THE SURROUNDINGS OF BROMLEY TOWN

PLAISTOW LODGE.

Erected by Peter Thellusson, Esq., 1780.

Plaistow Fair (cf Fairfield Rd) was held on ground behind St Mary's Ch
Fairs at Hollow-bottom. This one always went on to Chislehurst-
Greasy pole, Swinging for cake, cockfighting, Horse-hurdle races etc

Chapter X

PLAISTOW AND FARWIG

THE old historians of Bromley—Dunkin, Freeman, and Wilson—have little to say about Plaistow and Farwig. Indeed of Farwig there was nothing for either Wilson (1797) or Dunkin (1815) to say, for the district subsequently known as Farwig did not exist under that name until nearly a decade after Dunkin wrote. Freeman, writing in 1832, asserts that

" The whole of the buildings at this place have been erected within the last nine years, before which time not even a cottage was to be seen."

The whole expanse of country lying immediately to the north of the town was known as Plaistow, where a few estates and substantial residences, approachable by circuitous lanes and bypaths, varied the otherwise unbroken range of a purely pastoral landscape.

The name Plaistow is said to signify a playground, and has been traced back to Anglo-Saxon *plega*, play, game, and *stow*, place, though it is also asserted in an article on Bromley place-names in the *District Times* of September 1921, that a Mr. Samuel Plaistow owned much property in Plaistow in 1765. Of this gentleman, however, no record has reached me, and the name, as attached to the particular district, is of far older date than 1765.

Antiquarian research has not succeeded, so far, in tracing the land tenures in this locality farther back than the early sixteenth century, but it is known that in A.D. 1500 an estate with house attached was in the hands of a family named Ryder, " of Battersey and Bromley," the estate, which was situated in what was then known as Milk Street, passing before 1589 into the hands of the King family, which retained possession till 1754. The property then was sold to a Mr. Jones Raymond, ultimately coming into the hands of the Scotts of Sundridge Park.

A portion of the land was, in early days, the property of the influential Knight family, who parted with that part of it on which Springhill now stands to Arnold King. The land on which Plaistow Hall was subsequently erected is thought by Mr. B. F. Davis to have been in the possession of the Shott family in the sixteenth century, though other authorities think it more probable that this piece also belonged to the Kings.

There were in all four principal demesnes in the Plaistow district—Plaistow Lodge, Plaistow Hall, Springhill, and Milk Street, and the early history of Plaistow is the history of these estates.

Of these by far the largest was PLAISTOW LODGE, the grounds of which, 126 acres in extent, stretched northward from the present London Lane, and

contained all the land to the west of Burnt Ash Lane. The property did not apparently become a single estate until well into the eighteenth century, the owners in 1673—the earliest date to which the tenures have been traced—being three members of a family named French. Passing through several hands, either by inheritance or purchase, in 1777 the whole property was bought by Peter Thellusson, a gentleman who had accumulated an enormous fortune, estimated at £800,000, of which he spent £40,000 in erecting the present mansion known as Plaistow Lodge. The sudden rise in the rateable value of the estate, from £84 in 1777 and succeeding years to £175 in November 1796, was evidently the consequence of the construction of Plaistow Lodge.

Peter Thellusson is chiefly remarkable for his extraordinary will dated April 2nd, 1796, which was drawn in such terms that an Act of Parliament was passed in 1800 prohibiting any such will in the future.[1] A sum of £4,500 per annum, and a further capital sum of £600,000, was to be placed in the hands of trustees, who were directed to allow the whole to accumulate, by investments in land, until the grandson of his existing grandson (then an infant) should reach the age of twenty-one, when the whole property was to be at his disposal. Failing such issue the Thellusson estate was, after the lapse of three generations, to be sold, and the proceeds to be applied, under direction of Parliament, towards the liquidation of the National Debt. As the family survived in direct male descent the clauses of the will relative to the National Debt did not come into operation, but the other clauses gave rise in 1856 to a hotly contested lawsuit, the expenses of which were so enormous that the property ultimately emerged from it no greater in value than it was when the will was made.

After the death of Peter Thellusson early in 1797, his widow, Anne, remained in possession until 1804, when, presumably upon her death, the ownership passed to Peter Isaac Thellusson, son of the original Peter. In 1806 he became the first Baron Rendlesham in the Irish peerage, and in all probability retired from the south to the Thellusson estates in Yorkshire. At any rate in 1810 Plaistow Lodge was leased by the Thellusson trustees to a Mr. Thomas Maltby, and two years later the whole estate was purchased from the trustees by the Hon. Hugh Lindsay of the family of Crawford and Balcarres. In 1822 Mr. Lindsay in turn sold it to Walter Boyd, or rather to a group of grateful clients who presented it to Mr. Boyd, as a token of their gratitude and esteem, at a cost of £17,000.

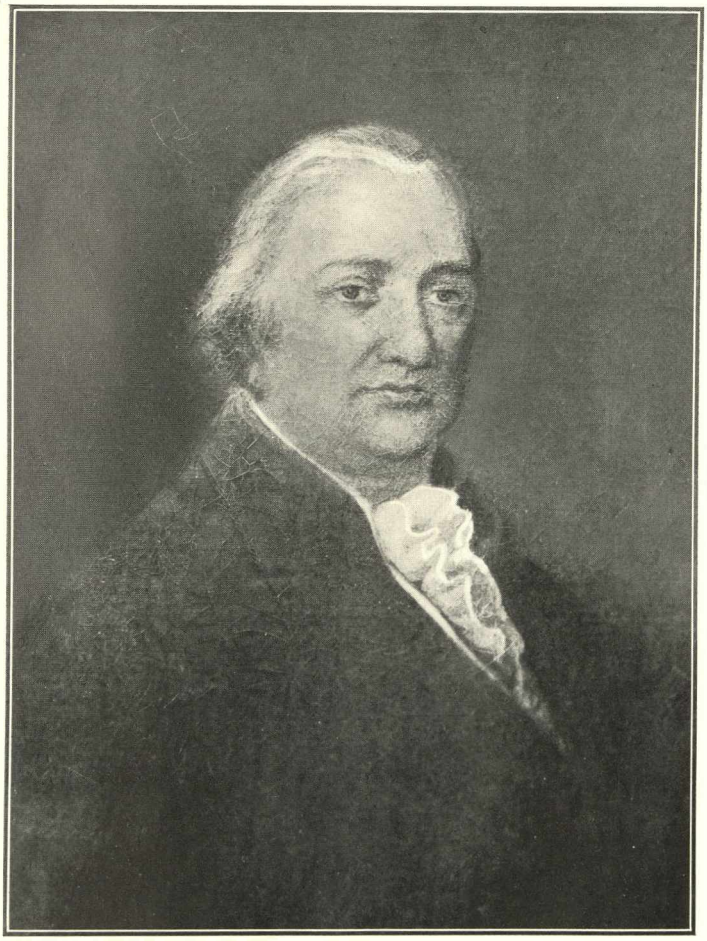
This remarkable man, whose life is traced in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, was a banker and financier of great repute who was born in or about 1754. He had large interests in Paris, where he was residing at the outbreak of the French Revolution. There he remained, refusing to seek refuge at home for ten years, safeguarding as far as possible the interests of

[1] By "the Thellusson Act" accumulations are limited to the grandchildren of the testator.

Besides the French's it passed through the hands of Wm Lowe, Wm Darkhurst & a Thos Oxoy[illegible]onner
In 1720 the owners were Lords Sands, Rockingham & Rumney & Wm Passinger. In 1736-57 it
was Madame Dasninger's. 1757-77 Wm Passinger JP. herson, 1777-96 Peter Thellusson d. 1796.

In Rt Bks it stands thus

Oct 1795 P. Thellusson £84 + owner. Mar. 1796 the same only £84 + £175 added (£84 + £175 crossed out in pencil)
which seems evidently a note for next Rate
Nov 1796 P Thellusson £175.' + owner
Jan 1797 " " " but in
Apl 1797 Mrs Thellusson " So he died bet Jan & Apl 1797



PETER THELLUSSON (1737–1797).

From an oil painting belonging to Lord Rendlesham.

his clients, of his creditors, and of his bank. It was in acknowledgment of these services that Plaistow Lodge was presented to him at the conclusion of the Napoleonic wars. During those wars he had acted as contractor for Government loans to the extent of some thirty or forty millions.

"He was" (says an obituary notice in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* of October 5th, 1837), "the intimate and warm friend of William Pitt, and their published correspondence shows how much that minister was indebted for many of his brightest financial schemes to the genius of Mr. Boyd. Through the interest of the Empress Josephine, who was the schoolfellow and friend of Mrs. Boyd, his extensive banking establishment and property in Paris were not only protected during a most sanguinary struggle, but restored to him untouched when the reign of terror was over. Sir Walter Scott often expressed a wish to write his singular and chequered life. He was for many years Member of Parliament for Lymington, and other places, and his deep knowledge of all matters connected with finance rendered his opinion on those matters always valuable."

During his residence at Plaistow Lodge the place was well kept up, and it is said that fifty persons slept under its roof every night. Open house to tradesmen and others was practically the rule in the servants' quarters, and it was no uncommon thing to hear three or four fiddles going in the servants' hall of an evening.

On Walter Boyd's death in 1837 the estate passed to his son, Robert Boyd, who held it till his death in 1863. The remains of both the Boyds, Walter and Robert, were deposited in the Boyd vault in the catacombs beneath the parish church of Bromley, those sombre and ghostly recesses of the very existence of which most of the people of Bromley are probably quite ignorant.

From 1869 to 1873 the estate was held by Mr. J. Mackenzie, who sold it in the latter year to the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird. In 1878, on the death of his brother, ninth baron, he succeeded to the barony, residing at Plaistow Lodge till his death in 1887. He was succeeded in turn by his eldest son, Arthur Fitzgerald Kinnaird, who thus became the eleventh baron.

Lord Kinnaird, in a different way, was no less remarkable a man than Walter Boyd. He was conspicuous equally as an athlete and an extreme Low Churchman, and his beneficence as a philanthropist was only equalled by his prowess on the football field. An Eton and Trinity, Cambridge, man, he held the office of Lord High Commissioner for Scotland from 1907 to 1909. He was President of the Y.M.C.A.; President of the Football Association from 1890; Founder of the Old Etonians Football Club, and the holder of nine medals commemorating his appearance in nine finals for the Association Cup.

In 1896 Lord Kinnaird ceased to reside at Plaistow Lodge. He resolved to break up the estate and to develop it as a residential centre. The

house itself, with a sufficiency of surrounding land, was leased by my old friend and colleague, Mr. Gustav Loly, who transferred to this palatial and commodious situation the boys' school known as 'Quernmore,' originally established by Mr. John Gibson in Holwood Road.

Already, many years before the Plaistow Lodge estate was broken up by its present intersection of roads lined with private residences, the spread of Bromley towards the north had given rise to a desire that a church should be erected to serve the needs of an increasing population. Accordingly in 1863 the nave of the Church of St. Mary, Plaistow, was consecrated, and gradually assumed its present form. As its history is fully traced in another chapter of this book, it is unnecessary here to do more than indicate its place in the development of Plaistow as a residential centre.

Before closing the history of Plaistow Lodge, some reference must be made to the presentation to the town by the Kinnaird Park Estate Syndicate of a pair of iron gates which had stood for some years as the entrance gates to the demesne. They now guard the entrance to Queen's Garden. The gates were purchased in 1876 by the then Lord Kinnaird from a dealer in Sloane Street, and they were represented to the purchaser as having formed part of the original enclosure round the western end of St. Paul's Churchyard. On the occasion of their presentation to the town it was confidently asserted that the gates were designed by Sir Christopher Wren, or under his direction; that they were examples of the old Sussex ironwork fashioned at Lamberhurst in Kent, of which material the railings round St. Paul's were undoubtedly made. The same gentleman, however, who made these statements to the Bromley District Council on November 9th, 1900, subsequently wrote a letter to the *District Times* of July 5th, 1901, in which he detailed the further investigations which he had made into the origin of the gates. A very careful comparison between the existing old railings round St. Paul's and the Kinnaird gates revealed such differences as to make it evident that the gates at any rate could not have formed part of the external railing. Nor did they in any way resemble any of the existing ironwork in the interior. Accordingly Mr. W. R. Mallett, the gentleman in question, withdrew his original assertions in the following terms:

"If, through inadvertence, I have misled the public in assuming that these gates formed part of the external railing (of St. Paul's) removed in 1873, I express my deep regret, and trust that my efforts to arrive at the real facts of the case may be accepted in mitigation of the error."

A note, supplied by Mr. Philip Norman, seems rather to clench the matter:

"It is quite certain that the gates were not part of the old ironwork of St. Paul's Cathedral, as they are not in the style of the period of its manufacture."

After Loly's death in 1913. Mrs Loly carried it on for 1914-20 when it was taken by Francis Rich. Tutton as tenant. 1921-23 F R Tutton & Gerald Middleton & 1923-26 A.O. Lightowler Bsc.

Before development by Lord Kinnaird there was a large pond in the park perpetuated to day by Lake Avenue. Also there was a very favourite footpath that was entered upon up steps ~~where~~ a stile from Boyds Lane (now London L) This went thro the park & then 2 or 3 fields of Holloway Farm. In one of these fields partly within the Borough (see Map at end)

See Record Oct-/1886. 1 acre was devoted to an experimental growth of tobacco in 1886. 4840 plants produced a magnificent crop the leaves being 27 x 13 in with a very tender midrib. Special facilities were granted by the Inland Revenue Dept. The crop was despatched to Copes of L'pool. who bought it but the 'curing' alas, from climatic reasons was a failure. Seeds were from Carter

In the face of such a pronouncement, and of Mr. Mallett's assiduous labours to ascertain the facts, the connection between the Queen's Garden gates and St. Paul's Cathedral must, it is feared, be regarded as a legend.

A curious discovery, opening up a wide field for the imagination, was made in the autumn of 1900, when operations were in progress for the widening of London Lane. A portion of the road fell in opposite the house occupied by Mr. F. W. Atkins—the house, by the way, to which Charles Freeman, Bromley's historian, retired, and in which he died. On investigation a passage way leading towards Plaistow Lodge was discovered under the roadway. In one part of this subterranean tunnel there was found hanging from the wall a gold-laced coat which fell to pieces on being handled, and also a considerable quantity of old wine, some of which was "consumed on the premises," and some, it is said, was sold to the landlord of the Beech Tree Hotel. The passage would have given access to Mr. Atkins's house, had it not been bricked up at that end.

What was the original purpose of this subterranean tunnel? How did the gold-laced coat, which crumbled at the touch, get there? How came it about that a store of wine, still saleable, lay there neglected and forgotten? Prosaic answers to these questions are doubtless possible, but upon the slender foundation of the available facts we are free, if we choose, to build a fabric of romance, and to associate in our minds the matter-of-fact Plaistow of to-day with the secret and mysterious exits and entrances of medieval times.

Plaistow Hall, now demolished, was a substantial red-brick building situated opposite where Cambridge Road now meets Plaistow Lane. On its site a house appears to have stood long before the erection of the hall, the property in the sixteenth century being either a part of the Shott estate, or of that of the King family. The tenures have been successively traced through a Henry Mills, who sold to Andrew Broome in 1597; in 1605 the estate was sold by Andrew Broome to Henry Walton, and from the Walton family it passed in due course to Peter Burrell who built Plaistow Hall about 1700. Peter Burrell sold to Richard Swift, and from the latter the property was acquired by William Passinger. Ultimately it passed into the hands of the Scott family of Sundridge, who had as tenants of Plaistow Hall one of the Boyds, and later a Mr. Kincaid, from whom the remainder of the lease was taken over by Mr. William Sewell Shuttleworth, who, at its expiration, renewed it for twenty-one years. Mr. Shuttleworth died in 1863, and his widow remained in occupation until 1882.

Mr. Shuttleworth was a great figure in Plaistow. His memory, as a philanthropist and friend of the poor, still survives:

> "Friend of the poor, beloved of friends, and dear
> To all who knew thy worth, and felt how near
> Thy kind heart beat to poor man's wants and ways
> And how, with open hand, thou cheer'st their days."

Such was his fitting obituary contributed to the *Bromley Record* in 1863. His Christmas present to the poor in 1858 was three bullocks, with a corresponding supply of bread and soup. His eldest son, Wm. S. Yorke Shuttleworth, performed the extraordinary feat of riding a bicycle from Russia to Calais, in order to disprove the opinion "that a religious zealot must be a muff."

From 1885 to 1900 Plaistow Hall was the home of Mr. Henry Hicks, whose son, William Hicks, was a somewhat conspicuous figure in the Bromley of my day. He varied an assiduous devotion to his business as a solicitor in London with an equally assiduous devotion to the cause of "Protestantism" as against the High Churchman. "I am a Prot," he once said to me, and for the moment I was at a loss to recognise the particular sect to which he thus proclaimed his attachment. He gave the impression of a man who meant to get on in the world, and Sir William Joynson-Hicks, Bart., M.P., and Home Secretary, has justified the promise of his youth.

From ancient times there seem to have been a house and farm on the site of SPRINGHILL. It was a part of the possessions round Bromley of the Knight family, from whom it was bought by Arnold King early in the seventeenth century. It remained in the hands of successive members of the King family throughout that century, or the greater part of it. A Robert King sold to a Mr. Walsingham King, who in turn sold to Roger Peck in 1712. The deed cementing this sale describes the house as a very ancient one. This ancient house in due course disappeared, to be replaced by the present structure, but the precise date of the present house and the name of the man who caused it to be built are alike unknown, but if in 1857 it was in fact, as it was reputed to be, about a hundred and fifty years old, that would carry back its origin either to Walsingham King or Peck. About the middle of the last century the property was divided, roads being made to enable the fields to be turned into a building estate. The house itself with its surrounding gardens was bought by Mr. Edwards, who lived there for some years, but in 1857 Mr. Edwards sold it to Major Clement Satterthwaite of the Stock Exchange, who resided at Springhill for over thirty years. It was to him that the house was represented as being about a hundred and fifty years old.

Thus was formed that close connection between the family of Satterthwaite and the town of Bromley which has lasted for nearly three-quarters of a century, and which still, happily, continues. None of the old residents who were at any time contemporary with Major Clement Satterthwaite are likely to have forgotten his familiar and dignified figure as he made his way on Sundays to his seat in St. Mary's Church, for which, from its first inception to its completion, he was so indefatigable a worker, and in which he was so devoted a worshipper. Nor will his services to the Volunteer movement of the district be readily forgotten. Indeed he and Mrs. Satterthwaite were foremost in all good works for the benefit of their country,

They were the first to travel about the roads with a traction-engine which caused a sensation at the time

He was born at 13 Grange Rd Camberwell N on June 23rd 1865. Educated Merchant Taylors Sch, thence his 1st School was Tottenridge Pk Sch. Herts (boys). He did not go to Coll. Articled as Solicitor Wm Oakley Long & Gardiner Lincs Inn Fields. Admitted to Bar 1888. Mar 1895 to Grace dau of Reid Hampson Joynson JP of Chesterfield Bourden. Issue 2 Sons. & 1 daughter. Lives here at Lynwood Highland Rd. MP for Manchester NW. Brentford. Twickenham. First Sec Treasury 1923 Minister of Health Aug 1923. Home Sec. Nov 1924. His mother lives at 37 Tweedy Rd. Was 84 in 1924 was a highly skilled needlewoman. His brothers were Albert & Sir Maxwell.

a Bt
Black Roll
BK p 131.

There is a tablet on the back of the house [1868] This relates to an extension by Payne & Balding The Settlethwaites went there in 1857.

The widow of A.K eldest son had it in 1611. Then her son Robert till 1666, Then his son Robert who sold it to Walsingham King Esq on.

"Springhill Jack" In the 70s caused consternation about the place I've seen in Blackstone then in Love Lane & other places. He was a man dressed in white, with boots on having springs on soles, so that he could spring right over any low fence. walls etc frighten people.

Dr C.T. Beke the great Arabian & Egyptian Explorer died at Holly Villas Springfield 31 July 1874.

Old Tom Soane farmer of Mkt. St. was the leading spirit of a set who kept a noted pack of harriers

Downham Estate This is now a vast accumulation of housing S&E. of this parish on 516 ac. 60 of which however come within the parish of Bromley which has had to provide a very up to date School the LCC providing a recreation ground of 8 ac.

re. the Farwigs By the courtesy of Mr Withycombe I saw a number of his deeds re land here in 1922.
1823 A Quadripartite Thos Lord Ribblesdale (? Rendlesham) with Wm Adams, Wm Assheton Esq. Frances Amabilla Assheton & Johann Farwig & Joseph Sergeant.
1847. Wm Fred Farwig, Nunnington Causeway Metal Merchant, Henry Adolphus F. Tinplate worker Fredk Wilhelm F. Tinplate worker, Augustus Henry F. Metal Worker, & Thos. Geo. Fymore Richard Golds. for 2 houses in Farwig Lane next the Royal Oak
(Hall-Pringle)
These & all the land of the Royal Oak Stables are now partly Mr Withycombe & partly his married daughters (Mrs Hammond)
Plaistow Lane originally came from Widmore round by Springhill, up to the Farwig Arms past the London Rd. There was no College Rd.
See B.N/C Bk 2 p 48-55
An old Clock - grandfather Style - at the Farwig Arms belonged to the Old Workhouse but came from the Old Gas Works at Longfield. Atkins the landlord bought it - Lately it was sold to Mr Noble watch maker once opp. Methuens Now (1924) goes to Homesdale Rd. It was made by Collet of Chelsea in 1809.
+B.N/C Bk 1 p 55
Mr Grubb, the builder's father from Yorkshire, came as a waiter at the White Hart then took the barbershop on the S corner of Farwig Lane, (older than The Farwig Arms opp.) Wm Alexander Grubb his son was apprenticed to Mowlem the builder & became one himself
For particulars of these two public-houses see my article on Town's Dist. Times 7th & 14th Dec 1923.

Colby Rd hey remade
opp Ophir Rd May 5th 1932

2 116

and of the locality in which they resided. Not the least of their good works was the fact that they were the parents of Colonel Edward Satterthwaite, who still splendidly maintains the family tradition. It is not within the scheme of this history to celebrate inhabitants of Bromley who are still living, but in the case of one who has been Mayor of the Borough, who, as Secretary to the Stock Exchange, has occupied for many years a position of great importance in the world of finance, who has commanded both the Volunteer and Territorial Infantry in the county, and whose services at the War Office, in connection with the Territorial Force, were, during the Great War, of national value—in the case of such a one some slight, though far from exhaustive, tribute to an honoured name may perhaps be permitted.

In Major Clement Satterthwaite's time the house itself was enlarged, the changes in the Springhill property, mentioned on the previous page, were made, Cambridge Road, and the roads adjacent to it, came into existence, and were speedily bordered by houses. In 1888 the ownership of Springhill passed to Mr. John Gordon, and later to Mr. William Bowley, 1895–6, and to Miss Bowley, 1896–9. After a vacancy of two years, Springhill was acquired by the Kent County Council as a school for Domestic Economy.

Of the house property in MILK STREET little is now known. As early as 1500, if not earlier, a large house a little to the east of Marshall's farm was in the hands of the Ryders " of Battersey and Bromley." In the course of the sixteenth century it became a part of the property owned by the King family, passing on the death of John King into the hands of his widow, who by another marriage became Mrs. Susan Walton. Successive generations of Waltons held the property until 1754, when it was sold to Mr. Jones Raymond, passing in due course into the estate of the Scotts at Sundridge. It is now known as Hall's Farm.

Pousty's Hill, or Hilly Fields, was known as Mount Misery. It is the only circular viewpoint in the borough, and may possibly, it is thought, have been a British settlement in ancient days. Fragments of pottery have been unearthed there which have been tentatively estimated as pieces of British Burial Urns. The site is now chiefly notable for the enormous reservoir, constructed since the war, designed to contain 5,000,000 gallons of water supplied by the Shortlands Pumping Station.

The district known for the last hundred years as FARWIG was originally a part of the Plaistow Lodge estate, but was separated from it, by sale, in the days of the Thellusson occupation, the principal purchaser being Mr. Johann Farwig, a member of the great metal-working firm established in Newington Causeway. The property thus acquired extended to what is now the Beech Tree Hotel on the London Road, and included the area around Farwig Lane and a part of College Road. It consisted exclusively of meadows and cornfields interspersed by trees and hedges, and even as late as 1860 the view from the town end of College Road presented little else but a purely rural landscape.

In the hands of Mr. Farwig a portion of the estate, between 1825 and 1832, was laid out in a row of small houses, with forecourts flanked by battlemented towers, which were built mainly for the accommodation of artisans, and the name of Farwig Place, and the general name of Farwig, are derived from the gentleman who was the first to develop it as a building site. Two public-houses, the Farwig Arms at the north corner and the Royal Oak at the south, were constructed in due course to serve the requirements of an industrial population, chiefly engaged in the service of the first Bromley Gas Company, whose office was established in Farwig Lane. The western extremity of Farwig, previous to the existence of the Beech Tree Hotel, was a nursery garden in the possession of Mr. Godfrey Stidolph, whose fine half-timbered house was a notable feature as you approached the town. In front of it was a handsome purple beech tree, which, however, would not for itself command mention here. Its interest lies in the curious story, tradition, fact—one knows not what to call it—associated with it. The story goes that Sir Joseph Paxton, when laying out the Crystal Palace Grounds, was attracted by this beech tree, and managed to convey it bodily to its new home at Sydenham. To a certain degree the tradition is supported by Mr. George H. Bascombe of Chislehurst, who states in a book called *The Arborist* (a copy of which is in Mr. W. Baxter's possession) that—

"My machinery was used by Mr. P—— of Kent to move bodily trees 40 feet high."

If "Mr. P—— of Kent" disguises the name of Paxton, this is an evidence favourable to the tradition. On the other hand, a very old resident in Shortlands, Mr. Ford, has stated that the tree was cut down and disposed of to a sawyer in Bromley named Rose. Whatever be the truth of the matter, the Beech Tree Hotel gains its name from this tree.

The development of Plaistow, as we know it to-day—a labyrinth of houses in a thickly populated district—began as early as 1867 when parts of Crescent and Cambridge Roads were laid out. Up to that time it still retained its purely rural character, an old Farwig smithy and the office of the gas-works being, apart from the artisans' cottages already mentioned, the only centres of industrial activity. In No. 6 Crescent Road the distinguished geographer, scientist, and revolutionary, Kropotkin, Prince Peter Alexeievitch of Russia, found a refuge after the turmoils of his stormy career. Stepniak, in his *Underground Russia*, has recorded the imprisonment of the Prince in the fortress of SS. Peter and Paul and his romantic escape, which was aided by the playing of a viola as a signal. In recognition of this assistance Kropotkin named his house "Viola."

Of Farwig it only remains to record the activities of the Farwig Wesleyan Mission, which first established itself, in 1881, in a cottage at No. 12 Mooreland Road. In 1883 the Mission had sufficiently extended to justify the

He was a Russian geographer & revolutionary born in Moscow became Sec'y of the Physical Sect
of the Geographical Soc. In 1871 he explored the glaciers of Finland & Sweden. He came here
in 1886. He wrote a number of books on scientific & revolutionary subjects. He was very charming

— started by Wm. J. Gibbs

where Chances Woodsheds now stand in fact- there is part of the pavement there now (Chitty). It was burnt down (S Shilcock)

— A large portion of land N & E of Farring belongs to the Parish of St Mary Aldermary Lond. Members of the Vestry used to have quite a day out in visiting the property once a year when they drove around in carriages supplied from the White Hart, whence they retired to partake of a most recherché dinner, washed down with rare vintage wines from their private cellarage at the Hotel!!

The architects of the Cent'l Hall were
Messrs Gordon & Gunton

construction of a distinct and permanent establishment which took the form of an iron building constructed on the site ~~on which St. Mary's Hall now stands~~. / Now occ. by Express Dairy

Here, with constant extensions, the Mission carried on its work for twenty years. The range of that work was indeed, and is, extensive, including, besides Sunday services, a Band of Hope, social meetings for the young, gospel temperance meetings, and popular meetings for adults. Notwithstanding enlargements, which were at last represented by a large hall accommodating six hundred people, and schoolrooms and classrooms for three hundred scholars, the premises were still too small for the full development of all the purposes of the Mission. Largely under the impulse given by the enthusiasm of Mr. W. J. Gibbs, from the first the Secretary and Honorary Superintendent of the Mission, a project took shape in April 1905 in the form of the Central Hall on London Road, erected by ~~Messrs. Minter of Putney~~ Chas Brightman of Watford at a cost of £15,500, where all the old activities of the Mission are still in vigorous operation, together with many others made possible by the existence of such ample premises.

All that is now needed to do justice to the fine orchestra, which has always been a feature of the Mission, is an organ.

SUNDRIDGE

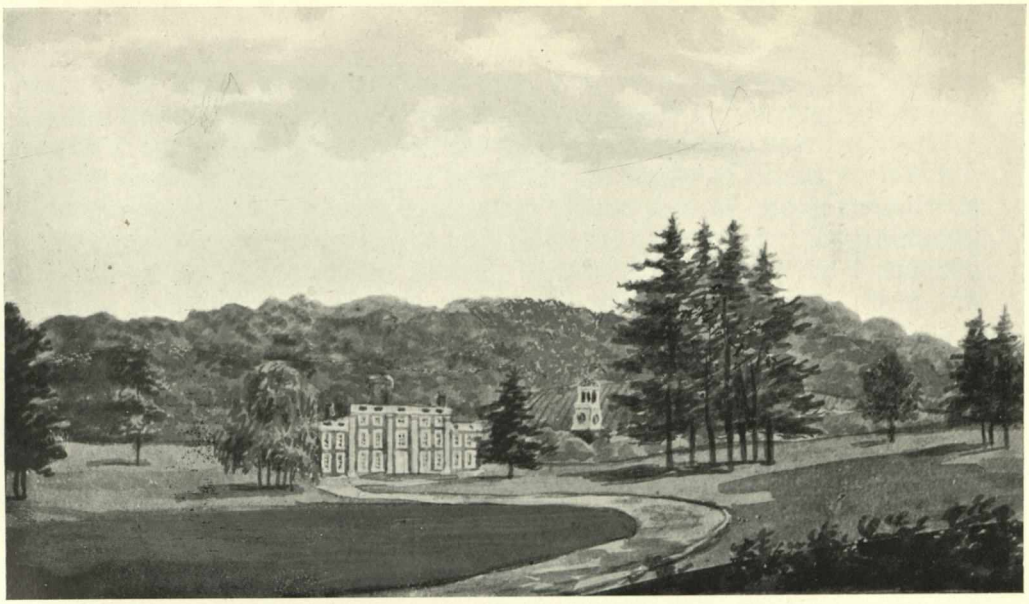
TO the north-east of the town, midway between Bromley and Chislehurst, lies the Sundridge estate—Sundridge Park—surrounding, until quite recent times, a single mansion, of which the architectural features admirably blended with the quiet beauty of its environment. A public footpath across the park considerably curtailed the distance by road between the two points, and no more charming walk was to be found in the neighbourhood than from Bromley to Chislehurst by way of Sundridge Park. At one point the mansion lay in full view below, but, imposing as it is, no one, viewing this fine example of comparatively modern architecture, could guess that the origins of this estate are lost in the mists of antiquity and that the Manor of Sundridge is almost coeval with that of Bromley itself.

