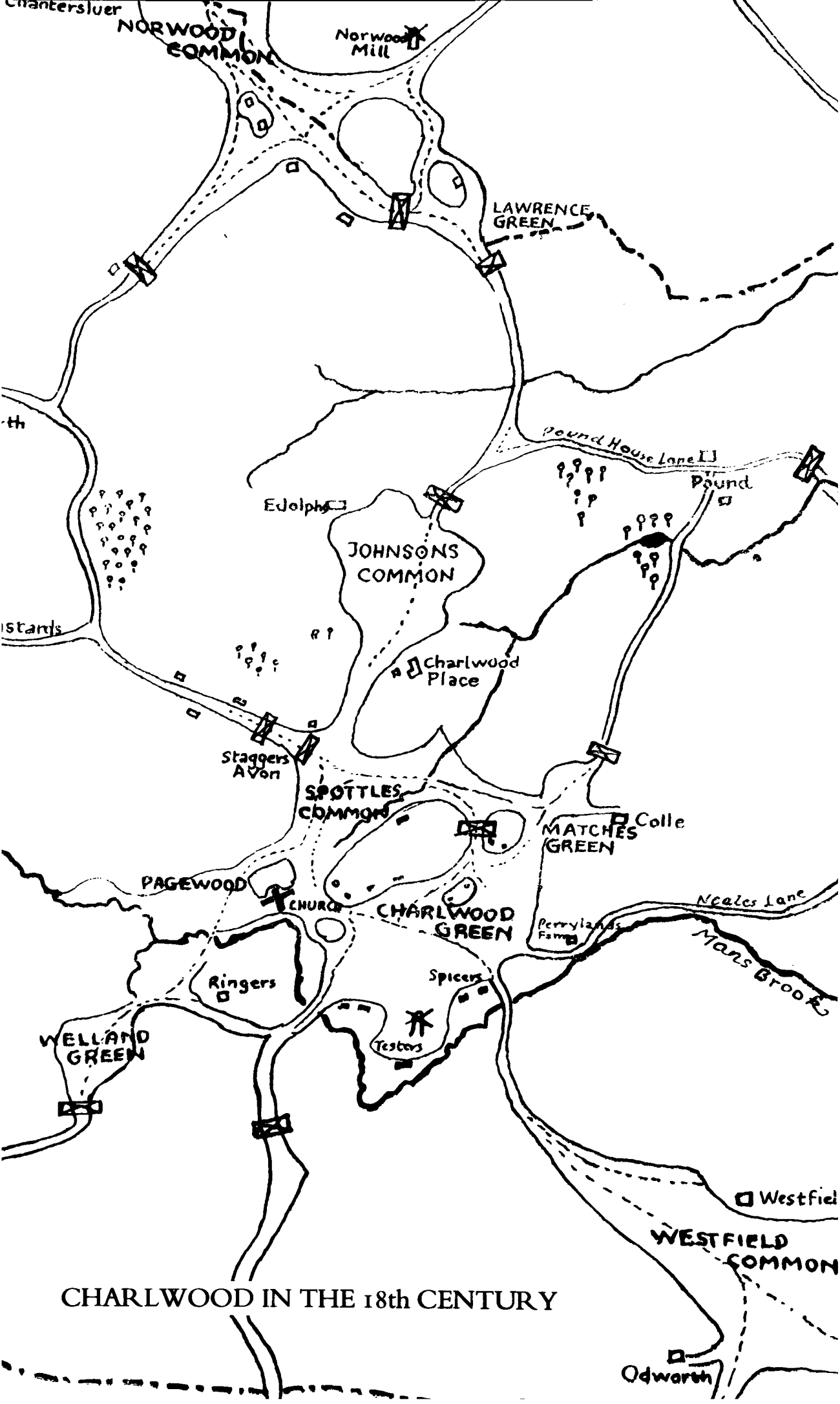


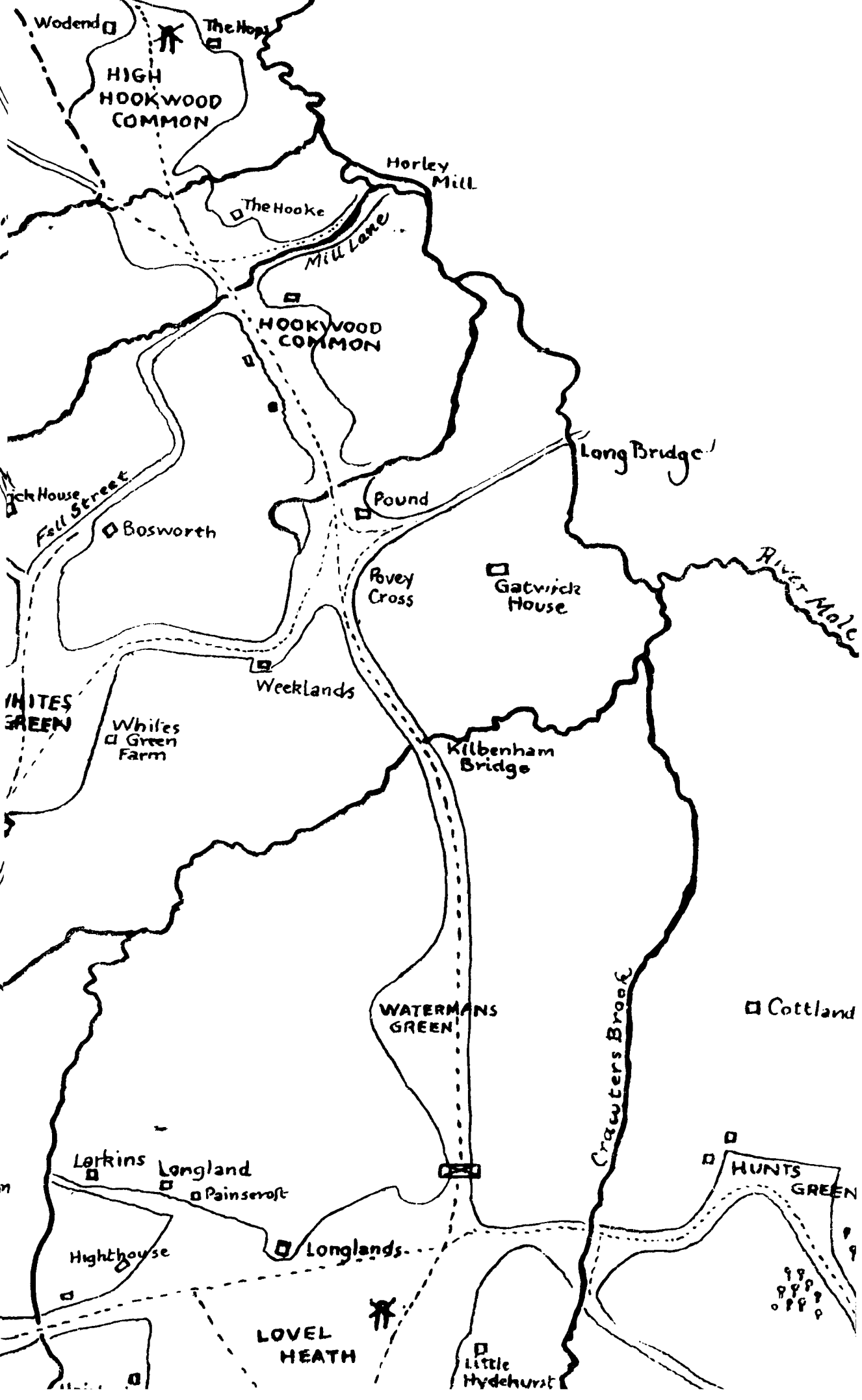
THE  
**FREE MEN OF  
CHARLWOOD**



**NEW EDITION**

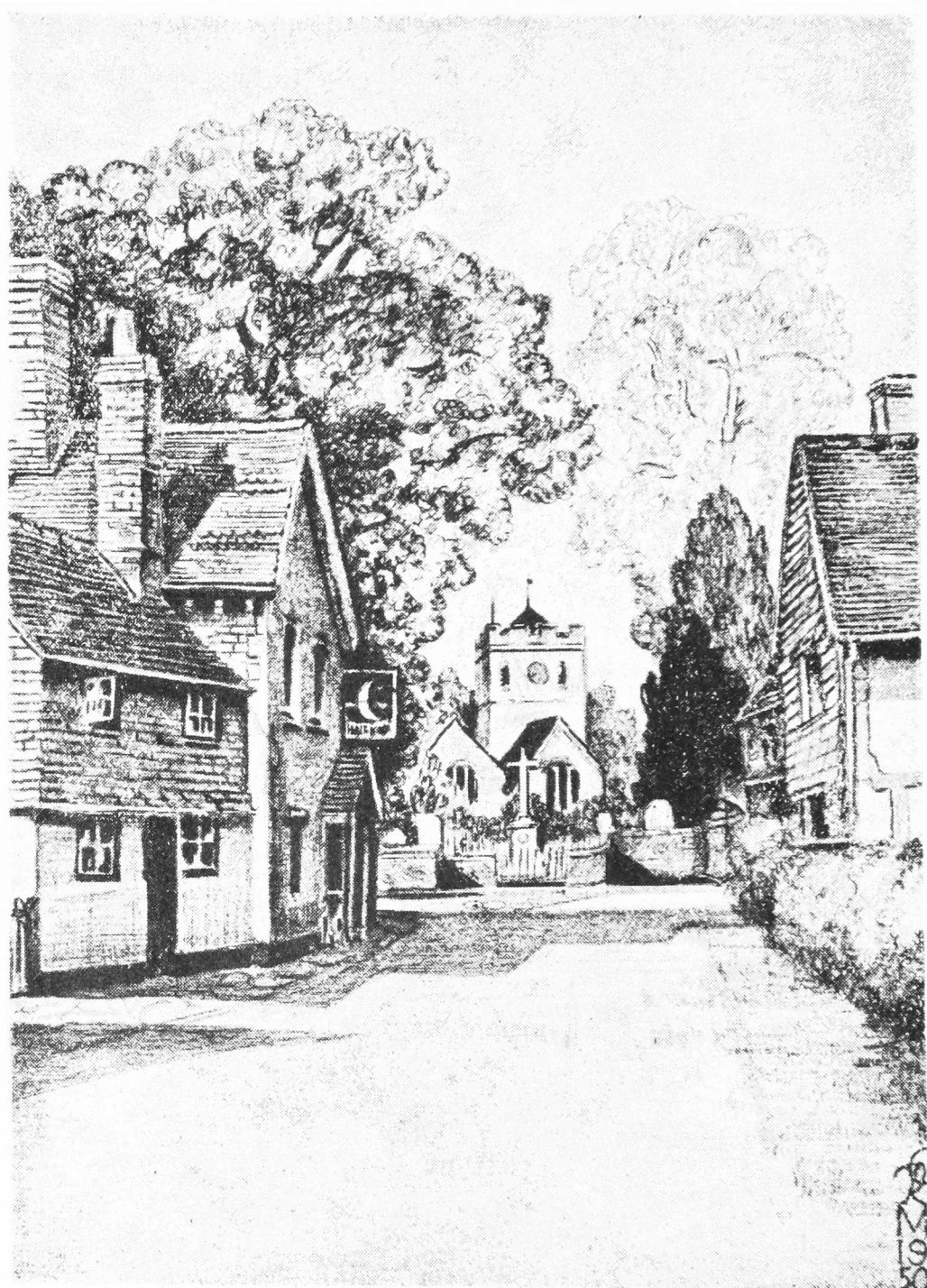


CHARLWOOD IN THE 18th CENTURY





# THE FREE MEN OF CHARLWOOD



THE  
FREE MEN OF  
CHARLWOOD

*by Ruth Sewill & Elisabeth Lane*



1979

*First edition 1951*  
*Reprinted 1968*  
*This edition, with a*  
*postscript by Brendon*  
*Sewill 1980*

*“Lives and Characters are very entertaining. . .  
. . if any think it unseasonable to revive the  
Memory of these Good Men I would desire  
them to consider that there is a great deal of  
Curiosity in the Age we live in, which inclines  
Men of sense and thought to be inquisitive  
into the Notions, the Conduct and Fate, of  
those of a different Stamp from themselves,  
as well as those who stand upon the Square  
with them; that they may have the better  
Understanding of Humane Nature, as well  
as of their own Country, under its several  
different Faces. If others are strangers to such  
a sort of Curiosity, 'tis not in my power to  
help it”.*

EDMUND CALAMY.

*English Society was based not on equality  
but on freedom, freedom of opportunity and  
freedom of personal intercourse.*

TREVELYAN.



# Contents

Prologue	xi
Chapter one Foundations—Prior to 1066	I
Chapter two The Norman Builders 1066–1330	5
Chapter three Early English Landowners 1330–1350	21
Chapter four The Mediaeval Way of Life	28
Chapter five The Chantry Chapel 1480	46
Chapter six Sir Thomas Saunders and the Reformation 1500–1553	51
Chapter seven Sir Thomas Saunders, Landowner and Churchman 1551–1556	64
Chapter eight Elizabethan Times, 1558–1603	77
Chapter nine The Iron Industry 1396–1700	83
Chapter ten The Charities and the Infection 1610–1949	94
Chapter eleven The Jordan Family 1304–1949	103
Chapter twelve A Commonwealth Interlude in a Stuart Century 1603–1703	111
Chapter thirteen Country Life after the Restoration 1660–1720	122
Chapter fourteen In the Days of the Georges 1714–1814	134
Chapter fifteen Victorian Changes 1834–1900	158
Chapter sixteen Charlwood Today 1900–1949	160
Epilogue	177
Appendix A. List of Rectors and Vicars of Charlwood	179
Appendix B. Lay Subsidy, 1593	183
Appendix C. Exchequer Lay Subsidies, Hearth Tax	185
Appendix D. Notes on Charlwood Families	190
Appendix E. Places and Place Names	197
Appendix F. The Manor and the Sub-Manors	209
Appendix G. Authorities	213
Index	



## *Preface*

We should like to express our gratitude for all the help and goodwill which have been given us by unnumbered friends in Charlwood and elsewhere who have borne with fortitude our unending inquisition. We especially wish to thank Mr. C. R. McGregor for his enthusiastic and untiring co-operation, the Rector for allowing us access to the Church documents, the Surrey County Librarian for her help, and Sir John Charrington without whose encouragement this book might never have assumed its present form.

We should also like to acknowledge the kindness shown to "amateurs" by experts of the Surrey Archæological Society, the County Record Office, the Public Record Office and the British Museum who have helped us with many problems with unfailing courtesy and patience. It is as amateurs that we beg indulgence for any deficiencies in matter or manner which the reader may find.

We gladly acknowledge our debt to Ernest Straker from whom, either verbally or from his "Wealden Iron", has come almost all our information on that subject. Finally we would pay tribute to the patience of our husbands, at times sorely tried.

To our fellow members of the Women's Institute we offer this history of one of Surrey's villages in response to their encouragement of the study of England's great past and in admiration for their constant work for the present and the future of rural England.

ELISABETH LANE.  
RUTH SEWILL.



# THE FREE MEN OF CHARLWOOD

## *Prologue*

The pleasant parish of Charlwood, which includes Lowfield Heath, Hookwood and part of Norwood Hill lies on the most southerly edge of the ancient county of Surrey marching with Sussex. It is a large parish having a boundary measuring some twenty-three miles, an estimated population of nearly three thousand and covering six thousand, nine hundred and one acres.

Charlwood is a friendly village, as many newcomers will testify. Even its houses, of every size, shape and age, have a comfortable look as if they were happy together. It is emphatically a village that has grown to meet the changing needs of many generations.

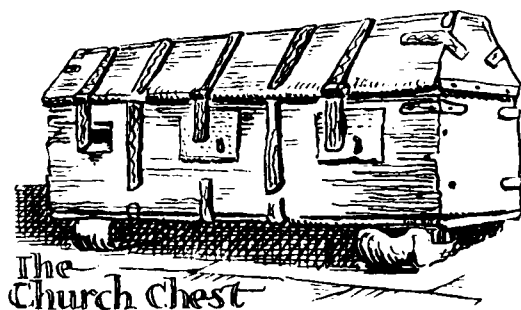
Behind its substantial and prosperous present lies a past preserved in a wealth of records. Through these we have endeavoured to trace the life of Charlwood against the background of English history, and to study its response to the strains and stresses of outside events. We have found a great fascination in the doings of our new friends, their pleasures and troubles, and alas, their occasional lapses from virtue. The events of English history, too, have assumed a new aspect seen, as it were, through their eyes, not as a tale of the past but as a force of the immediate present; a force sometimes violent, always irresistible, altering the very shape of their lives.

Our hope is that the present people of Charlwood and their friends will share our interest in these, their forerunners, and that those who have no intimate knowledge of the village may find here English history in miniature.

