

## WEYBRIDGE PARISH REGISTERS.

BY

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THE Weybridge parish registers, dating from 1625, contain records of a mixed population of various classes, from prince to pauper, and this gives them a special interest. Weybridge itself was, up to the middle of the nineteenth century, only a small village, but Oatlands Park, first a royal palace and then a nobleman's house, stood on the border of the parish; there were some resident gentry, a few retired naval and military officers and London citizens, besides the farmers, day labourers, artisans and watermen who made up the bulk of the population. There is consequently a good deal of pleasant miscellaneous reading in the parish books. The living, which in the 13th century was transferred by the Abbey of Chertsey to Newark Priory, was, after the dissolution of the monasteries, acquired by the Crown. The list of the Vicars and Rectors from 1325 to the present time is almost if not quite complete; and the names of the churchwardens from 1622 can be made out for nearly every succeeding year.

The earliest register book is of parchment, and cost the parish 12s. A paper book which the churchwardens bought in the same year, and for which they paid 8s. 8d. has disappeared. The parchment volume opens with the following inscription:—

“This Register booke was bought Au : 16[22] but begunne  
An : 1625 dies Martis [       ] decimo (?) quinto according to y<sup>e</sup>  
trew form sett down in y<sup>e</sup> cannon booke by us whose names are  
subscribed.

Humphradus }  
Brownne        } Rector.

Ro. Kydwell } Church-  
Henry Marbury } wardens.”

The first few entries, headed "Christenings 1625," were copied in by the Rector, but he soon left the task to others whose handwritings are not always very clear. One of the earliest names suggests a puritan or a German parentage.

Godhelp Cooper y<sup>e</sup> son of Godhelp Cooper and Susanna his wife was baptised y<sup>e</sup> 12 of June 1628.

Godhelp Cooper, gent., was churchwarden in 1623, and sat on a commission for surveying part of the Oatlands estate for Charles I, in 1629.

Edward Young, gent. was buried y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> of January 1633.

Possibly this was a member of the family of "Sir Richard Young of London, gentleman," who had a forty years' lease from the Crown of a house and seventy-nine acres of land at Oatlands, described by the Parliamentary surveyors "as a pleasant seat, very fit to be a dwelling-house for any gentleman." He was knighted in 1617, and carried a Bannerolle at the Queen's funeral in 1619. On one occasion he was riding with James I at Theobalds, on a winter's day, when the King's horse stumbled "and cast his Majesty into the New River, where the ice broke and he fell in, so that nothing but his boots were seen." From this awkward situation he was rescued by Sir Richard Young, who "alighted and went into the water and lifted him out, and his Majesty rode back and went into a warm bed," and was none the worse. Sir Richard was made a Baronet in 1628, and was Clerk of the Hanaper and Keeper of the Audit Office from 1634 to 1641. He appears to have joined with Sir Kenelm Digby and others in a trading adventure to the West Coast of Africa. His property was sequestered by the Parliament, and he compounded for his estate in 1648. His signature to the Vestry Minutes in 1639 may be seen in the parish books.

Another "delinquent" attended the same vestry meeting. This was "Sir Thomas Reynell of the Strand and Weybridge," whose goods were in 1644 ordered to

be searched for and brought away and sold by the candle, and the profits paid to the Committee for the Advance of Money. Sir Thomas eventually compounded "for delinquency and for living in the King's quarters," and was fined £530. He was "server in ordinary" to Charles I, and served through the greater part of the war. He came of a Devonshire family and had been knighted by the King at Ford House in 1625. Sir Philip Warwick mentions a quarrel between "Sir William Waller and Sir Thomas Reynolds a courtier." The latter had an interest in the farm of the wine licenses held by Sir William, who used his cudgel pretty freely upon the Devonshire knight, and was censured and fined in the Star Chamber. This incident was said to be one of the causes which engaged Sir William Waller on the Parliament side. Sir Thomas Reynell married a daughter of Sir Henry Spiller of Laleham, and dying at Laleham in 1665, was buried in a vault under the altar of Shepperton Church. His second daughter married Peter Dutton of Hatton, and two of his children were born at Weybridge, as we learn from the register. There is no mention of baptism.

Peter Dutton eldest sonne to Peter Dutton of Hatton was borne the first of June 1646 in Waybridge in the county of Surrey.

Thomas Dutton 2nd sonne to Peter Dutton of Hatton in the county of Chester, Esq<sup>re</sup> was borne the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1647 in Weybridge in the county of Surrey.

The eldest of these children died an infant, the second lived only to the age of twenty-two; a third son died without issue, and the estate of Hatton passed to a daughter and was subsequently sold.

There are several notices of the name of Aburne.

frances Aborne the daughter of John Aborne was baptised the xvij of September 1631.

Luke Aberne the sonne of John Aberne and his wife was baptised the first day of May 1634.

Mark Aburne son of John Aburne was baptised the xi<sup>th</sup> of June 1637.

This John Aburne, for so he signs himself, frequently attended the vestry meetings between 1631 and 1640, and may perhaps be identified with the "Major Dambrun, Doberon, or Daborne of Weybridge," against whom a Privy Council warrant was issued March 3, 166 $\frac{2}{3}$ ; "the person to be brought away and search made for arms, papers, and whatever else is suspicious." James (or William) Boteler is included in the same warrant. The two men probably cleared themselves of blame, for three weeks later it is noted that John Doberon and William Boteler have taken the oath of allegiance.

Another John Aburne, probably son of the above, appears at the vestry meetings later in the century, and is churchwarden in 1677. To him were born children :

Lucy Awbon y<sup>e</sup> daughter of John Awbon and Mary his wife was baptised the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December 1665.

Elizabeth Awbon y<sup>e</sup> daughter of John Awbon and Mary his wife was baptised the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1669.

Frances Awbon y<sup>e</sup> daughter of John Awbon and Mary his wife was baptised y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 1673.

John Awbon y<sup>e</sup> son of John Awbon and Mary his wife was baptised the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 1674.

In 1692 we find the entry of—

Sept. 3. Buried Mr. John Aburne in the Vault belonging to the family.

The marriages of two of his children are recorded :—

Herbert Davies, Clerk, Rector of Weybridge and Mrs. Elizabeth Aburne third daughter of Mr. John Aburne and of Mary his wife of the pish of Weybridge aforesaid were married in y<sup>e</sup> parish church of Sonbury in the county of Midd<sup>x</sup> the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 1694.

Mr. John Aburne and Mrs. Ann Wythe were married in the parish church of St. Paul's Covent Garden London, July 30th 1695.

Long after this comes the burial of the mother :

1718. Buried Mrs. Mary Awbon widow in the family Vault.

The name, variously spelt as Aburne, Awbon, Dawburn, Daborne, is probably a corruption of the old knightly name of D'Abernon, and is still to be found in the district.