The name Sundridge has in the course of ages undergone so many vicissitudes that its derivation and meaning must necessarily be a matter of speculation and controversy. If, as is conjectured, the name is a contraction of Sunderidge, it may be that it denotes the dividing ridge or watershed of the two streams, Ravensbourne and Kyd Brook. It is asserted that the name appears as indicating a distinct locality, and under a spelling which makes it capable of identification, in an Anglo-Saxon Charter of A.D. 987, but it does not emerge as an historic entity until more than a century later—some time after the Domesday Survey.

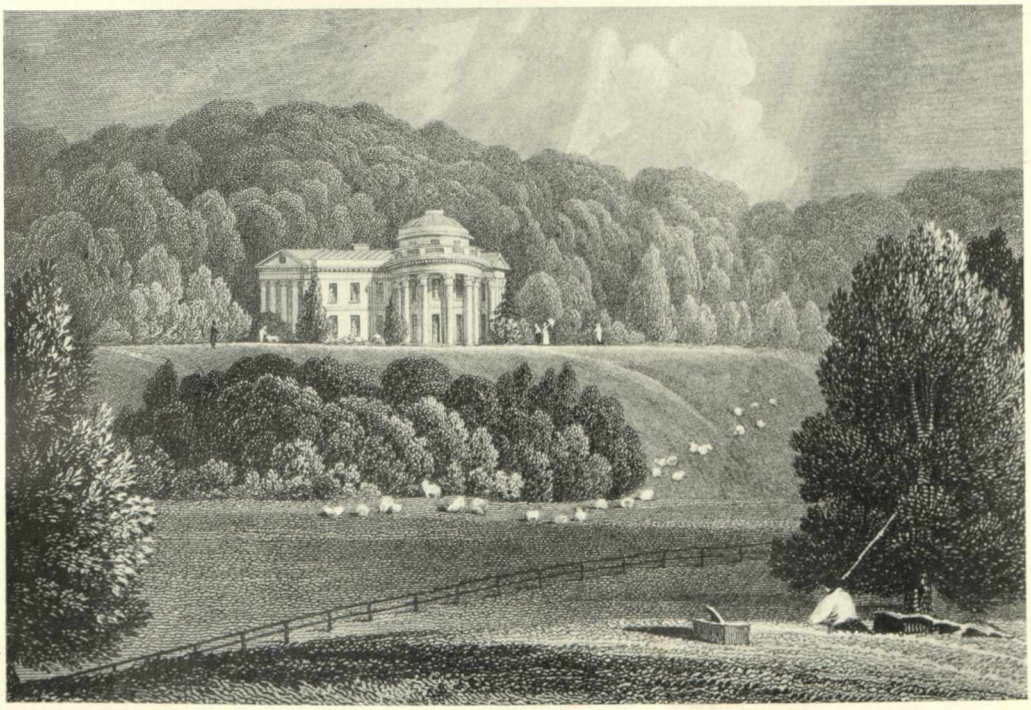
In that Survey there is no mention of any holder of land in Bromley, or its immediate vicinity, other than the Bishop of Rochester, and from this it may be assumed that the episcopal manor was at that time intact.

Within a comparatively short period of time after Domesday, the Bishops appear to have begun to alienate some portions of their manorial lands, on the principle of sub-infeudation, for, in less than a century, as many as twenty-seven persons are cited in *Textus Roffensis* as holding land of the Bishop under the terms of Knight's Service. Some of these alienated lands became themselves subordinate manors, and of these Sundridge was probably one.

Unfortunately for the historian there is another Sundridge in the neighbourhood of Sevenoaks, and, as a consequence, it is extremely difficult to distinguish, in the old records, the one from the other. Not only so—there was near Rochester a place called Bromhey, easily capable of being confused with Bromley. Thus the minute and careful investigations instituted by Mr. Coles Child into old documents preserved at the Record Office, by which he established the existence of a certain Galfrid, and of a Walter de Braibroc as tenants of the Manor of Sundridge, appear to have no relation to Sundridge near Bromley. Hasted himself has fallen into the trap, and has quite excusably confused, in his narrative, a John Blunt of Sundridge by Sevenoaks with a John Blunt of London and Bromley. Where there is so much uncertainty it will be wiser to confine this narrative



SUNDRIDGE BEFORE 1792.



SUNDRIDGE AFTER 1792.

Thos Sybtek bequeathed it to
his wife Margaret in 1421

within the limits of unquestioned fact, and, excluding the problematical Galfrid and de Braibroc, to come directly to the Blunt family, which was certainly at one time possessed of the Manor of Sundridge near Bromley.

In days before the Norman Conquest the family of Blund, or Blound, held the lordship of Guisnes in France. Three sons of one of these lords came over to England in the train of William the Conqueror. Two of them, Sir Robert and Sir William Blound, remained here after the Conquest, settling respectively in Suffolk and in Lincolnshire, and from them the various families of Blount or Blunt in this country are derived.

In the reign of Henry III a cadet of this family, Peter le Blund, became Constable of the Tower (39th Henry III, 1254), and Hasted seems to imply that at an earlier date this Peter was already in possession of the Manor of Sundridge. The first documentary evidence, however, which we have of the ownership of the Blund family is from the *Pedes Finium* preserved in the Record Office. From this document it appears that a certain Henry of Gloucester and Margaret his wife put in a claim against John le Blunt, draper of London, to the possession of " the Manor of Sundresshe near Brumlegh," which claim was arbitrated in the King's Court at York in the 30th of Edward I (1301) with the following result—that " the aforesaid Henry and Margaret his wife acknowledge the aforesaid Manor with the appurtenances to be the right of the said John." They therefore abandon all claims to it for themselves and for their heirs. In consideration of this acknowledgment, John le Blunt " gave to the same Henry and Margaret the sum of Twenty pounds sterling."

The next document relating to the Blunts of Sundridge, preserved in the *Book of Aids*, refers to the year 1346, the 20th of Edward III. In that year, on the occasion of conferring knighthood upon the King's eldest son—it was the year of Crecy and the initiation of the Black Prince into the arts of war—a requisition up to 40*s*. on every Knight's fee was made by order of the King. A transcript of the accounts of the collectors was made many years later by Cyriac Petit in the 35th of Henry VIII, and therein under title " Hundred of Bromleigh & Bekenham " there appears the entry—" Of Edward de Blound, for one quarter of one fee, which John de Blound held in Bromleigh of the Bishop of Rochester—X*s*."

A few years after the death of Edward de Blound, Sundridge appears as the property of Robert Fourneaux, " citizen and fishmonger of London," and it passed by the marriage of his widow to Andrew Pykeman, also a citizen of London and member of the same city company. Pykeman died in 1391 leaving the property to his daughter, whose husband, John Sibile, thus became the owner. She died in 1401 and his property was left in the hands of his three sons, Thomas being the one who lived at Sundridge, where he died in 1421. A short time later Sundridge is found to be the property of Ralph Booth, whose father had married a daughter of John Sibile and thus by descent from him it passed into the hands of the Booth family.

From this point it will be sufficient to follow Hasted.

"A descendant of this family," he says, "William Booth, was found by Inquisition taken in the first year of Henry VII (1485) to die possessed of the Manor of Sundrigg, held of the Bishop of Rochester, by Knight's Service, and by service of making suit at the court of the Palace; and that Robert Booth, was his son and heir, who was, with one hundred other gentlemen of this county of Kent made Knights of the Bath in the 17th of Henry VII (1501). In whose descendants Sundridge continued till Sith Booth Esq., dying without male issue, one of his daughters and co-heirs carried it in marriage to Thomas Bettenham of Shurland in Pluckley, Esq., whose great-grandson, Stephen Bettenham of Bromley, Gent., gave it in marriage with his daughter Anne, to Robert Pynsent, third son of John Pynsent, of Chudleigh in Devonshire, and Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas. . . . He died here in 1679 without issue, and was buried in the Chancel of the Parish Church. He was succeeded in the possession of this seat by Thomas Washer of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., formerly of Lyneham in Devonshire, on whose death in 1720 it came to his son John Washer of Lincoln's Inn, who dying in 1749 without male issue, his only daughter and heir carried it in marriage to William Wilson Esq., Sheriff of this County in 1766. He died possessed of it in 1776, leaving three sons and two daughters, of whom the eldest, William, alienated it to Edward George Lind Esq., who is the present owner of this seat and manor and now resides at it. From the family before mentioned, and its situation among the woods, this seat acquired the name of 'Washers in the Woods,' by which I believe it is generally known among the common people at present."

This transaction, the sale to Mr. Lind, took place in 1792. Four years later this gentleman sold the estate to Mr. Claude Scott of Chislehurst.

The new owner immediately carried into effect a scheme which seems to have been contemplated by his predecessor. A Mr. H. Repton had prepared for Mr. Lind a book of suggestions, with numerous sketches, for the general improvement of the property. One of the proposals evidently was that the old house should be pulled down, and a modern mansion erected in a more suitable position. This plan carried with it extensive alterations in the grounds, among them the incorporation of a considerable extent of arable land and pasture into the park and pleasure-grounds surrounding the house. Mr. Claude Scott, afterwards Sir C. Scott, Bart., resolved to adopt Mr. Repton's advice, and employed him, together with Mr. Nash and Mr. Wyatt, as architects for the new structure. Thus came into existence, about a century and a quarter ago, Sundridge as we know it. It is notable for its fine proportions, for its Corinthian columns and its three porticoes, with a dome crowning the centre one. Its position also sets it off to the fullest advantage. The old Bromley-Chislehurst footpath was closed in 1823, and a new and more convenient one was substituted. The estate remained until comparatively recently a principal residence of the Scott family.

The house was enlarged on its E side by Sir Sam^{l} Scott

Circumstances, however, with which we have no concern led the late Sir Edward Scott to sell some portion of Sundridge Park as building land. A large part of it now constitutes the excellent golf links of the Sundridge Park Golf Club, and the mansion itself has now been put to the uses of an hotel.

Thus the history of Sundridge ends in an anti-climax. It begins, some eight centuries ago, as a diocesan manor ; it ends in an hotel.

WIDMORE

"WIGMORE. This hamlet is about one mile east of Bromley."

This is the opening sentence of Dunkin's section on Widmore, and from it the present-day resident of Bromley may learn two facts of which possibly he was ignorant—that the locality in Dunkin's time (1815) was known as *Wigmore*, and that it was not then attached to Bromley as an integral part of it, but was a separate hamlet lying some little distance away, containing, as Dunkin goes on to say, " 30 houses some of which are very handsome." Dunkin, however, includes Bickley in his brief notice of Widmore.

If we knew the circumstances in which the name was originally given we should be able to decide between Widmore and Wigmore. As it is, the derivation is a matter of speculation, seeing that, according to Mr. George Clinch, the name is given, in ancient maps and documents, as Windemere, Wymere, Wyndemere, and Wigmore. Readers of old documents—those indeed who have read our account of Sundridge—will know that consistency in spelling was not a conspicuous virtue in ancient days. But if Mr. Clinch's conjecture is correct that the name is derived from Anglo-Saxon *Wig*, meaning war, and Moor, or waste ground, some military associations must be attached to its origin. If, on the other hand, the theory that the place simply signifies wide-moor is correct, then probably the present name of Widmore is the name which it originally bore. It is so spelled in the earliest references to it found in the Parish Registers, which date back to the last half of the sixteenth century. In less than a century from that time, however, the name Wigmore became commonly accepted, and it remained Wigmore until comparatively recent times.

The first authentic record which we have of this hamlet, apart from the will of a Christofa Allanson " of Wigmore, Kent," 1626, is in connection with a lawsuit between the Bishop of Rochester as plaintiff and a Mr. King as defendant about a pond at Wigmore. The depositions on behalf of the defendant and the interrogatories and depositions submitted on behalf of the plaintiff are still extant among the Exchequer Depositions. From these we learn that the suit was brought by the Bishop in the 13th of Charles I (1637) and that at that time the locality was uniformly written Wigmore. As to the suit itself, unfortunately, the record has not survived—at any rate, it has not come to hand—and research has only succeeded in unearthing one short order which gives no particulars, but simply adjourns the hearing of the action. It may be that the case was settled out of court.

As far as I am able to ascertain from the depositions and interrogatories there was a threefold issue in the case. Was this pond a part of the manorial property of the Bishop? Had Mr. King any proprietary rights over it? Was it common property over which neither the Bishop nor Mr. King had

WIDMORE.

Built about 1630; destroyed by fire 1857.

From a pencil drawing lent by Cosmo Bevan, Esq.

FREELANDS.

Built early in the eighteenth century.

OLD COTTAGES WIDMORE ROAD BROMLEY.

1934

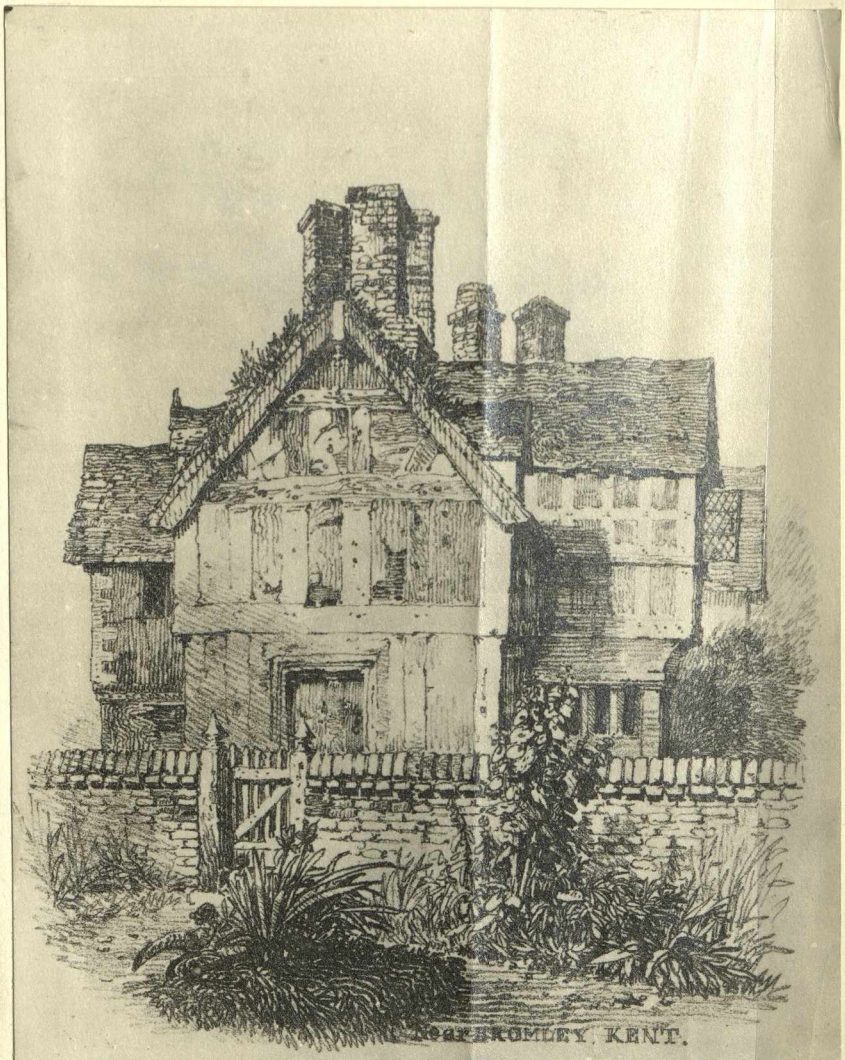
on our Staff

T Crossley Dixon

Colleges

Peebles Town 1935 of garage base

A Century or more ago was a village



Near BROMLEY, KENT.

Ca 1815

Samuel Prout
(1783–1852)

Old Cottage Withdrawn from the West-
before the second gable was added on the left side
by
Saml Prout

? a license in part in the wall (gate) a portion they never would have occupied
for
Geo. Parr

proprietary rights? The last contention is put forward strongly by "John Wooden of Bromley, aged seventy-four years," who, in his deposition "taken at the 'Bell' in Bromley, 17 & 18 July, 1637," declares that he has known the pond called Wigmore Pond for sixty years and more—"the said pond, as far as he remembers, has always been a common watering place for the parishioners' cattle." By the time the suit was brought, however, the pond seems to have disappeared, for Robert Bowle of Chislehurst, aged sixty, deposes that "there is no water now in the pond called Wigmore pond." This elaborate lawsuit for rights over a non-existent pond seems to show that the litigious spirit has not materially altered in the course of centuries.

Interrogatory No. 4 on behalf of the plaintiff asked whether there was a "Cucking stool set in the said pond, and at whose charge was it built?" The answer of John Wooden was that

"About fifty years since there was a cucking stool, towards the high way, and about the same time 'a single wench ducked there,'"

and Robert Bowle supplements this information by stating that the cucking stool was set up at the charge of the Bishop—at that time Bishop Young.

Such is our first introduction to Widmore or Wigmore. But, though three centuries have since passed away, an historic imagination still allows us to picture a secluded hamlet, with its scanty, self-contained, and self-conscious inhabitants, keenly exercised about a road-side pond, hilariously excited over the ducking of some scolding wench in its muddy waters, and eagerly canvassing in the village inn the respective claims of the contending litigants.

The village inn is not a freak of imagination. The Bird in Hand seems to have been one of the earliest houses built in Widmore—and where an inn existed its customers and their converse pass out of surmise into the region of established facts.

At this time, however (*circa* 1650), "Wigmore" consisted mainly, if not entirely, of one considerable mansion with the property attached to it. It is described in a marriage settlement as "the Manor, or Mansion House and Capital Messuage of Wigmore." On the property were a barn, outbuildings, and a few cottages for the rustic inhabitants. The whole estate comprised between eighty and ninety acres, and though designated as a manor, it does not appear to have been a manor in the strict sense of that term.

By means of existing title-deeds the ownership of Wigmore can be traced back to about 1650, when we find a Mrs. Mary Walker, a widow, in possession. This lady, in her will, dated August 13th, 1686, bequeathed the estate to her cousin, Elizabeth Vokins, with remainder to her two daughters. In 1697 one of these daughters, Elizabeth, married Thomas West, her property in Wigmore being brought into settlement. From this document we learn the exact extent of the estate, and the place-names attached to the

various sections of it, such as "the Upper House—used for a stable"; "Waterfield Orchard," called "The Nursery, "Heathfields," "Jenning's Heath" "Pickle Croft," "Little Close," or "Cross-a-Hand," etc.

Of the three children of Thomas and Elizabeth West the only son, Robert, died unmarried. His two sisters, Elizabeth and Mary, married two brothers, Samuel and John Hyde respectively, and to Elizabeth and Samuel Hyde the property in due course descended. On the death of Elizabeth Hyde without issue, the bulk of the property passed by her will to her nephew, General West Hyde of the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, who, by his will dated March 4th, 1774, entailed his property upon the male issue of his brother John, and in default of such issue, to the second, third, and successive sons of his sister Althea, wife of the Rev. Francis Wollaston. Under the terms of this will the estate in due course descended to George Hyde Wollaston, second son of Althea, and he, in 1809, sold it to Mr. John Wells.

The Wells family remained in possession for nearly half a century, until 1853. In that year the house and part of the property was bought by Henry John Telford and his three sisters, Sarah, Mary Ann, and Susan. The Telford family, though hailing from Yorkshire, carried on business in London as sherry shippers, in partnership with John Ruskin's father. They had already become attached to the locality, having been tenants for many years of Mr. John Wells. They were men of some distinction in the world of culture, and their houses were visited by, among others, Lord Macaulay, David Cox, John Ruskin, and Fanny Kemble.

In 1873, on the death of the last-surviving sister, Mary Ann, the property descended under her will to her cousins, the Misses Marian and Louisa Ellis, these ladies being the daughters of Thomas Flower Ellis, "the one friend," says Sir George Trevelyan, "who had a share in the familiar confidence which Macaulay otherwise reserved for his nearest relatives."

On the death of Miss Louisa Ellis, in 1898, the property descended to her nephews and niece, the children of her brother, Arthur Danvers Ellis.

The old Elizabethan house at Widmore, known as the "Old Cottage," was no doubt the original manor house, but about 1630 another and larger house was built which stood where the lodge to Widmore Court now stands. This house survived till 1857, when it was completely destroyed by fire. One of the Miss Telfords accidentally set alight some bed hangings which surrounded a four-post bed. There were no proper means of extinguishing a fire in those days, and no adequate water-supply. A pond in the neighbourhood was, it is said, drained dry in the attempt to check the conflagration. The present building, Widmore Court, which stands farther back from the road, was built by the Miss Telfords to replace the old mansion thus unfortunately destroyed.

The "Old Cottage" still survives. Its quaint gateway bears the initials "A.B.," thought to be the initials of the builder, and the date 1599.

THE OLD COTTAGE, WIDMORE, IN 1714.

From a block lent by Mr. Philip Norman, F.S.A.

This etc:— Upper Orchard 7ac; Bower-lands 8ac; Chace Croft 8ac; Cures Orchard 1rod.
Chantry Field 4ac: Half Hide 5ac:

Old Cottages Chislehurst Rd

Well Cottage Chislehurst Rd

An old engraving of this gateway, dated 1714, shows a board attached to the arch with the notification " John Curtis, licensed to let Post Horses." This has caused the mistaken notion that the place became an inn, the fact being, according to Mr. G. W. Norman, that, on the death of his master, whom he had long served as coachman, Curtis, either by will or gift, came into possession of his employer's horses, and was prepared to let them out on hire. A member of the Curtis family was still living in the " Old Cottage " a century later, in 1813.

When the estate came into the hands of the Telfords the Cottage was used as a residence by some of the ladies of the family. In 1861 they decided to relay the floors. On the removal of the old flooring a number of curious and interesting objects were disclosed to view—two silver sixpences of Queen Elizabeth, coins of almost every subsequent reign, and a copper token of the White Hart, Bromley, dated 1660, in perfect condition. Besides these, several Roman Catholic, Latin, and English books were discovered concealed in the floors or wainscoting. Inside one of the books a set of verses was found inscribed which might have come from the pen of the Vicar of Bray. They are ingeniously contrived so as to convey either a Roman Catholic or Protestant sentiment according as they are read vertically or horizontally :

" I hold as faith
What Rome's Church saith
Wheare the King's heade
The flocks misleade
Where the altares drest
The people are blest
He is but an asse
That shunnes the masse

What England's Church allowes
My conscience disallowes
The Church can have noe blame
That houldes the Pope supreme
The Sacrifice is scarce divine
With table bread and wine
Who the Communion flies
Is catholique and wise."

At the time when Henry John Telford acquired Widmore House with a part of the property attaching to it, his brother Charles bought the remaining part, and built upon it the house known as Widmore Lodge. On Charles Telford's death Mr. George Simon purchased the estate, which, on his death, passed into the occupation of the Tweedy family, whose close associations with Bromley are recorded elsewhere.

The cottage at Widmore known as " Well Cottage " is like the " Old Cottage," credited with an Elizabethan origin. There is a tradition that the beams in the roof came from the timbers of one of the ships engaged in the Great Armada fight of 1588, the tradition probably originating from the shape of the beams, which is consistent with the theory that they were once part of a ship.

In ~~another~~ chapter an account is given of the formation of a little society of Methodists who were the first begetters of the Nonconformist movement in the Bromley area. It was at Widmore that the first meeting house and chapel of this Society was established, and it was to Widmore that John

Wesley himself came to preach on one, and possibly more than one, occasion.

What is now the Widmore Road was, until about the middle of the last century, designated only as a lane, a lonely road bordered on the south by the palace estate, and on the north by the property owned by Mr. John Wells. Up to 1845, in the interval between Bromley and Widmore, houses were few and far between; the rural aspect of the country was unbroken. In 1845 Mr. Wells's property was sold in building lots, with the result that roads were made, houses sprang up, and New Bromley and the parish of St. John's gradually came into existence.

A little to the north of Widmore Lane, near the spot where Orchard, Homefield, and Upper Park Roads converge, there stands the old red-brick mansion known as "Freelands."

This name appears to have been derived from a field or fields called "free lands" belonging to a family of husbandmen named Juler, who, as existing wills indicate, had been living in the immediate neighbourhood for a great many years from the middle of the fifteenth century or even earlier.

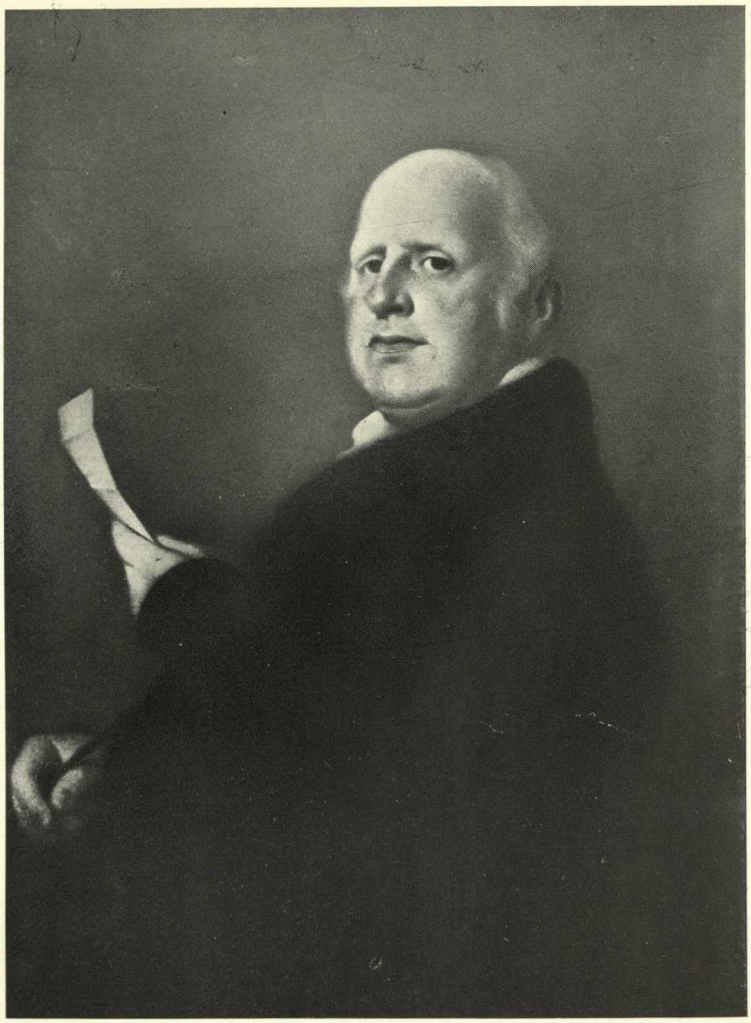
In 1543 the property was still in the hands of this family, being then held by John Juler, husbandman. He had sons—John (i), Richard, John (ii), and a daughter Joan. At his death in that year the lands passed to his son John (i),[1] who, dying in 1560, bequeathed them to his son William.[2] William Juler had a daughter Mary, who, in 1583, was married to Thomas Ffrench. Her father died in 1588, and by his will bequeathed the property to his son-in-law Thos. Ffrench,[3] who thereupon took possession of "free lands," using the rents and profits therefrom.

Upon this occurring John Juler (ii) set up a claim to the property, supplicating the Lord Chancellor, Sir Christopher Hatton, to direct that Thomas and Mary Ffrench should appear before him to answer John's (ii) complaint.[4]

The supplication was granted and Thos. and Mary Ffrench duly appeared to answer the complaint. John (ii), however, was not successful. He did not win his case, for it could be shown that John Juler (ii) was not given any title to "Freland" by his father in 1543 and that William Juler, to whom the property had rightfully descended, had bequeathed it to his son-in-law, Thos. Ffrench. From that time onward until the end of the seventeenth century, upwards of one hundred years, Freelands remained in the hands of the Ffrenches. To the memory of one of them, Martine Ffrench, there is a stone tablet, dated 1661, fixed to the south wall of the parish church, describing him as "of this parish," the probability being that he lived in the house the foundations of which were laid bare when alterations were carried out in 1888 after the transfer of the estate to the Religious of the Holy Trinity. This Martine Ffrench left the property to his son Martine, who subsequently sold the estate to Wm. Foster of Northants. In 1708 it

[1] Roch. Wills 10, f. 33.
[2] Ibid. 12, f. 324.
[3] Ibid. 17, f. 306.
[4] Chancery proceedings C 2, 426.

Drawn where bookmark by a Thin Frame c. 1520



CHARLES POTT, OF FREELANDS (1823–1864).

In 1818 my grandfather's ledger has an acct opened to Saml Scott Esq of Sundridge } Saml Scott let it to the Countess of Kingston, John Pike
Same time has Esq. not Sir ! The 4th Baronet of that } 1821-22, Sir Edw Colebrooke then to C. Pott
time was Sir Claude Edward son of 2nd Baronet Sir Saml

Tenants under S. Scott Esq were Countess of Kingston, John Pike 1821-2, Sir Edw Colebrooke,
Oct 1824 Chas Pott who died there 1864. Mrs Pott till 1876, then 1888 Religious of the Holy Trinity bought
it for £ 13.000. Before that they were Willow Bank London Rd.

On some of the bricks in the old high wall in Plaistow Lane are dates 1720. 1843. 1877
some letters Thos. T. N. EH. SMI. etc these were more before the old barn was
taken down abt. 1915

Discoveries after 1888 by Rev Walter Cooksey of the Presbytery Caterham are well set out
in papers by him at the Public Library. by Phillip Norman.

was bought by John Hulls and remained in the possession of that family for upwards of seventy years. It was probably at the commencement of their ownership that the house as it was known throughout the greater part of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was built.

