



RYMANS, APULDRAM, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

# THE HOUSE OF WILLIAM RYMAN

BY W. D. PECKHAM

FOR some sixteen years I have been collecting materials for the history of my own house. Finality in such a quest is not to be looked for; but no startling new discovery is now likely, and my results are worth putting on record.

Naturally, the first authority I went to was Dallaway; and a good deal of my early work consisted in correcting Dallaway's errors, which are many and misleading. Among others they misled F. H. Arnold, who in a paper in *S.A.C.* XVIII made confusion worse confounded.<sup>1</sup> It will be well, therefore, at the outset to correct some of the blunders which still crop up, like weeds, in guide-books and the like.

The first is that the house is the Manor House. The true Manor House, a pleasant building of the seventeenth century, with alterations of about a hundred years later, lies next to my house to the westward; the whole descent of the manor is traceable from the time when Henry I separated it from Bosham to give it to Battle Abbey down to the present day; the descent of the single historic freehold, which is my house, is also traceable, though not so completely; and it was only for a short time that the two properties were in the same hands. The title 'Manor House' can only have been applied to my house by people ignorant of local conditions and prone to suppose that any ancient house must necessarily be a manor.

More serious, because more misleading, is the superstition that the house is an unfinished castle. This crops up in various forms,<sup>2</sup> but the essence of it is this:

- i. A member of the Ryman family proposed to build

<sup>1</sup> pp. 74-86.

<sup>2</sup> I once heard a well-known Sussex antiquary, trusting in a not too trustworthy memory, say that William Ryman had helped himself to stone brought to build the Bell Tower, and had built my house with it.

a castle at Apuldram, but was refused the necessary licence to crenellate.

- ii. In consequence of the refusal he gave, or sold, the stone which he had collected to the Dean and Chapter of Chichester, who built with it the present Cathedral Bell Tower.
- iii. He had, however, already begun to build; and his unfinished building is the older part of my house.

This is an embroidery on a passage of Camden,<sup>1</sup> whose words are: 'But that great high tower which standeth neere unto the west dore of the Church [of Chichester] was built by R. Riman, as the report goeth (when he was forbidden to erect a castle at *Apledram* his habitation hard by) of those stones which for that Castle he had provided afore.' Camden, on his own showing, is only quoting an unverified tradition of events said to have happened, as will be seen, a century and a half before his time; and this is of no more authority than a similar tradition current to-day about events of the early years of the reign of George III would be.

That a member of the Ryman family asked for, but failed to get, a licence to crenellate his house at Apuldram is possible, but not likely;<sup>2</sup> there is no evidence either way save Camden's story; and the question is alien to the architectural history of the present house.

Three relevant facts with regard to the Bell Tower are certain; it was constructed of Ventnor stone, which is the stone used in the upper part of the medieval work at Rymans; it was building in, or before, 1428; and it was known as Raymond's Tower.<sup>3</sup> This goes no distance in proving the story; the use of the same freestone in two contemporary buildings a couple of miles apart is only what might have been expected, and the name 'Raymond's Tower' proves no more than that a man of that

<sup>1</sup> *Britannia*, ed. 1637, p. 308 D.

<sup>2</sup> The only trace that an unsuccessful application for a licence would be likely to leave is a petition; and I have found no such petition in the indexes of the Public Record Office.

<sup>3</sup> C. A. Swainson, *History and Constitution of a Cathedral of the Old Foundation*, p. 84, no. 151. Raymond and Ryman are variants of the same name.

name, possibly William Ryman of Apuldram,<sup>1</sup> was associated in some way with the building of it.<sup>2</sup>

At first sight the similarity of names is striking. But my house has been known by a variety of names. Fifteenth-century Court Rolls describe it by the phrase which I have chosen as the title of this paper, evidently no more than a dignified periphrasis of the colloquial 'Rymans'; in 1656 it is called 'Appledrum Place',<sup>3</sup> and is in the tenure of Edmund Martyn; hence, evidently, the name 'Martin's Farm', which appears in the eighteenth century; by 1748 it had become 'Church Farm' (it is the nearest house to Apuldram Church),<sup>4</sup> under which name it appears in the Tithe Award of 1845. These are locally used names; but the amateur archaeologist, perhaps familiar with Camden, soon got busy. Grimm's drawing of c. 1782<sup>5</sup> calls it 'Apuldram Tower', which is really of no more authority than the 'Manor House' of T. S. in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1792, but which is probably the origin of the 'Tower House' of the 6-in. Ordnance Survey; and the passage from this to the historically incorrect 'Ryman's Tower' was easy. I reverted to the fifteenth-century form of the name; but popular 'tradition' persists in producing forms such as 'Rieman Towers', or, worse still, 'The Towers', horribly suggestive of the neo-Gothic mansion of a Victorian *nouveau riche*.

