

## MANORIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY OF BLETCHINGLEY.

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**B**LETCHINGLEY is a considerable parish in the hundred of Tandridge, and contains 5,503 acres. It formerly included the parish of Horne, which contains 4,404 acres. The population in 1861 was 1,691; now 1,916.

The earliest mention we find of it is in Domesday Book, at which time the manor of Civentone was the superior manor, being rated at double the number of hides to Bletchingley. The Survey says:—

“Richard [de Tonbridge] holds Civentone. Alnod held it of King Edward [*i. e.* the Confessor]. It was then rated for 20 Hides [2,000 acres]; now for 6. The arable land is 12 Carrucates. The wood yields 12 lean and fat hogs; 16 acres of meadow. In the time of King Edward it was worth £11, and afterwards £6; now £10.

“The same Richard holds Blachingelei. Alfech and Alwin and Elnod held it of King Edward; then it was rated for 10 hides [1,000 acres]; now for 3 [300]. The arable land is 16 carucates. There were 3 manors, now there is 1. The wood yields 40 fat and 18 lean hogs. The whole manor, temp. Edward, was worth £13, afterwards £8. Now what Richard holds is worth £12; what his men hold, 73s. 4d.”

Taylor<sup>1</sup> refers the origin of the name to the tribe or family of the Blæcings, and cites Bletchington in Oxford-

<sup>1</sup> *Words and Places*, Appendix, p. 500.

shire, and Blöchingen in Germany, as derived from the same source. To these may be added Bleccingden in Kent, mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon charters,<sup>1</sup> and Blachingdon in Sussex, both being in neighbouring counties.

Civentune, now Chivington, which has long ceased to be a separate manor, still retains the name. It is a farm of about 70 acres, lying south of the road between Bletchingley and Godstone. The derivation of the name is probably to be referred to the tribe of the Cifings, from whom Chevington in Suffolk and Chevigne, Chevincourt, &c., in France, are supposed to be derived.<sup>2</sup>

The manor at the time of the Conquest formed, as we have seen, part of the possessions of Richard de Tonbridge. This Richard Fitzgilbert, alias de Tonbridge and de Clare, was one of the Norman warriors who aided Duke William in the conquest of England. He was the son of Gilbert Crispin, Earl of Brionne, who was son of Jeffrey, natural son of Richard I. Duke of Normandy, great-grandfather to the Conqueror. His mother was Harlotte, mother also of the Conqueror, to whom, therefore, he was half-brother by his mother, and second cousin by his father. He went by the name of Richard Fitz Gilbert at the time of the Conquest. The first place of his residence in England was Benefield, in the county of Northampton.<sup>3</sup> After obtaining the town and castle of Tonbridge of the Archbishop of Canterbury in exchange for Brionne, he assumed the name of Richard de Tonbridge. His descendants were known by the surname of Clare; the manor of Clare, in Suffolk, being part of his possessions. He together with William de Warrenne was left justiciary of the realm during William the Conqueror's absence in Normandy. Besides large possessions in other counties, he had the following manors in Surrey:—Civington and Bletchingley, Chelsham, Tandridge,

<sup>1</sup> *Codex Diplomat. Anglo-Saxonum*, Cart. 288.

<sup>2</sup> *Words and Places*, Appendix, p. 501.

<sup>3</sup> Manning, *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. i. p. 2, xix., incorrectly states that it was from Benefield that he was styled Richard de Benefacta; it was from Bienfaite, in Normandy, as has been pointed out by C. Spencer Perceval, Esq., F.S.A., *Surrey Arch. Collections*, vol. v. Pt. I. 54.

Tillingdown, Titsey, Farley, Warlingham, Chipstede, Beddington, Walton, Mitcham, Ditton, Maldon, Tooting, Epsom, Molesham, Stoke Abernon, Betchworth, Effingham, Bookham, Ockley, and Banstead, — a very fair share in one county of the spoil which was allotted to William the Conqueror's soldiers. He was slain in Wales about the year 1100.

From him the manor descended to his son Gilbert, who married Adeliza, daughter of the Earl of Clermont. He in turn was succeeded by his son Richard, Earl of Clare and Hertford, who married Alice, sister of Ranulph, Earl of Chester, and died in 1139. Gilbert de Clare, his eldest son, dying unmarried in 1151, his estates passed to his brother Roger, Earl of Clare and Hertford, who married Maud, daughter of James de Hilary, and died in 1173. His son Richard, Earl of Clare and Hertford, married Amicia, daughter and co-heiress of William, Earl of Gloucester, and died in 1206. Gilbert de Clare, his son, was one of the signatories of Magna Charta. He married Isabel, daughter and co-heiress of the great William Maréchal, Earl of Pembroke. Upon his death in 1230, the manor of Bletchingley came to his son Richard, who married, 1st, Margaret, daughter of Hubert de Burg, Earl of Kent, from whom he was divorced; and 2nd, Maud, daughter of John Lacy, Earl of Lincoln. He died in 1262.

Gilbert de Clare, his son, surnamed the Red, is associated with the history of Bletchingley. He was a person of great consideration at that time, and increased his influence by his alliances. He was first married to Alice, sister to William Valence, Earl of Pembroke, and secondly, to Joan d'Acres, daughter of King Edward I. In 1264 he joined Simon de Montfort and the rest of the barons then in arms against the King, and commanded the second division at the battle of Lewes, on 14th May, 1264, in which the barons were victorious. It was on this occasion, so Manning<sup>1</sup> tells us, that the castle of Bletchingley was demolished. The garrison of

<sup>1</sup> Manning, *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. ii. p. 305.

Tonbridge Castle, which was in the King's hands, sallied out on the Londoners, who had been defeated by Prince Edward and were retreating towards Croydon, and on their way demolished the castle. Shortly after this Earl Gilbert became disgusted with Simon de Montfort (not having received, as he considered, his due share of the plunder), and joined with Roger de Mortimer in concerting Prince Edward's escape. Having effected this, he was the first to take up arms in his behalf, and had the command of the second brigade at the battle of Evesham, where the barons were entirely defeated. In 1267, however, we find him inciting the Londoners to rebellion, and Prince Edward marching with 30,000 men to suppress it. So great was his influence, that he escaped with impunity, and was only obliged to enter into a bond of 20,000 marks never again to be guilty of rebellion. He was too dangerous a subject to leave behind in England, and in 1270, when Prince Edward went on a crusade to the Holy Land, he insisted on taking him with him.

He was divorced from his first wife in 1285, and on his marriage with Joan of Acres he had to give up the possession of all his castles and manors to the King, among which the castle and manor of Bletchingley is included. On the 13th of April, on his marriage, the King restored him his estates, and they were settled on the issue of the body of Joan. He died in December, 1295, leaving Gilbert his son and heir, then five years of age. The Princess survived him, and died in 1307, seized of this manor. He had obtained a grant of a fair at Bletchingley for three days, on the eve, feast, and morrow of All Saints.<sup>1</sup> Gilbert, the son, had livery of this and his other estates in 1307. He married Maud, daughter of John de Burgh, son of Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster. He commanded the left wing of the cavalry at the battle of Bannockburn, where he was slain, and, leaving no issue, the estates were divided among his three sisters.

