

Brasses and Mural Monuments in Shinfield Church.

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(Continued from Vol. 35. No. 2.).

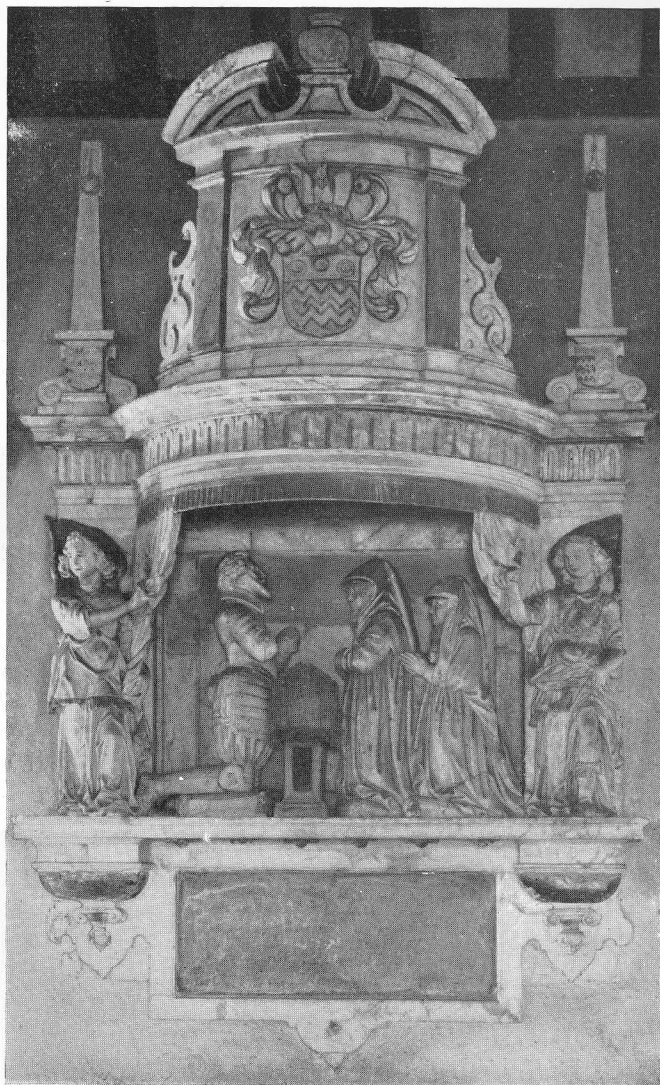
IN Shinfield Church, where no long panegyrics framed in elaborate carving, bridge the interval of time between the Beke and Martyn monuments and their humble successors, the fact that a century of change divides them is almost startlingly brought to mind. Two vanished brasses—for five in all have disappeared—would have given the missing note of social and religious experience during that century. Thanks to Ashmole, they have, in a sense, survived.¹ The earlier of these two is dedicated to the memory of “ Anne Ellys, wife of John Ellys of Shenynfyeld in the co. of Berks, Gent. daughter of John Gunter of Barton in the said County of Berks, Esq. who departed this lyfe the 17th day of September Anno Dni. 1617. *Vivit post funera Virtus.*”

In Lady Russell's “ Swallowfield and its Owners,”² it is suggested that “ John Ellys, Gent. of Sheynefeld, buried there in 1617,” was descended from the William FitzEllys who in the reign of Edward III. married Isabel de la Beche, and that his name was originally FitzEllys. But that connection with the Manor of Beaumys must have been brief, for among local names FitzEllys does not occur again, nor even Ellis. Ashmole notices no arms on the plate, but Nichols³ says “ Arms on a cross sable five crescents argent (Ellis) impaling.....three gauntlets....., Gunter. In Burke we find, “ Ellys of Shinfield co. Berks and Swallowfield co. Wilts temp. James I. arms as Ellis of Keddal and Stoneacre, monumental inscription in Shinfield Church.” The arms of Ellis of Keddal and Stoneacre are, “ or on a cross sable five crescents. Crest :—a woman naked her hair deshevelled or.” There was,

¹ *Antiquities of Berkshire*, Ed. 1723.

² D. 44.

³ *Topographer and Genealogist*, vol. 3 p. 285.



Cenotaph in Shinfield Church to Henry Beke, his wife and daughter.

(See Journal vol. 35. No. 2. p. 112).

then, a coat of arms on the brass, known to genealogists before the church was restored and all the brasses lost.

These arms were borne in the reign of Edward II. by Sir Henry Ellis of co. York⁴; and by the brothers Sir John of Keddal and Sir William of Everingham in the reign of Edward III.⁵ Stoneacre was a later acquisition. The house, a fine half timbered mansion of the 15th-16th century, is still standing in the parish of Otham, Kent, where the arms were visible in a window at the Visitations of Kent in 1619 and 1663; also in a window of a house at Hazelwood, at the Visitation of York, 1585.⁶

