

History of the Parish of Beenham.

By *Mary Sharp.*

(Continued from *Vol. 22, No. 3, page 82.*)

Subsequent Acts deal with the abuses which crept into the administration of the poor laws. In William and Mary's reign "by reason of the unlimited power of churchwardens and overseers, who do frequently, upon frivolous pretexts (but chiefly for their own private ends) give relief to what persons and number they think fit," it was enacted that a list should be kept of all persons receiving relief and the reasons for their doing so, that there should be a yearly meeting of the parishioners to consider this list and the making of a new one, and that "no other person be allowed to receive collection" but "by authority under the hand of one justice of the Peace."

A tattered volume, dated Anno Dom. 1680, contains the earliest records which have been preserved of the Overseers' accounts for Beenham. It is headed :—

An Accompt Booke for the Overseers of
the Poore of the Pish of Beenham,

and the first entry states that

"for the year 1679 Henry Mills was overseer for the poore who gave up his accompts as followeth :—

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
He gathered of the Pish	...	...	14	12	06
His disbursmts. weare	...	...	13	04	07
remains to ye pish	...	...	01	07	11
Paid for ye wart. (warrant)	...	...			1
soe rests in Stocke	...	...	1	6	11

Thomas Eldredge is elected overseer for the yeare 1680.
Ph. Goddard, vic.

John Smith
O. Francis Claydon
William Wickens
John Simes
John Blagrove.

Signed and allowed by us

Anth. Craven

Wm. Henrick

Anth. Craven and Wm. Henrick were the Justices of the Peace

who signed the accounts in accordance with the Act (43 Eliz.) and the other signatures are those of the Vicar, Churchwardens and Overseers.

The statute enacted that the overseers should be elected yearly, but apparently in Beenham it was the custom for the occupiers of land to take the office in turn, and accordingly in 1686 we find the name of a woman, one "Widdow Parker," but she employed a Thos. Pilgrim to act for her. Many of those who held office must have done the same, at least so far as keeping the accounts was concerned, for many of them were quite illiterate, signing their mark only.

In these early accounts no details are given. For some reason 1685-9 were expensive years, the amount expended in relief being over £20 and twice rising to £30. Then it sank again for several years. In 1697, when Mr. Richard Parkins was overseer, only £4 13s. 10d. was spent. It was not till 1698, six years after the passing of the law above quoted, that the Beenham Overseers complied with its decree that the details of all the relief given should be entered in the accounts. The following is

"The account of what money I have paid to the pore in the yeare 1698 by Mr. Rich : Awbery

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
paid For the warant	0	01	0
paid Rich : Dann ill	0	01	0
paid Sammiwill Weller	1	00	0
October 28. Paid John Apleby for keeping the woman that laid in at his house ...	1	05	8
(this last entry is scratched out and the account continues)			
paid for the bearth of the child	0	02	0
paid John Nobes	0	04	0
Paid John Apelby for houseroom for six weeks	0	09	0
paid John Apelby for seven weeks ...	0	10	0
paid William Simes	0	15	0
	<hr/>		
Laid out	3	5	6
Received in Stock	3	13	2
Collected by rate	3	9	1
	<hr/>		
Received in ye whole	7	2	3
Remaines in Stock	3	18	9

Henry Winchcomb

Philip Goddard - Vic :
The × Marke of
Richard Simes - Churchwarden
Richard Hoane.

John Paty tenant of Sir Henry Winchcomb's farm is nominated Overseer of ye Poor for ye Parish of Beenham for ye year 1699."

Was Richard Simes, we wonder, who signed his mark as Churchwarden, any relation to the William Simes who was in receipt of relief, and if so why did he not contribute to his support ?

In 1703 there is the first entry of the names of those persons who paid the rate. They were 23 in number and the amount raised, at 1*d.* in the £1, was £3 10*s.* 3*d.*, but this must have been levied several times in the year as the overseer states in his accounts that he "gathered by rate" £16 18*s.* 4*d.*

There were at this time four paupers in receipt of regular relief and for whom house rent was paid ; this last was at the rate of 1/- a week and the amount of relief given weekly varied from 4/- to 5/-.

