

EXCURSION TO ASHBOCKING AND TUDENHAM.

The excursion to Ash Bocking and Tudenham was arranged for Wednesday, August 6th, 1902. At the hour appointed for leaving Ipswich the rain was pouring down in torrents, so that it seemed highly probable that the programme would be abandoned. About a quarter of an hour later however, the sky cleared, there was a promise of fine weather, so the brake started at once on the route through Henley to Ash Bocking Church, where the Ipswich members found the contingent from Woodbridge had already arrived.

The Vicar (Rev. M. B. Cowell) came forward with a very hearty welcome, and read the following paper :—

ASH BOCKING.

Ash Bocking Church, Hall, Vicarage and School stand in the centre of an irregular triangle of slightly undulating stiff boulder clay land, an area of 1412·605 acres by the ordnance map. The modern roads running round are mostly the parish boundaries. Ash Bocking is 15 miles from the sea coast at Hollesley Bay, 231 feet above the sea level, i.e., as high an elevation as anywhere in High Suffolk. The sharp wind, so frequently blowing from the coast, sometimes leaves a saline deposit on the eastward windows of the Vicarage. Below the church the meadows are still known as the "Merefields." But now that the drainage of the country is less imperfect towards Needham Market and the River Gipping, Ash Bocking Church no longer stands on its beach and waterside. Through the Plantagenet period, and earlier, it is said to have faced to the South of great "Mere," its mediæval expanse of a hundred acres of water. The church and churchyard were till the last century a little holy island of enclosure, amidst unenclosed grass lands that lay round. The father of the late Mr. Charles Stanford set up the gates and hedges, and planted the present rows of trees.

The earliest question about each Church and Parish is mostly the dedication of the former, and the interpretation of the name of the latter. Our parish church is one of the seventy-seven Suffolk churches, and one of the 1,148 English churches, dedicated on Nov. 1, All Saints' Day. From 1326, 19 Ed. II., the church of All Saints was impropriated in the prior and convent of Christ Church, Canterbury, patrons of the benefice till the Reformation. So in a will bearing date 4 Nov., 1485, John Talbott, of Ash Bokkinge, left his body to be buried in the church of All Saints of Ashbokkyn, "*per Testamentum et ultimam voluptatem suam legat corpus suum ad sepeliendum in Ecclesia Omnium Sanctorum de Ashbokkinge.*" As to the derivation of the parish name, our letters from Government indicate this. Each communication bears the heading in *two* words. "Bocking" beginning with a capital B. About 1870, when the Board Schools were started, we were requested to head our correspondence in these two separate words, to distinguish us amongst the multitude of local names beginning with "Ash." The authorities at Whitehall were correct as to our historical origin. The monosyllable, "Ash," may be a local trace of the early Anglo-Saxon tree-worship.† Probably on the site of the present All Saints' church in the aboriginal time stood a huge patriarchal Ash tree, the local oracle and sanctuary, the periodical rendezvous for traders, and the rude tribal Justice court, suited to the semi-civilised residents. The rich line of meadows below the church, the "Mere" fields, still mark with a line of willows the course of the streamlet through the deeper depression once occupied by the Mere, alongside of which for ages ran the ancient track from regal Debenham.

After the Conquest, the family name of the Norman lord became attached. First, the parish became Ash Bigot or Bigod, from the Conqueror's grant of the lands to the great Earls of Norfolk. This was exchanged in Plantagenet days for Ash Bocking, from the Bockings, who were lords

† cf. Raven, Suffolk, p. 50. Redstone (V. B.), Bygone Wickham Market, p. 6.

of the manor and residents at the Hall from Ed. III. to Elizabeth, and who are said to have represented the county in Parliament from this place, and to have built or rebuilt the church nave and tower.

Lord John Hervey[†] identified in the Domesday Survey the three existing manors :—

1. "In Ash, Almar a free-man with 93 acres and 20 acres of pasture as a manor. Then 3 bordars, now 6. Always 1 plough-team, 3 acres of meadow, and half a church with 16 acres. Then valued at 30 shillings, now at 20 and 6d. A church with 3 acres valued at 6d. Over all these the fair Edith had soche and commendation in King Edward's time. And they render 4 pounds to the farm of Norton, and they were added in the time of Earl Ralph."—p. 5. †

"In Ash, a free-woman, Listeva, under the Abbot, commendation 1 acre, valued at 2 pence. The King and the Earl have soche."

"In the same, a freeman by commendation only half an acre, valued at 1d. The King and the Earl have soche."—p. 33.

2. "In Ash, Uluric a freeman held 60 acres as a manor. Always 2 villans, and 1 socheman with 7 acres, and 2 bordars, and 1 plough-team in demesne, and half a plough-team belonging to the men, and 2 acres of meadow, then valued at 20 shillings now at 30. And the King and the Earl have soche."

3. "In the same, Iric a freeman, held 60 acres as a manor and 2 bordars, and always 1 plough-team, and 1 acre of meadow, valued at 30 shillings."

4. "In the same, Edric a freeman in King Edward's time held 40 acres as a manor, then 1 plough-team, and 1 acre of meadow. The King and the Earl have soche, valued at 20 shillings. The King and the Earl have soche."

"To this manor Edric added in King William's time 8 freemen with 35 acres and a socheman with 12 acres, who could not take themselves out of the lordship of Saint Etheldreda, and among them they had then 3 plough-teams, now 2, then valued at 15 shillings, now at 20. Osbern de Wancey holds the whole; and Richard claims it as belonging to Phin's fee. The King and the Earl have soche. Two of these freemen Roger de Rheims claims as of his fee, and he was seized thereof. The whole is 6 quarentenes in length, and 2 broad, and pays 6d. in a gelt. Of all this Phin had nothing in King Edward's time."—p. 37.

