

DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP.

MANORIAL HISTORY, (*Continued from Vol. 1. p. 301.*)

THE CHEYNE FAMILY.

JOHN CHEYNE, grandson of Thomas, and son of John Cheyne, of Chesham Bois, by Perinda, daughter of Sir Robert Whitney, succeeded his father at Chesham Bois, in 1459, being then a minor, about thirteen years of age. In 1494, on the death of Agnes, widow of his great-uncle, Sir John Cheyne, he inherited the Manor and Advowson of Drayton Beauchamp, and, by virtue of the will of the said Agnes, became possessed of the Manor and Advowson of Cogenhoe, in the county of Northampton. He died in 1496, and, according to Browne Willis, was buried in the churchyard, at Chesham Bois, having married Elizabeth, daughter of Edmund or Edward Brudenell, of Raans, in the parish of Amersham, "an ancestor," says Burke, "of the noble houses of Ailesbury and Cardigan." By this marriage, the Manors of Shardeloes and Raans, in the parish of Amersham, and of Grove, in the parish of Chesham, came into the Cheyne family. Grove, which is about four miles from Chesham, and now in the possession of W. Lowndes, Esq., still retains vestiges of a strongly-fortified mansion,* which must have been of great antiquity, for it came to the Brudenells in the reign of Richard II. by the marriage of William Brudenell with Agnes, daughter and heir of Thomas de la Grove,† whose name clearly indicates that the demolished mansion at Grove, was his place of residence.

This John Cheyne was succeeded by his son JOHN CHEYNE, who was sheriff of Bucks and Beds in 1505 and in 1520. He married Margaret, daughter of Robert Ingleton, Esq., of Thornton, near Buckingham, by whom he had issue—Robert, his heir: Margaret, married to Paul Dayrell, Esq., of Lillingstone Dayrell; and Elizabeth married to William Fawconer, Esq., of Ashenden, Bucks.

* See Records of Bucks, vol. 1. 125—26.

† Collins' Peerage, vol. iii. 316.

He died in 1535, and was buried in Drayton Church. His monument, which has long since been destroyed, is thus described in a manuscript copied by Browne Willis—

“Ad murum Borealem Tumulus hoc Epitapho Æneis Formis circumdatis inscripto :

Pray for the soul of John Cheyne, Esquier, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Robert Ingolton, of Thornton, Esquier, which John decessed the 1st day of January, A.D. 1535. In ipsomuro Æneis laminis affingitur Imago Hominis cataphracti Ense et calcaribus inducti flexis genibus levatis manibus hoc Titulus adscripto :—

Oratio Johis Cheyne Armigeri qui sub hoc Tumulo jacet cum Margarata uxore sua Filia Roberti Ingolton nuper Dni de Thornton in com. Bucks.

In Hora mortis succurrere nobis Domine
In Die Judicii libera nos Domine.”

ROBERT CHEYNE, who succeeded his father in 1535, was at that time, says Bridges,* forty-seven years old. He could not have been a young man, for in 1529 his daughter Elizabeth had become the wife of Benedict Lee, of Hulcot, as appears by a fine respecting the Manor and lands in Oving, to which both Robert Cheyne and his daughter Elizabeth were parties.

In 1540 he was appointed one of the commissioners to enquire into Notley Abbey; in 1543 he received a grant from Henry VIII. of certain woodlands, called Chivery, in the parish of Aston Clinton; and in 1546 he joined with Edmund Peckham, Esq., in the Presentation of Richard Platt to the Vicarage of Mentmore, “*pro hac vice.*”

He married first Elizabeth, daughter of John Webbe, in Co. Hertford, Esq., gentleman pensioner to King Edward IV. She was also widow of Fulk Odell, Wodehall, or Wahall. By this lady he had—1, John his heir; 2, Catharine, married to Christopher Lidcott, in Yorkshire, and afterwards to Edward Mastyn; 3, Margaret, married to Richard Duncombe, of Marlow, Bucks; 4, Elizabeth, married to Benedict Lee, of Hulcot, Bucks, brother to Sir Robert Lee, of Quarrendon, ancestor of the noble houses of Lichfield and Dillon; 5, Isabel, married to

* History of Northamptonshire. Bridges, however, erroneously calls Robert Cheyne, the son instead of the grand-son of John the successor of Agnes, widow of Sir John Cheyne.