The line of Ellys of Everingham ended in an heiress in the 15th century⁷; but that of Keddal not till the 18th; nor was Stoneacre sold till then⁸; so that when John Ellys, settled at Ellis's Farm,—then about as new as Hartley Court,—these estates were in the possession of his family. He came therefore of knightly stock, while his wife came obviously of a family of armourers, whose highly specialized craft was gauntlet making. The Berkshire Gunters bore arms—"sable three sinister gauntlets argent"—which, not long before had doubtless been, "the sign of the three gauntlets." The crest was "a stag's head coupé per pale or and sa. the attires counterchanged."⁹ The armourer's craft was not yet obsolete, for tilting armour, '*armure de parade*,' was still in fashion, and the name of Jacob Topf, the master armourer, who made Sir Christopher Hatton's famous suit, and suits for others of Elizabeth's courtiers, was still familiar. Burke mentions three families of Gunter, two in Sussex, where we should expect to find iron work, and one in Wales, all bearing the same arms with slight variations in the crests. Gunter of Kintbury and Gunter of Reading are unnoticed and Gunter of Barton does not appear in the Berks Visitation pedigrees. Yet John Gunter is styled esquire, and we may probably form an idea of the style of the Ellys-Gunter shield at Shinfield from the

⁴ 1st Dunstable Roll. Top. and Gen. 1837.

⁵ 2nd Dunstable Roll. Top. and Gen. 1837.

⁶ General Armory.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Visit. Berks, Vol. I., pp. 32, 94, 95.

one on the brass of Mrs. Ellys's contemporary and connection, Mary Gunter, née Cresswell, in Fawley Church, who died only four years later, in 1621; though there may have been no figure on the Shinfield brass.¹⁰ Nothing seems to have been added on the gravestone when John Ellys himself died. His son, "John Ellys de Shinfield in Com. Berks" married Mary, daughter of Nicholas Gunter, son of Simon Gunter then "*nuper maior villae de Reading ac primarius heres eiusdem familiae*;" who bore the three sinister gauntlets.¹¹ The son of John Ellis and Mary Gunter appears in the certificate handed to Ashmole, signed by his grandfather Nicholas and his uncle Edward; ¹² and he is clearly the John Ellis, Gent. "who married Jane Ladyman of Swallowfield, Sept. 21st 1693."¹³ Other entries in the name are "John Ellis bur'. 1654, John Ellis and Barbara Merew, married May 2, 1682" and "John Ellis died Dec. 1685, att. brought Janry. 3" but none of these is distinguished by the "Gent" or "Esq" reserved for gentlefolk. After the third John Ellis, known to be grandson of the first, the name disappears from the register. Having influential relatives elsewhere, John Ellis may have had good reasons for leaving Berkshire.

The other of these two brasses was inscribed:—"Thomas Hide Esq. expecting the coming of his Saviour he departed this life the 27th of January, 1634. Aetatis sui 82."

Mr. Hide was the first Hide or Hyde "of Shinfield," according to the pedigree handed to Ashmole.¹⁴ He probably built the "moated house in Shinfield" referred to in "Swallowfield and its Owners"¹⁵ the site of which lies at the bottom of the field opposite the Vicarage. The land must have been an enclosure on the slope of the Common. Mr. Cosens, "Vickor," was then living in the newly rebuilt rectory, and a vicarage was unthought-of.

Mr. Hide had a large family, with a London home in Milk

¹⁰ Morley *Monumental Brasses of Berkshire*, p. 112.

¹¹ *Visit. Berks*, Vol. I., p. 95.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Shinfield Par. Reg.*

¹⁴ *Visit. Berks*, Vol. I. p. 231.

¹⁵ p. 194.

Street off Cheapside. His children and some of his grandchildren were christened in the neighbouring church of St. Mary Magdalene.¹⁶ Only two of them became closely associated with Berkshire, Thomas, the eldest son who was escheator of Berks, and Edward, the third son, "yeoman of the wine seller" (sic) to James I., Charles I., and Charles II., who succeeded him in Shinfield. Edward married Mary Chambers, daughter of Richard Chambers, citizen of London; which brought the name of Chambers, carefully perpetuated, into the family. Their son Edward would be thirteen at the time of his grandfather's death.¹⁷ Richard, whose name does not appear in the Milk Street register, would be about seven.¹⁸

During the Civil War, the father was naturally on the side of the King, and weapons and armour, collected as mementos, remained in the home of his descendants for four generations. During the Commonwealth his servant was married in Shinfield Church in 1654:

"William Batchelor of Aldermarston in the County of Berks, cordwaner, and Joane Bayley of Shinfield, in the County of Berks, then servant of Edward Hide of Shinfield, aforesaid, gent, had their bans of matrimonie published three Lord's Days in the p'ish church of Shinfield, aforesaid, without contradiction of any, according to a late act of Parliament on that behalf and the said parties banes were published as aforesaid by me. Robert Green, Regist." ¹⁹

The son Richard must have been married in London about the same time, to "Anne, daughter of Nathaniel James, citizen of London;" ²⁰ and in 1655, Mr. Green, in the prescribed form, called the bans of another son, "William Hide of Shinfield, Gent, and Mrs. Ann Dane of the Savoy in London," "daughter of . . . Dane of the Inner Temple, Esq." ²¹

¹⁶ *The Grocers' Guide, Baptismal Reg. and Wills.* Communicated by J. C. Harrison, Esq.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Visit. Berks.* Vol. I., p. 231.

¹⁹ *Shinfield Par. Reg.*, Vol. I.

²⁰ *Visit. Berks.* Vol. I., p. 231.

²¹ *Shinfield Par. Reg.*, Vol. I.