The story is traced from the days of the Saxon "ceorls", the freemen who gave the village its name and whose characteristics undoubtedly survive in the sturdy independence of the inhabitants of today; on through the crisis of the Norman

conquest to the long period of gradual growth during the Middle Ages, the village throughout self-supporting and almost entirely responsible for its own affairs, but drawing increasing wealth from the iron in the neighbourhood. The story continues through the collapse of feudalism, and the upheavals of the Reformation which finally separated Charlwood from Merstham and Christchurch, Canterbury, to the period of the Civil Wars and the Restoration. The large number of documents lying in the Charlwood Church chest give a detailed picture of the life of the village in the days of pauperism under the Georges. We finally pass to the more prosaic times of Victorian prosperity with the growing power of centralized authority, and to our own days with their epic struggles and hard-won victories.

Through all these changes one building has dominated the scene. The church, the symbol and shrine of a faith a thousand years older than itself, growing gradually in size, beauty and dignity; the object of the love and care of each succeeding generation from the days of the Conqueror to our own. Older by some twenty-five years than the oldest remaining part of the great priory church at Southwark it had already been standing almost exactly five hundred years when the news of the defeat of the Spanish Armada reached the village. The church in which thanks were given for that deliverance was already of the same size and shape as it was when men knelt there, some four hundred years later, in gratitude to God for deliverance from an even greater threat to freedom.



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*The figures in the text refer to the sources of information given in Appendix G to be found at the end of the book.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### *Foundations - Prior to 1066*

The village of Charlwood is built on the Wealden clay, *Prehistoric Times* formed some hundred million years ago by the mud and silt brought down by the primeval rivers into a vast freshwater lake. This lake extended over what is now Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, the English Channel and part of northern France. Owing to movements of the earth's surface the Weald was twice, at different epochs, submerged under the sea. At those periods when the waters gradually receded what is now the parish of Charlwood became part of an immense marsh. Here roamed many huge animals, some now extinct, including the iguanodon, the elephant and the crocodile. The remains of these are said to have been found in the clay close to Charlwood Church.<sup>92 90</sup> The extinct freshwater snail, *paludina perbeckiensis*, existed in enormous numbers and it was myriads of their tiny shells which formed the Paludina Limestone, or Sussex Marble, of the Norwood Hill ridge of today. This ridge rises to some 357 feet and from it, looking northwards, may be seen parts of one of the oldest tracks in Britain. This runs along the drier ground on the side of the North Downs and along it were carried ingots of tin from Cornwall to the Rutupine Port, now Sandwich. This ancient Way resounded to the tramp of Cæsar's legions and a thousand years later the army of the Conqueror, swinging west, followed the Way as far as Dorking<sup>96</sup>. It has been known for many years as the Pilgrim's Way for, being the highway from west to east, it was thought to have been used by the pilgrims on their way to Canterbury.

Looking to the east and south from the heights of Norwood Hill the Weald stretches away as far as eye can see. The Romans, borrowing an older Celtic name, called this low lying impenetrable forest *Anderida Silva*. The nearest Roman road, Stane Street, comes no closer than the foot of *The Leith Hill*, six miles away. The Saxons simply called this *Saxons*

land of marsh and scrub the “Wyld”, or Wild, meaning woodland. So it was often written up to the 17th century and so it has remained the Weald to the present day.

Charlwood was a Saxon settlement, for the solid stone church must have been built for an established community, and the experts date the building as no later than fourteen years after the Conquest. The first Saxons may have been drawn to the district by the presence of iron ore close to the surface which, combined with an abundance of wood and water, enabled them to forge their primitive tools and weapons.

The name is Saxon; Charlwood, the wood of the ceorls, the freemen who formed the very basis of Anglo-Saxon society.<sup>64</sup> Every man had a value, “wirgild” put upon his head payable to his dependents in case of murder or disablement, and the wirgild of the ceorl was high, 200 shillings.<sup>63</sup> He was “the free necked man” whose long hair floated over a neck that had never bent to a lord, the “weaponed man” bearing spear and sword. These Saxon men have left us a legacy in names of men and places. Edolphs and Sloughterwyk, Flint and Knapp are of Saxon origin. Wellpools may be traced back through Wyggepole to Wicga’s pool, either from the name of a man or, less romantically, from wicgas or earwigs. Close to Wellpools is Puckney Gill and, just over the parish boundary, Pockmires both reminiscent of heathen mythology<sup>64</sup>, while the memory of Nod, the Celtic god of the sun, is retained in Mount Noddy, part of Glovers Wood.

Charlwood, in common with other Saxon communities, would have been enclosed by a “tun”, or palisade and ditch, and surrounded by the “mark” of waste ground. Here, before advancing, the stranger must blow his horn or risk being slain as a foe. Within the tun were the homes and cultivated land of the ceorls and the serfs.<sup>61</sup>

*Primitive Agriculture* The early pattern of the clearings can still be seen in the fields about the village. The early settlers first cleared and cultivated a piece of land, near their homes, large enough for their needs. When this land began to lose fertility they would break a fresh piece until they eventually came back to their

first field which, having lain fallow, had again become productive. As the population grew and more food was needed this system was modified, one half of the land being under cultivation each year while the other half lay fallow. This two field system was in use in Charlwood by 1211, as can be seen from the deed of that date quoted on page 9. Later as the demand for food further increased there developed the three field system whereby two fields were under crops while the third rested. This system remained in use over most of England until the introduction of roots and clover rendered fallowing unnecessary.

While there is later evidence that there was in Charlwood a common mead, a common wood and common grazing on the lord's wastes there is no evidence of strip cultivation under the manorial system at any date. It seems probable, however, that six large fields were cleared at an early date and of this the enduring record of the field boundaries remains.

A careful study of our present hedgerows shows the outline of six large fields each of eighty to one hundred and eighty acres in extent lying to the north, east and south of the church. Between these fields wide droveways radiate from the village. Reference to the plan will show that no sign of the droveways exists beyond a mile and a half, at the most, from the church. It was here that the traveller left the cultivated fields behind and debouched on the wild and uncleared country. There is no trace of ancient field or droveway on the higher land to the north-west of the village where, no doubt, the greater difficulties of clearing the hill-side daunted even those stalwart men of old who tackled what must have been a herculean task.

The names of some of the men who, possibly somewhat later, undertook and achieved this taming of the wild have come down to us with the names of their rudenes or clearings; Godebald of Godbaldesfeldes; Lauke of Laukerudene, Symunde of Symundesrudene and Tournour of Tournoursrudene. In 1312 Alexander Tournour sold land to Walter de Wiggepole who, two years later, transferred it as "land in a field called Tournouresrudene in Cherlewode"

to Walter son of John, late Vicar of Cherlewode.<sup>106</sup> Symondsrudene and Laukerudene are both mentioned in a grant of land dated 1338, William Symond himself being one of the witnesses.<sup>112</sup> Though Godebald is a Saxon name his field or felde is mentioned in a deed as late as 1450.<sup>104</sup>

*The Danes* Charlwood was too close to the Kent and Sussex coasts to have been free from the threat of the Danish invader. The tradition of the utter rout, by the women of Charlwood, of 851 A.D. the remnants of the Danish forces, defeated at Ockley, is still strong in the village. Names such as Sloghterwyk, Barebones and Timberham are quoted to prove the legend. Aubrey writing in 1673 gave a stirring account made the more impressive by his judicious use of capitals. "Within this Parish is a Bridge call'd Kilmanbridge, vulgarly pronounc'd Kilberham Bridge, so called from a great Slaughter committed on the Danish Plunderers by the inhabitants of this county and Sussex, who fell on the Rear of their Forces, and gave them an entire Defeat".<sup>94</sup> Later historians are, however, most sceptical of this story and even Sloghterwyk is now held to be derived from the peaceful sloe rather than from the warlike slaughter of the Danes.<sup>64</sup> Alas for modern accuracy and the shattering of the picturesque!

Among the venerable buildings destroyed by the Danish plunderers was the great Abbey of Chertsey which had been founded in A.D. 666. Nine years after its foundation the Abbey was granted twenty hides, i.e. 2,400 acres, in Merstham which may well have included Charlwood for this manor is known to have been a member of the Manor of Merstham at a slightly later date.<sup>90</sup> This gift was confirmed, 967 A.D. together with Thunderfield, Horley, by King Edgar in 967, just after the Abbey was rebuilt, and again by Edward the Confessor in 1062.<sup>90</sup> By 1086 both the manors of Merstham and Charlwood had come into the possession of Christchurch Priory, Canterbury, and this distant ownership, which lasted until the upheavals of the Reformation nearly 500 years later, undoubtedly gave Charlwood a freedom unknown to many other villages.

At the time of the Conquest we picture Charlwood as an outlying hamlet, part of the Manor of Merstham. Its chief

value to the monks lay in its iron and timber, but there was enough agriculture for the need of the inhabitants, still ceorls.

## CHAPTER TWO

### *The Norman Builders 1066 - 1330*

The men of Charlwood cannot have been ignorant of the expected, but long delayed, invasion by the Normans. The land-fyrd had been out all summer waiting and many had slipped home to their harvests. Later the news of William's landing, less than fifty miles away, on 28th September, and of Harold's return by forced march from York, must have reached the village. From Norwood Hill they may have seen the smoke of fires coming ever nearer as Godstone, Bletchingly, Nutfield and Gatton went up in flames, and the Conqueror's army marched, pillaging and burning, along the ancient Way as far as Dorking.<sup>96</sup>

*The  
Normans*

1066

It is fortunate that William brought over with him, as one of his most trusted advisers, that great and wise churchman, Lanfranc from Pavia. To his influence the early building of Charlwood Church may well be due. As Abbot of Bec, in Normandy, Lanfranc had already shown his qualities as an administrator. He had raised Bec in a few years to the position of the most famous school in Christendom where the traditions of Roman law were studied and taught.<sup>61</sup> As Archbishop of Canterbury, he turned these abilities to the reform and revitalising of the English Church.

In Charlwood by 1080, or thereabouts, a solid stone church was built to a Norman design already familiar in England. The toolmarks of the Saxon workmen who built it may still be seen. Wren's precept of 600 years later that "building ought to have the attribute of the Eternal" is certainly fulfilled in its strength and durability.

*The  
Norman  
Church*  
1080

The ancient yew which still stands in the churchyard may well have been planted at this time for, though the Christian

faith was strong in the builders, the old superstition that the yew would guard and preserve the building still lingered.

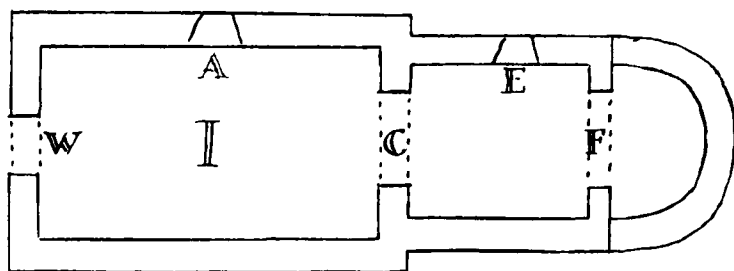


FIG. I  
Church *circa* 1080

The nave(I) measured 37 feet 4 inches by 22 feet 8 inches. At the east end a squat tower, whose height before the later addition is still evident, was carried on two rounded arches of rough Saxon hewn stone. The narrow Norman window, looking from the tower into the nave, may indicate a room in the belfry used by the priest, and would have served as a convenient point of vantage for his clerk. The church was probably thatched; the tower having a pyramid roof as today but without the battlements.<sup>81</sup> Narrow windows, one of which remains high up in the north wall (A), fitted with stone or wooden shutters such as those in the present belfry windows, let in only a modicum of light in spite of wide splaying. Though extreme gloom must have characterised most of the interior, brightness and colour would have come from the cross and vessels on the altar and the vestments of the priest seen through the arch. The altar would have been in the small apse east of the tower, which was later removed to make way for a larger chancel.

*Peculiar of Canterbury* Charlwood, in common with certain other parishes, held a very special position under the Archbishop of Canterbury, a position which it retained until it was transferred to Winchester in 1846.<sup>90</sup> As part of the Deanery of Ewell it was under the Archbishop's peculiar jurisdiction and was known as a "Peculiar" of Canterbury. Though the parishes round Charlwood were in the diocese of Winchester, Charlwood was in no way under that bishop but was answerable direct to the Archbishop.

When the Domesday Survey was taken, twenty years after *Domesday* the Conquest, the Manor of Charlwood was a member of *Survey* the Manor of Merstham. Both these parishes lay in the *1086* Hundred of Cherchefelle (the old name for Reigate), Charlwood to the south, Merstham to the north. The entry in the Domesday Book translated from the Latin, reads:

In Cherchfelle Hundred the same Archbishop (Lanfranc) holds Mershan for the clothing of the monks. In the time of Edward it was assessed at twenty hides. Now for five hides. The land is for eight ploughs. In demesne there are two ploughs; and twenty-one villanes and four bordars with eight ploughs. There is a church; and one mill of thirty pence; and eight serfs; and eight acres of meadow. Wood for twenty-five hogs. In the time of King Edward it was worth eight pounds; and afterwards four pounds; now twelve pounds.

It was usual to assign the proceeds from certain manors to specific purposes and Merstham was one of four manors all assigned for the clothing of the monks. Though a hide was a land measurement of approximately 120 acres, the term was used in the Domesday Survey as a unit of taxation and the drop in value from twenty to five hides and from eight to four pounds reflects the damage done by the invading forces of the Conqueror, though some recovery seems to have been made later. A plough team of eight oxen was, in theory, capable of ploughing 120 acres a year, though they did not always attain to this in practice. The eighteen ploughs therefore represented 2,160 acres of arable land. The 25 hogs refer to the share of the lord of the manor who was entitled to a proportion of the pigs grazed in his woods, usually one in seven. There was therefore woodland enough to keep 175 swine. The serfs were little more than slaves, attached to the soil, while villeins and bordars though not free had a definite standing in the community.

The liberties of all in Surrey were in great danger during *Forest* the following century when Henry II declared the whole of *Laws* Surrey a royal forest. This term forest referred, not to woodland as such but to land outside (Latin "foris") the jurisdiction of the common law and subject to the severe and arbitrary forest laws. The men of Surrey strongly resented this restriction of their liberties. The nobles and gentry

1189 approached Richard Cœur de Lion who, anxious to be off to the Crusades, was prepared to sell anything short of his crown. For 200 marks they were able to purchase the release of the larger part of the county, but found this but a temporary relief. Less than ten years later, King John, repudiating the bargain of his brother, extracted a further 300 marks. The Charter of the Forests of 1217, two years after the Magna Carta, was framed to deal with this grievance. The threat however remained until eventually the Long Parliament of Charles I defined and fixed the limits of the royal forests.<sup>96</sup>

*King John* The men of Charlwood had a further reason to curse the day King John came to the throne. A document still legible, with the word Cherlewude clearly to be read, though written 738 years ago, connects the village with a strange and sombre period brought about by the obstinacy of that evil king. On the death of the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1205, a three-cornered and most violent dispute arose over the right to nominate his successor. The claimants to this right were the King, the Pope and the monks of Canterbury, owners of the Manor of Charlwood. The King refused admittance to the Pope's nominee, Stephen Langton, whereat the Pope lay all England under an Interdict so that, in Green's vivid words, almost "all worship ceased over the length and breadth of the country, the church bells were silent, the dead lay unburied on the ground". King John retaliated by expelling the monks and confiscating all Church lands among which were those of the Canterbury Priory, including Merstham, Cheiham (Cheam) and Cherlewude. A valuation of his newly-acquired lands was ordered by the King. This is dated 1211, and shows the produce of the village together with that of Cheiham at this early date.

*Valuation of Cherlewude* 1211 Translated from the Latin it reads:

Inquisition of the Priory of Canterbury, taken at the king's command before Guy de Chaucell and Simon de Neurs Thursday after the Feast of Easter 12 John.

What and how much Robert de Thurnham received of store of the said Priory when he received the keeping after the death of Roger de Cornhull, to wit what and how much was found in the said Priory in the said inquisition.

Cheiham and Cherlewude.

Ralph de Wytecroft, chief servant, Richard Stote, Reynald de Puteo (of the well) Reynald Ingulf, William de Cherlewude, reeves, and John de la H'lawe and Richard de la Hale, jurors.

They say that there is in the same "vill" of rent of assize yearly £11 12 8½ at 4 terms of the year, and 13 ploughshares at Michaelmas and 14 cocks at Christmas. And Robert de Thurnham found there one mare with a certain foal and 23½ loads of barley of the issue of the grange and 56 quarters of wheat, and 2 coulter and 1 ploughshare. And the keepers of the Manor received within the said term for wood sold 18s. And they say that they have found there by inquisition that he has 2 coulter and 1 ploughshare and 28 acres the half sown with barley, and 32 acres, the half sown with wheat.