Roger Lee, of Pittson, also brother to Sir Robert Lee. Robert Cheyne married, secondly, Mary, daughter of John Sylam, of Bramhanger, Bucks, by whom he had—1, Thomas, who married a daughter of Sir Thomas Rotherham, of Luton, Beds; 2, Mary, married to John Newdigate, of Harefield, Middlesex.

Robert Cheyne died in 1552, and was buried by the side of his wife, who had predeceased him, in the chancel of Chesham Bois Church, where memorial effigies in brass still mark the spot of their interment. [See the illustration.] There is a peculiarity about these memorials which requires some comment. The effigy of the wife occupies the middle portion of a slab, with the following inscription subjoined:—

“Of yo^r charite pray for the soule of Elizabeth Cheyne late the wife of Robert Cheyne gentleman the which Elizabeth decessed the xx daye of decembre the yer of o^r lord m v^c xvi on whose soule thu have mercy amc.”

To the right of the wife, but near the verge of the slab, is placed the effigy of the husband, while the inscription referring to him, instead of being under his effigy, is placed beneath his wife's inscription, and is as follows:—

“All Christian people gyve thank^e for the godly deupture of Robert Cheyne Esquier who decessid the nynthe daye of December in the yere of o^r lorde God-a-Thousand fyeve hundreth fyfte too .. whose soule we comendith to God^e infinite mercy.”

The position of these memorials shews that the usual provision for the husband's was not made when the wife was buried, or that their arrangement has since been altered. It is also worthy of notice that these inscriptions clearly indicate the change of doctrine respecting prayer for the dead which had occurred between the deaths of the husband and wife. The memorial of Robert Cheyne, which so pointedly avoids prayer for the dead, was doubtless executed under the direction of his son John, who, as will presently appear, became an active promoter of the Reformed Religion.

JOHN CHEYNE, on the death of his father, inherited extensive possessions, among which were the Manors of Drayton and Helpsthorpe, consisting of upwards of 1700 acres, and the Advowson of Drayton Rectory; the Manor and Advowson of Cogenhoe; the Manor and Advowson of

Chesham Bois; the manor of Shardeloes, in the parish of Amersham; the Grove, in the parish of Chesham; together with land adjoining their Drayton property, in the parishes of Tring, Puttenham, and Buckland.

In the 6th of Edward VI., about the time of his succeeding to the family property, John Cheyne was elected one of the representatives in parliament for the Borough of Wycomb. In 1556 he presented Hugh Hall to the vicarage of Little Missenden. In 1559 "John Cheyne" was appointed a commissioner, with John Jewell, William Lovelace, and others, to bear certain injunctions for the reformation of religion into various parishes in the province of Canterbury. This John Cheyne was probably the lord of Drayton, as his father had exercised a similar office, and from his living so near Ashridge, where Queen Elizabeth for some time resided, his character and protestant principles were probably known to her. In 1561—2 he presented Robert Grave or Grove to the rectory of Drayton; and in 1565 he was Sheriff of Bucks and Beds.

In 1568 he presented John Lawton, or Laughton, to the rectory of Cogenhoe, and removed him to the rectory of Drayton in 1572; presenting John Spicer as his successor at Cogenhoe; and on the death of Laughton, in 1584, he presented Richard Hooker to Drayton on the 7th of September in the same year. On Hooker's removal to the Temple Church, in 1585, John Cheyne presented Edward Field, A.M., to the rectory of Drayton, on November 5th, in the same year. He died within a few weeks afterwards. He was twice married. His first wife, Winifred, daughter of John, First Lord Mordaunt of Turvey, in Bedfordshire, died in 1562, and was buried in the chancel of Chesham Bois, where there is still a slab with the matrix of an effigy, and the following inscription, in perfect preservation:—

"All christian people give Thanks to the lorde for the godly dep'ture of Wenefride Daughter to the late lorde Mordant and wyfe to John Cheyne Esquier, who decessed viijth day of July in the yere of o^r lorde a m cccc lx ij whose soule we commende to God' infinite mercy."

