

SHERE AND ITS RECTORS.

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“SHERE,” says Aubrey (*Hist. Surr.*, Vol. iv, p. 42, *et seq.*), “is so called from the clearness of the stream here. Here is an extraordinary good Parsonage house of old timber building, encompass’d about with a large and deep mote, which is full of fish. The tradition runs that this house was built on wooll-packs, in the same manner as Our Lady’s Church at Salisbury; that is, it is like enough some tax might be laid on wooll-packs towards the building of it.” The old Parsonage-house is gone, and has given place to the modern one on higher ground; the pond has become a meadow, but retained to the last its fame for good fish; and the stream which Aubrey says was “famous for good trouts,” still abounds with them.

His derivation of Shere is unintelligible. The word is the same as “shire,” a division, locally pronounced “shere;”¹ and Manning is probably right when he derives the name from “shire,” a division or separation, the parish or manor having formerly included Cranleigh and Gumshall as well, and having been in later times “sheared off” or separated from them. In Domesday it is written “Essira,” at which time it was held by the

¹ The common people, in speaking of a stranger, invariably say, “He came from the ‘sheres,’” meaning the shires.

King in demesne. The manor was divided, in the reign of Edward I, on the distribution of the estates of Richard FitzGeoffrey, at his death in 1297, among his sisters, and became known henceforth as Shere Vachery (which belonged in turn to the Butlers, Earls of Ormond,¹ the Touchets, Lord Audley, and, subsequently, to the Brays, in whose family it still remains) and Shere Eboracum, so called from the Latinized name of Richard, Duke of York. This also came to the Brays in 1547, was afterwards sold by them, and repurchased in 1771. To us, as Members of the Surrey Archæological Society, Shire will always have an interest, as having been the birth-place and abode of William Bray, the Surrey historian; and before giving a short sketch of his life, a few words about his family may not be out of place. A very full pedigree will be found in Manning and Bray's *History of Surrey* (Vol. i, 522), starting with a certain Sir Robert Bray, of Northamptonshire, father of Sir James, living *temp.* Richard I. From them descended Sir Reginald Bray,² Kt., who, upon the attainder of James, Lord Audley, in 1497, had a grant from the king of the Manor of Shere. He was the eldest son of Sir Richard Bray, of Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, and was born at St. John Bedwardyn, near Worcester. He was a man of great distinction, and held various offices under the crown. In 1494, he was High Steward of Oxford; he was keeper of the parks of Guilford and Henley for life; was a P.C.; and, shortly after 1500, was made Knight of the Garter. The Bray Chapel, in St. George's, Windsor, is known as his work, and his device, the hemp-breaker, may be seen on the ceiling and elsewhere.

¹ It came to them by the marriage of Joan, one of the sisters and coheirs of Richard FitzGeoffrey, with Theobald le Botiler. (For the Will of James, Earl of Ormond, see further on, p. 223.) There was at one time in the church, on a marble gravestone on the north side of the High Altar, this inscription, to one of the family, "Hic jacet Anna, filia Comitiss d'Ormond, quæ obiit IV die Januar, Anno Dni. MCCCCXXXV."

² In the Will of Sir Henry Stafford (ob. 1481), second husband of Margaret, Countess of Richmond, he bequeaths to 'Reynold Bray,' his receiver-general, his grizzled horse.

He died in 1503, without issue, and was succeeded here by his nephew Edmund, who was summoned to Parliament as Lord Bray, and who, in 1535, conveyed the estate to his brother, Sir Edward Bray, Kt. Sir Edward was Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1537, Constable of the Tower of London, and, in the first year of Queen Mary, he represented the county of Surrey in Parliament, and, dying in 1558, was succeeded by Sir Edward Bray, his son. The latter sold a considerable portion of the estates, and, dying on the 8th, was buried at Shire on the 10th May, 1581, being the first of the name that I can find who was buried in this church.

From him the estate passed in regular succession to Edward Bray, baptized here in 1687, who married Ann, daughter of George Duncumb, Rector of Shire, and died in 1739. He left three sons, of whom William Bray, the historian, was the youngest; but as both of his brothers died without issue he ultimately succeeded to the estate.

William Bray was born here, and baptized on 7th November, 1736. The entry from the Parish Register of Baptisms is the following: "William, son of Mr. Edward Bray, Nov. 7, 1736." He was educated at Rugby, and after leaving there was articled to a Mr. Martyr, an attorney at Guildford; about 1761, he obtained the office of a Clerk of the Board of Green-cloth; in 1771, he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and contributed several papers to the *Archæologia*, and in 1803 was elected treasurer of that society. At the age of seventy-eight, he edited, from the original MSS. at Wotton, *Evelyn's Memoirs*, a work which by itself would have secured for him a reputation. His principal work, of course, was the *History of Surrey*, which he undertook when the Rev. Owen Manning, the original compiler, became blind: the first volume appeared in 1804; the second in 1809; and the third in 1814.

Among the many excellent county histories, it deservedly holds a high place, and commands a large price. Some idea of Mr. Bray's diligence may be

gathered from his statement in the Preface to the Second Volume, "that there was not a parish described in it which he had not visited, and only two churches the insides of which he had not seen, and the monuments in which he had not personally examined, once at least, but to many he made repeated visits." He was not slow, either, to avail himself of the services of competent antiquaries in the county, and to Mr. Glover, a solicitor at Reigate, he was indebted for a large amount of information. When Mr. Manning was obliged to abandon the work, only part of the first volume was completed, so that to Mr. Bray we are in the main indebted for this valuable history; fresh sources of information have been opened out since his time; but his history will always remain as the groundwork from which to start in studying the antiquities of this county. He lived to the ripe age of ninety-seven and died on the 21st December, 1832, universally respected. The burial entry from the Parish Register is as follows: "1832, William Bray, Esq., Shere, Dec. 29, 97 years." There is a tablet to his memory in the church, on the south wall of the south chancel aisle.