In 1640 a notice has been added, as if by an afterthought, in the page of baptisms, and is written down the margin:—

His Royal Highness Henry Duke of Gloucester 4th son of their Majesties King Charles and Queen Mary was born at Oatlands the 20th day of July 1640.

In sharp contrast with this is an entry of nearly the same date:—

Thomas Welldin one of His M<sup>ty</sup>s servants, who dyeing of the plague was buried in Richard Edmonds his back side on the fifth day of August 1640, by order of Roger Elmer Constable as he was commanded by the King's officers.

Cowley, in his Ode on the Birth of Prince Charles, finds in that event a national consolation for the ravages of the plague.

“For loss of many why should they bemoan  
Who for them more than many have in one.”

Either the plague was less severe than it was in 1636, or the disquiet of the times prevented the same precautions being taken. In that year the justices had been charged to prevent persons flying from London to come within ten miles of their Majesties' houses, and to forbid Londoners who had taken houses at Weybridge to go daily to and from London. From which it appears that Weybridge has been the resort of London men of business for more than two centuries and a-half. Warner, the wharfinger of Ham Haw, was also summoned for sending his barges weekly to London as usual in spite of orders. Probably these efforts to prevent contagion proved futile and were not repeated.

Two or three other names of men connected with the king's household are found:—

1637 Charles Dethicke sonne of Humphrey Dethicke Esq<sup>r</sup> and Elizabeth his wife was baptised xi August.

Humphrey Dethicke Esq<sup>r</sup> was Buryed the xvi<sup>th</sup> of August 1642.

Humphrey Dethicke had a twenty-five years' grant of Dorney House, an interesting old place on the Oatlands Estate, near the junction of the Wey with the Thames.<sup>1</sup> As page and "quarter wayter," he had been appointed to attend Prince Charles on his journey to Spain. By the shield engraved on a brass to his memory in the Church, he seems to have belonged to the Dethicks of New Hall, Derbyshire. The arms are identical with those of Sir Gilbert Dethick, Garter-King-at-Arms in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. The inscription on the brass runs thus:—

Mors mihi lucrum.

Here lieth the body of Humphrey Dethick Esq: who was one of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Gent<sup>n</sup> Vshers (dayly waiter), who departed this life the 14<sup>th</sup> of Avgvst, Anno Dñi 1642 Ætatis suæ 63.

His wife survived him many years, was twice married, and died a widow at last. See the Register:—

Mr. Henry Tennand was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Dethick the widow of Humphrey Dethick Esq<sup>r</sup> in June 1649.

Doctor Butler was married to Mrs. Tennant y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1677.

Joshuah Butler was buried y<sup>e</sup> first day of July 1681.

Mrs. Elizabeth Butler was buried in the chancel of the Church of Weybridge April 25<sup>th</sup> 1697.

Her son Charles married in 1667 (according to the London Marriage Licenses) Elizabeth Ayliffe, of Sheers, co. Southampton. His name appears seldom in the parish books, but he was churchwarden in 1684.

1712, August 5. Mrs. Elizabeth wife of Charles Dethick Esq. was Buried in y<sup>e</sup> Chancel of Weybridge Church.

1713, Aug. 3. Charles Dethick Esq<sup>r</sup> was buried in y<sup>e</sup> Chancel of Weybridge Church.

Another brass in the church, with three skeletons engraved, is to the memory of—

3 of y <sup>e</sup> children of	}	S <sup>r</sup> John Trevor knight and Dame Margaret	}	viz.	}	Frances Dorothy Mary	}	Buryed	}	1596 1600 1605
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<sup>1</sup> He had also an annuity of £150 for furnishing the King with balls and other requisites for balloon play. *P. S. signed Bill.* April 4th, 1629, 5 Charles I.

D'ne miserere mei	Christus vita In D <sup>no</sup> confido Mors luervm	Miserere mei Deus
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Disce mori vivens moriens ut vivere possis  
Sic neq : mors tristis, nec vita gravis erit.

These were the children of Sir John Trevor of Trefalen, Kt., by Margaret, daughter of Hugh Trefanion of Gaisher, Cornwall. Sir John was, in 1603, appointed keeper of Oatlands House and park for life, and the grant was continued in 1627 to his son Charles.

Mr. Charles Trevor was buried the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1641 in the Chancel of Weybridge Church.

The register of baptisms comes to a standstill in 1646, except for one or two occasional entries. In 1653 they recommence. We gather from the records of the vestry meetings that the living was sequestrated. Humphrey Browne, rector, presided at the meetings till 1641; for the next two years the parish officers are chosen by the "parson and parishioners;" in 1643 the form is changed to "minister and parishioners," and in 1644 the parishioners act alone. Mr. Browne, who no doubt refused to take the covenant, and was suspended by the Parliament in consequence, seems to have remained in the neighbourhood, as—

Dorothy Brown the wife of Humphrey Browne Cler<sup>s</sup> was  
Buried the xvij<sup>th</sup> of April 1646 in Weybridge Church,

and in 1653 the churchwardens enter a payment from Smith's charity as—

Received from Goodman Browne £1.18.6,

a title which shows the fallen fortunes of the poor rector. Meanwhile some temporary "ministers" appear and disappear. One of them, Gilbert Seabrook, signs the vestry minutes, appoints a churchwarden for 1651, and enters some christenings in the parish register, but is gone before the next meeting. In 1652 "John Turner Min<sup>r</sup>," signs the book and then vanishes. But the year 1653 is important. Mr. Henry Tennand (who writes a

beautiful hand), and Roger Elmer, churchwardens, carry the parish books to Guildford, and make a fresh start on a new page.

“Here beginneth y<sup>e</sup> Registring of Births according to y<sup>e</sup> Acte of Parliam<sup>t</sup> dated the 24th of August 1653.

Mr. Henry Tennand Esq. } Churchwardens of  
Roger Elmer } Weybridge

Surr<sup>d</sup> at Guildford October the first, 1653.

Joseph Pullen Sworn Register of Weybridge before us  
Justices of the peace for the sayd county.

R<sup>t</sup> Onslow.

Arthur Onslow.

Edw. Pitson.

Geo. Rawlins.

Of the three marriages recorded between 1653 and 1660 one is said to have taken place before Major Pitson.

There is a glimpse of another minister in 1654, when the churchwardens' accounts have a note of £1.5.0 spent in “necessarys and clothing of Mr. East a poore minister his wife and children at several times,” the money being paid out of Smith's Charity.

Amongst the burials in 1647 is that of Thomas Child, a marshall and farrier who leased 77 acres of land, and had a small estate of his own as well. His son Thomas was with Lord Hopton in the first war, and was proceeded against by the Parliament as a delinquent, his real estate being reported to be worth £20. He asked for his discharge and an act of pardon, and probably got it—for a consideration. Thomas Child appears as an overseer of the poor in 1651, and the surname occurs frequently in the registers from that day to this.

