

recognizable in the side-slopes, and is floored with "chalk-rubble."

This does not appear to be one of the deep, well-like pits, lined with stones, tiles, clay, or wood, excavated for the purpose of marking boundaries in Roman times. It may have been sepulchral; for Thomas Wright, in his "Wanderings of an Antiquary, chiefly in the track of the Romans in Britain," 1894, pp. 176-178, describes in detail some large circular pits that have been filled with flints, and capped with broad Sarsens, on Aylesford Common; these, he thought, were probably sepulchral, and may have had a chamber opening out of the side at the bottom.

"A trail of large blocks of sarsenstone is prolonged by Hagbourne village to a line about 100 feet lower, on to the outcrop of the upper Greensand. Other slopes along these Downs exhibit similar trails of sarsenstone." (Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., xlviii., 1892, p. 313.)—Prestwich.

At Newbury, Sarsens are frequent in the "pitched" crossings of pavements at openings of yards; some are paved with squared setts. Worn, subangular, small Sarsens are plentiful in the gravel-pit south of the town.—T. R. J.

W. Whitaker refers to the Sarsens at Streatley: Proc. Geol. Assoc., vol. xiv., p. 175.

The Denchworth Missal.

By Henry Barry Hyde.

AMONGST the advantages enjoyed by those who take an interest in tracing out their pedigree are the kindness and courtesy it developes in friends and others who become aware of the object of the search. A friend, knowing my hobby, informed me that he had seen in the City an ancient Missal, in which were recorded many particulars respecting persons of the name of Hyde. In a very short time afterwards I had the pleasure of calling upon the Rev. John C. Jackson, 11, Angel Court, E.C., who most courteously allowed me to inspect the MS. I wanted to see. It far

exceeded my most sanguine expectations. It was the Great Antiphoner of Salisbury and Norwich, being the entire Breviary, with all the musical notes, the Kalender being in the middle. It consists of 359 large folio leaves, and is written on vellum, apparently about the beginning of the fifteenth century. It had evidently been the service book used in Denchworth Church, Berkshire, and had been in use in the reign of Henry VIII., because the word "Papa" was erased, in compliance with his orders, and also the name of St. Thomas of Canterbury, whom the king considered to have been a traitor. In addition to these, several erasures have been made by a line ruling through the words, which does not interfere with their legibility.

Written upon blank spaces in the Kalender were the dates of the birth and death of many members of the Hyde family, who lived for centuries at Denchworth, and built the church. These are the most numerous. There are, however, several other names mentioned, and in addition is a memorandum, copied below, which seems of earlier date than 1135, when the death of John Hyde, Esq., is recorded in the last year of Henry I. Written in a blank space in January, evidently by a regular scribe, is:—

"Mem. quod etiam tenentes hujus ville de Denchworth tenentur tenere anniversarium cujusdam Johannis Bernardi proxima dominica Post Festum Epiphanie pro quo tenendo predicti tenentes habebunt unam vaccam ex ordinatione predicti Joh. Bernard et predicti tenentur solido le belman id. ibidem qui pro tempore fudit annatim et cuicumque vicario ibidem qui pro tempore fudit dicenti placebo et dirige iid. ac clerico ibidem pulsanti le Knylle annatim id. ac offerandum dominica die predicta ad altam missam ibidem pro anima dicti Johannis ac aliorum benefactorum Suorum iiid. Pro hac materia quære si vis in le Courte Rowll de tenuta de Denceworth Secunda linea post conquestum."

The book being a large folio, and a page given for each month, frequent blank spaces occur between the days, some of the lines being only partly filled. In these spaces were entered the births and deaths which the church desired to remember on their particular days. The Kalender, being in the centre of the book, could be easily turned to by the priest when performing the service. The entries are made sometimes between the lines, rendering it difficult to determine whether they belonged to say the 11th or 12th; in such cases the day of the month is given in the entry. They come

according to the days in the month ; in the following list I give them chronologically :—

13 July. "Obitus Johannis Hyde Armiger, ultimo Henrici primi Anno Mill^{mo} C^{mo} Trigis^{mo} V^{to}."

Sept. 9. "Obitus Rodulphi Hyde Armigeri An^o D'n Millis^o C^o L^o vi^o a^o Reg. Reg. Henrici 2^{ndi} 3^o."