"In Ash, Alwin a freeman held 4 acres, then valued at 16d., now at 6d."—p. 47.

Ash Bocking appears to be a typical specimen of the origin of many of our ancient parishes. The erection of

† See Suffolk Domesday, Bosmere Hundred (1891).



ASHBOCKING OLD HALL.

the church is said to have been due to the joint action of the three manorial lords. The Manor of Ash Hall, that of Ketts de Campo or Griffield Hall, and the old Manor on Ash Bocking Green, seem to have been thus associated. The provision of a church and graveyard in common, the possession of a place of sanctuary for deeds, documents, and family records, the appropriation of payments in kind to sacred purposes, the use of the ecclesiastical offices, the aid in need of the church's friendly protection, here as elsewhere, had for their result the beginnings of our existing Parochial System.* Amidst the thousand acres of marsh, woodland, and unoccupied waste, the Domesday Survey recounts about four hundred acres more of inhabited and reclaimed surface soil, where good influences, civil, social, and religious, were fostered, the nucleus of the later village of "Ash Bigot" or "Ash Bocking."

The Fitch and Davy mss. in the Suffolk collections in the Ipswich and British Museums, may be consulted as to the descent of the manors. At present the information accessible is imperfect and insufficient as material for a parish history. The following are some of the data:—

I. MANOR OF ASH HALL OR BOCKING HALL.

T. R. E. Almarus, a freeman.

- 20 Will. I., 1086. Ralph Guader, Earl of Norfolk, forfeited. The Conqueror gave all his lands to William de Albini Pincerna, his butler
- 12 Ed. III., 1328. Ralph de Bocking had free warren.
- 43 Ed. III., 1369. William de Bocking died.
John de Bocking, son and heir.
Philip de Bocking, son and heir.
Ralph de Bocking, son and heir, was living 13 Ric. II., 1389
- 6 Ed. VI., 1552. Edmund de Bocking died.
- 5 Mary, 1557. Richard Bocking, Esq., son and heir, died.
- 27 Eliz., 1585. Edmund Bocking, Esq., son and heir died.
Frances Bocking, d. and co-heir, married John Hervey, of Ickworth, Esq.
- 6 Jas. I., 1609. William Bonham, gent., lord of a part, died 1628.
- 3 Car. I., 1628. Thomas Bonham, Esq., son and heir, died 1655.

*cf. Garnier, History of English Landed Interest. Vol. I. Chap. IX.

- 28 Car. II., 1676. Thomas Bonham paid his ingress fine.
 4 Geo. III., 1764. Capt. Samuel Cockeril of Harwich, purchased it.
 1763. James Wilkinson, Esq.
 Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Cockeril, Esq.,
 married James Edward Urquhart, of Harlstead,
 Essex.
 1810. Kennet Cockeril Mackenzie and Henry Scott
 Boston, grandsons of said Samuel Cockeril, sold
 it to John Stanford.
 1821. He re-sold it to Wilbraham, Earl of Dysart, in
 whose family it still remains.

II. MANOR OF HARNEIS OR AISHE, OR KETTS DE CAMPO,
 OR IN CAMPIS, OR ST. CHRISTOPHER'S IN THE FIELDS,
 OR GREFFIELD HALL, ALIAS CROFFIELD.

- 24 Ed. I., 1296. John Harneis had free warren.
 9 Ed. II., 1316. Philip Harneys
 Lionel Talmash, of Bentley, Esq.
 7 Ed. VI., 1552. Lionel Talmash, of Helmingham, Esq., son and
 heir, died 1571.
 13 Eliz., 1571. Lionel Talmash of Bentley, Esq., son and heir,
 died 1575.
 17 Eliz., 1575. Sir Lionel Talmach, Bart., son and heir, died 1612.
 9 Jas. I., 1612. Sir Lionel Talmach, Bart., son and heir, died 16—
 16 Chas. I., 1640. Sir Lionel Talmach, Bart., son and heir, died 1669.
 20 Car. II., 1669. Lionel Talmach, Earl of Dysart, son and heir,
 died 1727.
 13 Geo. I., 1727. Lionel, Earl of Dysart, guardian of the last, died
 1770.
 10 Geo. III., 1770. Lionel, Earl of Dysart, son and heir, died 1799, s.p.
 39 Geo. III., 1799. Wilbraham, Earl of Dysart, heir of Lionel, died
 1821, s.p.
 2 Geo. IV., 1821. Louisa, Countess of Dysart, sister and heir of
 Wilbraham. In this family it still remains.

Tradition associates with this manor the memory of the Wodehouse family. In Page's Suffolk, we read this account: "Henry Wodehouse, Esq., lived in this parish at the time of his father's death, 1430. He was eldest son of John Wodehouse, Esq., the great warrior, who won such fame at Agincourt, 1415, and King Henry V. was his godfather. He died in 1450 without issue, and John Wodehouse his brother succeeded, who married Constance,



OLD HOUSE AT ASHBOCKING.

PULLED DOWN 1810.

eldest daughter and coheir of Thomas Giddinge, of Ickingham, relict, first of Henry Poley, Esq., and after of John Alleyne, Esq., one of the Barons of the Exchequer.* (p. 563).

The Rhyming Pedigree given in Blomfield's Norfolk (II. 547), supplies us with the Homeric incidents of the Battle. W. A. Cutting's "Gleanings about Gayton" (Norfolk) connects Crowfield and Ash Bocking with Kimberley also, and Castle Rising, as entitled to share the glorious memories of this house. (p. 218—225). The initial and final limits of their seignóralty of this manor are not yet ascertained.†

The Fitch mss. in the Ipswich Museum have this entry:—"Deed of Sale by Roger Wodehouse of his manor called 'Kittys of the Fields,' with the appurtenances in Ash Bocking; his Lands and Tenements, &c., called 'Harnesse in Ashe,' Hemýngston, and Lands in Alnesbourne Close, abutting upon the lands of the Prior of Alnesbourne, &c., to John Reynor, 1528, 20 Hen. VIII."

