



## Sandhurst, Berks.

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(Continued from page 59, Vol. 22.)

### CROWTHORNE.

The arrival of Wellington College and Broadmoor Asylum naturally attracted a number of people to the neighbourhood. By the year 1866 a considerable hamlet had arisen on the site of the present village of Crowthorne. Before the college was built there were only two cottages in the area now included in Crowthorne parish.\* These were the woodman's cottage in Cox's Wood, and the little white house at the junction of the Bracknell and Wokingham roads, close to the site of the thorn bush from which the village took its name. The latter of these two cottages was occupied by a man named Brooker, and as "Brooker's Corner" the spot is still known.

As already noted, the name Crow-thorne is as old as the reign of James I., and may well go back to Saxon times. A place in Hampshire called Crāwan-thorn is mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon charter, the meaning being the same as in this case.† On the analogy of "York-town" and "Camberley" the hamlet was nearly called "Albertville," but, thanks to Dr. Benson's protest, the old forest name was adopted for the new village.

One of the earliest houses to be built was Ifould's shop, the present post office. Here Mr. Parsons' curate, the Rev. H. S. N. Lenny, commenced to give "cottage lectures." On February 3rd, 1867 evening service began to be held regularly, first in Mr. Ifould's sitting room, then in the kitchen, and finally, as the congregation grew, in the loft above the bakery, which was reached by a ladder.

\* See H. Walter's map of Windsor Forest, 1823.

† Skeat: "Place Names of Berkshire."

Mrs. Ifould has still a most vivid recollection of the struggles of the college ladies to reach the summit gracefully in their crinolines. The following year a larger room became a necessity, and the congregation moved to the Broadmoor school. It was now evident, however, that the time had come to provide a regular church and services in this part of the parish. A public meeting, therefore, was announced for July 7th, 1868, in the Broadmoor school room "For the purpose of raising funds for the endowment of a new ecclesiastical district and putting on it a temporary church." The chair was taken by the Rev. Henry Parsons, rector of Sandhurst, who announced that Mr. John Simonds had offered a site for the temporary church, and that two sums of £1,000 and £500 had already been promised towards the endowment. The wooden building was to be provided by Mr. Leveson-Gower. Resolutions were proposed by Dr. Benson, the Rev. J. W. Spurling, Mr. J. Dowson, and Dr. Meyer; a committee was appointed†, and a subscription list opened. Mr. Lenny was appointed curate in charge.

The building is now on Mr. Over's premises, a black painted erection with a door opening on Crowthorne High Street. It originally stood behind Mr. Lloyd's shop at the junction of Broadmoor road with the village street. It was sold, however, when the new church was completed and set up on the opposite side of the road, having been in use something over four years.

In 1870 a letter was received from Mrs. Gibson, of Sandhurst Lodge, offering the site for a new church which she had secured by purchase, and this was duly handed over the following year to Dr. Benson, Mr. Parsons and Mr. Lenny as trustees. Mrs. Gibson also contributed liberally to the building fund. In 1872 Mr. Arthur Blomfield was asked to submit a plan for a permanent church to seat 300 and capable of enlargement for a further 100. The population was now 700 and was rapidly increasing. The scheme was submitted at a public meeting held at Wellington College on May 18th, at which Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood, presided. The old committee was asked to continue to act, and a further subscription list opened. Mr. Walter, always a kind friend to Crowthorne, headed the list with a subscription of £200.

A list published by the committee on June 29th showed that £1,473 had been promised towards the new church, to which the

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† The committee consisted of the Rev. H. Parsons (rector), Dr. Benson (Master of Wellington College), Dr. Meyer (Superintendent of Broadmoor), the Rev. H. S. N. Lenny, H. P. Lance, Esq., J. Dowson, Esq. (Professor of Hindustani at the Staff College), and A. Hill, Esq.

Diocesan Church Building Society gave £85 and the Governors of Wellington College and the Treasury (for Broadmoor) £100 each. Thus encouraged, the committee signed a contract on August 28th with Mr. James Pither, builder, of Sunninghill, "for the nave and aisles of a new church at Crowthorne in the county of Berks on lands belonging to the trustees of the said church for the sum of £1,934 19s." It was decided to erect a temporary east wall; the chancel to be completed at a future date. The corner stone was laid by Mrs. Walter on September 27th.