In 1654 a list of church furniture is noted for which the churchwardens must be accomptable: “One silver-gilt cupp and callis; and one diap: communion cloth,” and in the following year a “fflagon and greene carpet” are added. This marks the advent of a new minister, the Rev<sup>d</sup> John Kinde, M.A., Oxon, of whom Cromwell's Commission of Enquiry into Matters Ecclesiastical reports (1657) that “one Mr. Kine a minister doth officiate at Weybridge, the patrons thereof being the Lords, and



the value about £40 a year." He came to reside in 1653, the parish allowing £2.9.8 towards the repair of the parsonage house which had fallen into decay during the sequestration. Mr. Kinde appears to have been a painstaking and conscientious man, and was legally appointed to the living by the King in 1660. He was also, in 1662, presented to that of Byfleet. He administered the Sacrament five times a year, and in 1661 on Low Sunday and the 26th of April as well. He regularly presided at the vestry meetings, and chose men of education and position as his churchwardens, attended the visitations at Guildford, and kept up his registers carefully, adding thereto some notes of interest, besides the loyal inscription in 1661, "Anno Regis Caroli secundi (Dei gratia!) decimo tertio." Mr. Kinde's honest satisfaction is visible in the account of Lady Herbert's gifts to the church, which was probably in a forlorn condition.

"Mem. That y<sup>e</sup> most excellent gift of y<sup>e</sup> noble and pious lady y<sup>e</sup> Lady Herbert, y<sup>t</sup> is to say. The purple velvet pulpit cloth, embroidered with gold and pearles in y<sup>e</sup> midle and y<sup>e</sup> cushion of y<sup>e</sup> same purple, and common table clothe of y<sup>e</sup> same, and y<sup>e</sup> wall cloth of y<sup>e</sup> same over y<sup>e</sup> Communion table, embroidered in y<sup>e</sup> midle with gold and pearl was by her bestowed upon y<sup>e</sup> church in y<sup>e</sup> year of our Lord god 1661. A rare example for others to express their zeal to y<sup>e</sup> church and y<sup>e</sup> worship of God.

And also a silver flaggon for y<sup>e</sup> Communion was bestowed upon y<sup>e</sup> church by y<sup>e</sup> same noble Benefactress." 1662.

The Vestry Minutes add that the parish of Weybridge receiving a noble gift from Lady Herbert . . . "did bestow y<sup>e</sup> old greene table cloth upon Mr. Kind."

Lady Herbert was the wife of Sir Edward Herbert, Lord Chief Justice, who was then living at Oatlands Park. She appears again in 1673, in another of Mr. Kinde's notes:—

That, a native of Gyany in Africa was brought to Weybridge by Capt. Arthur Herbert, to my Lady Herbert's house, where having been taught and instructed in the principles of Religion, and having learned perfectly y<sup>e</sup> Church Catechism, was publicly catechized in y<sup>e</sup> church two several Sundays, and was after

baptized (by y<sup>e</sup> Lord Archbishop of Canterbury his Leave and allowance) upon the 10th day of April 1673. His name was William. The Lord Brunkard and Capt. Arthur Herbert being Godfathers, and my Lady Herbert Godmother

Jo. Kind. Rect.

Lord Brounker, a distinguished mathematician, was president of the Royal Society for fifteen years; Capt. Arthur Herbert, brother of the Lord Chief Justice, was afterwards created Earl of Torrington, and is chiefly remembered in connection with the naval action off Beachy Head. He commanded the fleet which brought William III to England, and when Sir Edward Herbert was attainted for his adherence to James II, the estate of Oatlands was granted to Lord Torrington, who bequeathed it to the Earl of Lincoln. The only other parish notices of the Herberts are the following:—

Sir Thomas Linch was married to Mrs. Vere Herbert the 16th day of January 1670 at Byfleet.

Sir Thomas Lynch was at one time Governor of Jamaica.

Vere Lynce y<sup>e</sup> son of S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Lynce and y<sup>e</sup> Lady Vere his wife was baptised y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> of August 1674.

The Lady Herbert dyed on y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 1677 and was buried at Fulham on y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> day.

Other titled persons of different ranks are named:—

1663. The Lady Elizabeth Lytton wife of Sir Robert Lytton dyed the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 1663 and was buried at London in S<sup>t</sup> Dunstan's in y<sup>e</sup> East.

Sir Robert Lytton dyed y<sup>e</sup> 2 day of December and was buried at S<sup>t</sup> Dunstan in y<sup>e</sup> East at London upon y<sup>e</sup> 8 day of y<sup>e</sup> same month 1663.

Goody Dawson was buried the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December and dyed on y<sup>e</sup> 11 day 1663.

Goodman Fox was buried y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 1666.

Old Goody Nicholls of Ham Moor was buried the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 1668.

Then follows a curious story of poor law administration:—

Memorandū that on y<sup>e</sup> fift day of March one thousand six hundred sixty seuen a child was born in Oatlands park in the

house called the New Lodge, the name of the mother of the child is Joan Hud servant to Mr. Tilly then and there inhabiting. The child some few days after it was born, was removed from y<sup>e</sup> first said house situated in Oatlands park into Walton parish, where it remained at nurse by y<sup>e</sup> space of two months, at y<sup>e</sup> end of which time, the then churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Walton parish (namely Miles Hall and John Laton then churchwardens, and Richard Wheatly and Richard Bell then overseers of the poor of Walton parish) as disowning the child to be born within the parish of Walton, came to the town of Waybridge with y<sup>e</sup> nurse (whose name is Joan Bayly) and the child, and brought with them a warrant frō Mr Brend Justise of peace to remoue the child from y<sup>e</sup> parish of Walton into y<sup>e</sup> parish of Waybridge in which they did acknowledge it to be born.

The officers of y<sup>e</sup> parish of Waybridge (namely, John Brockwell and John Kidwell churchwardens and Henry Fits and Thom. Pudsey overseers of y<sup>e</sup> poor) not being at home when y<sup>e</sup> child was brought to Waybridge, some women of Waybridge (namely Susan Harwood and Mary Brockwel) desirid the nurse (Joan Bayly) to carry the child back again to Walton parish for a day or two, which the nurse did accordingly. After two days the nurse brought y<sup>e</sup> child back again to Waybridge and Miles Buckland (who had been one of y<sup>e</sup> overseers of y<sup>e</sup> poor y<sup>e</sup> year before and not giuen up his accounts) agreed with y<sup>e</sup> nurse y<sup>t</sup> she should carry y<sup>e</sup> child back again to Walton parish, promising to satisfie and pay her for keeping of the child, which y<sup>e</sup> nurse assenting to carried y<sup>e</sup> child back to Walton parish where it remained till it dyed. Being dead it was brought frō Walton parish by y<sup>e</sup> nurse and some others of that parish, to be buryed in y<sup>e</sup> churchyard at Waybridge and there it was buryed, and Miles Buckland and Henry Fits afore named payed y<sup>e</sup> nurse for keeping of y<sup>e</sup> child till it dyed. In witnes whereof we have set our hands November y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1668.

