

(298.) George Blagrave, Esq., and Joel Stephens, gent, and Elizabeth, w ; houses in psh of St. Giles in Reading. £200.

(299.) Robert Butler and John Butler and Sir John Moore, Bart. ; houses, etc., and lands, etc., in Maidencote and the pshes of East Garston als Argaston and Great Shefford. £860.

(300.) Richard Tonson, Esq., and John Bartholomew and Ann, w ; house, etc., and land in psh of Bray. £60.

(To be continued).

The Dunch Family of Little Wittenham.

By Walter Money, F.S.A.

THE Manor of Little Wittenham, which had belonged to the Abbey and Convent of Abingdon, was given by Henry VIII. in 1547, to Thomas Lord Wriothesley, and soon afterwards became the property of John Barnes, Gentleman Porter or Governor of the Castle of Guisnes, in France, when it was an English possession, who was buried at Little Wittenham, in 1588 ; for it appears his sister, Maria, had married William Dunch, of this place, who was M.P. for Wallingford in 1563, and high sheriff of the County 1569-70. He died in 1597, aged 89, and was also buried in Little Church, where he is commemorated by a *brass* formerly attached to the monument in the Dunch Mortuary Chapel, on the south side of the chancel, now destroyed, on which he is described as "Auditor of the Minte to our late Sovereigne Lord King Henry the Eight, and King Edward the Sixt, and Esquire sworn extraordinary for the Body of our Sovereigne Lady Elizabeth." He left with a son Walter* an elder son.

Edmund Dunch, afterwards Sir Edmund, was M.P. for Wallingford in 1571, and for the County in 1623-5-6, and also for Wootton Bassett in 1572. He was high sheriff 1586-7. He married Anne, only daughter and heiress of Nicholas Fettiplace, of Kentwood, Knt., and left with other issue a son.

* This Walter Dunch inherited from his father the Priory Manor of Avebury, Wilts, who left it to his son William. Kingsmill Long's translation of "Barclay's Argenis" is dedicated to the "truly noble Wm. Dunch of A., Esq., 1636."

Sir William Dunch, was M.P. for Wallingford in 1603, and was knighted on the accession of James I. to the throne. He married Mary, the daughter of Sir Henry Cromwell, Aunt to Oliver Cromwell, and sister-in-law to John Hampden. He died in 1611, at the age of 33, and was buried in the Chapel, where a very costly monument of marble and alabaster, with the effigies of Sir William in armour, and that of his lady was erected on the west side. These effigies are now in the church with other memorials preserved from the wreck of the older building, including a *brass* to William Winchcombe, son and heir of Francis Winchcombe, of Bucklebury, who married Mary, eldest daughter of Edmund Dunch, and sister of Sir William.

Samuel Dunch, brother to Sir William above-mentioned, and who is described as of North Baddesley, Co. Hants, was M.P. for Wallingford in 1620, and one of the representatives of the County in 1653. He married Dulcibella, daughter of John Moore, Serjeant-at-Law, one of the family of the famous Sir Francis Moore, of South Fawley, who was born at East Ilsley in 1558. Mary, the eldest daughter of this Samuel Dunch, married Sir Francis Pile, of Compton Beauchamp, who was created a baronet by Charles I. for his services to the Crown.

Edmund Dunch, of Little Wittenham, son of Sir William above-mentioned, was M.P. for Wallingford in the Parliaments of 1628-40-40, and for the County in the Parliament of 1653. His return to the long Parliament was declared void. He was high sheriff of the County in 1632-3, and is said to have been made Governor of Wallingford Castle, by his cousin, the Protector; in 1658 he was created a baronet, and when Cromwell proposed to re-constitute the House of Lords he was called to the Upper House by the title of Baron Burnell of East Wittenham, of which he was divested at the Restoration. The author of a pamphlet, entitled "The Mysteries of the Good Old Cause," published in 1660, speaking of this gentleman, says, "he was the husband of the fine Mrs. Dunch; was a great favourite with the Protector, and had a patent to be lord of the Lord knows what, and how little he deserves it." The Mrs. Dunch here alluded to was Bridget, the daughter of Sir Anthony Hungerford, of Down Ampney. He died in 1678.

John Dunch, of Pusey, son of Samuel, born in 1630, was M.P. for the County 1654-56-58. He married Anne, daughter and co-heir of Richard Major, or Maijor, of Hursley, Co. Hants, the sister-in-law of Richard Cromwell (the Protector's son—"Tumble-

down-Dick"), by whom he had a son, Major, who was sheriff of Berks, 1677, to whom there is a monument with a long epitaph in Pusey Church.

Hungerford Dunch, son of Edmund and Bridget, was Colonel of the Berks Militia or Trained-bands, and returned as M.P. for Wallingford in 1660, but made his election for Cricklade.

Edmund Dunch, son of John Dunch, of Pusey, was M.P. for Wallingford in 1715. He was Master of the Household to Queen Anne, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Colonel Godfrey, who served under King William III. in Flanders, by Arabella Churchill, sister of the great Duke of Marlborough, and on his death in 1719, without male issue, the family became extinct in the male line. The double connection of the Dunches with the Cromwells has already been shown. The marriage just alluded to is therefore extraordinary, as the last Mrs. Dunch being half-sister to the children of James II., the Cromwells and the Stuarts were thus brought into consanguinity. Of the daughters and co-heiresses of Edmund Dunch, one married the 2nd Duke of Manchester, and became mother of the 3rd Duke. Elizabeth, eldest daughter and co-heir, married Sir George Oxenden, of Dene, Co. Kent, to whom the Manor of Little Wittenham passed on the death of Mr. Dunch. Sir Henry Oxenden sold it in 1788 to William Hallett, Esq., a London gentleman, who on four occasions unsuccessfully contested this County, of whom it was purchased by Nathaniel Dance, Esq., M.P. for East Grinstead, who took the additional surname of Holland, and was created a baronet 27th Nov., 1800. The fine old manor-house was pulled down about this time. Boydell mentions that in the park at Little Wittenham an oak had long flourished, beneath whose shade Prior is said to have composed his poem of "Henry and Emma."