Edward Hide was succeeded in 1663 by his elder son, Edward in London, and by his son Richard in Shinfield, the London business being probably more valued than the little Berkshire farm. In 1665, Richard handed to Ashmole the certificate which is a guide to the identity of some of the many Hides and Hydes in the Parish Register.²² It is unfortunate that his contemporary, Richard Hyde of Hyde End, disdained to respond in due form to Ashmole's summons. His third cousin, Anne Hyde was the wife of the Heir Apparent and her brother was Lord Cornbury (not yet of Swallowfield), and "he put in no appearance, but said he was a Hyde of Norbury and would give satisfaction of his arms next Tearn,"²³ Consequently we have not that help to disentangle the Hydes of Hyde End, of Kingston Lisle, and "of Shinfield" in the parish register, where we find others who must be villagers, the name being written by all, indifferently, Hyde or Hide.

Richard Hide had many children, but his grandson, Chambers Hide, the last Hide or Hyde in the Parish Register, died childless in 1713, and his sister and heiress, Hannah Chambers Hide, married Augustine Badger (a Swallowfield name) at Shinfield in 1721.²⁴ "Mr. Badger's Land" is marked on the Shinfield Map of 1789, and is now the property of the National Institute for Research in Dairying. His house, a 17th century farm house, is the best example of the kind in the parish, and has proved capable of internal alteration to suit modern requirements. The name "Badger's Farm" has been changed to "Cutbush"; but an island in the Loddon is still called "Badger's Island." Their son, Chambers Hide died in 1782.²⁵ His brother, John Hyde Badger, was supposed, in the next century, to have belonged to the Hydes of Hyde End:—"The last of Lord Clarendon's family, it is said, was John Hyde Badger, a gentleman farmer, who lived in a moated house in Shinfield, where he had many relics of the family. His hall was hung with every species of armour, remains of the Civil War, and he had a curious pair of

²² *Visit. Berks*, Vol. II.

²³ *Idem*.

²⁴ *Swallowfield and Its Owners*, p. 330.

²⁵ *Shinfield Par. Reg.*

gloves worn by Lord Chancellor Clarendon when he went to court and several articles that had belonged to Queen Anne. He died in 1790 and was buried in the family vault at Shinfield."²⁶

The family vault was undoubtedly that of the Hides "of Shinfield." His great-grandfather, Richard Hyde, left instructions in his will, that he should be "buried in his vault in Shinfield Church."²⁷ Other members of the family were brought from London, apparently with that object; and Mr. John Hyde Badger was the great-great-great-grandson of the Thomas Hide whose brass Ashmole copied.

As Swallowfield was sold by the Lord Chancellor's son in 1719, relics of the Hyde family might easily come into the possession of the Hyde Badger family, otherwise than as heirlooms.

The earliest of the later mural tablets, dated 1726, bears the name of Mrs. Mary Floyer, relict of Col. Peter Floyer. It is of veined marble, simple and in better taste than its white marble successors, and according to the new fashion, without arms. Yet the Floyers had arms,—three silver arrows²⁸—like the Forsters of Aldermaston²⁹ and the Floyers of Floyer's Hayes, Exeter.³⁰ These arms, like the three gauntlets, indicating a calling, do not necessarily connote relationship; and there was none between the family of Mrs. Floyer and the Forsters and the Floyers of Devon. They were Staffordshire people, who wrote their name indifferently, Flyar, Flyer, ffeere, or Floyer, and finally settled down to Floyer. Something should, perhaps, be allowed for local pronunciation. They were townsfolk of Uttoxeter in the 16th century. William Flyer or Flier is entered thus among *Alumni Oxoniensis*, "B.A. 10 March 1606-7. Student of the Inner Temple 1568 as of Uttoxeter, co. Staff.; see Foster's 'Inns of Court.'" Richard Flier, Flyer, or ffeere, was living c. 1582, and married twice. His eldest son founded the London branch of the family;³¹ but arms were granted first to the son of his second wife, Ralph Flyer, "barrister-at-law of the Middle

²⁶ Man, *History of Reading*, 1815, p. 388.

²⁷ *Berks Wills Reg. Somerset House*, Ash, May 1704, f. 110.

²⁸ Burke, *Gen. Armory*.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Visit. Lond.* 1663, Vol. I., p. 281.

Temple, who married as his first wife, Margaret, daughter of James Weston, Esq., and sister of Sir Simon Weston, Kt. and who, as a country gentleman, was 'of Hints co, Staff.' as well as of Uttoxeter." In the Visitation of 1614 we find—among "Grantees of arms to the end of the 17th century"—"Flyer (ffleere) Ralph. Hints. Staff. 1614. 12 King James, of St. George. Norr."³² It would appear that Norroy King-of-Arms associated the name Flier with arrows and had no scruple about granting these arms. "Flight" is a name for arrow; though the N.E.D. does not give "flier" as a special hunting term. Richard Flier or Floyer, son of Ralph, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Weston of Rugeley, co. Staffs. a barrister like himself, and of his seven children, the second son, John,³³ (1647-1734) born at Hinters, and the fourth, Peter (1648-1702), were destined to become notabilities. John became a physician, the first to make observations on the rate of the pulse; and for this and other services to medical science, Charles II. knighted him. His brother Peter became a "gold refiner of the City of London," a financier and a successful City man, with influential relatives well known in London circles. He was rich enough to finance King William III., and his name is often mentioned in State Papers Domestic³⁴ towards the end of the reign. His grateful sovereign knighted him in the last year of both their lives. His son Peter entered King William's army and was a Captain by 1694.³⁵ At the same time Charles Floyer, representative of the Devon family, but then residing in Dorset, also joined the army. The two young men must often have met. The Devon Floyers possess—for the family still "flourishes"—the rare distinction of a family tree with an authentic pre-Conquest Saxon ancestor at the head of it. Floher (A-S. flo., an arrow; Floyer, arrow-maker) was Domesday tenant of a tiny freehold of 30 acres on Exe Island outside the West Gate of Exeter. It was later held

³² *Visit. Staffs*, 1614, p. 90.

