



Sandhurst, Berks.

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(Continued from page 28, Vol. 21.)

CHAPTER V.

THE 17TH CENTURY AND THE PARISH RECORDS.

The parish registers begin in the first year of James I. From other sources also we learn something of the village during Stuart times. Norden's Survey of the Forest has already been mentioned. There is also a rental of about the same time preserved in the Public Record Office giving the names and extent of the various fields with their owners.* At this date Richard and John Geale and William Cave were the principal inhabitants. The latter had two houses, one of them described as "a faire house" with thirty acres of pasture and arable adjoining, perhaps "Rivermede." The other householders will be found in a list in the appendix. The total number of families was 23. A branch of the Bullock family resided in Sandhurst and owned land there from 1546 to 1733, and were no doubt connected with the Finchampstead Bullocks who were settled there in 1327. The last time the name is found is at the burial of "Mistress Lidy Bullock" in 1733.

The Giblets have been honourably connected with the parish for well over three hundred years, filling all the parochial offices. The names also of Watts, Payse and Giles are familiar ones in the Churchwardens' books from the seventeenth century onwards.

* Rentals and Surveys, vol. 199, p. 65.

The following inventory attached to the will of William Jeblet, who died in the year 1649, is of interest as showing the equipment of an ordinary farm house of the better class at that time. This house, which was assessed for six hearths, was probably that occupied by the grandfather of the present representative of the family, Mr. Giblett,* of Sandhurst Farm. It stood on the site of Longdown Lodge, and was re-built towards the end of the eighteenth century to make a house for the curate in charge. This house in its turn disappeared when the present mansion was built.

The inventory of the goods and chattles of William Jeblet, deceased, praised the 26th of March, 1649, by those whose names are hereunder written.

	£	s.	d.
Imprimis his wearing apparrelle in the upper chambre	2	10	0
Item two chests, one trunke, two boxes, and one forme, in a nother chamber	14	0	0
Item one cofer and table, a tube, some flaxe and towe in the next chamber	15	0	0
Item a bedstead and double bed, two beds, and a payre of blankets and coverlets to them, 3 coffers in a nother chamber	3	08	0
Item a bedstead, one bed, and all that belongeth unto yt in the hall	1	00	0
Item a cubberd and table and joyne tools, a cheyre and coffer, a fyer shovell, one payre of andyeres, a racke, the hooks and one chayre	2	00	0
Item 3 fletchyes of bacon in the mill house ...	2	00	0
Item a powdring trone, 3 kyvens, 6 bowls, 4 firkins, and some other things in the kitchin	1	10	0
Item one dresser, bord, and table, 2 pots and kettles, one spitt, one payre of hangers, 7 skilletts, and certyn peeces of pewter in the meale house ...	4	0	0
Item 3 little tubbes and a greate presse, working tooles, two wheeles	0	2	0
Item 3 hyves of bees	0	15	0
Item sheep	8	00	0
Item one mare and coulte	5	00	0
Item ry on the ground	1	10	0
Item hay in the barne	1	10	0

* Since this was written Mr. Giblett has died at Sandhurst Farm at an advanced age, he leaves a son and two daughters.

Item kyne and bullock	...	...	...	...	26	10	0
Item hogs	...	...	...	...	1	00	0
Item dong and other lumber	...	...	...	...	1	00	0
Som					£63	14	0

JOHN DEANE.

WILLIAM FIELDER.

The mark of RAFE × JEBLET."

By his will the deceased directed "My bodye to be buried in the place of Christian burial where it shall please God to call me out of this vale of misery." To his wife Dorothy was to go his house and land until his son John came of age. To his daughter May £30 on reaching the age of 21 and his land called Chadwell. Bequests of 2/6d. each to his godsons Roger Sone and William Bannister, remainder to his wife. Wife's executor, Robert Horn, father in law, and Rafe Jeblet, uncle, trustees.

The poverty of the parish was a source of difficulty in assessing the amount of ship money to be paid to Charles I. The following letter from Sir George Stonehouse, Sheriff of Berks, to Sir Edward Nicholas, Secretary of State, is dated April 4th, 1638.