By the kindness of the Rector, I have had full access to the Parish Registers. The earliest books that are now to be found commence for baptisms, burials, and marriages, in 1691; and it is clear that for some time no earlier books have been known. Manning and Bray's *History* states that the Register commences 20th August, 1545, and it is certain, from the entries given to illustrate the pedigree, that Mr. Bray had access to this early book. I am loth to believe that, having survived until such recent times, it can be altogether lost; may it not be possibly among Mr. Bray's documents, or in the depths of the parish chest in the south porch, which I opened somewhat hastily on my visit. At any rate, I trust that one of the effects of the visit of our Society will be to stimulate inquiry into the whereabouts of the missing book; and if it should by any chance be recovered our visit to the place will not have been in vain. The present books are in capital preservation and have been well kept by successive Rectors, but beginning late, and

missing the period of the Civil Wars, they are singularly devoid of interest, and have no entries which specially help to illustrate the parochial history of Shere. There are several entries of the Bray family, the earliest being the baptism of Mary, the daughter of Edward Bray, Esq., on the 23rd May, 1692; of the Duncumb family, members of which were successively Rectors from 1691 till 1815; of the Lomax family, who lived at Netley Place, in the parish; and of the Husseys, of Sutton Place, one of whom married with the Brays.¹ The surnames are those which are of common occurrence in many Surrey villages: Mellish, Kelsey, Chitty, Boora, Dolling, Loveland. The names of Haybeettle, Ventrice, and Coe, occur frequently and are peculiar. The good old yeomen names of Evershed and Whapshot are not wanting.

The Christian names are all ordinary ones, with the exception of Damaris and Zelotes. "*Zelotes* Baxe, a pauper, buried Aug. 24, 1743," may have descended from a family of that name who owned lands in Ockley in 1694.

These references to the Registers may fitly close with one in some sense historical: "1878. Jan. 3. Harriet Grote. Aged 86." She was the widow of the historian, and passed the last years of her life at "The Ridgeway," in this parish.

There is an interesting book of churchwardens' accounts of the time of Henry VII. Several extracts are given from it in Manning, but it deserves to be printed in full, and is worthy of a place in our Society's volumes.²

I may here insert the Will of James le Boteler, 2nd Earl of Ormond, from those at Lambeth (*Courtenay*, 217). It is in Latin, and dated at Vachery, in this parish, the last day of August, 1379, and was proved on 28th April, 1386, by James Boteler, his son and heir, one of the Executors named in the Will. He bequeaths his soul to God and to the Blessed Virgin; his body to be buried in

¹ These entries will be found at length in the *Appendix*.

² To have printed it on the present occasion would have occupied too much space.

the Church of Schyre, if it shall fortune him to die in England.¹ He leaves all his gold and silver vessels, and his wardrobe, to Elizabeth, his wife,² and to James, his son, and his heirs male; all his corn and stock to his unmarried sons and daughters; all his money and debts, and those owing for provisions in divers counties throughout Ireland, to be at the disposal of his Executors. He wills that James, his son and heir, in compensation for the vessels bequeathed to him, shall enfeoff his sons, Thomas and Maurice, in all the lands purchased by himself; affixes his seal, and appoints his wife Elizabeth, his son James, and John de Kyngefeild, Executors, and his loving kinsmen, William, Bishop of London,³ and Nicholas, Abbot of Westminster, overseers.

There is a brass to Robert Scarelif in the chancel. It is in good preservation, and gives a good example of a priest's vestments at that date. He was Rector of Shere, and died on the 25th October, 1412, as appears by the inscription. His Will is in the Archiepiscopal Palace at Lambeth (Arundel MSS., Vol. ii, p. 159), and, together with those of some of the other Rectors, is of considerable interest, both in relation to the parish and to the bequests which they contain. I give them here in order.

The earliest Rector whose Will I find is that of Robert Sekynton, instituted 8th February, 1380: continued rector until 1390. It is dated 23rd July, 1390, 14 Rich. II, and was proved 26th August, 1390,⁴ by William Sekynton. He describes himself as Rector of the Church

¹ He died, however, at his Castle of Knocktopher, in Ireland, on 18th October, 1382, and was buried in the Cathedral of St. Canice, Kilkenny.

² She was daughter of John, Lord d'Arcy, and remarried Sir Robert Herford.

³ William Courtenay, translated from Hereford, 12th September, 1375, Chancellor of England. Archbishop of Canterbury, 9th September, 1381. The Earl of Ormond was related to him in this way: his mother was Eleanor, second daughter of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, by Elizabeth, Countess of Holland, seventh daughter of Edward I. Her elder sister, Margaret de Bohun, was the wife of Hugh Courtenay, 2nd Earl of Devon, the father of the Archbishop—hence they were first cousins.

