



## Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

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*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.*

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### Notes.

RECTORS.—The compiling of Lists of Rectors and Vicars of Parishes is often a difficult task. Some few years ago I obtained several lists from Mr. Foster but none have been published. Perhaps correspondents will kindly send me any lists which they may have. Here is the list for

#### ARBORFIELD.

16th December, 1541, compd.	.. ..	John Stowe.
16th December, 1543	„ .. ..	John Stowe.
18th May, 1561	„ .. ..	Edward Denton.
18th October, 1568	„ .. ..	William Bawden.
22nd February, 1605/6	„ .. ..	Rowland Howard.
12th June, 1608, instd.	„ .. ..	Robert Saunders.
16th June, 1639/40	„ .. ..	Stephen Rosse.
6th October, 1660	„ .. ..	Alexander Stokes.
1694	„ .. ..	John Sale.
13th December, 1739	„ .. ..	John Waterman.
18th October, 1755	„ .. ..	Richard Hayes.
5th April, 1797	„ .. ..	Henry Hodgkinson.
12th September, 1839	„ .. ..	John Warren Hayes, M.A.

THE CHURCH BELLS AT HURST.—Among the many and varied historical records of our Parish Church, written originally for the Parish Magazine by the late Rev. A. A. Cameron, and since reprinted in “A few words about Hurst,” no mention was made of the Church bells, which have, for at least nearly 400 years, pealed forth their notes of joy and sorrow, and week by week have called together the parishioners, from far and near, to the worship of Almighty God in the house dedicated to His service. It is but little indeed that we know of their history, yet that little may be worth recording. The Tower itself was built in 1612, and the earliest date inscribed on any of the bells is 1613. From the fact of two out of the six having no date upon them, it is possible that these may have been in existence at an earlier period than the rest, as probably the old Church, part of which dates back to the beginning of the 12th century, or even earlier than that, possessed some one or more bells during the times that preceded the building of the present Tower. The third bell, we may note, was of

local origin, as the inscription shows, the founder being Henry Knight, a then well-known Bell founder, of Reading. The 2nd bell was originally the Treble, the present Treble taking its place in 1634, and the 4th originally the 3rd. The inscriptions upon the six bells, as they now hang, are as follows :—

- I. Prayes the Lord—1634,
- II. I as Trebl be gin.
- III. Henry Knight made this bell—ano. 1613.
- IV. I as third will sing.
- V. Feare God—1642.
- VI. Feare God—1632.

E. BROOME, Hurst Vicarage.

**PILE DWELLINGS AT HEDSOR.**—During the past few days excavations have been made at Hedsor (Bucks), near the bank of the Thames and the site of the ancient pile dwellings, under the direction of Mr. A. H. Cocks, of Marlow, one of the hon. secretaries of the Bucks Archæological Society. The presence of these curious relics of a Romano-Celtic character was accidentally discovered in 1894, while a cesspool was being made in an orchard, and the discoveries then made were of such an interesting character that it was determined to resume operations as soon as a fund could be raised to meet the expenses, which amount to about £3 per day. This is the only instance of pile dwellings known to exist in the South of England, with the exception of those in the lake village at Glastonbury. Since the work recommenced piles of beech—a tree which grows plentifully in the neighbourhood—have been found. The wood, though saturated with moisture, was not in a condition that could be described as rotten. After being exposed to the atmosphere, however, it turned black, and shrivelled like charcoal. Bones of various animals have been found, mainly of the pig and deer.

**INTERESTING DISCOVERIES AT WAVERLEY ABBEY, NEAR FARNHAM.**—The excavations at Waverley Abbey, the first Cistercian Abbey founded in England, which were commenced last year under the superintendence of the Rev. T. S. Cooper, secretary of the Surrey Archæological Society, have been continued during the summer months with satisfactory results. The main object of the Society is to obtain a complete ground plan of the Abbey buildings; and, if funds are forthcoming to enable them to complete the excavations, they are likely to be successful. Considerable progress has been made in this direction during the past four months, the excavations resulting in the tracing of the south wall for 112 ft., and the west wall for about 80 ft. Another wall was discovered running northwards, and this was uncovered, forming an oblong block of 112 ft. by 80 ft. The block was found to contain a number of small rooms and yards, the use of which it is difficult to determine. In one of the rooms were found the bases of five small pillars resting on a tile foundation. The infirmary kitchen has been discovered also, and the remains of a gateway opening into a courtyard. Another interesting feature is the discovery of some of the old lead pipes through which water from St. Mary's well was conveyed to the Abbey. The pipes are laid in lengths of 12 ft., and form part of the system of supplying water to the Abbey, which was carried out by Brother Symon early in the thirteenth century.

READING ABBEY.—Visitors to the grand old ruins of Reading Abbey may often be seen studying the topographical plan of the Abbey which Dr. Hurry presented to the town in 1896. The Corporation have quite recently placed in the ruins, at the entrance to the Chapter-house, directly facing the topographical plan, a Chronological Chart, for which the town is further indebted to Dr. Hurry. Studied conjointly, a vivid impression will be obtained of the topography of the Abbey and of the dates of the many stirring events which have taken place within its walls.

