

NOTES ON THE MANOR AND MANOR HOUSE OF WALTON-ON-THE-HILL.

BY

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SALMON, in his *Antiquities of Surrey* (1736), speaks of Walton-on-the-Hill, and derives the name Walton, *i.e.*, the town or village near the fortified place, from an earthwork at the end of Pebble Lane.¹ He speaks of this as like an ancient boundary running from Leatherhead to Walton, but it is rather obscure as to what he actually means, and it seems doubtful if his notes were made from his own observations. The actual wording of the passage and of another in the account of the neighbouring village of Headley is as follows:—

“ Walton (on the Hill). I believe it owes its name
“ to that Earth-work which is seen on the Downs above
“ Mickleham, pointing one way towards Lethered, the
“ other towards Walton by the end of Pebble Lane.
“ This seems to have been a British or Saxon Limit
“ for division of the Country. And probably runs
“ through some part of Walton which may be defaced
“ with Ploughing.”

“ Hedley. It is generally said that here is a
“ perfect Roman way on the edge of this Parish on
“ Lethered Downs leading from Dorking by Mickle-
“ ham to London.

“ I don’t know where to find those proofs which
“ are so much relied on. It may as well have come
“ up Box-Hill as by Juniper Hole [the valley leading

¹ The section of the Roman Ermine Street, where it crosses Leatherhead Downs, used to be known by this name.

“ up to Headley is probably meant], and might pass
 “ the River [the Mole] at the Castle (*i.e.*, Betchworth)
 “ Bridge as well as at Burford where floods are more
 “ troublesome. It might, from the place called Gib-
 “ raltar [the precipitous western slope of Box-Hill is
 “ probably meant] go on in the Kingston Road to
 “ the Downs where the Barows are in the Way to
 “ Walton.”

This last sentence seems now very obscure, but the barrows are those probably on Leatherhead Downs, near the course of the Ermine Street. Aubrey, writing about 1673, has the following note on this track which has evidently been taken and amplified by the ingenious Salmon :—

“ On Leatherhead Down on the edge of this
 “ Parish (*i.e.*, Headley), is a perfect Roman way
 “ from London to Dorking.”¹

I am disinclined to suggest that Salmon, from hearsay, has mistaken the ridge of the Roman Road on the Downs for his earthwork, or that he may have been thinking about Tumble Beacon, a large artificial mound of low elevation by Nork Park, three miles north-east of the village. However, we need not go far for the origin of the name of the manor, as there still remains an earth-work in the grounds of Walton Manor House, which Salmon might have heard of in some way. This tumulus stands at the considerable altitude of 587 feet, near the junction of roads to Dorking, Leatherhead and Epsom, Sutton and Reigate; it is steep-sided but under 12 feet in greatest height, and has a flat top in diameter about 35 yards from north to south by 32 from east to west, and there are traces of the ditch at the foot of the mound from which the earth was dug to raise it. Mr. W. R. Malcolm, the owner of what is probably a considerable portion of the demesne of the ancient manor, says that hewn stone has been found in shallow

¹ *The Natural History and Antiquities of Surrey*, Vol. II, p. 300.

excavations in this earthwork,¹ although no systematic exploration seems ever to have been carried out. Considering this, it is a question if there may not have been some fortified structure raised on the top at an early period to dominate the position. The Roman villa on Chussex plain, and what have always been considered to be three small square Roman camps not far off on the heath, indicate that there was regular communication by way of these Downs between Dorking and the country beyond on the one hand, and Noviomagus and London on the other, which was kept up in later periods.² A few yards distant from the southern half of the tumulus is a narrow moat-like strip of water which skirts the road, but is now almost wholly cut off from it by the wall of the manor house grounds. This, in old records, is known as the Court Ditch, and although probably of no further interest, very likely being not much more than a farm-yard pond,³ shows that the present line of the road at this point has not changed for a long time. Beyond the western end of the ditch the old bridle path to Headley joined the road. This way at present runs south of its old line which, when the photograph (Plate I) was taken, ran through the old farmyard, now part of the garden, thence across what is now a lawn not far from the south-west angle of the house, and so on towards Headley. These details are well shown on the tithe map of the parish, which in

¹ Manning and Bray, Vol. II, p. 813, say that, "In the ground near the east end of the house is a square mound of earth on which has been a building, but of what sort is not known, as nothing but the foundations have been left within memory."

² Mr. Malden makes the suggestion that these enclosures were never military camps, but merely pieces of land taken in at some time by squatters, or made by those who had common rights for housing cattle at night. A squatter's enclosure on Banstead Heath, above the tunnel, was done away with when the railway was being made in 1898-99.

³ This opinion has been modified since Mr. A. H. Allcroft pointed out the probable connection of the name with the adjacent tumulus. He considers this was thrown up as a Moot Hill, and later used as the place of meeting of the manorial courts.

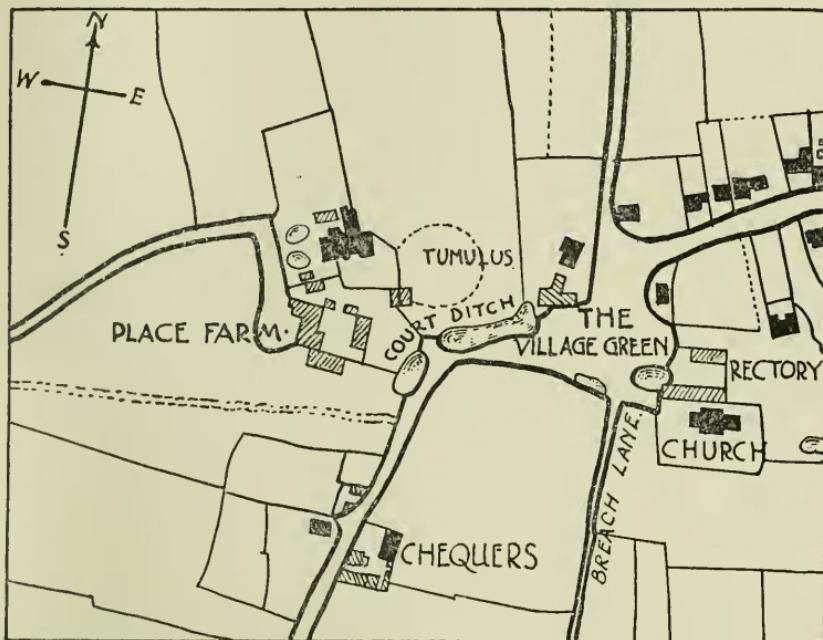


WALTON PLACE, about 1865.



WALTON PLACE, about 1867, with part of the Moot Hill.

its present form dates from November 1839. (See map.)



PORTION OF TITHE MAP. OF WALTON ON THE HILL · 1839

Rocque's map of 1762, except that it shows the Court Ditch, is unfortunately of no value for these details, although the scale is large enough.

