons, the eldest of whom, Thomas, succeeded to the Bramshill and other estates, although not without dispute.

The late Sir William Cope, Bart., tells us in his history of Bramshill that William Warbleton (the grandson of Katharine Warbleton), in 1412-13, laid claim to the Manor of Bramshill in right of his grandmother, the elder legitimate daughter of Sir John Foxley, No. 3, and took legal proceedings for the recovery of his rights; but we are not told with what result. We learn, however, that seventeen years afterwards, 'in 1429,' Thomas Foxley, *'with the object of rebutting this claim, obtained from Margery (his quasi niece, daughter of Margaret Bullock, and wife of John Hertington) a demise to him, described as Thomas Foxley, son of Sir John Foxley, of all her right, &c., in the Manors of Bray, Finchampstead, Bramshill, Rumbleds-wyke, and Apulderfield, together with the advowsons of the churches of Finchampstead and Rumbledswyke, and of the other chapel of Apulderfield, in the counties of Berks, Southampton, Wilts, Sussex, and Kent, which formerly were the possessions of Sir John Foxley, knight.'*

1361

The earliest mention of the East Court Manor in connection with the Foxley family is in the Diocesan Registry of Salisbury, where it is recorded that Sir John Foxley, No. 3, presented Hamond de la Soler to the rectory of Finchampstead on February 18, 1361. This fact alone would not in

itself necessarily constitute ownership; but taken in connection with what has been last shown above, and with what will presently be produced, there will be a chain of evidence in favour of ownership which is irresistible.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1361

In a Subsidy Roll of 1412, Sir Thomas Foxley, of Bramshill, is named as owning lands and rent to the value of £20 a year in Fynchamstede, and in another Subsidy Roll of 1428 he is recorded as holding 'parcel of the Manor of Fynchamstede,' though there would seem to be some mistake in the further description of the 'parcel' by confusing it with the parcel of the Manor which Alina de la Hoese formerly held, which was the *West Court* moiety of the Manor, and which most certainly never belonged to the Foxley family. 'John Colle,' who is mentioned, was owner of the *West Court* moiety. (See Chapter on 'West Court.')

1412
See Appendix,
pp. 231,
232, for
extracts
from
Subsidy
Rolls

Sir Thomas Foxley, No. 4, presented to the rectory of Finchampstead in 1432, and died in 1436, which shows that in 1432 he had come to some arrangement with William Warbleton, whereby he retained his interests in the East Court Manor, and his power of presenting to the rectory of Finchampstead for twenty years after William Warbleton had commenced his action for the recovery of his rights.

1432
Sir
Thomas
FOXLEY,
No. 4

Two other presentations to Finchampstead were also made during Sir Thomas Foxley's tenure of Bramshill, in right of the East Court moiety of the advowson: one in 1393, the name of the presentor not being recorded, and the other in 1401, by Roger Curson, Miles, probably by sale of that presentation. The Chancery proceedings of this period are not arranged for easy reference. If we could get access to the pleadings, and to the result of the litigation, we should probably find that a compromise had been arrived at, whereby, as will appear from the following documents referred to, Thomas Foxley was allowed to retain the property in question during his life, with remainder to William Warbleton, No. 5, and Margery his wife, and his heirs for ever.

1393
1401

By a deed dated November 11, 1447; William Brocas the elder, Robert Dyneley the elder, John Gaynesford, esquire, Thomas Hannys, and Master (the Rev.) John Corker, clerk (who were probably trustees appointed for

1447
B.M.
38557
B.M.
38558

CHAP. V
 A.D. 1447
 Appendix
 No. 14

carrying out the arrangement made on the termination of the litigation between William Warbleton and Sir Thomas Foxley), conveyed to William Warbleton, No. 5, and Dame Margery his wife, and their heirs, the moiety of the Manor of Fynchamstede, and the alternate right of presentation to the church, with remainder thereof to Richard de la Hay (uncle of the said William and Margaret) and Margaret his wife for their lives, and remainder thereof to Matthew de la Hay, son of the aforesaid Richard and Margaret, and his heirs for ever, 'according to the form and effect of a certain charter of ours tripartite indented thereof made.'

See following Pedigree

William and Margaret Warbleton, having no children, decided to settle this property upon Hugh Pakenham (VII.) and his wife Constance, the daughter and heir of Sir Richard de la Hay and Margaret his wife.

1451-52.
 See Appendix,
 No. 15.
 B.M. Add.
 Charters,
 38561,
 -3 and -5

Appendix,
 No. 16

William Warbleton (V.) was nephew to Sir Richard de la Hay, who was his mother's brother, and was consequently first cousin to Constance Pakenham. By a deed bearing date January 15, 1451-52, they 'gave, granted, and confirmed' the East Court moiety of the Manor and advowson to Hugh and Constance Pakenham, and their children, with remainder to Richard de la Hay and Margaret his wife, in the event of Hugh and Constance dying and not leaving a child, reserving to themselves an annuity of twenty marks, payable to them during their respective lives: the payment of this annuity is shown by receipts dated 1454-59 and onwards.

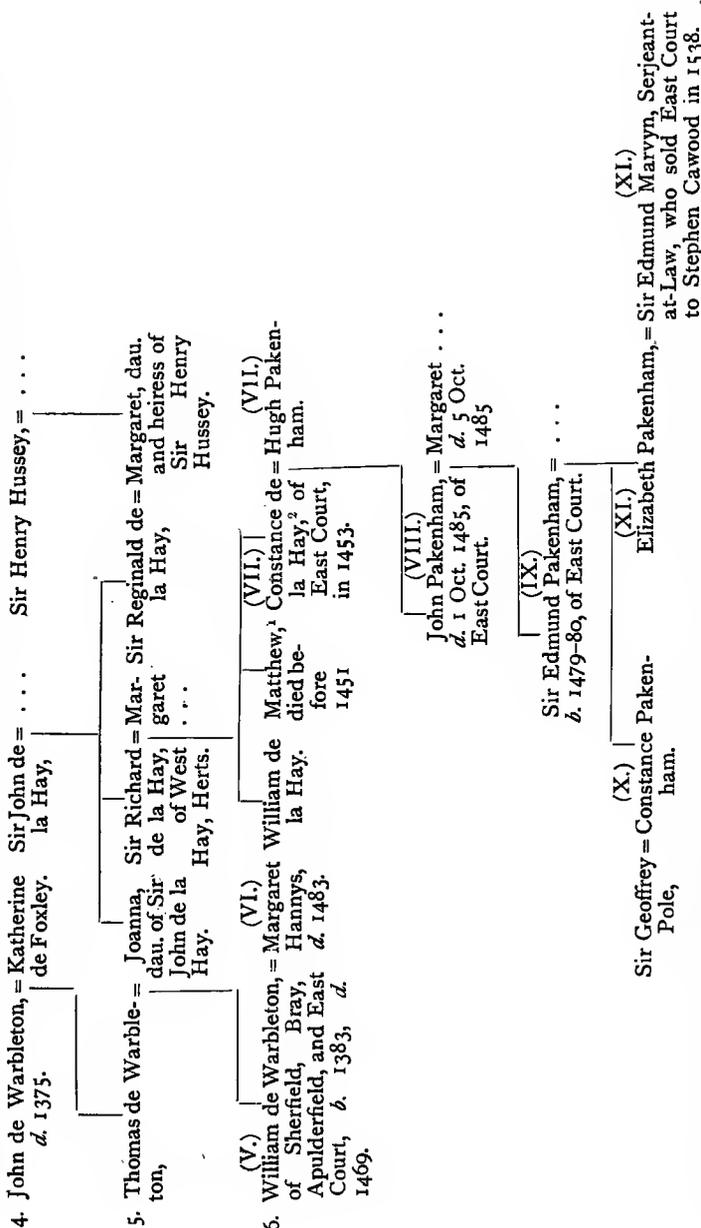
1453
 B.M. Add.
 Charters,
 38562

In furtherance of this gift Richard and William de la Hay, by deed dated November 8, 1453, 'renounce and quit-claim' to Hugh and Constance Pakenham all their right and claim to the said property, which is further described as having 'formerly belonged to John Foxley, knight, and afterwards to William Warbleton, esquire.'

Here we have a distinct admission that the East Court Manor belonged to Sir John Foxley, though it is not stated whether it was Sir John Foxley No. 1 or No. 3.

In the deed of November 11, 1447 (B.M. 38558), quoted above, Matthew, a second son of Richard and Margaret de la Hay, is named in the entail of this property; as his name is omitted in the deed of gift of January 15, 1451-52, it is

PEDIGREÉ OF DE WARBLETON, DE LA HAY, HUSSEY, AND PAKENHAM FAMILIES.



H ¹ British Museum Add. Charters, 38558, 38562. Matthew died between November 4, 1447, and January 15, 1451.
 B ² A manuscript in the Ashmolean Collection, British Museum, and the *Visitation of Hants*, 1623, make Constance de la Hay the daughter of Sir Reginald, which is not borne out by British Museum Add. Charter, 38561, January 15, 1451-52 (see Appendix, No. 15), which shows her to be the daughter of Sir Richard de la Hay.

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1469

Close
Roll,
11 Edw.
IV. 330.
M.S.
dorso,
Nov. 16,
1471
1483

presumed that he had died in the interim between these dates.

William Warbleton (V.) died in 1469; and in 1471 John Corker (clerk), who appears to have been the last survivor of the trustees under the Foxley and Warbleton settlement, confirmed to Margaret, the widow of William Warbleton, her life interest in the East Court estate. Margaret Warbleton died in 1483, when the East Court moiety of the Manor and its share of the advowson was freed from the annuity of twenty marks with which it had been charged since 1451-52, and became absolutely the property of Hugh Pakenham and Constance his wife.

Having thus shown the course of the descent of this property from John de la Hoese (about 1328) to 1483, let us now return to John de la Hoese, and consider, with the light thus thrown upon it, what were the probable means by which it passed to the Foxley family.

There is no evidence to be found of John de la Hoese having left a son who survived him. No post-mortem inquisition and no feet of fines relating to the property can be traced. It is quite possible, however, that he may have left a daughter, who may have married, and carried the East Court property with her under a deed of trust.

It is not known who 'Constantia,' the wife of Sir John de Foxle, No. 1, was. There are reasons for believing that she was a widow when she married Sir John de Foxle, and it is known that she 'brought the Manor of Bramshill and other properties as her dower.' Bramshill down to 1346 had belonged to the St. John family of Basing; and upon the death without issue of Edmund St. John in that year, it passed by marriage to the Foxleys. Constantia appears to have been the wife of Sir John de Foxle in 1306. She died in 1333; Sir John de Foxle died in 1324. It is quite possible that Constantia may have been the daughter of John de la Hoese, who was a married man in 1275, and was living in 1328.

1346
Inq. P.M.
20 Edw.
III. 57.
Sir W. H.
COPE,
Bart.,
'History
of Brams-
hill'

She might have married one of the St. Johns of Basing. Bramshill might have been settled upon her marriage in reversion to Edmund St. John, of Bramshill, who left no son, and the East Court Manor might also have been settled upon

her by her father (reserving a life interest in it for himself and his wife) as another part of her dower, and thus both these properties may have been brought into the Foxley family. The name of 'Constantia' would seem to be a natural one for the daughter of 'Constance' de la Hoese.

I can only throw out this as a suggestion, in the hope that some of my readers may be able either to confirm or correct it. The only alternative suggestion which I can offer is that the property might possibly have come through Joanna, the second wife of Sir Thomas de Foxle, No. 2, who was the widow of Sir James de Woodstock, of Holeshute (Holdshot), Hants, *whose maiden name is not known*, but I incline to the former theory.

It is considered by an eminent archæologist, whom I have consulted upon this question, that 'Constance' was not the mother of Sir Thomas de Foxle, No. 2, but was the *second* wife of Sir John de Foxle, No. 1, and that she brought a large addition to the family property.

Bramshill, during the lifetime of Sir John de Foxle, No. 1, was comparatively a small estate, and probably contained only a small messuage or house. Sir John was succeeded in 1324 by his son Sir Thomas de Foxle, No. 2, who was a trusted servant and friend of King Edward III. In 1347 we find that his Berkshire estates were charged with the supply of 120 archers for the war with France, and in the same year he obtained a license to enclose 2,500 acres in Bramshill and Hazeley, and to make the park which still exists; and between 1351 and 1360 he erected a noble mansion at Bramshill, which was replaced in 1604-12 by the present house, which was built by Lord Zouche.

In 1351 he was associated with William of Wykeham, afterwards Bishop of Winchester, Sir John de Brocas, and Oliver de Bordeaux, in the commission for the rebuilding and enlarging of Windsor Castle. He was Constable of Windsor Castle from 1328 until his death in 1360.

Sir John Foxley, No. 3, succeeded to the estates of his father in 1360, and appears to have been as great a favourite with his king, Edward III., as his father had been. He held several high offices under the Crown, being made in 1365

CHAP. V
 A.D. 1376 'first constable of Sheppey Island Castle' for life, and in 1376 constable of Southampton Castle, as well as warden of the king's Manor and Park of Lyndhurst, and of the New Forest. His married life was not altogether a happy one. He married in 1320 Matilda, the daughter of Sir John de Brocas, when both of them must have been merely boy and girl of not more than fourteen years of age. Professor Burrows, in his interesting history of the Brocas family, recounts the story of their marriage, the materials for which were derived from a document which came from the muniments of the Sarum Diocese.

This document formed part of a valuable collection of manuscripts, the spoils of monasteries treasured up in different places, which came to the Bodleian Library from Bishop Tanner in the early part of the last century, but which, having been submerged in the Thames by the upsetting of a barge, had until recent years been illegible, and remained unsorted. In 1878 the restoration of these documents was accomplished. Among them was one which proved to be the remission by Robert Wyvil, Bishop of Salisbury, of a sentence of suspension from his function for a year of a priest named William de Handlor, who had been 'concerned in the solemnisation of a marriage between John de Foxle and Matilda Brocas *outside* the parochial church of mother parish of Bray in our diocese, and without the license of our diocesan officers.' From this it would seem that the marriage was 'a runaway match,' for which the priest suffered temporary suspension. Sir John de Brocas, the father of Matilda de Foxle, was a very great personage in the reign of Edward III. He filled the office of 'Master of the Horse,' chief forester of Windsor, constable of Guildford, and various other offices. In 1346 he and his son Bernard of Brocas accompanied the king in his invasion of France, and they were present at the siege of Calais and the battle of Crécy. At the siege of Orleans Sir John de Brocas commanded a company of his own, consisting of one knight, fourteen esquires, and twenty-four archers, a number said to have been considerably above the average.

Sir John de Foxle, after the death of his wife Matilda, married Joan Martin, by whom he had previously had three illegitimate sons, the eldest of whom, Sir Thomas, appears to

Bishop
 from 1329
 to 1375

Professor
 BURROWS'
 'History
 of the
 Brocas
 Family'

have held the family estates for his life, as shown above. Sir John de Foxle resided principally at Bramshill, and died there in 1378, having sat in Parliament seven times for Berks and twice for Hants. There is a fine brass in Bray Church in memory of him and of his two wives.

The family of Warbleton, or Warblington, as they were more anciently called, soon after the Conquest held extensive property in Sutton, in the Hundred of Crondal, Hants, a parish which is still known by the name of 'Sutton Warbleton,' but they seem to have parted with it about 1336, when Thomas de Warbleton, the father of William, and Joanna his wife, 'quitclaimed' all their lands in 'Sutton' to Nicholas de Hanyton, and a few years afterwards that property reverted to the possession of the Cathedral Priory of Winchester, to which it had belonged in Anglo-Saxon times.

William Warbleton, the son of Thomas and Joanna, is said to have been seized of the Manor of Bray, Cookham, and Benfield, *i.e.* the Manor of the Foxleys (September 28, 1452), in right of his heirship of the Foxleys through his grandmother, Katharine, elder daughter of Sir John de Foxley, No. 3.

We ought next to take notice of the names of the principal residents in Finchampstead in 1327, which will be found in a Subsidy Roll of that year in the Appendix.

This Roll possesses several features of interest. It shows the name of every householder in Finchampstead at that time, and the relative value of their possessions; many of the names seem to suggest the sources from which they had been derived.

First we find John de la Hoese, Lord of East Court, and Peter de la Hoese, of West Court, paying respectively a subsidy of 10s. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* for East Court, and 13s. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* for West Court.

Then there is a Thomas Banastre and a Nicholas Banastre, paying respectively 2s. 7*d.* and 2s.

Nicholas Banastre was at this time in possession of the ancient mill now known as 'The New Mill,' and other property which he held under the chief lords of Aldermaston, and not under the lords of East or West Court. (See Chapter VII. on 'Banisters.')

CHAP.
V

A. D. 1378
Augmen-
tatio
Cartæ
Antiquæ,
K. 88,
fol. 1376

'Collection of Records and Documents relating to the Hundred of Crondal,' by F. S. BAIGENT, 1891, pp. 32, 39, 43
CHARLES KERRY, 'History of Antiquities of the Hundred of Bray, Berks,' 1861
1327 Subsidy Roll, Berks $\frac{73}{8}$ 1 Edw.
III.

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1327

relation of the late Sir W. Banastre, who was lord of the whole Manor.

Thomas Banastre was a near relation of Nicholas, and succeeded him in his possessions.

I have selected the above names because they represent the properties in Finchampstead which possess the greatest interest.

Next it will be observed that most of the names have been derived from either the occupation or place of residence of the person referred to: *e.g.* Robert le Marchant (a merchant or principal tradesman); Peter le Coupere (the cooper); Peter atte More probably lived on the moor; Roger atte Hacche was perhaps connected with the mill (or hatch); John de Kyngsmulle—his name suggests that it may have been derived from some former connection with the old mill. Many of these names are found in an earlier Roll of 1276, where they are mentioned as having obtained their lands by 'purpresture,' or encroachment.

Hugh Pakenham and Constance, his wife (VII.), became owners of the East Court moiety of the Manor and of the advowson in 1451-52, as has been shown above.

Charter
Roll, 197.
27 to 39
Hen. VI.
1458,
5 Dec.
See Ap-
pendix,
No. 19

In 1458 they obtained a license from the Crown for themselves and their heirs to hold a fair on their Manor on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Whitsun week, with all customary liberty pertaining thereto, without payment of any fine or fee to the king; but with a proviso that such fair was not to cause any injury to neighbouring fairs. A copy of the original charter will be found in the Appendix.

The right of holding a fair at this period was a very lucrative privilege, and was only granted as a special act of favour by the king himself.

We next find Hugh (Hugo) Pakenham's name in the 1465 Salisbury Diocesan Registry, under date of December 7, 1465, where he is recorded as having presented William Mytton to the rectory of Finchampstead, 'by virtue of a gift to him and Constance his wife, by William Warbylton, in free marriage.'

This is the last mention of Hugh and Constance Pakenham which I have been able to trace; the date of their death

is not found. They left a son, John Pakenham (VIII.), who succeeded to the East Court property, whose wife's name was Margaret,¹ both of whom died in October, 1485, leaving a son, Edmund Pakenham, who, at the date of his parents' death, was only five years old. In accordance with the feudal laws, Sir Thomas de la Mare, the chief lord of the fee and chief Lord of the Manor of Aldermaston, entered into the East Court moiety of the Manor, and assumed the wardship of Edmund, by reason of his minority, and received the profits of the Manor.

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1485
Inq. P.M.
2 Hen. VI.
1485

From an inquisition taken at Newbury, January 14, 2 Henry VII. (1486-87), No. 50, it appears that Sir Thomas de la Mare sold the 'wardship' of Edmund Pakenham (IX.) to William Beselles, of Beselles Lee, esquire, and William Alane, of Esthamstede, Berks, yeoman, from the date of the death of John and Margaret Pakenham, who occupied and received the issues and profits of the Manor during the minority of Edmund, viz. until 1500-1. In this document it is further stated that '*John Pakenham long before his death (October 1, 1485) was seized of a moiety of the Manor of Fynchamstede, which he held of the king in chief, by service of half a knight's fee, and suit at the king's Hundred Court of the Seven Hundreds of Cokeham and Bray,*' &c., and that the moiety is worth per annum (clear) 10*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

1500

A further inquisition was therefore held in 1493 at Maydenhede, otherwise 'Maydenhithe' (Maidenhead), before 'Simon Seymour the "Escheator" and a jury of honest and lawful men of his bailiwick,' who still maintained that the Manor was held of the king in chief; whereupon the sheriff was commanded to distrain all the executors of the chief Lord of Aldermaston to render an account of the issues and profits of the said Manor for the last five years. After much further litigation and inquiry it was ultimately decided that 'the

Exchequer
L.T.R.

¹ There was another inquisition taken at Romesey, November 5, 2 Henry VII. (1486), No. 42, before the Escheator respecting the death of Margaret, the wife of John Pakenham, which occurred October 5, 1485, in which it was declared that 'she was seized in fee of a moiety of the Manor of Bramchute, and a moiety of the Manor of Gatcombe, in the Isle of Wight, and that Thomas Arundell, knight, and Lord Mawtravers has occupied the land from the time of her death.' Title not known.

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1496

Exchequer
L. T. R.
Mem.,
Mich. II
Hen. VII.
Com-
munia
R. O. 24

Manor of Fynchamstede was not held of the king in chief.' As the pleadings furnish dates and particulars which are not found elsewhere, a translation of the abstract of the case, which is in Latin, is given in the Appendix, No. 23.

This case is a good illustration of the *character* which the 'Escheator' bore in former times.

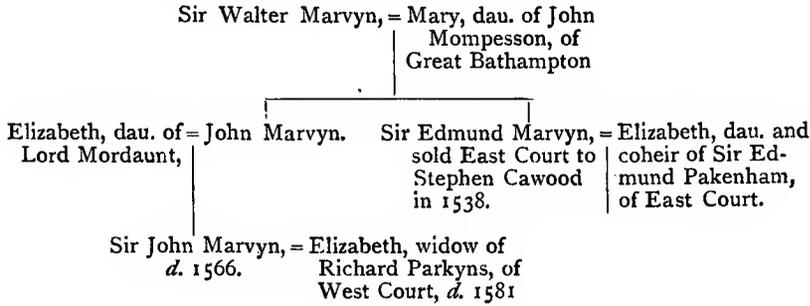
The name of 'Escheator,' says old Thomas Fuller, the historian, '*cometh from the French word "eschoir," which signifies to happen or fall out; and he, by his place, is to search into any profit accruing to the Crown by casualty, by the condemnation of malefactors, persons dying without an heir, or leaving him in minority,*' &c.

These officers were paid out of the revenues which they obtained for the Crown; and it is said that it was their practice, under pretence of 'inquest of office,' to oust men from lands held by a good title; and their reputation for what was termed 'cheating' has added that opprobrious word to our language.

Sir Edmund Pakenham (IX.) came of age in 1500-1. On December 16, 1503, he presented to the rectory of Fynchamstede. The only information I can give about him is that he married and had three daughters, one of whom, Constance, married Sir Geoffrey Pole, 'whose heirs in 1549 held lands in Finchampstead;' and another, Elizabeth, who married Sir Edmund Marvyn (XI.), serjeant-at-law, the uncle of Sir John Marvyn who married Elizabeth, widow of Richard Parkyns, the owner of West Court. In a copy of an old terrier of Aldermaston Manor there is the following entry: '*Item of the heyars of Geoffrey Pole knight for such lands as he hath in Fynchamsted sometime Sir Edmund Pakenham his lands which he holdithe of the Manor of Aldermaston by knyght's servys (by the yearly rents of on Jelon Clove).*' From this it would seem that Constance Pakenham (X.), the wife of Sir Geoffrey Pole, had inherited from her father the East Court moiety of the Manor; but it could have been only for a very short time, as her sister Elizabeth (XI.), the wife of Sir Edmund Marvyn, brought it by marriage to her husband; and in 1538 they sold it to Stephen Cawood (XII.).

See pedigrees, pp. 99 and 107

29 Hen. VIII. in eight days of Pur.
B. V. M., Feb. 9, 1537-38, and
30 Hen. VIII. fifteen days of Easter, May 5, 1538-39.
See Appendix, No. 37



CHAP
V
A D. 1538

There is no evidence of either Sir Geoffrey Pole or Sir Edmund Pakenham having resided upon the East Court Manor; their names are not found in any of the Subsidy Rolls within the above-mentioned period.

During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, while the Manor was in the possession of the Foxley family, the Lord of the Manor possessed other, and probably far better, houses at Bramshill and Bray, and the old manor-house would most likely have been let. It seems probable that Hugh and Constance Pakenham (VII.) may have lived there from 1453, and also their son John and his wife Margaret, both of whom died in 1485, leaving their son Edmund, who became a ward of the chief Lord of Aldermaston, during whose minority down to 1500 the manor-house would again have been let.

We are now entering upon a new phase of the history of this Manor, when for the next two hundred years it became the possession of a different class of owners.

In 1538 Sir Edmund Marvyn (XI.) and his wife Elizabeth sold the East Court moiety of the Manor and of the advowson to Stephen Cawood (XII.), subject to an annual charge upon the property of twenty marks, payable to them and to the heirs of Elizabeth.

The Manor at this time consisted of 10 messuages, 5 tofts, 3 cottages, 300 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 1,000 acres of furze—total, 1,840 acres; and 100 shillings in rent.

In the deed of conveyance of this property, dated 1538, there is a special warranty provided against William, abbot of the monastery of St. Peter's, Westminster, and his successors

1538
29 Hen.
VIII. at
West-
minster, in
eight days
of the Pur.
B. V. M.,
Feb. 9
1537-38,
and
30 Hen.
VIII.
fifteen
days of
Easter,
May 5,
1538-39

CHAP.
VA.D. 1538
Feet of
Fines,
Mich.
29 Hen.
VIII.
No. 181

making any claim in respect of it, thus recognising that the rights of the abbots of Westminster had at one time extended over Finchampstead parish.

It was in the following year, 1539, that this monastery, together with all the other larger monasteries, was dissolved, and its property confiscated.

Stephen Cawood (XII.) is described as a 'mercier' of Wokingham, and appears to have died shortly after making this purchase, leaving a son Thomas, who was then a minor, and only one year old. In an old terrier of the chief lord of Aldermaston, the following entry occurs under date of 1549-50: '*Sir Humphrey fforster whas seasid of the wardship of . . . Cowatt (Cawood) son and heir of Stephen Cowatt (Cawood) by fforse of the same tenure (i.e. half a knight's fee and paithe a clove gelon), and sold the wardship to one Ric. Staffordton in the XXVIIIth yeare of the reigne of Kyng Harry the VIII.*' (1537-38).

Alder-
maston
terrier,
3 Edw.
VI.
1549-50

Thomas Cawood (XIII.), the infant son of Stephen, thus became a 'ward' of the chief lord for nearly twenty years, and the chief lord sold the wardship according to the custom in such cases.

1558 Thomas Cawood came of age about the year 1558, and in 1560, we are told by Lysons, he conveyed the Manor to Henry Hinde (XIV.) and Thomas Harrison (XV.).¹ Nothing is known for certain to account for this joint purchase; probably there was some relationship between them, and the purchase formed part of a family arrangement, as will appear later on.

The Harrison family had been for a long time residing in Finchampstead.

1580 We learn from the following epitaph in Finchampstead Church, on the north side of the chancel arch, that Henry Hinde was Purveyor to the Royal Stables in the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. It is not quite clear what the duties of his office were; *i.e.* whether

¹ In a Chancery suit of Tattersall *v.* Harrison in 1623, Sir R. Harrison is recorded as having stated in his pleadings that 'the East Court moiety of the Manor was purchased jointly by his grandfather, Thomas Harrison, No. 4, and Henry Hinde, of one Cawood, and came to his grandfather by survivorship or other good and lawful means.' See also Lysons, *Magna Britannia*, vol. iv. 1806.

they involved the actual supply of forage, &c., to the royal stables, or merely the control of it.

CHAP.
V

A. D. 1580

EPITAPH

Here lyeth buried Henry Hynde Gent. Lorde of the Manor of Finchamsted Easte Courte, Purveyor to Kinge Henry the Eight, Kinge Edward ye sixt, Queene Mary, King Philippe and Queene Elizabeth, of their Stables, who for his true zeale in Religion, his faythevll Servis to his Prince and Country, and his hartly love to his neightbours was as a perfeete Merror for his ensuinge Posteritie to imitate, who departed this life XXVIIIth Daye of December, 1580.

As King Henry VIII. died in 1546-47, Henry Hinde (XIV.) must have held his office for many years before he acquired possession of the East Court Manor, and he may have been living in Finchampstead before he bought the Manor. I have not succeeded in finding a Subsidy Roll between 1550 and 1580 which would have decided the question.

The only other mention which can be found of Henry Hinde is that in 1573 he acquired possession of a property 'called Russells' in the parish of *Finchampstead, and consisting of a messuage, a garden, an orchard, 30 acres of land, 3 acres of meadows, 10 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, and common of pasture, with appurtenances in Finchampstead and Barkham.* This property was within the West Court Manor, and is shown in the court roll of that Manor for the year 1623, a copy of which will be found in the Appendix.

B. M.
Add. Ch.
38589,
38590

B. M.
Add. Ch.
38566
1 Edw.
IV. 1460-
61

I am not able positively to identify this property, but there is reason for believing it to have been what is now known as 'Longmoor Farm,' the acreage of which corresponded in 1841 very nearly with the above. It was owned and occupied by a family of the name of Russell, from whom it derived its name, for two generations previously to 1460, and they held it 'under the chief lords for ever.' It subsequently passed through the possession of John and Robert Hethe, 'esquires,' of Odyham, William Waller, 'esquire,' of Stoke, Hants, and Thomas Alloway, of Finchampstead, 'yeoman,' who sold it to Henry Hinde.

Finch-
ampstead
Rate Book
for 1841.
B. M.
Add. Ch.
38588-90

Henry Hinde (XIV.) died on December 28, 1580, on 158 which date Thomas Harrison, No. 4, succeeded to the possession of the East Court moiety of the Manor and advowson.

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1580

The following pedigree of the Harrison family will show the descent of the East Court Manor between 1580 and 1661.

N.B.—The numbers in plain figures after the name in the text refer to the lines in the pedigree. Figures in Roman characters indicate the order of the descent of the property.

The East Court Manor was held in trust for Thomas Harrison (No. 4), in the names of Francis Pollye and Margaret his wife, who were residents in Finchampstead, and was not formally transferred to Thomas Harrison till June 16, 1595, although he exercised all the rights of ownership from 1580; the Manor then consisted of exactly the same description as is shown above in 1538. The name of Francis Pollye appears in the East Court Manor Rolls for the years 1605–30, in which latter year he died seized of lands and messuages called 'Hatches,' on the East Court estate. His name is also found attached to the terrier of the rectory, dated 1608, as churchwarden.

The Harrisons were a family of great antiquity, originally from Cumberland, afterwards of Hurst. They became of considerable importance in the reign of Charles I., and were most loyal supporters of that sovereign during the Rebellion. The name of Thomas Harrison (No. 3), who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Slytherhurst, and widow of . . . Bartlett, of Finchampstead, is found in Subsidy Rolls of Finchampstead as early as 1522 and 1524, and paying 20s., the largest yearly amount specified.

Elizabeth, when she married Thomas Harrison, was the widow of . . . Bartlett, of Finchampstead, by whom she had two sons, John and Thomas Bartlett. John, the elder, appears to have been possessed of two messuages and twenty acres of land in Finchampstead, which he settled upon his mother and Thomas Harrison for life, and remainder upon his own heirs and his brother William in succession. John Bartlett is described as holding this property of the chief lord 'for ever.'

The family of Bartlett is traced from this period (1532) as small landowners in Finchampstead down to the present century; and part of what is now called 'North Court' belonged to that family. The old family house of the Bartletts, known in later times as 'Hatches,' was still standing as late as the

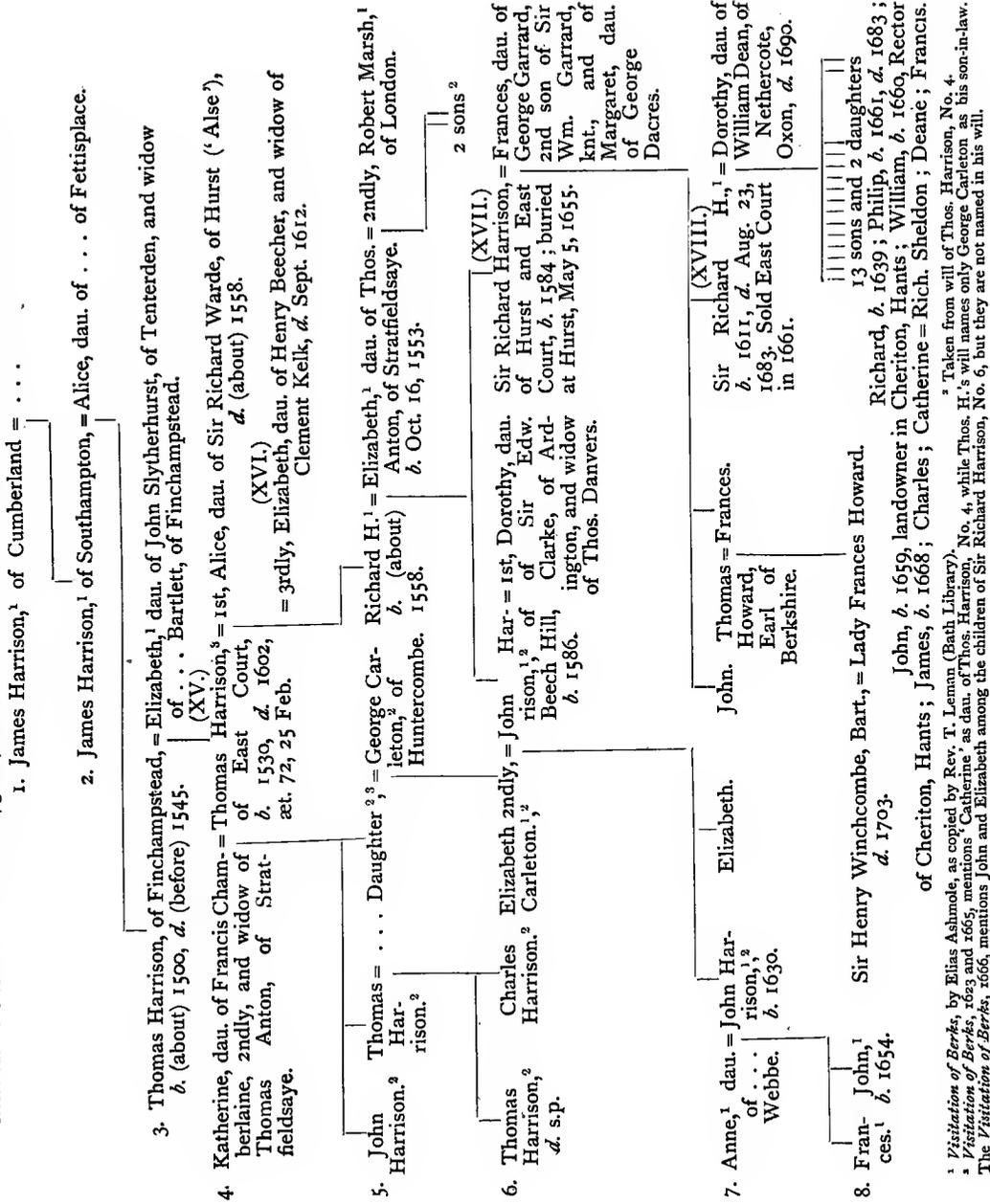
Feet of
Fines, 37
Elizabeth

See Ap-
pendix,
No. 26.
Feet of
Fines,
15 day of
Easter,
23 Hen.
VIII.
1532.
P.R.O.
Bundle
from
21-30
Hen.
VIII.
1539

See Court
Rolls

PEDIGREE OF THE HARRISON FAMILY.

Crest : out of a Coronet a Talbot's Head or, guttéé, sable. Arms : or, on a chief sable, three eagles displayed of the field.



¹ *Visitation of Berks*, by Elias Ashmole, as copied by Rev. T. Lemon (Bath Library).
² *Visitation of Berks*, 1623 and 1685, mentions 'Catherine', as dau. of Thos. Harrison, No. 4, while Thos. H.'s will names only George Carleton as his son-in-law. The *Visitation of Berks*, 1666, mentions John and Elizabeth among the children of Sir Richard Harrison, No. 6, but they are not named in his will.
³ Taken from will of Thos. Harrison, No. 4.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1590

year 1886, when it was pulled down and replaced by the present gardener's house of North Court. It was one of the most picturesque houses in Finchampstead—a black and white half-timbered house.

It may here be mentioned that there was another small property adjoining that of the Bartletts, called in later years 'Cob Hall,' which now also forms part of 'North Court.' The name of 'Cob Hall' would seem to have been derived from 'Copyd Hall,' by which this property was known in 1590. By a deed of May 18, 32 Elizabeth [1590], Thomas Harrison, the Lord of the Manor of East Court, granted a lease of 'Copyd Hall' to William Garner and his assigns for the life of himself, his wife and son, 'on condition that he paid 10s. yearly and did suit and service to his court, or else paid 12*d.* for every time of absence except hindered by sickness or some urgent business,' and also that there should be paid 20s. in the name of a heriot after the death of Wm. Garner, his wife and son.

The lessors were allowed 'Great Timber' growing in the parish of Finchampstead for the repair of the house, and 'to take at all times houseboote,¹ hedgboote, paleboote, fyerboote, ploughboote, and carteboote,' to be used in and about the demised premises.

On November 14, 1609, William Garner sold his lease to Henry Polley for 100*l.* In the deed of sale there is a curious proviso that the money which was borrowed was to be repaid 'in or at the Sandhurst Church Porche.'

North Court has never possessed any manorial rights of its own; the properties of which it is now composed originally formed part of the Manor of East Court, and the name of 'North Court' was only adopted when the present house was built by the late Rev. T. Moseley, about the year 1860. The only houses in Finchampstead which are strictly entitled to the appellation of 'Court' are the chief residences of the ancient east and west moieties of the Manor of Finchampstead, viz. 'East Court' and 'West Court.'

¹ 'Boote' (bote) is a Saxon term, equivalent to the Norman term 'estover,' which is identical with the O. Fr. verb 'estouvoir' (originally 'estoveir'), to be necessary, used substantively; it was an allowance of wood for repairs of house, for fuel, for repairing instruments of husbandry and fences.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1524

Finchampstead in 1524 is described as 'within the Hundreds of Wargrave and Sonninge,' and 'the seven Hundreds of Cokeham and Bray.' Thomas Harrison (No. 3) next appears as a landowner on the East Court Manor in 1539. He died before 1545, as in February of that year his wife is described in a Subsidy Roll as a widow. He left a son Thomas (No. 4) (XV.), who married, about the year 1557, 'Else' (Alice), the daughter of Sir Richard Warde, of Hurst, 'cofferer' or sub-treasurer to Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Queen Elizabeth. Her tombstone at Hurst tells us that she died in childbed of her first son, Richard Harrison (No. 5), the father of Sir Richard Harrison (No. 6), knight. The date of the birth of Richard Harrison (No. 5) has been calculated to have been in 1558, and consequently that would have been about the year of his mother's death.

In Hurst Church there is an interesting monument to Sir Richard Warde and his wife Colubra, from which we learn that they had eight sons and nine daughters, and that Colubra the mother died April 14, 1574. The date of the father's death is not recorded.

I am indebted to the Rev. C. W. Penny for the following copy of the epitaph in Latin verse in reference to Richard Warde :

' Vita fugit, Wardus cecidit, nec funera defle,
Perpetuam vitam qui bene vixit habet.
Stemmata clarus erat, vere Christumq. timebat,
Atq. placere Deo maxima cura fuit.
Hinc Christo dilectus erat, Christumq. favebat,
Atq. sibi Christus cuncta secunda dedit.
Octavo Henrico, Edwardo, Mariæ, Elizabethæ,
Aulæ proquæstor fidus amansq. fuit ;
Illis fidus erat, dilectus et omnibus illis,
Nulla sibi quærens, commoda nulla suis.
Ut pia vita fuit, sic mors pia dignaq. vita,
Et sibi per mortem vita perennis adest.
Consortem thalami tandem sociatq. Colubram,
Quos humus una tegit, junxit ut unus amor.'

A question has been raised in regard to the last two lines of the epitaph, as to whether Richard or his wife Colubra died first.

The late Rev. A. A. Cameron, Rector of Hurst, gave the

following rendering of the epitaph, from which it may be inferred that Richard Warde had predeceased his wife.

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1566

Life flies, and Ward is dead ; but mourn him not,
One who so well has lived, true life has got.
Of honoured race he was, a Christian true,
And God to please, his study all life through ;
So his Lord loved him, and His blessings poured
On all he had—his home with blessings stored.
To Henry, Edward, Mary, great Elizabeth,
Sub-treasurer he was, faithful in love till death ;
Yes, faithful to them all, and so by each beloved,
Ne'er by base thought of gain for self or kindred moved.
Godly he was in life ; in death the same ;
Through death, true life to him, eternal, came ;
And Colubra joined him, ne'er to part ;
Their grave, their rest, was one, as ever was their heart.

Richard Warde was living in 1566, when the 'Visitation of Berks' was made. His name is not found in the Hurst register of burials, which begins in 1583 ; it is therefore presumed that his death occurred between those dates, as in all probability he would have been buried at Hurst, and his burial would have been recorded in the Hurst register if his death had occurred after 1583. In 1539 he obtained a grant of Hurst House and Whistley Manor in Hurst, which 'had formed part of the endowment granted by King Edgar to the convent at Abingdon,' which establishment had been dissolved by Henry VIII. in the previous year. This grant was made to 'Richard Warde and his wife Anne.' It would seem, therefore, that Richard Warde was twice married, and that Anne was his first wife. His grandfather, Thomas Warde, is recorded as having had nineteen children, of whom Thomas, the father of Richard, was the sole survivor.

Richard, the son of Thomas Warde, and husband of Colubra, had seventeen children. He was succeeded in his estates by his second son Richard, who died in 1605, of whom we shall have more to say when we come to the first Sir Richard Harrison, of East Court.

Fine Roll
7 James I.
part 2,
No. 30

It is remarkable that Henry Hynde, of East Court, and Richard Warde, of Hurst, should have each held office under the same four sovereigns, viz. Henry VIII., Edward VI.,

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1558

Fine Roll
7 James I.
part 2,
No. 30.
Appendix,
No. 61

Mary, and Elizabeth; the latter as 'Sub-Treasurer' and the former as 'Purveyor of the Stables.' These functionaries seem to have resembled their chief, the Lord Treasurer (the Marquis of Winchester), who held office for a similar length of time under the same sovereigns, and who attributed his ability in having done so to his possessing more of the characteristics of the willow than of the oak, a remark which would seem to have been equally applicable to his subordinates. It may also be noticed that a son-in-law of Richard Warde, Thomas Durham (Dirham), was 'Serjeant of the Larder to the Queen's Majestie.' Richard Warde appears to have been a friend of the Marquis of Winchester (formerly Lord St. John of Basing). The late Rev. A. A. Cameron in his 'History of Hurst' tells us that in the old Hurst House there was a stained-glass window, which has been retained in the present house, representing the coat of arms of this distinguished person, under whom Richard Warde served as sub-treasurer. We may easily imagine that an intimacy existed between Henry Hynde, Thomas Harrison, and Richard Warde, who were thus officially connected with each other.

Thomas Harrison (No. 4) (XV.) after the death of his wife Alice (Else Warde), about the year 1558, married, secondly, Katharine, daughter of Francis Chamberlayne, of Sparsholt, Berks, and widow of Thomas Anton, of Strathfieldsaye, Hants. Thomas Anton was clerk of the Court of Wards and Liveries. He held lands, of which he 'was seized in fee, in Fynchephamsted, Swallowfield, and Eversleigh, in addition to a lease of the Manor of Stratfeeldturgis and other property in Stratfeldsay.' His will, dated 1556 and proved November 29, 1558, tells us that he had nine children, three sons and six daughters; that his daughter Elizabeth (wife of Richard Harrison) was born October 16, 1553; and that his three sons were named Thomas, George, and James, born respectively in 1536, 1548, and 1551 ('Berks Archæolog. Journal,' January 1893, p. 177). The name of George Anton, the second son, appears in the East Court Manor Rolls of 1602 and 1607 as paying 13s. 4d. to the Lord of the Manor for a tenement then known as 'Caddies Piddells' (Pightle), but 'anciently known as Halles.' In the

Court Roll of 1630 he is stated to have died, and his son Edward to be his heir. Thomas Anton had died about the same time as Thomas Harrison's first wife, Alice, in 1558, leaving nine children, and it seems probable that the marriage of this widowed pair took place within two years after their widowhood, and that the purchase of the East Court Manor in 1560, conjointly with Henry Hinde, with remainder 'after Hinde's death to Thomas Harrison and his assigns,' formed a marriage settlement upon Katharine in the event of her surviving her husband. Thomas Harrison on his second marriage appears to have established himself at Strathfieldsaye, as in various deeds at this period he is described as 'of Stratfeldsaye,' and most probably in the house of the late Thomas Anton. By this marriage he had one daughter, who married George Carleton, and a son Thomas who had two sons, Thomas and Charles, grandsons of No. 4.

CHAP.
V.
A.D. 1560

About this time (1570), Thomas Harrison seems to have had a lease¹ of West Court, and was probably residing there until George Tattershall obtained possession of it in 1584, or perhaps later.

On the death of Henry Hinde in 1580, Thomas Harrison (XV.) succeeded to the ownership of the East Court Manor and its moiety of the advowson. The first record of him which is found after becoming owner of East Court is in 1583, when he obtained a renewal of the grant of the Whitsuntide Fair on the East Court Manor, which had been made to Hugo Pakenham in 1458. This fair used to be held upon 'Fair Green,' an unenclosed green in the centre of the village, supposed to have been where the present schools and other cottages now stand, and extending as far as the old public-house known as the 'Greyhound.'

Thomas Harrison evidently took a great interest in his church at Finchampstead, as it has been already shown in the chapter on the church that the alterations carried out in 1590 were due to him. In 1592 he presented the Rev. Samuel Marsh to the réctory of Finchampstead.

In 1595-96, Thomas Harrison married, for the third time,

¹ Chancery Roll, Index No. 51, bundle T.T., No. 5 ; Index No. 29, bundle T.T., No. 64.

CHAP.
V

A.D.
1595-96

Feet of
Fines,
Berks.
Trinity,
37 Eliz.
16 June,
1595.
Appendix,
No. 54

Chancery
Inq. p.m.
1 James I.
part 2,
No. 75.
Appendix,
No. 59.
23 Bolem,
P.C.C.
Proved
March 3,
1602-3.
See Ap-
pendix for
further
particu-
lars,
No. 58

Chancery
Inq. p.m.
1 James I.
part 2,
No. 75.
See
Appendix,
No. 59,
for ex-
tracts

Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Beecher, and relict (and third wife) of Clement Kelk. It therefore became necessary for him to make a fresh settlement with regard to the East Court Manor, which appears at this time to have been let on lease to Francis Pollye and Margaret his wife, as in June 1595 we find Thomas Harrison resuming possession of it by payment to Francis and Margaret Pollye of 200*l*. Accordingly, on November 28 (38 Elizabeth), 1595, he conveyed the Manor of East Court to William Becher or Beecher (his wife's brother), on trust for the use of himself and his wife Elizabeth for their respective lives, with remainder to his heirs for ever; and by his Will, dated February 22, 1602-3 (45 Elizabeth), he further provided that it should remain in trust for 'his son-in-law, George Carleton, "Esquier,"' during the 'non-age' of his heir and '*nephewe*, Richard Harrison (XVII.)—his brother John Harrison—the nowe wief of his sonne Thomas Harrison, and of her children by him—his said sonne Thomas—his grandchilde Thomas Harrison the son of his sonne Thomas Harrison.' The term 'nephew' (nepos) in ancient times had a very comprehensive meaning, and its use on this occasion clearly meant his *grandson*, Sir Richard Harrison, as is shown by the context: a similar use of the term occurs again in the same Will, where Thomas Harrison describes the two sons of his 'daughter Marshe' as his *nephews*.

Thomas Harrison died February 25, 1602, and his widow Elizabeth (XVI.) thereupon became the owner of the East Court Manor for the remainder of her life. Richard Harrison (XVII.) was at that date aged 18 years, 5 months, and 25 days.

Thomas Harrison in his Will, above referred to, describes himself as 'of Finchamsted in the county of Berks:': we may therefore conclude that on his third marriage, in 1596-97, he was residing in the East Court Manor House on Church Hill. He directs his 'Bodie to be buried in the *Porche of the West doore of the Parish Church of Finchamsted*, in the place latalie by him prepared for that purpose.' This will be of interest to many parishioners, who have vainly endeavoured to decipher the obliterated inscription upon a very large broken slab on the floor of the church tower. The only words which can at present be traced are A.D. 1602 . . . (in line five), Age 72

. . . Wives . . . (in line six), Elizabeth (in line nine). But these words, read in the light of what has now been revealed, clearly identify the grave as that of Thomas Harrison, and confirm the foregoing account of him, that he was born in 1530, that he died February 25, 1602, of the age of 72, having had three wives, Alice, Katharine, and Elizabeth (XVI.) who survived him.

CHAP.
V.
A.D. 1602

The above clause in the Will has a still further interest, as it raises a question as to what particular form of building stood where the present church tower now stands. It will be observed that it is called 'the Porche of the West doore.'

In the chapter on the church it has been already shown that the present tower was erected in 1720, under a Faculty which states that it was to be erected 'in place of a steeple' then 'lately taken down;' and that there also was an ancient window inserted in the new tower which appears to have belonged to an earlier steeple or tower. We can only imagine that the bottom of this 'steeple' was constructed and used as a 'porch.' The stone slab over Thomas Harrison's grave has the appearance of having been broken by the fall of heavy stones upon it. Probably it was not protected from injury when the old steeple was taken down, or the steeple may have *fallen* down upon the slab, which would account for its present injured condition.

It is hoped that some day this memorial of one who has had so large a share in the alteration of our church may be restored.

Before taking leave of Thomas Harrison (XV.) we must notice one or two other matters in his Will. He entails his *East Court Manor*, and 'also his Manor or Farme of *Evendens*, or "Indens," together with the house and land in the tenure of Mistress Tayler,' in the parish of Ockingham, and lands in Swallowfield, on 'Richard Harrison (XVII.), and the heirs male of his bodie lawfully begotten; in default to his brother John Harrison and heirs male of his body; in default to Thomas Harrison, his own son, for life, and after his decease to Thomas Harrison, his son, and heirs male of his body; in default to Charles and his heirs male; and in default to his own right heirs for ever.'

Chancery
Inq. p.m.
1 James I.
part 2,
No. 75.
Appendix,
Nos. 58
and 59

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1602

He makes several bequests of money to persons named, and then :

'To the Poore of Finchamsted Twentie shillinges, To Ockingham Twentie shillinges, To Stratfildsea Twentie shillinges, To Swallowfield 13s. 4d., Mortimer 20s., Barkham 6s. 8d., upon condition that they stave at home and content themselves to receive this my Benevolence at their owne Parishes and not to be troublesome to my Buriall.'

A confirmation of arms (or, on a chief sable, three eagles displayed of the field) and crest (out of a coronet a talbot's head or spotted sable) was made to Thomas Harrison, of Finchampstead, by Robert Cooke, Clarencieux.

Elizabeth Harrison (XVI.), the widow of Thomas (XV.), died in September 1612, and was buried in her late husband's vault within the tower of the church on the 10th of that month. She is described in the Register as 'Ladie of the Manor of Eastcourte.' She probably resided in the Manor House on Church Hill.

Copy of Register in Salisbury Diocesan Registry (the original having disappeared from Finchampstead). See Pedigree, p. 111. 1581-82

Richard Harrison (No. 5), son of Thomas (No. 4), born about 1558, married, about 1581-82, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Anton, of Strathfieldsaye, who was born in 1553. He had been brought up from his infancy in that family, his father having married the widowed mother of Elizabeth.

