

## XIII.

## ON THE HISTORY OF HORSELYDOWN.

By G. R. CORNER, Esq., F.S.A.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY AT A MEETING HELD AT HORSELYDOWN IN  
SOUTHWARK, OCT. 30, 1855.

I DOUBT not that when the notice of a meeting of the Surrey Archæological Society to be held at Horselydown was received by the members, it elicited a very general inquiry of—Where is Horselydown? where can it be situate? in what part of the undiscovered regions of the metropolis does it exist? is it inhabited? if so, are the inhabitants civilized? and what description of persons can possibly reside in such a place as Horselydown? But by reference to a map of the metropolis, it will be discovered that Horselydown is a part of the borough of Southwark, situate near the bank of the river Thames, about half a mile eastward of London Bridge, from which it is approached by St. Olave's or Tooley Street: and as but very scanty and imperfect notices of this *terra incognita* are found in any local history or topographical work, I will attempt to give some account of it.

It is difficult to imagine that a neighbourhood now so crowded with wharfs and warehouses, granaries and factories, mills, breweries, and places of business of all kinds, and where the busy hum of men at work like bees in a hive is incessant, can have been, not many centuries since, a region of pleasant fields and

meadows, pastures for sheep and cattle, with gardens, houses, shady lanes where lovers might wander (not unseen), clear streams with stately swans, and cool walks by the river-side. Yet such was the case, and the way from London Bridge to Horselydown was occupied by the mansions of men of mark and consequence, dignitaries of the church, men of military renown, and wealthy citizens.

First, in St. Olave's Street, opposite to the church, was the inn or London residence of the Prior of Lewes, of which an account will be found in the "Archæologia," vol. xxiii., p. 299, and in vol. xxv., p. 604.

The Norman stone building described by Mr. Gage Rokewood in vol. xxiii., was not, however, the inn of the Prior of Lewes, but it had probably been originally the mansion or manor-house of the Earls of Warren and Surrey, who possessed the guildable manor or town of Southwark; and afterwards a gate-house or prison, with a house adjoining for the residence of the bailiffs of Southwark. Subsequently it belonged to a religious guild or fraternity in St. Olave's church, called "The Brotherhood of Jesus," and was then known as "Jesus House." After the suppression of such guilds, it came into the hands of the parishioners of St. Olave's, and was converted into a vestry hall and grammar school; for which purpose it was used until it was demolished, in 1831, for making the approaches to London Bridge.

The Norman stone building described by Mr. C. E. Gwilt in "Archæologia," vol. xxv., situate in Walnut-tree Court, Carter Lane, was undoubtedly part of the house of the Prior of Lewes, which is mentioned in ancient records as situate in Carter Lane, and adjoined to Jesus House on the west.

Stow says that the house which pertained to the

Prior of Lewes, and was his lodging when he came to town, was then a common hostelry for travellers, and had to sign, "The Walnut Tree."

A little further eastward, in Crown Court, Glean Alley, when the Greenwich Railway was being erected, there were discovered some extensive groined brick vaults, of handsome construction and ancient date: they evidently formed the basement or substructure of some important mansion; and it is not improbable that the Duke of Burgundy, or his ambassador, had his residence here, about the reign of King Edward IV.; as on or about this spot was a place called "The Burgundy" or "Petty Burgundy."

Adjoining to St. Olave's Church on the east side, where Chamberlain's Wharf now stands, was the house of the Abbots of St. Augustine's at Canterbury.

It was purchased by the abbot and convent in 1215, of Reginald de Cornhill, sheriff of Kent, for six-score marks, towards raising the sum of 3,000 marks, which he was compelled to pay to King John for his ransom, after having been taken prisoner at Rochester Castle. After the dissolution of the monasteries, it became the property, and perhaps the residence, of Sir Anthony St. Leger, Knight of the Garter, Deputy in Ireland to King Henry VIII., and ancestor of the Viscounts Doneraile. He was actively employed in the dissolution of the monasteries, and obtained a grant of the inn in the parish of St. Olave belonging to the Abbot of St. Augustine's. He gave to St. Olave's Church a vestment of cloth of gold, wrought with red velvet, with the garter and his arms upon the back, with all the apparel thereunto belonging.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Gentleman's Mag." May 1837. The arms of Sir Anthony St. Leger were azure, fretty argent, a chief, or.

Next to the Abbot of St. Augustine's was the Bridge House, and a little further eastward was the house of the Abbot of Battle, in Sussex, with pleasant gardens, and a clear stream (now a black and fetid sewer) flowing down Mill Lane and turning the abbot's mill at Battle Bridge Stairs.

On this stream were swans, and it flowed under a bridge (over which the road was continued to Bermondsey and Horselydown), from the "Manor of the Maze," the seat of Sir William Burcestre or Bourchier, who died there in 1407,<sup>2</sup> and Sir John Burcestre, who died there in 1466, and was buried at St. Olave's. This manor was afterwards the estate of Sir Roger Copley, of Gatton, Surrey, and came to the family of Weston, of Sutton Place, Surrey, from whom Weston Street derives its name; and the streets called Great and Little Maze Pond still keep in remembrance the ancient name of the manor.