While later writers have made Camden say that Ryman had begun his castle, Camden himself says no such thing; so far as the *Britannia* goes the plough might have been passing over the ground where the medieval Rymans lived. But there is one authority, older than Camden, and indeed coeval with, or older than, the Bell

<sup>1</sup> But Camden says 'R. Rimán'. If he means Richard, who died in 1540, his story falls to the ground as an anachronism; if he means that Robert Ryman whose name occurs occasionally in fifteenth-century documents, the evidence is pretty clear that he never held the Apuldram freehold.

<sup>2</sup> If the reason for the name of the Tour de Beurre at Rouen was not known, what wonderful stories could popular imagination make about it!

<sup>3</sup> P.R.O., Chan. Proc. B. & A. 25, 81. The statement in *S.R.S.* xiv, no. 898 that it was called Impe Crosse in 1541 is due to a misreading of a field name, Impe Crofte.

<sup>4</sup> Chchr. Cons. Ct. Wills 38, p. 236.

<sup>5</sup> B.M. Add. MS. 5675, f. 48.

Tower, whose evidence, read aright, is final—the house itself.

On plan this is a very uneven T, formed of the so-called Tower and three wings, projecting south, east, and north. The last may be dismissed at once as an addition of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; but the weathermoulds on the 'Tower' show that it was designed as part of a building L-shaped on plan. This proves that it cannot have been designed as an isolated pele tower—if such a thing had been known outside the Welsh and Scottish marches in the fifteenth century—and the possibility of its having been intended to be a corner tower in a fortified quadrangle is equally excluded, not only by the large windows in the west wall, but by the weathermoulds themselves. For if the buildings adjoining had been against a curtain wall their roofs would have been lean-to, whereas both were span roofs. To me no small part of the attraction of the house is that it was built for what it is to-day, a simple country dwelling-house.

For how many centuries the site has been inhabited I know not; during the works of 1913–14 a very small pot of Roman design was found;<sup>1</sup> but this proves no more than would be learned by the discovery in the fortieth century on a piece of ground frequented by the litter-lout of a whisky bottle of twentieth-century pattern. Possibly the oldest piece of human handicraft is the well, which has a total depth of 24 ft. and is steined with blocks of hard chalk. In 1937 I had it cleared out, in the hope of finding some evidence; but a recent cleaning, perhaps of the early nineteenth century, had left nothing. The placing of it, which is by no means ideal for the medieval kitchen, suggests that it was sunk for a house of different design or siting from that which I surmise to have existed in the thirteenth century, when documentary evidence begins.

The earliest of my predecessors whom I can trace is one Michael, 'de Appeltrieham', who was deputy Sheriff

<sup>1</sup> I never saw it; it was broken and the pieces thrown away before I bought.

of Surrey and Sussex in 1197.<sup>1</sup> He was dead by 1229, when a suit of *assize mort dauncestor* was settled by a final concord,<sup>2</sup> and left a son and a daughter. The former, Jordan son of Michael, made over his rights in his Apuldrum property to Walward de Wadehurst by a deed indented, undated, but probably of the same date.<sup>3</sup> Subsequent litigation<sup>4</sup> proves that Walward was the husband of Maud, daughter of Michael; he seems to have died soon after, and his widow married again; her second husband's Christian name is unknown, but he was of Trubwick, a manor in Cuckfield. She was Maud de Trubwick, evidently again a widow, when she was dis-seised by Guy de Apuldrum, who probably acted by the authority of the Abbot of Battle. The latter secured himself from any claim from the heirs of Walward de Wadehurst; by two deeds poll, undated, but clearly executed at the same time,<sup>5</sup> Philip and Alan, sons of William Frankelein de Wadehurst, and nephews of Wluard de Wadeherst, surrender to Abbot Richard, and to Sir Guy the clerk,<sup>6</sup> then holding a life lease of the manor, all claim in three yardlands in Appeldram, which Wluard their maternal uncle held.