Mr. Malcolm states that the previous owner, Mr. Charles Cumberland, obtained permission to make this change in the course of the path when he came here about 1867. It is possible that he made it a condition of his buying the estate from the Carew Trustees.

The building that is now known as Walton Manor House, although it had fallen into the position of a farmhouse generations before Mr. Malcolm bought it, has with the manor a good deal of interest, both historically and architecturally.

The following paragraphs, largely based on Manning and Bray's work, give a sketch of the manorial history of the parish:—

At the Conquest the manor was granted to Richard de Tonbridge. His descendants held it until 1314, when Gilbert de Clare, the last male, died. In 1260 a John de Waleton or Wauton, who may have been a descendant of the John who was tenant of the manor under Richard in 1087, had a grant of free warren here from Henry III. John de Wauton, seemingly without any evidence, has been named as the founder of the church, and his grave, with an inscription stating this, located under the external arched recess in the north wall of the chancel.¹ A coffin slab, with traces of a floriated cross on it, occupies the recess. It is possibly that of one of the 13th-century rectors.

Following the grant to John is a record showing that about 1270, and up to his death in 1294, the manor was in the hands of John de Lovetot, who held it by one knight's fee. This man, from 1275 to 1289, was one of the Puisne Judges of the Common Pleas, and the amasser of great wealth by fair means or foul. The style of the work seen in the manor house belongs to this period. Thus it is quite possible that de Lovetot built it. As tenant of the manor, he was succeeded by his son John, then aged 40. The date of this man's death is doubtful, but it was probably in 1314, in which year the property was granted by Hugh le Despencer the younger to a John Brewes. (*Inquis. p. m.*, 21 Edw. III.) This grant seems proved by the fact that Gilbert de Clare the last did not die until 1314. He was then succeeded in these estates by his sister Eleanor, one of three co-heiresses, whose husband was the Despencer named above.

Walton thus came into the hands of this family, but it was evidently alienated when Despencer was hanged in 1326 by Queen Isabella. Soon after Edward III's accession the manor must have been granted to John de Warenne, who held it until his death in 1347.

¹ The tablet was put up by Mr. Ambrose Hall, an enthusiastic local antiquary, who died early in the last century. On it is "JOHANNES DE WALTUNE HUJUS ECCLESIAE FUNDATOR, A.D. 1268." The late 12th-century lead font is evidence of an earlier building on the site.

(Inquis. p. m., 21 Edw. III, No. 58.) A Surrey Fine of the 3rd Edw. III, 1329 (*Surrey Arch. Coll.*, Ex. Vol. I, p. 98, 1894), is a suit between him by John de Assheby (? his steward) and Francis Bachemus and his wife Johanna in Wauton. (Philip de Drokeneford, a. s. c.)¹ The following reason seems to account for this grant. John de Brewose, who succeeded his father in 1329, was a minor. It therefore appears possible that de Warenne received a temporary grant of the manor while he acted as guardian. Dwelling at Dorking, he could effectually keep an eye on his ward. About the year 1332 Manning and Bray record (*History of Surrey*, Vol. II, p. 644), that these two were granted the right to hold two fairs at Walton. It looks as if a good deal of traffic passed through the village, and rather as if the place had grown up as a centre of distribution for the surrounding towns.

With Warenne's death, and the reversion of his estates to the Crown, Walton was re-granted to the Despencers in the person of a third Hugh, son of the one mentioned above. He died in 1349, seized of 1½ knight's fees in the manor. (Inquis. p. m., 23 Edw. III (1350), No. 169.) As sub-tenant under Despencer, and afterwards directly under the king, de Brewose probably held a large part of the land; and he lived on until 1358, when he died, aged about 29, seized of the manor. (M. & B., Esch. 31 Edw. III, No. 49.)

From 1349 to 1465 the overlordship of the manor seems to have remained in the hands of the Crown; but in this last year Elizabeth Woodville received it as a grant for life on her marriage, "in part support of the expenses of her chamber." (Cal. Pat. Rolls, March 16th, 1465.) As to the tenants and under-tenants during the earlier part of this period, we find that from 1377, on Richard II's accession, three de Arundels, grandsons of Alice, sister and heiress of John de Warenne, successively held the manor for

¹ These letters stand for "apponit suum clamenum." Drokeneford had a grant of free warren here and evidently wished to safeguard his rights.

their lives; and that finally Alice, the widow of the last, from 1423 to her death about 1436, was confirmed in the grant of, among other places, all the lands and tenements in Wauton, and the advowson of the church, to the value of 80 marks a year, by Henry VI for her life. (Cal. Pat. Rolls.)

In 1437 there is the record of a grant of the manor to Sir Ralph Rochford; but a year after we read that John Merston and his wife Rose take over the manor, with the park and warren, for their lives, at a rent to be agreed on with him.¹ Three months after this, on April 21st, 1438, the king hands over the advowson to them for their lives. The grant says that although it belonged to the manor, it had not been mentioned in the grant to Sir Ralph Rochford. With the foundation of Eton College in 1441, it seems that Henry VI, as overlord, probably brought pressure to bear on the Merstons to relinquish their rights over the manor, as we find them granting their interest in it, but reserving a rent to themselves, to the college. In 1448 (Cal. Pat. Rolls) they lost the remainder of their interest, and at the same time the advowson, which were granted in frank almoin to the College. In 1457 and 1460 the king acts as patron. Edward IV, at the commencement of his reign, cancels the grant of the manor to Eton College; and at Easter, 1464, Richard Harleston and Thomas Bradbrigge receive it for life without the necessity of rendering anything to the king. These people and Sir John Plummer, who on February 16th, 1471, was granted £45, partly raised from this manor, park, and warren, for expenses during the holding of the office of Keeper of the Great Wardrobe, and Nicholas Harpisfeld, who on February 12th, 1485 was granted for life an annuity of £10, partly raised from issues of this manor, must, if these grants held, have taken most of the profits from the manor. They were probably, however, paid in this way by the Crown; the remainder of the incomings, in spite of the unsettled

¹ Merston in this year was king's esquier. Afterwards Treasurer of Chamber and Keeper of Jewels.

times, probably continued to be paid to Elizabeth Woodville as lady of the manor. She retained this with her other estates until 1487, when Henry VII took the manor into his own hands and confined her in the nunnery of Bermondsey till her death in 1492. He was always mistrustful, both of her and of her daughter Elizabeth, whom the Yorkists considered the true heir to the throne.

By Henry VIII, the manor was given to Catherine of Aragon, just before her marriage in 1509, but a few months after her divorce in 1533, he granted it to Sir Nicholas Carew of Beddington, who, however, was executed in 1539, when the manor escheated to the Crown. By Act of Parliament in that year it was annexed to the honour of Hampton Court.

