



## Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

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*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.*

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### Notes.

**CHURCH PLATE.**—The Bishop of Oxford has authorised a return of all the Church Plate in the Diocese. This inventory is now being compiled by the clergy, and we should be glad to record the description of all the most interesting Plate. An inventory was commenced some years ago of the Berkshire Plate, by Mr. A. J. Dasent and the Rev. E. R. Gardiner, and we believe that it is intended to publish a volume on the subject. In the meantime we should be glad to record whatever pre-reformation or Elizabethan Plate remains.

**LADIES' BRASS RUBBING SOCIETY.**—The *Daily Telegraph* says that a thrill of excitement must have stirred the hearts of thousands of housewives when they heard of the formation of a Brass Rubbing Society for women. If they could only get their servants to join it, there would be, they doubtless thought, a chance of fenders and lamps being polished to a proper degree of glitter. Doubtless they were disappointed when they heard that unfortunately it had nothing to do with utilitarianism, and was composed of lady antiquaries who take delight in making rubbings of old brasses and reading papers about them.

**EXCAVATIONS AT LONG WITTENHAM.**—Mr. H. J. Hewett has kindly sent us the following account of the Excavations which he has so zealously carried out during the past year, on the site of the Romano-British village:—"I have opened one well this summer, but found nothing of importance, only the skull and horns of the *Bos longifrons* and fragments of Roman pottery. I cut a trench across one corner of one of the square enclosures and found one nearly perfect cinerary urn containing burnt bones, and parts of two more also with bones. I also opened several rubbish pits containing large quantities of pot-boilers, fragments of British pottery, a large quantity of bones and ashes, and a few flint flakes. In one pit, I must mention as being peculiar, I discovered loose human bones mingled with the bones of the ox, horse, dog and pig. The human bones were thrown in like the others, one of the thigh bones being broken, and only part of a skull. I think this has every appearance of some of these ancient

people being cannibals. I found more pot-boilers in this pit than in any other I have opened; and at one end I found some of the pot-boilers placed in layers, having the appearance as if fire had been lighted on the top. Do you think this could have been for cooking purposes; that they laid the meat on the hot stones in the same way that we use the gridiron? I have dug a trench across three of the large circles in another field. In one I came across two large pits containing ashes and burnt bones, and two very thin flakes, very sharp. In the next I found six holes about four feet deep, containing a large quantity of animal bones also the lower jaw of a horse, and several pieces of unbaked clay with several small holes pierced through them. In the next trench I cut, I found no holes, only a few animal bones. There is one thing that has struck me, that nearly all the jaw bones found have been the under jaw; can you account for this? I find that these traces of buildings extend in one continuation on over 250 acres of my farm, and also on the three adjoining farms, so this must have been a very large settlement, and some of it must date back to the very early ages from the number and kind of the different flint implements I have found—from the Palæolithic flints down to the beautifully worked arrow-heads of the later Britons. Some years ago when digging gravel on my father's land, the workmen came on two pit dwellings, containing animal bones, horns, and a very large number of rats' teeth. This was at the other end of Wittenham, not far from Pearitt Farm and close to the Roman Cemetery discovered some years ago—in which were found several pieces of Samian ware. The following are some of the things discovered in 1893-94, now in the hands of Mr. Haverfield, which he proposes exhibiting at Burlington House. When he returns them, I intend to present them to the Ashmolean Museum:—

Palæolithic Flint Implements found in the drift sand.

Part of a Hollow Oak Tree found in Well No. 7.

Piece of Wall-lining with coloured marks.

Wicker-work and parts of two small Buckets found in Wells Nos. 1 and 2.  
Specimen of Earthenware.

Roman Pottery, six pieces, found in two of the Wells.

Pin (bone? or pipe-clay?) found with female skeleton under floor of British hut.

Bone Pins (rude) found in rubbish pit.

Flint Saw found on floor of British hut.

A Cell found on the surface.

Two very fine barbed and stemmed Arrow-heads.

Piece of Stamped Leather, with iron rivets and stitches, piece of Armour, found in Well No. 6.

An Ichthyosaurus Bone found on floor of British hut.

Horn of *Bos longifrons*.

Part of two Antlers of the red deer, one shed, the other with part of skull on.

[We trust that Mr. Hewett will kindly allow these valuable finds to be exhibited at Reading, before they are deposited in the Ashmolean Museum.]

SEAL OF BISHAM PRIORY.—It may be of interest to note that Mr. G. C. Gorham, in his *Account of the Chantry and Guild of Maidenhead* (printed for private circulation in 1839) mentions that a fragment of above seal is appended to a deed of 1435, relating to certain rents in Maidenhead, among the muniments

of the Dean and Canons of Windsor. He describes it as a large oval with a representation of the Blessed Virgin seated and holding a globe surmounted by a cross. This was not known to the Editors of Dugdale.—NATHANIEL HONE.