From the corner of Bermondsey Street to Horselydown was formerly called Horsleydown Lane, and here, on the west side of Stoney Lane (which, by the way, was once a Roman road leading to the *trajectus*, or ferry, over the river to the Tower,—as Stoney Street, in St. Saviour's, was a similar Roman road leading to the ferry to Dowgate), was the mansion of Sir John Fastolfe; not Shakspeare's "lean Jack" Falstaff, but a gallant soldier and man of education (which was rare in his days), who distinguished himself in the reigns of Henry IV., V., and VI., Kings of England. He fought at Agincourt, and elsewhere in France, and was governor of Normandy. He

<sup>2</sup> In 2 Hen. VI., 1422, Elizabeth, wife of John de Clynton, Knt., died seized of a messuage, &c., as of the manor called "The Mase," in Southwark.

died at his castle of Caistor, in Norfolk, in 1460, at the age of 81 years.

During the insurrection of Jack Cade, in 1450, Sir John Fastolfe furnished his place in Southwark with the old soldiers of Normandy, and habiliments of war, to defend himself against the rebels; but having sent an emissary to them at Blackheath, the man was taken prisoner, and narrowly escaped execution as a spy. They brought him however with them into Southwark, and sent him to Sir John, whom he advised to put away all his habiliments of war and the old soldiers; and so he did, and went himself to the Tower with all his household. He was, however, in danger from both parties, for Jack Cade would have burned his house, and he was likely to be impeached for treason for retiring to the Tower, instead of resisting and attacking the rebels, which probably he had not force enough to attempt, they having entire possession of the borough.<sup>3</sup>

Sir John Fastolfe died possessed of one capital messuage, two water-mills, four messuages called "Bere-houses," seven gardens, twenty messuages called "Fret-renters," twenty-two messuages called "Smale-renters;" two messuages, called "Crouch-houses," and one messuage called "Herteshorn," in the parish of St. Olave, Southwark; and one messuage in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen (now part of St. Saviour's), called "The Boreshead."<sup>4</sup>

In the reign of King Edward VI., Fastolf Place belonged to Sir Thomas Cockaigne, of Ashborne, Derbyshire, who granted a lease of it, with the gardens, wharf,

<sup>3</sup> A letter of John Bocking to John Paston, Esq., dated 7th June 1456, was written from this place which is therein called "Horsleigh-done."

<sup>4</sup> Inquisitiones post mortem, 38 & 39 Hen. VI., No. 48.

and appurtenances, dated 24th January, 4 Edward VI., to Richard Marryatt, citizen and clothworker of London, for forty years.

Vassal Webling, or Weblink, of Barking, Essex, a Flemish emigrant, who had been a brewer in St. Olave's, Southwark, died seized of "Fastolff Place," with 103 messuages and two wharfs in the parish of St. Olave, Southwark; and by his will, dated the 30th October, 8 James I., he gave £4 a year thereout for the maintenance of the free school of St. Olave's, and 10s. to some learned preacher for an annual sermon. He was succeeded by his son, Nicholas Webling. The greater part of this estate now belongs to Earl Romney.

Further east and nearly opposite to the Tower of London was "The Rosary." This belonged to the family of Dunlegh, who appear to have been of some consequence in Southwark at an early period. Richard Dunlegh was returned to the parliament held at York, 26 Edward I., as one of the representatives of the borough of Southwark.

Henry le Dunlegh was returned to the next parliament, held at Lincoln, 28 Edward I., as one of the representatives of the said borough.

In 4 Edward III., A.D. 1330, Agnes de Dunlegh petitioned the King in Parliament, that whereas the King's father purchased of the tenants of the said Agnes three messuages and five tofts, with the appurtenances, in Southwark, in a place called the Rosary, opposite the Tower, which were held of the said Agnes by the services thereof and six shillings per annum, and of making and keeping the walls against the water of the Thames, each place its own portion; which service and reparation of the said walls the late king performed during all his time; and because the danger was so great of the said

walls by which the country was likely to be overflowed, she prayed that the said walls should be immediately repaired, and the rent in arrear paid.

Answer, that the petition be referred to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer to inquire and cause the said place to be repaired.—(Rot. Parl., vol. i., p. 36).

The Rosary and the estate of the Dunleghs, at Horselydown were afterwards the property of a family named Olyver, and of Henry Yevele, mason.

29th January, 21 Richard II., Robert Wotton, of the county of Surrey, and Johanna his wife (who was relict of John Olyver of Croydon), Robert Olyver, and William Olyver, clerk, sons of the said John Olyver, demised to Stephen Bartillot, citizen and scrivener of London, one messuage, with two mills and certain gardens and meadow adjoining, as enclosed with ditches, in the parish of St. Olave, Southwark, together with one annual rent of 30s., to be received from a certain croft of pasture called Dunleys-field, lying on the south part of Horsleighdowne, in the parish of St. Olave aforesaid, which said croft, Thomas Felawe lately held of the said Robert Wotton and Joan his wife, for the term of the life of the said Joan; and also the reversion of the said croft, when it should happen, after the decease of the said Joan: and another annual rent of four shillings, to be received for a certain garden lying adjoining to Horsleighdowne on the west and adjoining to tenements formerly of Henry Yevele: to hold the said demised premises to the said Stephen Bartillot his heirs and assigns for the term of one hundred years.