When the building had advanced some way, it was discovered that the western porch would not admit of the entry of a full-sized coffin, and some modifications had to be made. The consecration ceremony took place on May 5th, 1873, the bishop and clergy assembling at the College and walking in procession to the church. Bishop Mackarness took as his text "Divers of them came from afar."

Before this date Dr. Benson had to resign his place on the committee on his departure from Wellington to take up the duties of Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral. He was succeeded by the new master, the Rev. E. C. Wickham. Dr. Meyer had died before the completion of the work, his place being taken by Dr. William Orange, C.B.

The church being completed, there still remained a certain deficit to be made up. Arrangements also had to be made to transfer the site to the ecclesiastical commissioners, and the patronage to the bishop of the diocese. The question of the endowment was also brought forward, when it was found it would be necessary for some time to continue letting some of the sittings to provide a source of income. The £150 a year paid to the incumbent was to be made up by collections for church expenses and subscriptions. A small sum was also set aside to accumulate towards an endowment fund.

The history of the daughter parish has since that time been one of continued progress. A vicarage house followed; the church schools were built and subsequently enlarged, their existence and, during the early years, their maintenance, being largely due to the generous support of Mr. John Walter, assisted by the contributions of the college masters and other residents. The school managers received constant and valuable help from the Rev. J. W. Spurling, whose preparatory school, latterly known as "The Towers," was

started soon after the opening of the College.\* Mr. Spurling also took a prominent part in the educational work of the County Council, and on his death his many friends in Berkshire subscribed to a memorial which took the form of a new infant school for Crowthorne.

A chancel was added to the church in 1888, and much has since been done towards the interior decoration, either by the offerings of the congregation or by individual parishioners. The East window by Kemp representing scenes from the life of St. John, the patron saint of the church, was inserted in 1893 to commemorate the ten years' devoted work of the Rev. Henry Thornhill Morgan, the second vicar.

#### OWLSMOOR.

The hamlet of Owlsmoor is included in Crowthorne Parish. The iron church here dates from the year 1880. The name was applied to a small settlement which grew up at Broadmoor Bottom shortly after the arrival of Wellington College. It was at first composed of persons of the very poorest class, many of them extremely rough and uncivilised. Owlsmoor was the field of much devoted church work in its early days.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### THE HOUSES IN THE PARISH.

Sandhurst Lodge was built by Mr. Richard Heaviside at the beginning of the last century on a site purchased from Colonel Adam Williamson, together with the manorial rights, in 1789. The original property consisted of two acres and a cottage, increased later by allotment and purchase. The lodge and park as advertised in the sale of the Walter estate in 1911 comprised 171 acres.

Of the larger houses, none are older probably than 1860. The Rectory, "St. Helen's," "Uplands," and "The Warren," were all built by the Rev. Henry Parsons, incumbent from 1852 to 1878. "Harts Leap" and "Forest End" were built about the same period by Mrs. Blakeley, widow of Capt. T. Blakeley, R.A. This officer was the inventor of a gun which is depicted on his monument in the churchyard, and of "the system of ordnance which bears his name."

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\* Now carried on by Messrs. Powell and Carr.

To Mrs. Blakeley the parish owes the picturesque well at Scotland Hill.

"Longdown Lodge" was built by Capt. Compton. "Edgbarrow," now enlarged and improved by Mr. Richard Edgcumbe, was built by Mr. Raymond Tucker, drawing master at Wellington. "Eagle House" was so named by Dr. Malan when he moved his school there from Wimbledon. It was originally built as a private residence by Dr. Russell in the eighties. "Ambarrow Lodge" dates from 1886. It is the residence of Mrs. Harvey, widow of the late Col. G. S. Harvey, R.A. Most of the houses on the Wellington College estate were built between 1860 and 1874. Many of them have been considerably altered and enlarged. The ordnance survey of 1872 shows some 28 buildings in the village of Crowthorne, exclusive of Broadmoor, among them the temporary wooden church, the Wesleyan chapel, since re-built, and the "Iron Duke." The map also shows the "Wellington" and "Waterloo" hotels. It is not easy to trace the history of the farms and cottages in Sandhurst parish. They are referred to in the parish records under the names of owners or occupiers, who were constantly changing. Moreover, the allotments made by the Inclosure Award of 1817 brought about great alterations in the old boundaries. The principal estates at the time of the Inclosure have already been detailed.