From this time onwards the amount spent in poor relief rose steadily. In 1743 it was evidently found that the constant raising of a 1*d.* rate was too troublesome ; it is significant of the amount of money then expended that in that year one was raised for 2/-. In the various items given below attention is called to the expenses incurred as a result of the law of settlement, constant litigation arising as to which parish a pauper belonged, which, with the expenses of removing the said pauper, often came to more than it would have cost to relieve him for a twelvemonth.

"Paid the Wido Ford for one day's work with her teme, 5/-." Expenses at Seshions, 15/-. Paid the crier of the Court, 4*d.* Paid for the order, 2/6. Paid for the witnes to des [deeds ?], 2/-. Paid Counsellor Turrell, £2 3*s.* Paid ditto 4 single fees, £2. Paid for ye Rule of ye Courte, £1 0*s.* 6*d.* Paid Mr. Guise another journey, £1 0*s.* 6*d.* For horse hire and charges to Reading, 3/6. For a warrant and charge at Theale, 2/-. For a journey on account of Jn. Sandford, 10/6.

The following items show what it cost to bury a pauper in the first half of the 18th century :—

Paid ye Wido Chamberlain for laying out John Millard... 1/-

Paid for ye burial of John Milard 4/-

Evidently poor Jno. Millard died of the small pox, for "Nails, lime and sand" are included in the charge for a coffin, the whole costing 5/6. "A sarge shroud" cost 1/-, while "beare, bread and cheese

at the burying" came to 3/6, and the "Clarke" was paid 2/-, and a "Certificate" cost 6d. The poor wife also caught the plague, for we have an entry, "Paid the Wido Milard in her aflikton of ye smalpox, 10/6." Considering the nature of the disease, 1/8 "Paid to Tho. Smallbone w^h he laid out for John Millard to ye Dr." seems little enough, but if it was the same doctor who was paid £7 7s. "for ye cure of John Style's leg," perhaps his rate of charges was higher for cures than for kills.

Unfortunately a chapter is missing from the Poor Law history of Beenham. The old volume, which began in 1680, ends in 1752, and the only other volume which has been preserved begins in 1796. We open it to find a state of affairs which it is hard to realise could have come about in less than fifty years. During that time all the parish accounts had become merged, both the Churchwardens' and the Constable's accounts being included in those of the Overseers'. There is no record to show at what date they took over the expenses of the Constable, but the last entry in the Churchwardens' account book is as follows:—

"Settled the Churchwarden's Account to Jan. 27th, 1790, by
J. Carter, Overseer of the Poor."

As we have seen, the largest sum expended by the Constable in one year, prior to the year 1756, was £37 18s. 10d. The largest recorded in the Churchwardens' accounts was £47 12s., and these were exceptional years. The average expenditure of the Overseers, prior to 1752, was £25 to £30—a total annual expenditure for the parish of under £150. When we turn to the bill for 1796 we are confronted by a total of £803 7s. 6½d. This tremendous increase was not peculiar to Beenham; according to a table taken from the *Encyclopædia Britannica* the rise was general throughout England, and was out of all proportion to the increase of the population.

In 1750 the population of England and Wales was 6,467,000, the expenditure on the poor £689,000, rate per head 2·2. In 1800 the population was 9,140,000, the expenditure £3,861,000, rate per head 8·5. To go thoroughly into the causes which produced this enormous increase would be quite beyond the scope of this history, but one or two may be briefly touched on. The price of provisions had, owing to war and other causes, largely increased, but the labourers' wages had not risen in proportion. "While prices for a day's food had advanced from the middle to the end of the century about one-third, the advance of those of a day's labour during a corresponding period had been only one-seventh." It was then that