On the death of Stephen Bartillot, he appointed John Sirre, Robert Sharshull, Alexander Bartillot, and William Combys executors of his will; of whom William Combys survived the others, and in 19

Henry VI. the said William Oliver, clerk, by deed enrolled in Chancery, confirmed to him the then residue of the term of one hundred years, having about fifty-six years to run.<sup>5</sup>

6th June, 25 Henry VI., William Burgh, gentleman, son and heir of John Burgh, deceased, and Katherine his wife, by deed enrolled in Chancery, released to Sir John Fastolf, Sir Henry Inglos, and Richard Wallere, Esq., all his right, title, claim and demand in all those messuages, lands, and tenements, rents and services, water-mills, gardens, and ditches, with all their appurtenances, which were of Henry Yevele, mason, in the parish of St. Olave, Southwark, in the county of Surrey, and which the said Sir John Fastolf and the others above mentioned, with one John Wynter, Esq., deceased, lately had by the gift and feoffment of the said Katherine, mother of the said William Burgh.

By another deed of the same date, William Burgh also released to Sir John Fastolf, and the other persons before named, all that messuage, with the gardens adjoining and all their appurtenances, in the parish of St. Olave, Southwark, in the county of Surrey, situate between the way leading from "Batailbrigg" towards "Horsleigh-downe" on the north part, and a tenement of William Redstone on the south part, and extending from the sewer leading from Batailbrigg to Bermondsey towards the west, and to the mill-stream of Henry Yevele towards the east.<sup>6</sup>

This property having been purchased by Sir John Fastolfe, he on the 7th July [1448], made Master Robert Pepys, clerk, and others, his attornies, to deliver seizin to his feoffees John (Cardinal) Archbishop of

<sup>5</sup> Close Roll, 19 Hen. VI., m. 10 in dorso.

<sup>6</sup> Close Roll, 25 Hen. VI., m. 9 d.

York, and others, of (*inter alia*) his manor or messuage, in St. Olave's Parish, in Southwark, near Horselydown, formerly Henry Yevele's,<sup>7</sup> and seven messuages and twenty-five land, called Dunley's, in that parish.

Still further eastward, on the bank of the river, was a house, with a mill and other property, formerly belonging to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, who had a manor or liberty there called the Liberty of St. John of Jerusalem. In a return to a writ directed to the king's escheator in 7 Edw. III., it was certified that the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem held, in the first year of King Edward I., three water-mills, three acres of land, one acre of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture, at Horsedowne, in Southwark, which Francis de Bachenie then held for the term of his life, on the demise of Brother Thomas le Archer, late prior, and which anciently belonged to the aforesaid hospital. Courts were held for this manor down to a period comparatively recent. Messrs. Courage's brewery stands on the site of the mill and manor-house, and in a lease from Sir William Abdy to Mr. Donaldson, dated in 1803, there was an exception of the hall of the mill-house, court-house, or manor-house, to hold a court once or oftener in every year.

In a survey of the estates of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem by Prior Philip de Thame, in A.D. 1338, published by the Rev. Lambert Larking, F.S.A., being one of the recently published works of the Camden Society, it is stated that there are in Sutwerck two water-mills, one separate pasture, and three small pieces of meadow; and that the whole were demised to Hawise de Swalclive, for the term of her life, without rent, for her

<sup>7</sup> Henry Yevele was freemason to King Edward III. He was buried at St. Magnus', London Bridge.—*Stow's Survey of London*.

pension of £20, granted by Brother Thomas l'Archer, and to pay the rent to the Prior of St. Saviour of Bermondsey, and that it was only worth beyond those payments twenty marks.

23rd June, 1505, Sir Thomas Docwra, Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, and his brethren, knights of the same hospital, demised to Ralph Bothomley of Horsadowne, yeoman, "their water myln called, St. John's Myln, situate at Horsadowne in the county of Surrey, with all the meadows and pastures, housings and appurtenances, thereunto belonging, for the term of forty years, from St. John's Day then last, at the yearly rent of £8."

And by another lease, dated 11th January, 1514, the prior and his brethren demised to the said Ralph Bothomley, "their water mylle situated at Horseadowne in the countie of Surrey, with all the meadows and pastures, ponds, banks, waters and courses of water, and all howsings to the same appertaining, with the highway leading from the said mylle into Horseadowne aforesaid, that is to wyte, from the lowe water mark of the rever Thamys up into Horseadowne; and also all that their common in Horseadowne for his cattle, which common conteyneth seven acres of ground, little more or less, that is to wite, from the said lane end called Saint John's Lane, over Horsdowne, unto the lane end leading to another lane called Fivefoot Lane [now Russell Street], which seven acres of pasture, more or less, belongeth only to the said Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; and also common for his cattle upon the residue of the whole common of Horseadowne, and free course to and from the aforesaid common, with all manner his carriages, without any letting or interruption of any man, person, or persons: And over and above that, the said prior

and bretheren granted and let to the said Ralph Bothomley, all that one half of their dok called Seynt Saviour's Dok, that is to wyte, from the upper part of the same dok to the lowe water marke of the rever of Thamys; and also all that their pightell of land, conteyning 3 roddes, little more or less, lying betwene the lane called Fyvefoot Lane on the north part, and a close of land pertaining unto Robert Preston, of London, goldsmith, on the south part: To hold the same from the feast day of St. John the Baptist then last, for 32 years, at the yearly rent of £8."<sup>s</sup>

At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, St. John's Mill was in the tenure of Hugh Eglesfield, by virtue of a lease granted by the Prior of St. John's to Christopher Craven, for sixty years from Midsummer, 23 Henry VIII., at the yearly rent of £8. It was sold by King Henry VIII., in the thirty-sixth year of his reign, to John Eyre. The estate has for many years belonged to the family of Sir William Abdy, Bart., having come to them from the families of Gainsford and Thomas, whose names are commemorated in Gainsford Street and Thomas Street.

