

GREAT BOOKHAM CHURCH.

By ALFRED HEALES, Esq., F.S.A.

GREAT BOOKHAM CHURCH is dedicated in honour of St. Nicholas, according to an inscription in the chancel; ¹ according to Aubrey, ² it is St. Mary and St. Nicholas. There is a reference ³ in 1292 to the altar of St. Nicholas, as though that were not the high altar; possibly there may have been a re-dedication when the chancel was built.

THE present building, as may be seen by the accompanying plan, consists of a west tower, nave, and aisles, the southern of which is enlarged as a chapel; and chancel. The tower walls are carried up only as high as the nave walls; within them is built a frame-tower.

The internal dimensions are as follows:—

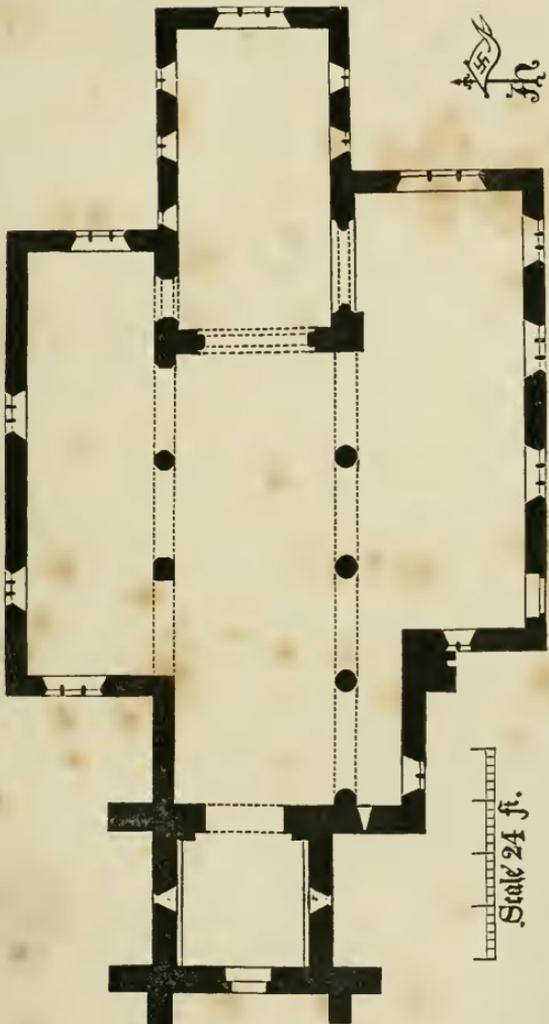
Tower	15 10	×	c. 15 10
Tower arch	3 4		
Nave	52 8	×	18 6
Chancel arch	3 0		
Chancel	34 10	×	17 5
Total length	109 8		
North aisle	49 5	×	19 6
South aisle.....	51 4	×	18 0
Total width, including pillars	60 6		

The orientation is 25° north of east.

¹ *Vide post*; also, St. Nicholas, in the *Liber Regis*, p. 959.

² Aubrey, *Natural History and Antiquities of Surrey*.

³ Manning and Bray, ii. 694.



Scale 24 ft.

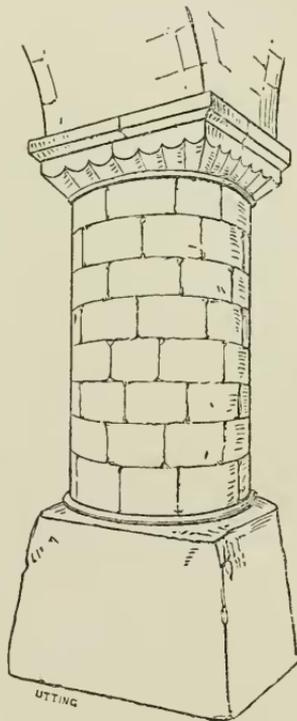
Great Bookham, Surrey.

The earliest record of the church occurs, as usual, in Domesday Book. The entry runs thus :—

“The Abbey [Chertsey] holds Bockeham. In the time of King Edward it was rated for 26 Hides [2,600 acres] now for 13 Hides. The arable land consists of 19 carrucates [1,900 acres]. In demesne there is one carrucate and 32 Villans, and 4 Bordars with 18 carrucates. There is a Church and 3 Villans in gross, and 1 mill of 10^s [£30] and 6 acres of meadow. The Wood yields 80 fat Hogs and 30 lean hogs. Of this land Gunfrid has 1 hide, and there he has 1 carrucate. The whole Manor in the time of King Edward was worth £16 [£960] now £15 [£900].”

In the present building there is no sign of so early a date. The south side of the nave is the earliest part, and was probably erected about the middle of the twelfth century, or rather sooner. The pillars are circular, very massive and low, with very flat cushion caps, and the arches are semicircular and flat-soffited : judging from the bases, it would appear as though the level of the floor had been lowered, leaving them on rough plinths. The second pillar from the west stands on a higher plinth than the others, and the pillar itself is consequently shorter : perhaps this variation may be accounted for by the font having stood against it, which would have been the usual position. The neighbouring church of Little Bookham has a range of very similar, but rather more ornamental, pillars on the south side, now built up.

The western bay of the aisle has been left standing, by which we see that the original width is only 5 ft. 9 in. : at the end is a little loophole window, 6 in. wide in the clear.



FROM so much as exists of the walls of the tower, it is evidently coeval with the nave and aisles, as appears by a loophole window on the north side, similar to that in the south aisle. The walls are very massive, but have perhaps never been carried up any higher.

The north arcade of the nave is later than that on the south, and is in the style of about 1180: how this difference in the date of the two sides of the structure was occasioned is not easy to conjecture; for we cannot imagine the probability of one side of the church being built first, and the other side from thirty to fifty years later; and it is improbable that one side should have given way and required rebuilding, while the other, after seven hundred years, shows no sign of decay.



The northern pillars are octangular (with one exception) and slighter; the caps are still of the cushion pattern, but higher and less spreading; the arches are pointed and chamfered; and as the pointed form required more perpendicular height than the semicircular, the pillars on this side are lower than those on the other side; thus allowing the same level for the crown of the arches. The western bay has been built up, but is distinctly traceable.

The next record of the church occurs in the taxation made by order of Pope Nicholas IV., about the year 1291.¹

	Taxatio.	Decima.
Ecclesia de Magna Bokham	16 0 0	1 12 0
Abbas de Certeseye hñ Maneria (inter alia) Bokham quod taxatur (summa)	135 19 8	13 11 11½

It will have been observed that the abbey of Chertsey held the manor prior to the Conquest, and continued to possess this very valuable property: in the year following it acquired the rectory by the act of John Ponteyes, bishop of Winchester, under an authority of Pope Clement III.;² and this was effected at the instance and cost of the venerable brother Thomas de Okham. At the same time a vicarage was endowed, and the vicar had the offerings at the altar, with all tithes except hay and wool; the tithe of gardens and crofts cultivated with the spade; with two acres of land at Thornefur; a mansion formerly belonging to Gilbert the clerk, next the court, formerly of the rector; and with the ground where stood a barn of the rector. On his part the vicar was to find two wax-lights before the altar of St. Nicholas in the said church. The abbey, as impropriator, was to repair the chancel, and was also to find the ornaments and books for the church.