It is not certain whether Richard and Elizabeth Harrison lived at Strathfieldsaye or Finchampstead; no record of them can be found at either place. In 1584-85, their son Richard (afterwards Sir Richard, XVII.) was born, and in 1586 their son John was born, who was subsequently designated as 'of Beech Hill.' Richard Harrison, the father, must therefore have been living in 1585; the date of his death is not known; we only know that he died in his father's lifetime, *i.e.* before 1602, and that his wife Elizabeth married, secondly, 'Robert Marsh, of London.' There are reasons for believing that Robert Marsh when he married Elizabeth Harrison was a widower, and had two sons, one of whom was the Rev. Samuel Marsh, born in 1566, who became Rector of Finchampstead in 1592, on the nomination of Thomas Harrison (XV.); the other son was Richard, born in 1573.

FOSTER'S 'Alumni Oxonienses' 'Visitation of Berks,' at. 79 in 1665

At the entrance to the chancel of our church there is a brass plate fixed to a marble slab on the floor, with the following inscription thereon :

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1613

Here lyeth the Bodey of Richard Marshe, Citizen and Grocer of London, who departed this life the 24 July 1613, beinge of the age of 40 yeares, whose Soule resteth with God.

On another brass plate in the floor of the chancel is the following epitaph in Latin verse :

In obitum Richardi Marsh Civis Londinensis.

Exemplum vitæ sanctæ, et pietatis imago
Vera, sub hoc saxo morte perempta jacet ;
Cujus laus summa est mundi post terga dedisse
Impuras sordes, atque vacasse sibi.
Hic vixit Cæli sitiens ; habet incola Cæli
Gaudia defunctis præmia quæ esse solent.

(Translation.)

On the death of Richard Marsh, Citizen of London.

Under this stone there lies cut off by death an example of a holy life, and a real pattern of piety, one whose highest praise is that he turned his back upon the impurities of the world, and was at leisure for himself. Here he lived thirsting for Heaven : an inhabitant of Heaven, he is in possession of joys such as are wont to be the reward of the departed.

The close relationship of this family of Marsh with the widow of Richard Harrison enables us to imagine how the Rev. Samuel Marsh came to be selected as Rector of the parish, and how his brother Richard found a burial-place in the chancel of our church. From the slight record we have of both of them, they seem to have been remarkable for their piety and goodness of character.

Samuel Marsh was one of the earliest Rectors of Finchampstead who had received a University education. He matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, November 24, 1581, at the age of fifteen ; took his M.A. degree from Lincoln College in 1588, and B.D. in 1598, and ultimately became a Canon of Sarum. The last mention of him is found in the East Court Manor Roll of 1642, where he appears as in possession of a house and land known as ' Cowdries,' for which he pays the Lord of the Manor an annual sum of five shillings. This house, two centuries later, became the present East Court

ANDREW
CLARK'S
'Reg. of
Univ. of
Oxford,'
vol. ii.
part ii.

CHAP. V
A.D. 1642

Manor House, and will be more fully described further on. He would have been eighty years of age in that year. This was three years before the suppression of the use of the Prayer Book in all churches, and the deprivation of the bishops and clergy, in 1645, when Samuel Marsh must have ceased his public ministrations. His death is not recorded in the copy of the Finchampstead Burial Register (which is at Salisbury) as late as 1653. We may therefore conclude that he withdrew from Finchampstead in the 'days of confusion,' and ended his life peacefully elsewhere.

Court
Rolls for
1615

Finchampstead must have been then left without a Rector between 1645 and 1660. Robert Marsh, the father of the Rev. Samuel Marsh, and his wife Elizabeth (Harrison) are last traced in Finchampstead in 1615, when they appear to have been occupying the house called 'Cowdries,' mentioned above. They would then have been respectively about seventy-two and sixty-two years of age. They were not buried at Finchampstead, as their names are not found in the copy of the Finchampstead Burial Register at Salisbury. I conclude, therefore, that they left Finchampstead and died elsewhere. They, however, left two sons, Robert and Thomas: Robert Marsh is found in possession of 'Cowdries' next after the Rev. Samuel Marsh; and in 1670 he sold that place to the Rev. Thomas Bright, the Rector who had been appointed in 1660, after the 'days of confusion,' on the presentation of Thomas Marsh, who was most likely the brother of Robert. At page 69 will be found an explanation why the West Court owner, whose turn it was to appoint, did not nominate, he being a recusant. The name of Thomas Marsh ultimately appears in the Will of Charles Palmer, Lord of the Manor of East Court in 1712, where the testator directs that Thomas Marsh shall be allowed to remain in the occupation of a house on his manor, called 'Phipps Land,' during the remainder of his life, and his name is found in the Finchampstead Burial Register as having died in May 1738. This Thomas Marsh is supposed to have been a son of Thomas or Robert above mentioned. I cannot identify 'Phipps Land' with any place now existing in Finchampstead.

See p. 73,
Chap. III.

Robert Marsh the younger, and his wife Susanna, held

another property in Finchampstead, which in 1673 they sold to James Winstanley and Joseph Bent, who were probably acting as trustees for some one else. Robert Marsh was then described as of Edmonton, Middlesex, and the property which he sold is described as consisting of '4 closes of arable or pasture containing 14 acres; a messuage; meadow, 7 acres; wood and one moor called Molleson or Mollesante; Marshalls 4 acres; and all buildings, right of common, fishing, &c. Total, 8 acres of meadow, 14 of pasture, 8 of moor, common of pasture, and common of turbarry.'

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1673

Deed
dated
13 Chas.
II. Nov.
14, 1673

It seems probable, therefore, that Robert Marsh and his wife had retired to Edmonton, whither perhaps his father and mother had previously removed, as the family originally came from London, where they had been engaged in business. This brings us to the close of the connection of the family of Marsh with Finchampstead, and we will now return to the Harrisons.

Sir Richard Harrison (No. 6) (XVII.), son of Richard (No. 5), was born in 1584-85, as stated above. He matriculated at St. Mary Hall, Oxford, July 1, 1603, at the age of nineteen years.

Sir
Richard
Harrison
(XVII.),
No. 6 in
Pedigree
Fine Roll
7 James I.
part 2,
No. 30.
1609-10

On the death of his uncle, Sir Richard Warde (son of Richard and Colubra Warde), on August 27, 1605, he succeeded to 'the Manors of Hurste and "Wishley" in Hurst, and to the Manor of Lee with all other tenements in the parish of Hurst,' in accordance with his uncle's Will.

In September, 1612, he succeeded to the East Court Manor of Finchampstead, and a moiety of the advowson on the death of Elizabeth (XVI.), third wife of his grandfather, Thomas Harrison (No. 4 in Pedigree).

1612

He married, about 1610, Frances, daughter of George Garrard, second son of Sir William Garrard, knight, Lord Mayor of London, and of Margaret his wife, daughter of George Dacres, who afterwards became the wife of Sir Henry Savile, and died in 1631, æt. seventy-two.

Sir Richard Harrison does not appear to have resided on his East Court estate. He lived at Hurst House. He seems to have been intimate with Archbishop Laud, who several times makes mention of him in his diary, in the years 1625

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1625

and 1626, on the occasion of his frequent visits to his old Oxford University friend, Sir Francis Windebancke, who lived at Haines Hill in the same parish. Laud mentions in his diary (p. 67) that he obtained for Francis Windebancke the office of Secretary of State from Charles I.

FOSTER'S
'Alumni
Oxonien-
ses,'
vol. ii.

Sir Richard Harrison (XVII.) entered Parliament as member for Wootton Bassett in 1621-22. He was member for Berkshire in 1624-25 and 1628-29, and for New Windsor, April to May 1640. He was knighted August 31, 1621, and is said to have been created a baronet, but this seems doubtful, as the patent cannot be found.

Will
proved
in London
May 24,
1655.
125 Aylett
P.C.C.

He was also Sheriff for Berks. He suffered severe penalties for his loyalty to the cause of royalty. He died in May, 1655, and was buried, as directed in his Will dated November 8, 1654, '*in that place in the Chancell in Hurst heretofore by mee built, and neere to the sepulcher of the Lady Savile, my wives mother who lyeth interred there, as may be,*' on May 5, 1655.

1651
Letter to
W. Lyon
from the
Charity
Commis-
sioners,
Jan. 23,
1894, B.
29283.
Berks.
Finch.
Sir R.
Harrison's
Charity

This seems the proper place to mention one of Sir Richard Harrison's benefactions which is not mentioned in his Will. In 1651 he and his son Richard Harrison (No. 7) gave by deed to the poor of Finchampstead '*Land and Houses which were vested, at the date of a Parliamentary Return in 1786, in the names of John Banister and Thomas Oliver.*' (Further reference to this gift will be found in the Chapter on 'Parish Charities.') I will only notice here that the Rector of the parish does not seem to have been named as one of the trustees for a very obvious reason, viz. that there was no Rector at that time. The church had been deprived of her ordained ministers from 1645 to 1660.

But John
is not
mentioned
in Sir R.
Harrison's
Will, dated
Nov. 8,
1654.

Sir Richard Harrison (XVII.) (No. 6), according to the 'Visitation of Berks,' by E. Ashmole, left two sons and one daughter: Richard (No. 7), the eldest, who succeeded him in his estates in Finchampstead, Hurst, and elsewhere; John, who married Anne Carter, of London; and Frances, who married Thomas Howard, afterwards Earl of Berkshire, one of whose daughters, Lady Frances Howard, married Sir Henry Winchcombe, Bart., a descendant of the famous 'Jack of Newbury.' Sir Richard mentions in his Will Lady Mary

Howard, another granddaughter, to whom he leaves a legacy; and also his 'cousins, John and James Harrison, and their three sisters.' He also names his brother John and his friend Richard Aldworth as 'overseers' of his Will.

Sir Richard Harrison (XVIII.) (No. 7 in pedigree), the son of Sir Richard Harrison (No. 6), was born in 1611. He matriculated at St. Alban Hall, Oxford, May 4, 1627, at the age of fourteen; took his B.A. degree, February 1, 1629-30; and became a student of Lincoln's Inn in 1631. I cannot give a better summary of his career than in the words of the epitaph upon his monument in the parish church of Hurst, viz. :

'Here lies the Body of Sir Richard Harrison, eldest son of Sir Richard Harrison, Lord of Whistly and Hinton, in this Parish, Knight. He married Dorothy, the only daughter and heiress of William Drew, of Nethercote, in Oxfordshire, Esquire, by whom he had 13 sons and 2 daughters, and lived in wedlock 49 years with her. He served King Charles all the time of the Civil Wars, for which he suffered the persecution of sequestration, composition, &c. His estate was much wasted by raising two troops of Horse at his own charge, for the King. With the first he served under the Command of the Rt. Hon. Earl Crawford by His Majesty's appointment, and after, under the Command of Col. Thomas Howard, since Earl of Berkshire (who married his sister), and lived to see the joyful return of King Charles II., under whom he bore the office of Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant; and was chosen one of the Privy Chamber in Ordinary to His Majesty; and in the 72 year of his age he exchanged this life for a better, the 23rd August, in the year 1683.'

Sir Richard Harrison (XVIII.), by his Will dated August 19, 1676, left his estate of Odington, in Gloucestershire, to his son Philip, or Phelipps, barrister-at-law, and his heirs lawfully begotten, and in default of any such issue to his grandchild, John Lewis, for life, and afterwards to his son John and his heirs for ever. To his son William, born 1660 (who was sixteen years old when his father made his Will), Sir Richard left all his goods and household stuff in Hurst House after his mother's death. William Harrison became a clergyman and Rector of Cheriton, Hants. To his son Charles he gave 'all the Promises hee made me back againe to him;' to his son Deane five shillings, 'and hee knowes why I give him no more.'

Sir Richard Harrison lived at Hurst House, as his father

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1655
proved
May 24,
1655.
125 Aylett
P.C.C.
Sir
Richard
Harrison
(XVIII.)

P.C.C.
126 Drax.
1676

CHAP. V
 A.D. 1659
 Appendix, No. 64
 1661
 Add. Ch. 38605,
 Appendix, No. 65
 Died Sept. 28, 1687, æt. 80.
 See stone in floor of the chancel of church.
 See Appendix, No. 86

and grandfather had done, and not upon the East Court Manor. He, like his father, was much impoverished by the penalties he paid for his loyalty; and in 1659 he cut off the entail of 'the Manor of Hurst, Wynhurst, alias Whishley in the Hurst,' Finchampstead East Court, and Evendens, alias Endens, otherwise Indens, and of Lee Park and other properties; and on November 15, 1661, he sold to Richard Palmer, of Wokingham, the Manor of Finchampstead East Court, together with the advowson of the church, 'and also the capital Messuage or Manor House now or late in the possession of Peter Sparks, gent., and [] Treherne widow, or one of them,' for £4,250. Here, in 1661, we have the earliest specific mention of the 'East Court Manor House' (on the Church Hill) which I have met with throughout my researches. In the 'presentment' at the Court Baron for the Manor held on December 27, 1661, under Item 11, it is stated, '*We present the Hill before East Court House is part of the Manor of Finchampstead East Court, and belongs to the Lord of the said Manor, and that Richard Rither of Finchampstead, about seven years since, bought seven trees of Sir Richard Harrison, the Lord of the said Manor, and never since was questioned for it.*'

At another Court Baron, held January 20, 1670, Item 2, a further allusion is made to this hill. A 'presentment' is made that 'the Hill before East Court is common, and belongs to the Manor of East Court.'

'The Hill before East Court,' here referred to, was the western end of the Church Hill, which still retains a few fine specimens of beech trees; the ground to the westward and north-west and south-west of the hill at that time was an unenclosed part of Windsor Forest, which must have greatly enhanced the beauty of the situation, and given it the shelter which its elevated position so much needed. It would be difficult to conceive a more beautiful situation for a manorial residence, when surrounded by the fine timber which once adorned that hill.

The picture forming the frontispiece of this book is intended to show the site of the ancient Manor House on Church Hill.

It will be observed that the Court Baron in December, 1661, was held on behalf of Richard Palmer, who had only obtained possession of the Manor in the preceding month ; and he was evidently desirous of removing any doubt as to his rights in regard to the land adjoining his future residence.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1661

The Manor House is described as 'now or late in the tenure of Peter Sparks, gent.' This name is not found in any of the Court Rolls or Presentments of the Manor Court previously to 1661 ; but the name is found in a return of the 'Hearth Tax' for 1662, showing the number of hearths for which the several houses in Finchampstead were liable in the time of Charles II. Peter Sparks appears to have been occupying East Court Manor House during the ownership of the two successive Sir Richard Harrisons who resided at Hurst.

Appendix,
No. 66

Richard Palmer, of Wokingham, who purchased the East Court moiety of the Manor of Finchampstead in 1661, was the son of Richard Palmer, who married Dorothy, daughter of Richard Mead, of Soulberry, Bucks, and grandson of Richard Palmer, of Wokingham, who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Bell, of Wokingham.

1661
RICHARD
PALMER
(XVIII.).
'Visita-
tion of
Berks,'
1664-65,
by ELIAS
ASHMOLE

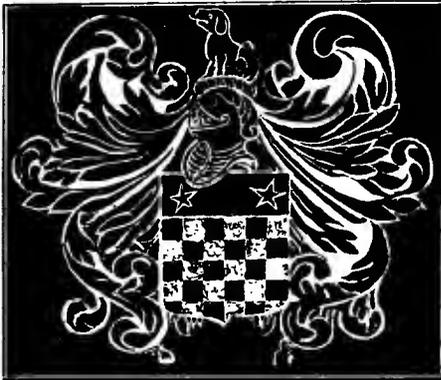
The Palmer family of Wokingham and of Hurst would seem to have had a common origin, as their crest and arms appear to be the same.

Granted
16 Chas.
II. 'Visi-
tation of
Berks,'
1665

The crest and arms of Richard Palmer, of Wokingham, as exemplified on his tomb in Finchampstead Church, are as under :

Crest : A talbot sejant erminois.

Arms : Chequy or and sable ; on a chief gules, two mullets of the first.



I am indebted to the Rev. C. W. Penny for a 'rubbing' of the crest and arms on Richard Palmer's monument from which the illustration on p. 127 has been taken.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1661

Richard Palmer (XIX.), of East Court, was born in 1611; he married Maria, only daughter and heir of Oliver Fish, of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. He was a barrister and magistrate for the county of Berks. He was owner of the Luckley estate in the parish of Wokingham. This property appears to have been purchased by his grandfather from 'John Crottall, of Wokingham, yeoman,' and the property is described as 'known by the name of "Redde Landes," in the parish of Wokingham, at a place called "Luckley,"' and the purchaser is described in the deed of purchase, dated December 25, 1595, as 'Richard Palmer, alias Underwood, yeoman.'

RICHARD
PALMER
(XIX.)

In 1663 Richard Palmer sold about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre on Luckley Green for the erection of the almshouse now known as 'Lucas's Hospital,' at the entrance to Luckley Park.

Richard Palmer had six children when he entered into possession of the East Court Manor in 1661, the eldest of his three sons being then only eighteen years of age. He died in 1670.

On a black marble slab on a tomb in the north aisle of Finchampstead Church is the following inscription :

NOVISSIMAM MANENS TUBAM ET RESUSCITAÇONIS SPE
TEGMEN QUOD FUIT
RICHARDI PALMER AÑI DÑI MANERII DE EASTCOURT XXVIJ DIE MAIJ
ANNO SALUTIS PER IESUM CHRISTUM
RESTITUTAE 1670
DEPOSITUM
JUXTA HEIC TEGITUR
CUI FUERUNT EX MARIÁ FISH FILIÁ UNICÁ SUPERSTITE ET HAEREDE
OLIVERI FISH DE BIGGLESWADE IN AGRO BEDFORDIENSE GENEROSI
PROCREATI
FILIJ TRES SCIŁT RICHARDUS IOÑES
ET CAROLUS
&
FILIAE TOTIDEM SCIŁT MARIA MARTHA
ET ELIZABETHA
SUPERSTITES.
HAEC VIA OLYMPO.

Translation.

Awaiting the Last Trump and in Hope of the Resurrection All that was mortal of Richard Palmer, Esquire, Lord of the Manor of East Court, was

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1670

interred on the 28th day of May, in the year of our Salvation restored by Jesus Christ, 1670, and lies buried near this spot ; To whom were born of Maria Fish, sole Surviving Daughter and Heir of Oliver Fish, of Biggleswade, gentleman, three sons, to wit, Richard, John, and Charles, and as many daughters, to wit, Maria¹ (Mary), Martha, and Elizabeth, who Survive him. This is the Path to Heaven.

The Palmers also possessed in 1661 another property which, in 1595, belonged to the same John Cro' tall above mentioned, and is supposed to have been acquired about the same time as the Luckley Green estate, viz. : a house and lands called 'Symondes Grene,' and from the allusion which will be presently made to it, in 1712, these two properties together formed what in later years has been known as 'Luckley Park.'

Richard Palmer and his family appear to have had a great regard for the town of Wokingham, as is shown by their several benefactions to that town.

Charity
Commissioners'
Report,
No. 32,
part 1,
p. 224,
1839

By deed dated April 11, 1664, Richard Palmer granted about half an acre of meadow ground in '*Eversleigh, upon trust to pay the sexton of the parish church of Wokingham, or such other person as the trustees should think meet, to ring out the greatest bell belonging to the said parish church that shall be fit to be rung half an hour every evening at eight o'clock, and every morning at four o'clock, or as near to that hour as may be, from September 10 to March 10 in each year, in order to induce a timely going to rest in the evening, and early rising in the morning to the labour and duties of the day (things ordinarily attended and rewarded with thrift and proficiency), and that strangers and others who should happen in winter nights, within hearing of the ringing of the said bell, to lose their way in the country, might be informed of the time of night, and receive some guidance into their right way; and further that the ringing of this bell might lead people to think of their own passing bell and day of death, and of their resurrection and call to the last judgment.*'

The Charity Commissioners in their report in 1839 describe

¹ Maria (Mary) married Rev. Dr. Brabant, Rector of Berkchampstead, and was buried November 1, 1728, in the chancel of Finchampstead Church. Will of Charles Palmer, proved November 25, 1713

the piece of land which was settled as the security for this benefaction as 'in the parish of Eversley, within the county of Hants.' This land has every appearance of being in Berkshire and within the parish of Finchampstead, being on the north side of the river Blackwater, which forms the boundary between the two counties; but in this particular locality the river has deviated from its original course, and is called 'Longwater,' and has taken a more southern course, leaving a few acres of meadow on the Berkshire side adjoining the East Court Manor, which are still in the parish of Eversley and in the county of Hants. The land in question has long been known as 'The Bell Mead,' and is said to have been part of the Manor of Bramshill.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1670

It is not quite clear how Richard Palmer could have legally treated this meadow as part of his own Manor. I have not investigated the matter further than to find that about fifty years ago there was a charge upon the Manor of East Court of two pounds a year for the bellringer. I do not know whether the benefaction still exists; but it is an instance of the kind intention of Richard Palmer towards the town of Wokingham.

Richard Palmer was succeeded in his estates in 1670 by his eldest son Richard (XX.), who was then twenty-seven years of age. Little is known of him beyond the fact that he married and had no children, that his wife's name was Susanna (who married secondly . . . Wittwrong), and that he lived in a house 'situate in the parish of Wokingham, in a certain green or "Common" called "Simons Green," which house was, in 1711, in the occupation of Charles, Duke of St. Albans.' This house, it is presumed, was the same as that subsequently known as 'Luckley House.'

RICHARD
PALMER
(XX.)

These facts are gathered from the Will of his brother Dr. Charles Palmer, who succeeded him: his brother John, who was born in 1656, died in 1676; the date of Richard Palmer's death I have not been able to ascertain. He was living in 1682, as on June 9 in that year he presented the Rev. John Brandon to the Rectory of Finchampstead; and there are reasons for believing that he was living as late as 1699.

Dated
March 3,
1711

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1712

CHARLES
PALMER
(XXI.)

Proved
November
25, 1713

Charles Palmer (XXI.) is described in various deeds between 1700 and 1712 as 'M.D., of Arborfield;' and in the registry of his death in the latter year he is so described.

He married Anne, daughter of . . . Aldworth, and relict of . . . Standen, by whom she had one son, Edward Standen.

Charles Palmer does not appear to have had any children. He died in 1712. By his Will dated March 3, 1711, he desired to be 'buried in his own Vault at the West end of the Parish Church of Finchampstead.' There is no trace of this vault now visible; probably it was in the north-west corner of the nave, where the East Court 'pew' was situated.

There is no evidence of Charles Palmer having ever resided on his Manor of East Court, and judging from his disposal of it by his Will, he does not appear to have had any particular regard for it.

Will dated
March 3,
1711,
proved
November
25, 1713.
See Chap.
iii. p. 75,
for its
recovery
by the
owner of
West
Court
in 1755

He bequeathed the alternate right of the presentation of Finchampstead, which belonged to the East Court moiety, and which had never before been severed from it, to the Principal of St. Mary Magdalen Hall, Oxford.

He directed a considerable portion of the same Manor to be sold in payment of his debts and legacies.

He gave £10 a year to the minister of the church of Wokingham for ever, provided that no part of his salary payable by the impropriator be thereby lessened, which bequest was made chargeable to his estate and lands in the parish of Wokingham, on condition that 'the minister of the said church preach a sermon on 15 February in every year, towards the promotion and encouragement of charity.'

He gave '£20 a year to the parish of Wokingham towards maintaining at school 20 poor boys of the town and parish of Wokingham, the sons of members of the Church of England. The boys to go every Sunday to the parish church and be taught the Church Catechism, and examined in the church by the Minister;' the payment to be made out of the rents from his lands in Wokingham. He appointed 'the Rectors of Wokingham, Finchampstead, and Arborfield for the time being' (besides several other persons named), 'to be trustees of this his charity.'

To his kinsman, Henry Fish, the youngest son of his cousin Humphry Fish, the younger, of Ickwell, in the parish of 'Nowill,' Beds, and to his heirs male, he gave the reversion of all his Manor of Finchamstead East Court, with all rents, services, courts, common of turbary, wastes, commons, fairs, fish-ponds, and all other tenements in Finchampstead; also the reversion of his messuages, lands, tenements, &c., within the parish of Wokingham, which latter were subject to the yearly payments aforesaid, with the condition that he should take the surname of Fish-Palmer; and failing to assume that name, then the same bequest was made to his kinsman Humphry Fish, eldest brother of the said Henry Fish, and to his heirs on the same condition; and should he fail to comply with this condition, then he gave all his Manor of Finchampstead, and all his lands in the parish of Wokingham, to the poor of the town and parish of Wokingham for ever.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1712
HENRY
FISH-
PALMER
(XXII.).
Originally
Northill

The name of Palmer ought to be held in high esteem and veneration by the town of Wokingham for all these benevolent acts and intentions.

Charles Palmer gave to each of his sisters a life interest in certain parts of his property; but to Mary he left his lands in Wokingham, known by the name of 'Cruthalls,' after the decease of his widow, Anne Palmer. This property obtained its name from John Crottall, from whom it was purchased in 1595-96. I mention this as illustrating the common practice of naming lands and houses after those who have been long owners and occupiers of them. This name may possibly be still extant. 'Luckley Park' itself may possibly have been once known by this name, since it belonged to the same person (see above, p. 129).

Buried at
Finch-
ampstead,
December
12, 1723

On the death of Charles Palmer there was a sale of several parcels of the East Court Manor, in accordance with his Will.

The 'Westwood Coppices and Lands,'¹ consisting of sixty

The 'Further Westwood Coppice' (abutting on the Common	
Fields of the Lea Common on the south-west)	35 acres
The 'Hither Westwood Coppice' (adjoining the above)	5 "
The 'Little Frith'	18 "
'Pye Hill Row'	2 "
	<u>60</u>

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1712

acres, were sold under a decree of the High Court of Chancery, and Humphry, the father of Henry Fish, who now assumed the surname of Palmer in addition to that of Fish, purchased them and restored them to the East Court Manor.

The Westwood property seems to have come into the possession of the owner of the East Court Manor in, or soon after, the year 1642, when it was probably sold by George Tattershall, of West Court, to enable him to pay the fine for the renewal of the lease of the Rectory impropriate of Stapleford, Wilts. There was a lengthy litigation between the two George Tattershalls, Nos. 3 and 4, on this subject, referred to in the Chapter on West Court (at page 162), the result of which I have not investigated; but as the Westwood property belonged to West Court Manor in 1642, and is found in possession of the owner of East Court Manor in 1712, I conclude that it was purchased by Sir Richard Harrison in or about the year 1642.

This property was restored to the West Court moiety of the Manor by exchange between the owners of East and West Court, under the Windsor Forest Enclosure Act of 1818.

Rent Roll
of 1712,
and Feet
of Fines,
Berks,
Easter,
1 Geo. II.

The East Court Manor between 1712 and 1728 is described as consisting of 20 messuages, 4 cottages, 30 barns, 18 stables, 20 gardens, 18 orchards, 500 acres of land, 120 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, 4 acres of wood, 80 acres of moor common of pasture for all cattle, and common of turbary, amounting in all to about 775 acres, exclusive of heath land.

Before taking leave of this period of our history, I must draw attention to the control which the Crown exercised over the cutting of timber trees and coppices of underwood upon the Manors of East and West Court. The Lords of the Manor had no power to cut a timber tree or a coppice upon their Manors without the authority of the Chief Justice in Eyre of all His Majesty's forests, chaces, parks and warrens; and this authority was not given without the consent of the 'verderers,' the 'regardars' and 'under keeper' of the particular 'walk' in which the Manor was situated. Finchampstead was included in the 'Bigshot Walk' of

Windsor Forest. These functionaries had to certify that the timber and the coppices might be cut down without prejudice or hurt to 'the deer or vert' in 'the said forest,' before permission could be given. (A copy of one of these certificates will be found in the Appendix.) This control over the woods in the Royal forest no doubt greatly contributed to the preservation of the grand old forest trees for which Finchampstead was once renowned. Alas! they are all gradually disappearing; few only now remain. Fifty years ago the ground about the Church Hill was studded with magnificent oak trees. There are still a few survivors which tell us what we have lost. There are four in the churchyard, and one opposite the 'Royal Oak'; three others near the 'Greyhound,' and a few on the East Court grounds, which still remain as memorials of their mighty ancestors, and I trust they may long be spared to be so. Then there are majestic hollies which have stood for centuries; others have been cut down or mutilated. And here I would draw attention especially to five magnificent beech trees in the woods not far from 'Roman Lodge'; one of them has a girth of about twenty-seven feet, and the others give an average of nearly eighteen feet; again, near 'Warren Lodge' on some waste land on the right-hand side of the Wokingham road, there is a beautiful specimen of an oak and of a beech tree which must be the admiration of all true lovers of nature. The 'Parsonage' copse, between the present East Court House and the church, once contained some very fine oak trees; very few now remain, others having in this utilitarian age given place to a less picturesque copse. This wood once formed part of the church glebe, but was exchanged by the Rev. Henry Ellis St. John, when rector and owner of the advowson, for other lands belonging to Charles Fyshe-Palmer, the owner of East Court, and it thus became part of the East Court Manor under the Windsor Forest Enclosure Act of 1818.

Henry Fish, the youngest son of Humphry Fish, of Ickwell, in the parish of Nowill, originally 'Northill,' 'Norhill,' or 'Norrill,' was born in 1705; he was therefore only seven years of age when Charles Palmer died, and he became the twenty-

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1712

HENRY
FISH-
PALMER
(XXII.)

CHAP. second owner of the East Court moiety of Finchampstead
 V Manor and of Luckley, and assumed the name of Henry Fish-
 A.D. 1712 Palmer.

His father, Humphry Fish, lived at Ickwell Bury, which was the family seat; Ickwell was a hamlet a mile from the parish church of Biggleswade. The family of Fish, I am informed, have now entirely disappeared from that parish. Henry Fish-Palmer married, in 1728, Elizabeth, daughter of James Ingram.

In the early days of their married life they are described as having resided at Luckley House, which had been previously occupied by Charles, Duke of St. Albans; but in their later years they lived at Ickwell. During this period John Allright became tenant of the East Court Manor House on Church Hill, and of the Manor Farm. Henry Fish-Palmer had seven sons and one daughter, nearly all of whom lived and died near Biggleswade. His wife died in June, 1785, at the age of eighty-two, and he died in January, 1786, aged eighty-one, and they were buried at Biggleswade. They were succeeded in their possession of East Court Manor and the Luckley estate by their eldest son, Charles Fish-Palmer, whose wife's name was Lucy. By a deed of settlement dated April 14, 1786, Charles Fish-Palmer (who about this date began to spell his name as 'Fyshe'-Palmer) entailed his property upon his eldest son who might survive him. In this deed nearly all the same old names of the separate properties on the East Court Manor are mentioned as are found in the Court Rolls of the seventeenth century, but they have for the most part been changed or lost in the present century. Among the names of properties on the Luckley estate the name of 'Bolsingham' is attached to several of them; *e.g.* 'Hagvill' is described as 'alias Bolsingham.' The name of the junction of the Finchampstead and Sandhurst roads, now known as 'The Throat,' on the road to Wokingham, was called 'The Throat Bolsingham;' several fields in that locality were called 'Bolsingham Six Acres,' 'Bolsingham Four Acres,' &c., &c. The preservation of ancient names is of great value in archæology.

1786

CHARLES
 FISH-
 PALMER
 (XXIII.)

Charles Fyshe-Palmer (XXIII.) was buried at Biggleswade on February 28, 1807, and his wife Lucy was buried at the same place on March 31, 1804. There is no record of their having ever resided at East Court; we may conclude, therefore, that they lived, as their predecessors had done, at Ickwell, in Bedfordshire.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1807

Charles Fyshe-Palmer (XXIV.) inherited the estates of his father, Charles Fyshe-Palmer 'the elder,' in 1807. He was born in 1768, and married Lady Madelina Lennox, second daughter of Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon, and widow of Sir Robert Sinclair, Bart., who had died August 4, 1795, leaving one son, Sir John Gordon Sinclair, Bart.

CHARLES
FYSHE-
PALMER
(XXIV.)

I am unable to state with certainty where Mr. Charles Fyshe-Palmer resided immediately on his succeeding to his Luckley and Finchampstead property, but most probably it was at Luckley, as there was no house at that time quite suitable for him on his East Court estate. The old Manor House on Church Hill had not been occupied by its owner since Richard Palmer's death in 1670; and as it had since been used as a farmhouse for 137 years, it had most probably fallen out of repair, and would have required great alterations to adapt it to the modern requirements of a large landowner.

Mr. Fyshe-Palmer therefore appears to have decided upon adopting another house upon his estate as his future residence, and the house now known as 'East Court' was the one which he selected.

The earliest mention of this house which I have met with is in the East Court Manor Roll of 1602, and in another Court Roll of 1607, where it appears under the name of 'Cowdries,' and in the occupation of Jhon Tailor, who paid ten shillings a year for it.

Appendix,
Nos. 80,
81

JHON
(JOHN)

These small annual rents are no indication of the real value of the property which they represent. Freehold and leasehold properties on a manor were acquired by purchase, subject to a small annual payment to the lord of the manor in acknowledgment of his manorial rights. John Taylor appears to have held this property of Cowdries by leasehold for some years previously to 1602. In the floor of the centre passage

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1635

of the nave of Finchampstead Church there is a brass plate with the following inscription on it:

Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth Blighe, wife of John Blighe, Gent., daughter and heire of John Taylor of Finchamstede, Gent., deceased, who had Jane her only daughter and heire, now of the age of 5 years, which Elizabeth the XIIIII day July A.D. 1635 patiently and in the feare of God departed this fragile and troublesome life, ætatis suæ 30.

On another brass on the same grave is the figure of a female very beautifully executed, representing the mother with the young daughter by her side. At the head of this figure are the following words:

I know that Christ Jesus my Redeemer liveth, by whose merits and abundant mercies towards me I have an assured hope of everlasting salvacion.

This brass memorial has for long been an object of much interest and curiosity, and as the Court Rolls of the East Court Manor for the eighteenth century, which I have had the good fortune to find, enable us to learn something about John Bligh and John Taylor, who are named on this brass, let us first see what they tell us about them. John 'Blyth' (Bligh) appears in a West Court Manor Roll of 1623 as a 'gentleman' who was then 'occupying a messuage or tenement called East House,' containing by estimation three score acres, for which he paid the Lord of that Manor nine shillings a year; also for 'East House' lands,



West
Court
Manor
Roll of
1623.
East
House

containing by estimation twenty acres, 3s. a year. There is always very great difficulty in identifying old houses which have changed their names, and 'Cowdries' and 'East House' have been a great puzzle to me for a very long time; but I have at last been able to recognise them, respectively, as the ancestors of the present East Court House, and of what is now known as the 'Manor Farm,' close to East Court House.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1623

In the first place, it will be observed that East House in 1623 had formed part of the West Court Manor, and appears to have been held by John Bligh from the owner of that Manor subject to an annual quit-rent. In 1630 East House appears to have been transferred to the East Court Manor, and had passed into the possession of Nicholas Taylor, the father of John Taylor, as in the 'presentment' of the Court Baron of the Manor of East Court for that year, Nicholas Taylor is recorded as having 'died seized of this property,' and John Taylor is said to have been his next heir; it is further stated that John Taylor had also 'died seized of a messuage called "Whites," of the annual rent of 5s., and that Elizabeth (Bligh) his daughter was the next heir.' Elizabeth, the wife of John Bligh, thus became the owner of East House and of Whites. Nicholas, the father of John Taylor, is found in 1602 in the occupation of 'Ferretts,' a property which is mentioned under that name in several deeds in the sixteenth century, and which appears to correspond with what is now known as 'Wick Hill' farm.

1630
Appendix,
No. 83.
Court
Baron,
Item 8

Appendix,
No. 80.
B.M. Add
Chart.
38598

On the death of Elizabeth Bligh, July 14, 1635, these and other properties were inherited by her husband John Bligh, probably for life only, as the above epitaph states that her only daughter Jane was her heir. In 1655 John Bligh was 'presented' at the Court Baron as 'freed from suite, service, and relieve for "Burgess Lands" and for "Whites" by deeds of 7 Edward III. (1329-30) and 7 Edward IV. (1467-68),' which shows that 'Whites' was as old as the fourteenth century.

Appendix,
No. 85.
Court
Roll,
1655,
Item 1

In 1661 John Bligh disappears from the Court Rolls (supposed to have died), and East House is found in possession of 'Mr. Robert Morey, his wife Jane Morey having died since the last Court, and Thomas Morey was declared to be her son and next heir.' It was also stated that Robert and

Appendix,
No. 86.
Court
Baron,
1661,
Items 4
and 12

CHAP.
V

Jane Morey had alienated unto John Banister, of Finchampstead, three closes of land called 'Whites.'

A. D.

This Jane Morey was doubtless the 'Jane Blighe' shown in the brass upon her mother's tomb, represented above.

1697
Court
Roll,
1697,
Item 14.
B. M.
Add. Ch.
38614.
1728

In 1697 East House was sold by Thomas Morey to James Maynard, who is found in the Court Rolls as late as 1727 paying a yearly rent for it of 15*l.*, and in the Court Roll for 1698 it is still described as 'late Mr. Bligh's.'

In a deed of settlement made by Henry Fish-Palmer (XXII.) in 1728, the name of East House disappears, and only the names of the fields constituting the property are mentioned. In a subsequent deed, in 1786, the same description was recited, and the same property was settled by Charles Fyshe-Palmer 'the elder' (XXIII.) upon his son Charles Fyshe-Palmer (XXIV.).

This house only became the Manor farm in the early part of the present century, when the last Charles Fyshe-Palmer (XXIV.) converted the ancient Manor House on Church Hill and its farm buildings into an ordinary farm, and transferred his own private residence to the house now known as East Court. The old house called East House was replaced by the present large red-brick farmhouse by Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood, about twenty-five years ago; it was built upon the foundations of East House, and covers the excellent cellarage and a never-failing spring of the purest water which were under the old house.

Appendix,
Nos. 80,
81

We will now resume the history of East Court House, which (as is stated above at page 137) was known in 1602 and 1607 by the name of 'Cowdries,' and was then in the occupation of John Taylor, according to the East Court Manor Rolls.

John Taylor appears to have held this house and its lands for some years previously to 1602; and the old woodwork of the staircase, and the panelling which still exists, would seem to indicate that the oldest part of the present house belonged to the sixteenth century.

Appendix,
No. 82.
See HAR-
RISON'S
Pedigree.

In 1615 'Cowdries' had passed into the possession of 'Mr. Marsh,' who was no doubt the second husband of Elizabeth, widow of Richard Harrison (5), the son of Thomas

Harrison, Lord of the East Court Manor. In 1642 it is found in the possession of the Rev. Samuel Marsh, Rector of Finchampstead, son of Robert Marsh by his first marriage. In 1670 it had passed out of the possession of Robert Marsh, who was a half brother of the Rev. Samuel Marsh, into that of the Rev. Thomas Bright, who became Rector in 1660, by whom it was held until his death in December, 1682, when it passed under his Will to his 'cousin,' Thomas Bright, grandson of his brother William, subject to the life interest in it of his widow, Catherine, who married secondly Gervas German. Thomas Bright sold the property in 1687 to Bernard Eales, citizen and goldsmith of London, for 325 $\frac{1}{2}$. In the deed of sale the property is described as known by the names of 'Cowleaze,' 'Cowardres, alias Newhouse,' and the lands belonging to it consisted of :

	Acres
Four several closes of arable and pasture	16
One meadow called 'The Four Acre' and another 'The Three Acre'	8
Moorland	5
Total	29

CHAP.
V
A D. 1670
Court
Rolls of
the
Manor.
Appendix,
No. 84.
Court
Baron,
1670,
Item 5.
Court
Baron.
Appendix,
No. 88
Deeds,
March 20
and Octo-
ber 25,
1687, and
Court
Roll, 1698

Including barns, stables, gardens, orchards, commons, common of pasture, woods, underwoods, &c., belonging thereto, to be held of the chief lords of the fee thereof by the rents and services therefor due.

In 1728 this property was purchased by Henry Fish-Palmer from Bernard Eales, and was then restored to the East Court Manor. There is a further reference to the restoration of this property to the East Court estate in a deed settling the boundaries between the East and West Court Manors, dated July 30, 1736. In that deed, after tracing the boundary between East and West Court up to the south side of the churchyard, it is stated that '*the boundary proceeds from thence in a straight line directly to the Summer House at "Newhouse" lately purchased by the said Henry Fish-Palmer of Mr. Eales, and from thence down Amletts Lane to Amletts Well, and directly across the grounds from thence into the gutter that leads across Moor Green to Shortmoor Ditch, and thence in a straight line to the river.*' Here we have the name of 'Newhouse' again mentioned as the name by which the present East Court House was known in

1728
February
13

CHAP. 1687. In 1786 it is described under its old name of
 V 'Cowdres, alias Newhouse,' in a deed of settlement by
 A.D. 1785 Mr. Charles Fish-Palmer 'the elder.' After 1807 it received
 April 25 the name of 'East Court House.'

There are several old inhabitants of Finchampstead still living who can remember the old 'Summer House' alluded to in the boundary deed of 1736. It was a two-storied building, and is supposed to have been originally erected as a summer house, from which extensive and pleasant views could be obtained, but latterly it was used as a garden storehouse; it was evidently regarded as a prominent and permanent feature, or it would not have been named as a boundary landmark.

'Amletts Lane' now no longer exists. It was a green road or 'drift way,' leading from nearly opposite 'Sunnyside' (formerly 'The Hatch') across the fields to the lower Sandhurst road, near Amletts Well. The face of the East Court Manor has been so entirely changed during the last forty years, by the removal of hedges and trees, the alteration of roads, and the conversion of small holdings into larger ones, that it has become almost impossible to identify the fields and places described in ancient documents. The boundary of the two Manors of East and West Court also underwent a very great change at the time of the enclosure of Windsor Forest, in 1818, so that the boundary of 1736, described above, is now of no use except for purposes of archæology.

With regard to the origin of the name of 'Cowderies,' Miss Thoyts, of Sulhamsted Park, in 1891, drew attention to the common Berkshire name of Cordery and its various modes of spelling, *e.g.* 'Cowdrey,' 'Cowdray,' 'Corderry,' 'Corderoy,' this last being the nearest to its supposed derivation, *viz.* 'Corde du Roy,' the Corderoy having, it is said, held Padworth Manor for the service of providing ropes for the king's ship, while crossing to and from Normandy and England. In Chapter VI., p. 152, mention is made of Padworth Manor having been held by Thomas Perkins (No. VIII.) of 'Peter Cowdrie' in 1518. As Thomas Perkins owned West Court, it seems quite possible

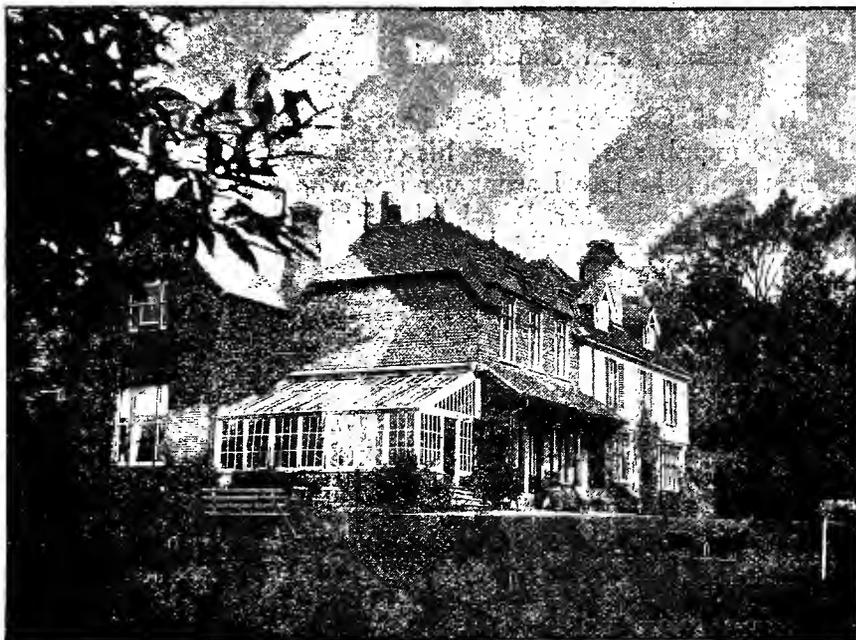
that one of the same 'Cowdrie' family may have occupied East Court House, and given it the name of 'Cowdries.'

'Cowderies' in 1660 and in 1807 was a very much smaller house than the present East Court House. On reference to a return of the 'Hearth Tax' for Finchampstead about 1662 or 1663, a copy of which will be found in the Appendix, it will be seen that it possessed only eight hearths, and this number of hearths can be accounted for in the old

CHAP.
V

A.D. 1881

Hearth
Tax, 1662
or 1663.
Appendix,
No. 66



part of the house which still remains. If we were to omit the additions which were made to it by Mr. Charles Fyshe-Palmer in the present century, and the large dining-room and some other rooms and offices which were added by Mr. John Walter in 1870, we should then see the house as it was in the sixteenth century.

We may also compare this house with West Court House, which at that period had only seven hearths; with the old Manor House on Church Hill, and with East House, both of

CHAP. V
A.D. 1881

which had eight hearths. Our ancestors two centuries ago must have been more easily satisfied than we are in the present day, if houses with such scant accommodation as these could be correctly termed 'capital messuages.'

The above representation of East Court House (from a photograph taken by Mr. F. G. Lyon in 1894) shows the house as it is at present. It originally consisted of only half of what is seen in this picture of the front of the house, namely, the three windows to the right, and the two attic windows above. The left half was added by the last Mr. Fyshe-Palmer, and considerably improved by the present occupier.

In 1818 Charles Fyshe-Palmer entered Parliament as a Liberal member for Reading, his colleague being Mr. Lefevre, the father of the late Lord Eversley, who was returned at the head of the poll. Mr. Weyland, of Hawthorn Hill, was the unsuccessful Tory candidate on that occasion.

In 1820, on the death of King George III., there was another general election, when Monck was returned at the head of the poll (418), Palmer, second (399), Weyland, Tory (394).

In 1826 came perhaps the severest electioneering contest that Reading has ever known. After six days' polling Monck had polled 580, Spence 492, Palmer 488, Wakefield 366. A scrutiny ensued, which resulted, in March 1827, in Palmer being declared to have polled 481, while Spence had only polled 458. Monck and Palmer were therefore returned as duly elected. This election is said to have cost, together with the scrutiny, about 20,000*l.* There were great rejoicings in Reading on the occasion.

In 1830, on the death of George IV., another general election took place. Mr. Monck retired, and Mr. Charles Russell, of Swallowfield, became a candidate, together with Mr. C. Fyshe-Palmer and Dr. Lushington. The election resulted in the return of Palmer (522), Russell (471), Lushington (452).

In 1831 the Reform Bill came before the House of Commons, and it was carried by a majority of one only, which was too small a majority upon which the House of

Lords could be expected to accept the Bill ; another general election was therefore called for. Mr. Fyshe-Palmer and Mr. Charles Russell were returned without opposition. The Reform Bill was carried by a large majority in the House of Commons, and was then accepted by the House of Lords.

CHAP.
V
A.D. 1831

At the next general election, in 1835, Mr. Fyshe-Palmer retired, but in July 1837, on Queen Victoria succeeding to the throne, he once more offered himself and was returned at the head of the poll, Serjeant Talfourd second, and Mr. C. Russell lowest.

Mr. C. Fyshe-Palmer finally retired from Parliament at the end of the year 1837.

Mr. Palmer appears to have been very fond of his East Court Manor, and carefully preserved all the fine timber on the estate. He was the first owner who began to plant the Scotch fir trees upon the wild heath lands and commons of the Manor, a practice which was extensively followed by his successor, the late Mr. John Walter. He died in January 1842. Lady Madelina Fyshe-Palmer died in 1847; they were both buried at Finchampstead. Sir John Gordon Sinclair, the son of Lady Madelina by her first marriage, succeeded to the East Court property, and sold it on November 7, 1849, to Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood, who thus became its twenty-seventh possessor since the division of the Manor in the thirteenth century.

It is remarkable that the East and West Court Manors passed through the possession of almost the same number of owners in the same period. Since Mr. Fyshe-Palmer's death in 1842, East Court House has been occupied by Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Macnabb, General Bentinck (the father of the present Duke of Portland), and at present by the collector of these 'Chronicles of Finchampstead.'





CHAPTER VI

The West Court Manor

CHAP
VI

A.D.
1306-7



THE table on page 148 will exhibit the descent of the West Court moiety of the Manor from 1306 down to 1560; each owner being numbered consecutively for convenience of reference in the narrative.

The origin of the Manor will be found in Chapter IV.

Peter de la Hoese married Agatha, daughter of the last Sir William Banastre, and seems to have been a cousin of John de la Hoese, who married Constance, the sister of Agatha.

It appears from a Post-mortem Inquisition on the death of Peter de la Hoese, in 1306-7, that he held the house and lands of West Court through the inheritance of his wife, Agatha, from Robert Achard, the chief lord (V.),¹ by the service of half a knight's fee, and that his son Peter de la Hoese, who was then twenty-four years of age, was the next heir to the estate.

The property is described in this P.M. Inquisition, which is in Latin, as follows:—

¹ The Roman numerals after the names of the chief lords of the fee refer to the list of chief lords, No. 1 in the Appendix.

1306-7
Chanc.
Inq.
P.M.
35 Edw. I.
No. 30

One capital message, which is valued at	2	0	per ann.	CHAP. VI
80 acres of arable land, which are worth the price per acre being 3 <i>d.</i>	20	0	" "	A.D. 1306-7
4 acres of meadow, which are worth the value per acre being 6 <i>d.</i>	2	0	" "	
3 acres of separate pasture, worth the value per acre being 6 <i>d.</i>	1	6	" "	
Certain common pasture, worth	1	0	" "	
10 acres of wood, the produce of which is worth as underwood, the value per acre being 3 <i>d.</i>	2	6	" "	
Total ann. value	29	0		
And there are also	64	4	rents receivable from free tenants quarterly, and	
villeins is worth	49	10	from villeins at the same period, and the labour of the	
	114	2		
	43	5		
	157	7		

The sum total of the whole being 9*l.* 6*s.* 7½*d.* per ann. (thus in orig.).

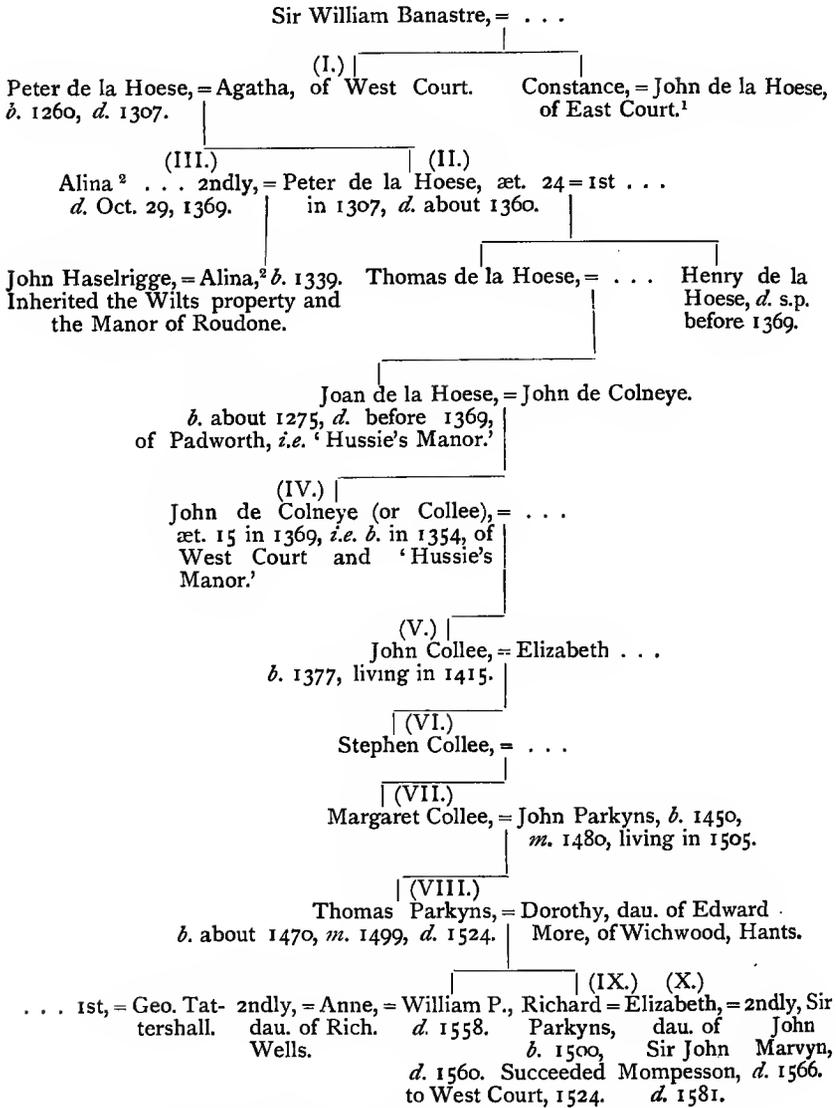
Here we have the earliest record of the extent of the West Court moiety of the Manor as it existed in 1306-7.

