



## Notes on the Churches of Hanney, Lyford, Denchworth and Charney Bassett.

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AS most of you are aware, it has been my custom now for several years to read a paper on the architectural features of some of our ancient Berkshire Churches, and by the aid of my lantern slides to convey my audience to, and point out to them the salient features of, the edifices thus visited. I feel it is my pleasurable duty to adopt this line, as though in common with all the members I welcome and enjoy the many interesting papers our kind friends are good enough to read to us on general archæological topics, and even foreign antiquities, still as President of this Society I consider it is my privilege to bring to the notice of Berkshire folk the objects of interest to be found in their own County, and to place on record a more complete and accurate account of those Parish Churches and other ancient buildings, which hitherto have been too little known, and have received quite inadequate attention.

To-day, I propose to introduce you to the Churches of Hanney, Lyford and Denchworth and the Chapel at Charney Bassett. I had intended to include in the group the ruined Church at Hatford, and the very fine and interesting Churches at Stanford-in-the-Vale and Shellingford, but dare not weary you with too much material, so must let these stand over for another year, when I shall hope, all being well, to bring them to your notice.

Let us now imagine that we are commencing our round, that we have travelled by train to Wantage Road Station, and after a drive of one-and-a-half miles, passing through the hamlet of East Hanney, have arrived at West Hanney, the portion of the Parish in which the Church is situated. The Parish of Hanney formerly comprised the townships of East and West Hanney, and the hamlets of Lyford and North Denchworth or Denchesworth, but in 1845

Lyford was separated from it and formed into a civil Parish. The present Parish now embraces 3,503 acres, and the population in 1901 was 772. The larger portion of these reside in East Hanney, which also comprises the greater part of the area. In 1821 the population of the two townships was 974, so that in spite of the fertility of the soil, the number of the inhabitants has considerably decreased. The Manorial History is somewhat complicated, but it will no doubt be carefully unravelled by the Editors of the Victorian History of Berkshire, and may therefore be superficially treated here. As usual, we can obtain some information from the Berkshire Volume of Lyson's *Magna Britannia*, and this we are able to supplement from the interesting work on the Parochial Topography of the Hundred of Wanting, published by William Nelson Clarke of Ardington in 1824. At the time of the Domesday Survey the Abbey of Abingdon, the Count of Evreux, Walter Gifard, and Gislebert de Breteville held land in Hanney. Walter Gifard "who possessed considerable estates in Berkshire and other Counties, was son of Osborne de Bolebec and accompanied his kinsman Duke William to England. Shortly afterwards he was created Earl of Buckingham. He was one of the principal persons who assisted in compiling the general survey of the realm, now known by the name of the Domesday Book, and died in 1102. About the year 1084, he had founded a Benedictine Priory at Longueville in Normandy, dedicated to St. Faith, to which he gave the Manor of Newenton, in Buckinghamshire, which became a cell to the said Priory, and was thence called Newenton Longueville. To this religious society he gave a Manor in Hanney, which continued in their possession till the dissolution of Alien Priors in the reign of Henry V.

"It appears by the Testa de Nevill, that this estate in the reign of Henry III. comprised a moiety of West Hanney.

"King Henry VI. granted this Manor to the Warden and Scholars of New College in Oxford, in whom it still remains vested."

The remaining property of this Walter Gifard passed through the hands of several distinguished personages and came to the Cameys or Camois family who also held the Manor of North Denchworth in West Hanney. In 1263 or 1264 Ralph de Cameys sold this Manor to Adam Fetteplace, of Oxford, who had been Mayor of that City in 1245, and nine other years. This branch of this distinguished and ubiquitous family continued to reside here till the reign of

Charles II., when the then representative moved to Letcombe Regis. Only the site of the house now remains. There seems to have been another Manor, called Andrews Court, in West Hanney, which belonged to the Fetteplaces in 1443.

In East Hanney there are said to have been three Manors. The Abbey of Abingdon appears to have possessed property here at a very early date, and there is a charter received from King Edwy in 956 referring to this. After the dissolution the lands were allotted to various persons, among others to John Eyston who held them in 1544, with the reversion to Francis Wellesborne, whose family held it till 1602, when through various heiresses it passed through the hands of numerous families.