Anne of Cleves was divorced by Henry VIII in July, 1540, formally consenting to the terms of separation on the 11th, six months after her marriage. It is possible that subsequently she may have come and stayed here, although there is no actual record of her doing so. Manning and Bray's words, on which the definite statements of later writers are based, are: "It is conjectured that the latter [Anne of Cleves] resided here." It is known that she was at Bletchingly not long after her marriage was annulled, and she might have reached it *via* Walton.¹ After Edward VI's death, Queen Mary, having obtained possession of the other alienated estates of Sir Nicholas, restored them on July 14th, 1554, with the manor of Walton-on-the-Hill, to the Carew family in the person of Sir Francis, the son of Sir Nicholas. Anne of Cleves died at Chelsea Palace, July 17th, 1557.

¹ A letter from Henry VIII, dated from Westminster 12th July, 1540, to her at Richmond, where she still was on the 24th, acquaints her with the news that "We have appointed you two houses, that at Richemont, where you now lie, and the other at Blechinglegh, not far from London, that you may be near us and, as you desire, able to repair to our Court to see us, as we shall repair to you." He probably visited her at Blechingley in 1541, as one of the King's "Gests" (Add. MS., B. M., 9825, f. 9) from Hampton Court, through the Home Counties, was arranged on the return to pass from Penshurst to Blechingley, and so back *via* Beddington, West Horsley and Wo(Oking).

Although I have failed to prove, as I had hoped to be able to do, that this house had sheltered Henry VIII himself, it has other noteworthy points. One of Henry VIII's love letters to Anne Boleyn, approximately dated June 20th, 1528, contains the sentence: "When we were at Waltham."¹ In two editions of these letters the last word is spelt Walton, so raising hopes soon to be shattered on referring to the volume of the Rolls series containing the letters of this period.² However, with the record of the grant of this manor to several queen consorts, we may conclude that it was given to them as part of their jointure. Thus, while in the hands of Catherine of Aragon, it is quite possible that the house was used by her and her maids of honour as a country retreat; and also, as it was in the midst of forest and waste, as a hunting lodge by Henry VIII, who, at a later date, could have easily ridden over from his park and unfinished palace of Nonsuch.³

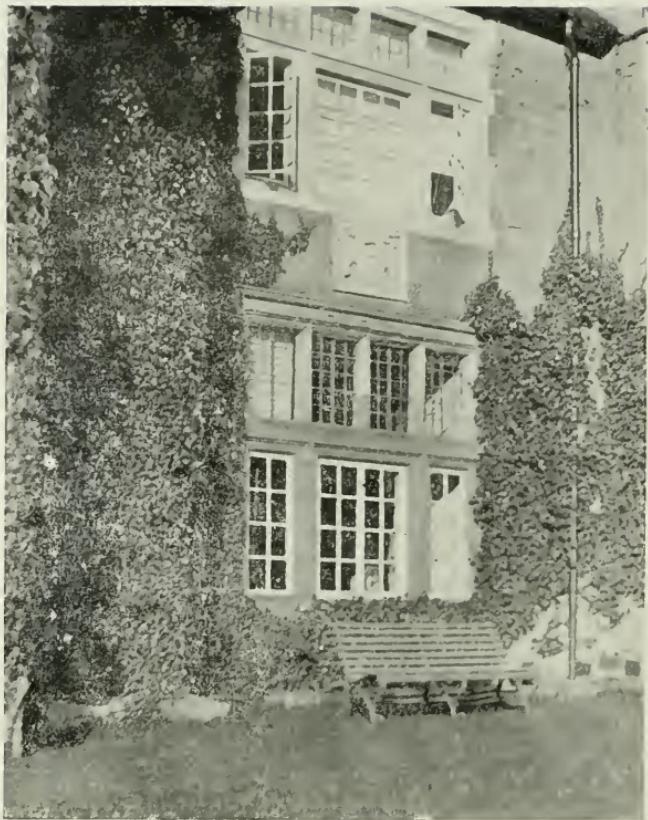
The district never seems to have been bare or treeless, as the chalk subsoil is almost wholly covered with clays, sands, and gravels of various ages. The more clayey beds support considerable tracts of oak woodland. One of these patches, in 1828 covering nearly 24 acres, is still known as Queen's Wood, a name traditionally considered to date from the time of "the Lady" Anne of Cleves, but more probably from that earlier Queen, Elizabeth Woodville. This wood is not shown in Rocque's Map, but it is evidently part of the primæval woodland of the district.⁴

¹ The house referred to is evidently New Lodge, a favourite hunting box of Henry's in Waltham Royal Forest. It would be on his way from Hever where he had just left Anne, via Tilbury or Grays, to Hunsdon in Hertfordshire, whence he sent the letter quoted from. The sentence in the same letter, "I think if you would retire from Surrey as we did, you would escape all danger," probably refers to Richmond, where the king was in April. In May he was at Greenwich.

² Letters and Papers, Domestic and Foreign, 1526-28, No. 4,403.

³ In July, 1544, the king was buying land here, among other places, from Nicholas Leigh, who also received cash and the grant in fee of the manor of Adyngton. (Letters and Papers, Domestic and Foreign.)

⁴ Walton had a reputation for the number of its trees 200 years ago. A passage in a letter quoted in *A Journey through England*, 2nd ed.,



Centre of South Front of Manor House.



18th century Openings at West End of Great Hall.

WALTON MANOR HOUSE.

A further historical record to be noted about the manor house is that connected with the Carew coat-of-arms, with an earl's coronet placed on the south front of the house. (*See Plate III.*) This stone is not the original, but it is a replica of and replaces the original slab of hearth-stone¹ which was discovered under some plaster by Mr. Malcolm during the restoration of the Jacobean windows here, but in such a decayed state that it was removed and placed under shelter on the west front of the house. It is now unhappily undecipherable.²

The arms are those of George Carew, a great friend of Sir Walter Ralegh's, and a member of the Devonshire branch of the family. In 1605 Carew, for his many services, had been created Baron Carew of Clopton, and in 1609 keeper of Nonsuch House and Park. In 1619 he was re-appointed to this post for life, and finally, in 1626, created Earl of Totnes. It is possible that in virtue of his position at Nonsuch he obtained this house, which had been a hunting lodge, and that he reconstructed it for his own use. He would hardly have done the work and added his coronet to the Carew arms if he had been merely a tenant. Writing from the Savoy on October 4th, 1626, he says that after the illness by which he was attacked at the funeral of King James, and had gained no relief from a visit to Bath, he retired to Nonsuch. All the summer he had been in the country, where he had found good by air and exercise. It is more than likely that he spent a good deal of this time at Walton,

Vol. I, p. 129, says that in comparison with Epsom and its Downs “*Sutton* and *Cheam*, if not too low, are yet too dirty; as *Walton* and *Hedley* are too windy in winter, too woody, and therefore too close in summer.” Queen’s Wood is now a part of the Frith Park lands, of which it seems to have formed a portion in 1509. (M. & B., Vol. II, p. 647.) It is therefore hardly likely to have belonged to the manor in 1540.