Maud de Trubwick left heirs. Taken together, the two lawsuits prove that John de Trubwick, on whom with Cecily his wife land in Trobewyk and Hayworthe was settled in 1276,<sup>7</sup> was her son. I. de Trubewik witnesses a charter of Bishop Stephen [de Bergstede] concerning the Chantry of Our Lady in Sidlesham in about 1287;<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> P.R.O. *List of Sheriffs*.

<sup>2</sup> *S.R.S.* II, no. 230.

<sup>3</sup> P.R.O., Ancient Deeds, D. 3665. Not only does this mention Abbot Richard (1215-35), but Richard de la Gare, who was the Abbot's attorney at the levying of the fine, is the first witness of the deed. A misreading of Walward's surname as Wakehurst, and the careless indexing of a fifteenth-century A.Q.D. (for which see *S.N.Q.* III. 170) are responsible for Dallaway's myth that the Wakehursts were freeholders in Apuldrum.

<sup>4</sup> De Banco, Easter, 3 Edward II, m. 287 d., *ex inf.* Mr. L. F. Salzman.

<sup>5</sup> P.R.O., Ancient Deeds, D. 3186, D. 3916. The same ten witnesses, including Richard de Trubewike and Ralph de Campis, attest both.

<sup>6</sup> Sir Guy is only mentioned in D. 3186; there is a casual reference to him in the Apuldrum Custumal.

<sup>7</sup> *S.R.S.* VII. 856. Hayworthe is now Haywards Heath.

<sup>8</sup> Chichester Episcopal MSS., Liber E, f. 211 v. The substantive charter is undated, but the Insepimus by the Dean and Chapter is dated 18 July 1287, three months before the Bishop's death. The superior limit is 1279, when a predecessor of Thomas de Berghstede, Archdeacon of Lewes, a witness, occurs.

but he was dead by 1296, when Cecily de Trobbewyke paid subsidy in the Hundred of Menewode.<sup>1</sup>

Richard de Trubbwyk first appears in 1310, when he made his first attempt to recover his grandmother's land in Apuldrum.<sup>2</sup> He appears as a taxpayer in Sidlesham township in 1327 and 1332;<sup>3</sup> and made a second attempt to recover the Apuldrum property in 1328.<sup>4</sup> Evidently neither lawsuit was successful. It is presumably this Richard de Trubwyk whose widow Maxentia gave a parcel of land called Manewodescroft to the Chantry of Our Lady at Sidlesham.<sup>5</sup> A third attempt was made in 1345 by William de Trubwick, a generation later, but equally without success.<sup>6</sup>

The next family certainly traceable as freeholders was that which appears as Chauns, Chans, Champs, latinized as de Campo or de Campis. Ralph of this family, besides appearing in an undated deal concerning a kiddle in Apuldrum,<sup>7</sup> made an exchange of land there in the time of Abbot Reynold (1261–81).<sup>8</sup> He was perhaps father of Henry de Chauns, the largest individual taxpayer in Apuldrum in the Subsidy of 1296,<sup>9</sup> who is incidentally referred to in the (undated) Apuldrum Custumal.<sup>10</sup> Alice Champs, who appears in a Rental of 1432 as a predecessor in title of William Ryman, was probably his widow.<sup>11</sup>

We next meet William 'le Chans', who is returned in a Manor Rental of 1321<sup>12</sup> as holding a house and four yardlands freely, besides other small parcels of property; he appears with his son Richard and two other members of the family, Elias and his brother Nicholas, in a lawsuit of 1325.<sup>13</sup> Last he appears on the Assessment Committee of the Subsidies of 1327 and 1332.<sup>14</sup>

Richard, his son, is presumably the Richard de

<sup>1</sup> *S.R.S.* x. 89.

<sup>3</sup> *S.R.S.* x. 131, 247.

<sup>5</sup> Liber E, f. 211 v.

<sup>7</sup> B.M. Add. MS. 6344, col. 240.

<sup>9</sup> *S.R.S.* x. 29.

<sup>10</sup> *Camden Soc.* 1887, p. 54. The context implies that he was a freeholder.

<sup>11</sup> P.R.O., Aug. Off. Misc. Bk. 56, f. 64 v.; Rentals and Surveys, 36. 41; S.A.S. Deeds, C. 244. 11.

<sup>12</sup> P.R.O., Rentals and Surveys, 643.

<sup>13</sup> Assize Roll 938, m. 19.

<sup>2</sup> De Banco, *ut sup.*

<sup>4</sup> De Banco 274, m. 74.