A second Manor belonged to the Count of Evreux who bestowed it on the Priory of Noion in Normandy. After the suppression of the alien Priors, Henry VI. settled it on the Carthusian Monastery of Sheene, in Surrey, and at the dissolution of the Monasteries, it was granted in 1545 to John Cheyney. He soon afterwards sold it to John Clarke, of Ardington. Afterwards it was acquired by the owner and became part of the Lockinge estate, to which it still belongs.

There was another Manor called Philberds Court from the family of St. Philibert who possessed much property in England as early as the reign of Richard I. It also passed through the hands of several owners, and not long before the dissolution of the Monasteries came into the possession of the Abbey of Abingdon. King Henry VIII. granted it to Sir Charles Williams, but in 1550, it is stated, Thomas Yate then held the Manor. There was an ancient Chapel here, to which the Bishop of Bath presented in 1310.

Another small Manor called Southbery belonged in the time of Edward III. to the Fetyplaces, and came to the Untons by the marriage of Hugh Unton with Sibella, daughter and coheir of William Fetyplace, Esq., of Stokenchurch in Oxfordshire, son of Sir Thomas Fetyplace, of East Shefford and Childrey. The two Manors at Lyford will be referred to later on.

The living at West Hanney is a Vicarage in the patronage of the Dean and Canons of Salisbury. Let us now return to the Church (Fig. 1) which is dedicated to St. James the Great, and is a spacious stone structure, but has unfortunately undergone a very drastic restoration. It is cruciform, with nave and south aisle, north and south transepts or chapels, with a tower over the north transept, and

Chancel. The earliest part of the Church is the north wall of the nave with very fine Norman doorway, and two late round-headed windows renewed. There was probably a south aisle of this date, as in the accounts in Clarke's *History of Wanting*, and the *Ecclesiastical Topography of England*, at least one Norman column seems to have been standing of the south nave arcade. The first alteration seems to have been the addition of the north transept and tower, about the year 1200, and early in the 13th century the present Chancel arch was erected and suggests the rebuilding of the Chancel at that date. The south transept has been thoroughly renewed in the transitional style from the Early English to the Decorated circa 1260 to 1270. In the early part of the 14th century, the fine reticulated window was added on the east side of the tower, and the south (Fig. 2) aisle was rebuilt, one or two of the Norman columns being preserved. In the late 15th century the Chancel was rebuilt, and an upper stage added to the tower. Many alterations were made and much destruction wrought at the time of the restoration, which will be pointed out as we make our perambulation of the Church (Fig. 3).

Let us now commence our description of the Church, starting as usual in the interior of the Chancel (Fig. 4). This, as we have already stated, was rebuilt somewhat late in the 15th century. The east window is segmental-headed of five lights of late perpendicular style and below it is the recess for the reredos. On north and south are two square-headed three-light windows of the same date. They have a cinquefoiled compartment in the head. The splays of the windows are continued down below the lights, so that the sill may form a seat in the wall on either side. On the south is a square recess with groove to the frame. It contains a modern piscina basin and the original stone shelf above. The altar rails have nice twisted baluster shafts of 17th century date. The table stands on a very large Purbeck marble slab. Was this the original altar stone? On the north of the Chancel is preserved a well carved oak panel with date 1649, a relic of the old gallery which formerly occupied the west end of the nave. The Chancel roof is new. The floor of the Chancel is paved entirely with brasses and other monumental stones, mainly of the 16th and early 17th centuries, perhaps the most interesting series of this period in the County.

On the north side (Fig. 5) is a very fine brass effigy of a priest fully vested with amice, maniple, &c., and hands clasped on the breast. The figure is about 3 feet 7 inches in height. It formerly

stood on a pedestal supported on a shaft, and there was a shield on either side. Only a portion of the inscription round the stone now remains, namely on the north side, "Saye quondam rector ecclie de" and on the south "dm millimo CCC." When Ashmole took his notes in the latter part of the 17th century the inscription was even then mutilated but read as follows: "Hic Jacet Dominus Johannes Seys, quondam Rector ecclie de . . . . . obiit ii die . . . . dm millimo CCC . . . . ." We therefore still get very little information about him. He was probably rector of Hanney. The date of the brass would be late in Edward III's reign, or about 1370. He may have been a benefactor and have contributed to the rebuilding of the north aisle.