³³ *D.N.B.*

³⁴ Vols. 1691, 1694, 1696, 1697, 1701.

³⁵ *Annals of the Family of Floyer*. Rev. J. K. Floyer. Trans. Devon Assoc. Vol. XXX., 1898, pp. 505-524.

from the Earls of Devon and was called Floyer's Hayes. It conferred a different status on the family from 30 acres in the common fields. Between their patrimony, their arrow-making, and, no doubt, advantageous marriages, they prospered.³⁶ In the 10th year of Henry VI., William Floyer obtained a lease of the manor of Estbury in Lambourn.³⁷ Two years later his name appears as fourteenth on the list of "commissioners appointed to receive the oaths returned by Robert Nevill, Bishop of Sarum, Anno regni 12, 1434."³⁸ Papworth refers the Floyer arms to Glover's Ordinary. Harl. MSS. 1332-1450; "sable a chevron between three arrows argent"; the Forster arms only differing by a chevron engrailed; the new Flier arms by a chevron ermine, and the crests of all, stags' heads. The Devon Floyers never rose above the rank of squire: hence probably their survival. Nor have any of the race attained the distinction of mention in the D.N.B. The lease of Estbury ran out and the name disappeared from Berks; but Floyer's Hayes was theirs for five centuries. William Floyer, probably son of the above-mentioned William, served as captain under George, Duke of Clarence in France, 1474; but there was no fighting, for peace was made. In the reign of Edward VI. the Floyers lost their feudal claim to their old home,—a fairly large house defended by a wall and gateway—in consequence of the rebellion of the county in 1549 against the new liturgy. Their overlord, Edward Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter, having encouraged the insurgents, was deprived of Exe Island, and Floyer's Hayes was handed over to the loyal city of Exeter. A few years later, Anthony Floyer, whose wife Ann Martin, had brought him a property in Dorset, left Devon and removed thither. As a widow, Mrs. Floyer went to live in Monmouth, and the family spread into Somerset, Lincoln, and West Devon.³⁹ As Mrs. Floyer's uncle, Nicholas Wadham, was the founder of Wadham College, Oxford, many Floyers were able to claim the privilege of Founder's kin: but the Hints Floyers never did.

³⁶ *Annals of the Family of Floyer*.

³⁷ *V.C.H. Berks*, IV., p. 285.

³⁸ *Ashmole Antiquities of Berkshire*, Ed. 1723, p. cx.

³⁹ *Annals of the Family of Floyer*.

As the christian names of the two Captains Floyer are not often given in the Calendars of State Papers, it is not always possible to distinguish between them, but Capt. Peter is mentioned in a list of officers in 1702.⁴⁰ He served under Marlborough, Charles Churchill being Lt. General of the forces. He rose to be colonel ;⁴¹ and when he retired he settled in Shinfield. What had become of Sir Peter's wealth ?

The land Col. Floyer farmed is marked on the estate map. The house he took was so modest it has been difficult to trace it. In Rocque's Top. Survey of Berkshire, the name of " Floyer Esq." (the son) is mentioned in the text,⁴² and it is stated that he lived " 4 miles S.S.E. of Reading." Macaulay's Directory for 1871, however, mentions Floyer's Farm, then occupied by Mr. John Thorp. The Rev. W. H. Seymour kindly identified the place with the help of the tithe map for 1862, as " a small unnamed farm owned by the Rev. George Hulme, lying between Ryeish Green and Spencers Wood." Col. Floyer was, however, a person of importance though the Floyer family is completely ignored in " Swallowfield and Its Owners." The name of Peter Floyer is the first on the list of trustees of Pigott's school, where the notice board in the Church commemorates Mr. Pigott's addition to his original gift which made it a free school. The Colonel was then about fifty-four. His son Peter married a lady named Henrietta (Harkey ?) not long before his father's death, which occurred in 1731.⁴³ There is no notice of this in the parish register, but he probably was buried on the north side of the Church. His eldest grandson was born in 1732. His wife survived him seventeen years. His famous uncle, Sir John, also survived him eleven years.

Mr. Peter Floyer and his wife lived the rest of their lives in Shinfield. Their children's names are all in the Parish Register as are the deaths of some of them. Peter probably placed the tablet to his mother's memory in the Church. Of his son John

⁴⁰ *State Papers Domestic, Anne*, 1702-3, p. 362.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² p. 9.