At Merstham itself the rent was £8 14s. od. at 5 (*sic*) terms of the year, 10 ploughshares, 2 bullocks, 2 draft oxen, 55 quarters of oats and 2 cartloads of mixed grain. The wood sold for 26s. 8½d. There were 40 acres, the half sown with oats.<sup>100</sup> King John thus owned the Manor of Charlwood, but not for long. Two years after this valuation was taken 1213 the Pope, using the threat of invasion by Philip of France, brought the king to his knees and forced him to restore the stolen lands of the Church. The monks returned to the *Return to  
Canterbury* Priory the same year.

Eighteen years later, when Henry III was on the throne, the Prior, John of Sittingbourne, claiming an ancient right, sought aid from his tenants the freemen of Charlwood, to 1231 clear his debts. The licence translated from the Latin reads as follows:

The Holy Prior of the Trinity at Canterbury has letters of entreaty addressed to his freemen of Mapeham, Charlewood, Bocking and Hathleigh concerning assistance to be given in acquittance of the debts with which he is burdened. Witness the King, at Westminster, 13th April, 1231.<sup>102</sup>

By 1242 the gift of the living of Charlwood was once again *Henry de  
Wengham* in the hands of the king (Henry III), "by reason of the voidance" of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The living was granted by him to "Henry de Wengham, king's clerk of the Church of Cherlwud, with the mandate to Master Simon de Langeton, archdeacon of Canterbury," and brother of the late Archbishop to admit him. Henry de Wengham later received further preferment. At the time of his death he

The Church was Bishop of London and also held the deanery of the Church of St. Martin le Grand.<sup>102</sup>

c. 1280 The small Norman church had been adequate for about two hundred years, but during the reign of Edward I the growing population evidently felt the need for greater space. Being the only substantial building in the village the church

The New South Aisle would be largely used for secular as well as religious purposes. A new aisle the same length as the old nave was built on the south side. (2) Two arches (Q) must have taken the

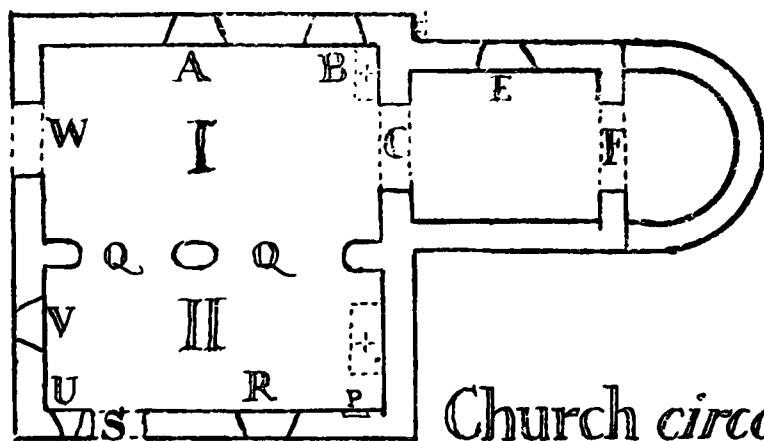
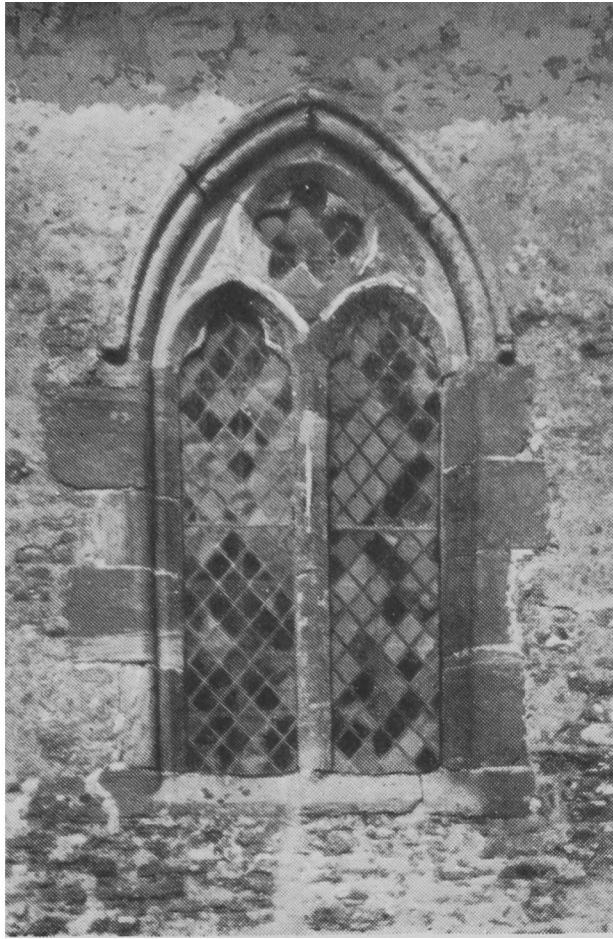


FIG. II  
Church circa 1280

place of the old wall connecting the new with the old but those now standing are of a later date (15th century), their replacement having been perhaps due to some defects in the originals.

The evident desire for more light had also become capable of attainment. The problem of how to admit more light without weakening the structure had been solved by putting two narrow windows side by side under the same arch, thereby also giving, to our great advantage, the chance of increasingly lovely design. The two-light window (R) "a rare example of plate tracery"<sup>37</sup> and two single lancet windows (U & V) of this date remain.

To find glass for these new windows the craftsmen would need to send no further than Chiddingfold where Laurence Vitrearius (Glassman), the first recorded glass maker in



Exterior view of the window (R) of about 1280  
in the south aisle of Charlwood Church  
showing the cinquefoil piercing in the head

Wall-plate.



Detail of Wall Painting (St. Margaret) South Aisle Charlwood Church

England had arrived, probably from Normandy, in 1226. Here he had his "oven hus-field" which is mentioned in a deed of 1280. The glass was greenish, from the iron in the sand, opaque and of a rather rough surface but, even so, an immense improvement on the old open shutters.

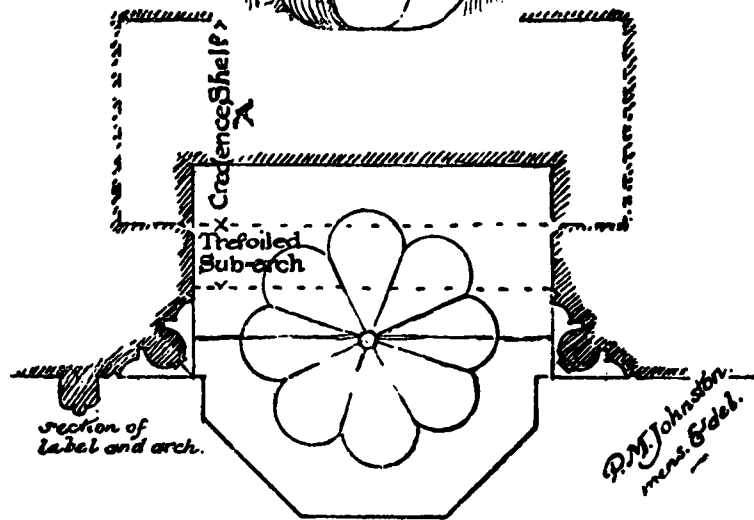
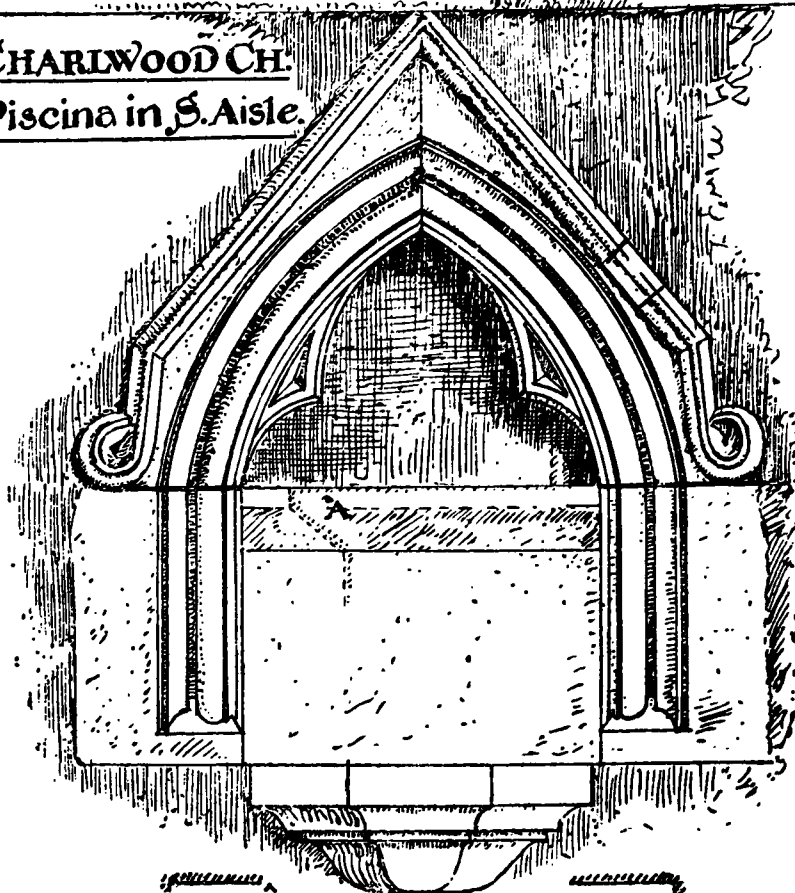
It is easy to imagine the delight of the congregation as the sunlight lit up the aisle from the new wide south window. The light would also fall obliquely on the side altar, newly built, at the east end of this aisle. The exquisite piscina (P) made to receive the water used to cleanse the chalice during Mass, with the credence or shelf on which the sacred vessels stood, is still practically intact. The design is curious and very lovely with "trefoiled head beneath a richly moulded pointed arch enclosed by a straight-sided label."<sup>37</sup>

The arch over the south door and the door itself are original; also one crescent hinge, "a standing illustration of the lasting qualities of charcoal smelted iron".<sup>37</sup> The lower hinge, though of the same design, is probably a replacement, the iron being of a different section and the work more crudely executed.

The roof of this new aisle is also typical of the period, with heavily moulded tie beams, king posts and braces forming a heptagonal shape.

The Church had always been eager to use the natural *Mural* desire for colour as a medium for teaching the unlettered. *Paintings* The added space and light in the church gave great opportunities for decoration and painting. A travelling painter, trained in the scriptoria of the monasteries, would have been hired to paint the freshly plastered walls of the new aisle. In his wallet he would carry with him, not only brushes and pigments, but also scrolls of illustrations of stories from the Gospels and the lives of the saints. From these must be chosen suitable subjects, an important decision calling, no doubt, for much discussion and cogitation. The subject chosen, the painter would set to work to enlarge from his small original. Traces of the lines, horizontal and vertical one foot apart, used for this purpose still remain; a feature unique to Charlwood, whose survival is probably due to the lines having been ruled direct on to the fresh lime plaster instead

CHARLWOOD CH.  
Piscina in S. Aisle.



Plan.



of on to the more usual coat of lime-wash. Roughly outlining his picture he would fill in with his simple colours, vegetable charcoal, red, pink, brown umber, blue, yellow, green and white.<sup>37</sup>

The picture of St. Margaret, in which the guide lines were clearly seen, bears a striking resemblance to the painting of the same legend in Queen Mary's Psalter. How impressive it must have seemed to that early congregation, among whom were the de Gatewykes, the de la Hokes, the de Cherlewodes, the Wygepoles and the Edolfs, as the priest, standing before the new altar, told the story.

The picture shows the little St. Margaret sitting so demurely with her distaff minding the sheep of her Christian foster parents. The pagan governor of Antioch, Olibrius, is out hunting, his hunting seat if not exactly as would be considered correct today, yet filled with ardour, his small mount at full gallop and his greyhound in close pursuit of a hare. Behind him is his huntsman, bow in hand, winding a horn. while in front strides a herald bearing his master's standard emblazoned with his arms, sent to ask the hand of the saint in marriage. St. Margaret

St. Margaret had, however, accepted the Christian faith with her whole heart, and no entreaties or trials could move her from it. It is evident that she refused Olibrius and that his love turned to hatred. In the picture below she is seen, first being cruelly beaten with rods, and then thrown into prison. It is rather delightful to note that the arcading which represents the prison is almost identical in shape with the new window beside which it was painted.

It would appear that St. Margaret suffered even more from Satanic than from human trials. In the next picture she is seen being swallowed by the Devil in the form of a dragon; a dragon painted so black that his vague shape still remains to haunt the walls. Like Jonah before her, she seems to have escaped unhurt, and the outstretched hand of Divine Providence is seen as she bursts from the monster's body.

The picture below on the left is almost effaced, but on the right Olibrius can be seen as he finally orders her decapitation. The huge sword of the executioner remains a symbol

of mediæval justice. A passage from a French preacher, published in 1681, gives this quaint theory which bears on the saint's sad end after so many escapes: "God, who has done innumerable miracles to deliver martyrs from almost every kind of suffering, has hardly ever done them to protect them from the swords of the executioners". He goes on to explain that God wishes to show respect to the justice which He has instituted, and the sword which is her principal instrument, and so "has not willed to hinder its employment even when it is unjust".<sup>11</sup>

Alas for the little Saint! But a bird flying heavenward surely represents her innocent soul about to reach at last a well-merited peace.

*The Three Living and the Three Dead* Both from the subject and style it is likely that the famous picture of the Three Living and the Three Dead was painted at a rather later date than the St. Margaret series. It is taken from an old French mediæval "moralité" "Li trois mors et li trois vifs". The poem relates how three noble youths hunting in a forest are intercepted by three hideous spectres, images of Death from whom they receive a terrific lecture on the vanity of human happiness and grandeur.

In an illuminated MSS. at the British Museum the same subject is shown but with two Kings and a Queen. It is perhaps the queen who cries out so fearfully: "Ich am a fert. Lo whet ich se. Me thinketh hit beth develes thre". The answer comes grimly. "Ich wes wel fair, such sheltou be".<sup>83</sup> For the Church would teach that neither rank nor sex avail in the dreadful hour of death.

This subject is found in churches in various parts of England and was much in use after the Black Death, when indeed death stalked abroad in horrifying guise for all to see. The Charlwood painting is most spirited and it has been said will bear comparison with the famous "Triumph of Death" by the Pisan painter of the mid-14th century, Orcagna. Three princes crowned and mounted, two clearly with hawks on their wrists, ride carefree and gay through the country. The outlines of the three grinning skeletons who meet them still remain clear and menacing though the forms of the Princes are fast disappearing. A cynical thought this, for a modern

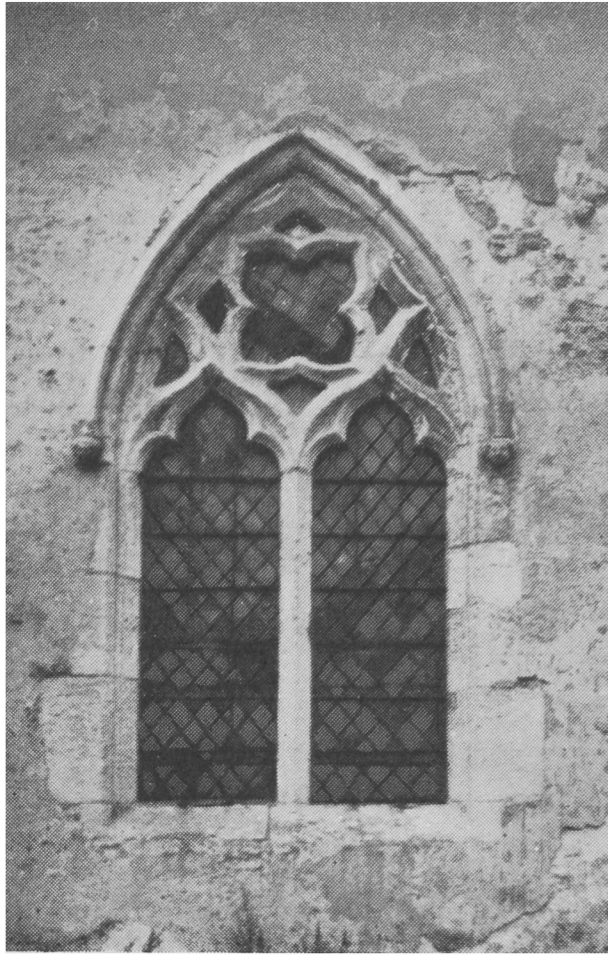
**MURAL  
PAINTINGS**

South aisle Charlwood Church. These illustrations are from drawings made soon after the paintings were uncovered



Detail—  
The Three Living and  
The Three Dead





Exterior view of the window (B) of about 1300 in the north wall of Charlwood Church. The small carved heads may be seen at each end of the drip-stone

churchman. In the original painting the effect was greatly enhanced by the white used as a highlight on the black ribs of these grim figures.