To the east of this is a black marble slab with inscription in large capital letters :—

EDWARD SCROGGS

ESQ.

DIED AUGUST 6TH, 1784.

The mason in carving the inscription by mistake made it 1884, and then corrected it by cutting a "7" over the first "8." This Edward Scroggs was a descendant of Sir William Scroggs and Anne daughter of Edmund Fetyplace, Esq. of North Denchworth. He rented land in Hanney from New College, Oxford.

Next on the south is a black marble slab with shield of arms on an inlaid panel of white marble a lion rampant and a chief. (The arms of the Ayshcombes were : Or, a lion rampant tail forked gules armed and langued az. a chief of the last.) There is the following inscription below in capital letters :—

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF JOHN  
AYSHCOMBE OF LYFORD IN THE  
COUNTY OF BERKES ESQUIER  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND  
SOME TYME HIGH SHERIEF FOR  
THE SAID COUNTY HEE DYED  
AND WAS BURIED THE 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY  
OF DECEMBER ANNO DM 1655  
ÆTATIS SUE 97.

Immediately to the east of this is another black marble slab to John Ashcome, son of the last mentioned John Ayshcombe. His arms impaling those of his wife, a cross and over all a bend for

Baniger, are on a panel of white marble above the inscription, which is in capital letters and runs as follows :—

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF JOHN  
ASHCOME OF LYFORD IN THE COUNTY  
OF BERCKES ESQ WHO DEPARTED  
THIS LIFE THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH  
1662 IN THE YEARE OF HIS AGE 64.  
LEAVING BEHIND HIM 2 SONNS AND  
2 DAUGHTERS, (VIZ.) JOHN, OLEVER,  
MARGRIT, ELIZABETH.

To the south of these is a large black marble stone (Fig. 6) with effigies of a civilian and lady, about two feet long. He wears a long gown, and she has the ruff round the neck and the costume of the early 17th century date. Below them is an inscription on a brass plate, and on another plate the portraits of their four sons and two daughters. Above him is a shield with the Ayshcombe arms, and above her the Ayshcombe arms impaling Yate, a fess between three gates. An inscription corresponding closely with that on the brass plate runs round the verge of the stone :—

HERE LYETH BURIED THE BODYES OF OLIVER AYSHCOMBE OF LYFFORD  
GENT AND MARTHA HIS WIFE THAT WAS ONE OF THE DAUGHTER<sup>S</sup>  
OF THOMAS YEATE OF LIFFORD ESQUIER, WHOM HAD BETWEENE  
THEM FOUER SONNES AND TWO DAUGHTERS SHE DYED THE NYNTH  
OF NOVEMBER A<sup>O</sup> DNI 1611 AND HE THE THIRTEENE DAY OF  
DECEMBER A<sup>O</sup> DNI 1611 AND GAVE BY HIS WILL A VERY LIBERALL  
AND BOUNTIFULL GIFT UNTO THE POORE OF THIS PARISH.

*Round the Verge.*

(On W.) HERE LYETH BURIED Y<sup>R</sup> BODYES OF OLIVER  
(On N.) AYSHCOMBE OF LYFFORD GENT & MARTHA HIS WIFE ONE  
OF Y<sup>R</sup> DAUGHT<sup>S</sup> OF THOMAS YEATE OF  
(On E.) LIFF. ESQ. SHE DIED Y<sup>R</sup> 9 OF NOVEM A<sup>O</sup> D 1611  
(On S.) AND HE ON 13 OF DECEM A<sup>O</sup> 1611. HE GAVE BY WILL  
A BOUNTIF<sup>LL</sup> GIFT TO Y<sup>R</sup> POORE OF THIS PRISH.

As stated, this Oliver Ayshcombe was a benefactor to the Parish, and founded and endowed some almshouses at Lyford, which are still preserved for the benefit of residents in the Parish.

To the east of this is another blue stone with shield carved on it argent on a chief gules two buck's heads cabossed or, a crescent for difference, and inscription :—

ALEX<sup>R</sup>. POPHAM ARM  
OBIIT 12 JUL. 1752  
ÆTATIS SUÆ 35.