⁴³ Informant, the Rev. J. K. Floyer.

and his daughters Jane, Leda and Ann we know nothing. There are no Floyer weddings in the Parish Register, nor certificates elsewhere. Peter predeceased his father. After Mr. Floyer's death in 1778, Miss Henrietta and Miss Penelope seem to have lived with their mother, who died in 1790. "Miss Penelophy's" name occurs in the Register in 1788: Miss Henrietta's in 1796. Part of such a financial business as these ladies' grandfather, Sir Peter, had carried on in London, was called "running cash." In the Little London Directory for 1677 there is a list of such business houses, which were really banks, and five of these were still carrying on business in 1876, one of them being Martin's Bank. When recently Martin's Bank was amalgamated with the Liverpool Bank, a sum of money was found in the name of Miss Henrietta Floyer, who died in 1796.⁴⁴

On the south wall of the church is a small white marble tablet to the memory of Thomas Hollyer and members of the Hollyer family, dated 1748. The name is on the 4th bell of the chime, recast in 1722, and inscribed "Henry Bagley made mee," with the names of the two churchwardens in the upper and lower hand. It is also in the list of trustees upon the board commemorating the Piggot Charity—"Thomas Hollyer Senr." second—and "Thomas Hollyer Junr." fifth. The Hollyer family belonged to the parish, as did the Headlands before the parish register begins, the names of their children being among the earliest inscribed:—"Elizabeth, daughter of John Hollyer buried 1654"; "Elizabeth, daughter of John Hollier, Junr. born Jany. XXIX" (no date, but the next is 1656). The baptisms of the children of John, Robert, William and Thomas Hollier or Hollyer, follow in quick succession up to 1699, and a few notices of "burials." Mr. Thomas Hollyer Senr. was, no doubt, the Thomas, son of Thomas, born in 1688. He would be about thirty-four when his name was inscribed on the bell and about sixty at the time of his death. There is no entry in the parish register of the burial of Mr. Hollyer Senr. or Mr. Hollyer Junr. The family seem to have left the parish, but desired to be remembered there.

⁴⁴ Informant, the Rev. J. K. Floyer.

At the west end of the south aisle is a large marble tablet to the memory of the Rev. Edward Portage, M.A. The name is spelt 'Pordage' elsewhere, and Pordridge being a Swallowfield name, this tablet is referred to in "Swallowfield and Its Owners,"⁴⁵ It seems natural to connect this Mr. Pordage with the eccentric Rector of Bradfield of Ashmole's time⁴⁶ and his son Samuel the poet.⁴⁷ His record, however, in the *Alumni Cantabrigiensis* runs:—"Edward Pordage, Adm. at King's, a scholar from Eton 1706. b. at Waltham Abbey, Essex; Matric. Michs. 1707, B.A. 1710-1, M.A. 1714. Rector of Bere Cracombe, Somerset, 1714-36. Perhaps chaplain to the Navy in 1734. Married at St. George's Hanover Square, July 12, 1748. Died October 31st, 1757. Will P.C.C. (Harwood, Gents. Mag.; and L. Mag.)." The Gentleman's Magazine⁴⁸ merely mentions his name, fifth in a list of ecclesiastical preferments—"Rev. Mr. Pordage . . . Sub-dean of the Chapel Royal in room of Mr. Carlton.' His second wife, "Mary, daughter of Sir Samuel Clarke of East Moulsey in Surrey" evidently erected the tablet. In the Parish Register there is no record of Mr. Pordage's "burial," but in 1762 we find "Mary Pordage buried February ye 10th," without "Mrs." or any other distinction. The name does not appear again.

A number of tablets, a stained glass window, two hatchments at the east end of the south aisle, and another hatchment at the west end (damaged) are all connected with former owners of Shinfield Grove. The earliest tablet is to the memory of Mrs. Rebecca Webster "of Shinfield Green," a patch of common adjoining the Shinfield estate, later brought into it by Alexander Cobham Cobham, Esq. under an enclosure award.⁴⁹ The tablet bears an epitaph to be found in most old churchyards:—

"This day I died, to-morrow you will go,
You know not where in hope, e'er now I know."

⁴⁵ p. 326.

⁴⁶ *D.N.B.*

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ Vol. XVI., p. 668.

⁴⁹ Informant, Alexander Blyth Cobham, Esq.

Mr. John Webster, citizen of London and Rebecca his wife were the purchasers of a little farm⁵⁰ on the edge of the common which they developed into the Shinfield Grove estate, and where they lived many years. Turnpike roads and tree planting being then two great interests of rural life, they planted trees, chiefly oaks, along the roadside bordering their land ; while the Earl of Fingal, who had become lord of the manor by his marriage with the heiress, Henrietta Maria Wollascott, and sold it in 1789, planted oaks along the other side ;⁵¹ forming the avenue enthusiastically admired, fifty years later, by Mr. Snare ;⁵² the scenery of this part of his journey forcibly bringing Miss Mitford's descriptions to mind.

A tablet on the opposite side of the window, dated 1790, is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Anne Hulme, wife of Mr. John Hulme, of Bread St. Hill, London ; and introduces a name long to be remembered in Shinfield. Mr. Webster's will makes it apparent that this lady was the mother of his son-in-law, Mr. William Hulme, a London merchant, partner in a tobacco concern.

In 1792 Mr. Webster died ; and his tablet bears another rhymed epitaph, anything but hackneyed, and published as curious by the Berks Local History Club :—

“ Open the grave ; my promise firm to keep,
We both agreed together here to sleep ;
In bonds of friendship, as we lived, we died,
To everlasting rest laid side by side.”

He left his property to the children, John, William and George, of his only daughter, Ann, the late Mrs. William Hulme, “ share and share alike at age of twenty-one years.”