From Manorial, Genealogical, and Historical Collections, relative to the Hundreds of Bosmere and Claydon, containing copious extracts from Ryce's History of Suffolk Families, Dugdale, Tanner, the works published by the Record Commissioners, Arms, etc., 40 parts, 4to.

Another touch of this family, with the wider history of the period, is thus recorded, "Henry de Wodehouse, son of John de Wodehouse, 24 years old at his father's death, was then living at Ashbocking. He then went and lived at Kimberley, Norfolk. He was nearly killed, trying to suppress Kett's rebellion, 1549."‡

III. THE MANOR HOUSE ON ASH BOCKING GREEN.

The third existing Manor House stands on the modern road from Helmingham to Ipswich, on the west side of the ancient "Green." Part of the old timber-framed dwelling, with its low rooms and narrow passages,

* See Suff. Feet of Fines, p. 304.

† Sold to Thos. Heigham, 1453, for 200 marks.

‡ cf. History of Eastern England, Vol. i. 567.

is still standing to the rear of the modern frontage. A sister of the late Mr. W. Brown, of Gippeswyk Hall, Ipswich, had a drawing of the house, showing its appearance in 1810, when partially rebuilt and the present front of the house replaced that represented in the sketch. This property was last century held in succession by the Welham, Boyd, and Skeet families, and last, as now it was purchased by Sir Alfred Garrod, M.D., of London, the distinguished physician.

This is traditionally alleged to have been the residence of John Felton, by whom, on Aug. 23, 1628, George Villiers, first Duke of Buckingham, the unpopular royal favourite, was assassinated at Portsmouth. Felton was a Suffolk man, and had an estate in Ash Bocking. He was probably distantly connected with the Playford family.*

THE CHURCH LANDS OR "BURSES."

Another ancient holding, now known as "The Church Farm," is connected by local tradition with a romance of the past, and brings vividly before us the social life of a bygone day. The story has been well told by Mr. Monk in his series of *Memoirs of Suffolk Parishes*, and may well be preserved, in the words of his version, amongst our village annals. This account of the origin of this ancient Trust is as follows:—

"A very different scene did this church look down upon centuries ago. Now it sees at its base rich grass land, on which cattle and sheep lead a lazy existence; but till the reign of good Queen Bess all this meadow land was one large mere; it was drained in the reign above-mentioned; but even now the quantity of willow trees which flourish here show that the place is full of moisture. A curious story is told here of events which are supposed to have happened in pre-Reformation days. The body of the priest who ministered at the church was discovered in the mere already referred to, and it was naturally supposed that he had been reading his Breviary, sitting on the edge of the mere, as was his custom, that he had been seized with illness, and had fallen into the water. His body was, of course, buried in the little church just near, but tradition says his spirit knew no rest, and often were those who passed near the mere at nightfall startled by the groans and

* See Proceedings of Suff. Inst. Arch., Vol. III.

cries they heard. A man named William Austin, who lived at a farm near, had no cause to feel particularly grateful to the priest, for the latter had, it is said, interfered in a love match, and had prevented Austin from marrying the girl of his choice. This man died some years after the priest's body was discovered in the mere, and on his deathbed he confessed that he had, from motives of revenge, pushed the priest into the water. Of course the murderer was commanded to make the only atonement then known, viz., to leave all his lands to the Church, and from the fact that he did so, the farm which he owned is called Church Farm to this day. Even now it is difficult to get children and young people to venture after nightfall near the little pond in which the priest's spirit is supposed to remain unquiet; certainly a more likely spot for a ghost than this bit of water surrounded by bushes and willow trees, it would be almost impossible to find. But we were unable to discover anyone who had actually seen anything which could be said to partake of the supernatural."—*Suffolk Times and Mercury*, Sept. 7th, 1894.

There is an apparent, though not of necessity a real, opposition between these interesting details and the accessible documents. To quote a transcript or summary of earlier records, apparently in the handwriting of Philip Laurence, vicar here 1739—1793, but resident at Henley Vicarage 1741—1793 to his death and burial there. This paper reads as follows, including probably by error a reference to "*Ipswich*" in the preamble:—

"John Austen of *Ipswich* Donor by Will and Enfeoffment House and Lands called 'Burses,' acres 25, to discharge subsidies and 15th, and to find a light before the Virgin Mary in ye church of Ashbocking, dated 21st November, 1432, Tuesday and Thursday next after St. Edmund's ye King ye Confessor."

Further back in the records, under the year 1650, the particulars are thus given:—

"This is the last Will of John Austen, made the Thursday next after St. Edmonde the Kyng the Confessor in, the year of our Lord God mccccxxxii The said John Austen willeth that John Herfrey of *Ipswich* and John Ralph of Bocking Ashe be the Feoffees in the Testament of the said John Austen in Bocking Ashe aforesaid called Burses."

It will be noticed that the mention "of *Ipswich*" seems to have been inserted in the transcript, from the line below, where "John Herfrey of *Ipswich*, and John Rolph of Bocking Ashe," are named as the first and

original Trustees of the property under John Austen's will. There is therefore nothing inconsistent with the residence of John Ansten on this property, and his death there, according to the story,—in the days, when Henry VI. was a minor, the English wars for French territory were still raging, the conflicts of the Roses were about to begin, the feudal landlord to become the modern landowner, the villein the tenant farmer, rent was to be paid in place of manorial service, and the way opened for the free wage-earning labourer in the economy of the village life.