In the course of the eighteenth century various tenants held it on lease, the owners, as already stated, for the greater part of the century being the Hulls family. Early in the century it was in the occupation of John Whalley, merchant. This fact is attested by Lysons and also by a gravestone in the south aisle of Bromley Church to the memory of—

"Mariabella, wife of John Whalley (merchant) who dyed in childbed ye 5 of May 1701 at Freeland House in ye parish of Bromly."

Another of these tenants was "Robert Nettleton, Esq., Governor of the Russia Company, a person of consequence in his day." This gentleman was a close friend of Mr. James Norman. He was one of the witnesses who signed the register on the marriage of James Norman to Eleonora Innocent on January 8th, 1761.

Mr. Nettleton was succeeded at Freelands by one of the Wells family, who in turn was succeeded by Thomas Raikes, a friend of Wilberforce and Pitt, and Governor of the Bank of England. In this capacity he was called upon to deal with the great financial crisis of 1797 caused by the disturbed state of Europe and the fears of a French invasion.

A tablet in Bromley Church with a Latin inscription perpetuates the memory of Thomas Raikes. The property eventually passed, in or about 1770, from the Hulls to the family of Assheton, but continued to be held on lease. Mr. Charles Browne was there, says Dunkin, in 1810, but shortly afterwards (1815) we find Mrs. Moore in occupation, the widow of John Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1818 Freelands was bought by Sir Samuel Scott as a part of the Sundridge estate, but was occupied by Mr. Charles Pott, as tenant ~~of Sir Samuel~~, during his lifetime and that of his wife. Miss E. O. Parr, who has special knowledge of this particular district, is the granddaughter of Mr. Charles Pott, and it is to her that we are chiefly indebted for the facts contained in this section of our History.

On the death of Mrs. Pott in 1876 Freelands was vacant until Mr. Edward Packe, Sir Edward H. Scott's agent and brother-in-law, occupied it from 1885 until 1888, when the freehold was bought by the Religious of the Holy Trinity, in whose possession it still remains.

When adapting the house to the purposes of a convent drastic changes were found to be necessary. The basement of the old mansion was entirely gutted, and all evidence of its age destroyed. In this part was found what was held to have been a tiny chapel, with the marks where a small altar had stood, and a four-centred arch of wood spanning the altar space. This was in such a state of decay that it was impossible to preserve it.

An underground passage was discovered under the kitchen floor about 5 feet 6 inches high and extending in a curved line for some 35 feet and leading to a small rectangular chamber about 3 feet 6 inches square. No coins, or other relics of antiquity, were discovered, either there or elsewhere, but a particularly fine lead cistern was recognised as of value, and was sold to the Victoria and Albert Museum. It is adorned with several crests, the chief one being a stag's head with collar of oak-leaves between the Pillars of H Hercules. It also bears the initials I R and the date 1713. These initials have been identified as those of John Hulls and Rebecca his wife, who were the owners of the property from about 1708 to 1721.

In old days, before the invasion of the district by the builders, the direct way to Bromley from Freelands, and indeed from Chislehurst and Sundridge, was by a path which crossed Plaistow Lane at a step-stile against the Freelands fence. The path then followed the line of the present Park Road to the palace gates, crossing five fields on the way. Mr. Pott conferred a lasting blessing upon the pedestrian in 1845 by substituting gates where stiles had previously been, a blessing celebrated by Dr. Thomas Scott, at that time chaplain to the College, in lines which at any rate scan, and express clearly what the poet has to say :

> " And thanks to him who now at Freelands dwells,
> His praise the pleased pedestrian justly tells :
> For passing to his house no stiles dismay,
> Nothing impedes the walker on his way."

Quite at the east end of Widmore Lane is the property known as " Beechfield," which was originally a farm, dating from 1637 and possibly earlier. Through old title-deeds the passage of this piece of land can be traced through successive hands from 1713, and these documents have established its position as being closely adjacent to the famous pond, which seems in the course of years to have become a pond once more. In 1713 Richard Smith sold the property to William Round of Shoreham, Kent, from whom it descended to his only child, Jane, the wife of John Day, who in 1767 sold it to Mr. William Child. This gentleman was a surgeon living in Bromley, who carried on a medical practice in partnership with Mr. William Roberts. Child left the Beechfield property to his partner, Roberts, who transferred his residence from the Bromley market-place to the house which he now built upon his newly acquired estate, which house he christened Beechfield after the two trees, a green and copper beech, which he planted about it. Roberts in turn, after the death of William Child, had taken a partner, Mr. Thomas Ilott, and to him Beechfield was bequeathed in remainder after the death of Mrs. Roberts. Thus it was that arose the long and honourable association existing between Bromley and the family of

re Cookery's Notes at Kirk

Freelands Cistern - It is the 2nd largest in the Vic & Alb. Museum S. Ken.
4ft 11 long, 3ft high, 1ft 10½in wide. Its back is plain. On the L. end is a large Crown & below it a sort of dog with 2 ♉ on his chest. On the R end there are 3 pipe holes 1@ 2¾in diam & 2@ 1¼in diam; a piece for the larger pipe having been cut out & filled with lead. There is also on the front a sort of hog-like animal with tusks & flowers in his mouth

Sugar

of above.

74 Rookery Tank - Its size is 6ft long, 3ft 10 high, 2ft wide [see p. 221]
On the front among ornamental characters & figures are the letters I. W. & date 1721. There is a scroll all around, tops & bottom. At some time or other it has been cut in two to make 2 tanks, but is now united again. At crest on it shows a rose & 2 sea-horses, there is also exhibited, a winged dragon, & 4 things. It now stands to the NW of the house in a depressed garden. It is hoped this may some day adorn one of Bromley's gardens.

Finds at Beechfield 1st vessel found was similar in shape & appearance to Roman Salopian ware, white & a narrow necked vessel with handle made to contain fluid. Another circular, bluish black; said to be Upchurch. At "Beechfield" was demolished in Apl. 1932 & the Cottage below & the Estate cut up - new roads etc. The old Sundial on the lawn was taken away by Mr Skilton Butcher, who had lived there. An old urn-like vessel on a rockery there was bought by Mr Rodway of Battersea Rd. Was this Roman?

LEAD WATER-TANK, DATED 1713 AND WITH INITIALS $\frac{H}{I\ R}$.

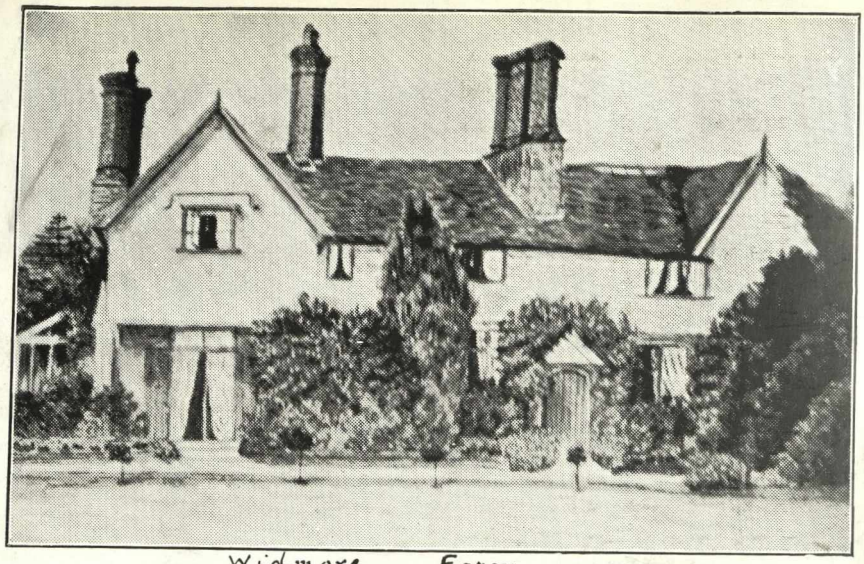
Formerly at Freelands; now at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington.

LEAD WATER-TANK, DATED 1721 AND WITH INITIALS I.W.

At the Rookery, Bromley Common.

Mr Arthur Sullivan
stayed here 1871-2.

This is from a
painting by Mrs Gedge
It shows the back
of the house.



Widmore Farm
a painting by Mrs Gedge from

WIDMORE FARM

Ilott, an association which has never been broken, and which only deepens in strength and affection with each new generation of that family.

On the death of Mrs. Roberts, Beechfield passed in due course into the hands of Thomas Ilott's son James W., who, after letting it for some years on lease to a Mr. J. Dalton, added largely to it, and made it his own residence until his death in 1897. A portion of the property was voluntarily surrendered by Mr. James W. Ilott to the Bromley Local Board in order to allow of a much-needed widening of the road, and the cutting away of a steep and dangerous corner. Some alterations in the grounds during Mr. Dalton's tenancy brought to light many coins and other Roman remains which are now in the possession of the town and are preserved in the Municipal Buildings. The old sundial on the terrace at Beechfield is thought to have been transferred there from Dr. Hawkesworth's house.

At the bottom of Widmore Hill on the opposite side to Beechfield used to stand a picturesque cottage, with a saw-pit, inhabited by a wheelwright named Harber. The pair of red cottages just above in Plaistow Lane still stand, but the old Widmore Farm disappeared many years ago. This was a very pretty old house with gables and large chimney-stacks standing at right angles to the road, and the loss of it is much to be deplored.

The little dip between the two hills at Widmore has changed much in appearance in recent years. At the bottom where is now a small triangular garden two neat white cottages used to stand enclosed in their gardens. The first cottage, built upon what was then a piece of waste land, was erected for himself by a Manx carpenter who accompanied Dr. Murray, Bishop of Sodor

and Man, when he was translated to the see of Rochester in 1827. Subsequently two iron houses were set up which were regarded as very wonderful structures, for they mark one of the first attempts to build in iron, but their discomforts soon became obvious. They were over-cold in winter and overhot in summer, and consequently were displaced in favour of the white cottages, which, in turn, were displaced by the construction of Sundridge Avenue (1887).

Some thirty years previously Widmore was being rapidly developed by the construction of a new road upon the extreme verge of the palace property —Tylney Road—and around it there gathered that region of small houses now included under the name of Widmore.

A little to the eastward of Tylney Road and on the north side of Widmore Lane was a small property of about twelve acres with a house upon it called Shawfield Lodge. The house was built in 1785 for two brothers, John and Andrew Harrison ; it was built on three sides of a square courtyard, the flanking wings containing separate kitchens and stables for each of the brothers. Freeman mentions another " mansion " close by Shawfield Lodge, but no trace of this building now exists.

In 1832 the property was bought by Mr. Godfrey Meynell of Bradley Hall, Derbyshire, who had been living at Shawfield Lodge since 1822. He died in 1834 and was buried at Bromley, a tablet to his memory and that of his wife and only son (died 1844) being placed in the south aisle of the church. The property passed into the possession of Godfrey John Meynell Meynell, the only grandson of Godfrey Meynell. In 1852 it was let on lease to David James Noad. This lease was subsequently transferred to George Fenning, who made some alterations and additions to the house and left in 1866. The next tenant was Mr. Morgan Yeatman.

Godfrey Godfrey Meynell d Mar 1844

During the twenty-five years that Mr. and Mrs. Yeatman and their family lived at Shawfield Lodge they identified themselves with much of the social and philanthropic work of the neighbourhood, more especially the parochial organisations of the recently formed parish of St. George's, Bickley, which soon included Widmore, and in so doing they gathered a large circle of friends about them. Mr. Yeatman died in 1889, his widow and family remaining at Shawfield Lodge till 1891, when they removed to Eltham. The house was empty for three years, and in 1894 Mr. Meynell sold the estate to Mr. John Jarvis Rodgers, a London solicitor, for £6,000. He at once proceeded to develop it, constructing the road now known as Shawfield Park. The house, with its garden, was sold to Mr. Gilbert Wood, F.R.G.S., an architect, founder and proprietor of *The Architect*, a journal devoted to the interests of architecture and building, who lived there till 1904, the remainder of the estate being divided into small plots.

In December 1897 J. J. Rodgers and his wife both died, when the property was sold and the proceeds divided among their children.

There seems to have been a house there in 1723, known as Oldfield House purchased by John Lascoe & Elizabeth his wife. The tenant was then Thos Rance. Lascoe sold it at once to John Shorey, Lond. Most of it was fields – Shaw Field. Shoreys had it a good time. 1753 Edw. Bronson lived there it being described as Oldfield Hse. He died in 1776 His widow had it. She married Sir Thos Wallis. She sold it to Wm ~~Shaddis~~ Wells. It was built in 1787 by John Hutchison was afterwards the property of his brother Andrew 1814.

? Rev Wm Kinglesyde

BICKLEY HALL.

Erected in 1780 by John Wells, Esq.

Czar Peter worked there in their yards
'The Great' Czar Peter in 1697
(1672-1725)

perhaps from family of Henry de Beverley Leyghe
Co Devon

BICKLEY AND SOUTHBOROUGH

TO the east of Widmore lies Bickley, now one of the most opulent centres of population in the parish of Bromley. Its rise and development, however, are comparatively recent, and, indeed, it can only boast a name within the last 150 years. There existed in ancient days a small hamlet known as Cross-in-hand, towards the north-east corner of the present Bickley Park, containing one substantial residence, afterwards known as " Farrants " from the name of its owner, but otherwise the whole area now known as Bickley was uncultivated common covered with gorse, furze, and heather, and useful only as a sporting estate and a cover for foxes.

demolished in 1780

Near the site of the present Bickley Hall a hunting lodge was maintained about the middle of the eighteenth century by the owner of the property, " Thomas Jukes, Esq., who," says Dunkin, " kept a remarkable fine pack of Foxhounds which were hunted under the famous Potter."

In 1759 the whole estate was bought by Mr. John Wells, and by successive additions to their property the Wells family became the most important landowners in the parish, Widmore, as we have seen, being purchased in 1809, and further purchases of land to the north of the palace grounds extended the Wells's estate almost to the town.

The Wells family had carried on business at Deptford as shipbuilders through many generations. There can be little doubt that it is to one of this family that Pepys refers in his *Diary*, under date Ap. i. 1664 :

" This day Mrs. Turner did lend me as a rarity a manuscript of one Mr. Wells, writ long ago, teaching the method of building a ship, which pleases me mightily."

The entry seems to imply a long-established connection between Mr. Wells and the shipbuilding industry. The business proved extremely lucrative, as the purchases of landed estate in Bromley, Widmore, Bickley, and Southborough clearly indicate.[1]

Under the Wells régime modern Bickley begins to appear. In 1780 the mansion, now generally called Bickley Hall, was built for himself as a residence by John Wells, on the site of the old hunting lodge known as Highway Bush. Much of the surrounding wastes of furze and briar were cleared and added to the pleasure grounds. The winding lanes which intersected the property began to be replaced by thoroughfares, as, for example, the Chislehurst Road constructed by Mr. John Wells in 1825.

The original purchaser, who was also apparently the originator of the name Bickley, died a bachelor and intestate in 1794. He was succeeded by

[1] Several editions of *Pepys's Diary* have the name " Wallis " instead of " Wells " in this passage. The Pepys Librarian at Magdalene College, Cambridge, has kindly verified the reference. In the original the name is " Wells." i.e. in Pepys MS. The actual Diary

N&Q May 1932. F. McD. C Turner Pepys Librarian corroborated this & me & found that even the Rev John Smith's Shorthand transcription, made for Lord Braybrooke's 1st Edition, was correct in WELLS. So it was the printer of the first Edition that made the error which has been repeated ever since.

his brother, William Wells. On his death in 1805 the estate descended to his eldest son Thomas, who sold it to his brother John, High Sheriff of the County in 1812, and for some time M.P. for Maidstone. By him the property known as "Farrants" was acquired, the old house was pulled down and its grounds were thrown into Bickley Park. The cedars which formed a conspicuous ornament for the old "Farrants" still survive in the garden of a house adjoining.

John Wells, having made a large fortune from his shipbuilding business, retired from active work in order to devote himself to the adornment and development of his Bickley estate. He was a patron of the arts, and formed for his mansion a fine collection of pictures. But he was destined to experience in hard measure the vicissitudes of fortune. Anxious to provide a career for his second son, he became connected, as a sleeping partner, with the firm of Whitmore & Company, bankers of Maidstone. This firm failed in 1841, with such liabilities for John Wells that the estate either had to be sold or passed into the hands of a receiver.

The arrangement, whatever it was, enabled at least some members of the Wells family to retain a portion of the estate, including Southborough Lodge and a fairly large acreage of the land surrounding it. As this house was the residence of John Joseph Wells, son of John Wells, until his death in 1858, it is possible that the father had made over this property to his son before the financial crisis occurred. At any rate John Wells, after the crash, had a refuge in Southborough Lodge to which he could go, and it is a current story that he walked out of Bickley Hall with his Bible in one hand, his gun in the other, these being his only remaining possessions, and became an inmate of his son's house at Southborough. Mrs. John Joseph Wells remained in occupation until her death, which occurred nearly forty years after that of her husband.

It was then, in 1894 or 1895, that the final dispersal of the Wells's property was effected. The greater part of it was bought by a Land and Building Company which proceeded to develop it, and in due course, from 1897 onwards, the new roads, such as Park Hill, Waldegrave, Blenheim, Burford and others, which now branch out from the southern end of Southborough Road, came into existence.

Bickley Hall itself, soon after John Wells left it, was taken on lease by Mr. Edlmann, and a letter from Mrs. Chalmers, Mr. Edlmann's daughter, seems to make it clear that the estate was not immediately sold, but was placed in the hands of the creditors.

"We came to Bickley," she writes, "in 1844 . . . renting it from a man named Noakes, who was, I think, a sort of manager for the creditors of the Wells Estate."

The Edlmann family remained at Bickley Hall for eight years, when, in

Will 1587 (S. Rutland)

? Thos the Founder of Deptford

— ? Richard —

David m 1628 Wrington (Dept. Reg)

Abraham b 1628 (Deptford Reg)

Richard Wells of Deptford (d 1707)

b. 1664

Abraham of 1755 Ship builder " in 1790

1st John (bachelor) b. 1728 d. s.p 1794

William d 1805. b 1729 m 1755. Susannah Neave

James b & d 1756

Elizabeth b 1757 d 1837 Ilhen hardly exceeded 300 ac.

Susannah b 1763

b 1759 Thos d 1811 (1812) Admiral Who sold it back to his brother John

2nd John b 1761, d 1848 m Esther Paget bought from Bickley Thomas

William b 1768 d s.p 1847 On retiring purchased the Estate of Redlc of Kent & being childless, bequeathed it to eldest son of his brother Tho

Had a large family (10) 1 an Admiral 1 Chief of Fire Brigade

John Joseph 5th Lord Lodge m Surley Combe d 1858 had issue

Henry Geo d 185-2 = Charlotte Baring issue

The 2nd John added greatly to the Estate having purchased the Worlashm Estate at Widmore &c He also turned the road, formed the Park, & added to the house. He was G.W Norman's oldest friend having been a fellow pupil of his at Geo Walker's school at Nottingham. This John Wells was father of the wife of the late Sir Percival Dyke & grandfather to Sir Wm Hart Dyke Still alive aged 93

P. Norman saw the title-deeds of Chelsfield Hall that the Wells' possessed that farm "High Elms" as early as 1735. They abandoned the Ship building at Deptford to Sir R Wigram & Mr Green.

One of Thomas' sons Frederick b 1800 of 1847 mar. M A Scott had a son Harry who has 8 children one of them. Rev A R K Wells of Hall Mount Hampstead who has a son John Julius aged 7 in 1932

May 1932 The Rev A.R.K. Wells of Heath Mount Hampstead Heath NW3 wrote saying that is William - John's brother. His father had a copy of this print - on the back of which was written John. This was however crossed out, & the same handwriting William substituted

BREUN (2) Breun the great authority - Catalogues the print - as Wm.

(3) Farington - his Diary describes Wm Wells of Redleaf - as giving him a print of his father William - done by Eldridge & the description tallies with this

WW Phelps Norman when I gave him a print of it, at once said they had one like it at The Rookery & pronounced it - as John ii his father's oldest friend etc.

~~JOHN~~ WILLIAM WELLS.

From an engraving lent by Miss D. F. Gedge.

Wm Wythes was the son of Thos Wythes of Worcester & Hewes b 1811. d 3 Mar 1883
at Bickley Park & bur at Bickley Ch. He married Frances Wagstaff in 1836.
by whom he had one son Geo. Edw b 1839 who died 1875 leaving 3 children
Geo Edw, Ernest Jas, & Alice Frances Theodora, (now Marchioness of Bristol)
Geo Wythes died worth £1.500,000.

1852, it was sold over their heads, and to their great annoyance, to Mr. William Dent.

" It was sold," Mrs. Chalmers writes, " over my father's head for an extra £500 which he wd. willingly have given, as he wished to remain, and thought he had bought the place, when he suddenly discovered it had been privately sold to Mr. Dent."

Mr. Dent, who now became the owner of Bickley, had been a Director of the East India Company. He does not appear to have set much store by his new domain, for in 1861 he sold the estate to a wealthy contractor, Mr. George Wythes, who, while retaining the mansion as a residence for himself, immediately proceeded to develop his purchase to the utmost economic advantage. It was his principle to have upon his property only large and commodious houses enclosed in fairly extensive grounds, from two to five acres in extent, and that characteristic of Bickley in some measure continues to survive.

New roads were opened up in every direction—much of the Park was cut up for building land, and by 1864 the locality had become so popular that Mr. Wythes built, at a cost of £12,000, St. George's Church, the full story of which appears in ~~another~~ chapter. VIII

The residence itself has now passed into the hands of Messrs. A. J. & B. S. Farnfield, and is a flourishing Preparatory School for Boys.

There still remains in the garden of the original mansion a curious memento of the connection of the first proprietors with ships and shipping. An arch over a pathway is formed of the huge jawbone of a whale, and Miss E. O. Parr has recalled that the road now known as Pines Road was originally " Jawbone Lane," and moreover that the posts marking the footpaths over Chislehurst Common and along Chislehurst Hill are, or were, of bone, and not of wood or stone.

Mr. Wythes, in developing his estate, was not unmindful of the recreations of the residents. A portion of the Park was allotted to the purposes of cricket, and the splendid ground of the Bickley Park Cricket Club, and the prowess of successive generations of members, worthily maintain the reputation of our county as one of the chief centres of the national game.

Included in the Wells property of Bickley lay the hamlet of Southborough, a name which is found in old maps and ancient charters as South-Barrow, Sowborough, Side Borough, and Sugebeorge. It contained in 1832, when Freeman published his *History of Bromley*, about sixteen houses, among them the

" pleasant seats of Abraham Welland Esq., and the late Governor Cameron," and others.

There is a tradition that George III used frequently to visit Governor Cameron at Southborough, with whom he was on terms of special intimacy. But the tradition which specially distinguishes Southborough is to the effect that it contained a property which was once a barony of a feudal lord whose tenure entitled him not only to exercise jurisdiction in his baronial court, but also to pronounce a capital sentence.

" At a farm now in the occupation of Mr. Alexander," writes Dunkin, " some of the aged inhabitants assert that, in the memory of their fathers, stood a gate house, the windows of which were strongly grated with iron bars, and had formerly been used as a prison. They further say that, at a more distant period, there stood a Courthouse near the opposite farm, and executions occasionally took place on a spot not far distant."

It was this tradition which attracted our local historian Thomas Wilson to visit the place towards the close of the eighteenth century, but he was clearly dissatisfied with the evidence forthcoming.

" Could collect nothing authentic : therefore gave up the search,"

and Dunkin, a few years later, regards the whole story as fabulous.

" There are no records," he says, " which countenance any such tradition, and the circumstance of this hamlet constituting a part of the Manor belonging to the Bishop of Rochester generates a strong suspicion that the whole is fabulous, or at least exaggerated by the mistakes of the ignorant rustics."

This old and now exploded tradition is associated with an old house and farmstead at Southborough known as " Turpington," which has stood for many centuries near the junction of Crown Lane, Turpington Lane, and Southborough Lane. Close by it until about a century ago was a water-splash where the nameless tributary of the Ravensbourne crosses the road, a wooden footbridge being provided for the use of pedestrians.

The farm-house itself is one of the oldest houses remaining in Bromley. The evidence which an examination of its structure affords leads to the conclusion that part of it dates from the fifteenth century or earlier. Originally it was smaller than at present, and was evidently very similar to the old house known as " Sparke's Cottage " on Mason's Hill. It consisted of a main building with a wing at its western end having an overhanging upper story with a gable. Apparently in Tudor times the then owner enlarged it by building the gabled wing at its eastern end. The interior still contains the timbers on which the sloping roof of the original building rested.

South borough has not been adequately treated in this book.

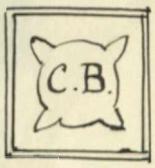
Neither South Barrow nor S'thboro' Lodge mentioned. Whatever there was at S. Barrow before 1837. The Rate Bks state that there was a "house newly erected then rowned & occupied by General Samuel Brown. Its rating was £41 but from 1840-46 it was £82 fm 1851-Jan 56 £110 when he died Mrs Brown cont' till 1859. £100. The house was then taken by Archibald Hamilton by. who was there till 1880. Mrs A. Hamilton continued with her son J. J Hamilton till 1883. In 1884 it was taken by Joseph Cawston who was there till 1899. In 1901 it was empty but in 1902 was taken by Mrs Leishmann for a Ladies school with name altered to 'Belmont'. Archibald Hamilton was a man who thrust himself largely into Bromley's doings. In 1878 he was Chairman of the Local Bd when Martins Hill was bought. At the same time for many years he was a J.P. In 1874 he unsuccessfully put up for Parliament. It was said he at one time held the controlling influence in the Bromley Telegraph.

The present house of Belmont has over its N window a device as shown here, which refers to a legend attached to the place is That after the battle of Worcester 1651. when Charles ij had to go into hiding, he was harboured here disguised as a woodcutter & was engaged in cutting down an oak tree when a small party of Parliamentary troopers came by, and a Hamilton standing by the king said imperatively to him "Cut it - through". The King stooped over his job, the wide brim of his hat concealing his face with the result that he was not recognized. As a reward for his presence of mind the King allowed this Hamilton & his descendants to use the crest shown here

It is said that for safety that Chas ij once slept in the old house of Turpington nearby

The Crest Contains the royal Crown, a woodcutters saw, an oak tree & the word, as a motto "THROUGH" The AH at the bottom is prouse Archibald Hamilton.

Then again on the S front of the house is another tablet showing the initials C.B from the SW door on gable is another tablet AD.1837 which possibly refers to Genl Brown who went there in 1837 but what C stands for is a query unless it was in wifes initial



The large Crest is also carved in wood inside the house

Another house nearby South Barrow was Southborough Lodge where Mrs Wells lived with ~~her sd~~ John Joseph Wells. He died 4th Nov 1858 She died 20 Aug 1894.

~~South Barrow. Following Mrs A Hamilton came~~

Magpie Hall It has often been asked where this was. Some have said it was the little white house near the Golf House but this neither seems old enough nor pretentious enough. Mr Rudolph Beer infers it might have been on part of the land where he built his house Astley. On a map 1872 the area now included in this garden & the Cemetery was depicted by planted Edges & trees as tho' some large residence had stood there. Also when this garden was laid out traces of brick foundation were met with under the surface.

For the "Chequers" & Crooked Billet see. p 217

Southborough Fair was held out by the Chequers

TURPINGTON, SOUTHBOROUGH.

THE CROOKED BILLET, SOUTHBOROUGH.

RK: Amm in Vol 33 of Arch-Camb

The name " Turpington " appears to be derived from a family with the cognomen " Tubbenden," a family which was living in the Cray Valley as early as the thirteenth century. At Orpington a farm and a lane retain to the present day the name of Tubbendens. A member of this family came to live in Bromley about 1355, and he and two subsequent generations bearing the name of Richard de Tubbenden lived at Southborough. The last member of the family, named Alice, died in 1440. It is not impossible that these were the builders of the original house, and their name in various corrupt forms has remained attached to it.

The next reference we have to this property is that in 1532 it was in the possession of Thomas Knight, citizen and brewer of Westminster. He was one of those wealthy Londoners who were at this time purchasing country estates within easy distance of the Metropolis. He was the owner of many acres in and around Bromley, and was himself the owner and occupant of the large house on the north side of the High Street called the " Grete House," of which more is said in another part of this book. On his death, in 1544, he left his Southborough property to his son Edmund, another son, Robert, receiving the house in the High Street.

Edmund Knight lived and died at Orpington, the house at Southborough being leased to a local yeoman. Edmund Knight left the property to his wife for life and after her death to one of his brother Robert's sons.

We have no definite information that any of the Knight family actually lived at this house, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that some members of it did, and that they were responsible for the enlargement already referred to which took place at about this date. In support of this is the fact that this addition bears the initials " M. K." still remaining on the original plaster, evidently placed there to commemorate its erection and associate it with some name. At this period there was no other family in Bromley with a name commencing with K, and in that family there were two persons named Mary. These circumstances appear to warrant the supposition that these initials commemorate one of these Mary Knights.

Robert Knight died in 1558, and in the next few years his family sold their interest in the Bromley property. Arnold King of Foxgrove Manor, Beckenham, bought the larger part of it, " Tuppington " being among his purchases.

At his death in 1611 the property came to his son John, who died in 1621. His widow seems to have lived at Southborough ; their son Robert certainly did, and was succeeded by his son Robert.

Like many another the family appears to have fallen in fortune, for in a deed now preserved at the Public Library we find that in September 1666 Robert King :

" For and in consideration of certain dettes and dutyes "

arranges with

" Sir Edmund Bowyer of Camberwell, Surry, Knight to compound and discharge for him out of the issues and profits of the Land hereafter demised and for and in consideration of the rent herein reserved and for divers other good causes and considerations."

He then demises to him his " capital messuage called Turpington in the Parish of Bromley with its barns, stables, outhouses, yards, orchards, gardens, lands, and closes commonly occupied and enjoyed together with the said messuage all lying together by or near the said messuage and in the parish of Bromley lately in the tenure and occupation of Robert King or his assigns or some of them, To have and to hold to the said Sir Edmund Bowyer for ninety-nine years paying to the said Robert King the sum of £5 yearly at Michaelmas."

The land associated with the house varied from time to time, but, generally speaking, it included all the land stretching from it across both Turpington and Crown Lanes as far west as the common, by which it was then bounded, with detached pieces on the farther side near " the Hooke."