It always was, and still is, the duty of a rector or impropriator to repair, or, if necessary, even rebuild the chancel, a duty which Chertsey Abbey honourably performed by building the present spacious chancel in 1341, and the fact was commemorated by an inscription on a small slab let into the chancel wall, south of the east window, in the inside, which, to the good fortune of archæologists, still remains there, very perfect though only cut in clunch. The slab measures 2 ft. 10 in. by

¹ *Taxatio Ecclesiastica Angliæ et Walliæ*. Printed by the Record Office.

² Manning and Bray, ii. 693.

1 ft. 3 in., and the inscription¹ is most beautifully and clearly cut: it runs thus:²—

H

EC domus Abbate fuerat constructa Johanne
de Rutherwyka, decus ob Sancti Nicholai,
Anno Milleno, triceno bis; viceno
Primo; Xpc [Christus] ei paret hinc sedem requiei.

F

IELDING, as this legend does in a somewhat enigmatical form, a positive date of the erection of the chancel (for the expression “hec domus” clearly relates, not to the whole church, but to the chancel only), it affords a valuable criterion by which to assign a date to the erection of similar buildings; and such unquestionable dates are of the highest architectural importance. For example, there occur windows in the church of Glenton, in Northamptonshire, almost exactly corresponding with those in the sides of Great Bookham chancel, and we are therefore enabled to label them with the same date. These are of two lights, and of a simple design, well suited to a locality where stone was scarce: it may be observed that the two on the north are plainer, not being recessed, nor having any hood-moulding, but otherwise are exactly similar. Near the west end of the north side is another, of one light only, the cill of which was cut down to form a lychnoscope. The structure of the chancel is of small cubes of chalk or clunch up to near the top, where it is faced with flint, no doubt a reparation at a later date.

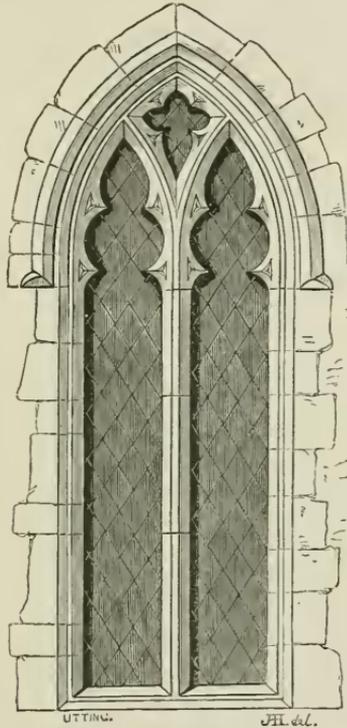


Section of S. window.

¹ The (Gothic) capitals in this Paper are examples of letters forming the inscription.

² It is engraved in Pegge's *Sylloge* (Nichols's *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*, vol. vi.), p. 70, Plate XVI.; also in the *Archæologia*, vol. xiii. p. 395; but, though on a large scale, without the elegance and finish of the original; also, but indifferently, in the *Glossary of Architecture*,

Chertsey Abbey possessed large estates in the county; comprising the rectories of Epsom, Ewell, and Egham, as well as Great Bookham; and John de Rutherwick was by no means one of the least among its abbots. A kind



of chronicle of the abbey, styled the “Exchequer Leiger,” which is still in existence amongst the Lansdown MSS. in the British Museum,¹ describes him thus:—

“Religiosissimus pater, prudentissimus et utilissimus dominus,” and “venerandus Abbas quasi dicti loci secundus fundator & omnium substantialium bonorum reformator, & maneriorum præfati monasterii substantialis reparator.”

vol. iii. p. 115. It is also engraved, not very exactly, in Aubrey’s *Surrey*, ii. 265, who speaks of it, apparently in error, as being in the north wall of the chancel.

¹ Dugdale’s *Monasticon*, vol. i. p. 424.

The chronicle states (as also partly appears by some other documents referred to in Manning and Bray's History), that he was elected on the 9th August, 1307.¹ In the same year he caused oaks to be planted and acorns sown at Herdewych, in Chertsey, and surrounded the Manor House of Chabeham (Cobham) with running water. He also planted and enclosed a wood called South Grove. In 1308 he procured from the king the remission of an old debt of £10, and purchased the site of a mill at Hurst. In 1309 he obtained licence from the king to appropriate £50 worth of land or rents, and purchased the quit claim of a hostell in London belonging to the abbey; he also purchased the profits of the church of Ewell, by which he gained sixty-two marks. In 1311 he bestowed different vestments on the church—"contulit Deo & Eccie s̄i Petri Certes' casulam, tunicam, & dalmaticam de rubeo velveto." In 1312 he procured a charter for the appropriation of the churches of Ebesham and Horlee. In years immediately subsequent he made various purchases of land in Horlee. In 1317 he purchased a tenement in Coveham, which, with another purchase at Lodderlake, he afterwards assigned for his anniversary. In 1318, notwithstanding the Statute of Mortmain, he procured the appropriation of different possessions. In 1323 he bought the images of SS. Katherine and Margaret for the high altar of the church, and also a new pastoral staff or crosier.

QUOTING from the same valuable record, there is the following statement of the erection under his orders of a new chancel to Egham church, which also belonged to the monastery:—

"Item novum cancellum apud Egeham, in quo scribuntur isti versus.

"Hæc domus efficitur Baptiste, laude Johannis,
Bis deca septenis, trescentis mille, sub annis;
Xp̄e [Christi]; quam statuit Abbas ex corde Johannes
De Rutherwyka, per terras dictus & ampnes."

¹ Article by George Oliver, *Collect. Topog. and Genealog.*, iv. 164.

The date, in this inscription also not very clearly expressed, is 1327.

These lines still exist, inscribed on a small slab of chunch, although the chancel and church itself were pulled down and rebuilt twenty-seven or twenty-eight years ago. The church was of Norman date, and an engraving in Brayley's work¹ shows a good doorway under an Early Perpendicular timber porch; in the chancel were windows, each of two narrow lights, of Decorated date. It will be remarked, that though the term "domus" is used in each inscription, it does not apply to the church at large, but is limited to the chancel. The inscription at Egham is much injured (probably from want of care or neglect when the church was rebuilt), and without the letters being blacked in, would be scarcely legible; it is in precisely the same style, and probably designed by the same hand as that at Great Bookham—perhaps that of Rutherwick himself; it is also in a verse of four lines, each written, as it were upon parallel ruled lines; the form and manner of character are extremely similar, though the letters at Egham are not so tall as those at Bookham; and the slabs only differ about half an inch in length, and one and a half in width. It is already engraved.² John de Rutherwick had in 1333 obtained a license of appropriation, and endowed the vicarage of Egham with about fifty-six acres of land, together with other emoluments arising from tithes and customs, with innumerable acquisitions of a smaller kind, detailed in the MS. These appear in 1335 to have excited the jealousy of certain brethren of the monastery, as we learn from an entry in the Leiger.³ The abbot, however, in the following year continued his exertions, and in 1341 he procured from the king a confirmation of the abbey charters.

