



## A Tour through Buckinghamshire.

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(Continued from page 29, Vol. 6.)

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GREAT MISSENDEN is the first station beyond Amersham. Here was an Abbey of Augustinian Canons, probably founded by the D'Oyleys, a Buckinghamshire family, in 1133, but largely endowed by a second founder, Sir William de Missenden, about 1293, in fulfilment of a vow made when in danger of shipwreck.

A few remains of the domestic buildings of the Abbey are to be found worked into a green-house at the house called *Missenden Abbey*.

The Abbey Church (St. Mary, register 1694) is used as the parish church. It is a cruciform building mostly Early English, with Perpendicular alterations. On the north side of the chancel is an arcade of pointed arches seven feet from the ground. There are Mural Tablets to the De Bois and Dormer families. There are brasses to Margaret Metcalf, 1595, and John Iwardby and Katherine his wife, daughter and heiress of Bernard de Missenden, 1536.

John Randall, a well-known Puritan divine of the time of James I., Rector of St. Andrew Hubbard, Little Eastcheap, London, was born at Missenden.

The last Abbot of Missenden, John Otewell, married after the suppression of the Abbey 1534.

Captain Thomas Barkham, an Indian officer, d. 1800, was buried in a remarkable Mausoleum which he had constructed in a wood near his house at Missenden, but in 1807 one of his sons destroyed it and removed his father's body to the church-yard.

The public hall and reading-room were erected in 1879.

Leaving Missenden we pass on the hills east LEE, a very small village with a church (St. John Baptist) built 1868. The old church, now used for a Sunday School, was served before the dissolution by Missenden Abbey.

Three miles north of Lee is ST. LEONARDS, a detached hamlet of Aston Clinton, now a separate parish. The chapel is restored.

It contains the monument of General Cornelius Wood, a distinguished officer of Queen Anne's time, d. 1712. There is a bust of the General surrounded by military trophies.

Two miles east on the Hertfordshire border is CHOLESBURY or CHOULESBURY. The Church (St. Laurence, restored 1878, register 1583) was originally a chapel of Drayton Beauchamp, and stands within a large enclosure which is surrounded by a fosse, evidently a strong-hold or camp. The camp is 289 yards long by 207 yards in width.

The Church is Early English, and Decorated in style. There is a turret at the west end. The east and west ends have good three-light windows, and there is an Early English doorway.

To the north of Cholesbury a large dyke runs from east to west, over Wigginton Commom, through the parish of Tring to Drayton Beauchamp. It appears to be a portion of the Grimes Dyke.

Five miles from Great Missenden is WENDOVER, a town with a population of 2,000, situated just where the Vale of Aylesbury opens out beneath the north-west face of the Chiltern Hills. Wendover has had a market at least since 1403, and returned two Members to Parliament in 1300. For 300 years the right of being represented in the House of Commons was in abeyance; but it was restored in 1623 and lasted until the Reform Bill. John Hampden the patriot sat for Wendover in five Parliaments.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1626) is Decorated in style. In the south aisle is a brass to W. Bradshaw, 1537, his wife, nine children, and twenty-three grandchildren. The church was restored 1869 under the superintendence of G. E. Street, R.A. The chancel had been restored in 1839.

There is a Literary Institution with library and reading-room. The red-brick Market-house was built in 1842, and enlarged in 1870.

Sir Henry Collet, twice Lord Mayor of London, and father of John Collet, Dean of St. Paul's and founder of St. Paul's School, 1512, was born at Wendover. The Dean himself was born in London, but gave many Buckinghamshire Manors as endowments to St. Paul's.

Roger de Wendover, an early historian who lived in the reign of Henry III., was, as we may gather from his name, also a native of this place.

Edmund Burke had his first seat in Parliament as Member for Wendover in 1765. Richard Steele, the writer, sat for the borough

1721. George Canning, the Prime Minister, was Member for Wendover in 1796 and 1799.

A branch of the Grand Junction Canal runs from Wendover to Marsworth.

