

NOTES

BLETCHLEY: *Demolitions*. Mr. Edward Legg sends the following:

During 1965 over a dozen houses were demolished within the Bletchley U.D. as a result of slum clearance orders or redevelopment. Most of these were erected in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century and are of little archæological or architectural interest, although this group does include the house and surgery on the Bletchley road, built at the turn of the century, for the late Dr. Bradbrooke, a former secretary of our society.

More important than these were nos. 22 to 26 Aylesbury Street in Fenny Stratford. Originally erected in the seventeenth century as a single house, it was altered in the eighteenth century and converted into three cottages in the nineteenth. These were not recorded by the Royal Historical Monuments Commission, but as they were already covered with Victorian plaster at that time, they were probably overlooked.

Unfortunately these buildings were not thoroughly surveyed before they were pulled down, but it appears that the central portion (No. 24) was the oldest part, with a timber frame and wattle and daub filling. This had been raised in the eighteenth century and an extension added at the southern end (No. 22). This appeared at one time to have contained a baker's oven. The house at the northern end was added in the nineteenth century as also a further portion at the rear of No. 22. A short history of the property was given in the *Bletchley Gazette*, 7th January, 1966.

BUCKLAND: *The Potteries at Buckland Common*. Mr. H. R. Brackley sends the following note by Mr. F. K. King.

The first evidence we have of the existence of a Pottery at Buckland Common is in 1701. The Catalogue of the Principal Works of Art at Chequers (1923) mentions (page 23, No. 21):

"Jug, red earthenware, covered with dark manganese-brown glaze, globular, with short neck, small handle with three thumb-marks at its base and reeded round mouth and shoulder. On the front 'H. K. 1701' incised under the glaze. Probably made at Buckland Common, near Aylesbury. This jug has always been at Chequers and is of special interest as the work of a small rustic pottery hitherto unrecorded in the literature of ceramics."

We have been unable to find anyone with the initials "H. K." in either the Buckland (Buckland Common was until 1934 in the parish of Buckland) or Cholesbury Parish Registers, so possibly the initials are of the person for whom the jug was made. However, an old fire-back taken from the Potteries in 1960 has the initials "G. K." on it, so the potter's family may have had the initial "K".

Next, also at Chequers, is another jug, described in the above catalogue as (page 31, No. 94):

"Jug, red earthenware, with dark manganese-brown glaze, globular body, short reeded neck, small loop handle. On the shoulder, star shaped devices, and the inscription JOHN REVET, Esqr, 1759 THOMAS BRACKLEY POTTER AT BUCKLAND COMMON, incised after the application of the glaze but before

firing. Buckland near Aylesbury. H 13 $\frac{3}{8}$ ", diam. 10".

"Colonel John Revett, who married Joanna Thurbarne, was owner of Chequers about 1759. This item is of special interest as the work of a small rustic pottery hitherto unrecorded in the history of ceramics."

We can trace this Thomas Brackley. In 1701 a Thomas Brackley married Sarah Higgs (both of Buckland) at Cholesbury and in 1705 a son Thomas was baptised. This son married Sarah Dodman at Buckland in 1726. Thomas, senior, died in 1747 and Sarah in 1751, so the potter in 1759 must have been Thomas, junior.

The catalogue of Chequers in 1923 seems to have been the first time the Buckland Pottery was mentioned in ceramic history, as none of the literature published before that date mentions it, but there are several references to it in later books, e.g.

"Dated red-earthenwares were made at Buckland, near Aylesbury, during the first sixty years of the eighteenth century." (*English Country Pottery*, R. H. Hagger, 1950.)

"At Buckland Common, near Aylesbury, dark-brown wares were made. Dates range from the late eighteenth century until about 1810 or later." (*English Pottery and Porcelain*, W. B. Honey, 1933.)

"Another rustic Pottery which has recently come to light was situated at Buckland, a small village near Aylesbury. At the Prime Minister's House at Chequers are two jugs formerly in the possession of Lord Lee of Fareham." (*English Pottery*, B. Rackham and H. Read, 1924.)

Quite a number of Brackleys appear to have lived in the district in the second half of the eighteenth century, but the registers do not give occupations until about 1813.