Shad Thames is a narrow street, running along the waterside, through the ancient liberty of St. John, from Pickle Herring to Dockhead. For the name of this street I cannot assign a more reasonable explanation than that it may be a corruption or abbreviation of St. John at Thames; unless it be thought a more likely presumption that the place took its singular name from the quantities of shad-fish formerly caught in the river at this spot. My friend W. W. Landell, Esq., informed me that his mother recollected in her youth the shad-

<sup>s</sup> Cotton M.S. Claudius, E. vi.

fish, caught in great numbers in the Thames off Horselydown, being cried about the streets, as herrings, mackerel, and sprats now are.

But it is now high time to come to Horselydown itself, which is not so called, according to the vulgar tradition, on account of King John's horse stumbling on the field; but the fact is, that it was a large field or down used by the neighbouring inhabitants for pasturing their horses and cattle, and was called Horsedown or Horseydown.

Horseydown was part of the possessions of the Abbey of Bermondsey and is within the lordship or manor of Southwark, formerly belonging to that abbey, and was surrendered by Abbot Parfew to King Henry VIII., with the other possessions of the abbey, in 1537.

This manor is now called the Great Liberty Manor, and is one of the three manors of Southwark belonging to the corporation of London; King Edward VI. having granted this manor, with the manor or lordship of Southwark (now called the King's Manor, and formerly belonging to the see of Canterbury), to the city of London, by charter (1 Edw. VI.).

Horseydown was probably the common of the Great Liberty Manor: but there were two acres of land, part of "Horseydown Common," which were within the manor of Bermondsey, and which were sold by King Henry VIII., in the thirty-sixth year of his reign, to Walter Hendly, Esq. That piece of land is in the parish of Bermondsey, and lies on the west side of Church Street, and between Artillery Street and Russell Street (formerly called Fivefoot Lane).

After the surrender to King Henry VIII., Horseydown became the property of Sir Roger Copley, of Gatton, Surrey, and the Maze in Southwark; of whom it was purchased by Adam Beston, Henry Goodyere,

and Hugh Eglisfeilde, three inhabitants of the parish of St. Olave, Southwark, and was assured to them by a fine levied to them by Sir Roger Copley, and Dame Elizabeth his wife, in Easter Term, 36 Henry VIII.

The parish of St. Olave came into possession of Horseydown in 1552, under a lease which the said Hugh Eglisfeild had purchased of one Robert Warren, and which the parish purchased of him, for twenty pounds and twelve pence (the sum he had paid to Warren for it), and the grazing of two kine in Horsedown for his life.<sup>9</sup>

A free grammar school was founded by the parishioners of St. Olave's, Southwark, in 1561, and was incorporated by charter of Queen Elizabeth, dated 26 July, 1571.<sup>10</sup>

The original endowment of the school was £8 per annum, which had been bequeathed by Henry Leke, of the parish of St. Olave, brewer (who is justly entitled to the credit of having caused this school to be founded), by his will, dated 12th March, 2 Eliz., towards the foundation of a grammar school in St. Olave's; but if no such school were established there within two years from his death, then he gave it to St. Saviour's Grammar School.<sup>11</sup>

On the 22nd July, 1561, it was resolved by the vestry of St. Olave's, that the churchwardens should receive of Mr. Leke's executors the money given towards the erection of a free school, and should prepare a school and provide a schoolmaster. And on the 4th May, 1579, it was resolved by the vestry, that Thomas Batte, William Willson, Oliff Burr, Thomas Harper, Ryc

<sup>9</sup> Minutes of Vestry, 5 March, 1552.

<sup>10</sup> See a short History of this School in the Gentleman's Mag., New Series, vol. v., pp. 15 and 137.

<sup>11</sup> Collectanea Topog. et Geneal., vol. v., p. 48.

Denman, and Rye Pinfold, should take order with Mr. Goodyer and Mr. Eggelfeld, to pass over Horseydown to the use of the school.

Mr. Beston and Mr. Goodyer having died in the lifetime of Hugh Eglisfeild, the freehold of Horseydown became vested solely in the latter as the surviving joint tenant, and descended to his son, Christopher Eglisfeild, of Gray's Inn, gentleman, who, by deed dated 29th December, 1581, conveyed Horseydown to the Governors of St. Olave's Grammar School, to whom it still belongs; and it is one of the remarkable instances of the enormous increase in the value of property in the metropolis, that this piece of land, which was then let to farm to one Alderton, who collected the weekly payments for pasturage, and paid for it a rental of £6 per annum, now produces to the governors for the use of the school an annual income exceeding £3,000.