<sup>6</sup> De Banco 344, m. 221.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, col. 270.

<sup>14</sup> *S.R.S.* x. 203, 316.



Champs responsible in 1370 for dilapidations of the buildings of the Prebend of Apuldram, of which he had long held the farm;<sup>1</sup> and may easily be the Richard Champs who had house property in the Pigmarket in Chichester in 1379.<sup>2</sup>

Here, at an interesting moment, comes a gap. The freehold next appears in the hands of William Ryver, who conveyed to William Neel, who in turn conveyed to William Ryman, it seems in 1410.<sup>3</sup> Ryman was certainly owner in 1412;<sup>4</sup> and in 1422 added to his homestead by taking on lease a garden immediately west of it, now my orchard.<sup>5</sup> I have traced a number of stray references to him in contemporary records; he was knight of the shire in various parliaments from 1420 to 1432; and his name occurs in trust deeds and wills in such contexts as to suggest that he was the medieval equivalent of a solicitor. He died 11 May 1443,<sup>6</sup> leaving two sons, William and John, both probably under age, and a widow Alice, who was subsequently married to Sir John Paschle and died in 1459.<sup>7</sup>

John, son and heir of William Ryman, made an exchange of property with Battle Abbey in 1483,<sup>8</sup> and may be the John Ryman who died in 1532,<sup>9</sup> but is more likely to be his father, as such longevity is unlikely in the insanitary, ill-policed Middle Ages; in 1496 the Abbess of Syon complained that John Ryman, senior, gentleman, late of Westminster, and John Ryman, junior, gentleman, late of London, broke her close at Fysshbourne *vi et armis*.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Exeter, *Reg. Brantingham*, ii, 'commissions', f. 13.

<sup>2</sup> Chichester Episcopal MS. Lib. C, f. 84 r.

<sup>3</sup> S.A.S. Deeds, C. 244. 11; cf. P.R.O., Court Rolls 205. 45. From the scanty materials available it is not certain that these conveyances all represent transfers of the beneficial ownership, not merely mortgage or trustee business. William Ryman conveyed to trustees in about 1423, evidently as the then necessary preliminary to disposing of his real property by will; this trust was wound up in about 1435 (S.A.S. Deeds, *ut sup.*), but he created a new trust before his death (P.R.O., Court Rolls, *ut sup.*; cf. De Banco 370, m. 117).

<sup>4</sup> *Feudal Aids*, vi. 522.

<sup>5</sup> P.R.O., Aug. Off. Misc. Bk. 56, f. 64 v. I have traced renewals of this lease in 1438 and 1564; and the tenure probably continued leasehold till the ownership of the manor and the freehold cohered under the Smiths.

<sup>6</sup> P.R.O., Court Rolls, *ut sup.*

<sup>7</sup> P.C.C. 17 Stokton.

<sup>8</sup> P.R.O., Aug. Off. Misc. Bk. 47, 116.

<sup>9</sup> P.R.O., Ct. Rolls, *ut sup.*

<sup>10</sup> De Banco 936, m. 163.



From this time the descent of the freehold is well established; only one date, unfortunately an important one, is lacking. Richard Ryman, son of John, died testate at Apuldrum 13 October 1540;<sup>1</sup> his son Humphrey Ryman, born *c.* 1523, died 12 September 1568;<sup>2</sup> his son John Ryman, born 22 May 1550, died testate and was buried at the Subdeanery, Chichester, 4 February 1627-8. His son, Devenish Ryman, baptized at St. Andrew, Chichester, 20 April 1578, died in his father's lifetime and was buried at the Subdeanery, Chichester, 4 January 1611-12, leaving a son, Cox Ryman, who was baptized at Kingston-on-Thames 9 November 1600.

The financial position of Devenish Ryman was bad,<sup>3</sup> that of Cox Ryman worse, which explains why, after he had settled his property on himself for life with remainder to his eldest son William, the latter sold his interest.<sup>4</sup> Cox Ryman was living in 1662, when there was litigation about the will of his son William;<sup>5</sup> but I have failed to find the date of his death, or whether there are any descendants of his name to-day.