It is not clear why a member of the Popham family should have been buried here.

Adjoining these on the south side are two more memorials in brass. The western one (Fig. 7) commemorates John Ayshcombe, and is the earliest memorial of that family in the Church. It is on a large black stone with the effigies of a civilian in the gown of the period, and his two wives facing him on either side. The figure of John Ayshcombe is about 2ft. 7½ins., those of his wives about 2ft. 7ins. in height. Above him is a shield with the Ayshcombe arms. Above the lady on the left, Ayshcombe impaling blank; the shield above the other lady is gone. Below the figures on another brass plate is the following inscription in capital letters, and this is partly repeated in white letters round the verge of the stone :—

HERE LYETH BURYED THE BODY OF JOHN AYSHCOMBE OF LYFFORD GENT WHO HAD TWO WIVES, BY THE FIRST HE HAD NO ISSUE, THE SECOND WIFE WAS MARGERIE WELSBORNE ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF OLIVER WELSBORNE OF THIS PARISH, ESQR. BY WHOME HE HAD TEN SONNES AND FOUR DAUGHTERS, W<sup>CH</sup> MARGERIE WAS HERE BURYED THE 26 DAY OF JUNE A<sup>O</sup> DNI 1591 & THE SAYD JOHN AYSHCOMBE DYED Y<sup>R</sup> 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPT<sup>R</sup> A<sup>O</sup> 1592.

*Round the Verge in white letters.*

- (W.) HERE LYETH BURYED Y<sup>R</sup> BODY OF JOHN AYSHCOMBE  
(N.) OF LYFFORD GENT HE HAD TWO WIVES BY Y<sup>R</sup> FIRST  
HE HAD NOE ISSUE Y<sup>R</sup> SECONDE WAS  
(E.) MARGERIE WELSBORNE Y<sup>R</sup> DAUGHT<sup>R</sup> OF OLIVER WELSB  
(S.) ESQ BY WHOM HE HAD X SONES & IIII DAUGHT<sup>S</sup>. SHE  
DIED Y<sup>R</sup> 26 OF JUNE 1591 & HE Y<sup>R</sup> 7 OF SEPT 1592.

Below the inscription on the brass plate, are, on two brass plates, portraitures of the ten sons and four daughters.

To the east of this (Fig. 8) is a Purbeck marble slab, partly under the stone supporting the Communion Table, commemorating Francis Wellesborne and his two wives. It was originally in the south transept on a raised tomb, which was destroyed at the time of the restoration of the Church. In the centre is the figure of Francis Wellesborne represented as a soldier in complete armour, with hands clasped on his breast, bareheaded, and sword by his side. On either side stands a wife richly vested in the costume of the Elizabethan period. Above his head is a shield with the Wellesborne arms : A griffin rampant, a chief chequy, over all a bend, over the first wife these arms with the space for those of the lady, which have never been engraved; and over the second wife, the Wellesborne's impaling Stafford : Argent a chevron gules and canton ermine. Below

on a brass plate is a quaint rhyming morality, and round the verge an inscription also on brass.

Staye thou that passest by this Waye this Gravestone to beholde  
Here under lyeth the corps of one who made was of thy moulde  
As he is dead so must thou dye in Heaven to live againe  
If as he did so thou dye well or els in endless paine.

*Round the Verge.*

- (W.) HERE LYET]H B'RIED Y<sup>e</sup> BODY OF FRANCES WELLESBORNE  
OF EAST HANNEY
- (N.) IN Y<sup>e</sup> COUNTY OF BARK ESQER WHO HAD TWO WIVES NAM  
[ALICE AND ELLIANOR WHICH ALICE DECEASED WITHOUT  
YSSUE ; AND BY ELLIANOR DAUGHTER] TO THOMAS  
STAFFORD OF BROADFIELD [IN THE SAID COUNTY, ESQ.
- (E. gone.) (S.) HE HAD ISSUE THREE DAUGHTERS FRANCES (KATHERINE  
DECEASED) AND ANNE, HE DYED THE V<sup>th</sup> DAYE OF  
NOVEMBER AN<sup>o</sup> 1602 ÆTATIS SUÆ ;6.