The last feoffment was made in the year 1891.

The earliest loss from the new roll of Feoffees occurred August, 1902, by the lamented death of the Hon. L. P. Tollemache, the first name on the new list.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH.

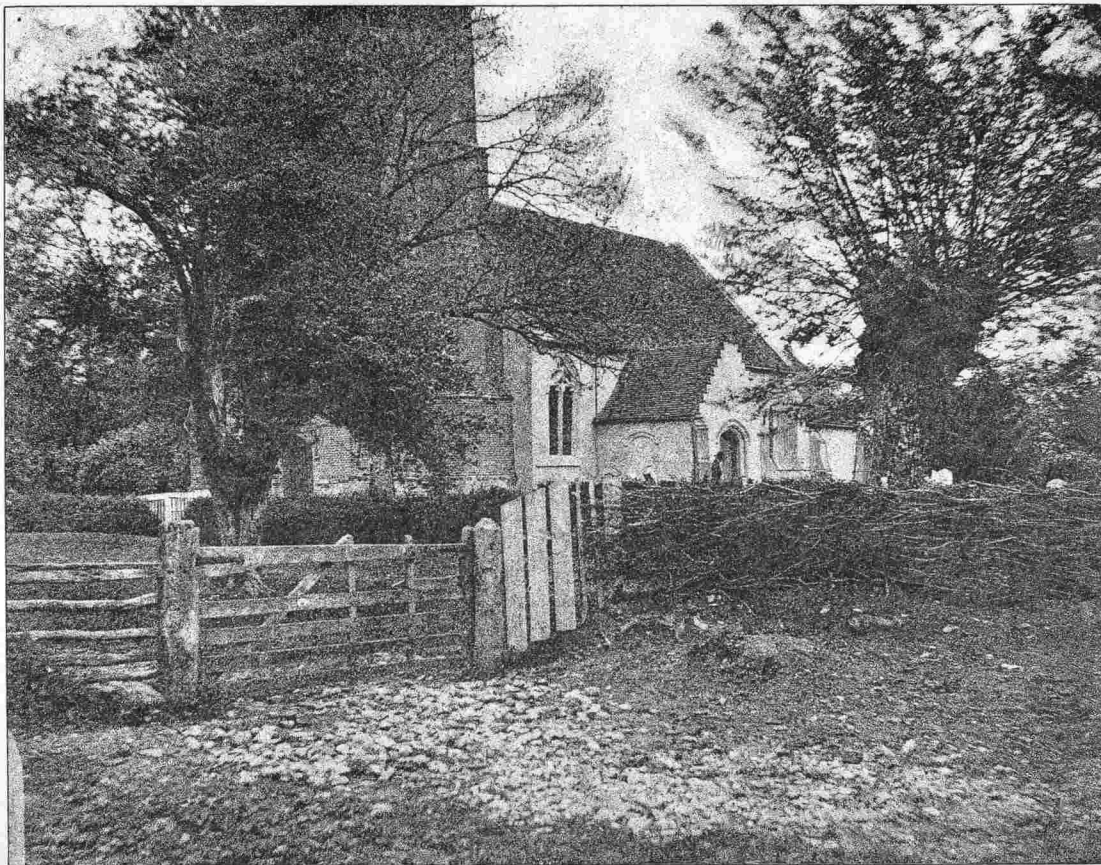
The Church consists of chancel, nave, south porch, and west door. Caveler, in "Architectural Notes of Suffolk Churches" (Parker, London, 1855), describes as follows:—

"The chancel is late Early English, with a pretty triplet under an arch at the east end; in the spandrils are good trefoils; the side walls have two-lights, also with a trefoil in the spandril. Nave, Decorated, with two-light windows, which have good flowing tracery."

On the chancel floor there are a number of large flat stones, size 3 ft. 3 ins. by 6 ft. 6 ins.; the centre three of glossy black stone, which act as a weather glass, throwing up damp in anticipation of bad weather. Five of these memorials to the forefathers of the village, are in a line in front of the communion rails. Reading the inscriptions from the north wall, they occur as follows:—

1. Under the Horsman armorial bearings; motto, "Veritas me urget," and then the Latin;—

"Depositum Edwardi
Horsman in Resurrec-
tione mortuorum
olim resumendum.
Obiit 4th April A.D. 1659.
ann. æt. 65."



IMP. PHOTO. SPRAGUE & CO. LTD. LONDON.

ASHBOCKING CHURCH, EXTERIOR.

2. "Here lyeth the Body of:—
William Moore, who departed
this life, May ye 4th, A.D.
1715, aged 41 years."
3. "Here lyeth the Body of'
Mary Wolno,*
who departed this life
July the 17th A.D. 1767,
aged 85 years."
4. Here lyeth the Body of
William Wolno,†
who departed this life
July 27, A.D. 1756.
aged 62 years.

5. Next to the little low lancet-shaped Priest's door in south wall, on brass inscription, 12in. by 11in. in size, in pavement the following Acrostic, introducing the name of the deceased, "Thomas Horsman," as the initial letters of the Latin Hexameters:—

"Natus quem infra legis, Martie 24, 1556.

Terra fui, terræque utero jam deinde receptus,
Hic jaceo, cinis hominum, lacrimisque solutus,
Omnibus hæc eadem sedes, hæc urna paratur,
Maxima sed nostri tenues pars vecta sub auras
Astra petit, veveranda fides sic credere jussit,
Scilicet hæc requies, et nostri meta laboris.

Huspes ades, tumuloque feras solennia nostro,
Oblectant manes lacrymæ luctusque piorum.
Respondet votis, meritum si vota sequatur,
Sed male qui meruere, luunt scelvs igne barathri,
Et lacrimis barathri nullis extinguitur ignis,
Me juvat æterni non fallax gloria sæcli,
At licet humanæ plores discrimina vitæ.
Nam dolor est vitæ merces, solatia mortis.