William Smith of Binderton, who became Lord of the Manor there in 1604-5, also bought the Manor of Apuldrum in 1619 as a provision for his second son Thomas.<sup>6</sup> (But his eldest son William died in his father's lifetime and Thomas inherited both Binderton and Apuldrum.) And it was this Thomas Smith who, in 1654,<sup>7</sup> bought the reversion from the Rymans. He died about 26 April 1658,<sup>8</sup> and it was his son Thomas who entered into possession, it is to be supposed about 1670. He died early in 1688,<sup>9</sup> having settled his Apuldrum property on his wife Alice, who died in 1729.<sup>10</sup>

Meanwhile there had been a Chancery suit about the Smith property; and the Court ordered a partition between the daughters of George Smith, first cousin

<sup>1</sup> P.R.O., I.P.M. Chancery, II, 63, no. 63 and Chchr. Cons. Ct. Wills II f. 147 v.

<sup>2</sup> P.R.O., I.P.M. Chancery II, 152, no. 141, and *S.R.S.* xxxiii, no. 40.

<sup>3</sup> P.R.O., Star Chamber Proc. Jas. I, bdle. 248, file 4, pt. 1.

<sup>4</sup> P.R.O., Chan. Proc., C 5, 25, 81.

<sup>5</sup> P.C.C. 162 Laud.

<sup>6</sup> P.R.O., Close Roll 17 Jas. I, pt. 23, no. 58.

<sup>7</sup> P.R.O., Chan. Proc. *ut sup.*

<sup>8</sup> P.C.C., 88 and 187 May.

<sup>9</sup> *S.N.Q.* III. 86; cf. VII. 119.

<sup>10</sup> M.I. Chancel, Houghton Regis, Beds.

of Thomas.<sup>1</sup> By this Martin's Farm and some three hundred acres in Apuldram were awarded in 1730 to Barbara, then wife of the Rev. Walter Barttelot;<sup>2</sup> thereafter the house continued in the possession of the Barttelots of Stopham till, in 1913, Sir Walter Barttelot sold to Arthur R. Edwards. He, in 1919, sold to Norfor Evelyn Heseltine and Phyllis Joan his wife, who, in 1922, sold to me. I may, perhaps, be allowed to add a detail, the romance of which has always appealed to me. I am a blood relation of my predecessors in title between 1670 and 1913, though I only lit on the first clue to the kinship after I had begun negotiations to buy, and did not completely prove it till several years after.<sup>3</sup>

I have dealt with the descent of my freehold at some length for two reasons: it cannot often happen that the history of a homestead can be so fully traced, and the history of the ownership is valuable collateral evidence for the architectural history of the house.

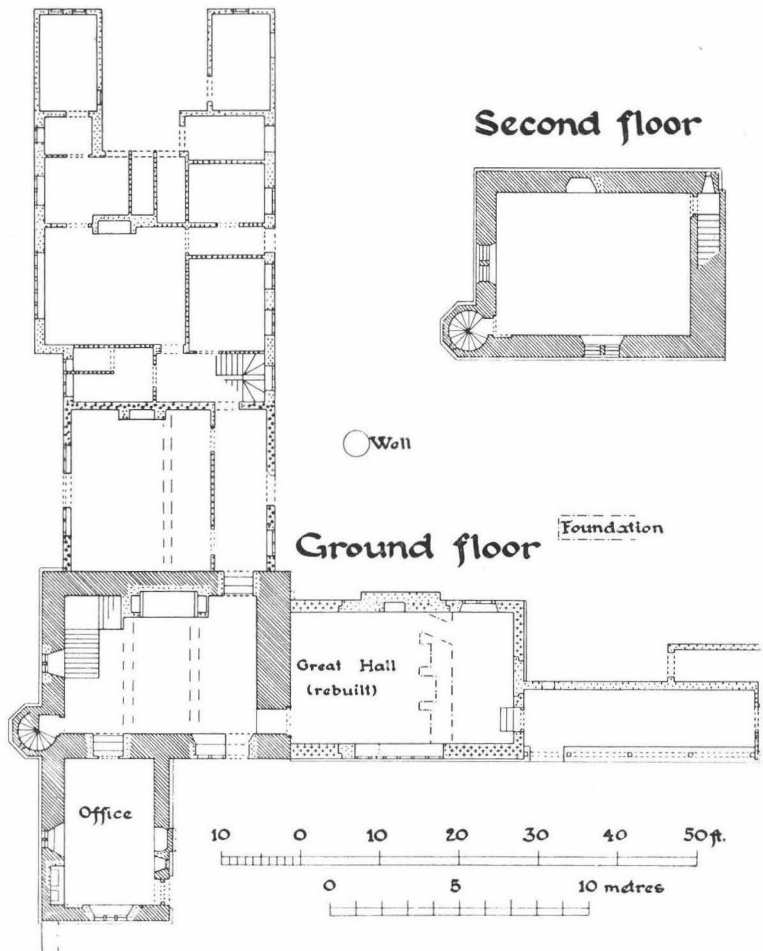
Though nothing of earlier date than the fifteenth century remains above ground, it is possible to make some surmises about the home of the Chauns family. The east wing of the present house clearly occupies the site, and may be on the foundations, of the Great Hall of their time, which I suppose to have been, above footings, timber framed. The present building, from the ground up, dates from the seventeenth century, but preserved, till 1913, two traces of the Great Hall. The principal entrance to the house was at the east end of the north side of it, and opened into a passage crossing the build-