It will be observed that no mention is made in the above of the Mill, which the Domesday return showed as part of the original Manor. It is therefore presumed that at this period it had been severed from the original Manor of Finchampstead, either by the last Sir William Banastre, or by an ancestor of his, and had been transferred to a junior branch of his family, as the Mill is found subsequently in possession of the Banastre family, who resided at the house known in modern times as 'Banisters,' 'Hatch Farm,' and 'The Hatch,' which property was held by them under the chief lords of the fee, who were owners of Aldermaston. (See Chapter VII. on 'Banisters.') In the P.M. Inquisition above referred to there is a further statement, dated February 24 at Chippenham, that the same Peter de la Huse (so spelt in writ) held the Manor of Roudone of the King in chief, 'ad feode firmam,' by service of yielding therefor 7*l.* 10*s.* for all service ('Que quidem firma assignata est p dñm Regem Dñe Regine').

35 Edw.
I. No. 30
1306-7.
Variously
spelt in
different
deeds as
'Rowe-
done,'
'Rughe-
done,'
'Ruch-
done.'
1306

A capital message with garden and curtilage, 4*s.* ; a dove-house, 2*s.* per ann. ; sum 6*s.* Total paid to the Queen, 7*l.* 10*s.*

CHAP.
VI



¹ For descent of the East Court Manor, see Chapter V.
² Sometimes read as Alicia.

The possession by the family of De la Hoese (or Huse) for many generations, of the Manor of Rowdone, in Wilts, as also of several other estates in the same county, *e.g.* Parva Sutton, Stapleford, Ficheldon, Sydecumb, Chippenham, &c., forms conclusive evidence of the descent of this family from Walter Hosatus, of Domesday, until the fourteenth century, and also of the descent of Peter de la Hoese, of the West Court Manor, and of John de la Hoese, of the East Court Manor of Finchampstead, from the same family; but the references to the authorities for this statement are too numerous for mention here.

CHAP.
VI.

A.D.
1306-7

Peter de la Hoese succeeded to the West Court moiety of the Manor on the death of his father in 1307, when he was twenty-four years of age. In 1311, and again in 1317, he conjointly with John de la Hoese (Hoese), of East Court, who is described as his cousin (cognatus) or kinsman, presented to the Rectory of Finchampstead. On his death about 1360, his second wife Alina (III.) succeeded to the West Court property, and held it for her life under Sir Thomas de la Mare (No. X.), the chief lord of the fee, until 1369, she having been jointly enfeoffed with her husband, Peter de la Hoese.

1307.
Feet of
Fines, B.
9 Edw.
III.
No. 10
1335.
Chanc.
Inq. P.M.
43 Edw.
III. Pt. 1,
No. 51,
Jan. 18,
1369-70

The Manor was then said to have been 'worth by the year in all issues ten pounds.' Alina¹ (III.) died October 29, 1369, and 'John de Colneye (IV.), aged fifteen years, son and heir of Joan de Colneye, daughter and heir of Thomas de la Hoese, son and heir of the said Peter (II.), was declared to be her heir.'

Sometimes
read as
Alicia.
1369

Thomas de la Hoese and his daughter, Joan de Colneye, did not survive Alina (III.), and consequently did not obtain possession of West Court, which therefore came to John de Colneye (IV.), son of Joan de la Hoese and her husband, John de Colneye.

John de Colneye (IV.), being under twenty-one years of age, became the ward of Sir Thomas de la Mare, the chief lord, who, according to the feudal laws in such cases, assumed the

¹ Peter de la Hoese on his second marriage with Alina settled his Wiltshire property, including 'the Manor of Rowdone,' on the issue of this marriage, which seems to be referred to in the following note in Wilts P.M. Inq.: 'Alina, dau. of the aforesaid Peter and Alina, and wife of John Hazelrigge, aged thirty and more, is next heir to aforesaid Alina, "per forma" the above-mentioned gift.'

CHAP.
VI

A.D. 1369

'Guardianship in Chivalry,' as it was called, of the young heir, which consisted in taking the custody of the heir and of his lands, without rendering any account of the profits, as the law regarded the young heir as incapable of performing knight's service until he was twenty-one: on his attaining that age he could obtain possession of his lands. An 'Inquisitio post mortem' was held by itinerant justices before a jury of the county, to ascertain the profits to the Crown by the first-fruits of tenure, and to grant the heir his 'livery,' as it was termed. When the heir came of full age he was to receive the order of knighthood, and was obliged to take it or else to pay a fine. John de Colneye (IV.) would not therefore have entered into his inheritance until the year 1375, when he succeeded to the West Court property as heir of his great-grandfather, Peter de la Hoese (II.), and Alina his second wife (III.).

1375

He appears to have lost no time in entering into matrimony also, as in 1377 he is stated to have had a son and heir born to him, John de Colney, or Collee (V.), who was only six years old when his father died in 1383, so that he also then became the ward of the chief lords of the fee, who during his minority were Sir Thomas de la Mare (No. X.) and Sir Robert de la Mare (XI.).

Chanc.
Inq. P.M.
6 Ric. II.
No. 25,
1382-83,
and 10
Ric. II.
No. 110,
1387.
1398

John Colney (No. V.) attained his majority in 1398, and entered upon his West Court property. He married Elisabeth, whose surname is not recorded: but she appears to have been related to the family of Parkins, of Ufton, for particulars of which reference may be made to page 41 of Miss Sharpe's 'History of Ufton Court.'

John de Colney (V.), or Collee, as the name was usually spelt at this time, inherited from his grandmother, Joan de la Hoese, a Manor in the parish of Padworth, called 'Hussie's Manor,' the name being supposed to be a corruption of Hoese.

1415

In 1415, August 15, John and Elisabeth Collee presented to the Rectory of Finchampstead, and twice before had John Collee's trustees,¹ Philip Baynard and Roger atte

¹ The deed by which Roger atte Felde, Ph. Baynard, and John Cholsey were appointed trustees describes 'John Colney' as 'John de Colle, of Padeworth,' and

Felde, presented for him during his minority in 1391 and 1395.

CHAP.
VI

On the death of John (V.) and Elisabeth Collee the West Court moiety of the Manor and its moiety of the advowson, together with 'Hussie's Manor' in Padworth, was inherited by Stephen Collee (No. VI.), of whom all that is known is that he presented to the Rectory of Finchampstead on October 29, 1455, and all his property descended to Margaret Collee (VII.), owner of West Court.

A.D. 1455

About 1480 Margaret Collee (No. VII.) married John Parkyns, Lord of the Manor of Ufton Robard, whose grandfather, William Parkyns, had been the first Lord of that Manor, and a near relation of Elisabeth, the wife of John Collee (No. V.).

1480.
Miss
SHARPE,
'Hist. of
Ufton
Court'

The family of Parkyns (or Perkins) is of great antiquity, dating from the end of the fourteenth century, and extending down to the nineteenth; and in addition to the Manor of Ufton and the advowson of its parish church, they became, by marriage with the descendants of the Collee and Hoese family, the owners of the West Court moiety of the Manor of Finchampstead, and of the advowson of its church also, and held this latter property for six generations, from 1480 until nearly the end of the seventeenth century.¹

John Parkyns (No. VII.) presented, in right of his wife, to the Rectory of Finchampstead in 1487, and again in 1505, which is the latest date at which any record of him can be found. His wife, Margaret Parkyns, probably survived him and was living in 1518; as, from a Chancery Inquisition P.M. taken on July 15 in that year, it appears that on November 6, 10 Henry VIII. (1518), she executed a deed whereby she settled her West Court estate on trust for her own use during the remainder of her life, and for three years after her death to perform her last Will, and 'then for the use' of her son, Thomas Parkyns (No. VIII.) and his heirs.

Chanc.
P.M.
Inq.
17 Hen.
VIII.
No. 33.
1525

his descendants appear to have retained the name of Collee. The family are said to have come from Colney (Collee, Coley), near Reading.

¹ Lysons, in his *Magna Britannia*, is clearly in error in stating that 'the property of the Colneys was afterwards in the Pakenhams.' The Colneys or Collees owned West Court; the Pakenhams owned East Court through the Foxleys and Warbletons. (See Chapter V. on 'East Court.')

CHAP.
VI

A.D. 1499
Appendix,
No. 1

Charter
dated
July 13,
10 Hen.
VIII.
1518.
Inq.
July 15,
17 Hen.
VIII.
1525.
Chanc.
Inq. P.M.
17 Hen.
VIII.
No. 33

Husseys
in Eschea-
tor's Inq.

See
Pedigrees,
pp. 148,
153, 159

Feet of
Fines,
Berkshire,
1533 and
1537.
See
Pedigree,
ante

This estate is stated to have been then worth by the year (clear) 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and was held of Sir George Forster as of his Manor of Aldermaston.

Thomas Parkyns (No. VIII.) married, about the year 1499, Dorothy, daughter of Edward More, of Wichwood, Hants, and on the death of his parents inherited in addition to the West Court property certain lands in Woolhampton and Aldermaston, which had been settled upon Edward More, the father of Dorothy, his wife. He was also possessed in fee tail of '*the Manor of Ufton Robard, together with the advowson of the church of that parish, also a moiety of three messuages, &c. in Borwardsote, Sneeswicke, Westonwike, Pynnokeswike, and Ufton Robard. He was also seized in fee tail of one messuage, and one virgate with woods, waters and fisheries in Benham, Bradfelde, and Ufton.*

'*Five messuages and five virgates of land in Padworth; two messuages and two and a half virgates of land called Pangburn stande, in Ufton Nervit.*

'*One messuage and one virgate of land in Sellamstede (Sulhamstead) Abbot.*'

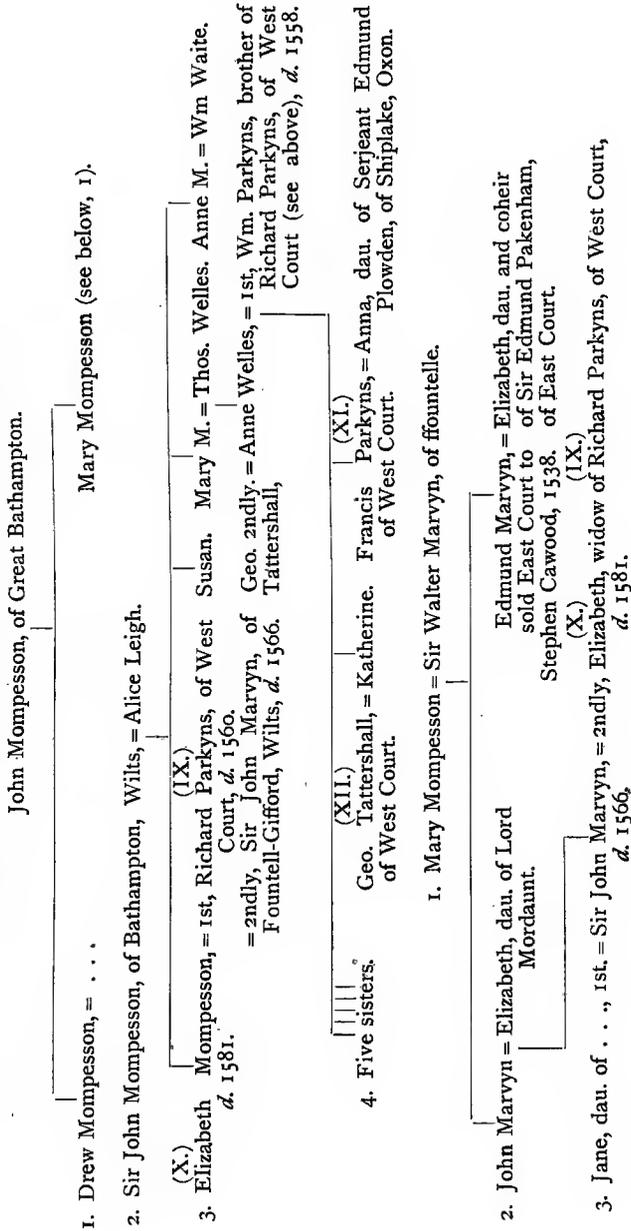
The Manor of Padworth, called 'Hussie's Manor,' inherited by Thomas Parkyns, was held of Peter Cowdrie as of his Manor of Padworth, called Cowdrie's Manor, by fealty, and 6*s.* 8*d.* for all services, and was worth by the year (clear) 100*s.*

Thomas and Dorothy Parkyns had seven children. Thomas (VIII.) died August 16, 1524, and Richard Parkyns (IX.), his eldest son, aged twenty-four years, was declared to be his next heir, and inherited all his father's property.

Richard Parkyns (IX.) was born A.D. 1500, and married Elisabeth, daughter and coheir with her three sisters of Sir John Mompesson, of Bathampton, Wiltshire. They had no children; they therefore settled the West Court estate and its moiety of the advowson, and also the Manor of Ufton Robard and the advowson of that church and other property on their nephew, Francis Parkyns (XI.), son of William and Anne Parkyns, reserving to Richard Parkyns and his wife Elisabeth a life interest in those properties.

The West Court property is described in 1537 as con-

TABLE SHOWING THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE MOMPESON, MARVYN, PARKYNS, PAKENHAM, AND TATTERSHALL FAMILIES.



CHAP. VI
A.D. 1560

sisting of 2 messuages, 20 acres of land, 5 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 300 acres of wood, 60 acres of furze and heath, and 60s. rent, with appurtenances in Finchampstead and half the advowson, showing an increase of one messuage and 308 acres in the extent of the Manor since 1306-7.

Richard Parkyns died in 1560, and was buried in the parish church of Ufton. His widow, Elisabeth Parkyns, married, secondly, Sir John Marvyn, of Fountell-Gifford, Wilts, who was her second cousin.

In 1564 Lady Marvyn and her husband, Sir John Marvyn, conjointly presented to the Rectory of Finchampstead. Sir John Marvyn died in 1566. He was the owner of extensive property in Wilts, all of which he bequeathed to his widow Elizabeth, who in 1568 purchased a small Manor in Ufton, known as 'Pole Manor.' Miss Sharpe in her 'History of Ufton Court' appears to have established the fact that the house which Elizabeth, Lady Marvyn, built on 'Pole Manor' is the same as is now known as 'Ufton Court.'

'History
of Ufton
Court,'
1892,
p. 67

Elizabeth, Lady Marvyn, died in 1581, and bequeathed the property in Wilts which she had acquired from her second husband, Sir John Marvyn, as well as her property in Ufton, Berks, called 'Pole Manor,' to her nephew Francis Parkyns (XI.), who also then became the owner of West Court Manor and moiety of the advowson. The initials 'F.P.' are still to be seen on the iron guttering of Ufton Court, marking that house as having been the residence of this Francis Parkyns or of his son Francis. I must here introduce an account of a somewhat outrageous occurrence in 1534, for the particulars of which we are indebted to Miss Sharpe, of Ufton Court, who has exhumed them from the records of the Star Chamber. The occasion of it seems to have been a long-standing dispute between the Parkyns family and Sir Humphrey Foster, of Aldermaston, as to fealty or service, which he claimed as tenant *in capite* of the Manor of Padworth, but which the Parkyns family refused to acknowledge.

Sir Humphrey Foster was Sheriff of Berkshire and Oxfordshire, and fourteenth chief Lord of Finchampstead as well as of Aldermaston ; and the occurrence serves to illustrate the rough manners of those times :

' On the Xth day of Juyn, in the XXVth yere of King Henry VIII.'s most noble Reigne (1534), betwene the houres of V & VI of the clok, did the saide Sir Humfrey with his servants, X in number, wt Force & armes, that is to wit, wt bowes, arrowes, swords, Bucklers, daggers, & long Javelyns, & other wepons, come to the duelling of Frauncis Pkyns, of Padworth, besetting & compassing the saide house wt his s'vants aforesaide. And he, the saide Sir Humfrey, forsbly entred into the hall of the house, & thanne & there founde Frauncis sitting upon a stole in the hall bokeling of his shoes, & Sir Humfrey thanne & there made assaute & a Frey upon Frauncis, saying unto hym these words: " What, thou arraunt knave! art thou there?" and wt those words toke hym by the hed and gave hym many grete & stang blowes wt his Fist & violently & maliciously hym cast unto the grounde & knocked & brake hys hed against the harth of the heyborne. By reason of the blow grete plentye & abundaunce of blud descended from his hed & face upon his body, untill suche tyme that Anne, the wyffe of the saide Frauncis, founde Sir Humfrey furiously treding her husbonde under his Fete, & further-more, wolde have slayne hym yf that Anne had not piteously & lamentably kneling upon hur knes in hur Smok by a long season intreated Sir Humfrey to wtdraw his malicious purpose, Rancor, & malice; & Sir Humfrey thanne and there Riotously toke the saide Frauncis wt force & ageinst his will led hym as a prisoner & hym brought unto the dwelling-house of Richard Parkyns, his Brother, at Ufton Robt. And Sir Humfrey Riotously entred into the house betwene the houres of VI & VII of the Clok in the mornyng of the same day, Richard his wyffe and straungers thanne being in the house at that houre and tyme, being set to Brekefast in the Chamber where Richard, hys wyffe, & children accustomably were wont to lye; the saide Sir Humfrey at his entring demaunded of one of the s'vants where his Maister was, the s'vant making answeere ageyne that his Mr. was in his chamber, & wt those wordes the s'vant hastely retorned into the chamber, and or he coude pleyntly Notyfie unto his Maister the comynge of Sir Humfrey, the same Sir Humfrey, wt VIII of his s'vants, sodenly entred into the chamber, having their wepons & speres in their

CHAP.
VI

A.D. 1534

CHAP.
VI
A.D. 1534

hands assauting & making affray upon Richard; saying these wordes: "Parkyns, I cannot be in Rest for the & thy blud;" & wt that, toke Richard by the ere & by the here of the hed, the saide Richard & the straungers, then there being, Holding their Cappes in their hands, supposing Sir Humfrey at his first comyng to have come theder to none evill intent, the saide Richard desiring Sir Humfrey gentely to wtdrawe his handes from his hed, & saying he never did unto hym any displeasure whereby he shulde thus handyll hym, & affermyng of that sayinge one Willam More, gent, then being in the house, who saide these wordes unto Sir Humfrey: "Sir, I dare depose upon a boke that Richard Parkyns nor no'on of his s'vants, never did you displeasure:" & at these wordes, Sir Humfrey being passed all reason, & wt Malice & Rancor thrust Willam More in the brest wt grete violence wt his Fist, & incontynent thrust hym ageyne, so that by force he was feyne to Recale abbake upon a table borde, & wt that Sir Humfrey drew oute his sworde & wolde have stryken therwt Willam or Richard if that Elizabeth, wyffe of Richard, had not taken Sir Humfrey by both the Armes & so helde hym wt piteous & lamentable cryinge unto such tyme Sir Humfrey commanded one of his s'vants to take his sworde. And thenne he sware by Godde's blud, his hart, & other abhomynable & terrible othes, that he wolde make Richard & his brethren that the grounde they went on shulde burne there fete & that ev'y birde that flieth oute of a busshe, he and they shulde thinke to be a Sprite, & also he swore depely that he wolde hew hym & them as small as flesshe to the pot. And thus departed thens leding & dryving Riotously Frauncis lyke a prisoner afore hym unto his manor of Aldermaston, & thus kept & Imprisoned hym in one chamber, lokked by the space of all that day & the next nyght following.'

The jury men before whom the case was heard at the Quarter Sessions at Okingham (Wokingham) could not agree in their verdict, and the case was therefore remitted to the Star Chamber for final adjudication, but the result has not been disclosed. Among the magistrates before whom the case was tried was Hugh, the last Abbot of Reading Monastery,

who suffered martyrdom at the time of its dissolution in 1539, five years after the occurrence related above.

Francis Parkyns (XI.) succeeded to the West Court property, and several other estates in Berks and Wilts, on the death of his aunt, Elisabeth, Lady Marvyn (X.), in 1581; he married Anna, daughter of Serjeant Edmund Plowden, of Shiplake, Oxfordshire, and had two sons and two daughters.

Francis Parkins, whose name about this time began to be spelt *Perkins*, may be noticed here chiefly in connection with his firm adherence to the Roman Catholic faith. He was one of those who became subject to the various penal enactments against Papists and recusants during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The statutes against Papists were very numerous and severe.

If any English priest of the Church of Rome came to England from beyond sea, or tarried in England three days without conforming to the Church of England, he was guilty of high treason.

If the children of Papists were educated at home, and the schoolmaster did not repair to church, the parents were liable to forfeit 10*l.* a month, and the schoolmaster 40*s.* a day. If they sent their children abroad for education, they were liable to forfeit 100*l.*, and the children so sent were disabled from inheriting, purchasing, or enjoying any lands, tenements, or other profits.

Patrons of livings who were Roman Catholics were disabled from presenting—a law which remains in force until the present time.

In 1584, if any priest of the Church of Rome was found within the realm after the expiration of forty days, he might be adjudged guilty of high treason.

All persons who refused to take the oath of supremacy, or to conform to the rules and ceremonies of the Church of England as by law established, were, under several statutes passed in the earlier part of Elizabeth's reign, subject to various penalties for such 'recusancy,' as it was termed, no distinction being made between Papists and other Noncon-

CHAP.
VI

A. D. 1588

formists, and absence from church alone, unaccompanied by any other act, was sufficient to constitute such 'recusancy.'

In the thirty-fifth year of Elizabeth a statute was passed against Popish recusants as distinguished from Protestant recusants, by which the former were punishable by a fine of 20*l.* for every month during which they absented themselves from church, and by disabilities of various kinds; and if, within three months of their conviction as Popish recusants, they declined to submit and renounce their religious opinions, they might be required by four justices to quit the realm.

Miss
SHARPE'S
'Hist. of
Ufton
Court,'
1892

The Parkyns family were staunch Roman Catholics, and in their house at Ufton was concealed a priest, to whose ministrations several members of the family secretly resorted. They became objects of suspicion and persecution; and as informers were entitled to half the fines, we can easily imagine that the lives of the family were carefully watched, and accusations made against them.

The house was searched by justices of the peace, who failed to discover either the hiding-place of the priest or anything to bring the family within the power of the law, except that 'Perkins' was a 'recusant.' The hiding-place of the priest is still to be seen on the second floor of Ufton Court. Two boards in the floor were removable, and secured below by wooden bolts.

Miss
SHARPE'S
'Hist. of
Ufton
Court,'
p. 96

In a document purporting to have been an information laid against several persons named as occasional inmates of Francis Perkins's house at Ufton, two Mrs. Tottersolls (Tattershalls) and a Mr. Edward Tottersoll (Tattershall) are mentioned. This document, though not dated, bears evident proof that it must have been drawn up in or about 1586. One of these Mrs. Tattershalls was, doubtless, Anne, the widow of William Perkyns, who had married, secondly, in 1562, George Tattershall (whom, for convenience, we will call No. 1, as we are now about to speak of *four* George Tattershalls); the other was Katherine, the daughter of William and Anne Perkyns, who had married another George Tattershall (No. 2). Mr. Edward Tottersoll (Tattershall) was probably a son of George Tattershall (No. 1) and Anne, his wife; but in the

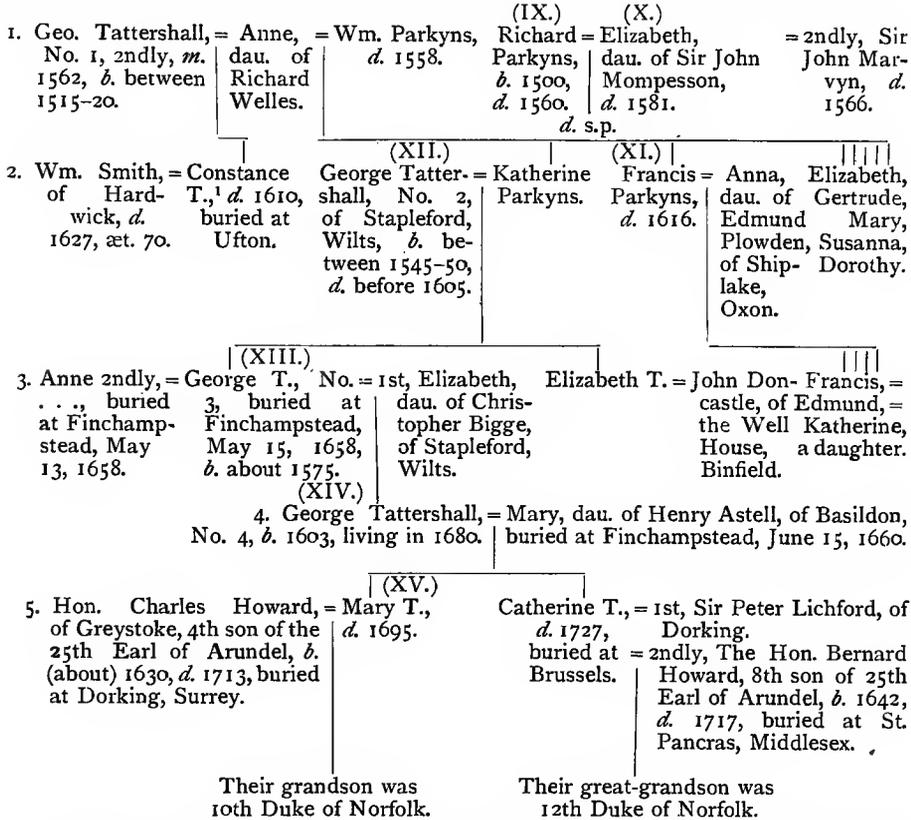
Tatter-
shall,
see
Pedigree,
p. 159

absence of more conclusive evidence he has not been shown in the family pedigree.

CHAP.
VI

TATTERSHALL PEDIGREE.

Showing descent of the West Court Manor from 1524 to 1704, in continuation of table at page 148.



¹ In *Visitation of Berks*, 1664, Add. MSS. 14284, fol. 39; British Museum, Harl. MSS. 1530 and 1483, the name is spelt 'Tetershall'; also Constance Tattershall, the wife of Wm. Smith, is stated to have been daughter of George Tattershall, No. 2; but for reasons given in Miss Sharpe's *Hist. of Ufton*, p. 185, it seems more probable she was daughter of Geo. T., No. 1. Arms: Sab. a \blacktriangle betw. 3 tigers or. See also Ashmole Lib. Oxon. (MS. 851).

The Tateshalls, or Tattershalls, were descended from a Norman family who obtained the lordship of Tateshall, in the county of Lincoln, one of whom, in 1139, founded the Cistercian abbey of Kirkstead, near Tateshall. His descendants

CHAP. VI
A.D. 1588

were considerable landowners in various parts of England (see Burke's 'Landed Gentry'). Robert Tattershall purchased the estate of Hilden, near Tunbridge, in 1495, which was held by his family for several generations, and was then sold by one John Tattershall.

In Burke's 'Landed Gentry' George Tattershall (No. 2), of Stapleford, Wilts, is described as successor to this John Tattershall, and as having 'married Katherine, daughter of Francis Perkins, of Ufton, and purchased the estate of Finchampstead, Berks.'

This does not appear to be correct. As stated above, George Tattershall (No. 1) married, in 1562, Anne, widow of William Perkyns, and there is strong reason for believing that, by a former marriage, he was the father of George Tattershall (No. 2), who married 'Katherine, daughter of . . . Perkins, of Ufton, Berks' (as described in the 'Visitation of Berks,' 1664-65), who was really the daughter of William and Anne Perkins, and not of Francis Perkins, their son.

There were two ladies named Katherine Perkins : one was the daughter of William and Anne Perkins, of Ufton, the other was the daughter of Francis Perkins (son of William and Anne), and therefore granddaughter of William and Anne Perkins. Francis, son of William and Anne Perkins, was born between 1545 and 1556 : his son Francis was born in 1586, and therefore, had Katherine been his daughter, it is not likely that she could have been born earlier than 1584, in which case she certainly could not have been Mrs. George Tattershall (No. 2) in 1586.

Katherine Tattershall was doubtless the daughter of William and Anne Perkins. The date of her marriage cannot be found ; but it is scarcely possible that it could have been later than 1575, and most probably it was much earlier. She is shown above as Mrs. George Tattershall in 1586. William Perkins was younger than his brother Richard, who was born in 1500, and therefore William could not have been born earlier than 1501 ; he died in 1558, leaving one son, Francis, and five daughters, the eldest of whom was Katherine ; a sixth daughter, Dorothy, was born after her father's death. George Tattershall (No. 2), who married Katherine

Wills of
William
and
Richard
Perkins,
Chancery
Bills,
Chas. I.
T.T. 11,
No. 51,
May 2,
1642

Perkins, was in 1584 seized in fee of the Manor 'or Lordship of Finchampstead West Court, and of a watermill and divers lands in Finchampstead belonging to the said Manor.'

CHAP.
VI
A.D. 1584

George Tattershall, No. 4, was born in March, 1603. Assuming he was the eldest son, of which there is no doubt, his father, No. 3, may have married about 1601-2; and as early marriages were usual in those times, he might then have been about twenty-five years old, or born not later than 1576; this would make the marriage of No. 2 not later than 1575, and probably it was earlier.

'Visitation of Berks,' 1664

This property¹ was purchased in 1584 from Francis Perkins (XI.), who had inherited it in 1581 from his uncle, Richard Perkins (IX.), and his aunt, Elizabeth, Lady Marvyn (X.), who died in that year. Francis Perkins at this time appears to have been residing upon his Wiltshire property, in the parish of Steeple Langford, the next parish to Stapleford, where the Tattershalls are described as possessing property.

Francis Perkins had also inherited Pole Manor, or Ufton Court, in 1581, as already mentioned. It would therefore seem natural that he should have been willing to part with his West Court property to his brother-in-law for the benefit of his sister.

West Court at this period appears to have been let on lease to Thomas Harrison, of East Court, on his succeeding to that Manor on the death of Henry Hinde.

The Tattershalls, like the Parkynses of Ufton, were staunch Roman Catholics, as is shown by their resorting to Ufton for the ministrations of the Roman Catholic priest; while Finchampstead at this period seems to have been under strong Protestant or Puritanical influence.

¹ In a Chancery suit between Dancastle *v.* Tattersall, November 22, 1605, it is stated in the pleadings of George Tattersall and Christopher Biggs, the defendants, that George Tattersall, the father, in or about 'the sixe and twentieth yeare of the raigne of our late Soveraigne Ladie Queene Elizabeth [*i.e.* 1584] did purchase and buye the Mannor of Weste Courte, alias Finchampstead West Court,' with the Advowson of the Church of Finchampstead and divers messuages, &c., which Manor, lands, &c., the father by fine and recovery or other lawful conveyance entailed to uses, &c. It is further stated that 'George Tattersall (the father) died some years past.'

Chancery Bills, Jas. I. D. 6, No. 52. Nov. 22, 1605

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VI

A.D. 1584
T.T. 11,
No. 51,
Chancery
Bills and
Answer,
Chas. I.
May 2,
1642, and
June 27,
1642

The Tattershalls are described as of Stapleford, in Wilts. The property which they held in Stapleford consisted of the Manor of Stapleford and four messuages and divers other lands and tenements in Southington, Wilts ; also a twenty-one years' lease of the Rectory impropriate of Stapleford (except presentation of Vicarage, &c.), which they held at the yearly rent of 14*l.* from the Dean and Canons of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, under which lease they had to pay a yearly stipend of 12*l.* to the Vicar.

In 1642 the lease of Stapleford Rectory had to be renewed, and George Tattershall, No. 3, agreed with George Tattershall, No. 4, to sell timber growing on the West Court Manor in the wood called 'The Frieth,' and in Westwood Coppice and Westwood Common, to the value of 200*l.*, towards raising the sum of 700*l.* required as the fee for renewal.

The family of Tattershall have long since ceased to possess any property in Stapleford. The late Incumbent of that parish informed me that the name is unknown in Stapleford, and does not appear in any of their registers, and that there are no monuments in either church or churchyard to their memory.

George Tattershall, No. 3, son of No. 2, described in the Finchampstead register of deaths as 'the elder,' inherited West Court on the death of his father, which event occurred 'some years' before 1605 (as stated above), and married, about 1601, Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher Bigge, of Stapleford, Wilts, by whom he had one son, George Tattershall, No. 4 (of whom presently), and one daughter, Mary, who married John Lyford, of Berks. He married, secondly, Anne . . . , who died in 1658, and was buried in Finchampstead on May 13, and he himself was buried in Finchampstead on May 15 in the same year. It is not positively known whether there were any children by the second marriage of George Tattershall, No. 3, but it has been suggested that he had a son, John Tattershall, who became the father of the Rev. John Tattershall, Rector and Lord of the Manor of Chipstead, Surrey, from whom were descended John and James Tattershall, who became owners of Upper and Lower Gatton, in Surrey, and other estates.

George Tattershall, No. 4 (XIV.), son of No. 3, who was

born in 1603 and is described as 'the younger,' succeeded his father as owner of West Court in 1658. He married, in 1623, Mary, only daughter and heir of Henry Astell, or Awstell, then of Wallingford, afterwards of Basledon, Berks. He had two daughters, Mary and Catharine. Mary, the elder, married the Hon. Charles Howard, of Graystoke, the fourth son of Henry Frederick Howard, the twenty-fifth Earl of Arundel. Catharine, the younger, married the Hon. Bernard Howard, the eighth son of the same Earl.

The Recusant Rolls in the Public Record Office contain much interesting information between the years 1588 and 1684 respecting the Tattershalls, and other Berkshire families who suffered heavy penalties for their religion during that period. George Tattershall, No. 3, 'the elder,' as he is described in the Exchequer Rolls, forfeited his lands in Finchampstead in 1635 to the Crown, and obtained a lease of them for twenty-one years by paying an annual rent, 'because he went not to any church, chapel, or usual place of common prayer,' and because 'he made default in payment of 20*l.* a month for his recusancy.' He subsequently compounded for his penalties and recovered possession of his estate. George Tattershall, No. 4, 'the younger,' is also found among the recusants. Both he and his daughters were strict Roman Catholics. Lysons in his 'History of Berkshire' tells us that the West Court Manor became the property of the Hon. Charles Howard on his marriage with Mary, the eldest daughter of George Tattershall, No. 4 (XIV.). George Tattershall's wife died in 1660, and was buried in Finchampstead on June 15 in that year. It is remarkable that there is no tombstone nor other memorial of her or of any of the Tattershall family in either the church or churchyard. I can only conjecture that the family tomb may have been in the chancel of Finchampstead Church, and that, as the floor of the chancel was raised one step in 1855,¹ it is possible that any record of the family on the old floor of the chancel may have been thus concealed from view.

What became of George Tattershall after the marriage of

¹ Memorandum by G. Edmund Street, architect, May 5, 1855. MS. Top. Berks, C. 14 (Clark's Coll.), Bodleian Library.

CHAP.
VI
A.D. 1623

Lans
downe
MSS.
14284,
fo. 39,
Brit. Mus.
Chancery
Bills,
Chas. I.
T.T. 11,
No. 51

L.T.R.
Patent
Roll,
13 Chas.
I, part 39
(original
in Latin)

Royalist
Composi-
tion
Papers,
First
Series,
vol. 82,
fol. 671.
Second
Series,
vol. 54,
fol. 323

CHAP.
VI

A.D. 1680

his daughters I have not been able to discover. Probably, after his wife's death, he left Finchampstead for some other place where he could have the ministrations of a Roman Catholic priest, which would not have been possible for him at West Court. He appears to have been living as late as 1680-81, as his name is found in a deed¹ of that year.

Appendix,
No. 71

I have not been able to discover the date of the marriage of Charles and Mary Howard. Marriages celebrated by Roman Catholic priests at this period were not registered, from fear of the penalties attaching to them. Charles Howard (XV.) was certainly in possession of West Court in 1666, as a license was granted to him in that year, on October 14, by John Viscount Mordaunt, 'Constable of the honor and castle of Windlesore, and keeper of the forest,' to cut down and sell sixty oak trees within the Manor of West Court. It does not seem probable that Charles Howard and his wife resided for any length of time at West Court. The services of the parish church of Finchampstead would have been unsuitable for them; and as he could not have exercised the right of a patron of the advowson, being a Roman Catholic, it would have been only natural if he took the earliest opportunity of selling the property. His wife died in 1695, and she was buried at Dorking, where we may conclude they were then both living. Accordingly, we find that in 1704 Charles Howard sold the West Court Manor and its moiety of the advowson to Mr. James Goodyer. Charles Howard was one of eight children, and was born between the years 1630 and 1641. His father, Henry Frederick, twenty-fifth Earl of Arundel, who died in 1652 at Arundel House in the Strand, had succeeded the previous Earl only in 1646, and was much impoverished by reason of the Parliament having taken possession of the great estates of the family, and the Earl had found difficulty in subsisting, until the Parliament were induced, in November 1648, to allow him to compound for his estates by payment of 6,000*l.* These were troublous times for Roman Catholics. Charles and Bernard naturally allied themselves to a family of the same communion as themselves, and

Feet of
Fines,
Berks,
Michs.
3 Anne,
1704
Appendix,
No. 72

¹ Feet of Fines, 32 & 33 Chas. II. February 9, 1680-81, between Layton Mounsey, Plaintiff, and Charles Howard, Mary, his wife, and George Tattershall, Defendants.

their brother Philip was created a cardinal by Pope Clement X. in 1675. Charles Howard passed the remainder of his life principally at Dipden (Deep Dene), in Surrey, retired from the bustle and noise of the world. He is described as 'a good man upon whom nature had been bountiful, even to a degree of profusion,' and we are told that his memory was much revered in the neighbourhood. He died in 1713, and was buried at Dorking. His brother, Bernard Howard, who married Catharine Tattershall, the widow of Sir George Lichford, of Dorking, Surrey, had three daughters, all of whom became nuns and lived abroad, and one son, Bernard Howard, died in 1717 at the age of 75. The dukedom of Norfolk had been restored by Charles II. under a special Act of Parliament in 1664, whereby Thomas, the eldest brother of Charles and Bernard Howard, became the fifth Duke of Norfolk. The grandson of Charles Howard ultimately became the tenth Duke, and Bernard Howard became the ancestor of the thirteenth Duke.

CHAP.
VI
A.D. 1713
COLLINS

James Goodyer became (XVI.) owner of West Court and of its moiety of the advowson by purchase from the Hon. Charles Howard, on November 2., 1704. He was the third son of Edward Goodyer, Lord of the Manor of Dogmersfield,¹ Hants, who died in 1686, and who devised to him by Will considerable landed and other property in Heckfield, Hazeley, Eversley, and Hartley Wintney, in Hants, besides other property in Middlesex. In the conveyance of the Manor of West Court the property is described as consisting of '*the advowson of the church, a mill, eighteen messuages, seven cottages and gardens, ten orchards, 126 acres of land, pasture and meadow, 1,000 acres of heath and common, together with free fisheries in Finchampstead.*' The fine paid is stated to have been 800*l.*, but these fines are not always reliable as to the real value of the property. The only occurrence recorded during James Goodyer's tenure of West Court is that in 1709 he presented the Rev. Richard Rogers to the church of Finchampstead.

Feet of
Fines, 32
& 33
Chas. II.
1680-81,
and Feet
of Fines,
Michs. 3
Anne,
1704

¹ The Manor of Dogmersfield was granted to the See of Bath by Henry I., and continued in the possession of the Bishops of Bath and Wells until the year 1548, when it was alienated by Bishop Barlow, and granted to Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, and afterwards passed into the hands of Edward Goodyer, the father of James Goodyer.

'Records of Cron-dal,' by F. J. BAGGENT, 1891

CHAP. VI
A.D. 1710 He died a widower and intestate on March 9, 1710, leaving no children, and was buried at Dogmersfield, March 22, 1711. His property consequently devolved upon his brother John, the eldest surviving son of his father.

There is a remarkable discrepancy between the date of the death and the date of the burial of James Goodyer. On a slab in the floor of the tower of the present church at Dogmersfield, which was built in 1843, it is recorded that he died March 9, 1710, aged forty-four, while in the burial register it is stated that he was buried March 22, 1711.

As the Goodyers were the immediate ancestors of the St. Johns of West Court, their relationship is shown on page 167.

‘ Collec-
tanea
Topo-
graphica et
Genea-
logica,’
Brit. Mus.
P. 54

There have been three churches at Dogmersfield within the present century. (1) The old original church, built of flint and rubble, with small lancet windows and a shingled spire, stood in the park in front of the mansion, and the site of it may still be traced by two lines of elm trees which stood in the fence of the churchyard on the right of the carriage-road leading to the house. This church was removed in 1806, and the site thrown into the park. (2) The second church, dedicated to All Saints, built in 1804, of brick and rubble, was also within the park, close to the Home Farm. This church seems to have soon fallen prematurely into decay, and its ‘ivy-mantled’ tower and the walls and roof of the church still remain, though partly in ruins. There are a few tombstones in the churchyard which surrounds the ruins of the church. (3) The third church, nearly a mile from the mansion, was built in 1843, principally at the joint expense of the late Rector, the Rev. Charles Dyson, and his sister, Miss Mary Dyson.

In this third church, on the floor of the tower there is a blue slab with a shield, the bearings on which are obliterated, and the inscription, ‘*Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Hester Goodyer, relict of Edward Goodyer, Esq., of Dogmersfield, who died February 12, A.D. 1723, aged eighty-nine years.*’ Also, on a similar slab, bearing a fess between two chevrons vaire impaling three chevronels between three mullets pierced, there is the following inscription: ‘*Here lyeth the*

CHAP. VI
A.D. 1686 *body of Edward Goodyer, Esq., Lord of this Manor, who died October 8, 1686, aged 87, leaving issue behind him, two sons and one daughter, viz. John, James, and Martha.'*

On another slab, alongside of the two former slabs, is the following inscription: '*Here lyeth y^e Body of James Goodyer, Gent. third son of Edward Goodyer, Lord of the Manor of Finchamsted, in y^e county of Berks, who died March y^e 9th, 1710, aged 44, by whose death his Estate came to John Goodyer, Esq. y^e only surviving brother.'*

These three slabs of 1686, 1710, and 1723 originally covered the mortal remains of those whom they commemorate in the first of the three churches above described; and most probably those mortal remains still lie buried within the site of church No. 1, which now forms part of the open park, while the three slabs have been transferred to each successive church. The first-mentioned two slabs are described in a work of 8 vols. in the British Museum, entitled 'Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica,' as being then in church No. 2, which was only erected in 1804, clearly showing that they must have been removed from church No. 1.

John Goodyer (XVII.), of Dogmersfield Manor, the second son of Edward Goodyer, on the death of his brother James became the next owner of West Court and of its moiety of the advowson, but he did not long survive his brother James. He died in 1712, a bachelor, and, like his brother, intestate.

Edward Goodyer, the father of James and John Goodyer, was the owner not only of Dogmersfield, but of other extensive landed property in Hants, Surrey, and Middlesex. He was born in 1599, and died in 1686, at the age of 87, having married in 1656, when he was about 57 years of age, Hester . . ., who was born in 1634, and 35 years younger than her husband. She died in 1723, at the age of 89. They had six children. (1) Edward, the eldest, born in 1657, died November 30, 1679, in his father's lifetime, and was at the time of his death High Sheriff of Hants, although only 22 years of age. (2) John, the second son, inherited Dogmersfield and other property under his father's Will, and died a 'bachelor' in 1712 and 'intestate,' having succeeded his brother James in 1711 as seventeenth owner of West Court. (3) James, the third son,

'Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica,' 8 vols. Brit. Mus. 'Church Notes,' Hants, P. 54

already described as having been the sixteenth owner of West Court. (4) Thomas, the fourth son, died in his father's lifetime, between April 2, 1684, and October 8, 1686 (he was mentioned in his father's Will on the former date as then living, but had died before the latter date, when his father died). (5) Mary, daughter, married John, son of Sir Ralph Delavall, Bart., but died in 1683, before her father's death. (6) Martha, the last survivor of all her father's children, became, *after her mother's death*, the heir to *all* the family property, inclusive of West Court Manor and its moiety of the advowson.

Consequent upon the death of James and John Goodyer, s.p. and intestate, their mother, Hester Goodyer, administered to their estates on April 13, 1713, as next-of kin, and she became owner of all the family property, inclusive of the West Court property, of which she was the eighteenth owner.

Martha Goodyer¹ married in 1703 Ellis Mews, who, by a former marriage with his first cousin, Frances St. John, daughter of Oliver St. John, of Farley, Hants, and heir to her brother, Oliver St. John, deceased, had assumed the name of St. John by Act of Parliament.

Hester Goodyer died February 12, 1723, and by her Will, dated March 27, 1715, and proved May 2, 1724, by Martha St. John, her daughter, she left everything she possessed to her daughter, Martha St. John, nineteenth owner of West Court. Martha St. John died intestate in 1725, and on November 9, 1725, administration of her possessions was granted to her husband, Ellis St. John, of Dogmersfield.

After the death of his wife Martha, Ellis St. John married for the third time, Sarah, the daughter of Sir Hugh Stewkley. His eldest son, Paulet St. John, who was created a baronet in 1772, came of age in 1725; and his father appears to have then given up Dogmersfield to his son, and retired to Farley with his third wife. He made his Will on December 16, 1728,

CHAP.
VI
A.D. 1713

'Adminis-
tration
Act Book,'
1713.
JOHN
GOODYER,
fol. 86.
JAMES
GOODYER,
fol. 87

112
Bolton

¹ In Burke's *Landed Gentry*, Martha Goodyer is erroneously described as the *daughter* of John Goodyer, instead of *sister*. John Goodyer was a 'bachelor.' The same error occurs in *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica* (British Museum), from which, perhaps, Burke may have derived his information, and where it is also erroneously stated that 'Ellis St. John appears to have had no issue by his wife Martha Goodyer.' Lysons in his *Magna Britannia* correctly describes James Goodyer as the maternal uncle of Ellis St. John.

CHAP.
VIA.D.
1728-9

wherein he is described as of Farley, Hants, and mention is therein made of his third wife. The Will was proved by his eldest son, Paulet, on February 5, 1728-29, so that the death occurred between December 16, 1728, and February 5 following, and probably shortly after December 16, as the Will bears his mark only, and not his signature, in the presence of three witnesses.

In this Will, Ellis St. John gives his second son, the Rev. Ellis St. John, '*All goods and furniture in his house at Finchampstead, together with all rents due for and in respect of his Manor of Finchampstead, also capital messuages in parishes of Arborfield and Barkham, on condition that he pay Paulet St. John 750l.*' He also gave annuities to his sons, Edward, Ellis, and Goodyer, increasing with their several ages. From this it appears that when this Will was made, December 16, 1728, West Court Manor belonged to Ellis St. John of Farley; but as we know that soon after this date it was the property of the Rev. Ellis St. John, the second son of Ellis St. John of Farley, we may assume that by a deed of gift or some other means Ellis St. John had conveyed the West Court property and the moiety of the advowson to his second son, and that it took effect on the death of the father.

Before proceeding further with the St. Johns as owners of West Court, let us take a short survey of the history of this remarkable family.

The St. John family of Finchampstead, and the St. John family of Dogmersfield, who in 1790 assumed the additional name of Mildmay, are descended from a common ancestor. In 1699, Ellis Mews, whose mother was Christian St. John, married his first cousin, Frances St. John, daughter and heir of Oliver St. John, of Farley Chamberlayne, Hants, and assumed the surname of St. John in right of his wife.

Ellis (Mews) St. John, after the death of his wife in 1700, married secondly in 1703, Martha, daughter of Edward Goodyer, of Dogmersfield.

Ellis (Mews) St. John, by his second marriage with Martha Goodyer, had six sons, the eldest of whom, Paulet St. John, succeeded to the Dogmersfield property, while the second son, Ellis St. John (XIX.), obtained the West

Court Manor of Finchampstead and its moiety of the advowson.

CHAP.
VI

Dogmersfield and West Court thus came into the possession of these two brothers, from whom are descended the next four successive owners of each of those places respectively, covering a period of 185 years.

A.D.
1728-9

The St. John family are of Norman origin. They are descended from William de St. John (denominated from the territory of St. John, near Rouen, Normandy), who entered England with the Conqueror, whose army he attended as grand master of the artillery, and 'superior of the waggons and carriages,' for which reason the horses' 'hames' were borne for his cognisance.

It would fill a large volume to attempt to give a history of this family, who figure in the pages of history for upwards of eight hundred years.

They were represented in the twelfth century by the St. Johns of Stanton St. John, in Oxfordshire, and by the Lords St. John of Basing, in Hants, from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century, from whom descended the Marquis of Winchester and the Earls of Bolingbroke.

One of the most distinguished members of this family was Lord St. John of Basing, in Henry VIII.'s reign, who was Comptroller and Treasurer of the King's Household, and served the King in various other ways. In Edward VI.'s reign he was President of the Council, and won the favour of that sovereign to such an extent as to obtain from him a grant of Bramshill and its Manor in 1547, after it had become escheated on the death of the second Lord Daubeney (created Earl of Bridgewater). Bramshill thus reverted to the family of St. John, who had owned it as early as 1086. Bramshill continued in the family of Lord St. John of Basing, who was created Earl of Wiltshire in 1549 and Marquis of Winchester in 1551, until A.D. 1600, when the fourth Marquis of Winchester sold it to Sir Stephen Thornhurst, who in 1605 sold it to Lord Zouche, the builder of the present house.

The first Marquis of Winchester was instrumental in frustrating the Duke of Northumberland's design to set Lady Jane Grey on the throne, for which service Queen Mary and

CHAP. VI
A.D. 1571 Queen Elizabeth continued him in his Treasurer's office, which he enjoyed for thirty years ; and on being asked how he preserved himself in that place through so many governments, he answered, ' By being a willow, and not an oak,' as already mentioned in page 116.

He built a magnificent mansion, called ' Basing House,' in Hants, and died there March 10, 1571-72, in the ninety-seventh year of his age, having seen 103 persons descended from him.

The Marquises of Winchester do not appear to have resided at Bramshill ; they lived at Basing House, about eight miles distant. The family of St. John seem to have been as remarkable for their longevity in ancient times as they have been in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

John, the fifth Marquis of Winchester, was loyal to Charles I., made a garrison for the King at Basing House, and endured a siege from August 1643 to October 1645, when Cromwell's army burnt the place to the ground. He died in 1674 at the age of 77, and was buried at Englefield.

It seems only natural to find the descendants of this ancient family again established in the immediate vicinity of the possessions of their ancestors.

Ellis St. John became twenty-first owner of West Court and its moiety of the advowson soon after the death of his father in 1729. Between the date of its purchase in 1704 by James Goodyer, and its inheritance by his nephew, Ellis St. John, in 1729, this property had passed through the possession of James Goodyer, his brother John, their mother, and their sister Martha, through whom, as is shown above, it came to Martha Goodyer's husband, Ellis St. John, of Dogmersfield. His second son, Ellis St. John, appears to have been about twenty-two years of age when his father died.¹ He married Elisabeth, the daughter of Mr. John Pollen, of Andover ; his sister Esther married John Pollen, the son, who was M.P. for that borough. West Court was probably let after the death of Mr. James Goodyer, in 1711, until Mr. Ellis St. John (No. 1)

¹ In the Finchampstead Register of Burials, the Rev. Ellis St. John is recorded as having been 'buried 19th February, 1786, aged 79 years,' and therefore was born in 1707. Burke in his *Landed Gentry* describes him as born in February 1705 and therefore he would have been eighty-one in 1786. I have not verified Burke's statement.

came to reside there. The church tower was rebuilt in 1720, under a Faculty applied for by a Mr. Johnes; it is conjectured that this Mr. Johnes was probably the tenant of West Court in this interval.