After the death of Maud, his widow, in 1318, Bletch-

<sup>1</sup> Cart. 11 Edw. I., M. 9. See Appendix I.

ingley and other estates in this county fell to the share of Margaret, the younger sister, who had married, first, Piers de Gaveston, and secondly, Hugh de Audley, Earl of Gloucester. They had only one daughter, Margaret, who carried this estate in marriage to Ralph, Earl of Stafford. He was distinguished in the wars of Edward III., took part in the victory of Cressy, was a K.G., and in 1351 created Earl of Stafford. He died in 1372, and was succeeded by his son Hugh, also a great warrior. He went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and died at Rhodes, 26th September, 1387.

Thomas, his second son, succeeded him, and married Anne, daughter of Thomas Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester; but leaving no issue, the manor of Bletchingley came to William, his brother, who died in 1396, and from him to his brother Edmund. Edmund married Anne, his brother Thomas's betrothed wife, by special license from the king. He was slain at the battle of Shrewsbury, 22nd July, 1403, leaving Humphrey, his son and heir, then three years old.

This Humphrey, in 1422, made proof of his age and had livery of all his lands. He was engaged in the wars in France, and in 1445 was created Duke of Buckingham. He was slain at the battle of Northampton in 1460, fighting for Henry VI. His son Hugh had been previously slain at the battle of St. Alban's, on 22nd May, 1456. The manor then descended to Henry, Duke of Buckingham, the grandson of Hugh, who took an active part in promoting the usurpation of Richard, Duke of Gloucester; but soon after, having incited a rebellion in Wales, he was captured at Shrewsbury, beheaded, and attainted in 1483.<sup>1</sup> His son and successor Edward Duke of Buckingham, K.G., and Lord High Constable of England, had livery of his lands in 1500. He was the first of the many illustrious victims in the reign of Henry VIII. He was arrested on the charge of high treason, and on 13th May, 1521, was tried before his peers at Westminster Hall, the Duke of

<sup>1</sup> The Act of Attainder was passed subsequent to his execution.

Norfolk presiding as Lord High Steward. After his condemnation, he addressed the Lord High Steward, and concluded his speech thus:—"My Lord of Norfolk, you have said as a traitor should be said unto; but I was never one: yet, my Lords, I nothing malign you for what you have now done to me, and may the Eternal God forgive you my death as I do. I shall never sue to the King for life, howbeit he is a gracious prince. I beseech you, my Lords, and all my fellows to pray for me." On his way back to the Tower in a barge, he remarked to Sir Thomas Lovell, "When I came to Westminster I was Lord High Constable and Duke of Buckingham, but now poor Edward Bohun."

*Sir Nich. Vaux.* Prepare there,  
The duke is coming: see, the barge be ready;  
And fit it with such furniture, as suits  
The greatness of his person.

*Buckingham.* Nay, Sir Nicholas,  
Let it alone; my state now will but mock me.  
When I came hither, I was Lord High Constable,  
And Duke of Buckingham; now, poor Edward Bohun:  
Yet I am richer than my base accusers,  
That never knew what truth meant: I now seal it;  
And with that blood will one day make them groan for't.<sup>1</sup>

On the 17th May following he was beheaded on Tower Hill amid the tears of the populace, with whom he was a great favourite. And with him sank for ever the splendour and great wealth of the ancient family of the Staffords.<sup>2</sup>

The manor of Bletchingley thus became forfeited to the Crown, and in 1523 Henry VIII. granted to Sir Nicholas Carew, of Beddington, and Elizabeth his wife, the manor of Bletchingley, with the advowson. This Sir Nicholas Carew was Master of the Horse and a K.G. In 1539 he was charged with being engaged in a conspiracy with the Marquis of Exeter and others to set Cardinal Pole on the throne. He was in consequence beheaded on Tower Hill, 3rd March, 1539,

<sup>1</sup> Shakespeare, *King Henry VIII.*, Act II., Scene I.

<sup>2</sup> Jesse, *Memorials of London*, vol. ii. pp. 338-340.

where he made, says Hollinshed, "a goodly confession both of his fault and superstitious faith." He was a zealous Papist. He was buried in St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate Street, and the manor of Bletchingley once more became forfeited to the Crown.

In 1541, Henry VIII. settled it on his late wife, Anne of Cleves, for life, if she should so long remain in the kingdom. I find among the Loseley MSS., two receipts from Anne of Cleves, signed by herself, to Sir Thomas Cawarden for rents of the manor. She signs herself "Anne the dowghter of Cleves." Her residence at Bletchingley seems to have attracted several Dutchmen thither. We find one or two proper names in the Register; *e.g.* Lybert (Lieb. hart); and in a list for the lay subsidies,<sup>1</sup> 15 Henry VIII., we find among the names,—Jacob; Williams, Doucheman; Gerard Ramespeny, doucheman; Henry Aronold, Robt. Barnard, Petrus Hannan, Tysse Harrison, alyons, viz. douchemen; and in 32 Henry VIII., Rd. Freend, Robt. Maynard, John Brand, Henr. Kyng, John Bravagon, Vyctor Ambrose, all styled alyons.

Anne of Cleves died in 1557, and Sir Thomas Cawarden, who in 1545 had had a grant of the manor of Hextalls in Bletchingley, together with Squerryes in Westerham, and the Collegiate Church of Lingfield, and who seems to have farmed the manor during the lifetime of Anne of Cleves, became possessed of it. It would be impossible in a paper of this length to give anything like an adequate account of Sir Thomas Cawarden, and I can only glance very briefly at some of the most interesting papers relating to him among the Loseley MSS.<sup>2</sup> He was descended from Sir John Cawarden,<sup>3</sup> member of an ancient Cheshire family, taking their name from the lordship of Cawarden, near Malpas, in that county, who married Elizabeth, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir Robert Malvesyn, of Mavesyn

<sup>1</sup> *Exchequer Lay Subsidies, Surrey*, 1 $\frac{8}{8}$  $\frac{4}{3}$ , 32 Hen. VIII.

<sup>2</sup> Many of them are printed in Kempe's *Loseley Manuscripts*.