Mr. William Hulme brought his family to Shinfield Grove and with the Hulmes, coats-of-arms re-appeared in the church ; the damaged hatchment, high up on the west wall of the aisle being probably for Mr. William Hulme, who died in 1810. These arms “ barry of eight or and azure on a canton argent a chaplet gules,” are those of “ Thomas Holme, citizen of London, Gent. of

⁵⁰ Informant, the late Mr. Henry Goddard, farmer, of Shinfield.

⁵¹ Informant, Miss A. M. Hulme.

⁵² *Snare's Tour*, pp. 160, 162.

Codington, co. Cheshire," and date from the reign of Elizabeth. The family cherish a story that the chaplet was bestowed by the Black Prince for good service in France. The hatchments, bearing a lozenge and a shield, impale the arms of Breedon—"sable a lion argent with eight passion nails in the border"—for the wife, née Elizabeth Breedon of Bere Court, Pangbourne, of Mr. William Hulme's son, the Rev. George Hulme; and of her husband who survived her eighteen years. Shinfield Lodge was built in their time, about 1814.⁵³ "The Rev. George Hulme bought some land that was being farmed by Farmer Thorp⁵⁴ for that purpose." Farmer Thorp of the "great enclosures," prosperous owner of "a cock in a million,"⁵⁵ seems to have had a house there already, for "the old house was much nearer the road, close to where the stables are now; Shinfield Grove is very much older."⁵⁶

Both the Hulme and Breedon families belonged to the Evangelical party, and, as is well known, Mr. Hulme built Holy Trinity Church, Reading, as a proprietary chapel. His three sons all proceeded to their father's old college, Balliol, and went into the church. Mr. Snare records:—

"An infant school has been built and is entirely supported by the Rev. George Hulme, within his own grounds (1843)."⁵⁷ Two years later the tablet which bears his name, surmounted by the Hulme crest, on a very small scale and now without colour, but meant for "a lion's head couped or charged with a mullet for difference ensigned with a cap of maintenance turned up ermine" was placed above his wife's and his hatchment was placed by hers. His eldest son, the Rev. George Hulme, who had been chaplain and private secretary to the King of Hanover,⁵⁸ succeeded to Shinfield Grove. In 1889, his children gave a piece of land adjoining the school house, for the purpose of an extension, as a memorial of him, as is recorded on the building. His

⁵³ Informant, Miss A. M. Hulme.

⁵⁴ Informant, Mr. A. Tapping, late verger.

⁵⁵ *Wheat-hoeing*.

⁵⁶ Informant, Miss A. M. Hulme.

⁵⁷ *Snare's Tour*, p. 162.

⁵⁸ *Alum. Oxon.*



Monument in Shinfield Church to Edward Martyn, 1604 (figure of Edward and fald-stool lost and figures of wife and daughter misplaced).

(See Journal vol. 35. No. 2. p. 117).

son, Mr. George Breedon Hulme, affectionately remembered in the village, recently returned from abroad and died at Shinfield.

His daughter, Miss A. M. Hulme, recently gave to Shinfield the hymn books and registers used by her father in his Sunday School.⁵⁹ The parish clerk was still in office at Shinfield in her "young days and as Windsor Forest came up to Shinfield, he always wore the Windsor uniform."⁶⁰

One of the most interesting of the monuments is the small stone tablet painted with the name of "Edward Wayte linen draper of Bristol" and dated 1788. It is in the Martyn Chapel and was placed there, no doubt, because he was related to the Wollascott family. Susannah, daughter and co-heiress of William Waite of co. Southampton married William Wollascott de Wollascott armiger,⁶¹ and they were the parents of the William Wollascott who married Anne Martyn, heiress of Shinfield manor in 1587. The arms of Wayte are 'argent a chevron between three bugle horns stringed sable garnished or,' very similar to those of the Foresters of Willey Hall, Salop,—indicating the calling of a huntsman, the word Wayte meaning blowing of a horn, lying in wait like a hunting dog,⁶² etc. It is a very old name in Hampshire. When John de St. John I. of Basing replied to Edward I.'s writ *Quo Warranto*, one of his jurors was Henry *le* Wayte. Families of the name held land in Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Berks. The Wollascott shield of arms quarters Wayte, No. 4.

At the east end of the nave are two large tablets to the memory of the children of Major Francis Wilder, "of this parish." They are all mentioned in the parish register. The name of Wilder is a very old one in Thames-side Oxfordshire, of families who long outlived the knightly folk and came into their own in Tudor times. Nicholas Wilder was a freeholder, a copyholder and a tenant by indenture of the priory of Goring at the first suppression in 1546.⁶³ In 1548 there were Wilders settled at

⁵⁹ Informant, R. Freeman, Esq.

⁶⁰ Informant, Miss A. M. Hulme.

⁶¹ *Visit. Berks*, Vol. I., p. 315.

⁶² *N.E.D.*

⁶³ *Rent Roll of the Suppressed Priory of Goring. Berks. Arch. Jour.*, Vol. xxxv., No. 2, p. 120-1.

