

have been discovered, was perhaps taken for this purpose when additional burial-ground was needed.

The Survey enables us to trace clearly the extent of the parish of St. Mary-the-less which now forms part of the parish of St. Peter. It includes the quadrangular block, in which its Church stood, bounded by Fish Street, High Street, Wood Street, and the White Hart entry, together with the line of houses on the opposite side of Fish Street from the same point; and it may be presumed also that it included the north side of High Street from Castle Street to a point opposite Wood Street, since this also is in the parish of St. Peter.

(To be continued.)

The Family of Palmer of Wokingham, and Rye, Sussex.

By the Rev. J. Holford Scott.

THE above mentioned family is of very ancient extraction, being representatives of the families of Symonds and Underwood, who from the evidences of exceedingly early deeds were domiciled at Woodcrithe and Fritheland in Zemydon juxta Lukeley all situated "infra Parochiam de Wokingham."

The first deed brought to our notice by Gulielmus Ryley, "The Lancaster Herald," is without date and presumably one earlier than the first dated deed of 1309. The pedigree of the Symonds family previous to its absorption into the family of Palmer appears to be as follows: (1) Johannes Symond de Woodcrithe. (2) His son Johannes Symond de Woodcrithe (2nd Ed. II. 1309). (3) A son of the last Johannes, another Johannes de Woodcrithe (22nd Edward III. 1349). This Johannes had an only daughter and heiress, Agneta Symond, who married Robert Palmer of Wokingham. From this union sprang a son, Robert Palmer, who formed an alliance with Agneta, daughter and heiress of Johannes Underwood, Junior, the son of Johannes Underwood who was alive in the 42nd year of Edward III. 1369. Ryley in reference to the deeds, a list of which is given, says "I have faithfully examined the

genealogy and proofs as they, depicted and outlined, formerly existed, and I have judged them to be in accordance with the evidences aforesaid written."

There are in all fifteen deeds, and it is from an inspection of these that Ryley gives his verdict that Richard Palmer of Wokingham in the County of Berks, Gentleman, is lineally descended from Richard Palmer otherwise called Underwood late of Wokingham, who descended from Robert Palmer that married Agnes the daughter and heir of John Symonds of Woodcrich (*sic*) in the Parish of Wokingham aforesaid as by the evidences may appear.

One deed is of especial interest and importance, viz., that in which it is stated that "William Palmer de Wokingham was Valectus Dominæ Reginæ Angliæ, 13th Henry IV." The Queen to whom reference is here made was Joan, daughter of Charles II. King of Navarre, and widow of John de Montfort Duke of Brittany. She was the second wife of Henry IV. of England. The office of Valectus at that period testifies to the position of the Palmer family, for the term Valectus had not then fallen into disrepute, and the duty of attendance on a royal personage which accrued to that office was generally discharged by Esquires or younger sons of good family of the Armigerom class. The writer may perhaps be allowed here to ask a question: "Had this branch of the Palmer family sprung from the oldest established family of that name, *i.e.*, the Palmers of Compton Scorfen, Warwick, whose arms were 'chequy argent and azure, a chief gules?'" The first member of that family recorded in Harleian MSS. 1144, 5819, and Lansdowne MS. 1233, was Henricus le Palmer circiter 1100. Was this Henry akin to the Earls Warren, and of Surrey, as the arms of the latter were chequy or, and azure? When Sir Edward Bysshe, Knight, the Clarencieux King-at-arms gave a grant of arms dated 20th February, 1664, to Richard Palmer, he assigned to him "Chequy or, and sable on a chief gules two mullets of the first." These arms were evidently based on the ancient arms of the Palmers of Compton Scorfen. Perhaps some reader who is versed in old documents such as "The Inquisitions," may be able to establish a relationship between the families. It is a problem, the solution of which lies outside the pale of the knowledge of the writer of this sketch.

On November 15th, 1661, Richard Palmer of Wokingham, bought from Sir Richard Harrison of Hurst, the Manor of Finchampstead East Court for the sum of £4250. It may be apposite to note that at this time another branch of the Palmer family of

Wokingham was flourishing at Rye, Sussex. Richard Palmer of Wokingham who married Elizabeth, daughter and subsequently heiress of John Ball of Barkham, had two sons, John Palmer afterwards of Rye, and Richard Palmer the father of Richard Palmer of East Court. Elias Ashmole in his Visitation of Berks 1664-65, places in the pedigree John before Richard, and it may be therefore presumed that John was the elder son. The same authority states that John resided at Rye and married Elizabeth daughter of Cary of Lewes, but it is proposed to give further particulars of this branch a little later.

The marriage of Richard Palmer of East Court (b. 1611, d. 1670) with Maria, only daughter of Oliver Fish of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, exercised an important influence upon the ultimate disposal of the family property.

(To be continued.)

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 1916—still remaining unanswered. It is hoped that some readers may solve them.

Note.

ACHESTER CAMP, HINTON WALDRIST.—About a quarter of a mile east of the turn to Hinton Waldrist, on the road from Faringdon to Oxford, is the small rectangular earthwork called Achester. It is rectangular in shape, 24 yards wide, 90 yards long, in low-lying ground, and in a copse of oak trees. There two entrances, and no traces of walls, foundations, barrows, or other earthworks are visible. Cherbury Camp at Pusey is the nearest earthwork (camp).—G. W. B. HUNTINGFORD, Stanford-in-the-Dale, Berks.