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

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(Continued from page 70.)

A DRIVE of two miles will bring us to Denchworth, a small parish and village with a small and interesting church (Fig. 40). The place is of considerable antiquity, and, at the time of the Domesday Survey, Henry de Ferrieres, William de Ow and Robert de Stadford all appear to have had land here. Clarke in his History of the Hundred of Wanting, informs us that "the Parish, small as it was, seems to have been anciently subdivided into several small manors, some of which acquired names from the Proprietors." Thus we find the principal manor after passing through several other personages, came in 1327 to John son of John Loveday, and from this family it is still called Lovedays or Denchworth Lovedays. Elizabeth, daughter and heir of the said John Loveday, married John Shelford, who in conjunction with his wife in 1383 conveyed it to John att Hyde, son and heir of William de la Hyde of Hyde in North Denchworth, and of Southcote in this Parish. The Hydes continued to possess property and reside in the parish till 1617, and many memorials remain to them in the

Church, to which they were no doubt benefactors. They also had a residence at Kingston Lisle. The family is now represented by Sir Clarendon Hyde, Bart., who has come to reside at Longworth. In 1617 the estates were sold to Sir William Cockayne, whose son, Lord Cullen, sold them to Gregory Geering, in whose family they remained till 1758 when they were purchased by the Provost and Scholars of Worcester College, Oxford, who are the Lords of the Manor and Patrons of the living. Another Manor called the Manor of Southcote, seems at a very early date to have been held under the Abbey of Abingdon. In or soon after the reign of Henry III. it became the residence of the Hydes. It was sold with the rest to Sir William Cockayne in 1617, and from him passed to the Saxtons. There was another small Manor called Cleets. John Hyde died in 1447 seised of all these Manors. The Rectory and advowson were appropriated by King Edward III. to the Abbot and Convent of Bruerne in Oxfordshire in 1359, but in 1543 they were sold to William Hyde, and have since passed with the Manor to Worcester College, Oxford.

The Church (Fig. 41), dedicated to St. James, is a somewhat irregularly shaped building. It consists of a north-west tower, nave, with south porch, transepts or chapels, the north transept having an eastern chapel, forming a north chapel to the chancel, and chancel. As we now see it the structure is mainly of the period when the Hydes exercised a predominating influence in the Parish, but there are slight remains of earlier portions. The south doorway is Norman, the arch opening to the north transept and perhaps the lower part of the tower Early English, and the arch to the south transept Decorated. But whatever may have been the form and size of the Church before, a substantial rebuilding in the 15th century with alterations and additions in the 16th century has presented us with the Church as we now see it.

Let us now take up our position in the Chancel (Fig. 42). The east window is of three lights, of Perpendicular date somewhat renewed on the interior side. On the south side are two two-light square-headed windows also in the Perpendicular style. The roof is low-pitched and underdrawn, and may be partly old. A debased four-centred arch opens from the Chancel to the north chapel. On the walls of the Chancel are placed several brasses, having been recently collected from various parts of the Church, and placed there for safety, as stated on a brass plate inserted below the brass of Oliver Hyde, by some of the representatives of the ancient

family of Hyde. On the south wall (Fig. 43), near the west end, is a brass plate with quaint inscription in Latin verse to William Say, who died on April 15th, 1493. This was formerly on a blue stone with the figure of a man and four shields in the north aisle. On one shield were the arms of Say, per pale three chevrons, which were variously blazoned by members of the family, who appear at Broxbourne, Herts, and at various places in Devon, Oxford, Northampton, and Essex. There is no record as to who this particular individual was.

Nudos nos mundo matris pduxerat alvus
 Et rursum nuda corpora terra petit
 Quas donavit opes mūdus sibi vendicat omēs
 Nec possessorum gasa secuta suum
 Set neq^a divicie gēnis nec gloria^a quenquam
 A mortis potit tollere lege virum
 Say michi Nomen erat Willm^o me nece stratum
 Decima quinta dies Aprilis ab orbe vocavit
 Anno dñi millesimo CCCCLXXXIII^o
 Queso suum, quicūq; meum bustum videt artum
 Cogitet & dicat Say requiescit* polo.

* A mistake of the engraver for requiesce.

The following translation is given in Ashmole's History and Antiquities of Berkshire :—

Naked at first into the World we came
 Our naked bodies Earth demands again
 The World now claims the total wealth it gave
 And not one Farthing follows to the Grave.
 Neither can Riches, Blood nor high Esteem
 From Deaths remorseless Jaws a Man redeem.
 While yet I liv'd my Name was William Say
 Death snatched me hence of April the fifth Day
 The Year of our Lord when this Affected me
 Was one thousand four hundred and eighty three ;
 Who sees my Tomb, think of your own, and pray
 That gracious Heav'n may rest the Soul of Say.

