



A Tour through Buckinghamshire.

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SECTION I.—RAILWAY—CHALFONT ROAD TO AYLESBURY.

THE extension of the Metropolitan railway enters Buckinghamshire one mile beyond Chorley Wood Station. We soon pass on the right CHENIES or CHEYNES, which is reached from *Chalfont Road Station*. This village, formerly called Istenhampstead Cheynes, was once the home of the family of Cheyne, then that of the Sapcote family, and has been the property of the Russell family, by the marriage of John Russell with the heiress of the Sapcotes, since 1526. It occupies a beautiful position above the river Chess which is just here celebrated for its trout fishing.

The principal objects of attraction are the Church, with its adjoining Russell Chapel, and the Mansion of the Russells, which stand side by side west of the village green.

The Russells, who came from Le Rozel in Normandy, hence the family name, were settled at Barwick in Dorsetshire before the 16th century. In 1506, Philip the Archduke of Austria, son of Maximilian, Emperor of Germany, and Joanna his bride, the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Castile, were driven into Weymouth harbour by stress of weather. Sir Thomas Trenchard, governor of the Dorsetshire coast, a cousin of John Russell, received the distinguished strangers, and sent for his young cousin to assist in entertaining them at Wolverton House, as Russell had lately returned from a continental tour. Mr. Russell made himself very acceptable to the Archduke, and presently accompanied him to the court of Henry VII. Once there he soon rose into favour, and quickly found active service both as soldier and statesman, and played a leading part in all important events in the reign of Henry VII., Henry VIII., Edward VI., and in part of that of Queen

Mary. He was created Baron Russell in 1538, and in 1550 the first Earl of Bedford. Five years afterwards he died.

The Church (St. Michael, restored 1861, register 1592) is a building chiefly Perpendicular and not very remarkable in itself. There are two brasses of the Cheyne family, that of Lady Cheyne and her second husband, Sir Edmund Molyneux, 1494; and that of her neice and heiress, Anne, the daughter of Sir David Philyp. In the chancel are monuments of some of the Rectors from 1517.

The Russell Chapel or Burial Chamber extends the whole length of both nave and chancel on the north side. It was built by Anne Sapcote, the widow of the first Earl Russell, as the following inscription on the east window tells us: "This Chapel ys built by Anne, Countess of Bedford, wyfe to John, Erle of Bedforde, accord-to ye last will of the sayd Erle, A.D. 1556." The Countess was buried in it by the side of her husband in 1557. The east window is filled with family coats of arms in stained glass. Arms are also exhibited on the walls; and the banners of former Knights of the Garter who belonged to the Russell family, and which once hung in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, are suspended from the roof. The floor is black and white marble.

But the chief attraction of the Chapel is the splendid collection of monuments which commemorate members of the family from the time of Earl John to the present day.

Under the window in the centre is that of the Earl, and on the top of it are remarkable effigies of himself and the Countess Anne. These effigies are most likely Italian work of the early 16th century. The face of the Earl is evidently taken from the portrait by Holbrin at Woburn Abbey. Notice the droop of the eye-lid over the eye, which was destroyed by an arrow at the siege of Molaix in 1523. The figure is clad in plate-armour and round the neck is the collar of the Garter. The Countess has an ermine mantle. The monument was erected by their son, Earl Francis.

The monument of Earl Francis is on the right side of that of his parents. Queen Elizabeth paid Earl Francis a visit in 1570. He wrote the following letter to Sir William Cecil with regard to her visit, before hand: "In your second letter I understand Her Majesty's coming to Chenies; where, if the home was sweet, and the lodging commodious, I shall be glad thereof; but as to the soil and seat thereof, as no art nor diligence can amend nature's doings, so am I sorry that it cannot now be amended, if ever it might be for a time, to ease thereby so noble a guest, and so large a train."

On the monument are coloured effigies of Earl Francis and his Countess, Margaret, who was the daughter of Sir John St. John, of Bletsoe Castle in Bedfordshire, and widow of Sir John Gostwick, Master-in-the-house to Henry VIII., who lived at Willington in the same county.