¹ Hearth or fire-stone, the only free-stone of this part of Surrey, was extensively used over a large area round Merstham till brickwork to a great extent took its place from the end of the 15th century.

² Manning and Bray mention (Vol. II, p. 813) that “in the south front are the three lions of England on a shield, supported by the griffin and the greyhound.” There is no doubt that they misread these arms. Lord Totnes’ arms were Or, three lions passant sa., supporters, antelopes, and motto, *En esperance je vis.*

not on the low-lying clays of Nonsuch. The previous stewards of Nonsuch were also stewards of this manor.

After his death in 1629, the house and land round evidently came back to the Carews of Beddington, represented from 1611, when Sir Francis died, by Nicholas, his nephew, brother to Lady Ralegh. The manor itself, from 1554, always seems to have remained a part of the Beddington property, and in fact was only alienated when the estates were broken up during the latter half of the 19th century.¹ There are two interesting early references to the connection of the Carews with this parish in the 17th century, recorded in the first volume of the registers, a small square parchment book containing entries dating from 1581. This book records on May 2nd, 1639, the baptism of Mary, a daughter of Mr. Nicholas Carew, the younger brother of Sir Francis, then lord of the manor, and Elizabeth, his wife, and on August 11th, 1643, the burial of the same gentleman, who is now given the title of esquire. A Sir Jordan Crosland, of Co. York, may have afterwards dwelt here. A strong adherent of the King, he was knighted at Lincoln in 1642, and in 1646 was captured at Worcester. In 1660 he re-appears, and in October was granted the office of Constable and Keeper of Scarborough Castle. In 1666 he was a Commissioner of Prizes for Hull, and in July, 1667, speaks in a letter of coming up to the Parliament. About December, having lost his Commissionership, he was petitioning for an allowance for his faithful services. Under the date 1668, there is an entry in the registers saying that "Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Jurdan Cruflan, Knight, was buried the 27th day of Aprill."

¹ Manning and Bray record when they wrote, that the farm consisted of about 350 acres of land and 200 of wood. Mrs. Anne Paston Gee, the lady of the manor, seems to have owned in 1817, when a re-assessment took place, 532 acres of land and wood, while the amount she owned, according to a manuscript list of 1828, was 678 acres. Mr. Richard Gee paid £25 : 14s. 4d. as Poor Rate to the overseer of Walton for 1812-13. This year the rates at 8s. in the pound made £373 : 2s. 4d.

As a side issue, it is worth recording here that the house is said by some recent writers to have been originally a monastic foundation—I presume from having a chapel—but the list of the various owners of the manor does not justify this conclusion. Besides, if it had been some abbey or priory grange, there would almost certainly have been evidence remaining on this point. Doubtless, also, the parish living would not have remained a rectory, as the religious foundation would have appropriated the great tithes and have had the church served by a vicar of their appointing.¹ To serve the chapel, however, we find that in the 4th and 5th of Edw. III, 1330–31 (*Surrey Arch. Coll.*, Extra Vol. I, *Pedes Finium*, 1894), a John de Malton was chaplain here and engaged in some suit with John de Warenne, who in the Fines first appears in 1329. It seems uncertain when he succeeded to the lordship of the manor.

The house at present retains traces of what seems to be, from the mouldings remaining, a 13th-century building, part of which, and that the best preserved, is undoubtedly the chapel. On to this early structure, with evidently, however, a good deal of pulling down and rebuilding, a Jacobean house with its superior ideas of comfort and modes of life was grafted. After a long period of gradual decay, with some minor 18th-century alterations, in the 19th century it returned to better days, if withal a time that cared little for its architectural history. Now, if comparatively little remains of the original house, the structure is almost as good as ever it was, and a good many of the changes and alterations of the different periods can be very fairly made out with a little investigation.

As to buildings, contemporary or approximately of the same period, the plans of the following are worth citing as bearing upon and perhaps aiding in elucidating the probable arrangements of the manor house here.

¹ Although not bearing on the advowson here, Reigate Priory possessed a little land in the parish which, on its suppression, was granted in June 1541 to William Lord Howard. (*Letters and Papers, Domestic and Foreign*, 1541, No. 947, 12.)

CHARNEY BASSETT.

A good example of the smaller manor house, dating from the end of the 13th century, may be seen at Charney Bassett in Berkshire. In plan, this consisted of a hall the full height of the house with a wing at each end, thus forming nearly three sides of a square. The interest centres in the southern annexe, which runs east and west, and consists of a ground and upper floor. The lower part, 8 feet high, contains a kitchen, with fire-place in its north wall, and a small room projecting from its eastern end and probably used as a cellar. Above is the private room or solar of the house, directly communicating with a small chapel. These two rooms measure respectively 30 ft. \times 16 ft. and 12 ft. 5 in. \times 9 ft. 10 in., and are particularly interesting, in that access to them is gained by an external staircase which adjoins the backdoor of the kitchen. The evidence of this and the date of the house induce me to think that the elaborate doorway on the upper floor at Walton (*see* Photograph No. 2), once closed by a massive door, points to its being an external opening approached by a similar open air flight of steps.

BISHOP'S PALACE, LINCOLN.

The second plan, which bears on the question of the entrance to the hall and the position of the kitchen, consists of the remains of these parts of the Bishop's Palace at Lincoln, a building which was erected between 1200 and 1230. The hall, which measures 90 ft. \times 60 ft., as against 30 ft. \times 22 ft. in our example, has the usual three doorways at one end, the two side ones leading to the buttery and pantry, while the centre one opens into a passage which led between the two small rooms to the main service entrance, beyond which were a couple of small larders and then the kitchen. This last was an isolated building, but had its doorway opposite to the one leading into the hall.

HADDON HALL.

Another building, mainly of the 15th century, that shows the hall and subsidiary buildings well, is Haddon Hall; there the main room of the mediæval house, 44 ft. long \times 28 ft. wide, runs east and west, between a lower and an upper court-yard. There is a large fireplace in the centre of the south side, and wooden screens at the west end which cut off the hall from the entrance porch and through passage between the two court-yards. This thoroughfare is 8 ft. wide, making the hall proper 36 ft. long. On the other side of the passage are the usual three doorways, which lead into or to the pantry, kitchen, and buttery. This plan is a typical one of the period, but has a good many points which cannot be fitted in with what we have remaining at Walton.

IGHTHAM MOTE.