There is a jug at Aylesbury Museum reputed to date from the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, and we have two similar—one dark manganese-brown and one in a light brown, both globular in shape with very small necks. Mrs. Mills (née Sills), whose family lived here for many years, has a jug dated 17 . . . , i.e. also incised underneath with the potter's name Brackley. This jug is now in Mrs. Thomas Mills' home at Little Chalfont, Bucks.

In 1818 and 1819 William Cook and James Chandler were described as Pot-Carriers in the Parish Register, and in 1819 Thomas Osborne was a Pot Maker. In 1821 James Brackley was a Pot Maker, but by 1823 appears to have become a Blacksmith, and Emanuel Pratley was the Potter. This name seems to be a derivation of Brackley, as a note in the Register at Cholesbury says "Written above the surname of Brackley is Pratley" (spoken, the names sound very much alike).

Emanuel Pratley is almost the last person in the Cholesbury register described as a Potter or Pot Maker (in 1828), so perhaps the trade ceased soon after that.

However, between 1853 and 1858, three children of Job and Eliza Cox were baptised at Cholesbury. Job Cox was described as a Potter. There is no other reference to this family to be found—possibly the trade was revived for a short period.

In 1844, at the time of the Inclosures, the owner of the Pottery, as it was then called, was Job Brackley, who had married Phebe Brackley in 1805, but the property was now described as "House, Yards and Orchard" in the Inclosure Schedule.

It is said that a young girl relative came to live with the Job Brackleys, who do not appear to have any children. She was Hannah Osborne (possibly a child or descendant of the potmaker Osborne). She married Thomas Sills at Cholesbury in 1858, and after the deaths of Phebe in 1861 and of Job in 1863 they must have taken over the Potteries as a farm. The Sills family remained there until the death of Rosanna, widow of Harris Sills (who was the son of Thomas and Hannah Sills) in 1958, when the last remaining member of the family, Ruby Mills, sold the property to me.

LATIMER: *Excavations on the Romano-British Villa at Latimer*. (Second Interim Note.) Mr. Keith Branigan contributes the following:

A second season's work has been successfully completed on the villa at Latimer, under the direction of Mr. K. Branigan of the Department of Archaeology, University of Birmingham. The area dug in 1965 included two rooms in the main wing, and a large area around and beyond the southern boundary wall.

The results in the main wing confirmed many of last year's conclusions, but one important correction has been made to them. The first building on the site was erected not later than the end of the first century A.D., possibly much earlier. The villa itself was erected probably in c. A.D. 135. This year coins have been found which have helped us to date periods more accurately. Another fortunate find was a group of wall plaster belonging to the third phase of occupation. As we found plaster from phases two and four last year, we now have a complete series for the villa building.

In the area by the southern boundary wall we have found traces of a substantial wooden building, outside the wall. We also have traces of a shoddy wall butting on to the inside of the boundary wall, and there are clearly several interesting structures to be cleared in this area.

GREAT MISSENDEN: Mr. John Bennell sends the following note:

There are two or three lanes leading down from the village of Hyde Heath to the A.413 (Amersham-Great Missenden) road, and one of these is of some interest. An earlier name for this byway (which runs S.W.-N.E. across N.G.R. SU927000) being considered distasteful, popular etymology has transmuted it into the more fanciful, if erroneous, Bullbaiters Lane; its former designation—Bullbeggars Lane—was an extension of the alternative form, Bullbegs Lane. (I am indebted to Mrs. M. A. Bennell for this information.) The Domesday topography of Amersham has been discussed quite recently in the *Records of Bucks*, Vol. XVI, Part 5 (1960), pp. 355-6. By reference to this, and from the name and locale as given above, we may readily deduce that we have here a vestige of the manor of Hugh Bolebec.