<sup>3</sup> See Shaw's *Staffordshire*, vol. i. p. 180, *et seq.*

Ridware, co. Stafford. He was a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Henry VIII., Master of the Revels, and Keeper of the King's tents, haies, and toyles.<sup>1</sup> He was knighted at the siege of Boulogne in 1544, when he quartered the arms of Malvesyn, three bendiets, on his banner. He was strongly attached to the Reformed religion and in high favour with Henry VIII., whom, with his queen, Anne Boleyn, he is said to have entertained at Bletchingley. He was Sheriff of Surrey 1547, M.P. for Bletchingley in 1542 and 1547, and Knight of the Shire in 1552 and 1558. He was also one of the Commissioners to inquire into chantries. On the accession of Queen Mary, his position at the court was considerably altered. He was accused of being implicated in Wyatt's rebellion, and it was on this occasion that his armour and munitions of war at Bletchingley Castle were seized by Sir Thomas Saunders, Sheriff of Surrey, and carried off to the Tower of London. The very large stores found there gave colour to the supposition. In his petition for a redress of his grievances,<sup>2</sup> he states, "That on xxv. Jan. 1 Mary he was lawfully possessed at Bletchingley of and in certain horses with furnyture armure artillarie and munitions for the warres and divers other goodes to the value of £2000 and that upon certain mooste untrue surmises brutes and Rumers raisid and spread against him was brought into divers and sundrie vexations and troubles during which time one Sir Thomas Saunders Knight and William Saunders of Ewell on pretence of comande did take into their hands and possession the said armure and eight of his said great horses and did convey the same in 17 great waynes thoroughly loaden and at the same time spent no small quantity of his corne haye and strawe and had only restored 4 loades and of the said 8 great horse oon of the best the iii<sup>rd</sup> day after died. And the rest are in

<sup>1</sup> The haies were temporary sheds of timber-work, used as stables, or for other purposes. The toyles were enclosures, into which game was driven.—Kempe's *Loseley Manuscripts*, p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> MSS. at Loseley.

so evil plite and lykyng and were never since otherwise liable to serve in the carte to his great hindrance and undoing."

He died in 1559, and by his will, dated August in that year, he appointed William More, of Loseley, his executor; and hence it is that among the Loseley MSS. are so many connected with him.<sup>1</sup>

He desired by his will to be buried in the Church of Blechinghlygh, and bequeathed fifteene poundes to the poor of that parish and of Horne, and fyve poundes to the parish of Katherham. Lady Cawarden died on the 25th February following, and upon an inquisition taken 11th March, 1560, it was found that he and his wife died seized of the manor, and that William, son of his brother Anthony Cawarden, was his son and heir, aged 27.

This William Cawarden had license in July, 1560, to alienate the manor to William Lord Howard, of Effingham, and Margaret his wife, and on the 29th of September following he was buried here.

William Lord Howard was the eldest son of Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, by Agnes, daughter of Sir Philip Sidney, his second wife. In 1553 he was created Baron Howard of Effingham. He was Lord High Admiral of England, Lord Chamberlain, Lord Privy Seal, K.G., and a Privy Councillor. In 33 Henry VIII., he was sent ambassador to France, and lodged in the Tower on his return, owing, it was said, to the quarrel which was then going on between Henry VIII. and Catherine Howard, his wife, who was niece of Lord Effingham. He died at Hampton Court, 12th January, 1572, and was buried at Reigate, where he had constantly resided. In the Parish Register of Reigate is the following entry:—

"Janewarye An<sup>o</sup> 1572 the xi daie being Sondaie in y<sup>e</sup> breckeing of daie Dyid or deptyd y<sup>e</sup> right honorabell

<sup>1</sup> The extracts which J. More Molyneux, Esq., of Loseley, kindly allowed me to make from them, I have printed in the Appendix.

Lorde y<sup>e</sup> Lorde Wyllia' Howarde and Lord Prevy Sealle and was buryid the xxix Daie of this same moneth of Janewarye on whose soulle God have mercy Amen."

Upon his death, his widow had the manor for her life, after which it came to

*Charles Lord Howard*, their eldest son, who was a very distinguished man. He was Lord High Admiral of England, Lord Chamberlain, K.G., and a Privy Councillor, and defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588. He also in the same year sacked Cadiz. On the 22nd October, 1588, he was created Earl of Nottingham. The last public office in which he was engaged, was in a mission to Spain. In 1618 he resigned the office of Lord High Admiral, and retired from public life, and the rest of his life, we are told, was peace and prayer. He died at Haling, near Croydon, in 1627, at the advanced age of 88. He was buried at Reigate, where there is an inscription on his coffin-plate, but no other memorial to him. Fuller<sup>1</sup> says he kept seven standing houses at the same time, one of them being at Bletchingley.

*William Lord Howard*, his eldest son, died of consumption in the lifetime of his father. His father had made over to him the manor of Bletchingley. Among the Court Rolls is preserved a letter from him, addressed to his "lovinge Tennants of his Manor of Bletchingley," begging them to approve a grant of five or six acres of land part of the waste of Hourne that he had granted to one Henry Jeffrey, "a man of honest and good condicōn who had attended his father at Cadez, to erect a tenement for his own habitaçon. From Reygate the xvii June 1602. Yr. Landlorde and very frende. W. Howard." Signed by himself,—the seal gone. There are also numerous letters of his among the Loseley MSS. He was with his father at Cadiz, and took part in the defeat of the Spanish Armada. By Anne his wife, daughter and sole heir of John Lord St. John, of

<sup>1</sup> *Worthies of England*—Surrey, p. 84.

Bletsoe, he left an only daughter, Elizabeth, who was twelve years of age at his death in 1617.

Anne, his widow, had the manor of Bletchingley until her death in 1638, after which it came to her daughter Elizabeth.

She was one of the greatest heiresses of the day. Halstead,<sup>1</sup> in his *Genealogies*, tells us that "she was a lady of extraordinary beauty, and before she was married the hopes and expectations of every one that was great and considerable in England." She eventually married a kinsman of her mother's, John Lord Mordaunt, of the ancient family of the Mordaunts, Lords of Turvey. He was created Earl of Peterborough 9th March, 1628, was a general of the Ordnance, and colonel of foot in the service of the Parliament in 1642, but died of consumption in that year.

This Elizabeth Lady Peterborough, owing, as is said, to some affront that she had received at court, espoused very warmly the cause of the Parliament. She was a very strong adherent of that party, and quarrelled with her son Henry for engaging in the royal cause, and endeavoured to alienate the estates from him in consequence. She was a lady of much wit and high spirit, a great friend and patron of Archbishop Usher, who died in her house at Reigate Priory on 21st March, 1655. At the time of the Restoration she retired to her house at Lowick, in Northants, where she died, cir. 1671. Her will was proved on November 30th of that year.

Henry Earl of Peterborough, who succeeded upon his mother's death, was educated at Eton, and sent early to France. In 1643 his father gave him a troop of horse under the Earl of Essex, but he managed to escape from Henley, and joined the king at Reading. He distinguished himself on the side of the Royalists at the siege of Oxford. In 1673 he was sent as ambassador to the court of Modena to negotiate a marriage between Mary, daughter of Duke Alphonso II., and James Duke of

<sup>1</sup> Halstead's *Succinct Genealogies*, Brit. Mus., compiled by Henry Earl of Peterborough.