the magistrates instituted the system of supplementing the labourers' pay on a scale determined by the price of the gallon loaf. "The hitherto insignificant village of Speenham in Berkshire sprang into a lasting notoriety by becoming the site of the first scale allowance process." [*Annals of the British Peasant*.—Garnier]. To adopt this system was practically to put a premium on pauperism. There was no incentive to honest labour when the man who would not work fared equally as well. An old man of the writer's acquaintance still uses the words "round's man" to denote an idle, good-for-nothing fellow. Round's men were those receiving scale pay and employed by the Overseers in the following fashion:—They were distributed among the occupiers of land and received from them a proportion—generally about $\frac{3}{4}$ ths—of the average wage of the district, the parish adding an allowance which made up the wage to the scale agreed upon. Farmers often turned off good honest workmen to benefit by this decreased wage, though, as the rates which supplemented it came mostly from their pockets, it is hard to see that they reaped much advantage, while it pressed extremely hardly on the small holder whose own family provided the necessary labour for his holding but who was taxed almost out of existence to provide for these supplements to other men's wages. The cruelty to the honest and deserving labourer is obvious. The increase in the numbers of those receiving relief naturally made the ratepayers more determined than ever not to be burdened with any paupers from other parishes, but here again was a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, the amount spent in litigation over such cases increasing yearly. An Overseer fitted to cope with such onerous work as his office now involved must have been rarely found, and the difficulties of his task were largely increased by the fact that the magistrates could always be appealed to by the pauper, and they, anxious not to err on the score of harshness, generally settled all claims by reference to the bread scale without regard to the conduct or ability of the applicant, with which, indeed, they were not likely to be acquainted. Instances, too, were given in the Poor Laws Commissioners' first report (1834), where the "population of a union consisted chiefly of smugglers and poachers, who extorted their scale allowance from a reluctant Overseer by threats of personal injury."

We are unable to give the details of the parish expenses for the year ending March 1796, because the volume only begins with the last few months of the year, but the following is an abstract from the accounts for 1796-7. In these every payment is entered in minute

detail, but a summary of them under different headings will, it is hoped, make them easier to be understood.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Clothing, principally for children bound as apprentices and girls put out to service	4	8	0
Funerals	2	7	6
The Constable's account	19	10	1
Rents (these include allowances paid to various cottagers for lodging paupers)...	11	8	0
Dinner, etc. (at the Vestry Meeting) ...	1	14	5
Exes Woodstock	0	2	6
Taking a man to Oxford Hospital ...	0	10	6
6 Spinning Wheels at 10/- (these were for giving employment to female paupers)	1	10	0
Paid in wages to persons waiting on cases of small pox	14	1	1
Paid for paupers in other parishes ...	15	12	16
21 paupers in receipt of monthly pay ...	165	2	9
Paid in sickness and casual relief ...	163	7	5
Various bills (items not given, but probably including the Churchwardens' account)	13	8	3
Wheat and flour (for bread given in relief)	32	9	0
Ballotted man for supplementing militia...	2	12	6
	447 16 10		

This last item occurs frequently in the accounts of this period, when the Continental wars were at their height and the army was constantly being recruited from the peasant ranks. During his absence on service the parish was often called upon to pay for the keep of the soldier's family; for this reason they often found it cheaper to pay for a substitute—some unmarried man—to take his place. The following is a copy of the sort of notice issued by the Deputy Lieutenants to the Churchwardens and Overseers in respect to the payment for such substitutes:—

Reading Division of the County of Berks.

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of
Beenham in the County of Berks.

Whereas Joseph Wythe of the aforesaid Parish hath been chosen by ballot to serve in the Militia of the County of

Berks which is now embodied and in actual service, and hath provided a substitute who hath been approved and sworn and enrolled and hath served for the space of 28 days in the said militia and the said Joseph Wythe having made oath that he is not possessed of an estate in lands, goods or money of the clear value of £500. We two of his Majesty's Deputy Lieutenants acting in and for the said division wherein your said Parish is situate, do hereby order you to pay to the said Joseph Wythe the sum of 5 pounds which we adjudge to be one half of the current price paid for a substitute within the same county out of an Act made for providing and producing volunteers . . . and in case no volunteers shall have been provided or produced by you then out of a rate to be made and collected agreeable to the poor rate according to the directions of the Act in such cases and under penalty of 10 pounds on your refusing to pay the same on demand and production of this our order given under our hands and seals the 11th day of August 1803.