Yet another modification of the plan of the manor house of the period may be seen in the famous example known as Ightham Mote. This house is much smaller than Haddon Hall and possesses only one court, on to which the hall, running practically north and south, fronts. The dimensions of this interesting feature, commenced about 1350, are 30 ft. by 20 ft., from which may have been originally deducted about 6 ft. for the passage cut off from the rest of the room by the screens. If these were never fitted they may have been considered unnecessary, seeing the small size of the hall, and that there seem to have been only two openings in its southern end, one leading to the kitchen and the other to the pantry. The fire-place occupies the centre of the east wall, just beyond it to the north being an original doorway which communicated with a partly isolated but contemporary building, having on the ground floor a groined crypt or cellar and above a small chapel, placed, to orientate it, at right angles with the hall, and measuring 22 ft. by 14 ft. From this description it will be seen that the great hall and

the chapel are of much the same dimensions as those at Walton, but they are very much richer in details, and, owing to the early planning or exigencies of the site, not of much help in clearing up the problem here.

The kitchen and other traces of early work occupy the south-east corner of the site, being connected, as I have stated, with the south end of the hall.

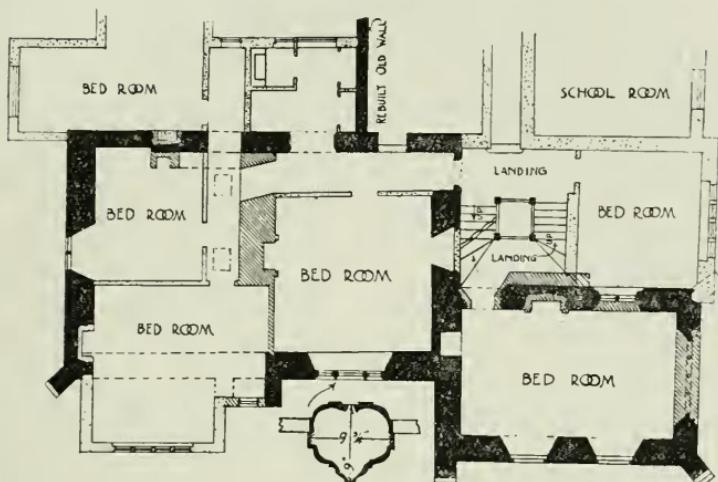
WALTON PLACE OR MANOR HOUSE.

As to the early structure of Walton Manor House, the plan and the remaining walls themselves in many cases have been so modified, cut into, and changed by the work of later centuries, and so much seems to have totally disappeared, that the original arrangement now is problematical, but, in spite of these changes, we have still a good deal of evidence remaining about the two chief rooms of the mediæval house—namely, the great hall and the chapel. These seem to be supplemented by a two-story range of buildings that ran northwards from an east and west passage with which they communicated by angle-chamfered, obtuse-headed doorways. The hall also seems to have been connected with this passage, as there is a doorway opening into it of a similar type. It is possible that the secondary range of buildings formed one side of a court-yard, round which there were ranged the kitchens, outhouses, and stables. (See Plan.)

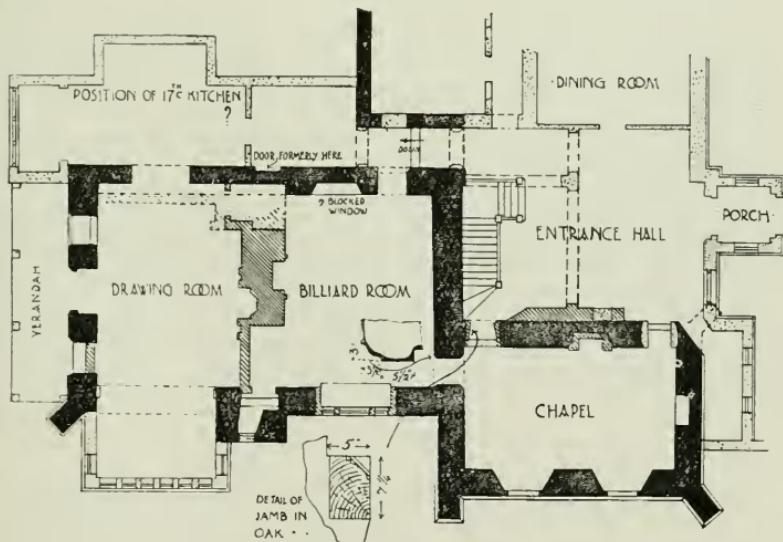
The house probably remained as it was built till Jacobean times, but in that period it was extensively altered and re-arranged. Later in its history it degenerated into a farm-house, but in 1718 it was still important enough to be shown as Walton Place on the map of the county, published in Aubrey's *Natural History and Antiquities of Surrey*, while it and its surrounding buildings are roughly laid down on the large scale map of the county published by Rocque in 1762.¹

¹ Stephen Whatley, in 1751, includes in *England's Gazetteer*—“Walton Hill and Place, Surrey, Sir Nich. Carew's manor, E. of Leatherhead Downs.”

WALTON MANOR, SURREY

13thC WORK17thC WORK19thC WORK

• FIRST FLOOR PLAN •

OLD BUILDINGS
DESTROYED,
SEE PLATE

• GROUND FLOOR PLAN •

SCALE OF 10' 5' 0' 10' 15' 20' 25' 30' 40' 50' 60' 70' FEET

This house is evidently one of the two (the other I have not been able to identify) which John Adams, in 1690, in his *Index Villaris*, refers to when he indicates that Walton-on-the-Hill possesses the seats of two gentlemen. During the latter part of the 18th and the first half of the 19th century a family of farmers named Ede¹ lived in the house; James, the father, who died in 1825, is recorded on his tombstone in the churchyard as being of Walton Place. In recent years the building has been renamed Walton Manor on the supposition that the manor must have had a house attached to it, and from what we know of the house I do not think it can be disputed that the owner had sufficient justification for changing its old name.

In the 18th century sash windows took the place of the earlier ones in the aforetime chapel. These were probably mullioned openings of the early 17th century, when it seems the room was first divided up. Since then, still further changes have been made by the present owner and Mr. Cumberland, his predecessor. In these last cases we must mourn over the thoroughness of the modern architect in doubtless clearing away many interesting points.

The remains indubitably consist of what evidently was an almost detached building at the south-eastern angle of the house, and the south and west sides of a structure adjoining it to the west, but with its south wall set back several feet to the north. Externally this is all. The walls of this old work are built of flint, with hearth (Merstham) stone for the cut work, the flint being covered in some places with plaster, with its surface ornamented with small raised lumps. This plaster is, however, probably due to a later period in the house's history.

¹ This family, which probably came from the neighbourhood of Horley, where the name still exists, settled here about 1780. The last member, a son, died in 1870.

THE CHAPEL.