At the head of the monuments is a lofty trophy covered with arms, crests and coronets. At the feet of the figures are, as supporters, white goats, the crest of the Russells.

On the other side of the central monument is that of the daughter of Earl Francis, Anne, Countess of Warwick. This lady was the guardian of her young nephew, Earl Edward, who succeeded his grandfather, Earl Francis, at 11 years of age. She was an intimate friend of Queen Elizabeth and died in 1604. Edmund Spenser dedicated to her and to her sister, the Countess of Cumberland, his hymns on "Celestial Love and Beauty," and calls the ladies "the two honourable sisters," "the most excellent and rare ornaments of all true love and beauty." On the slab on which rests the effigy of the Countess, and which is supported on four columns, there are in addition to the Russell goats four little cherubim.

At the feet of the Countess, and level with the floor, is a very ancient effigy which must have been removed here from the Church, and is said to be that of Sir John Cheyne.

The plain marble slab, supported on columns, which stands in front of the monument of Earl John, is that of Lady Frances Bouchier, the niece of the Countess of Warwick and the Countess of Cumberland.

At the feet of Earl Francis is a mural monument. It is that of his grandson of the same name, the fourth Earl, who succeeded his cousin, Earl Edward. This Earl drained his fen property with the assistance of the great Dutch engineer, Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, who constructed for this purpose what is called the Old Bedford River, which takes its name from the noble owner's title, not from the town of that name. This "Wise Earl," as he was called, died just before the outbreak of the civil war in 1641. This mural monument is a remarkable one. There are on it effigies of the Earl and his Countess, Katharine, daughter of Giles Brydges, Lord Chandos, of Sudeley. Above on an upper shelf are effigies of their two daughters. The base of the monument may be compared for excellency of design with that of Earl John's monument.

Against the opposite wall of the Chapel is the monument of Frances, Lady Chandos, the mother of Countess Katharine, the wife

of Earl Francis.

The next monument to the west of that of Earl Francis is one of a different style. It is that of Wriothesley II. Duke of Bedford, by William Chambers, 1711. It is plain white marble and the figures, instead of being prostrate in the sleep of death, are kneeling on the top of a meaningless sarcophagus, while a little cherub regards them from the midst of marble clouds.

The west wall is entirely taken up with the huge marble monument of William, I. Duke of Bedford, his Countess Anne, for she died before his elevation to the Dukedom, and his children, which is still more tasteless in design. The father and mother turn away agonized faces from the medallion portrait of their son, Lord William Russell, which hangs between them. Lord William was beheaded in Lincoln's Inn Fields in 1683 on a charge of complicity in the Rye House plot. His father, Duke William, had a long and eventful life of 87 years. He was a member of the Long Parliament, and on the outbreak of the civil war at first fought on the Parliamentary side. He soon joined the Royalists, however, but took no prominent part in public affairs. At the Restoration he assisted at the Coronation, and was created Duke of Bedford after the Revolution, in 1664, six years before his death. His Countess, Anne, had also a remarkable history. She was the daughter of Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, and was actually born in the Tower of London, when her parents were imprisoned there on suspicion of complicity in the mysterious murder of Sir Thomas Overbury. She grew up in ignorance of the disgrace of her parents, and in her old age came by chance on a pamphlet giving an account of the matter, and died in consequence of the shock which its perusal caused her.

Other monuments, there are fifteen altogether, commemorate Russells of later days. There is a plain slab standing on pillars, evidently copied from that of Lady Chandos, to Earl Russell, of the second line, better known as Lord John Russell, the statesman who had to do with the Reform Bill of 1831. There are also wall tablets to Duke Wriothesley ; to Major-General Lord William Russell, Minister Plenipotentiary at Berlin, d. 1846, and to his wife ; to their son, Duke Hastings, d. 1888 ; to Lord Amphil, brother to Hastings, Ambassador at Berlin, d. 1880 ; and to Duke George, son of Hastings, d. 1893.