⁴ P.C.C., fol. 6 Rous.

of Shire, co. Surr.; bequeaths his soul to Almighty God and to the Blessed Virgin, and to all the Saints, and his body to be buried in the Church or Cloister of St. Martin's-le-grand, London (but he alters this, by a codicil, to St. Martin's Orgar). To the fabric of the church, 40s.; to each vicar, 20d.; to each clerk of the college, 12d.; to each chorister, 6d. He bequeaths to the fabric of his Church of Shere, 10 quarters of barley; to his brother, William Sekynton, his two best cloaks,¹ one of calaber² and the other of otes,³ and his dagger tipped with silver. To Joan, his brother's wife, 2 cloaks, one of calaber and the other of popyl,⁴ and one pane (*i.e.*, piece) of rabbit-skins for the covering of a bed,⁵ and all my linen and cloths for everything.⁶ To John Sekynton, his brother's son, C^s, his bed with scalop, 1 quilt, and 1 pair of sheets. To Margaret, his sister, 13 silver spoons and 1 bed of his, a red one, with curtains and furniture, 1 pair of sheets and 1 quilt, and 40s. sterling. To Agnes, daughter of his brother William, 1 bed, with 1 quilt, 1 pair of sheets, with its small curtains and furniture, and 40s. To every other child of his brother, 40s. If all the children of his brother die under age, or before marriage, then all the aforesaid goods to be disposed for his soul and for the souls of his parents, or in deeds of charity. To Joan, his kinswoman, daughter of John Sekynton, his brother, 1 bed, 1 pair of sheets, 1 quilt, and 20s., and one service of pewter.⁷ To John, apprentice of his brother William, one garnish and 6s. 8d. To Roger, his servant, a Frenchman? (Francestr), 40s. The residue to his executors, to bestow for his soul. Executors: William Sekynton, his brother, and William Weston, Esq. Dated at London. Codicil, 18th August.

The next Will is that of John Walter⁸ (a nuncupatory

¹ Furrura; *see* Prompt. Parv. in verbo.

² A kind of fur. ³ Otters' skin.

⁴ Calaber, a kind of fur. Popyl is not given in Halliwell's Archaic Dictionary or in Prompt Parv.

⁵ Pane de cuniculis pro cooptura lecti.

⁶ Totam meam napiam scilicet mappale in omnibus.

⁷ Garniamentum, a garnish or service of pewter.

⁸ P.C.C., 13 Marche.

Will). He was instituted to Shere, 2nd October, 1390. It is dated 19th March, 1406, and was proved 15th April, 1407. John Walter, Rector, as he asserted, of the Parish Church of Shiere, diocese of Winchester, bequeaths his soul to Almighty God, his most glorious Creator, to the Virgin Mary his mother, and to all the Saints; his body to be buried in the chancel of the Church of Shire before the image of Saint James; bequeaths all his blocks or hewn stones lying about the manse of his Rectory to the repair of the steps before the high altar of the church, and all his planks or boards, called Estrichesbordes,¹ at his Rectory, to the repair of the ceiling of the high chancel of the church. Also he willed that his executors should make of his goods a broach of silver, with an image of St. James graven on it,² to serve for a new cope in the same Church of St. James as long as it might last. He bequeaths to Alice, daughter of John Bythurst, of Shere, 6s. 8d. to her marriage. Residue of his goods to Master John Cranche, Rector of the Church of St. Mary Magdalen, in Milk Street, London; to John Den, Rector of Horsley;³ and Robert Porter, junior, to celebrate for his soul.

The next in order is that of Robert Sawclif (or Scarclif). It is in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth (Arundel MSS., Vol. ii, p. 159), in Latin, and of great length, and highly interesting. He describes himself as Robert Sawclif, Parson of the Church of Schyre, 14 May, 1412; his body to be buried in the chancel of Schire Church, to the south-west of the tomb of Master John Walter;⁴ directs that his bier, or the coffin placed on it, should be covered with black cloth, containing 24 yards, to be given after his funeral to his

¹ Deal boards imported from the Eastern Counties (Halliwell, Arch. Dict.).

² Item voluit et ordinavit quod executores sui fieri facerent de bonis suis unum "firmaculum" sive unum "nouche" de argento cum una ymagine beati Jacobi sculpta in eodem ad deserviendum pro quadam nova capa in eadem ecclesia sancti Jacobi quamdiu illud ad hoc durare voluerit.

³ John Dean was instituted to West Horsley, 13th September, 1390.

⁴ The same whose Will has just been given.

poor parishioners to pray for his soul and the souls of all his benefactors ; orders two torches of 5 lbs. each to be kept burning, one at the head and the other at the foot of the tomb, and no more ; to the poor as much bread as will be made out of 4 quarters of wheat ; to 7 poor householders, 2 bushels of wheat, 2 of mixed corn, 2 of barley, and 2 of bere-corn to sow their land with ; to the Church of Shere his red vestment of cloth of gold with cope, chasuble, 2 tunicles, 3 dalmatics with 3 amices, 3 girdles and 1 corporas worked with roses, with all the furniture for the altar ; to the same church his new ordinal and his new processionar. To Winchester Cathedral, 3s. 4d. ; to the Chapel of Swanwich his cope of blue cloth of gold, worked with falcons of gold, with orphreys embroidered with tabernacle work and images of gold, of the value of 10 mares, that the parishioners may pray for him every Lord's day ; to the Church of Worth a vestment of blue cloth of gold worked with large birds of gold, containing a chasuble lined with green card, a white cope with an orphrey of red velvet embroidered with a star of gold, and a girdle with a frontell of the same cloth ; to the Church of Sawclyf¹ his cope of black satin embroidered with garters ; his painted picture for the altar, with a representation of the Trinity, the Blessed Mary, and St. Christopher, in four divisions, to stand at the principal altar of the blessed Mary in the Church of Shere. Then follow several bequests of books. A book of the miracles of the Blessed Virgin, worth 26s. 8d. ; book of St. Paul's Epistles, well annotated, worth 53s. 4d. ; 13s. 4d. to Wm. Wilford, to pray specially for his soul ; to the Charter House, London, of which he was a brother, 13s. 4d. ; to John London, a monk of Westminster, 13s. 4d. ; to John Downer, his servant, 10 mares, for his good and long service, to be paid either in money or in goods, and a long gown, lined, with a cape ; to thirteen poor sick

¹ Probably his native place. I can find no such place ; but there is a place in Derbyshire called Scarlif, which would almost correspond with his name on the brass, supposing that the "c" has been read as "e."