On 28th January, 1346, royal assent was given to the

¹ Brayley, *History of Surrey*, vol. ii. p. 258.

² Aubrey's *Natural History and Antiquities*, vol. iii. p. 150; not very accurately, Pegge's *Sylloge*, Pl. XVI. p. 70; and Brayley, vol. ii. p. 258, *ut supra*.

³ Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. i. p. 424, note t.

election of John de Benham as abbot; whence it may be inferred that, shortly before that date death put an end to the unremitting labours of John de Rutherwick for the benefit of the abbey and its possessions.

It is a somewhat singular circumstance that among the doings so fully narrated in the "Exchequer Leiger," there occurs no mention of the rebuilding of the chancel of Great Bookham.¹

We now return from the history of the famous re-builder of the chancel to the church itself.

The next work in point of date, as shown by architectural evidence, was the south porch. It was rather large, and of two stories, the lower of which led into the south aisle, and the upper consisted of a small chamber, the side window of which, at the west, is merely blocked up, in consequence of a huge tasteless monument to Elizabeth, widow of Robert Shiers, of Slyfield House, Esq., who died 14th August, 1700.



Section of porch door.

Probably the rood-screen was the next work, and some woodwork, cut up and serving to form or adorn a pew towards the end of the south aisle, is possibly its remains. There is a simple but elegant poppy-head near the other end of the same aisle.

A little later the Slyfield family determined to build an aisle or chapel for themselves, and they accordingly took down the outer wall of the previously-narrow south aisle, and erected the present very wide south aisle or chapel, taking into it, westwards, the porch. This part remains little altered. The windows are pro-

¹ Manning and Bray, in error, say there is no mention in the Leiger book of Abbot Rutherwick's work at Egham.—Vol. iii. p. 258.

bably unchanged, except by reparation; the roof is not much "restored," and shows a good embattled wall-plate; the arch opening into the chancel (for the chapel was carried further east than the chancel arch) is very good of its rather late Perpendicular date, and bold, and still retains its *parclose*, or screen, though the latter has been gutted of tracery which it probably once possessed. In the heads of two of the windows are a few miscellaneous fragments of stained glass, of bits of canopies, serving to indicate that that part of the work was not neglected. The *piscina* is a very fair example.

The timber frame-tower was probably the next work, though there is nothing to indicate its precise date. Its character, though simpler,

is by no means dissimilar to that of many Essex churches, forming a peculiar type,¹ and furnishes an example of the adaptation of mediæval architecture to the locality; thus, in a district where building-stone was not readily obtainable, but timber was abundant, the architects of the day had the wisdom and ability to avail themselves of the timber in place of stone, and turn it to an admirable account.

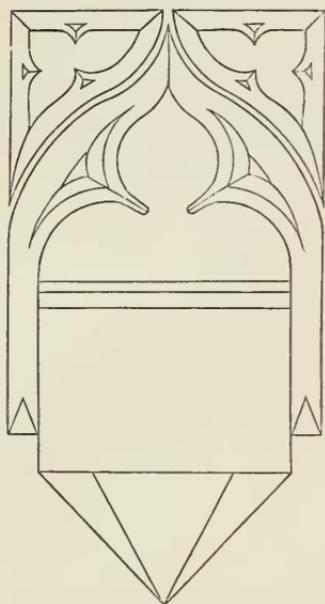
As before stated, the walls of the tower appear to have been carried up no higher than the level of the



Cap., base, and arch to Slyfield Chapel.

¹ *Essex Archaeological Collections*, vol. iii.

other walls of the church, and at the date of the earliest work. The frame-tower is built inside them; and as the walls are of very great thickness, and there is then, in addition, the not inconsiderable thickness of the timber, the exterior shows a deep, roofed set-off around the three unattached sides of the tower. The arch from the tower to the nave is four-centred, recessed and chamfered, rather awkward, as might be expected from a late Elizabethan age, and has spread towards the north.



Piscina in Slyfield Chapel.

One can only express great regret that the timber-work should be left, it being in a very dangerous state, as regards workmen, or visitors, who have anything to do with the bells.

There are frames for three bells, but only two survive. One of these bears the inscription—

William Eldridge made mee 1575;

and the other is without inscription. The Eldridges were the most celebrated bell-founders in the county.¹ So far as the bell furnishes any presumption, we may assume that the frame-tower was antecedent to the bell. There were four bells in 1553.²

So matters remained, excepting the intrusion of some tasteless monuments, the chief feature of which being truncated obelisks, with undraped mourning infants of

¹ See Mr. Daniel-Tyssen's *Church Bells of Sussex*, p. 32.

² Inventories of Church Goods.—Collections of this Society, vol. iv. p. 70.

an age too young to mourn, until the year 1845. The arches on the north side of the nave had at some previous period been built up, but were now re-opened, and a new aisle was built, of unusual breadth, with windows in a style imitating those of the south aisle, but with the cast-iron rigidity and exactitude of so much modern work.

This aisle being carried further east than the nave, required an opening into the chancel, and an arch was formed with by no means badly-designed mouldings.

The font, which we assume to have originally stood against the pier by the south door, was no doubt then removed to its present inappropriate position against the east wall of the new aisle. Perhaps its date corresponds with that of the north arcade. The design is a very ordinary pattern, consisting of a large cylinder and four small engaged shafts, standing on a square base, and supporting a square bowl, which is of Sussex marble: it is unusually small.

AT this point we may return to the recorded history connected with the church.

The bold project formed by King Henry VIII., and which afterwards ripened into execution, caused a Return to be made of all ecclesiastical property.¹ This document states that the monastery of "Charsey" held the rectory of Great Bookham, of the yearly value of £13; and as regards the vicarage, the entry runs thus:—

Bokham Magna.

Valet in firm ^o mans ^o cum orto & gardin ^o ac x ^o ac ^o	} £		
t ^r arabil ^o prat ^o pasc ^o & pastur ^o bosc ^o ac subbosc ^o		} ix. xix. iijjob	
unacum decim ^o tam major ^o q ^{am} minor ^o eid ^m vica ^r			
ptin ^o p annū Fulcon ^o Symonds mo ^o vica ^r ibm			
Repris ^o in pcurac ^o & sinod ^o solut ^o archidia ^o Surr ^o			
p annū		— ij. j	
Et remain ^o		ix. xvij. ijjob	
X ^{ma} p ^s		xix. vijjob	

¹ *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (published by the Record Office), p. 56.

Confiscation followed confiscation, and Chertsey Abbey, with its great possessions, was surrendered to that insatiable "Edax rerum ecclesiasticarum" Henry VIII. On the 6th July, 1537, Great Bookham was for the moment transferred to the abbot and monastery of Bisham, which then received the dignity of becoming a mitred abbey. But the fleeting prosperity of royal favour soon passed; the abbot and monks leant (unwillingly and helplessly perhaps) upon a bruised reed; and in less than two years, on the 19th June, 1539, Bisham Abbey was ruthlessly dissolved. After its surrender, the king (on the 2nd July, 1545) granted the advowson of the rectory to Richard and John Savile,¹ who sold it shortly afterwards to Sir Christopher More, of Losely, who also soon disposed of it; and at the present time the rectory is in moieties, one of which is charged with payment of £40 per annum in perpetuity to Pembroke College, Oxford, to maintain two scholars.