**SAMBORNE, OF FERNHAM, BERKS.**—This family, which flourished at Southcot, near Reading, about 1500, was associated with Berkshire at an earlier date. In 1409, Nicholas Samborne and Katherine, his wife, were seized of the manors of Fernham, near Faringdon, Berks, and Lushill, in Wilts. The latter manor descended from Katherine's father, Sir John Lushill; perhaps Fernham also came from the Lushill's. In 1506, on the death of Drew Sambourne, of Southcot, it passed to his grand daughter, Margaret Samborne, who married 2nd Lord Windsor. At this time the record says:—"It is held of the King in Chief, by Knight's service, and is worth, per annum, clear £9." Fernham is in the heart of the "White Horse" region. Can anyone give the inheritance of this manor of Fernham? Or add any facts about the Samborne's, whose arms—"Argent, a chevron, sable, between 3 mallets, gules, pierced, or" were in 1500, quartered by Drew Samborne with the Lushill and Drew coats.—V. C. SANBORN, La Grange, Ills., U.S.A.

We believe that Mr. Sanborn is about to publish an account of the English house and ancestry of his family, illustrated with engravings of old manor houses, &c. Southcot house, near Reading, was once held by them, which was re-built by John Blagrave in 1610. Mr. Sanborn visited England last year, and collected much information in Berkshire concerning his old and distinguished family. His Berkshire friends will welcome the appearance of his book with much pleasure, and it will be another link in the chain that binds together the old country and the new.—EDITOR.

**MURAL PAINTINGS AT ASHAMPSTEAD.**—An important discovery of 13th century wall paintings has been made at Ashampstead. We hope to publish a full description of them in our next number.

## Queries.

**COMTE DE LUDE.**—Is anything known of the circumstances under which the Count de Lude, a Huguenot refugee, became Vicar of Langley Marish? Lipscomb in his History of Bucks does not refer to the topic.—RICHARD BENTLEY, Upton, Slough.

**THE DEATH OF THE BISHOP OF AQUILA.**—The Bishop of Aquila, who for some years was the representative of Spain at the Court of Queen Elizabeth, and resided at Durham House in the Strand, in his later years fell into debt. In the summer of 1563 he removed to Langley, Bucks, where he died in August of that year. The reports as to the cause of his death were varied, some even saying that he was poisoned, others, that he died of the plague, and some affirmed that his death was due to anxiety arising from politics and the state of his affairs. Is there any record of the residence he occupied at Langley?—RICHARD BENTLEY, Upton, Slough.

THOMAS HUSSEY, of Hungerford Park, Berks, was elected M.P. for Whitechurch in co. Southampton, about December, 1645, in the place of Richard Jervoise, deceased. He retained his seat until the dissolution of April, 1653, and in the second Parliament of the Protectorate (1656-58) sat for Andover. He was appointed one of the Commissioners of Sequestration for Berkshire in February, 1650. His Will dated 3 July, 1654, with Codicils of 15 Feb., 1655, and 14 Dec., 1657, was proved in the P.C.C. 25 Feb., 1657-8. He names his wife Catherine, sons Thomas (under 15) and William, and daughters Anne, Catherine, Mary and Cicily. I should be obliged for particulars of the parentage of this M.P. and also as to the branch of the Hussey family with which he was connected.—W. D. PINK, Leigh, Lancashire.

HERCY FAMILY.—Any clue to the baptism of Rebecca, daughter of Simon Ancher, or Ager, of Broseley and Warfield, and her marriage about 1713 to Lovelace Hercy, of Winkfield, will oblige.—C. HERSEY.

OLD ENGLISH CUSTOMS.—A record of all the old English customs which still exist is about to be published by the Editor of this Journal, who will be glad to receive notes or information on the subject, in order that no local custom may be omitted. A lecture on the subject was recently delivered before the Reading Literary and Scientific Society.

BERKSHIRE MILITIA.—Information is desired concerning the Berks Militia prior to 1817. They were embodied from the end of the last century. What became of the Regimental Plate, &c? Had they colours? Do any records exist in private hands?—E. E. THOYTS.

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## Replies.

LOCKS ON THE THAMES.—Though not the earliest dates, it may be of service to give those of the building of the present locks (in response to the enquiry on page 31). Windsor (Romney Lock), 1797; Sunbury, 1812; Shepperton, 1812; Chertsey, 1813; Penton Hook, 1815; Molesey, 1815; Egham (Bell Weir), 1817; Old Windsor, 1821; Boveney, 1836; Bray, 1845.—RICHARD BENTLEY, Upton, Slough.

OYSTER SHELLS DUG UP.—Besides the instance at Reading quoted by Mr. Strong (on p. 31), it may be perhaps allowable to quote a recent instance in another part of the Thames Valley. In cutting a deep trench, from 20 to 30 feet below the surface, for a new drain, a number of oysters were discovered in the winter of 1894-5 at Slough, under a road on the South side of the Union Workhouse. The oysters were brought up perfect, i.e. unopened, and came out of clay which extended beneath the gravel subsoil.—RICHARD BENTLEY, Upton, Slough.