<sup>1</sup> P.R.O., Chancery Decrees, Roll 1834, no. 7.

<sup>2</sup> B.M. Add. MS. 5689, f. 33 v.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Woodward, Canon of Chichester, who died in 1696, married a daughter of Richard Smith, brother of that Thomas who died in 1658, and had two daughters. Barbara, baptized at West Clandon, Surrey, 12 June 1666, buried at West Dean 23 September 1754, was married, 10 December 1693, to her cousin George Smith, and was the mother of Mrs. Barttelot; Elizabeth, baptized at West Clandon 18 April 1661, was married in Chichester Cathedral on 8 May 1688 to John Buckenham, Rector of Fittleton, Wilts., and was buried there 1 November 1717. Her daughter Sarah, baptized at Fittleton 30 June 1693, was married in 1715 to John Smith of Chichester, surgeon (*S.R.S.* XII. 149; cf. the codicil of the will of John Smith, Chchr. Dean's Pec. Wills, V, p. 127, and P.C.C. Herschell, 657). This John Smith is my great-great-great-grandfather in the male line, my grandfather, Charles Peckham Smith, having, in 1820, assumed by Royal Licence the name and arms of Peckham.

ing. This is exactly the layout of the passage at the lower end of a Great Hall. Also, much of the ashlar used in the lower part of the fifteenth-century work is Bem-



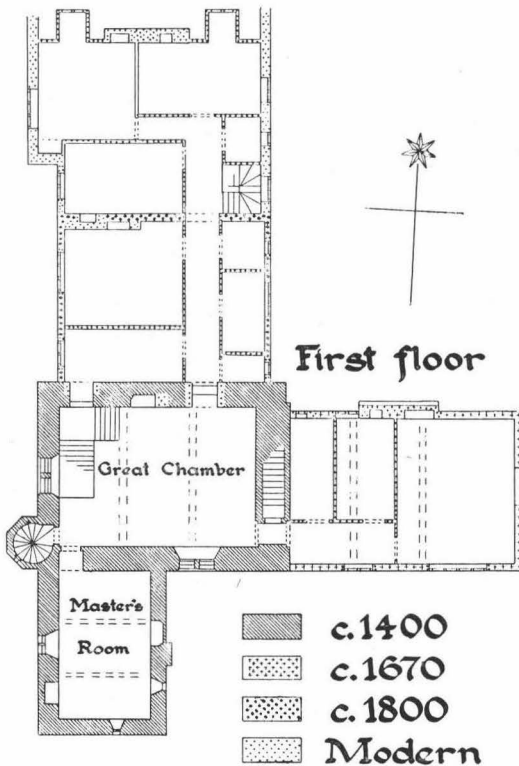
bridge stone, which occurs in work in Chichester Cathedral of dates considerably earlier than the fifteenth century.<sup>1</sup> I surmise a small stone-built solar, the materials of which have been re-used; and it is notice-

<sup>1</sup> *Ex. auct.* Prof. E. S. Prior.

able that the mason's marks on this stone, where traceable, are never the same as those certainly of Ryman's time, and are cut deeper.