York, and brought her over to England. After the accession of James, he was appointed Groom of the Stole and Lord of the Bedchamber, and elected Knight of the Garter. On October 28th, 1689, the Commons resolved that he should be impeached for becoming a Roman Catholic, and he was fined £10,000. By his wife, Penelope O'Brien, only daughter of Barnaby, Earl of Thomond, he had one daughter, Mary, who married Henry Howard, Duke of Norfolk. In 1677 an Act of Parliament was passed vesting the manor of Bletchingley and other estates in trustees upon trust to sell; in consequence of which this manor was conveyed, June, 1677, to Sir Robert Clayton and John Morris, his partner. July 3rd, 1677, Evelyn writes, in his diary,<sup>1</sup> "I sealed the deedes of sale of the Mannor of Blechinglee to Sir R. Clayton for payment of L<sup>d</sup> Peterboro's debts according to the trust of the Act of Parliament." This Sir Robert Clayton was a native of Bulwick, in Northants, and son of a yeoman in that place. The name is variously spelt Cleton, Cleaton, and Clayton, and is still retained in Cleaton's Closes, in the parish of Bulwick. Among the Loseley MSS. I found a signature of his of the date of 15th July, 1648, "Rob<sup>t</sup>. Cleton." He was sent at an early age to London, and apprenticed to his uncle Robert Abbot, a scrivener, whose fortune he ultimately inherited, and became one of the wealthiest and most eminent citizens of the time. He was Sheriff of London in 1672, and Lord Mayor in 1679. He kept his shrievalty with great magnificence. Evelyn<sup>2</sup> relates that on 26th September, 1672, "he dined at Sir Robert Clayton's, Sheriff of London, at his new house in the Old Jewry, where he had a great feaste. It is built indeed for a great Magistrate at excessive cost. The cedar dining roome is painted with the historie of the Gyants War, incomparably done by Mr. Streeter." Evelyn relates again,<sup>3</sup> 8th November, 1679, "I dined at my Lord Maior's Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> Clayton, being desired by the Countesse of Sunder-

<sup>1</sup> Evelyn's *Memoirs*, vol. ii. p. 425.      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. ii. pp. 374-5.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. iii. pp. 17, 18.

land to carry her thither on a solemn day that she might see the pomp and ceremonies of this prince of citizens, ther never having been any who for great stateliness of his palace, prodigious feasting and magnificence exceeded him. He was a discretee Magistrate, and tho' envied, I think without much cause."

He purchased Marden, the family seat at Godstone, from Sir John Evelyn; and from a despicable farm-house, says Evelyn,<sup>1</sup> he erected it into a seat at extraordinary expense.

He represented the City in Parliament in the two last Parliaments of Charles II., and was M.P. for Bletchingley in 1690, 1698, and 1702. He was a strong Whig, and was very active in the Exclusion Bill, and all measures of opposition, and became, in consequence, very obnoxious to the court. It is said that he was doomed to have been sacrificed with Lord Russell, but escaped by the exertion of Lord Chancellor Jeffries, who had been much indebted to him, and whom he had assisted in getting the Recordership of London. Sir Robert is satirized by Dryden as Ishban in his "Absolom and Achitophel:"<sup>2</sup>—

" Amongst these extorting Ishban first appears  
Pursued by a meagre troop of bankrupt heirs.  
Blest times when Ishban, he whose occupation  
So long has been to cheat, reforms the nation.  
Ishban of conscience suited to his trade,  
As good a saint as usurer ever made.  
That year in which the City he did sway  
He left rebellion in a hopeful way.  
Yet his ambition once was found so bold  
To offer talents of extorted gold  
(Could David's wants have been so bribed) to shame  
And scandalize our peerage with his name,  
For which his dear sedition he'd forswear,  
And e'en live loyal to be made a peer."

This is in allusion to the story that he wished to purchase a peerage.

<sup>1</sup> Evelyn's *Memoirs*, vol. ii. p. 434.

<sup>2</sup> Part II. line 280, *et seq.*

He left a large sum of money to found the Mathematical School in Christ's Hospital. He died in July, 1706, and, leaving no children, the manor of Bletchingley and his other estates descended to his nephew William.

William Clayton, the son of William Clayton of Hambleton, Bucks, was created a baronet on 18th January, 1732, and died 28th September, 1744. He was M.P. for the borough in 1715, and continued to represent it till his death. He married Martha, daughter of John Kenrick, of Flore, in Godstone. He was succeeded by his son Sir Kenrick Clayton, who was elected for Bletchingley in 1734, and continued to represent it till his death on 10th March, 1769.

Sir Robert, his only son and heir, succeeded him, and in August, 1788, sold the reversion of the manor and borough of Bletchingley to his relative John Kenrick, who, upon his death, in September, 1799, became possessed of it. It remained in the hands of the Kenrick family until 1816, when it was sold to Matthew Russell, Esq., and upon his decease in 1835 it passed to the Perkins family.

### THE "MANOR HOUSE."

The Manor House, or Bletchingley Place, as it was called, stood near the road called Brewer Street. It was a house of considerable size and importance, and was the residence successively of the lords of the manor. Aubrey<sup>1</sup> mentions it as standing in 1673. It was pulled down in 1680, as appears by the following entry in the Court Rolls:—"The Homage present that the Manor or Capitall house of the Mannor was lately pulled down by Henry Earl of Peterboro' late owner thereof and that there remains only now standing the Gatehowse of the said Capitall Messuage and severall barnes stable and buildings lying on each hand the Court leading to the said Gatehowse and that the said Court Yard Gardens and

<sup>1</sup> Aubrey's *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. iii. p. 8.

Orchards belonging to the Gatehouse are inclosed with walls hedges and pales containing 7 acres and are now in the tenure of Stephen Stone." This gatehouse was visited by the members of the SURREY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY in August, 1870; and it is to be hoped that Charles Baily, Esq., who undertook to describe it on that occasion, will favour the Society with drawings and an account of this very interesting timber house. The building, as it appears now, has been in some respects altered from its original design. It extended further southwards, and had no second gable. After the Rev. C. Fox Chawner, the rector, purchased it, he pulled down a portion of it, and built the southern gable-end to correspond with the north. The foundations of the principal house may be traced in the meadow at the back.

#### THE CASTLE.

The Castle stood at the western end of the town, on a ridge of the sand-hill overlooking the Weald. Aubrey<sup>1</sup> mentions that in 1673 some ruins of it were visible. "This Castle," he says, "was heretofore a stately Fabrick and pleasantly situated, but shews only now one piece of wall of five foot thick." Manning<sup>2</sup> gives a ground-plan of the supposed form of it. The line of the inner and outer mote can be seen very clearly, and recent excavations have exposed a considerable length of one of the walls, together with the foundation of one of the towers and one of the loophole openings. In the hands of the present owner, who takes much interest in it, it is to be hoped that the excavation may be continued, and thereby the original plan of the building be ascertained. Tradition says that it was demolished in the Barons' wars, when the forces of King Henry III., under Prince Edward, routed the Londoners at Lewes, and pursued them to Croydon. It was afterwards wholly or in part rebuilt; but when it ceased to be occupied or was pulled down

<sup>1</sup> Aubrey's *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. iii. p. 73.

<sup>2</sup> *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. ii. p. 303.

we have no record. It belonged at one time to the Cholmeley family, from whom it passed to the Gaynesfords of Crowhurst, and from them to the Drakes.