The central part on each side has been cut out, but is given by Ashmole. Against the south wall is another Purbeck marble slab with effigy in brass of a knight, Humfrey Cheynie, 2 feet 8 inches high. (Fig. 9). He is standing on a mound with helmet behind his head, in mail armour, sword by his side, hands clasped on the breast. Below him on another brass plate is the following quaint inscription, and a quotation from Job runs round the verge :—

Syth stable Joyes of lyff thou knowest Ryght fewe or none  
Thy flytting dayes eke, not long to man endure  
This earth to bee but a pylgremage, heaven o<sup>r</sup> only home  
Lett passe all thoughts that to vanytie the shall alluere  
And one mee Humfrey Cheynie staye and muse a whill  
To John Cheynie of Westwoodday sometyme seconde sonne  
Who dying without issu A<sup>o</sup>MCCCCCLVII<sup>o</sup> the xv<sup>th</sup> of Apryll  
May warne the of thy lott, haplie not farre to come  
And therefor lyk as for the, thow wouldest other to pray  
God to bee mercyfull and not Ryghtfull in his dome  
Soo I beseke the have a mynd alway  
To bed for me as often as thow hether come.

*Round the Verge.*

- (W.) I AM SUER THAT MY REDEMER
- (N.) LYVETH AND THAT I SHALL RYSE OUT OF THE EARTHE,  
IN THE LASTE DAYE AND I SHALLBE COVERED AGAINE  
WITH MY SKYNE AND SE
- (E.) GOD IN MY FLESHE WHOME I MY
- (S.) SELFE SHALL BEHOLDE NOT WITHE OTHER BUT WITHE  
THE[SE SAME EYES. THIS MY HOPE] IS PUTTUP IN  
MY BOSOME. JOB XIX<sup>o</sup>.

At the corners are the emblems of the Evangelists, St. John at SW., St. Matthew at NW., St. Luke at NE., St. Mark at SE., within quatrefoils each holding a scroll.

To the east of the last is the figure of Sir Christopher Lytcot. (Fig. 10). The effigy is about 2 feet 11 inches in height. He is bareheaded, with sword at side, hands clasped on breast. There is a long inscription on a plate below, and a somewhat complicated coat of arms on a shield above his head. Sir Christopher Lytcot, as we are here informed, twice served the office of Sheriff of the County, and is on these occasions described as of Ruscombe, near Twyford. He also died at Bastledon (Basildon). Query, why was he buried at Hanney? The inscription runs as follows:—

UNDER THIS STONE LYETH INTERRED THE CORPS OF S<sup>r</sup>. CHRIS  
TOPHER LYTCOT KNIGHT TWYCE HIGHSHERIEF OF THE COUNTY  
OF BERK (HUSBAND OF TWO WIVES BOTH IN THE SAYD COUN  
TYE, THE FORMER JANE ESSEX WIDDOWE OF THOMAS ESSEX  
OF BECKETT HOUSE ESQ, THE LATTER CATHERINE YOUNGE WID  
DOWE OF WILLM YOUNGE OF BASTLEDON ESQ) KNIGHTED  
IN THE CAMPE BEFORE ROANE THE XV<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMB 1591 BY  
THE HANDS OF THE FRENCH KINGE HENRY THE FOURTH OF Y<sup>e</sup>  
NAME, AND KING OF NAVARRE WHO AFTER HIS TRAVAILES IN  
GERMANY ITALYE AND FRAUNCE & THE EXECUTION OF JUS  
TICE TO THE GLORY OF GOD & THE GOOD OF HIS COUNTRY END  
ED THIS PILGRIMAGE AT BASTLEDON Y<sup>e</sup> XXV<sup>TH</sup> OF APRYLL 1599.

*(To be continued).*

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## The Preservation of National Monuments in Foreign Countries.

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ON page 57 of the July Journal it was stated that a "resume" of the Parliamentary Paper [Cd 6200] Misc. No. 7 [1912] would be given. This paper contains reports from the British Ambassadors and Ministers accredited to the Countries of Austria, Bavaria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Russia, Saxony, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A., giving particulars of the means adopted in the above-mentioned countries for the preservation of ancient monuments. Within recent years a feeling has been gradually growing in Great Britain that steps should be taken to preserve the ancient monu-