The miraculous resuscitation by St. Nicholas, patron Saint of Charlwood, of three scholars who were cut up and salted for pork was painted above. Part of the pork butcher's wife was visible until lately, but the greater part of the painting was covered during the 14th century by a figure of St. Sebastian. The martyrdom of St. Edmund, of later workmanship probably accounts for the huge legs which break into the design of the Three living and Three dead.<sup>11</sup>

It was during the building of the south aisle, or very shortly after, that Pope Nicholas IV made a grant of "10ths" for six years to Edward I towards the expenses of a crusade. Though this crusade was, in fact, never undertaken the tax was remitted from English Church money normally due to Rome and necessitated the valuation of every parish in the country.

*Taxation  
of Pope  
Nicholas,  
1291*

Charlwood and Newdigate were both valued at twenty marks or £13 6s. 8d. the value of the mark being 13s. 4d. In the King's Book, however, Charlwood is valued at £19 16s. 8d. A note is also made of a pension of 10s. and 6s. 8d. to the Dean of the Peculiar.

The Prior of Christchurch, Canterbury, held the advowson of Charlwood. The rector would keep the great tithes of corn, hay and wool, while the vicar, who held the cure, would receive but the small tithes consisting of one-tenth of the eggs, honey, geese, young stock, etc., which were frequently woefully inadequate.

*Prior and  
Rector*

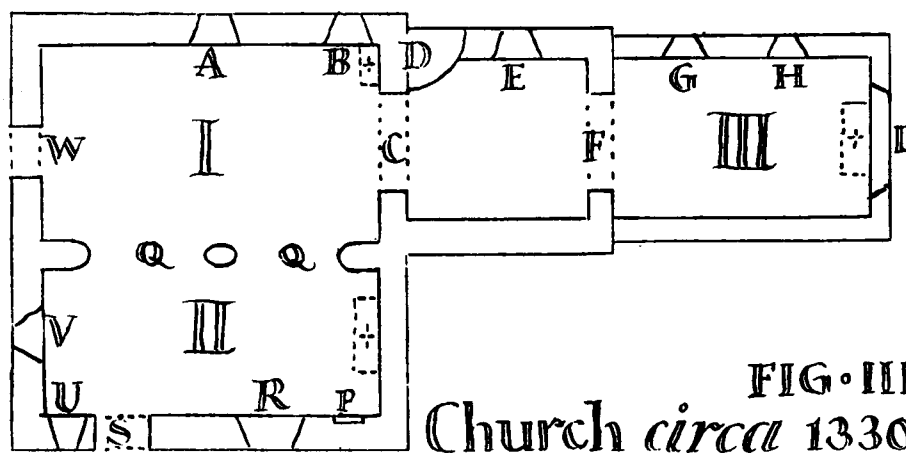
The cost of the building of the south aisle probably fell, in the main, on the parishioners. The money, from whatever source, would have been administered by the churchwardens whose "ancient and honourable office" had originated in connection with the maintenance and repair of the church fabric.

Whatever the cost of the work, building continued into the next century and was, perhaps, a direct result of the greater light in the south aisle. The old nave must have looked dark in comparison with the new and a larger window (B) was

*The  
Church  
c. 1300*

opened to light the side altar whose position is marked by the narrow ledge beside the Norman arch. This very charming two-light window of c. 1300 has a quatrefoil in the head and is set in a tall arched recess of an earlier date reaching below the window to the ground. The outside stonework is most beautiful, the dripstone having two small heads carved at its bases. Glass, at this date, was still readily available at Chiddingfold; the prices being white glass 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., blue 3s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and red 2s. 2d. per ponder of 5 lbs.

c. 1330 The desire for greater dignity in the setting of the High Altar led, somewhat later again, to the removal of the tiny apse and the building of a greatly enlarged chancel (III). The window in the north wall of this chancel (H) is original, that at the east end (I) a 15th century enlargement. The door (G) was in its present position but has since been restored. The cradle form of the roof, completely different from that of the rest of the church, is typical of the period.



Such was the church for the next one hundred and fifty years; a Norman nave with two rounded arches under the tower opening on to a large well-lighted chancel containing the High Altar. The two side altars were in the main body of the church. The south aisle was gay with pictures and had its separate entrance (s) but without the present porch.

Permanent building in the parish was certainly not confined to the church in the 13th and 14th centuries. There is no doubt that many houses still standing today occupy very old sites and that some incorporate parts of the original buildings.

*Rowley*

It is natural that the little hillock of Rowley with its drier ground should have been early chosen as a site for a dwelling place and it is likely that the first building was one large hall of three bays. This was later incorporated into a Tudor house and considerably enlarged and altered by subsequent owners.

Rowley was a sub-manor of the Manor of Charlwood and deeds, now in the Muniment Room at Guildford, relating to Rowley are among the earliest documents still extant connected with Charlwood. From these it appears that, at an early date, Walter Vivasur had married a certain Emma through whom the mill and wood of Trule had descended to her son. *c. 1200*

This first deed, of between 1150 and 1250, judging by the caligraphy, gave possession to William de Wekehurst. Translated from the Latin it reads:

Grant by Walter Vivasur, son of Walter Vavasur to William de Wekehurst of all his rent of the third part of the sixth part of the wood of Trule, to wit 2d. and all the rent of the third part of the sixth part of four acres of meadow which are in the Hydmede to wit 5d. with all the land and rent of the third part of the sixth part of Trule Mill 6d. with all the appurtenances which descended to me from Emma my mother in Cherlewode parish to have and to hold freely and quietly rendering yearly to me and to my heirs one clove. Warranty clause against all men. For which grant William gave half a mark of silver.

Witnesses. Geoffrey son of John de Burstowe, William de Cherlewode, Richard de Holebrook, Nicholas Ailbright, John de Hok, Walter de Hok, John son of John de Gatewik, John de Hale, Nigel Medicus (the Doctor), Herbert Belhost.<sup>112</sup>

The names of many of these witnesses constantly recur on deeds of this period, though one, Nigel the Doctor, does not appear again.

The mill was evidently of importance. It was built on the banks of Crawters Brook, a tributary of the Emel Stream, the old name for the Mole. It was later, in 1429, mentioned in an agreement between Reginald de Cobham of Charl-

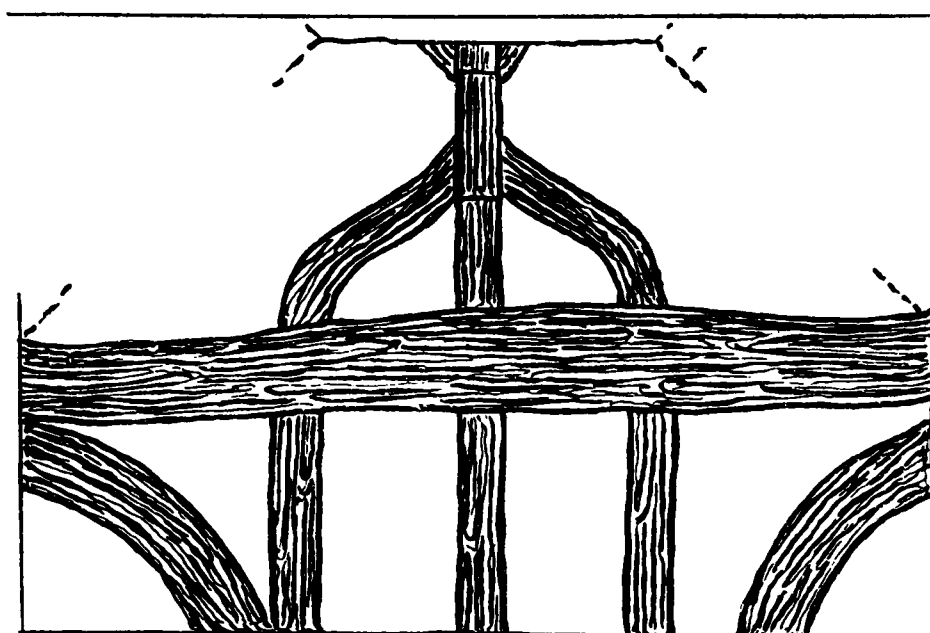
wood and the Abbot of Chertsey who owned the Horley Mill. This agreement concerned the right to repair the banks of the brook "flowing from a mill called Rowle mill".<sup>90</sup>

Rowley was held by the Wakehursts, William, Richard and John, until quite late in the 15th century, when two sisters, co-heiresses Elizabeth and Margaret, married two Culpepper brothers, and the ownership passed to that family.

The early name Trule is most interesting to trace through its many variations until it finally emerges as Rowley. In the earliest of these variations T or Th, an abbreviation of "The" was prefixed, a not unusual custom, producing the form "Trule". In 1310 a deed was signed at Troule granting Richard de Wakeherst an additional four acres to this property. He granted the Manor of Throwle, in 1409, to John Wakehurst and others<sup>112</sup>. After this Rowley passed out of the hands of the Wakehursts but the name continued to develop. In 1429, Rowle; in 1531, Rowlee; in 1611, Roughley; in 1709, Rowleigh; and in 1754, Raileigh;<sup>112</sup> and so finally to Rowley.

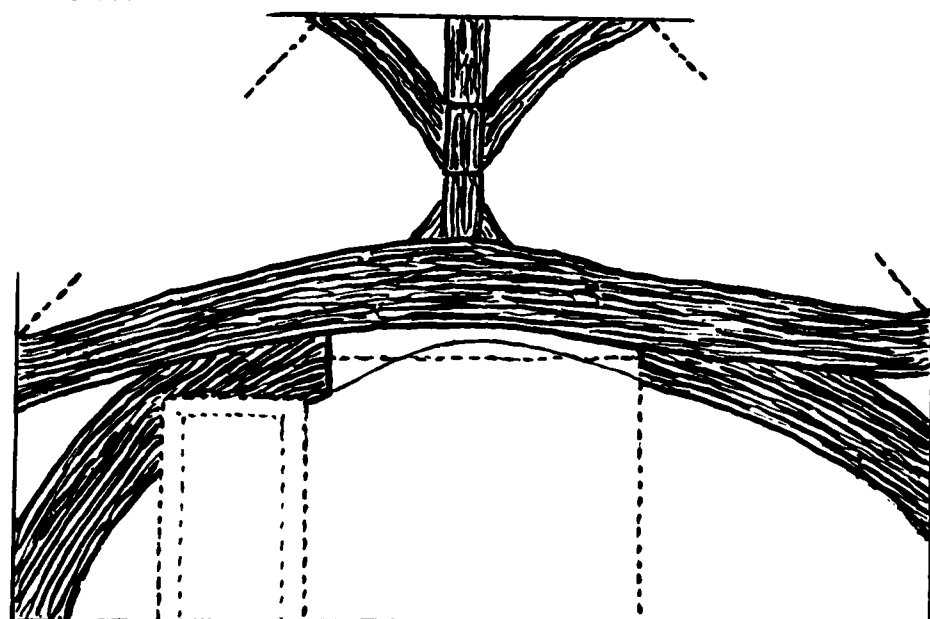
*Hyders* Another house of great antiquity and interest, Hyders, was the home of Richard ate Hyde on the edge of the common of Lowfield Heath. He held it as a tithing in the Manor of  
1263 Banstead as early as 1263, and the family of ate Hyde were to keep possession until Tudor times. Hyders remained in the Manor of Banstead until after 1432. In that year it was one of the nine tithings, with Sidlow Mill and Leigh, to pay Borghsilver to Sir Richard Arundel, Lord of that manor.<sup>38</sup> One room still in use in the present house is without doubt part of the identical hall in which the family and all their retainers lived. The original heavy oak panelling remains at one end and the gigantic oak beams of the same date, arranged in cruck construction for greater strength, carry the weight of the Horsham stone roof. The hall, open to the rafters some twenty feet above, was nineteen feet across, and considerably longer than the present room.

The alteration from hall to a house of many rooms can be clearly traced, adding greatly to the interest. It was, in all probability, in Tudor times that half the hall was removed



BEAMS  
SUPPORTING  
THE ROOF  
OF THE  
ORIGINAL  
HALL

leaving a room thirteen feet four inches long. A floor was inserted eight feet from the ground, thus giving a sleeping apartment above. Some of the boards used in this flooring are as much as twenty inches across. Huge fireplaces, the lower sixteen feet square at the base, were made in the new wall in both rooms. The upper fireplace has above it a beam, eighteen feet nine inches long, the entire



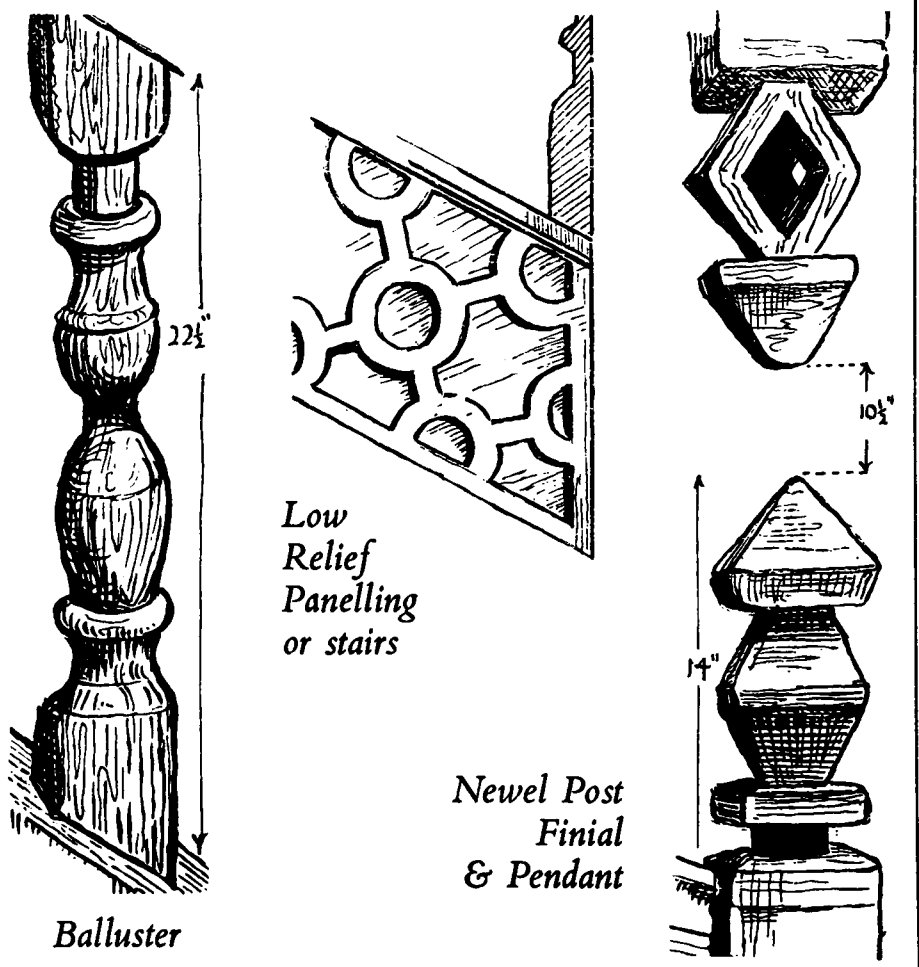
TUDOR  
BEAMS  
OVER THE  
FIREPLACE  
OF THE  
SLEEPING  
APARTMENT

←----- 18'10" -----→

width of the room, with supporting beams in one place seventeen inches across. It is noticeable that the arrangement of the beams at this end of the room is in contrast to the earlier construction.

An entirely new Tudor wing, some of the brickwork measuring three feet six inches thick, was also added. This consisted of two stories and an attic. The upper rooms were approached by the extremely fine hand-tooled staircase, and it is a pleasant theory that the step down into the principal bedrooms was designed to allow the first journeys of the babies born therein to be upwards into the new world awaiting them. More prosaically it prevented the rushes with which the floors were strewn from being kicked down the stairs.

DETAILS  
OF TUDOR  
STAIRCASE  
AT  
HYDERS



One lovely mullioned window with its lead paning and original glass was recently found intact under the plaster and gives an idea of the beauty of Tudor building.

The family and their retainers are not likely to have felt the pinch of cold or hunger for beside two more vast fire-places the house boasted a separate bread oven with a capacity for two hundred loaves at a time; the space large enough to be made into a modern bathroom. The smoke from these great fires was carried off through two Tudor chimneys, one complete with "hidie hole".

In 1401 John Wogherne was accused of removing Horsham slate from the roof of a neighbouring barn and of conveying it to the demesne of the Prior of Merton. This may have been the great barn, built at about this date, which has been joined to the house by the present owner, Mrs. Dyer, using timber from the old White Hart Inn at Reigate. Owing to her careful restoration of the old building, much of its beauty is still to be seen today. This is greatly enhanced by that part of the moat which still remains, a pleasant width of water on the west side of the house.

## CHAPTER THREE

### *Early English Landowners 1330-1350*

By the middle of the 13th century it is possible to obtain a much clearer picture of the inhabitants of Charlwood. The iron and timber in the neighbourhood and the increasing trade in wool would account for the expansion noticeable in the church and also in the records during the next hundred years. Above all, there emerges the growing passion for the possession of land on which riches were spent, and in which indeed, they consisted.