Thus Great Bookham, which had continued as the property of Chertsey Abbey from a period antecedent to the Norman Conquest, fell into lay hands.

When desecration, and sacrilege were rampant, it was no wonder that by the seventh year of King Edward VI. there only remained to this church (as appears by the inventory made by the king's authority at that date)² one chalice, weighing 14 ounces, and an "aulter" front and a vestment for the Communion table, though there remained four bells (of which two have since disappeared): all the other ornaments "with the brasse and latten" (or such as had not been privately stolen or made away with) had been sold to the parishioners for 45*s.* That chalice has since disappeared, and the present chalice, with paten fitting as a lid, and also a flagon, are evidently of precisely the same date as the alms-dish, which is inscribed, "This belongs to the parish of

¹ Manning and Bray, ii. 694.

² Inventories of Surrey Church Goods (edited by R. Daniel-Tyssen, Esq.), in the Collections of this Society, vol. iv. p. 170.

Great Bookham. 1677." An iron knob to the keys of the church chest bears the date 1690, and initials F. T.

There are several new stained-glass windows. That at the east end of the chancel (a modern window, of net tracery) is the work of O'Connor, and was put up in 1856 to the memory of Charlotte Sophia, Duchess of Beaufort. The window at the east end of the Slyfield chapel, by the same artist, in 1859, commemorates the Crimean chief, Lord Raglan; while a new window in the original aisle is filled with pattern and heraldic glass, the work of Ward, in 1853, as a memorial of Major-General Howard Vyse.

There is a west view of the exterior of the church given by Brayley.¹

Passing next to the parish register-books, we find that the present existing records go no further back than the year 1632, and contain little matter of archaeological interest. The earliest volume commences with a note of its purchase:—

May the 29th 1632.

This Booke was Bowght of Maurice Morgan at the blacke bull in pater noster; and was paid for it, the sum of seaven shillings.

There are entries of christenings, marriages, and burials of this date, after which is this note:—"Hitherto were ye names transmitted to the Register."

On the same page is the following:—

The Vicaridge house of great Bookham was repaired viz^t new rooffe built, glazed, y^e study built, y^e South side from y^e porch to y^e West end wth bricke & new timber put in; y^e chamber a y^e milkehouse & kitchin built & y^e west end hang'd wth Tiles at y^e sole cost & charge of Samuel Cherrie Bac. of Arts the then Vicar—Anno 1633 et es circiter.

But it curiously happens that a note relating to the same event appears at the end of the book, thus:—

¹ Brayley, vol. iv. p. 475.

1633 The Vicaridge house of Greate Bookcham was reparaede, viz : the Hall paved wth Bricks the hall chimney was mended, the Parlor flored, and the parlor chimney mended. By John Flemminge then Vicar.

The former is evidently correct, as the register is signed by Samuel Cherry in 1633, and not by John Flemminge until thirty years later.

Then is a note that "A Terrier of the gleabe lands belonging to the Vicaridge of Great Bookham, is to be found in the Registry for Surrie as it was given in, Anno dñi 1638."

The following memoranda are of more than local interest :—

The excōm̄cte 1633.

The wife of George Sheeres yeomⁿ, Rob^t Rogers Edw. Wood jun^r et ux^o, et Elizab. ux^o Rob^ti Marghall were excōicate octob. 20. 1633.

July 20, 1634 y^e wife of George Shiers was published to stand excōicate and George Sheirs was denounced excōicate, and Robert Rogers.

May 17. 1635. George Shiers was absolved.

Anno domⁿi 1627. At y^e South corner of the Churchyard was planted the Elme tree, Ralph Hilder being Ch^wn.

That tree still stands by the gateway into the churchyard. It appears to have been pollarded long ago, but the stump is green and flourishing, though a mere shell ; the dimensions at five feet from the ground are 17 feet 6 inches in circumference.

Samuel Cherry, the vicar, signs the page in 1633. In 1644 is the entry of the baptism of his child by the name of Anthony, on the 15th February, and burial on the following day. Only one other entry follows this before there is a total change in the handwriting : evidently he either died or was deprived of the living at this time. His successor was Samuel Wickham, minister, whose son Samuel was baptized on the 12th May, 1645, and John on the 2nd July, 1646. In 1663 John Flemminge signs as vicar : his daughter Mary was baptized on the 20th April, 1668, and he himself was buried on the 6th June in the

same year. In the year 1670, the page occurring earlier in the book is signed by Thomas Hoolt, whom we may presume to have been the clerk or registrar.

Various entries appear in the register respecting the great family of Howard of Effingham, which it seems difficult to reconcile with the pedigrees given by Manning and Bray; the latter, however, are clearly not altogether reliable, as they put Frances, who died an infant on the 28th October, 1676, as the daughter of Sir Francis, who died on the 7th July, 1651, *i. e.* twenty-five years previously; the fact being that, as appears by gravestones, Frances, the daughter of Sir Francis, died on the 25th June, 1633, aged a year and a half, and the Frances who died on 28th October, 1676, aged two years and a half, was the daughter of Francis Howard, Esq. The entries in the register are here given without ranging them in the family pedigree.

1635. Bur. A Son of Sir Francis Howard knt. still borne: buried May 10. 1635.
1636. Bapt. John Howard the Son of Sir Francis Howard knight & the Lady Jane Howard was baptized July 2, 1636.
1651. Bur. Sir Francis Howard Lord of the manner of Great Bookham was buried the tenth day of July anno domini 1651.
1642. Bapt. Francis Son of Sir Charles Howard knight and Lady Frances Howard May 1, 1642.
1643. Francis Howard Esq son of Sir Charles bapt. Sept. 17.
1645. Jane daughter of Sir Charles bapt. 14 Sept.
1647. George son of same, bapt. 10 April.
1653. Francis daughter of M^r Tho^s Howard bapt. 14 Oct.
1657. William Son of Thomas Howard gent. born 16 June.
1664. William son of M^r Tho^s Howard of Leatherhead buried 30th March.
1672. William Son of M^r William Howard born 19th & bapt. 20th April.
1674. Elizabeth daughter of M^r Francis Howard Esq. bapt. 9th May.
1675. Margaret, born 25th Oct. bapt. 1st Nov.
1676. Francis, buried 29th Oct.
- „ Charles born 25th & bapt. 28th Nov.

In 1647 is the following :—

Robert Son of Sir Thomas Nightingale k^t & Baronet bapt. by Edward Carter Minister of Cobham, 3^d Dec. 1647.