He married, secondly, Joicc, daughter of Sir Anthony Lee, of Quarrenden, Bucks; which marriage is thus entered in the Register of Chesham Bois:—

"Maister John Cheyne Esqre and Mifstrefs Joice Lee

the daughter of Sir Anthony Lee Knight were married the 29th day of November A^o Dni 1561." This is the year before the death of Winifred, his first wife, the date of whose death, as given above, is still perfectly legible on her memorial slab. Probably the engraver added a stroke too many after the X, which would then give a few months between the death of his first wife and his marriage with his second. By these two wives he had many children, but the notices of them are so contradictory that I cannot assign each with certainty to the proper mother. Lipscomb and others leap over the difficulty by assigning all to the second wife, except, Temperance, who is mentioned in Drayton Register as daughter of his first wife. But it would have been more faithful to have acknowledged the difficulty, as such a statement is only calculated to perplex and mislead. Probably those of John Cheyne's children not to be found in any parish register, were born before Temperance, and so must have been by his first wife. I will therefore name them in this order: 1—John, was undoubtedly his eldest son, but was disinherited, for what cause I have not been able to ascertain, and some writers question the fact, but the evidence of its truth still existing is too conclusive to admit of a doubt. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Skipswith, Knt., of St. Alban's, and lived at King's Langley, where his wife died in 1578, and was buried in the Church, under a slab, inscribed with the following significant epitaph:—

"Loe, here's interred a Wife of worthy Fame,
Whose Virtues great, and honest Life deserve the same:
Margaret was her name, by marriage Cheyney hight,
Late Wife of Cheyneys Son to Chesham Bois by right.
Her due Descent from Skipwiths Line, late of St. Alban's Town,
And married to that Cheyneys Heir, a House of old renown!
Full ten years she in marriage lived, five children was her share,
The Heavens have two of the five, three left to Fathers care.
Her Life so good, her death not ill, I hope shall not deny
But that her Soul in Jesus Christ shall live eternally.

30. January 1578. secundum computationem Ecclesie Anglicanae."

This inscription proves beyond a doubt that John Cheyne, the husband of the above Margaret, must have been by his father's first wife, for it shows that he himself was married within six years of his father's second marriage. Perhaps, too, the words "Son to Chesham Bois by right" indicate a sense of being unjustly disinherited.



Of yor charite pray for the soule of Elizabeth Cheyne late the wife of Robert Cheyne gentilman the which Elizabeth decessed the xx daye of decembre the yer of o^r lord m b^c xbi on whose soule thu habe mercy ame.

All Christian people gyve thank^e for the godly depture of Robert Cheyne Esquier who decessid the nyithe daye of December in the yere of o^r lorde God-a-Thousand nyebe hundreth fyfte too .. whose soule we comendith to God^e infinite mercy.

ROBERT CHEYNE, ESQ. AND WIFE,
Chesham Bois Church.

He survived his father, who bequeathed him the Grove, in the parish of Chesham, where probably he occasionally resided; but he was buried in the Church at King's Langley, as appears by the following inscription, existing in 1850:—

HERE LYETH INTERRED THE CORPSE OF IOHN
CHEYNE GENT WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
IN THE TRVE FAITH OF CHIRST IESVS THE
FIRST DAY OF FEBRVARY ANNO DNI 1597.

This inscription is on a small plate of brass, let into a slab, which joins another slab containing an effigy of a lady in the costume of the sixteenth century, and which probably represents Margaret, the wife of John Cheyne, but the inscription to her was either gone or concealed by a pew, when I visited the Church in 1850. I have, therefore, copied her inscription from Chauncy's Hertfordshire. 2—Francis, who succeeded his father. As he will have to be noticed hereafter, it is only necessary now to observe that he must have been by his father's first wife, for his memorial in Drayton Church shews that he was fifteen years old at his father's second marriage. 3—Thomas, who was buried in the chancel of Drayton Church, on 30th of January, 1619; * where there is still a small plate of brass, to his memory, with this inscription:—

“ HERE LIETH THE BODY OF THOMAS CHEYNE ESQ.
BROTHER TO SIR FRANCIS CHEYNE KNT. WHO
DIED JAN^{ry} 29th 1619.