### STANGRAVE.

This, which is now called the Ivy House, and lies south of the road leading from Godstone to Bletchingley, was formerly a manor, and had a mansion-house of considerable importance. In 35 Henry III. we find a family taking their name from the place. By a fine<sup>1</sup> of that date, Joan de Stangrave conveys to Robert Cotum, of Bletchingley, and Mabil his wife, three burgages and thirteen acres of land in Bletchingley. In an Assize Roll<sup>2</sup> of 43 Henry III. I find a John de Stangrave the marshal of the Earl of Gloucester; and the same person one of the witnesses to a deed<sup>3</sup> without date, but of the time of Henry III. By a deed<sup>4</sup> dated Palm Sunday, 32 Edw. I., Sir Robert de Stangrave, Kt., son of John de Stangrave, conveys to Walter de Coddestone all his land called Stangravesdoune, in Bletchingley. In 1326 Sir Robert de Stangrave, Kt., possibly the son of the foregoing, had license for an oratory at his manor of Stangrave in Bletchingley, and in 1331 he had a renewal of it for two years.<sup>5</sup> In 5 Edw. III.<sup>6</sup> we find Hugh de Audley and Margaret his wife conveying to Sir Robert de Stangrave and Joan his wife 6s. 8d. rent in Bletchingley, and in 18 Edw. III.<sup>7</sup> Giles atte Ware and Margery his wife convey to Sir Robert and Joan two marcs rent in Bletchingley and Caterham. He died in 1361, and by the inquisition taken upon his death it appeared that he died seized, amongst other lands, of certain tenements at Stangrave, value 40s. per annum, his wife Idonea or Joan

<sup>1</sup> *Pedes Finium Surrey*, 35 Hen. III. No. 397.

<sup>2</sup> *Queen's Bench Assize Roll, Surrey*, m. 4 dors.

<sup>3</sup> Deed in possession of C. H. Master, Esq., of Barrow Green.

<sup>4</sup> *Campbell Charters*, Brit. Mus., xvi. No. 14.

<sup>5</sup> *Register, Stratford, Winchester*, 16a and 64a.

<sup>6</sup> *Pedes Finium Surr.*, 5 Edw. III., No. 50.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 18 Edw. III., No. 59.

surviving, and that Sir John Breton was his cousin and heir, and of the age of 40 years.<sup>1</sup>

In 1580 Stangrave passed into the hands of the Beechers of Chiddingstone, in Kent, by the marriage of Richard Beecher with Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Baber, of Bletchingley. It remained in their possession until 1676, when it came to Thomas Northey, citizen and apothecary, of London, by marriage with Mary, daughter and heiress of Richard Beecher. The old house was pulled down by one of the Northeys in 1740, and the present one built. One or two old yew-trees are all that remain to bear witness to the antiquity of the site.

### HEXTALLS, OR NORTH PARK.

Aubrey says that this was formerly a manor, and that the old house stood on the top of the hill. A family of the name of Hexstall resided here, temp. Edw. IV., and gave their name to the place. William Hexstall, Esq., Thomas Hexstall, and Henry Hexstall, are mentioned in a deed of 7th March, 2 Edw. IV.<sup>2</sup> There is a tradition that the Duke of Buckingham was arrested by a royal precept in one of the galleries here, temp. Henry VIII.<sup>3</sup> There is now a farm-house of the name of North Park, which bears no traces of antiquity; the old house, according to Aubrey, stood on the top of the hill.<sup>4</sup>

On a presentment on the Court Rolls in 1680, the following account is given of North Park and South Park:—“The Homage present that the demesnes did heretofore consist of 2 Parkes the little Parke and Great Parke now called North and South Parke but are and have been for many years disparted and laid into several Farms.”—North Park, of which a plan is given, contained 1,135 acres and 22 perches; South Park, 1,681 acres, 28 perches. The names are still retained in two farms in the parish, but the boundaries are lost.

<sup>1</sup> *Escaet.* 34 Edw. III., No. 49.

<sup>2</sup> Deed in possession of C. H. Master, Esq.

<sup>3</sup> Aubrey, *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. iii. p. 87.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. iii. p. 81.

## GARSTON.

This was formerly a manor. In the time of King John or Henry III., William, son of Eustace de Garston, granted land there to Hugh, son of Asketun del Chivintun, reserving a rent of 5*d.* One of the witnesses to this deed is Arnold de Garston. This William granted to Adam le Butteler a virgate of land in Tanrige in marriage with Agnes, his daughter.<sup>1</sup> I find William de Garston and Adam de Garston witnesses to two deeds without date, probably temp. Henry III., and John de Garston and Juel de Garston to two others of the same time; the name of John de la Garston occurring twice again as a witness.<sup>2</sup> By a fine dated Sunday next after the Purification, 13 Henry III., William de Garston conveys two hides and a half of land in Bletchingley to the prior and church of Roncester.<sup>3</sup> Philip de Garston appears in an Assize Roll of 43 Henry III.<sup>4</sup> In 45 Henry III.,<sup>5</sup> John de la Garston and Matilda de la Garston are parties to a fine of lands in Bletchingley and Wolknested (al. Godstone). In 53 Hen. III., John Haselwode, rector of Colesdon, released lands there to Joel de Garston and Philippa his wife, who levied a fine in that year, and conveyed to Roger de Horne and Maud his wife; witnesses to this deed, J. de la Garston and others. In 56 Henry III.,<sup>6</sup> John de la Garston, son and heir of William de la Garston, recovers against William del Molyn a messuage, nine acres of land, and three acres of marsh in Bletchingley.<sup>7</sup> In 31 Edward I., Roger de la Garston and Sarra his wife, and Reginald de la Garston, are parties to a fine of a messuage, two mills, 124 acres of land, 9 acres of meadow, 60 acres of wood, 8*s.* 2½*d.* rent, and two pounds of cinnamon, in Bletchingley and

<sup>1</sup> *Harl. MSS.*, Brit. Mus., 4786.

<sup>2</sup> Deeds in possession of C. H. Master, Esq.

<sup>3</sup> *Common Pleas, Pedes Fin. Surr.*, 13 Hen. III., No. 115.

<sup>4</sup> *Queen's Bench Assize Roll*, Hundred of Reigate, m. 4 dors.

<sup>5</sup> *Pedes Finium Surr.*, 45 Hen. III., m. 54.

<sup>6</sup> *Queen's Bench Plac. de Jur. et Ass.*, 56 Hen. III., m. 13.

<sup>7</sup> *Pedes Fin. Surr.*, 31 Edw. I., m. 101.

Wolknested. Roger atte Garston appears as witness to a deed of 5 Edward II.<sup>1</sup> In 33 Edward III.<sup>2</sup> Roger atte Garstone, son of John atte Garstone, granted to William de Burton, citizen and goldsmith of London, his rights in lands in Bletchingley. The manor subsequently came into the possession of the Priory of Tandridge; John Forster, the Prior, held a court there in 1505. It was granted at the dissolution, together with the Priory of Tandridge, to John Rede, and from him it passed to the Hawards. Among the Royalist Composition Papers<sup>3</sup> is a "true and full particuler of the estate reall and personall of Sir William Haward, of Tandridge, Kt.," for which he desires to compound; and he is stated to be seized of an estate to him and his heirs in reversion, after the decease of Elizabeth, his mother, of and in the manor of Garston in Bletchingley and Godstone, of the the yearly value before the troubles of £80.

