



A Tour through Buckinghamshire.

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(Continued from page 50.)

SECTION III.—RAILWAY.—AYLESBURY TO VERNEY JUNCTION.

THE railway runs along the plain west of the hill-road described in the last section, and does not follow the line of any main road.

W. two miles is QUARRINGTON or QUARENDON, on the banks of the infant Thames.

ST. PETER'S CHAPEL, now quite a ruin, which belonged to the parish of Bierton, was founded by John Farnham about 1392. It may be in part of earlier date, for it bears marks of Early English work. It was much injured in the time of the civil wars, and has not been used since 1750. It has also been partly destroyed by a flood in 1570. Some of the arcading remains. It stands by itself in the fields.

This Chapel once contained many magnificent monuments of the Lees, a family famous both here in Buckinghamshire and at Ditchley in Oxfordshire, during the time of Elizabeth and of the Stuarts. The monuments have all disappeared, but the slab of one of them may be seen in the neighbouring farmhouse, where it forms a portion of the floor. They included those of Sir Anthony Lee, d. 1550, and his son Sir Henry Lee, d. 1611, and that of his Mistress Anne Vavasour, daughter of Henry Vavasour of a Yorkshire family. Descriptions of these monuments are preserved at Ditchley.

Sir Edward Henry Lee was created Viscount Quarendon 1674. The title became extinct 1776. No remains of the mansion of the Lees remain, but the site may be traced. The Confederate General Robert Lee, d. 1870, was a descendant of this family.

The population of the parish is now only about 50. Close to the railway W. is the Church (St. Mary, restored 1869, registers 1630) of FLEET MARSTON, the marsh town on the running stream, a small branch of the Thame. It is a small aisleless Decorated building. The parish consists of two farmhouses.

The first station is WADDESdon MANOR. The Manor is a handsome modern house built on a hill by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild.

WADDESdon village is one-and-a-half miles W. The Church (St. Michael, registers 1541) has two piers of nave and doorway, Norman; tower, south porch, and remainder of nave Early English, with Perpendicular clerestory. The chancel is Decorated. The rectory was formerly divided into three portions and each rector resided and officiated in turn. The rectories were consolidated in 1874. In the cloister is a brass to Robert Pygott and his wife; also a monument to Guy Carleton, d. 1608, with this inscription:

"Whilst I was young, in wars I shed my blood,
Both for my King and for my country's good:
In elder years my care was chief to be
Soldier to Him who shed his blood for me."

There is the effigy of a knight on an altar tomb in the S. aisle, and there is a brass to Hugh Bristow, one of the three rectors, instituted 1548. There is also a brass to Richard Huntingdon, priest, and another to William Turner a benefactor to the parish.

Sir Arthur Goodwin, Hampdon's friend, founded an almshouse.

At EYTHORP, in Waddesdon parish three miles S., was the home of the Dormers. Dorothy Dormer, widow of Sir William Dormer, married Sir William Pelham who distinguished himself in the wars in the Netherlands, and died at Flushing 1587. Dorothy added to the house. An armoury had been built by her first husband. The family of Stanhope succeeded, and Sir William Stanhope made further additions and restored the chantry chapel, but in 1738 pulled it down again to build a bridge across the Thame which flows by the park.

Taking the railway again, the next station is QUINTON ROAD. The village of QUINTON is on a hill one mile E., from which there is a beautiful view over the Vale of Aylesbury.

The family of Mallett once possessed one of the manors in the parish, which is accordingly sometimes called Quainton Mallett.

The Church (St. Mary, registers 1599) is interesting for its monuments. Amongst these are several of the Pigotts and Dor-

mers, but they have been in most cases removed from their original positions. There is a very large one to the memory of Robert Dormer, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, d. 1726, and to that of his widow. The judge erected the monument to his son Fleetwood Dormer in his own life-time, and the figures of himself and his wife were added afterwards. This monument was formerly under the arch leading into the N. chapel. It is now in the tower together with that of John Dormer. In the N. aisle is one (by Leoni) to Sir Richard Pigott, d. 1685, and his nephew and heir, Thomas, d. 1704. The monument of Richard Winwood, his wife and niece has been moved from the N. chapel to the S. aisle. He was son and heir of Sir Ralph Winwood, principal Secretary of State to James I. The monument of Richard Pigott, d. 1639, is also remarkable for its effigy and other figures. There are several brasses, one to John Spence, rector, 1485, and to Johane Plassi, 1360, also a monument to Richard Brett, one of the translators of the Bible, rector 1595 to 1637.