The land itself had become so valuable that new owners were finding it expedient to have written documents to ensure quiet possession for themselves and their heirs; docu-

ments, written in Latin, as befitted the importance of the occasion, and witnessed by men of standing in the parish. John Edolf, Peter Jordan, Richard de Sloterwik, Walter and John de la Hoke, John de Cherlewood and many others. These names are as well known in Charlwood today as they were six hundred years ago, and bear witness to the amazing continuity of English country life. The owners passed away, each in his generation, but the farms or holdings remained always as entities, desired, loved and cared for. Hales Bridge and Mans Brook also carry in their names the record of these men of long ago. Charlwood has, it would seem, a long memory.

*The Exchequer Lay Subsidies, 1332* Many of these early owners paid the tax granted by Parliament to the young king, Edward III, in the year in which he marched against the Scots. This tax, now known as a Lay Subsidy, was levied at the rate of one-fifteenth on moveables and produced from Charlwood 100s. 7d. This term "movables" has never been exactly defined but, in rural districts, it usually meant domestic animals and farm produce. "Treasure, riding horses, bedding, clothes, vessels, tools, geese, capons, hens, bread, wine, beer, cider and all kinds of food provided and ready for use" were exempted in a similar case in 1283. The list of the Villata de Cherlewode is given below rearranged according to the amount of tax paid by each. Among other things, it throws some light on the birth of surnames at a time when, throughout the country, no more than six per cent. were truly hereditary.<sup>75</sup> The greater number of these second names, particularly among the higher taxed, refer to the land on which they lived, such as de Gatewayk and ate Hok. Two are descriptive, le Longe and le Wyte, but others have already lost the preposition and taken the form of the modern surname such as Edolf, Jordan and Payn.

Exchequer K.R. Subsidy Rolls 6 Edward III (1332)  
arranged in order of amount paid.

John de Gatewayk	..	..	..	..	..	11s.	4½d.
Walto ate Hok	..	..	..	..	..	6s.	¾d.
Walto ate Hok inndcu	..	..	..	..	..	2s.	8d.
Will Wygepirde	..	..	..	..	..	5s.	7½d.
Joh ate Bere	..	..	..	..	..	4s.	2½d.

Joh ate Lowe ..	..	..	..	..	4s.	2½d.
Rob ate Burdstokk ..	..	..	..	..	3s.	9½d.
Joh ate Stotfelde ..	..	..	..	..	3s.	7d.
Joh ate Slot'wyk ..	..	..	..	..	3s.	7d.
Felic de Cherlewode ..	..	..	..	..	3s.	6½d.
Walt de Wygepole ..	..	..	..	..	3s.	1½d.
Peter Jordan ..	..	..	..	..	3s.	0d.
Thom le Wyte ..	..	..	..	..	2s.	11½d.
Joh de Wakehurst ..	..	..	..	..	2s.	8d.
Alic Fabr ..	..	..	..	..	2s.	1½d.
Thom ate Hyde ..	..	..	..	..	2s.	1½d.
Will Peyn ..	..	..	..	..	2s.	1½d.
Joh ate Ceste ..	..	..	..	..	2s.	0d.
Joh de Crucheefeld ..	..	..	..	..	2s.	0d.
Will Woghieri ..	..	..	..	..		22½d.
Alic de Stombelhole ..	..	..	..	..		22d.
Thom Ram ..	..	..	..	..		18d.
Rob Huwet ..	..	..	..	..		16d.
Matild Man ..	..	..	..	..		16d.
Will ate Hogge ..	..	..	..	..		16d.
Joh le Walth ..	..	..	..	..		16d.
Ric Landeshete ..	..	..	..	..		16d.
Henr Rolf ..	..	..	..	..		12d.
Alano Godefrey ..	..	..	..	..		12d.
Petr le Longe ..	..	..	..	..		12d.
Joh Edolf ..	..	..	..	..		12d.
Alic ate Lawe ..	..	..	..	..		12d.
Rad Struk ..	..	..	..	..		12d.
Walt Eynolf ..	..	..	..	..		12d.
Io ate Hyde ..	..	..	..	..		12d.
Will Godefray ..	..	..	..	..		8d.
Rob ate Crofte ..	..	..	..	..		8d.
Will Payn ..	..	..	..	..		8d.
Ad. Godefray ..	..	..	..	..		8d.
Will Rob ..	..	..	..	..		8d.
Humfr. ate Crofte ..	..	..	..	..		8d.
Will Boxhurst ..	..	..	..	..		8d.
Ric ate Hole ..	..	..	..	..		3d.
..... ..	..	..	..	..		12d.
..... ..	..	..	..	..		8d.
Rich de Stotwyk ..	..	..	..	..		
Joh ate Hyde ..	..	..	..	..		
Rog le Mose ..	..	..	..	..		

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100s. 7d.

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It will be noticed that these sums do not in fact, add up to the total of 100s. 7d., as given, but to 97s. 2¾d. It may be assumed that the contributions of the last three against which no sum is entered accounted for the deficiency.

*de Gatewyk* Notes on these families will be found in Appendix F. but two names in these Subsidy Rolls are of outstanding interest, *de Gatewyk* and *de Cherlewode*. By 1332 the *de Gatewyk* family had already held land in the parish including the sub-manor of Gatwick, for at least ninety years. As early  
1241 as 1241 John *de Gatewyk* acquired "a messuage, 4 acres of meadow and 18 acres of land (arable) in *Cherlewode*" from Richard *de Warwick*.<sup>90</sup> Four years after this tax was levied Peter *de Gotewyke* was granted by Mabilla, widow of Walter Dawe, "one garden in the parish of *Cherlewode* in length between the land of Richard the Smythe on the north and wood of the lord Prior of Christchurch Canterbury on the south". John *de Wakehurst*, John *de Cherlewode*, Peter Jordan, John Edolf, Walter *de Wiggepole*, Richard *atte Hale* and others acted as witnesses.<sup>6</sup>

By a deed of 1304—an example of a most remarkable survival of family and place names—John *atte Longebrugge* granted to John *de Gatwyk* "for his fealty and sixteen shillings of silver and yearly rent of 16d. . . . his capital messuage and two acres of land near the churchyard at Horley". The deed was signed at Charlwood and two of the witnesses were John Jordan and Walter *de la Hoke*.<sup>91</sup> After 645 years every one of these names remain. We are happy to say that Mr. Ernest Jordan still lives within a stones throw of Long Bridge and the messuage, reputed to be the Six Bells, is still inhabited.

*John de Gatewyk*,  
1329 The John *de Gatewyk*, who paid almost double the tax of any other, was a much-travelled man of affairs. The first mention of his travels is on 10th April, 1329, when "John *de Gatewyk* going on a pilgrimage beyond seas has letters nominating Ralph *de Merewe* his attorney in England for two years". Just that, and no more—but he was evidently back to answer his name in 1332, and does not appear to have left England again until 1337.

Edward III was on the throne. The first round in the struggle with France, which later gave us the victories of Crecy and Poitiers, but dragged on interminably to gain the name of the Hundred Years War, had just begun. Flanders was the King's natural ally. Nine-tenths of our vast export of

wool still went to be worked into cloth on the looms of Ghent and Bruges, and it was above all to Flanders that Edward looked for help against the King of France so immensely richer and more powerful than himself.

In 1337 a great expedition was fitted out, William de Monte Acuto (Montacute) Earl of Salisbury, William de Clynton Earl of Huntingdon, and Henry de Burghersh Bishop of Lincoln, Treasurer of the Exchequer — and in the Bishop's train John de Gatewyk "Going beyond seas on the king's service". Also among the Bishop's followers was another John, son of Ralph de Gatewyk of Stenygg (Stenning) and be it noted among the knights a certain Reginald de Cobham.<sup>102</sup> A hint of romance here in the old parchment of the Patent Rolls. Was it through this connection that Elizabeth daughter and heiress of John de Gatewyk, met and married Thomas de Cobham? It was certainly through this marriage that the de Cobhams acquired the Manor of Gatewyk.<sup>90</sup>

Would that John de Gatewyk had had the pen of a Chaucer to picture this "pilgrimage" some forty-seven years earlier than the famous ride to Canterbury; the vast and lordly company bound, not for Kent, but "to parts beyond the seas for a furtherance of difficult business"<sup>102</sup>, the Bishop with 68 persons in his train alone whose names have come down to us; the ride to the East coast, Lynn being apparently the port of embarkation; the shipping of 400 quarters of wheat "for the sustenance of the envoys and others the king's lieges"; the sailing of the king's galley *La Phelippe* with the two accompanying ships, *La Seinte Mariecogge* and *La Magdalayne*, for which a special licence had been obtained by Thomas and William de Melcheburn of Lynn; and finally the safe arrival in Flanders and the disembarkation of the company.

These emissaries from England were given power to treat with Louis, Count of Flanders, for a marriage between his first born son, and Joan, the king's daughter. The count, proving disappointing as an ally, the king turned to the burghers of Ghent and Bruges, and again wool was in the forefront of the negotiations. On 12th April "further power

was given to treat with the kings confederates and friends for establishing without the realm a staple of wools"—and again in November, 1339, to treat "with the towns of Bruges, Ghent and Ypres . . . for the establishment in Flanders of a staple of wools, hides, and wool fells brought from the king's realm".

Not only wool negotiations, but great loans must have kept the Bishop and his retinue busy, the currency being always "gold florins of Florence"; in January a loan to the king of 300,000 such florins, followed in July by 54,000 from three townsmen of Maline. The loans were not all one way. For aid to be rendered to the king by the Archbishop of Treves he was to receive 61,000 gold florins of Florence before Palm Sunday, and 50,000 before Midsummer, "to be paid him by Vivelin Rufus a Jew of Strasburg".

After so much money had changed hands there is a certain satisfaction in finding in 1340 an assignment to the Bishop himself of £7,300 "for wages and other things due to him since he has been in the king's service in the war". It is to be hoped that John de Gatewyk was duly rewarded for his work and also that the "protection" to his property in England while he was abroad, which had been three times granted by the king<sup>102</sup> had kept Gatwick free from trouble for his wife Joan de Ifield.<sup>90</sup> He was the last of his line to own Gatwick. After his death the Manor passed to his son-in-law, Thomas de Cobham, and remained in the ownership of a branch of this famous family for about 130 years.

*de* Felic de Cherlewode paid 3s. 6½d. in the Exchequer Lay  
*Cherlewode* Subsidies of 1332. This name, de Cherlewode, would have  
 1211 been first given to one on his travels outside the parish. Those responsible to the Prior of Christchurch would have journeyed often to Merstham and even Canterbury, and who more likely to have acquired the name?

Certainly it was a William de Cherlewode who was reeve in 1211 and whose name appears in King John's valuation given on page 9. The following letter, translated from the French, written c. 1332, shows that the recipient had considerable responsibility and perhaps incidentally that human nature was much the same 600 years ago as it is today.

Greeting. Whereas I have orders from the Prior, by way of commission, to cause to be delivered to Master J de H six oaks in our wood called Cherlewode, as material for a mill which he is building, and as I cannot myself possibly make delivery at this time, it is necessary that you should be present in your own person, and that you should deliver to him six trees such as are fit for mill timber, and no others; and that you be careful that no farther damage is done in the said wood by reason of the afore-said six trees. And let the stumps be marked, so that at my next coming I may be able to see what manner of trees these were. Adieu etc."

Was Master J. de H. John de Hoke, and the mill near Hookwood?

Though a certain John de Cherlewode was called in as a witness on nine separate occasions between 1314 and 1386 William would appear to have been the name most favoured by the family. William was reeve in 1211, others are mentioned in 1263 and 1485. Again in 1541 William and Margery Charlewode with others were involved in a very large transaction selling "5 messuages, 200 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood, 20 acres of heath and 40s. rent in Cherlewode Lee and Horle" for £280.<sup>53</sup>

Many of the names of the "villata de Cherlewode" of the Subsidy Rolls of 1332 had died out by the second half of the century and new names were beginning to replace the old. These changes were doubtless in part due to the ravages of the Black Death. This, the most disastrous pestilence ever known in England, came from the East. It appeared first at Weymouth in August, 1348, and swept the country for fifteen months. It was at its height in Surrey in the spring of the following year, and it is estimated that it carried off at least half the population. It attacked not only the towns but also the rural districts. The death rate among the villeins was so high that it left insufficient hands to cultivate the fields under the feudal system. Wages were doubled and, thus tempted, many men gave up their holdings to become highly paid hired labourers, and so, for the first time, there were many landless men.

*The Black  
Death*

1348

An attempt was made to restrict both wages and prices by

*John de Roulegh* the Ordinance of Labourers of 1349 and the Statute of Labourers two years later. Commissions were set up to enforce this legislation to one of which, on 15th March, 1351, were appointed John de Roulegh, or Roulee, and Peter atte Wode, both of Charlwood. These gentlemen unfortunately seized the opportunity to enrich themselves by extorting money from the highly paid labourers and from the traders who sought to profit from the seller's market. This was too much for their fellow Justices, even in an age when might was, to a great extent, right, and they were both removed from office in September of the same year. John de Rowe was accused of sitting alone and without warrant and unjustly oppressing the people. He was also accused of taking fines for his own personal use through the hands of his clerk, John Burcebridge, "which total exceeded the sum of thirty-five pounds and more, to the oppression and grave loss of the whole people of our lord the King, and to the contempt of the King himself . . .". His clerk was fined on the count of taking a bribe from a certain dealer in leather, and John of Rowley was cast into prison.<sup>82</sup>

The shortage of labour caused the price of land to fall until it was almost a drug on the market. With cheaper land and dearer labour many landowners went over to sheep which change necessarily led to the enclosure of the open fields. It was probably at this time that the six great fields about the village were split up into smaller units, for there is no further record of Tournours Rudene, Symonds Rudene nor Lauke Rudene.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### *The Mediaeval Way of Life*

*The Manors* **T**he Parish of Charlwood comprised the greater part of the Manor of Charlwood, the whole of the Manor of the Rectory, and minor offshoots of the manors of Shellwood,

Walton and Banstead. A small part of the Manor of Charlwood was in the parish of Horley. The country had been divided up into manors since before the Norman Conquest. Each manor was a community, practically self-supporting and, in all local affairs, self-governing, with the lord of the manor at the head and under him the steward and the bailiff. The land was worked by the freeholders, the villeins, and the cottars, and they themselves elected a reeve to apportion the work. All except the lord and his steward lived all the year round on their farms. The lord might own several manors, and he would divide his year between them, organising the work and staying at each until its store of surplus produce was consumed; then moving on to the next with his family and servants. The saying that the foot of the master manures the land was as true then as it is today.

Within the manor all men were divided into tithings or groups of nominally ten households, each man being responsible for the good behaviour of the others in his group. From Saxon times every lad on attaining the age of twelve years had been bound to put himself in a tithing. What is more, the tithing was bound to receive him, for an order of 1374 is recorded that "William Jurdan the younger is beyond the assize and that William Jurdan the elder receive him".<sup>113</sup>

The tithing-man and all his tithing were bound to report in person at the Sheriff's Turn and this involved much travelling and loss of time. For the convenience of his tenants many a lord of the manor sought the right, by royal charter, to hold a court, or View of Frankpledge, himself, within the manor.

The manor of Charlwood, being a member of the manor of Merstham until the 16th century, the manorial courts were held there at frequent intervals when the business of the two parishes was dealt with separately. The manor of the Rectory, of which the rector for the time being was the lord, held courts at Charlwood about once a month at irregular intervals, though nominally every three weeks.

By the 13th century the administration of the country was almost entirely in the hands of the manorial courts. There

*The  
Manorial  
Courts*

were two different courts, held usually on the same day, and presided over by the steward of the lord of the manor. The Court Leet or View of Frankpledge was the court of the king, and dealt with public matters such as the election of officers, which in Charlwood consisted of tithing men and an ale-taster; the assize or control of price and standard of bread, meat and ale; debt, trespass and assault; stray animals; the obstruction of highways, the scouring of ditches, and many other matters. The Court Baron dealt with matters concerning the manor only, such as the transference of land and the management of the common woods and wastes.