CHAP.
VI
A.D. 1720

The Rev. Ellis St. John (XXI.) was not ordained until the Rectory of Finchampstead became vacant in 1744, and he held that living for forty-two years, and died in February 1786, in the eightieth year of his age. (Further particulars respecting him will be found in the Chapter upon the 'Church and its Rectors,' at p. 74.)

He was succeeded by his son, the Rev. Ellis St. John, as twenty-second owner of the West Court estate, and owner of the whole advowson of the church of Finchampstead. The Rev. Ellis St. John (XXII.) was born in 1739. He married Anne Banister, of Heckfield, and died in 1809, leaving two sons and one daughter, viz. Henry Ellis St. John, who succeeded him as twenty-third owner of West Court and Rector of Finchampstead; the Rev. Edward St. John, of Ashe Park, who was well known as a prominent member of the Vyne Hunt; and Anne, who married the Rev. Charles Wood, of Tendring, Essex.

See
Banister
pedigree,
p. 189

The late Rev. J. E. Austen Leigh, in his 'Recollections of the Early Days of the Vyne Hunt,' has preserved for us some reminiscences of the Rev. Henry Ellis St. John as a sportsman.

Mr. St. John's home was in the centre of a great hunting country. *'In the latter part of the last century, and in the early part of the present, there were numerous packs of harriers belonging to individual proprietors, and it was not unusual to hunt both hare and fox with the same hounds, sometimes aided by a steady old foxhound. Mr. St. John and his friend Mr. Wm. John Chute had both done this, and thus laid the foundation of two permanent fox-hunting countries.'*

The Rev. H. E. St. John, after entering into his inheritance of the West Court Manor in 1809, purchased in 1810 a pack of foxhounds, and hunted a part of Mr. Chute's country, which lay on the west side of the Loddon, from Sherfield to Pinge Wood, including Beech Hill and Strathfieldsaye.

Mr. Austen Leigh says that *'it is amongst the earliest of*

CHAP. VI
A.D. 1809

his hunting recollections that Mr. Chute once gave Mr. St. John a few days' hunting in his country; he thinks it must have been about the year 1812 or 1813 that he saw Mr. St. John find a fox at Waltham Wood, and after running him through Ashe Park, Dean Wood, and Nutley, lost him behind Quidhampton. Full thirty years afterwards, as he was sitting with Mr. St. John at the Board of Guardians, in the old Town Hall at Wokingham, he asked him if he recollected the circumstance. His answer was characteristic. "Recollect it? to be sure I do. Now, do you know, I never could make out to this day where the fox could have gone to!" as if he had been thinking of it ever since.'

Sir John Cope took Mr. St. John's hounds in 1817, and retained them till 1850. Sir John Cope was younger brother of Sir Denzil Cope, who died in 1812. He had been a solicitor in the Temple, in partnership with Mr. Gerard Wharton. Sir John (it is said) was examining a deed when he received a letter announcing Sir Denzil's death, and, hastily glancing at its contents, threw it to his partner, saying, 'Hang the law; now for fox-hunting.' The partnership was dissolved, but not the friendship, as Gerard Wharton was ever after his most intimate friend, and, being a first-rate sportsman, became a constant visitor at Bramshill.

'Sporting of Hampshire,' 1745-1862, by 'Æsop'

The Rev. Edward St. John, of Ashe Park, appears to have had a full share of the family taste for hunting. The late Mr. Challoner Chute, in his 'History of the Vyne,' as well as Mr. Austen Leigh, bears high testimony to his sportsmanlike qualities.

Among the several members of the Rev. H. E. St. John's hunt, mentioned by Mr. Austen Leigh, is named 'Mr. Dearsley,' whom he describes as 'father-in-law to Mr. St. John,' and 'living with him.' He says: 'He hunted a good deal; he was a fine old man, and a bold rider for his age; he was always well mounted, and perhaps a little too much inclined to be diffuse on the merits and value of his horses. I remember,' he adds, 'one day when a young man was looking doubtfully at a low drop leap, Mr. Dearsley rode over it, saying, "Come along, sir, you will be ashamed not to follow an old man of seventy."' Mr. Austen Leigh concludes his

‘Recollections’ by remarking, in 1864, that one great change had taken place in the society of the hunting field, viz. the almost total withdrawal of the clergy from it.

CHAP.
VI
A.D. 1835

The love of sport, as was only natural, was duly inherited by the sons of Mr. Henry Ellis St. John. The Rev. Edward St. John kept his pack of harriers at Finchampstead previously to 1850, about which year they were taken over by his brother John St. John, of Banisters, who was a first-rate sportsman and a very good rider. These two brothers were also equally renowned as excellent cricketers, and many were the matches in which they played a conspicuous part at Bramshill, and of which the late Sir John Cope was a delighted spectator. The Rev. Edward St. John seldom failed to attend the best cricket matches at Wellington College during the last four or five years of his life, and sat them out in all weathers.

During the Rev. H. E. St. John’s ownership of West Court, the extent of the property was greatly increased. In 1818, under the Windsor Forest Enclosure Acts, the unenclosed portions of the forest within the parish of Finchampstead were proportionately allotted to the several landowners in the parish. Many owners of land who had acquired possession by ‘encroachments’ and otherwise had allotments made to them, and numerous exchanges were made under the award of the Commissioners, whereby the two principal estates of East Court and West Court became more compact, and were greatly benefited.

About the year 1835 the Rev. Henry Ellis St. John acquired possession of the property now known by the name of ‘Banisters,’ but formerly as ‘The Hatch’ and ‘Banister Place,’ which had been in the family of the Banisters for many centuries. He also considerably enlarged the West Court House, and made it as we now see it. There had been a moat and drawbridge about the old house, which were then removed.

See Chap.
VII.
p. 188

There is much excellent oak carving in the house, which is said to have been introduced during its ownership by the Tattershall family in the seventeenth century.

West Court about this period was one of the most hospitable houses in this part of the country.

CHAP
VI
A.D. 1841

The Rev. Henry Ellis St. John (XXIII.) died in August 1841, leaving four sons and one daughter who survived him. He bequeathed his Manor of West Court, and the advowson of Finchampstead and his other property in Berks and Hants, to his wife Elizabeth absolutely, with power to dispose of it among his children. Mrs. Elizabeth St. John thus became the twenty-fourth owner of West Court. Accordingly, in the Salisbury Diocesan Register it is found that on October 8, 1842, the Rev. Edward St. John, the second son, was presented to the Rectory of Finchampstead by Elizabeth, widow of the Rev. Henry Ellis St. John.

Mrs. Elizabeth St. John appears to have conferred upon Henry St. John, the eldest son, born in 1804, the whole of her late husband's real property, and, on the death of Henry St. John (XXV.) at Banisters in 1852, the Manor of West Court and the Banisters estate passed by his Will to his three brothers, Edward, John, and Paulet St. John equally, as tenants in common; and, by a family arrangement, the Rev. Edward St. John then became the twenty-sixth owner of the West Court Manor, while John St. John became owner of the Banisters estate, and other outlying property fell to the share of the Rev. Paulet St. John.

Henry St. John and his brother, the Rev. Edward, after their father's death appear to have resided at the old family mansion, West Court, until 1847, when the Rev. Edward St. John (XXVI.) married Caroline, daughter of Mr. John Roberts, of Wokingham, and moved into the new rectory house which he had lately built. Henry St. John then made his home at Banisters, where his stepmother, Mrs. Elizabeth St. John, and his brother John had been living since his father's death.

West Court House was then let, and has continued to be so successively, until the present time.

Mrs. Elizabeth St. John died at Banisters, October 27, 1864, at the age of eighty-four, and it is presumed that on her death the advowson of the Rectory of Finchampstead fell into the possession of the Rev. Edward St. John, who sold it about this time to the late Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood.

See p. 51

The Rev. Edward St. John inherited from his brother Henry St. John three interesting portraits of his ancestors, viz. Lord and Lady Bolingbroke, and Ellis Mews, born 1679, who assumed the name of St. John on marriage with his cousin, Frances St. John, as shown in the fourth line of the family pedigree.

CHAP.
VI
A.D. 1852

The Rev. Edward St. John died at Finchampstead Rectory, January 17, 1892, as already stated in Chapter VI.

The Rectory of Finchampstead was held successively by four members of the family of St. John, from father to son, for 148 years, and their united ages amounted to 300 years, averaging 75 years each, the last of the four Rectors having died in the eighty-seventh year of his age.

A glance at the family pedigree will show that this family has been remarkable for its extreme longevity: the Marquis of Winchester, in 1571, died at the age of ninety-seven years, as has been shown above.

Fuller, in his 'Worthies,' remarks in his quaint language, that *'the lands in Berks are very skittish and apt to cast their owners, and expresses a wish that they may be better settled in their seats, so that the sweet places in this county may not be subject to so many mutations. There are but few large estates in Berks which have continued for many generations in the same family.'*

The West Court moiety of the Manor of Finchampstead had perhaps not been investigated by Fuller, being a comparatively small property; but it will be seen from what has been shown above that it has remained in the same family for seven centuries, passing sometimes by marriage through the female line, and sometimes by direct descent through the male, from the time of Henry I. to the year 1704, when it passed out of the family of Tattershall by sale to James Goodyer, and from him by regular descent to the late Rev. Edward St. John.





CHAPTER VII

Banisters

CHAP.
VII

A.D. 1483



HERE is a tradition in Finchampstead that the estate called 'Banisters,'¹ in Finchampstead, which had been in the possession of a family of that name for several centuries, down to about the year 1821, was in some way connected with the betrayal of Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, during his rebellion against King Richard III. in 1483. The story of the betrayal has evidently been so well known to the ancestors of this family, that some of the incidents connected with it are still believed by members of the family now living to have actually taken place near this very house. Let us therefore review the facts as recorded in history.

This Duke of Buckingham had been the friend and supporter of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, in his efforts to become king, and seems to have had a guilty knowledge of the means by which Richard's way to the throne was cleared by the murder of the two young sons of Edward IV. The King, in return for his services, had rewarded the Duke with numerous grants of land, as well as with the great office of Constable of the

¹ In *The Wellingtonian*, vol. xi. 1890, p. 244, it is also stated that 'this estate is said to have been the reward of the betrayal.'

castles in Herefordshire and Salop. The Duke, not satisfied with these rewards, withdrew his support from the King, and lent his aid in favour of Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, who afterwards became Henry VII., and he endeavoured to overturn that usurpation which he had himself helped to establish. A wide revolt was organised under the leadership of the Duke of Buckingham. The Woodvilles and their adherents rose in Wiltshire, Kent, and Berkshire, and met at Newbury, Berkshire, in October, 1483. Sir Richard Woodville, of Wymington, was brother to the Queen Dowager, widow of the late King Edward IV., and also closely related to the Duke of Buckingham and to Lionel Woodville, Bishop of Salisbury, whose See extended over Wiltshire and Berkshire. We can, therefore, readily understand the strong motive which the chief Lords of the Berkshire Manors must have had for following the standard of the Duke of Buckingham. Among the names of those chief Lords we find that of the chief Lord of Finchampstead, Sir Thomas de la Mare,¹ who was also chief Lord of Aldermaston. Here we at once have a clue to 'the connection' which the Banastres of Finchampstead must have had with this insurrection, as they would doubtless have had to follow the standard of Sir Thomas de la Mare. The Duke of Buckingham marched to the support of his allies from Brecknock, in Wales. Heavy rains had swollen the river Severn to such an extent as to prevent his crossing the river. His Welsh followers, moved partly by superstitious fear and partly by famine, deserted him; and at last the Duke, attended by a single companion, is said to have retreated to the house of an old servant of his family, who resided near Shrewsbury. This old servant's name was Ralph Banastre, not Humphrey Banastre as stated in many accounts. He is also described as having been raised to a state of independence by the Duke's kindness; but this seems also erro-

CHAP.
VII
A.D. 1483

¹ Sir Thomas de la Mare, named in the Act of Attainder, was chief Lord of Aldermaston, Finchampstead, and a Member of Parliament for Berks, 12 Edw. IV., and Sheriff 5 Hen. VII. He died in 1490. Sir William Woodville, Sir William Norris, of Yattenden, William Berkeley, Sir Roger Jocotes, Richard Beauchamp, Lord St. Amand, Sir William Stonor, &c. &c. are also named in the same Act.

CHAP.
VII

A.D. 1483

OWEN and
BLAKE-
WAY'S
'History
of Shrews-
bury,'
1825

neous. The Duke was proclaimed a traitor by the King, and a reward of 100*l.* a year in land, or of 1,000*l.* in money, was offered for his capture.

Ralph Banastre resided at Lacon Hall, near Wem, in Shropshire, an old half-timbered house, formerly moated. He was descended from an ancient family of the same name. William Banastre, of Wem, his ancestor, had been Sheriff of Shropshire in 1402. He, or one of his immediate descendants, obtained Lacon by marriage with Elena, an heiress of the family of Hussey, whose ancestor had married Elena, the heiress of the head branch of the family of Lacon, the former owners of Lacon Hall. Ralph Banastre was Lord of this Manor in the reigns of Edward IV. and Richard III. He is described as having been a servant, or officer of the household, of Edward IV. He is also described as having been a servant to the Duke of Buckingham. It was no disparagement in those days for esquires and even knights to 'wear the livery' of a Lord; and the Duke of Buckingham was the greatest subject of the realm. Barons are even enumerated among the menial servants of the Duke of Northumberland in 1498.

Rev. S.
GARBET'S
'History
of Wem,'
1818

To the fidelity of Ralph Banastre the Duke entrusted his safety. Besides affording the Duke a retreat at Lacon, Banastre is said to have removed him for greater secrecy to another house of his at Mitford, near Baschurch.

TheCon-
tinuator of
Croyland

Accounts differ as to the motive and means by which the Duke was discovered. Some say that attention was drawn to an unusual quantity of victuals being brought to so obscure a place; others, that it was for the sake of the reward; while others say that it was from fear of the consequences of being discovered sheltering a 'rebel,' as in that event he (Banastre) would most certainly have shared the fate of the Duke.

All that is positively certain is that the retreat of the Duke became known to the Sheriff of Shropshire, by whom he was conveyed to Salisbury, where Richard III. then was, and that he was beheaded on November 2, 1483, in the yard of the 'Blue Boar Inn,' now represented by the 'Saracen's Head,' which is supposed to have formed part of the premises attached to the 'Blue Boar.' Near the spot where the execution is said to

have taken place, a headless skeleton, without the right hand, was exhumed in 1838, and is supposed to have been that of the unfortunate Duke of Buckingham. There is a cenotaph to the memory of the Duke in Britford Church, near Salisbury, which is said to have been erected by the Duke's brother-in-law, Lionel Woodville, who was Bishop of Salisbury at the time of the execution. (See Chapter III. p. 61.)

Ralph Banastre obtained the promised reward; he received a grant of the Manor of Ealding (now Yalden), in Kent, as appears from the following copy of the original charter and translation of it.

Patent Roll 557. 2 Ric. 3, Part I. m. 7 (20). August 10, 1484.

RADULPHO BANASTRE.

Rex omnibus ad quos etc. Salutem. Cum non solum gentis nobilitas sed et justitiæ equitas omnes provocent et maxime Reges et Principes homines de se bene meritis premiis condignis afficere, Sciatis igitur quod ob singulare et fidele servitium quod dilectus ligeus et serviens noster Radulphus Banastre nobis perantea impendit, non solum faciendo juri et titulo nostro cujus juris et tituli vigore jam nuper ad Coronam hujus regni nostri Angliæ, Domino adjuvante, pervenimus, verum etiam reprimendo proditores et malitias rebellium et proditorum nostrorum qui infra idem regnum nostrum perfidam jam dudum commotionem suscitaverant, ac pro bono et fideli servitio nobis et heredibus nostris Regibus Angliæ per eundem Radulphum et heredes suos pro defensione nostra et regni nostri predicti contra quoscunque proditores inimicos et rebelles, quotiens futuris temporibus opus erit, impendendum, de gratia nostra speciali dedimus et concessimus ac per presentes damus et concedimus prefato Radulpho manerium de Ealdingo in Comitatu nostro Kantio annui valoris quinquaginta librarum, habendum et tenendum manerium cum suis pertinentibus, ac exitus, proficua et reventiones ejusdem manerii etc.

T. Rx apud Westm. x^o die Augusti.

Per brevem de privato sigillo et de dato etc.

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VII

A.D. 1483

'Hist. of
Newbury,'
by

WALTER
MONEY.

'Saturday
Magazine,'
April 6,
1839

See also
'The
Strife of
the Roses,'

by
W. H. H.

ROGERS,
published
by COM-

MIN, of
Exeter,
1890

The King, to all whom it may concern, greeting.

Whereas not only nobility of race but also equity of justice requires all men, and especially Kings and Princes, to remunerate with suitable rewards men who have served them well. Know therefore that on account of the singular and faithful service our beloved liege and servant Rauf (Ralph) Banastre hath all along formerly rendered for us, not only by establishing our right and title, by the strength of which right and title we have lately come, the Lord helping us, to the throne (lit. crown) of this our Kingdom of England, but also by sutpressing the treasons and malice of rebels and traitors towards us, who had for some time since stirred up a traitorous commotion within this same realm of ours, and for the good and faithful service to us and to our heirs the Kings of England hereafter to be rendered by the same Ralph and his heirs for the defence of ourselves and of our kingdom aforesaid against all hostile traitors and rebels whatsoever, as often as there shall be need in time to come, We, of our special grace, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant, to the aforesaid Ralph the Manor of Ealding, in our county of Kent, of the annual value of fifty pounds, To have and to hold the aforesaid Manor with the belongings and the outcome, profits, and returns from the same Manor, etc. for ever.

'Witnessed by the King at Westminster the 10th day of August, by brief of the Privy Seal and of the date, etc.'

The King also conferred upon 'his trusty and well beloved Squire, Thomas Mytton, the Sheriff of Shropshire, the Castle and Lordship of Carwes, with all the appurtenances thereto, amounting to the annual value of 50l., and late belonging unto our rebel and traitor Henry, late duc of Buckingham, in consideration of his good and acceptable service.'

Some eighty-four years after the foregoing events, Thomas Sackville, afterwards Earl of Dorset, wrote a poem entitled 'The Legend of the Duke of Buckingham,' in which he asserted that it was through the treachery of Banastre that the Duke was captured, and this poem is said to have produced so

great an effect that even the family to which Ralph Banastre belonged grew ashamed of him, and for this reason his name does not appear in any of the family pedigrees. Later writers add particulars to heighten the picture. According to them the Duke was disguised as a peasant, and digging in a ditch at the time of his arrest. They assure us that on the approach of Thomas Mytton, the Sheriff, the Duke knelt down in the orchard where he was taken, and imprecated vengeance upon his betrayer and his posterity to the tenth generation, which curses are said to have been signally fulfilled; for it is recorded that Ralph Banastre's son and heir 'waxed mad, and so died in a bore's sty;' his 'eldest daughter, of excellent beauty, was sodaynelie striken with a fowle leperye;' 'his second son was very marvellously deformed of his limmes, and made decrepitate;' 'his younger sonne in a small puddel was strangled and drowned; and he being of extreme old age arraigned and found gyltie of a murther and by his clergie saved.'

CHAP.
VII
A.D. 1484

Shakespeare, in his 'King Richard III.,' represents the ghost of Buckingham as appearing to Richard III., and saying—

The first was I that help'd thee to the crown;
The last was I that felt thy tyranny
And die in terror of thy guiltiness!

Ralph Banastre appears to have belonged to the Hadnall branch of the family; one of them was Sheriff of the county in 1403.

'Bygones,'
Nov.
1871,
p. 10;
May 1872,
p. 62.

The arms of the family were argent, a cross potent, fleury, sable. (See also 'Archæologia Cambrensis,' vol. i. 1st Series, pp. 334, 345.)

From 'Feet of Fines' for Shropshire, in the year 1503, it appears that a final agreement was made in the King's Court at Westminster concerning the Manor of 'Lakyne' (Lacon) between Ralph Banastre and his wife Katherine, whereby the Manor, consisting of 1,100 acres and six messuages with appurtenances in Lakyne, Wemme, Sydenhale, and Henstoke, was settled on Ralph and Katherine for their lives, and after their decease upon eight members of their family in succession, who are mentioned by name; but their relationship to Ralph

P.R.O.
18 Hen.
VII.
June 5,
1503

- CHAP. VII
A.D. 1503
- Banastre is not in all cases specified, which prevents their being placed in the family pedigree with any certainty.
1. The first in succession named is John Banastre, and heirs of his body—no mention of his relationship to Ralph.
 2. Robert Banastre and his heirs—no relationship mentioned.
 3. Ralph Banastre, the younger brother of Robert.
 4. Richard Banastre, son of the said John (1).
 - A female 5. Joyce (Jocose) Banastre, not described.
 6. Richard Banastre, son of Ralph the elder, and Katherine.
 7. William Banastre, ditto.
 8. The heirs of the said Ralph Banastre the elder.
 9. John Banastre, of London, and his heirs.
 10. Finally, to the right heirs of the said Ralph Banastre the elder.

It will be observed that Nos. 6 and 7 only are described as sons of Ralph Banastre, and it may be assumed, therefore, that Nos. 1 to 5 were more distantly related to him ; and therefore it is possible that the property of Lacon may have passed away from the direct line of succession, and the imprecations upon his own immediate descendants may thus have been literally fulfilled.

Lacon Manor continued in possession of the Banastre family (whose name in the seventeenth century became Banister) until their descendant, Joseph Banister, sold it to his relative, Sir Richard Newport, who was charged for it for a subsidy in 1642. Joseph Banister died in London, about 1681, aged 73. The property now belongs to the Earl of Bradford.

The Rev. S. Garbet in his 'History of Wem' (1818) states that Lawrence Banister, a member of this family, who died in 1588, and was councillor to the Duke of Norfolk, gave evidence which was the means of bringing that Duke to the block.

I have failed to discover what became of the Manor of Yalden, which must have been a reproach to the family of Banister as long as they possessed it. We can only suppose that it was sold, and that the family removed elsewhere,

possibly to Finchampstead, which may perhaps account for the tradition of the details of the 'betrayal' as above mentioned having been so minutely acquired; but I am able to prove conclusively that the property called 'Banisters' in Finchampstead was not obtained by means of the reward of the betrayal.

CHAP.
VII

A.D. 1329

BANISTERS OF FINCHAMPSTEAD

It has been already shown in Chapter IV. that the Berkshire branch of the Banastres were in possession of the whole Manor of Finchampstead early in the twelfth century, and that it was divided into the East and West Court moieties in the latter part of the thirteenth century. It has been also shown (Chapter VI. p. 147) that there was a part of the ancient Manor named in Domesday Book which was not included in that division, viz. the 'Mill.'

It appears from Feet of Fines, Berks, 1 to 3 Edward III. No. 8 b, that in 1329 Nicholas Banastre held under the chief Lords of Aldermaston, and not under the mesne Lord of the West Court moiety of the Manor, 96 acres of land and a rent of 8s. 2d., which most likely represented the Mill; and that in 1337 the Mill, then worth 7s. 8d. a year, together with 105 acres of land, was entailed upon Thomas Banastre and his wife Amicia, daughter of James de la Bertone, and their heirs, with remainder in default of issue to John de la Burgh and his heirs for ever. This property was held of the chief lords of the fee by 'the presentation of a rose at the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, for all service, custom, and exaction, and doing all other services appertaining to those tenements.' I find lands corresponding with these, although slightly varying in quantity, held by Banastres (Banisters) in every century from the above date down to 1820. I have tried in vain to make out a pedigree of the early Banastres of Finchampstead; but the continuous descent of the same lands through a family of the name of Banister (Banastre) is strong evidence of the lineal descent of that family. Thomas and Nicholas Banastre were most probably descendants of a junior branch of one of the mesne Lords of the

1329
Appendix,
No. 7

Feet of
Fines,
Berks,
11, 12
Edw. III.
Appendix,
No. 8

CHAP. VII
 A.D. 1550 whole Manor of Finchampstead, and their ancestors may have obtained these lands and the Mill by what was termed 'sub-infeudation,' which was put an end to by the statute of 18 Edward I. c. 1 (1272).

In an old Terrier of Aldermaston Manor, 3 Edward VI. (1550), there is the following entry: '*Sir Humphry fforster, Knight, then Lord of the same Manor. Item, of the Heyrs of John Banaster for such lands as he hath in ffynch-amsted, which he holdithe of the Manor of Aldermaston by Knyghts svys by the yearly rent of a red rose, which said John Banaster, Sir Humphry fforster, whas late seased of the Wardship of by force of the same Tenure by the space of X years, and at his full age gave him the advantage of his marriage.*'

Here we have evidence of the estate of Banisters being held by the Banisters in the sixteenth century under the chief Lords of Aldermaston, who took possession of the estate during the minority of John Banister for ten years, in accordance with the feudal laws, and sanctioned his marriage upon the usual terms, which probably involved the payment of a considerable sum of money.

Chancery
 Bill,
 Index No.
 51, Bundle
 T. T.
 No. 5.
 No. 29,
 Bundle
 T. T.
 No. 64

In a Chancery suit of *Tattershall v. Harrison*, in 1613, George Tattershall complains that '*about 50 years ago (i.e. 1563), Thomas Harrison, when he held a lease of the West Court Manor, had encroached upon that Manor, and that the boundaries between the East and West Court Manors were very undefined; that he had purchased from William Banister 5 acres of land on the river side, and had erected another Mill, whereby injury was done to the ancient Mill, which had formerly belonged to Lady Marvyn and afterwards to Francis Perkins, and now to himself as owner of the West Court Manor.*' From this we learn that in 1563 'the old Mill' had passed out of the Banastre possession and become attached to the West Court Manor, where it still remains (although the Banisters had still retained their lands), and the erection of another Mill, it is supposed, became the origin of what is now known as the 'New Mill.'

The 'old,' or original, Mill was a few hundred yards lower down the stream than the present one. The remains of the

posts which helped to form the weir or dam for raising the water to serve the Mill were visible until the last deepening of the river, in 1893, and the course of the waste or backwater may still be traced in the adjoining meadow on the south side of the stream.

In another Chancery suit of *Tattershall v. Banister*, in 1613, William Banister pleads that 'he has lived at "Banister Place," which he holds of the King's Majestie in free socage at a yearly

CHAP.
VII

A.D. 1563

B. & A.
Jac. I.
T. 3,
No. 40
1613



BANISTERS OR BANISTER PLACE

rent of 1*d.*' There were two kinds of socage, 'free' socage and 'villein' socage. The former term was used where the service rendered was not only certain but honourable, *e.g.* homage and fealty; 'villein' socage, where the services were of a baser nature, *e.g.* fealty, and ploughing the lord's land for a certain number of days in the year. William Banister's tenure of Banister Place was therefore of an 'honourable' character.

CHAP.
VII
A.D. 1683

In the seventeenth century the family of Banister is still found residing upon the same property. It has been known at different times by the several names of 'The Hatch,' 'Banister Place,' and 'Banisters.'

In Charles II.'s reign they appear to have built a new house, over the porch entrance to which is the date of 1683 and the letter 'J^BH.' In the Finchampstead Register, under date of August 13, 1685, there is an entry of the baptism of 'John, the son of John and Hannah Banister.' John, the elder, whom we will call No. 1, is described in the Register as 'a rich man,' and he and the eldest of his descendants are also distinguished in the Register by the prefix of 'Mr.,' clearly indicating that they were regarded as persons of some importance.

The Pedigree on next page will show the descent of this family from the period which we have now reached.

John Banister, No. 1 in Pedigree, was the builder of the house dated 1683, illustrated on preceding page. His son John, No. 2, married Mary (whose name is supposed to have been Hawthorn), and died in 1748; his eldest son, John, born 1722, predeceased him; his second son, Richard Hawthorn Banister, No. 3; born 1723, consequently succeeded to the Banisters estate. He married his cousin, Martha Banister, of London, and died in 1783 at the age of 60, his wife Martha having died in 1782, leaving a son, John, No. 4, born in 1750, a daughter Anne, born in 1752, who married the Rev. Ellis St. John, Rector of Finchampstead, and three other children.

See Chap.
VI. p. 173
St. John
Pedigree

John Banister, No. 4, married Mary Soane, by whom he had one son, John, No. 5, and a daughter Mary, of whom presently. John, No. 5, married Elizabeth Lovelock, and died in 1821 at the age of 35, leaving no children. The estate of Banisters was then sold to Anne, widow of the Rev. Charles Wood, of Tendring, Essex, and sister of the Rev. Ellis St. John, Rector of Finchampstead.

On the death of Mrs. Anne Wood, in 1835, the property came into the possession of her brother, the Rev. Ellis St. John, who was also first cousin to the last John Banister, No. 5; and thus the old estate of the Banisters, which had

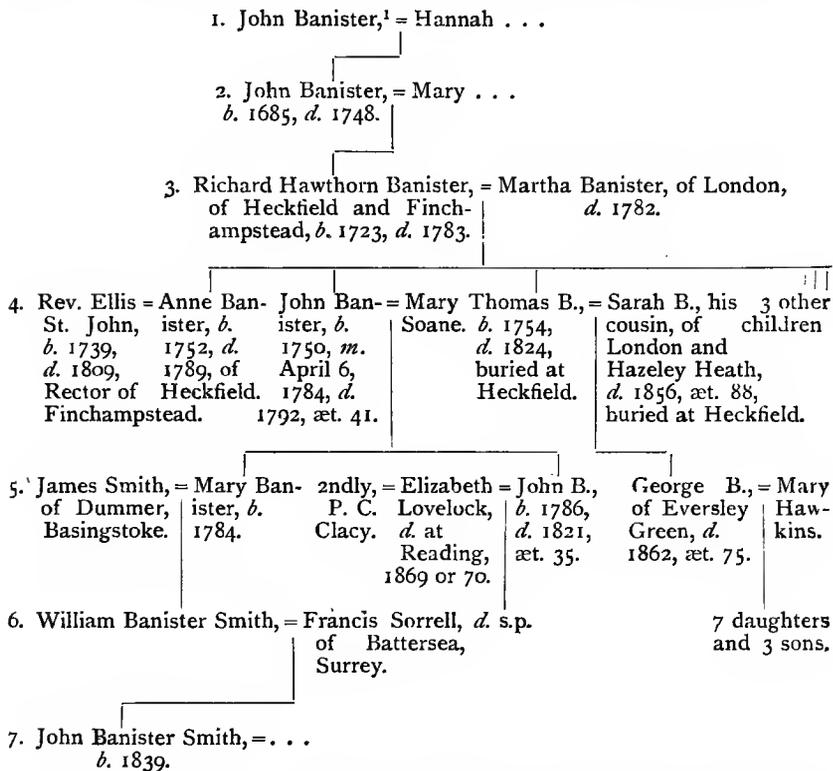
been in their possession for upwards of seven centuries, passed out of their family.

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VII

A.D. 1835

PEDIGREE OF THE BANISTERS OF 'BANISTERS,' ALIAS 'THE HATCH,' FINCHAMPSTEAD.

Compiled from the year 1653, which is the earliest date of the Registers at Finchampstead.



D described in Register as 'a rich man,' built the house called 'Banisters' in 1683, on the site as is supposed, of an earlier house known by the name of 'The Hatch,' and 'Banister Place,' and 'Hatch Farm.'

F.R. = Finchampstead Register.

H.R. = Heckfield Register.

Elizabeth, widow of John Banister, No. 5, married secondly P. C. Clacy, and died at Reading in 1869 or 1870.

Mary Banister, the sister of John, No. 5, married James Smith, of Dummer, Basingstoke, from whom descends the

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VII

A.D. 1869

present lineal representative of the eldest branch of the family.

Few families can boast of a longer or more honourable career than that of the Banisters of Finchampstead.

It has been shown that in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries they were Lords of the whole Manor of Finchampstead, and that in later years they held their property, not under the Lords of either the East or West Court Manor, but, like them, under the chief Lords of Aldermaston.

The arms of the family were Or, a cross patonce,¹ sable; these arms, with slight variations, are common to all the families of Banister who are found in Berkshire, Shropshire, Lancashire, and other counties. The arms of the Shropshire Banisters were Argent, a cross potent,² fleury, sable. The crest was a 'Peacock at rest.'

The Banisters who were owners of the old family property in Finchampstead may be regarded as having been one of the oldest county families in Berkshire; while the junior members of each generation appear to have become small farmers, and in some instances to have declined in prosperity like other families.

I may here mention that the late George Banister, of Eversley Green, whose name appears in line 5 of the Banister Pedigree, was for many years the trusted friend and churchwarden of the late Rev. Charles Kingsley, Rector of Eversley, who, in token of his great regard for him, desired that he might be buried as near as possible to his grave, and this wish was faithfully carried out.

The present representative of the elder branch of the Banisters of Finchampstead is Mr. John Banister Smith, who is grandson of Mary, the sister of John Banister, No. 5; and I am under obligations to him for allowing me to inspect some ancient deeds in his possession, and also for his assistance in compiling the above Pedigree, and for some interesting particulars of his ancestors.

The family have in their possession armour, arms, and accoutrements of the fourteenth century which belonged to

¹ A cross flory at the ends.

² A cross whose extremities resemble the head of a crutch.

their ancestors ; and they still retain many other interesting relics, *e.g.* an old Prayer Book which belonged to Mary Banister, containing a prayer for the reigning sovereign, Queen Elizabeth ; the original oak chest which for centuries contained the family deeds, &c., in the old house in Finchampstead, &c.

CHAP.
VII

A.D. 1120

In the course of my researches I have met with the names of many distinguished persons of the name of Banastre, who appear to belong to the Berkshire branch of that family, for whom I have found no place in our parish history. I will therefore introduce them here.

In 1120, Alard Banastre held the Manor of Finchamsted, 1120
and John Banastre that of Sulhamsted.

Adam Banastre was Sheriff of Berks. 1169

Alard Banastre was Justice Itinerant in the twentieth year of Henry II. (1174), for settling tallages upon the King's demesnes in Oxfordshire. This is quoted by Madox in his 'History of the Exchequer,' vol. i. p. 124, from the Pipe Rolls of 20 Henry II. under 'Oxinef' (Oxfordshire). 1174

In the twelfth century, Gervase de Banastre is a witness to an undated charter granting John Banastre's church at Sulhamsted to the church at Sherborne.

William Banastre, son of John Banastre of Sulhamsted, 1200-12
gave ten acres of land in Sulhamsted to Reading Abbey.

In 1203, William Banastre held the Manor of Finchamsted. 1203

In 1205, Thomas Banastre was Sheriff of Berks. 1205

In 1216, William Banastre held Finchamsted and John Banastre held Sulhamsted. 1216

Richard de Banastre was Abbot of Reading. 1261-69

Sir William Banastre held the Manor of Finchamsted. 1270-90

John Banastre was one of the persons appointed for the observance of the 'Statute of Winchester' in Berks, by a Commission dated 15 Edward I. (1286-87). 1286-87

Henry Banastre was one of two manucaptors, or sureties, 1295
for 'Galfridus le Engleys,' burgess in Parliament for Reading, November 2, 1295.

Nicholas Banastre held the family estate in Finchamsted. 1329

In 1364 the advowson of Sulhamsted was given to Sherborne Priory by John Banastre. 1364

CHAP.
VII
A.D. 1375
Brit. Mus.

In Beltz's 'Memorials of the Order of the Garter,' p. 205, there is a long and interesting account of Sir Thomas Banastre, who was created a Knight of the Garter by Edward III. in 1375, and his name stands fifty-fifth on the list of those knights.

The arms of this knight are recorded as having been argent, a cross potence, sable, and the crest a 'peacock in his pride sejant proper.'

These arms and crest bear a striking resemblance to those of the Banisters of Finchampsted, the only difference between them being that the arms of the former were argent instead of or, and the crest was a 'peacock in his pride' instead of 'at rest.'

The account in Beltz's 'Memorials' proceeds thus: '*The antiquity of the family of which this gallant knight was a distinguished member and ornament is attested by the public records, particularly those of the Duchy of Lancaster, within which Palatine jurisdiction he held from an early period ample possessions. It is in evidence that Robert Banastre came into England with William the Conqueror, and that he obtained the Manor of Prestaton, in Englefield, in Berkshire. His son or grandson, of the same name, removed into Lancashire, and was the progenitor of several branches long settled in that and the adjoining county of Chester.*'

1066
Rot.
Parl.
vol. i.
p. 2

Then follows a genealogical history of the family down to 1351, about which time 'Sir Adam Banastre, the father of our Knight, Sir Thomas, died.' Sir Thomas Banastre's services begin in 1350; they are so little known that a short sketch of them may be interesting. The first mention of him is for his good services in the Earl of Lancaster's engagement with the Spaniards in 1350, when he obtained a pardon for the death of Ralph de Blackburne, whom he had had the misfortune to kill. According to Froissart he received knighthood in 1360 from Edward III., when, being with that monarch at Bourg la Reine, within two leagues of Paris, and Sir Walter Manny having been permitted to make a *chevauchée* as far as the barriers of the capital, he was ordered to accompany him.

In 1360 he followed the Earls of Cambridge and Pembroke into Aquitaine with a reinforcement, on occasion of the appeal of the Gascon nobles to the King of France, in the Parliament

1360

of Paris, against the 'fouage,' 'hearth money,' imposed by the Prince of Wales.

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VII

In 1366 he attended the Black Prince on his expedition into Spain, and was in the battle of Najara.

A.D. 1366

On the arrival of Sir Robert Knolles at Angoulême, the Prince directed Sir Thomas Banastre to proceed with that commander against the enemy; and in the same year he accompanied Chandos in his expedition from Poitiers into Anjou.

In a skirmish before Périgueux he was taken prisoner and exchanged for Messire Caponnel de Caponnat, who had been imprisoned at Agen for having been the bearer of the summons to King Edward upon the appeal of the Gascoigners.

John, Duke of Lancaster, by a warrant dated at Higham Ferrers, July 20, 1374, bestowed upon our knight the office of Forester of the Chases of Penhill, Frowden, and Rossyndale.

1374

The fidelity and valour of Sir Thomas Banastre were further rewarded in 1375 with the Order of the Garter, upon the death of Sir Walter Paveley, one of the founders, and he had robes issued to him against the Feast of St. George in 1376-77-1378.

1375

Wardrobe
Accounts
for the
years
1376-78

The Duke of Brittany having, during his residence at the court of Richard II., received a deputation from his barons soliciting his return to the Duchy, embarked at Southampton in 1379 and proceeded to Vannes. *'About 6 Dec. in that year the King despatched a force of 200 men at arms and 400 archers in aid of the Duke, under the command of Sir John Arundell. In this expedition was Sir Thomas Banastre. The winds proved unfavourable, and the little fleet was driven back upon the Cornish coast, and was driven into the Irish Channel, when three of the ships, containing Sir Thomas Arundell, Sir Thomas Banastre, Sir Hugh Calverley, and Sir Walter Paule, and about 100 soldiers, struck upon the rocks, and Arundell, Banastre, and Paule perished on 16th of that month.'*

1379

Sir Thomas Banastre married, before 1355, Agnes, daughter of Sir Adam de Houghton; their son and heir, Edward Banastre, was a minor at his father's death, and died shortly afterwards, leaving an only daughter, Constance, his heir, who became the wife of William, the son of Sir Richard Balderstone,

CHAP. VII Knight; and thus the direct line of Sir Robert Banastre terminated in this daughter.

A.D. 1323

Agnes, the wife of Sir Thomas Banastre, and Sibella, her sister, who married William Banastre, the brother of our knight, were descended of the elder line of Banastre of Lancashire. Their father, Sir Adam, was the son of Sir Richard de Houghton, by Sibella, sister of Henry de Lee (who was beheaded with Sir Adam de Banastre in 1323) and daughter of Sir William de Lee, by Clementina, the daughter of Sir Robert Banastre, of Walton and Newton-in-Makerfield, who, in 1278, petitioned Parliament for the restoration of the Manor of Prestaton. A full inventory of his extensive estates in Lancashire is given in Beltz's 'Memorials,' where we also find, in an inventory of the ornaments of the chapel of St. George at Windsor, taken 8 Richard II. (1384), mention made of the sword of our knight (Sir Thomas Banastre) preserved in that college. This relic was extant in the following reign.

1384

ASHMOLE,
p. 635 ;
'Mon.
Angl.'
vol. iii.
p. 86

The Lancashire branch of the Banastres have intermarried with nearly all the principal families in that county.

To return to what is stated by Beltz, viz. that Robert Banastre, who came over to England with the Conqueror, 'obtained the Manor of Prestaton, in Englefield, in Berkshire,' there would seem to be some confusion.

Mr. A. A.
HARRI-
SON, of
Theale,
Jan. 11,
1892.
Rot.
Parl.
vol. i.
p. 27

No such place as Prestaton can be found in Englefield in Berkshire. There are two notices of Englefield, Berks, in Domesday, but Prestaton is not mentioned in either of them ; there is an Englefield near Aldermaston, and another near Theale, but no Prestaton can be traced in either of them. There is an Englefield (Tegeingl) in Wales, and there is also Prestatyn in Wales ; and as it appears from Sir Robert Banastre's petition that the Lancashire branch of the Banastres migrated from Wales into Lancashire, it seems most probable that Prestatyn, in Flintshire, was the place from which they came ; they were then distinguished by the name of Westerroys, and I am informed on high authority that this name is frequently met with in the public records, and is understood to pertain to the Banastres.

It is remarkable that they held property in Berkshire, in the immediate neighbourhood of 'Englefield in Berks,' in the

early part of the twelfth century, *e.g.* at Sulhampstead Banastre, and at Finchampstead and elsewhere, but I have been unable to find any positive evidence of their connection with the branch which obtained the 'Manor of Prestaton' and afterwards settled in Lancashire.

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VII

It would seem, however, that the arms and crest of our Berkshire Banastres are a sufficient identification of the family as belonging to the Lancashire, Shropshire, and Cheshire branches, from whatever place they may have originally come.





CHAPTER VIII

Parish Property and Charities

CHAP.
VIII
A.D. 1818



HERE is no record in the parish archives of any property belonging to the parish, either in the past or present.

PARISH LANDS

In 1818, when the enclosure of Windsor Forest was carried out under 53 Geo. III. c. 158, the Commissioners awarded to the surveyor of the highways of Finchampstead parish for the time being two acres of land as a public gravel pit, marked No. 76 on the award map.

On April 12, 1880, it was resolved at a vestry meeting that *'the waywarden having reported that the gravel in the parish pit had been exhausted, the necessary steps be taken for selling the pit.'*

There is no further mention in the vestry minutes of any action having been taken in the matter ; but, from inquiry, it appears that the land in question was sold to Mr. W. Bell, of Ridge Cottage, and the proceeds were invested in the purchase of Consols at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., in the names of Mr. John Walter and Mr. William Simonds, and the dividends are paid quarterly to the credit of the Finchampstead surveyor of roads.

FUEL ALLOTMENT

CHAP.
VIII

On the enclosure of the Windsor Forest lands within the parish of Finchampstead, under the award of the Commissioners, dated February 27, 1818, there was allotted to the Rector, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor for the time being, for ever, (1) '*A parcel of land situated near Sandhurst Cross, marked No. 4 on the map, containing 20 a. 3 r. 14 p., bounded on the north by the Crowthorn Road;*' and (2) '*Another piece of land situated near Sandhurst Cross, marked No. 5, containing 36 a. 1 r. 0 p., bounded on the east by Wokingham and Sandhurst Road, on the south by the Crowthorn Road.*'

A.D. 1818
53 Geo.
III.
c. 158,
for enclosing the
common-
able and
forest land

These lands consisted of two pieces of barren heath, and the poor of the parish generally were permitted to cut fuel on them, under the general superintendence of the parish officers.

By an order of the Charity Commissioners, dated December 11, 1857, the Trustees of the charity were authorised to sell these two allotments to Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood, for the sum of 715*l.* The purchase money was invested in the purchase of 742*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* New Consols at 3 per cent., in the names of the official Trustees of Charitable Funds, and the dividends were to be remitted by them to the local Trustees, viz. the Rector, churchwardens, and overseers, and applied by them '*in the same manner as the yearly rents and profits of the premises so sold would have been applicable had no sale thereof taken place, or as near thereto as circumstances would admit.*'

The official Trustees now hold in trust in this charity a sum of 742*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* New Consols.

The uses, &c., upon and subject to which the allotments were conveyed are contained in sections 75 to 79 of the Act above referred to, which provide as follows :

Section 75 directs that '*the lands unlet are to be used for the benefit of such poor inhabitants as shall be legally settled, and shall not occupy houses, lands, or tenements of greater value than 5*l.* The turves, fern, and other fuel therefrom to be allotted in such quantities, at such times in each year, and under such regulations and orders, and in such manner, as the*

CHAP.
VIII
A.D. 1818

Trustees or major part of them shall from time to time appoint. Section 78 directs that 'in case of leasing the lands, the rents therefrom are to be laid out in the purchase of coal or other fuel, which is to be sold and disposed of among the industrious poor who shall occupy lands or tenements being less in quantity than one acre, at a price not exceeding half the original cost, in such proportion and quantities, and at such times in the year, and according to such rules and regulations, as the Trustees may appoint. The monies received as half cost to be laid out in the further purchase of coal or other fuel, and according to such rules and regulations as the Trustees may appoint.

Section 76 empowers the Trustees to make rules and regulations.

Section 79 provides that no rules and regulations shall be binding unless made at some meeting to be held in the vestry-room, of which ten days' notice shall be given to the Rector by the churchwardens and overseers.

The Charity Commissioners state that the local Trustees are required by law to render accounts of their receipts and expenditure annually to the Charity Commissioners, and to the parish vestry, but that they have not received any such accounts, notwithstanding their applications for them. It was not until the year 1890 that any account was presented to the parish vestry.

LUCAS'S CHARITY

As the parish of Finchampstead has an interest in this charity, the following account of it will not be out of place here.

Henry Lucas, by Will dated June 11, 1663, left 7,000*l.* to be expended in building and endowing an almshouse or hospital in the county of Berks or Surrey, for the relief of as many poor old men (and a master as chaplain, to read Divine Service every morning and evening and preach once every Lord's Day) as might be conveniently provided for, allowing the master 50*l.* (since raised to 100*l.*) a year, and to each old man the yearly maintenance of 10*l.*; the men to be of the poorest inhabitants of the Forest Division in the county of

Berks, and of the bailiwick of Surrey, and to be nominated by the Master, Wardens, and Company of Drapers : they are to be fifty years of age. The number of brethren is now twelve, each receiving a pension of 27*l.* a year. The parishes which receive the benefit of this institution are as follows :

CHAP.
VIII
A.D. 1663

BERKSHIRE

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Wokingham. | 7. Old Windsor. | 12. Sandhurst. |
| 2. Arborfield. | 8. Barkham. | 13. Winkfield. |
| 3. Finchampstead | 9. Binfield. | 14. Swallowfield. |
| 4. New Windsor. | 10. Hurst. | 15. Sunninghill. |
| 5. Easthampstead. | 11. Ruscombe. | 16. Bray. |
| 6. Clewer. | | |

SURREY

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Chobham. | 6. Egham. | 11. Purbright. |
| 2. Chertsey. | 7. Frimley. | 12. Warplesdon. |
| 3. Bisley. | 8. Windlesham. | 13. Byfleet. |
| 4. Purford. | 9. Stoke. | 14. Woking. |
| 5. Wainborough. | 10. Thorpe. | 15. Horsell. |

The following parishioners of Finchampstead have had the benefit of this charity since its foundation, viz. :

George Hannington, named in the Charter.	John Bullock,	elected 1760.
William Ryther, elected 1681.	James Parker,	" 1788.
William Seward, " 1705.	Joseph Biggs,	" 1810.
Henry Phelp, " 1730.	James Cotton,	" 1833.
	Jeremiah Goddard,	" 1861.

There have been 292 inmates in 228 years, averaging nearly five vacancies every four years, or $1\frac{1}{4}$ every year.

It is more than thirty years since Finchampstead enjoyed the advantage of this charity. Vacancies are made known by advertisement in the county papers ; but as these advertisements may not always be observed, it would seem desirable that some better means should be devised for informing the several parishes concerned when vacancies occur.

Application for admission should be addressed to the Clerk to the Drapers' Company, Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, London.

LOST CHARITIES

I must now draw attention to charities which the Charity Commissioners in their report presented to Parliament state

CHAP. VIII
A.D. 1839

have been 'apparently' lost, not with any expectation of their recovery, but as showing the consequences of keeping no parish records, and of parishioners not attending the vestries and properly controlling parish affairs.

The Charity Commissioners in their Report dated 1839, pp. 146-47, state as follows :

*'TWO LITTLE HOUSES IN THE CHURCHYARD
AND ONE OTHER ON THE COMMON*

Appendix,
No. 76

Two little
houses in
the
Church-
yard

'In a Terrier for this parish dated July 21, 1783, there is the following entry, viz. :

'(1) There are two little houses in the Churchyard, and (2) one other on the Common, that are to be given to some poor people by the Rector, to be kept in repair by the parish.

I. *'Of these houses, the two first mentioned would seem to be the substance of the bequest described in the Parliamentary Return of 1781 as Sir Richard Harrison's Charity, while the other one is the one therein described as that of a donor unknown, the report on which is as follows :*

'The Manor of East Court passed about the year 1661 from the Harrison family into the possession of Richard Palmer, Esq., by whose descendants it was devised to Henry Fyshe, Esq., of Ickwell, in the county of Bedford, father' (more correctly grandfather) 'of the present possessor, Charles Fyshe-Palmer, Esq.

'We have not been able to discover any documentary evidence in connection with the origin of this bequest.

'The premises consist of two cottages, to one of which is attached a small garden situate on the west side of the Churchyard. They have always been occupied by poor parishioners, who have been nominated by the Rector.

1809 to
1841

'The patronage of the Living is in the hands of the St. John family, and the present Incumbent, the Rev. Henry Ellis St. John, is the owner of a considerable quantity of land in the parish, Mr. Palmer being the other principal proprietor, which may in part account for a mistake whereby, on the enclosure of the parish in 1818, the whole site of the above premises, described in the award of the Commissioners as a

garden with two cottages or tenements thereon, situate near the Church, and marked No. 80 on the map annexed, containing twenty-seven perches, was dealt with as the private property of Mr. St. John, and as such formed the subject of an exchange with Mr. Palmer. The result of our communications with Mr. Palmer has been a ready surrender on his part of all claim or right or interest with the premises in question, the inmates of which it is proposed henceforward to select, as vacancies occur, from among the most meritorious parishioners, under the sanction of the Rector and churchwardens.'

CHAP.
VIII
A.D. 1868

In 1868 the Charity Commissioners made a further report, in which they stated that these '*habitations for the poor are apparently lost,*' and also that '*three other cottages, making six cottages in all, and 12 a. or. 38 p. for use of the parish, are apparently lost.*'

July 15,
1868

In regard to the two cottages described as within the Churchyard, the next mention of them which is found is in the vestry minutes, under date of May 3, 1863, where there is a resolution in regard to them, '*That the meeting be adjourned until June 29, to enable inquiries to be made respecting the ownership of this property.*'

May 3,
1863

It would seem that the history of that piece of land and the cottages thereon, as narrated above, had been entirely lost sight of by the Rector and churchwardens.

After three adjourned vestry meetings in 1863, at which no resolution is recorded as having been arrived at, no further action was taken in the matter until August 16, 1866, when the following resolution was passed in a vestry composed of only four parishioners, after due publication of notice of the meeting, viz. :

'Resolved, that the Rector having stated his intention of handing over for the use of the parish the Almshouse and piece of ground attached thereto, and adjoining the Churchyard on the west side, a fence be erected along the west boundary of the said piece of ground instead of replacing the present Churchyard fence, which is out of repair, and also to repair the Almshouse.'