The Church itself is of mixed styles, restored 1877.

Near the Church are picturesque gabled almshouses founded by Sir Richard Winwood.

George Lipscombe, the historian of Buckinghamshire, was born at Quainton.

Quainton Hill, a long ridge running northwards from the village, is interesting to geologists. At the N. end is Hogshaw where there was a Preceptory of Hospitallers. Two miles W. is DODDERSHALL HALL, once a separate manor and the home of the Pigotts. The hall is the oldest portion of the house, and was built in 1380. It is a low room with a large fire-place. There was once a central quadrangle, but the S. front was built in 1689, and the W. wing was taken down in 1790.

There are several interesting portraits :—Christopher Piggott, committed to prison 1606 for speaking disrespectfully of the Scotch—Speaker Philips, Master of the Rolls in the time of Elizabeth—Secretary Thurloe (probably by Vandyke)—Christobella Lady Say and Seal, whose second husband was John Piggott of Doddershall. She lived on here after the death of her third husband, Lord Say and Seal, entertaining and giving balls in her old age. She died 1789, aged 94 years, and left a large benefaction to the parish. She was daughter of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, of Castlethorpe.

In the library hangs the pardon of Richard Pigott, granted him by Charles II. Richard Pigott had been connected with John

Hampden in the "Ship Money" question.

From Quainton Road Station a light railway runs alongside the road and through the woods by the side of Wootton Park, to the foot of Brill Hill, a distance of about ten miles. There are three stopping places on the way, Waddesdon Road, Westcot, and Wootton. Waddesdon Road is Akeman Street.

At WESTCOT, which belongs to Waddesdon, there is a modern church (St. Mary), built 1867 from designs by G. E. Street, R.A., at the expense of the Duke of Buckingham.

Wootton is the stopping place for WOOTTON UNDERWOOD and WOOTTON PARK. The village is on the S. side of the park. The name marks its situation beneath Bern Wood.

The Church (All Saints, register 1654) though dating from XIV. century has been a good deal restored, and the spire has been re-built.

On the S. side of the nave is the burial place of the Grenville family, in the windows of which are the family arms with 700 quarterings, arranged by Windsor Herald. This chapel was built by William and Mary Grenville 1343. It contains many monuments of Grenvilles of various generations. The Grenvilles were here at an early date, and in 1710 Richard Grenville married Hester Temple, who brought Stowe to his family.

The present house was built 1820 in place of one which had been built in 1705 and had been burnt. It is of red-brick with stone dressings, in the French style. Amongst famous Grenvilles buried at Wootton are Richard Grenville, who attacked the royal position at Brill, 1646, and Captain Thomas Grenville, a brilliant young naval officer, who was killed in action 1747 at the age of 28, on board the "Defiance." He was the sixth son of Hester Grenville.

N.W. of the park is LUDGARSHALL, where John Wyclif was once Rector, and where there was an Alien Priory belonging to a Religious House in Picardy.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1538) is Early English and Decorated, and contains an early font, Trans. Norman.

This is one of the places where Henry II. is said to have formed a retreat for Fair Rosamund.

One mile S., on the other side of the railway is ASHENDON, situated on a hill. In the Church (St. Mary, register 1676), which is of mixed styles, is the cross-legged effigy of a knight, probably one of the Stafford family.

One mile W. of Ashendon is DORTON, once a chapel to Chilton. The Church (St. John Baptist, register 1694) has some Early English windows.

Dorton House is built upon the site of an older one built by the Mitchells or Bearties.

CHILTON, the mother church of Dorton, is two miles S. The Manor belonged to the family of Croke, who resided here. The original name was Blount, but Sir Edmund Blount, who was implicated in a plot to restore Richard II., had to go into hiding at Easington until the death of Henry IV., and took the name of Croke.

In the Church (St. Mary, register 1730), which has some Early English windows, is the effigy, in armour, of Sir John Croke, d. 1608. He was father of Sir George Croke, the lawyer, who took an active part in the opposition to "Ship Money," and is also buried in the church. At the west end is a monument to members of the Carter family of Chilton House.

EASINGTON, which lies one mile further S., was a separate manor, and once had a chapel.

The little line now passes through oak woods which may be the remains of Bern Wood, and comes to an end at the foot of Brill Hill. There is a steep climb up to the town.

BRILL has an ancient history for the Saxon kings probably, and the Norman kings certainly, had a palace here. It is said to have been a favourite residence of Edward the Confessor. Henry II. kept his Court here in 1160, when he was attended by Thomas à Becket as his Chancellor, and again in 1162. Henry III. kept his Court here 1224. Brill was once owned by Richard Earl of Cornwall, and his house and lands were laid waste by some of the party of the rebel Barons.

