

Indexes, vol. 22, ff. 25, 26.)

A.D. 1485-1509. Index Locorum to the Berkshire entries in the Calendar of Feet of Fines, temp. Henry VII., contained in vol. 22 of this collection. (IBID., Le Neve's Indexes, vol. 26, p. 319.)

A.D. 1509-47. Index Locorum to the Feet of Fines relating to Manors and Churches in Berkshire, etc., temp. Henry VIII. (IBID., Le Neve's Indexes, vol. 35.)

A.D. 1547-58. Index Locorum to Abstracts of Feet of Fines for Berkshire, Edward VI. to Philip and Mary, contained in this volume. (IBID., Le Neve's Indexes, vol. 14, p. 105.)

A.D. 1554-8. Index Locorum to Feet of Fines for Berkshire, etc., temp. Philip and Mary. (IBID., Le Neve's Indexes, vol. 35.)

A.D. 1558-1603. Index of Places in the Pedes Finium for co. Berks, etc., temp. Elizabeth. (BRITISH MUSEUM, Add. MS. 21273.)

(To be continued.)

Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.

Notes.

The following articles appeared in the August number of *The Antiquary*:—“Reverse Inscriptions of English Silver Coins,” by J. Russell Larkby; “Shakespeare's Family”; “Curiosities in our Ancient Churches,” by W. P. Frasey; “An Alfred Portrait”; “The Arms of the University of Oxford”; and “The Tarasque,” by Arthur Watson.

The Genealogical Magazine for August contains articles upon “The Earldom of Norfolk,” “The Arms of Abergavenny,” “The Trial of Lord Ruisell,” “The Union Jack” and “Private Heralds and Pursuivants.”

SOUTHCOTE MANOR HOUSE.—A few weeks ago a small party of archæologists, conducted by Mr. H. Chown and Mr. Michael Brown, went over this ancient manor house, which we believe, had only once before been visited by a party, although some young lady students have a room in the old mansion as a studio. The party included Captain and Miss Sharp, of Ufton Court. One of the chief points of interest in connection with the house is the moat. Mr. H. Chown explained that Southcote Manor House was the most ancient house and manor in this part of the country, the date of the watch house being 1450. The house, which is of fifteenth century origin, is surrounded by a large moat, 30 feet wide, and at one time was crossed by a drawbridge. It was the ancestral home of the Blagrave family. Even in ruin it is a fine specimen of the old baronial mansion, with lofty rooms and a broad terrace on the south and west sides. At one end is a part of a ruined chapel, of the Elizabethan period. On the north-east is an ancient tower, with port holes for inserting firearms to shoot the invader ere he got near the moat. There might originally have been one of these forts at each corner of the house. Here were the headquarters of the Earl of Essex at the siege of Reading in 1643. We read that the General had secured a post at a Knight's house about a mile from the town. The Knight was Sir John Blagrave. It was on Saturday, April 15th, 1643, that Essex held his first council of war in the large hall of the mansion. Among those present was the great John Hampden. A year before—1642—he had married a Reading lady—Lady Letitia Vachel, of Vachel House, Hosier Lane or Street, now known as Finch Buildings. Vachel House was a fine building, the back part of the wall being well studded with the faced stones from the Abbey Ruins. After so many years the old house stands entire. Siege Sunday, April 16th, 1643, was the day after the order was sent from Sir John Blagrave's house to the Governor of Reading, Sir Arthur Aston, then living at Mapledurham House, but the terms of surrender not pleasing Sir Arthur he refused to comply, and the siege was begun and lasted ten days. The white flag, however, was soon flying from the fort commanding Castle Hill. A heavy blow was to have been struck against Lord Essex, for the camp was watched for some hours from the roof of Lady Vachel's house. At Southcote Manor there once lived John Blagrave, a famous mathematician, who was the second son of John Blagrave, of Bulmarsh Court, Earley, who died in 1611, and was interred in St. Lawrence's Church; on the walls is the handsome bust to his memory. Near the Manor House is a hollow called the Robbers' Cave, where the footpads of the Bath Road hid their stolen booty in centuries back. The moat surrounding Southcote Manor House is supplied with water from the Holy Brook, cut out by the monks of Reading Abbey to supply the Abbey Mills with water. The last owner who resided here was Mr. Wastel Briscoe.

Queries.

RECLUSORIA.—Miss Steele would be glad to know of any remains of recluses' cells in Berkshire, and where she could obtain any information concerning them and their former occupants.—The Upper Birches, Stroud, Glos'.

DIGHTON FAMILY.—My great-great grandfather, John Dighton, a London solicitor, bought the Manor of Ascot-under-Wychwood in 1760 of Sir Charles

Cottrell Dormer for £19,000 odd. John Dighton died a year later, and was buried at Great Milton, leaving a widow, Elizabeth Dighton, and nine children, of whom the eldest was James Lucy Dighton and the youngest John Dighton, afterwards General H.E.T.S. of Newland, Gloucestershire, my great grandfather. Some time after the first John Dighton's death (1761) the property (in Ascot and the adjoining villages) passed from the family, and I am anxious to find out when this took place. The present owners, Trustees of the late Mr. Thos. Franklin, bought the Manor about 1880 of the late Mr. M. P. W. Boulton. This I have on the authority of Messrs. Franklin and Jones, Auctioneers, of Cornmarket Street, Oxford. On John Dighton's decease intestate the widow obtained Admon., and then followed lawsuits between her and the Guardian of her eldest son. All this is shewn by documents preserved at Shirburn Castle, near Shirburn Lodge, at which latter place John Dighton lived when in the country.—CONWAY DIGHTON, 2, Blenheim Terrace, Cheltenham.