Miles Bucknell.

John Bond.

Henry × Fits, one of y<sup>e</sup>  
his mark overseers  
of y<sup>e</sup> poor.

Thomas Thatcher.

John Kinde, Rector.

Joshua Butler, inhabitant  
of the parish of Wey-  
bridge.

John × Brockwell,  
his mark churchwarden.

After 1678 Mr. Kinde entered the burials in a paper book from which they were copied into the parchment volume.

The book still remains and is headed—

“A register book of y<sup>e</sup> burials in woollen only (according to y<sup>e</sup> Act of Parliament) in y<sup>e</sup> parish of Weybridge.”

Each entry is followed by the words “The Affidavit

that he '(or she)' was buried in woollen only was brought to me, Jo. Kind, rector," on such a date. Sometimes the name of the justice who gave the certificate is added: "Matt. Andrewes" (afterwards Sir Matthew); William Vanburgh, Esq.; John Woodison, vicar of Walton; Thomas Wheatley, vicar of Chertsey; Samuel Hadfield, minister of Walton; Will. Inwood, Esq.; Samuel Croxall, curate of Walton; Abraham Slade, curate of Byfleet; Johanis Merest de Woking, vicario; Johanne ffriday, curione de Byflete; John Cooke, J.P. for y<sup>e</sup> town of Kingston; Wm. Weston, rector of Ockham; Robert Hewett, curate of Peperharow: this last in 1691.

Abraham Slade seems to have acted as curate to Mr. Kinde at Weybridge as well as Byfleet. There was a collection made under his auspices in 1686 for the French Protestants, by the authority of his Maj<sup>ty</sup> King James y<sup>e</sup> Second, and £4. 6. 4 was the result. In 1682 a gathering for the same purpose had only brought in £2. 12. 9, the Duke of Norfolk heading the list with 5s., and the gentry following with 2s. 6d. each. The aroused protestant feeling of 1686 made two of the gentlemen lead off with £1 apiece.

The notice of three children born to the Duke of Norfolk, at Weybridge, calls to mind the passage in Evelyn's *Diary*, where he writes of a visit paid in 1678 to the Duke "at his new palace at Weybridge, where he has laid out in building neere £10,000 on a copyhold, and in a miserable barren sandy place by the street side; never in my life had I seene such expense to so small purpose." The house had belonged to his second wife, Jane, daughter of Robert Bickerton, and the Duke took Evelyn over it and showed him "all the hiding places for the Popish priests, and where they said Mass, for he was no bigoted Papist." After his death the house was sold to the Countess of Dorchester who married Sir David Colyear, afterwards created Earl of Portmore.

Mr. John Kind, Rector of y<sup>e</sup> parish of Weybridge was buried in y<sup>e</sup> chancel of y<sup>e</sup> parish church y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> June 1689.

He was followed by two rectors who did not stay long and in whose time the registers were rather badly kept. Mr. Davies, who was appointed in 1690, held the living for eighteen years and attended the vestry meetings with fair regularity, but the gentry stayed away. In 1697 the churchwardens give in an account of money collected "with a breff for a loss by fire in Wolverhampton in Staffordshire," which amounted to 18<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup> of which Sir Dafed Colyear gives 5<sup>s</sup>, Mr. Dethick 1<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup>, and "the old doctor 1<sup>s</sup>." Perhaps two Dutch names which occur about this time may have belonged to families in Sir David's service.

Gilyam Hol-pedr a Dutch infant was buried in the New Churchyard of y<sup>e</sup> p̄ish of Weybridge Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 1697.

Frances Roecks a Dutch inf<sup>t</sup> was buried Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 1697.

Amongst the surnames which appear most often about this time and through a great part of the 18th century, are those of Elmer, Edmond, Leonard, Nicholls, Killick, Woodhatch or Woodedge, Cousins, Child, Thatcher, Simmonds and Simmons, Kidwell, Burchett, Bucknell. The Simmonds' may possibly have sprung originally from Symon atte Otelands, who paid rent to the manor of Byfleet in 1383. From this family came the parish clerks, one succeeding another for three or four generations, and the name is still to be found in the village. The Kidwells were farmers, churchwardens, and overseers, then bakers, victuallers, &c., and finally died out as parish pensioners. The last burial of a Kidwell is in 1791. Of the Burchetts, who begin in 1627, some are esquires, some gentlemen, some yeomen and butchers, and one of the latest is a husbandman of Riegate, in Surrey, buried 1747. The esquires appear to have migrated to Kingston-upon-Thames.

There are parish benefactors buried, such as Mr. and Mrs. Bunnion in 1657 and 1679, Mr. Charles Hopton in 1702, and his widow in 1739. Also several burial entries of the family of Courthope, beginning in 1690 and ending in 1758. One of these, Mr. Thomas Courthope, buried May 2nd, 1696, is specified as one of the clerks

of the High Court of Chancery. Another name which is frequently recorded is that of Beaumont. Ansell Beaumont, Gent., was churchwarden in 1660-61, overseer of the poor, and a regular attendant at vestry meetings. He was buried in the chancel in 1680, his widow Judith in 1701.

In 1700 it begins to be stated whether the marriages were by license, by banns, or by special license.

The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Charles Earl of Arran and the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Mrs. Elizabeth Crew were married at Oatlands the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 1705, by Special Licence.

The family of Hopson next makes its appearance:—

James the son of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Th<sup>os</sup> Hobson Esq. one of His Majesties rear Admirals and Elizabeth his consort was born and baptised Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1700.

1704. Aug. 4. Capt. Edward Story and Mrs. Ann Hopson Daughter of Sir Th<sup>os</sup> Hopson K<sup>t</sup> were married.

1711<sup>o</sup>. Capt. John Goodall, Commander of Her Maj<sup>ties</sup> Ship y<sup>e</sup> Milford, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hopson daughter of the Hon. Sir Thomas Hopson K<sup>t</sup> were married.

1717. 8<sup>ber</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>. Sir Thomas Hopson K<sup>t</sup> was buried in a vault which he had built some time before.

1740. Apr. 4. The Lady Elizabeth Hopson widow of the late Sir Thomas Hopson Knight was buried in the vault.

There is in the church a marble tablet with an inscription which gives a fair account of Sir Thomas's services.

S.R.V.Æ.

Here lyeth the body of Sir Tho<sup>s</sup> HOPSON K<sup>nt</sup> born at Lingawood in the Isle of Wight of an ancient and worthy family there who having served y<sup>e</sup> space of 55 years in y<sup>e</sup> ROYAL NAVY was deservedly preferred to the rank of VICE ADMIRAL of y<sup>e</sup> RED in which Station he was ordered 12<sup>th</sup> October 1702 to force y<sup>e</sup> Boom y<sup>t</sup> lay cross y<sup>e</sup> harbour at Vigo, which he executed with his Usual Resolution and Conduct, whereby he made way for y<sup>e</sup> whole confederate fleet then under y<sup>e</sup> command of Sir George Rooke to enter take and destroy all y<sup>e</sup> Enemies ships of war and Galleons which was y<sup>e</sup> last of 42 Engagements he had been in, in some of w<sup>ch</sup> he received many Hon<sup>ble</sup> Wounds for y<sup>e</sup> service of his Country. Towards y<sup>e</sup> latter end of his Days he chose this place for y<sup>e</sup> Retreat and Repose of his old Age where he died in Peace 12 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1717 An. Æt. 75.