parishioners of Schyr, to each of them 2 bushels of wheat and $\frac{1}{2}$ a bushel of mixed corn ; to his kinsman, Thomas, his little portable mass book, and a book of Chronicles written in French ; to John Downer his old Psalter, with the hymnary noted at the end of it ; to his Chaplain, who shall be living with him at his death, 6s. 8d., besides his quarter's salary ; to the fabric of his church a quarter of barley ; to his friend, the parson of West Horsley, a small book of his entitled "Abstinence," praying him at times to have his soul in remembrance in his prayers. His body to be buried in the ordinary way, without any priestly ceremonial. His funeral expenses to be without any extravagance. The residue of his goods to be sold and distributed amongst poor old couples burdened with large families ; to poor maids for their marriage ; and to find a honest priest to sing for his soul for a year, and longer, if possible, in the Church of Schyr. Appoints John Golfore, his kinsman, an executor, and bequeaths to him his silver bowl with a cover ; Thomas Sawclif, his kinsman, another executor, and leaves him his best horse ; and John Downer his second best horse ; his friend, William Sedneye (probably William Sidney, of Baynard), supervisor. Proved by Thomas Sawclif and William Savage, 28th October, 1412.

John Pope. Will dated 30th January, 1475. Proved 8th (month blank), 1475. Master John Pope, professor of divinity, canon residentiary of Wells Cathedral, and Rector of the Parish Church of Shur, bequeaths his soul to Almighty God, the blessed Mary, St. Andrew, St. James, and all the Saints, his body to be buried in the Parish Church of St. Gregory, by St. Paul's, London ; to the fabrick of St. Gregory's, 6s. 8d. ; and for his burial there, 6s. 8d. to be given to every priest and clerk being present at his funeral and at mass on the day of his burial, according to the discretion of John Myll, one of his executors ; a like distribution to be made to all being present in Wells Cathedral at mass there for the safety of his soul. His missal, not yet wholly written and completed, to be sold, and the money thence arising to be distributed between John Tylar and Richard Bothy. To William Mysent, 40s.,

a pair of fustians, and a pair of sheets. To Richard Sadler, a pair of blankets and a pair of sheets. To Master John Cautewell, a bowl called a Bolle pea.¹ To Master William Pope, his kinsman, a silver and gilt cup; his executors to sell 6 silver spoons, and to distribute the money thence arising among the poor parishioners of Hens-tirgge;² his chalice and one breviary to the Church of St. Decuman; residue to Richard Swanne and Master John Hylle, whom he appoints executors, for them to dispose of it for the good of his soul; administration to Richard Swanne, clerk, in the person of John Hyll, his Chaplain.

John Banaster was instituted in 1480. His Will is dated the 21st February, 1516. He describes himself as John Banaster, Clerk and Parson of Shere. Bequeaths his soul to Almighty God, our lady Saynt Mary, and to all the holy company of hevyn. Body to be buried at the ffriers prechors at the towne of Guldeforde. To the place of the said ffriers xxⁱⁱ—for the reparation of the said place £6:13s. 4d. To every ffrier of said place, being a priest, 13^s 4^d, the residue to Venables, the prior of the said place. To the moder church of Winchester, 2^s; to the Church of Chichester, 2^s; to Robert Banaster, his nevewe, xlⁱⁱ. To “my lord of Surrey,”³ a cuppe of silver gilte, with a cover. To Sir John Legh of Stockwell, K^t, a cuppe of silver and gilte, with a cover. Residue of goods to “my lord of Surrey,” whom he makes sole Executor. To Sir Xpofer ffeldon, priest, to syng at Gylford there as his body shall lye by the space of 2 years, for the helth of his soule, xiiiⁱⁱ. Proved at Lambeth, 14th July, 1516.

John Pyttis (21 Alenger). He was instituted 17th November, 1518. Will dated 15th March, 1539; proved 26th January, 1540-41; describes himself as Master John Pytts, person of Shere; bequeaths his soul to Almighty God, our lady S^t. Mary, and to all the company of hevyn; his body to be buried in the chauncell before the Sacrament

¹ “1 craterem vocat a Bolle pea.”

² Henstridge, co. Somerset.

³ Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, afterwards 3rd Duke of Norfolk.

of the highe aulter, between two marbell stones in the Church of Seynt James of Sheer; his executors to provide a marble stone to be laid upon him; appoints at the day of his burying xv masses, and at his monethe day xv masses, to be songen in the Church of Seynt James of Sheere; "and every priest that cometh to say masse shall have vi^d and his dyner at the daie of my burying, and at my moneth daye in like maner, and the poor people that comyth to the Church of Sheere, praying for my soule and all christian souls, shall have meate and drinke, and i^d to every poor man, woman, and childe at the daye of my burying, and at the daie of my moneth the poor people shall have meate and drinke that comyth to the Church of Sheere to pray for my soule." Annes Gatton, my servant, to have a longe gowne, i.e., my second gowne and 40s., a cowe, 2 heyffrs, and a sowe with farowe. Richard Gatton, my servant, 20s., and every one of my godchildren, 5s. "Also I bequeath to the making of a crosse to the Church of Seynt James of Sheere, tenne poundes in the honor of God, and our Lady, and Seynt James, and all the company of hevyn." Executors, Robert Lawrence, Thomas Gatton, his servant, and Sir Richard Berdesley, his Curate, they to receive 5l. of William Rysbrydger, and to deal it to the poor. Executors and overseers to find a priest one twelvemonth, he to have 20 nobles for his wages for one whole year, if so be his executors have the debts owing to him of the Parson of Wobstone, S^r Thos. Wele. "I will the Clerk of Sheer and the Sexteyne have for their pains 12d. a pece at my burying, and as much at my moneths mynde to pray for my soule." M^r Thomas Stydolfe, Esquire, and Richard Hill, gentilman, overseers, and to them 3l. apece. Witnesses, Sir R. Berdysley, Curate, and Thomas Chapman, his servant, and to them 3s. 4d. apece, praying for his soule.