On the same south wall (Fig. 44) further east are the brass effigies of a knight in full armour, with sword by his side and hands clasped on breast, standing on a mound and facing his wife, who has kerchief over her head and hands clasped on her breast. Below are two shields with the arms of Hyde, gules two chevrons argent, and below the following inscription :—

Of your charite pray for the soules of Olyver hyde esquier & Agnes
 his Wyfe the whiche Olyver decessed in the yere of our lord god M fyve
 hundredth and sixtene on whose soules JHU have mercy Amen—

It is a singular coincidence that the arms of Hyde and Fetiplace are identical. It is not known when or why this originated. On the north wall of the Chancel (Fig. 45) are let in two more brasses. The eastern one shews a knight and lady kneeling at faldstools, he with eleven sons behind him, and she with eight daughters behind her. Out of his mouth proceeds a scroll with the invocation :—
 “Miserere mihi Deus secūm magnā misericordiā tuam.” Out of her mouth :—“Heale my soule o lord for I have synned agaynst the.” On a brass plate below is the following inscription :—

Quisquis transieris pro nostris ora aiābus
 Et junctis tumulto tu prece jūge deo.

The whiche Wyllm hyde Esquyer decessyd the seconde
 day of Maye in the Yere of oure lorde God MCCCCCLVII
 and the sayde Margery his wyfe decessyd the XXVII day
 of June in the Yere of oure lorde God MCCCCCLXII.

This plate is 17 inches long by 5 inches high, and has been found to be a palimpsest, having the following inscription on the reverse side (Fig. 46) :—

THE PALIMPSEST.

Edward Roy D'anglete qe fist le siege devant la Cite de Berwyk & cōquyst la bataille illeogs & la dite Cite la veille seinte Margarete lan de gcē MCCCXXXIII mist ceste pere a la requeste Sire William de Mountagu foundeur de ceste mesoun.

This inscription, which is in Norman French, may be translated thus :—

“Edward, King of England, who carried on the siege before the City of Berwick, and conquered in battle there the said City on the eve of St. Margaret in the year of Grace 1333, laid this stone at the request of Sir William de Mountagu, the founder of this House.”

There is an illustration of this brass in the “Berks, Bucks and Oxon Journal,” Vol. XI, p. 20.

Sir William Montague was the founder of Bisham Abbey, and no doubt this brass plate was originally on the foundation stone and was brought from there and adapted for the later inscription to William Hyde.

Below again is a larger plate with the following somewhat clumsy rhyming inscription, each line, with two exceptions, terminating in the word Hyde :—

Here lye we two enclosed now in erth not far a parte
 Husband and wyfe whyles we had lyfe who only death could p'te
 My name Will'm hers Margery by surname called Hyde

Whych name accord to us lyve and deade who now ye erth doth hyde
 Why! we did lyve God gave us grace to harbour cloth and hyde
 The naked poore folkes iniuries We dyd defende and hyde
 Now beyng dead we crave mercy of God that he wyll hyde
 Hys face fro owere synnes & wyth his arme he fro y^e Devyll us hyde
 And that with Saynt and happy soules owre sely Soules may hyde
 In heaven wyth God good folk We pray to pray to God for hyde.

Below are two shields, Hyde impaling Cater, ermine on a pile gules, a lion passant or, Margery Hyde being a daughter of John Cater of Letcombe.

To the west of this is another brass (Fig. 47) to another William Hyde, with figure, about 2 feet 8 inches high, of a knight in armour standing on a mound, and his wife, 2 feet 6 inches high, in rich costume. They are facing each other and both have the hands clasped on their breasts. Below is the following inscription :—

Here lieth Will'm hyde Esquyer whome God toke to his mercy & was buried the xxvth daye of July in the Yere of our Lord God MCCCCXLVII and also here lieth Alyce wife of the said Will'm hyde whom God also toke to his mercy the . . day of . . in the Yere of our lorde god MCCCC
 Which Wyllm and Alyce his said wyfe in their life time had tenne children of their two bodies lawfullie begotten that is to saie fyve sonnes and five daughter.

Below this are two shields, one Hyde with a crescent for difference quartering Cater, the other Hyde quartering no doubt Essex, as his wife Alice was a daughter of Sir Thomas Essex, of Lambourne, but the arms are not at all clear.