It is curious, in the face of this inscription, that the story of Sir Thomas having been originally a parish boy apprenticed to a tailor at Niton should ever have gained currency. That he ran away to sea is not unlikely. There is another Isle of Wight tradition that he was born at Bonchurch; and one of the oldest residents, Miss Elizabeth Sewell, recollects that in her youth a small cottage now pulled down used to be pointed out as his birthplace. On the other hand, he was certainly baptized at Shalford (the parish to which Lingawood now Ningwood belongs) as the parish register of that place shows.

Thomas Hopson, son of Capt. Ant. Hobsone bapt. April 5th 1643.

The family of Hopson had been settled in Shalford since the reign of Henry VIII.

Hopson had a narrow escape in the action off Vigo Bay. After he had, in leading the attack, broken the boom and got inside the bay, his ship, the *Torbay*, was grappled with by a fire-ship which had been a merchant ship hastily fitted up, and which still had a cargo of snuff. When she blew up, the snuff almost put out the flames, and so saved the admiral. Hopson brought the prizes home—five men-of-war and four galleons. He was knighted by Queen Anne on his return, and received a pension of £500 a year and £300 for his widow. He seems to have interested himself in local affairs at Weybridge, and served as surveyor of the highways for several years. The house he built, called *Vigo House*, still stands, and has a certain quaint attractiveness with its cabin-like windows, though now flanked and almost over-shadowed by pretentious and hideous modern buildings. Sir Thomas's portrait hangs in the hall of Greenwich Hospital. He outlived his neighbour and old commander, Lord Torrington, by one year.

Capt. John Goodall, who married one of the Admiral's daughters, died while commanding the "*Feverham*," on the Guinea Coast, in 1729. The Registers record the baptisms of four daughters and one son. The eldest

daughter, Betty, appears to have married Mr. William Player, Gent. The marriages of two of the others are recorded.

The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. James Webb, Clerk, Rector of Crickell in the County of Dorset and Miss Joanna Goodall (daughter of the late Capt. Jn<sup>o</sup> Goodall) of this parish were married May 8, 1746.

Mem. The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. James Webb and Miss Joanna Goodall were married by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. George Dowdeswell who refused to Give me the Licence.

NAT. EDWARDS, Rector.

The youngest daughter, Lydia, made amends for this discourtesy, by having the Rector to marry her, and a large amount of family history is added to the notice.

Richard Mapletoft of the Parish of Chertsey in this County (Batchelor) Surgeon Apothecary and Man Midwife, and Miss Lydia Goodall (daughter of the late John Goodall Esq<sup>re</sup> Grandaughter of the late S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Hopson K<sup>nt</sup> who was Vice Admiral of the Red Squadron, and Neice to the Honb<sup>e</sup> Major General Peregrine Thomas Hopson (Commander in Chief of His Majesties Forces in the Reduction of the Island of Guadeloupe, and Dyed in the Expedition), were married (by virtue of a Licence) the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 1763.

The union did not last long, for three years later poor Mrs. Lydia Mapletoft's body was buried in the family vault. There is a tablet to her memory in the church.

There must have been quite a little knot of naval men living at Weybridge in the beginning of the eighteenth century. A loose leaf relating to an uncollected rate gives the name of Sir Charles Wager, who at that time was probably an Admiral ashore, perhaps between the dates of his command in the West Indies, in 1706-8, and that of the Mediterranean Fleet, in 1714. He was the son and the grandson of naval officers. After filling the posts of Controller of the Navy and First Lord of the Admiralty, he died, and was buried in Westminster Abbey in 1743.

Another Hopson, Capt. Edward Hopson, "of Weybridge," afterwards Admiral, was no doubt related to Sir Thomas, under whom he served, 1693. He died of fever in the West Indies while in command of the fleet,



and left a son, Edward, whose name is frequently found in the parish books, up to the middle of the century. Both branches of the Hopson family were much concerned about seats in church, for in 1722 Lady Hopson obtained leave to have part of the ground on which the Pulpit, Reading Pew, and Clark's Pew stood, and to erect a pew thereon, and later on the Vestry resolved to spend £20 in building—

“the wall of the Isle and making two new windows and that the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Earl of Portmore John D. Coussmaker and Edward Hopson Esq<sup>re</sup> may commodiously build a gallery in the said Isle and that the said Earl of Portmore may build a vault for burying his family and erect a monument.”

Mr. John Courthopp had built a seat in the church some few years before at his own proper charge, which he and his heirs had leave “quietly and peaceably” to enjoy. But the Vestry now proceeded to allow Lord Portmore to dispose of the pew in which he sat before the gallery was built, and this aroused a protest.

“I do declare my Decent to giving up any Pews that were given the Parish by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Earl of Portmore, Adm<sup>l</sup> Hopson, and Mr. De Coussmaker at a Vestry held in y<sup>e</sup> parish church 27<sup>th</sup> August last, w<sup>ch</sup> was then given the Parish in consideration of the expense the Parish were at in Building a wall to accommodate the s<sup>d</sup> L<sup>d</sup> & Gen<sup>l</sup> with a Gallery.

Jos. Gascoigne.  
E. Story.”

There are several entries in the register referring to the Portmore family.

Charles son of the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Catherine Countess of Dorchester and the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> David Lord Portmore was born Aug. 27 and baptized Sept. 11, 1700.

This was the second son, and he inherited the title. The birth of the eldest, David, is noticed in 1698, and 1729 sees his burial, with his mother and his wife.

1729, Sept. 8. The R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Catherine Countess of Dorchester a wife of the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> David Earl of Portmore who had been buried some years since, 1717, at the Bath in Somerset-

shire, was removed from thence and deposited here in a vault lately erected by the said Noble Earl as a Burying place for his family.

Sept. 8. The same day was buried in the same vault the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> David Viscount Milsintown who died at Piperno in Italy, Mar 10<sup>th</sup> o. s. 1728.

Also, the same day, Bridget Dowager Viscountess Milsintown.

17<sup>29</sup>/<sub>30</sub>, Jan. 13. The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> David Colyear, Lord Viscount Milsintown and Earl of Portmore, one of his Majesties Lieutenant Generals and first General on the English Establishment and one of his Majesties most Hon. Privy Council, Governor of the Town of Gibraltar in Spain and a Knight Companion of the Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle (or St. Andrew) was buried in y<sup>e</sup> family Vault in the Parish Church of Waybridge the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 1729.