*The Jury* Large land owners, holding land in many manors, could not attend every court of every manor, and they sometimes by pre-arrangement paid a fine of 4d. or 6d. per annum for relaxing suit of court. More often they just failed to attend, and every court roll contains a list of persons who made default of suit of court and were amerced 2d., 3d. or 4d. each. From those attending, a jury was chosen for the Court Leet, and a Homage for the Court Baron nominally numbering twelve, but in fact sometimes less and frequently considerably more. For instance, in the rolls of 1550 under the heading "12 Jurors there for the lady the Queen" there are no less than 21 names; "To Wit James Edwardes, Constable, Henry Jordayne, John Saunder of Parke, John Wrichte, Christopher Bristowe, Thomas Ellys Senior, Richard Bristowe, Peter Bonwicke, Thomas Thruston, Thomas Atte-wood, Henry Saunder, John Wassheford, Thomas Saleen, John Tyrrey, John Jordayne Junior, Thomas Twyner, Henry Shave, Peter Staplehurst, William Sare, Edward A. Deane and John Horley."<sup>108</sup> The heading "for the lady the Queen" in the fourth year of the reign of Edward VI, and occurring also in four other years, suggests an absent-minded scribe making a copy of the court rolls some years later when Queen Mary was on the throne. The duties of these juries was somewhat curious in that they acted both as jury and prosecutor. The jury presented offences of common knowledge and, all residents being present, no defence was possible. The affeerers, usually two of the jury, then assessed the fine which was a perquisite of the lord of the manor.

It will thus be seen that through the manorial courts the tenants managed their own affairs under the chairmanship of a steward paid by the lord of the manor. The long strips of parchment or paper on which the records of these courts were written, being rolled up when not in use, became known as Court Rolls. Charlwood is fortunate in having between 90 and 100 copies of these Rolls, between the years 1365 and 1834, to give an intimate picture of life in the village. *The Court Rolls*

It is particularly fortunate that the earliest Court Rolls were not destroyed, as were so many others in this part of the country by the followers of Wat Tyler. These rebels from Kent and Surrey marched on London, burning on their way all the manorial records on which they could lay their hands. They were protesting against the conditions under which they, as villeins, held their land, and demanding that instead of having to work in the fields of the lord of the manor they should pay 4d. an acre rent. After much bloodshed, during which the Archbishop of Canterbury was slain, the young king, Richard II, gallantly rode out to meet them and persuaded them to return home with a promise to meet their demands. Parliament, however, refused to ratify this promise, and many hundreds were condemned to death. The rebellion was not entirely fruitless. It showed that the villeins were in no mood to be trifled with, and forced the less considerate landlords to grant their tenants better conditions and to see to it that both sides of the bargain were kept.

There were two very definite sides to the bargain. The lord gave the tenant the security and defence which only a rich and powerful patron could give. The tenant in return for this warranty and the use of the land performed certain services, usually agricultural. These services were very definitely prescribed either in writing or by custom. We have no record of the services expected of a villein in Charlwood, but the following from Huntingdonshire will serve as an example. "From 29th September to the 29th June he must work two days a week, to wit on Monday and Wednesday; and on Friday he must plough with all the beasts of his *Service*

team; but he has a holiday for a fortnight at Christmas and for a week at Easter and at Whitsuntide . . . Between the 29th September and 11th November he must also plough and harrow half an acre for wheat, and for sowing that half acre he must give of his own seed the eighth part of a quarter . . . no more no less: and on account of this seed he is excused one days work. At Christmas time he must make two quarters of malt and for each quarter he is excused one day's work. At Christmas he shall give three hens and a cock or fourpence, and at Easter ten eggs. He must also do six carryings in the year within the county between 29th June and the end of harvest at whatever time the Bailiff shall choose. Or . . . if at harvest time the lord shall have two or three 'boon works' he shall come to them with all the able-bodied members of his family save his wife, so that he must send at least three men to the work. He pays sheriff's aid, hundred penny and ward penny, namely  $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ ". The amount of work demanded a day was strictly limited by custom; for instance timber-felling ceased at noon and the cutting and carrying of three bundles of thorn was one day's work. Should the lord require more work on a working day he must provide dinner and even the menu was laid down in detail.<sup>57</sup>

*The Free and the Unfree* That is an example of the services of a virgater or villein who held a cottage and garden or small field called a close in the village street, a share of the pasturage of the wastes or commons, two oxen and a virgate, yardland or about 30 acres of land. All villeins holding a yardland within the manor did exactly the same amount of service while those holding but half a yardland and owning only one ox did exactly half that service. A cottar, who had his cottage and close in the village street but held less than ten acres of land and no oxen, did proportionately less. A free-holder might have to work in the lord's fields but his service was defined, while that of a villein was not. A free-holder knew, for instance, that he must plough so many acres of the lord's demesne. The villein knew only that he must work so many days for the lord and must do that work to which the bailiff directed him. The villein was not permitted to give his

children freely in marriage. An inquest was taken in 1226 to determine the customs and services of tenants of the manor of Shellwood which included all that part of Charlwood which lies between Edolphs and Chantersluer. The jury found that although a villein could marry a son or a daughter freely within the manor he must have a licence, for which he no doubt had to pay heavily, from the lord if he wished to marry outside the precincts of the manor.<sup>91</sup> It was this lack of personal freedom which was most bitterly resented.

To wrest a living for himself and his family from thirty *Mediæval* acres must have been a hard task. The cattle, sheep and pigs *Agriculture* were but poor lean creatures, incapable of producing much meat. There was little enough food for the humans throughout the winter and less for the beasts, the majority of which had to be slaughtered at Michaelmas and the meat salted down for the winter fare. With few beasts in the byres there was not much manure for the fields and not more than 20 of the 30 acres of a yardland were in cultivation each year, while the other ten lay fallow. On these twenty acres wheat, oats, barley, peas and beans were grown, but here again the varieties available were but low yielding. The villein depended largely on the commons for the summer keep of his beasts and this right was jealously guarded. In 1548 John Washford and Thomas Thorneton of Charlwood were fined 12d. each, a heavy fine, "for putting their sheep and beasts upon the common to the prejudice of the tenants" and in the same year an order was made that "pigs using the common" were to be marked. In the following year it was ordered "that no inhabitant collect acorns in the common woods, under pain of 40d." for the acorns must be left where they fell to feed the pigs. Nor was anyone "to permit any beast to cross the common wood from Michaelmas to All Saints". Each tenant was allowed to graze only a limited number of sheep and cattle on the commons and in 1552 when the wool trade was at its height Robert Burstowe of Crowchfelde, now Crutchfield, was fined 2s. for he "surcharged the common with his sheep, against the custom of the manor", while Richard, Robert and Thomas Wassheforde were ordered to "have a day to keep better custody of

their sheep upon the common".<sup>108</sup> The commons were the lord's wastes, but the tenants looked to the manorial courts to defend their grazing rights.

*Copy-holders* By the second half of the 14th century most tenants in Charlwood were paying a money rent in lieu of services, and so had become copyholders. Nevertheless in 1547 Sir Robert Southwell conveyed to Sir Henry Lechford the manors of Charlwood, Shellwood and Wykeland, "together with the bondmen and their families",<sup>91</sup> and as late as 1606 the lord of the manor of the Rectory, Michael Earle, the rector, "granted out of his hands (concesit extra manus suas) a parcel of waste, late in the occupation of George Brooker, to John Wrighte to hold by rent of two capons every Christmas and one days work in autumn".

*Obstruction of a Right of Way* It is interesting to note the very much higher rent demanded of George Brooker twenty-two years earlier, apparently as a form of fine for enclosing the lord's waste without permission of the court. In 1584 the jury presented that "George Brooker unjustly stopped up and enclosed the common way leading from the dwelling house of one Thomas Sharpe within the jurisdiction of this View to the Parish Church of Charlwood with hedge and ditch, and keeps it so obstructed till now. So that the said Thomas Sharpe and his family and other liege subjects of the lady queen can scarcely get along that way, in evil and pernicious example of other similar delinquents and to the grave damage of the said Thomas and the common nuisance of all liege subjects there and of those dwelling elsewhere. And he has a day to reform the said nuisance before the Feast of the Purification of the blessed virgin Mary next, under pain of forfeiting 10s.". At the Court Baron held on the same day the Homage was charged to inquire whether this waste belonged to this lordship or no. They affirmed that it had done so "from the time when the memory of man knoweth not to the contrary. And that the tenants of the aforesaid Cottage peacefully and quietly and without contradiction, for divers years past, have been accustomed to pay to the then lord of this manor a rent of 6s. 8d. annually for occupation of this cottage and for the lands adjacent and included".<sup>114</sup>

There was plenty of land in Charlwood for all and the enclosure of small portions of the lord's waste, or what we should now call common land, was not strongly opposed unless a right of way was obstructed. Indeed, the lords of manors had been empowered by the Statutes of Merton (1235) and Westminster (1285) to enclose portions of the waste, not needed by their tenants. Although enclosures must have been taking place constantly since then the case of George Brooker is the only recorded objection prior to the 17th century, and here it was not to the enclosure of the common land but to the obstruction of the right of way. The people of Charlwood were quite willing that their neighbours should have small pieces of the common and at times legalised these enclosures publicly. For instance, at the Court Baron of the Manor of Charlwood held there on 14th November, 1552, "all tenants come and agree that Eustace Moone and Katherine, his wife, be granted a parcel of land, parcel of the common called Charlwoode Grene lying opposite their tenement, 16 perches long and 10 wide, to them and the heirs of Katherine at 2d. rent".<sup>108</sup>

The irregular shape of the garden at Edolphs points to its having been enclosed out of Johnsons Common at an early date. An Act of Parliament passed in 1549 legalised these small enclosures. It was entitled "An Acte concerninge the Ymprovement of Comons and Waste Groundes" and permitted the continued occupation of "certain necessarie houses" with three acres or less enclosed from common land "which dothe noe hurt and yet is much comoditie to the owner thereof and to others". Any land over and above the permitted three acres was, however, to be immediately "laid open".

Encroachment on the lord's waste was dealt with by the Court Baron but illegal occupation of land which at this period was taking place all over the country was a matter for the View of Frankpledge. In November, 1387, an inquisition was ordered "to be made between Julian atte Hull and John de Lane, John occupying her land in Cherlewode for seven years to her damage 100s.". In December of the same year and again in January the bailiff was ordered to distrain John

de Lane to answer this plea of trespass, but there is no record of the end of the case.<sup>113</sup>

*Distrain* The right to distrain was freely exercised by the lords of both the manor of Charlwood and the manor of the Rectory. This was the right to seize certain chattels found on the land and to hold them until the owner obeyed the will of the court. The lord could seize these belongings but he could not legally sell them or put them to his own advantage. The frequency of distrains makes one wonder whether the law was always respected or if the lords did not find here an additional source of profit. At every court there were innumerable orders for distrains to be levied for rent, fealty or suit of court even, on occasion, when the defendant was present in court.

An example of this is the case of a field called Le Fronge, the owner of which was constantly distrained for rent from 1421 onwards. On one occasion three hogs were taken, but it was not until eighty-one years later that Richard Saunder attended and acknowledged ownership and did fealty. He contested the rent, refusing to pay more than 1d. per annum, and was so adamant in this that the court was forced to order a distrain though he was present in court.

At this same court the homage presented John Pollard and Juliana, his wife, as holding land called le Mores and two acres in Brodemede, "whom, present in court, it is ordered to distrain for fealty".<sup>114</sup> Fealty was an oath and symbolic act between the tenant and his lord and was supposed to be sworn immediately on taking over a tenancy. The tenant stood, uncovered, with his hand on the gospels, and said, "Hear this my lord: I will bear faith to you for life and member, goods, chattels and earthly worship. So help me God and these holy gospels of God". There seems to have been considerable difficulty in getting all tenants to perform this ceremony and the court of the Manor of the Rectory appears to have had little power to enforce its authority.

*Fealty from the Queen* Stephen Saundre was a particular thorn in their flesh for in 1403, as in the case of le Fronge, of which he was the tenant, it was ordered "to distrain Stephen Saundre and the tenants of the lands late of William Arundell called Colmannesham,

that they be at the next court to do fealty to the lord and other services". The same item appears again and again until in 1422 "the bailiff is in mercy because he did not distrain". This order was again repeated in the four following years, but a shock was in store for the court for in 1502 the homage presented that "Elizabeth, queen of England, holds of the lord a field of seven acres called Colmannesham by rent 8d. per annum. Therefore there must be a discussion with the lord's council as to fealty etc."<sup>114</sup> This Elizabeth, Queen of England, was Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV, wife of Henry VII and mother of Henry VIII. The court had indeed set themselves a poser by demanding that the Queen of England should do fealty to John Millet, the rector of Charlwood! What the lord's council advised is not on record, but ten years later the court was still asserting its right and "the homage say that the Queen of England, Richard and Henry Saunder and Richard Pollard are suitors and make default".

The Queen of England was, by this time, Katharine of Aragon, the first wife of Henry VIII, and it was she who in 1514 granted land in Charlwood for forty years to Sir Richard Carewe whose son, this same year, married the daughter of her Vice-chamberlain. This land was probably the much debated Colmansham which may be identified with the lower half of the present Queens Field. The upper half of this field used to be known as Beggarhouse Field, and it must have been here that the beggarhouse stood which gave its name to Beggarhouse Lane and Beggars Gill.

Sir Richard Carew was distantly connected with the Saunders of Charlwood through Joan Carew who married William Saunders, and whose arms appear on the screen of Charlwood Church. He had been created knight-banneret by Henry VII in 1497, was Sheriff of Surrey in 1501, and later held the important post of Governor of Calais. He died in 1520, leaving his lands in Beddington and Charlwood to his son, Sir Nicholas Carewe. Sir Nicholas became the confidente and inseparable companion of that fickle monarch, Henry VIII. He was in fact so familiar with the young king that he was more than once banished from court on that

*Sir  
Nicholas  
Carew*

account by the Council. Like his father, he was created Lieutenant of Calais Castle, and in 1513 attended the king in his ill-conceived invasion of France. He was Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1518 and 1528, and was Knight of the Shire for Surrey in the Parliament of 1529. He held many offices during his lifetime, including Squire of the King's Body, King's Cypherer or cupbearer, Carver to the King, Master of the Horse and King's Otter Hunter. He was present, attending his king at the meeting with Francis I of France at the magnificent Field of the Cloth of Gold, and here Sir Nicholas Carewe held lists against all comers. He was a successful diplomat and was sent on many an important mission abroad including one to Francis I, later the same year, for which on his return he received £100 for his costs. He tourneyed at the coronation of Anne Boleyn, more from loyalty to his king than as welcome to the new queen, and in 1537 officiated at the christening of the infant Prince Edward, who afterwards became Edward VI. He, with three others of high standing at court, "in aprons and towels took charge of the font".<sup>76</sup>

In this same year the king granted him the manor of Horley but within two years he had fallen from favour. Some said it was due to a quarrel over a game of bowls, but this may be a confusion with a former temporary fall from grace. Fuller tells the story thus: "Tradition in this family reporteth, how King Henry, then at *bowls*, gave this Knight approbrious Language, betwixt *jest* and *earnest*, to which the other returned an Answer more true than discretionary, as more consulting therein his own Animosity than Allegiance. The King, who in this kind would *give* and not *take*, being no *Good Fellow* in tart *Repartees*, was so highly offended thereat, that Sir Nicholas fell from the top of his Favour to the bottom of his Displeasure, and was bruised to Death thereby. This was the true cause of his Execution, though in our Chronicles all is scored on his complying in a plot with Henry, marquess of Exeter, and Henry, Lord Montague". Be this as it may, he was accused of conspiring to put Cardinal Pole on the throne, attainted in 1539, and beheaded on Tower Hill. His lands, confiscated by the crown, were restored to his

son, Sir Francis, in 1554, by Queen Mary, in whose Household he served, but of Colmansham there is no further record.

The lord of the manor drew a certain income from Reliefs *Reliefs and* and Heriots which were both forms of death duty paid to *Heriots* the lord by the heir on inheriting land within the manor. The relief was, in every case of which we have record, one years rent. The heriot was also paid by the heir and took the from of the best beast or chattel to the lord of the manor while the next best went to the parson as a mortuary. Originally, the heriot had been the heregeatu or military apparel, arms and horses lent by the lord to his man and so returnable to the lord on the man's death. In Charlwood, in common with most of Surrey, the heriot was only claimed in the form of livestock, we frequently find the entry "whence there falls to the lord no heriot because he had no animal", or "heriot due but nothing happened to the lord because the aforesaid John had no beast at the time of his death".

The lords of the manor also drew an income from the *Assizes of* assizes of bread, beer and meat which controlled the price *Bread, Beer* and quality of these goods. Any contravention of this control *and Meat* was termed "breaking the assize", and it was on this count that most brewers or alewives of Charlwood were presented. From the number of brewers of beer and bakers of bread so charged, up to as late as 1553, it would appear that they were all presented as a matter of course and paid their fine as a form of licence fee. Occasionally, a more definite charge was added. In 1604 George Brooker, aletaster, presented William Platt for that he "is a common tippler of beer and sells it in stone and other illegal measures and does not send it to the taster before selling as by right he should".<sup>114</sup> In view of this regulation, it is somewhat surprising that the office of aletaster was not more sought after. A common tippler of beer meant one who brewed for public sale and not, as it would today, one who drinks little but too often; a change of meaning which is a sad commentary on human frailty. The butchers were usually accused of taking excessive profit, while the bakers' crime was "breaking the

assize" and occasionally selling underweight. In 1599 John and Elanora Henn were presented for a curious crime, that of baking "spiced cakes" and selling "the same within the precinct of the view, against the form of the law".