4—Margaret. 5—Mary. 6—Elizabeth, married to Edmund Fleetwood. Anne, married to William Rowe, of High Hall, Essex. 7—“ Temperance y^e daughter of John Cheyne and Wenefryde his wife was baptized y^e 3^a of April, 1552.”†

These children were probably all by the first wife; the following were certainly by the second:—

1—Katharine, the daughter of John Cheyne and Joys his wife, baptised 5 Dec^r 1563.‡ 2—“ Henrie Cheyne the sonne of Maister John Cheyne of Chesham Bois

* Drayton Register.

† Ibid.

‡ Chesham Bois Register.

Esq^{re} was baptised the 4th day of September,* no year mentioned, but it is entered before the following:—

3.—“Joice Cheyne the daughter of Maister John Cheyne of Chesham Bois Esq^{re} was baptised the 9th day of November A^o Dni 1567.”* She married Edward Nowell of Edmonton.†

4.—“Dorothe,” baptised 8th August, 1570. ‡

5.—Hellen, baptised 29th July, 1571. ‡

Joice, the wife of John Cheyne, was buried at Drayton, on the 11 of July, 1579. ‡

John Cheyne, of Chesham Bois and of Drayton Beauchamp, died on the 1st of November, and was buried on the 1st of December, 1585, in the chancel of Chesham Bois, where there is an elaborate altar tomb to commemorate him, adorned with various coats of arms. It stands within the communion rails adjoining the north wall, to which is affixed a large tablet, bearing the following inscription:—

“Humanus hic jacet Johannes Cheyne armiger, qui in testimonium zeli sui versus Dei Evangelium in ecclesia de Tringe fundavit pium predicatorem evangelii sumptibus annutati stipendii XL^{lb} pro termino LXXXXXIX annorum et in fraternam charitatem versus piissimos pauperes professores ejusdem donavit parœchiis de Aylsbreri, Wendover, Beconsfieldi, Milsenden Magnæ, Burnham, et Denham annatim XL^s durante dicto termino et in perpetuum donavit similiter parœchiis de Chesham, Amersham, Tringe, et Drayton Beauchamp et istæ parvo parœchiæ XX^s et Choldesberi XX^s. Posteritati suæ exemplum et Decus

Non obiit sed abiit Novembris 1. anno dni 1585.”

The several charities above mentioned are provided for in his will, in which he also bequeaths to John, his eldest son, Helstropp, or St. John's field in Helstropp, and the Grove, in the parish of Chesham. To each of his daughters he bequeaths £300. To his “daughter Mary,” wife

* Chesham Bois Register.

† Burke's Landed Gentry.

‡ Drayton Register.

of his son Francis, he bequeaths 200 acres of pasture and 150 acres of meadow land, for her life, and in default of issue, to go to "John Cheyne, his eldest son."*

The nature of John Cheyne's charities clearly indicates his desire to disseminate the doctrines of the Reformation, and they were well devised to accomplish his object. His magnificent endowment of a lectureship for Tring, equal at least to £800 a year at the present day, was amply sufficient to secure an able preacher of the reformed faith, while his charitable bequests to indigent professors of the same faith, would be an encouragement to those who already professed it, and be a means of steadily increasing the number of converts. Various conjectures have been advanced respecting John Cheyne's motive for selecting Hooker as rector of Drayton. Doubtless he was influenced in this act by the same religious principles which decided the character of his charities. He resolved to have a rector who could preach to his congregations; for at that period there was scarcely one village incumbent in a hundred who could preach, and six or even four sermons in the course of a year were considered a fair allowance for a country parish; but John Cheyne appears to have selected preachers for the livings in his patronage. He appointed John Lawton, Hooker's predecessor, first to Cogenhoe, and then to Drayton, where he died; and in the registry of his burial he is expressly recorded as "M. A., and preacher of the word." John Cheyne, therefore, doubtless appointed Hooker to Drayton because he was a sound preacher of the scriptural doctrines of the Reformation, and not as has been suggested, because, from the poverty of the living he could not easily find another to accept it; At that time the living was relatively of more value than it now is, for a third, at least, of its income has since passed away by modusses; and the fact of Lawton having been promoted from Cogenhoe to Drayton, shows that the latter was not, at that period, quite so miserable a benefice as worthy old Izaak Walton seems to intimate.

* This doubtless means, to John Cheyne's eldest son, i. e. the eldest son of his own disinherited son John, to whom the property came after the death of his son, Francis.