#### PENDHILL.

Pendhill Court was built by George Holman about the year 1624, the date being upon one of the leaden pipes. This branch of the Holman family were settled at Godstone. They were originally from Dorsetshire, and one of their ancestors, Sir John Holman, is said to have been standard-bearer to Sir William Russell at the battle of Bosworth. George Holman died in 1625. In his will,<sup>4</sup> dated 16th June, 1621, he mentions his wife Suzan and his sons Robert and Jeffrey, and leaves £6. 13s. 4d. to the relief of the poor of Bletchingley. He was succeeded by his son Robert Holman, who was one of the six members chosen for the county in the Parliament of 1654. He died in 1664, and by his will,<sup>5</sup> dated 12th September, 1661, bequeathed his lands at Bletchingley and elsewhere to his son Theophilus. He succeeded his

<sup>1</sup> Deed in possession of C. H. Master, Esq.

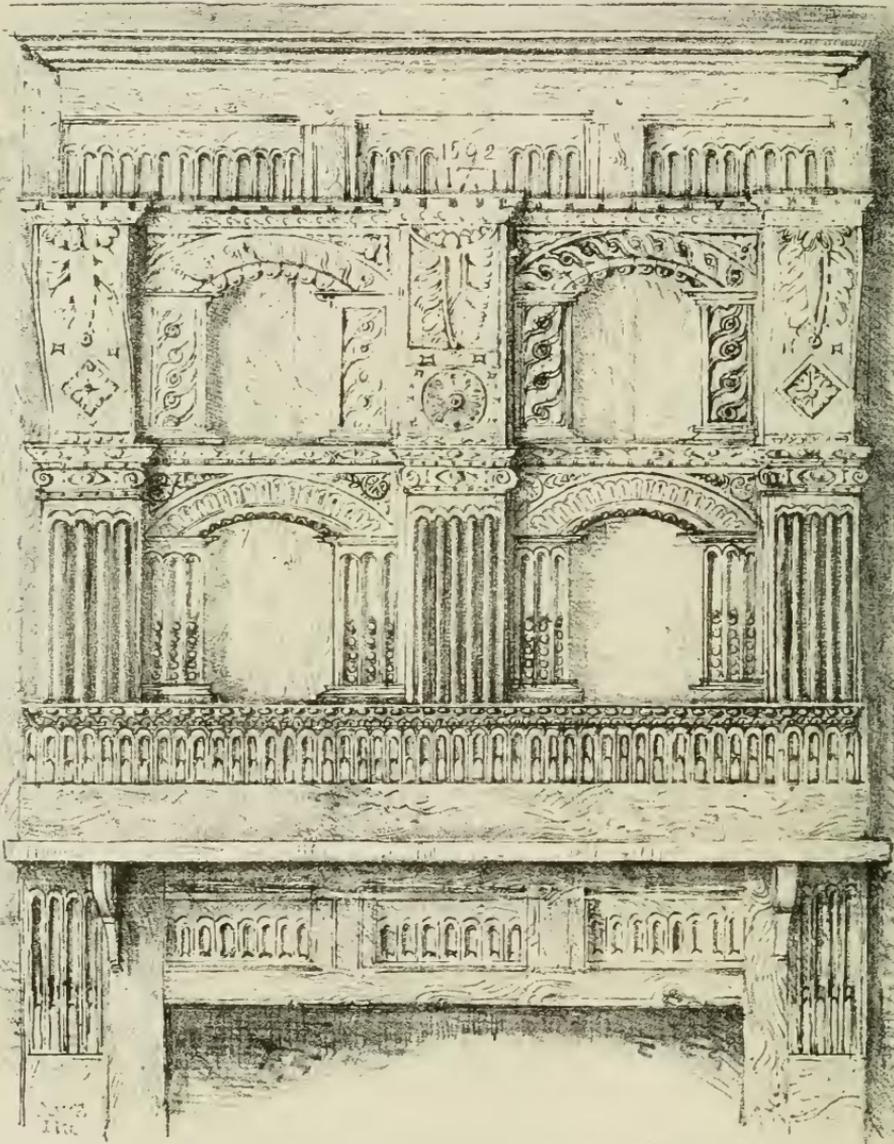
<sup>2</sup> Claus. 33 Edw. III., m. 25.

<sup>3</sup> *Royal Comp. Papers*, 2nd Series, vol. xxiii. p. 74.

<sup>4</sup> *Court of Probate, Doctors' Commons*, 39, Clarke.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*, 111, Bruce.

*Chimney Piece Ham Farm.*



father, and died in 1672, and by his will,<sup>1</sup> dated 22nd March, 1664, devised his estates to his brother George. On the death of the latter in 1686, without issue, the property came to his sister, Mary Seyliard, the wife of Mr. Thomas Seyliard, of Penshurst, Kent. It passed into the hands of the Perkins family about the beginning of the present century. In a window in the hall are the arms of Holman; viz. vert a chevron between three pheons or. Crest on a chapeau az., turned-up ermine, an ostrich-head and neck argent.

Nearly opposite Pendhill is a handsome red-brick house, built, it is said, by Richard Glydd, in 1636, from designs of Inigo Jones. The basement is well worthy of examination, the house being built entirely upon very substantial arches. This Richard Glydd, to whom there is a tablet in the south chancel of the church, was treasurer of Christ's Hospital; he was the father of Richard Glyd, whose son, John Glyd, was a barrister-at-law of Gray's Inn, and one of the members for the borough of Bletchingley, 1 William & Mary. He died without issue, 23rd November, 1689, and by his will,<sup>2</sup> dated 15th November, 1689, he devised his "capitall messuage called Pendhill, and the lands thereto belonging," unto his "loveing mother Mrs. Ann Glyd for the terme of her life, and after her decease to his sister Anne Glyd." There is a tablet to him in the church, with inscription.

#### H A M.

This was formerly a considerable house, with 600 acres of land attached to it; it lies completely separated from the rest of the parish. At the time Manning wrote, the entrance gateway was standing, and over it was a stone with the inscription and date, which is now in the garden, and of which a drawing is here given. Manning<sup>3</sup> mentions that above the gateway was a room which seemed

<sup>1</sup> *Court of Probate, Doctors' Commons*, 135, Eure.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, 71, Dyke.