Within six years, in April 1672, Sir Edmund Bowyer surrendered up the land and tenements, together with all right, title, and interest in the same, back to Robert King, who at once appears to have mortgaged the property to Lydia Hall. Ultimately, in 1681, by arrangement with Robert King's children, it was sold to Henry Nurse to pay off the mortgage.

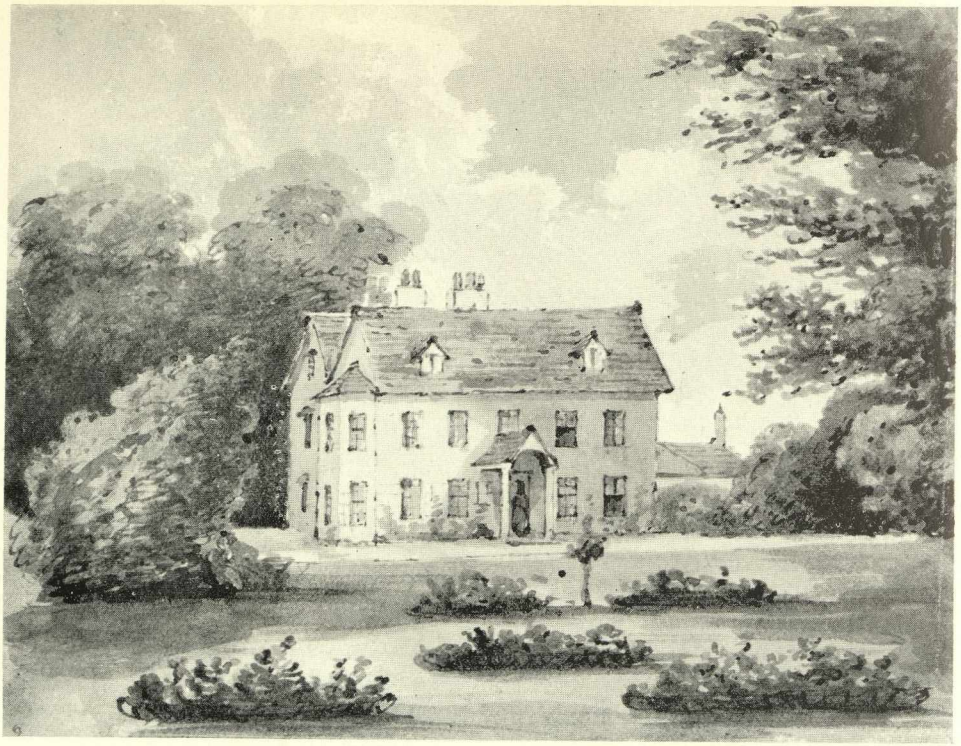
Henry Nurse died in 1705, leaving in his will " Turpington Farm " to his son. This family held it till 1748, when William Tyser bought it from them. William Tyser was not a Bromley man. He and his descendants let out the property on lease for successive periods of twenty-one years. The people who are of greater interest to us are those who lived in the house and farmed the land. For two or three generations these leaseholders were a well-known family of yeomen named Westbrook, whose tombstones can still be seen in the Bromley parish churchyard north of the church. They were succeeded by Thomas Newnham, a resident gentleman of Southborough, and he in turn by William Alexander, the butcher who is mentioned elsewhere.

The property was afterwards owned for a short time by Mr. George Warde Norman, and was subsequently added to the large purchases made by John Wells in this neighbourhood.

Following the final dispersal of the Wells's property, Turpington, in 1897, came into the hands of Lord Cobham and Mr. Richard Creed, F.R.I.B.A., jointly. On the death of Mr. Creed in 1913 Lord Cobham became sole owner, and he, in 1920, sold the property to Mr. Victor Heal, also an architect, and a close friend of Mr. Creed. Under the appreciative and fostering care of these two gentlemen this ancient house has been

1869 John Constable Esq

Received from Mrs Wells Executrix



BLACKBROOK, SOUTHBOROUGH, 182c.

COTTAGES NEAR BLACKBROOK.

From a water-colour sketch by Miss A. Pott, 1854. *Pulled down* 1899.

preserved to us. Most of the accretions with which former occupants had covered and hidden features of its original construction have been removed, and the house restored as near as may be to what it was in Tudor days.

In addition to Turpington there is in Southborough another estate known from time immemorial as Blackbrook. There appears to have been a family deriving its name from the place living in this part of the parish from about 1250 to 1400. The names of several members of this family, William de Blakbroke, Symon de Blakbroke, are found during this period in the Lay Subsidies and other documents.

In the first quarter of the fourteenth century the Blackbrook estate, or a part of it, was in the possession of William le Latimer, for in the post-mortem inquisition on his holdings, 1327, he is stated to have held in addition to the property in Bromley, derived from William de Bliburgh :

" a tenement called Blakebroke, and one messuage with a garden containing one acre of land, and it is worth per annum *4d.*, and six acres of arable land worth per acre *3d.*"

As is shown in the section on " Simpson's," William le Latimer exchanged his Bromley property, including Blackbrook, with Conan FitzHenry, Knight, for the Manor of Liverton in Yorkshire. By Conan these estates were sold to Richard Lacer, and they passed in due course to the families of Simpson and Style.

A part of the estate, however, still continued in the hands of the original Blackbrook family, a William de Blakebroke being rated for his land at *14d.* at the time when Richard Lacer was paying *8s.* as a tax on the Blackbrook land acquired by him.

Very little, except the names of various tenants, Shotts, Bedells, Masters, and others, has come down to us in connection with this place during the sixteenth and succeeding centuries. Like most of the property in the neighbourhood it was eventually acquired by John Wells and added to his Bickley estate.

The house was for a long time the residence of Rev. J. E. Newell, the Vicar or Curate of Bromley, who held the living from 1826 to 1865. In 1873 it was occupied for a few months by George Eliot and her husband, George H. Lewes. In one of her letters, dated September 4th, 1873, she writes :

No! This was "Blackbrook Cottage"

" Went to Blackbrook, near Bickley. We are really enjoying the country and have more than our share of everything . . . We have fine bracing air to walk in—air which I take in as a sort of nectar. We like the bits of scenery round us better and better as we get them by heart in our walks and drives. . . . We had become very fond of the neighbourhood. The walks and drives around us were delightfully varied ; commons,

wooded lanes, wide pastures, and we felt regretfully that we were hardly likely to find again a country house so secluded in a well-inhabited region."

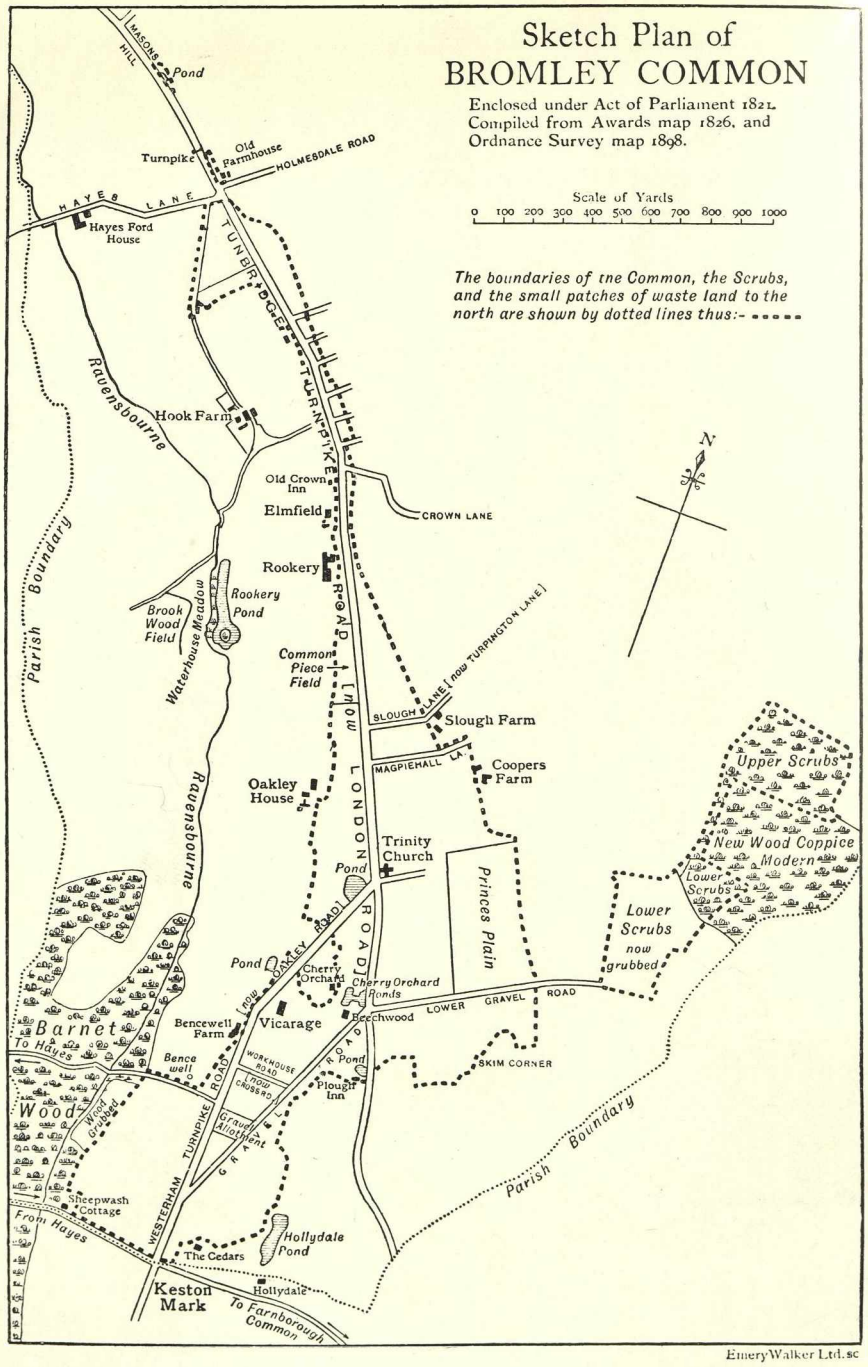
Alterations and additions had been made to the house during the course of its existence, but part of the ancient fabric remained until 1897.

On Sunday, February 7th, in that year, a few days after Sir Christopher R. Lighton had entered into occupation, an outbreak of fire consumed the whole of the old part of the buildings.

Close by the house up to quite recent times there still survived some picturesque timbered buildings which used to be occupied either by those who farmed the land, or as cottages by the labourers who worked upon it.

Dr John Oldham

The Farm R Sandell



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Prepared by Mr. Philip Norman, F.S.A.

BROMLEY COMMON

THE extensive district lying to the south of the town from the top of Mason's Hill to Keston Mark is popularly styled Bromley Common, and comprises at the present time one ward of the borough. We must, however, in any history of the common, clearly differentiate between this loose general name of Bromley Common and what was in truth the original common, or common lands, the boundaries of which by no means coincide with the existing ward.

To do this it may be well to begin by defining what a common, in the legal sense of the term, really is, and so dispel the popular notion that common land is land held by the community in common—that is, that it has no owner, but is the possession of the public who enjoy sole rights over it.

Legally, common land, though accessible to the public, is not common to all, in the sense of all men having proprietary rights over it. The soil belongs to one person, the Lord of the Manor, while certain persons have the right to take certain profits from it, such as the right of pasture, of cutting bushes, gorse, or heather, sometimes of lopping, of cutting turf or peat for fuel, of digging sand, loam, or gravel. Such persons are known as commoners, and the above rights are strictly confined to those entitled to exercise them, either as being freeholders, or copyholders of the manor, or to such as, having been copyholders, have become enfranchised. The actual Bromley Common was owned by the Bishops of Rochester as Lords of the Manor, but under conditions that the "commoners" should freely enjoy their privileges. Moreover some portions of the common were known as "Half-year lands," or Lammas lands, which were the exclusive property of the Lord of the Manor from April 5th to October 10th in each year, and then for the remainder of the year were thrown open to the tenants of the manor to make what they could of them in the time at their disposal.

The common lands of Bromley which came within the definitions just given amounted only to about three hundred acres in all, and they extended, very irregularly, along each side of the existing main road leading to Tonbridge and Hastings.

The common began at the top of Mason's Hill just about where Napier Road now joins the main thoroughfare, and there, upon the south-western side, stood the toll-gate, which remained in evidence till November 1865, when it was removed to find a home for some years in a building yard in the neighbourhood of the Plough Inn. Immediately facing the toll-gate on the north-east side was a farm-house which is said to constitute the subject of a rough sketch by David Cox, now in the Birmingham Art Gallery. At this point the width of the common was little more than the width of the road. Immediately beyond Brick Kiln Lane, or the modern Homesdale Road, the common broadened out on each side of the turnpike, and con-

tained on the south-west a triangular area of about twenty acres known as the "Shooting Common." The name is probably derived from the practice of archery—long enjoined by law—which was carried on here, a derivation which becomes the more probable from the fact that two fields in the neighbourhood were known as "Long Shots" and "Short Shots," possibly from the length of the targets erected here. But it must not be forgotten that a family named Shott, or Shot, or Shotte, were large landowners in the district, and it is possible that "Long Shots" and "Short Shots" have reference to this family rather than to archery practice.

At about the point where St. Luke's Church now stands, the common again narrowed to little more than the width of the road, and extended as merely a narrow strip as far as the site of the Rookery. There it widened out on both sides, extending, on the east, in a line roughly diagonal to the existing main road, to Slough Farm, Cooper's Farm, and so to the limit of Prince's Plain. A little beyond this limit the boundary turned sharply to the west, and in a zigzag line, touching Skim Corner, it bisected the main road at the Plough Inn, and thence, with devious turnings inclining westward, to its extreme limit at Keston Mark. The Hayes–Farnborough Road now for some distance became the southern boundary, the line turning sharply to the north at Sheepwash Cottage towards Barnet Wood. This wood now formed the boundary as far as Bencewell House, when a sharp rectangular turn brought it almost up to the present Westerham Road. Turning to the north, past Bencewell Farm, Oakley Road became the boundary for some little distance, when, doubling back upon itself to form an oval, the land known as Cherry Orchard, though not the ponds, lay just outside the common land. This curious "island," as it has been called, completely dislocating the natural course of the boundary line, doubtless indicates some successful encroachment upon the common lands of which no record has come to hand. Resuming its normal course after this interval, the line passes to the east of Oakley House, and curving gradually towards the north-east, with the Rookery and Elmfield upon its borders, it narrows to scarcely more than the width of the main road except where it forms one side of the triangle of Shooting Common.

Such were the limits of the real Bromley Common, to which, however, there must be added an isolated patch, lying away from Prince's Plain on the east, known as the Upper and Lower Scrubs, a curiously shaped detached area, which seems on the map to be altogether out of relation to the common proper.

An examination, such as that just conducted, of the exact boundaries of the common discloses a fact which, though obvious on a moment's consideration, may yet come as a surprise—the fact that not one of the estates, mansions, houses, or farms most naturally associated in the mind with Bromley Common falls actually within the precincts of the common itself. Elmfield, the Rookery, Oakley, the Cedars, Hook Farm, and all

the rest, lie just outside the boundary, though a part of the land now attached to some of them was once common land. This fact, however, is in the nature of things, for private ownership and common land are contradictory terms. For an individual to own land in freehold within a common is incompatible with those common rights which certain individuals enjoy over common land. Such holdings, however, as are mentioned above lie within the parish of Bromley, and therefore fall within the scope of this history. I propose therefore first to give such history as is available of the common itself—of the common proper as I have called it—and then give some record of the properties immediately contiguous to it.

For centuries Bromley Common was a waste, grown over with gorse, heather, fern, and broom, through which various tracks, rather than roads, led the traveller towards Hayes or Southborough or Tunbridge Wells. Even as late as the middle of the eighteenth century the main coach road from London to Tunbridge Wells was, when it crossed the common, little more than a track, for when Mr. James Norman came to the neighbourhood in 1755 he had posts put up and painted white in order to mark it out. Freeman remarks that this road was " not only dreary, but afforded every facility for the commission of robberies," and footpads and highwaymen took every advantage of conditions so favourable to their profession. John Evelyn in his *Diary*, under date June 11th, 1652, records that he was robbed on Bromley Common, his assailants concealing themselves, until the crucial moment arrived, behind the trunk of a huge tree known as " Procession Oak."

" Having been robbed by two cut-throats near Bromley, I rode on to London, and got 500 tickets printed. The robber, refusing to plead, was pressed to death."

On the eastern side of the road between the Rookery and Oakley two pollard elms used to stand, known as the Large and Small Beggars Bush, and behind these trees, or in a thicket immediately below them, tradition tells us that highwaymen used to lurk and await their victims. As late as 1798 a highwayman was hanged upon the common for robbing His Majesty's Mail. Indeed, until comparatively recent times a journey from Bromley to Keston Mark was at once adventurous and picturesque. In the marshy land, known now as Prince's Plain, snipe and other game were plentiful, and for many generations the echoes which subsequently resounded from a well-hit cricket ball were awakened by the sportsman's gun.

The first material change in ancestral conditions came in 1764, when a portion of the common lands in Bromley Parish were enclosed by Act of Parliament, but unfortunately no map accompanying the Act is to be found, and in the Act itself no specification is given of the lands actually enclosed. The exact land thus enclosed in 1764 is therefore a matter of guess-work, but it is beyond question that it was a portion of the common

proper. This Act, which extinguished " the right of common in, over and upon certain commonable lands and grounds within the Manor and Parish of Bromley," made over such lands and grounds, in sole proprietorship, to the Lord of the Manor—the Bishop of Rochester—or rather to Mr. William Scott, who represented the Bishop as lessee—on payment of a yearly sum of £40 to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor

" in full compensation of all manner of right of common, or common of pasture, of the freeholders and inhabitants of the parish, and all other persons claiming right of common."

At the same time the permanent rights of the holder of the see as Lord of the Manor were expressly reserved.

The Enclosure Act of 1764 was followed about sixty years later (1821) by an Act of Parliament enclosing the whole of the old common. Such Enclosure Acts were largely due to the wasteful character of the methods of cultivation practised on the common lands, and to a sense of the necessity, in a country mainly dependent upon itself for its food supplies, of making every part of it produce to the full extent of its capacity.

Thus Dunkin in 1815, speaking of the common, deplores the fact that " so large a tract of land is unproductive," and Freeman, after the enclosure, rejoices that so extensive a space of unproductive land should now be put to its proper uses. The sense for open spaces and for wild natural beauty is of very recent growth, and encroachments upon public rights, which to-day would be resented as acts of vandalism, were not only accepted without demur, but regarded as benefactions in the general interests of the community. This statement, however, is not to be taken to imply that no opposition to enclosures from any quarter was forthcoming. Mr. George Norman had been for many years a resolute opponent of the enclosure of Bromley Common, and " at length," says Mr. Philip Norman, " yielded with reluctance when he found that further opposition would be of no avail."

The Act, dated April 6th, 1821, is a lengthy document of over eight thousand words, and in it the area to be enclosed is specified as

" about 300 acres of commons and waste land—and a certain tract of commonable or half-year land called the Scrubs, containing by estimation fifty acres or thereabouts."

The Act, in fact, absorbed into itself the whole of Bromley Common.

A Commissioner, Mr. Richard Peyton, was appointed to carry out the provisions of the Act, to make awards in compensation to those dispossessed of their common rights,

" to stop up and discontinue, divert and turn, and set out and appoint any public roads, ways, or paths "


Scale
at 12 to mile
1826 Award Map.
PARK
BROMLEY COLLEGE
HIGH STREET
WIDMORE LANE
Whitte Hart Field
Parsonage Row Field
Mill Place
Market Place
Parish Church
Church House
Mansion House
Mill Pond
Mill House
Mill Stream
River Ravensbourne
Pound
Gardens
Meadow
Arable
Nursery
Road
Lane
Footpath
Brook
Rectory
Vicarage
Schools
Stables
Coach House
Lodge
Farm
Cottages
Pump
Tollgate
Turnpike
Bridge
Ford
Boundary
Parish
Hundred
Rectory Field
Broomfield
Great Meadow
Lower Meadow
Vicarage Field
Pound Meadow
Bell or Pound Meadow
Brewery
Tannery
Workhouse
Masons Hill
Ravensbourne
Footpath Field
Bromley Common
Bromley Hill
Bromley Lodge
Bromley House
Bromley Turnpike
Bromley Bridge
Bromley Ford
Bromley Parish
Bromley Rectory
Bromley Vicarage
Bromley Schools
Bromley Stables
Bromley Coach House
Bromley Lodge
Bromley Farm
Bromley Cottages
Bromley Pump
Bromley Tollgate
Bromley Turnpike
Bromley Bridge
Bromley Ford
Bromley Boundary
Bromley Parish
Bromley Hundred

anywhere within the parish—not only within the limits of the common—and generally

" to do his duty without favour or affection, prejudice or partiality, to any person or persons whomsoever."

The Commissioner's Awards were engrossed upon a map, which is now preserved in the parish church. Five years elapsed between the passing of the Act of Parliament and the completion and signature of the terms of the awards, and thus the new order of things on Bromley Common dates from March 21st, 1826. Under this new order it is found that the Bishop of Rochester, as Lord of the Manor, was the chief beneficiary under the Act. The Bishop was to receive in compensation for the surrender of his manorial rights over the " Common, commonable, and waste lands," so much of such lands as should be equal to one-seventeenth part of their value—

" after deducting thereout the public roads, drains, water courses, and land sold for the purpose of paying the expenses of carrying this Act into execution."

A further deduction of ten acres was made for land to be set aside for the construction of a workhouse, with garden attached, which garden should either be cultivated by the inmates of the workhouse or let by the Vestry, the proceeds being applied as part of the poor rate. The project of a workhouse, however, was not carried into effect, for the subsequent formation of the Bromley Workhouse Union rendered any such scheme superfluous. The vicarage and garden of Trinity Church, the house known as Beechwood, and certain cottages which formerly stood opposite Bencewell Farm-house, contain the greater part of the ten acres originally set aside as workhouse land.

To the Bishop was also awarded that part of the common called the Scrubs, but on condition that he was to compensate from lands allotted to him those who were dispossessed of their common rights. After all the special requirements of the Act had been met, the remainder of the land was to be allotted to the Bishop as Rector of the parish in right of his glebe, and to others who at the time of the division should be entitled to common right.

Apart from the Bishop, no one seems to have originally enjoyed common rights to any considerable extent. The awards, by way of allotment of land to such as held such rights, were numerous, but the amounts allotted were small in quantity. It was by subsequent purchase rather than as compensation that the common land now in possession of, for example, the Norman family was secured. But among those to whom allotments were made by way of compensation mention may be made of Sir Thomas Baring, the trustees of Bromley College, William Isard, John

Lascoe, Edward Latter, George Norman, and the parish of St. Mary Aldermary in London. Altogether 239 allotments of land were made, their extent, excluding the Scrubs, being 316 acres, 3 roods, and 2 poles. To others grants in money, in lieu of land, were made, the amounts varying from £42 5*s*. to £3 7*s*. 6*d*. Among the recipients of such money grants were George Grote, the father of the historian of Greece, and Samuel Baxter.

By the provisions of the Act of Parliament the enclosed common was to be laid out in new roads, ditches, fences, and drains, involving the expenditure of considerable sums of money. To meet these expenses many pieces of the old common were sold, either by public auction or private contract, the proceeds being paid into Messrs. Grote, Prescott & Co., the bankers appointed by the Act. Those landowners who had frontages abutting on the common were allowed to purchase the land adjoining them, and to effect exchanges by mutual consent. Many such landowners took advantage of this permission, and so, by purchase, acquired the greater part of the common land they held. In the case of the Norman family, almost all their property on the old common lands was obtained either at the time by purchase or exchange, or by subsequent purchase. In this way that family has become possessed of Oakley, the Scrubs, Prince's Plain, Elmfield, the frontage of Cooper's Farm, the Cherry Orchard, and the Gravel Road Meadows. In fact the whole business of enclosure seems to have been carried through without spoliation, hardship, or complaint, and the public of that time was little affected by the loss to the community of an open expanse of ground distinguished alike by its natural beauty and its traditions.

The effects of enclosure were immediately seen in the diversion of some existing tracks or roads, in the formation of new roads, and in the construction of ditches, drains, and fences in preparation for the development of the old common as a residential area. Gradually the operations of the builder and the amenities of the situation attracted a residential population with requirements, both material and spiritual, which needed satisfaction. These latter needs were met in 1839 by the erection of Holy Trinity Church at the junction of the Hastings and Westerham Roads, and, as the population increased, by the foundation of St. Luke's Church in 1886, at the corner of the main and Southlands Roads. A full account of these churches will be found in the chapter of this book dealing with the subsidiary churches of the parish. By gradual but successive processes of development the district has assumed the forms which are familiar to-day, and Bromley Common has become but the shadow, or symbol, of a name which for many centuries had accurately described it.

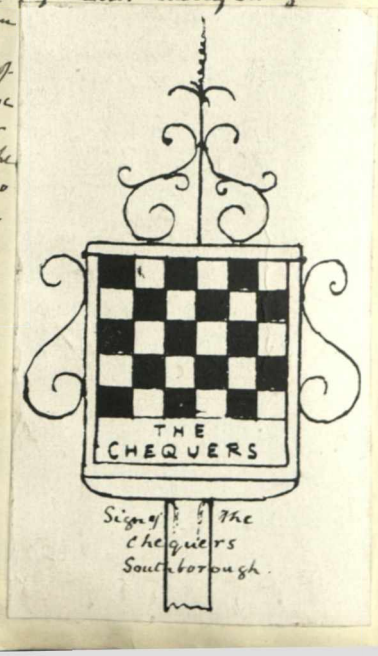
Now therefore we pass from the actual common to its environs, where the chief source of interest lies in the various habitations which bordered on the common land, and which by their close proximity are often

THE OLD TOLL-GATE HOUSE 1929
when in Gills Yard B. Common. Now at Slough Farm

The sign of the Crooked Billet has not been hung since rebuilding, but it is in keeping. It consists of the usual oblong iron frame embellished at the two top corners & sides with curved wrought iron work representing what in W. Kent would be called whiffle-trees i.e. small iron bars to which the traces of draught animals are attached, whereas in Mid & East Kent they are not usually straight as commonly seen. The fire it looks as if the original building came from another part of Kent & this.

The Chequers originally a very picturesque wooden house has of late years been renovated & modernized by Miss Whitbreads. The Soc of Antiqueries have a view of Pompeii showing this sign. It is also shown in the arms of the Earls of Warrenne & Surrey who had the privelege of licensing ale-houses. Money changers houses also exhibited this sign. An old post-boys parlour & settle have been preserved.

Wm Firminger d in The Union aged 101. Born in Portsoken 1766 a basket maker. Father kept The Chequers & was a charcoal burner



Sign of The Chequers Southborough.

identified with it. Dunkin, writing in 1815 about Bromley Common, specifically states that " there are 25 houses on this Common," by which he presumably means houses upon its borders, for, as we have seen, private ownership is not compatible with common land. Let us start from the entrance to the common at the toll-gate beyond Mason's Hill, and follow the boundary line to the east of the main Hastings Road.

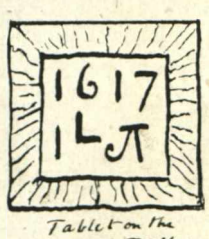
The first building to attract our attention is the old farm-house, already mentioned as providing a subject for the pencil of David Cox. The most notable fact recorded about it is that the site on which the farm-house stood was at one time advertised for sale, and, with ingenuous impartiality, was commended to purchasers as being equally " suitable for a church or a tavern." In the early part of the nineteenth century the land was farmed by a Mr. Thomas Smith, and later on, beyond 1862, by Mr. Reuben Mansfield. For rather more than a mile beyond this farm there were no houses immediately fronting the common boundary, but some little distance away lay Turpington House and farm, the picturesque house and grounds remaining to the present day. It was here that horse races used to be run in the eighteenth century. A programme has survived of a fixture in August 1734, which, in language not very intelligible to me, announces, as the principal prize, a purse of twenty-five guineas for

" any horse, mare, or gelding that never won above that value at any time in purse or place, fourteen hands to carry nine stone, all under or over to carry weight for inches. To pay a guinea and a half entrance, or three at the post."

These races " on Bromley Common " were said to have been patronised by Frederick Prince of Wales, but the appellation of Prince's Plain to part of the common is probably due, as will be seen later, not to this Prince, but to another.

Hereabouts also, close to Blackbrook, and east and west of it, were two old and picturesque hostelries, known respectively as the Chequers, and the Crooked Billet. Both have been reconstructed or entirely rebuilt, but both still stand upon their ancient sites, and bear their ancient signs—that of the Chequers being a black-and-white draught-board, which originally indicated that the game of draughts could be played within.

see Illus. p. 206.



Tablet on the Crooked Billet Southborough.

Immediately beyond what was known as Slough Lane, now Turpington Lane, there lay Slough Farm, almost touching the boundary, and a little farther on, beyond Magpie Hall Lane, Cooper's Farm, now the Club House of the Bromley and Bickley Golf Club. The links of this Club were originally the Bromley Race-course, not to be confused with the eighteenth century races just recorded. The Bromley Race-course at Cooper's Farm was established by William Pawley of the White Hart in 1864, and an account of it appears in the chapter on Sport.

Beyond Cooper's Farm lies that part of the old common known as Prince's Plain. Originally marshland overgrown with scrub, it offered, by its wide extent of level surface, a golden vista to the cricketer. In 1812 the area was cleared and turned into a cricket ground, on which many famous matches (to be further referred to in the chapter on Sport) were played.

Rounding the boundary bend we come to Skim Corner, where some cottages of considerable antiquity, judging by the nature of the bricks and internal timbers, still stand, flanked on the other side of the track by a house which, in its present state, shows at least five periods of addition. Now it is a curious nondescript, with the old original wattle and daub still constituting the chief feature of the building. Still following the boundary for a quarter of a mile we reach the high road, and the famous Plough Inn, with its pond within the boundary, abutting on the road, while the inn itself stands just outside.

How far back in antiquity the Plough extends is not recorded, but, situated as it is at the southern extremity of the common on the main coach road between London and Hastings, it may be assumed that a hostelry of some sort has occupied the position from time immemorial. The Plough first appears as such a hostelry in the Parish Registers for 1733. Modern restoration has unfortunately obliterated the most essential features of the old inn, but from contemporary engravings we can still visualise the quaint and picturesque structure, fronted by three large elm trees with the inn sign upstanding across the road, and its enormous wooden horse-trough, a prince of its kind.