Amongst the bodies of those buried in the vault beneath the chapel is that of Rachel, widow of Lord Vaughan, and wife of Lord

William Russell, who acted as his clerk at his trial in Westminster Hall.

Philip, Earl of Pembroke, and Anne, Countess of Dorset, were married in Chenies Church, 3rd June, 1630. The Countess was grand-daughter of Earl Francis. Her husband was the statesman famous in the reign of James I. and Charles I., who succeeded Laud as Chancellor of Oxford, and gave the name to Pembroke College. The lady, who was the daughter of the Earl of Cumberland, succeeded to her father's large estates, and was mistress of at least six castles in the north. It was a second marriage for each.

The mansion of the Russells stands opposite to the church. It is now a farm-house, and has been much repaired. The twisted chimneys are curious. It was the home of the Cheynes and the Sapcotes, but John, Earl Russell, after his marriage with Anne Sapcote altered it considerably. Leland writing about 1538, says: "The old house of the Cheyneis is so translated by Lord Russell, that hath this house in right of his wife, that little or nothing remaineth untranslated; and a great deal of the house is even newly set up, made of brick and timber, and fair lodgings be now erected in the garden. The house is within divers places painted with antique works of white and black." The house remained the family mansion of the Russells until they moved to Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire, but in the last century it fell sadly out of repair.

Horace Walpole was here in 1749 and says of it: "There are but piteous fragments of the house remaining, now a farm, built round three sides of a court. It is dropping down in several places without a roof, but in half of the windows are beautiful arms in painted glass. As these are totally neglected, I propose making a push and begging them of the Duke of Bedford. They would be magnificent for Strawberry Castle."

The alms-houses on the Rickmansworth road were founded for ten poor persons by Anne Countess of Warwick, daughter of Earl Francis.

There is an avenue of elm trees called the Monks' Walk, whence the name is uncertain.

ISTENHAMPSTEAD LATIMER, commonly called LATIMERS, is about a mile from Cherries, further up the Chess, and may be reached by a riverside path which passes partly through the Chenies woods and winds down to the water. The Park of Latimer House runs down to the river, which now forms a small lake, on the east side. The house stands on the site of one to which Charles I. was brought

when a prisoner in the hands of the Parliamentary army. Christiana Countess of Devonshire was then residing here and received the captive King. Charles II. was also here for a night when escaping to the continent after the battle of Worcester.

The Manor once belonged to the Le Despencer family, and in the middle of the 14th century to that of Latimer, hence the second name. The Sandys family had it from the Grevilles, who succeeded the Latimers. Here was born Hester, daughter of Miles Sandys, who married Sir Thomas Temple of Stowe, and is mentioned by Fuller as the mother of thirteen children, and living to be herself the ancestress of seven hundred descendants. She died in 1656 at the age of 87.

Horace Walpole was on a visit here in 1749, and again in 1755, but did not approve of the place, which he calls : "large, and bad, and old, but of a bad age ; finely situated on a hill in a beech-wood, with a river at the bottom, and a range of hills and woods on the opposite side, belonging to the Duke of Bedford. The view is melancholy." And again, "It is much improved since ; yet the river stops short at a hundred yards just under your eye, and the house has undergone Batty Langley discipline ; half of the ornaments are of his bastard Gothic, and half of Hallett's mongrel Chinese. I want to write over the doors of most modern edifices, 'repaired and beautified, Langley and Hallett, Churchwardens.' The great dining-room is hung with the paper of my staircase, but not shaded properly like mine."

The Church (St. Mary Magdalene, re-built 1867, register 1782) is in the park close to the house. In 1749 Benjamin Hynmers left money for its repair, and it has been almost re-built since then. There are some good modern stained-glass windows. Amongst them one to Rector Burgess, for 32 years incumbent of this and the adjoining Hertfordshire parish, Flaunden. It was erected by the clergy of the rural-deanery. George Duke of Devonshire placed a square marble monument in the Church to the memory of an actress, Mary Campion, who died in 1706 at the age of 19. The monument bears a Latin inscription in praise of the young lady.

(To be continued).