<sup>3</sup> *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. ii. p. 308.

to have been used as a chapel, the ceiling being coved and painted with stars. This gateway was unfortunately pulled down in 1843. A portion of the original mansion still remains; the entrance-hall has been made into a living-room, and a passage cut off from it; there is still some of the old panelling, and the two fine old oak chimney-pieces are in good preservation. They are engraved here from drawings made for me by Edward Streatfeild, Esq.; the initials are for John Turner. The family of Turner were settled at Ham as early as the time of Richard II. In 15 or 16, and in 20 Richard II., Richard Turnour was one of the members for the borough, and in 43 Elizabeth, John Turner was member. The last of this name, John Turner, died intestate in 1713, leaving his sister Charitee, the wife of Mr. Joseph Cooke, an attorney, his heir; but previously to this the farm had been sold. Among the State Papers, Domestic,<sup>1</sup> dated January 21st, 1637-8, is the following from Edward Harbert, constable of Bletchingley:—

“ Mr. Gylden—I was intreated by the constables and head burroughes of Blechingeley for this p'sent yeare 1630 to cirtifie you in theise p'ticullers followinge first concerninge the warrant sent me by the Shreefe for the levyinge by distresse of Mr. John Turnors assessment for the Kings Maties shipp money for the yeare 1636. I accordingly (as constable of Blechingly) destrayned Mr. Turnors cattell for that money, but beeing forcibly rescued thereof by Thomas Allingham and William Rooker (servants to Mr. Turnor) I returned the same rescew unto youreselfe as you well knowe.

“ Youre lovinge frende,

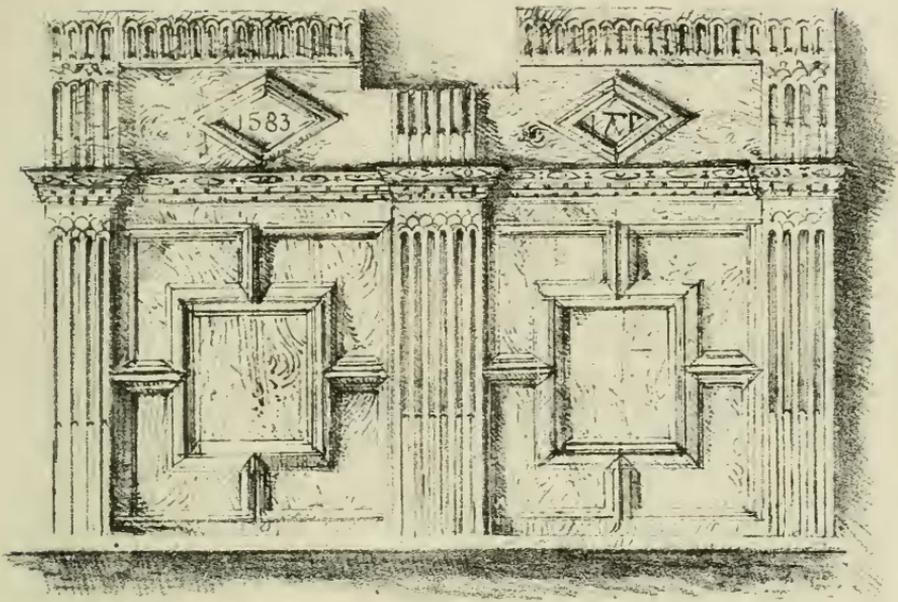
“ the mark of I Edward Harbert.

“ January the 21<sup>t</sup>, 1637.”

(Addressed) “To his good frend Mr. George Gylden of Kyngston there.”

<sup>1</sup> *State Papers, Domestic, Car. I.*, vol. 379, No. 47.

*Chimney Piece, Ham Farm.*



*Stone in Garden Wall, Ham Farm.*



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This is followed by a warrant<sup>1</sup> of Thomas Waterworth, one of the messengers, to fetch up “Jo: Turner of Bletchingley Esq. in Co<sup>m</sup> Surrey Tho. Allingham and William Roake his servantes. Dated the last of Jan. 1637. Signed Lo. Keeper, Lo. Trērōr, Lo. P. Seale, Ea. of Dorset, Lo. Cottington, and Mr. Secret.”

I find a family of de Hamme settled here as early as the time of Henry III. Among the Pleas of Assize<sup>2</sup> of 39 Henry III. is one wherein Hagenild atte Hamie brings a suit against John de la Hale to recover possession of a messuage and 18 acres of land, and an acre and a half of meadow, in Bletchingley, of which her brother, William atte Hamme, and her sisters Alditha and Mabil, had died seized without heirs. In 56 Hen. III.,<sup>3</sup> Reginald de la Hamme, brother and heir of John de la Hamme, grants to John de Hevere and Joan his wife thirty acres of land and two acres of wood in Hamme, and all that tenement in Hamme which his brother John lately held. A John de Hamme, temp. Edward I., married Alicia, one of the five daughters and co-heiresses of Roland de Acstede. By deed, dated 27 Edward I.,<sup>4</sup> Thomasina, one of the daughters of the said Roland, conveyed to John de Hamme and Alice his wife her share in the manor of Oxted. Dated at London, Thursday next after the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. They had no issue; for in 1317 she and her husband had license to alienate their fourth part in the manor of Oxted to trustees, for the purpose of having a reconveyance to themselves for life, with remainder to Clarice de Wellesworth, sister of said Alice, and Roger her son. In 1320 John de Hamme paid 5s. for a relief of his property, and 15s. for a relief of Thomasina's part, which he had purchased. He died before 1326, in which year Alice died, as appears by an inquisition<sup>5</sup> taken upon her death.

<sup>1</sup> *State Papers, Domestic, Car. I*, vol. 380, No. 68.

<sup>2</sup> *Plac. de Jūr. et Ass.*, 39 Hen. III., m. 3 dors.

<sup>3</sup> *Pedes Finium Surr.*, 56 Hen. III., No. 258.

<sup>4</sup> In possession of C. H. Master, Esq.

<sup>5</sup> *Escaet.* 19 Edw. II., No. 50.

## KENTWAYNES, OR THE TAN-HOUSE.

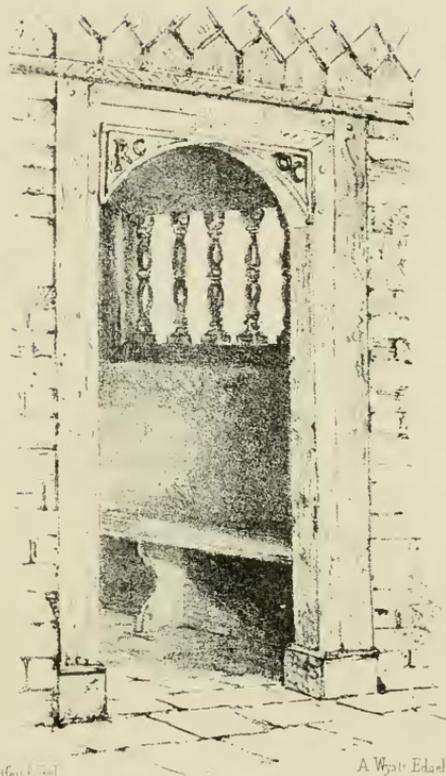
This, which is mentioned by Manning,<sup>1</sup> under Bletchingley, is properly in Nutfield parish. It was the residence of the Cholmley family, who were also possessed of the castle, and were the principal middle-class family in the place. The entries concerning them in the Parish Register are very numerous. The house is now a farm-house, but bears traces of having been at one time a more considerable place. The drawing here given is of the entrance-porch; the initials R. C. and D. C. are for Richard and Dionise Cholmley. Richard Cholmley's will<sup>2</sup> is dated 20th February, 1556, and was proved 16th March, 1558, by Robert Cholmley, his son. "He desires to be buried in the Paryshe Church of Bleachingligh nigh unto Elizabeth which was his wife. He bequeaths to the poor householders of Bleachingligh 6s. 8d., his lands which he purchased of Henry Brampton called Isemongers and Lewistarnes, two crofts called Hollowayes, one meade called Shepardes meade and the Gores, and one parcell of land called the wilde in Bletchingley to his wife Dionise for her life." Other wills of this family in the P. C. C. are those of Henry Cholmeley,<sup>3</sup> citizen and grocer, of London, dated 5th May, 1541, brother of the aforementioned Richard. He bequeaths 6s. 8d. to the poor of Bletchingley, and to his son William his lands there, called Onwyns, which his father, John Cholmeley, gave him, and to his son John his lands there called Machyns, Foxgloves, and the Hilde. And of Katheryn<sup>4</sup> Cholmeley, widow, wife of Henry, dated 19th October, 1556, and proved 25th November following. The male line seems to have become extinct about the middle of the seventeenth century, when the property passed to the Gainsfords, of Crowhurst; John Gainsford, living 1623, having married