#### AMBARROW FARM, GROVE'S FARM, AND WHITINGS.

Ambarrow farm, though considerably altered of late years, is an old house. Grove's farm is represented by a modern cottage, while Whitings farm was burned to the ground in the year 1803 when James Giles was the occupier. The latter was not far from the present Church farm, between it and Yateley mill. The site is indicated now by an old dilapidated cottage which perhaps may have formed part of the buildings. The name is preserved in the Award map in Whiting's meadow which is on the Blackwater on the east of the Yateley mill road.

Though the identity of the houses is not always obvious, it is possible to trace the property back a considerable way. The proprietor was also, during the eighteenth century and for many years later, the lessee of the glebe, with a cottage situated at the west end of the churchyard and an adjoining field called "the parsonage." The cottage became ruinous and was pulled down some years ago, and a new house, the Church farm, was subsequently built on the south of the road.

The farms had a common owner from about the year 1738 till the break up of the Bearwood estate on the death of Mr. Arthur Walter in 1910.

Before Mr. John Walter acquired the property it belonged to Mr. Gibson, who had succeeded a Mr. Moseley. The latter's family had held the farms since about 1767, their tenants being the Giles' family. In 1738 the owner was Mr. Ellis. In 1672 Ambarrow farm appears in the parish documents as Mr. Richard Bankes' farm, while the land round the other two farms seems to have belonged to a Mr. Rowse, some of it being in the occupation of the widow Woods. This family had been tenants for many years. In 1608 "a farm of one messuage or tenement and certain lands belonging to it in Sandhurst, and one close of land lying in Finchampstead containing by estimation six acres" was leased by the Crown during three lives for the yearly sum of £7 13s. 4d. to the then tenant William Woods. At the same time a farm consisting of two other messuages, lately occupied by Thomas Woods, was leased to Matthew Cripps for the same term for £8 3s. 4d.\* Thomas Woods in his will enumerated the animals, etc., on this farm which were to go to his wife Joan: "One bull; four of my best oxen with yolks, besides ploughes, harrows, carte, and all furniture belonging thereto; three mares and team kyne, forty ewes, forty wethers, all my corne and heye on the ground and in the barnes, all my household stuff, furniture and implements, and also all my hogges young and old, geese, and poultrie." There were also certain stands of bees. His four married daughters each were to have 20/-, two steers, and five sheep.†

In 1593 two farms which are identical with the last were leased by the Crown to Michael Turner for 21 years. Both were at this time in the occupation of John Woods and had been leased to him by indenture under the seal of Chidiok Tychborne, Esq., in the 27th year of Elizabeth's reign for 25 years.

This same Chidiok Tichborne had been attainted for high treason in the year 1586, being one of the young Catholic gentry who were involved in Babington's conspiracy to kill Queen Elizabeth and put Mary Stuart on the throne. He was the son of Peter Tichborne of Porchester, and the descendant of a younger branch of the Hampshire Tichbornes.

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\* Particulars for leases. Court of Augmentation, 3.37. 4.27d., 5.28.

† Chancery Proceedings Jas. I., R. 7.11.

A good deal of sympathy seems to have been felt for these youths who owed their misfortunes to the influence of a Jesuit priest named John Ballard. They were all hung, drawn, and quartered ; a full account of which, with the most gruesome details, is to be found in Disraeli's "Curiosities of Literature." In the same account is given in full the letter Tichborne wrote to his wife Agnes on the eve of his death, and a copy of verses composed by him in prison.

My prime of youth is but a frost of cares,

My feast of joy is but a dish of pain.