(Signed) JOHN BLAGRAVE—HENRY MARCH.

The expenses for this year (1796-7) were met by three rates at 2/-, which produced £392 13s. 6d. Rent (possibly for one of the parish houses not required that year for paupers), £2. and by the sum of £13 6s. 9½d. refunded to the parish for sums expended on paupers belonging to other parishes; this, with stock in hand of £79 12s., amounted in all to £487 12s. 3½d., which left a balance in hand of £39 15s. 5d.

It will be noticed that there is a remarkable drop in the expenses from the preceding year. We are unable to offer any explanation of this difference of over £350. But the remarkable fluctuations which take place in the next few years lead one to conjecture that the amount expended depended in great measure on who was Overseer, while it leaves one to wonder how the ratepayers put up with a state of things so inimical to their pockets. Probably the explanation given the writer by a nonogenarian who retains a lively recollection of the state of things under the old poor laws is the correct one, namely, that the bulk of the ratepaying farmers were illiterate men, with no qualifications for keeping accounts, and, being also fully occupied with their own concerns, were only too glad to hand over the work to anyone who would undertake it, and

that many an Overseer waxed fat at the expense alike of ratepayer and pauper.

In the year 1797-8 the expenditure sank further to £397 15s. 1½d. In the year 1798-9 it again fell to £363 16s. 6d. Then in the year 1799-1800 it rose with a bound to £702 11s., which was expended as follows :—

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Clothing rises to	65	0	5½
(£30 14s. 8d. of this is stated to belong to the previous year)			
Rents rise to	24	5	6
Churchwardens' account (for two years)...	36	11	6
Constable's account	17	11	4
Substitute for Militia	4	6	8
Funerals	2	18	10
Innoculating		2	6
Letters (this was for postage paid in those days by the recipient)		2	3
Glazing windows and wood	1	10	0
Various bills of which no items are given	9	18	3
Spent at the Parish meetings	2	9	9
Paupers in other parishes	16	1	0
On sickness and poverty in Beenham ...	521	13	6
	<hr/>		
	702	11	0½

Towards this only £5 2s. was contributed for bastards and for paupers belonging to other parishes.

By the end of this year the number of persons entered as in receipt of regular relief had risen to over fifty, and the following year 1800-1 gives a roll of paupers constantly numbering over 70 ; and the parish was faced with the enormous bill of £1,325 10s. 9d. After deducting Constables' and Churchwardens' accounts we find £38 11s. 6d. paid in rents for paupers, £10 10s. for medical attendance, £22 for clothing, £6 4s. for funeral expenses besides 10/- for beer, £87 for paupers in other parishes, and no less than £1,100 expended in relief in poverty and sickness in Beenham itself. This with a population of only 318, which consisted of 73 families, who inhabited 70 houses. Six 3/6 rates were levied to defray this appalling bill. Perhaps modern ratepayers may feel comforted for the present state of taxation when they compare it with this 21/- in the pound mulcted from their ancestors.

The following year (1801-2) showed a slight improvement, the total expenditure being £994 1s. 11d., which was met by five 3s. rates and a balance of £55 17s. from the preceding year. The number of persons in receipt of weekly doles had sunk from over sixty at the beginning of the year to under forty at the close, but, on the other hand, the entry "ill" against their names is much more frequent.