Mortuus, quem supra lugens, Junii 6, 1619."

The present oak benching of chancel, and the encaustic tiles within the altar rails, were part of Mr. Hakenill's restoration work in this church in 1870-72. The arcading, commandments, &c., tablets, and reredos, were the gift of Miss E. B. Cowell, in memory of her mother, Mrs. C. Cowell, late of Ipswich, who died Jan. 11, 1874. Erected

* Described in the Parish Register as *Widow*.

† Described in Register as *from Barham*.

at cost of nearly £150, Easter, 1884, from design by Howard Gaye, architect.

Next chancel step and prayer desk, between the oak benches, in chancel centre passage, lies the body of a former vicar with the inscription on a large flat black stone :—

“ Sacred
To the Memory of
W. G. Plees, clerk,
late
Vicar of this Parish;
Died Augt. 19th, 1849,
aged 68 years.

These are the only epitaphs on the floor of the church. The brick pavement of the Nave has one large dark stone slab adjoining the chancel, but without inscription. In front of the built-up north doorway lies buried, below the present organ,—

Eliza Maria Wilcocks, aged 32 years,
wife of the Rev. W. W. Wilcocks,
then curate of this parish,
She was buried June 27, 1815. There is no memorial.

On the north wall of the church between the windows is a singular mural monument, brass and wood, to the last of the family of the Bockings, once so important in this neighbourhood. It is described in the Suffolk ms. Collections, now in the British Museum. This description includes an account of stained glass formerly in the church. The paper is entitled,—

“ MS. Church notes, penes Sir J. Blois.
1659, April 6, I there and 38 years before.”

“ In glasse,

“ A man, Bokyn, with his arms on him, offering up the church.

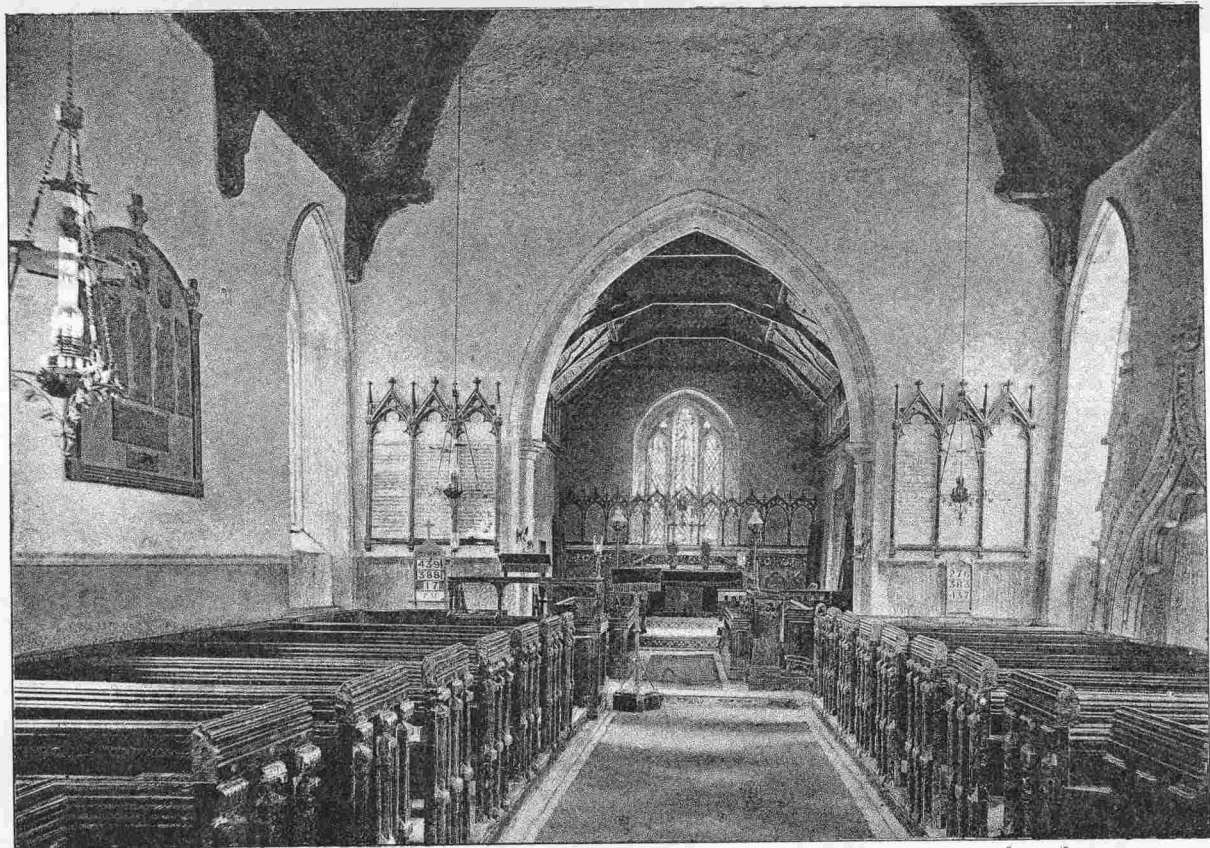
“ His wife, Brome, with her arms on her, offering up her husband's arms. He built the church.

“ Also, Edmund Bokyn in glasse, his picture and arms.

“ 1585. The names of his wives, Frances and Mary.

“ The picture and arms of the last a Payn.

“ Arms, Bokyn, quartering Tay impaled Payne, sa. a fesse between 3 leopards' heads, or.”



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ASHBOCKING CHURCH, INTERIOR.