In Hilary Term, 26 Eliz., an information was filed in the Exchequer by the Attorney-General, against John Byrde and John Selbye, churchwardens of St. Olave's, and Robert Bowghier, for intrusion into the Queen's land at Horseydown, which was stated in the information to have been part of the possessions of the late dissolved monastery of Bermondsey. The defendants pleaded the title of the governors through Sir Roger Copley's fine to Beston, Goodyer, and Eglisfeild, and the conveyance to the governors of the school from Christopher Eglisfeild as heir of Hugh; and that they, the churchwardens, were in possession as bailiffs to and on behalf of the governors. The plea was satisfactory and the proceedings were discontinued.<sup>12</sup>

By a feoffment, dated 19th January, 1586, Hugh

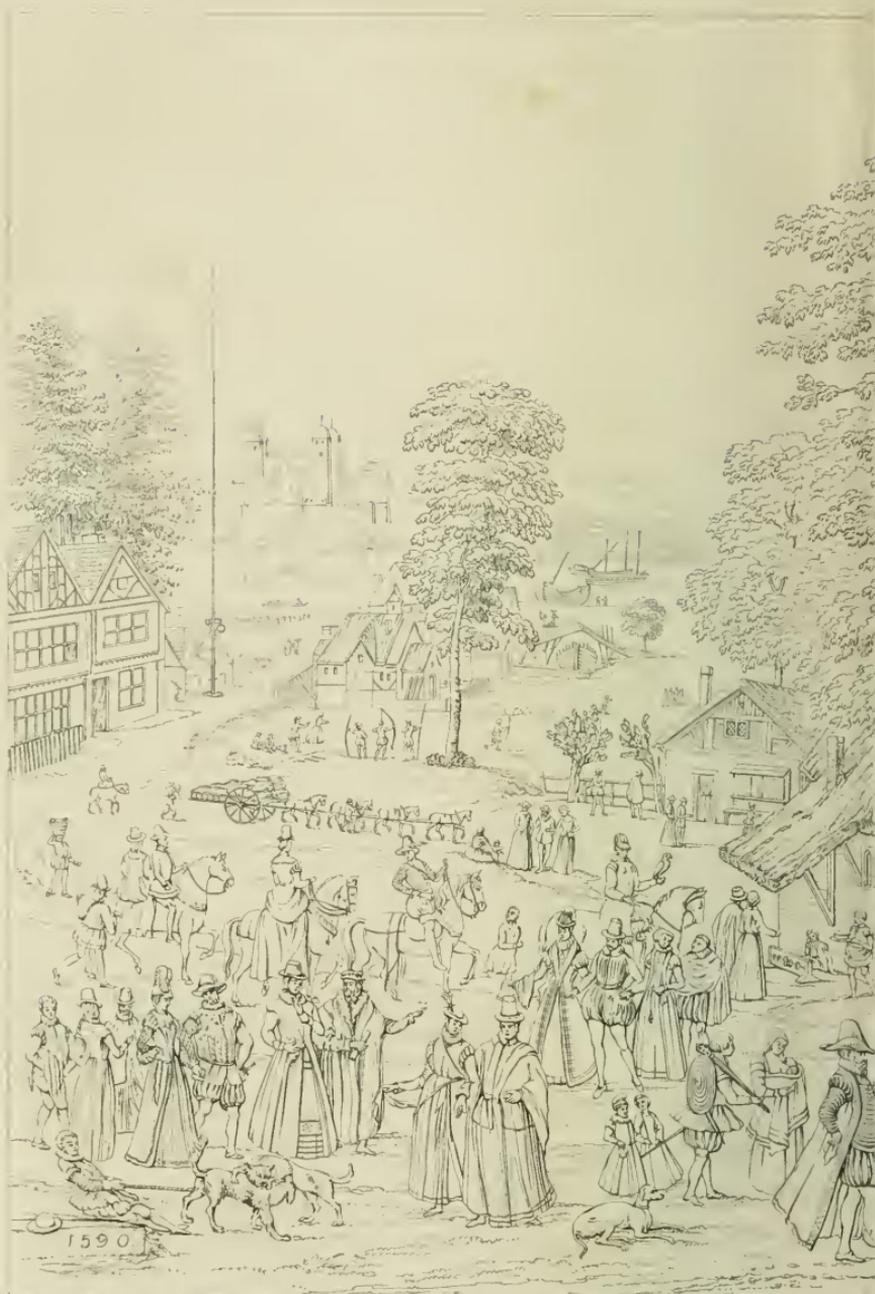
<sup>12</sup> Exchequer Rolls, Hil., 26 Eliz., Roll 137.