<sup>1</sup> Manning, *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. ii. p. 308.

<sup>2</sup> *Court of Probate, Doctors' Commons*, 54, Welles.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 37, Alen.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 23, Kitchen.



H. Streatfeild del.

A. Wyatt Ed. del. lith.

*Porch, Kentwagnes, Nuffield*



A Wyatt Edgell. lth

*Old Gable End, Blitchingley.*



Joan, the daughter of Roger Cholmeley.<sup>1</sup> From the Cholmeleys it came to the Drakes, several of whom are buried in the churchyard.

In the time of Edward III. there was a mansion-house called Daferons, or Saferons, belonging to William de Tudenham, who, on 13th March, 1348-9, had license for his chapel therein, and a renewal of the same on 2nd September, 1354.<sup>2</sup> I have not been able to ascertain the situation of this house. In the Pleas of Assize, 47 Hen. III., the name of Thomas Daverin occurs, and the house was probably called from a family of that name.

The gable-end, of which a drawing is here given, belonged to a house in the village near the church, and is said to have been formerly part of the old inn. It has been pulled down since this drawing was made.

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## PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY.

There is very little to be said about the Parliamentary History. The place first returned members to Parliament in 23 Edward I., 1295. The first two members were Richard de Bodekesham and John de Geyhesham. It is presented on the Court Roll of the manor of 1680, that the burgesses by prescription, time out of mind, have a right to send two burgesses to Parliament. But whether the right of sending such burgesses is by grant or prescription the homage knows not. But that burgesses have been very anciently sent appears by several records kept in the Records of the Tower of London.

The right of election was always considered to be in burgholders resident in the borough. There was some dispute in 21 James I. on the election of Sir Myles Fleet-

<sup>1</sup> For Pedigrees of the Cholmley family, see *Harl. MSS.*, British Museum, 1046; *Vis. of Surr.*, 1623, fol. 37; and *Harl. MSS.*, 1147.

<sup>2</sup> *Register of Winchester*, Edlingdon, ii. 20 b, 31 a.

wood and Mr. Lovell, and a petition was presented to the House against the return of the latter. It was complained that some money had been given on his behalf, and that he had threatened the town to procure the lady of the borough to withdraw a benevolence of fourteen nobles if they chose him not. Dr. Harris, the rector, was complained of for having read a letter from the lady of the borough on behalf of Mr. Lovell in church, and that he had threatened those who would not support Mr. Lovell. He was compelled to appear at the bar of the House, confess his fault on his knees, and ask pardon of the House. And on Sunday he had in the pulpit of the parish church, at the entrance of his sermon, to witness his fault, desiring the love of his neighbours, and promising reformation.<sup>1</sup>

In the list of members appear few of much distinction. They were mostly chosen from the residents or from the neighbouring county families. We find the Evelyns, the Greshams, and the Haywards, at different times members for the borough. After the purchase of the manor by Sir Robert Clayton, it became for some time a pocket borough in the hands of that family. The late Viscount Palmerston, in conjunction with Thomas Hyde Villiers, Esq., were the two last members. They were elected in July, 1831, and represented it till its disfranchisement by the Reform Act in 1832. Until 1733, the elections were held in an old house called the Hall, of which a drawing is still preserved, and which was only pulled down in 1834; at that date they were moved by Sir William Clayton to the White Hart inn; the number of electors had dwindled down to about ten or twelve, although the attendance of non-electors was considerable, in consequence of barrels of beer being served in the street. Mr. Salmon (quoted by Manning)<sup>2</sup> says that it was owing to the great interest of the Earl of Warren that three places so near as Bletchingley,

<sup>1</sup> Oldfield's *Representative History of Great Britain and Ireland*, vol. iv. p. 608, 2nd edit.

<sup>2</sup> Manning, *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. ii. p. 291.

Reigate, and Gatton returned members to Parliament; but this explanation can hardly be the correct one. It must be remembered that, as now the representation of the country has migrated towards the great centres of industry in the North of England; so formerly, for the same reason, it was principally confined to the South. It may be doubted whether the being a representative borough was looked upon as an honour, or whether it was not considered somewhat of a burden from which many places would have been glad to have been relieved. The cost of sending members to Parliament, and keeping them when there, was defrayed by the constituency; and as Parliament followed the king, and was held in the different great towns of England, their expenses for travelling were sometimes considerable. We are informed that in the Middle Ages a knight of the shire received 4*s.* a day, and the burgesses for boroughs 2*s.* a day, paid by special warrant under the Crown, sums equivalent to about ten times as much in the present day. I should rather ascribe the circumstance to the extent<sup>1</sup> and importance of Bletchingley, the existence of the castle and other principal houses, and its proximity to London. A search made for me by a friend in the journals of the House of Commons has thrown no further light on the Parliamentary History of Bletchingley.

In bringing this account of Bletchingley to a close, two things occur forcibly to my mind. First, how, in almost every parish in Surrey the hand of time has swept away all relics of the past, and that, if we would illustrate the former history of any place in this county, it must be by a search into old deeds and records, not by appealing to living witnesses. Of all the old mansions,—and Bletchingley could at one time boast of a large number,—there remains but a portion of the Gatehouse to the Old Manor House at Brewer Street. Secondly, how what were then called the middle class have become

<sup>1</sup> Before the separation of Horne, in Queen Anne's reign, Bletchingley must have been one of the largest parishes in Surrey. It then contained 9,900 acres.

well-nigh extinct. Bletchingley possessed many such families, — the Turners, the Cholmleys, the Beechers, the Holmans, and the Drakes. They formed an important element in English society; they were the link between the noble and the lower orders; they were ready with their dependants to serve when the troubles of their country called for it; they were constant residents in the place, the inhabitants grew old in their service or married from their house. Ill educated possibly they were, but at any rate simple and inexpensive in their tastes. In some instances they have been incorporated into the rank of landed gentry above them, but more frequently they have sunk into the class below them. This much is certain, that they have almost disappeared from English society, and have left I think a blank which can never be filled up.

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