



Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.

THE Editors express the earnest hope that a larger number of Correspondents will avail themselves of these pages, and thus help those responsible for the publication of this Journal to extend its usefulness. There are several Queries—inserted in the Journals for 1913—still remaining unanswered. It is hoped that some readers may solve them.

Notes.

BERKSHIRE MEMORIAL IN KENT.—In the Church of St. Martin, Cheriton, Kent, there is "a monument to the memory of Laura Louisa Wainwright, only daughter of Arnold and Louisa Wainwright, late of Calcot Lodge, Berks, who died at Sandgate, 30 Sep. 1828, aged 19. She died on the eve of her intended marriage with a young French Count. A group, consisting of two figures beautifully chiselled in white marble, represent the afflicted mother bending over, and the inconsolable lover prostrate before a tomb." Stock's Handbook of Folkestone, p. 188. Burial by the Rev. J. D. Glennie, of Sandgate. "Laura Louisa Wainwright of Sandgate 8 October 1828, aged 19" (Cheriton Par. Reg.).

There were some lines in French, some of which have been purposely obliterated, including the name of the Count; his name, however, has been handed down as Adolphe de Trobiaud of Morlaix in Brittany.

There is a family vault wherein are interred the remains of Arnold Wainwright, Esq., of Grafton Manor, in the county of Oxford, and of Devonshire Place, London, who died the ninth day of December, 1854, in the 87th year of his age. Whose admirable qualities of heart and mind, and whose rich fund of intellectual acquirements from whose literary pursuits that formed the great enjoyment of his life were best known to that afflicted widow who mourns his loss and erects this monument to his memory.

WARGRAVE.—The marriage of the "Berkshire Lady" is recorded in the parish register of this Church: "1706 March 28. Benjamin Child, gent. of Reading, and Frances Kenrick of ye same."—RICH. JOHN FYNMORE, Sandgate, Kent.

BLEWBURY.—The late William H. Richardson, M.A., F.S.A., in his book "Notes on Blewbury," mentions the Quakers' Meeting House, but was evidently unaware of the tradition that there had been also a Roman Catholic

Chapel in the house known as Boham's Farm. Mr. William Saunders, of Blewbury, who was born in this house, told me he well remembered being told about the chapel by John Palmer, a very old inhabitant of the village, employed by my father. The tradition is borne out by the fact that my mother, née Mary Elizabeth Boham, told me that when lying in bed as a child, and looking intently at the walls, she could see outlines of paintings under the whitewash. The large room below had also unusual features. The ceiling was (and is) remarkably low, and within my memory there was a door opening into the little courtyard in the front of the house, and in the doorway was built up a very high sill, over which one had to step on entering. This door is now built up, and the doorway forms a recess in the room. Also there was (now done away) a ledge about 8 inches wide and 18 inches or 2 feet high, built out from the east wall of the room (I give details from a childish memory), and above this ledge had apparently been a wide niche in the wall, now closed in by panelled doors and converted into cupboards. A door by the side of the fireplace in the west wall opens into a brewhouse or outer kitchen, with larder attached, over which part of the house (which abuts on the street called Westbrook) is a lift, formerly used as a granary. The room at the other end of the house, looking out to the garden, and the short wing which joins it at right angles, had probably been built, or perhaps re-built, at a much later date, having a comparatively modern appearance. The old chapel, evidently originally open to the roof, must have converted into living room and bedroom by putting in a floor. Mr. Saunders said he could remember the outer door, but not the ledge against the wall, which he thought must have been removed in the course of some repairs which he had understood were carried out some years before his remembrance.

An ancient barn which forms one side of the courtyard, but has been transformed into an artist's studio, has on one of the posts the initials and date, T.B. 1699, believed to stand for Thomas Boham, the first of the Boham family at the farm, which they continued to occupy till 1843, when the last male representative died. They seem to have been a very old family, and were settled at Moreton, near Wallingford, before coming to Blewbury. An ancient Bible, with the date 1633 on the fly-leaf of the New Testament, and the Sternhold-Hopkins version of the Psalms, has come down to me from my grandmother, the last of the name.

Rinns, believed to be a contraction of St. Birinus, is the name of an orchard in the village situated on the south side of the church path, opposite an ancient farmhouse, to which it belongs. This path, now called Watt's Lane, is said to have formerly crossed this orchard instead of skirting it as it does now. By whom or when it was diverted I do not know, probably by the proprietor of the farm called Watt's Farm, with the farmhouse and adjoining orchard, who was known as Farmer Watt. His widow was still living about 78 years ago, but they had no family, and the name died with her. There may still be an old inhabitant or two who can remember the old lady, who was a character in her way, and seems to have commanded great respect.—M. L. STEVENSON.

TAYNTON, OXFORDSHIRE.—I note that in the Antiquary's Book on fonts, that the font of the pretty little church of St. John the Evangelist, Taynton, is described as Perpendicular. It is, however, a 19th century copy of an ancient predecessor. One of the Messrs. Pittaway, Quarrymen and Stone-carvers, of Taynton, told my parents that they had made the new font, copying the old one as nearly as they could. As my father went to reside in the village in 1846, and the font was then evidently new work, it was probably executed about 1840.

Mr. Pittaway gave no date but the Churchwardens' books would of course shew it. The Pittaway family had rented and worked the Quarries for a very long time, and I was sorry to learn from one of them (now the village Postmaster) when I visited the village three or four years ago, that they had been closed down for twenty years or more. We left the neighbourhood in 1875.

