



“Notes and Queries”

RELATING TO BERKSHIRE.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the County. All Literary Communications should be sent to the EDITOR, Barkham Rectory, near Wokingham, written on one side only of the Paper.

It is requested that all MSS intended for printing should be written on foolscap paper, in an orderly manner, with REPLIES, QUERIES, and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name or initials of the writer appended to each communication.

Notes.

IT is intended in the course of the summer to publish the Registers of St. Mary's, Reading (1538-1754). Terms of subscription will be sent on application to Rev. G. P. Crawford, 38, Baker Street, Reading.

AN OLD PORTRAIT.—MR. T. Lewis recently discovered in a cupboard in his house at the corner of Bridge Street, Caversham, a portion of a painting in panel which before it was mutilated must have been a very fine example of the portraiture of the period of (Circa) 1580-1620. The fragment shows on the left of the spectator the head of a man, evidently a “person of quality” with a moustache and pointed beard and wearing a ruff and coif. On the right is the top of a child's head and over it the inscription “John Deane Ætatis Suxæ 9.” Above this is another inscription, the only word of which can be read is “tyme.” There can be no doubt as to the antiquity of this relic, as the characteristics correspond exactly with the description of many of the portraits exhibited at the Tudor and Stuart exhibitions. The Richard Deane of the Commonwealth period who was in turn both Colonel and Admiral had an uncle Sir Richard Deane who was Lord Mayor of London in 1628-9, and the portrait may have been an early likeness of this worthy and his son or of other members of the same family. How such a picture came to Caversham and its ultimate fate of being cut up to form shelves can only be conjectured. The most probable theory is that it once adorned the walls of the Mansion in Caversham Park, and after one of the several changes of ownership of that splendid demesne was sold as old lumber to a person with no knowledge of artistic merit.—W. WING.

Queries.

SPARSHOLT CHURCH.—I am venturing to write to you to ask you if you can tell me whether there are in existence any pictures of Sparsholt Church (interior) shewing a screen which once existed between the chancel and nave.—HENRY A. REDPATH.

Where are these three places in Radinges Hundred from Domesday Survey. Sewelle, Praxmere and Offelle? Lysons gives the first two as Sulhamstead and Peasemore, but hazards no opinion as to the last. What authority had he for this, as Peasemore is in Faircross Hundred?—EMMA E. THOYTS.

Replies.

HEDGES.—I. Certainly there were enclosed fields with hedges before the Enclosure Acts of 1760. In the Manor Rolls of Clent, 1520, the breaking of fences was at Clent, as elsewhere, a common offence, for which a fine of fourpence was commonly inflicted. Seeborn's reference to Fraser's "Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry" also shows this, for he speaks of open, or "champion" field farming as a system already out of date in his time, and as rapidly giving way to the more economical system of enclosed fields. Also in the "Costomary of Tettenhall Regis," a copy of which (from a much earlier document) was made in 1604, mention is made of house-bote, hay-bote, or hedge-bote, which were the common rights of copyhold tenants to take necessary timber to repair houses, and "stuff to make and amend hedges" from land leased to them. The Roll of the Court Leet of the Manor of Bromfield, Shropshire, 1607, speaks of one Margerie Davies making an exchange of her tenement, and having a "way for her appointed and set down, which is now the way the hedge goeth." In the memorials of Ashe, hedge-bote is mentioned for the first time in the Patent Roll of 16 Henry VIII., *i.e.*, 1525. Queries 2 and 3 belong more to the practical agriculturalist than to the archæologist, but we would venture to say that the nature of the soil will account for the difference; that when the nature of the crops—hops, fruits, &c.—requires shelter, tall hedgerows are the rule, whereas in the fen-country, where the wind and air are needed to counteract the natural moisture of the land, low hedges are found. In Essex it is obligatory that hedges bordering on the high road should be cut to a certain level.—EDITOR.

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH.—The history of this parish seems to have had little attention. There were several manors in it: East Court, West Court and Eversley, probably others besides. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle mentions: An. M.XCVIII. In this year in the summer at Finchamstead, in Berkshire, a pool welled out blood so as many trustworthy men said who should have seen it. Neither Lysons nor Parker says anything about a brass of 1635 to "Elizabeth, daur. and heiress of John Taylor, of Finchamstead, gent., and wife of John Blighe, 1635," and daughter Jane, then 5 years old. The lady wears the large hood or calash which covered the head and shoulders and fell down behind the back nearly to the ground. This brass was in existence in 1863.—E. E. THOYTS.