Nunhide in Theale. In 1555, Nicholas Wilder and his wife Agnes granted to their son Thomas, two crofts in Goring. The Wilders of Nunhide had rented the manor for "two generations at least," when Sir William Forster of Aldermaston leased it to Thomas, Margaret and John Wilder for their lives in 1601-2 and in 1632 Thomas Wilder and his son bought it.⁶⁴ A William Wilder was "of Hartley in Shinfield in 1620-30."⁶⁵ In 1655 "Thomas Barker son of Thomas Barker of Shinfield and Elizabeth Wilder of Mapledurham in the county of Oxon had their bans of matrimonie . . . published by Mr. Robert Green."⁶⁶ Most of the recorded Shinfield weddings happened during the Commonwealth. At Ashmole's Visitation, William Wilder, who does not appear in the pedigree of Nunhide, was entered as 'of Tilehurst,' which was crossed out and Theale substituted. At the same time William Wilder of Reading disclaimed arms. Two or three references to the name occur in Parochial Collections,⁶⁷ the latest being to Thomas Wilder, Churchwarden of South Stoke (1711). In 1712 Henry Wilder of Nunhide bought the neighbouring manor of Sulham, and in 1773 the manor of La Hide or Purley, both of which are still in the family. In 1813, Col. then Major General Sir Francis Wilder, acquired Binfield; ⁶⁸ but having lost his only remaining child in 1818⁶⁹ shortly before he himself died, Lady Wilder sold the manor.

In the Martyn Chapel is a tablet to Alexander Cobham, another to Mrs. Cobham and a hatchment with the arms of Cobham impaling Slade. The records of the India Office⁷⁰ show that Mr. Cobham sailed to India in the ship "Success" in 1783-84 as a free merchant, like "Diamond" Pitt of Swallowfield many years before. On his return, he also bought an estate—Shinfield—from his brother-in-law Mr. John Slade and Lord Fingal.⁷¹ He was the owner of the old Manor House when the board-bound

⁶⁴ *V.C.H. Berks*, Vol. III., pp. 421, 429-30.

⁶⁵ *Berks Local Hist. Club*.

⁶⁶ *Shinfield Par. Reg.* Vol. I.

⁶⁷ *Oxfordshire Rec. Soc.*, Vols. IX., XI.

⁶⁸ *V.C.H. Berks*, Vol. III., p. 430.

⁶⁹ Tablet at Shinfield.

⁷⁰ R. 913/30

⁷¹ *V.C.H. Berks*, Vol. III., p. 263.

"Book of the Charters of Reading Abbey" was found there after it had been out of sight for considerably over two centuries. The book was taken to Woolhampton, where it entered upon another century and more of obscurity; for it has never been published, and but for Miss Sharp's translation of Henry I.'s donation of the hand of St. James, and her brief list of the contents,⁷² it might be supposed to be a cartulary only; whereas it is a typical example of the mediaeval book specially compiled for its owners. Mr. Cobham pulled the house down, probably thinking the old flue chamber unsafe; though the timbers proved sound and were built into Wokefield house. Mr. and Mrs. Cobham removed to Shinfield Grange. He was sheriff of the county and took an active interest in public affairs. Having lost his nephew and heir presumptive, he resolved to make his infant great-nephew, godson and namesake, Alexander Cobham Martyr, his heir, the name of Cobham to go with the estate. The will took effect only a year later; when it was found that the formula "name and arms" had been used, which necessitated an application for a grant of arms. The Cobhams of history having died out four centuries ago, the Heralds' College granted arms derived from those of Cooling and Sterborough so differenced as not to be mistaken for the original coat—gules on a chevron engrailed (for difference) or three lions rampant sable between three cinquefoils or of Bardolph impaled by Sterborough; Crest:—"an old man's head sidefaced couped at the shoulders proper with a cap gules turned up argent fretty sable differenced by a button on the top or." These arms were granted May 25th 1813; so that it was about four years before Mrs. Cobham could have them put on her husband's tablet, or place in the chapel the hatchment displaying Cobham impaling Slade, "argent three horses' heads erased sable a chief gules." It is a shield, not a lozenge, so it was evidently placed there by her. The rest of the family have taken no interest in this coat, which has no real associations for them.

A tablet near the Martyn monument was placed there by the mother of Edward Hanson Dearsley, who inherited, at the age of

⁷² Sharp, *History of Upton Court*, pp. 14-15.

five, from his father, Mr. William Hanson Dearsley, the manor of Hartley Dummer, together with other recently purchased properties, Farley Hill Place, Moor Place and Didenham. He died in 1840, just before attaining his majority. Lysons refers to his father as "John Dearsley, Esq.", owner of "the Manor of Hartley Dummer in this parish, lying within the County of Wilts."⁷³ Hanson is a Swallowfield name, and the first name on the benefactions board in the Church is that of Mr. Robert Hanson recording his gift to the Poors House of that Parish. Mr. William Dearsley died in 1825 and his widow married Mr. Thomas Owst, of Keyingham, Holderness, Yorkshire, then tenant of Farley Hill Place. Mr. Snare, setting out on his tour passes "Whitley Lodge, the residence of Thomas Owst, Esq." and mentions that his wife's Berkshire estates were "ten miles in circumference."⁷⁴

Two tablets in the south aisle commemorate contemporary families of tenant farmers whose surname first appears in the parish registers in 1727. In 1729 Peter Body (d. 1761) and his wife Joan (d. 1759) are mentioned; and in 1732 their second son Richard was baptized—the Mr. Richard Body (d. 1799), whose name is on the right hand tablet, father of Peter Body, Esq. (d. 1804). There is no Bernard Body in the 18th century registers, but the name occurs three times on the tablet to left—Mr. Bernard Body (d. 1805) and Ann his wife (d. 1807), to whose memory their sons Bernard and Richard erected the tablet "as a testimony of gratitude for parental affection"—and a grandchild, Bernard. Early in the 19th century there was one Mr. Richard Body at Great Lea Farm and another at Hyde End Farm. In 1818 Richard Body Esq. heads the list of voters in Shinfield.⁷⁵ In 1822 Mrs. Ann Body built the small red brick house by old Woodcock Lane, called Great Lea Farm House, and her name with the date is on a brick in an external wall. The parliamentary election of 1832⁷⁶ found Great Lea and Hyde End in the hands of the cousins; but by 1840 there was a new

⁷³ Ed. 1813, Vol. II., p. 385.