My crop of corn is but a field of tares.

And all my goods is but vain hope of gain.

The day is fled, and yet I saw no sun

And now I live, and now my life is done.

My spring is past, and yet it hath not sprung

The fruit is dead, and yet the leaves are green.

My youth is past, and yet I am but young.

I saw the world, and yet I was not seen.

My thread is cut, and yet it is not spun,

And now I live, and now my life is done.

I sought for death and found it in the wombe

I lookt for life, and yet it was a shade.

I trode the ground, and knew it was my tombe

And now I dye, and now I am but made.

The glass is full, and yet my glass is run,

And now I live, and now my life is done.

As a result of his treason Tichborne's property in Sandhurst and Finchampstead was forfeited to the Crown.† There is, however, a passage in his letter to his wife which would suggest that he had previously made some small settlement on her which was left alone. Some years later there is a record of rents paid to Mrs. Tichborne from a certain holding in Finchampstead.

The following survey of these farms was made in Elizabeth's reign. The original is in the Record Office, and, though there is no name attached to it, it is reasonable to suppose it belonged to Chidiok Tichborne and was seized with his other papers.

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† An inquest was held at Wokingham June 5, 28 Eliz.

## RENTALS AND SURVEYS.

PORT.  $\frac{5}{8}$  P.R.O.

A noote of all such lanes (sic) meadowes and pastures that you have lyeing w<sup>th</sup>in the pishe of Sandoust.

John Wood's house.	Item won plotte lyeing on the sowthe side of the howse with the garden wone acre.
	Item won medow bounding uppon the same plot called Wyde mede in that mede vi acres.
	Item won piddell called Ayllardes piddell won acre boundyng uppon the west yend of the house.
	Item won mede called Ayllardes mead iiij acres bounding upon the North syde of West more.*
	Item won close lyeng w <sup>th</sup> in the pish of fynchamstede contaynyng in estymacyon of vi. acres.
	Item on close called Segars boundyng on the north syde of Ayllards grene w <sup>th</sup> wast viij acres.
	Item ij closes called versye hille† lyeing on the yeast syde of garten wood w <sup>th</sup> waste viij acres.
	Item on plot called Conny Delles‡ won acre & a hāfe and the Lords ground lyeing uppon the west syde.
	Item on more called Adams more bound uppon Cony Dells in estye macyon of won acre and a halfe.
	Item on piddell called pon Craft bondying of the sowth side of Adams more won acre and a halfe.
	Item won piddell lying on the northe syde the howse won acre.
	Item in the Wyde norst fylde to acres lying on the est syde of the fyld.
	The whole ys xli acres & a halfe.
Edward Wastell.	Item one plot of ground that Edward Wastell dothe kepe boundyng on the north syde of forde won acre & a halfe.

\* The Aylwards and the Wests dwelt in Sandhurst and Finchampstead in Edward the First's reign.

† Called Fuzzy Hill in the next reign.

‡ Called "Comdelle Close" in 3 Ed. VI. This may be the field from which the endowment for lights in the church were derived. See page 18.



- Good wife  
gele.
- Item strete more in mede grond v acares.  
And the more ys xiiij acares and soo the whole dothe  
contayne xvijj acares.  
belongyng unto Whitts house.
- Item mede gronds v acares.
- Item ij lyttell copses won acare.
- Item the piddell by the house and behind the brue  
w<sup>t</sup> the gardens ij acares.
- Item Ford w<sup>th</sup> the wast grond x acares.
- Item water Craft ij acares.
- Item Eest Craft iiij acares.
- Item butts ij acares.
- Item in the churche fyld won acare lying by the  
churche raylles and halfe an acare lyieth by arbors  
on the yest syde of sawyers house.  
The whole ys xxvij acares & a halfe."

(To be continued.)

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## 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.*

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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 1915—still remaining unanswered. It is hoped that some readers may solve them.

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### Notes.

BRASSES AT SUTTON COURTENAY.—It may be of interest to add some notes on the brasses of the Trulock family mentioned by Mr. Keyser in his valuable paper on Sutton Church (p. 41).