



## A Tour through Buckinghamshire.

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Bedfordshire.*

*(Continued from page 111, Vol. 5.)*

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From Chalfont Road station a short branch line of about five miles in length runs to Chesham.

North of the line is CHESHAM BOIS, standing on a high hill overlooking the Chess. It takes its second name from the family of De Bosco or De Bois, who were here in the time of King John. Afterwards the Cheyne family were here, Sir Thomas Cheyne of Chenies, and of Drayton Beauchamp, having married Elizabeth, heiress of Sir John Chesham, who had himself inherited the property through the female line from De Bois.

The Church (St. Leonard, register 1542) was much restored in 1881, though in its main lines it is Early English. It contains monuments of the Cheynes, amongst them that of Sir John Cheyne the Patron of Drayton Beauchamp who presented "Judicious" Hooker to that living.

One mile further we reach CHESHAM, a small town of about 1,500 inhabitants, with a local industry of the manufacture of chairs and other articles from the wood of the beech trees which grow about this neighbourhood. There is also some trade in whole-sale boot-making and in straw plait.

The river Chess rises a little above the town in the *Bury Park* from two strong spring-heads. Watercress beds have been formed in the upper part of the stream. Their cultivation has become a local industry.

The Bury Park runs up to the north-west among the chalk hills. The house is of the late 17th or early 18th century. It was built by William Lowndes, Secretary to the Treasury in the reign of Anne.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1538) is a cruciform building and stands near the south corner of the park. The south transept is the burial place of the Cavendish Family, once of Latimer

It has been shut off from the remainder of the Church. There is a monument to John Earl of Devonshire, 1616, ornamented with emblems of death. There is also a tall pyramidal monument to Mary wife of Sir Thomas Whichcote, 1726, with a medallion of the lady in the base. In the chancel is a figure of Vicar Richard Woodcock, preaching in his pulpit, 1623. Here also is the monument of Nicholas and Grace Skottowe by Bacon, executed at the close of the last century. Another monument, that to Richard Bowle, d. 1626, is remarkable for the design of its frame.

There is on the north side of the chancel a modern window to the Rev. A. F. Aylward, for 25 years Vicar, who d. 1871, from fever caught whilst visiting the sick during an epidemic. There are also inscribed stones to members of the Lowndes family, a brass to George son of Major William Wade, 1738, and another to Eggerley.

The Church itself is mostly perpendicular. The chancel is somewhat earlier in style, and there is a fragment of perhaps Norman work in the north transept. There is a sanctus bell, re-hung 1790. There is also a portion of a rood screen. The curfew bell is rung during the winter months. The Church was restored 1869 by Sir Gilbert Scott.

There are Almshouses founded in the time of James I. by Thomas Weedon, citizen and draper of London.

At GROVE, three miles north-east, the remains of the Manor House of the Cheynes, hall and chapel, were standing in 1750. This now forms a separate ecclesiastical parish, ASHLEY GREEN.

North of Chesham three miles is HAWRIDGE a small village with a Church re-built 1856 (register 1725). It contains a circular Norman font, and monuments of the Seare family, and one to Dorothy, Lady Parkington, 1577. This lady undertook in 1572 to send in the names of two representatives for Aylesbury, claiming her right as Lady of the Manor. An enclosure surrounded by a moat, called *Hawridge Court*, marks the site of the Manor House of the Manduits, Beauchamps, Seares, and Darells.

Taking the train again from Chalfont Road, we reach in three miles AMERSHAM, a small town consisting chiefly of one long street, with a population of 2,500.

This town was formerly called Aymondesham, and stands in a pretty position surrounded by beech-clad hills. In the centre stands a red-brick market-house built in 1682. The upper portion rests on an arcade, and a curiously shaped turret rises above the tiles of the roof. Many picturesque old houses surround this principal feature.

To the north of the Market-house, behind the main-street, stands the Church (St. Mary, register 1561). It is a fine building, but its plan has been marred by a long burial-chamber which has been built on the north side of the chancel, and stretches out beyond it. Beyond this again is the vestry, which is also a large building.

Chancel, burial-chamber, and vestry are filled with monuments of the family of Drake of Shardeloes.