Robert Peterson, instituted 21st March, 1543-1544. Will dated 18th January, 1554. Proved 14th May, 1555. Clarke and Treasurer of the Cathedral Church of Chichester. "My body I bequeath to the earth, there to be humate without greate pompe or solemnitie other than

prayer, which I most heartily desire all Christian people of their charitie to make and effunde for my soul to the blessed trinitie and father of all, in whom is all my affyaunce and trust." Executor to distribute in alms at the day of his interment, at his month and twelvemonth mind, or as neare to them as may be, to such poore needfull people and householders as he shall think best, 15l., to be equally divided, so that he make no common dole, neither give his alms to valiant beggars, but only to impotent, aged persons. To every Canon residentiary of the Cathedral being present at his obsequies three days, for every day 2s.; to every prebendary, as well of the old as of Bishop Sherborne's foundation, 20d.; to the Subdean, 6s. 8d.; to eight Vicars choral, 16d.; to every other priest coming to dirige and saying mass, 12d.; to other 8 lay Clerks, 8d.; to every chorister, to the number of eight, 6d.; to my own chorister, 3s. 4d. "The Sextons and Ringers to ring solemnly for me at my departure at dirige mass and burial, and to ring the great bell one whole hour between 7 and 8 of the clock every night between my burial and my month's day, to the intent that the hearers thereof may of their charity pray to God to have mercy on my soul, and I give them 20s. I will there to be made 4 solemn sermons within the Cathedral of Chichester by one catholick preacher, to the honour of God, the preacher to have 53s. 4d. Brother William Peterson. To John Randall, his scholar at Oxford, 20l.; to poor of Estborne, in Sussex, 66s. 8d.; to poor of Lewes and Southover, the same; to the poor people of Shere, the same. "A mass to be sung for my soul and all Christian souls at one altar nigh unto my burial every day by the space of forty days; he that celebrateth every day to have 6d.; the mass to be done before 7 of the clock in the morning. Every servant, chorister, executor, overseer, and verger to have a black coat, as I suppose to the number of 26 or 28 yards in all. I will there be provided 6 torch 'stanses'¹ and 6 poor men to bear them, which 6 persons shall have every one of

¹ ? Standards.

them a long gown of black fryes¹ and 12d. in money. Item, I will to have 12 tapers borne of 12 poor women or men, and every of them to have 6d. a piece for their labours." To the Cathedral Church of Chichester 100 marks, a cross of silver, a pair of candlesticks of silver, a pair of censers of silver, a pair of cruets of silver, and a pax of silver. Residue to well beloved brother, William Peterson, merchant, in London. Executor, Mr. Richard Brisley, Clerk, Archdeacon of Lewes, to whom he gives 40s. and his ring of gold, with a sapphire. Overseers, William Barcomb, of Chichester, and Thomas Adams, his servant, to either of them 10l. and a gelding, with saddles and bridles."

This finishes the list of Wills of the early Rectors; they are singularly complete, and show that the successive Rectors of Shere were persons of some consideration. The living was held by members of the Duncumb family in succession, from 1659 until 1843, a circumstance hardly to be met with, I should think, in the history of any other parish. It is worthy of notice that, both in the Wills of John Walter and John Pyttis, St. James is mentioned as the patron saint of Shere, which proves that the church was dedicated, as Manning says, to St. James, and not, as is now commonly supposed, to St. Giles.

From these Wills I pass to one of a humble individual, a yeoman of the place, John Risbrydger, which I came across by accident, being attracted by the name which I knew to be a Surrey one. There are two entries of the name in the Parish Register, and it is still a common one in parts of Surrey.² William Risbridger, probably the son of this man, and whom he mentions in his Will, purchased the manor of Shere Eboracum in 1609. This Will is dated 27th October, 1562. He describes himself as John Risbridger of Shere, yeoman, sicke of bodie and yet walkinge. His body to be buried in Parish Church of Shere "without my seats ende." 1 calf and 2 shepe,

¹ Frieze cloth.

² A William Rysbrydger is mentioned in the Will of John Pyttis, 1539, possibly the father of this man. See page 230.

with sufficient breade and drinke thereunto, to be bestowed and spent at his buriall towards the reliefe of the poore there assembled. To every man and maid servant, 1 ewe shepe; to Alice Stydman, his maid, one herfore (*i.e.*, heifer) bullocke, of two years and 15s.: to his son William all his lease or terme of years in lands called Stonehill, and to him 4 oxen, 2 steares of 3 yeres, 2 horse beastes, a weane (wagon) yoke, cheynes to draw withall, 2 keyne, half a hundreth of shepe. Children, John, William, and Edward. To daughter Dorothee, £6:13s. 4d.; all residue to wife Katherine. Proved 3rd May, 1564, by William Risbridger. This Will is interesting, as giving the number of stock and implements which a husbandman of that date kept upon his farm.

I shall conclude this paper by giving all the extracts from the Parish Registers which appear to me to be of interest, as tending to illustrate the history of the several families who were connected with the place.

The first book commences thus: "The Registers of all the Children from time to time Baptised in the Parish of Shere, in the County of Surrey, first began in y^e Thirty Third yere of Thomas Duncumb, D. in Divinity, his being Rector of the sayd Parish, and in the Third yere of y^e Reign of our most Gracious Sovereigne Lord and Lady King William and Queen Mary, Ann^o D^{mn}. 1691.