The ground was thus included within the Churchyard in 1866, but it was not consecrated until 1881, when the Church-

CHAP.
VIII
A.D. 1868

yard was otherwise enlarged, as described in page 91. There is no record in the vestry minutes of the removal of these cottages, which must have disappeared between 1866 and 1868. The parish school had been latterly held in one of them, and the cottages had ceased to be used as Alms-houses for a long time previously to their demolition.

There appears to have been a remarkable course of ill-fortune attending these two little cottages *near* the Churchyard (not 'within,' as erroneously stated in the Terrier of 1783).

It has been already shown in the Chapter on the East Court Manor that they were 'given by Sir Richard Harrison, No. 6, and his son, No. 7, by deed to the poor in 1651,' and that in 1786 they were mentioned in a Parliamentary return as at that time 'vested in John Banister and Thomas Oliver, and occupied by paupers,' and 'producing no rent.' No mention is made of 'the Rector of the parish' as having had any control over them, nor are we informed in what capacity 'John Banister and Thomas Oliver' were responsible for them in 1786. When, however, we consider that in 1651 there was no Rector of Finchampstead, and that the Church of England was virtually disestablished, it seems extremely unlikely that 'the Rector' would have been named as one of the trustees, and more probable that the overseers of the poor would have been appointed as trustees, and I am inclined to think that such was the case.

Unfortunately the accounts and proceedings of the churchwardens and overseers have not been preserved; otherwise the question might have been cleared up.

Anyhow, 'the poor' have lost the benefit intended for them, and the richer inhabitants have gained the advantage of an addition to the Churchyard, without being called upon to contribute to it, as they certainly would have been had the proceedings been regularly conducted under the direction of the Charity Commissioners.

II. In regard to the cottage¹ and a plot of land measuring 1 a. 0 r. 31 p., marked 105 on the award map, referred to as No. 2 above, and situated at the edge of Finchampstead

¹ This cottage stood on the ground now marked on the Ordnance map as 'Piggs Farm,' in the woods.

Heath, 'near the Three Oaks and Wick Hill,' the Charity Commissioners made the following report: '*The first account we could obtain found the above in the occupation of one Mr. Parker, who died, leaving a large family chargeable to the parish, which family were bred up by the parish officers, who took possession of the cottage and land. Amongst the succession of occupiers of it put in by the parish was Allen, who was long its inhabitant; and Spratley, who married Allen's daughter, and — Spratley, who subsequently sold the premises to John Clacey, who built a second cottage.*

CHAP.
VIII
A.D. 1839

'*The claim of the parish officers in the above premises as a charitable bequest is also recognised in the award of the Commissioners appointed under the Act for enclosing this parish, dated February 27, 1818.*

53 Geo.
III. c. 158

Among the exchanges which were then made was the transfer of this land and its two cottages to Charles Fyshe-Palmer, the owner of the East Court Manor, in exchange for a parcel of land at Moor Green, marked 55 on the award map, and containing 2 r. 17 p., with a 'cottage¹ in two tenements thereon,' situated in Longwater Lane and adjoining Wyse Hill, which was thereby transferred to the Trustees of the Finchampstead Charities.

'*Mr. Palmer, however, did not assume the possession of No. 105 under the above award, specifying as his ground for refusal the defect in the title, but resumed possession of No. 55, which he still retains. He subsequently, in 1833, purchased No. 105 from the Trustees under the Will of Mr. Thomas Sowdon, the mortgagee of John Clacey, and accepted their title to it.*

'*It formed one of the many pieces of land which had come into Clacey's possession, and which lay interspersed with lands of his own, all of which Mr. Palmer purchased at the same time.*

'*In the absence of all proof that the premises in question formed the substance of a charitable bequest, we have confined ourselves to a statement of the above transaction.*'

III. The Charity Commissioners in their same report of 1839 further stated that '*the parish is in possession of the*

¹ This cottage is still in existence, and is a picturesque specimen of the old half-timbered cottages of the sixteenth century.

Missing Page

Missing Page

CHAP. VIII
 A.D. 1792 only rented as a parish house for the reception of the poor of the parish. The house now known as 'Sunnyside' was, in 1792, conveyed to trustees for a similar purpose.

In 1798 'Sunnyside' was known by the name of 'Hatches,' a name by which the old house of the Banister family and the old house of the Bartletts were also known at different periods, causing much confusion in tracing their history.

In the year 1864 this house ('Sunnyside') was purchased by the late Mr. John Walter, and Mr. F. P. Wetherall converted it into a private residence, with much taste, and occupied it for many years.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

The parish history would be incomplete without some allusion to our school, which is now one of the brightest features of the parish. The present buildings, consisting of two schoolrooms and a teachers' house, were provided at the sole expense of the late Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood, between the years 1858 and 1871, and were lent to the parish, rent free, so long as the school expenses are defrayed without the aid of a School Board.

Previously to 1858 there had been no building specially set apart for the purpose. School instruction had been carried on in various cottages, according to the custom and enlightenment of the age, and latterly, up to 1857, in one of the little Almshouses close to the Churchyard, described under 'Charities.' It has been mainly through the great liberality of Mr. Walter that the blessing of a religious education has been preserved to the children of Finchampstead.





CHAPTER IX

General Remarks



THE award of the Commissioners under the Windsor Forest Enclosure Act, in 1818, constitutes the most important epoch in the history of Finchampstead; and a careful study of it, and of the several Acts of Parliament which led to it, reveals the fact that the forest generally had become a nursery of crime and lawlessness, which tended to produce the low standard of morality which prevailed among the smaller holders of the forest lands.

This 'Enclosure Commission,' as it is called, was the result of several commissions of inquiry and Acts of Parliament.

In the seventeenth century we read of Claude Duval, whose chivalrous exploits in highway robbery are fully described in various histories. His hiding-place on the moor, to the east of the road from 'The Golden (now Jolly) Farmer' to Frimley, is still pointed out. Travelling in carriages along the main roads over Bagshot Heath, and on the London road through Wokingham, was attended with much risk to life and property. In 1723 a special Act of Parliament was passed, called 'The Black Act,' to punish armed persons going about in disguise with their faces blackened, robbing warrens and

CHAP.
IX

A.D. 1818

9 Geo. I.

CHAP.
IX
A.D. 1607

fish-ponds, destroying deer, and cutting down plantations. Many of them were captured, a special assize was held in Reading to try them, and four were hung in chains in Windsor Forest. The ancient severe forest laws had proved inadequate to prevent these lawless depredations.

‘Annals
of Wind-
sor,’ by R.
R. TIGHE
and J. E.
DAVIS,
1858

John Norden, the celebrated topographer in James I.’s reign, who made a complete survey of ‘the Honor of Windsor’ in 1607, tells us that at that date Windsor Forest was $77\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circumference, within the counties of Berks and Surrey; it was divided into three bailiwicks, of which Finchampstead was one, and sixteen ‘walkes,’ with a keeper in charge of each of them. The keepers were great men in their way, although their allowances were not large; they had a house and various perquisites, and sport at all times, which made the post very attractive.

The head-keepership of the forest was always committed to one of the royal favourites. In King John’s time (1201) we read of Hubert Walter, who was Bishop of our diocese from 1188 to 1193, and afterwards Lord-Chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury and Legate to the Pope Celestine, being the head-keeper. The walk with which we are at present more especially concerned was ‘Bigshot Walke,’ the head-keeper of which in James I.’s reign was Sir Charles Howard, who was Member for Windsor from 1613 to 1619. He was also ‘Keeper of the Sandhurst Walke’ at the same time. Bigshot Walke comprised the parishes of Finchampstead, Swallowfield, Arborfield, and Barkham, and part of what is now known as St. Sebastians.

Within several of these ‘walkes’ were ‘parks,’ which had been made over to private owners subject to the permanent hunting rights of the Crown; and ‘rayles,’ the latter being enclosed grounds stocked with deer, which received more attention than those in the open forest. The number of deer in 1607 must have been very great, as we learn that in the year 1731 the number had been greatly reduced, and then even amounted to about 1,300; while between the latter year and 1806 that number had dwindled down to 318. The salaries of the keepers were insufficient to enable them to provide food for the deer, and the keepers’ houses had

become dilapidated and unfit for occupation. The extent of the forest had also been reduced within the same period from 77½ miles to 56, chiefly by means of 'purprestures,' or illegal encroachments. CHAP.
IX
A.D. 1805

In 1805 a Commission was appointed to inquire into the working of the forest laws. Their report states that the inhabitants of the twenty parishes comprised within the forest live in widely scattered dwellings, affording means of committing their various depredations without the least chance of detection. They therefore recommended that these scattered cottages should be removed to the utmost possible extent, and collected into close hamlets, so that the habits of each individual might become better known to the whole community.

Between 1805 and 1813 great distress very generally prevailed, consequent upon the European war. Bread was dear, and the people were on the verge of starvation. Farmers and manufacturers were prosperous. The price of wheat in 1812 ranged from 100s. to 136s. per quarter, and bread was sold as high as 2s. 11½d. per gallon; there was a general cry for enlarging the corn-growing area by cultivating the commons, waste lands, and heaths. In 1813 an Act was passed whereby the ancient forest and its dreaded laws ceased to exist. 53 Geo.
III. c. 158 Certain parts of Windsor Forest were vested in the Crown, while about 2,400 acres of commonable land and open heath and moorland were allotted to the various landowners in the twenty parishes within the forest, in proportion to their holdings. The Finchampstead landowners received their share, the poor of Finchampstead also received theirs, as has been already shown under 'Parish Charities.' Much woodland was thus cleared of wood and brought under corn cultivation. What a change has since taken place! The price of wheat having fallen to 18s. a quarter, there is every prospect of these lands reverting to their ancient use as woodlands. 1894

'Bigshot Rayles,' since 1607, has been successively known by the names of 'Hanykins Lodge,' 'Hennikers,' and 'Ravenswood'—the latter name having been adopted about thirty-five years ago, when the house was occupied by Captain

CHAP.
IX
A.D. 1607

Sawyer. The name of 'Hanykin,' or 'Hankin,' is of much older origin. In James I.'s reign, when Sir Charles Howard was the head-keeper, there was an under-keeper of the name of 'Hanykin,' or 'Hankin,' and this is doubtless the origin of the name of the lodge. In Norden's Survey of the Forest, in 1607, there is a rude sketch of the lodge of Bigshot Walke, showing the houses of the 'chiefe-keeper and the under-keeper, Hanykyn.' The Rev. C. W. Penny informs me that he has met with the name of 'Hanykin' in the Wokingham Parish Register about the year 1675; and I have found the name of 'Ralph Hankin' in the Finchampstead Register under date of March 25, 1690. I may also mention that in the Finchampstead Register of Burials, November 14, 1727, 'Robert Hannington, the antient keeper of Bigshot Lodge,' is recorded. I think there can be no reasonable doubt that the name is derived from one or other of these persons. About thirty years ago it was suggested that the name might have been derived from 'Hannah Lightfoot;' but I can find no real foundation for this suggestion. The name of Hanykin existed long before Hannah Lightfoot, and there is no evidence that Hannah Lightfoot ever resided at Bigshot Rayles. Bishop Pocock, in his Itinerary through this neighbourhood in 1750, tells us that Bigshot Lodge was then inhabited by Lord George Beauclerk, son of the Duke of St. Albans, who was Ranger (Warden) of Windsor Forest. I have shown in the Chapter on 'East Court' that the Duke of St. Albans was about that time residing at Luckley House.

Court
Rolls

It is much to be regretted that so few Court Rolls or records of the Court Barons of the Manors of Finchampstead can be found. There are none in the Public Record Office, but there are a few of the seventeenth century belonging to the East Court Manor in the British Museum, and I have succeeded in obtaining possession of a few more of the East Court Manor and one of the West Court Manor of the same century from private sources. Copies of all of these will be found in the Appendix.

I am informed that the present owners of the East and West Court Manors do not possess any Court Rolls.

It is remarkable that the owners of Manors should not

always have retained possession of these valuable records. They contain the most reliable information in regard to the ownership and occupation of property, and the manners and customs of the inhabitants. CHAP. IX
A.D. 1661

The Manor Courts guarded the rights and interests of the *tenants* as well as of the *Lords* of the Manors. For instance, in 1661 the following entry appears in Item 9 of the Court Baron of the East Court Manor of that year: '*We present that freeholders, copyholders, and leaseholders belonging to this Manor hath liberty to dig turf, loam, sand, and gravel, and to cut heath and fern according to the former orders.*' Again, in the same year, Item 14: '*We order that no copyholder or leaseholder of the Manor of West Court cut any turf, heath, or fern upon any of the wastes belonging to the Manor of East Court, upon pain of forfeiting to the Lord of the Manor for every load so cut 10s.*'

In Item 6, at the same Court, the tenants desire the Lord of the Manor to repair the pound; and in 1700, Item 7, the Court presents the pound to be out of repair, and states that it is always repaired by the Lord of the Manor.

Appendix,
No. 86

In Items 15 and 16 the Court orders the ditches on the side of the lane to be scoured by the tenant, on pain of forfeiting to the Lord for every pole then undone 12*d.*

These Courts appear also to have attended to parish property, as in 1700, Item 6, the following presentment was made: '*We present the house and back side where Thomas Seward now liveth to be a parish house.*'

In 1630 there appears to have been a curious custom of giving notice in church upon subjects which would rather shock the ears of worshippers nowadays. Under Item 32 of the Court Baron for that year occurs the following: '*We paine that if any swine be found unringed at any time within this parish upon a week's warning publick in the church, they are to ring them, or else pay 4*d.* for every hogg so often as they shall be found trespassing.*'

Appendix,
No. 83,
p. 294

We are not informed whether this warning was given by the parson or by the clerk.

The following copy of a letter of attorney by James Redinge, of Fynchamstede, constituting Francis Polley and

CHAP.
IX

A.D. 1588

Chapter
V. p. 118

July 31,
1588

The original in possession of
Mr. J. BANISTER-SMITH

Margaret his wife as his lawful attorneys, is inserted here not only as a curious specimen of the form in which such documents were expressed, but also for the novelty of a man and his wife being empowered to act either jointly or severally in such capacity. It may be observed that Francis and Margaret Polley were at the date referred to lessees of the East Court Manor and of the Manor House on Church Hill.

'Too all Feithfull people in Christ to whom theise presentes shall come to see Rede here or understand James Redinge of Fynchamsted in the County of Barkes Trenchermaker sendith greetinge in our Lord God the Aucthor of all helth everlastinge. Knowe ye me the said James Redinge for diverse considerations me thereunto especially movinge have made authorised and appoynted my welbeloved in Christe Francis Polley of Fynchamsted in the County of Barkes husbandman and Margaret his Wife my true & lawfull Attorneys joyntly and severally to axe levy Recover Receyve and take up for me and in name of all maner of persons whatsoever all and singuler my Rentes Dettes and other Duties whatsoever to me due and owinge gevinge & grantinge to my said Attorneys joyntly and severally my full power and lawful authoritie in the premises ageynst all my Tenantes and detters whatsoever for non payment of my said Rentes and Dettes to enter and Distreyne and to arest serve & recover and thereupon in my name to make seale and as my deed to delyver acquitance or other dyscharge unto those parties which shall pay & satysfye unto my seid Attorneys eny manor of somme or somes of money unto me due & payable And all that my seid Attorneys or eyther of them shall do or cause to be done for me and in my name I do ratysfye & allowe as sufficientlye as I my self wer personally present. In Witness whereof I the said James Redinge unto this my present generall letter of Attorney have Putte my owne hand and seale the one and Thyrtye daye of Julye In the Thyrtye yere of the Reigne of o . . . Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of
(cut off) A.D. 1588. 31 July.'

James Redinge, it will be observed, is described as a 'trencher-maker.' In Chapter IV. p. 90, allusion is made to an

old oak table with its trenchers, which is supposed to have belonged to the old East Court Manor House, which was in existence about sixty years ago. I have also been informed that there is an old lady still living, about eighty years of age, who can distinctly remember seeing, in her youth, in the great kitchen of a large farmhouse in Finchampstead, a long slab six inches thick, cut out of a solid oak tree, which formed the dining-table of the household. There were twelve trenchers sunk in this solid table, and a smaller one beside each of them for salt, &c. Out of these trenchers the several members of the family fed themselves. Their food is said to have consisted of bacon, cabbage, and other vegetables, boiled together in a common stock-pot.

CHAP.
IX
A.D. 1522

We may, I think, infer from the above that trencher-making was an extensive business carried on in Finchampstead three hundred years ago, and that trenchers were in very general use. Very fine oak timber was grown in Finchampstead in those days, and it was no doubt extensively used for almost every domestic purpose.

Among the ancient families of Finchampstead the name of Banister is the oldest (see Chapter VII.) ; and next in point of antiquity is that of Oliver, which is first found in the year 1345, as holding one third part of the East Court moiety of the Manor.

Feet of
Fines, 19
Edw. III.
Appendix,
No. 9

The name is met with in various documents in nearly every century from the fourteenth to the eighteenth. In a Subsidy Roll of 1522 the name of Robert Oliver occurs ; in 1524, William Oliver ; and again in a deed dated September 3, 1557-58 (3 & 4 Philip and Mary), the same name appears. In some Chancery proceedings, June 20, 1584 (Elizabeth), O. 3, No. 46, a pedigree of four generations of Olivers holding land in Finchampstead is given, viz. : (1) Thomas, (2) William (1557-58), (3) William and Richard, and (4) Hugh (1584). In a Subsidy Roll for 1585 the names of William and Richard Oliver again appear.

Appendix,
No. 26

Appendix,
No. 52

In the East Court Manor Rolls, between 1602 and 1727, this family is found in possession of the freehold of a property called ' Ferretts,' on the East Court Manor, and paying for it 6s. 6d. a year to the Lord of the Manor. Richard Oliver

CHAP.
IX

A.D. 1786

signs the Court Rolls between 1675 and 1700. In the Parish Registers the name is found throughout the eighteenth century. Richard Oliver was buried in Finchampstead, March 22, 1739.

Chapter
VIII.
p. 202

Another Richard, son of Thomas, was buried on April 12, 1771; Thomas Oliver, son of Thomas, was buried on June 24, 1779; and in 1786 Thomas Oliver appears as a Trustee of Sir Richard Harrison's Charity (*i.e.* the two little houses near the Churchyard), and with him the name disappears from Finchampstead.

The old house called Ferretts, now known as Wick Hill Farm, has been allowed to fall into decay, and is at present occupied by a labourer's family; but it has every appearance of having been a house of some importance in its early days.

WYNNEBUSH

There was a small property called 'Wynnebush,' formerly belonging to the West Court Manor, but latterly transferred to the East Court Manor, which I have frequently met with amongst the ancient deeds; and as I have traced it from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century, with an unbroken chain of descent, I am induced to give a short abstract of it, although it does not in other respects at present appear to possess any particular feature of interest; but perhaps this description of it may lead to its identification hereafter. In 1455 Stephen Colle, the Lord of the Manor of West Court, granted to Robert Porton and his heirs for ever a messuage with half a virgate of land called 'Wynnebushe,' yielding yearly to Stephen Colle and his heirs 10s. at Lady Day and Michaelmas, *'saving heriot, relief, and suit of Court twice a year, and also pannage of hogs. Except that the said Robert and his heirs shall have two hogs quit of pannage going in all commons within the said Manor.'*

B.M.
Add.
Chart.
38564.
Appendix,
No. 19
1455

In 1467 Robert Porton granted a release of this property to Roger Thurbarne.

B.M.
Add.
Chart.
38567
38568
38571

In 1487 it was released to Henry Tylborough.

In 1514 it was settled on Henry Tylborough and Agnes his wife, with remainder over.

In 1533 John Tylborough, of Eversley, 'wever,' sold to

Stephen Cawood, Lord of the East Court Manor, 'the reversion of Wynbusshe and half yard land' which came to John Tylborough's mother by the gift of Henry Tylborough. William Banester, Robert Whyte, and William Olyver are witnesses to the deed of sale.

CHAP.
IX

A.D. 1533
B.M.
Add.
Chart.
38575

This last transfer brought Wynbusshe into the possession of the Lord of the East Court Manor, but it was still subject to the annual rent of 10s. payable to the Lord of the West Court Manor.

This property is next found in a *West Court Manor* Roll of 1623, in the possession of Sir Richard Harrison, Lord of the Manor of East Court, who was still paying to the Lord of the West Court Manor the same annual rent of 10s. which had been paid in 1455, but the land is there described as consisting of 'three score acres.' It will be observed that the virgate of land in 1455 is changed into 'half a yerde londe' in 1533, and into 'three score acres' in 1623: whether each of these three different expressions represents the same quantity or not, I am unable to say. The property appears in the *East Court* Manor Rolls of 1676 and 1698 as belonging to the Lord of that Manor, under the name of 'Windbushes,' and it was then held on lease from the Lord of the Manor at a rental of 13s. 8d. by William Feltham. The West Court manorial rights in it had then, it is presumed, been extinguished by the Act of 12 Charles II. c. 24, which put an end to the feudal tenure of land, and it had become the freehold of the Lord of the East Court Manor. The name unfortunately disappears after this date; probably the property assumed the name of its next occupier, and I am unable to identify it.

West
Court
Manor
Roll of
1623-
Item 1

1672

HALL HOUSE

There is an old house near the Church, close to the 'White Horse' public-house, which has evidently known 'better days.' This house was formerly a private residence of some importance, known by the name of 'Hall House.' It is mentioned in an old Court Roll of the West Court Manor of 1623, from which I gather that at that date there must have been at least sixteen separate fields belonging to it, the total acreage of

Appendix,
No. 78

CHAP.
IX

A.D. 1623

which amounted to upwards of eighty acres. The fields were then let to various tenants, who are named in the Rent Roll.

As late as the year 1841 this house had eight fields or enclosures attached to it, consisting of about thirty acres, all of which fields are named in the parish rate book of that year. The names in the rate book enable me to identify the property as Hall House. One of the eight fields in the rate book of 1841 is 'Churchams,'¹ consisting of two acres, which name is found in Item 30 of the Rent Roll of 1623. Two others of the eight fields are called 'Little and Great Gammons'¹ in the same rate book, consisting of eight acres; and these names are found in Item 31 of the same Rent Roll, where they are called 'Gam hames,' consisting of the same quantity of land, eight acres, the more modern name being evidently only a corruption of the older one.

This house in 1841 belonged to a Mr. Goodchild, and was in the occupation of Mr. W. Pigg.

On the East Court Manor being purchased by Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood, in 1849, the hedgerows separating these several fields were removed, and the fields were thrown together, now forming one large field. The old house has since been occupied by the families of farm labourers.

Appendix,
No. 78

In 1623 Hall House and its lands formed part of the West Court Manor, and the boundary line between the two Manors, as described in the deed of July 30, 1736, must have embraced this property within the West Court Manor.

The boundaries between the East and West Court Manors have undergone many changes since the whole Manor was divided in the thirteenth century, and have at different times been a subject of dispute between their respective owners.

The West Court Manor, previously to 1818, must have included much of the ground lying in the centre of the parish, and now belonging to the East Court Manor.

In the award of the Windsor Forest Enclosure Commissioners there are several houses and lands in that locality which were transferred by exchange from the West to the East Court Manor, *e.g.* :

¹ See terrier in Appendix, No. 75, where these names appear as belonging to the Church.

	A.	R.	P.	CHAP.
No. 63 on the Award Map. The 'Greyhound' public-house	1	2	8	IX
No. 61. An old enclosure with a cottage thereon, near 'Fair Green,' near where 'the old club-room' now stands	0	3	0	A.D. 1829
No. 59. Another old enclosure yard, with buildings thereon, situated on 'Fair Green'	0	0	16	
No. 81. Six old enclosures with cottages thereon, along the north side of the Eversley Road from East Court to the Glebé lands of the Rectory, which seems to represent the East Court garden cottage, a half-timbered building of the sixteenth century, and the blacksmith's buildings, and 'the waste of the Manor' along the north side of the road as far as the entrance gate to the Rectory	4	0	29	
No. 54. Two old cottages and land in Long Water Lane	0	1	14	
No. 55. Garden with two cottages thereon, awarded to the Trustees of the Finchampstead Charity Trustees in exchange	0	2	17	
No. 56. A field on Moor Green, near the 'Royal Oak' public-house	7	1	28	
No. 93. Ridge Farm, being twelve enclosures, with a farmhouse and other buildings thereon near the pound	38	1	5	
No. 84. Four old enclosures with cottage thereon near the Church. This allotment is subject to a right of carriage-road twenty feet wide from the field called the Brickkilns and other fields near 'Ennox Coppice,' belonging to the Rectory, to the Church	20	0	0	
No. 83. 'Parsonage Coppice,' part of the Glebe, in exchange for lands transferred from East Court Manor	5	0	30	

ROADS

Finchampstead, before the enclosure of the forest, was less accessible by good roads than it is now. On the south there were no bridges across the Blackwater river, which could only be forded when the river was low enough to admit of it. The principal crossing was through the village of Eversley; the present Eversley bridge was not built until 1819, and the access to it from Finchampstead village was at that date only by a driftway or green lane.

Previously to the year 1854, the only other road from Finchampstead village to Eversley Green was by Long Water Lane, past the 'Greyhound' public-house and the end of the Fleet Wood, to the river Blackwater, thence for about five hundred yards up the bed of the river (which was there called 'Long Water') to where Finchampstead bridge now crosses the river. The 'New Road,' from opposite East Court garden cottage to Finchampstead bridge, was only made in 1854, at a cost to the parish of 381*l*.

Vestry
Minutes,
January
20, 1854

CHAP.
IX

A.D. 1861
'Hamp-
shire
Field
Club,'
vol. ii.
part i. 33,
p. 49.
T. W.
SHORE,
F.G.S.

The highest sources of the Blackwater river are near Ashridge, on the south of Aldershot, at an elevation of 250 feet above the sea. This is near the Aldershot Water Works, to supply which the river has been 'tapped.' The Blackwater forms the north-eastern boundary of Hampshire, from its source to its junction with the Whitewater in Swallowfield. Its height at Blackwater village is 200 feet, at Eversley bridge 156 feet, and at Swallowfield 147 feet, so that between Blackwater and Swallowfield, a distance in a straight line of $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles, there is only a fall of 53 feet, or one foot in 946 feet, which accounts for the sluggishness of the stream and its consequent winding course. The river has deviated from its original course in several places; this is specially observable at Finchampstead bridge and at the New Mill. Finchampstead bridge is consequently entirely in Hampshire, while the New Mill and the land on both sides of the river adjoining it are in Berkshire.

Finch-
ampstead
Vestry
Minutes,
February
12, 1863

Among the many improvements made by the late Mr. John Walter on his extensive property in Finchampstead and its neighbourhood, none has been of greater benefit to the residents and the general public than the fine new road over the Ridges to Wellington College station, made about the year 1861, and opened to the public in 1863. Previously to the establishment of Wellington College, between the years 1856 and 1859, the country between Finchampstead Ridges and Crowthorne was an unenclosed moorland, with few trees, and scarcely a cottage upon it. There was no Wellington College railway station until about the year 1861.

The only road from Finchampstead to Crowthorne was a green driftway, which began at the corner of what is now known as 'Ridge Cottage,' and crossed the heath, which was then only partially planted with trees. This green drive can still be traced through what is now a thick fir plantation as far as the Wellington College cross roads, and was called the Crowthorne Road.

Mr. Walter's new road took a somewhat different course, traversing what is known as Finchampstead Ridges, and ending in the avenue, of nearly a mile in length, leading to Wellington College. This avenue was planted with Welling-

tonia pines, fifty-five on each side, and forms a very appropriate approach to the College. It will be a lasting memorial of one of the greatest friends and benefactors of that institution.

CHAP.
IX
A.D. 1861

The road over the Ridges presents one of the finest landscapes to be found in this part of England. In front we look down upon the valley of the Blackwater, and beyond it rise the Hartford Bridge Flats, along which ran the old coaching road from London to Southampton. To the south-east may be seen (at a distance of about twenty miles and upwards) the conical hill of Crookesbury and Hind Head, and in the south-west, at about the same distance, a clump of trees on the hills above Kingsclere ('Cottington Clump'), with Highclere and Inkpen Beacon still further to the west.

We stand here upon somewhat historic ground. It has been said by very high authority—no less than that of the present Archbishop of Canterbury, when he was Head-master of Wellington College—that to these Ridges King Henry VII. and his son, Prince Arthur, rode out from Easthampstead in 1501 to meet Katharine of Aragon, after her arrival in England to become the Prince's bride. As the story may not be familiar to all my readers, perhaps the following narrative, taken from Miss Strickland's 'Lives of the Queens of England,' will be of interest :

'Katharine of Aragon, born December 15, 1485, was the daughter of Ferdinand, King of Aragon, and Isabel, Queen of Castile.

'When she was three years of age she was betrothed to Arthur, Prince of Wales, who was then only twenty months old.

'At seven years of age they corresponded with each other in Latin, their letters being under the direction of tutors, confessors, bishops, and a lady governess.

'On May 21, 1501, Katharine set off from Granada for England, embarked at Corunna, September 26, and landed at Plymouth, October 2, 1501.

'Henry VII. set out from his palace at Shene (Sheen), November 4, 1501, to meet his future daughter-in-law. The weather was rainy. He stopped for the night at Chertsey, and next morning rode toward East-Hampstead' (then a royal

CHAP.
IX
A.D. 1894

hunting lodge), 'where he met his son Arthur. The Prince did not know his future wife had arrived in England. Royal travellers moved slowly in those days, and Henry did not think of proceeding further than East-Hampstead, and "full pleasantly passed over that night season" in company with his son. Next morning the royal personages set forth again on their journey, "which was truly performed at a snail's gallop," and proceeded to the Downs.' (The moors between Easthampstead and Finchampstead Ridges in those times were not covered with fir woods, as they are now.) 'A party of Spanish cavaliers was seen passing over them, on a most solemn errand, which was to forbid the approach of the royal bridegroom and his father to the presence of the Infanta, who, in true Moorish fashion, was not to be looked at by her betrothed till she stood at the altar, or until she was his wife. King Henry did not approve of this: he took council with his nobles, and resolved that as the Spanish Infanta was now in his realm, he might look at her if he liked. Henry VII, leaving his son on the Downs, made his way to Dogmersfield,¹ where the Infanta had arrived two or three days previously. The Spanish retinue were put in terrible perplexity, but King Henry insisted on seeing her. Neither the King nor the Infanta could understand each other's "dialect." Within half an hour afterwards Prince Arthur arrived, as he was tired of waiting on the Downs; and he and the Infanta plighted their troth in person.

'Upon the morrow the Infanta set out for Chertsey, and stayed all night at the royal palace, and the next day proceeded to Lambeth.'

I cannot close this chapter without alluding to the great loss which the parish of Finchampstead has sustained by the recent lamented death of Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood. During the forty-five years of his ownership of the East Court Manor of Finchampstead, Mr. Walter has exercised a greater influence for good, and has effected greater public improvements in this parish, than can be traced in the lives of any of his predecessors in this estate. Attention has been

¹ The Manor of Dogmersfield was then the property of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, having been granted to that see by Henry I. *Cronal Records*, by F. J. Baigent.

already drawn to what Mr. Walter has done for our Churchyard, for our Parish Schools, and in making new Roads. I might also add that he contributed largely to the maintenance of our Schools, and to every other good object for which his help was needed. The East Court Manor had not enjoyed the advantage of a resident owner for more than a century until the late Mr. Fyshe-Palmer made East Court House his home early in the present century ; and although Mr. Walter did not reside upon this Manor, he seldom allowed a week to pass without visiting it and attending to his various duties connected with it. There was no part of his large property to which he was more strongly attached, and he faithfully discharged every duty connected with it.

CHAP.
IX
A.D. 1894

Mr. Walter's position as a public man is so well known that there is no need to make mention of it here, further than that he sat in Parliament for thirty-five years as one of the members for the county of Berkshire and for the borough of Nottingham, between the years 1847 and 1885, and that as manager-in-chief of the 'Times' newspaper he exercised a powerful influence in forming public opinion in England for upwards of a quarter of a century.

He died November 3, 1894, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, and was buried in Bearwood Churchyard.







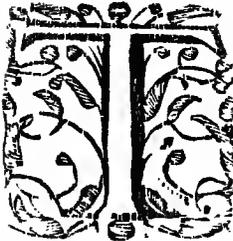
APPENDIX

I

NAMES OF THE LORDS OF THE MANOR OF ALDERMASTON, WHO WERE THE CHIEF LORDS OF THE FEE BY WHICH THE MANOR OF FINCHAMPSTEAD WAS HELD UNDER THEM FROM ABOUT A.D. 1100 TO 1672

APP.

Mr. WALTER MONEY, 'Historical Sketch of Aldermaston,' 1890



HE name of Aldermaston in Domesday is given as Aldremanestone, which means the alderman's town. It was the king's land, and was held by Earl Harold in the time of King Edward the Confessor.

I. Robert Achard. Grant of the manors of Aldermaston, Finchampstead, Spersholt, and Colthorpe in Theale, made by Henry I. 1100-18

II. Richard Achard, son of Robert, enfeoffed Alard Banastre in the Manor of Finchampstead, and John Banastre in that of Silhampstead. 1118-35

III. William Achard, in 1166, certified that his father had enfeoffed the three knights above mentioned, and gave to the priory of Monks Sherborne, Hants, the church of Aldermaston, with other dominions. 1166

IV. William Achard, son of III., succeeded and confirmed the gift of his father.

V. Robert Achard. Henry III., in 1229, confirmed to Robert the grant of all the manors made to his ancestor, No. I. The Manor of Finchampstead was held at this time by William Banastre, and Sulhamstead by John Banastre. 1229

Rot. Chart. 13 Hen. III.

- APP. VI. Peter Achard, son of No. V., died seised of Aldermaston in 1278.
- 1278
1278-98 VII. Robert Achard, son and heir of No. VI., born 1250, died in 1298, granted reversion of the Manor of Aldermaston to Richard de Coleshull.
- Inq. P. M.
27 Edw.
I. VIII. Robert Achard, described, in letters patent for founding a chantry at Sparsholt in 1336, as a son of Elyas de Coleshull and Margaret his wife, and brother of Peter de Coleshull, Rector of Sparsholt. He died in 1353.
- 1353 IX. Peter Achard, son of No. VII., succeeded to Aldermaston and other estates, and died in 1361.
- 1353-61 X. Thomas de la Mare, knight, married the daughter and heir of Sir Robert Achard, No. VIII., the last male heir of the Achard family, and then Aldermaston passed to the De la Mares. He died seised of Aldermaston, Sparsholt, Coldrop, Finchampstead, and Silhampstead-Banastre Manors, in 1372, having been Sheriff of Berks in 1370.
- Inq. P. M.
Chancery
P. M. Inq.
46 Edw.
III. No.
22
1372 XI. Robert de la Mare, knight of the shire, 1 and 5 Henry V. [1417].
- 1490 XII. Sir Thomas de la Mare was member for Berks in 1472, and sheriff in 1450, 1476, 1481, and 1490, in which year he died.
- 1533 XIII. Sir George Forster, son of Sir Humphrey Forster, of Harpenden (Harpden), married Elizabeth, only daughter of John de la Mare, the son of Sir Thomas, No. XII., and thereby became owner of Aldermaston. He died in 1533.
- 1533- XIV. Sir Humphrey Forster, son of Sir George, married Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Sandys of the Vine. Was Sheriff of Berks and Oxford.
- 1574 XV. Sir William Forster, son of No. XIV., died in 1574.
- 1574-1601 XVI. Sir William Forster married Mary, daughter of Sir Mark Steward. He was Sheriff of Berks in 1579, 1581, and 1592. It was to his house at Aldermaston that Campion the Jesuit was taken after his capture in the house of Mrs. Yates at Lyford, near Abingdon, in 1581. He died in 1601.
- XVII. Sir Humphrey Forster, son of No. XVI., was created a baronet in 1620, married Anne, daughter of Sir William Kingsmill, of Sidminton, Hants. In 1636 he built the house at Aldermaston, which was burnt down in 1843. The Manor of Aldermaston descended through female members of the family of Forster to Ralph Congreve, of Congreve in the county of Stafford, in 1752.

It would be beyond my present object to pursue the chief lords of

Aldermaston beyond the year 1672, when the feudal system of land tenure was terminated by the statute of 12 Car. II. c. 24.

APP.

2

Rotuli Hundredorum, 1812, folio, vol. i. page 15.

HUNDR' DE CHERLEDON

1276

[Omitting a few lines, and translating from the Latin, is the following.] 4 EDW. I.

Of Hundreds which are in the king's hands &c.

They [i.e. the jury] say that the Hundred of Cherledon is in the king's hand, and that the Hundred of Sunynghes was formerly [part] of the Hundred of Cherledon and was withdrawn by R. bishop of Salisbury in the time of King Henry, father of the now king, to the damage of the king's Hundred ; but they know not by what warrant, and it is worth by the year one hundred shillings.

Of purprestures¹ made upon the king &c.

They say that John de la Hawe holds a purpresture in Finchamstede which was enclosed in the time of King Henry, father &c., and contains two acres. Henry de Bruario holds three acres of land likewise in the same town. William de Hawe holds one rood in the same town. Alexander the clerk holds one rood in the same town. William the miller holds one rood. John the little Cupare holds half an acre. Gilbert de Mora, Stephen de Stonstred, and Gunilda de Aula hold conjointly three acres, Henry Kewell half an acre. And all the said purprestures are held in chief of John de la Hoese, and were enclosed in the time of King Henry, father &c. ; and they are in regard (i.e. in view of the king's officer).

1216-72

See Subsidy Roll 1327

3

Subsidy Roll. Berks 7³. 1 Ed. III. (1327). P. R. O.

VILLA DE FINCHAMSTEDE & BERKHAM

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>ob</i>	<i>qu</i>
D. Joh de la Hoese	x	x		I
Pet ^o „ „ „	xiii	i		I
Gilb ^{to} le Bedel	v	iv		I
Rob ^{to} le Marchaunt	ii	vii	I	
Pet ^r le Coupere.	ii	i		I

¹ Purpresture is an encroachment made by building, enclosing, or using any liberty without lawful warrant.

APP.

VILLA DE FINCHAMSTEDE & BERKHAM—continued

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>ob</i>	<i>qu</i>
Stepho Gorwen.	ii	i	I	I
Petro atte More		xi	I	I
John atte More		xi	I	
Henř Buayboos		xx	I	I
John le Kewel	ii	vii	I	
Thoma Banastř	ii	vii		
Rogd atte Haache	ii	i	I	I
Emma atte Halle		xxiii	I	I
Nicho Banastr	ii			
Edmund atte Halle	iv	v	I	I
John atte Hawe	ii	viii	I	I
Wiffo Baron	ii	i		
John de Haseldon	iv			
Henr atte Hethe	iii	vii		
Rogd Est	ii	vii		
John Boteler	viii	i	I	I
Robto West	ii	v	I	I
John de Kyngsmulle	ii	viii		
ad den		x	I	I
Rogo le Em		xi	I	I
Walfo le (?) ywe	ii	iv		
Ss ^d Hykonhulle	iii	x		
John Bulluk	ii	vii	I	I
Gilbto Red		xxiii	I	I
John Bulluk		xviii	I	
Lizanna Bulluk		xx		
Ad atte Delle	ii	i		
Juliana atte Bredenchuese.		xvii		I
Sma XX ^c ist. Vill	ciii.	s. i. d.	ob.	qu.

4

*EXTRACTS*Feet of Fines,¹ Berks1314
7 Edw.
II. No. 4

Between Nicholas de la Heuse, plaintiff, and Ralph de la Wyle and Joanna his wife, deforcians, of one messuage, two virgates of land,

¹ 'Feet of Fines' is the term used to denote the document whereby property was transferred from one party to another; the document consisted of three parts,

two acres meadow, and nine acres wood, with appurtenances, in Finchampstead and Barkham, the said Nicholas de la Heuse and his heirs to hold of the chief lords for ever, and for this the said Nicholas hath given to Ralph and Joan one sore sparrow-hawk (unum esperrarium sorum).

APP.

5

Feet of Fines, Berks. At York

Between John de la Hoese of Finchamstede, plaintiff, and Edward Thornhull and Joan his wife, deforciant, of third part of the moiety of Manor of Finghamstede with appurtenances. The said third part to be the right of John de la Hoese and his heirs for ever, for which the said John hath given to Edward and Joan twenty marks of silver.

1328
2 Edw.
III. No. 1

6

Feet of Fines, Berks. At Westminster

Between William de Cristeshull, younger, and Joan his wife, plaintiffs, and Henry de Poghle and (Matill) Maud his wife, deforciant, of one messuage, six acres land, eight acres meadow, and five acres moor, with appurtenances, in Sandhurst and Fynchamstede, granted to William and Joan and their heirs for ever, yielding therefor yearly one rose 24 June and doing other services to chief lords. Reversion, in case of default of issue, to Henry and Maud.

1348.
22 Edw.
III. No.
18

7

Feet of Fines, Berks, 1-3 Edw. III. No. 8 b

1329

Translation

This is the final agreement made in the Court of the lord the King at Westminster in eight days of the Holy Trinity in the third year of the reign of King Edward the Third from the Conquest before¹ *etc.* Between Richard, son of Richard de Bokhurst, plaintiff, and Nicholas Banastre of Fynghamstede, deforciant, of a messuage, forty acres of land, six acres of meadow, forty acres of pasture, ten

one of which, containing the final agreement, was given to one party, another part to the other party, and the third part, which was at the foot of the document, was cut off and retained in the P. R. O., and is now known as 'the Foot of the Fine.'

¹ Here the justices are named.

APP.

acres of wood, and eight shillings and two pence rent, with the appurtenances, in Fynghamstede. Whereupon a plea of covenant was summoned between them in the same Court, that is to say, that the aforesaid Nicholas hath acknowledged the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances to be the right of him the said Richard as those which the said Richard hath of the gift of the aforesaid Nicholas. And for this acknowledgment, fine, and agreement, the said Richard hath granted to the aforesaid Nicholas the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances. And those he hath rendered to him in the same Court to have and to hold to the said Nicholas of the chief lords of that fee by the services which appertain to the aforesaid tenements the whole life of the said Nicholas. And after the decease of the said Nicholas the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances shall entirely remain to Geoffrey de Bokhurst and his heirs to hold of the chief lords of that fee by the services which appertain to the said tenements for ever.

8

1337-38

Feet of Fines, 11-12 Edw. III. Bérks

Hec est finalis concordia facta in Curia dñi Regis apud Eboꝝ a die Pasche in tres septimanas Anno regni Regis Edwardi ꝛij a conquestu vndecimo . . . Inꝛ Thomam Banastre ꝛ Amiciam filiam Jacobi de la Bertoñ queꝛ ꝛ Joħem de la Burgħ deforc de vno mesuagio vno molendino sexaginta acris ꝛre quinꝛ acris pꝛti quadraginta acris bosci ꝛ septem solidatis ꝛ octo denaratis redditus cum pꝛtiñ in Fynchamstede. vnde plꝛm convencõis suñ fuit inꝛ eos in eadem Cuꝛ Sciꝛt qđ ꝛdꝛus Thomas recogñ ꝛdꝛa teñ cum pꝛtiñ esse Jus ipꝛius Joħis vt illa que idem Joħes het de dono ꝛdꝛi Thome Et pꝛ hac recognicõe fine ꝛ concordia idem Joħes concessit ꝛdꝛis Thome ꝛ Amicie ꝛdꝛa teñ cum pꝛtiñ Et illa eis reddidit in eadem Cuꝛ. hẽnd ꝛ Tenendẽ eisdẽ Thome ꝛ Amicie ꝛ hẽdibꝛ de corpibꝛ ipꝛoꝝ Thome ꝛ Amicie exeuntibꝛ de ꝛdꝛo Joħe ꝛ hẽdibꝛ suis impꝛm Reddendo inde pꝛ annũ vnam rosam ad festũ Nativitatẽ sãi Joħis Bapꝛe pꝛ omni sꝛvicio cons ꝛ exacõne ad iꝛdẽm Joħem ꝛ hẽdes suos pꝛtinente. Et faciendo inde capĩ dñis scodi illius pꝛ ꝛdꝛo Joħe ꝛ hẽdibꝛ suis om̃ia alia sꝛvicia que ad ꝛdꝛa teñ pꝛtinent impꝛm. Et si contingat qđ iꝛdẽ Thomas ꝛ Amicia obierint sine hẽde de corpibꝛ suis exeunte : tunc post decessũ ipꝛoꝝ Thome ꝛ Amicie : ꝛdꝛa teñ cum pꝛtiñ integre remanebunt hẽdibꝛ ipꝛius Thome de corpe suo pꝛcreat Tenendẽ de ꝛdꝛo Joħe ꝛ heꝛ suis pꝛ iꝛdẽ a sꝛvicia sicut

p̄dēm est imp̄p̄m Et si nullus heres de corpe ip̄ius Thome fuit p̄creatus : tūc p̄dca teñ cum p̄tiñ integre remanebūt Thome fit Thome Banastre. Tenend de p̄dco Johe t̄ hēdib; suis p̄ p̄dca s̄vicia sicut p̄dēm est imp̄p̄m Et si nullus heres de corpe ip̄ius Thome fuit p̄creatus : tūc p̄dca teñ cum p̄tiñ integre remanebūt Thome fit Thome Banastre. Tenend de p̄dco Johe t̄ hēdib; suis p̄ p̄dca s̄vicia sicut p̄dēm est tota vita ip̄ius Thome fit Thome Et post decessū ip̄ius Thome p̄dca teñ cum p̄tiñ integre rev̄tent̄ ad p̄dēm Johe t̄ hēr suos quiete de aliis hēdib; p̄dcoꝝ Thome Banastre t̄ Amicie. t̄ eciam de hēdib; Thome fil Thome . Tenend de Capiñ dn̄is feodi illius p̄ s̄vicia que ad p̄dca teñ p̄tinent imp̄p̄m.

APP.

Translation

This is the final agreement made in the Court of the lord the King at York in three weeks from Easter-day in the eleventh year of the reign of King Edward the Third from the Conquest before *etc.* Between Thomas Banastre and Amicia, daughter of James de la Bertone, plaintiffs, and John de la Burgh, deforciant, of a messuage, a mill, sixty acres of land, five acres of meadow, forty acres of wood, and seven shillings and eightpence rent, with the appurtenances, in Fynchampstede. Whereupon a plea of covenant was summoned between them in the same Court, that is to say, that the aforesaid Thomas hath acknowledged the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances to be the right of him the said John as those which the said John hath of the gift of the aforesaid Thomas. And for this acknowledgment, fine, and agreement the said John hath granted to the aforesaid Thomas and Amicia the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances. And those he hath rendered to them in the same Court, to have and to hold to the said Thomas and Amicia and the heirs of the bodies of them the said Thomas and Amicia issuing of the aforesaid John and his heirs for ever, yielding therefor by the year a rose at the feast of the Nativity of Saint John Baptist for all service, custom, and exaction to the aforesaid John and his heirs appertaining, and doing therefor to the chief lords of that fee for the aforesaid John and his heirs all other services which appertain to the aforesaid tenements for ever. And if it happen that the said Thomas and Amicia die without an heir of their bodies issuing, then after the decease of the said Thomas and Amicia the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances shall entirely remain to the heirs of the said Thomas of his body begotten, to hold

1337

APP. of the aforesaid John and his heirs by the aforesaid services as is aforesaid for ever. And if no heir shall be begotten of the body of the said Thomas, then the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances shall entirely remain to Thomas, son of Thomas Banastre, to hold of the aforesaid John and his heirs by the aforesaid services as is aforesaid the whole life of the said Thomas, son of Thomas. And after the decease of the said Thomas the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances shall entirely revert to the aforesaid John and his heirs, quit of other heirs of the aforesaid Thomas Banastre and Amicia, and also of the heirs of Thomas, son of Thomas, to hold of the chief lords of that fee by the services which appertain to the aforesaid tenements for ever.

9

Feet of Fines, Berks

1345
19 EDW.
III. No. 2

Between John Benio, citizen of London, plaintiff, and John Brome and Alice his wife, deforciant, of third part of moiety of Manor of Fynchamstede with appurtenances. The said third part which at that date was held by John Oliver for a term of nine years by the demise of John and Alice to revert wholly to John Benio at the expiration of that term, to hold of the chief lords by the services appertaining thereto for ever.

This agreement was made in the presence of John Oliver who did fealty to John Benio in the Court.

10

Feet of Fines, Berks. At Westminster

1347
21 EDW.
III. No. 8

Between Richard Yenyndone of Wokyngham, plaintiff, and John Benio, citizen of London, deforciant, of third part of moiety of Manor of Fynchamstede with appurtenances. The said Richard and his heirs to hold the said third part of the chief lords by the services appertaining thereto, for which the same Richard hath given to John Benio forty marks of silver.

11

1361-62

Charter of Nicholas atte Halle of Fynchamstede granting to John atte Haghe & Stephen atte Haghe of Fynchamsted all lands & tenements which he had in Fynchamsted to have & to hold the same to

the said John and Stephen their heirs & assigns for ever of the Lords of the fees, &c.

APP.

Witnesses :—WILLIAM ATTE HETHE.
STEPHEN EST.
JOHN WILCONS.
HENRY LE WHITE.
ROBERT LE BUDEL & others.

Dated at Fynchamstede on Monday next after the Feast of Saint Hilary, 13 January. 35 Edw. III. [1361-2].

[17 January, 1361-2.]

12

Exchequer. Lay Subsidies. Berks $7\frac{3}{4}$

Six shillings and eightpence on each person having lands and rent to the value of £20 a year. Grant made in the Parliament holden at Westminster on the morrow of All Souls, 13 Hen. IV. (3 Nov. 1411). Letters patent thereupon directed to Laurence Drieu and others dated at Westminster 2 January, 13th year (1411-12).

The certificate, after inquiry made, shows (among many others):

Thomas de Foxle het v^{r} ten t reddi t in dici t Com m apud Fynchampstede t Bray que val t p a^{m} vlt a repri s xx ii

Et quantū het alibi in divers s Com m licet diligen t inquire fecim 9 nob is constā non potest
(that is to say)

Translation

Thomas de Foxle has lands, tenements, and rents in the said county at Fynchampstede and Bray which are worth by the year beyond reprises £20

And how much he has elsewhere in divers counties, although we have caused diligent inquiry to be made, cannot be manifest to us.

Henry Huse has lands &c. in Southmorton worth (clear) p a^{m} ann. £10.

¶ This is a fine roll (in excellent condition) well written and symmetrically arranged.

13

Exchequer. Lay Subsidies. Berks $7\frac{3}{4}$

SEVEN HUNDREDS OF COOKHAM AND BRAY

Inquis 1 capta apud Wokyngh a^{m} die Mart e p x ante festū 1428
Nativitat e s c i Joh a n b is Bap t e Anno regni Reg e Henrici Sexti post conq u

¹ Document much worn and faded.

APP.

Angl̄ sexto Coram . . . Collectorib; dñi Regē de s̄bsidijs feod̄ Militū dic̄t̄ dño Regi in ultimo Parlamento apud Westm̄ ten̄t̄ concessis infra lib̄tatē dñi Humfr̄ Ducē Glowcestre in hundredis de Cokham ⁊ Braye ⁊ in vij hundredē in foresta de Wyndesore in Com̄ Berk̄ p̄ sac̄rm̄ Roḡi Waltham *etc.* ad hoc electi triati ⁊ iurati p̄ Rege qui dicūt p̄ sac̄rm̄ suū q̄d Thomas Foxle te; p̄cellā Mañij de Fynchamstede [q̄m] Alina de la Huse q̄ndā tenuit ib̄m set p̄ que s̄vič̄ ignorant Johes Colle te; alīā p̄cellā Manerij p̄dic̄t̄ q̄d Johes¹ de la Huse ⁊ Johes de Olyv̄ q̄ndā tenuer̄ ib̄m p̄ que s̄vič̄ ign̄.

Translation

Inq. taken at Wokyngham on Tuesday (22 June 1428) before the feast of the Nativity of S. John Baptist, 6th year, concerning subsidies of knights' fees granted in the last Parliament holden at Windsor. The jury say that Thomas Foxle holds parcel of the Manor of Fynchamstede which Alina de la Huse formerly held there, but by what services they know not. John Colle holds the other parcel of the said manor which John (?) de la Huse and John de Olyver formerly held there, by what services they know not.