The next year (1802-3) a certain Thomas Matthews was overseer. What was the secret of his management we have no means of discovering, but under him there was another phenomenal drop in the expenditure, which fell to £345 18s. 5½d. Of this £17 4s. was refunded to the parish in payment for bastard children, so that roughly speaking the parish expenses were only one-third of those of the previous year, and nearly one-fourth of the huge bill for 1800-1. An entry "For becin' Overseer, £6" marks a grateful appreciation of his services, and it is not surprising that he was re-elected for the following year (1803-4), when the expenditure dropped again to only £307 2s. 5d., and was met by two 2s. rates. The weekly doles were given to between 20 and 30 only, and were very much less in amount. Bread was no cheaper, dearer rather, wages were no higher—what did it all mean? Did it spell rank dishonesty and extravagance on the one hand, or cruel suffering, want and famine on the other? This year the Overseer's salary was fixed at £15 15s., but was raised the next (1804-5) to £20, when the same Thomas Matthews was re-elected with another man to help him, one Richard Stevens. Expenditure rose again this year to £558 15s. 5d., and was met by four 2s. rates. And here we are reluctantly compelled to leave the accounts, which come to an end in September, 1805, about half-way through the parochial year 1804-5; the amount registered at the foot of the last page of the book is £234 12s. 7d., which, as it does not include most of the rents nor the Churchwardens' bill, points to a further rise in expenditure. The nation's bill for the poor continued to steadily increase up to 1818, when it reached its high water mark, and Beenham was probably no exception to its neighbouring parishes. Those to whom the above pages have been of some interest will find abundant and striking information in the Poor Law Commissioners' Report of 1834, while one of the Oxford Studies in Social and Legal History, entitled "One Hundred Years of Poor Law Administration in a Warwickshire Village," deals with the same period as that of the Beenham accounts, and throws much interesting and valuable light

on conditions which varied but little from those in Berkshire.

Mention has not been made of the parish houses which the Overseers were empowered to purchase by the Statute 9 George I. c. 7. The Poor Law Report of 1834 mentions 14 of these houses at Beenham, all condemned as being in a shocking state of repair. Besides these the Overseers rented the Church houses for the use of paupers.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF BEENHAM.

The earliest evidence existing on this subject is to be found among the lay subsidies of Berks, under the heading of "A true survey of the Hearths found in the P'ish of Beenham," the following being taken from one made by John Turner, Constable, the 26th day of October, 1663.

The Hearth Tax was enacted "for establishing an additional revenue upon His Majesty" (Charles II., 1662). From that date "Every house and edifice and lodging shall be chargeable . . . for every hearth and stove within each such house . . . for the sum of two shillings per year." Some of the poorer people were exempted. "No person shall be charged who by reason of his poverty is exempted from the usual taxes, nor any that doth inhabit a house of not greater value than 20/- . . ."

In 1688, the first year of William and Mary, this Act was repealed.

By the figures returned for Beenham we are able to judge the number of houses in the parish and the station to which the taxpayer belonged. The following is the list :—

Constantine Skinner, Esq.	...	...	5	Hearths.
Mr. Goddard (Vicar)	...	...	4	"
Mr. John Perkins (lord of the manor)	11			"
Mr. Hildesley	...	...	6	"
(In a 2nd list Sir Henry Winchcomb)				
Thomas Aldridge	...	...	5	"
Norris Goulder...	...	...	7	"
John Webb	...	...	6	"
William Webb	...	...	2	"
Peter Wickens	...	...	3	"
Abel Goddard	...	...	3	"
Wyddow Syms	...	...	1	"
John Carter	...	...	3	"
Richard Jennings	...	...	2	"

John Turner	2	Hearths.
William Brookman	3	”
William Spire	1	”
Barton Higgs	2	”
John Parker	1	”
Weddon Thomas	1	”
Michael Banks	1	”

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Signed by me

Tho. Dolman.

Philip Goddard, Vic.

Peter Wickins, Churchwarden.

THE HEARTHES OF THE COTTAGERS.

John Paty	2	Hearths.
Richard Carter... ..	1	”
John Cooper	1	”
Thomas Smallbone	2	”
Margaret Willier	1	”
Ham Weston	1	”
Giles Adnam	1	”
Reginald Carter	1	”
John Ayres	1	”
John Applebee... ..	1	”
Joell Carter	1	”
John Wright	1	”
Thomas Coombes	1	”
Walter Nittingale	2	”
Richard Parker... ..	1	”
Richard Allin	1	”

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John Turner, Constable.

Peter Wickins,

Edward Patey,

Churchwardens.

Geo. Purefoy.

The cottagers returned in a separate list are those who were exempted from the tax.