Αφθαρτω Βασιλει παντοτε δοξα θεω.

Luce Snelling, daughter of Robert Snelling, was Bapt. 21 June, 1691. (1st entry.)

Mary, daughter of Peter Hussey, Esq., was bapt. 1 Dec., 1695.

Mary, daughter of Thomas Evershed, bapt. Ap. 30, 1729.

Ann, daughter of Thomas Evershed, bapt. Aug. 17, 1733.

Mary, daughter of Thomas Evershed, bapt. May 14, 1736.

John, son of Benjamin Penbyl, Surgeon, bapt. 27 Feb., 1737.

Ann, daughter of Mr. Robert Parkhurst, bapt. Feb. 23, 1741-2.

1761. Thomas, son of Thomas and Ann Duncumb, bapt. Feb. 17.

1762. June 23. Lucy, daughter of Thomas and Ann Duncumb.

1764. Ap. 7. John, son of John and Mary Whapshot.

„ Sep. 20. John, son of Thomas and Ann Duncumb.

1766. Dec. 12. William, son of Thomas and Ann Duncumb.

1769. Dec. 13. Robert, son of Thomas and Ann Duncumb.

1771. Ann, daughter of William and Ann Mansel. May 14.
 „ Sep. 20. George, son of Thomas and Ann Duncumb.
 1773. William, son of William and Ann Mansel. Mar. 21.
 „ Edward and Henry, twin sons of Thomas and Ann Duncumb.
 Aug. 13.
 1774. July 31. James, son of William and Ann Mansel.
 1776. Catherine, daughter of Thomas and Ann Duncumb. May 16.
 1777. July 20. John, son of William and Ann Mansel.
 1778. Ann, daughter of Thomas and Ann Duncumb. Aug. 27.
 „ Lomax, Edmund, son of Edmund Shallet and Catherine
 Frances. 26 Oct.
 1779. Schaw, David George Garrick, son of Frederick Bridges and
 Arabella. Jan^{ry} the 13th.
 1780. Arabella, daughter of do. and do. Jan. 19th.
 1779. Gosling, Tho., son of Thomas and Dinah. May 25. (Note)
 —married, child christened, wife churched the same day,
 by me, Tho^s Duncumb, Rector.
 1780. Lomax, Mary, daughter of Edmund Shallet and Catherine
 Frances. Sep. 27.
 1781. Schaw, Frederick David, son of Frederick Bridges and
 Arabella. Saturday, Ap. 28.
 1782. Henry, son of William and Ann Mansel. Ap. 7th.
 1783. Frederick Shallet, son of Edmund Shallet and Catherine
 Frances Lomax. Mar. 10.
 „ Schaw, John Bridges, son of Frederick Bridges and Arabella.
 May 26.
 „ Thomas, son of James and Sarah Weston. Sep. 28.
 Oct. 2. 1783. This day a duty of 3^d takes place on the christening
 of any and every child baptized, except of such of the Poor
 as receive relief from the parish, the duty to be received by
 the officiating minister.
 1784. Lomax, Frances Mary, daughter of Edmund Shallet and
 Catherine Frances. June 14th.
 1785. Laura Augusta Susannah, daughter of do. and do. Dec. 2.
 „ Milly, daughter of William and Ann Mansell. May 29th.
 1787. Henry Robert, son of Edmund Shallet and Catherine Frances
 Lomax. June 6.
 1799. Duncumb, Thomas-Edward and Eliza-Anne. See A.D. 1805.
 1805. Duncumb, Thomas Edward, son of John and Ann (of
 Hereford), born March, 1799; christened 19 Nov., 1805.
 Eliza-Anne, daughter of John and Ann (of Hereford),
 born August, 1800; christened 19 Nov., 1805.
 1806. Duncumb, Edward, son of George and Sarah. Nov. 10th.
 1807. Duncumb, Hester, daughter of Edward and Hester. Sep. 30th.

2^d BOOK, 1813—1834.

1818. July 27. Elizabeth Lucy, daughter of Thomas and Sarah
 Duncumb, Clerk.

1822. Bap. 4 Jan. 1820, but omitted to be registered : Jane, daughter of do. and do.
1822. Edward Charles, son of Edward and Esther Duncumb, of Dorking, Artist. Oct. 1st ; 13 years old when baptized.
- „ Oct. 1. Elizabeth Emma, daughter of do. and do. 11 years old when baptized.
- „ Oct 1. George, son of Thomas and Sarah Duncumb, Clerk.
1825. June 26. Richard, son of Richard and Lucy Gales, gentleman.
1828. Catherine Harriett, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Duncumb, Clerk ; 8 months old when baptized. Oct. 19.
1832. Sarah Catherine Isabella, daughter of William Hay, Esq., Capt. in Arms, and Mrs. Sarah, his wife. Jan. 8.
1833. July 12. Cernilia Frederica Hester De Mille, daughter of the late Reverend Frederick Shallett Lomax and Augusta Lomax, his wife. Born at Brussels, Jan. 28, 1829 ; was baptized at Shere, in Co. Surrey, July 12, 1833, by the Rev. Caleb Lomax.