# Rymans

## Ground Plan



W. D. P. mens. & del. 1935.

The oldest work above ground, which from joint evidence of documents and style I attribute unhesitatingly to William Ryman, consists of a solar wing, so little altered that it is possible to say with fair certainty what the use of nearly every room was. It is built of

stone, the south and west faces of the 'Tower' and the east face of the south wing being of ashlar, and the rest of rubble, which still retains some of its original plaster. Some of the lower courses are of Bembridge stone, in courses of about a foot; the rest, including all stones specially dressed, is of a sandstone of a pleasant greenish colour from the Ventnor quarries.<sup>1</sup>

The ground floor of the 'Tower' is reached by a doorway from the former Great Hall (this, like all the other

## Rymans

### Banker marks (not to scale)

On Bembridge stone



On Ventnor stone



doorways, has a plain four-centred arch and a door rebate), and originally had windows to south and west. The whole rear arch of the west window survives, and the lines of the original splay are traceable on it; the original window was of one light, about 10 in. by 2 ft. 6 in., evidently square-headed. Of the south window only one springing of the rear arch remains; if this was a one-centred segmental arch its span would postulate a window of four lights, each of the same dimensions as the east window. In the south-west corner a doorway leads to what was evidently William Ryman's back stairs, a stone newel staircase of the ordinary medieval pattern, which runs the whole height of the house, giving access to each floor. The original use of the ground-floor room is uncertain; the room in this position

<sup>1</sup> Three different 'banker marks' can be seen on the dressed Ventnor stones, but never on the more elaborately worked pieces, such as trefoil window heads; this tallies well with the theory that banker marks are signatures. The master mason did the most skilled work himself; it was only the work of his subordinates that needed an identification mark.

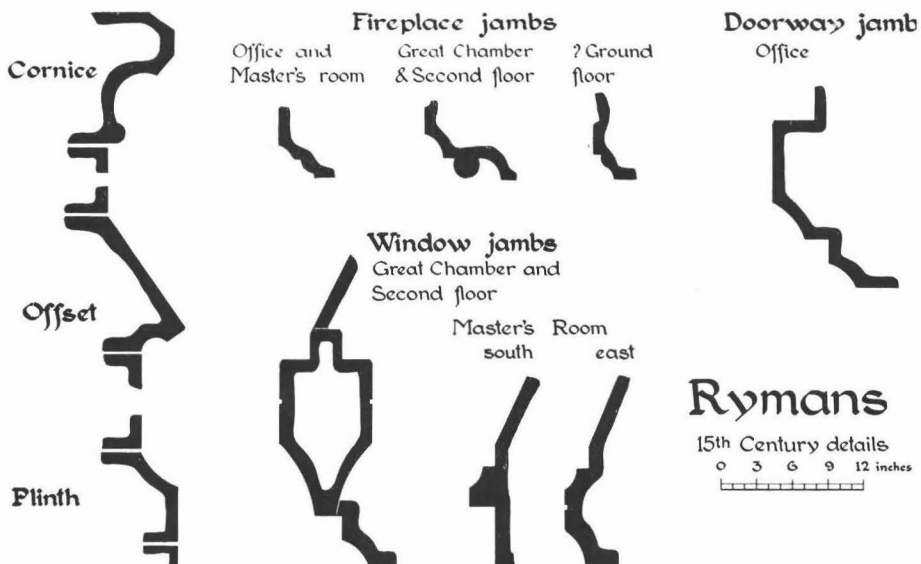
in some houses seems to have served as cellar and store-room, as this may have done. But, though lighting must have been poor, it may have been a living-room. Its present fire-place is a modern reconstruction of a seventeenth-century ingle-nook; but I have discovered two stones which once formed the four-centred arch of a fire-place some 5 ft. wide, to judge by the mouldings contemporary with the house; and there seems no other place than this from which they could have come.

South of this is a smaller room reached by a modern doorway, no trace of the ancient being left. An east window of one light, and a west window of two, both square-headed, are medieval. In the south wall was probably a single-light window like that in the floor above; this was enlarged in the early sixteenth century, two jambs of a window of three or four lights being traceable outside. These are made of Dutch bricks measuring about 7 in. by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.; such bricks seem to have been used locally just before we began making our own bricks, as we did in Bishop Sherburne's time. A modern stone-mullioned window now occupies its place. Direct access to the garden is given by a doorway with moulded jambs; one jamb of a medieval fire-place, also moulded, survives; and in the south-west corner are the remains of a garderobe. The outer doorway gives the clue to the use of this room; it evidently was an office—here William Ryman interviewed his bailiff (and his election agent, if he had one) and transacted his law business.

The principal stairs to the first floor originally occupied the south-west corner of the Great Hall and, save that they were of wood, must have resembled those in the Hall of St. Cross, Winchester. The doorway at the head of them survives, with a modern wooden door-frame inserted in the rebate; the door was secured by two iron bolts, the holes in the stonework into which they shot being still visible. From a small square landing two or three steps led down to the Great Chamber.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The present staircase, like the panelling of the room, is of the seventeenth century, and was brought here in 1913 from a farm-house in Billericay, Essex.