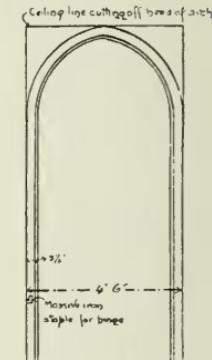
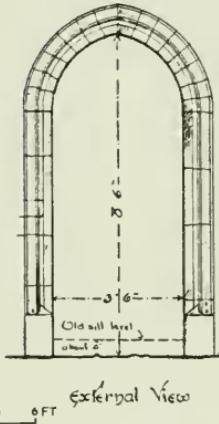
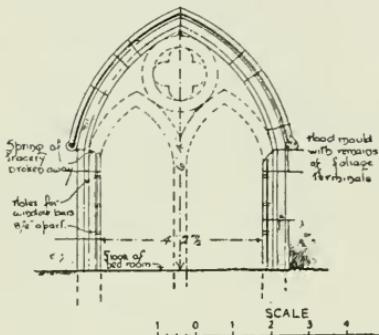
As for the detached building, Turner and Parker, in their *Domestic Architecture in England*, Vol. III, p. 175, mention that the chapel often forms a separate wing of the house, joining on to the hall at one corner only, as at Lyte's Cary, Somersetshire, and Bradley Manor House, Devonshire. Here the detached structure, I think, is undoubtedly the chapel of the original house. It has walls 2 ft. 6 in. in thickness and two buttresses remaining—a diagonal one, at the south-east corner and a square one at the other end of the south wall, both with weathered offsets. (*See Plate I.*) The diagonal buttress retains its chamfered base course in good order, but the other, which has been extensively patched and repaired, now retains very little of the feature. The only other trace of old work on the exterior of this part of the house is a small square glazed recess in the west wall, about 4 ft. 6 in. above the ground. This hole, now showing no trace on the inner surface of the wall, may be possibly the remains of some original opening here; but the greater probability is that it is only one of the results of the 18th-century occupation. Externally, there is nothing else of pre-Reformation date, and the roof even has been lowered from its original pitch, not one of the old timbers, as far as can be seen now, remaining. On entering this part of the present house, now the library, we find on the ground floor a doorway opening into it from the old work to the west. This has a four-centered arched head with an ogee moulding on the western face. The opening seems to be original; otherwise, except for the splay of the two windows and a recess in the east wall, mentioned below, nothing remains.¹ The dimensions of the room are 24 ft. from east to west by 14 ft. from north to south. On going upstairs, however, the building now

¹ The plans and Plate VII show that these two window openings are narrower, and not set exactly below the upper ones, which preserve the splays of the 13th-century openings. They probably date from the 17th century.

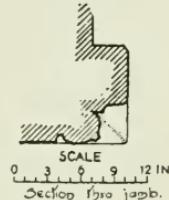
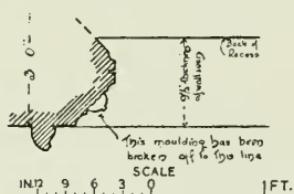


DOORWAY ON UPPER FLOOR AT
WALTON PLACE
?ORIGINALLY EXTERNAL.

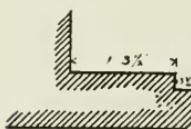
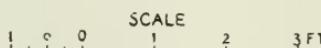
Remains of window sive eastern of two in north wall of chapel at Walton Manor perhaps with 2 lights and tracery head



External View. Internal View.



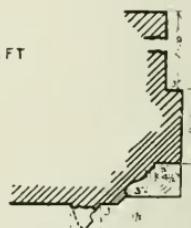
Section through jamb of window with head mould included to show size



Section thro. head of small doorway



Section Thro. jamb of small doorway



Section Thro. jamb of main doorway also showing size and position of destroyed head mould

possessing three floors, we come across, in what was once the external north wall of the chapel, the remains of the eastern of the two two-light pointed-headed ecclesiastical windows, which lighted the side. (*See detail, Plate V.*) Inspection shows that it had a traceried head, although hardly enough remains to restore the pattern. On entering the room on the upper floor, in the south wall, we find the splayed jambs of the two windows and the commencement of the spring of the heads, but no other traces of the original lighting. Above this room we find ourselves in the roof space with—luckily preserved in the east wall—the jambs and springing of the head of a large east window with, however, no remains of the tracery. The internal width over the splay is 11 ft. The head was destroyed, evidently, when the pitch of the roof was lowered, perhaps through decay, in the 18th century. Below the position of the sill of the east window is a recess which may have had something to do with the altar, but it is almost as likely to point to the former existence of a window possibly closed by the window tax. It should be noted that Plate I shows the western of the two upper windows bricked up. As to fittings, Manning and Bray, if we can believe them, record that a stone pulpit was removed from the building shortly before they wrote in 1785. Their reference to this building in Vol. II, p. 813, of their *History of Surrey*, 1809, is as follows: “The east end of the house was the chapel reaching up to the roof, which is high; at the west end was a stone pulpit. About 1785 this was converted into a parlour, a ceiling was thrown across and the upper part made a bedchamber, in which is the mark of the pulpit.” Running the meaning of this passage to the ground has caused me a good deal of trouble, as the Authors speak so definitely of the chapel. But now I think that there is not the slightest doubt that the projecting fire-place bay running up the wall of the great hall (I speak of this later), and having such a peculiar look, when gutted, to untrained eyes, was their “pulpit.” I think, as I have already suggested, that Manning and Bray in this case