“A monument in brass and wainscoat for Edward Bokyn, Esq., æt. 57, 1585, and his wives Frances, the daughter and heir (it should be co-heir) of Sir Thomas Tey, Knt., by whom Frances, married to John Hervey of Ickworth, Esq. 2nd wife, Mary, daughter and heirress of Thomas Paine of Great Denham, in Norfolk, Esq.

“The daughter, Katherine, 7 years old.”

The full text of the inscription on the wall runs as follows :—

“Here lyeth the body of Edmund Bockinge, Esquier, who was of the age of LVII yeers, when he dyed and dyd depart this lyfe the x day of Augt. Ao. Dñi 1585, who had two wyves and by eche of them a daughter, his fyrst wyves name was Ffrances, who was ye daughter and heyre of Sr. Thomas Tey, knight, and by her had issue Ffrances, maryed to John Harvey of Ickworth, esquier, his seconde wyve's name was Mary, is one of the daughters and heyres of Thomas Payne, late of Great Denham in the County of Norfolk, esquier, deceased, and by her had issue Katheryn, of the aged viii years, as by the severall pictures ingraved upon this stone with the severall armes of both his said wyves may appere.”

“Expecto salutem tuam Domine.

Beatus homo qui in te confidit.

Quanta mihi in cælis, domine,

At nihil propter te placeat in terra.”

Opposite, in the south wall of nave, there is a richly decorated canopy of stonework, enclosing small Decorated window. Davy in his Church Notes, taken here *May 7, 1824*, gives a description of this :—

“In the South wall of the Nave is a handsome arch, ogee, with pinnacles on the sides, crockets, and finials. There is no appearance of any slab or monument below, though it is evident that this must have been its original purpose. It is most probable it was intended to commemorate one of the family of Bocking, the founder or chief benefactor to the church.”

Davy's careful description of the walled-up east window and font, and the church interior, &c., are well worth record from nearly a century in the past. He thus gives his account of what he found here, 1824 :—

“The church stands on a gentle rise, just above a little valley, which runs parallel with it, and is but a small building, though it is kept in neat order and repair. It consists of a nave and chancel, both covered with tile and ceiled within.

"The chancel is 28 ft. 9 in. long, and 16 ft. 3 in. wide.

"The Communion Table is raised one step and railed round.

"The East end is wainscotted about 7 ft. from the floor.

"The East window is a square modern one and very ugly.

"The other windows, 2 on the south, and 1 on the north, are uniform, of the following plan." (Here follows a sketch of same design as now.)

"In the window on the north side is a shield of arms, England, gu. 3 lions passant, or. But by the stupidity of the glazier this is reversed, and a piece being broken out of it, it will probably not be there much longer. In the other light of the same window, there was another shield, also reversed. Part of the shield still remains of painted glass.

"Here are 3 or 4 deal and oak pews, but very ordinary.

"The nave is 50 ft. 5 in. long and 23 ft. 7 in. wide. The pulpit stands against the pillar of the arch at the East end, and on the north side, a pentagon, of deal painted.

"Against the north wall hang the King's arms, and the Commandments, and on the opposite wall the Lord's prayer and Belief.

"The nave is filled up with oak seats, very old, carved, without doors, and a singular custom prevails here. The men sitting on the south side, and the women on the north, and this even to the division of the principal families of the parish.

"The Font stands just to the westward of the doors,† very ordinary and clumsy.

"It appears to be of brick and plastered over. The old font, if any of that remains, none of it appears.

"The windows in the nave are all uniform, 3 on each side.

"The steeple is a square tower of red brick, with buttresses, and embattled, of no great height." (It is exactly 50 feet high.)

"On the south side is a turret staircase. There are 43 steps up to the bells, which are 3 in number, and thus inscribed :—

1. "Thos. Gardiner made me 1745."

2. Blank.

3. "Miles Graye made me 1615.

"On the south side of the nave is a small porch of red brick."

Dr. Raven in his "*Church Bells of Suffolk*," gives a more accurate account of the Ash Bocking Bells :—

"*Ash Bocking All Saints*, 2 Bells, Inscriptions :—

1. "Miles Graye made me, 1615," smaller bell.

2. "1584—85" (five times) big bell.

He adds, Terrier, 13 May, 1806, "item, 3 bells with their frames." (There is no record as to what became of the third.)

† The N. and S. doors were then in use. Now the N. door is built up.

Below the tower and bells, on the basement, stands "*The Parish Purse*," a massive timber iron-bound trunk, with four locks exterior, two lids, 1 lock interior, said to belong to the 13th century, once used for "Peter Pence," and for preservation in sanctuary of deeds and family records and parish monies, and later of parochial books and registers. Now, in our modern usage, this is superseded by the lawyer's strong room, the banker's safe, or the family closet, box, desk, or drawer.

A pathetic interest attaches to the Royal Arms of King Charles I., suspended, just below the wall plate and hammer beams of the south wall in the nave, high enough to be out of reach of wanton insult or violence, amidst the tempest of the Civil War, in 1640. King Charles mostly bore the same heraldic arms as his father, and as they here appear :—

France and England appear on the 1st and 4th quarters.

Scotland on the second, Ireland in the 3rd,

All within the Garter and crowned.

The Scottish Unicorn for sinister supporter.

The British Lion for dexter.

A page out of "Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy" has to be connected with this. In that literary document of those troublous times, now a scarce book, there is the record of a former Vicar of Ash Bocking, who died in the hulks on the river Thames, a prisoner of the Parliament :—

Beadle, Theodore, Ash Bocking, Vicar. He was sequestered, July 18, 1644, for inveighing against the Rebellion and the Parliament; for saying Strafford died unjustly, and that the Parliament forced the King to it; for exhorting his people against Popery and not mentioning Episcopacy; for not encouraging his people (to Rebellion indeed, but as they word it), to resist the Rebellion of the Cavaliers against the King and Parliament (such was the hypocrisy of the times!), for observing the Orders of the Church, and for being Disguised in Drink."