The Register of all the Buryalls in the Parish of Shere first began in the 33^d yeer of Thomas Duncumb, D^r in Divinity, his being Rector of the sayd Parish, and in the year of Our Lord 1691 :—

- Elizabeth Gatton (widow), neer 100 yeeres old, was Buryed 13 of July, 1691. (1st entry.)
- M^{rs} Houghton (widow) was Buryed in linnen and in the Chancel on the 24 April, 1696.
- George, son of George Duncumb, Rector of Albury, was Buryed 18 May, 1700.
- Widow Rowland (old and poor). 18 May, 1701.
- Mrs. Jane Duncumb, widow. 22 Mar. 1701-2.
- Captaine Henry Haughton was Buryed on 17 Jan., 1703-4.
- John, son of Mr. William Didsfold (being an infant). Buried 6 Feb., 1703-4.
- Richard, son of William Didsfold. 17 May, 1706.
- Goodwife Peto, wife of Edward Peto, of Pond. 24 Dec., 1709.
- William Didsfold was Buryed 27 June, 1714.
- Dr. Thomas Duncumb, Rector of Shere, was Buryed July 10, 1714.
- William Didsfold, junior, bur. Ap. 5, 1714. Certificate y^e 6th.
- Elizabeth Nye, an ancient widow. Buried 23 Mar., 1715.
- Mrs. Jane Hobs, of London. Buried Aug. 22 ; the neglect of a certificate notified y^e 30th, 1716.
- John Mellersh, the Parish Clerk, buried Nov. 8, 1717.
1718. Mrs. Mary Burton was Buryed in linnen, Apl. y^e 15, and y^e forfeiture paid.
- Ann, the beloved wife of George Duncumb, Rector, was Burid July y^e 6 ; certificate brought y^e 10, 1718.

1719. Nicholas Coxe (a certificate man). Buried May 28.
 „ Mrs. Elisabeth Diddlefold, widow. Jan. 8, 1719–20.
1722. Mrs. Mary Stevenson, widow. Jan. 11—certificate 16—1723.
1723. The Worshipfull Peter Hussey, Esq., was Buried in Linnen,
 Feb. 5. Paid 50 shillings for y^e poor, March y^e 5, 1724.
1727. Jacob Mellish, of Westminster. June 25.
1729. Henry Mellish, Parish Clerk. Feb. 4 (1730).
1730. Eliza, wife of Mr. Richard Coe. 10 June.
 „ Richard Coe (Tanner). Aug. 7.
1731. Ursula, y^e relict of y^e Reverend Dr. Thomas Duncumb. June
 y^e 28th.
 „ Mrs. Anne Griffin, Mrs. Coe's sister, Sep. 1st.
1732. Mrs. Jone Sherly, Widow, de London, was Buried M^{ch} 24;
 certificate ye 26 (1733).
 „ Old Edward Stone, yeoman. Dec. y^e 30th.
 „ Mrs. Mary Elison was buried in linnen, and (ye forfeiture paid
 and distributed) Mar. 19 (1733).
1733. Peter, son of John Elison, de London, Gent. Jan. 16; certi-
 ficate brought 16 (1734).
1736. Mr. Thomas Dickeson, of Clifford's Inn. Aug. 15.
1737. Mistress Bishop, a Londoner, buried June 10; cert. 11th.
1738. Joseph, infant son of Mr. Bellemey, de Albury. Sep. 23rd.
1739. William Wood, a poor unfortunate lad, being drown'd, was
 buried Ap. 27.
1740. William, son of the Rev. D^r. Thomas Duncumb. Sep. 16.
 „ Elizabeth, infant daughter of Mr. Thomas Jones, de London,
 buried Feb. 2 (1741).
1743. Damaris, wife of Thomas Evershed. Jan. 20 (1744).
 „ Mrs. Sarah Hussey was buried by her B^r (brother). Jan. 14
 (1744).
1745. Mrs. Sarah Margesson, a widow. May 16.
1746. Ann, daughter of Mrs. Martin. Ap. 24.
 „ George Duncumb, Rector of Shere. Sep. 10th.
1747. Mr. Henry Albury. Oct. 25.
 James Bignold, Church Clerk, buried Ap. 23, 1748.
1749. Thomas Martin, son of Mrs. Martin, widow. Jan 6 (1750).
1750. Oct 3. Mrs. Mary Bowes.
1751. Mrs. Walter. Ap. 15.
1754. Ap. 19. John Elstone, Clerk of the Parish.
1761. Aug. 21. Henry Risbridger.
1763. Jan. 7. Mrs. Hester Duncumb, from Merrow.
1764. The Revnd Th^{os} Duncumb, Rector of Shere and Abinger, died
 at Abinger the 19th, and was buried in the chancel at Shere
 on the 24 of June, 1764.
 „ Aug. 14. Mrs. Margaret Hussey, from St. Ann's, Westminster,
 buried in linnen.
1765. May 9. The widow Risbridger, from Albury.
 Duncumb, Mrs. Lucy, from Epsom, Relict of the Rev. Thos.
 Duncumb, died Nov. 4, and was buried in the chancel at
 Shere near her Husband, Nov. 8, 1766.