14

B. M. Add. Charter 38557

1447

[Endorsed] *A Lease from Brockas and others to Warblton and Margerie his wife of the Mannor of Finch. 11 Novembris 26 H. 6.*

Hec indentura testat̄ nos Wifm̄ Brokas seniore[m] Rob̄tum Dyneley Johem Gaynesford̄ Thomam Hannys ⁊ Johem Corker clicum dimisisse ⁊ tradidisse Wifmo Warbeltoñ ⁊ Dñe Margie vxori sue illud Mañiū de Fynchamstede in Com̄ Berk̄s vna cum Advocaç̄ ecclie ib̄m necnon ⁊ om̄n̄ redditib; ⁊ s̄vicij; ter̄ ⁊ tenement̄ pratis pascuis pasturis ⁊ boscis ac om̄ib; alijs suis p̄tencijs que nup̄ huim̄^o ex dono ⁊ fcoffamento p̄dicti Wifm̄ Warbeltoñ hēnd̄ ⁊ tenend̄ dictum Mañiū cum om̄modis p̄tinenç̄ suis p̄dict̄ p̄fatis Wifm̄ Warbeltoñ ⁊ Margie a die confecçonis p̄senciū deinceps ad t̄im̄ vite ip̄oꝝ Wifm̄ Warbelton ⁊ Margie ac eoꝝ diucius vivent̄ Redden̄ nobis inde annuatim ad ffestum Nativitat̄ S̄ci Johis Baptiste vnam Rosam rubeam Et ijdm̄ Wifms Warbeltoñ ⁊ Margia seu eoꝝ al̄ diucius

¹ Doubtful whether pen struck through this christian name or not.

vivens dictum Manūiū ac domos inibi situaē repabunt manutenebunt
 ⁊ sustentabunt omīa quoq; oīa inde exeuncia sumptibz suis ꝑꝑꝛ ⁊
 expens durante īmīo ꝑꝑꝛo subibunt ⁊ supportabunt. In cuius rei
 testimoniū ptes ꝑꝑꝛdicte hijs indentuē alīnatim Sigilla sua apposuerunt
 vndecimo die mensis Novembꝛ Anno regni Regis Henrici Sexti
 A conquestu Anglie vicesimo sexto.

APP.

Two seals :—one (small) a wolf's head within a circle ; other
 (broken), with 'Warbelton' on verge, shows shield *couché* of arms,
 Lozengy ; on helmet for crest, a wolf's head.

15

B. M. Add. Charter 38558.

FYNCHAMSTEDE

[Endorsed] *A tre of atorney by Brokas and others to deliver seisin in* 1447
ye moity of ye mannoꝝ of Finchāstede dated 11 Novembꝛ 26 H. 6.

Novint vniꝑsi ꝑ ꝑꝑꝛsentes nos Willm Brokas señ Roðtum Dyneley
 señ Joñem Gaynesfoꝝd armīgos Thomam Hannys ⁊ Magꝛm Joñem
 Corker Clīcum assignasse ⁊ loco ñro constituisse dilēm nobis in xpō
 Joñem Lytelfeld legitimū attornatum nꝛm ad delīband vice ⁊ nomine
 ñro Willmo Warbeltoñ de Coñ Suthꝛ armīgo ⁊ dne Margie vxi eius
 plenam ⁊ pacificam seisinam de ⁊ in Medietate Mañij de Fyncham-
 stede cum omībz reddī ⁊ svič lꝛ ⁊ teñ ꝑꝑꝛ pascuis pastuē ⁊ bosē ac
 omībz alijs suis ꝑꝑꝛtiñ ⁊ cum advocacōe ecclīe de Fynchamstede ꝑꝑꝛdicī
 alīnis vicibz ꝑꝑꝛsentand cum acciderit in Coñ Berkš. hēnd ⁊ tenend
 ꝑꝑꝛfatis Willmo Warbeltoñ ⁊ Margie ⁊ heredibz de corporibz eoꝝ
 legitime ꝑꝑꝛcreatis. Remanere inde Ričō de la Hay avunčlo dci Willi
 Warbeltoñ ⁊ Margarete vxi eius ad līm vite iꝑꝑꝛ Ri: i ⁊ Margarete
 ⁊ alīus eoꝝ diucius viventis Remanere inde Matheo de la Hay filio
 ꝑꝑꝛdcoꝝ Ričī ⁊ Margarete ⁊ heredibz suis impꝑꝛm sēdm formam ⁊
 effēm cuiusdam carte ñre tri tite indentate inde confecte. Ratum ⁊
 gratum hituē quicquid ꝑꝑꝛdcoꝝ attornatus ñr noē ñro fecit in ꝑꝑꝛmissis.
 In cuius rei testimoniū ꝑꝑꝛsentibz Sigilla ñra apposuiꝑ. Daꝑ
 vndecimo die Mensis Novembris Anno regni Regis Henrici sexti
 post conqꝛm vicesimo sexto [1447].

¶ Five tags, of which two (3 and 5) have no seals. 1. Shield *couché*
 of arms of *Brokas*, quarterly (much injured); 2nd quarter, two lions
 passant gardant; in the 4th quarter, a lion rampant; on helmet for
 crest, a Moor's head coupéd; 2. Shield *couché* of arms of *Deynelay*

APP.

(Dyneley), viz. : a fess, and in chief a mullet of 6 points between 2 roundles ; on helmet for crest, a hare's scalp with two ears erect ;
4. Seal-ring (presumably Hannys), showing a merchant's mark.

Translation

Know all by these presents that we, William Brokas the elder, Robert Dyneley the elder, John Gaynesforde, esquires, Thomas Hannys, and Master John Corker, clerk, have assigned and in our stead have constituted our beloved in Christ John Lytelfelde our lawful attorney to deliver in our turn and name to William Warbelton of the county of Southampton, esquire, and Dame Margery his wife, full and peaceful seisin of and in the moiety of the Manor of Fynchamstede, with all rents and services, lands and tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures and woods, and all other its appurtenances, and with the advowson of the church of Fynchamstede aforesaid to present by alternate turns when it shall fall in the county of Berks, to have and to hold to the aforesaid William Warbelton and Margery and the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten. Remainder thereof to Richard de la Hay, uncle of the said William Warbelton, and Margaret his wife, for term of the life of the said Richard and Margaret and the survivor of them. Remainder thereof to Matthew de la Hay, son of the aforesaid Richard and Margaret and his heirs for ever according to the form and effect of a certain charter of ours tripartite indented thereof made. We will hold firm and stable whatever our attorney aforesaid shall in our name do in the premises. In witness whereof to these presents we have set our seals. Given the eleventh day of the month of November in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest.

16

B. M. Add. Charter 38561.

1451-52
Add. Ch.
38561

[Endorsed] *Carta Willmi Warbelton ⁊ Margⁱie uxoris sue sup
ccessione Manⁱij de Fynch^msted fact Hugoni Pakenh^m ⁊ cōstan^c
cōsorti sue rendring vigin^t marcas duran^t vitis Willⁱ ⁊ Margⁱie ⁊
post decessū xiij^o iij^o.*

Sciant presentes ⁊ futuri q̄d nos Willms Warbelton^o Armig^o ⁊ Margⁱa
v^x mea dedimus concessim^o ⁊ hac p̄senti n̄ra indentata cōfirmavim^o
Hugoni Pakenh^m ⁊ Constancie filie Ri^ci de la Hay Maneriu^o n̄m

APP.

pratis pascuis pastuř ť boscis ac om̄ib; alijs suis p̄tiñ p̄dicť p̄fatis Hugoni ť Constancie ac heređ de corpib; ip̄o; legitie p̄creatē cont̄ om̄s gentes warantizabim⁹ ť imp̄m defendem⁹ In cui⁹ rei testiōm huic presenti Carte n̄re biptite Sigilla n̄ra apposum⁹ Hijs testib; Wiffmo Brokas Juniore Ričo Merstoñ Wiffmo Besiles Johe Bargh Roberto Fowleř Simone Almayñ Johne Hylls Robto Vaus Thoma at Rithe ť alijs. Dař ap̄^d Fynchamstede predicť q̄itodecimo die Mensis Januař Anno Regni Regis Henrici Sexti a conquestu Anglie tricesimo [1451-2].

Two seals; one broken, the other shows wolf's head.

Translation

Charter of William Warbelton and Margery his wife upon the grant of the Manor of Fynchamstede made to Hugh Pakenham and Constance his wife, rendering twenty marks yearly during the lives of William and Margery, and after their decease 13s. 4d.

Know present and to come that we, William Warbelton, esquire, and Margery my wife, have given, granted, and by this our present [charter] indented confirmed to Hugh Pakenham and Constance, daughter of Richard de la Hay, our Manor of Fynchamstede in the county of Berks, together with the advowson of the church of the said manor and with all rents and services, lands and tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures and woods, and all other their appurtenances, to have and to hold the aforesaid manor, together with the advowson of the church of the same, with rents and services *etc.* (as before), to the aforesaid Hugh and Constance and the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten of the chief lords of that fee by the services therefor due and of right accustomed. And if it happen that the said Hugh and Constance decease without heirs of their bodies begotten, then the said manor, with advowson of the church of the same and all rents and services *etc.* aforesaid, shall remain to the abovesaid Richard de la Hay and to Margaret his wife, to have and to hold to the said Richard and Margaret for term of the life of them and the survivor of them in form aforesaid of the chief lords, yielding therefor yearly to us, the aforesaid William and Margery, for term of our lives and of the survivor of us, twenty marks usual money of England at the feasts of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Michael the Archangel by equal portions. And after the decease

of us and the one of us surviving, yielding therefor yearly to Anne who was the wife of Matthew de la Hay, during the life of the said Richard and Margaret, thirteen shillings and four pence usual money of England at the two terms aforesaid equally. And if the said yearly rent of twenty marks be behind unpaid for forty days after either term of payment aforesaid, then it shall be well and lawful for us the aforesaid William and Margery to re-enter into the said manor, and it without impeachment of waste to have, possess and enjoy for term of the life of us, and the one of us longer living : So always that after our decease, the aforesaid manor with its appurtenances may remain to the above-said Hugh and Constance, and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten ; Reversion thereof, nevertheless, if it chance that the said Hugh and Constance die without issue between them begotten, after the death of the said Richard de la Hay and Margaret his wife, to me the aforesaid William Warbelton and to my heirs being always saved and reserved. KNOW ye moreover, that we the aforesaid William Warbelton and Margery have assigned and put in our stead our beloved in Christ, John Lytilfelde, John Marchall, John Hawkyne, Nicholas Holt, John Peke, Robert Rigeman, and Robert Marchall, jointly and severally, our true attorneys to deliver in our stead and name to the aforesaid Hugh and Constance, and to one of them in the name of either, full and peaceful seisin of and in the aforesaid manor, with the advowson of the church of the same, and with all rents and services, lands and tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures and woods, and all other their appurtenances aforesaid, according to the force, form, and effect of this our present charter. AND I truly the aforesaid William Warbelton and my heirs the said manor with advowson of the church of the same, and with all rents and services *etc.* (as last recited), to the aforesaid Hugh and Constance, and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, against all people will warrant and defend for ever. In witness whereof to this our present charter bipartite we have set our seals. These witnesses : William Brokas the younger, Richard Merstone, William Besiles, John Barghe, Robert Fowlere, Simon Almayne, John Hylls, Robert Vaus, Thomas at Rithe, and others. Given at Fynchamstede aforesaid the fifteenth day of the month of January in the thirtieth year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth from the Conquest of England.

APP.

B. M. Add. Charter 38562.

General Release of Richard de la Hay and William de la Hay made with clause of warranty to Hugh Pakenham and Constance his wife of the Manor of Finchampstead.

Oñibz ad quos presens scriptū pvenit Ricūs de la Hay nup de Westhay in Coñ Hertford Armig̃ et Willm̃s de la Hay filius et heres dicti Ric̃i Salēm in Dño Noṽtis nos pfatos Ric̃m et Willm̃ remisisse relaxasse et om̃io p nobis et heredibz nris imp̃m quiet clamasse Hugoni Pakenh^am et Constancie vxori sue Ac heredibz eoꝝ ligitie procreatis totū ius nrm et clameū inlesse quoq̃ et demandam que vnq^am habuimus habemus vel in futūr quovismodo habere potimus de et in illo Mañio de Fynch^amstede in Coñ Berk et Advocacōe ecclie eiusdm necnon de et in om̃ibz illis reddit̃ et svicijs ter̃ et tenementis pratis pascuis pasturis et boscis cum suis ptinencijs dicto Mañio quovismodo spectant̃ que quond^am fuerunt Joh̃is Foxley Militis et postea Will̃i Warbletoñ Armig̃i Ita q̃d nec nos predicti Ricūs et Willm̃s de la Hay nec heredes nri ne aliquis alius p nos seu noie nro in supradict̃ Mañio Advocacōne reddit̃ et svicijs terris et tenementis pratis pascuis pasturis et boscis cū suis ptinencijs nec in aliqua inde pcella de ce o exigere clamare sui vindicare potimus nec debemus in futurū s; ab om̃i Accōne iuris et clamei tituli quoq̃ inlesse et demandi inde sim^o exclusi imp̃m p̃sentes Et nos predicti Ricūs et Willm̃s de la Hay et heredes nri toť pdict̃ Mañiū et advocacōem vna cum reddit̃ svicijs terris et tenementis pratis pascuis pasturis et boscis cum suis ptinencijs prefatis Hugoni et Constancie ac heredibz eoꝝ ligitie procreatis contra om̃s gentes warrantizabim^o et defendem^o imp̃m Proviso semper q̃d hñoi warrantia relaxacō et remissio in aliquod p̃iudiciū nroꝝ Ric̃i et Will̃i de la Hay aut heredum nroꝝ non se extendant nisi ad maiorem securitatē vtilitatem et cōmodum dictoꝝ Hugonis et Constancie presens Scriptū nullius sit auctoritatis vel vigoris. In cuius rei testimoniū nos pdicti Ricūs et Willm̃s de la Hay Sigilla nra p̃sentibz apposuimus. Dať octavo die Mensis Novembris Anno Regni Regis Henrici Sexti a conquestu Anglie tricesimo primo.

8 Nov.
1453

Two seals : 1, a bird regardant with lettering which is illegible ; 2, a shield of arms much worn, showing a fess and an orle of (eight) martlets ; and on the verge—‘SIGILLUM RICARDI HAY.’

[*Endorsed*] Relaxač geñat Rič de la hay 7 Wiłli de la hay fact
cū clauš warř hugoni pakenh^m 7 Constanč vxi sue de Mañio
de ffynch^msted.

APP.
—*Translation.*

To all to whom the present writing shall come, Richard de la Hay, late of Westhay in the county of Hertford, and William de la Hay, son and heir of the said Richard, greeting in the Lord. Know ye that we the aforesaid Richard and William have remised, released, and for us and our heirs have altogether quitclaimed to Hugh Pakenham and Constance his wife and their heirs lawfully begotten all our right and claim, interest also and demand which we have had, have, or in future in any wise might have, of and in that Manor of Fynchampstede in the County of Berks, and advowson of the church of the same; and also of and in all those rents and services, lands and tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures and woods, with their appurtenances to the said manor in any wise belonging, which were formerly of John Foxley, knight, and afterwards of William Warbleton, esquire; so that neither we the aforesaid Richard and William de la Hay, nor our heirs, nor any other by us or in our name, in the above-said manor, advowson, rents and services, lands and tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures and woods, with their appurtenances, or in any parcel thereof, shall be able henceforth to demand, claim or challenge, or ought in future, but shall be by these presents excluded for ever from all action of right and claim, interest also and demand therein. And we the aforesaid Richard and William de la Hay and our heirs all the aforesaid manor and advowson, together with the rents, services, lands and tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures and woods, with their appurtenances, to the aforesaid Hugh and Constance and their heirs lawfully begotten will warrant and defend against all people for ever. Provided always that such warranty, release, and remise shall not extend to any prejudice of us Richard and William de la Hay or of our heirs, but to the security, utility, and advantage of the said Hugh and Constance; otherwise the present writing shall be of no authority or force. In witness whereof we the aforesaid Richard and William de la Hay have set our seals to these presents. Given the eighth day of the month of November in the thirty-first year of the reign of Henry the Sixth from the Conquest of England.

B. M. Add. Charter 38563.

1454-5

Novint vniṽsi p̄ p̄sentes me Wiltm Warbletoñ Armigūm ⁊ ḡnam Margiam v̄xem meam Ricepisse ⁊ h̄uisse die confeccōis p̄senciū de Hugone Pakanh^{am} ⁊ Constancia v̄xe eius decem Marč legať moneť Angť noť p̄ t̄m̄io Pasche vltio p̄lito debiť de quad^{am} annuitať viginť Marcaꝝ de Mañio de Fynchamstede noť Recervať ad t̄minū vite ñre ⁊ v̄tq̄ n̄m diuscus viventē inde annuatī capiend̄ consessa de quibꝫ quid̄ decem Marč fateor nos inde fore soluť d̄cm̄ꝫ Hugonē ⁊ Constanciam inde acquietantē p̄ p̄sentē sigillis ñris signať.

Remains of two seals (broken), mere lumps of wax.

[Endorsed] An aq^{te} [*i.e.* acquittance] from Warbleton and his wife to Pakenam and his wife for the receite of 6^{li} 13^s 4^d being the halfe of 20^{ti} markes by the yeere w^{ch} is still paid, dated Anno 32^{do} Henrici vj^{ti} [1455].

No. 38565 is also an acquittance by Wm. Warbelton and Margery his wife for receipt of ten marks in payment of annuity of 20 marks up to the morrow of Easter last before the date, which is the first of April 37 Hen. 6 (1459)

Two seals: one perfect, shows animal's head and apparently the body terminating in foliage, and on (your) left a short word, difficult—like 'Hynic' or 'Tyme'; the other seal broken.

B. M. Add. Charter 38564.

WYNNEBUSHE.

Deed of Stephen Colle, lord of Westcourte in Fyncheampstede, granting to Robert Porton a messuage with half a virgate of land, called Wynnebusse, to have and to hold to him, his heirs and assigns for ever, yielding yearly to Stephen and his heirs or assigns ten shillings at Ladyday and Michaelmas by even portions, saving heriot relief and suit of court twice a year and also pannage of

hogs, except that the said Robert and his heirs shall have two hogs quit of pannage going in all commons within the said manor.

APP.

Witnesses :—THOMAS BANASTRE.

HENRY RUSSELL.

THOMAS SLYTHEHURSTE.

JOHN DENE.

THOMAS BARNARDE.

And many others.

Dated at Fynchamstede on Tuesday before the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, 34 Hen. 6 [1456].

Seal, (apparently) the letter T.

No. 38567. Release by Robert Porton for himself and his heirs to [1467] Roger Thurbarne of all right and claim to a messuage, with half virgate of land, called Wynnebusshe, which he (Robert) had by the grant of Stephen Colle lord of Westcourte. Dated first September 6 Edw. 4 [1467].

No. 38570. John Russell of Oldestoke, co. Southton, lands &c. in F. [1497] Dated 10 July, 12 H. 7 [1497].

No. 38568. Release of claim in lands and tenements called Wyn- 1487 busshe. 10 Feb. 2 H. 7, made to Henry Tylborough [1487].

No. 38571. Settlement on Henry Tilborough and Agnes wife with [1514] remainders over. Dated at Fynchamstede 19 Dec. 5 Hen. 8. Messuage &c. called Wynbusshe [1514].

20

FINCHAMSTEAD

CHARTER ROLL, 27 TO 39 H. 6

¶ R Archiepis Ep̄is ꝛc salm. Sciatis qđ de gr̄a n̄ra sp̄ali concessim⁹ ꝛ licenciam dedim⁹ ac p̄ p̄sentes concedim⁹ ꝛ licenciam dam⁹ p̄ nob̄ ꝛ heř n̄ris quantum in nob̄ est dilco ꝛ fideli n̄ro Hugoni Pakenham ꝛ Constancie vxi sue qđ ip̄i ꝛ heredes sui imp̄p̄m heant apud Mađium sive dn̄ium suū de Fynchamstede in Coñ Berķ vnam feriam p̄ tres dies duratuř tenend̄ ibidem singulis annis diebz lune Martis ꝛ M̄curij in septimana Pentecostes cum om̄ibz ꝛ singulis lib̄tatibz ꝛ consuetudinibz ad huiusmodi feriam ptineñ nisi feria illa sit ad nocumentū vicinaz feriaz absq, aliquo fine vel feodo nob̄ vel heredibz

1458
p Hugone
Pakenh^m

R

APP

 Decem-
 ber 1458

ñris inde reddendo. Quare volum⁹ ¶ firmi⁹ ¶cipim⁹ p nob ¶ heredibz
 ñris quantum in nob est qd ¶dçi Hugo ¶ Constancia ¶ heredes sui
 imp¶m heant apud Mañium sive ðnium suū de Fynchamstede in Coñ
 ¶dco vnam feriam p tres dies duratu^r tenend ibidem singulis annis
 diebz lune Martis ¶ M⁹curij in septimana Pentecostes cū omibz ¶
 singulis libtatibz ¶ consuetudinibz ad huiusmodi feriam ptineñ nisi
 feria illa sit ad nocumentū vicina^r feria^r sicut ¶dcm est. Hiis
 testibz ¶c Da^r p manū ñram apud Westñ quinto die Decemb^r [anno
 regni ñri tricesimo septimo ¹] p ipm Regem ¶ de data ¶dca auctoritate
 parliamenti.

21

B. M. Add. Charter 38566.

1460-1 Deed by which Richard Russell of Fynchampstede, son and heir
 of Henry Russell, late of Fynchampstede, deceased, grants to John
 Hethe and Robert Hethe of Odyham the tenement inhabited by
 himself, and in which Henry Russell his father also dwelt, to have
 and to hold to them, their heirs and assigns for ever, of the chief lords
 of that fee &c.

Witnesses :—ROBERT GRAUNT.
 WILLIAM CRESSEWELLE.
 THOMAS REMYS.
 WILLIAM POTHILLE.
 JOHN CRESSEWELL.
 And others.

Dated at Fynchampstede, 20 June, 1 Edw. 4.

Seal perfect. Letter I between two branches and sort of coronet
 over.

22

Close Roll. 11 Edw. 4 (330) m. 8 dorso.

A. D. 1471 John Corker clerk demised and confirmed to Margery late wife of
 Willm Warbleton a moiety of manor of Fynchamstede together with
 the advowson of the same presenting alternately with their appurts
 And he also delivered and demised to her manor of Appulderfelde
 tog. w^t advowson of free chapel belonging to same manor in co. Kent
 which all and singular (he says) I lately had of the gift and feoffm^t
 of the s^d Wm Warbleton tog. with John Gaynesford the elder &
 Thomas Hannys esquires now deceased To have & to hold the

¹ By preceding entry on same membrane (9).

moiety of s^d manor of Fynchamstede and manor of Appulderfelde tog. w^t advowsons thereto belonging to the s^d Margery her h. & ass. for ever of the chief lords of those fees by the rents and services therefor due & accustomed Said John appointed Roger Hannys & Rich^d Brehill attorneys to deliver seisin of the moiety of the manor of F. and the manor of Appulderfelde tog. w^t advowsons thereto belong^e to the said Margaret according to the force form & effect of this charter hold ng valid whatever said attorneys or one of them sh^d do Witnesses: RICHARD HARECOURT knt. HUMFREY CODRYNGTON JOHN HYDE JOHN HULCOTE, esquires RICH^d BREHILL and others. Dated 16 Nov. 11 Edw. 4 (1471).

APP.
Trustees named in the deed of conveyance 11 Nov. 1447. British Museum Add. Ch. 38557 and 38558

23

NOTES UPON CHANCERY INQ. P.M. 2 HENRY 7

Margaret late wife of John Pakenham Inq. at Romesey 5 Nov. 2 Hen. 7 (1486) before James Louthes escheator.

1486
Southampton
No. 42

Marg^t late wife of John Pakenham was seised in fee of a moiety of the (m) of Bramshule and a moiety of the manors of Gatcombe &c. in the Isle of Wight.

She died 5 October first year of the king (1485) and Edmund Pakenham is her son and heir, aged six years and more. Writ dated 22 Oct. 2nd year

Delivered
28 Nov.
2nd year

Tho. Arundell knt. lord Mawtravers has occupied the lands &c. from the time of the death of s^d Marg^t. title not known

John Pakenham

Inq. at Newbury 14 January 2 Hen. 7 (1486-7) by king's writ to inquire what lands John P. & Marg^t his late wife.

Berks

John Pakenham long before his death was ssd of a moiety of the (m) of Fynchampstede which he held of y^e K. in chief by service of half a knight's fee & suit at the King's Hundred Court &c. Moiety is worth p ann. (clear) £10. 6. 8.

No. 50

The said John Pakenham & Margaret died on the first of October first year of the king (1485) Edmund P. son & heir of John & Marg^t aged five years and more

William Beselles of Beselles Lee esq. & Wm. Alayne of Esthamsted in said co. yeoman from the time of death of J. & M. have occupied & have received the issues & profits of the moiety &c.

This inq. was taken upon the king's commission directed to John

- APP. Isbury and others, and dated at Westm^r first of December 2nd year (1486).
 No. 74 Inq. (co Southampton) . . . 2 H. 7 before James Louthier John died first of Oct. first year (1485) Edmund son & heir aged six years. Writ dated 5 Nov. 1st y^r Delivered 27 Nov.

24

EXCHEQUER L. T. R. MEMORANDA MICH. II HEN. 7
 [1496]

Communia Ro. 24

Berkshire
Of removing the king's
hands from the Manor of
Fynchampstede, co Berks,
and delivering it to Hugh
Hoope clerk. adminis-
trator of the goods &
chattels of Thomas de la
Mare late sheriff of the
said county

It is found by an Inquisition taken at Maydenhede otherwise Maydenhithe in co. Berks before Simon Seymour then escheator by virtue of his office 27 May 8th year of the reign (1493) by the oath of honest & lawful men of his bailiwick that John Pakenham long before his death was seised in fee of a moiety of the Manor or Lordship of Fynchampstede in the said county and died seised

of such estate And that he held that moiety of the king by the service of half a knight's fee and suit at the king's Hundred-court of the seven hundreds of Cokeham and Bray and paying ten shillings yearly at the rate of 20s. for the entire manor And that the moiety was worth (clear) £10 by the year And also that John Pakenham died on the first of October in the first year of the king's reign And that Edmund Pakenham was his son and heir then aged twelve years and more And that Thomas de la Mare knight and his executors occupied the said moiety from Michaelmas in the 3rd year (29 Sept. 1487) up to the date of the Inquisition and received the issues and profits for the same time by what title the jurors knew not : as in the Inquisition which is in the bag of particulars of the escheator's Account more fully is contained. Thereupon the sheriff was commanded to distrain all the executors and administrators of Thomas de la Mare to render on the morrow of S. Michael in the 9th year an Account of the issues and profits of the said moiety of the Manor of Fynchampstede, viz. from Michaelmas in the 3rd year to 27 March in the 8th year (1493), the time mentioned in the Inquisition At which day the sheriff returned

30 Sept.
 1493

that he had distrained Elizabeth late wife and executrix of the said Thomas to be here on the morrow of S. Hilary (14 January 149 $\frac{3}{4}$) At which day the sheriff returned the writ and sent that Elizabeth was dead. Then the sheriff was commanded to distrain all the executors of the testaments of Thomas & Elizabeth and the administrators of their goods & chattels to be here at many days past and at length on the morrow of All Souls this term (3 Nov. 1496) to render an Account of the issues of the said moiety for the time aforesaid At which day the sheriff viz. George Gaynesforde returned the writ directed to him and sent that Hugh Hoop clerk administrator of the goods & chattels which were of the said Thomas & Elizabeth was distrained &c.

APP.
—

And at the said morrow of Souls this term (*i.e.* 3 Nov. 1496) comes Hugh Hoop by Robert Castell his attorney and complains that he is unjustly distrained Because by another Inquisition taken at Newbury co. Berks 14 January 2nd year of the king (148 $\frac{6}{7}$) before Robert Cheyne and Hugh Fournes by virtue of a Commission to inquire at what times John Pakenham and Margaret his wife died and what lands & tenements they held of the king in chief and of other articles it was found by oath of twelve jurors that John Pakenham died seised of the moiety of the manor of Fynchampstede which he held of the king in chief by the service of half a knight's fee and suit at the king's Hundred-court of the seven hundreds of Cokeham and Bray every three weeks and paying yearly 10s. at the rate of 20s. to be levied and collected among the tenants for the entire manor And that the moiety was then worth (clear) by the year £10 6s. 8d. And also that John and Margaret died on the first day of October in the first year of the king And that Edmund Pakenham was son and heir of John & Margaret and then aged five years and more And for those causes the said Robert and Hugh Furnes seized the said moiety into the king's hand as in this Inquisition more fully is contained.

Or Hooper

And further Hugh Hoopere administrator of the goods & chattels of Thome and Elizabeth says that afterwards, namely 18 June in the said 3rd year of the now king Thomas de la Mare knight came before the king in chancery by Christopher Hanyngton his then attorney and complained saying that John Pakenham was seised at the time of his death and long before of the moiety aforesaid which he held of the same Thomas de la Mare by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee, that is to say, by homage and fealty and paying 10s. to the king's scutage of 40 shillings; and more, more; and less, less.

APP.

Of which services he (Thomas) said that he was seised by the hands of John Pakenham, as his true tenant, viz. of homage and fealty in fee and right and of the scutage in fee in the time of lord Edward late king of England the Fourth. And that Thomas de la Mare on the day of John Pakenham's death and long before and always after held the said moiety of the king by the service of the 20th part of a knight's fee. And that John Pakenham died on the first of October in the first year of the king seised of such estate in homage of the said Thomas, Edmund Pakenham his son and heir being under the age of 21 years, that is to say, five years old. Whereby Thomas de la Mare after the death of John and long before the taking of the Inquisition aforesaid entered into the moiety of the manor the custody of Edmund by reason of minority appertaining to him.

Thereupon James Huberd who then sued for the king said that John Pakenham held the moiety of the king in the manner stated by the Inquisition and prayed that the matter should be inquired by the country. And Thomas Delamare likewise. The sheriff of Berkshire was commanded to cause to come in 15 days of S. Hilary (27 Jañy) 24 knights & others of the neighbourhood of the manor to recognize &c. At the date fixed at Westminster came Thomas Delamare by John Bettys his attorney. The sheriff returned the names of the 24 jurors but none came. He was then commanded to distrain them to be there in 15 days from Easterday. The same day was given to James Huberde and Thomas Delamare.

In 3 weeks from Michmas-day the jury came and after trial came to the bar ready to give their verdict. James Huberd for the king objected and prayed that the Justices should not proceed to take the verdict. After consideration by the justices the verdict was taken that John Pakenham died seised in fee of the moiety of the manor of Fynchamstede which he held immediately of Thomas Delamare by knight's service and not of the king. And that the said Thomas held it of the king as alleged in his plea. Whereupon Thomas Delamare prayed judgment. James Huberd prayed judgment for the king and that Thomas Delamare should take nothing by the verdict. A day was given by the Court to give judgment in eight days of S. Hilary () at which day the parties came. It was considered by the Court that Thomas Delamare should be restored to possession of the moiety together with the issues & profits received in the meantime. Saving to the king his right if any as in the tenor and process inrolled in Memoranda of this Exchequer among Recorda of Hilary term fifth

year of this king Roll [blank] of the other Remembrancer more fully is contained Thereupon Thomas Delamare was possessed of the moiety by reason of wardship of the said Edmund and then died After his death because he died intestate all his goods and chattels were committed for administration by the archbishop of Canterbury to the said Hugh who was possessed of the said wardship until he was removed by the escheator under colour of the Inquisition aforesaid Which things all & singular the said Hugh is ready to verify and he prays judgment And James Huberd for the king does not deny that the moiety of the manor of Fynchamstede in the Inq. before Robt. Cheyne & Hugh Fournes the king's Commissioners and the moiety in the Inq. taken at Maydenhede before Simon Seymour late escheator are one & the same moiety. And because it seems to the Barons that before giving judgment a search should be made for the king whether the moiety is held of the king in chief or not. Hereupon the rolls being searched it is found at the Exchequer that the manor of Fynchampstede is not held of the king in chief or by any other service.

APP.

1490
1490

The name is written 'Hope' in one place [no doubt pronounced Hoop]. It is doubtful whether the name should be Hooper

It is considered by the Barons that the king's hands shall be removed from the moiety and that Hugh Hope administrator of the goods & chattels of Thomas & Margaret shall be restored to his possession thereof And that the late escheator the now escheator and future escheators shall be discharged from the issues and profits of the said moiety saving the right of the king &c.

Hooper

25

Feet of Fines. Salop. 3-24 Hen. VII

CONCERNING THE MANOR OF LAKYN

Final Agreement made in the king's Court at Westminster on the morrow of the Ascension 18 Hen. 7 (5 June 1503) Between Edward Burton esq. Robert Cuny & Henry Eyton plaintiffs and Ralph Banastre and Katherine his wife deforciant of the manor of Lakyne with the appurtenances And six messuages 600 acres of land 100 acres of meadow 300 acres of pasture and 100 acres of wood with the appurts in Lakyne Wemme Sydenhale and Henstoke Whereupon a plea of covenant was summoned between them in the same Court, that is to say, that the aforesaid Ralph and Katherine have acknowledged the afores^d manor and tenements with the appurts to be the right of him the said Edward as those which the said Edward Robert

A. D.
1503

APP.

No relationship stated

A female

and Henry have of the gift of the afores^d Ralph & Katherine And for this acknowledgment fine and agreement the said Edward Robert & Henry have granted to the aforesaid Ralph & Katherine the said manor and tenements with the appurts And those they have rendered to them in the same court To have and to hold to the said Ralph & Katherine of the chief lords of that fee by the services which appertain to the said manor & tenements the whole life of the s^d Ralph & Katherine And after their decease the same shall wholly remain to John Banastre and heirs of his body begotten To hold *etc.* for ever And if the said John die without heirs of his body begotten then after his decease the said manor &c. shall wholly remain to Robert Banastre & heirs of his body begotten To hold *etc.* Then, in default, remainder successively to Ralph Banastre the younger brother of the said Robert ; to Richard Banastre son of the said John Banastre ; to Joyce (Jocose) Banastre ; to Richard Banastre son of the said Ralph Banastre the elder and Katherine his wife ; to William Banastre son of the said Ralph & Katherine ; to the heirs of the body of the said Ralph Banastre the elder ; to John Banastre of London and the heirs of his body ; and finally, to the right heirs of the said Ralph Banastre the elder To hold of the chief lords of that fee by the services which appertain to the said manor & tenements for ever.

8 SALOP

26

Subsidy Roll—Berks $\frac{7}{14}$ 14 & 15 Hen. VIII. 1522. P. R. O.

EXCHEQUER LAY SUBSIDIES

FYNCAMSTED WITHIN THE SEID VII HUNDREDS (OF COKEHAM & BRAYE)

	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
John Lawuarde in goods		100		2	6
Thos. Tailour		100		2	6
Henry Hellows	10			5	
Agnes Slethurst		100		2	6
Robt Ethger	4			2	
John Clerk		40			12
Robt Clerk	4			2	
Robt Kembee		100		2	6
Thos Foster		54	4		16
Willm Olyver		60			18

	£	s.	d.	s.	d.	APP.
Oliver Redyng		40			12	
John Jorner in waigs		20			4	
George Tailor in goods		40			12	
Robt Oliver " "		40			12	
Richd Raynold " "	4			2		
Richd Hall " "		46	8		14	
Agnes Tilborow " "		40			12	
Richd Wright in waigs		20			4	
Willm Hilborow in goods	4			2		
Robt Hall " "	4			2		
Edward Grove " "		40			12	
Richd Hall in Waigs		20			4	
W ^m at Clow		40			12	
W ^m Hall		40			12	
Alexander servant to Thomas Harrison .		20			4	
John Belynham goods		40			12	
Robt Collys waigs		20			4	
James (. . . ?)		40			12	
John Norris in lands		53	4	2	8	
Willm Banaster in goods	6			3		
Richd Tailor " "		100		2	6	
John Holway " "	4			2		
Alice Marwood " "		40			12	
Willm Labbard		?			22	
Suma				53	2	

27

Exchequer Lay Subsidies. Berks $\frac{73}{135}$.

*First payment of Subsidy granted 15 Hen. 8 Hundreds of Wargrave
and Sonnyng and the seven Hundreds of Cokeham and Bray.*

Dated 29 March 15 H. 8 (1524) Fynchamstede

	Subsidye	A.D. 1524
Thomas Haryson for his goodes	XX ^s	
Robert Hegger for his goodes	ij ^s	
John Clerke for his goodes	xij ^d	
Agnes Tylborowe for her goodes	xij ^d	
Thomas Taylour for his goodes	ij ^s vj ^d	

APP.		Subsidye
For the third payment no names are found in Hundreds of 'Cokeham and Bray' by the Roll $\frac{73}{129}$	Clement Cole for his goodes	xij ^d
	William Lawarde for his goodes	xij ^d
	Richard Tailour for his goodes	ij ^s vj ^d
	Agnes Slythurst for her goodes	ij vj ^d
	Edward Grove for his waiges	ij ^d
	William Olyvere for his goodes	xviiij ^d
	John Turnour for his waiges	iiiij ^d
	Olyver Redynge for his goodes	xij ^d
	William Ylbery for his goodes	ij ^s
	Jamys Lawarde for his waiges	iiiij ^d
	John Holwey for his goodes	ij ^s
	Robert Kember for his goodes	ij ^s vj ^d
	Richard Wright for his waiges	iiiij ^d
	Robert Colles for his wages	iiiij ^d
	Thomas Foster for his goodes	xij ^d
	Robert Hall for his goodes	ij ^s
	Richard Hall for his goodes	xij ^d
	John Broner for his waiges	iiiij ^d
	Thomas Hegger for his waiges	iiiij ^d
	William Banester for his goodes	ij ^s
	John Lawarde for his goodes	ij ^s
	Robert Clerke for his goodes	xviiij ^d
	Henry Hellows for his goodes	ij ^s vj ^d
John Nowar for his goodes	ij ^s vj ^d	
Summa	lx ^s iiiij ^d	

28

Exchequer Lay Subsidies. Berks $\frac{73}{141}$.*Subsidy granted 15 Hen. 8.*

Indenture dated 2 January 16 H. 8 (1524-5).

A.D. 1525	Fynchamstede within the seide vij hundredes (that is, of Cokeham and Bray)	
	John Lawuarde in goodes C 8	ijst vjd
	Thomas Tailour in goodes C 8	ijs vjd
	Henry Hellows in goodes x li	vs
	Agnes Slethurst in goodes C 8	ijs vjd

Robert Ethger in goodes

* * *

APP.

[many names as before]

Alexander servant to Thomas Harison

in waiges xx s iiij d

Sm^a . . . liijs ij d

29

Dated 6 June 34 H. 8 (1542)

Loan money. Money to be lent to the king by his Grace's servants of his County of Berks and to be paid before 24 June next.

Under 'the vij hundreds of Cookam and Bray' no Finchampstead name is mentioned.

30

P. R. O. Bundle from 21 to 30 Hen. VIII. [1539]

Feet of Fines. Berks. No. 41

At Westm^t 15 days of Easter 23 Hen. VIII. [1532]

Between John Bartlett son of Elizabeth wife of Thomas Haryson Pltfs. and said Thomas Haryson and Elizabeth Defts. of 2 Messuages and 20 Acres of Land in Fynchamstede to be the rights of Elizabeth as those which Elizabeth and Thomas have of gift of John.

A.D. 1532

Rendered to John to have and to hold to John and heirs of his body of the Chief Lords for ever. Remainder in default to William Bartlett Son and heir of Elizabeth and his heirs to hold &c. &c.

[N.B.—Thomas Harrison, born about A.D. 1500, married Elizabeth, widow of — Bartlett, and held this property for their respective lives. It afterwards reverted to John Bartlett and his heirs, and to William and his heirs. The property was situated near where the house now named North Court stands, and the old 'Black and White' house, which stood close to the present gardener's cottage, and which was removed about the year 1888, was probably the very messuage above referred to.]

31

British Museum Charters.

21 Hen 8, July .12. Deed of Andrew Wyndesore knight, Antony Wyndesore esq., John Mervyn and Thomas Mompesson

APP. appointing William Mylle their attorney to enter into the manor of Fynchamstede and lands &c. in F. which they together with Ambrose Dautesey lately recovered at Westminster in Trinity-term last against Richard Fylder by writ of entry upon disseisin in le post and to take peaceful seisin and to make peaceful execution of judgment of the said Recovery.

ADD. CH.
38574
A.D. 1530
West
Court
Trustees

[Signed] 4 tags fragment of one (2nd) seal.
ANDREAS ANTONY THOMAS p me JOHANNÉ
WYNDESORE WYNDESORE MOMPESON MERVYN

32

38575
1533

Wyn-
busshe

24 Hen. 8, July 16. Deed of bargain and sale between Stephen Cawode of Wokingham 'Marchaunt' and John Tylborough of Eversley co. Southampton 'Wever' For £10 'paid John sells to Stephen the reversion of that messuage & half a yerde londe called Wynbusshe which Alys Mathew wife of Thomas Mathew and mother of John holds for term of her life of the gift of Harry Tylborough grandfather of John To have to Stephen and his heirs for ever.

Seal perfect. A pelican in her piety (*i.e.* vulning herself).

33

38576
A.D. 1533
Wyn-
busshe

24 Hen. 8, July 20. Deed of John Tilborough granting to Stephen Cawode the messuage called Wynbusshe & half-yard land in F. which came to him (John) by the surrender of Alice Mathew his mother. Witnesses:—WM. BANESTER, ROBERT WHYTE, WM. OLYVER, ROBT. KYMBARE and many others.

Seal gone

34

B. M. Charters.

ADD. CH.
38580
A.D. 1533
'Cressells'

24 Hen. 8, Dec. 4. Deed of Robert Creshull confirming to Stephen Cawode, Wm. Barker, Wm. Blounte and Thomas Reddache the moor and meadow in Finchamsted &c. See 38578, 38579.

Seal, A pelican as before.

[Endorsed] Cresselles mede in Fynchamstede.

35

38581
A.D. 1539

30 Hen. 8, April 14. Indenture made between Richard Stone of Wokingham 'Taylor' & Johanne his wife & Elizabeth Stone widow

of one part and John Taylor otherwise named John Baker of Wokingham 'Shomaker' of the other part For 40 shillings paid in hand Richard Stone and Johanne and Elizabeth sell to John Taylor the tenement & garden in Fynchamstede between a grove called Cokes grove & the lands of Thomas Bullocke esquier on the N. and E. sides and the king's highway leading from F. towards Wokingham on the South side To have and to hold the same to the s^d John Taylor & Petronell his wife, and the heirs & assigns of John Taylor for ever.

APP.

John
Taylor

One tag divided with two seals ; 1, letters T R ; 2, letter R.
A second tag with seal, a mere lump of wax.

36

30 Hen. 8, April 16. Deed of Richard Stone son & heir of Rich^d Stone of F. deceased and Joan wife of Rich^d the younger & Elizabeth Stone widow formerly wife of Rich^d Stone the elder deceased, releasing to John Taylor all claim or right to and in a tenement with garden in Fynchamstede &c. (as by 38581).

38582

A.D. 1539

Tag divided with two seals ; 1, letter R ; 2, a device. Another tag seal a lump of wax.

37

Feet of Fines, Berkshire

At Westm^r in 8 days of Pur. B.V.M. 29 Hen. VIII. (*i.e.* 9 Feb. 1537-8) and afterwards in 15 D. of Easter 30 (5 May 1538) granted and recorded. Between Stephen Cawoode p^{tf}. and Edmund Marvyn and Elizabeth his Wife Deforc^{ts} of the Manor of Fincheamstede with appurtenances and 10 messuages, 5 tofts, 3 cottages, 300 acres of Land, 40 acres of meadow, 200 pasture, 300 Wood, 1000 Furze & heath, and 100 shillings rent with appurt^s in Finchamstede and advowson of moiety of Church of Finchamstede. Whereupon &c. &c. to be the right of Stephen Cawoode as those &c. of the Gift of Edmund and Elizabeth Marvyn aforesaid. Warrant for them and heirs of Elizabeth to Stephen Cawoode and his Heirs against William Abbot of Monastery of St. Peter Westminster & successors for ever. And for this &c. Stephen Cawoode grantes to Edmund & Elizabeth Marvyn an Annuity or Annual Rent of 20 marks going out of said M D (Lord of the Manor's) Rents, and rendered it (illum) to them to have and receive to said Edmund & Elizabeth and Heirs of Elizabeth

A.D.

APP. at Lady Day and Michaelmas by even portions yearly to be paid. Clause of entry and distress if rent in arrear for five days after any Feast. If in arrear 6 weeks, power to enter and distrain said Stephen Cawood & Heirs & those who hold the Manor, and retain all goods & chattels until full paym^t had of arrears of annuity as well as five marks *nomine pene*.

38

B. M. Charters.

Add. Ch. 24 Hen. 8, Dec. 3. Deed of Robert Creshull of Vokesbrige co. Middlesex 'wheler' granting to Stephen Cawode of Wokingham mercer Wm. Barker, Wm. Blounte and Thomas Reddache his moor and meadow in Finchamstede between the meadow or pasture of Agnes Slythurste on the E. side and a meadow of Thomas Godhere called Saint Mary's meadow on the W. side whereof one head abuts upon the brook called Dudbroke on the S. side and the other head upon the lord's common called Moregrene on the N. side which moor or meadow lately descended by hereditary right to me after the decease of Wiliam Cresshull my brother To have & to hold to them their heirs and assigns to the use of the said Stephen Cawode his heirs & assigns for ever of the chief lords &c.

Cresselles mede

Seal perfect, A pelican in her piety.

39

38577 24 Hen. 8, Aug. 2. Release by Thomas Mathew & Alice his wife mother of John Tylborough to Stephen Cawode his heirs & assigns of all claim to or in a messuage and half yardland called Wynbusshe with warranty against the Abbot of Reading & his Wynbusshe successors.

A. D. 1533

Two seals ; 1, letter R ; 2, a device.

40

38579 24 Hen. 8, Dec. 3. [See 38578 above] Deed of Robert Creshull of Vokesbrydge co. Middlesex, Wheeler, appointing William Planner & John Tailor of Vokyngham his attorneys to deliver seisin of moor & meadow in F. to Stephen Cawode, Wm. Barker, Wm. Blounte & Thomas Redache.

A. D. 1533

Seal (broken), A pelican in her piety.

Exchequer. Lay Subsidies. Berks. $\frac{74}{185}$

FIRST PAYMENT OF THE SUBSIDY 37 HEN. 8

THE SEVEN HUNDREDS OF COOKHAM
AND BRAY

Dated 16
February
37 H. 8
(1548 $\frac{5}{8}$)

The paryshe of Fynchamstede

Mrs Harryson wido for hir goodes	x ^s
John Hollyway for hys goodes	v ^s iiij ^d
Henry Todnall for hys goodes	iijs iiij ^d
Edward Grove for hys goodes	iiij ^s viij ^d
John Bedull for hys goodes	vj ^s
John Reding for hys landes	ij ^s viij ^d
John Clarke for hys goodes	iijs iiij ^d
Jamys May for hys goodes	iijs iiij ^d
William Horste for hys goodes	v ^s iiij ^d
Thomas Lotman for hys goodes	iijs iiij ^d
Robert Botler for hys goodes	v ^s iiij ^d
Wylyyam Lawarde for hys landes	viij ^s
John Bartlit sett in the Courte	n ^l

B. M. Charters.

36 Hen. 8, March 20. Deed of John Baker alias Taylor 'Sutor calcerius' in parish of Wokingham and Petronilla (or Parnell) his wife selling to Robt Hamley of Fynchamstede & Agnes his wife a tenement with garden in F. abutting upon land of Thomas Bulloke gentleman called 'Whightes' on the West side and upon land of Thomas Harryson called 'Pynnokes' on the East side To have & to hold to them the heirs & assigns of Robert for ever.

Add. Ch.
38583
A.D. 1545

'Whytes'

They make Richard Hall their attorney to deliver seisin.

Tags for two seals : one gone, the other broken.

Same date. Deed similar to the foregoing, but no mention of attorney. Shorter. 2 seals broken.

38584

38585

A.D. 1553

1 Mary, Aug. 28. Deed of sale by Robert Crysell of Redyng 'wheler' (for a sum of money paid by William Hyrst of Fynch-

APP.

Cryselles'

amstede deceased) to Thomas Hyrst son of William Hyrst of a meadow and moor called Cryselles between the meadow and moor formerly of John Slythurst on the E. side and the meadows called Mulsham & Hatchys and a moor called Bedyllys more on the W. side and upon the meadow called Fane mede in co. Southampton on the S. side and the green called the More grene on the N. side To have and to hold to him (Thomas) his heirs and assigns for ever.

Seal.

44

38586

A. D. 1556-57

4 & 5 Ph. & Mary, June 18. Indenture made betw. Thomas Cawood of Harberfeilde co. Berks, gentleman, son & heir of Stephen Cawood late of Reding, co. Berks gent. deceased of one part and John Symynges of London gent. of the other part. Bargain & sale of the meadow called Cresselles containing ten acres late in the occupation of Thomas Taillor in Fynchehampsted &c. [boundaries Melſam Hatches Fanne Meade More Grene as above 38585].

Seal, device (worn flat).

45

A. D. 1549

Exchequer. Lay Subsidies. Berks. $\frac{74}{208}$

RELIEF GRANTED 2-3 EDW. 6.

Finch ^a msted	D	Johe Bedill ad . . .	x ⁱⁱ	.	.	x ⁱⁱⁱ
		Edwardo grove ad . . .	x ⁱⁱ	.	.	x ⁱⁱⁱ
		Johe Clarke ad . . .	x ⁱⁱ	.	.	x ⁱⁱⁱ
		Jacobo Maye ad . . .	x ⁱⁱ	.	.	x ⁱⁱⁱ
		Johe Hollowey ad . . .	x ⁱⁱ	.	.	x ⁱⁱⁱ
		Sm ^a	.	L ⁱⁱⁱ		

46

B. M. Charters.

Add. Ch.
38587

4 Eliz. June 14. Award made by Thomas Farmer and Richard Gales gentlemen in the matters at variance between John Symynges of London Doctor of Physic and Thomas Hurst of the parish of Bray co. Berks yeoman concerning the title to meadow ground containing by estimation nine acres called Cresshulles Meade. The Arbitrators award, that it shall be lawful henceforth for the said John Symynges to hold to him his heirs & assigns the meadow in dispute for ever; and further that John Symynges shall pay to Thomas Hurste his

heirs &c. the sum of £25 that is to say, within four days after the date of this award £5; on the eve of Michaelmas-day next at the dwellinghouse of John Symynges in Trynytie Lane within the City of London between one and five in the afternoon £6. 13. 4; on the eve of Michmas-day 1563 at the place and time aforesaid £6. 13. 4; on the eve of Michmas-day 1564, £6. 13. 4; and further that the parties shall, each to the other, make release of all manner of actions &c.

APP.
A.D. 1572

Signed p me Th Farmer

per me Riĉm Galis



47

14 Eliz. Feb. 4. Deed of William Waller of Stoke co. Southampton esquire that according to the form & effect of agreement made in certain Indentures of bargain and sale between himself of one part and Thomas Holloway of Finchamsted yeoman of the other part he now confirms to the said Thomas Holloway the tenement called Russels situate in the parish of Finchamsted and all edifices, &c. in Finchamsted and in the parish of Barkham belonging to Russels To have & to hold to him his heirs & assigns for ever. Moreover he appoints Humfrey Laward his attorney to enter & give peaceful seisin of the said tenement to Hollowaye.

38588
A.D. 1572

Russels

See 38590
and 38591

[Signed] per me William Waller.

Seal gone.

Memorandum on the dorse of possession and seisin delivered to the use of Thomas Holloway the 21st Feb. 1575 and 17 Eliz. in the presence of Richard Stefens senior, Symeon Horne, Bartillmew Erley, Nicolas Horne Robert Horne and Henry Horne with others.