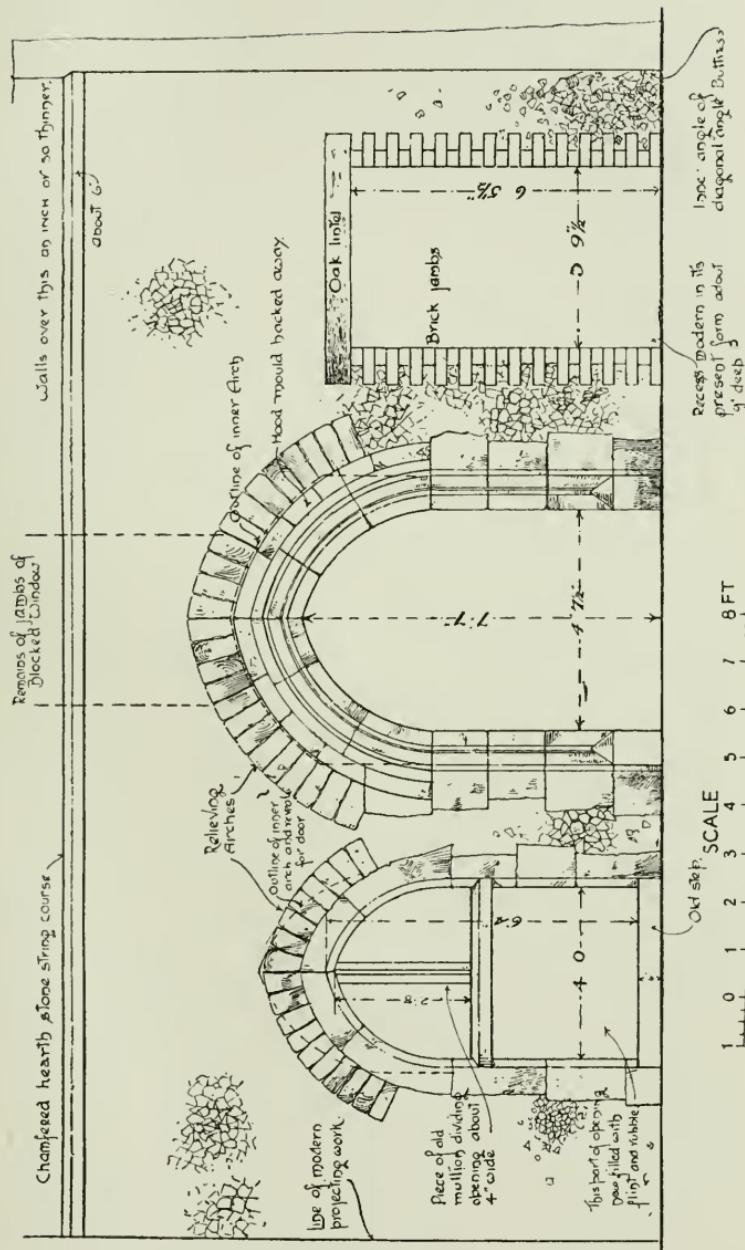
were depending on information derived from a correspondent; or can it have been that Mr. Bray merely put together Mr. Manning's rough notes? On a recent talk with me, a former inhabitant of the parish, Mr. Thomas Fischer, K.C., who knew the house before 1860, stated that a projection, which he said was in the chapel, had been a pulpit, but that when he knew it, it was used for the purpose of a garderobe.

THE GREAT HALL.

On investigating the second old portion of the house to the west, nothing of the earliest date is to be seen, except a projecting mass of masonry which I will describe later, till we get to the west angle where there is a much repaired diagonal buttress (*see* Plate I), and, in the west wall itself, a series of three openings. (*See* Drawing of elevation, Plate VI and Plate III.) This part of the original house I have assumed, for several reasons, to be the great hall, and these openings give colour to the supposition from their being almost undoubtedly the doorways to the pantry, kitchen (by a passage), and buttery. The southern of the three is now only a brick-framed recess in the wall, but the central one is a stone-framed pointed-headed opening with external mouldings running down to a stop $12\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the ground, while the northern is a similarly proportioned rather smaller opening with plain chamfered angles, stone step at base 6 in. high from present ground level, and reveal inside for door to shut into. No trace of this opening is now to be seen internally, and externally it is built up for half its height and a length of old mullion inserted; but at one time this upper space was evidently glazed and used as a window, the opening in addition being strengthened with iron bars inside.

Internally this section of the house has suffered great changes. In the first place, I think that it is very likely that, as in the chapel, the hall was of the full height of the building, but it has been divided up in a similar

W·END OF GREAT HALL·· WALTON PLACE ·:



way to the former, and has besides, owing to its size, been cut in half by a wall running from north to south. The great hall originally was an apartment measuring 38 ft. from east to west by 22 ft. from north to south, and still retains, in addition to the doorway into the chapel and the range of openings at the west end which I have described, what looks like an original stone flat-pointed arched doorway at the east end of the north side, and a rectangular cupboard-like recess in the centre of the south wall. This is lighted by a small square opening high up in the wall, obviously of later date. This recess externally shows as a projection measuring 3 ft. by 8 ft., and is continued up the side of the house. In the appended photograph (*see* Plate I), taken about 1865, when the house was in the occupation of the late Charles Bowyer, this feature is shown roofed with a tiled lean-to below the eaves of the main roof. The walls for a considerable height are 2 ft. 6 in. or so thick, but decrease higher up. This projection looked puzzling at first sight, but there seems no reason to doubt that it is the remains of the chimney breast and stack for the fire-place of the great hall which was partly destroyed when the room was cut up in the early 17th century. Mr. Malcolm tells me that this recess formerly communicated by a square hole with the room above. It seems likely that this opening actually was a part of the flue, and that the thin walls of the upper part of the projection took the place of the chimney shaft which was of no use in the altered arrangements. In the new upper room this annexe, being not much more than a cupboard, there would be no reason to carry its walls the full height of the house.

As we have a large part of the four walls of the hall remaining, it is unfortunate that all the other contemporary features, including the windows, have totally disappeared, except perhaps for the splayed jambs of one in a room above the main opening in the west wall below. The lower part of this shows externally as a blocked opening, and if opened out would come below the present floor line. (*See* Plate VI.) The window

must have lighted the western end of the hall above the passage, if there was one, to the kitchen. The other windows must have been all on the south side, as the northern seems to have been built up.

As to the problems connected with the western series of openings, an absolutely satisfactory explanation of the way they were used is by no means easy. That they led or opened into the offices is a likely suggestion, but it does not get over all the difficulties, such as the fact that the mouldings of the larger doorway, now used as an external garden entrance to the house, would be on the kitchen instead of the hall side of the wall. This is rather against my idea of its being part of the passage-way to the kitchen, and might indicate that it was the main entrance to the building. If that was the case, the buttery and pantry might have been projected a few feet into the hall on each side of a short passage, so giving the opportunity for a gallery above them at this end of the hall. The kitchen building would have formed an isolated block to the west. I have been informed that there seem to have been other buildings, besides those existing, to the north and west, as foundations, and cut stonework have been found below the turf in this direction. In Plate I a brick building may be seen attached to this end of the house.

THE INTERIOR.

The great hall, or rather the billiard room half of it, on the north, communicates with a curtained passage running east and west, which had, opening out of its northern side, a range of old buildings. Those now standing may partly be of 17th-century date; but they retain no features of interest. Above the passage runs a second one, entered from the east end through a high pointed-headed doorway, the stone sill of which seems to have been lowered about 6 inches, with, on its outer face, rather elaborate mouldings running down to a sloping stop now some height above the floor. (*See Plates V and VIII.*) Some of the stones composing



WALTON MANOR HOUSE (Present State).

the opening are modern restorations, others hardly so. To complete the at first sight puzzling nature of this doorway, on its plain western side it retains the lower of a pair of solid hinge staples, from which was evidently hung a massive door. (*See Plate V.*) The evidence remaining as to this doorway seems to show that it was once external, entrance to the upper floor of the house being gained by a wood or stone flight of steps rising from a court-yard. Admitting this, we should expect that this doorway would serve several rooms, but unless there was something over the hall, its sole use seems to have been to lead to the secondary range of buildings mentioned above. A few feet inside this on the north side is a stone chamfered-angled doorway with a very flat pointed-arched head, admitting by two steps to a bedroom, and evidently originally giving access to the upper floor of the secondary range. (*See Plan, Plate IV.*)