Theodore Beadle's little daughter, Margaret, died and was buried here, amidst their family troubles. The registers are signed in the interval by the Churchwardens. "God save the King," with the date "1640," still looks

down from the wall, where the Royalist Vicar placed this defiant escutcheon, and left it behind him in quiet Ash Bocking.

The discovery and recovery of the *Saxon Font* dates from 1842. Capt. Kitto, a retired Waterloo officer, then resident at Coddendam, took great interest in the study of old church work, and superintended the first restoration here. What Davy saw and described, as then apparent, "very ordinary and clumsy," "of brick and plastered over," was pulled down, and the present square stone bowl recovered. Mr. Edward Hakewell, late of London, the eminent architect, a most accomplished student and writer on Art History, confirmed Capt. Kitto's positive estimate of the high antiquity of the Ash Bocking Font Bowl. Mr. Hakewell gave it as his conviction, after careful examination of the bowl, and comparison of the work and material, and stated in his "Report" on the church at the time of the restoration, that "the Font was Saxon work," and that "the parishioners of Ash Bocking might boast that the subjects of King Edward the Confessor were baptized at their ancient Font." It stands as hitherto in the church, now upon round Norman pillars, on an octagonal basement, with a recent cover of handsome design pendent from the church roof.

The benches in the nave are of old black oak of unusual design, well preserved, and interesting. Towards the tower end, on each side, are poppyheads. As in many churches there was once a gallery for singers at the west end under the belfry. This was removed in 1850.

Ashbocking Churchyard occupies just three quarters of an acre of land, forming an irregular four-sided figure, whose sides measure in feet, N. 142, W. 166, S. 168, E. 213. The area is raised by the burials of ten centuries some feet above the surrounding level. Firs and laurels, rather thickly planted, overshadow the tombs, reserving ample space of ground for future use. The consecration probably dates from Nov. 1, about a thousand years ago, by one or other of the Saxon Bishops of Elmham. There are no

existing monuments of ancient clergy or laity previous to the Reformation. No stone coffins have been found.

The Parish Registers date from 1555, and contain records of the Bocking, Bonham, Bacon, Tollemache, Talbot, Aldous, Horseman, Style, Felgate, Cockerill, Welham, Stanford, and other families of interest and influence, formerly resident.

The Church Plate is ancient, interesting, and of some value, consisting of an Elizabethan Cup, 2 Patens, Tankard with lid, handle, and thumb piece. A full account of these, their history, and purchase, is given in the "Proceedings of Suff. Inst. of Archæology" (1896), Vol. ix., Church Plate of Suffolk, Deanery of Bosmere, p. 3-5. In the same is inserted a biographical sketch of our famous French Huguenot clergyman and benefactor, Baltazur Gardemau, vicar 1692-1739.

THE VICARS.

By the researches of Mr. V. B. Redstone, the Norwich Registry's List of Vicars can be supplemented by an earlier reference, as follows:—

"In 1248, William de Assche, chaplain, bequeathed a message in St. Nicholas, Ipswich, to the Prior and Convent of S.S. Peter and Paul, to pray for his soul and the soul of his father, Richard de Asshe, formerly *Rector* of that parish. We see the living was not then in the gift of the Canterbury Monks at that period, or a rector would not be holding it." †

"Again the De Assche family possessed the greater part of the lands, and the Williams of that ilk were numerous, so that William de Assche, son of Roger de Asshe, in 1 Ed. II., 1308, was also known as "William de Campo." Was this because he owned 'The Camp' or field, once the site of the Roman camp, as part of the Manor of Kits de Campo."

On the series of Vicars, tabulated from 1326, as instituted to the Vicarage of Ash Bocking, it is interesting to notice that the first three derived their surname from

† The church of Ash Bocking was given to the Monks of Christ Church, Canterbury, by Gwydo de Esse, son of Walter de Hasfield, in A. D. 1259.

See Report of His. Man. Commission for 1881, part 1, p. 323d.

the locality, "Thomas Gosbeck, 1326," "Robert de Coddenham," 1333, "John de Framsdén," 1362. Three of the vicars of the following century appear in the list with a monastic prefix. "Fr.," as in Mr. Zincke's Wherstead List of Vicars, comes only in this century's register. We have, "1467, Fr. Nic. Aylesham, Ord. Carmel.; 1470, Rob. Rawlyn, Canonicus; 1472, Fr. Tho. Speller, mon."

The earliest incumbent with an academical degree added to his name was 1608 Rich. Harte, M.A., also vicar of Swilland. He was a Member of Christ's College, Cambridge. Dr. Peile, the present Master of the College, tells me that Rich. Harte went on the degree of B.D.

Of the 24 pre-Reformation vicars, everyone has two names only, the first with Surname and double Christian name occurs 1833, William Gordon Plees, in this century just closed. There have been 12 vicars during the past Reformation period. In all Christian countries the name of the beloved disciple was in high favour, so we have 6 "Johns." Next to John, the name of the doubting apostle is most frequent, often at a long distance behind John. But we have 6 "Thomas." In all we find amongst our vicars, 17 Biblical names, 16 from the New Testament, 1 only from the Old, "Baltazar."

LIST OF FORMER VICARS OF ASH BOCKING.