Goodear, in consideration of £4, released and confirmed Horselydown to the Governors of the Grammar School. The following extract from the churchwardens' accounts relating to these transactions is rather curious :—

“ Expencc about the sute of Horseydowne as followeth :—	
It'm botelier to the Temple to our Counsellor - -	viii <i>l</i> .
It'm pd Mr. Foster for his fee - - - - -	xs.
It'm pd Mr. Cowper for his fee the same tyme - -	xs.
It'm to search in the Courte of Augmentacion for the Surveyay of the Abbey of Bermondsey - - -	iis.
It'm to the Sherieff for copie of the names of ye Jurie -	vi <i>l</i> .
It'm spent the 19 day of Nov. at breckfaste upon or lawyer - - - - -	iis. v <i>l</i> .
It'm the 22 day of Novr to or Counsellor - - -	xs.
It'm paid the 12 day of December to Mr. Danbey for the exemplyficacion of the verdict - - -	Liis.
It'm the 25th of January, we went to talke with Mr. Goodyer, and he appointed us to meet at the Tem- pell with our Counsell and his, and so we went to Westminster up and downe and to the Tempell and home - - - - -	xs. viii <i>l</i> .
It'm pd Mr. Cowper or Counseylour - - - -	xxs.
It'm to Mr. Hitchcoke, Counseylour for Mr. Goodyer, to see the deade sealed, and for helpinge us to make a deade - - - - -	xs.
It'm P'd Mr. Goodyer to seale or feoffment - -	iiij <i>l</i> .
It'm Expended in takinge possession of the Downe the 27th daye of Januarye, 1586, upon loves of bread for boys - - - - -	xiii <i>l</i> .
It'm for a dynner the same day in Fyshe Streate, for certayne of the P'ishe	

The parish butts were on Horseydown. In Hilary Term, 5 Edw. VI., an information had been filed in the Exchequer by William Martin, of London, fletcher, against Hugh Eglefeld and Geoffrey Wolfe, churchwardens, for not having butts for the exercise of archery in the said parish of St. Olave, pursuant to the statute of 33 Henry VIII. ; in consequence of which proceedings the butts were soon afterwards crected on Horseydown.





Drawn by Gagnon, photographed by P. D'Amico

From the manuscript of the House of ...  
... to present a ...



J. H. B. Stone.

English, belonging to the Marquis of Salisbury.  
Horsedown in 1590.





The Thames Docke



# PLAN OF HORSEY DOWNE,

Reduced from the Original  
Dated 1544.

In the possession of the  
Governours of St Olaves  
Grammar School.

Wegge to  
Roderich

Old Thomsons  
Field

The whitlers Feilde

The washers Feilde

A Garden

A orchard

Knights  
Hous

A Garden

A Garden

The  
whitlers  
ground

McCandlish  
his garden

M Weldon

Barnodesye Hous

M Weldon

Hermiteges

Stones of  
Rensselaers Mills

Five foot Lane

Iacobes Garden  
A Feilde

Rooker Lane

Five foot Lane

Newmans  
House

Horseye Downe

Crucifix Lane

Park of  
Barnodesye  
Parish

The Garden  
of y Barshie

Glens his  
Rentes

Barnodesye

Southwarke



The River  
of Thames



The Marquis of Salisbury possesses, at Hatfield, a very remarkable picture, which has been supposed to have been painted by the celebrated Holbein, but is really the work of George Hofnagle, a Flemish artist in Queen Elizabeth's time. There is a copy of this picture in the library of the Society of Antiquaries, for whom it was made by Mr. Grignon, and it is a copy of that drawing I now place before you. The drawing has a date (evidently copied from the picture) of 1590; but, without that indication, the costume of the figures, which is of the period of Elizabeth, is sufficient to show that the picture cannot be the work of Holbein, who died in 1554. The picture represents a fair or festival, which, from the position of the Tower of London in the background, appears to have been held at Horselydown.

In the catalogue of the pictures at Hatfield (in "Beauties of England and Wales," Herts, p. 278), the picture is said to represent King Henry VIII. and his Queen Anne Boleyn at a country wake or fair, at some place in Surrey, within sight of the Tower of London.

That the locality of the scene is Horselydown, or as it was then called Horseydown or Horsedown, several circumstances, in addition to its situation with respect to the river Thames and the Tower of London, concur to show.

I am enabled, by permission of the warden and governors of Queen Elizabeth's Free Grammar School of St. Olave's and St. John's, Southwark, to illustrate and explain this curious picture by a map of Horseydown, dated A.D. 1544, which is now before you.

Although this plan bears the date of 1544, I think it must have been made, or added to, some years later; for it shows the churchyard, which was not made until the year 1587, and is now called "The Old Churchyard."

On the left side of it is "Bermondsey House," of which I can only suppose that it was a house formerly belonging to the Abbey of Bermondsey.

Next is a piece of ground marked with the name of "Mr. Weldon," and next to that two houses and a garden marked as "Mr. Candish his garden."

Candish, otherwise Cavendish's Rents, is now Mark Brown's wharf, Goulding's and Davis's wharfs, and Potter's Fields.

Then follows the "Whitsters" (bleachers) Ground and two gardens, on which St. Olave's new grammar school, Mr. Ledger's house and premises, and Hartley's wharf now stand, which bring us to Horselydown Lane; on the east side of which is "The Knights House" (*i.e.* the house of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem), since known as the manor-house, now Messrs. Courage's brewery; and on the river-side "St. John of Jerusalem's Mill." Eastward of the Knights House, on the plan, is an orchard, a garden, the "Washers Field," and the "Whitsters Field," which comes up to St. Saviour's dock, leaving only a road between them and the water, and there are no buildings shown on the water side of that road from Bermondsey House to Dockhead.