The lord of the Manor of the Rectory cannot have made much profit out of his courts for the sum seldom amounted to more than a few shillings, and in 1498 fell as low as 6d. The courts of the Manor of Charlwood were more profitable, amounting in 1552 to £3 10s. 2½d., though it has to be taken into account that by this time Henry VIII had debased the coinage so that the £3 10s. 2½d. would have bought but one-third of what it would have done fifty years earlier.

*Theft* Occasionally crimes of a more serious character had to be dealt with by the Views of Frankpledge. Cases of theft are recorded on three occasions only, all between 1426 and 1510. The first case was "that the wife of Stephen Oddeworth unjustly took one towall value 10d. from the goods of John Lakere", and the last that "John, late of Charlwode, labourer, on 5th October, 1510, at Charlwode, stole 40d. from John Goldyng and 2s. 6d. from William at Wode, and was taken by John Goldyng and the wife of William at Wade (*sic*), and the goods restored as is said".<sup>114</sup>

*Assault* More serious, and more frequent, were the cases of assault; the first in 1374, and the last in 1596. In 1416 two women were concerned for Elicia, wife of John Walleys was presented for making assault on Joan, wife of Peter Walshe. In 1502 "William Lecheford assaulted Thomas Rounde, junior, with a stone and drew blood, against the king's peace". The fines imposed in these two cases are not stated, but when, in 1548, "Richard Sylden and Richard Monger made affray and Richard Sylden drew blood of Richard Monger and Richard Whitinge and John Cottinge likewise and John drew blood of Richard", Richard Sylden and John Cottinge were each fined 8d. and Richard Whitinge 4d. The amount of the fine apparently depending on the amount of blood drawn!

A curious entry dated 1596 tells how Edward Ellis was fined 3s. 4d. for having "made assault on John Banyster and struck him with a staff worth 12s. and drew blood against

the peace". Whether the great value of the staff made the offence the greater one cannot say, but 3s. 4d. was an unusually heavy fine and 12s. was certainly a very high price to put on a staff when the value of a cow was no more than 40s.<sup>114</sup>

The manorial courts discharged their duties without fear or favour. They showed themselves no respecters of persons, for in 1471 they ordered the lord of the manor himself (William Grindell) to amend "the watercourse at le West style next the cemetery of the church of Charlwode" which was "obstructed for want of scouring of the lord's ditch".<sup>114</sup> The courts were much concerned with unscoured ditches and obstructed watercourses up to the middle of the 16th century. In 1374 Andrew Oddeworth was fined 6d. for obstructing "a watercourse in his meadow of Fletemed to the damage of the country" and, what is more, the whole tithing was fined 12d. for "concealment of the same".<sup>113</sup>

The maintenance of the highways and bridges was also enforced by the manorial courts. At this same court William Waleys and John Moton were each amerced 6d. for obstructing "the way next Touersham", and nine years earlier the jury had presented "a broken bridge called Culmundham, which Andrew Coddeworth (Oddeworth), of Cherlewode ought to repair". The bridges were at this time the responsibility of certain persons, probably the owners of the neighbouring land, for in 1396 Thomas atte Hale was fined 3d. for failing to repair the bridge at Olfynthele, and John Jay for a similar default at Lorkynthele.<sup>113</sup> "Thele" was the Old English for a plank bridge and Lorkynthele must have been the precursor of the present small bridge over the Mole, due west of what is now Larkins Farm, which would have led on to Westfield Common and so "to Cherlewode Church". It is interesting to note that there is still a Hales Bridge between Charlwood and Newdigate.

By the 16th century the responsibility for highway and bridge repairs was laid upon the inhabitants of the parish as a whole. In 1549 the View of Frankpledge ordered the inhabitants of Charlwood "to raise and mend the highway in Poke Okes lane under pain of 6s. 8d." and "to repair a

*The  
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the Courts*

*Bridges  
and  
Highways*

certain bridge in Pagewood, pain 40d.". In 1550 they had much repair work thrust upon them. They were reminded that they had not repaired Poke Okes lane; and were ordered to raise the highway and amend the bridge called Kymber-sham (now Timberham) before the next court under pain of 20d.; they were to "have a day to repair newly the bridge at Hookwood called the Stone Bridge", and also "to have a day to raise the highway called Spicersbridge".<sup>108</sup> This beautiful little bridge, of almost circular construction, still spans the Mans Brook a short distance downstream of the modern bridge.

*The King's* In 1386 the king, Richard II, attempted to raise money to  
*Tallage* repel a threatened invasion by the French. The Hundred  
 1386 Years War was dragging on, the Scots threatened our northern borders, the Normans harried our coasts, and all the average countryman knew of the wars was increased and crushing taxation. No wonder "the king's tallage" was greeted with no great enthusiasm in Charlwood. At a court held at Merstham in 1387 it was ordered "that Thomas atte Hale and John Walshe have a law day to discuss the collection of the king's tallage"<sup>113</sup>, but history does not record whether it ever got past the discussion stage or not.

Sixty years later the French Wars were still bleeding the country white. Joan of Arc had been taken prisoner and burnt at the stake, but the French continued to capture town after town, until practically the whole of France was lost to the English.

*The* The country at home was seething with discontent. It was  
*Insurrection,* generally thought that the Duke of Gloucester had been  
 1449 foully murdered on the orders of Suffolk and, in the words of a chronicler of the day, "this began the trouble in the reame of Englonde for the deth of this noble Duke of Gloucestre, and al the communes of the reame began for to murmure for it and were not contente". Riots broke out in many parts of the country which proved to be the fore-runners of the Wars of the Roses.<sup>68</sup>

These insurrections were popular rather than plebeian. They were marked by amazing moderation and orderliness, the rebels, in many cases, being mustered in due form by the

High Constable of the Hundred. Charlwood marched in force led by their own Constable. This orderly band of insurgents marched as a protest against the loss of their rights and freedom brought about by the corruption of the King's favourites, led by the Duke of Suffolk. They demanded his removal from power and the return from exile of the Duke of York. Perhaps, like the followers of Jack Cade, a year later, they said, "We blame not all the lordys ne all tho that is about the Kyngs person, ne all jentyllmen ne yowmen ne all men of lawe, ne all bysshops, ne all prestys". They may have given the same promise, "we wyll not robbe, ne reve, ne steele, but that thes defautes be amendyd, and then we will go home":

Not only the Constable of the Manor of Charlwood, John Jordan of Gatwick, but also Thomas Whyte, who filled the responsible post of High Constable of the Hundred took part. Old Thomas Saunders of Charlwood Place or Saunders Place, is described as a yeoman, while his son, who had married the Carew heiress, is honoured with the title of gentleman in the list of those who were later pardoned. The whole Saunders family were there. William and John and William's son Richard accompanied by many husbandmen, craftsmen and labourers. The entry "Henry Tony, alias Carpenter, carpenter" is interesting in that it shows that surnames were, even at this date, not fixed. Here is Henry, the son of Tony, indiscriminately known both by the name of his father and that of his trade. Many of the other names are those of well established Charlwood families whose names recur frequently in the Court Rolls. Manne, atte Wode, Motte, atte Hyde, Elys, atte Port, Tykerygge, and Broker or Brooker. The full list is as follows:

Thomas Saundre the elder yoman and William Saundre gentilman,  
both of Charlewode,

Thomas Whyte of Charlewode, yoman, one of the constables of  
Reigate Hundred.

John Jurdan, constable of Charlewode, yoman.

John Saundre yoman, Richard Saundre yoman.

William Manne, husbandman.

John Knyght, husbandman.

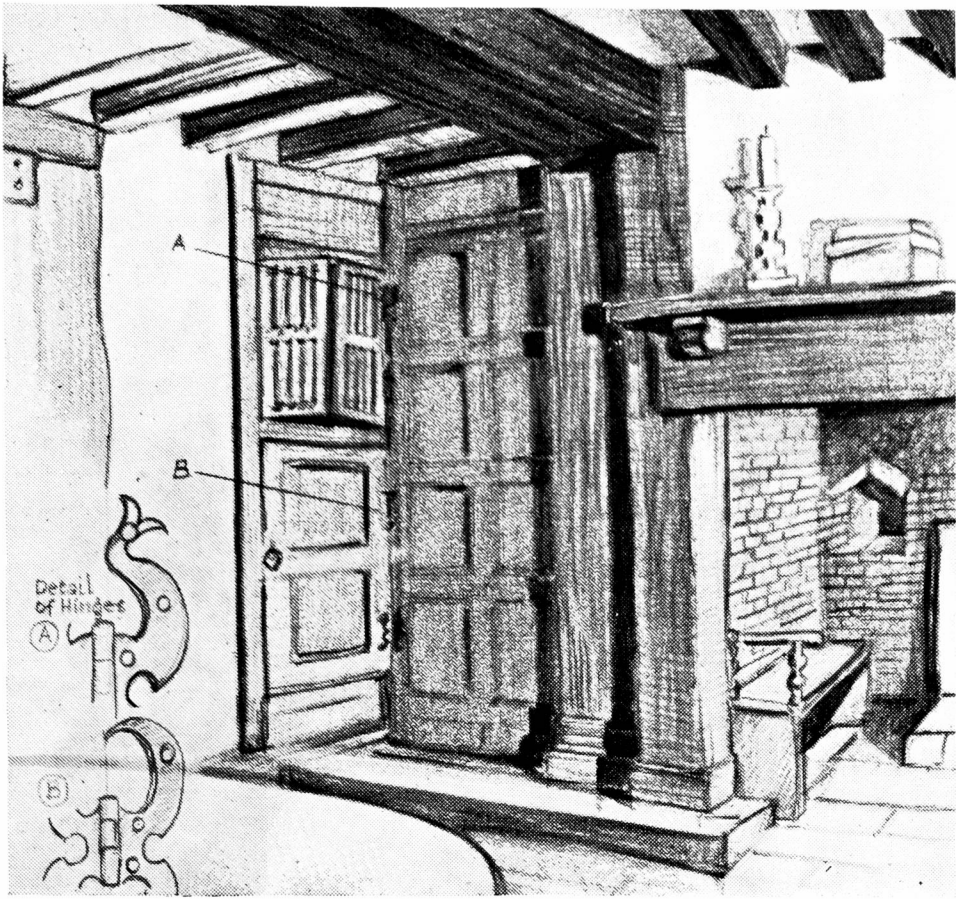
Thomas Mauncell, husbandman.

Thomas atte Wode, laborer.

Simon Knyght, laborer.  
 Henry Mantell, laborer.  
 William Motte, laborer.  
 Richard Wheler, laborer.  
 Henry Tony alias Carpenter, carpenter.  
 John Squyer, husbandman.  
 Thomas Macche, laborer.  
 William Whyte, carpenter.  
 William atte Wode, laborer.  
 Simon atte Wode, laborer.  
 Thomas atte Hyde, husbandman.  
 Stephen Elys, laborer.  
 John atte Porte, laborer.  
 Thomas Tekerygge, husbandman.  
 John Peers, taillour.  
 William Broker.  
     all of Charlewode.

One would so like to know how the men of Charlwood fared, how far they went, and what were their adventures before they returned home to be pardoned "at the request of the Queen" on the 6th July, 1449; in that they "with others in great number in divers places of the realm of their own presumption gathered together against the statutes of the realm to the contempt of the king's estate".<sup>102</sup> This queen was no ordinary woman, but the imperious Margaret of Anjou, married four years before, at the age of fifteen, to Henry VI. Notorious as she is for her vindictive cruelty as leader of the Lancastrian cause in the Wars of the Roses, Charlwood was lucky to find her in a more clement mood.

*The* Three of the names included in the parden for "contempt  
*Ownership* of the King's estate" reappear some forty-five or more years  
*of Gatwick* later in a lawsuit over the possession of Gatwick. The actual  
*in dispute* year is illegible on the original manuscript, but it was during  
*c. 1495* the reign of Henry VII that Joan Cobham brought her suit before the Star Chamber. "In the most lamentablest wyse showeth and complayneth unto your most noble grace your humble and dayly oratrice Johane the wyf of Reynald Cobham" that John Jordan, Richard Sander, Thomas Whyte, John Lechford and Thomas of Cuckfield had "by subtil and crafty meanes" occupied the Manor and taken the profits. The defence put forward by these gentlemen was



Inglenook and cupboards, Edolphs Farmhouse



Spicers Bridge over the Mans Brook

that Reynald, son of John Cobham and late husband of Joan, had sold the manor and "that the bill of complaint of the said Johane is Untrue and fayned" and was made "to trouble and vex the rightful owners".<sup>100</sup>

The Victoria History cautiously states that the result of the suit is not apparent. It is certain, however, that soon after this date the Jordans were in possession of Gatwick and remained in possession for about two hundred and fifty years.

Shortly after this controversy over Gatwick was settled, Rowley, which marched with Gatwick, came into the possession of the Culpepers of Wakehurst. Towards the end of the 15th century two brothers of the ancient Kentish family of Culpeper, Richard and Nicholas, had taken the precaution of marrying the two Wakehurst heiresses. In 1498 they and their wives, Margaret and Elizabeth, were concerned in a vast transfer of land in "Ockeley, Bysshecourt, Roweley, Abymoure, Dorkyng, Hoorne, Burstowe, Goddestone, Charlwode, Craweley and Ifelde" with George Nevill of Burgavenny, Kt.<sup>1</sup>

The elder brother dying without heirs, the Rowley estate was inherited by Richard, the son of Nicholas. It was he who leased to Joan, widow of John Saunder, for the yearly rental of £5, "the manor, gardens, and lands called Rowlee in Charlewode parish, except trees, as oaks, elms and beeches, fishing, fowling, hawking and hunting for a term of twenty years".<sup>112</sup> Ten years after this date his kinswoman, Catherine Howard, grand-daughter of Sir Richard Culpeper raised the family to the summit of its ambition by her marriage with Henry VIII as his fifth wife. The triumph was shortlived—no more than 18 months later she was accused of an illicit affair with her young cousin, Thomas, also a Culpeper. They were both condemned to death, and she followed her cousin, Anne Boleyn, to the block before her nineteenth birthday.

Though John Culpeper, "Lord of Wakehurst", son of Richard was fined for non-attendance at each Court of Henry Lechford, the family held their own Courts Baron at "Roughley". Later records of seven of these, between 1607

and 1635, remain. The list of defaulters in 1611 includes two names of famous iron masters, William Bowyer and John Kirrell or Caryll. There is no doubt that the Culpepers also were prospering greatly in this trade, buying Tilgate Forge in 1566.

In 1648, Sir William Culpeper, grandson of John, created baronet by Charles I, sold the property to Thomas Luxford. Royalist fortunes were on the wane, and it would appear that the new owner was in greater favour with the Puritans, being appointed "High Shreeve" of Sussex the following year.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### *The Chantry Chapel 1480*

*The Richard Saunder mentioned in the law suit of Joan Cobham came of the family who probably had more influence on the life of the village than any other.*

Our first introduction, through the Court Rolls to Stephen, who refused to do fealty to the lord of the manor of the Rectory, seems to show a certain persistence or even obstinacy, which may have accounted for the noticeable rise in the family fortunes during the 15th and 16th centuries. The family came from Sanderstead, and a branch was living in Charlwood early in the 14th century. In 1314 William Saundre was of sufficient importance to be called upon to witness a deed between Walter son of John, former vicar of Cherlewode Church, and Walter de Wyggepole.<sup>106</sup>

The name of Stephen's son Thomas appears several times in the records of the Manorial Courts, but it was Stephen's grandson, William Saunder, "gentilman" who took part in the insurrection of 1449, who clearly married money. His wife, Joan Carew, was a member of the well-known family which had held the manor of Beddington since 1360. She inherited her grandfather's estate at Sanderstead in 1432<sup>90</sup> and her arms, "Or three lions passant sable" are to be seen

impaled with the three Sanders bulls on the carving above the screen in Charlwood church.

Both in 1446 and 1450 William Saunders and his father were buying land, which included Sloghterwyk<sup>105</sup> and land in Godbaldesfeldes in Cherlewode.<sup>104</sup> Ten years after this "a shop in Charlewode" passed from Margaret Taylour, widow, to William Saundre.<sup>105</sup>

Aubrey mentions a brass, then no longer in existence, but once in the south aisle of Charlwood church on which prayers were asked for "Willielmi Sander Generosi", and the date of his death given as 1481, and that of his wife, Joan, as 1470.<sup>11</sup>

Now comes a hint of tragedy which may well have had a bearing on the building of the Saunder Chapel. William's eldest son had migrated to Banbury, but Richard, his second son, remained in Charlwood. He married Agnes Courtney, and by her had three children. How old was he when he died a year before his father?<sup>94</sup> Certainly a young man in the prime of life. Nicholas, his eldest son, can have been no more than a boy at the time of his father's death, for he was alive seventy-three years later.