So the parish clerk fulfils the office of Herald, and records the titles of the deceased with as much solemnity as if he had broken his wand of office over the grave. Names and titles are now extinct, but the old soldier claims a passing mention. His father, Col. Alexander Robertson, or Colyear, for which name was assumed and which inherited is not quite clear, was made a baronet by James I, and entered, like other Scottish gentlemen of the time, the service of the States-General of Holland. His elder son, David, was given the command of a regiment by the Prince of Orange, in preference to an officer who had saved his life in battle and to whom he had promised the first vacancy, John Grahame of Claverhouse, afterwards Viscount Dundee. A quarrel ensued, and the Prince reprimanding Capt. Grahame, the latter threw up his commission and returned to England. Sir David Colyear distinguished himself in the French wars, under the Prince of Orange, served in Ireland after the revolution, and was naturalized in England. His highest command was that of the army in Portugal in 1710-11. He was created Earl of Portmore in 1703. He appears to have been a painstaking and industrious officer, careful of the health and well-being of his troops, but without genius,

and as he had not the good fortune to share in the brilliant campaigns of Marlborough, his name is forgotten. Not so that of his wife, Catharine Sedley, Countess of Dorchester, of whom there is no need to write. She bought the Duke of Norfolk's estate at Weybridge, and the place, which was first called Dorchester House, became known latterly as Portmore Park. Two stone gate-posts, which formerly stood at the entrance of the Park, are all now that remains of the building; the house has long been destroyed.

A letter in the Dartmouth MSS., from the Countess of Dorchester to Lord Dartmouth, written in 1710 or 1711, during her husband's absence in Portugal, gives an insight into household troubles, which seem to belong to all ages alike:—

“I received your Lordships letter at Weybridge, which made me so long before I returned you my hearty thanks for having given those orders that will free me of the trouble of my lord's horses, and a rascally groom hectors the whole house, and I dare not find fault with him for fear he should take occasion to go away and leave me unprovided, but as your lordship has this year been so very instrumental in bringing greater folks out of the vexation given by saucy servants, you'll not I fancy vallow yourself upon what you have done for me, how great soever I take the obligation to be.”

The eldest son of the next peer, another David Viscount Milsintown, died at the age of twenty, and was buried at Weybridge, and the title and estates again passed to the second son, Charles, whose only renown was on the turf. He married Juliana, daughter of Hope Hall, Esq., and widow of the third Duke of Leeds, and died in 1785, leaving a son and two daughters. He, too, was buried in the family vault.

His daughters were not born at Weybridge, and the only sign of their existence in the register is the signature of the younger, “Juliana Colyear,” as witness with her father in 1756 to the marriage of a cousin, Miss Anne Treby, to Benjamin Hays of the parish of Wimbledon, Esquire. The name Juliana Colyear recalls to the mind of the present writer the tradition of a

charming old lady surrounded by a family of handsome sons and daughters, and remembered with affection by her grandchildren to the end of their days. She is referred to by Horace Walpole in 1753 :—

“ Since I came to town I hear that my Lord Granville has cut another colt's tooth, in short they say that he is going to be married again ; it is to Lady Juliana Colyear, a very pretty girl, daughter of Lord Portmore, there are not above two or three and forty years difference in their ages, and not above three bottles in their drinking in a day, so it is a very suitable match ! If this should not be true I can't help it.”

Fortunately for Lady Julia this report was not true, and in 1757 she married Henry Dawkins, Esq., of Standlynch and Overnorton, by whom she had a numerous family, and died in 1821 at the age of 82, having kept her beauty to the last. A lock of her hair, cut off at her death, is in the possession of one of her great-grandchildren, and is the colour of a girl's, without a grey hair in it. Her elder sister Caroline married in 1750 the first Lord Scarsdale. The portraits of both sisters were painted by Reynolds, and the beautiful mezzotint engraving of Lady Scarsdale's picture is well known.

The fourth Earl, William Charles, brother of these two ladies, married in 1770 Mary, second daughter of John Earl of Rothes (“the Banns being first duly published”), and had two sons and a daughter. The latter married Joseph Braeknell, and left a daughter, wife of the Rev. Talbot Greaves, who died in 1885. The younger son, Colonel Colyear, died unmarried ; the elder, who succeeded to the title, was on bad terms with his father, and between the two the estate was allowed to go to rack and ruin. He married the only daughter of the Duke of Ancaster, and had one son, Brownlow Charles, who died in Rome in 1822 from the nervous shock he received by an encounter with brigands, and was buried at Weybridge. The last Lord Portmore succeeded to the title in 1823, and died in 1835. The house, then almost in ruins, was pulled down, and the property passed to a cousin, who sold it to Mr. Locke King.

The park is now covered with modern villas. All that remains of the Portmores is the family vault, now in the churchyard, surrounded by railings, and overgrown with ivy which covers and obliterates all inscriptions. Nor in this is there any need for regret.

We gather from the registers of baptisms that in the second decade of the 18th century the poor were again beginning to take their children to be christened in church, while the upper classes still sent for the clergyman to their houses, "the pride of women," as Evelyn says, "bringing that into a custom which was only indulged in case of imminent danger, out of necessity."

Some curious Christian names occur from time to time. "Pleasant Sarah Bullock"; "Frusanna y<sup>e</sup> wife of Peter Carnall"; "Damaris Short"; "Christianus Tealing"; "Humiliation Knight"; "Swansey the son of Samuel Keene, Bargemaster;" and occasionally a notice of a foreign resident, as the burial

"in 1721 in the P<sup>sh</sup> Church of Weybridge Mary Van Borsole Inft. Daughter of his Excellency Van Borsole, Envoy Extraordinary from the Estates of Holland."

George Augustus Charles Baron Diemar, son of the late Baron Diemar Generall in the service of the Prince of Hesse Cassell was buried in a vault the N.W. corner of the Churchyard the 26th day of April 1756.

To William Simmons, parish clerk, who wrote an excellent copper-plate hand, we are indebted for details of titles and offices now extinct, and which he loved to record. There are several entries of a family named Hayward, one of whom, William Hayward, Esq., "lay in state 2 days and was then carried to St. George y<sup>e</sup> Martyr and Buried 14<sup>th</sup> August 1750."

Carlton Hayward Esq. of the parish of St. Andrew's Holborn, one of His Majesties Commissioners of Bankruptcies, Secretary and Deputy Clerk of the Briefs, One of the Patentees in the Subpœna office, and Clerk of the Presentations in the High Court of Chancery, was buried in the Chancel of Weybridge Church the 17th day of September 1763.

1724. Henry Powell, Inft. son of Henry Powell Esq., Clerk of y<sup>e</sup> Kitchen to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, was buried in Weybridge Church.

- Burials 1728. Ap. 19. Thomas Akers Esq. Chief Gardener to his Majesty.  
 8<sup>ber</sup> 20. Ignotus a travelling woman.
- „ 1740. Th<sup>os</sup> Wood, Inft. son of Th<sup>os</sup> Wood of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir Robt. Rich's Regiment of Dragoons then encamped on Cricketts Hill near Weybridge in Surrey.
- „ Owen Buckingham (late Pheasant man to the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lord Viscount Duncannon) was buried the 2nd day of January 1757.