48

14 Eliz. June 6. Exemplification of Fine levied in Trinity-term 14 Eliz. made on the morrow of Holy Trinity in said 14th year () between Thomas Hollowaye plaintiff and William Waller esq. deforciant of [the above-named tenement, called Russels, here described as] a messuage, a garden, an orchard, 30 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood and common of pasture with appurtenances in Fynchamstede & Barkham—to be the right of Thomas, &c. Warranty to Thomas & his heirs against

38589
A.D. 1572

APP. William & his heirs And for this &c. Thomas hath given to William
forty Pounds.

A. D.
1573-4

A portion (central) of the Queen's Seal used to seal writs in Court of Common Pleas.

[*Endorsement*] The Fine of Waller to Hollowaye for a tenement in Finchampsteede called Russells now in the tenure of Edward Ellis dated 6 Junij 14 Eliz.

49

B. M. Charters.

Add. Ch. 16 Eliz. March 12. Deed of Thomas Holloway of Finchamsted
38590 yeoman that in fulfilment of the agreement specified in certain
A. D. Indentures of bargain & sale made between himself of one part
1573-4 and Henry Hinde of Finchamsted gentleman of the other part he
'Russels' confirms to Henry Hinde the tenement called Russels with buildings
&c. to have & to hold to the said Henry his heirs and assigns for
ever.

Sealed in presence of JOHN
BALL, 'Bertelmeu erly' [who
signs] and ALEX^r STEPTO

Seal, a device of an arrow tied round the centre with a cord (arrow in pale).

On dorse memorandum of possession & seisin taken & delivered to Henry Hinde 21 Feb. 1575 17 Eliz. in the presence of Humfry Laward, Bartilmewe Earley, Richard Stevins the elder, Symeon Horne, Nicolas Horne, Robert Horne, Henry Horne, Robert Horne junior and others.

50

38591 18 Eliz. Nov. 10. Deed of Humfrey Lawarde of Fynchamsted
A. D. 1575 gentleman whereby he releases to William Yeles of Little Shepp-
redge, co. Wilts yeoman & Elizabeth his wife (daughter of said Humfrey Lawarde) and the heirs & assigns of said William for ever all title and claim to and in two messuages with curtilages & gardens adjoining; one called Blykes place; the other, Wheteles; situate in the parish of F: between the king's highway leading from Blackwaterbridge tow^{ds} Wokyngham on the East side and the land formerly of Roger Shepperd on the West side; and in that messuage and curtilage with one pedell adjoining situate in F. on the East side of the king's highway leading from Hungerford otherwise

Blykes
place
Wheteles

Oldeforde towards Wokingham and all gardens closes &c. to the said messuages or any of them in any wise belonging or appertaining. Warrantly to Wm. & Elizabeth & the heirs & assigns of William against all people. APP. A.D. 1593.

Seal, letters H L.

51

35 Elizabeth, Sept. 6. Indenture made between William Froste of Grayes Inn, co. Midd. gent. of one part and Wm. Dearinge of Harrowe on the Hill in said county Husbandman of the other part. Bargain and sale of 3 tenements or cottages in the parish of Finchampsteede ; one, called Blikes ; another, called Hungerforde ; and the third, Blackwater. The two first are or lately were in the tenure of Henry Gyles by virtue of a demise made by Humfrey Lawarde gent. Blackwater is now in the tenure of the said Wm. Frost and abutteth on a River there called Blackwater. Sale also of three acres of land on the back of the two first tenements the west head abutteth upon the tenement called Blackwater To have & to hold the same to said Wm. Dearinge his heirs & assigns for ever. &c. &c. 38592 A.D. 1593

' Blikes '
' Hungerforde '
' Blackwater '

[Signed] By me WILLIAM FROST

Seal, ring of arms :—a chev. betw. 3 trefoils slipt perfect.

[Endorsed] Sealed and delivered in the presence of vs. Thomas Dearynge Edward Whitlocke.

52

Exchequer. Lay Subsidies. Berks. $\frac{7}{4}$.

Second payment of Subsidy granted 27 Elizabeth. Certificate dated 8 October, 28 Eliz. A.D. 1585

CHARLTON HUNDERED

William Millard gent. in landes	x ^{li}	xiijs ^s iiij ^d
John Baghurst in goods	iiij ^h	iiij ^s
Steaven Hollowaie in goodes	iiij ^h	iiij ^s
Robert Felton in goodes	iiij ^h	iiij ^s
John Rither in landes	xx ^s	xij ^d
Frauncis Poolley in landes	xl ^s	ij ^s viij ^d .
Austen Hawle in goodes	iiij ^h	iiij ^s
Edward Filder in goodes	iiij ^h	iiij ^s
John Hinde in goodes	iiij ^h	iiij ^s

APP. Finch- amsted	James Readinge in lande	xl ^s	ij ^s viij ^d
	Humfreie Tailor in goodes	iiij ^{li}	ij ^s
	Edward Grove in landes	xx ^s	xvj ^d
	William Oliver in landes	xx ^s	xvj ^d
	Widow Oliver in landes	xx ^s	xvj ^d
	Richard Oliver in landes	xx ^s	xvj ^d
	Richard Palmer in goodes	iiij ^{li}	ij ^s
	Christofer Dye in goodes	iiij ^{li}	ij ^s
	Nicolas Taylor in lands	iiij ^{li}	v ^s iiij ^d
	John Banister in lands	v ^{li}	vj ^s viij ^d
	William Hollowaie in goodes	viiij ^{li}	vij ^s
	Christian Stevenson, a stranger for her pole	iiij ^d

53

A. D. 1591
Nov. 26

Deed of Bargain and Sale by Thomas Harrison to John Hinde of a messuage and land, called Monkes, &c., reserving a heriot of 50 shillings and suit of Court.

Indenture made 26 November 34 Elizabeth (1591) between Thomas Harrison of Stratfyldsey co. Berks gentleman of one part and John Hinde of Fynchampstede yeoman of the other part. Whereas Edward Grove of Finchampstede yeoman lately held for term of his life one messuage and half a yard of land called Monkes another half yard of land called James and also other lands & tenements together with a close called the Moore to the same messuage belonging being in the parish of Finchampstede by copy of Court-roll of the manor of East courte in Fynchampstede aforesaid and by yearly rent of 34 shillings and by other services Now Thomas Harrison sells to John Hinde the said messuage &c. to have and to hold to him his heirs & assigns for ever In consideration of which bargain & sale John Hinde grants to Thomas Harrison his heirs and assigns for ever being lords of the Manor of East court an annual rent-charge of 34 shillings issuable out of the premises payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas, or within 20 days after either of the said feasts by even portions and he also agrees to pay upon the death of himself or any other tenant of the freehold, and upon every alienation of the premises, fifty shillings to the lord of the manor of East court in the name of a Heriot within twenty days after any such death or alienation. [Clauses of entry & distress, &c.] John Hinde for himself his heirs & assigns covenants that he & they will as often as any Court Baron shall be holden within the said Manor will

make appearance and be ready to serve (if required) as others of the homage.

APP.

Attached to this Indenture is a copy from the Court-roll of a Court of Stephen Cawett [Cawood] holden 16 February 31 Hen. 8 (1539-40), showing the admission of Edward Grove as tenant.

54

Feet of Fines. Berkshire. Trinity 37 Eliz.

FINCHAMPSTEAD MANOR.

Final Agreement made at Westm^r on the morrow of Holy Trinity 37 Eliz. (16 June 1595). A.D. 1595

Between Thomas Harrison gentleman plaintiff and Francis Pollye and Margaret his wife deforciant^s of the manor of Finchamstede with the appurtenances and of ten messuages five tofts three cottages 300 acres of land 40 acres of meadow 200 acres of pasture 300 acres of wood 1000 acres of furze and heath and 100 shillings rent with the appurtenances in Finchamstede and also of the advowson of a moiety of the church of Finchamstede Whereupon a plea of covenant was summoned between them in the same Court *etc.* And moreover the said Francis & Margaret have granted for themselves and the heirs of the said Margaret that they will warrant to the said Thomas & his heirs the aforesaid manor tenements and rent with the appurt^s and the advowson aforesaid against the said Francis & Margaret and the heirs of the said Margaret and against all others claiming by the said Francis & Margaret and their heirs for ever And for this acknowledgment *etc.* the said Thomas hath given to the said Francis & Margaret two hundred Pounds sterling.

55

Deed of bargain and sale by John Crottall of Wokingham yeoman to Richard Palmer *alias* Underwood of the same parish yeoman of a messuage or tenements with lands, &c., known by the name of Redde Landes in the parish of Wokingham at a place called Luckily Green, now in the tenure of Henry Slatter by virtue of a lease made to him for 21 years [date left blank]. Dated 25 December 38 Eliz. (1595) A.D. 1595

Seal gone.

APP.

56

A.D, 1596

Deed of Sale by John Crottall the elder of Wokingham yeoman to Thomas Segrye of Wokingham of a tenement with garden and orchard adjoining in Wokingham in a place called Symondes Grene, also of a croft or 'pudell' of arable land there with other lands (specified). Dated 27 December 39 Eliz. (1596).

Seal, a mere lump of wax.

57

Subsidy Roll. Berks. $\frac{7}{2} \frac{4}{80}$. Subsidy granted Oct. 39 Eliz. [1597].

FINCHAMSTED.

		Assessment.			Amount paid.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
John Hind	in lands	.	.	3			12
William Banister	"	.	.	40			8
James Redding	"	.	.	40			8
Richard Oliver	"	.	.	40			8
John Rither	"	.	.	20			4
John Clark	"	.	.	20			4
Widdow Holloway	"	.	.	20			4
Henry Wood	"	.	.	20			4
Richard Mathew	"	.	.	20			4
Thomas Redway	"	.	.	20			4
Edward Fielder	in goods	.	.	5	13		4
Humfrey Tailor	"	.	.	3			8
Bartholomew Earley	"	.	.	3			8
Dennis Stevens	"	.	.	3			8
Widdow Underwood	"	.	.	3			8
Nicholas Tailor	in lands	.	.	40	12		
Francis Polle	"	.	.	15			8
Robert Feltham	in goods	.	.	6	16		

P. R. O. Smal $\frac{li.}{VII}$ $\frac{s.}{I}$ $\frac{d.}{III}$

58

23 *Bolein, P.C.C. Extracts from the Will of Thomas Harrison Esquire who died 25 February, 1602. Will dated 22 Febr., 1602-3, 45 Eliz. Proved 3 March, 1602-3.*

I Thomas Harrison of Finchamsted in the Countie of Bercks Esq^r. My Bodie to be buried in the Porche of the West doore of

the Parishe Church of Finchamsted aforesaid in the place latelie by me prepared for that purpose. A deede of Covenantes bearinge date the Five and twentieth daie of November in the eighte and thirtieth yeare of the Reigne of oure sovereigne Ladie Queene Elizabeth made by me the said Thomas Harrison & Mr. William Beecher my wyves Brother of my Manor and Landes of Estcourte in Finchamsted aforesaid to the use of myself and Elizabeth my nowe wief for terme of our twoe lives with Remainder to my heires for ever under suche conditions Reservations & Covenantes as in the saide deede expressed & mentioned that the same shall remaine & be from & after my decease to the use of my said wief for terme of hir naturall lief. My sonne in lawe George Carleton Esquier duringe the non age of my heire & Nephewe¹ Richard Harrison—his Brother John Harrison—the nowe wief of my son Thomas Harrison & of her Children by him—my said sonne Thomas—my grandchilde Thomas Harrison the sonne of my sonne Thomas Harrison. Item I give my Mannor and landes of Estcourte in Finchamsted aforesaid & the Revercion thereof with all the rightes & appurtenances from & after the expiration of my wives estate therein by me made as is aforementioned Also my Mannor or Farme of Evendens in the Parrishe of Ockingham *etc.* to my Nephew¹ & heire Richard Harrison & to the heires male of his bodie lawfully begotten in default to his Brother John Harrison & heires male of body; in default to Thomas Harrison my son for life & after his decease to Thomas Harrison his son & heires male of his body; in default, to Charles Harrison his brother & heires male of his body; in default, to my own right heirs for ever. [Many bequests of sums of money to persons named, and then] To the Poore of Finchamsted 20*s.* To Ockingham 12*s.* To Stratfieldsea 20*s.* To Swallowfield 13*s.* 4*d.* Mortimer 20*s.* Barkham 6*s.* 8*d.*; uppon condition that they staye at home & content themselves to receive this my Benevolence at their owne Parishes & not to be troublesome to my Buriall. Peter Normarville my seconde wives Nephewe I doe appointe that the Rent charge of 13 pounce 6*s.* 8*d.* yssuyng owte of my Mannor of Finchamsted Estcourte and paible to Jerome Tychborne gentⁿ And alsoe the Rent charge of £9. 15. 4. yssuing owte of my Mannor or Farme of Evendens & paible to Mrs. Tailor of Ockingham duringe her lief shall be levied owte of the Rent of Mannor or Farm of Evendens. To my daughter Carleton three sylver Bowlles all of one nest & fashion. To my Nephewe Radulphe Spier my Sylver & guilte Pott with twoe handles. My

APP.

A. D.
1596-7¹ *sic*, but evidently grandson (son of his eldest son Richard)

Here the language of the will is abridged by the writer

APP.
 ' sic, but
 evidently
 grand-
 children

daughter Marche to the use of my twoe Nephewes ¹ hir sons—residue to my Nephewe Richarde Harrison. I do ordaine my lovinge wief Elizabeth Harrison my sole Executrix—my lovinge friendes Sir Richarde Warde Knight & my lovinge sonne in law George Carleton Esquier Supervisors of this my laste Will.

(Signed) THOMAS HARRISON SEN^r 22 February 45 Eliz. [1602-3].

GEORGE CARLETON

THOMAS BELLAMYE

NICHOLAS TAILOR

THOMAS HARRISON JUN

RICHARD CANE

THOMAS RIDWEYE *Scriptor*.

Proved at London 3 March 1602-3 by Thos. Lovell notary public proctor of Elizabeth relict of deceased.

59

Chancery Inq. p.m. 1 James I, part 2, No. 75

THOMAS HARRISON, ESQUIRE

Delivered
 in Court
 19 Nov.
 1603

co. Southampton Inq. at Basingstoke 17 June I Jas. (1603).

Tho. Harrison esq. long before his death was seised in fee of the manor of Nuttbeames in cos. Southampton and Berks and lands in Stratfeildsay, co. Southton, called Gomels or Gominges land, and the manor of Finchampsted otherwise Estcourte in Fynchampsted, co. Berks, the manor of Evendens or Indens in the parish of Okingham, a messuage & 40 acres of land occupied therewith now or late in the tenure of Mistress Tayler widow ; messuages &c. in Beachill Hartley & Swallowfeild. So seised, 25 Nov. 38 Elizabeth (1595) by deed made between himself of one part and William Beacher of the other part, for the consideration therein named, he granted the manor of Estcourte & other premises in Finchamsted (except timber trees) to Wm. Beacher & his heirs for ever to the use of said Tho. Harrison for life & after his decease to the use of Elizabeth then his wife for her life, with remainder to other heirs of s^d Tho. Harrison for ever. By virtue of w^{ch} gift & by the Statute of Uses s^d T. H. was seised of the s^d manor &c. in Finchampsted in freehold for life, remainder as aforesaid.

Afterw^{ds}, viz. 22 Feb. 45 Eliz. (1602-3) he made his last will & testament in writing and appointed that all his lands of inheritance should be & go to his executrix towards the paym^t of

his debts & legacies and that she sh^d receive all the rents & profits during the minority of Richard Harrison then his grandson & heir apparent; and if he sh^d die before full age then during the minority of John Harrison brother of Richard until his debts, legacies, &c. should be satisfied & paid. He devised the manor of Nuttbeames and Gomels land to John Harrison his grandson & heirs male; in default of such issue to his (John) elder brother Richard Harrison & issue male; then to the heirs male of the grandchild of testator, Tho. Harrison, son of his son & heirs male; then to his brother Charles Harrison, & heirs male; remainder to the right heirs of testator for ever.

APP.

Also by the same will he gave the manor of Estcourte & the reversion thereof after the expiration of the estate of the said Elizabeth then his wife and also his manor of Evendens together with the house & land in the tenure of Mistress Tayler (who is still alive) and lands in Swallowfeild (saving the interest before given to his executrix) to Richard Harrison & heirs male, remainder successively in tail male to John Harrison brother of Richard; then to Thomas Harrison son of testator for life; then to Thomas Harrison son of Thomas the son & heirs male; then to Charles Harrison his brother & heirs male of his body; remainder to right heirs of testator for ever. The lands he gave by the same will to Tho. Harrison his son & his heirs for ever; and he appointed Elizabeth his wife executrix.

Thomas Harrison afterw^{ds} viz. 25 Feb. 45 Elizabeth (1602-3), died at Finchamsted; and Richard Harrison, his grandson, *i.e.* son & heir of Richard, son & heir apparent in his lifetime of the s^d Tho. H., is his heir, who at the time of his grandfather's death was aged 18 years, 5 months and 25 days.

[Here is recited a charter of John Daubridgcort, lord of Stratfeildsay, dated 20 Oct. 8 Hen. 4 (1406), by which he gave to Richard Wheler the lands called Gomynglond, lately held by Thomas Wheler father of Richard.]

The manor of Finchampsted o^rwise Estcourte and other the premises in F. are held of William Forster esq. as of his manor of Aldermaston by the fourth part of a knight's fee. They are worth nothing during the life of Elizabeth, but after her death will be worth per ann. (clear) £6 13s. 4d.

East
Court

[The other tenures are omitted.]

The said Elizabeth, late wife of Thomas Harrison named in the

APP. Commission, at the time of taking this Inquisition is alive at Finchampsted, and is now seised in freehold of the manor called Estcourte & other the premises in Finchampsted.

The above Inq. was taken by virtue of a Commission before Samuel Backhouse esq. Edward Savage esq. George Raymond esq. escheator of the county and Richard Hore gen. feodary of the county.

60

Chancery Inq. p.m. 1 Jas. I. part 2, No. 30. Series II. vol. 281

THE SAME THOMAS HARRISON

Inq. at Odyam, co. Southton, 3 Dec. 1 Jas. (1603) by virtue of the king's commission for better inquiry.

This relates to Gomels or Gominges land, given by charter 20 Oct. 8 Hen. 4, given by Sir John Dabridgecourt to Richard Wheler. This land time out of mind was parcel of the demesne lands of Stratfeildsay and is land of the king in chief by knight's service.

61

Fine Roll 7 James I, part 2, No. 30

A. D. 1609-
10

LANDS TO BE DELIVERED TO THE CO-HEIRS OF SIR RICHARD WARDE, KNIGHT

The king to his escheator in Berkshire. Refers to an Inquisition taken after the death of Sir Richard Warde who made his last will by which (among other things) he devised his manors of Hurste and Wishley in Hurst and the manor of Lee with all other tenements in the parish of Hurste to his kinsmen Richard Harrison and Wm. Milward after the decease of himself and Mary, his wife. To have to them and the heirs male of their bodies begotten with remainder to Thomas Warde Maunsell and his heirs under a condition specified in the will. He made Mary, his wife, executrix on certain conditions. He died 27 Aug. 3 Jas. (1605), and his heirs were :

1. Richard Harrison, son and heir of Richard Harrison deceased, son of Thomas Harrison and Alice, his wife, likewise deceased ; which Alice was one of the sisters of the said Ric. Warde.

2. Thomas Dirham, son of Richard Dirham deceased, son of Thomas Dirham and Joan his wife, also deceased ; which Joan was another sister of Ric. Warde.

3. Katherine Alexander *alias* Milward, then wife of William Alexander *alias* Milward esq., a third sister of Ric. Warde.

4. Anne Weldon, wife of Francis Weldon, esq., a fourth sister of Ric. Warde. APP.

At the time of said Richard Warde's death, Richard Harrison was aged 21; Thomas Dirham, aged 5 years, 10 months, and 2 days; Kath. Alexander *ats* Milward, aged 60 years; and Anne Weldon, 50 years.

Partition to be made. Dated at Westm^r 10th February.

10 Feb.
1609-10

62

Exchange in form of a demise for the term of a thousand years made between Richard Harrison of Hurst, co. Berks esq. of one part and John Tailor of Finchamsted in the said county gentleman of the other part. The said Richard Harrison grants to John Tailor One half acre of arable land in Finchamsted in a common field there called the Little acrey which half acre belongeth to a tenement of the said Richard Harrison lately in the tenure of Henry Polley called Copped Hall parcel and belonging to the Manor of East Court and abutteth on the North end upon a pightell of the said Richard Harrison called South pightell and abutteth upon a close of land called the Downe belonging to the Parsonage or Rectory of Finchamsted and lyeth East and West on the land of the said John Tailor To have and to hold in exchange for another half acre hereinafter mentioned from Lady-day last past (25 March 1615) to the full end and term of One thousand years without yielding or paying therefore to the said Richard Harrison his heirs or assigns during the said term of One thousand years In consideration whereof the said John Tailor grants to the said Richard Harrison all that his half acre of arable land in the said common field called the Little Acrey which half acre abutteth upon certain lands of the said Richard Harrison now in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Holoway on the East part and upon the lands of Elizabeth Rider widow late James Readings on the West part and upon certain lands of the said John Tailor on the South part To have and to hold the last-mentioned half acre in exchange for the half acre first above demised from Lady-day last past (25 March) to the full end and term of One thousand years then next following without yielding or paying any thing therefore to the said John Tailor his heirs or assigns during the said term of One thousand years. Mutual covenants for peaceable enjoyment of the respective half acres during the term. Provided always that if at any time hereafter the said John Taylor his executors administrators or assigns during the term

A.D. 1615
Sept.

'The
Downe'
(Parson-
age)

APP.

of One thousand years shall be lawfully put from the possession and profit of the said half acre to him granted then it shall be lawful for him to enter into the half acre demised to Richard Harrison in exchange and thereof to be seised as in his and their former estate And likewise if at any time Richard Harrison be lawfully put from the possession of the half acre to him granted then it shall be lawful for him to enter into the half acre demised to John Taylor in exchange and to be seised thereof in his former estate. This Indenture or any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. Dated the first day of September 13 James (1615).

(Signed) JOHN TAYLOR.

Seal, a talbot dog.

63

Subsidy Roll. Berks. $\frac{7}{343}$. 4 Car. I. (1629)*FINCHAMSTED*

		Assessments		Amounts paid	
		£	s.	£	s.
Recusant.	Geo. Tattershall esq. in lands	10		4	
	John Bligh gent	2			8
	Henry Harwood gent		20		4
	Willm Wase gent		20		4
	Rich ^d Whiting	2			8
	Thos. Oliver		20		4
	Henry Hynde	2			8
	Stephen Holloway		20		4
	Rich ^d Fi . . . der		20		4
	John Martin		20		4
	Eliz Rither vid		20		4
	John Grove in goods	3			8
	William Taylor in lands		20		4
	Thos Bannister	2			8
	Suma			7	12

64

A. D. 1659 *Copies of the Exemplifications of the Fine and Recovery suffered to cut off the entail and to make Mr. Harrison tenant in fee simple*

Fine

Final Agreement made in the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster in three weeks from Easter-day A.D. 1659 Between Samuel

Hyne gentleman plaintiff and Richard Harrison the elder esquire and Richard Harrison the younger gent. son & heir apparent of the said Richard the elder deforciant of the Manors of Hurst Wynhurst otherwise Whistley in the Hurst Finchampstead East Court and Evendens otherwise Endens otherwise Indens with the appurtenances And of the Park of Lee otherwise Lee park with the appurtenances And also of ten messuages *etc.* in Hurst Wynhurst Whistley in Hurst Berry Twiford Lee Okingham and Finchamstead Whereupon a Plea of Covenant *etc.* Warranty to Samuel against Richard Harrison the elder and Richard Harrison the younger and the heirs of each respectively And for this &c. the said Samuel hath given to the aforesaid Richard and Richard one thousand pounds sterling.

APP.

Amongst the Pleas of land inrolled at Westminster of Easter-term 1659, Roll 103, it is thus contained: Berks. Richard Palmer gent. & Robert Whorwood gent. demand against Samuel Hyne gent. the Manors of Hurst &c. Finchamstead East Court &c. The said Samuel vouches thereof to warrant Richard Harrison the elder who vouches Richard Harrison the younger who further vouches the Common Vouchee who makes default in the usual form. Judgment for Richard Palmer and Robert who have seisin 7th May. Recovery

65

B. M. Add. Charters 38605

[*By endorsement in later hand.*] *Conveyance of Finchampstead East Court by Sir Richard Harison to Richard Palmer esq.* A. D. 1661

Indre made eleventh of August (13 Chas. 2) 1661 Between Richard Harison of Hurst co. Berks esq. and Dorothy his wife of one part and Richard Palmer of Wokingham in said county esq. of the other part. In consideration of £4,250 paid Rich^d Harison gives grants & confirms to Rich^d Palmer his heirs & assigns for ever All the manor of Finchamstead orwise Finchamstead East Court with rights &c. together with the advowson and presentation of & to the Rectory of F. and also the capital mess. or manorhouse now or late in the tenure of Peter Sparks gent. & [] Treherne widow or one of them &c. &c. (sic)

Mention is made of several leases in a schedule annexed and of an annuity of £13. 6. 8 by the year payable out of the s^d manor lands to Sir Edward Ford knt. which are excepted.

[Signed] RICHARD HARISON DOROTHY HARISON
Seal undecipherable Seal gone

APP.

In schedule a Lease dated 26 Feb. 1654[5] from Sir Richard Harison knt. & Richard Harison his son to Wm. Clarke & Agnes his wife of a parcel of meadow for 99 years if Wm. (Clarke) & Agnes & Thomas Marsh brother of the said [Agnes] so long live. Rent 3s.

Mention is made of an Indre dated 10 Aug. of the same year by w^{ch} Richard Harison demised the Manor advowson &c. to Rich^d Palmer for six months from first of August.

This is
Add. Ch.

N.B.—Within is a paper (seal of arms . . . on fess 3 fleurs de lis) receipt for £3,045 in full paym^t of £4,250 purchase money, 15 Nov. 1661. Ri. Harison.

66

Berks. $\frac{7}{4} \frac{6}{8}$. Hearth Tax, temp. Car. II. Finchampsted (after 1662)

	No. of hearths
' From the Court Rolls	
George Tattershall esqr. (' West ¹ Court ')	7
Thos Bright gent. (' Cowdries ' ¹)	8
Peter Sparke gent. (' Manor ¹ House, Church Hill ')	8
John Merry gent. (' East ¹ House ')	8
Martin Eyston gent.	7
John Bannister (' Banisters ' ¹)	5
John Hynde	3
Richard Rither	2
Thos. Oliver (' Ferretts ' ¹)	4
Walter Layward	3
James Mathew	3
Nicholas Marston	3
Edward Ellis	3

(N.B.—The Hearth Tax was first introduced in England in 1662.)

67

B. M. Add. Ch. 38611

A. D. 1700

Thomas Lord Wharton Barron of Wharton in the county of Westmoreland Warden Cheife Justice and Justice in Eyre of all his Majesties Forrests Chaces Parks and Warrens on the South side of the Trent To all and singular the officers and ministers of his Majesties Forrest of Windsor in the county of Berks greeting.

Whereas Richard Aldworth Gent one of the Verderers of his Majesties said Forrest of Windsor together with two of the Regarders and underkeepers belonging to the same have certified me under their

hand that Charles Palmer of the Town of Alesbury in the county of Bucks Doctor of Physick hath twenty oaken Timber trees now standing and growing upon his own free land (East Court) in the Parish of Finchamstead in the County of Berks in Begshot Walk in Finchamsted Bailywick within his Majesty's Forrest of Windsor and County aforesaid which may be conveniently felled this season without any hurt or prejudice to his Majesty's Deer or Vert in the said Forrest Know yee therefore that the said Thomas Lord Wharton doe hereby give & grant full power Lycense and authority unto the said Charles Palmer or his assigns to fell cut down and carry away the said 20 oaken Trees growing upon the premises alwaies provided that the Vert or Venison of the said Forrest receive no prejudice thereby and Provided also that this my Licence be brought to the next Court to be holden for the said Forrest to be there enrolled amongst the Records of the said Court Given under my hand and seale of my office of Chief Justice in Eyre aforesaid this 28 day of March A.D. 1700.

APP.

(Signed)

T. WHARTON.

68

38612 Brit. Mus.

Similar permission granted to Charles Palmer to cut two Coppices of Underwood called Little Frith and Pye Hill Row, both containing 12 acres, now growing upon his own Freehold Land in the Parish of Finchamsted He taking great care for the due fencing thereof according to the Assize of the Forrest Provided always that sufficient Trees be left for standalls according to the Statutes in that case made and provided.

Dec. 14
A.D. 1708

69

38613 Brit. Mus.

Similar permission to cut 60 oaken Timber Trees. Charles Palmer described as of the Parish of Arberfield, in the

May 11
A.D. 1709

70

NO. 11 OF MR. BANISTER SMITH'S DEEDS

Charter of Nicholas atte Halle of Fynchamstede granting to John atte Haghe and Stephen atte Haghe of Fynchamsted all lands & tenements which he had in Fynchamsted To have & to hold the same

A.D. 1361-
62
Latin

APP. to the said John & Stephen their heirs & assigns for ever of the lords of the fees, &c.

Witnesses :—WILLIAM ATTE HETHE
STEPHEN EST
JOHN WILCOUS
HENRY LE WHITE
ROBERT LE BUDEL & others.

Dated at Fynchamstede on Monday next after the feast of Saint Hilary, 35 Edw. 3 (17 January 1361-62).

71

No. 4
Latin

Licence granted by John viscount Mordaunt, Constable of the Honor and Castle of Windesore and Keeper of the Forest there, to Charles Howard, that he may cut down & sell sixty oak-trees within the manor of Finchamsted Westcourt in Windsor Forest, so that the cutting down and carrying away of them be done at the fitting time, and not in the close time or to the scaring of the deer there. Given under seal 14 October, 18 Chas. 2.

72

Feet of Fines, Berkshire, Michaelmas, 3 Anne

A. D. 1704

Hec est finalis Concordia fca in Cuñ Dñe Regine apud Westm̄ a die sc̄i Martini in quindecim dies Anno Regnoz Anne Dei gra Angl̄ Scocie Franc̄ et Hibnie Regine fidei defens̄ et A Conq̄ūo coram etc. Inl̄ Jacobum Goodyer genosum queñ et Carolum Howard Armigum et Henr̄ Carolum Howard Armigum deforc̄ de Manio de West Court alias Finchamsted West Court cum ptiñ Ac de decem et octo Mesuagijs septem Cotagijs vno Molendino vno Columbar̄ decem et octo gardinis decem pomañ quadringentis et quindecim acris lre quadraginta acris prati triginta et vna acris pasture Centum septuaginta et octo acris bosci Mille acris Jampnoz et bruere et Cõia pasture p omibz avijs cum ptiñ in Finchamsted Okingham Sandhurst et Barkham Acciam de liba piscar̄ in Finchamsted pdic̄ Necnon de Advocacõe eccleie de Finchamsted vnde Pliñm Convencõis suñ fuit inl̄ eos in eadem Cuñ Scilt qd pdci Carolus et Henr̄ Carolus recogn̄ pdic̄ Maniũ teñ Cõiam pasture et piscar̄ cum ptiñ Ac Advocacõem pdcã esse ius ipius Jacobi vt ist̄ que idem Jacobus het de dono pdcõz Caroli et Henr̄ Caroli Et ist̄ remiser̄ et quietclãm de ipis Carolo et Henr̄ Carolo et hered̄ suis pdcõ Jacobo et hered̄ suis imp̄m Et plea idem Carolus concepit p se et hered̄ suis qd

iþi waranþ þdco Jacobo 7 hered suis þdca Manliu teñ Cõiam pasture 7 piscar cum ptiñ Ac Advocacõem þdcam Cont^a þdcm Carolum 7 hered suos impþm Et vliius idem Henř Carolus Concessit p se 7 hered eius qđ iþi Waranþ þdco Jacobo 7 hered suis þdca Manliu teñ cõiam pasture 7 piscar cum ptiñ Ac Advocacõem þdcam Cont^a þdcm Henř Carolum 7 hered suos impþm Et p hac recogñ remissione quietclañ waranþ fine 7 Concordia idem Jacobus dedit þdçis Carolo 7 Henř Carolo octingentas libř sterlingoř.

APP.

73

As there are no records in the ' Parish Chest ' showing the ancient names of the parish lands, the following names which have been extracted from reliable deeds relating to the East Court Manor may be interesting and useful to some of the parishioners. 1728-86

Extract from a Deed of Settlement by Charles Fish-Palmer, ' the Elder, ' of Luckley House, eldest son and heir of Henry Fish-Palmer, ' heretofore of Finchampstead and late of Ickwell, Beds, and Elizabeth his wife, both deceased, ' settling his estates on his eldest surviving son (successively) April 14, 1786

The East Court Manor was described as under, vizt.

The capital Messuage or Manor House (on Church Hill), and all the several Closes or pieces of Land, Arable, Meadow, or Pasture, and Moor Ground belonging thereto, heretofore or now in occupation of John Alright or his under Tenants severally, known as under.

Barn Close	Goose Acre
Church Hannus	Peasedown
Bromfield	The Barneses
Damson	The Lord's Meadow
Deames	The Lord's Moors, alias
Brickills	Rushy Meads
Dozedales, alias Dodswells	Short Moor
or Dosdwells	Hatch-Mead

Containing together 155½ acres

Also a Messuage or Tenement and Farm formerly known by name of Groves, and formerly occupied by John Ellis and his under Tenants or assigns, vizt.

T

APP.

The Two Acres	The Pightle	The . . . some
Emmots or Emmonts	close	
The Seven Acres	The old orchards	
Natts or Hutts Flats	Four Acres of Arable land in the 'Common Fields'	
Containing together 28 acres		
A Messuage or Tenement called Coppyd Hall, occupied by James Parker and his under Tenants		
The Home Pightle	} containing 12½ acres	
The Long Croft		
Another Farm occupied by Peter Fry, 9½ acres		
A Messuage occupied by Anne Morris (widow) containing the Home Close, the Great Close, the Hogshead Pightle = 7½ acres.		
A Messuage and Farm formerly occupied by Thomas Grove		
The two Pightles	The four Acres	
Blackcroft	The Moors	
The Round Close	The Cuttar Close	
The little Mead	The Pound Pightle	
The Meadow by the River	One Acre on the Common Field	
Containing together 37 acres 3 roods		
A Messuage or Farm occupied by Benjamin Maynard		
The Home Close	The Pightle	
The Wood Close	The Coppice Close	
Pirkett Croft	The Black Croft	
Pond Mead	The Moors (formerly a Pool of Water)	
The Hill Grounds	The Upper Coppice Close	
The lower Coppice Close		
Containing together 46 acres		
A Messuage and Farm occupied by John Bullock		
The Stable Close	The Coppice Close	
The Inner Pightle	The Bee Close	
The Pond Pightle	The Hatch Pightle	
Containing together 10½ acres		
A Farm called Salters, formerly occupied by John Martin		
The Mead, and Close, or Pightle, adjoining the Common called Moor Green		Acres 12
A piece of Meadow ground adjoining		8
All the afore-mentioned lands, except the Manor, were settled as		

a jointure on Elizabeth Fish-Palmer, deceased, wife of Henry Fish-Palmer, deceased, by deed dated 12 & 13 Feb. 1728.

APP.

	Acres
Also a Messuage and Farm of 4 Closes or Pightles in the Common Fields	3½
Also a Meadow in late Henry Fish-Palmer's occupation	4¼
Also a Messuage called <i>Cowdries</i> , alias <i>Newhouse</i>	16
Also Two Meadows, <i>i.e.</i> the Four Acre Mead	8
Piece of Moorland	5

All of which were formerly purchased by said Henry Fish-Palmer of Bernard Eales, merchant of London.

	Acres
Also a Coppice called the further Westwood Coppice, abutting upon the common fields of the Lea common upon the south-west side	35
Another called the Hither Westwood Coppice, abutting upon the Common or Waste called the Westwood Common upon the North, and on Lea Common on the South, and adjoining to the aforesaid Coppice called the 'further Westwood Copice' on the West	5
Another Coppice called the 'Little Frith,' containing	18
Another Coppice called 'Pye Hill Row'	2

All of which 4 Coppices were formerly purchased by Humphrey Fish-Palmer, Esq. Father of the said Henry Fish-Palmer, under the Will of Doctor Palmer, and pursuant to a decree of the High Court of Chancery directing the sale—all of which lands &c. are now in possession of the said Charles Fysh-Palmer.

Then follows a detail of the 'Luckley House' Estate, formerly occupied by Charles, late Duke of St. Albans, and afterwards by said Henry Fysh-Palmer.

Also of a Farm called Hagvill, *alias* Bolsingham farm, formerly occupied by said John Martin, &c. &c. &c.

APP. abutteth upon the Highe waye leading from Blackwater Bridge towards Ockingham on the South pte and all the residue of the said closes boundeth upon the groundes of the Estcourt Manno^r on the North West parte the Meadowe containing vii acres boundeth upon a Meade called White's Meade on the South West and a Moor called Westmoore on the South Est parte and the Doune Close contayning Ten Acres abutteth upon the Littell Acre on the North parte and the land of Richard Greeneawaies on the South parte and the land of the Est Court Mannor on the West parte all which is in the P^{sons} possession and all other duties belonging to the P^{sonage} is gathered by the P^{son} as Witnesseth

SAMUEL MARSHE, *Pr^{son}*.

FRANCIS POLLEY [his mark	} <i>Churchwardens.</i>
EDWARD ELLIS] his mark	
WILLIAM CLARKE	
HUMFRI TAILOR	} <i>Sidemen.</i>
THOMAS RIDGWAYE	

75

A TERRIER OF [illegible].

Belonging to the Parsonage of Finchamsted.

FINCHAMPSTEAD 1638.

	Acres.
In primis the Parsonage House, Orchards, Gardens and backside contayneth by estima ^{con}	i
Item, the Furzen close and the Well close buttinge upon the Comon containing by estima ^{con}	x
Item, the two closes called the Cowleze, and butteth upon the land of Sir Richard Harrison, Knight (East Court), contaynyng by estima ^{con}	x
Item, two closes called the Longcrofts and two Coppices adioyning to them, butting upon a Coppice called the Littell Frith and a ground called Churchchams, contaynyng by estimation	xviii
Item, a close called the Culver close with a Coppice thereto adioynng, butting upon the groundes called Brickills and Dozells, contaynyng by estimation	vi
Item, a ground called the Downe, buttinge [illegible] grounde called Gammons, conteynyng by estimation	xi

Item a Meadowe buttinge upon Westmore, conteynyng by Acres APP.
 estimation vii
 [Illegible] grounde called the [illegible].

Summa Totalis lxii ackers.

Witnesseth SAMUELE MARSHE, *Rector.*
 JOHN GROVE }
 his ↯ mks } *Churchwardens*
 WILLIAM WEBB }
 NICHOLAS WATTS } *Sidemen.*
 THOMAS RIDGWAY }

76

TERRIER, A.D. 1783

A Terrier or Survey of the Parsonage or Rectory of Finchamstead in the County of Berks, taken by the appointment of and to be delivered to the Register of the Honourable and Right Reverend Shute, Lord Bishop of Sarum, at his Primary Visitation to be held at Reading the 21st day of July 1783.

Imprimis. One Tiled House containing three Parlours, a kitchen, Servants' Hall, Brewhouse, the largest Parlour 17 feet square stucco'd, another 16 feet by — paper'd, the other 13 feet by 12 wainscotted, the rooms over each of them are of the same dimensions and paper'd, the other two wainscotted, detached from the House are two Pantries and a Dairy built with brick and tiled. Rectory house

Item, one Barn with a Coach House at the end, in length 64 feet, in breadth 26 ft. Farm buildings

Item, one other Barn with a Cow Stall under the same roof, in length 50 ft., in breadth 30 ft.

Item, one other Barn with a Stable at the end of it, in length, 70 ft., in Breadth 18 ft. Stables and coach house

Item, one Wood House with a little Stable at the end, in length 28 ft., in Breadth 13 ft. These Buildings are all boarded & thatched.

Item, one other Stable, in length 20 ft., in Breadth 18 ft., built with Bricks and thatched.

Item, one Garden containing about *one acre* of ground fenced with a brick wall on the north side, a brick wall and one side of the House on the East, with a Hedge both on the South and West. Garden

Item, the Glebe Lands, which with their measurement are as follows, vizt. Glebe lands

APP.	Acres
Wall Close containing	5
Meadow Hill Close (Arable)	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hill Close Shaw (Underwood)	$\frac{1}{2}$
Culver Close (Arable)	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Lower Long Croft („)	9
Upper Long Croft („)	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Great Cowleyes („)	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Great Cowleyes Shaw (Underwood)	$\frac{1}{4}$
Little Cowleyes (Arable)	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Little Cowleyes Shaw (Underwood)	$\frac{1}{2}$
Upper Long Croft Coppice („)	4
The above inclosures lie contiguous to each other, and are bounded on the South in part by the Common, in part by some small inclosures belonging to William Deacon, and in part by some Lands belonging to Henry Fish Palmer, Esq. called Barno's, on the West by Lands of Mr. Palmer's called Doswells, on the North by Lands of the said Mr. Palmer's called Brickells and the Little Fryth Coppice, on the East by Lands of Mr. Palmer called Barn Close, and in part by the Highway leading to the Church. There are also two other enclosures that lie at a distance from the House, one called the Down, containing (Arable)	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Doswells Field	
Highway leading to the church	
bounded on the South and East by Lands belonging to John Goodchild, on the North by Lands belonging to the Rev. Ellis St. John, called the Gut, and on the West by Lands of Mr. Palmer's, called Leasedown Shaw.	
The other is called the Parsonage Meadow and contains	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
is bounded on the South by the River, on the East by a Moor called West Moor in the Parish of Sandhurst, on the North by Lands belonging to the Rev. Mr. Moseley, the Rev. Ellis St. John, jnr., and Francis Burrows, on the West by a Meadow belonging to John Gale, of Yateley in the County of Southton, called Ware Meadow, next to which is the only Meadow in the Parish of Finchampstead that pays Tythe in kind, called Moulsum Meadow. Total acres	70 $\frac{1}{4}$
Glebe land	
Tithes in kind	
Item, belonging to the said Rectory are Tythes in kind of all sorts of Grain, of Wool, Lambs, Piggs, Geese, Wood, Honey, Apples, and all other Fruits, and of Fish kept in Ponds.	
Tithes on produce	
Item, for the milk of a Cow 4d, for every Calf 4d, for every	

sucking Colt 6*d*, for the Tythe of an acre of Meadow 4*d*, for an acre of Upland Grass if mowed 2*d*.

APP.

For marrying with Banns 5 shillings, and Licence 10*s* ; for publishing the Banns 2*s* 6*d*, for Churching a Woman 6*d*.

Rector's fees

Item, there are two little Houses in the Churchyard and one other on the Common that are to be given to some poor People by the Rector, to be kept in repair by the Parish. The Churchyard contains rather more than a quarter of an acre, and is fenced round by the Parish.

Parish houses for the poor Church-yard

There is also for the Parish Clerk for every Family 4*d* yearly, for every Wedding by publication 2*s* 6*d*, by Licence 5*s* ; for making a grave and tolling the Bell 2*s* 6*d*.

Clerk's fees

Within and belonging to the Church are one Communion Table with a covering of green cloth, one Linen Cloth with two Napkins, one Pewter Flagon, one Silver Chalice, and one Silver Paten, two Chests with two Locks, one Pulpit and Reading Desk, three Bells with Frames, but one cracked and useless, two Surplices.

Church furniture

In testimony of the truth of the above particulars we, the Minister, Churchwardens and principle inhabitants have set our hands this Twentieth day of July 1783.

E. ST. JOHN, Jnr., *Minister.*

JOHN BANISTER

CORNELIUS BARTLETT } *Churchwardens.*

WM. CHASE.

EDWARD BAILY.

RICHARD GOODCHILD.

JAMES MAYNSE.

WILLIAM HILTON.

Taken from the original Terriers and examined therewith.—
D. J. K. Macdonald, Deputy Registrar, Diocesan Registry, Salisbury,
23 March, 1891.

77

THE RECTORY.—THE GLEBE LANDS IN 1844.

Names of the several pieces of land constituting the Glebe. The numbers refer to their position on the Tithe Map.

	A.	R.	P.
No. 357 The Slip			*
„ 449 Brick Kiln	19	1	16

APP.		A.	R.	P.	
No. 450	Hill Dorsells	6	2	2	
„ 451	Well Dorsells	5	2	1	
„ 452	Hill Dorsells	6	2	15	
„ 453	Hill Ground	4	2	30	
„ 455	Bottom of Hill Ground			*	
„ 456	Great Wall Close	5	1	37	
„ 457	Homestead		1	14	
„ 458	Rickyard			*	
„ 459	Orchard		1	11	
„ 660	Culver Close	6	2	35	
„ 461	Long Croft	6	0	8	
„ 466	Lower Cowley	5	3	31	
„ 358	Hill Ground Shaw				} 2 0 27 { Underwood in 1841
„ 454	Ditto				
„ 467	Cowley's Shaw				
„ 362	The Seven Acres				} 23 1 15 { Rented by George Goddard
„ 368	Agates Field				
„ 369	Agates Meadow				
„ 371	Dorsells				
„ 372	Brick Kiln				
		93	0	2	
Add for above *	6	0	24	
		99	0	26	

No Terrier of the Church property or of the Glebe exists in the parish archives. The above statement is derived from the Tithe Award in 1844, and which was made before the present Rectory House was built, since which time the grounds have been differently laid out.