There are five small villages north of Wendover. They may be easily reached by road from Tring or Aylesbury. They lie on either side of the high-road.

The one two miles north is HATTON, through which runs the canal, as well as the much older line of communication, the Icknield Way.

The Church (St. Michael, register 1606) was re-built 1806. There is a brass plate to Henry Bradshaw, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, d. 1553, to whom the Manor was sold by Archbishop Cranmer. It had belonged for a long period to the See of Canterbury.

One mile west is WESTON TURVILLE. This parish has its second name from the family of Turville who possessed it in the time of King John. The Molins family possessed one of the manors, and in 1331 Sir John Molins had the King's licence to crenellate or fortify his house, the site of which may be seen on a mound behind the present Manor-house.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1538) is very interesting. It is for the most part Decorated, but there is an Early English piscina, and there are remains of Norman work in the south wall of the chancel, together with two effigies with swords and long shields. The chancel is, however, mainly of the 15th century, when the fine timber roof was erected. The east window is of three lights and contains a figure of the Blessed Virgin and Child. On the south side of the chancel there is a brass of a man in a furred robe, and also a mural marble monument to John Tipping, Rector, 1722, and others to rectors of later date. In the south-west window of the chancel are the arms of John of Gaunt. In a window of the north aisle, which has its original roof, are the arms as it is supposed of the family of Gernor or Horwood. The south aisle windows are an example of Flamboyant tracery. The Norman font with its scroll ornament and its square cushioned base should also be noticed. The pulpit and altar chains are Jacobean and good examples. One of the chairs is of curious construction.

Further to the north is ASTON CLINTON. Gerard Lake the Indian General was in 1804 created Lord Lake of Aston Clinton. His family possessed the Manor.

The Church (St. Michael, register 1560) was restored in 1867, and the chancel has been re-built.

The Manor-house has also been re-built by the De Rothschilds. *Aston St. Leonards* is a detached hamlet of this parish.

One mile east of Aston Clinton is **BUCKLAND**. This was once a chapelry of Bierton, but now is held ecclesiastically with Stoke Mandeville.

The Church (All Saints, register 1530) is of the end of the 13th century, and was restored in 1869.

There is a district church on Buckland Common which lies on the hills five miles south between St. Leonards and Cholesbury.

Further along the banks of the canal to the east is **DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP**, the home for nearly 400 years of the Cheyne family, the last representative of which was Lord Newhaven, died 1728. Their house has disappeared, but the moat may be traced. The Beauchamps, from whom the parish takes its second name, had it before the Cheynes.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1538) is an Early Decorated building, but has a Norman north porch. The round font is also Norman. There are many monuments of the Cheynes. A brass against the south wall of the chancel is supposed to be that of Thomas Cheyne, shield-bearer to Edward III. The latter presented him with the Manor of Drayton, 1368. There is also a brass supposed to be that of William Cheyne, 1375. On the north side of the chancel is the large monument of Lord and Lady Newhaven, by Woodman, in white marble. The Viscount is in his robes and wig. The figure of Viscountess Newhaven may have been added afterwards. The lady is represented in a long fur robe, and she is looking at the figure of her husband.

Sir John Cheyne, who was Sheriff of Buckinghamshire 1423, was buried in the chancel by the side of his wife, the daughter of Sir Robert Fitz-Marmaduke. His bones were disinterred a few years ago, and he appears to have been a man seven feet high. He slew an immense Saracen in the Holy Land.

The east window is of the 14th century and represents eight of the Apostles with an article of the Creed over each.

The carved oak pulpit is a memorial to Richard Hooker, who was Rector here, his first charge, from December, 1583, to March, 1585, when he was appointed Master of the Temple.

Isaac Walton in his life of Hooker lets us see something of the life of a married country clergyman at the end of the 16th century.