"I entreat your assistance in the resolution of a case to me doubtful, the rather because it has been examined as well by Sir Richard Harrison and Sir Edward Sawyer as by myself, and the settlement waived by them both. Wokingham town, Wokingham parish, Arborfield, with Newland and Sandhurst, have paid all taxes equally in fourth parts, but Sandhurst is unequal in value to the others. Shall not the value be considered in assessing the ship money?"†

The County on this occasion had to provide a ship of 400 tons and 160 men. The sum of £4,000 was collected, towards which Wokingham contributed £100, Reading £260, and Windsor £100.* The Civil War followed four years later, and we next find Sandhurst assessed for a monthly contribution of £111 12s. 3d. from the Forest Division of the County towards the support of the Armies and Navies of the Commonwealth.‡

We have no entries in the parish records showing how the village was affected by the Civil War. In our neighbourhood Windsor was from the first in the hands of the Roundheads. Reading was lost

† Calendar of State Papers, Dom.

* Tighe and Davies "Annals of Windsor."

‡ British Museum MSS. Wokingham town paid £1 14s. 2d., Wokingham parish £2 12s. 11d., Arborfield £1 19s. 10d., Sandhurst £1 11s. 10d. 1657.

to the King in April, 1643, re-occupied by the Royalists in September, and again evacuated on the approach of Essex and Waller in the following spring. For three years the King's garrison at Basing House held the Salisbury road and kept a force of the enemy busily employed watching them. In March, 1645, the Lord Generals' Life Guards, under Colonel Ludlow, were ordered to Blackwater village to guard against any incursion from that direction, and at the same time we hear of the mutiny of a party of soldiers at Wokingham.

For ten years after the Restoration the parish was without a curate, and it was perhaps in despair of getting any other religious ministration that Mr. Richard Lodge, one of the Churchwardens, took advantage of the "Declaration of Indulgence" to have his house licensed as a Presbyterian Conventicle! *

To return to the parish registers. From 1603 to 1648 the entries are neatly written in Latin. The first few years were evidently copied out at the same time from the original rough records. Later the writing is at times very bad, the work of an illiterate clerk.

In 1653 Cromwell deprived the clergy of their register books, causing them to be handed over to registrars appointed by the parishioners. At the commencement of a new book is the following entry:

"Thomas Dicy of ye parish of Sandhurst in Co. Berks is nominated by ye parishioners and approved by ye next Justice of ye Peace of ye sayd County to be ye parish Registrar according to an Act of Parliament bearing date ye 24th August 1653 and hath taken his corporal oath for ye true registering of all marriages births and burials according to ye sayd Act. In witness whereof I have hereunto seth my hand ye 21st of Marche, 1653.

W. TRUMBALL." †

From this date births are recorded instead of baptisms until the year 1671, when the book passed again into the hands of the Church.

After 1681 there is a note made at each burial that the deceased person had been "buried in woolen" in accordance with the Act of Charles II., by which an affidavit to this effect had to be made either

* State Papers Domestic Car. ii. There is a record of a Baptist Congregation in Sandhurst in 1715.

† This is Sir William Trumball, of Easthampstead, the celebrated diplomatist, a Secretary of State in William and Mary's reign, and the friend and patron of Pope.

before a magistrate, or before a curate other than the one in whose parish the burial took place. For many years these affidavits were sworn before Mr. John Brandon, minister of Finchampstead. The practice fell into abeyance about the middle of the eighteenth century, though the Act was not repealed until 1815.†

One of the parish books contains the minutes of the vestry meetings from 1671 to 1696, during the reigns of Charles II., James II., and William and Mary. This assembly was, of course, in past days a much more important and powerful one than at present. Besides the appointment of the churchwardens, the parishioners on this occasion had to nominate the overseers of the poor, pass the poor rate and the overseers accounts, and arrange for one of their number to serve the office of constable. Waywardens were also appointed to look after the parish roads.

The churchwardens were appointed yearly by the minister and parishioners jointly. It was decided in 1676 that owing to the scarcity of inhabitants to fill the office, one churchwarden only should retire each year, the other continuing in office. The two appointed this year were Ralph Dakins and Thomas Inwood, the minutes being signed by J. Waller (curate), R. Lodge, R. Geale, J. Ayliff and J. Payse. It was the duty of the churchwardens to levy a Church rate for the maintenance of the Church and services, and payment could be enforced by law. A penny rate in 1671 produced the sum of £4 8s. 9d., the expenditure being £6 4s. 0d. Compulsory payment of church rates ceased in 1868.