Sir Thomas Nightingale, of Langley, Essex, Bart., married Jane, daughter of George Shires, of Slyfield House, Esq., and afterwards heiress of Sir George Shires, her nephew: this accounts for the name appearing at Great Bookham. Their son Robert succeeded to the baronetcy, was High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1686, and died 3rd July, 1697.¹

The register records the burial on the 1st May, 1653, of Mary, wife of Sir Henery Jerningham, knight and baronet. She was the daughter of Benedict Hall, of High Meadow, Gloucestershire, Esq.: she died on the 30th April. Sir Henry was of Cossey, in Norfolk: he survived his wife, and died 6th October, 1630. Francis, their second son, succeeded to the title.²

The following are entries relating to the Shiers family, who were settled at Bookham some time before they became the possessors of Slyfield Place :—

1637. Nov^r 31 Bapt. Henry Son of George & Anne Sheers.
 1641. Bur. John son of George Sheires Yeoman Oct. 6.
 1642. Bur. George Sheires of Slifeild Esq^{re} was buried June 20.
 1647. Bur. Mary Sheeres the daughter of George Sheeres Esq^{re} was buried the 18th day of August.
 1648. Bur. Daniell y^e sonne of George Sheeres was buried y^e 10 May.
 1657. Bur. George Sheires 18 Aug.
 1660. Bur. Mary Shiers daughter of Robert Shiers Esq. buried Dec. 2^d.
 1663. Mar. Robert Sheirs & Jaine Collins 23 Feb.
 1664. Bur. Mary Sheirs y^e Widow of George Sheirs Yeoman, buried 26 May.

¹ Betham's *Baronetage*.

² *Ib.*, i. 230.

1664. Mary daughter of Robert bapt. 12 Oct, buried 19 Oct 1665.
 1665. M^{rs} Marye Sheirs of Slyfeild Wid. bur. 31 May.
 William Son of Robert Sheirs of Slyfield Esq. bapt 2nd and
 buried 4th November.
 1667. Dorathy daughter of Robert Sheirs Esq. bapt.9 Nov. buried
 20 Jan.
 1668. M^r Robert Sheirse Esq^e Buried the 28 of June.
 1669. Joane the wife of Róbert Sheirs buried 30 Sept.

There is great difficulty in putting these several names into the form of a pedigree, chiefly from the practice of so constantly repeating the same Christian names in a family. Here there are two Georges, but one is called Yeoman, evidently to distinguish him from the Esquire, and each left a widow named Mary. There are apparently two Roberts, one being called Esquire, dying in 1668, while the other survived his wife who died in 1669: each of these Roberts apparently had a daughter named Mary, though possibly the second may be a second daughter, by the same name, of the Squire, though not so stated. In default of any published pedigree, they are arranged thus in a tentative form:—

Shiers.

George Sheers = Anne

Mary, = George Sheires, of
died a widow, Slyfield, Esq.,
buried 31st buried 20th June,
May, 1665. 1642.

George Sheires,
Yeoman, =
excommunicated 20th
July, 1634; absolved
17th May, 1635;
buried 18th August,
1657.

Mary,
excommunicated 20th
Oct., 1633, and again
20th July, 1634; died
a widow; buried 26th
May, 1664.

Mary, buried
18th August,
1647.

Robert Shiers, = Elizabeth,
Esq., of the Inner (died
Temple, afterwards 14th Aug.,
of Slyfield, buried 1700,
28th June, 1668, aged 66.

Jane
succeeded to
Slyfield on
death of Sir
Geo. Shiers,
in 1685,
without issue.

Sir Thomas
Nightingale,
of Langioy,
Essex, Bart.

John,
buried 6th
October,
1641.

Daniel,
buried 10th
May, 1648.

Robert Sheires, =

23rd Feb.
1663.
Joane, Collins,
buried 30th
September,
1669.

George Shiers,
born 1660;
Baronet, 16th
October, 1684;
died unmarried,
18th July, 1685.

Mary,
buried
2nd Dec.,
1660.

Edward,
or Edmond,
died 7th
Ang., 1670,
aged 6.
Nov., 1665.

William,
baptized
2nd and
buried 4th
Nov., 1667.
Jan., 1667-8.

Dorothy,
baptized 9th
Nov., 1667,
buried 20th
Jan., 1667-8.

Sir Robert Nightingale, Bart.,
baptized at Great Bookham, 3rd
December, 1647; High Sheriff
of Norfolk, 1686; died 3rd July,
1697.

Mary,
baptized 12th, and
buried 19th October,
1664.

LOOKING next to the sepulchral memorials, we find that the oldest monument is a coffin slab, with floriated cross in low relief, dating probably from the latter part of the fourteenth century, now turned out into the churchyard, and preserved from being completely effaced by a number of large-headed studs driven into it.

Next is a small brass, now in the chancel floor, bearing the following inscription :—

Hic iacet Elizabeth nup ux^o Thome Slyfeld ac quondam ux^o Georgii Brewes Armigⁱ; filie Edwardi Seynt Johⁿ militⁱ: que obiit xxiiij^o die m^cse Augusti A^o dⁿⁱ M^o iiij^c xxxiiij^o.

The inscription is somewhat cramped for space, which probably accounts for its abrupt termination. Over the legend is a very small effigy, well designed and preserved: the lady is represented in the manner and costume usual at the date.

This is followed chronologically by a long inscription in English verse, only worth transcribing on account of its genealogical information, though also an example of the dull flattery and turgid style of the period. It runs thus :—

Of Slyfield Place, in Surrey solle here Edmond Slyfield lyes ;
 A stovt esquier who allweys sett godes feare before his eyes.
 A justice of the peace he was, from the syxt Kinge Edwards daye,
 And worthely for vertves vse, dyd wyn deservyd prayse.
 He toke Elyzabethe to wyfe—a dame of famovs rase :
 She of the Pawletts dyd dissend, and Capells in lyke case.
 Of Sydneys stocke she was a bravnche and to the Gaynsford's nye.
 Dame natvre to the gentell Moyles and Finches, dyd her tye ;
 To Arendels, Whites, and Lamberts eake by byrthes discent she was.
 And he with her, and she with hym, thaire dayes in love dyd pass.
 In wedlock she brought fourthe to hym 5 soncs and daughters 11.
 Whiche carefullye they dyd instruk to serve the god of heaven.
 He in the xxiiiith yere of Elizabeth ovre qvene,
 Whose vertues through the world do spring as freshe as lawrell grene,
 Of Svrey and of Svssex was high shryve ordeynd in deade :
 And to her grace of loyaltye, dyd dayelie yeald the seede.
 He helpvll to the poore was fovnd ; she fed them daye by daye.
 He jvstyce daylie mynistred ; pytye in her dyd swaye.

Beloved he was of all the poore : and she disdaynde of none.

He bolde of speache ; and in her lypps no yll was ever fownd.

He allwayes thankfull vnto god ; she preste to spread his prays.

He loved trvethe ; she discord loathed : thus spent these tow
theire dayes.

Bvt god the lvsband takes from wyfe : he dyes in hope to lyve ;

She lyves to dye, but hopes that Christ her lastyng lyfe wil gyve.

As he is gon the waye of deathe, so she doth dathe expecte ;

Yet have we hope bothe he and she shall lyve with god's elect.

He seventye one, with odd monthes to ; she seventye yeres hath spent.