Some acres of land were attached to the inn, and from its hospitable doors the guests looked out over a green meadow which extended to the western boundary of the common. The Plough was the headquarters of the Prince's Plain Cricket Club. There the club was initiated, and there, on match days, the players used to dine in a long wooden shed at the back, provided by the members for the purpose. The Plough pond, fed by a stream which ultimately finds its way to the Ravensbourne, was so contiguous to the inn as to be a trap for anyone a little unsteady in his gait.

Leaving the Plough and still following the boundary, we skirt the road known still as Gravel Road. The name comes from a special award, made under the Enclosure Act, of two acres of land set aside to provide gravel for the making of the new roads in the enclosed land. After fulfilling this purpose for many years, this allotment was converted to its present uses as a recreation ground.

Almost at the extreme end of the southern limit of the common stood the house known as the Cedars : a little beyond it, at the junction of the main road with the road leading to Hayes and Farnborough, we reach Keston Mark, and the old inn with the sign of the red cross.

The term " Mark " as applied to Keston, still fulfils its ancient function

1848 Sale Catalogue pp

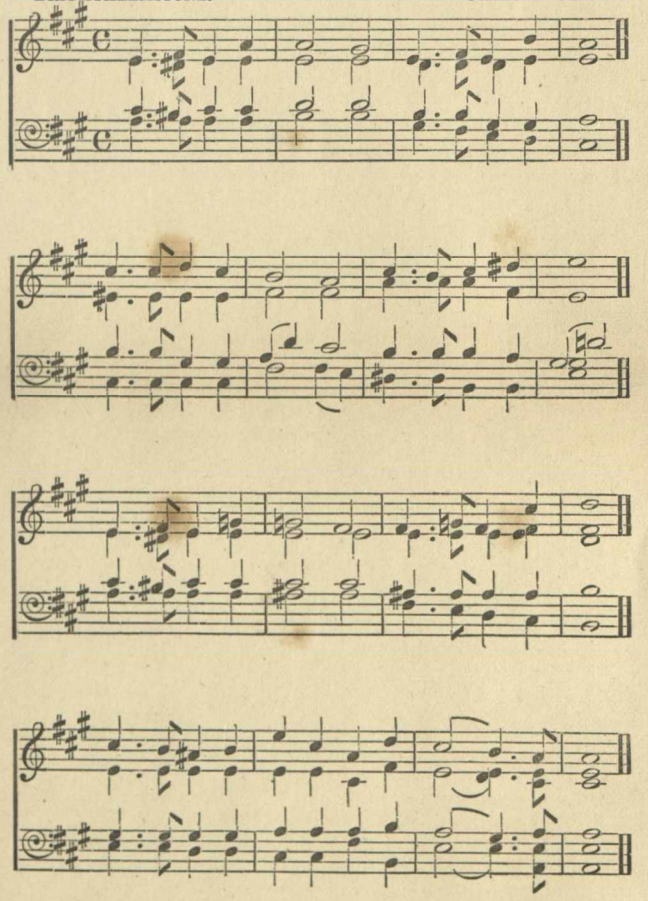
5 Bedrooms, 2 Parlours, Kitchen Scullery Pantry, Store Cupboard, Taproom Bar Bar Parlour Wagonners & Ostlers Bedroom, Good Cellarage for Malt Liquors & Arched Vaults for Wine & Spirits, Parlour Yard Wash House, Dairy, Poultry Hse. Piggery, Coal Hse. 3 Stall Stable, Open Stable for 8 horses, Team Stable for 10 horses & loft over, Cow Shed, Calf Pen, Tumbler Shed, Double Skittle Alley enclosed & thatched Stable Yard & 2 five-Stall Stables for Post horses & lofts over. Pleasant Garden & Fruit trees Paddock of good meadow. Fish Pond Stocked & Perch, Tench Roach & Carp & an Eyot with rustic Seat &c. = 3 Acres of Land & water

Lord Huntingtower lived at Tower House Keston opp. The Red Cross, also at one time at Tweed Cott Lower High St. He was mad as a march hare, full of huge practical jokes: As The Hon Wm Lionel Tollemache he was son of Maria Elizabeth Countess of Wysart. b 1820, d 1872 & is bur in Keston Ch under the yew (Attd grandc & rails) where also is bur his uncle Francis Hastings Toone b 1788, d. 1873. His mother Sister of Toone was wife of 6th Earl of Wysart (1790-1869). He once drove into Bromley Fair some 20-30 donkeys in tandem be-plumed. At Keston he once emptied a pot of treacle over the head of a woman there. He paid handsomely for his jokes, but paid no one Else a Stiver. He was in debt all over Bromley. Baylis's, Bell Hotel, Nash's &c &c. Once he went to some of these, asked to see their ledgers & wrote I.O.U. across them & signed it "Huntingtower" & said "Keep that!" & sure enough his Solicitors honoured such. He paid Baylis & the Bell thus, so knew what he was talking about.

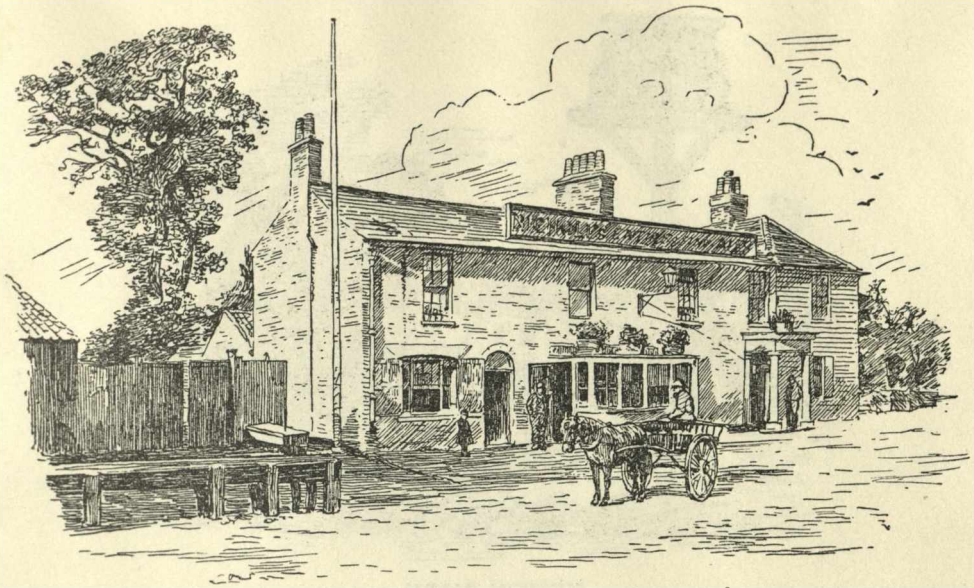
HARVEST HYMN.

("Holy is the Seed-time.")

BRIGHTHELMSTONE. CHARLES COPE.



Printed by F. PITMAN, 20, Paternoster Row, London.



THE OLD PLOUGH INN

of indicating a barrier, or boundary, between two communities. In modern times Keston Mark indicates the boundary between Bromley and Keston parishes, and has an innocent and friendly significance. In primitive times when men lived in tribes, each tribe, jealously hostile to its neighbours, protected its own isolation and independence by a boundary, or mark, of virgin forest which was crossed only at the peril of the intruder.

"In this primitive love of separation," says Mr. Grant Allen in his *Anglo-Saxon Britain*, "we have the germ of that local independence and that isolated private life which is one of the most marked characteristics of modern Englishmen."

To-day, Keston Mark stands rather as a symbol of hospitality and good-fellowship, for hard by its picturesque hostelry the Red Cross invites all comers, and obliterates all enmities with a welcome and good-cheer.

Having reached the extreme limit both of the old common and of the parish, we retrace our course towards the town by the outskirts of the western boundary. Bencewell House is the first habitation of old standing to attract attention, with Bencewell Farm a little beyond it, almost abutting on the main road. In the considerable oval cutting into the old common stands Cherry Orchard, a house and grounds where, in their season, an abundance of tempting cherries used to belie by their bitterness the expectations of adventurous youth. This neighbourhood abounds

KESTON MARK
From an old engraving

in ponds, and there is a tradition that one of these ponds gave away the secret of an illicit still operating in Cherry Orchard House. The refuse from the still was emptied into the pond with such intoxicating effect upon the ducks that suspicions were aroused, and the nefarious traffic was revealed.

Passing from Cherry Orchard, in less than half a mile Oakley House is reached, now one of the residences of the Norman family. The Oakley estate has been identified by Mr. B. F. Davis with the property frequently mentioned in deeds under the name of "Goodwyns." In the seventeenth century it was in the possession of the King family, for in 1701 Walsingham King sold it to Matthew Walraven of Pickhurst Manor. After passing through various hands it became the property of Captain, afterwards Admiral, Sir William Cornwallis, popularly known as "Billy Blue." By the Admiral, Oakley was sold in 1787 to Mr. Major Rohde, by whom it was sold to Mr. George Norman in 1825. Thus the two properties of Oakley and the Rookery were joined into one.

Mr. Philip Norman has himself contributed an account of the Rookery estate:

"This house," he writes, "with the adjoining grounds, contains portions of several former properties. Apparently the earliest document relating to them is a title-deed of June 7th, 1660, wherein mention is made of a 'capital messuage or tenement' the exact situation of which is not

re Oakley. It was a farm in 1815

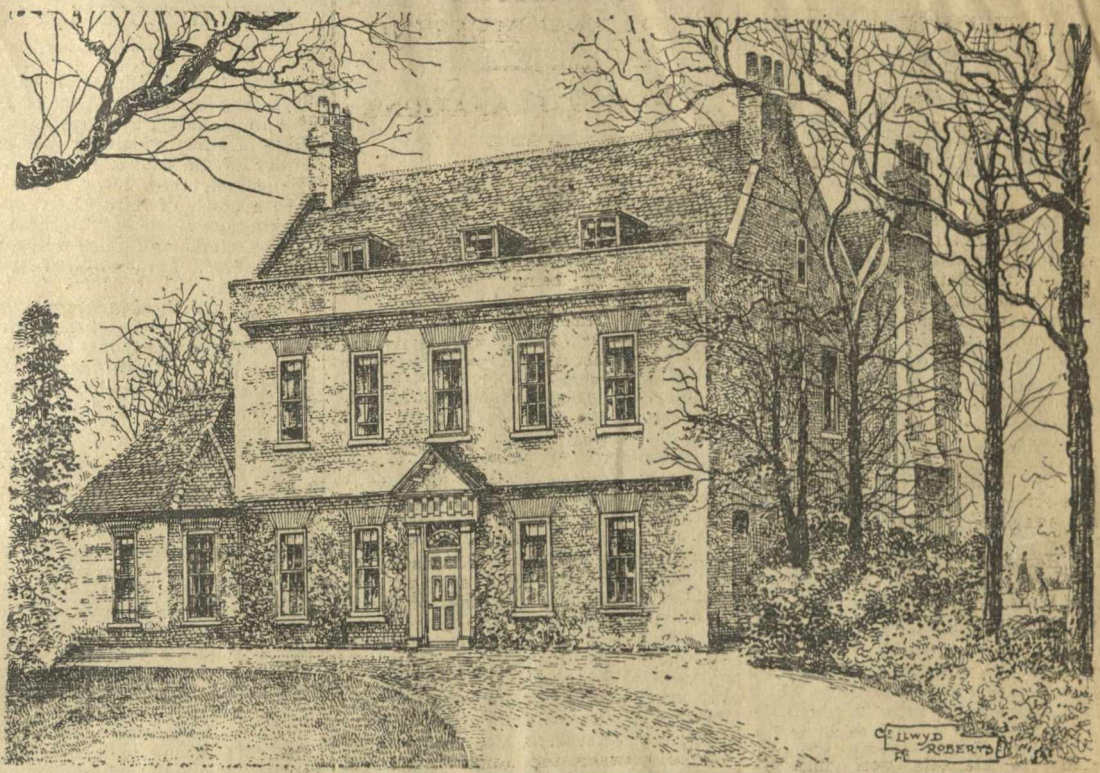
In 1717 it came to John Bewes. In 1722 it was mortgaged to John Henderson whose descendants in
1750 &c mortgaged it to Sam[l] Cox. In 1764 his descendants sold it to Lewis Brotherson from the W. Indies qv in
1773 Brotherson sold it to John Mitford ... Rob[t]., and in
1779 Mitford ? mortgaged it to Richard Albrent
1784 Alexander Packe took it over from " " and John Pott
1786 Packe sells it to Capt Sir Wm Cornwallis RN (aft[s] Admiral "Billy Blue")
1787 Cornwallis sells to Mr Major Rohde this eldest son
1825 Rohde sells it to George Norman.
Later 2 Miss Wharton's lived there, then Henry Norman, then Charles Lloyd Norman, Sir Neville Lutton
then a Hospital, & the Hon Jno Lyttelton Son of Visct Cobham

re The Rookery. In 1603 it was in the hands of the Bettley family
1623 sold to Richard Denman, then Chancery suit[s]. Denman had leased it 6 Geo. Cox
Several disputed the property, foremost among one John Chauncey, who eventually in 1642 sells
it to Eliz[th] Bingley of Baston in 1642.
— In 1660 She sells it to Nicholas Hughes, who lived there, planted an orchard &
spent a lot, as stated in a law case of 1682
In 1696 in hands of Mortgagees, but sold in 1700 to Anthony Ball
& Sir Jeffery Jeffreys (see p221)

THE ROOKERY, BROMLEY COMMON.
Before alteration in 1890.

ELMFIELD, BROMLEY COMMON.
Erected early in the eighteenth century.

ELMFIELD, BROMLEY COMMON.



Elmfield, Bromley Common, now the residence of Lieut.-Colonel W. V. Packe, was at one time used as a girls' school. In the first half of the nineteenth century Miss Fanny Shepherd was a notable person in the world of girls' education. She was a particular friend of the Norman family who, at the Rookery, were her next door neighbours, and her connection extended to the high aristocracy of the land. Among her pupils was Miss Dalbiac, who married the sixth Duke of Roxburgh. Incorporated in the garden of Elmfield is a piece of ground which in the old days was attached to the Crown Inn; about 1866 the inn was pulled down and a new one built on the other side of the road.

Colonel Packe kindly granted our artist permission to make the above sketch.

Sotheby's [New York] Date 23:01:01 Phone 00 1 212 6067000
1334 York Avenue [at 72nd St.] Time 11.30am Buyer Premium 20%
New York 1st lot 107 Fax 00 1 212 6067107
New York NY 10021 Sale Name 7599 Valori
USA

Viewing :18th-20th January 10am - 5pm. 21st January 1pm - 5pm. 22nd January 10am - 3pm. Fax for bids 212 606 7016. Any estimates are in US dollars. Sale to recommence at 2pm with lot 188.

235 *Rosalba Carriera 1675-1757 Portrait Of An Englishman Said To Be Thomas Chase. Pastel. Oval. 565 by 432mm. Bears label apparently 18th century on the verso: Mr. Thomas Chasel of Bromley Kent. Resident at Lisbon at the time of.. There are indeed records of a Thomas Chase 1729-88 who lived for a while in Lisbon but as that person is only known to have travelled to Italy in 1773 the identification of the sitter may be incorrect. E20000-30000

Rate Bk 1720 has J. Webster there as owner

re Lead Cistern Height- 3ft 10 in, Length 6ft. Width 2ft
Mr P. Norman hopes this may adorn one of Bromley's Gardens not go to S. Ken-
sington sometime had been cut in half-to make 2 tanks, but now united, tops half-
See opp. p 201. Still has the bottom ribs strengthened by 3 cross divisions. Is larger than
the Freelands one.

defined. It had, however, some of the Rookery land connected with it—e.g. two pieces of meadow ground called 'Great Mead' and 'Russia (i.e. rushy) Mead,' both now forming part of the great meadow at the back."

In 1700 this house was bought by Anthony Ball from Sir Jeffrey Jefferys. A deed of 1722 supplies the information that a capital messuage, or mansion house, had been built by him, and had been some time in his possession. In another deed it is said that the mansion already existed in 1716, when it was mortgaged by Ball for £2,500, and the question arises when it had been rebuilt. From the deeds at the Rookery one learns that there were purchases of Bromley Common property in 1700, 1703, 1707, and 1710. No statement appears as to the date of the rebuilding, but there is a large increase in the rating between December 1706 and June 1707. According to information at present available the year of Ball's rebuilding must remain therefore uncertain, but its style alone convinces one that it cannot be later than the time of Queen Anne. This mansion was the still existing part of the Rookery (not known by that name in these early deeds).

Anthony Ball the elder died in October 1718, and the estate came to his only son, Anthony, who, in the rate books of 1719, is described as occupier and owner. In a deed of 1720 he and his wife Elizabeth are mentioned in connection with it, and that year, or early in 1721, they sold the house and land to John Webster and John Cock "for the sole benefit of" (the former) "and his heirs and assigns for ever." The lead cistern in the garden of the Rookery, of which we give an illustration, has on it Webster's initials and the date 1721, and on the painted staircase ceiling, which is most likely coeval with Ball's house, appear the arms of Webster, namely, a cross between four mullets. Conveyance of the estate does not appear to have been formally ratified until May 1st and 2nd, 1722, as shown in a deed which is at the Rookery. John Webster died on November 26th, 1724, having made his will a few days before. In this he bequeathed all his property to his mother, Sarah, for the benefit of his and his wife Judith's children. In December 1734 Sarah Webster made a will leaving all her estate to William Guy, a salter of Wapping, in trust for the benefit of John, Thomas, Robert, Sarah, and Elizabeth, the children of her late son John Webster, and "Judith, their mother, now wife of William Guy."

In a deed dated March 1743, John, Thomas, and Sarah, the surviving children of John Webster, appear as joint owners of the Rookery, and we are told that it is "now and for some time past in the tenure of occupation of William Guy."

On January 23rd and 24th, 1744, the estate was bought by Thomas Chase the elder, who died in 1754. He left his Bromley Common estate to his son Thomas. This latter was the Thomas Chase who narrowly escaped with his life from the great earthquake in Lisbon in 1755. Both these Chases are commemorated in Bromley Parish Church, the monument

to the younger recording his experience at Lisbon. James Norman (my great-grandfather) had occupied the Rookery as a tenant of Thomas Chase from about 1755.[1] According to a deed still in existence, he bought it on February 8th, 1765, with the land then attached to it, which only amounted to little over thirty-seven acres. He it was who materially added to the house by building two wings in the Adam style.

"From the end of the century downwards each generation at the Rookery has seen some changes. In 1858 George Warde Norman, grandson of the original purchaser, made additions to the south end of the house, and under the ownership of his son Charles Loyd Norman, the house was further enlarged and quite transformed under the plans of the well-known architect Norman Shaw, R.A."

A little further north, adjoining the Rookery grounds, are the house and estate known as Elmfield, which was at one time, in all probability, the property of Anthony Ball. By 1727 it certainly was in the hands of one of that family, for it was sold in that year by an Anthony Ball, presumably the son of the original Anthony of the Rookery. In 1754 Elmfield was bought by Thomas Chase, of Lisbon earthquake fame, who thus owned all the land comprising Elmfield and the Rookery. After selling the latter, Chase still retained Elmfield and forty-one surrounding acres, and himself lived there till his death in 1788. When the Chase ownership of the property came to an end is not known, but the occupant in 1815 was a Mr. Martin. It passed into the hands of the Makepeace family, and in 1822 Mr. Robert Makepeace was the owner.

Then for a good many years the house was occupied by Miss F. Shepherd, who conducted a very successful girls' school on the premises. On Miss Shepherd's retirement, about the middle of the century, Elmfield was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Elias, one of whose sons, Ney Elias, became a distinguished explorer and diplomatist, his travels in unexplored parts of Asia gaining for him the Founder's Medal of the Geographical Society.

In 1858 Mr. Charles Barry was in occupation of Elmfield, but in 1862 the house and grounds attached to it were purchased from J. Makepeace by Mr. George Warde Norman, and in the hands of that family it still remains.

Incorporated into the garden of Elmfield there is now a piece of ground which in old days was attached to the Crown Inn, whose premises abutted on the western side of the high road. This ancient hostelry was originally known as the Pye House, and is so styled in a map of 1765. "The Pye House, the sign of the Crown." The name 'Pye' was no doubt associated with the Upper and Lower Pye fields at the back, though that is no explanation of the name as given to the fields. The inn may be said to have corre-

[1] His eldest son, James, who died aged nineteen, was born at Wimbledon in 1754, but his second son, George, was born at the Rookery in 1757.

It is mentioned in deed of 1710

In 1869. Chas. Robertson occ^d "Woodlands" next house to Elmfield (now pulled down)
1874 Geo Henry Payne occ^d Elmfield.

Edwin Fowkes - the well-known whip, race old Spot, owned greyhounds, had a rat-pit at the back of the New 'Crown' for rat-catching matches. Generally very genial & good humoured, but could be very rough with any rowdy customers. Bred Black-tan terriers, one of these "Bessie" was lost for 3-4 days, a postman finding her in a field in an Emaciated condition, buried & all if Earth at a rat's hole & with one Eye destroyed. She recovered & lived many years

Edwin Fownes had 15 children. Eldest son, Edwin Kopelsky ("Ted"), Arthur, Chas. d. in NY young, Wm who was Landlord of "The Swan" in 1848; Lionel was manager a Sports Depot in NY; mother was Lord Stawell's cousin. Edwin Kopelsky was Capt. of "The Rockets" in 1900. 4 Misses Sons drove road coaches in Peckham times. Ed. K. was Capt. Spicer's whip for Sheffield Team of the "Rainford" coach. + in 1931 he, by 80 was asked to come to the Festival Horse Show + drive the "York + London" Mail Coach — The Coach Parade twice daily, Between the further area Capt. Bly the "perpetual Coachman" in 1876. The Father was in Montague Sq. Browning Fury. His Coaches were "The Defiance" - "The Venture" + "The Vivid." Effects sum of £18,000 Baron with Arthur Fownes as his eldest

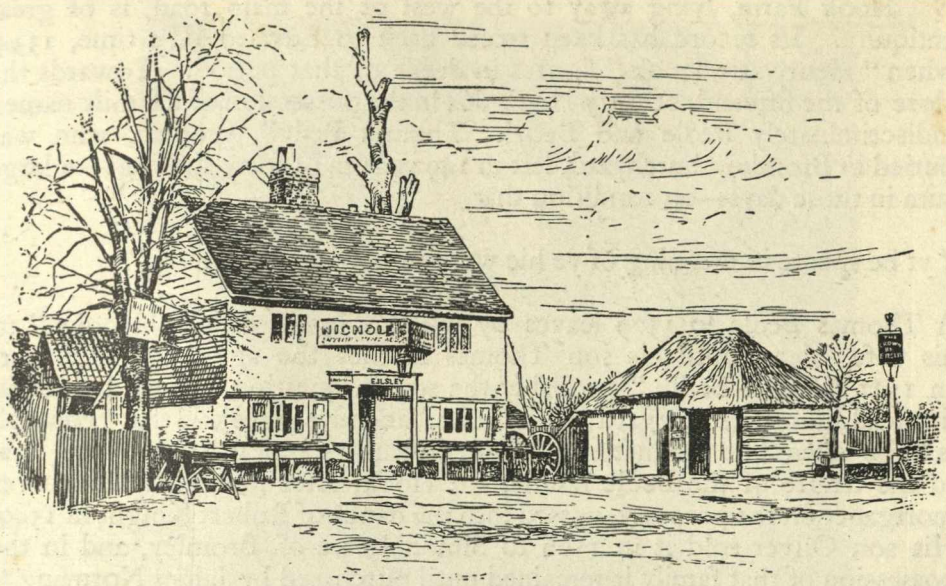
E.K.F left Bromley in 1866. Drove for his grandfather Sam Fownes Morland Coaches to the City + Hotel. Retired for the road 1914. Born Dec 1848 Merlays School

Edwin Fownes ("Daddy") born Aug 12th 1818. as he appeared abt 1870.

A great friend of E.K.F Mr John Rochuck drives abt 3 Standings Villas Friars Lane a great whips. E.K.F went to Mr Williams School at Richardson as a Translator His father Edwin first Coach was "The Telegraph" but T. Wells Mordon. His grandfather Sam was Stage Coach proprietor of Clapham, Norbury, Tooting + Bromley, 45 Commercials Coach in 1840. E.K Fownes tells a fab. of boy Sent by his father to Bandits to Bell-the Eye Tavern, the brought their back the 1st "Bulldogs" to Streets the which he got the whips — One on the Eight", Edwin Snr helped Chas Hoare Pitcher — 1816 with his Two Mail Coaches

Mrs Banks + Self motored down to Avon Hotel Amesbury in Sept 1931 + see him Had very pithy drop. His Hotel he gave till 4 daughters Pets a Collection Museum Capt Bly the d. 10 Sept 1931 at 83 buried at Poole Cornwall

Coachman Ted Fownes, eldest son of the above Edwin — driving York + London (Royal Mail of 1840) at Olympia 1931. Guard - Charles Minnell



THE OLD CROWN INN

sponded at one end of the common with the Plough at the other. There were the same homely and familiar features—the picturesqueness of the buildings, the water-trough, hay-trough, pond; the fine trees which shaded their frontages, the swinging signs in wrought iron, and the atmosphere of invitation which pervaded them both. In the rate books of 1832–5 Mary Quint is rated at £12 for the Crown; then William and Henry Cooper, rated respectively at £10 15*s*. Ultimately E. Ilsley became the last proprietor of the old Crown. About the year 1866 the house was pulled down and a new inn built immediately opposite on the eastern side of the road. Some Bromley memories still extend as far back as Edwin Fownes, first landlord of the new Crown, a man whose character suggested his familiar name of "Cheer'o Fownes" (it would doubtless have been "Cheerio" if he had lived a little longer). A celebrated coachman on a four-in-hand, an owner of greyhounds and a patron of coursing, a breeder of black-and-tan terriers, and a genial or terrifying host according to the character and conduct of his customers, Edwin Fownes was a fine specimen of a vanishing type, and by his personality transferred to the new Crown something of the prestige of the Crown which was no more.

A short distance from the Crown the old road, diverted by the Enclosure Act, led past Hook Farm, and joined the existing main road at the corner of Hayes Lane. A part of it formed one side of the triangular space called Shooting Common. And thus we reach the toll-gate, the point from which this itinerary of the common started.

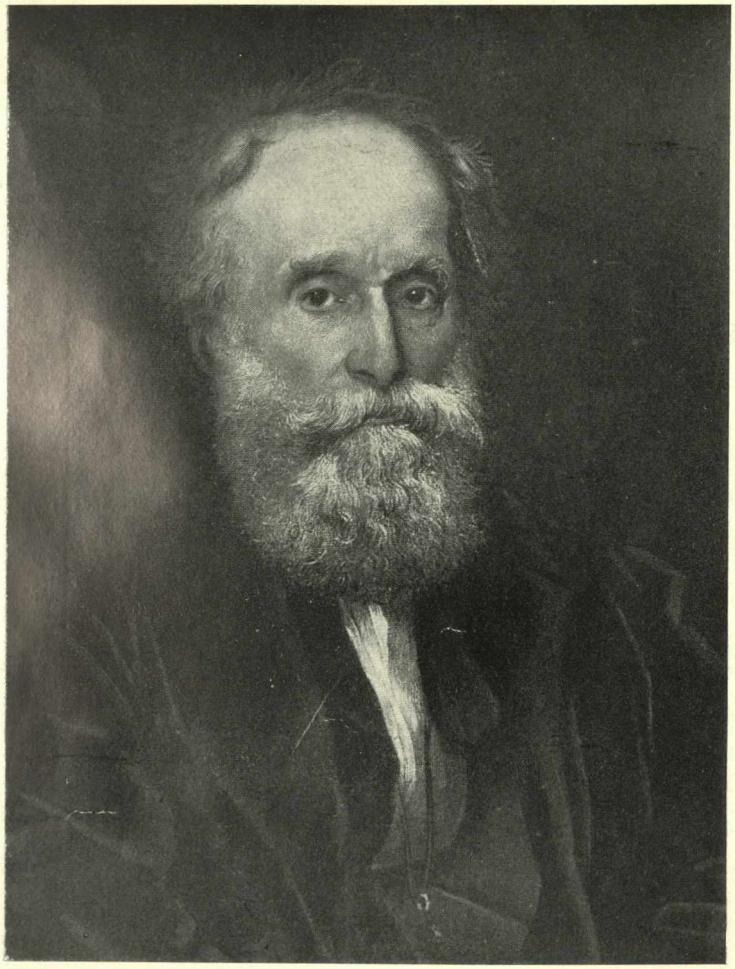
Hook Farm, lying away to the west of the main road, is of great antiquity. Its record has been traced back to Edward III's time, 1334, when "Henry atte Hook" figures in deeds of that period. Towards the close of the fifteenth century Hook was in the possession of a family named indiscriminately Bedle and Bedyl. Thomas Bedyll, yeoman, who was buried in Bromley churchyard, left in 1492 a sum of forty shillings—a large sum in those days—on condition that

"yt be spente in mending of ye hie weye in Bromley Common."