CHALFONT ST. GILES: As reported last year (see *Records*, Vol. XVII, Part 4 (1964), p. 308) work has continued on the wall paintings in the South aisle. The Passion subjects and Life of St. John Baptist having been dealt with, attention has been concentrated at the East End of the aisle, where a considerable cycle devoted to the Life and Miracles of the Virgin is situated. Here, as in the other area, search has continued beyond the edges of Street's cement plaster, with rewarding results. At the top, considerably more of the scroll border has been revealed. And below, the upper part of two or more additional subjects has been ascertained to survive. One of these, by the presence of an Angel, is undoubtedly the Annunciation; and some minor modifications may be made in Professor Tristram's water-colour drawings of the Miracles of the Jewish boy of Bourges, and the Penitent Theophilus. It is hoped to continue the work, and eventually publish a full account.

CHALFONT ST. PETER: Work on the restoration of the parish church has commenced and will be a very large undertaking requiring some £25,000, including the renewal of seating and other fittings. The eighteenth-century roof, as has been already stated, was largely made up of medieval timbers re-used, many of them of large scantling, and elaborately moulded or ornamented with battlemented edges. It is possible to identify parts of screen-work, and woodwork from both nave and aisle roofs.

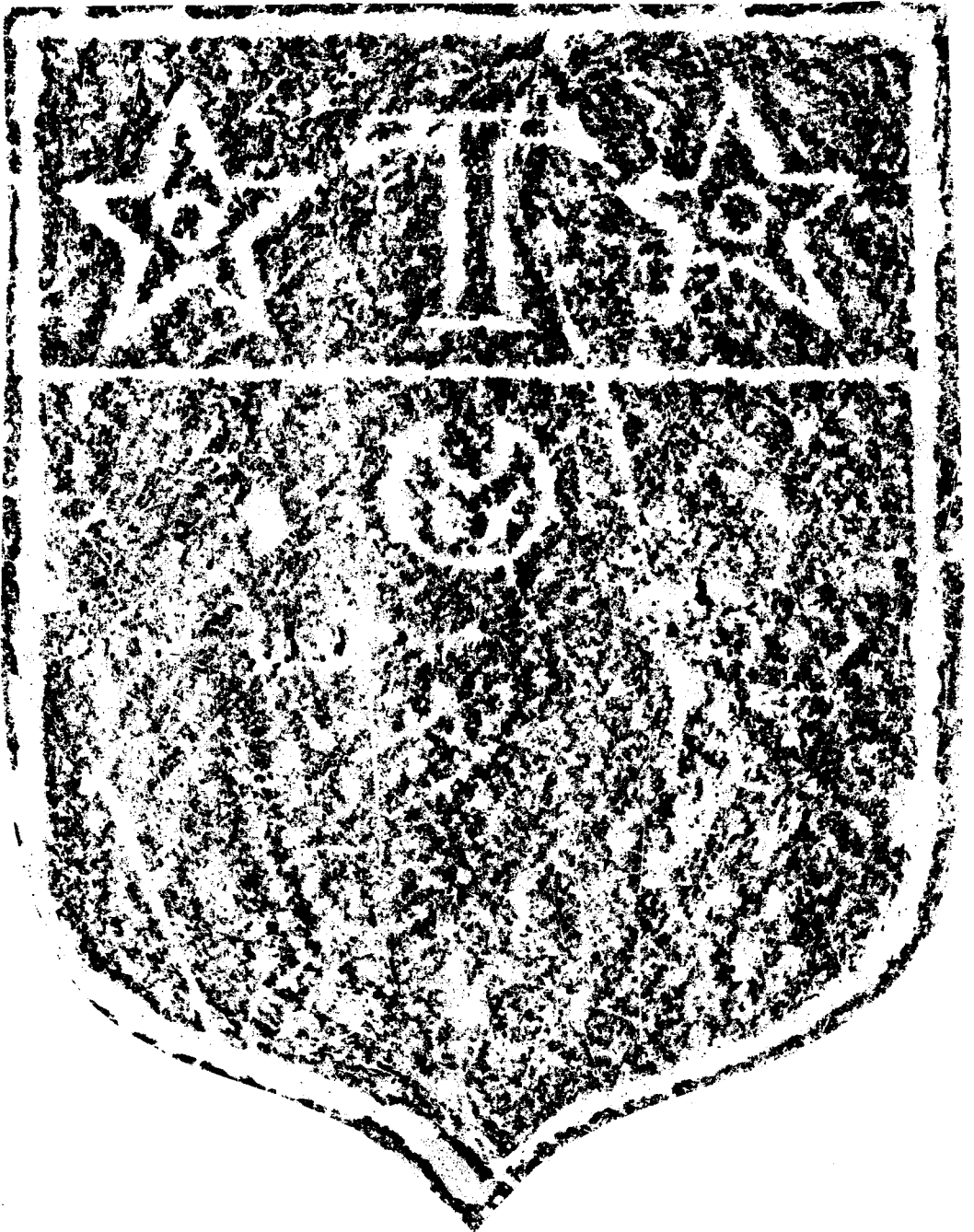


PLATE VIII (a) (and (b) overleaf). Chalfont St. Peter. Two incised marble inset shields from the memorial slab of Sir Henry Drury, 1617.



More moulded stone fragments have been found—one clearly part of a thirteenth-century door-jamb or shaft—and a fourteenth-century glazed floor-tile of Penn origin was recovered.

The brick footings of the eighteenth-century chancel and chancel arch, swept away by Street, have been laid bare and entered on a general plan. They correspond precisely to Brown Willis's measurements.

Two slabs have been taken up in the south chapel and are to be relaid elsewhere, as one was partly beneath the organ and the other under a table. One contained two marble inset shields, and an inscription, two other shields being missing. The slab commemorates "Sir Henry Drury, Knight, who departed this life the sixth day of March in the year of Our Lord 1617", and the burial is recorded in the Registers. Only part of this slab was visible when the Royal Commission made their Inventory, so they did not know whom it commemorated. One shield shows the arms of Drury (*Argent on a chief vert a tau between 2 mullets pierced or, a crescent for difference*); the other those of Drury impaling a chequy coat with a fess and crescent all within a bordure. Without reliable hatching for tinctures it is difficult to attribute this. It might be for Clifford. But Mr. Longden contributes the following suggestions:

The impaled arms are almost certainly those of his mother, Susan Stewkley or Stewkeley. The Stewkeleys were from Somersetshire and the arms were granted in 1595. The arms are *chequy argent and sable a fess gules within a bordure azure*.

The Drury shield carries the crescent being the mark of cadency for a second son, his father being a second son of the main line of Hawsbend, Suffolk. The Stewkley Arms also carry a crescent as difference showing that Susan's father was a second son or descended from a second son of the original grantee.

There is a monument in Upper Shuckburgh church to one of the Shuckburgh family. It is to Catherine Shuckburgh, daughter of Hugo Shuckburgh, Baronet, and has the same arms as above, but with no crescent. She died 17th August, 1683. Upper Shuckburgh is in Warwickshire. The pedigree gives the following details: Sir Charles Shuckburgh took as his first wife Catherine eldest daughter of Sir Hugh Stewkeley of Hinton Ampnor, Hants, Bart.

In Mr. Edmonds's book on Chalfont he mentions Sir Wm. Drury, brother of the Henry Drury under discussion. He was a Doctor of Laws, a Judge of the Prerogative Court, and Master of Chancery. He married in 1573 Mary Southwell, daughter of Sir Richard Southwell. He died 15th December, 1589, and is buried in St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Old Fish Street, London." (Rubblings appear in Pl. VIII (a) and (b)).

STOKE MANDEVILLE: The following extract from the *Bucks Herald* for 21st January, 1966, speaks for itself, and puts an end to a sad story. It is alarming how quickly a building decays once it is abandoned; in 1910 it was virtually complete, even the main roof beams of the nave surviving. We hope the Engineers are proud of their piece of destruction, which removes yet another church from Buckinghamshire's list.

"The remains of the church of St. Mary the Virgin which have stood in the grounds of Stoke House, Stoke Mandeville, for more than 50 years, were finally demolished on Sunday by a troop of the Royal Engineers of the Territorial Army.

"The Luton-based soldiers—No. 2 Troop 248 (East Anglian) Field Squadron R.E., T.A.—were commanded by Captain J. G. Balne.

"The remains of the church were winched down at the request of the Parochial Church Council, who feared that accidents would result from the dangerous state of the building."

E.C.R.