His tyme is paste ; her tyme drawes on ; no man can deathe prevent.

He lefte this lyfe 13 Febrvari, 1590, ano 33 Elizabethe regina,

Whose vertves are here jvstlye discribed

As a pattern for thaire lynage fytt to be folowed.

Vivit post fvnera virtvs.

Thaire eldyst sonne, Henry, this cavsde to be made

In faythfull performans of the will of the dedd.¹

The will directs that there shall be effigies in brass of himself and wife and children : possibly they may have formed a further memorial now under the flooring ; but there are none here, although it so expressly states the fact of its being made in pursuance of the will. The inscription is in Roman characters on a brass plate fixed to the south side of the south pier of the chancel arch.

Next is a brass effigy and inscription in the floor of the Slyfield chapel, commemorating the widow mentioned in the preceding. The legend here runs thus :—

Elyzabeth Slyfeld, the wife of Edmond Slyfeld, Esqvier and daughter of Walter Lambert of Carshalton in the Covnty of Svrrey Esqvire, whose mother was Margret Gaynsford the daughter of Robt. Gaynsford of Allington Castell in the Covntie of Kent, Esqvier ; the Mother of w^{ch} Robt. Gaynsford was Margret Sydney who was of the pryvye chamber to iiij queenes and great avnt unto Sir H. Sydney Knight of the Garter, lord p^lsident of Wales & of the pryvye covnsell vnto Q. E. ; & the wife of y^e said Robt. Ga : was daughter unto Sir Walter Moyle of Eastwell in the covnty of Kent, Knight ; whose Mother was the daughter of Sir Thomas Arvndell, Knight.

There is the effigy above this, in ordinary costume, and in fair preservation.

There is another brass in the floor of the Slyfield chapel with the following inscription :—

¹ See the will, *post*.

Here lieth buried Henry Slyfield, Esq : & Elizabeth his wife who was the daughter of Richard Buckfold, Citizen of Lond: the sayd H: was of y^e age of 56 yeres, & deceased A^o dñi 1598, & had issue by his wife 6 sones & 4 daughters.

Above this are their effigies, and below are two groups of children. He is in civil costume. They are not badly drawn, but disfigured with shading. The children are in pairs, and dressed like their father and mother respectively. Over the heads of the principal effigies are three coats of arms. The lower part which remains of the dexter coat has part of a head erased. The sinister coat is quart. I. and IV. (Gu.) a fess engraved (ar.) between three saltires (or) : Slyfield of Slyfield, Surrey ; II. and III. per chevr. (ar. and sa.) three bucks' heads, counterchanged (attired or), Buckfold.¹ The centre shield bears Slyfield imp. Buckfold.

The existing house, called Slyfields, was built by the Shiers family, who purchased the estate of the Slyfield family, and is one of the best examples now remaining in the county of an English house of the first half of the seventeenth century.²

There is one other brass also in this chapel, engraved with the following inscription in large coarse letters :—

Here lyeth the body of Robert Shiers of the Inner
Temple, London, Esq: who dyed the 29th Jan'y 1668.

A rather large effigy over this is in the ordinary costume of a civilian. His right hand holds an open book, and his left is partly open downwards, as though he were expounding. Above is a shield bearing p.p. I. (or) on a bend (az.) between a lion rampant in chief (sa.) and three oak-leaves in base (ppr.), as many escallops (of the field), Shiers.³

Robert was the second son of George Shiers, Esq., the purchaser of Slyfield Place. He and his elder

¹ The crest of Buckfold is a buck ppr. attired or, in the field vert, paled all round of the first.—Burke's *Armory*.

² Paper by Mr. Baily, *Proceedings* of this Society, vol. iv. p. 21.

³ The crest of Shiers is a demi-lion ramp. sa., holding between the paws an escallop, or.—Burke's *Armory*.

brother Edmund were both admitted to the Society of the Inner Temple on the 25th of February, 1633. Robert was called to the Bar on the 3rd of November, 1641, and became a Bencher on 25th of November, 1660 :¹ he was Lecturer in 1667.² Edmund died first, and Robert succeeded to Slyfield on the death of his father.

Brayley gives a poor engraving of this brass.³

There is mention by Aubrey,⁴ and Manning and Bray,⁵ of a brass of a child holding a flower, to the memory of Maria Shiers (daughter of George Shiers), who died 7th June, 1617, aged five ; but that is no longer to be found.

Manning and Bray also speak of a brass inscription to John Slyfield, Esq., and Jane his wife ; and that he died 21st February, 1529.

HEEPING in mind the fact that no pedigree of the Slyfield family has hitherto been published, it may be well to print the accompanying sketch (with the evidence on which it is founded), although the writer wishes it to be understood that he does not profess to offer it as a perfect and complete pedigree, but only as a sketch.

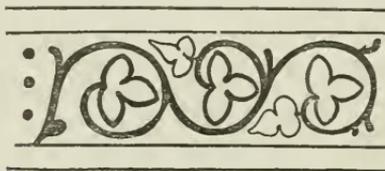
¹ Records in Treasurer's Office, Inner Temple.

² MS. note in Dugdale's *Origines*, in the Library.

³ Brayley, vol. iv. p. 479. ⁴ Aubrey, vol. ii. p. 272.

⁵ Manning and Bray, ii. 700.

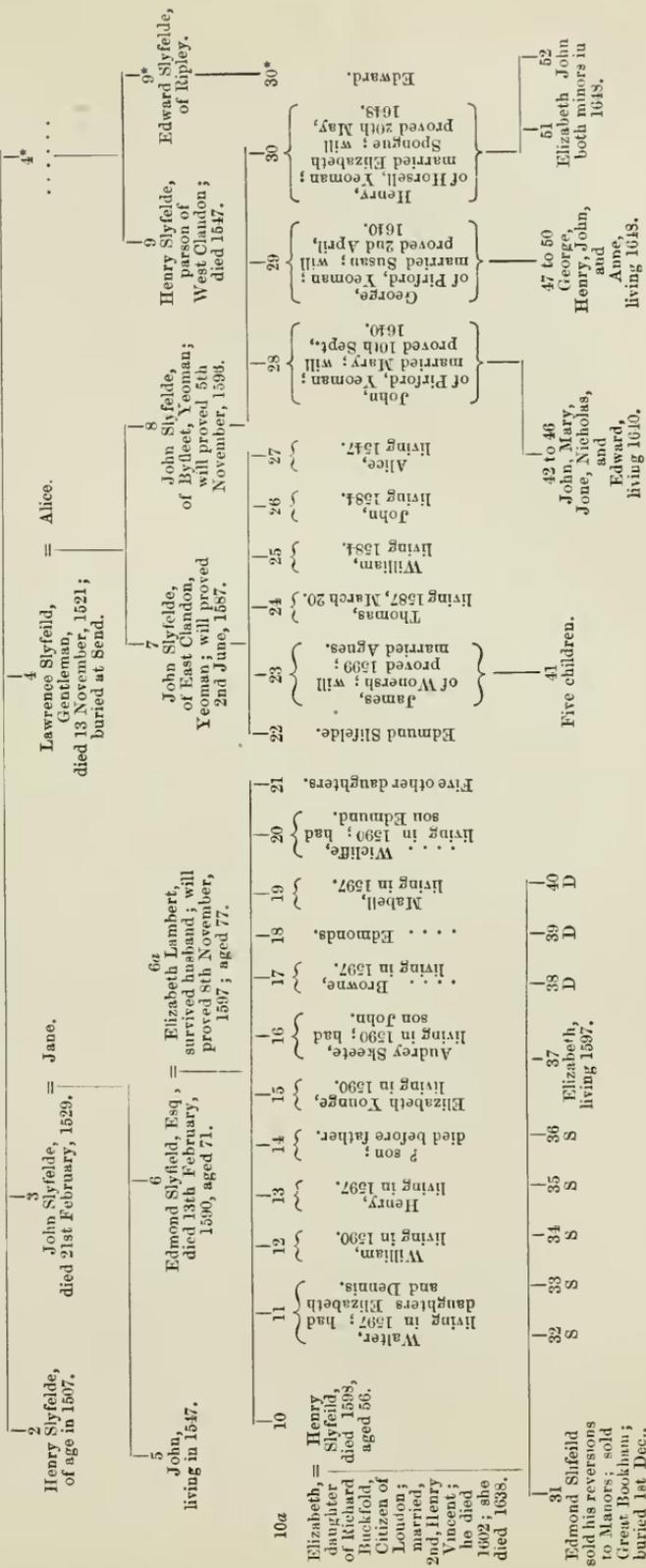
(FROM THE CHANCEL DEDICATION-INSRIPTION.)