Mr. John Perkins was the second of the name, owner of Beenham House and lord of that manor, who was churchwarden in 1661. Sir Thomas Dolman, who signed the return, was knighted by Charles II. on the occasion of a visit which the monarch with Queen

Catherine and the Duke of York paid him at Shaw House, near Newbury, as a reward for his zeal during the Civil Wars. During the second battle of Newbury the house was fortified as part of the Royalist lines, and Dolman adopted as his motto

“King and Law
Shouts Dolman of Shaw.”

Two copies of these lists exist of the same date, but in one there is a slight but significant variation. Sir Henry Winchcomb's name is given as being taxed for 6 hearths, but in the other the name is that of Mr. Hildesley. As we have reason to think that the Hildesley family owned the farm now known as Hall Place, which has in recent times belonged to the Hartleys, the descendants of the Winchcombs, it would seem that it was about this time (1663) that the change of ownership took place.

There were in all 88 houses, which in the same proportion as in 1821 shows a population of about 370 persons.

1710. The next date for which we have any recorded statistics is in 1710, and the following notes written by the Vicar, Mr. Horton, in his tithe book, with the following heading:—

[Holdings.]

“The Livings in Beenham Parish computed by the Yard Land (20 acres) according to an account in Mr. Goddard's Book in the Tenure and Occupation of the undermentioned persons about the year 1710.”

1772. Mr. Horton has added, in the margin of this list, the names of the occupiers in 1772.

1772.

(now tenants)

Mr. Carter.	Mrs. Carter, 7 Yds. Lands, then let.
Mr. Iremonger.	Edward Patey, 7 Yds. Lands.
Mrs. Gleed.	Mr. Berrington for Gennings, 2½.
Mrs. Gleed.	John Golders or Brromhall, 2½.
Mrs. Gleed.	Richard Awbery for Carter's Copyhold, 2.
G. W.	Do. for his freeland, 2½.
Mr. Robinson.	Late Jno. Paty of the Green, 1/4.
Jno. Butler.	Richard Butler for Knight's Living, 1½.
Robert Webb.	Robert Turner's.
T. Smalbone.	Hugh Smalbone for Mrs. Eldridge's, 4.
Jno. Butler.	Barton Higg's Copyhold, 1.
Jno. Knapp.	Geo. Webb, sen., for Webb's Copyhold, 3.
	Late Joiner's.

T. Smalbone.	Paise's, $2\frac{1}{2}$.
T. Smalbone.	Pottinger's, 2.
	Geo. Webb, jun., for Mrs. Hopson (the new Orchards, etc.).
Mrs. Inglefield.	Jno. Simms, 2.
T. Smalbone.	Jno. Eed, for Sir Ch. Inglefields, $4\frac{1}{2}$.
R. Webb.	Robert Webb, $2\frac{1}{2}$.
	Jno. Wickens for the Church House.
T. Smalbone.	Thos. Chamberlain, $\frac{1}{8}$.
T. Smalbone.	Jno. Lawrence for Richd. Parker's, $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. Smalbone.	Do. for late Jno. Parker's, 1.
T. Smalbone.	Dennis Tayler, $\frac{1}{2}$.
W. Robinson.	Thos. Willier.
Frankum.	Mr. Richd. Tull, 2 acres of meadow, $\frac{1}{4}$.
Wm. Beding.	Thos. Broughton, meadow and field land, $\frac{1}{4}$.

1742. A second list of an earlier date than that in the margin above is on the opposite page with this heading :—

“A list of the principal Estates in the Parish of Beenham (or at least some of them) together with the names of the principal occupiers, October 11th, 1742.”