Mr. Phineas Bowles, his wife and daughter, and several members of the family of Reade, are also noted. One of the latter, Henry Reade, buried in the family vault in 1762, was—

“Chief Clerk of the Bill Office in His Majesties Exchequer, Comptroller of Survey and one of the Commissioners of the Land Tax, Comptroller of Cloth in the Customs, Commissioner of the Window Lights, one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace and Secretary to the Rt. Hon. Henry Earl of Lincoln.”

1764. The Reverend Sir Nathaniel Edwards Baronet Rector of this Parish, son of the late Sir James Edwards of the City of York and the County of Norfolk Baronet descended from Tudor Trevor Earl of Hereford, was deposited in an arch of Brickwork in the chancell of Weybridge Church (erected by him for his mother Lady Rebecca Edwards some time before) the 11th day of March 1764 by whose decease the titles of that Noble Family become extinct.

A new register Book of Marriages and of Banns was begun in 1754, in consequence of the Act of Parliament “for the better preventing Clandestine marriages.” The entries show that most of the parishioners were bad scholars, and that many of them, especially the women, could not write.

About 1720 we begin to find that Oatlands Park has changed hands. The burials of three of the Earl of Lincoln's children are recorded towards the end of the century; when Thomas Simmons had succeeded his father as parish clerk. Everything connected with the Newcastle family is marked by capital letters.

The R<sup>t</sup> Honble Henry Lord Clinton son of Henry Fines Pelham Clinton Earl of Lincoln Heir apparent to the Most Noble

Henry DUKE OF NEWCASTLE Knight of the most Noble Order of the GARTER was born the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December 1777 in Arlington St., London.

William the son of William Golding and Thomazin his wife (cook to His Grace the Most Noble Prince Henry Fines Pelham Clinton Duke of Newcastle Knight of the Most Noble Order of the GARTER) was baptized the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1779.

Henry Hawke the son of John Miller (Musician to a Company of Comedians) and Catharine his wife was baptized the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 1782.

William the son of Nathaniel Butcher and Mary his wife (both servants to His Excellency George Payne Esquire of Brooklands and Consul General to His Moorish Majesty the Emperor of Morocco) was born the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March and baptized the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 1784.

In 1771 a new and strongly bound parchment volume is begun, and the first entry, that of the baptism of Stephen, son of James and Sarah Parsons, has this note: "Mem: being the first inserted in this book Mr. Parsons p<sup>d</sup> the churchwardens a bottle of wine."

This is soon followed by—

Ap. 5<sup>th</sup>. Henry Son of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Henry Clinton and Harriet his wife was born March y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> and bap. Ap. 5<sup>th</sup>.

The memory of the Clinton family is now only preserved in Weybridge by the name of a house in Thames Street, on the edge of Oatlands Park, where they probably once lived. For three generations, if not more, the name was known both in the navy and army. The oldest member, Admiral Clinton, died at Weybridge.

The Hon. George Clinton Esq. (uncle of the R<sup>t</sup> Hon. Henry Earl of Lincoln, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter) Senior Admiral of Great Brittain and One of His Majesties Admirals of the White Squadron who dyed the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 1761 was carried from his house in Weybridge the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the same month to the Chapel in South Audley Street London in order for interment.

His son, Sir Henry Clinton, distinguished himself in the American War, and was made Commander-in-Chief

after the surrender of Gen. Burgoyne. The death of Lady Clinton, in 1772, is noted in the register, and also that she was carried to Bramber in the County of Lincoln for interment. Their two sons, Sir William and Sir Henry, were both distinguished officers. The latter, the only man of note born at Weybridge in the 18th century, and indeed the only child baptised in the old church who ever attained any distinction in the service of his country, served in Flanders, in Ireland, in India, and Sicily; was Adjutant-General to Sir John Moore in Spain; commanded a division at Salamanca; and was made a Knight of the Bath after Vittoria. He was present at the battles of the Nive, Orthez and Toulouse, and commanded the third division at Waterloo. "Though not gifted," it is said, "with the military abilities of Picton and Cole, Clinton was a thoroughly good general of division." If the time shall ever come when Englishmen shall learn to care for their past history, and desire to preserve the remembrance of their dead, instead of destroying the old memorials, Weybridge folk may recollect that one fine old soldier who served his country well was born in their midst. It is given to few to rise to the first rank of greatness or heroism, but the devotion to duty of the second and third rate men deserves also to be remembered. Genius itself could do nothing without them.

The burials of some Londoners are recorded:—

Mr. John Gunthorpe of the Parish of S<sup>t</sup> Mary Somerset Queenhithe Ward in the City of London (wine cooper) 8<sup>th</sup> June 1766.

Mr. Thomas Wharton of the Parish of S<sup>t</sup> George Hanover Square in the City and Liberty of Westminster in the County of Middlesex (neat house man) 12<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1763.

And of local celebrities:—

William Lang musician (for Country dances eminent) was buried 8<sup>th</sup> January 1778.

Samuel Walker, late peruke maker of this town but reduced, 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1775.

The business of peruke maker passed to Mr. Russell Bliss who was buried Nov. 3rd, 1783.



Andrew Greenwood (late of Hershams in the parish of Walton Carpenter and Schoolmaster) was buried the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1780.  
Mr. John Gregory (Dealer in Mules) was buried 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1782.

Some sudden deaths by accident occur:—

John Hill Sarah Hill and Joyce Hill his two daughters were all struck dead by Lightning on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July between the hours of twelve and one o'clock at Noon the Lightning came down the Chimney where John Hill his wife and a young Child in arms were setting and hurt none but the said John Hill likewise the above two daughters were cleaning themselves in the Chamber above and the Lightning came (one part in at a window and another part came in through the Tyling) over their heads and at one stroke they were killed and they were buried all in one grave on Tuesday the seventh day of July 1778.

Edward Corbett Cooke (by virtue of the Coroners Warrant) who (being smothered in the Sand Pit) was buried the 13<sup>th</sup> day February 1783.

Thomas Reade who was drowned in Oatmeal ditch and buried the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 1787.

To return to the baptisms: we there find another Clinton notice:—

An American Black, brought to England by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lieut. General Sir Henry Clinton K.B. (then Commander in chief of his Majesty's Forces in America) was baptized by the name of Charles Henry, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 1784, S<sup>r</sup> Henry Clinton and his eldest son Henry being Godfathers, and Miss Elizabeth Carter his Godmother.

About this time the household of the Duke of York (who purchased Oatlands Park in 1794) begins to make its appearance; the names of the families belonging to porters, grooms, gardeners, footmen, etc., occurring year after year, showing how the servants kept their places, and, indeed, one of the second generation is found entering into the Duke's or Duchess' service.