			"Et, quasi cursores, Vitai Lampada tradunt."— <i>Lucretius</i> .
2 Ed. D.			<i>Acte de le Carect. (Adam de Westhale with Spaw. Ac. 262)</i>
1326,	9 Kal. Aug.	THO. GOSEBEK,	ad præ. Pr. et conv. Eccl. Chti. Cantuar.
1333,	13 Kal. Jan.	ROBERTUS DE CODDENHAM,	ad præ. eorundem.
1362,	20 Maii.	JOES DE FRAMESDEN,	ad præ. eorundem.
1371,	12 Jun.	JOES. COCK.	
		JOES. BUKSTON,	ad præ. eorundem.
1392,	11 Mart.	ROB. SAMBOURNE,	ad præ. eorundem.
1398,	28 Mart.	WILL. MACHARN (permut. cum Leyton, Lond.),	ad præ. eorundem.
1408,	9 Sept.	WALT. ROBERT (permut. cum Aldham, Lond.),	ad præ. eorundem.
1414,	24 Dec.	JOES. HUNTE,	ad præ. eorundem.
1423,	14 Nov.	JO. HUNTE.	

- 1423, 14 Nov. THO. LECHE (permut. cum Bradfield), ad præ. eorundem.
- 1426, 12 Aug. ALAN HYBOLDESTON, ad præ. eorundem.
- 1431, 26 Jul. NIC. PEYNTOUR, ad præ. eorundem.
- 1434, 13 Aug. WILL. BELLO, ad coll. Domini Episcopi, p. laps.
- 1441, 19 Aug. WALT. BRIGGE, ad coll. Domini Episcopi, p. lap.
- 1449, ult. Jul. ANDR. BRYCE, ad præ. Pr. et Cap. Cantuar.
- 1459, 23 Jun. THO. BENET, ad coll. Domini Episcopi, p. laps.
- 1460, 11 Apr. ROB. PRESTON, ad coll. Domini Episcopi, p. laps.
- 1467, 20 Nov. FR. NIC. AYLESHAM, Ord. Carmel. ad præ. Prioris et Cap. Cantuar.
- 1470, 22 Jul. ROB. RAWLYN, Canonicus, ad præ. eorundem.
- 1472, 10 Feb. FR. THO. SPELLER, mon. ad coll. Domini Vic. Gen.
- 1504, 16 Jul. EDM. SQUIER.
- ROG. WERMICHAM, ad præ. Pr. Et Conv. Eccl. Chti. Cantuar.
- 1505, 5 Sept. ROB. THROWER, ad præ. eorundem.
- 1506, 17 Maii. JOES. ASKEW, ad præ. eorundem.
- 1552, 6 Mart. THO. ROOKE, ad præ. Dmni. Reg. Edward vi.
- 1566, 6 Sept. NIC. FAXE, ad præ. Dmnae. Reg. Elizæ.
- 1602, 19 Jul. GRIFFINUS WARNER, ad præ. Dmnae. Reg. Elizæ.
- 1608, 25 Nov. RICH. HARTE, B.D. (cum Swyllond vic.), ad præ. Dmni. Reg. Jacobi.
- 1639, 11 Nov. THEODORE BEALE, *alias* BEADLE, ad præ. Dmni. Reg. Caroli.
- 1660, 30 Aug. JOHN HOVELL, *alias* SMITH, M.A. ad præ. Dmni. R. Caroli II.
- 1692, 22 July. BALTAZAR GARDEMAU (cum Coddendam Vic.) ad præ. Dom. R. et R. Gul. et Mar.
- 1739, 23 Jan. PHILIP LAWRENCE, M.A. (cum Henley Vic.) ad præ. Dmni. Reg. Georgii II.
- 1793, 31 March. HENRY LAWTON, LL.B., on the presentation of H.M. King George III.
- 1833, 25 Jan. WILLIAM GORDON PLEES, M.A., on the presentation of H.M. King William IV.
- 1849, 15 Dec. THOMAS CLOWES, M.A., on the presentation of H.M. Queen Victoria.
- 1862, 19 March. MAURICE BYLES COWLES, M.A., on the presentation of H.M. Queen Victoria.

The above list is extracted, by the courtesy of Dr. Bensly, from the thirty-one folio volumes of "Institutions," in the Diocesan Registry at Norwich. This series begins with the year 1300.

All illustrations to this article have been kindly supplied to members by the Rev. M. B. Cowell, Vicar of Ash Bocking.

By the kindness of Miss Stanford, the members were allowed to inspect the charming residence which adjoins the church, known as Ash Bocking Hall, wherein an old Tudor ceiling forms one amongst many other noticeable features. Up to this stage of the proceedings the weather had been fine, but rain now again fell heavily. The next journey was to Tudenham Hall. On the way to the Hall we passed the sites of an old Roman Camp, and Kits de Campo's Hall, a picturesque Jacobean structure. The members met with a hospitable welcome at Tudenham from Mr. H. F. Harwood and Miss Hitchcock. After the company had partaken of tea, progress was made towards the church, where the Hon. Secretary acted as guide. A paper was read on "The History of Tudenham and its Church," and then a hasty departure was made homewards. The party returning to Ipswich was fortunate enough to escape the terrific storm which burst with full force over the heads of those members who were driving towards Woodbridge.

TUDENHAM ST. MARTIN.

BY V. B. REDSTONE.

When preparations are being made with a view to visiting a locality enquiries are instituted as to its situation and surroundings. From the description given in answer to our enquiries we are able to judge what features will afford us interest, and whether our journey will be one of difficulty or one of ease and comfort. To all who journey it is a matter of importance whether the roads lie up hill or down dale. The scenery of the place is also of much importance to the traveller. It frequently happens that, by careful enquiry into the derivation of the name of a place, all anxieties as to the character of a locality can be set at rest, should there be no other means of affording us information. Such would be the case if we were about to visit Tudenham for the first time. Let us cast aside the fanciful derivation which ascribes the village as the "Home of the Dead," an Esdraelon in fact, and enquire what form or forms of spelling the word received in the days when phonetic spelling was permis-