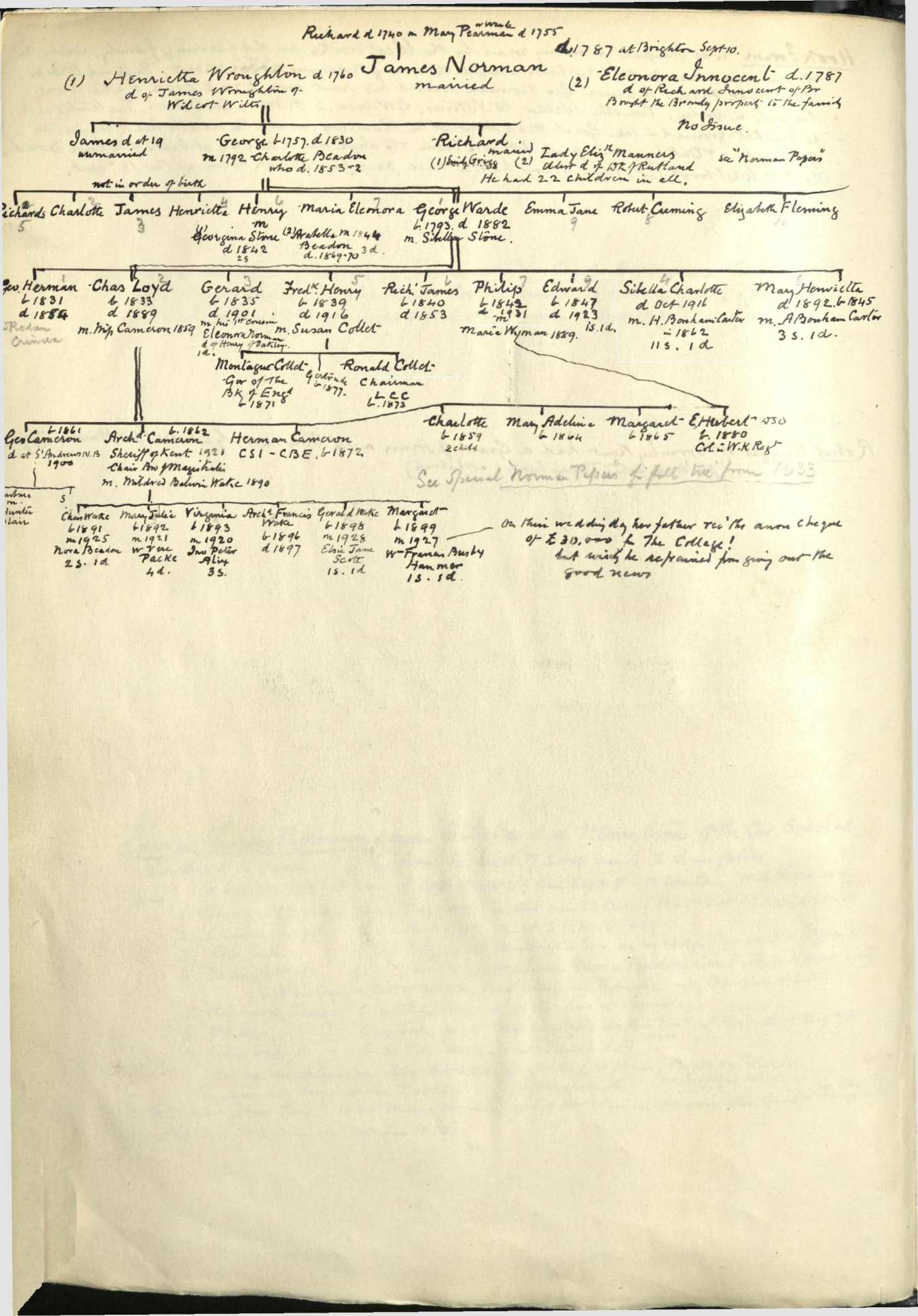
A Thomas Bedle in 1509 leaves by will his house called "Hooke" to his wife, Mary, until his son Thomas reaches the age of twenty-four. In 1521 "Thos. Bedill," probably the son in question, is found to be in financial difficulties in regard to "the hoke," and says in his will that "counsell is to be taken" on the matter. These difficulties appear to have been fatal to the tenure of the Bedle family, for Hook, after much litigation over mortgages on the property, passed into the hands of Robert Knight in 1540. His son Oliver sold it in 1566 to Simon Lowe of Bromley, and in the possession of that family it remained until purchased by James Norman.

This chapter on Bromley Common must not end without a more particular reference to that family which has been bound up in the story of Bromley Common and of Bromley town for the last 170 years. In the foregoing narrative I have shown something of the various stages by which the family of Norman has acquired the various properties which it holds on or adjacent to the old common. But a mere record of property held and acquired leaves out of account that further record which so far transcends any other—the record of continuous beneficence, of unremitting public service, of the pride and pleasure which each successive generation of the family has taken in everything which has tended to the welfare of the town. The family connection with Bromley began in 1755 when James Norman rented the Rookery and subsequently bought it. His earlier life therefore does not concern us, but it may be mentioned that he was 'out' in the '45, carrying a musket in opposition to the Young Pretender. His son and successor, George Norman, was prominent in the world of business as a timber merchant with large interests in Norway. His connection with the College, as Treasurer, and with the formation of the Bromley Volunteers in 1798, is shown fully in other chapters of this history. On his death in 1830 he was succeeded at the Rookery by his son, George Warde Norman, whose wide culture and eminent services to the nation as a financier have secured him a place in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. One of his earliest recollections was the occasion when he was taken by his father to call on Pitt at Holwood.

On leaving Eton he joined his father in business, paying frequent visits to Norway, where he formed lifelong associations with many prominent



GEORGE WARDE NORMAN (1793–1882), ÆTAT 79.
From an oil painting by G. F. Watts, R.A.


Richard d 1740 m Mary Pearman or Wade d 1755
James Norman
married
d 1787 at Brighton Sept 10.
(1) Henrietta Wroughton d 1760
d of James Wroughton of Wilcot Wilts
(2) Eleonora Innocenti d. 1787
d of Richard Innocenti of Br
Brought the Brandy property to the family
No Issue.
James d at 19 unmarried
George b 1757. d 1830
m 1792 Charlotte Beadon who d. 1853-2
Richard married
(1) Lady Eliz.th Manners 2) dau d of 5th D of Rutland
He had 22 children in all.
see "Norman Papers"
not in order of birth
Richard
Charlotte
James
Henrietta
Henry
Georgina Stone d 1842 2s
(2) Arabella m 1844 Beadon d. 1869-70 3d.
Maria
Eleonora
George Warde b. 1793. d 1882 m. Sibella Stone.
Emma Jane
Robert Cuming
Elizabeth Fleming
Geo Herman b 1831 d 1884
Chas Loyd b 1833 d 1889 m. Miss Cameron 1859
Gerard b 1835 d 1901 m 1st Miss Cameron m 2nd Eleonora Norman d of Henry Parkin. 1d.
Fred.k Henry b 1839 d 1916 m. Susan Collet
Rich.d James b 1840 d 1853
Philip b 1842 d m 1931 Marie Wyman 1889.
Edward b 1847 d 1923 1s. 1d.
Sibella Charlotte d Oct 1916 m. H. Bonham Carter 1862 11s. 1d
Mary Henrietta d 1892. b 1845 m. A Bonham Carter 3s. 1d.
Montague Collet Gov of The Bk of Eng.d b 1871
Gertrude b 1877.
Ronald Collet Chairman L.C.C. b. 1873
Geo Cameron b 1861 d at St Andrews N.B 1900
Arch.d Cameron b. 1862 Sheriff of Kent 1921 Chair Bow of Magistrates m. Mildred Belvin Wake 1890
Herman Cameron CSI - CBE. b 1872
Charlotte b 1859 2 child
Mary Adelaide b 1864
Margaret b 1865
E. Herbert b 1880 Col in W.K. Regt
Chas Wake b 1891 m 1925 Nora Beadon 2s. 1d
Mary Julia b 1892 m 1921 W. Fane Packe 4d.
Virginia b 1893 m 1920 Jno Peter Aliv 3s.
Arch.d Francis Wake b 1896 d 1897
Gerald Wake b 1898 m 1928 Elsie Jane Scott 1s. 1d
Margaret b 1899 m 1927 Wm Francis Busby Hanmer 1s. 1d.
See Special Norman Papers to fill the from 1833
On their wedding day her father rec'd the annex cheque of £30,000 for The College! but might be restrained from giving out the good news

Richard d 1740 m Mary Pearman d 1755

James Norman married

(1) Henrietta Wroughton d 1760
d of James Wroughton of Wilcot Wilts

(2) Eleonora Innocenti d. 1787
d of Richard Innocent of Br
Brought the Brandy property to the family

d 1787 at Brighton Sept 10.

No Issue.

James d at 19 unmarried

George b 1757. d 1830
m 1792 Charlotte Beadon who d. 1853-2

Richard married (1) Emily Griggs (2) Lady Eliz[th] Manners eldest d of 5th D of Rutland
He had 22 children in all.
see "Norman Papers"

not in order of birth

Richards 5 | Charlotte 3 | James | Henrietta | Henry m Georgina Stone d 1842 2 s | Maria | Eleonora | George Warde b 1793. d 1882 m. Sibella Stone. | Emma Jane 9 | Robert Cuming 8 | Elizabeth Fleming 10

Geo. Herman b 1831 d 1884 m. Miss Cameron 1859 — Richard Cruwys

Chas Loyd b 1833 d 1889

Gerard b 1835 d 1901 m 1st Eleonora Norman d of Henry of Oakley. 1 d.

Fred[k] Henry b 1839 d 1916 m. Susan Collet

Rich[d] James b 1840 d 1853

Philip b 1842 d 1931 m Maria Wyman 1889.

Edward b 1847 d 1923 is. id.

Sibella Charlotte d Oct 1916 m. H. Bonham Carter 1862 11 s. 1 d

Mary Henrietta d 1892. b 1845 m. A Bonham Carter 3 s. 1 d.

Montague Collet Gov of The Bk of Eng[d] b 1871

Gertrude b 1877.

Ronald Collet Chairman L.C.C. b. 1873

Geo Cameron b 1861 d at St Andrews N.B 1900

Barbara m. McHunter Blair 5

Arch[d] Cameron b. 1862 Sheriff of Kent 1921 Chair Bow of Magistrates m. Mildred Balwin Watt c 1890

Herman Cameron CSI - CBE. b 1872

Charlotte b 1859 2 child

Mary Adelaide b 1864

Margaret b 1865

E. Herbert b. 1880 Col - W.K. Reg[t]

330

See Special Norman Papers to fill the time from 1633

Chas Wake b 1891 m 1925 Nora Beadon 2 s. 1 d

Mary Julia b 1892 m 1921 W Fane Packe 4 d.

Virginia b 1893 m 1920 Jno Peter Aliv 3 s.

Arch[d] Francis Wake b 1896 d 1897

Gerald McKe b 1898 m 1928 Eliz Jane Scott 1 s. 1 d

Margaret b 1899 m 1927 W[m] Francis Busby Hammer 1 s. 1 d.

On this we decided by her father rec[d] the above cheque of £ 30,000 for The College!
but might be restrained from giving out the good news

Norwegians, and acquired a command over the Norwegian language and literature. In 1821 he became a Director of the Bank of England, and doubtless it was due to the many important duties now imposed upon him that he sold his business in 1830, and devoted his energies and talents to national finance. He became a leading authority on banking and currency, and was thus constantly in association with the Government of the day. As a Liberal, a free-trader, and an economist, he made from time to time contributions to economic science, one of which at least—his treatise on "prevalent errors with respect to Currency and Banking"—produced definite effects in important changes in the currency.

In the domain of general literature he was himself distinguished by his wide range and extensive knowledge, but perhaps his greatest service to literature and scholarship was that of persuading his early friend, George Grote, to write his *History of Greece*.

In Bromley itself George Warde Norman was indefatigable in the services of all kinds which he rendered to the town and its neighbourhood. For nearly forty years he was Vice-Chairman of the Bromley Union, set up in consequence of the Poor Law Amendment Bill in 1834, and became so much identified with the work of the Poor Law Guardians that the new workhouse was commonly spoken of as 'George Norman's House.'

For thirty-seven years he was President of the Bromley Literary Institute; for thirty years President of the West Kent Agricultural Association; President for many years of the Bromley Cricket Club—cricket being a game which commanded his devotion up to within a week of his death—and in the ecclesiastical sphere the Church of Holy Trinity, Bromley Common, practically owes its existence to his initiative and generosity. In short, there was scarcely any sphere of life which he did not touch, and none that he touched which he did not adorn. He died within a few days of his eighty-ninth year, leaving not only a distinguished name, but enduring marks almost everywhere in Bromley of his keen interest in and practical service to anything which concerned its moral, physical, and spiritual welfare.

So long and beneficent a life could scarcely fail to establish a tradition which has been worthily maintained by those who have followed him. His eldest son, Charles Loyd Norman, who succeeded to the Rookery, succeeded also to many of those offices which his father had held, among others to the treasurership of the College, a position which may almost be called hereditary in the family. His health, however, always somewhat delicate, was a bar to too strenuous exertion. Compelled at last to seek refuge from the English winter in the Riviera, he died at San Remo in 1889.

The ~~second~~ son of George Warde Norman is happily still with us. Mr. Philip Norman has gained distinction by his antiquarian researches into old London. For twenty years he was Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries, and has served the office of its Vice-President.

In Bromley itself he will ever be remembered, as long as its history is read, for the arduous labours which he has devoted to collecting the materials from which that history may be written.

For many years past one man has stood out as pre-eminently fitted to write such a history. Unfortunately Mr. Philip Norman has not been able to see his way to undertake that actual task, which has been assigned to a far inferior hand, but he has been persuaded to allow one chapter of this book to stand in his name, and I must here frankly acknowledge that, without the aid of the materials collected by him, it would have been impossible for the book to be written.

Sheriff of Kent 1921

The family is at present represented by Mr. Archibald Cameron Norman, the Chairman of the Bromley Bench of Magistrates, an alderman of the Kent County Council, and Treasurer of Bromley College.

A record of all the services done to the town by the Norman family is not called for here; an acknowledgment of those services will suffice. But it must be the hope of everyone in Bromley that a family association which has had a continuous existence for 170 years may remain unbroken in the succession of years to come.

m at St Marylebone 14th Mar 1890 Mildred Wake Baldwin d. of Col Baldwin of 21st Hussars, cog of Sir Hereward Wake of Courtees Hall Northampton

SIMPSON'S PLACE, BROMLEY, FROM S.E., *CIRCA* 1828.

Drawn from Nature by Henry Warreu.

SIMPSON'S PLACE

DWELLERS in the comfortable, if unromantic, villas of Ravensbourne, Ringer's, and Ethelbert Roads probably live their lives and sleep their just sleep in blissful ignorance that romance is all about them ; that their modern houses now mark the site where once stood, after the Bishop's palace, the mansion and estate of most account in the town of Bromley. They are not troubled at nights by visions

" of the lady dressed in white with a lighted torch in her hand, accompanied by a gentleman in dark clothes with a high-crowned broad-brimmed hat which flapped over the sides of his face,"

for they are unaware that such apparitions were wont, according to tradition, to haunt the courts and galleries of Simpson's Place. Its crenellated walls, its encircling moat, its massive chimney which was the architectural wonder of its day, have all passed into the limbo of forgotten things, and in their stead the modern villa reigns supreme.

And yet, within the memory of those who are still living, Simpson's Moat was a pleasant place enough. Where Ethelbert, Ringer's, and Ravensbourne Roads now are was a wild piece of spinney with blackberries, violets, and ferns growing in their season, interspersed by rough paths flanked by the moat.

" To me," writes Mr. William Baxter, " this spot has great associations, as it was one of the playgrounds of myself and my companions. At that time it was approached by a pretty lane, Ringer's Lane, leading out from the High Road about where Ringer's Road now is. It was uninhabited ; only a moated ruin in the midst of a wild tangle of blackberry bushes. Kestrels used to build in Simpson's estate, and I gave a case of them, shot there, to the Council some few years back."

To trace the rise, development, and decline of Simpson's is the purpose of this chapter.

It is believed by those who are responsible for the materials from which this volume is composed that it is now possible to present, for the first time, the true story of the tenure of this property in medieval times. This story differs so materially from everything which has hitherto appeared in print, it so completely shatters facts and traditions accumulated by antiquaries in the past, that some preliminary remarks as to the nature of the hitherto accepted version and its origin seem to be required. It would indeed be disrespectful to antiquaries such as Philipot and Hasted completely to ignore them, and to proceed to state what is believed to be the truth without first examining what it is that they have said.

The first narrative account of what he supposed to be Simpson's Place was given by John Philipot, Somerset Herald, in his *Villare Cantianum*, published in 1659. In this work he ranks Simpson's Place in Bromley as second only in importance to the manor of the Bishops of Rochester.

" Simpson's," he writes, " is the second seat of account, though in ages of a later inscription it contracted that name, yet anciently it was the demesne of *Bankewell*, a family of signal repute in this track. *John de Bankewell* held a Charter of Free Warren to his lands in *Bromley*, in which this was involved, in the thirty-first of *Edward the First*, and Thomas de Bankewell dyed feifed of it in the thirty-fifth year of *Edward the Third*, and when this family was shrunk at this place into a finall extinction ; the next who were eminent in possession of it were the *Clarks*, and one William Clark that flourished here in the reign of *Henry the Fifth*, that he might not be obnoxious to the Statute of Kernellation, obtained licence to erect a strong little pile of Lime and Stone, with an embattell'd wall encircled with a deep moat, which is supplied and nourished with a living spring ; but this man's posterity did not long enjoy it, for about the latter end of *Henry the Sixth John Simpson* dwelt here by right of purchase, & he, having much improved the ancient Fabrick, settled his Name upon it, & indeed that is all that's left to evidence they were owners of it, for in an Age or two after this it was conveyed to Mr. *John Stiles*, of *Beckenham*, Esquire, from whom descends Sir *Humphrey Stiles*, Knight & Baronet."

Here is the first record of the tenure of the De Bankewells—(or De Benquels, or Banquells, as subsequent historians call them)—of William Clark who crenellated the mansion in the time of Henry V, and of John Simpson as the first of that name to own the place.

Hasted, who was writing his *History of Kent* between 1770 and 1800 (his first volume appeared in 1778) follows Philipot, but adds, either on the strength of a tradition or as a piece of embroidery, that " Nicolas Sympson, the King's Barber, descendant of Robert, alienated Sympsons."

This passage is apparently the written foundation on which the belief has been built up that Henry VIII's barber was at one time owner of Simpson's, and lived in Bromley. In the Hall of the Barber-Surgeons' Company in London there hangs a famous picture by Hans Holbein in which the King, and the King's barber, Nicolas Simpson, figure prominently. It was originally intended that a photograph of this picture should appear in this volume, but unfortunately Nicolas Simpson, the King's barber, must disappear from the list of Bromley's worthies.

Subsequent historians have for the most part simply repeated what they found in previous records, though Lysons made some attempt to verify the statements made. In his *Environs*, published in 1796, he expressly states that he could find no document to support Philipot's assertion as to a

Letters from Hugo.

In publishing from week to week these letters dealing with local affairs, we wish it to be clearly understood that the views expressed are no more necessarily those held by ourselves than if the letter appeared in our ordinary correspondence columns. We shall be pleased to open our columns to those of our readers who desire to comment on these letters. Communications should be addressed to The Editor, "Bromley Mercury," 81, High-street, Bromley, and be marked "Hugo" at the top left corner of the envelope.

TRUSTEES WHO WERE NOT.

To continue my comments on the history of Simpson's as set out in the "History of Bromley," I said there is a sad lack of references and so there is. Quotations are made in modern English from mediæval documents and hardly ever are we told where these documents may be seen. What and where is that "agreement" (sic) made in the 35th year of Edward I? Where can I find the "Inquisition of the 35th Edward III" or the Inquisition after de Bliburgh's death, or the Inquisition of 1327 on the estates of William Latimer? Where is the original document relating to that exchange of lands between William Latimer and Conan FitzHenry and how came it about that Thomas Latimer had to "confirm" the Lacers in the newly "purchased" (sic) lands? Where is this confirmatio? I may be told that nobody wants to refer to originals in this way; that they couldn't understand them if they did, and to give these references would have increased the expense of printing. I can't think of anything else that may serve as an objection, and even if there is there is this in replication—a history such as this should appeal to all types of people including the historical student and the scientific antiquarian—and for these at least not only are accurate references desirable, but they are utterly essential. A "history" loses half its value when the means of authenticating and verifying its story is absent. And as an example of an almost valueless reference I offer that vague "authority" on page 233: "The authority (!) for this quotation is Sharpe in his Hustings Wills," which presumably means his "Calendar of Wills in the Court of Hustings." It makes one suspect it is a quotation of a quotation. Anyhow I cannot agree, as a reasonably critical reader, that the story of Simpson's has been supported "by ample documentary proof." It is an extraordinarily interesting story, but its documentation is not extraordinarily good.

In brief, that story (if we dismiss the Bankewell Free Warren "seisin" of 1302 from the account) starts with William de Bliburgh's ownership at the beginning of the 14th century. He died after crenellating his house, in 1312. He was succeeded by Agnes Doulee, his cousin—how we are not told—later by William Latimer, who died about 1327. Before his death, however, he swopped Simpson's for a Yorkshire estate and this brought in Conan FitzHenry, who in turn "sold" it (for how much and how we are not told) about 1339 to a Mayor of London, one Richard Lacer and his wife Juliana; Thomas Latimer, son of William, "confirmed" the change of ownership (why?). Juliana having died, Richard married Isabella and he lived with her for a few years after his retirement from public life. Both died at "Simpson's" in 1361. He left a will leaving most of his estate to his and Isabella's son Richard, but the poor child—I think he could not have been more—died two years after his parents and his two half-sisters, Alice and Katherine, came in as coparceners. I assume that, though it appears they disputed the will (but I ask Mr. Horsburgh, "Who told you that?")—but by 1391 their property was united again and handed over to Sir Robert Marny, Alice's husband, and their son William; which was very generous of Katherine, so generous, and so hard on her husband, that I cannot quite take this sacrifice in. And anyhow why should they transfer the property to the other husband and his son? Here we are then at the end of the 14th century with Sir William and Lady (Alice) Marny in possession, not knowing exactly how we got here, but anxious to know more about these two daughters of Richard and Juliana Lacer and how they managed to get their property out of the hand of the Church. But the mystery and meaning of this event the history leaves unsolved and undisplayed, and we can't stop to ask questions now.

Up to this point the results of the researches does the labourers great credit—though as I say I think they could have told us much more than they have. But from here I am not so pleased with them. For this reason. We evidently have here a splendid example of a wonderfully vigorous institution, that in the England of the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries was well known by landowners, but disliked by landlords; an institution that Henry VIII whose whole reign seems to have been spent in killing somebody or something, tried to kill, and did kill; but which rose again from its grave and lived on and on through the centuries, and is in full and vigorous activity under another name to-day. Now I believe an exceedingly interesting chapter could have been added to this history as an appendix on "The Rise and Progress and Persistence

of the Uses"—with illustrations from Bromley's History. I daresay an ingenious person could think of a number of other subjects for interesting appendixes; but I really consider this one is of prime importance if you want to read and understand any of these old transfers of property in deeds and wills. But even if we can't have that, I think the compiler might have been just a little more exacting in his use of modern terms in writing of ancient things. From the Marny period in the story of Simpson's Mr. Horsburgh is constantly telling us about this and that body of "Trustees." Now I have a pretty clear notion of what a trustee is to-day and how he got there in that capacity; indeed I think he is a fairly common institution from Stuart times, certainly, Tudor times, probably, and onwards. But before Henry VIII I don't believe the trustee existed. Now according to our "History" he did—in 1407 people "in the position of trustees" delivered "to another body of trustees"; in 1411 delivery again "to the same trustees"; and in 1433 another "body of trustees" did demise, enfeoff and confirm to Mercy Carew "and her trustees" of all those lands and tenements . . . to the use of Thomas Alleyn, Mercer of London."

Now I ask Mr. Horsburgh, was there ever any such person as a trustee in 1407 or 1433? I don't believe there was. But all these people that he has been labelling trustees were known in their own day as Feoffees to Uses—and while I grant the Feoffee to Uses is the lineal ancestor of our trustee, I will not grant that you can call a 15th century Feoffee to Uses a trustee any more than you can call a 20th century trustee on trust a Feoffee to Uses. To interchange these terms is to give false notions, writing wrong history and create needless difficulties. I must write another footnote to pages 233-4 of the History.

HUGO.

The Manor of Shroffolds began at the Tigers Hd at Southend, took in part of Beckenham Place, Bromley Hill Place also part of Blaislow, the lands of Shroffold & Holloway Farms were once the property of the Earl of Northbrook. Lord of the Manor (a Baring)

licence to William Clark to crenellate his house at Bromley. This is not surprising seeing that no such person as William Clark ever existed in this connection, and the only licence to embattle a house in Bromley was granted in Edward II's reign, at least sixty years before Henry V was born.

And yet, although no family of De Bankewelle, or De Banquel, ever held Simpson's, although no such person as William Clark ever existed in association with it, and although, as a consequence, no licence to crenellate his mansion could at any time have been granted to him, nevertheless the mistakes of Philipot and his copiers are capable of a simple explanation. (The origins and authority for the barber-surgeon story rest entirely on tradition.)

There *was* a family of De Banquels which held property in Lewisham, Bromley, Modyngham, Eltham, and Chislehurst, as we learn from an Agreement made in the thirty-fifth year of Edward I (1306). It is to this document that Lysons, Hasted, Wilson, Dunkin, Freeman, and Strong refer in their respective histories. But this property did not include Simpson's. Apart from the fact that the "Bakwell" or Bankewelle, or de Banquel lands *in Bromley* are defined in an Inquisition of the thirty-fifth Edward III as

"certain tenements in Bromley and Shrofholt held in gavilkind of the Bishopric of Rochester,"

now identified as quite a small holding lying on the slopes of Pousty's Hill adjoining Shrofholt, and some fields afterwards included in Kinnaird Park, we now know who was the actual holder of Simpson's at the time when the de Banquels were supposed to be in possession. The de Banquels are not fiction, but their property has been confused with that of another.

A licence to crenellate the mansion at Simpson's *was* actually granted, though not by Henry V, but by Edward II, and it was granted to the known owner of that property, who was "a clerk"—a clerk in Chancery, and possibly also a priest. Hence arose the figure of the hypothetical "William Clark." There is no desire here to disparage the admirable work done by the antiquaries and historians of the past. It is only for the purposes of this particular book that close and critical research has disclosed the true facts of the case. And indeed this chapter was actually written and ready for the Press, on the lines of the old narratives, when Mr. Bernard F. Davis, conscious of some specific errors in Hasted's account, "had a mind to get to the bottom of this story," and searched out the references.

It was, however, felt that Mr. Davis's researches could scarcely be accepted without expert confirmation of his results. In due course an authoritative statement was secured that Mr. Davis's reading of the original documents, and his conclusions therefrom, were correct. The papers dealing with this matter are now in the care of the Bromley Public Library

Committee, together with all the raw materials from which this book has been compiled. Those papers, if consulted, would be sufficient, I think, to prove that the story now to be told is the true one, and that Mr. Davis, though only professing to be an amateur in deciphering medieval documents, has indeed " got to the bottom " of the mystery.

The earliest document relating to the property afterwards known as Simpson's Place is contained in the Patent Rolls of 1310. It is a permit to William of Bliburgh—" our clerk "—

" to strengthen and crenelate with a wall of stone and lime his house at Bromle Kent, & to hold that house to him and his heirs for ever."

An inquisition held after de Bliburgh's death in 1312 to determine his holdings recites that :

" William de Bliburgh did not hold any lands or tenements in the County of Kent in chief of the Lord King, but he held in the town of Bromlegh of the Bishop of Rochester a certain messuage with a garden containing two acres of land, one and a half acres of wood, three acres and three roods of meadow, twenty six acres of arable land, and three acres of alder ; by service of rendering yearly to the said Bishop 5*s*. and suit of Court for all services, and they say that the Messuage, garden, wood, meadow, land, and alder are worth yearly 18*s*."

The question which at once arises is this—What is the evidence that the aforesaid property held by William of Bliburgh included the estate known as Simpson's ? The evidence is found in the fact that it is possible to trace, practically without a break, the passage of this property, through successive hands, to Robert Simpson, and in the further fact that, apart from the Bishop's palace, no other crenellated and moated house than that of de Bliburgh is known to have existed in Bromley, and that such a crenellated and moated house came eventually into the possession of Robert Simpson.

We may therefore with tolerable certainty place William de Bliburgh as the first known owner of Simpson's Place.

William de Bliburgh was for many years a servant of Edward I, and was a clerk in Chancery, and possibly also a priest. His name occurs frequently in the early records, and towards the end of the reign he held the position of Chancellor to the King's son. On the accession of Edward II in 1307, de Bliburgh retired from public life, probably to his mansion and estate at Bromley, and three years later " William de Bliburgh, our clerk " received his licence to crenellate. Thus, in some odd fashion, arose the fiction of " William Clark," and a licence granted to him by Henry V.

On the death of William de Bliburgh he was succeeded by his niece Agnes, wife of Richard de Doulee, and daughter of Emma " sister of the said William." But in the course of a few years the property, either by purchase or some other means, came into the hands of William le Latimer, for from an inquisition held in 1327 on the holdings of William le Latimer we learn that he was the owner of " that same tenement that in former times William de Bliburgh was." Details of the property are given which correspond with similar details in the Inquisition of 1312, and it is also stated that William le Latimer held

" a certain water-mill which is worth 20*s.* per annum," a messuage and several acres of land at ' Blakebroke ' (Blackbrook) and

" three acres of pasture in the marsh in Bromlegh of the Prior of Christchurch, Canterbury, by service of 4*d.* per an., and it is worth per an. 12*d.*"

It is worth noting here that William de Bliburgh, according to the 1312 inquisition, held land of the Prior of Christchurch, Canterbury, a fact which still further identifies the de Bliburgh property with that held later by William le Latimer.

The Latimers, however, did not, as a family, belong to Kent or to the south of England. Their property lay mainly in the north and midlands. When therefore an opportunity occurred to exchange the Bromley estate for a manor in Yorkshire that opportunity was taken. William le Latimer transferred " his right in (within) the Manor of Bromlegh and Blakebroke " to Conan, son of FitzHenry, a knight, in consideration of receiving from Conan the Manor of Liverton in Yorkshire. Conan in turn sold his Bromley property to Richard Lacer, and Juliana, his wife, and Thomas le Latimer, son of William, confirmed the Lacers in possession of their newly purchased lands.

The Latimers therefore and Conan FitzHenry are of little importance in the history of Bromley. They are only transitory figures in the records of the town. They are, however, important as links in the chain which connect the de Bliburgh estate with that of Robert Simpson.

Richard Lacer, on the other hand, while forming another link in this chain, stands out prominently in the medieval life of Bromley. He was a prosperous mercer in the City of London, an alderman, and in 1345 ~~Lord~~ Mayor of London, and he also represented the City in Parliament. In or about 1339 he bought the Latimer estate in Bromley, and used the mansion as his country house ; on his retirement from public life in 1359 he made Bromley his permanent residence. He founded a chantry in Bromley Church, and in that church he and his second wife Isabella were buried. They both died, probably of the plague which was prevalent in that year, in the same week of July 1361. The brass which commemorates his wife

I corrected this at the time but not allowed. WPS

Isabella, examined in detail in our section on the church, is probably only a part of a much larger brass inscribed in memory of both husband and wife.

There are several items of local interest in Richard Lacer's will, made just prior to his death, the manuscript copy of which is extant in the Registers of the Bishops of Rochester.