This is lit by two large two-light windows with trefoil heads of an early Perpendicular type. They were originally shuttered, and some of the hinge hooks for the shutters survive.<sup>1</sup> In the north wall is one moulded jamb of a contemporary fire-place; next to this is what was, till 1913, a doorway leading to the north wing, perhaps originally a garderobe.<sup>2</sup>



Opening out of the Great Chamber, over the office, is what was designed as the private room of the master and mistress of the house, standing to the Great Chamber in much the same relation as the solar did to the Great Hall.<sup>3</sup> In the west wall is a two-light, and in the east a single-light, window with trefoiled heads, in the south another with square head; the jamb section of the south window is interesting, evidently made to take

<sup>1</sup> The present shutters are all modern, but must represent fairly accurately what the originals were; such detail of the large ones as was not deducible from the stonework was based on the (approximately contemporary) shutters in Winchester College.

<sup>2</sup> Two stone arches, probably contemporary, now used in a garden doorway, may have been those of this garderobe and that in the Office.

<sup>3</sup> As the hall and withdrawing room correspond to the Scottish but and ben, this may be said to represent the far ben.



a casement, perhaps the still existing one. In the south wall is the one intact medieval fire-place in the house, with moulded four-centred arch and carved spandrels; the tile backing is, however, a modern reproduction. The stonework of a garderobe in the west wall is intact, but the wooden screen of it has disappeared. There is now a flat plaster ceiling, but there was originally an open timber roof. This had two trusses, each consisting of a pair of principals, a collar, and an arched brace; the principals were linked on each side by a purlin and a single pair of arch-shaped wind braces. At a later date this roof has been reconstructed, the south gable, apparently, pulled down, and the roof hipped, but the two trusses are intact.

From the landing at the head of the (medieval) principal staircase, in the thickness of a wall specially thickened to receive it, runs the staircase to the second-floor room. This is practically a duplicate of the Great Chamber, but appears never to have had a garderobe.<sup>1</sup> The roof over this is a plain piece of work of perhaps the seventeenth century; knowing as I do the financial embarrassments of the later Rymans I suspect that the house was in bad repair when the Smiths entered into possession, and that this roof was entirely reconstructed then. Its eaves overhang the medieval cornice, which originally, I suppose, carried a parapet, while the newel staircase, which now ends rather awkwardly, gave access to a lead-floored gutter running round a pitched roof of smaller dimensions than the present. The second-floor room was, I conclude, the women's sleeping quarters, and tended to be nursery and boudoir by day.

The medieval Great Hall may have been cut up into two floors before the Rymans parted with the place; evidently the Smiths found it ruinous and rebuilt it. Their work was entirely remodelled in 1913; originally each floor had square-headed three-light windows to north, east, and south; there was, besides, an intermediate one-light window on the south, which seems to

<sup>1</sup> I once stripped plaster off the wall between the fire-place and the north-west corner, but found nothing.

have lighted a staircase. The jambs, sills, and lintels of the windows were of brick, rendered with Roman cement to imitate stone; I have found no trace of mullions and suspect that they were of wood, and that it was their rotting which made necessary the reconstruction of the windows in the nineteenth century.<sup>1</sup>

Of the medieval kitchen and offices no trace remains above ground; in 1913 there was found a length of foundation which might have been part of the kitchen; but any building on the site must have been demolished, at latest, by 1670. When, in the early nineteenth century, it was decided to enlarge the house the new kitchen was added north of the 'Tower'.

It will be seen that the solar alone of the fifteenth-century house remains, but remains in an almost unaltered condition. The documentary evidence explains how this came about. When built it was evidently thoroughly up-to-date (and it is noticeable that the three upstairs rooms are practically up to modern standards in such matters as height and window area, while all three have south aspects); by the time that the owner might have been tempted to make alterations to suit the changed taste of the age he had no money to do so. For the Smiths, and later the Barttelots, the house was an investment, not a dwelling; it was kept in repair, but the landlord was not prepared to spend money on altering windows simply because the age of Good Queen Anne despised them as 'Gothick'; and the twentieth century, which saw the owner again resident, can appreciate at its true value the work of the fifteenth.

<sup>1</sup> The Manor House, which seems to have been completely rebuilt by the Smiths, had similar windows, shown in a drawing in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1792; but all have been reconstructed.