Richd. Iremonger.	Occupier of Mr. Parker's Farm, formerly Hildesley's, also Mr. Berrington's formerly Gennings, also Golder's, formerly Toovey's.
Wo. Frankum.	Occupier of the Living formerly called Carter's.
Wo. Carter.	Occupier of Beenham Farm, also her freehold ; her tenants Jno. Turner and Jno. Froom.
Geo. Webb	Occupier of Webb's Living.
Mr. Hobson's	Estate, occupied by himself, Mr. Doughty and Geo. Webb.
Richd. Awbery	Occupier of his own, formerly called Norris Golder's.
Peter Applebee.	Of Woolhampton, occupier of Grassfields, formerly Norris Golder's.
John Lawrence.	Occupier of Mr. Girle's Farm, formerly Sir C. Englefield's, also Jno. Simms ; also the Improprate Tithes.

Hugh Smallbone.	Occupier of Eldridge's, Paisey's, and Pottinger's.
Wo. Wm. Wickens and	Thos. Willier, Hugh Smallbone, and the successors of Henry Gorham, occupiers of Parker's Livings.
Robert Webb.	Occupier of the estate called Wicken's Living, also of Turner's.
Richd. Butler.	Occupier of Barton Higg's and Knight's Livings.
Dennis Taylor.	Occupier of part of Mr. Girle's, formerly Sir C. Inglefield's.
Thos. Chamberlain.	Occupier of part do., formerly do.
John Knapp.	Formerly Joiner's.
Mr. Homer.	Occupier of Tull's meadow ground.
Richd. Applebee, of	Bucklebury, occupier of Broughton's land.
Wo. Carter.	Occupier of Mr. Deane's woodland.

In these lists we find several names which lasted for many generations. The Carters, who owned lands of their own, as well as being occupiers or tenants of Beenham Farm, as their ancestors had been under the Abbot of Reading; the Iremongers, occupiers of Parker's Farm, formerly owned by the Hildesley family, and in later and until quite recent times the property of the Hartlyes of Bucklebury; George Webb, occupier of his own living or holding; Richard Awbery, then living on his own farm, which still bears his name though now belonging to the Rev. Thomas Bushnell; Sir Charles Englefield, of the dispossessed family of the estate of the same name, who owned several farms in the parish; and, finally, Mr. Girle, of whose tenure in Beenham so much has already been said.

The first census of the population of England and Scotland was made in 1801, and has been taken every ten years since then under the authority of Parliament by the Registrar-General.

The following are the figures for Beenham for
 1801—Persons, 381; inhabited houses, 70; uninhabited, 2; families, 73.
 1811—Persons, 317. (This was the year of the Enclosure Act, when the number of freeholders is mentioned elsewhere.)
 1821—Persons, 437; houses, 80, occupied by 91 families, 58 in agriculture, 21 in trades and handicrafts, and 12 not included.
 1831—Persons, 360; families, 91.

Leaving a gap we come to

HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF BEENHAM.

1891—Persons, 517 (an increase of 157).

1901—Persons, 508.

1911—Persons, 527.

At the present time—1913—there are in the parish 15 houses, including farmhouses, 100 cottages, two inns, and one beer shop.

The following is the list of freeholders :—

Captain Waring.	Mr. Warde.
Mr. Draper Strange.	Mr. Alfred Palmer.
G.W.R.	Miss Oldbury.
J. T. Strange and Co.	Mr. J. H. Benyon.
Major Darby Griffith.	Mr. W. Keepe.
J. T. Strange.	Mr. W. Warde.
Mr. G. E. L. Freeling.	Mr. Warman.
Mr. F. Johnson.	Mr. J. Beesley.
Mr. Burne.	Mrs. Wheeler.
Mr. Layley.	Mr. Christopher Strange.
The Rev. T. H. Bushnell.	The Vicar and Churchwardens.
The Vicar.	

Sandhurst, Berks.

By Major G. A. Kempthorne, Royal Army
Medical Corps.

(Continued from page 124, Vol. 22.)

COALPIT COPSE. So marked in modern ordnance map. "Coleryden," apparently referring to a neighbouring enclosure, is mentioned in Elizabeth's reign.*

COCK-A-DOBBY. Award Map, 1817.

COXES. Near the junction of the Yateley mill and Finchampstead roads. Rental, 1498, has "Cokkis," "Cokkis-place." Connected probably with the Cock family of Yateley.

* Court of Augmentation, Proc. 15/25.