

were regularly used for drying oats. The kiln found in the thirteenth-century settlement at Beere, Devon, may well have been for corn drying, though there is no proof.<sup>8</sup> Relatively modern kilns have been noted in Westmoreland<sup>9</sup> and Wales; they are commonly associated with mills, and themselves occupy a building of two floors, the upper serving as the platform on which corn was spread. Documentary references have a similar distribution; that is, those from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are the most easterly and Northamptonshire the most southerly.<sup>10</sup> An older form of construction was to spread the corn on bundles of straw supported by joists or 'kiln trees' at a considerable height above a smouldering fire of straw or turf.<sup>11</sup>

Until the recent introduction of electricity, the malt kiln, whether commercial or domestic, had a permanent floor of tiles pierced with a regular pattern of small holes, but such tiles were most probably introduced only in the eighteenth century. Before that, the green malt was spread on a kiln 'hair'; i.e. a cloth woven of horse hair.<sup>12</sup> Many household inventories show that from the Tudor period and perhaps earlier, a 'hair' or 'kiln hair' was part of the equipment of most farmhouses.<sup>13</sup> The hair cloth was originally devised for bolting or sieving flour, and its use in the malt kiln is probably a sixteenth-century development.<sup>14</sup> Presumably the cloth was spread across a wooden frame, but there appears to be no evidence on that point, or on the question of the size of the cloth. The kiln at Casteron had two cavities or slots near the top of one wall, as if to rest either loose joists or part of the frame of a hair. Thus both the earlier corn kilns and the malt kilns differ from Romano-British corn-drying kilns not only in shape, which is not significant, but also in the absence of a permanent floor.

The best evidence for the function of both the Rutland kilns comes from the examination of corn found in the ashes of the Great Casterton example.<sup>15</sup> Over 250 grains were counted, of which 6 could not be identified, but all the rest were barley. Since the structures were identical in design and virtually of the same size, it is certain that the Barrow kiln was also a malt kiln, for the presence of barley alone can only indicate the drying of malt.

E. G. BOLTON

#### A BUILDING CONTRACT OF 1529

Among Lord Petre's family archives deposited in the Essex Record Office is an agreement of 1529 between William Skynner, a carpenter, and Bartholomew Linsted, last prior of St. Mary Overy, now Southwark cathedral, for the erection of a timber-framed gatehouse to the conventual buildings. The outer gatehouse, no longer standing, is illustrated in the London County Council, *Survey of London, Bankside*, xxii, pl. xxxix, which shows it in 1811 to have been a timber-framed and jettied building with a stone-faced archway. Although in the illustration part of the gateway is obscured behind a house abutting against it, the width of the gate and height of the loft approximate to

<sup>8</sup> *Med. Archaeol.*, II (1958), 123-5.

<sup>9</sup> For a kiln of the sixteenth or seventeenth century see R.C.H.M., *Westmorland* (1936), p. 193.

<sup>10</sup> A 'Corne Kilne' is mentioned in a survey of Castleton, 1649; P.R.O., Parl. Surveys, Derbyshire, 12, 7. Richard Ashton of Chorley, Lancs., died in 1617 possessed of 'a Kilne with oats and other corn'; Preston Record Office WCW/A/1617. The Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire evidence came only from nineteenth-century glossaries of dialect words; they are quite specific, though the Northants. use of kilns was only after wet harvests; see references in Wright, *Engl. Dialect Dictionary*, s.v. 'kiln'. The Rutland reference there quoted refers only to 'drying in a kiln'—i.e. a malt kiln.

<sup>11</sup> *Antiquity*, xxv (1951), 198.

<sup>12</sup> See F. W. Steer, *Farmhouse and Cottage Inventories of Mid-Essex, 1635-1749* (Colchester, 1950), pp. 32-3.

<sup>13</sup> E.g. Thomas Butler of Ormskirk, Lancs., 1596: 'one old hayre for the killne' (Preston R.O., WRW/B/1595); Durham examples appear in *Durham Wills and Inventories*, I (Surtees Soc.), pp. 139, 158; Essex examples in F. W. Steer, *op. cit.* in note 12, pp. 92, 123, etc.

<sup>14</sup> The earliest reference noted is in a *York* inventory of 1410: 'de j cilicio pro hustrina cum ij furgones'; *Test. Ebor.*, III (Surtees Soc.), p. 49.