Small sums for the support of the Church came in frequently on the death of parishioners, who usually left a legacy in their will. For example, John Horne, in 1508, after distributing all his farm stock between his sons and daughters, directed his body to be buried in the Church of Sandhurst, bequeathing 6s. 8d. to the fabric of the same, as well as 20d. to the Mother Church of Salisbury. Lawrence Dennis, in 1591, left 3s. 4d. to the poor, and the same amount for the repair of the Church porch.* The regular fee for breaking ground in the Church appears to have been 6s. 8d., which was the sum received by the churchwardens at the burial of William Chislett in 1671.

† 30 Car. II. Cap. 3. "An Act for the encouragement of the woollen manufactures, and prevention of the exportation of money for the importing of linen." It was repealed by 54 Geo. III., Cap. 108.

* The Church porch was formerly commonly used as a convenient place for the transaction of secular business. Mention is made in Lyons' Finchampstead of a rent due to be paid in the porch of Sandhurst Church on a certain date.

The repair of the churchyard fence was arranged for by a special list of parishioners, published from time to time. We have these lists for 1672, 1738, 1809, 1819, 1829 and 1836.

The overseers were nominated at the Easter Vestry, which in the 18th century was held in the Church, and at the same time the churchwardens were appointed. The waywardens were appointed in December.

A roster of the houses, which had to supply in succession the parish constable, was maintained. The chief duties of this officer seem to have been connected with the administration of the poor law. Journeys were made to other parishes to inquire into the antecedents of paupers, or to convey them back to their place of settlement. All parishioners occupying tenements of the value of £4 and upwards were liable for this duty. Various items connected with the constable's duties occur in the books from time to time. "Militia list 3s. 6d.," "constable's staff 9s.," "going round with orderly constable to inform them on mad dogs 2s.," "for relieving a man travelling pass 1s." Sometimes a man drawn by ballot for the Militia would abscond, when the constable would have to offer a reward for his apprehension.

The proceedings recorded in the minutes of the Vestry meetings of the seventeenth century are brief and chiefly record the names of the officers appointed and the money collected and expended. There are, however, one or two interesting entries.

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

1672.—The Bounden of the Church-yard Rayles of the paryish of Sandhurst in Cont. Berks correctd. amendd. and set down orderly by the pannell and the foote this 29th day of May Anno Domini 1672 : The severall particulars what every Inhabitant, House, and Land are to make and maintain. Beginning at the old oaken stem Eastward at the Chauncell end and so according as the Sun goeth. There being then present at the performing thereof Mr. Richard Bankes, Richard Geale, Nicholas Hanbury, Thomas Dicy, Robert Parker, Robert Jennings, Robert Giblett with severell others.

Imprimis The Widow Woods for Mr. Rowse's

Land she holdeth : four pannells amount-

ing to 29 foot & a half.

Richard Geale for the manor one pannell ... 09 foot.

William Cooper for his house & land one pannell	09 foot.
Robert White & Francis	09 foot.
The Church fields gate for the Parsonage ...	05 foot.
Thomas Hall & Joseph Payse for Mr. Ray- mans Land three pannells	28 foot & a half.
Mr. William Bullock for Hall Grove, Breches Beancroft, Dawne meadowe & Perrymore 3 pannells	31 foot.
Mr. Noah Webbe for his lands 3 pannells ...	22 foot.
Mr. Richard Lodge for his Farm 4 pannells	29 foot & a half.
The Parish Gate to be maintaind by the Parish	08 foot.
John Kent for Richard Deane and John Deane's house and the house of Christopher Parker, Inwoods mead & Cuxes 3 pannells	27 foot.
Mr. William Bullocke for the house & land he dwells in, formerly Pollyes 3 pannells...	27 foot & a half.
Thomas Kirbye for his house one pannell ...	07 foot.
John Giblett for his house and land one pannell	08 foot & a half.
Samuel Geale for James Daws house & land 3 pannells	24 foot & a half.
Thomas Dicy one pannell	11 foot.
John Puckridge one pannell	10 foot.
Mr. William Bullock for Sliford's land 3 pannell	25 foot.
Mr. Rayman's land one pannell	10 foot.
The Parsonage gate for the Parson	05 foot.
The poore's land one pannell	10 foot.
Mr. Rayman's land one pannell	10 foot.
Isaac Baldwin's house & land which the Widow Stevens holdeth one pannell ...	08 foot.
Mr. Richard Lodge more for his farme 2 pannell	17 foot.
Stephen Hall for his house & land Robert Parker holdeth one pannell	08 foot.
William Winch for his house & land one pannell	08 foot.
Richard Russell for Mr. Rouse's land 4 pannell	30 foot.

