



“Notes and Queries”

RELATING TO BERKSHIRE.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the County. All Literary Communications should be sent to the EDITOR, Barkham Rectory, near Wokingham, written on one side only of the Paper.

It is requested that all MSS. intended for printing should be written on foolscap paper, in an orderly manner, with REPLIES, QUERIES, and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name or initials of the writer appended to each communication.

Notes.

HURLEY.—On June 17th last, the present occupier of Frogmill Farm, Hurley, called my attention to a flag-stone, 26 inches long and 18½ inches wide, which was then being used as a cover to a well in the farm-yard. The surface soil having been removed from the top of the stone, the following inscription was clearly visible: “Three Bodies in Benedictine Habits found under this pavement.” The carving of the letters, which are cut deeply into the stone, and are all perfect except in three places at the sides and edges, is probably of the early nineteenth century period. I have now before me some pages of the “Penny Magazine” for February 17th, 1838, containing an article on “Hurley House, or Lady Place, Berks,” and illustrated with engravings of the house and of the vault underneath it. From the latter it is clear that the whole floor of the vault was flagged with good sized stones at the time the drawings were made; and the writer states that an inscription, word for word identical with that discovered on the Frogmill well-stopper, was on one of them. The house was pulled down in 1837. The flags were subsequently removed from the floor, and the stone referred to was taken off to keep sentry over the well in the farm-yard, about three-quarters-of-a-mile distant from the vault, where it remained until Saturday, June 18th, 1892, on which day it was handed over to me and now lies in the cellars of the Vicarage. The vault was the burying place of Hurley Monastery.—F. T. WETHERED.

Queries.

HERSEY FAMILY.—Can anyone oblige me by sending the earliest instance of the name of Hercy, Hersey, Hearsey, in Berkshire, and shew the relationship to the family at Winkfield?—C. HERSEY.

NORTH OR FERRY HINKSEY, MANOR OF.—Lysons states that "The Manor, which belonged to the Abbot and Convent of Abingdon, was granted to Owen and Bridges, and by them conveyed, in 1547, to Sir John Williams and Sir John Gresham, knts. At a later period it was for many years in the family of Perrot. It is now the property of Earl Harcourt, having been purchased by his father, the late Earl." I desire to ascertain the holders of the Manor from about 1620 to 1750, and shall be glad of any references.—H.M.

Replies.

I am obliged to Mr. St. John Hope for drawing my attention to the anachronism in my No. IV. paper on "Hurley." The "1040" date has been handed down since 1852, at which time it was said to have been discovered upon the wooden cross on the Church Turret, after the dilapidated lead covering had been removed; but I now quite realize that this must be an error, and that "1640" was, as Mr. Hope suggests, probably the date which was discovered incised upon the wooden cross. It has remained inside its new lead covering ever since 1852. With regard to Mr. Hone's criticism as to my having (in paper No. II.) fixed the date of the Foundation Charter of Hurley Priory by the fact of all mention of the monastery having been omitted from Domesday, I would remark that the Domesday Survey, which was concluded in 1086, states that 13½ hides of Hurley are still held by Geoffrey de Mandeville, whereas the Foundation Charter of our monastery states emphatically that the "whole vill of Hurley" had been given by Geoffrey de Mandeville to the Priory. The inference, then, that the date of the Charter was at some time after the completion of the Berkshire portion of Domesday is plain. And, inasmuch as "my Lord King William," whom our Founder beseeches to ratify the gift, died on September 9th, 1087, the limits within which the Charter was sealed by Geoffrey de Mandeville are, I say, not difficult to assign.—F. T. WETHERED.

CHRISTIAN NAME FLOWER (p. 95, Vol. II., No. 4).—See Coates' History of Reading, p. 229.

Baptisms. St. Lawrence's, 1669. Flower, daughter of Dr. Francis Hungerford (who was buried 1684).

—R. J. FYNMORE, Sandgate.