The wall on the south side of the passage is now only a thin partition one, but it follows the irregular line of the wall below. About the end of the first quarter of the 17th century extensive changes were carried out, evidently in order to convert the house to the needs of the day, and perhaps to reduce it from the stiff manorial dwelling to the status of a "place," the occupier himself farming the land round. From the evidence of the early registers, members of the Beddington Carews manifestly lived here, but for how long, we cannot say. It is possible that the house and land round were leased by one of them in the late 17th century. But from that period probably dates the decay which gradually overtook the house in the hands of a farming tenant. Without going into private papers it is hard to clear up some of these points, but we know from the Churchwardens' Accounts for 1817, and from a list of the owners of the land of the parish dated 1828, which has been consulted by the writer, that Mrs. Anne Paston Gee, as lady of the manor, then owned this land, and that, as I have mentioned, a family of farmers named Ede had lived there for many years. Mrs. Gee,

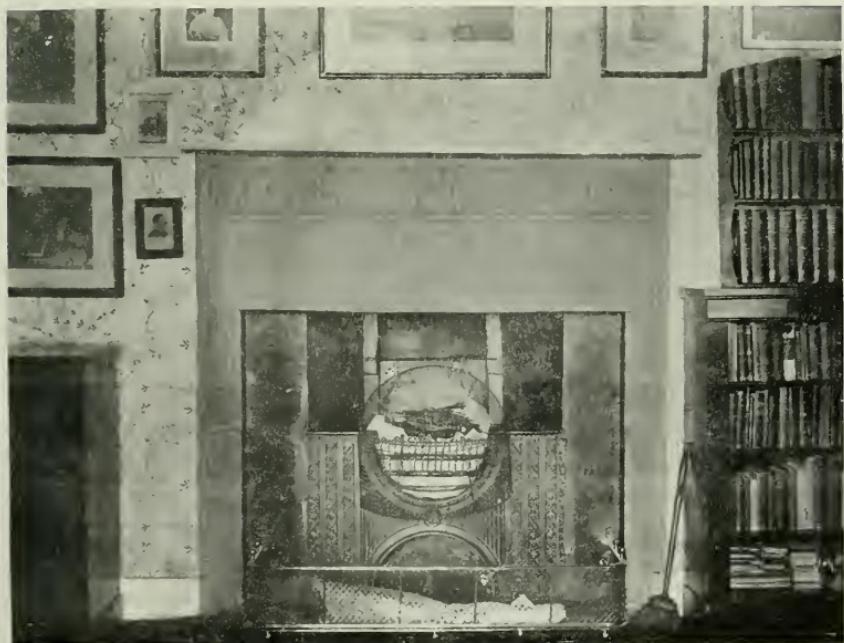
sister-in-law of Richard Gee Carew, who was a great-grandson of Sir Nicholas Carew (1635—1687-8), succeeded on his death as sole heiress of the main branch of the Carews. On her death, in 1828, the manor became the property of her cousin, Admiral Sir Benjamin Hallowell, who then took the name of Carew.

Evidence of the 17th-century remodelling of the house is now observable in the ancient hall and chapel, and formerly in the kitchen which lately occupied the western half of the hall. This last, with an ancient chimney stack (*see* Plate I), disappeared during the 19th-century changes, the fire-place, oven, &c., in the western half of the old hall being pulled down, and the additional space, with some to the north, thrown into the present drawing-room. The hall, in the early-17th century, thus was divided transversely by a wall with fire-places for the newly-formed rooms, so dispossessing the ancient fire-place in the centre of the south wall. (*See* Plan.) This useless space was probably therefore partitioned off, and was then lighted with a square stone-framed window, with a straight hood mould. It is now a cupboard. Besides this an upper story was made to get more bedroom accommodation, and a fire-place constructed in the eastern of the pair of rooms above the one below. This insertion of floors also took place in the chapel, and here, in the upper room, there is a fire-place of similar type to the one in the room above the present billiard-room, or eastern half of the old hall. These two fire-places are of the local hearth or fire-stone, and have square heads with a shallow incised recurring ornament. The one in the chapel bedroom is perfect (*see* Plate VIII), but the head of the other, evidently during the period of neglect, collapsed, and instead of this being replaced or repaired, the opening, with half of the head on one side missing, has been partly filled up and a poor cast-iron grate of the period inserted.

At the reconstruction a different arrangement of the windows became a necessity, and now the old chapel alone retains evidence of the way it was lighted. More



Exterior of doorway on upper floor (formerly external).



17th cent. fireplace in upper room in 18th cent. chapel.

WALTON MANOR HOUSE.

face 130.

than that, with change and decay, only fragments of two of the windows that lighted the house during the second or 17th-century period remain, and they were found during the last work undertaken buried under the plaster. These partly recovered openings light the billiard room and the bedroom above, and probably occupy the position of the window of the upper end of the great hall. (*See Plates III and VII.*) They are, or were originally, of four lights, with transomes in the upper part, and have typical mouldings of the early-17th century. (*See Plan.*) The existence of these windows was made known during the alterations carried out in 1891, and they were then opened out and completed according to a design made by the architect. The restoration hardly follows the original lines, but the peculiarity is partly due to the fact that the centre of the lower one was once occupied by a doorway, the traces of which have not yet been done away with. No trace of the 17th-century fenestration, if ever carried out, remains in the lower room occupying the ancient chapel, but opening into it at the west end of the north wall is an oak-framed doorway with mouldings and angle stops that belongs to the period, and must have connected it with some part of the house which has totally disappeared. This now forms a cupboard in the hall. The recess in the east wall may have no ecclesiastical meaning, but may indicate the position of a 17th-century window.

From the style of the windows in the rooms occupying the chapel, the low pitch of the roofs, and the brick patchwork, it seems that the old house saw a few changes during the 18th century. The occupiers evidently followed the newish fashion of replacing its casemented windows by those of the sash type. During this work they doubtless also found that the roofs were in such a bad state that to save them at all it was necessary to cut off the decayed ends of the rafters and rebuild them at a lower pitch with as much of the old materials as were available.

With the completion of my investigations into the
K 2

surroundings and history of one among many scores of almost unknown, but probably in many cases equally valuable structures, which it is impossible to replace in these days, I must sincerely thank the owner of such an interesting house for the help he has given me, and also all the previous writers on the antiquities of the county for leaving it till now practically undescribed. For the permission to reproduce the two early photographs of the house and its surroundings, and the one showing it in its present state, I must also thank Mr. George May, photographer, of Walton, who has been long connected with the village.

In the preparation of this paper, I am largely indebted to my father, Mr. William Stebbing, of Frith Park, for his advice and literary criticism. Grateful acknowledgment must also be tendered to Mr. P. M. Johnston, F.S.A. Mr. H. E. Malden I thank for his invariable kindness and invaluable help, especially in the part dealing with the manorial history.