The chancel is lofty and lighted by clerestory windows on the south side. It has a remarkable east window, of the date 1610, filled with figures of Apostles and Evangelists. It was brought here from Lamar House in Hertfordshire, in 1761.

The Drake monuments date from 1623, but those of many members of the family are of later date, and their effigies appear in large flowing wigs. Amongst them is that of a stranger, a boy of 14, Henry Curwen, of a Cumberland family, who was a pupil of Dr. Croke the Rector. Henry Curwen died in 1636, and the sculptor, Edward Marshall, has represented him as standing in a dressing-gown in a sort of closet, with his hand resting on a globe. He is a melancholy looking figure. The monument was erected two years after his death.

In the burial-chamber the largest monument is by Schecmacher, to Montague Drake, who died in 1728. The figure and the cherubin are good. There is also a monument with a graceful figure by Weekes, R.A., to Mary wife of Rev. John Drake Rector of Amersham, 1828.

There are brasses to members of the following families, De la Penne, Carbonell, and Brudenell of 15th and 16th centuries.

Amersham was the birth-place of some distinguished men : Walter de Aymondesham, Chancellor to Edward I. ; and John of Amersham, a monk of St. Alban's and friend of Abbot John of Wheathampstead in the middle of the 15th century. William Grey, Bishop of Ely, and High Treasurer of England, was Rector here about 1437. Edmund Waller the poet, though born at Coleshill, an outlying part of Hertfordshire, was baptized in Amersham Church 9th March, 1605. He states that he sat for the Borough, as Amersham at that time returned a Member, at the age of 16. Algernon Sidney, the Whig hero and brother of Dorothy Sidney, Waller's Sacharissa, also sat for Amersham. At Hunger Hill, which is in the parish, died in 1713, Thomas Ellwood, the Quaker, and friend of Milton.

Proceeding along the main-street westward we pass, south side, a set of Almshouses, surrounding a little court, which were built by Sir William Drake 1657. A little further, on the same side, is a gabled house called *Little Shardeloes*.

*Shardeloes Park* is one mile from the Church to the west. It runs up onto the hills. The house, designed by Adams, stands in the centre. It has small square windows and a portico, with pediment, on the north side; and contains portraits of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Francis Drake; Sir Christopher Hatton, Elizabeth's dancing Chancellor, by Cornelius; and landscapes by Vernet.

The Misbourn has here been dammed up to form a lake. The gardens were constructed by Sir William Drake out of a morass. They were afterwards altered by Richmond.

The house cannot be seen from the railway which runs through a cutting on the other side of the valley, but the road divides the park in two, and one mile further reaches **LITTLE MISSENDEN**.

The Church (St. John Baptist, register 1559) contains two brasses to the Styles family of Holmer, which lies one mile to the south. It has also a Norman font.

*(To be continued.)*

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**RELIC OF OLD BERKS YEOMANRY.**—In “a List of the Officers of the Militia, the Gentlemen and Yeomanry Cavalry, and Volunteer Infantry of the United Kingdom,” published by the War Office, 31st March, 1807, page 48, under head of “Aldermaston Cav.” the following officers are given:—

Captain William Congreve, 13 Aug., 1803.

Lieutenant William Thoyts, 13 Aug., 1803.

Lieutenant William Stone, 15 May, 1804.

Cornet Charles Blagrove, 15 May, 1804.

At this date the various troops do not appear to have been embodied as a regiment, but are named separately:—1st Berks Cavalry under Lt.-Col. Dundas apparently consisting of four troops, the Maidenhead Cav., Capt. Payn; the Thatcham Cav., Capt. Croft; the Wargrave Cav., Capt. Sir Morris Ximenes; the Windsor Cav., Capt. Sturges; and the Woodley Cav., Capt. Viscount Sidmouth.—R. J. FYNMORE, Sandgate, Kent.

**PARISH REGISTERS.**—We understand that the transcripts of Berkshire Parish Registers made by Mrs. Cope (Miss Thoyts), of Sulhamstead Park, will not be published by Messrs. Phillimore & Co. They number already some 30 parishes and are indexed, so are an exceptionally good collection.