The following is almost the first instance of a child being baptised with more than one name, and it evidently caused surprise.

The son of Mr. John Scott (gardener to His Royal Highness the Duke of York and Albany etc.) and Betty his wife was born the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May and baptized the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 1790 by the three names of Adam, Russell, Scott.

Frederick the son of Mr. John Scott (Head Gardener to his Royal Highness Prince Frederick Duke of York and Albany) and Betty his wife was born the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July and baptised the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 1791 His Royal Highness Prince William Henry Duke of Clarence being Godfather.

Frederick Watson, Antwerp, son of the late Sergeant John Malpas of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, commanded by His Royal Highness the Duke of York, and Catharine his widow was born on the Scheldt near Antwerp in Holland the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1793 and baptized at Weybridge in the county of Surrey the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 1794. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York and Brook Watson Esq<sup>r</sup> Commissary General to the British Forces in Germany were Sponsors.

1795. Anne Eleanor the daughter of George Prevost Esq. (Lieut. Colonell of His Majesty's 60th Regiment of Foot called the Royal Americans) and Catherine Anne his wife was born the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January and baptised the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 1795.

This introduces us to a series of entries—birth, marriages and deaths of the Prevost family. James, son of the above-named Col. Prevost, married in 1799 Miss Fanny Hautain, daughter of the Rev. Francis Hautain, D.D., who, after officiating as curate, became Rector of Weybridge in 1794.

William the son of James Prevost Esquire (captain of His Majesty's Bomb Vessel the Explosion) and Fanny Sophia his wife was born 4<sup>th</sup> day of Jan. and baptised the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Feb. 1805.

Two daughters were also baptized and one son buried. The burials register contain notices of two other military men and members of their families, viz. :—

John Herbert Esq. (formerly an Officer in the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lord Mark Kerr's Reg<sup>t</sup> of Dragoons) was buried in the Family Vault the N.W. corner of the church the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 1788.

William Preston (Esquire) late Lieut Coll. of His Majesty's 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, then commanded by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lord Robert Manners) was buried in the Vault made by the late John Mills Esq. the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 1791.

The following have a certain interest :—

Mr. William Leech (upwards of Fifty Years Chairman to her Grace Juliana Duchess Dowager of Leeds and wife of the late Earl of Portmore) was buried the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 1793.

James Aldwin of this Parish aged 105 Years (who had his Victuals from the Duke of York's at Oatlands every day greatly caress'd by the Duchess of York, Countesses of Portmore and Rothes on account of his age) was buried the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 1794.

Mr. William Smith (late Master of a Company of Comedians who had the honor to perform before his Royal Highness Frederic late Prince of Wales and Father to His Present Majesty at y<sup>e</sup> Theatre in Weybridge) was buried the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 1799.

Mrs. Jenny or Jane Lambert wife of Mr. Lambert of Great Portland Street London, Upholder and Undertaker was buried in the family Vault the N.E. corner of the Church-yard the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 1801.

The graves of the sisters Horneck and their mother, friends of Goldsmith, Reynolds and Burke, were made in Weybridge Old Church. We find that—

Catherine the wife of Henry William Bunbury Esq (brother to S<sup>r</sup> Charles Thomas Bunbury of Barton in Suffolk, Baronet) and Lieutenant Colonel of the West Suffolk Militia commanded by the Rt. Honble the Earl of Euston Heir apparent to his Grace Augustus Duke of Grafton) was brought from Egham and Interred in a Vault in the Chancel of Weybridge Church the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July 1799.

Mrs. Hannah Horneck (Relict of William Kane Horneck Esquire, mother of Lieut. General Charles Horneck, and Lieut. General Francis Edward Gwynne's Lady, and the late Mrs. Catherine Bunbury wife of William Henry Bunbury Esq. Lieut. Coll. of the West Suffolk Militia) was buried in the Vault the S.E. corner of the Chancel in Weybridge Church the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 1803.

In 1810 the Rev. George Mangles, rector of Lawennech, Cornwall, was buried in the same vault.

The font of the old church (pulled down in 1849) stood where the graves are now, and the stone which covers the vault is inscribed with the above names, and also with that of Mrs. Gwyn who died at an advanced age in 1846. It must have been about the year 1767 that the Hornecks became intimate with Goldsmith.

How he playfully nicknamed the two beautiful girls "Little Comedy" and "the Jessamy Bride;" how he accompanied the family to Paris in 1770; how he stayed with the Bunburys at Barton and helped to make mirth in a happy country house party; and how at his death a lock of hair was cut off for Mary Horneck at her special request, all this we are told in Irving's delightful biography.

Irving is, however, a little hazy in his dates. Mrs. Bunbury died 3rd July, 1799, at the age of 45; she could only have been sixteen at the time of the trip to Paris. Mary was younger, and must have been nearly ninety at the time of her death. She preserved her beauty and her charm to old age. "She had gone through all the stages of life," said Northcote the painter, "and added a grace to each."

In 1816 the last "Peruke maker," Mr. John Bliss, was buried, and in 1817 William Alexander Moss (Beadle), an office which is now known no more.

Frederica Charlotte Ulrica Katherine (Dutchess of York) was buried in a Vault made in the S.E. Corner of the Chancel of this Church on the 14th day of August 1820, aged 53 years.

This grave is now in the churchyard, not far from that of the Hornecks. The inscription on the stone reminds us that the Duchess was a daughter of Frederick William the Second, King of Prussia, and the great niece of Frederick the Great. There is a graceful monument to her memory in the Church, sculptured by Chantrey; and the inhabitants of Weybridge, by whom she was much beloved, put up a pillar to her memory on the village green. It is a pillar with a history, for it once stood in Seven Dials, London, and was crowned by a block of six vertical dials. The pillar had been taken down and was for sale in 1822, and it was bought and set up, with a stone pinnacle and ducal coronet on its top, in the centre of the village. The dial stone became a mounting block, and is still to be seen in the grass near the Ship Inn.

The old Registers may be said to end with the Duchess of York. No doubt some distinguished names might be found in later volumes, but there would be no pens like those of William and Thomas Simmonds, parish clerks, to do them full justice. The churchyard is now closed, but there are a few graves of interest of later date than those we have named. Behind the ivy-covered Portmore burying place there is a stone of Aberdeen granite covering the remains of John and Sarah Austin, known by their writings, and perhaps better known by the interesting records published by their grand-daughter, Mrs. Janet Ross, in *Three Generations of English Women*.

The Latin inscription on the tombstone is unfortunately, from the shallowness of the cutting, very difficult to decipher. The Weybridge the Austins knew is gone, as completely as is the Weybridge of the Kembles, the Clintons, the Portmores, the Hopsons, and the Dethicks.

The place grows with an astounding growth. There are many things of natural beauty, as well as of antiquity, which will soon be seen no more. Only the names will remain, and it is the history attached to some of these names that we have tried to preserve by means of these notes on the parish registers.