



“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.

BOULTER'S LOCK.—Various conjectures have been made with regard to the meaning of this name. The name “Boulter's Lock” appears in the Survey of the Manor of Cookham made in 1609, in the reign of King James the First, when Boulter's Lock Meadow was held of the Crown by John Turner. Meanwhile, a clue to this name has, I think, presented itself; and I believe that *Bolter's Lock* means simply *The Miller's Lock*. In “Hedges' history of Walsingham” we find, amongst the various craftsmen of the town, in the year 1230, “Bolteres,” which the author remarks “may mean Millers.” Now, bolting or dressing the ground corn is, we know, a part of the miller's art; whilst bolting-cloths and bolting-hutches are implements with which he is not unfamiliar. And Mr. Hedges has been good enough to remind me that the place where meal was sifted, in early times, was called the “Bolting-House.”

The present Cut and Lock, known as Boulter's Lock, have only been in existence since 1830. The older one of that name was situate at the other side of the river, close to Taplow Mills, in a cut or thorough connecting the mill stream with the main river. A mill or mills have been in existence from a very early period at Taplow. Mr. Rutland, with his usual kindness, has pointed out for me the exact site of the Lock and Mills, and has also favoured me with the following information from original documents in his possession :—

“In the year 1213, the Abbot of Merton let to Stephen of Taplawe two mills, lately held by Robert the Miller and Inguin. In 1709 a mill was let to—Norris as an iron mill. In 1803 a mill was let to one Wise as a cotton mill,” and Mr. Rutland believes he has documentary evidence of there having once been a “Fulling mill,” the significance of which in respect to the term “Boulters” will, to those acquainted with Mr. Hedges' work, be at once evident. In my recollection

tion it has been a Corn Mill, and is now a Paper Mill. I omitted to take a note of the grant of the three mills which Mr. Rutland read to me, but the foregoing is sufficient for the present purpose.

Cowell in his *Law Dictionary*, says: "Bolting is a term of art used in Gray's Inn and applied to the bolting or arguing of 'moot cases,'" and he endeavours to show that the "bolting of cases" is analagous to the boulding or sifting of meal. Why the secondary process of bolting, or dressing meal, should have superseded the primary one of milling, or grinding, in furnishing a name to the craft, I do not pretend to judge. But the term "milling" is a general one; applied to the grain it disintegrates; whilst applied to cloth it unites the particles more closely; and so "Bolters" may have come to be a distinguishing name for "Corn Millers."—STEPHEN DARBY. Cookham Dean.

THE WHITE KNIGHT'S PARK.—THE CHAPEL, A.D. 1070.—The late Duke of Marlborough, of Blenheim, caused this chapel, then a ruin, to be re-built as a sham chapel in the Gothic style at a distant point of view from the mansion across the park, standing as it did on the highest ground in a direct line. It is to this spot that the estate owes its name, and not so much to its being the site of the Convent of Our Lady, the Hospital for Lepers being at Reading. The hero of this history was the son of Gilbert de Montalieu, a Norman in the army of William I., who died at York, leaving the estate of Herlie Regis (Earley) to his son Gilbert, then 12 years of age, and page to the King. At 25 he became Governor of the Town and Castle of Reading, but living in the Manor House at Herlie. It was about this time that Sir Gilbert, now a Knight, fell in love with Editha, daughter of Ceoldor, a Saxon who lived at Maiden Herlie near by. Another Knight was supposed by jealous Gilbert to have been in love with the Lady Editha whom he wooed, but had not as yet spoken to her or her parents on the subject of love; so he eyed his rival as he thought till he hated his very presence near the place. This young man's name was Sir Edwy de Guildford, also a Knight. One day the two Knights met in the park on the spot above mentioned, and there each challenged the other to fight a duel for the lady whom each loved, but in different ways, as will soon be found out, to the great sorrow of our hero Sir Gilbert. They met as appointed, each with his lance in hand ready for battle even to death, for they were rivals in love. As luck favoured Sir Gilbert, he being tall, he aimed at Sir Edwy's head, and his well-poised lance entered the White Knight's brain and laid him dead on the famous spot, and upon his dead body fell a living body in the person of his lovely Editha. Sir Gilbert now found that instead of slaying a hated rival he had murdered her brother, and by a rash act of misplaced jealousy overwhelming grief had been caused to parents and their daughter, but when they saw his great sorrow and how deeply his heart repented the deed they freely forgave him, as did the priest, who at their request absolved and blessed him. Editha afterwards became a Sister in the Convent of Our Lady at Herlie. Sir Gilbert, as a penance for the deed, went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Years flew fleeting by, when one evening a pilgrim just returned from the Holy Land paused to pray at "The White Knight's grave." On the column erected years before was inscribed "Brave young Knight!" Underneath this was recorded how the Lady Editha, after the untimely death of her brother, had retired to the Convent of Our Lady at Herlie, where she died with grief at his loss. Beneath was the name of Ceoldor the Saxon, who died soon after his daughter, and was buried with

her in the same grave. Here the weary pilgrim knelt, his hands clasped in prayer. Thus was he found next morning by a peasant, a cold and stiffened corpse. The peasant soon procured assistance, and they carried him into a house near by. Here they stripped him in the presence of a priest, who had been sent for, but nothing was found save a lock of golden hair wore next his breast. It was wrapped in a piece of paper, on which was written a request that he might be buried in the same grave with Sir Edwy de Guildford, the White Knight, in the Manor of Herlie Regis, and also that a chapel might be built on the spot and endowed for masses to be offered for their souls, signed Gilbert de Montalieu. As no intelligence had been heard of Gilbert for so long a time, Herlie Regis had been transferred to the use of the Priory at Cawson (Caversham), but Father Philip being present caused the pious wish to be carried out, and a neat little chapel was built dedicated to St. Nicholas. This, then, is the origin of Whiteknights Park (Herlie Regis). The chapel was appropriated to the Hospital of Lepers, Reading, instituted by Ancherius, second Lord Abbot of Reading Abbey. The column and chapel with its manor house in the distance have long since passed away. The present pile of ruins is on or near the very same spot, although not a vestige of the original chapel remains as a mark; yet there may now lie far underneath the present soil the real White Knight's grave.

HERBERT CHOWN.

97, Chatham Street, Reading.

Queries.

WARGRAVE BRASSES.—I should be grateful for some information with regard to these brasses. Haines mentions :—

1. Humfrey Staverton, 1592, in north aisle.
2. Inscription to Elizabeth, daughter of Humfrey Staverton and wife of John Reade, 1587 (loose).
3. Inscription to Letice, daughter of Wm. Lovelace and wife of Humfrey Staverton, 1587 (loose).

I have a rubbing of No. 1 made in 1860, but it appears without inscription. When I visited the Church in 1880, I could see no brasses in the Church. I was told there were some brasses in the Rectory, which was then closed. I hope that they have now been restored to the Church. In the notice of the excursion to Binfield the brass is said to be dated 1331; Haines gives it as 1361; and from the character of the brass I should judge the latter to be correct. Is that so?—
J. E. FIELD.

THE HUNNIS FAMILY.—Would you kindly inform me which parish registers in Berks would be likely to contain the name of this family? Marchadine Hunnis entered Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1610. He is said to be son of "Plebs," and his birthplace is not stated. He wrote some verses prefaced to *Pleasure's Vision*, by Arthur Newman, Middle Temple, printed by G. E., 1619, 12mo. I wish to find out some details of the life of William Hunnis, who had a grant of arms in 1568, and is connected with many interesting contemporaries.

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