In the civil wars of the XVII. century Brill was again an important place. In 1642 the King established a garrison here under Sir Gilbert Gerard as governor, and the place was attacked by John Hampden, who was, however, repulsed with considerable loss. In 1643 Brill was evacuated by the Royalists. It had formed a convenient base from which to harass Newport Pagnell and other strongholds of the Parliamentary party.

Ecclesiastically Brill was once a chapelry of Oakley, the next parish to the S. There was anciently a hermitage at Brill, dedicated to St. Werburgh, which was given by King Henry III. in 1252, with an endowment of land, to the Canons of Chetwode, on condition

of their finding a chaplain to officiate in the chapel of the hermitage, and another to officiate in the King's Palace.

The Church (All Saints, register 1569) has two Norman doorways. Parts of it are said to be Saxon. A south wall of that date was removed when the church was enlarged in 1838. There are figures painted on each side of the chancel arch, which had been plastered over.

Some remains of the royal palace may be traced.

Shirley Brooks, one of the original staff of "Punch," was born at Brill, 1816.

To the W. of Brill, two miles, beneath the hill, and on the Oxfordshire border, is BOARSTALL. The place is said to take its name from the slaying of a great wild boar, which was a terror in Bern Wood in the days of Edward the Confessor, by one Nigel, who received the Manor as a reward, on the service of the delivery of a horn. However this may be, the Manor, or a portion of it, was certainly held in grand serjeanty by such a service, and an ancient horn, which was used by the family of Fitz Nigel or Fitz Neale for this purpose, is or was until lately in the possession of the present owners, the Ricketts, at Dorton House.

The family of Handlo succeeded to that of Fitz Neale, and John de Handlo had licence to crenellate or fortify his house 1312. The mansion must have been a strong one for it was used by both parties as a fortress in the wars of the XVII. century.

It was first held for the King, but in 1644 the Royalists evacuated the place and destroyed the fortifications. The Parliamentary garrison from Aylesbury then took possession, and from this position threatened the royal garrison at Oxford, seizing provisions, and cutting off communications. Accordingly Col. Gage was sent to retake the place, which he did, after a bombardment, by a surrender on the part of the Parliamentary governor. Scout-Major Skippon, and afterwards Fairfax, attacked the house in 1645, and were unsuccessful, but in 1646 Fairfax made a second attack, and Sir Charles Champion, the Royalist governor, surrendered to him.

The house appears never to have been re-built after these sieges, and all that now remains is the spacious gate-house, which was carefully restored in 1882. It is approached by a bridge of two arches which crosses the moat. In front are the stables.

The Church (St. James, register 1640) was re-built on the old lines in 1818, by Sir John Aubrey, who sat in thirteen Parliaments from 1769, and died in 1826 at the age of 86. There are two

marble monuments of the Aubrey family, which are kept in repair by an endowment left by Sir John. In the E. window are his arms, and those of his two wives, one of the family of Colebrook, the other of that of Carter. The living is held with Brill.

To the S.W. of Brill is OAKLEY.

The Church (St. Matthew, register 1726) is chiefly Dec. and Perp. with an earlier N. arcade. It contains several monuments. In the S. aisle are those of the Tyrells, descended from Sir Timothy Tyrell of Shotover, Master of the Buck-hounds to James I., amongst them those of Sir Timothy Tyrrell, governor of Cardiff Castle, d. 1701; and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Archbishop Usher; of James Tyrrell, one of the Commissioners at the Treaty of Ryswick, d. 1745; and of Baron Schutz of Shotover, d. 1757, who was a Baron of the Roman Empire. There are also two tombs with stone crosses under arches. The font is Tran. Nor.

Brill and Boarstall were chapelries of Oakley, and so was ADDINGRAVE, where the chapel has however been pulled down. It stood two miles E.

The Empress Maud gave the Rectory of Oakley to St. Frideswide's at Oxford. The connection of the parish seems to have been altogether more with Oxfordshire than Buckinghamshire.

The great central railway runs in a straight line from Waddesden Manor Station. The line to Verney Junction bends round towards the east. There are two more stations, GRANBOROUGH ROAD and WINSLOW ROAD.

One-and-a-half miles E. is GRANBOROUGH. One mile W. is EAST CLAYDEN.

The Metropolitan joins the L. & N.W.R. at VERNEY JUNCTION.