The Glebe consisted of—

	A.	R.	P.	
	81	3	3	Arable
	14	2	11	Meadow or Pasture
	2	0	27	Underwood
		1	14	Homestead
		1	11	Garden &c.
Total	99	0	26	

ANNO DOMINI 1623

FINCHAMSTEED
WEST COURT

*A New Rent-Rowle drawen out of Auncient
Recordes in the xxxth yeere of his Ma^{ties}
Raigne &c. for the whole yeers rent of
the Free Sutors*

Item	li.	s.	d.
1 IMPRIMIS S ^r RICHARD HARISON k ^t for a messuage and Threscore Acres of land by estimation called Win- bushes in y ^e tenure & occupation of Richard Feilder	0	10	0
2 More of him for a Tenem ^t called Russels by estimation Sixteene Acres now in y ^e tenure & occupation of Edward Ellis	0	1	0
3 More of him for a parsell of Meadowe called Craswells Meade by estimation Eight acres now in the tenure & occupation of Humphrey Fernell	0	2	0
4 ITEM THOMAS LAWARD gent. for parsell of Hall Howse land Conteyning by estimation Fortye Acres now in the tenure & occupation of the said Thomas Laward gent. and an incrochtment	0	3	8
5 More of him for Grantes	0	1	6
6 More of him for a tenem ^t called Westinhames	0	2	4
7 More of him for a parsell of land called Heathes	0	0	9
8 ITEM of JOHN BLYTH gent. for a Messuage or tenem ^t Called East howse conteyning by estimation Thre- score Acres now in the tenure or occupation of the said John Blyth gent.	0	9	0
9 More of him for Hall Howse land Conteyninge by estimation Twenty Acres	0	3	0
10 ITEM of JOHN KINGE for one parsell of land w th a tenem ^t belonging thereunto some tymes being parsell of Fawesbeyes being by estimation Twenty Acres now in the occupation of John Smith & Widow Elkines	0	5	0
11 ITEM of RICHARD OLYVER for a messuage Called Hornes by estimation Twelve Acres now in the tenure or occupation of the said Richard Olyver	0	5	0

APP.		<i>li.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
12	ITEM of RICHARD POWELL gent. for a message or Tenem ^t Called Barbers Conteyning by estimation Thirty Acres now in the tenure or occupation of John Powell	0	4	0
13	ITEM of JOHN HATRYLL in the wright of Katherine his wife Conteyning by estimation Twenty Acres Called Rayners now in the tenure or occupation of James Fernill	0	5	0
14	ITEM of Widdow JAMES for a Message or Tenem ^t Called Writhlockes alias Goffes Conteyninge by estimation Sixteene Acres now in the tenure of the said Ursula James widdow	0	5	0
15	ITEM of THOMAS THACKHAM for a message or Tenem ^t Called Sparowes Conteyning by estimation Tenn Acres now in y ^e tenure or occupation of Will ^m Clark	0	2	2
16	ITEM of the heyres of HUMPHREY LAWARD for a message or tenem ^t Called Heathes by estimation Tenn Acres now in the tenure of Widdow Silver	0	0	9
17	ITEM of HUATT gent. for a parsell of land Called Goffes brooklandes by estimation Six Acres now in y ^e tenure of the said Huatt	0	2	8
18	ITEM of JOHN BALL for a message or tenem ^t Called the Bath by estimation Eight Acres now in the tenure or occupation of Edward Evered	0	1	8
19	ITEM of WILLIAM HOLLAWAYE gent. for one parsell of land Called Tanners by estimation Tenn Acres now in y ^e tenure of Edward Ellis	0	0	8
	More for an Incroachment	0	0	8
20	ITEM of WILLIAM GREENER for a message or tenem ^t Called Barnardes by estimation Eight Acres now in the tenure of Salomon Sargant	0	0	8
21	More of the said WILLIAM GREENER for one Cops or parcell of Wood ground being parsell of Tanners in the tenure or occupation of the said Salomon	0	0	2
22	ITEM of WILLIAM BARRATT for a parsell of land Called Brooklandes being by estimation Thirtene Acres now in the tenure of the said Barratt	0	4	2
23	More of the said WILLIAM BARRATT for parsell of another Brooklandes purchased of Thomas James now in the occupation of the said William Barratt	0	0	4

	<i>li.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	APP.
24 ITEM of WILLIAM TAYLER for Barne Moore (or meade) by estimation Six Acres now in the tenure or occupation of the said William Tayler	0	2	0	
25 ITEM of WILLIAM BATT for one parsell of land Called Biddles by estimation Foure Acres holden as in the right of his wife now in the tenure or occupation of John Rither	0	0	2	
26 ITEM of JOANE TANNER widdow for a tenem ^t Called Hornes alias Tanners by estimation Three Acres now in y ^e tenure of the said Joane Tanner	0	0	6	
27 More of the said JOANE TANNER for one parsell of land called Emmerix now in the tenure of the said Joane Tanner	0	0	2	
28 ITEM of the heires of CHRISTOPHER LAWARD for a Cottage	0	0	2	
29 ITEM of DOROTHE TYCKNER for one parsell of land called Picled Croft now in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Wise gent. having ben parcell of Brooklands aforesaid	0	1	0	
30 ITEM [of] HUMPHREY FIRNELL for one parsell of land Called Church hames Piddle by estimation Twoo Acres in the Tenure of the said Humphrey being parsell of Hall Howse land the Rent	0	0	2	
31 More of the said HUMPHREY for a parsell of Hall Howse land Called Gam hames by estimation Eight Acres in the tenure of the said Humphrey the Rent	0	1	6	
	0	0	4	
	0	2	8	
32 [ITEM of] JOHN ELLIS for Northlands parcell of Hall House land	0	2	0	
33 ITEM of HENRY HINDE for Two parsells of Meadow being of Hall House the one Called Weare meade and thother Called the Little meade by estimation Five Acres now in the tenure of the said Henry Hinde the yerelie rent	0	0	8	
34 More of him for Three parsells of meadowes being of Hall Howse likewise the One Called Ludge meade by estimation Five Acres the other Called Broad meade Conteyning Eight Acres the other Called the Three Acre now in the tenure of the said Henry the Rent	0	1	10	

	<i>li.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<u>APP.</u> 35 ITEM of CHRISTIAN EAMES Widdow for j meadow Called Heithers parsell of Hall Howse land by estimation Three Acres now in the tenure of the said Christian Eames the yerelie rent	0	0	9
36 ITEM of STEPHEN HOLLOWAIE for one messuage or Tenem ^t and one Croft being parsell of Tanners by estimation Tenn Acres now in the tenure or occupation of the said Stephen the rent	0	0	8
37 ITEM of THOMAS BANISTER for his land called the Forberry at Midsomer only	0	0	1
		and a red rose	
The rent of the Freholders is ¹	4	3	1
The rents of Coppie and Lease holders are	11	3	0

79

ANNO DOMINI 1623

*A New Rent-Rowle drawn out of Auncient
Records in the xxj^{to} yeare of his Ma^{ties}
Raigne &c. for the whole yeeres rent
of the Customary Tenantes.*

	<i>li.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
IMPRIMIS of JOHN GEALE for a lease hold called Kembers and Kewes	1	10	2
ITEM of THOMAS YATES gent. for a lease hold called Longe moore howse	1	7	0
ITEM of THOMAS LAWARD gent. for a Coppie hold tenem ^t called Long howse	0	15	8
ITEM of JOHN BYRDE for his Coppie hold tenement	0	11	8
ITEM of FRANCIS MATHEW for his Coppie hold called Fremans	1	0	0
ITEM of WILLIAM MATHEW for a Coppie hold called Gybes	0	10	0
ITEM of NYCHOLAS RYTHER for a lease hold Called Fearne hills	0	10	0
ITEM of DANYELL LANE for his lease hold of the Myll & the ground thereunto adjoyneinge and for the fishing	1	2	6
ITEM of JOHN SMETH for his lease hold of Shrimptons	0	5	0

¹ First written *4l. 4s. 6d.*; which figures appear below under 'Free holders,' but seemingly altered to *4l. 3s. 1d.*

	<i>li.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	APP.
More of him for his Coppie hold	0	5	0	
More of him for the Cottage called Turners	0	2	0	
ITEM of JOHN CURTIS for his Coppie hold called Rawlines	1	3	4	
More of him alsoe for certaine land in the Great Acree by } lease	0	1	0	
ITEM of ROBEART EAMES for his Coppie hold	0	6	8	
ITEM of RICHARD GRENEWAYE for his Coppie hold	0	3	4	
ITEM of WILLIAM TAYLER for his Coppie hold	0	6	8	
ITEM of RICHARD FERNELL for his Cottage	0	2	0	
ITEM of S ^r RICHARD HARISON k ^t for his piddle not demised	0	0	8	
ITEM of WILLIAM MATHEW for his Cottage	0	2	0	
ITEM of y ^e Widdow NETHERCLIFT for her Coppie hold	0	16	0	
. . . leton for the mill close	0	2	0	
ITEM of THOMAS LAWARD gent. for ij parsells of land at } the will of y ^e lord latelie enclosed, the one the third } part of an acre & thother thirty foote in length & tenn } foote in breadth }				one bushell of pipens and a cople of capons
ITEM of MARTIN for his lease hold nowe in the occu- } pation of John Phelp }	0	6	8	
Lease houlders and coppie houlders	11	7	1	
Free houlders	4	4	6	
In all by the yeare	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	
ITEM of HUMPHRIE VENELL for Crabs (?) meade	0	2	0	
ITEM of JOHN JAMES for his tenement	0	2	0	
Whole rent of coppie and lease ¹				

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East Court Manor Court Rolls, 1602 to 1727

B. M. Add. Roll 38598

Rentes due out of the mannor of Finchampsted

A.D. 1602

*East Courte & halfe yeerly to be paide
viz. at o^r Ladie daye & at Michell A^o 1602*

	Ladye daye	Michell
IMPRIMIS M ^r ANTHONYE BARTLETT for } three mesuages }	ij ^s v ^d	ij ^s v ^d
RICHARD SOANE for nutclose	iiij ^d	

¹ The figures are confused and indistinct here, but the total (after several items not intelligible) seems to come out 16*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

APP.	Ladye daye	Micheff
JAMES READINGE for his freeholde	iijs ^s	
HUMFREY LAWARD for Knightes	iiij ^s iiij ^d	
THO. LAWARD for Hawes	v ^d	
THO. LAWARD for Whitesfarme	ij ^d	
THOMAS LAWARDE for Wilkes	vj ^s viij ^d	
JOHN SMYTH for blick	[not filled in]	
HARRYE GILES for Smiths & ashers	j ^d	
Widowe PEVERELL for a teñt of M ^r Lawardes } called Cherries	vj ^d	
RICHARD OLIVER	iijs ^s iiij ^d	
WILLIAM RODDERD	j ^d	
WALTER GODARD for hangers ford	j ^d	
HUMPHRYE TAILOR	viiij ^d o ^b	
NICHOLAS TAILOR.	vij ^d o ^b	
JHON WOODES for Landes sometimes Mr. } Titchborns	x ^d	
RICHARD UNDERWOOD	viiij ^d	
M ^r GEORGE BULLOCKE & M ^r Standen for } Whites	ijs ^s vj ^d	
JHON TAILOR for Cowdreis	v ^s	
RICHARD LAWARD for his teñt	xij ^d	
More of him for Vavesbyes plotte	ijs ^s vj ^d	
M ^r BOOTHE	ij ^d	
THOMAS RIDWAYE for Moore howse	viiij ^s	
More of him for Philps & gaston coppice	v ^s	
RICHARD HOLLOWAYE for one acre in the } great Ackree	ijj ^d	
GEORGE BUCKLE	v ^s	
More of him	j ^d	
EDWARD FEILDER	xx ^s	
FRANCIS POLLEY	v ^s	
More of him for Alder more	j ^d	
RICHARD CANE for Hornes	[blank]	
NICHOLAS LIFORDE	iijs ^s iiij ^d	
More of him for Vawesbyes plotte in borsey } meade	iijs ^s iiij ^d	
WILLIAM BARDNER for Cophed hall	v ^s	

	Ladye daye	Michett	APP.
GEORGE ANTON for Caddies piddells this } teft antiently called halles	xiijs ^a iiij ^d		
BARTHOLMEWE EARLEY	x ^a		
More of him for the Piddell Joyninge on the } Lane	xviiij ^d		
JHON HINDE	xvijs ^a		
in mañ ðni Creswell's Meade			
RICHARD GROVE		j ^d	
JHON PITHER for Vawsbies	xxiiij ^d		
More of him for his Free holde by the Fleete } side	iiij ^d		
EDWARDE ELLIS	xiijs ^a iiij ^d		
More of him for Reignolds close	xxxiijs ^a iiij ^d		
More of him for Reignolds coppice & the } lesser coppice	iiij ^a		
JHON COOPER	xiijs ^a iiij ^d		
WILLIAM JEAMES	ijs ^a j ^d		
NICHOLAS TAILOR for Ferretts	xiijs ^a iiij ^d		
KATHEREN MICHELL widoe			
ANTHONY MICHELL	ij ^d		
WILLIAM CLARKE	iiij ^d		
JHON CLARKE	iiij ^d		
JHON FEILDER for the Bathe	vj ^d		
THOMAS THACKHAM		j ^d	
ROBERTE AILOFFE	xx ^d		
JHON OLIVER	ij ^d		
ANDRO SHRIMPTON	xv ^d		
[blank] for the howse at the } Frithe ponds	x ^a		
10 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i>			

Received of Nicholas Taylor for the rent of Finchamsted East court for our lady day 1603 the Summ of nine pound seventeen shillings three pens. And for Michelmas following the summ of tenne pound, tenn shillings, tenn pens and more for poundpens two shillings whereof there was allowed him to pay M^{rs} Tichborne twenty nobles, at our lady day. And for Michelmas allowed as much more. Received of Nicholas Tailor the first of July 1604 for o^r ladie daies rent last past 9^t 10^s 1^d of that allowed hime that hee had paid M^r Stichborne for his rent 6^t 13^s 4^d.

APP.

81

B. M. Add. Ch. 38599.

Rents due out of the Manor of Finch^d East Court and Half-yearly to be paid at Lady Day and Michaelmas 1607.

1607

IMPRIS Mr. ANTHONY BARTLETT for 3 Messuage 2s. 5d.	
RICHARD SOANE for Nuttclose	iiij ^d
RICHARD PYTHER for his freeholde	ij ^s
HUMFRY LAWARD for Knyghtes	iiij ^s iiiij ^d
THO. LAWARD for Hawes	v ^d
THO. LAWARD for Whites Farm	ij
JOHN SMYTH for blick	
THOS. SAWARD for Wilkes	vj ^s viij ^d
” ” for Cherries	vj ^d
RICHARD OLIVER	iiij ^s iiiij ^d
WALTER GODDARD	j ^d
” ” for Hangers forde	j ^d
More of him for	
HUMPHREY TAYLOR	viiij ^d
NICHOLAS TAYLOR	vij ^d o ^b
RICHARD UNDERWOOD	viiij ^d
WILLIAM WOODE for landes sometimes Mrs. Tichborne's	x ^d
MR. WILLIAM STANDEN for Whites	ij ^s vj ^d
JOHN TAYLOR for Cowdries	v ^s
RICHARD LAWARD for his Tenem ^{ts}	xij ^d
More of him for Vawsbies plott in borsey meade	iiij ^s iiiij ^d
MR. CHARLES BOOTHE	ij ^d
THOMAS RIDWAYE for Moore House	viiij ^s
More of him for Pilps and Gaston Coppice	v ^s
RICHARD HOLLOWAY for one acre in the greate Acree	ij ^d
GEORGE BUCKLE	v ^s
More of him	j ^d
EDWARD FEILDER	xx ^s
FRANCIS POLLY	v ^s
More of him for Alder Moor	j ^d
RICHARD CANE for Hornes	
NICHOLAS LYFORDE	iiij ^s iiij ^d
More of him for Vawsbies plott in borsey meade	iiij ^s iiiij ^d
WILLIAM BARDNAR for Cophed hall	v ^s

GEORGE ANTON for Caddies Piddles	xiijs iiij ^d	APP.
BARTHOLOMEWE ERLEY	x ^s	
More of him for the Piddles joining on the Lane	xviiij ^d	
JOHN HYNDE for Monks	xvijs ^s	
WILLIAM WEBBE	j ^d	
JOHN PITHER for Vawsbies	xxiiij ^d	
More of him for his freehold by the Fleet side	iiij ^d	
EDWARD ELLIS	xiijs iiij ^d	
More of him for Reignold's close	xxxiijs iiij ^d	
" " " Copice and Lesser Copice.	iiij ^s	
JOHN COOPER	xiijs iiij ^d	
WILLIAM JEAMES	ijs j ^d	
ROBERT HALL for Ferretts	xiijs iiij ^d	
KATHAREN MITCHELL Widow	ij ^d	
WILLIAM CLARKE	iiij ^d	
JOHN CLARKE	iiij ^d	
JOHN FEILDER for the Bathe	vj ^d	
THOS. THACKHAM	j ^d	
ROBERT AILIFFE		
JOHN OLIVER	ij ^d	
AUNDREW SHRIMPTON	xv ^s	
NICHOLAS MAY for House at the Frithponds	x ^s	

B. M. Add. Ch. 38602

A roll of two paper leaves.

[COPY] *Quit rents due out of the mannor of* } 1615
A.D. 1615. *Finchamstead this Co^rt at o^r ladye daye* }

	l.	s.	d.	
IMPRIMIS of Mr. THOMAS LAWARD for three Messuages	0	2	2	Free- holders
Of him more for Haus	0	0	5	
Of him more for Whites Farme	0	0	2	
Of him more for Wilkes	0	6	8	
Of him more for cherries	0	0	6	
Of Mr. HUMFREY LAWARD for Knightes	0	4	4	(b)
Of RICHARD MAYNARD for Nutteclose	0	0	4	
Of RICHARD RITHER for his Freehold landes	0	3	0	
Of RICHARD SMITH for Bleeks	0	0	1	(a)

		l.	s.	d.
	APP.			
	Of RICHARD OLIVER	0	3	3
(c)	Of WALTER GODDARD	0	0	1
	Of him more for Hangers ford	0	0	1
	Of HUMFREY TAYLOR	0	0	8 ob
	Of NICHOLAS TAYLOR	0	0	7 ob
	Of RICHARD UNDERWOOD	0	0	8
	Of WILLIAM WOODS for land somtimes Mr. Tuchbornes	0	0	10
	Of Mr. STANDEN for Whites	0	2	6
	Of Mr. MARSH for Cowdries	0	5	0
	Of Mr. POWLE for his Tenem' bought of Tho. & Hum : Laward	0	1	0
	Of Mr. CHARLES BOOTHE	0	0	2
	Of RICHARD HALLOWAY for j acre of land in the greate acre	0	0	2
(d)	Of WILLIAM RITHER for Lathers	0	0	3
	Of FRANCIS POLLY for his house and land	0	5	0
	Of him more for Alder moore	0	0	1
	Of HENRYE HINDE for his Freehold lands	0	17	0
	Of the Widdow WEBB	0	0	0 ob
	Of JOHN RITHER for his house & lands vocat' Vausbies	0	1	11
	Of RICHARD RITHER for his Freehold lands	0	0	4
	Of WILL'M JAMES for his house & lands vocat' James cross	0	2	1
	Of CATHERIN MICHELL widdow for her freehold lands	0	0	2
	Of WILL'M CLEARKE for a close of freehold land called Stony close	0	0	3
	Of JOHN CLEARKE for a close of freehold land called Hethy close	0	0	3
	Of JOHN FEELDER for freeland called the Bathe	0	0	6
	Of THOMAS THACKHAM for freeland called [blank]	0	0	0 ob
	Of JOHN RITHER the yonger for his house & freehold called	0	0	2
	Of THO. RIDWAYE for his Lease lands called Moore house	0	8	0
	Of EDWARD FEELDER for his house & lands held by lease	1	1	8
	Of RICHARD CAINE for house & land held by lease called Hornes	0	6	8

	l.	s.	d.	APP.
Of NICH. LYFORD for his house & land held by lease	0	3	4	
Of GEORGE ANTON for his house & Cadis piddle held by lease	0	13	4	(e)
Of THO: HOLLAWAYE for his house & land held by lease	0	10	0	(f)
Of him more for a piddle of land by his orchard	0	1	6	(g)
Of EDW: ELLIS for his house & lands held by lease	0	13	4	
Of the Widdow COOPER for hir house & land held by lease	0	13	4	
Of ROB'T HALL for his house & land held by lease called Frettes ¹	0	13	4	
The true some is	8	5	4	
Out of w ^{ch} taken for Mr. TUCHBORNE 6 ^l 13 ^s 4 ^d & so ther will re- maine unto me the some of 1 ^l 12 ^s .				
Another leaf (paper) shows the above given names with some 3860z alterations, as follows [supposed the following half-year]:				
Of Mr. THOMAS LAWARD the yonger for Knights				(a)
Of TURNER ² for Bleeks				(b)
Of JAMES GODDARD				(c)
Of Widow BARTLETT for Lathers				(d)
Of NICHOLAS LIFORD for his house and Land held by lease		iijs	iiij ^d	(e)
Line struck out.				(f)
Line struck out.				(g)
At foot the following :				
The trew sum of all is	8 ^l	5 ^s	4	
Out of w ^{ch} take for Mr. TUCHBORNE	6 ^l	13 ^s	4	
And so there will remaine to me the sum of	1 ^l	12 ^s	0	

*Presentments of the Homage at the Court Baron of Finch-
ampstead East Court, October VIII.th 1630.*

I IMPRIMIS we present that WILLIAM WEBB dyed since the last
Court seized of a Tenement & Land 3 acres & that his son W^m

¹ Written 'Ferrets' in accompanying paper and in other rolls.

² First written John Smith—pen struck through and Turner written over.

APP. WEBB is the next heir & is of full age & happeneth to the Lord a Reliefe.

2 We present that JOHN HINDE dyed seized of Two half yard Lands the one called Monks, the other James, at the Rent of 34^s whereby happeneth to the Lord a Herriott 50^s, and that his son HENRY HYNDE is the next heir.

3 We present that RICHARD RITHER died seized of a Messuage & Tenem^t 3 acres of Land called Carpenters of the Rent of 8^d per ann. & that RICHARD RITHER his son is next heir, wherefor to the Lord & for Herriott he must shew a Deed to defend it.

4 We present that JOHN CLARK died seized of a Mess. or Tene-ment 3 acres & $\frac{1}{2}$ and that JOHN CLARK his eldest son is the next heir, happeneth to the Lord a relief of 6^d and for a Herriott 20^s.

5 We present that EDWARD FIELDER Coppyholder died seized of two Messuages & 40 acres of land called Windbushes of the rent of 40^l 3^s 4^d per annum, & that RICHARD FIELDER is estated in the next life, relief to the Lord, & for Herriott paid to the Lord two Oxen.

6 HUMPHREY TAYLOR died seized of one Mess. and 9 acres of Land of the rent of 17^d per ann. & that W TAYLOR the son is next heir. Relief to the Lord and Herriott due.

7 We present HUMPHREY SAWARD gent. died seized of a Mess. & Tenem^t called Knights . . . 30 acres more or less at the rent of 8^s 8^d per ann. Herriott & relief due to the Lord, & that his son THOS. SAWARD is the next heir.

8 We present that NICHOLAS TAYLOR died seized of a Mess. & Tenem^{ts} called East house of the rent of 15^d per ann. & that JOHN TAYLOR his son is next heir, relief & Herriott due to the Lord except a deed to defend it: and that JOHN TAYLOR died seized of a Mess. called Whites of the rent of 5^s per ann. and that ELIZ: his daughter is the next heir.

9 We present WALTER GODDARD seized of a Tene^t & Mess. 3 acres of Land in the occupation of one Nicholas Marsh of the Rent of £2 per ann. and one piddle called Hungerford of the rent of 2^d per ann. and that JAMES GODDARD the son is the next heir. Relief & Herriott due to the Lord.

10 We present WILLIAM CLARK died seized of certain Lands called Stony Close & 3 acres of the rent of 6^d per ann. & that WILLIAM CLARK son of AUGUSTINE late deceased is next heir. Herriott & Relief due to the Lord.

11 We present that FRANCIS POLLY died seized of a Mess. & Tenement called Hatches containing 16 acres of the rent of 10^s per ann. & that URSULA POLLY and MARG^t POLLY dau^{rs} of HENRY POLLY dec^d are coheirs—for Herriott 25^s.

APP.

12 We present that WILLIAM OLIVER died seized of a Mess. & Tenem^t called Ferretts containing 11 acres of the rent of 6^s 8^d per ann. & that THOS. OLIVER his son is next heir. Relief and Herriott due to the Lord.

13 We present that NICHOLAS LYFORD a Copyholder died seized of a Mess. & Tenem^t of the rent of 6^s 8^d per ann. & his wife ANNE the next Life. Relief & Herriott due to the Lord.

14 We present RICHARD UNDERWOOD died seized of a Mess. & Ten^t and Land called . . . of the rent of 18^d per ann. his daughter ANNE, the Wife of W^m GREENER is next heir. Relief & Herriott due to the Lord.

15 We present that the said W^m GREENER made an alienation thereof to RICHARD HOW whereby happeneth to the Lord a Relief.

16 We present that THOS. SAWARD & HUMPHREY SAWARD gents. aliened unto RICHARD POWELL Esq. some certain Land at the rent of 2^s per ann. A Relief due, & the said RICH^p POWELL hath aliened too the same to W^m IRELAND, the Rent 2^s Relief due to the Lord.

17 We present that ANTHONY BARTLETT gent. aliened unto THOMAS SAWARD gent. one Mess. at the Rent of 4^s 4^d per ann. A Relief due to the Lord.

18 We present that the said THOS. SAWARD gent. hath aliened unto RICH^p SOLMES Esq. three Mess. at the rent of 4^s 4^d per ann. First a Mead 12 acres, the Bath 2 acres and Do. 3^s 8^d a Mess. called Hall place, a close adjoining, 1 acre abutting upon Moor Hill upon the west, another in the common field in 2 parts abutting west upon Charmoor, the rent 8^d per ann.

19 We present that HUMPHREY SAWARD died seized of a parcel of land called Hawes containing 2 acres, rent 10^d per ann. His next heir THOS. SAWARD his son, what happeneth to the Lord we know not.

20 We present that THOS. SAWARD hath aliened unto JOHN TAYLOR.

21 We present that JOHN FIELDER died seized of a Mess. called Bath containing 6 acres at the rent of 12^d per ann. & that his son JOHN FIELDER is next heir. Relief & Herriott due to the Lord.

APP.

22 We present that THOS. SAWARD gent. aliened unto THOS. ROBINSON a Mess. and 2 acres of land called Cherries at the rent of 12^d per ann. Relief due to the Lord.

23 We present that W^m RYTHER alienated unto M^{rs} ANNE BARTLETT a Mess. called Hatch or Bath containing 4 acres at the rent of 6^d per ann. A Relief due, & the said ANNE BARTLETT died seized of the said Mess. & Land whereby happened unto the Lord a Herriott, and her heir was JOHN YATES, & the said JOHN hath alienated the same unto NATHAN^t CANNON whereby happeneth to the Lord a relief of 6^d.

24 We present that FRANCIS POLLY died seized of a parcel of Land called Alder Moor containing 2 acres at the rent of 1^d per ann. A Herriott to the Lord 4^s the next heir his daughter KATHERINE whereby happeneth to the Lord a Relief.

25 We present that FRANCIS POLLY died seized of a parcel of Land called Long Croft containing 2 acres & a Ten^t called Wine Sellers containing . . . by what Rent & Service we know not.

26 We present that White Farm THOMAS SAWARD hath alienated unto JOHN HANNINGTON and his wife a Tenement & Lands containing 40 acres called Wilks holden by the rent of 13^s 4^d per ann. whereby happeneth to the Lord a Relief.

27 We present that WILLIAM RYTHER alienated unto DEODATUS CURWIN & ALICE his Wife a Mess. and Land containing 10 acres called Vausbies of the rent of 3^s 4^d per ann. : to the Lord a Relief.

28 We present that GEORGE ANTON died seized of a Mess. containing 6 acres more or less (Cop.) the Rent 26^s 8^d and his son EDW^d ANTON is the next life, what happens to the Lord we know not.

29 We present ALICE COOPER the Wife of JOHN COOPER Leaseholder died since the last Court & did hold of the Lord a Mess. containing 3 acres the rent 26^s 8^d & her son JOHN COOPER is estated in the next life.

30 We present that the Tenements of JOHN COOPER is much in decay for want of repairing.

31 We paine that no person shall carry or sell any Turf out of the Parish upon pain of 10^s for every load so carried or sold.

32 We paine that if any swine be found unringed at any time within this Parish, upon a weeks warning publick in the Church, they are to ring them, or else pay 4^d for every Hogg, so often as they shall be found Trespassing.

Add. Roll. 38603.

ANNO DOMINI 1642.

1642
[Copy] *Quitrent due to the Manno^r of Eastcourt
collected by Robert Greenway Woodward
to the Right Worshipfull S^r Richard
Haryson Knight*

THOMAS LAWARD for his freeland	ij ^s ij ^d
More of him for Hawes	v ^d
ROGER HACKET	vj ^d
RICHARD PERSSONS	iiij ^d
THOMAS LAWARD for Knights	iiij ^s iiiij ^d
Weddoe TAYLER	viiij ^d
More of her for whites meade	viiij ^d
JOHN CLARKE for Heath Close	iiij ^d
JOHN BLIGHE gent.	vij ^d ob
More of him for Wheits	ij ^s vj ^d
WILLIAM WEB	ob
NICHOLAS STEVENS	ij ^d
JOHN RITHER	ij ^d
RICHARD RITHER for his freeland	iiij ^s
More of hime for Carppenders	iiij ^d
Weddow WOODS	x ^d
Weddowe RITHER	xxij ^d
More of her for Stonie Close	iiij ^d
RICHARD ELLIS for Jeams crose house	ij ^s j ^d
JEAMS GODDARD for his house	ij ^d
More of hime for Hungerford	j ^d
JEAMS GODDARD	ij ^s vj ^d
RICHARD HOWSEN for hawkes & longut mead	ij ^s vj ^d
HENRY HINDE	xvij ^s
RICHARD MAINARD for Nutclose	iiij ^d
JOHN HATTRELL for Aldermer	j ^d
RICHARD HOWE Juñ	viiij ^d
THOMAS BANISTER	ij ^d
JOHN HANYNGTON for Wilks	vj ^s viij ^d
SAMUELL MARSH Rector for Cowdryes	v ^s

APP.	WILLIAM SEALAND	xj ^d
	THOMAS OLLIVER	iijs ^s iiij ^d
	RICHARD MAYNARD	ob ^b
	WILLIAM VERNELS for Copses	vj ^d
	Coppieholders.	
	Weddoe CANE	vjs ^s viij ^d
	JOHN GROVE for Lyfords	iijs ^s iiij ^d
	THOMAS HALL	xiijs ^s iiij ^d
	RICHARD FEILDER	xxjs ^s viij ^d
	EDWARD ANTON	xiijs ^s iiij ^d
	EDWARD ELLIS	xiijs ^s iiij ^d
	JOHN COPPAR	xiijs ^s iiij ^d
	SAMUEL RIDWAY	xx ^s

85

ANNO DOMINI 1655.

*The Court Baron of Richard Harrison Esq.
held the twelfth day of November one
thousand six hundred and fifty-five and
adjourned unto the third day of Dec.
following*

ANDREW BAYLY Bayliff

Homage	{	JAMES GODDARD	}	Sworne	{	THOMAS ISALL
		JOHN HIND				JOHN COOPER
		JOHN HANINGTON				EDWARD ANTON
		WILLIAM DORNELL				JEROME MATHEWE
		WILLIAM CLARKE				NICHOLAS MARSH
		THOMAS BANISTER				EDWARD VERNOLL

1 JOHN BLYTHE freed by deed dated Monday next after the Feast of S. Mary the Virgin in 7 Edw 3^d for Burges Lands from Suite Service and Reliefe and so freed for Whites by another Deed dated 7th of March 7 Edw 4.

2 MARGARET TAYLER freed for part of Whites by the same Deed.

3 At this Court came Margaret Taylor and did her fealty and paid seaventeen pence for a Relief for one Messuage and nine acres of Land.

4 Also THOMAS SAWARD holds of the Lord of the Manor one

Message and thirty-seven acres of Land called 'Knights' by fealty suite of Court Herriott and annual Rent eight shillings and eight pence aliened the same since the last Court unto Thomas Purvish whereby due to the Lord in Reliefe 8^s 8^d.

5 Also that THOMAS PURVISH since the last court alliened the same unto Christopher Cotterell whereby due to the Lord for Relief 8^s 8^d.

6 Also JOHN FIELDER who held of the Court of the said Manor one messuage and seven acres of Land called the Bath by fealty suite of court Herriott when it happened and the Annual Rent of 12^d aliened the same since the last Court unto William Vernell who at this Court came and did his fealty and paid 12^d Reliefe.

7 Anne Hackett paid 10^d Reliefe for Hawes and 12^d for one messuage and two acres called Cherries.

8 Also that JOHN RYTHER holds of the Court of the said Manor one messuage and four acres of Land called 'Carpenters Ollivers' by fealty suite of Court Herriott when it happened and Rent 4^d since the last Court died seized and that Nathan¹ Ryther, his sonne, is his next heir, and the Herriott the best Beast of the said John and Reliefe 4^d. Mr. Kingman compounded for Nicholas Ryder's Herriott on the death of Richard Ryther.

9 Also that WILLIAM CLARKE holds of said Manor three several closes of land called stony closes and since the last Court aliened the same unto Richard Ryther by fealty Suite of Court and Rent six pence and Herriott by Composition 5^s Relief 6^d.

10 At this Court came THOMAS HALL and desired a copy of Licence for to demise one messuage and 'Tenne' Acres of Land called 'Ferretts' for the 'Tearme' of one and twenty years to whome he pleased. If the said Thomas, Elizabeth, and Robert Halls his sonne live for soe longe And it was granted him and his fine 20^s.

86

ANNO DOMINI 1661.

No. III. *The Jury's Presentment at the Court Baron for
the Manor of Finchamstead East Court, holden
the 27th day of December 1661*

1 IMPRIMIS we present RICHARD HARRISON Esq. of Hurst in the County of Berks hath since the last Court alienated unto Richard

APP.

APP. Palmer Esq. of Wokingham in the County of Berks all the Manor of Finchamstead East Court with all the Tenements and profits thereunto belonging.

2 Item we present that JOHN GOODING hath since the last Court alienated one alienation of 2 Closes of land one called Hawkeshills & the other Little Mead unto Nicholas Ryther of Finchamstead & that there is due to the Lord a Reliefe the Quit Rent being 5^s per ann.

3 We present that JOHN CLARKE hath since the last Court alienated unto Augustine Binfield of Barkham one Mess. or Ten^t containing 3 acres & an half of land & that there is due to the Lord a Reliefe the rent being 6^d per ann.

4 We present that ROBERT MOREY gent. and JANE his wife hath since the last Court alienated unto John Banister of Finchamstead 3 closes of Land called Whites & that there is due to the Lord a Relief the Quit Rent being 3^s 9^d per ann.

5 We present that WILLIAM TAYLOR died since the last Court seized of one Mess. & certain Lands thereunto belonging & that W. Taylor his son is the next heir & that there was paid for a Herriott 3^l and a reliefe due to the Lord, the Quit rent being 16^d per ann.

6 We present that WILLIAM SELLON gent. died since the last Court being seized of a Tenements & Lands & his son William Sellon is the next heir & that there was paid for a Herriott a Black Cow. A Reliefe due to the Lord, the Quit Rent being 2^s per ann.

7 We present that JOHN HANNINGTON died since the last Court being seized of a Tenement & lands called Wilks's, & that John Hannington his son is the next heir holden by the rent of 13^s 4^d per ann: but whether there be a Herriott due or no we know not.

8 We present that RICHARD ALLWRIGHT hath since the last Court alienated unto John Cox one Tenem^t & certain Lands called Barnes being a Lease belonging to the Lord of this Manor, & what is due to the Lord we know not the Quit Rent being 6^s 8^d per ann.

9 We present that the Freeholders Copyholders & Leascholders belonging to this Manor hath liberty to dig Turf Loam Sand & Gravel & to cut Heath & Fern according to the former orders.

10 We present that THOMAS OLIVER hath since the last Court

alienated unto Richard Oliver one Tenem^t called Ferretts containing 11 acres of Land & that there is due to the Lord a Relief. The Quit Rent being 6^s 8^d per ann.

APP.

11 We present the Hill before East Court House is part of the Manor of Finchamstead East Court & belongs to the Lord of the said Manor & the Trees thereupon standing belong to the Lord of the said Manor, & that Richard Rither of Finchamstead about 7 years since bought 7 Trees of Sir Richard Harrison the Lord of the said Manor & never since was questioned for it.

12 We present that JANE MOREY Wife of Mr. ROBERT MOREY died since the last Court seized of a Mess called East House & that Thomas Morey is her son & next heir, whereupon happeneth to the Lord a Reliefe the Rent being 15^d per ann but whether an Herriott be due we know not.

13 We present that HENRY ALEXANDER died since the last Court seized of 2 parcels of Land called Reignalds & that W^m Alexander is the son & next Heir, but what happeneth to the Lord we know not.

14 We order that no Copyholder or Leaseholder of the Manor of West Court Cut any turf Heath or Fern upon any of the Wastes belonging to the Manor of East Court upon pain of forfeiting to the Lord for every Load so Cut 10^s.

15 We order that JOHN COOPER do scour his Ditch in the Lane lying against his ground called Marshalls by the 2^d of February next upon pain of forfeiting to the Lord for every Pole then undone 12^d.

16 We order that M^r REEVES & ROBERT ASTON scour their Ditches on both sides of New Lane by the same day on pain as aforesaid of 12^d.

17 We amerce the Freeholders 6^d a piece.

18 The Tenants desire the Pound be repaired by the Lord of the Manor.

19 We present that the West Wood Coppices ought to be laid Common according to the Statutes.

RICHARD RYTHOR
WILLIAM VERNELL
WILLIAM WEBB
The mark of
THOMAS OLIVER
The mark of
AUSTIN A. BINFIELD -

The mark of
RICHARD O. ELLIS
JOHN HIND
The mark of
PETER BETTS
W^m ALEXANDER

*The Presentments of the Court Baron of
Finchamstead East Court taken the 25
Sept. A.D. 1668*

1 IMPRIMIS We present that RICHARD RYTHER died seized of 4 parcels of Land one whereof is called Stony Pidde, another Called Hackshill & the Guttmead one other Called Carpenters & other two Piddles & a Meadow belonging to Woodhouse in fee simple to him & his heirs & we find Mary Rither the Relict of R. Ryther to have the same Lands during her life.

2 RICHARD RYTHER for Nich. Rythers land we present that there is due for a Herriott 20^s.

3 For Carpenters 5^s.

4 For Hacksells and the Gutt Mead 24^s by Composition. As for the Herriott due upon the death of RICHARD RYTHER for Stony Piddles we know not what is due.

5 We present that W^m SELLOM died seized, in his Demesnes of fee, of certain Lands in Finchamstead & we find the best Animal paid before the keeping this Court.

6 We present that RICHARD MAYNARD died seized of a parcel of Land called Nutclose & of a House & land at the Lee & we find a mark for a Herriott paid before the keeping this Court. We present that Richard Olliver paid one years Quit Rent for Ferretts for a Relief being 6^s 6^d.

JOHN HIND	}	{	RICHARD OLIVER
JOHN COX			
WILLIAM VERNELL			

*The Presentments of the Homage at the
Court Baron of Finchamstead East Court
holden the 20th day of January 1670*

1 We present a Deed that RICHARD OLIVER produced for Ferretts that doth defend Herriott and Reliefe.

2 Item, we present the Hill before East Court Common and belonging unto the Manor of East Court.

3 Item, we present the Two Coppices in Westwood Common & to be laid out according to the Statute.

4 Item, we present that JOHN TAYLOR deceased, since the last Court, seized of a Meadow called Whites Mead and a Cow 'ceased' (*sic*) for a Herriott & John Taylor his son is the next Heir an Infant.

5 Item, we present M^r ROBERT MARSH hath alienated to M^r THOMAS BRIGHT a house & land called Cowleaze since the last Court. Bailiff to distrain.

6 Item, we present JOHN HIND deceased since the last Court seized of a Mess. & half yard lands, & 34^s paid for a Relief, & his 2 Daughters Rathall and Susan Coheirs Infants.

7 Item, we present RICHARD ELLIS deceased of a House & Land lying at James Cross. What's due to the Lord we know not, & his Son Richard is the next Heir. Bailiff to distrain.

8 Item, we present the House & Platt that the Widow HARHSELL liveth in to be Common.

9 Item, we present and amerse all the Copyholders & Leaseholders that doth not make their appearance at this Court or 'Essoyne' (*sic*) six pence apiece and the Freeholders three pence a piece.

10 Item, we present MARY RITHER the wife of Richard Rither deceased since the last Court of four parcels of land; one is called Stoney Piddles, another Hacksells & the Guttmead, another is called Carpenters and another Two Piddles & a Mead belonging to Woodhouse.

11 And we find MARY KINGMAN the Wife of Walter Kingman to be the next heir of Richard Rither but what is due to the Lord we know not.

12 Item, we present ROGER HACKETT to make a Ditch & move the Gate & set him in his old Place according as it is staked out on penalty of 20^s by the 25 day of March next.

JOHN COX	}	JOHN COOPER
RICHARD OLLIVER		AUGUSTINE BENFIELD
M ^r WEBB		W ^m FELTHAM
W ^m ALEXANDER		W ^m STEEVENS
W ^m CLARK		

*The Presentments of the Homage of East
Court at the Court there holden on the
27th day of December 1675 made by us
whose names are hereunder written*

A.D. 1675 VI.

1 We present that JOHN HANNINGTON died since the last Court & William Hannington to be his Brother & heir of a House & Land Called Wilks, & the Lord acknowledged a Deed in discharge of Herriott & Reliefe.

2 We present that THOS. BRIGHT clerk, there is due to the Lord a Reliefe upon an alienation of an House & Land called Cowleys or Cowderys made to him from one Mr. Marsh.

3 We present that JOHN BANISTER died seized of a House & Lands Called Whites & that Sarah Banister is next heir under the age of 21 years but what is due ignorant and Fealty was respited.

4 We present that W^m TAYLOR paid to the Lord 16^d for a Relief for the House and Land that descended to him as heir to W^m Taylor his Father.

5 We present that ELIZ. RITHER died seized of a Tenem^t with a Backside & Garden & one Piddle of Land containing one acre called Windfellers & that John Bromley is her next heir what is due ignorant.

6 We present that W^m WEBB died seized of a Mess or Tenem^t of Land Called Hernes & that a Herriott hath been paid & that a Reliefe is due & that the Wife of John Cox is the next heir.

7 We present that RI. RYDER hath alienated a House & Backside called Woodhouse to Nich. Ryder but what's due to the Lord we know not.

8 We present that W^m GREENOWAY the elder sold a Load of Turves out of this Manor Contrary to an order of this Court whereby he forfeits 10^s & that Thos. Thackham & John Marlow Servants to John Milom of Arborfield carried those Turves out of the Manor.

9 We do order that no person shall dig any sand at the foot of the Hill called Copthill hill upon pain of forfeiting for every load 10^s.

10 We present JOHN COOKE for cutting one Load of Heath to burn Lime with it and selling it out of the Parish 10^s penalty.

11 We present DAVID WATTS for burning of Heath and Lime and selling it out of the Parish in Penalty of 10^s.

12 We present the alienation of a House and Land called

Hubbard's Bath from William Vernell to Samuel Walton & a like alienation of the same from Samuel Walton to John Bowyer. But what is due to the Lord we know not.

APP.

WILLIAM TAYLOR
WILLIAM CLARK
WILLIAM FELTHAM
JERE. MATTHEWES

EDWARD ANTON
JOHN COX
RICHARD OLLIVER

90

*Manor of Finchampstead East Court. The
Presentment of the Homage of the Court
Baron the 27th day of December, 1697*

A.D. 1697 VII.

1 IMPRIMIS We present the death of EDWARD MANSFIELD one of the Tenants of this Manor & we present his wife Elizabeth Tenant during the Term of her Natural Life & afterwards to John Horne of Earley in the Parish of Sonning in the County of Berks & to his Heirs & assigns for ever. Herriott seized 3^s 8^d pd Cowleys.

2 We present DEODATUS BARNES for a sale of a Tenement which he purchased of Roger Haskett one of the Tenants of this Manor but what is due to the Lord of this Manor we know not.

3 Item, we present that THOMAS FAIRBROTHER hath purchased the said Tenement above mentioned of the said Deodatus Barnes, but what is due to the Lord of this Manor we know not. A Reliefe.

4 We present that JOHN BANISTER since the last Court hath purchased a Mess: or a Tenem^t of James Goddard one of the Tenants of this Manor, but what is due to the Lord we know not.

5 Item, we present that JOHN BANISTER hath also purchased a Mess: or Tenem^t of William Steevens but what is due to the Lord we know not.

6 Item, we present the death of RICHARD ELLIS one of the Tenants of this Manor who died seized of a certain parcel of Lands in this Manor & that his son Richard is next Heir of full age, but what is due to the Lord of this Manor we know not.

7 And we also present the said RICHARD ELLIS died seized of a Mess. or Tenem^t in this Manor, and his son John is next Heir by survivorship, but what is due to the Lord we know not.

8 We present the Death of W^m TAYLOR one of the Tenants

APP. of this Manor who died seized of a Mess. or Tenem^t and his Daughter Sarah Wife of Wm. Hannington next heir but what is due to the Lord of this Manor we know not.

9 Item, we present the death of WM. HANNINGTON Senr. one of the Tenants of this Manor & his Son William next Heir but what is due to the Lord of this Manor we know not.

10 Item, we present the death of WILLIAM HANNINGTON Senr. one of the Tenants of this Manor and his son William next Heir but what is due to the Lord of this Manor we know not.

11 Item, we present that JOHN BRANDON, Rector, hath purchased of John Bowyer one of the Tenants of this Manor a Mess. or Tenem^t in this Manor: but what is due to the Lord of this Manor we know not. Called Hubbard's Bath a Reliefe.

12 Item, we present that the Tenants of this Manor hath a right to Cutt Heath Turff Fern and also Digg Sand Gravel and Loam by Custom without leave of the Lord of this Manor for their necessary estovers.

13 Item, we present that BARNARD EALES Citizen and Goldsmith in London purchased a certain parcel of Lands of the Bishop of Ely and is since dead and hath left male heirs but what is due to the Lord we know not.

14 Item, we present that JAMES MAYNARD purchased an Estate in this Manor of Thos. Morey but what is due to the Lord of this Manor we know not.

WALTER RINGMAN	}	(PETER PHILIP
JAMES GODDARD		WM. FELTHAM	
JOHN BANISTER		JOHN TURNER	
RICHARD OLIVER		JOHN ELLIS	
THOMAS MARSH)	

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*The Presentments of the Homage of
East Court Baron in the Parish
of Finchamstead this 20th day of
May 1700*

A.D. 1700 VIII.

1 IMPRIMIS We present that WILLIAM HANNINGTON hath alienated one Mess. and Tenem^t to Samuel of Reading.

2 We present that ROBERT INWOOD since the last Court hath

alienated a parcel of Land to John Sansom and is due to the Lord a Reliefe.

3 We present that JAMES SPICER since the last Court hath alienated one Mess. & Tenem^t to John Sansom & that there is due to the Lord a Reliefe.

4 We present the death of ELIZABETH TAYLOR who died seized of a parcel of Land called Whites Mead within this Manor, on which happened to the Lord a Herriott, & the Tenants horse was marked, but she living in Wokingham the Bailiff was ordered to enquire what goods she died possessed of.

5 We present the death of ANNE TAYLOR widow who died seized of the same land, and by Will left it to one Nicholas Knight of Farnham & his heirs, & the said Nicholas Knight hath alienated it to W^m Hannington, & what is due to the Lord we know not.

6 We present the House and Backside 'were' (*sic*) (where) THOMAS SEWARD now liveth to be a Parish House.

7 We present the Pound within the Manor to be out of Repair which is always repaired by the Lord of the Manor.

8 We present any person that shall cut the grown soads to burn in the Penalty of 2^s 6^d the Hundred if any such thing be done within this Manor.

JOHN BANISTER	}	{ JOHN SANSON	
RICHARD OLIVER			{ RICHARD ELLIS
WM. HANNINGTON			{ JAMES GODDARD
PETER PHILIP			

92

B. M. Add. Ch. 38610.

*Roll of the Rents of the Manor of East Court
Finchamsted and due to the Lord thereof for
one Half year beginning Ladyday 1690 and
ending 1698*

A.D. 1690-98

	s	d
Mr. EALES for Cowdries alias Cowleze	5	0
Mr. WILLIAM REEVES for Lands called the Bath late Mr. Sehns	2	2
Mr. JAMES MAYNARD for East house late Mr. Blighes	7	½
Mr. JOHN TAYLOR for Whites Meade	8	
Mr. BERNARD EALES for Funings	10	

Missing Page

Missing Page

	l.	s.	d.
APP. JOHN SANSUM for Parsons			3
HEN. DEW for Heath Close			3
ELIZAB. MAYNARD for Aldermore late Hannells			$\frac{1}{2}$
JOHN LUN for House and Land at the Lee			$\frac{1}{2}$
THOMAS SEWARD for Mount Agnes	1		6
	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
Lease- JOHN SEWARD for Russells		13	4
holders Widow COX for Lyfords late Barnes		3	4
JOHN TURNER for Ferretts Jun ^r ux ^r		13	4
HENRY DAWKINS for Hutts and Kathrines		5	0
ANTHONY GOODALE for the Moores		2	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
JOHN COOPER for Hodmans & 'an acre in that Great Acreage'		13	4
THOMAS MARSH for Phips Land		3	0
Widow MANFIELD for Hedsoys Mead		1	6
20 Freeholders yearly	6	4	3
8 Leaseholders yearly	2	11	7
Quit Rents of Finchampsted East Court yearly	<u>8</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>

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Add. Roll 38614

*Rent Roll of the several Quit Rents and Re-
served Rents due to Richard Phripp Esq.
and Anne his Wife as Lord of the Manor
of ffinchamstead East Court in the County
of Berks and due and payable at Ladyday
yearly from 1722 to 1727*

	l.	s.	d.
Mr. EALES for Cowderys		10	0
Mrs. SOLMES for Bath Lands		4	4
Mr. JAMES MAYNARD for East House		1	3
WILLIAM HANNINGTON for Wades Mead		1	4
JOHN SANSUM now Mr. Ellis for Monks	1	14	0
Do. for late Spicers			6
Do. for Cherries		1	0
Mr. EALES or THOMAS TAYLOR			

Appendix

	l.	s.	d.	
Mr. MOSES MAYNARD for Nutt Close			8	APP.
Mr. COTTERELL			8	
Mr. THOS. BANISTER for Justices			6	0
Do. for late Stevens				4
Do. for Stony Piddle				6
Do. for Hawks Hill & the Mead			5	0
Do. for the late Richard Riders				4
Mr. JOHN BANNISTER for Whites			3	8
WILLIAM HANNINGTON for Wills		13		4
RICHARD OLLIVER for Ferretts			6	6
RICHARD ELLIS for James'			4	2
JOHN ELLIS for Powells			2	0
SAMUEL for Fos				
WILLIAM SIMONDS for late Taylers			1	4
JOHN PARKER for late Goddards			3	9
JOHN for part of the same			1	3
Mr. JOHN BANNISTER for Lands by the Lee				2
Do. for Ford Close				4
Do. for Carpenters				8
Mr. BRANDON for Hubbards Bath			1	0
PETER PHILIP for the Moore & Hornets				5
Do. for the Poor Lands			1	4
WILLIAM HILL for Howes'				10
Do. for Cherryes			1	0
Mr. HARVEY for Heath Close				6
The Widdow Lunn for a House by the Lee				1
The Widdow Maynard for Aldermoor				1
JOHN KIMBER			3	0
			5	2
			8	
ANTHONY GOODALL now WM. BULLOCK for the Moors			5	11
THOMAS MARSH for Phipps Land			6	0
JOHN TURNER for Ferretts		1		0
RICHARD ELLIS for Nutts late Tawlins			10	0
Mrs. FISH late the Widow Mansfield for her Mead			3	0
			2	11
			7	
			6	2
			8	
Collected by JOHN ELLIS	£8	14	3	

Lease-
holders

APP.

Date, between 1698 and 1712.

	Tenants' names	Particulars	Acres	Terms of the tenants' interests	The reserved rents	The improved rents
Wokingham £150 1. s. od.	The Landlord	House and lands	34	—	£ s. d. 30 0 0	£ .. —
	Wm. Stevens	" "	54	11 years	30 0 0	36 0
	The same Person	Meadow and arable	36½	21 "	23 0 0	—
	Robert Wilkes	House and lands	32½	21 "	16 0 0	18 0
	Henry Miller	Meadow and arable	23	2 lives	10 9 0	15 0
	William Smeether	House and lands	22	21 years	10 0 0	12 0
	Nicholas Stevens	" "	8½	21 "	7 0 0	—
	Simon Leach	A meadow	7	21 "	7 0 0	—
	John Smeether	Arable and meadow	7	21 "	6 0 0	7 0
	Robert Hannington	A moore	8	11 "	4 0 0	5 0
	Thomas Smith	A meadow	3	21 "	3 0 0	—
	Richard Tailor	A moore	4	—	2 0 0	—
	William Bankes	A meadow	2	21 years	1 10 0	2 0
Thomas Hodges	Arable and pasture	2	21 "	0 18 0	1 6	
Finchampstead £80 15s. 8d.	Samuel Walton	House and lands	56	3 lives	30 0 0	47 0
	Edward Mansfield	" "	32	21 years	18 4 0	20 0
	Richard Oliver	Arable and pasture	30	22 "	8 0 0	11 0
	John Pais	House and lands	6½	22 "	5 0 0	—
	Nicholas Alloway	Arable and pasture	14	19 "	4 10 0	6 0
	William Leward	" "	10	20 "	3 10 0	4 0
	Anthony Goodall	House and lands	8	3 lives	3 6 8	5 0
	Austine Hannington	Arable and meadow	5	—	3 0 0	—
	William Pryer	House and lands	4	21 years	2 15 0	3 0
	Robert Hector	Meadow	2	21 "	2 0 0	—
	Peter Sparke, gentn.	House and lands	178	1 life	—	120 0
	William Feltham	" "	40	3 lives	1 7 4	22 0
	Jertune Mathew	" "	28	3 "	0 8 0	14 0
John Cox	" "	20	2 "	0 6 8	10 0	
John Dorman	Arable and pasture	17	3 "	0 10 0	10 0	
Thomas Marsh	" "	16½	3 "	0 6 0	10 0	
William Clarke	A meadow	8	3 "	0 6 0	8 0	
John Leward	House and lands	13	1 life	1 6 8	8 0	
Thomas Hall	" "	10	3 lives	1 6 8	8 0	
Anthony Goodall	Arable and pasture	14	3 "	0 5 11	7 0	
Robert Hector	House and lands	10	3 "	0 13 4	7 0	
Edward Anton	" "	8	3 "	1 6 8	6 0	
John Cooper	" "	5	3 "	1 6 8	5 0	
The Landlord	In woods	86	—	55 0 0	—	
The Landlord	In ponds	14	—	15 0 0	—	
In Possession	—	—	—	317 0 4	—	
In Reversion	—	—	—	280 17 4	—	
In the whole	—	—	—	597 17 8	—	
	Finchampstead total	635				

There was formerly a small property in Finchampstead called 'Carpenters,' the name of which is met with in sundry ancient deeds. I am unable to identify it. I will here give a translation of the charters or deeds relating to it, which are in Latin, in the hope that some day they may possibly be found useful.

'14 Henry VII. Charter of John Bernard, son and heir of Thomas Bernard the elder and Thomas Bernard the younger, granting to Thomas Mody, of Strattefeldsay, all that tenement with curtilage adjoining, together with a parcel of land called "Carpenters," with appurtenants in Fynchamsted; which said tenement, &c., the said Thomas Bernard the elder lately acquired from Thomas Pokerigge, of Eversle, in the county of Southampton, husbandman, to have and to hold the same to the said Thomas Mody, his heirs and assigns, for ever, of the chief Lords, &c.'

APP.

May 20,
1499

The original in Latin is in possession of Mr. JOHN BANISTER SMITH

'30 Henry VIII. Charter of Stephen Badrode, of Fynchamst:de, gentleman, granting to James Hylton, of Finchamstede, and Isabel his wife, all that tenement with curtilage, together with a parcel of land called "Carpenters," with all appurtenances, in Fynchamstede, which he lately had by the feoffment of the said James Hylton, to have and to hold the said tenement, &c., to James and Isabel his wife, their heirs and assigns, for ever, of the chief Lords, &c.'

May 20,
1538

It will be observed that this property, 'Carpenters,' was not originally held under the Lords of either East or West Court, but from 'the chief Lords,' who held direct from the Crown and who were Lords of Aldermaston; and as the Banisters estate was the only other property in Finchampstead which was so held, it is supposed that 'Carpenters' must have belonged originally to that estate.

Its first appearance as belonging to the East Court Manor is in the Court Baron of that Manor for 1630 (Item 3).

Appendix
No. 83

It is not shown in the East Court Rent Rolls for the years 1602, 1607, or 1615. It was during the Commonwealth that the feudal system of land tenure began to be disregarded, and was finally abolished by an Act of Charles II. in 1672. It would therefore seem very probable that Sir Richard Harrison, shortly before 1630, obtained possession of 'Carpenters' by purchase, without the intervention of the chief Lord of Aldermaston, who was Sir Humphry Forster (XVII.), and added it to the East Court Manor.

Its next appearance is in the East Court Court Baron for 1655 (Item 8), where there is a presentment 'that John Rither, who had held "Carpenters," or "Olivers," and four acres of land, by fealty

Appendix
No. 85

APP. suite of Court and "Herriot" when it happened,' had died, and that his son, Nathaniel Ryther, was his heir.

Appendix
No. 87 In 1668 (Items 1-3) Richard Ryther had died possessed of this property ; and in 1670 (Items 10 and 11) Mary, the wife of Walter Kingman, was said to be the next heir.

From 1698 to 1712, Walter Kingman appears in the East Court Rent Roll as holding it at a nominal quit rent ; and in 1727, John Banister, of 'Banisters,' appears as holding it on the same terms, and this is the latest date to which the property can be traced.

Whether the house still exists, or where it stood, I have been unable to discover.





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