Jan. 11. "Obitus Richardi Hyde Militis Mill^{mo} cc^{mo} Septisag^{mo} viii^{to} Anno Regni Regis Edwardi 1^{mo} Septimo."

May 13. "Obitus Johannis Hyde anno domini Mill^o cccxvi^o et anno Regis Henrici quarto post Conquest quarto."

July 21. "Obitus Johannis Hyde Armiger anno domini Mill^{mo} ccc^o xlvii^o anno regni Regis Henrici Sexti post conquestum Angliæ vicessimo sexto litera dominicalis F."

May 29. "Obitus Agnetis Hyde anno dom' M, cccclxviii^o anno regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum Angliæ xviii."

Sept. 18. "Obitus Johnnis Hyde Armiger A^o Doⁱ Millimo cccclxxxvii^o et anno regni Regis Henrici Septⁱ post conquestum Angliæ 3^{tho} Litera Domin. G."

October 4. "Obitus Oliveri Hide Armiger. A^o D'ni Mil'imo v^{mo} xv^{to} et an^o Regni Regis Henrici Octavi Septimo Vid^t quarto die Octobris Litera Domin^{lis} G."

April 2. "Will^{mus} Hyde filius et Heres Wyll^{ml} Hyde Suam Accipit peregrinationem in hunc mund^{um} anno nostre salutis M V^{cento} xviii et anno Regni Regis Octavi 3^{mo} videlicet 2nd die mensis Aprilis."

Feb. 29. "Obitus Bartholomia Yate mercatoris Ville Stapule Calisie an^o Dni. M. ccccc vicessimo viz. ultimo die mensis Februarii Cujus Animæ propicietur Deus. Amen litera dominicalis D. Cujus Animæ propinetur Deus. Amen."

May 5. "Obitus Agnetis Hyde anno domini M^o cccccxxiii et anno regis Henrici Octavi XV^o Videlicet quinto die mensis Maii tunc litera Dominicalis D. Cujus Animæ propinetur Deus. Amen."

The last entry with a date is :—

May 3. "Obitus Willmi Hyde Anno D'ni M^{mo} cccclvii anno regni Mariæ tercio Videlicet tercio die mensis Maii tunc litera dominicalis D."

There are several births registered of Hyde children ; aud also, but without date other than that of the month :—

24 Jan. "Obitus Wilhelmi Wyblyn et Marion Uxoris Suæ et Solutum pro dirige et Missa."

26 Jan. "Johannis Wyblyn et Willi Marcer et dirige et Missa." On a tombstone in Denchworth Churchyard it is stated that that the Wyblyns were in the parish for five hundred years.

15 Oct. "Will' Yong obitus."

A man of that name witnessed one of the Hyde deeds mentioned in Clarke's 'Hundred of Wanting,' p. 98, A.D. 1398.

"12 Maij. Obitus Rogeri Merlow xii Mayi anno Regis Edwardi quarti post Conquestum 2^{do} [1462]."

He witnessed a deed at p. 99 of Clarke's 'Hundred of Wanting,' A.D. 1448.

The church registers commence with 1538, between which date and 1557 no entry has been made in the service book. Probably the book was brought into use again in Queen Mary's reign, and was not used afterwards. It seems as if when this new book was purchased the entries up to 1446 were copied into it from the old book, and that the subsequent records were written as they occurred. Bartholomew Yate, merchant of the Staple of the town of Calis, was probably father or uncle of the Rev. Peter Yate, M.A., the vicar, who was instituted on May 16, 1514, and resigned, his successor being instituted on January 2, 1521.

I presume that this service book would still be legal evidence of the facts it records. It is not often that men can see the actual entries recording the death of ancestors up to twenty, and probably twenty-five generations, as in all likelihood John Hyde (1135) and Rodolph Hyde (1156) were ancestors of Sir Richard Hyde, whose descendant I am.

The book is now in the possession of Miss Hyde, Denchworth, South Park Road, Oxford.

If any of your readers can give me information respecting John Bernard, John Hyde (1135), and Rodolph Hyde (1156), I shall be greatly obliged.