Few of the inhabitants of Reading are aware of the important part in English history played by their once famous Benedictine Abbey, which Henry I. built on the rising ground between the Thames and the Kennet. A keen and affectionate interest in these sombre ivy-clad walls should be felt by the inhabitants of Reading; and henceforth the study of this splendid relic of past ages will be greatly facilitated by the presence of the plan and chart amongst the ruins themselves.

In the first column of the Chronological Chart are enumerated the 31 abbots who successively held office, commencing with Hugh I., and terminating with Hugh Cook Faringdon, who was executed by Henry VIII. in 1539, at the dissolution. In the second column are recorded about forty of the principal events that took place at the Abbey, some of which events are of national interest, while others throw light on local, and especially municipal, history.

Amongst those events may be mentioned the foundation of the Abbey by Henry I. for 200 monks of the Cluniac branch of the Benedictine Order in 1121; the interment of Henry I. in the Abbey (1135); the "wager of battle" between Robert de Montfort and Henry de Essex in the presence of Henry II. (1163); the hallowing of the Abbey Church by Archbishop Thomas-a-Becket in the presence of Henry II. (1165); the visit of Heraclius, patriarch of Jerusalem, who presented the keys of the Holy Sepulchre to Henry II. and urged a Crusade (1185); the Ecclesiastical Council held by King John (1213); the marriage of John of Gaunt to Blanche, daughter of Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Lancaster (1359); the meetings of Parliament at the Abbey (1440, 1451, 1453, 1467, 1468); the founding of the Royal Grammar School of Henry VII. (1486); and finally, the dissolution of the Abbey (1539).

Emblazoned on the Chart are three coats of arms, representing (1) those of the Abbey (azure, three escallop shells), (2) those of the founder, King Henry I., (3) those of the last abbot, Hugh Cook Faringdon. Appended to the Chart are facsimile copies (obverse and reverse) of the Abbey seal. On the obverse is represented the Virgin Mary, between St. John the Evangelist, on her right, and St. James, on her left. On the reverse is seen King Henry I., between St. Peter and St. Paul.

A study of this Chart should remind the inhabitants of Reading that they are citizens of no mean city; that their forefathers had in their generations to fight for civil and religious liberty, and that many of the privileges which we now enjoy are the fruit of their struggles for self-government.

The Chart has been beautifully engrossed and illuminated (in permanent colours) by Mr. W. H. Pountney, of Caversham and Reading, a well-known artist in heraldic and illuminating work. Duplicates of the plan and chart, also given by Dr. Hurry, are hung in the Free Library.

WYCOMBE ABBEY.—Wycombe Abbey, formerly the Bucks residence of Earl Carrington, is about to lose one of its distinctive features, namely, the Rupert gates and the lodge and tower. They were removed from the former main entrance to the High Street when Earl Carrington was Governor of New South Wales. The buildings are now to be taken down and re-erected in the same style on the Marlow Hill, a mile distant, at the entrance to the Earl's new residence, Daw's Hill.

### Queries.

DEAR SIR,—I am endeavouring to trace my own pedigree; possibly you would not be unwilling to help me. My great-great-grandfather was one Richard Hollis, a farmer, near Assendon, Pyrton, Oxon. His father, grandfather and great-father (whose names were Richard, John and John respectively, had all been farmers in the same locality before him. The latter (together with a large number of his descendants) was buried at Fawley, Bucks, in 1698. The Vicar of Pyrton and the Rector of Fawley have both very kindly searched their registers for me, but the elder John Hollis seems to have been the first of the family to settle at Upper Assendon, the only entries in either of the registers before his death being the baptism of some of John Hollis senr's grandchildren, and the burials of Jane in 1689, of John in 1692, of Richard in 1694, and of Abraham in 1695. Jane was probably John Hollis senior's wife and Richard was one of his sons, but I do not know who John or Abraham were. The latter might have been a son, but the former could not have been.

I have now written to other clergymen in the neighbourhood and asked for their assistance.

The only will of a Hollis in this part of Oxon before 1698 is that of one Richard Holles, of Baldwin, Brightwell, some two miles from Pyston, who died in 1545, leaving issue Richard and Roffe Holles and mentioning his kinsman Thomas Holle. This Richard Holles was a yeoman.

In other parts of Oxon there were several families of Hulses, Hulls, Hulse, etc., and I think that one of these might have been related to the Hollis' family, of Pyrton. In 1707, one John Hulses, yeoman, of Taston, Spelsbury, mentioned in his will his kinsmen John and William Hulses and his kinsman Richard Hulses and his (Richard Hulses') sister Elizabeth. John and William Hollis were sons of John Hollis who died in 1698, and Richard and Elizabeth were the children of Richard Hollis (the son of John Hollis, sen.) who died in 1694.

There were also about this time two or three Bucks families of Hollis from whom John Hollis, of Assendon might have been descended, especially one at Great Marlow and one at Hauslop, and there was an old lady named Charitye Hollis, who died at Reading in 1677, and who mentions her son John in her will.

If you could advise me as to the best course I ought to pursue in order to find my ancestor John Hollis' parents names and lineage I should be very grateful to you.

Otherwise my investigations in this interesting subject have chiefly been confined to East Africa. This country is full of all kinds of archæological treasures and offers great scope to the student.—Believe me, yours truly, A. CLAUD HOLLIS, Mombasa, East Africa, August 14th, 1899.