Richard Geale for land late Sliford 2 pannells	12 foot.
Richard Russell for Mr. Rouse's land 2 pannels	14 foot.
James Dawe for Awmbyro. and Fercroft one pannell	08 foot & a half.
John Ayliffe for Mr. Banks house & land 2 pannels	16 foot & a half.
Mr. Richard Banks for his farm 6 pannells	54 foot.
The heirs of Nicholas Cooper for the house that Mr. Fontleroy dwells in & Perry and for Mr. William Bullocke's Millmeads one pannell	09 foot.
Thomas Inwoods and Richard Heyward for both their houses 2 pannells	16 foot.
Richard Geale 2 pannells	21 foot.
Mr. William Bullock for Moorlands 2 pannells	14 foot.
Mr. Sealand for Moorland meades 2 pannells	13 foot.
The old oaken stem for the Parsonage ...	7 foot & a half.

May 20th, 1686. An accompt of all the Church goodes delivered unto Robert Parker as ffolloweth one silver plate, one silver bowle and a coveringe to it of plate, one pewter fflagon, and one Holland Cloth for the Communion Table."

Compare this with that of the Church goods made in Edward the Sixth's reign. The pewter flagon in later times somehow passed out of the churchwarden's hands. Some years ago Canon Parsons acquired an old pewter pot of this date which had belonged to one of the cottages in the village. The owner had a belief that it at one time belonged to the Church, and it is exactly similar in form to one still among the church plate at Yateley. The existing church plate includes a 17th century paten and a small flagon consisting of a silver gilt bowl to which a plated stem has been added.

"Nov. 31st, 1687. "I Saml. Geale do promise and engage to bestowe two dayes worke with my teeme to amend East Mill Lane within six weekes after the date hereof in Leivue of two dayes I was behinde in my duty to the highwayes of ye yeare last past, witness my hand

Marke of

SAMUELL J. GALE."

PURVEYANCE.

"Dec. 31st, 1687. Remaynes in John Geblott's hand six

shillings which he gathered by rate over and above for carryeing of the King's carryages.

Witness my hand JOHN GYBLOT.

	£	s.	d.
Two teemes from Wokingham to Readinge ...	10	0	
Two teemes from Sandhurst to Wokingham and back again	6	0	
Two teemes from Readinge to Windsor	1	4	0
One teeme from Readinge to Windsor and lyeing out one night extraordinary. This allowed by the parish besides the King's paye	14	0	"

"Purveyance" was abolished in the previous reign by law. From the above, however, it appears to have survived in Windsor Forest. The King demanded the right to impress carriages and horses for his journeys and lodging for himself and attendants at a certain price. There was a custom in the parishes near Windsor to levy a rate to keep up relays of teams to lessen the intolerable inconvenience of having the inhabitants horses impressed.*

Dec. 29th, 1688. Samuel Geale denied paying of his rate for the soger's carig which was 7 shillings and four pence, out of which his hors hier came to 2 shillings and six pence from Wokingham to Windsor." †

This was the month after the landing of William of Orange. It will be remembered that the only resistance offered by King James' troops on that occasion was at Reading, where a skirmish took place in the town between William's soldiers and some Irish dragoons.

* Hughes. "History of Sunninghill."

† Until the year 1660 horse and carriage transport for the movement of troops was obtained under the Sovereign's prerogative of "purveyance." On the abrogation of this right, power was granted temporarily to impress carriages for the use of the navy and ordnance. This act was revived for seven years in the first year of James II. It was not, however, till 1692 that authority was given under the Mutiny Act to impress carriages for the arms and baggage of the Army generally. At the present day, under the provisions of the Army Act, magistrates are bound, if requisitioned by the proper military authority, to cause a constable to impress carriages for the conveyance of regimental stores and baggage, and, in case of emergency, for the conveyance of the troops themselves. The amount paid by Government for conveyances so impressed varies in England from 6d. to 1s. a mile according to the kind of waggon, number of horses, etc., and the price of hay and oats. On general mobilisation, owners of horses and vehicles may be compelled to sell to Government. [Army Act. Sec. 112 et. seq.]