⁷⁴ *Snare's Tour*, p. 160.

⁷⁵ *Berks Election Poll Book, Reading District*, 1818.

⁷⁶ *Idem*.

tenant at Great Lea⁷⁷ while Mr. Richard Body of Hyde End died in 1842 and his name was added on the Bernard Body tablet. He left £100 to the parish for an "annual distribution of blankets, subject to the repair of tablets, and monuments to the memory of myself, my ancestors and relatives in the parish church of Shinfield." Legal formula may be responsible for the wording of the extract from his will inscribed at length in yellow letters on a framed black board on the west wall, so high up that most visitors must miss the connection between this benefaction board and the two modest tablets not far off. Money was more plentiful than when Mrs. Hugh Speke left £4 to the parish. Her monument having been moved, during the restoration of the church, to its present position between the Webster and Body tablets, was, like them, in danger when in 1929 the south wall bulged so alarmingly that immediate steps had to be taken to save the edifice and the tablets.

Someone must have made the drive instead of an old bridle-path to Hyde End House, brought it round to join Spencers Wood Road, planted the avenue of pines which probably mark the new direction, and built Hyde End Cottage, where members of the Body family lived when Hyde End Farm was in other hands. R. B. Body was living there in 1888 and "R. Body, farmer" was at Hyde End some forty-three years ago,⁷⁸ making over 160 years' residence in the parish. The family is still represented in Reading.

Over two centuries had passed since the last ancient brass, Thomas Hide's, had been placed in the church, when the first modern one, on the north wall, was dedicated in 1847 to the memory of Edward Willes, Esq. of Goodrest. He was still living there when Mr. Snare passed by "the delightful retreat of Goodrest embosomed in its plantations, built in the ornamental Gothic style, the property of E. Willes, Esq."⁷⁹

The Rev. Matthew and Mrs. Feilde were the last occupants of the new-old vicarage, "that nest of peace and comfort, the

⁷⁷ Register of Electors.

⁷⁸ Local directories.

⁷⁹ *Snare's Tour*, p. 162.

little parsonage, between the arching elms, which enclosed it like a picture frame, its windows glittering from between china roses."⁸⁰ Needless to say whose charming description this is—the only one we have to tell what that vicarage was like. A better memorial of Mr. Feilde than the tablet near the pulpit, setting forth the appointments he had held before coming to Shinfield, is the extract from his will on the board below the Steward tablet upon the west wall, providing for an increase in the schoolmaster's salary, so that six more boys could be taken into the school, for a library and class-room, for repairs, and for a clock to strike the quarters "like the one at Brighton," costing £100. The codicil, also inscribed, provides bibles and sixpences for his own six scholars, and "a bun and a glass of wine on the 30th of May for the whole school every year." The clock still strikes the quarters.

The Rev. Benjamin Bayfield, who succeeded this genial gentleman, was a new comer when the vicarage, built not quite 150 years before, was pulled down and the present one erected. "Rectories big enough and fine enough for a gentleman to live in had now become common, and many a gentleman parson, with a considerable independence beside one or two good livings, built his own, or his brother, the squire, built it for him."⁸¹ Shinfield was not so fortunate; and part of the cost remained a charge to the next vicar. Meantime, Mr. Bayfield's household lived "in a pretty white house with lime trees before it" in "Our Village." They sent before them "a neat, modest maid, whose respectable appearance gave a character to her master and mistress—a hamper full of flower roots, sundry boxes of books, a piano-forte, and some simple and useful furniture," which so favourably impressed Miss Mitford that she had a presentiment that "we shall find friends."⁸² Of the old vicarage, the front wall of the cellars remain under the present house. The Sunday services were then held in the morning at Shinfield, and in the afternoon at Swallowfield, and the late verger's

⁸⁰ *Wheat-hoeing.*

⁸¹ Clapham *Econ. Hist. of Gt. Britain.*

⁸² *Another Glance at Our Village.*

father used " to get the shay ready and drive Mr. Bayfield over to Swallowfield," where sometimes, in summer, the services were held in the evening ; evening services, introduced by Kingsley's father, were not then as usual as they are now.

In the chancel is a tablet to the memory of Sir Jasper Nicholls, (d. 1849) whose brilliant military career began with a commission when a schoolboy of fifteen. He served under Wellington in India and in the Peninsular War, and was with Sir John Moore at Corunna. The Dictionary of National Biography gives a very full account of his career.

The Burials Act of 1853 prohibiting interments in churches⁸³ has with rare exceptions diverted the erection of memorials to the churchyards.

⁸³ Statutes, Vol. IX. 1853-57.