On the other side of Horseydown, we have "Jacobs Garden," and a field on the east side of "Rooper Lane" (now Church Street), and on the west side, "Newman's House" (where Messrs. Slee and Payne's premises now are) and part of Bermondsey Parish, and "Glene his Rents," which is where Barnham Street (formerly Dog and Bear Yard), College Street, Magdalen Street and Circus, and Grieveson's Rents now are.

At the Dockhead is a field called "Ould Thompsons Field," and near it a large house called "The Hermitage."

The centre of the plan shows a large open space, now occupied by the diverging streets called Queen Elizabeth Street, Free-school Street, and Fair Street; and on the south side of the last-named street now stand the church and rectory-house of St. John, Horsleydown, and the union workhouse in Parish Street.

I do not know if Southwark fair were ever held on Horseydown, but it is worthy of observation, that when the down came to be built on, about the middle of the seventeenth century, the principal street across it from west to east, and in the line of foreground represented in the picture, was and is to the present day called Fair Street; and a street or lane of houses running from north to south, near to Dockhead, is called Three Oak Lane, traditionally from three oaks formerly standing there. The tree-o'ershadowed hostlery where the feast is being prepared, in the picture, may indicate this spot.

In Evelyn's time, however (Diary, 13th Sept. 1660), the fair appears to have been held at St. Margaret's Hill, in the borough, for he calls it St. Margaret's fair; and it continued to be held between St. Margaret's Hill and St. George's Church until the fair was suppressed by order of the Court of Common Council in 1762.

The portly figure in the centre foreground, with a red beard and a Spanish hat, must have occasioned the idea of its being a representation of King Henry VIII.; but the general costume of the figure is later than his reign, and the date on the picture shows the period of the scene to have been towards the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign.

The principal figures seem to me rather to represent some of the grave burgesses and young gallants of Southwark, with their wives and families, assembled on

Horseydown on some festive occasion, to enjoy a *fête champêtre* on some bright day in summer.

The principal figure is evidently a man of worship, for whom and his company a feast is preparing in the kitchen of the hostelry, while the table is laid in the adjoining apartment, which is decorated with boughs and gaily coloured ribbons.

It may be Henry Leke, son of the founder of the school, who succeeded his father as a brewer here, or Vassal Webling, who, as well as Leke the elder, was a Fleming and a brewer, both of them having come into this country from the Netherlands, with thousands of their country people, to avoid the persecution of the Protestants under the Duke of Alva.

These Flemings settled in great numbers in the parish of St. Olave, Southwark, which comprised Horseydown, and from them a churchyard nearly opposite to St. Olave's Church was called "The Flemish Churchyard."

Vassal Webling or Weblincke dwelt hard by Horseydown, having become possessed of the house of Sir John Fastolfe, called Fastolf Place. Webling was a man of some consequence, and bore for his arms azure, a saltire flory, and in chief a griffin passant.

Or it may be Richard Hutton, armourer, and an alderman of London, who represented Southwark in Parliament from 27 to 39 Elizabeth, an inhabitant of St. Olave's. Whoever it is, he appears to be a man in the prime of life, and he is accompanied by a comely dame, probably his wife, and by two elderly women, and followed by a boy and girl with a greyhound, a servant carrying an infant, and a serving man with sword and buckler. Near them is a yeoman of her majesty's guard, with the queen's arms on his breast.

The citizen in his long furred gown, accompanied by a

smartly dressed female, crossing behind the principal party, is worthy of notice. The gay trio behind them are also remarkable objects in the picture.

The minister accompanying a lady is probably Thomas Marten, M.A., parson of the parish. The hawking party behind shows that the neighbourhood of Southwark was at that period sufficiently open for the enjoyment of the sport. The flagstaff or maypole in the left background is also noticeable, as well as the unfinished vessel under a shed at the river-side, and the unfortunate individual in the stocks.

Two young women and two serving men are bearing large brass dishes for the coming feast, while in the right foreground a party of five are dancing to the minstrelsy of three musicians seated under a tree. A party is approaching from the right headed by another minister, who may be Mr. Bond, minister of the parish, and one of the first governors nominated in the charter. I cannot help thinking, however, that it is probable it may represent a much more noted man; namely, the celebrated Robert Browne, a puritan minister and founder of the sect of Separatists, sometimes called Brownists, who was schoolmaster of St. Olave's Grammar School from 1586 till 1591.

He was connected by family ties with Lord Burleigh, who protected him in the various difficulties and dangers into which he was frequently led by his ardent zeal; and that circumstance may account for this picture being preserved at Hatfield, which was built by Robert Cecil Earl of Salisbury, second son of Lord Burleigh.

Behind the musicians are two figures which deserve some attention. It has been suggested that the appearance of the foremost is much that of the portraits of the immortal Bard, and the head behind him is not unlike

those of Ben Jonson. Nor would there be any improbability in the idea of Shakspeare and Jonson being present at such a *fête*, as Shakspeare lived at St. Saviour's, and is very likely to have been invited to a festival in the adjoining parish; but the date of the picture is somewhat too early to be consistent with that notion.