The Chancel arch (fig. 48) is low of early 15th century date with chamfered ribs, resting on well moulded abacus and capitals and semi-octagonal responds. The arch to the north transept is Early English with two chamfered orders, the inner supported on engaged shafts with undercut abacus and capitals. This transept was reconstructed in the 15th or early 16th century, the north window of two-lights being of this date with two shields charged with the arms of Hyde in old glass in the head, one Hyde alone gules, two chevronels arg, the other Hyde impaling arg a bend gules. From this transept is a squint through to the Chancel, which now is open through the Chapel added to the east side. This is of the middle of the 16th century with debased two-light window and arch opening to the Chancel. It was no doubt built as a mortuary Chapel for the Hydes.

The arch to the south transept (fig. 49) is decorated, crushed out of its proper position, with two orders having the quarter round in arch and down the jambs to the ground. There is a two-light square-

headed perpendicular window with the Hyde Shield in old glass on the east side. The south window is square-headed and debased. Here are preserved numerous memorials of the Geering family, the following on a mural tablet is the earliest with the Geering arms above and the following inscription:—"To the pious memory of Gregory Geering, late of this parish, Gent., who departed this life on the 5th day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1690. *Ætatis suae 59.*" Here is preserved a chain bible belonging to the library presented to the Church by Gregory Geering in 1693, and by the Rev. Ralph Kedder at that time Vicar, and Mr. Edward Brewster, stationer, of London. There are, or were, 120 volumes quarto and folio, many of them of considerable value, which were kept in a room over the south porch, built for their reception. They are now preserved at the Vicarage. The transept roof is low pitched and of 16th century date.

On the north of the nave is a blocked up segmental-headed doorway. To the west of it is a small single light perpendicular window. The west window is of three lights, formerly perpendicular, but the tracery is now debased. There is a two-light square headed perpendicular window on the south, with segmental headed containing arch. The nave roof is debased. The font is of 15th century date. It has an octagonal bowl, with a rose within a quatrefoil within a circle on each face, and an octagonal stem, with engaged shaft at each angle. There is a segmental headed recess for a holy water stoup in south wall of nave to the east of the south doorway. This is within a porch, and is (fig. 50) Norman, small and semi-circular headed, with a series of twenty-five billets on the chamfer of the hoodmould, and engaged roll on the angle of the arch which is supported on a massive abacus with quarter round on main upper face. The jambs are plain with chamfered angle. There is a stoup, of 16th century date, in the east wall of the porch. The outer arch is modern. There is the usual label on the outside to the south windows of nave and south transept. Below the latter is carved a shield with the arms of Hyde, and the initials R and W above. There is a new hoodmould to the east window of the south transept, but none to the two windows on south of chancel. The east window has four quatrefoils arranged horizontally in the head, the west is plainer. There is a small segmental headed doorway on the south of the Chancel. The east window (fig. 51) is an excellent specimen of the perpendicular style with two large sixfoils within circles in the head. At the south-east angle of wall plate of Chancel is the head

of a bishop, at north-east corner the head of a lady, both of the early part of the 15th century. There is a square aumbrey on the north side exterior of the Chancel, also a blocked up doorway. There are buttresses at the eastern angles of the Chancel. The windows of the north Chapel and transept, and the single light on the north side of the nave all have the usual external labels. The tower is low and not embattled with square two-light perpendicular belfry windows, and angle buttresses on north side. There are small oblong openings on the lower stage, north and west, which also are of 15th century date. The tower is now quite shut off from the nave, but there is a blocked doorway on south of tower, which was once open to the nave, and a blocked window above it. The north doorway of the nave is now blocked up, and within a coal shed erected against this side of the Church. It is of good perpendicular character, with undercut label and small roll and chamfered order to the arch and jambs. There is one gargoyle head on west of nave, and two graduated buttresses support the west wall.

There are four bells in the tower, one with date 1624, and a small, query, sanctus bell. In the east wall of south transept and elsewhere in the Church is some rude masonry, and some large stones, which appear to have belonged to the earlier structures. On the south side of the Church is the Cross which has been restored.

Farnborough, near Wantage, Berkshire.

(This Paper is copied from Notes made by the Rev. J. WHITEHURST,
Rector in 1886, since dead.)

THE name of this village was written in the last century as Farnborough, or Farmborough. In the time of Henry III. we find the word spelt Ferenburgh. But as there are nineteen different ways of spelling the name of the adjoining Parish of Ilsley, we may as well rest content with our own present fashion. The former is probably the true name, although on the church plate, and in an Enclosure Act the latter form is used. The name has no connection with fern, for furze, and not the bracken, cover the unbroken