Hooker's favourite pupils, Edwin Sandys and George Cranmer, came to visit him at Drayton. They found him with the Odes of Horace in his hand, keeping his few sheep on the Common Field while his man was away at his dinner. Hooker himself was presently carried off to domestic duties in the matter of rocking the cradle, and his visitors left next morning, heartily pitying their late Tutor's condition.

William Hastings Kelke, a local antiquary, and one of the founders of the Buckinghamshire Archæological Society, was Rector here 1840-1860.

There is one station between Wendover and Aylesbury, **STOKE MANDEVILLE**. The village is west of the railway. The old Church (St. Mary, register 1612) is outside the village. It has a tablet to some of the Brudenell family, Earls of Cardigan, who once had a seat here. Edmund Brudenell was Clerk to Parliament in the time of Edward III.

There is a new church (St. Mary) in the village.

The lands for which Hampden was assessed for Ship Money are in an outlying part of the parish, Priestwood.

Three miles further the railway reaches the county town of **AYLESBURY**. The station is close to that of the G.W.R. for Maidenhead. The L. & N.W.R. station is on the other side of the town.

Formerly Aylesbury shared the position of Assize Town with Buckingham, but the latter place has almost entirely ceased to be a county town, since Aylesbury really occupies a much more central position, with railways branching off in each direction.

The early form of Aylesbury was *Æglesbyrig*, but the town had a history before the time of Saxons, for it was, the Saxon Chronicle tells us, one of the British places captured by Cuthwulph, King of the West Saxons in 571.

In the Civil War of the 17th century Aylesbury was held by the Parliamentarians, and Prince Rupert fought a severe skirmish a little to the north of the town at Holman's Bridge on 1st November, 1648. He had made a demonstration against the town from Oxford, but was driven off by Sir William Balfour, the Parliamentarian commander. Colonel Aldriche was the Governor of Aylesbury, and had been solicited by the King to betray the town.

There were several religious homes in Aylesbury of which however there are no remains. There were two hospitals, St. John's, founded 1361, St. Leonard's, founded 1362. There was a house of

Franascans or Grey Friars, founded 1387, and there was a house of Trinitarians, erroneously said to have been the religious home of the two sainted sisters Eadburgh and Eadith, daughters of Frewald, King of Mercia. It is said they were born at Quarendon, but their history is mixed up with that of their niece, St. Osyth, who was educated by them. The body of this lady, who was beheaded in Essex by the Danes during one of their inroads, was brought to Aylesbury for a time, and there worked many miracles. There was also a Fraternity or Chantry founded 1425.

The site of the Grey Friars was occupied by a house built by the Pakingtons, in which Sir John Pakington entertained James I. and his Queen. The house was destroyed during the civil wars and never re-built.

The Pakingtons had succeeded to the Manor by the marriage of Robert Pakington with the daughter of Sir John Baldwin, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who had purchased it from Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire, father of Anne Boleyn.

In the centre of the town is the large Market-place, in which is a clock tower erected in 1877. The clock was at first, in 1857, placed in the market-house, which had been built by the Marquis of Buckingham in 1806, and which occupied the site of an older one built by Sir Robert Baldwin in 1530.

On the south side of the Market Square is the County Hall, which contains the Law Courts and other offices. Behind are the old Gaol and the Judge's Lodgings. In the dining-room of the latter buildings are some portraits of Buckinghamshire celebrities, including George Grenville, Marquis of Buckingham, Lord Lieutenant and Chairman of Quarter Sessions, 1791-1811; the 3rd Duke of Buckingham, died 1889; Lord Carrington, died 1880; Sir T. G. Aubrey, died 1851; and Baron Cottesloe, died 1881.

The Temple family, of Stowe, had property in the town, and a street is named after the family. Another street is named Bourbon Street in commemoration of the sojourn of Louis XVIII. and the Royal Family of France at Hartwell House, two miles west, from 1810-1814. The King's Head Inn of the time of Henry VI. may have been a Guild Hall or Frater House. In a large window are the arms of England and Anjou.

*(To be continued.)*