Slyfield.

Thomas Slyfield = (2nd) Elizabeth St. John (1st) = George Brewes, Esq.
 daughter of Sir Edward St. John,
 Knight; died 24th August, 1333.

¹ Thomas Slyfelde, of Slyfelde,
 resident at Great Bookham in 1522.
 =
^{1a} Ann Weston,
 daughter and co-heir of John
 Weston, of Weston.



Edmond Slyfield sold his reversions to Manors; sold Great Bookham; buried 1st Dec., 1347.

THE SLYFIELD FAMILY.

The first mention of the family appears from the brass (No. I.) in this church with the effigy of the lady.

1. Thomas acquired manors of West Clandon, Weston, and Papworth, by his wife ; was resident at Slyfield in 1522. (Manning and Bray.)
- 1a. Ann. Her father, John Weston, of Weston, died in 1431. (M. and B., iii. 109.)
2. Henry. Manning and Bray (ii. 691) state that he was the younger son ; but elsewhere, that the estates were conveyed to him in fee on 4th June, 1507 : if so, he must have pre-deceased his brother John, who inherited the estates.
3. John died seized of Papworth (Manning and Bray) 21st February, 1529-30. Brass inscription to him and wife, mentioned by M. and B., ii. 700.
4. Lawrence. Placed here on conjecture. Brass at Sende of himself, wife Alys, and three children. (M. and B., iii. 112.)
5. John. Mentioned in will of Henry, proved 1547 (10).
6. Edmond. Two brasses at Great Bookham (Nos. II. and III.). Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex 1582 (brass, and Manning and Bray). Will dated 2nd December, 1590 ; proved in Prerogative Court of Canterbury 5th March, 1590 (18 Sainberbe), by the widow. It commences with the ordinary pious expressions, and paragraph from the book of Job ; and it proceeds to direct burial at Great Bookham in the " same Isle or Chauncell that my predecessours did make & on the South side of the same Isle in such decent & comlie order for the manner of my Funerall as shall seeme good to the discretion of my Executrix & overseers ; & every of them doe cause a marble stone to be laide uppon my grave with twoe pictures of brasse, the one for me, the other for my wife with such children as God has lente us in this lyfe—the sonnes behinde me & the daughters behinde my wyfe."¹ He leaves to his wife Elizabeth for life the Manor of " Westclaverne" with the advowson of the church of West Clandon, and "all the demeanes, woodes, underwoodes, meadowes, pastures, ffeedinges, commons, fines, Rentes, services, amercements, wardes, mariages, herriotts, excheates, Royalties and releifes, with all and singular there appurtenaunces to the same mannor of right belonging, or in anie wyse

¹ See brass, *post*.

appertaininge," charged with £50 per annum to the eldest son Henry. Also the manor of Papworthe, in the parish of Sende, with rights of fishing, hawking, hunting, fowling, &c., charged with £20 to youngest son Henry, and Walter and William each £10. He elsewhere mentions his manors of Slifeild, West Clandon, and Pappworthe, in the parishes of Great Bookham, Fetcham, West Clandon, and Sende, and directs his executors not to pull down or deface any manner of wainscot or glass in or about his house of Slifeilde. If Henry, the eldest son, leave no issue male, the manors and lands are to go to Henry, the youngest son; the possessor being charged with annuities of 20 marks per annum to Henry, the youngest, £10 to Walter, and £10 to William.

He leaves to Henry, the youngest son, a silver basin and ewer after the death of his wife, and "also one longe cloke of silk grograine laide with parchement lace, & one new black satten dublett, all which saide apparell" are to be delivered presently.

To son Walter "my black velvett dublett & paire of hose of wrought velvett, my best night gowne, my best hatt, fower of my best shirtes & my best riding Cloake."

To son William "my coate of Tuftaffatie & a shorte cloke of rashe, laide with parchement lace."

To son-in-law, Edward Skeete, "one shorte Cloake, called the Dutch cloke, of Black Damaske furred with squirrell, faced with caliber, & garded with velvett."

To Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, £40, "but she not to trouble molest or disquiett my saide wyfe, her mother, my executrix;" otherwise the legacy to be void.

To daughter Audrey, wife of Edward Skeete, after her mother's decease, a silver-gilt cruse and cover, and a covered silver jug, all gilt; and then to her son John.

To grandson Edmond one of his great bowls of silver.

To his grand-daughters Elizabeth and Dennis £40 each, with survivorship, if dying under eighteen.

To godson Edmund Brown another of such bowls; and to each other godson bearing his name, 2s.

Rest of wearing apparel to servants.

Residue to his wife.

Appoints wife sole executrix, and as overseers his eldest son Henry, and Edward Skeete, with 40s. each.

It is witnessed by Edward Skeete, Georg Hodshon, Clarke, and John Warden.

Then follows a memorandum, dated 20th January, 1590-1, directing that if the younger Henry die before receiving the gold chain, it is to be divided between Walter and William, and grandson Edmond, or the survivors of them.

"Item: for the celebracion of my ffunerall my will is further that there be a sermonde appointed for the same."

It only further leaves mourning to the family and servants.

The will was proved by Elizabeth, the widow, on the 5th March, 1590-1.

He was a witness to, and appointed supervisor of, will of (his cousin ?) John, of East Clandon (7), 1584. Died 13th February, 1590. (Brass.)

- 6a. Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Lambert, of Carshalton, Esq., executrix of will of husband (6), which she proved 5th March, 1590-1.

Descent, &c., in brasses to her husband (6) and self (Nos. II. and III.).