KENDRICK FAMILY.—Mr. Greene Kendrick, of Waterbury, Conn., U.S.A., is writing a history of his family. His name is honoured in Reading, and perhaps some reader may be able to reply to his query. John Kendrick, the first of that name, was Mayor of Reading about 1565. The writer asks, "Is there any known way of finding out whence this John Kendrick emigrated to Reading, or if himself a native of the town, which is doubtful, whence came his parents and what were their names?" We hope to refer to the interesting history of the Kendricks in a later number, and wish the author of the work every success in his important work.

Replies.

EARTHWORKS IN BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.—The Rev. H. H. Shrine calls attention to "the interesting earthworks on Maidenhead Thicket, a square (or nearly so) with well defined mound and fosse all round."

We have often visited the Thicket and noticed the singular excavations or pits there. These are probably the remains of a British village, a collection of pit dwellings. Possibly the pits at Little Coxwell and at Perborough have the same origin. These pits at Maidenhead are all circular and bowl-shaped, measuring from six to eight yards in diameter, and varying from eight to ten feet in depth. There is also on the Thicket part of a large circular entrenchment, five feet in height, ten feet in diameter and eighty yards in length, probably of British origin. There is also the large quadrangular entrenchment about 200 yards in diameter, of Roman origin, and north of this a smaller camp about 50 yards in diameter, commonly called "Robin Hood's Arbour," also Roman.—**EDITOR.**

Mr. Treacher sends us the following:—

BERKS. Tumulus at Limmer Hill, Wokingham.

„ „ Cock Marsh, near Cookham.

Roman Road from Maidenhead to Twyford and Reading.

Roman remains at Littlewick, Weycock Hill, Milley Farm,

Ruscombe and Twyford.

Saxon Cemetery at Reading.

Are the earthworks mentioned as west of Aston Tirrold and west of Aston Upthorpe the same?

BUCKS. Danish Camp at Medmenham.
Tumulus in Taplow Churchyard (Saxon).

OXON. Tumulus on Man's Hill, Henley Park, Henley-on-Thames.

DENCHWORTH FAMILY.—*The Gentleman's Magazine Library English Topography*, Vol. I., page 312, under heading North Marston, Bucks, says:—“Against the south wall on a similar lozenge: In memory of Purchas Denchfield, late minister of the parish, who departed this life December 11th, 1774, aged 59. On another: Rebecca, relict of the Rev. Purchas Denchfield, departed this life May 14th, 1784, aged 66. On another against the south wall without the rails: In memory of the Rev. Richard Denchfield, who departed this life September 29th, 1805, aged 61 years.”—W. RAVENSCROFT.

BARTON COURT.—In the January number there is a query about a ruin standing in my grounds. I fear that I can add nothing to the knowledge which the enquirer probably already possesses. I beg to enclose the following notes:—In one of the Civil War tracts a letter from Col. Payne to General Browne, Parliamentary Governor of Abingdon, states that the enemy came between Thrupp and Norcott to Barton House where they kept covert till daylight, and lay still after revalue (reveille) was beaten. Then General Brown “had a design to smoke them out,” which was carried into effect. Mr. Ditchfield says: “Cannon-balls played on the massive walls of the old Abbot's Palace (as late as 40 years ago balls were extracted from the ruins) then fire was employed, and the timbers of the farm house erected in Charles the second's time shew marks of bullets.” A Mr. Maurice Reed, of Boston, in a work published 1843 gives an account of his family, tracing their descent. He alludes to the destruction of Barton Court, the home of his ancestors, by the Parliamentary forces. He says Mr. Compton Reed who defended Barton Court at the time of its destruction was created a Baronet by Charles the second as a reward for his defence of the house in question. Quite recently another of the Reeds, a Mr. Compton Reed, has written a work called the *Redes of Barton Court*. I have not personally read the work in question, it appears to have been privately printed and no copy exists in our great public libraries. I have seen extracts from his work in which he repeats the tale of the destruction of his ancestral home by the forces of the Commonwealth.—PLAYER ISAAC, Barton Court, Abingdon, August, 1901.

DENCHWORTH MISSAL.—In 1875 the Rev. C. H. Tomlinson, then Vicar of Denchworth, printed as a supplement to his excellent Parish Record, which he called the *Denchworth Annual*, a catalogue of the books in the old Parish Library. In this he very justly deploras the selling in 1846 to the Bodleian Library of a copy of Caxton's *Golden Legend*, and also mentions that his predecessor, the Rev. H. Tripp, remembered the selling of another book for between £3 and £4, of which he could recall no further particulars whatever! Probably this was the book described by Mr. Hyde in the last number of the *Journal*. Mr. Hyde's description is, however, vague. He calls it both a Missal and a Breviary. Which is it? The late Rev. J. C. Jackson (a friend in early college days while he was at St. John's College) was an omnivorous collector, and his large gatherings were sold by auction after his death in 1895.—W. D. MACRAY.