1773. William, son of William and Ann Mansel. Ap. 15.
 „ Henry, infant son of Thomas and Ann Duncumb. Aug. 29.
 1777. Schaw, Miss Elizabeth, from London. March 1st.
 1779. Schaw, David George Garrick, infant son of Frederick Bridges
 and Arabella. Mar. 14.
 „ Mrs. Catherine Martin, widow. Ap. 11th.
 „ Duncumb, Catherine, daughter of Thomas and Ann. May 8th.
 Oct. 2, 1783. This day, 3^d, takes place in the Burial of any person,
 except those from Workhouse, Hospitals, and Parish poor,
 to be received by the officiating Minister.
 1783. Mrs. Charlotte Schaw, from London. Oct. 15.
 1785. Lomax, Frances Mary, daughter of Edmund Shallett and
 Catherine Frances. Dec. 6.
 1786. Mary, daughter of do. and do. Oct. 1st.
 1788. Henry Robert, son of do. and do. May 9th.
 1791. Duncumb, Robert, son of Thomas and Ann. July 23.
 1802. Mrs. Sarah Wood, Relict of Abraham. June 1st.
 1804. Rev^d. Thomas Duncumb, Rector of Shere. Jan. 18th.
 1808. Duncumb, Ann, Widow of Thomas, Rector of Shere. Feb. 12.
 „ Mansell, Ann, widow of William. Dec. 23.
 1815. William Henry, son of Richard and Mary Ann Peters, of
 Limsfield. Mar. 3. 1 month.
 1817. Carbetia Hall, of Shere, gentlewoman. Sep. 2. 68.
 1818. Lucy Duncumb, of Shalford. Sep. 1. 56.
 1821. Servilla Briscoe, of Abinger. Ap. 17. 23.
 1822. Lucy Briscoe, of Abinger. Ap. 7. 18.
 „ Mrs. Mary Woods, Shere. Dec. 23. 72.
 1823. Edward Briscoe, Abinger. Mar. 31. 22.
 1824. Elizabeth Briscoe, Abinger. Oct. 24.
 1826. Henry Briscoe, butcher, Shere. Dec. 11.
 1828. The Rev. Frederick Shallett, son of Edmund Shallett and
 Catherine Frances Lomax, Esq., Shere. September (no
 day). 45.
 1832. Hester, wife of Edward Duncumb, Dorking. Dec. 26. 59 ^{yrs}
 1833. Mr. Thomas Woods, from Burgoz Place. Oct. 22. 83.
 1839. Edmund Shallett Lomax, Esq., Shere. Feb. 26. In his
 85th year.
 „ Mr. Abel Evans, Shere. Nov. 6. 50.
 1841. Helena, wife of Edmund Lomax, Esq., Parkhurst, in Abinger.
 Feb. 23. 36 ^{yrs}
 „ Catherine Frances, relict of Edmund Shallett Lomax, Esq.,
 Netley Place, in Shere. July 30th. 87 ^{yrs}
 1843. Thos. Duncumb, M.A., Rector of this Parish. Mar. 16. 83 ^{yrs}
 „ Mary, Baroness de Roll, Netley Place, Shere. Dec. 14. 86 ^{yrs}
 1844. Harriet Pigou, Netley Place. Ap. 4. 84 ^{yrs}
 1845. Catherine Duncumb. July 5. 17 ^{yrs} Youngest daughter of
 late Rector, and buried in the Chancel.
 1847. Edmund Lomax, Netley. May 4. 70 ^{yrs}
 1878. Jan. 3. Harriet Grote. Aged 86.

MARRIAGES.

An Account of Marriages in the Parish of Shere,
begun 1693.

Edward Lemmon and Elizabeth Clare, both of this Parish of Shere, were marryed by License on 20 Feb., 1693 (1st entry).

Nathaniel Sturt, gentleman, of Send, in y^e County of Surrey, and Mrs. Ann Duncumb, of the parish of Albury, in the same County, were marryed, 23 Jan. 17th.

Mr. Edward Bridgen and Mrs. Mary Hussey were married in Abinger Church, Dec. y^e 8, 1720.

Robert Lowick, of Albury, and Mary Carril, of Shere. Nov. 5, 1728. The Rev. Mr. William Martin, Rector of Rusper, and Mrs. Catherine Duncumb, of Shere, were married y^e 14 April, 1729.

1748. Th^{os} Myers, Clerk, and Ann Holt, both of Witley. License. Oct. 25th.

1750. Ap. 26. The Rev. Mr. Thos. Heath, Vicar of Farnham, and Mrs. Catherine Thomas of Guilford, spinster.

1751. Sep. 30. John Harris, of Albury, and Mary Risbridger of y^s Parish. Banns.

1752. Oct. 4. George Rose and Ann Dodd, both of Wallingham, in y^s County. License.

1763. Nov. 6. John Wapshot and Mary Lewer.

Oct. 2, 1783. On this day a duty of 3^d for every marriage to be received by the officiating Minister.

BRAY FAMILY. FROM REGISTER OF SHERE.

BAPTISMS.

Mary, the daughter of Edward Bray, Es^{qre} was Baptized on the 23 May, 1692.

Benjamin, son of Edward Bray, Esq^{re} was Baptized on the 19 Sep., 1693.

George, son of Mr. Edward Bray, bap. Feb. 16, 1728-9.

Edward, son of Mr. Edward Bray, bap. Feb. 9, 1730-1.

Charles, son of Mr. Edward Bray, bap. Nov. 22, 1734.

William,¹ son of Mr. Edward Bray. Nov. 7, 1736.

BURIALS.

Mary, daughter of Edward Bray, Esq., was Buryed 19 Nov., 1692.

Frances, wife of Edward Bray, Esq. 19 Sep. 1693

¹ The county historian.

- Frances, daughter of Edward Bray, Esq. 27 June, 1704.
 Edward Bray, Esq^{re}, was Buried December y^e 10, 1714. Certificate brought y^e 12th.
 1735. Charles, infant son of Mr. Edward Bray, bur. Mar. 31; certificate, Ap. 13.
 1767. Bray, William; son of William and Mary, from London. 22 March.
 1789. Bray, Amelia Caroline, from London. Dec. 27.
 1795. Bray, Reginald, son of Edward and Mary Ann Catherine. May 15.
 1795. Bray, Mrs., wife of William Bray, Esq^{re}, of London. Dec. 21st.
 1814. Edward Bray, Esq. June 10. 46.
 1817. William Henry Bray. Feb. 20. Aged 18.
 1819. Mary Jane Bray, of Shere. July 23. 17.
 1821. Pawlett Bray. Mar. 30. 10 yrs
 1832. William Bray, Esq.,¹ Shere. Dec. 29. 97.
 1840. Mary, daughter of William Bray, Esq., Shere. Nov. 13. 77 yrs

¹ The county historian.