<sup>15</sup> By Dr. K. W. Dent of the School of Agriculture, University of Nottingham.

those given in this agreement, which is transcribed in full below in the form adopted by L. F. Salzman, *Building in England down to 1540* (1952), where all similar contracts before 1540, then known, were printed.

The document might have been acquired by the Petre family on two occasions. The priory was surrendered at its dissolution to Dr. William Petre, the builder of Ingatestone Hall, and his grandson William, 2nd Lord Petre was trustee for Anthony, 2nd Viscount Montagu, when the latter sold the family property 'between the middle gate of the close and the outer gate next unto Southwark'.

1529 London, Priory of St. Mary Overy [*Southwark Cathedral*]

Agreement with a carpenter to erect the timber framework of a gatehouse to the Priory of St. Mary Overy. The carpenter undertakes to find and fell the timber for the gatehouse, which is to measure 22 × 14 ft. with a jettied upper story 6 ft. high, containing a loft and solar; the work to be completed within 8 months for £5, paid in five equal instalments.

Essex Record Office D/DP O 79.

This endenture made the viij<sup>th</sup>. daie of Novembr yn the xxj<sup>th</sup> yere of the reign of Kyng Henry the viij<sup>th</sup> Betwix Barth' Prior of the howse & church of Seynte Mary Overy in Southwerke on the one partie & William Skynner carpenter of the parishe of Oxsted yn the countie of Surry carpenter of the other partie Witnesseth that the same William hath promysed well and trulye to make frame furnyshe and fynyshe yn all thynges that longeth vnto the hand of a carpenter a gate house of xxij fote yn lenghte and yn bredeth xij fote of assise by the grounde with a lofte above getting<sup>16</sup> over one fote a both sides soo the lofte or sollar to be yn bredeth xiiij fote of assize the gate to be ix fote wide with particions and steyses as nede shall requyre & frome the groundsell to the flore of hith x fote if nede soo require And the vpper storie to by yn hith vi<sup>17</sup> fote And ye said William shall fynd sawing & shall also hew al the tymber necessarie to the said werke both for quarters<sup>18</sup> bordis and —<sup>19</sup> for all which werke well werkmanly & sufficiently to be made fynysched furnysched and garnysched by the said William in all thynges that longeth vnto a carpenter as is above said the said William shal have v li' sterling to be paid as foloweth that is to saie whan he begynnyth his frame xxs. and whan he hath half framyd xxs. and whan he hath all framyd xxs. and whan he hath raysid it xxs. and whan he hath fynysched yt xxs. full paid of his sum of V li'. The which said frame perfylye to make rayesd & fynyshe before the feast of sayncts John Baptist [24. June] nexte ensuyng the date her of the said William byndeth hymself his Executors and assignes in tenne pound sterlyng by his writing obligatorye beyng date of this presents In witsesse whereof the said parties have sett ther scales Interchangeablye to these endentures the daie & yere above writyn.

[Sealed with the personal seal of Bartholomew Linsted, prior, c.1512-39]

BRIAN S. SMITH

### THE HEREFORD CONFERENCE, 1960

The Third Annual Conference of the Society was held at Hereford from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 April, 1960. The theme of the conference was 'The pattern of Settlement in the Welsh Marches 400-1250'. In the afternoon of the first day, after Mr. F. G. Heys had spoken on the moated site at Hampton Wafer and on the City Defences of Hereford, the conference visited various parts of medieval Hereford under the leadership of Mr. H. J. Powell, Mr. F. G. Heys, Mr. F. C. Morgan, Mr. A. Shaw Wright, Canon H. A. Moreton and Miss M. Jancey. The full conference opened in the evening with a lecture by Dr. H. P. R. Finberg entitled 'The Political Background of Settlement in the Welsh Border Shires'. On Saturday, 9 April Lord Rennel of Rodd spoke on 'The Pattern of Settlement in the area between the Severn and the Wye'; Dr. B. G. Charles on 'Place-names and Language in Relationship to the Settlement of the Marches'; Mr. P. Barker on 'Problems of Medieval Fortified Sites in the Central Welsh Border' and Mr. L. Alcock on 'The Archaeological Evidence for the Settlement of the Welsh Marches, 400-1100—

<sup>16</sup> jettying.

<sup>17</sup> *vij* deleted.

<sup>18</sup> A small upright stud.

<sup>19</sup> Indented word indecipherable.