Of the churchlike-looking building with a tower, at the right of the picture, I cannot give any account, unless it be "The Hermitage," marked on the plan. Of that place, however, I have not been able to learn anything, except that in the account of the churchwardens of St. Olave's, in 1615, they account for having received £13 of Mr. Jarvice Partridge, an attorney for Mr. Anthony Thomas and Mr. Arundale, for charges recovered against them in the suit between them and the governors of the grammar school, for the way from Crucifix Lane over Horsadown, unto the "Hermitage House," being Mr. Anthony Thomas's land, commonly called Westrame's Rents. Its situation was, as will be seen by the plan, near the head of St. Saviour's Dock, so called from the Abbey of St. Saviour, Bermondsey, to which the stream was formerly navigable for barges and boats; and as Mr. Anthony Thomas was the successor of the Knights of St. John, the hermitage, which stood on his land, had most probably in former times belonged to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem; and it was no uncommon thing for such hermitages to have chapels attached to them, as at Highgate, where the hermit was authorized by a royal grant of King Edward III. to take a toll for repairing the road. The hermitage at Highgate, which had a tower, became a chapel for the devotions of the inhabitants.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Hermitages were generally founded by an individual upon the ground of some religious house, who, after the death of the first hermit,

At the entrance to Horsedown from Tooley Street, or, as it was formerly called, Horselydown Lane, there was a gate, as appearing on the plan; showing that there was then no public road across the down from St. Olave's Street to Dockhead, but the way was down Bermondsey Street and Crucifix Lane.

By the kindness of Mrs. Allen, widow of my late esteemed friend George Allen, Esq., architect, and of Messrs. Snooke and Stock, his professional successors, I am enabled to exhibit two drawings, representing the exterior and interior of the old Artillery Hall of the Southwark trained bands, which was erected on Horseydown in the unhappy reign of King Charles I.

This building, which stood on the site of the present workhouse, in Parish Street, was pulled down about twenty years since. It was erected in 1639, as appears from a date on the keystone of the portal, and also over the windows on each side of it.

The governors of the grammar school, on the 17th of June, 1633, granted a lease to Cornelius Cooke, and others, of a piece of ground forming part of Horseydown, and enclosed with a brick wall, to be employed for a martial yard, in which the Artillery Hall was built.

In 1665 the governors granted a lease to the churchwardens of part of the martial yard, for 500 years, for a burial-ground; but they reserved all the ground whereon the artillery-house then stood, and all the herbage of the ground, and also liberty for the militia or trained bands

collated a successor; and as those persons devoted themselves to some act of charity, it does not appear so extraordinary that we find hermits living upon bridges, and by the sides of roads, and being toll-gatherers, as numerous records indubitably prove.—*Tomlins' Yseldon*, p. 35.

The Hermit of Horseydown, or Dockhead, perhaps received a toll for keeping in repair the road across the Bermondsey Marshes from Southwark towards Rotherhithe and Deptford.

of the borough of Southwark, and also his Majesty's military forces, to muster and exercise arms upon the said ground. The election for Southwark was held at the Artillery Hall in 1680; and at the following sessions, then held at the Bridge House, Slingsby Bethel, Esq., Sheriff of London, who had been a losing candidate at the election, was indicted for and convicted of an assault on Robert Mason, a waterman from Lambeth, who was standing on the steps of the hall, with others, and obstructing Mr. Bethel's friends. Mr. Bethel was fined five marks.

In the year 1725 the Artillery Hall was converted into a workhouse for the parish.

In 1736 the parish church of St. John, Horsleydown (one of the fifty new churches built under the provisions of the Act of Queen Anne, commonly called Queen Anne's Churches), was built on part of the martial yard; and, in pursuance of the act for establishing the new parish of St. John (which was taken out of St. Olave's), the workhouse was divided between the parishes of St. Olave and St. John.

The drawings, which were made under the direction of the late Mr. G. Allen during the demolition of the building, are careful restorations of the old structure; and as they may be engraved or lithographed for our proceedings, I omit any verbal description of them, especially as these notices have already extended to so unreasonable a length, that I fear they must have tried the patience of my hearers.<sup>14</sup>

G. R. C.

<sup>14</sup> As the drawings are not engraved, our Honorary Secretary, Mr. George Bish Webb, has favoured me with the following description of the building from the drawings:—

The building was in the form of a parallelogram, having on one of

its longer sides two slightly projecting wings. The walls were of red brick, and the roof, of high pitch, was terminated at both ends by an ornamental gable with moulded stone capping.

The principal entrance was in the centre of the space between the wings, and was composed of a wide arched doorway between pilasters, surmounted by a pediment, in the tympanum of which was a shield of arms carved in stone. On either side of the doorway, and in each of the wings, was a lofty window of three lights, the central light being arched. The architraves of the windows, the pilasters, and the quoins were rusticated in brickwork. Another doorway is shown in the gable end with two windows on either side, and a range of five windows above. A cornice in brickwork ran round the building, which was also decorated with raised and sunk panels in the same material.

The chief feature in the interior was the fine open-timbered roof, formed by a series of trusses, each consisting of hammer-beams supported by curved brackets springing from stone corbels, similar brackets connecting the hammer-beams with the tie-beams. The beams were ornamented with mouldings and carved pendants. The walls were panelled to a considerable height, the panelling being surmounted by a cornice, and at the head of each panel was a shield of arms in relief. The side of the hall facing the entrance was lighted by a series of lofty arched windows, and the end shown in the drawing by a wide window of three lights, set in an arched recess surrounded by a broad rusticated architrave in stone.