After enjoining that his body shall be buried " in the Church of the Holy Apostles, Peter and Paul, of Bromlegh, before the cross," he bequeaths to the High Altar of the said church the sum of 10*d.*

To the clerk or priest celebrating in the said church at the time of " my obit," 12*d.*

To the expenses of his funeral " 100*s.* or more if necessary," at the discretion of his executors—a sum at least equivalent to £60 to-day.

At the time of his burial 40*s.* was to be distributed to the poor.

To his wife Isabella he leaves all his household goods, live stock, and movables " in my Manor of Bromley in which I dwell," with special reference to his " vasa " of silver and wooden mazers : also his house in Eldefish Street in the parish of St. Peter's, London.

The rents of two of his shops in London are charged with the yearly sum of ten marks for the sustentation of a Chantry Priest, celebrating in the parish church of Bromley for his soul and the souls of his wives and sons—" the aforesaid 10 marks to be paid twice a year at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, and the feast of Easter in equal portions ; which same Chantry I wish to be kept by Sir John de Hulle priest . . . and after his decease or resignation I wish the Chantry to be at the disposal and appointment of my heirs "—and for the use of the priest celebrating in the Chantry he bequeaths to Bromley Church one vestment with all fittings, one chalice, two missals, and one " *preiosoyon deo* " (if the words are correctly deciphered), which seems to mean a breviary or something of the kind.

His executors were John atte Hulle, Rector of Hese (Hayes), the Sir John de Hulle mentioned above, Walter, Rector of Bromley (Walter de Hethe), and John Hardringham.

The bulk of Richard Lacer's landed property was left to his son Richard, whose claims, however, were at once contested by the representatives of his half-sisters, the children of Richard Lacer's first marriage. As these ladies form an important link in the chain of succession between the de Bliburghs and the Simpsons, a brief genealogical note is required at this point.

Richard Lacer, by his first wife, Juliana, had four children : Thomas, an Augustinian monk, to whom his father bequeathed a sum of ten shillings ; John, who predeceased his father in 1359 ; Alice, who married first William le Brun, and, secondly, Robert de Marny ; and Katherine, who became the wife of John atte Pole. By Isabella, his second wife, he had one son, Richard, the heir to his estates, and a minor.

Date of Will – Tues after the feast of St James the Apostle 1361, just prior to his death.

and all tenements in the parish of St Mary Aldermanbury.

The terms of Richard Lacer's will were no sooner known than—

" Thereupon came William Brun, Alice his wife, and Katherine, wife of John atte Pole, and put in their claim upon the aforesaid testament, and tenements therein devised."

(The authority for this quotation is Sharpe, in his *Hustings Wills*.)

The premature death of young Richard, however, in 1363, left his half-sisters as their father's heirs-at-law, with the result that the whole estate was partitioned between them, a part of the property in Kent falling to the share of Alice, who became the wife, after her first husband's death, of Sir Robert Marny. The issue of this marriage was a son, William Marny, and two deeds preserved respectively in the Hustings Rolls and in the Harleian collections show that in 1389 and 1391 both the ladies, Alice and Katherine, transferred their property to Sir Robert Marny and his son William.

The complications arising from the fact that both Alice and Katherine had previously vested their property in the hands of trustees for the benefit of the Church are outside the scope of this narrative. It is sufficient for the purpose to note the possession of the whole Lacer property by the Marny family, and that family, either personally or through trustees, retained possession during the early years of the fifteenth century.

In 1407 William Marny, Knight, in conjunction with several other persons who were evidently in the position of trustees, deliver over to another body of trustees, among whom were William Askham, William Crowmere, ~~and~~ John Weston, and Thomas Aleyn, all the Kentish property which had come by inheritance from Richard Lacer to his daughter Alice. In 1411 a similar delivery of all the Kentish property inherited by Richard Lacer's daughter Katherine was made to the same trustees : Askham, Crowmere, and Weston.

Up to this point, 1411, the chain of succession to the Simpson's property has been traced without a break or flaw. The ground is perfectly certain as to the identity of property between William de Bliburgh and the daughters of Richard Lacer.

It is at this point that the difficulty of further identification arises. For between 1411 and 1433, no documents are to be found, and the required documentary links in the chain of succession are missing. This fact, however, is no proof that such documents never existed. The Harleian collections are admittedly mutilated and imperfect. Many of the deeds which would be expected to form part of any carefully preserved set of evidences are missing. In all probability all the requisite deeds to prove what is wanted must once have existed in this collection. What is certain is that in 1433 a body of trustees, none of whom figure in the lists of trustees to Alice and Katherine Lacer,

" demise enfeoff and confirm to Mercy, wife of Nicolas Carew, (and her Trustees,) all those lands and tenements, rents, services, etc., which they have in the towns of Bromley, Beckenham, Lewisham, Chislehurst and Hayes to the use of Thomas Alleyn, Mercer of London,"

and also certain land in the parish of Orpington.

Was this property thus conveyed to Mercy Carew the same property as that held by the daughters of Richard Lacer ?

The name of Thomas Alleyn, the last surviving trustee under the deed of 1407, may indicate a connection, but the fact that this property conveyed to Mercy Carew ultimately passed into the possession of Robert Simpson —the chain of succession between them is complete—the fact that Robert Simpson's mansion was the only moated and crenellated house in Bromley known to exist, and the fact that the only licence to crenellate a mansion in Bromley was granted to William de Bliburgh, all contribute to establish something approaching a certainty that it was the original Bliburgh estate which passed, through the hands of Richard Lacer, his daughters, and their trustees, into the hands of Robert Simpson.

From Close Roll, No. 289, we learn that Mercy Carew and her trustees sold the property to John Stanlove (or Stanlowe), and Margaret his wife, and from Margaret's trustees, after the death of her husband, the property was bought by Robert Simpson. An inquisition on the holdings of Robert Simpson, in 1471, is conclusive as to the identity of the estate held by him and that held by Mercy Carew, and transmitted to him through Margaret Stanlove.

The inquisition just referred to also states that Robert Simpson died on August 8th, 1471, and that his heir was Robert Simpson, his son, at that date aged two years and five months. Robert, the father, was a rich London merchant, a member of the Drapers' Company, and a pious donor to the Church of St. Benet Fynk in the City, under the shadow of which church he himself resided in Fynk Lane. He also left twenty marks to the parish church of Bromley.

His Bromley estate was held in trust for his son Robert until he became of age, and in due course Robert succeeded his father, not only as owner of Simpson's Place, but also as prominent citizen of London.

In 1503, however, he disposed of all his holdings in Bromley and the district to a body of trustees acting for some person unknown, but two months later a new and single owner appears in the person of John Style, mercer of London, who had already purchased Langley Park, Beckenham.

His title, however, was disputed by the aforesaid body of trustees, and a protracted lawsuit, extending for some years beyond John Style's lifetime, ended in favour of his widow, Elizabeth, and their son Humphrey.

From this point onwards the history of Simpson's harmonises in all essential points with that given by past historians of Bromley.

It is with regret that we discard the traditional figure of Nicolas Simpson, barber-surgeon to King Henry VIII. But the inexorable logic of dates and documents allows of no other course. The Simpson family ceased to hold the property six years before Henry VIII's accession, and there is in any case simply no room for him in the chain of succession which recent research has so carefully and laboriously traced. The actual Nicolas Simpson, barber-surgeon, appears to have belonged to quite another family of Simpsons, and to have resided at Chigwell in Essex, where he died in 1552.

Although it would have been easy to support the foregoing narrative with still fuller references to old deeds and records, the story has already been protracted—it is to be feared at tedious length—far beyond the limits originally assigned to it. But it is felt that where our account of Simpson's departs so entirely from that of all previous historians, from Philipot downwards, it is essential that such a departure should manifest its justification to every reader by ample documentary proof. The full transcript of such records as have been utilised here in an abridged form will be found, as has been said, among the materials for this History deposited at the Public Library.

The association formed in 1503 between Bromley and the Style family was destined to be of long duration. Simpson's remained in the hands of the main or collateral branches of that family for over two hundred years.

None of its members, throughout that long period of time, seems to have played any prominent part in the affairs of the town, or to have imprinted any distinctive mark upon its history. The fact that the chief seat of the family was Langley Park may have withdrawn its main interest from the Simpson's estate. All that can be recorded here is the succession of the property from one member to another.

The original purchaser, John Style, was succeeded by his son, Sir Humphrey Style, who died in 1552. Then, by direct descent, through Edmund, son of Humphrey, and through William, son of Edmund, the estate passed into the hands of a second Sir Humphrey (son of William), a knight, and baronet, and cup-bearer to King Charles I. This Sir Humphrey died without issue in 1659, the succession passing to his brother William. His son, yet a third Humphrey Style, succeeded, who left as his heir a daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Sir John Elwill, Bart. This lady caused to be affixed at the east end of the south aisle of Bromley Church an unsightly tablet—still to be seen at the back of some pews at the top of the stairs leading from the tower into the south gallery—commemorating the ascendancy of the Style family in Bromley. Beneath their coat-of-arms is an inscription, announcing that:

"The pews beneath are Appropriated to the Sole Use of the family of the Styles's, Ancient Owners of Simpson Place in this Parish; now in the Possession of ye Lady Elwill of Langley, Anno 1727."

In or about 1732 Sir Edmund Elwill, brother and successor to Sir John, sold Simpson's Place to Hugh Raymond of Great Saling, Essex, who settled it on his only son, Jones Raymond, in tail general, with remainder to his daughter Amy, wife of Peter Burrell, and to her heirs male. In accordance with this provision the property passed to her in 1768, and, on her death, to her grandson, Sir Peter Burrell, Knight and Baronet, who was created Lord Gwydir in 1796.

On Lord Gwydir's death in 1820 his property was sold by auction, and that part of it which included Simpson's was bought by Robert Veitch, who established his gardener in the old mansion. By this time it was ruinous and in a few years became uninhabitable. The land around it and on which it stood passed into the possession of Violet Veitch, and so, through her marriage to Lieut.-Colonel George Tweedy of the East India Company's service, into the hands of her husband in 1833.

The requirements of the Mid-Kent Railway Company necessitated the sale of some part of the property in 1859, and on the death of Colonel Tweedy in the following year all the sentimental interest in the estate seems to have died out. In the course of a few years it was secured by the British Land Company, which sold a portion of it to Mr. John Richardson to round off his purchase of Bromley House, but regarded the remainder merely as building land suitable for development. The old moated farm-buildings were swept away in 1868–9, roads were constructed, and in due course the modern villas in Ringer's, Ethelbert, and Ravensbourne Roads obliterated all traces of the moated grange, which had stood through all the changes of nearly six hundred years.

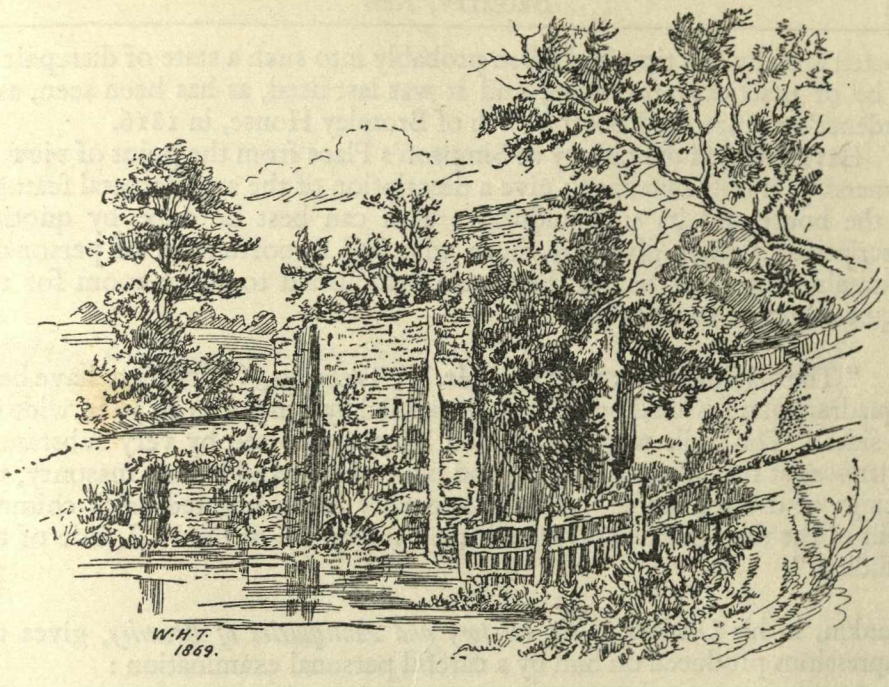
It was apparently during the tenure of the Style family, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, that the practice of sub-letting the house and grounds immediately surrounding it to tenants began. For fifty years it was the residence of Jeremiah Ringer, whose death, at the age of ninety-seven, is entered in the Parish Registers of Chelsfield on December 19th, 1789. His son, another Jeremiah, died in the following year and was buried at Bromley. Hence *Ringer's* Road, a name which commemorates a worthy and respected inhabitant of Bromley, overseer in 1766, but whose principal achievement seems to have been the filling up of the old moat on two of its sides.

Previous to the tenancy of Jeremiah Ringer the Registers record the christening in 1674 of " James, son of Joseph Embry, of Simpson's Place " ; the burial, in 1678, of " Elizabeth Redder of Simpson's Place " ; and many entries follow between 1702 and 1718 of the burials of various members of the Tandy family, who occupied the house and farmed the adjoining land.

On the death of Jeremiah Ringer in 1789 Lord Gwydir (then Sir Peter Burrell) granted a lease for seventy-two years of Simpson's Place to Samuel Rickards, who farmed the land for some years, ultimately disposing of the remainder of the lease, in 1802, to Colonel Samuel Jackson. The old

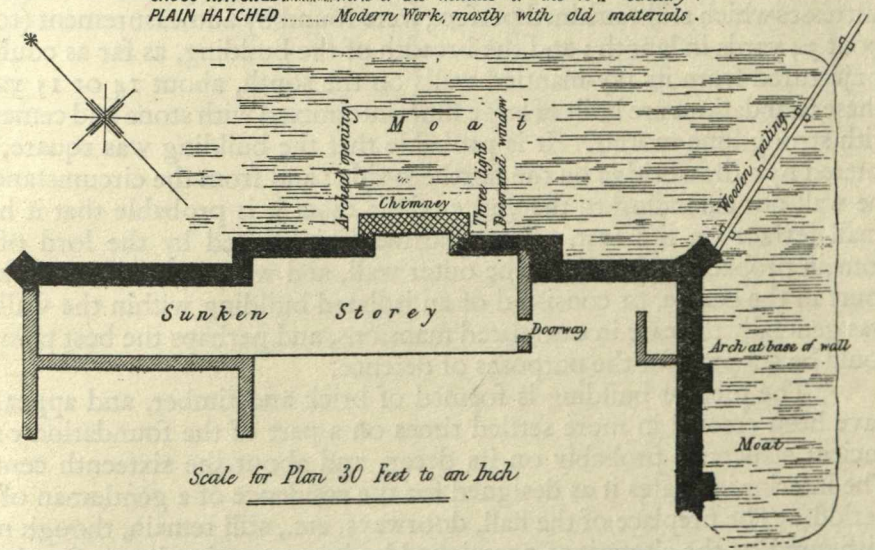
Mr T.A Bennett of Beckenham gave Gwydir's Catalogue of Sale in 1820 to the Pub: Library.

Figure McGarke



Simpson's Moat. *Bromley, Kent. View from the East.*

BLACK..... Work of the middle of the 14th Century.
CROSS HATCHED..... Work of the middle of the 16th Century.
PLAIN HATCHED..... Modern Work, mostly with old materials.



Scale for Plan 30 Feet to an Inch

RUINS OF SIMPSON'S PLACE, 1869, WITH PLAN

moated farm by this time had fallen probably into such a state of disrepair as to be of practically no value, and it was last used, as has been seen, as a gardener's cottage, by Robert Veitch of Bromley House, in 1816.

Having traced the history of Simpson's Place from the point of view of ownership, it only remains to give a description of the architectural features of the house and its surroundings. This can best be done by quoting descriptions already given by those who had opportunities of personally examining the ruins before they were demolished to make room for the requirements of modern life.

"The original structure," says Mr. W. Tregellas, "appears to have been a quadrangular fortified building, surrounded by a moat, 25 to 30 ft. wide on all sides. The walls were strong and lofty, supported by very substantial buttresses at the sides and angles, and built of flint and rubble masonry, the facings of dressed stone. A huge and very handsome red-brick chimney built in the time of Henry VIII adorned the centre of the N.E. side of the building."

Dunkin, in his *Outlines of the History and Antiquities of Bromley*, gives the impressions produced on him by a careful personal examination :

"It appears," he says, "that the deep moat extended close to the walls of the ancient castellated building on the north, east, and south sides, and that the angles were secured by a strong buttress projecting into the moat. The whole extent of the foundation of the eastern wall, together with the two buttresses which still remained perfect, were found by admeasurement (to be) about 34 yards in length ; and the breadth of the building, as far as could be conjectured from its ivy-mantled walls on the south, about 14 or 15 yards. These foundations are built of large flints intermixed with stone and cemented with strong lime mortar. It is probable that the building was square, and entered by a drawbridge on the northern side ; and from the circumstance of the wall not extending to the verge of the moat it is probable that it had a small terrace on the east. The apartments inhabited by the lord of the domain probably either lined the outer wall, and were lighted from a small court in the centre, or consisted of an isolated building within the walls, as was generally the case in castellated mansions, and perhaps the best plan that could be adopted for the purposes of defence.

"The present building is formed of brick and timber, and appears to have been erected in more settled times on a part of the foundation of the ancient structure, probably on its decay, and about the sixteenth century. The interior indicates it as designed for the residence of a gentleman of that period. The fireplace of the hall, doorways, etc., still remain, though much disfigured by the alterations occasioned by its conversion into a farmhouse, in which state it has remained for many years. The moat on the western

/ of Iver Cottage Bromley Com.

and northern sides has been filled up by the present inhabitant, Mr. Jeremiah Ringer, who has occupied the house for more than 50 years."

As Ringer died in 1789, it must have been about that date that Dunkin made the investigations which he here details. It is to Dunkin also that we owe the ghost story referred to ~~at the beginning of this section~~, together with other stories of mysterious noises heard in and about the house, as of furniture falling down and being broken to pieces. /on p. 227.

Dunkin, as one of Bromley's early historians, is entitled to the respect and gratitude of all succeeding generations of his fellow-townsmen, and it is with genuine compunction and regret that we have been compelled to discard his early history of Simpson's Place.

BROMLEY HILL

THE early historians of Bromley—Wilson, Dunkin, Freeman—do not include in their pages any detailed reference to Bromley Hill.

This omission may have been partly due to the fact, recorded by Mr. George Clinch, that until the closing years of the eighteenth century

"the domain had nothing to distinguish it from the ordinary class of suburban villas."

But the more salient fact, that the house stood outside the boundaries of the parish, is sufficient in itself to account for the general silence.

But though Bromley Hill House itself is in the Borough of Lewisham, two of its lodges, more than half of the estate, and the whole of it sentimentally, lie within the Borough of Bromley. To exclude it, therefore, from this History on purely technical grounds would, it is felt, be regarded as an omission as serious as unnecessary.

The once compact and beautiful estate known as Bromley Hill Place was bounded on the east by the main Hastings Road, on the north by the property of the Cator family, on the west practically by the Ravensbourne, and on the south by Beckenham Lane.

Until a few years ago little seems to have been known about it previous to the advent of the Long family to Lewisham towards the end of the eighteenth century, but the examination of some old deeds in the possession of the executors of the Cawston estates has recently thrown some light upon the earlier history of the property. Of these deeds two in particular are important:

i. A marriage settlement dated January 1684, and
ii. An abstract of title of the Rt. Hon. Charles Long, dated 1801.

The marriage settlement of 1684 details an arrangement between Sir Robert Knightly of Ashtead, Surrey, and Sir John Chapman, Knt., Alderman of the City of London, in regard to the marriage of Sir Robert's son, Robert, to Anne, eldest daughter of Sir John. The latter agrees to purchase from the former for £3,000 on the day of the marriage, and for the use of his daughter Anne, various properties owned by Sir Robert in Surrey, Yorkshire, and Bromley, Kent. Sir Robert, on his part, contracts to give his son a marriage gift of jewels, plate, and goods to the value of £1,000.

A detailed inventory of the Bromley property thus purchased seems to establish the fact that it included the estate which came to be known as Bromley Hill Place.

Thus the first owner of whom we have record was Sir Robert Knightly, who made it over, for a consideration, to Anne, his son's wife. A son of

Mr Thos Lamb of Chancery Lane gave Mr Baxter the opportunity of examining some 70-80 deeds re Bromley Hill, from which this further history was obtained.

Bromley Parish Church Organ

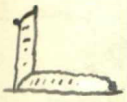
This was originally erected in the W. Gallery in 1825. & reconstructed in 1856. Then in 1874 a new organ was given by Sir E H Scott to commemorate the birth of a son in him. It was built by J. W Walker & Son at a cost of £970. Allowance for old organ was £146 which was devoted towards the cost of an organ for St Johns Ch.
This consisted of Great Organ 10 Stops, Swell Organ 10 Stops, Chorr 6. Pedal 0. 3. Couplers were Swell to Great, Swell to Choir, Great to Pedal, Swell to Pedal, Choir to Pedal
Three Composition Pedal to Great & Pedal to Swell

On the building of the Chancel in 1884 the Organ was re-erected in a new Chamber over the Vestries. In 1894 it was entirely rebuilt by Messrs Alexander, Young & Son of Manchester. Tubular pneumatic action added. Choir Organ enlarged by 3 additional Stops & a combination of Piston & Pedals added. A fine Oak Case was given by Mrs Sparkes in memory of her husband Geo Sparkes
Other improvements made in 1913: when Echo Gamba 8ft, Voix Celeste 8ft, Trumpet 8ft, Vox Humana 8ft, Clarinet 8ft, Orchestral Oboe 8ft, Violone 16ft, Bass Flute 8ft, Trombone 16ft, Swell Octave were added or altered. Many alterations in the Couplers & Combinations, and an Electric Fan Blower installed
The first Organ in 1825 was played at first by a blind youth then came the 1st.

Organists – 1825-54 Joseph Stables Smith; 1854-56 W. C. Filby
1857-68 Christian H. F. Fort 1869-72 Walter Latter.
1872-80 Charles Cope 1881-91 Henry Lister Mus Bac Ox.
1891-9 Burnett Lane Mus Bac Dunelm 189 G Frederic Ferted FRCO.

More Notes about the Churchyard. see p. 135

There are often seen in churchyards table-graves or vaults that are all askew or toppling over. These are bogus-vaults, the outcome from folks who wanted
Bogus-Vaults to make out they were "somebodies". Being but brick or Stone-faced structures put on the ground over an ordinary grave, with the result that when the bodies
& coffin decay & the sides of the grave fall in, these superimposed structures are bound to follow & so get all awry, or even break up, & make a churchyard unsightly. A real vault is bricked right down to the bottom of a deep grave, hence when the coffin is decay, there is no caving in of the sides & the top structure remains firm & upright. Alas there are many bogus ones in our yard.



Mummy-Shaped Graves are supposed to have come into use after our Soldiers returned from Egypt with their accounts of mummies, whereupon a new fashion in burials was conceived of representing such in Stone. A few here.

Quaint or Elaborate Carving Besides the beautiful one to Capt Tanner (see Illus p 135) there is an unusual one in the SE ch yd to Francis Pitney Martin of Bromley 1818. It's a vaulted-in vault of massive Stone work, surmounted by an oblong pyramid supported on 4 square columns, on which are semi-circular stones inside which are depicted, what seem to be 2 pulley-wheels.
Then there are a whole series on which cherubims are shown, one always with a broken wing & asleep & the other with wings spread & eyes wide open looking upwards in hope. Perhaps the best of these is on the S. Porch to John Bone bricklayer 1704. where encircled with excellent scroll-work is to be seen a Skull & bones, a flaming torch, an hour-glass & trumpet a scythe & 2 instruments of his trade viz. a pick & shovel. Surmounting the scroll work is a Scallop-Shell.
Another to Joseph Solomon 1788. This shows a crown of glory at the top, under which are clouds, an hour-glass, a scythe, Skull & cross-bones. Below is an open book with a corner of the page turned down & under that the Scrib is shown as "Dust thou art & to dust thou shalt return"

Churchyard contd

In the N part of the yard is a Stone to John (1834) & Susannah (1837) Latter & their children, with beautiful scroll work, & a long oval tablet showing a drooping lily-like flower flanked by a child's face, & a serpent swallowing itself. Other good ones are Rich Tape 1788 - cherubims - Edward Bronsloe 177[illegible] & John & Thos Lascoe. 1781 & 1771.

Cherubim etc

Others show elaborately carved urns with a crown or scallop shell with drapery, drooping flowers etc. Wm Child Surgeon 1814. the founder of Slotts firm. This has as handles to the urn the two serpents of Æsculapius. Others of this nature are John & Emery Brown 1783 & 1780. Judith de Brissac 1788 & Wm Hyett 1761. John Pippett (1808) and Martha his wife (1836) shows a finely traced fan or winged-like object.

urns
Crown
Serpents etc

Several consist merely of a painted inscription on a wooden board fixed to wooden uprights, which seem to have been erected in the bad times of the 30s "hungry 40s" of the 19th cent. Naturally several of these are rotten & undecipherable.

wooden ones.

A large railed in vault. W of the Tower to Sir Samuel Scott 1849 is remarkable for its immense slab of York Stone (4 x 3 yds) & near it is another to Rich. Barrett 1864 measuring 3 1/4 x 1 1/2 yds.

large slabs

Some years ago Geo Harris sexton in trying to reset a stone in one of the bogus-vaults, put his hand inside to support it & came upon a muzzle-loading pistol all rusted & immovable in action. It seems to date from about 1844. Was this a suicides grave, or was the weapon secreted by a murderer or highwayman.

pistol found.

In 1733 as the Sexton was digging a grave close to the E end of the Chancel he dug up a Funeral Garland or Crown wrought in fillagree work with gold & silver wire to represent myrtle with the inside lined with cloth of silver. The writer gives an acct of this in Gents Mag 1747 Sept p. 464. he kept a part of this as a curio. What right had he to it?

Funeral Garland.

see also Strong Hart p64.

On the left of the diagonal path across to the S.E. corner of the Ch'yard is a tomb to Elizabeth wife of Major John Scott who lived at Park House. The inscription on the top slab is almost obliterated now, but could be made out about 10 yrs ago. It is a very long one (vide Hellicar's Notes on Tombs p. 38) The interest it has for me is That when I was a boy in the centre of the Stone of one End was a round hole. Out of this hung a wire with a drop to pull it by & the tale told was that this wire on being pulled rang a bell inside but my own experience was when pulling it one set up a clacking sound something like one Stone hitting another, but certainly no bell-like ring.. This hole is now covered with ivy & the wire has been removed.

Major John Scott's

I got particulars of this Major from "Letters of Warren Hastings" by S.C. Grier 1905. p. 92. His wife was nee Blackrie d of Alexander B surgeon of Bromley. His proper name was John Scott Waring & he was Aide-de-Camp & Capt to Warren Hastings. He took the name of Waring on coming into some property for he was really the Son of Jonathan Scott of Shrewsbury. He had a propensity for keeping himself well before the public. Speaches in front of season contributing to W. Hastings impeachment. Lost his seat in Parl[t] in 1793 thro' bribery. In 1794 raised money to pay Hastings solicitor. When trial was over sent in a bill for £16.390 for Xs in cases on Hastings behalf. Mrs Hastings had saved £12000 which she entrusted to Scott, who used it in the trial. Mrs H asked for it back. Scott became angry & swore. He kept very bad company at Peterborough House Lond. Hastings took the part of his wife. She was however addicted to drink on acct of his treatment of her. He promised to reform, but did so by marrying an actress with a past who brought him £2000 a year. He died in 1819. Refering to the inscription - Did he poison his 2[nd] wife Elizabeth at that dinner. Looks fishy! Scott had issue by her as follows

Edward Warren Hastings, Charles, Anna Maria, who m John Reade of Ipsden Hse. Oxon. was mother of Chas Reade the novelist, Eliza Sophia m Rev S. Faber mother of the theologian & hymnologist.

General Nesbitt Thompson says "The Inscription in Bromley Ch'yd was promulgated by gratitude at having lost her!

Scott mar' (1) Maria Hughes of Cashel Ireland.
(2) Elizabeth Blackrie of Bromley.
(3) Mrs Esten the actress.

Heres a Churchwardens Acc. for Easter 1851-2

Organist- Mr Smith	£ 30-0-0	Wood. Parish Clerk	£ 21-0-0
How for Clock	4-4-0	Beadle for Stocks &c.	15-6-0
Bateman for Fire Engine	4-0-0	Collectors Com^n & Stamps	5-17-9
Messrs Latter Vestry Clerks	23-0-0	Tradesmens accts	121-12-6
		Total	£225-0-3

Emp^r Napoleon III & Empress Eugenie The Empress & her son the Prince Imperial came to Camden Hse Chislehurst- at the end of Sept 1870 & the Emperor followed Early in 1871. She & the Prince often in Bromley Shopping. The Prince generally riding a pony behind his mothers carriage. I served her once at my father's Chemists Shop, She was charming Once She came, left her little carriage in the Market Pl^e & walked about the Town Came down Shop & bought 2 combs, a hair brush & some lozenges, Then went to Lukey's She had very fair hair & black silk dress & was accompanied by a French lady. The Emperor called once. The Empress was Eugenie Marie Ignace Augustine de Montijo b. 1826 at Granada d. of Count de Montijo & thro' her mother Kirkpatrick, of Scottish descent. Married Napoleon III & Notre Dame 30th Jan 1853. Then a very beautiful woman. I last saw her in 1900 on Farnborough Sta Hants distinguished very authoritative, but a shrivelled up old lady. She died at the Palace of the Duke of Alva her nephew on Sun July 11th 1920. She left Chislehurst 10th Jan 1881 for Farnboro' Hants. where She built a fine mausoleum for the remains of her husband & son. At Chislehurst She was visited by Edw P of Wales Oct 27th 1870 am 3.9 left 4.25., Prince of Teck Oct 28th 1870 pm 2-6.55 Q. Victoria & Princess Beatrice 9th Mar. 1874. Emperor of Russia 16th May 1874.

The Emperor Sept 1871 presented the prizes & the Rural Fete in Widmore Rd.