Will dated 18th October, 1597, proved with a codicil in Commissary Court 8th November, 1597, by eldest son, Henry : mentions eldest and youngest sons (both) named Henry ; and Walter, and his daughters Dennis and Elizabeth : and daughters Edmonds, Browne (and her son Edmond), Younge, and Mabell.

Aged 77 (mural brass, with inscription to her husband and self, and one in floor to her alone).

7. John. Placed here on conjecture. Will dated 18th May, 1584, proved in Commissary Court 2nd June, 1587 (original will, 93), by son James ; mentions sons William, Edward, James, Thomas, and John ; appoints cousin Edmond Slyfield, of Slyfield, Esq., probably (6), and brother John, supervisors. Edmund Slyfield, and John Slyfield, of Byfleet, are two witnesses.
8. John. Witness to will of his brother of same name (7), 1584. His will is dated 4th May, 1594, and proved in Commissary Court on 5th November, 1596, by son John (28). Mentions son John's son John (42) ; Edward of Effingham, son of Edward of Ockham.
9. Henry Slyfelde, clerk, and parson of West Clandon.

His will, without date, but proved in the Prerogative Court 2nd November, 1547 (41 Pynnyng), after the usual pious commendation of his soul, directs his burial in the chancel of his said church, "at the right corner of the high aulter ; & to have a stone layd upon the grave, of the price of xxvj^s viij^d. And the Clerke to have for digging and making of the grave xx^d:" and if Robert Butt chance to be then clerk, he is also "to have my old short black gowne with the lynyng therin, to make him a coote, slyved wth all ; & that my overseers see that it be made fully to his back before they deliver him his xx^d for his grave digging. Also I give to the same Robert Butt" the rest of the apparel, and girdle, and purse with v^d in money in it.

He leaves to his brother Edward, of Ripley, xi^s, to his servant, John Slifelde, xl^s, and John's sister Alice xl^s, and small amounts to one man and two other women servants ; to every one of his godechildren iij^d ; to Margaret Butt, his godechild, or to her mother, to give to which child she will, "megg my cowe," and a draper clothe. The residue to cousin John Slifelde, brother of Edmond, who is appointed executor.

He directs that on the day of burial there be said xv masses, and on the months day xv more ; and to be bestowed in alms-deeds for the health of his soul at the discretion of the executor. The overseers are " M^r Edmund Slifeld Esquier," " M^r John Alnton, persone of Maroy" (Merrow), and " Nicholas But of this parish," with xii^d each.

The Rev. J. Wenham, the present rector of West Clandon, states that there is no stone remaining bearing any legible inscription which would accord with the directions in the will. He has also kindly searched the parish register-book, but without finding mention of his predecessor, or of the family.

- 9*. Edward, of Ripley ; mentioned in will of Henry, of West Clandon (9), 1547.
10. Henry erected brasses (Nos. II. and III.) to his parents (6 and 6a). Executor of will of mother (6a), 1597 : mentioned in father's (6) will, 1590, and appointed an overseer. Brass to him (No. IV.). He died 1598, aged 56.
- 10a. Elizabeth (Manning and Bray), mentioned in will of mother-in-law (6a), 1597.
Brass to her and husband (10), No. III. She married 2nd Henry Vincent, Esq., but survived him, and lived till 1638. (M. and B., iii. 54.)
11. Walter, mentioned with two daughters, Dennis and Elizabeth, both then under 18, in will of father (6), 1590, and in will of mother (6a), 1597.
12. William, mentioned in father's (6) will, 1590.
13. Henry (youngest), mentioned in father's (6) will, 1590 ; mentioned in will of mother (6a), 1597.
14. Brasses to parents (6 and 6a) mention a 5th son.
15. Elizabeth Younge, mentioned in will of father (6), 1590 ; mentioned in will of mother (6a), 1594.
16. Audrey Skeete, wife of Edward. Had son named John, mentioned in father's (6) will, 1590, of which her husband was appointed an overseer, and was an attesting witness.
17. Browne, mentioned in will of mother (6a), 1597 ; as also her son Edmund.
18. Edmonds, mentioned in will of mother (6a), 1597.
19. Mabell, mentioned in will of mother (6a), 1597 ; apparently then unmarried.
20. Wicliffe. Her son Edmund mentioned in father's will (6), 1590.
21. Brass to 6 mentions five other daughters.
22. Edmund. Witness to will of brother James (23), 1599 ; mentioned in will of father, John (7), 1584.
23. James. An executor of will of father, John (7), 1584. Nuncupative will, dated 18th November, 1599 ; proved in Commissary Court (original will, 1599, 277) on 20th March, 1599-1600, by Agnes, his widow. It mentions five children, but not by name. His brother Edmund (22) is one of the witnesses.

24. Thomas. Executor appointed by will of father, John (7); living when it was proved in 1587.
25. William. Mentioned in will of father, John (7), 1584.
26. John. Probably mentioned as servant to Henry in his will, 1547 (9). Mentioned in will of father, John (7), 1584.
27. Alice. Apparently here mentioned in will of Henry, 1547 (9).
28. John, of Pirford. Mentioned in will of father (8), 1594. His will, dated 21st April, 1640, and proved in Commissary Court on 10th September, 1640 (247, Harding), by Mary, his widow, mentions children John, Mary, Jone, Edward, and Nicholas, also cousin John, probably (26).
29. George. Will dated 9th January, 1639, proved 2nd April, 1640, in Commissary Court (109, Harding), by son John (49); mentions wife Susan and children George, Henry, John, and Anne; speaks of houses at Effingham and Pirford: directs burial at Pirford.
30. Henry. Probably of this family. Will proved in Commissary Court 20th May, 1648 (480, Harding), by Elizabeth, his widow; mentions children Elizabeth and John, both minors.
- 30*. Edward, son of Edward of Ripley. Mentioned in will of Henry of Clandon (9), 1547.
31. Edmond (Manning and Bray), buried at Great Bookham 1st December, 1647. (Parish Register.) Mentioned in grandfather's will (6), 1590.
- 32 to 36. Five other sons, appearing on the brass of Henry (10).
37. Elizabeth. Mentioned in will of grandmother (6*a*), 1597.
- 38, 39, 40. Three other daughters mentioned in brass of Henry (10).
41. Five children of James (23), mentioned in his will, 1599.
- 42 to 46. John, Mary, Jone, Nicholas, Edward. Will of their father, John (28), 1640: all minors.
- 47 to 50. George, Henry, John, and Anne. Will of their father, George (29); Anne (probably) mentioned in will of Henry (30), 1648.
- 51, 52. Elizabeth and John. Will of their father, Henry (30), proved 1648, both being then minors.

There is also Edward of Ockham, yeoman, mentioned, though not as a relative, by John of Byfleet (8), 1596, as being then dead; as also his son Edward, of Effingham, husbandman.

There is also a Matthew Slyfeild, of Hillesly, in the parish of Hawkesbury, Gloucestershire, gentleman, who by will, dated 20th July, 1626, and proved 26th January, 1626-7, bequeaths his whole property to his brother John. (Prerog. 3 Skinner.)