The church is ancient but has a modern porch, unhappily unlike the old one and not in keeping with the rest of the building. It was built in the early sixties, when the singers' gallery was taken down, the tower arch thrown open, and a harmonium installed under it with seats for the choir. The old high pews were taken away and oak benches put in, a space being left on the east side of the entrance doorway for the font (which had previously stood just within the chancel arch) about the same time. The chancel, a step up from the nave, was taken down and carefully re-built on the old lines (the walls having been pronounced unsafe) in 1865. There is some ball-flower ornament round the capital of one (it may be two) of the pillars, which are heavily moulded, but vary somewhat in design, and a carved stone head, supposed to represent St. John, at the intersection of the arches over the western pillar of the north arcade. The nave and side aisles form almost, if not quite, a square, and there are cross and central aisles.* Only one entrance save the vestry, a north door with porch. The south door has been built up time out of mind, though the outside arch (there were no traces of a porch) is still intact, and surrounded by a handsome border of cruciform flowers, springing from the hollow of a heavy double moulding. Inside there is nothing to shew a doorway, only a flat space of plastered wall, above which is a window corresponding with the upper light of the fine transomed window in the eastern end of the south wall. There are arched, deeply splayed windows at both ends of the north and south aisles, one in the north wall and one on the north side of the chancel, no stained glass except narrow borderings of modern glass put in when the church was restored. The east window had nothing very remarkable about it, containing three lancets, and there were no monuments save five or six mural tablets. There is a fine niche built out from the north-east angle of the north aisle, also, I think, bordered with ball-flower work, and a squint in the south side of the chancel wall. The reading-desk of old times has been removed and a lectern substituted. It was a replica of the carved pulpit, only lower, and stood on the north side of the central aisle, the pulpit being on the south side. The outer belfry door on the north side of the tower was built up in the sixties, but another has since been opened on the south side. Two small stone coffins were found in carrying out the alterations. I never heard what became of the old font, probably it was broken up. Since I was familiar with the church, a combined vestry and organ chamber has been built over the site of the old vestry, and choir seats installed in the chancel. The steps up to the rood-loft were discovered and opened up in the course of the various alterations and repairs.—M. L. STEVENSON.

Queries.

ADEE.—Nathaniel Jenner, of Widhill, co. Wilts, married in Feb., 1707/8, by Licence, Catherine Adeë. Was she a daughter of the Vicar of Rodbourne Cheney referred to at page 29, No. 1, vol. xx., B.B. and O. Journal?

* I should have added that the roof of the north aisle is heavily battlemented, the south aisle having only a narrow edging of flat stone work.

Nathaniel Jenner, of Widhill, Wilts, whose will, of 16th August, 1761), proved 14th April, 1764, bequeathed Widhill to Edward Pleydell, Esq., and Richard Kennier, surgeon, in trust for his kinsman, Edye Baldwin, of Slough, innholder. Widhill was sold to Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell, Bart., for £18,600. Wanted particulars of Adye Baldwin and his exact relationship to Jenner. Nathaniel Jenner, the elder, married (1708) Catherine Adee; in 1711 Robert Baldwin, of London, married Elizabeth Jenner, widow, of Southwark. There were, I believe, some Jenners living either at Windsor or Eton.—R. J. FYNMORE, Sandgate.

Wanted references to the Manfield family of Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire. A branch of the family settled at Wargrave in the 16th century. There was also a branch at Reading.—W. BAILWARD.

Where was Robert Ravenscroft baptised? Reward given for correct information.—RAVENS-CROFT, "Briantcroft," Milford-on-Sea, Hants.

Replies.

CLOCKMAKERS OF BERKSHIRE.—I have an old Grandfather clock on which is the name Thomas West, Reading. This clock has an ornamental brass (partly silvered) dial plate embossed in the corners, and is drawn up with a chain, going only about 30 hours. The case is oak, tall, and well proportioned, with a border of fretwork backed on the woodwork above the dial plate. It has been in my possession about 50 years; it does not appear to be dated. A cousin of mine has a "Grandfather" with the name William Wise, Wantage. On the dial plate, under the figures, is a small picture, worked in the metal, apparently representing a moonlight scene. I believe the case is lacquered. I do not know if it is dated, or whether it is an eight-day clock or not, and possibly the case is only dark mahogany, in which case I believe it would not be so old as a lacquered case would show it to be.

Maurice Caudwell, of Ashbrook, Blewbury, has an old family clock made by an ancestor, Edward Caudwell. I believe the case is lacquered, but I conclude in bad repair, as my cousin, the Rev. W. E. L. Caudwell, the late Rector of Crookes Easton,* Hants, amused himself in his leisure by covering it with fine fretwork in some fine light wood, with the family coat of arms and crest in the centre of the lid. The effect is, I think, unique.

Another old family clock now in the possession of my son, Mr. W. B. Stevenson, of Farley Hill, Swallowfield, has a dome top with a raised silver plate above the figures, on which is the name of Edward Hemins, Bissiter. This is a repeater, winding with a key, and going eight days. It belonged to my grandfather, William Boham, of Blewbury, nearly a hundred years ago, and the present case is Spanish mahogany, which he had made to supply the place of the original one, described to me as painted, probably lacquered. This clock was called an old one in my grandfather's time; he died in 1828.—MARY STEVENSON.

* Now usually spelt Crux Easton.