Aug 1873 Napoleonic Fete & Camden Hse. Veterans of Napi there & heaps of prominent Frenchmen, Dukes etc. He died at Camden Hse & was buried first at Chislehurst. He was son of Louis Bonaparte, brother of Napi.

Kentish Laws from "Ancient Laws & Institutions of England" Lat. Govt. Publication 1840 by command of K. Wm IV.

1 Laws of Kentish Kings only known to us thro' the Textus Roffensis in Roch. Cath. Lib. compiled by under Bp Ernulf 1115-1125. Their language however is not that of the time of Ernulph
Other Sources.

2. "De Hundredo Tenendo" In Library of Corp. Chris Coll. Cam.

3. De Institutis Londiniae Several MSS of it in our Libraries

4. "Rectitudines Singularum Personarum" Say. original in Corp. Chr. Coll Cam

5. Collection of A.S. Laws first pub. by Wm Lambarde entitled APXAIONOMIA. 1568 4°
2nd Edit in 1644 at Cambridge. Last Edit 1832 by Dr R. Schmid of Leipzig entitled "Die Gesetze der Angelsachsen" — a good Glossary at end.

Outlefangthef - A.S. utfangenthef - from ut - out + fangen p/part of fon - to take + thef - a thief. Feudal Law. A thief from without or abroad taken within a Lord's fee or liberty. Or The right of the Lord to try such a one in his own Court.

Latten = brass or tinplate

Withernam A.S. widernam from widher - against + nam - a taking
In Law - An unlawful distress, as of a thing distrained out of the country, so that the Sheriff cannot upon the Replevin make delivered to the party distrained

Replevin OFr. re - again + plevine - a warranty, a case for wrongful detention of distrained goods — a bail. in Low Lat replegio. Consists of 2 parts
1. The replevy or re-delivery of goods
2. The action to decide the right to them see Trect Writs 1 Mar. 135

Retinere Namia Subject found in Blackstone's Commentary Chaps 1 + 3 which notes a curious proceeding known as Namium Retinere where distress is concealed, or carried out of the country
See also Statute of Marlebridge 1267 Henry III

Goyster in Kent dialect means a hearty laugh, which has led to goysterny - a town boy

their marriage, John Knightly, succeeded and remained in possession till his death in 1762.

The Knightlys, however, though owners, were never occupiers of the estate. It was let on lease to various tenants, and continued to be so held until the last quarter of the eighteenth century.

On the death of John Knightly without living issue, the property passed by the terms of his will to his cousin Aquila Wyke. But he died intestate in 1772, and consequently Charles Browne and Anne his wife, respectively nephew and niece of Aquila Wyke, became co-heirs at law to John Knightly. They at once leased the estate for a period of sixty-one years to a certain George Paterson at a rent of £300 per annum.

It now becomes exceedingly difficult to know what happened, for the records of the parish of Lewisham were destroyed by fire between 1776 and the close of the century, and consequently accurate information is not available. It would appear that the Brownes, who lived on very bad terms with one another, determined to sell the estate outright, for we find it in the hands of Aquila Dacombe, of William Slade, who made the house his residence, and of George Glenny, who also resided there, and actually effected a mortgage upon it. But none the less, when, in 1796, Mr. Charles Long proposed to purchase the property, his negotiations were carried on neither with Glenny nor Slade, but with Aquila Dacombe, and it was for him to show a valid title to the same. Dacombe found a difficulty in doing this, doubtless owing to the destruction of the necessary papers by fire. At length, after what seems to have been a protracted suit in Chancery, the title of Aquila Dacombe was pronounced good in 1799, the claims, whatever they may have been, of George Glenny were satisfied, and Charles Long entered into undisputed possession in 1801.

Of the Long family Mr. George Clinch assures us that they had been settled in the neighbourhood of Tavistock, Devon, as far back as Queen Elizabeth's time. In the middle of the eighteenth century one of the family, Captain Charles Long, is found at Lewisham, where he is rated in the parish books of 1747 at £18. His mother was Jane, daughter of Sir William Beeston, and therefore a brother of Charles was given the name of Beeston. This Beeston Long, "a very eminent West India Merchant" (Clinch), married Susannah, daughter and heiress of Abraham Cropp, of Richmond, Surrey. Their third son was Charles Long, who purchased Bromley Hill in 1801.

Charles Long, born in 1761, was entered at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1778. In 1789 he entered Parliament as member for Rye, and from this date onward his parliamentary career, either in the Commons or the Lords, was unbroken. As a politician, as the friend of William Pitt the younger, and as the holder in his day of various important offices, a column and a half in the *Dictionary of National Biography* has been assigned to him, and for his public record as "a respectable official and a successful placeman,"

readers are referred to that volume. We are only indirectly concerned with that side of his career in so far as it was his close intimacy with Pitt which mainly influenced him to purchase Bromley Hill, where Pitt, at Holwood, Keston, would be a near neighbour. It is in his private capacity that he enters into the history of Bromley as the maker of Bromley Hill Place.

To the embellishment of his house and of his estate he, in conjunction with his gifted wife Amelia, daughter of Sir Abraham Hume of Wormleybury, Herts, devoted those gifts of artistic taste and judgment which were his real and chief distinction, with the result that a mansion came into existence under his hands fitted to enshrine the treasures of art collected within it, and the grounds surrounding it were converted into a miracle of landscape design.

His reputation as a connoisseur extended, however, far beyond the limits of his own domain. This "Vitruvius of the present age," as he was once styled in Parliament, was a trustee of the British Museum and of the National Gallery, Chairman of the Commission for the Inspection of National Monuments, Deputy President of the British Institution, a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Society of Arts, and the friend and adviser of both George III and George IV in decorating several of the royal palaces. These various activities, coupled with his official duties, left him but scant leisure for the adornment of his own estate, but when in 1826, at the request of Canning, he relinquished his office as Paymaster-General, and became Baron Farnborough of Bromley Hill, he was free to devote uninterrupted energies to the gratification of his artistic tastes in his own house.

A description of Bromley Hill Place by George Cumberland was published in 1811, and re-published and brought up-to-date in 1816. From Cumberland's brochure Strong derived his material for the account of the estate which appears in his *History of Bromley* published in 1858. The description which follows is also derived very largely from Cumberland, supplemented from knowledge of the further developments and improvements made between 1816 and 1838, the date of Lord Farnborough's death.

Cumberland says nothing of the original house, which was either pulled down or incorporated, either wholly or in part, into a stately mansion.

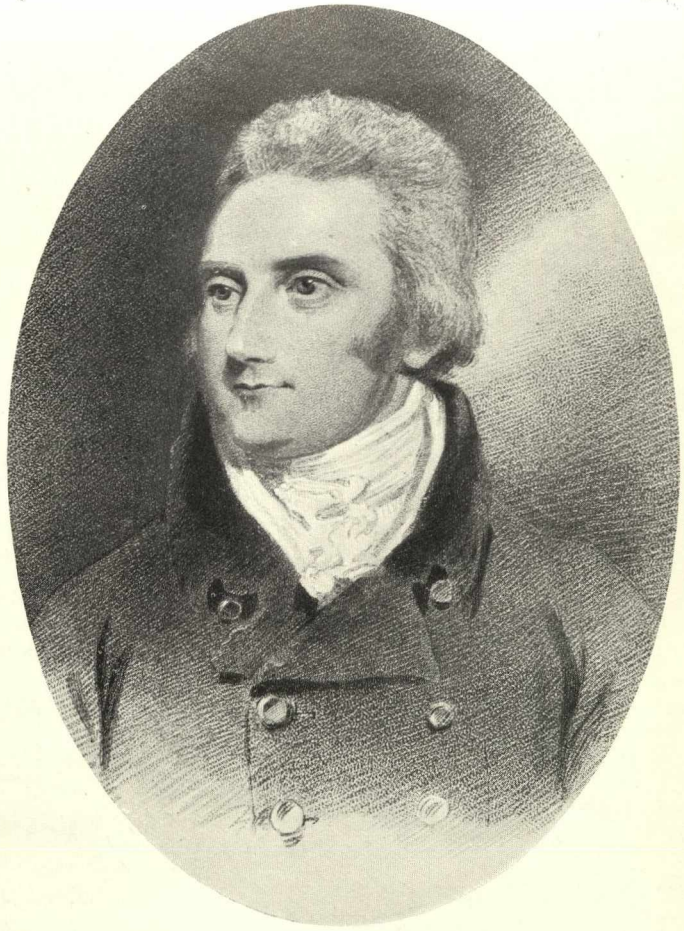
> "All that there was here to work on," he says, "was a fine rising knoll, a few acres of wood on a little hill, three or four low meadows, a winding brook which skirted them, and a small head of pure water. How that knoll, that wood, and those meadows have been treated"

was to form the subject of his descriptive sketch.

To approach the mansion from the main London Road two entrance lodges were constructed, both of which are still in existence, one at the foot of Bromley Hill, where now Ashgrove Road begins, the other at the top of the hill. Two fine carriage sweeps led from the lodges to the house, and yet another carriage drive gave an exit on to Beckenham Lane. The lodge to

– whom he married in 1793. inheriting as a marriage portion £30.000 from Sir Abraham.

In Br. Mus. there are – A view of Bromley Hill from S.W. – Dec. 1816 – pencil
" " " " 1835 "
" " " Drawing Room partly coloured
" " " The Pavilion 1817 Greenhouse 1816.
" " " The Lodge at Top Hill 1815 [42]
" " " The Swiss Cottage



CHARLES LONG, BARON FARNBOROUGH, AND LADY FARNBOROUGH.
Resident at Bromley Hill 1801–1838.

this drive was not constructed when Cumberland wrote. It was designed by Lady Farnborough and still stands, bearing the date 1825. The mansion itself was built in the Italian style,

" well broken into masses by varied angles. The entrance, which has no porch, opens into a covered and glazed corridor containing bronzes, busts, candelabra, and china vases."

From this corridor a handsome flight of steps led to a vestibule supported by fluted columns, its distinctive ornament being a fine statue of Flora by Westmacott. The principal living-rooms, dining-room, breakfast-room, library, and drawing-room, were entered from the vestibule. The drawing-room was finely proportioned and ended in a semicircular recess supported by two Scagliola Ionic pillars. This recess formed a sort of shrine for one of Canova's latest masterpieces. Three French windows opened out into a spacious conservatory trellised and fragrant with orange trees and various exotics. From the conservatory access could be gained to the library, which itself was flanked outside by a flower garden and enclosed terrace with its sundial and Watteau bench, its low balustrade surmounted by vases of flowers, and shaded at both ends by some well-grown pinasters.

" From this ancient terrace," says Cumberland, " the view commands at times St. Paul's Church (Cathedral), its dome and turret towers appearing as if banded with white ; and beyond extend the Hampstead and Highgate Hills, forming a broad line of background ; but that which renders the scene more remarkably interesting is that you see nothing of London except its spires, and the great church seems to rise like a vision from the edge of a wooded hill. Shooter's Hill, Blackheath, and best of all, Sydenham Common, makes a noble distance owing to its long lines and purple tints of heath."

Adjacent to the terrace was a spacious saloon with a fine roof, suitable for concerts and general entertainments.

From the terrace a rock garden sloped down towards the spacious lawns and wooded ground beyond, composed of large masses of fossilised rocks over which cheddar pinks, saxifrages, and rock roses spread themselves at will. But first, before the beauties of the gardens, some of the artistic treasures within the house call for comment.

Lord Farnborough's principle as a collector was quality rather than quantity, hence his pictures, though not very numerous, were the best obtainable examples of the best masters. Of the English School, Reynolds and Gainsborough were represented, the former by the 'Infant Samuel,' now in the National Gallery. Van Dyke's ' White Horse,' a choice landscape by Rubens, and a Teniers, all masterpieces, were the principal examples of the School of the Netherlands. A Canaletto, a Poussin, and a Mola figured conspicuously in the collection.

Lady Farnborough herself was an artist of no mean capacity. Her landscapes found a regular place on the walls of the Royal Academy, and to the enthusiastic vision of Cumberland she was the equal of any living artist. Her landscapes were

" incomparable—have never been rivalled even when put into competition with practical professors, and placed side by side with their happiest efforts."

His only regret is that none of these incomparable masterpieces were actually displayed in any of the rooms at Bromley Hill open to his inspection.

Whatever may have been Lady Farnborough's talents as a painter, there is no doubt that to her taste, judgment, and skill as a landscape gardener many of the most pleasing features of the grounds were due.

In fashioning a design there were certain natural advantages on which to work—the slope of the ground, its perforation by innumerable springs, and the river winding at the foot of the slope. Everything lent itself to the formation of a water garden, and a water pleasaunce of considerable extent. The slope itself was mainly devoted to fine and carefully tended lawns, broken by occasional oaks, acacias, firs, and birch, and by shrubberies of Portugal laurel and nut trees. On the lawn upon an open space stood a pedestal, 12 feet high, crowned by a beaker-formed vase of freestone reminiscent of fifteenth-century workmanship. Then came the water gardens, or spring-shores as they were sometimes called. These consisted of winding water-ways fed by the many springs, here and there artfully widened into pools, a little island perhaps in the centre, crossed and recrossed by rustic bridges or by stepping-stones. Wherever there was a vista of water and winding path some little rustic temple or rustic seat afforded a place for rest or contemplation. There was one specially pretty sexagonal temple-seat of rustic work paved with portions of tree-trunks driven into the ground and sawn off flat.

Another similar temple enclosed a basin in the centre of its floor continuously fed by the principal spring upon the estate. A parapet of fossiliferous stone around the basin, surmounted by a rustic railing, acted as a protecting barrier, the parapet being open at one point in the form of a lip to conduct the overflow in a meandering course to the River Ravensbourne a little way below.

The slope of the ground allowed of these various waterways being here and there fashioned into cascades, of which one was 6 feet in height and 10 feet in width, the whole pleasaunce being full of murmuring sounds of falling waters. It was the haunt of trout in the streams, of kingfishers flashing above them, of stately osmundas and other ferns, of nightingales, dabchicks, moorhens, even of bitterns in the winter time, and of herons in search of eels. In one pool a Botany Bay swan ruled supreme ; another pool

She designed in 1825 the Lodge in Beckenham Lane

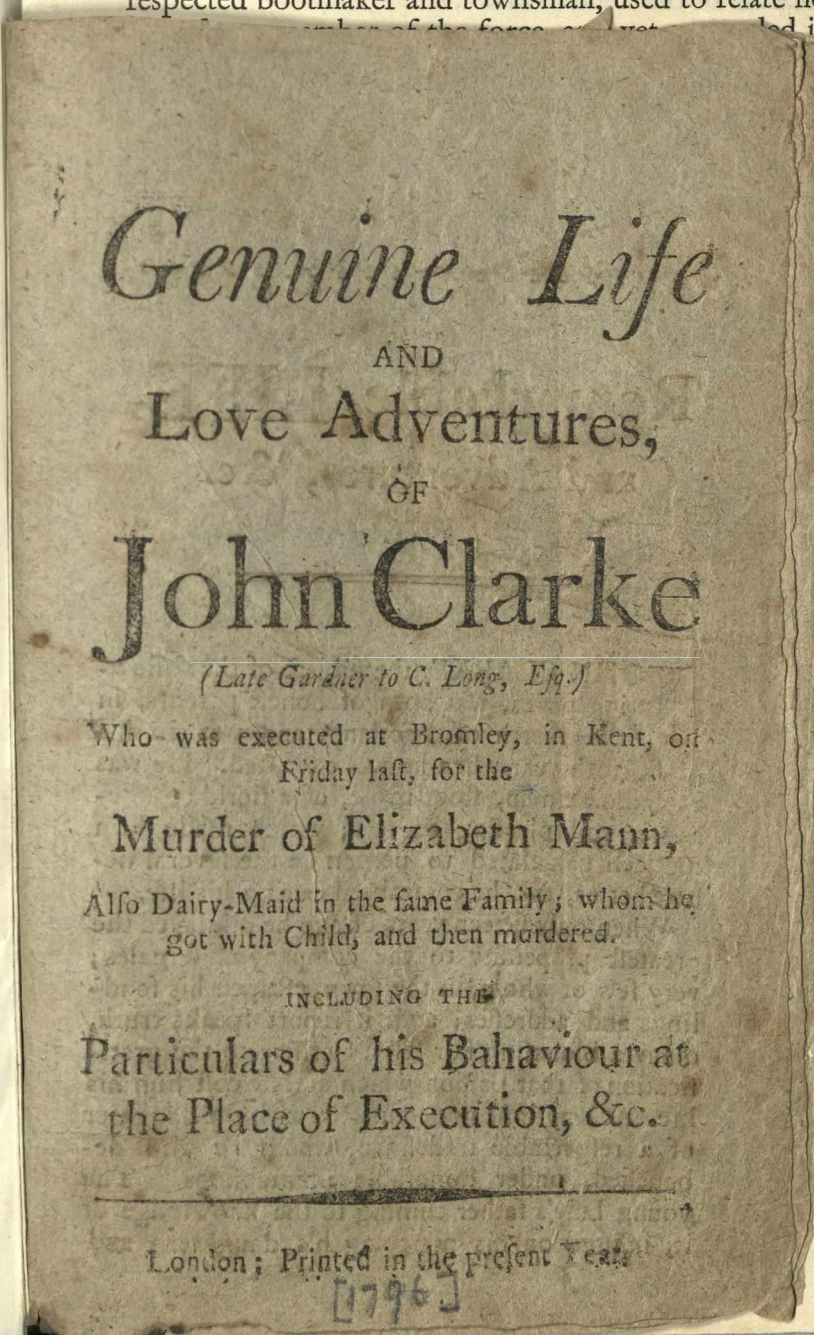
In the old Italian Garden was grown Cleome pentaphylla which had been grown in England by Parkinson in 1640

IN THE GROUNDS, BROMLEY HILL.

Chas Long remonstrated with Pitt for cutting thro' the British Camp at Stolwood Park

was a carp-stew; pheasants rose from the undergrowth upon approach. Everywhere there was variety and the beauty of pleased surprise.

The social and political distinction of Lord and Lady Farnborough, and the fame of their estate, brought to Bromley, from time to time, many distinguished visitors. Two kings were among them and a queen. George IV, who had numbered Lord Farnborough among his friends from the days of the Regency, and later William IV and Queen Adelaide honoured Bromley Hill by their presence. On the latter occasion the sovereigns were escorted by the Chislehurst Yeomanry, and by a detachment of the police force just newly established by Sir Robert Peel. The novel sight of the 'Bobby Peelers' in their tall chimney-pot hats proved a temptation too strong for one Bromley youth, Joe Burgess, who, in after days, when a respected bootmaker and townsman, used to relate how he knocked off the



Genuine Life

AND

Love Adventures,

OF

John Clarke

(Late Gardner to C. Long, Esq.)

Who was executed at Bromley, in Kent, on Friday last, for the

Murder of Elizabeth Mann,

Alſo Dairy-Maid in the ſame Family; whom he got with Child, and then murdered.

INCLUDING THE

Particulars of his Behaviour at the Place of Execution, &c.

London; Printed in the preſent Year.

[1796]

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Chas Long removed
Holwood Park

Remarkable LIFE,

and Adventures, &c.

JOHN CLARKE, the ſubject of the following pages, was born of honeſt parents, in the North of Scotland, and was in his 30th year when he was executed. He was a handſome man, ſtout made, of a florid countenance, and pleaſing addreſs; which made him too well calculated to perpetrate the ſeveral debaucheries, &c. he committed during his life.

When only fifteen years of age he diſplayed the greateſt propenſity to the company of females; very few of whom, in the town, eſcaped his fondlings and addreſſes; and, if report ſpeaks truth, many a blooming fair fell a ſacrifice to the gratification of that paſſion which at laſt coſt him his life. At length he got connected with the daughter of a reſpectable tradeſman, whom he alſo debauched, under honorable prentenſions. The young lady's father coming to the knowledge of it, inſiſted on his marrying his daughter; and

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gave him one night to conſider of it. Clarke, however, expecting ſome ſimilar, calls made a precipitate retreat; and ſet off for London, where he arrived ſafe.

He was not long in London before he hired himſelf into a gentleman's family in St. James's ſquare, where he lived ſome little time; but one day, being obſerved by his miſtreſs making too free with one of the female ſervants, he was diſcharged from her employment.

He next went to live in a gentleman's family in the country, where he followed the ſame practices. A young woman his fellow ſervant, with whom he was known to keep company was found murdered and with child, though he is now ſuſpected of having prepetrated it, he at that time eſcaped without the leaſt ſuſpicion; yet the author of this murder was never diſcovered.

He next went to another place, where he alſo purſued his amours among the females, both with his fellow-ſervants and others in the neighbourhood. It happened here that he got one of his ſellow-ſervants and another young woman proved pregnant at the ſame time.

He now thought it time to marry and ſettle himſelf. He then fixed on his unhappy wife, who now ſurvives him, with three helpleſs children and now pregnant with the fourth.

They were accordingly married, and when the other got her bed the child was brought to them. Having between them ſaved ſome money, he took a chandler's ſhop in Swallow Street, Oxford

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Road, where he lived ſome time. But, as he ſtill followed his old courſes, notwithſtanding the good council and example of his wife, it bred much diſcontent between them.

He afterwards kept a cow-houſe near Battle-bridge, but from certain circumſtances he left there, and with the conſent of his wife he again went to place.

After being in two other places, he at length went to live with Charles Long, Eſq. as gardner. He hired himſelf as a ſingle man; and conſidered as ſuch by all the family. He now fell to his old courſes, and the unfortunate Elizabeth Mann, a worthy young woman, who had lived four years in the family as dairy-maid, fell a victim to his inſatiate luſt, which proved fatal to them both.

The following are the particulars of this melancholy affair, which happened ſubſequent to, and were detailed on the trial.

Clarke and this young woman, who had never before been known to keep company with any man, were often together; as they were conſidered by the family as on the point of marriage, no notice was taken of their private meetings. It proves however, that the poor unfortunate Elizabeth Mann had been bebauched by this villian, who having thus ruined her, deſpiſed and abandoned the object of his brutiſh paſſion. But ſhe proving with child, he became alarmed for his own ſafety, and fearing the reproaches of his wife, he formed the horrid reſolution of putting an end to her exiſtence, and thereby deſtroying the infant in

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her womb. This he unhappily put in execution a few evenings after, unknown to any of the family.

On Wedneſday ſhe was diſcovered murdered by one of the ſervants; and the Coroner's Inqueſt ſat on the body, which was found murdered in the dairy, at Bromley-Hill, in Kent, with her throat cut in a moſt ſhocking manner, and a rope faſtened about her neck.

On a thorough examination of the body of this unfortunate young woman, by a gentleman of the faculty, it appeared that ſhe was pregnant; being ſix months gone with child by him.

On a window of the dairy, where the poor creature was murdered, were the marks of a perſon's fingers, ſtained with blood. So that the villian, after committing this inhuman act of barbarity, made his eſcape that way.

The Jury, convinced that her death did not originate from her own hands, returned a verdict of—Wilful Murder.

John Clarke, the gardener, was taken up on ſuſpicion; he underwent long examinations at Bow-ſtreet, when ſtrong circumſtances of his guilt appearing, he was fully committed for trial.

On Wedneſday, July 20, at the Aſſizes held at Maidſtone, for the County of Kent, he was tried for the wilful murder of Elizabeth Mann, his fellow-ſervant, and dairy maid to Charles Long, Eſq. of Bromley-Hill.

The Jury without heſitation, found a verdict of Guilty—DEATH.

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The Judge immediately paſſed ſentence of death upon him—That he ſhould be executed on Bromley-Hill, on Friday morning; and his body delivered to the ſurgeons for deſection.

The trial began at ſeven in the morning and continued until twelve; and through the whole the priſoner behaved with unparrelleled firmneſs, to the aſtoniſhment of every beholder.

The firmneſs that he diſplayed on the trial he continued to the laſt. He was conducted in a cart from the Jail at Maidſtone to Bromley; on Friday morning he was conducted to the fatal ſcaffold, where he was in a few moments to terminate his earthly career.

On his way to the fatal tree he behaved with true reſignation to his fate. Though he did not ſeem ſo much effected as men in his ſituatios in general are, yet he joined earneſtly in prayer with the Clergymen who attended him.

When the executioner came to faſten the fatal nooſe he begged to be heard a few moments, which being granted, he thus addreſſed the ſurrounding populace:

"*Good Chriſtians, and you young Men in particular,*

"You ſee before you the fatal effects of the indulgence of unlawful paſſions. O young men, take warning by my untimely fate; avoid above every ſin, that of luſt. I have found it, when given way to, one of the moſt deſtructive and powerful paſſions. It imperceptibly hurried me

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on to commit the worſt of crimes, that of murder; had I been contented and happy in the chaſte embraces of a faithful wife, I never ſhould have come to this untimely end. I truſt my example will reclaim many. I heartily forgive my proſecutors, acknowledge the juſtneſs of my ſentence, and die in peace with all the world. I earneſtly requeſt your prayers for my poor ſinful departing ſoul. Lord have mercy on me, and receive my ſoul. *Amen.*"

After he had thus ſpoke, he bowed, and ſaid he was ready; the executioner performed his office; and, on a ſignal being given, he was launched into eternity, amidſt the tears of many, who notwithſtanding his crimes, pitied his untimely fate.

After hanging the uſual time, his body was cut down.

The night before he ſuffered he wrote the following letter to his wife:

"INJUR'D BETSEY,

"HOW ſhall I make atonement to you for my paſt errors; how make reparation for the diſtreſſed ſituation into which my guilt has plunged you and my innocent family. Alas! it is now out of my power—to-morrow finiſhes my abode in this life. Oh! my Betſey, had my love to you been as chaſte as yours to me, how reverſe would have been my ſituation—inſtead of my ig-

Chas Long v
Stolwood

nominious death—I ſhould have been bleſs'd and happy in my family and you. Gracious God forgive me, and be your preſerver and the protector of my family. Bear your ſufferings with reſignation, and carefully watch the youth of my young Edward and his ſiſters. Pray for me; as I have done for you and them, and ſhall continue to the lateſt breath of your dying and penitent husband,

J. CLARKE."

Before he ſuffered, he delivered a paper to a perſon who ſeemed to be a friend of his, deſiring him to ſee it publiſhed. As it has not reached us we cannot yet preſent it to our readers; but as being the dying advice of a man who was, from his various ſufferings and incidents in life, capable of giving it, we have no doubt of it's containing ſome excellent inſtructions to the world; we wiſh to ſee it publiſhed; and hope he will not fail to comply with the dying requeſt of his unfortunate friend.

THE END.

The following Priſoners, were alſo convicted at Maidſtone Aſſizes with Clarke.

Henry Douglas, aged 23, and *Wm. Clark* 30, for Highway Robbery, were both found Guilty. Douglas is ſince reprieved.

Henry Wright remains till next ſeſſions.

George Mitchel, acquitted.

William Gambier, 25, for Robbery, tranſported ſeven years.

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William Pitt was a frequent guest, and one of the river walks was christened "Pitt's Walk." The Duchesse de Dino, niece of Talleyrand, relates in her *Memoirs* that she, in company with the Countess of Sutherland and Countess Batthyani, spent a morning at Bromley Hill.

"A delightful habitation which is remarkable alike for its fine situation, its beautiful woods, flowers, and water, and the perfect taste and care with which it is managed. We were quite delighted with everything, and sorry to go back to the smoke and politics of London."

But the amenities of the place were not reserved exclusively for Lord Farnborough's distinguished friends. Every Thursday from May to November the grounds were thrown open to any presentable people who cared to visit them, and Bromley could feel that Bromley Hill Place was almost a part of itself. In the streets, too, Lord Farnborough's coach and four blacks vied with Sir John Lubbock's four bays for the admiration of the public, and many other well-appointed equipages, together with the stage coaches constantly passing, gave to the town an air of gaiety and movement more attractive perhaps than any which the rush of modern traffic can supply.

In June 1796 a tragic event occurred on the Bromley Hill estate. A gardener, John Clarke, murdered Elizabeth Mann, a dairy-maid also employed there. In accordance with a not unusual practice, the murderer, upon his condemnation, was executed on Bromley Hill, near to the actual scene of the crime. His victim was buried at Bromley, and soon afterwards a catch-penny eight-paged pamphlet detailing the circumstances of the murder was published.

Lady Farnborough, having no children of her own, took a particular interest in one or two of the children connected with the estate. One of them, the daughter of James Linn, the steward, was Lady Farnborough's

god-daughter and bore her name Amelia. Through her Mr. William Baxter became the owner of some portraits of the Long family, and of some of Lady Farnborough's sketches, which he has presented to the Public Library.

On the death of Lord Farnborough in 1838, exactly a year after that of his wife, his property was divided between his three nephews, sons of his younger brother Samuel who married Lady Jane Maitland. Bromley Hill fell to the share of Samuel Long, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Grenadier Guards, who was born in 1799. For over forty years, until his death in 1881, Colonel Long was a conspicuous figure in the life of Bromley. Active in the performance of his duties in local affairs, he was also a keen sportsman and a genial host. His shooting parties over his own and the adjoining estates were a regular feature of the winter season.

He was four times married :

1. to Louisa Emily Stanley, daughter of the 13th Earl of Derby ;
2. to Sydney, daughter of Arthur Atherley ;
3. to Emily, daughter of Charles Mucros of Killarney, and
4. to the Hon. Eleanor Stanley, a maid of honour to Queen Victoria.

These frequent marriages gave rise to amused comment among his friends, and one story connected with them seems too good to be apocryphal. It runs that Colonel Long, before his last marriage, remarked to Lord Sydney that he would be unable to attend Quarter Sessions on Thursday because he was going to be married.

" Thursday ! " replied Lord Sydney, " I thought you were always married on a Tuesday."

Colonel Long died on August 31st, 1881, leaving three daughters by his third marriage, but no son. Consequently the estate was sold, and passed into the hands of Mr. Samuel Cawston. By him it was speedily ' developed ' for building purposes, and now a network of roads and villas has replaced the gardens, the wooded glades, and the spring-shores of the past.

The mansion itself, during the Great War, served as a hospital, and since then it has been converted into a private hotel.

(SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI)

Edw^d Dunn was at Lady Farnborough's funeral, her coronet was carried on a velvet cushion by horsemen to Wormleybury Herts, where Lord Farnboro' was also buried. He left £1 the Table Gallery. Sir Jos Reynolds "Infant-Saviour", Gainsborough's "The Watering place" & 2 or 3 Subjects re Bromley.
Another mentn was Revd Maitland Long

Col Long was buried 6th Sept 1881 Norwood Cem^y Will £243,000.