It seems evident that it was grief, for Richard's death followed so soon by that of his father and a fervent desire for especial prayers for the repose of their souls that led to the building of the beautiful Saunders Chapel by his widow, Agnes, who herself died but five years later on January 7th, 1485.

*The  
Saunders  
Chapel,  
1480*

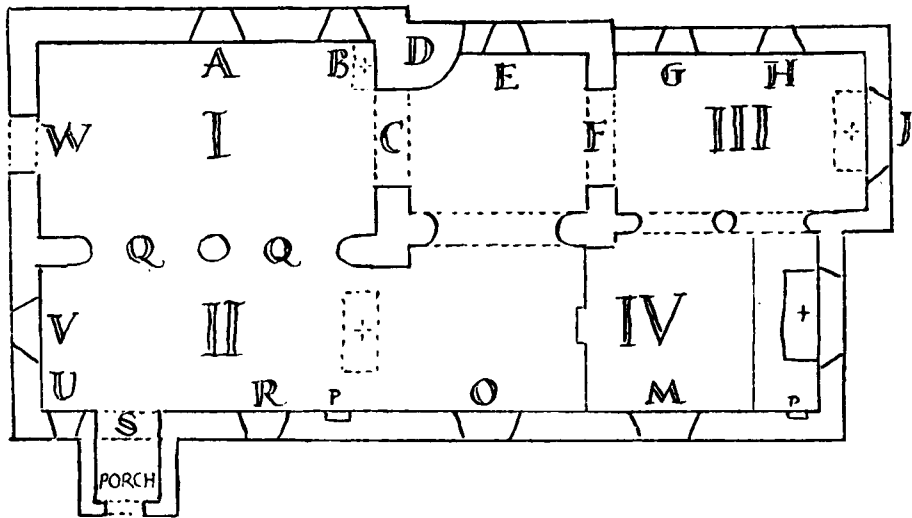
This addition to the church, now used as the chancel, was built as a chantry chapel where a chantry, or mass for the repose of the souls of the departed, could be constantly recited, and where, also, an "Obyte" could be sung on the anniversaries of their deaths; a clear indication of the religious belief of the time. Payment was made to the parish priest who was responsible for the due observance of the rite and was required to distribute alms to the poor out of the payment received.

In the days of the Reformation, a survey of "all Chauntreys, Frechappelles, Fraternyties" with the "yerely valewes condicion and state of the same" was made. This report

includes "Charlewode. Obytes usede and maynteyned within the parisshe of Charlewode with yerely revenues gyvenne to that use for ever, which are worth in rente by yere xv shillings, where of to the pore iiii shillings, and so remaineth clere xi shillings".<sup>25</sup>

It seems likely that the money for the Saunders Chantry came from the rent of Chantersluer Farm, for in a rental of 1501 it is described as "land for which Roger (Richard?) Saunder paid 3s. 1d. per Chauntersselver". It was also spelt Chauntersylver, that is money for the upkeep of a Chantry.<sup>64</sup>

The Chapel (iv) was built directly on to the east end of the aisle, to the south of the old chancel, the wall of which was replaced by two arches. These arches were restored during the bad architectural period of the 18th century, and it is,



**Fig. IV Church circa 1480**

alas, this reconstruction which remains. The two windows (O & M), one below and one above the screen, are identical. It is likely that the east window of the chancel (I) was also enlarged when the chapel was built.

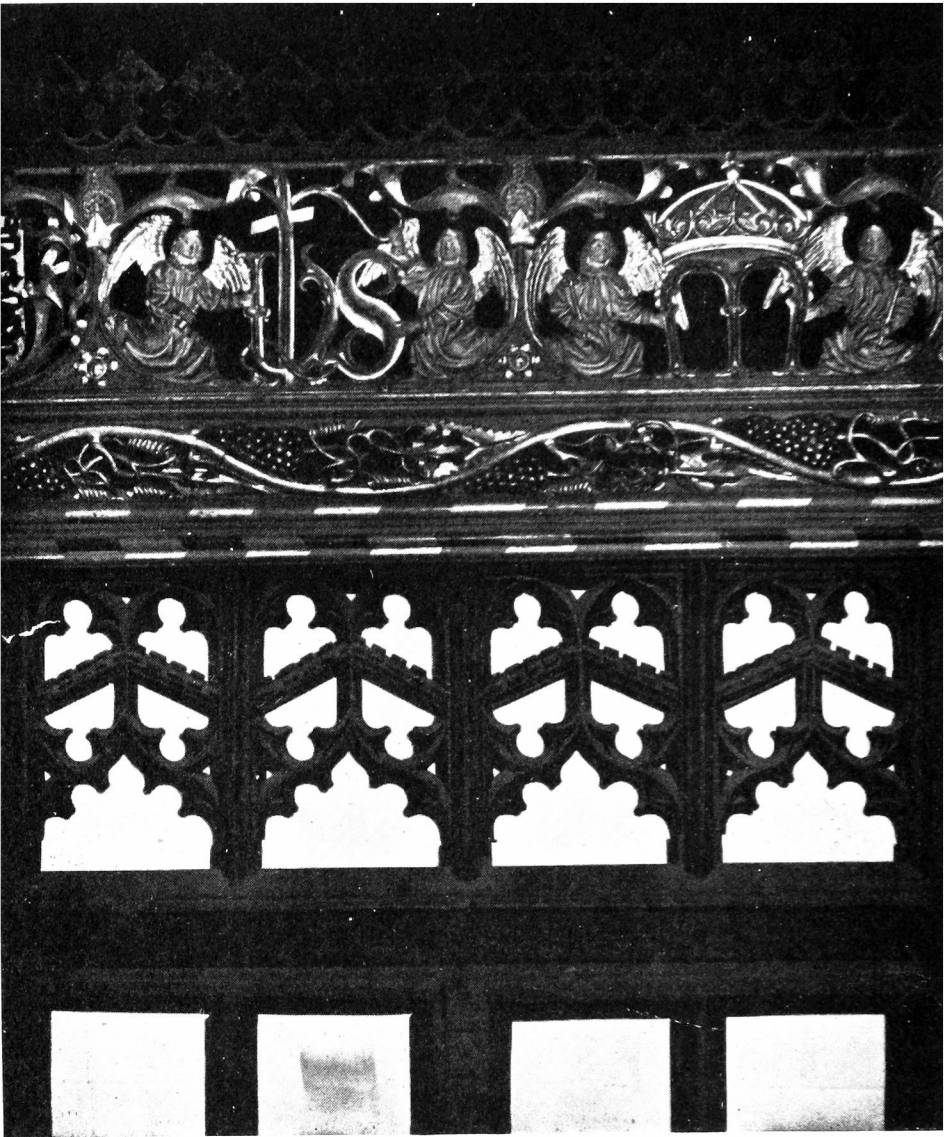
There may have been some difficulty in procuring coloured glass for these new windows for the glass makers of this period were overwhelmed with orders. Coloured glass was mainly imported from the Continent in lump form. Much



Rowley, the original hall of three bays was incorporated into a Tudor house, which has been considerably enlarged by subsequent owners (pp. 17-18)



Charlwood Place, the earlier house was destroyed during the Civil Wars or soon after, the main part being rebuilt before 1716. The illustration is taken from a water colour drawing by J. Hassell dated 1823 now in the Manet Library Collection (see pp. 66, 67)



The central portion of the parcloze screen in Charlwood Church showing the top of the doors. The vine tracery with the tiny shield bearing an R.S., part of the original screen, can be seen below the gesso work which, while of the same date, was probably incorporated later.

local greenish white glass was used, and this was often painted. A typical example of this painted glass is the figure of the Archangel Gabriel, now in the window over the West door. It was probably part of an Annunciation scene, and is composed of three pieces of glass only, the joints of which take no account of the figure. The glass, made at the "glass houses", and afterwards painted, was brought to the villages by travelling packmen, who were specially exempted from the act which made all other pedlars liable to arrest as vagrants. It was probably one of these glass pedlars who is mentioned in the Parish Register 141 years later, "Elizabeth Even a child the daughter of a glasse-man travailing by the way, was buried".

The parcloze screen, with doors, gave the Chantry Chapel *The Screen* added privacy. The design of this screen, the chief glory of Charlwood church, is illustrated opposite, but no photograph can do justice to the delicate richness and lovely colouring of the cornice, unequalled in beauty anywhere in Surrey.

The monogram of Our Lord, I.H.S., and the crowned M of the Virgin Mary are both supported by angels. On either side are the Saunder and Carew arms and R.S. repeated twice, each letter held aloft by griffins. All these moulded in gesso, richly gilded and painted, stand out in high relief against the background of dark wood. Below this a delicate vine trail, also in gesso and painted but in a more restrained style, has the same initials, R.S., on a tiny shield incorporated in the design, by a strap complete with buckle and tongue which circles the branch.

On careful examination it would seem that this lovely cornice cannot have been designed for its present position. It is not exactly central to the screen, and furthermore is in three pieces, each piece six feet long with plain undecorated ends. Its style is more florid, possibly of a more Flemish character, than the vine and the rest of the screen. This cornice may well have been round the top of the Saunder's box pew, (which pew is mentioned in Sir Thomas' will of 1563) and transferred to the top of the screen at a considerably later date. Aubrey, writing in 1718, describes the Decalogue, Lord's Prayer and Creed, in "gold letters" over the screen,

but says nothing of the Saunder's Arms. They were, however, in their present position in 1808 when Manning and Bray were writing.

*The Porch,* It is noticeable how beautifully the roof of the new chapel was made to match that of the south aisle built some two hundred years earlier. Other additions at this time were a new west door to the nave, with the present large window over, and a porch added outside the south door. The porch was a most important adjunct in Mediæval times, and many rites both religious and secular took place under its roof just outside the church proper. Here it was that the ring was placed on the bride's finger during the marriage service, and here also the churcing of women took place and the baptismal service began. In the porch penitents received absolution before entering the church, and those having broken the marriage vows stood wrapped in a white sheet. Civil business was carried out here too, coroners held their courts, and legacies were paid such as Michael Earle's gift to the poor. The stoup, which contained the Holy Water, consecrated every Sunday and used by all entering the church to make the sign of the cross, still remains, though badly damaged, perhaps in the time of the Commonwealth.

The year of the completion of the Chapel must have seen Charlwood church at the moment of its greatest beauty, the pictures still gay on the walls, the five large perpendicular windows filled with beautiful glass, those on the south wall allowing a flood of mid-day sunshine through the Chapel into the chancel itself. There was a feeling, too, of space and height, throughout the whole church, the bases of the pillars visible as they rose from the darker floor; a feeling denied to us today, our view blocked by the heavy organ and the panelling and by the solid pews and choir stalls.

On each side of the High Altar were niches, painted in gay colours of red and blue, in which stood statues, and on the altar itself the cross was flanked by a pair of great brass candlesticks. Two altar cloths of silk, one blue and one green and white, were changed with the season.

A vivid picture of the brilliant colours of the robes worn at the celebration of the Mass in Charlwood is found in the

inventory taken in 1553. In addition to three surplices the vestments consisted of five copes; two of blue, and one each of white, red and green, all silk or satin, and other vestments of white and pied silk. A further cope and vestments of black worsted were for use in Lent. It is more than likely that all these were in use in the early days of the Chapel, and indeed that several were given by the Saunders family at the dedication. They would have been worn by the rectors William Grindell (1471), John Millet (1502), and Philip Mesurer (1535) or their vicars in turn.

## CHAPTER SIX

### *Sir Thomas Saunders and the Reformation* 1500 - 1553

Nicholas Saunder inherited Charlwood Place as a boy, owing to the early death of his father Richard. The house, also known as Sanders Place, stood on the same site, to the north of the village, as the present house.

During his long tenure of 73 years from 1480 to 1553, England passed from mediæval thought and outlook to new problems, new learning, new ideas on finance and charity, and the discovery of new lands. However, he himself would have appeared to have led a quiet and uneventful life. He married Alys Hungate of Yorkshire, and in 1513 bought another house and 55 acres in Charlwood. He remains, however chiefly notable as the father of his more famous son.

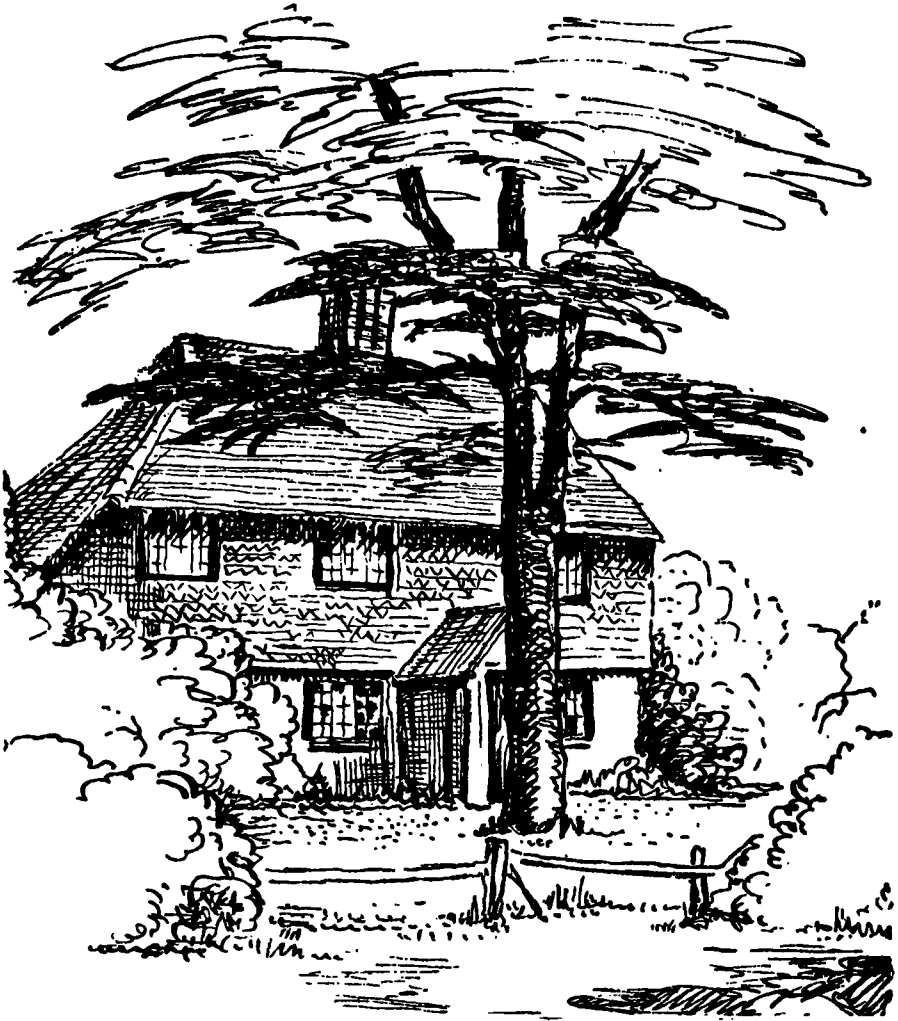
This son Thomas, was, in all probability, born at Charlwood Place rather before 1500, and would therefore have been a few years younger than his future master, Henry VIII. His life spans the whole troublous period of the Reformation, and there is no doubt that it was greatly affected by the violent changes of outlook that took place. He was, however, from first to last, a servant of the crown; whether it was his first master, Henry VIII, the Protestant *Sir Thomas Saunders*

Edward, the Roman Mary, or his last mistress, Elizabeth, who wore that crown, it is certain that his allegiance never wavered. His background was the climax of the age-long struggle in the Church between the idealism of the reformers and the fear and horror of change of the conservative churchmen. Behind this struggle lay the centuries old fight against papal power and pretensions, and in the foreground the greed for the immense wealth of the Church; a greed sharpened by the newly-awakened "profit" as contrasted with the "subsistence" outlook. This was made the more urgent by the soaring prices, a direct result of the debasing of the coinage.

It must be remembered, however, that during the whole of Sir Thomas' lifetime, from perhaps just before 1500 to 1566, there was no attack on the Christian religion as such. Sir Thomas died, as he had lived, devoted to his parish church in spite of the complete change that had taken place in its services.

He was certainly well educated. In his will he leaves "my books of Lawe and my bookes of humanitie and Stories in Latten or frenche" to be "divided amongst my three sons". The law was his career, and this in the "exciting litigious and rapacious times of Henry VIII when lawyers with an adventurous turn had unusual opportunities to serve the government".<sup>58</sup> It led, in his case, to great advancement at Court and he evidently made money. In 1539 he bought the considerable estate of Flanchford, Hartswood and Buckland from Anne, widow of Reginald Cobham of Bletchingly, a member of the family which had previously owned Gatwick.<sup>91</sup>

*Solicitor to the Queen,* 1540 By 1540 Thomas Saunders had made his name as a lawyer, but what a tragedy it was that the Queen to whom he was appointed "solicitor", on the day before her marriage with Henry, should have been the very plain Anne of Cleves. Such was the king's disgust at her appearance that by July he had forced on a divorce and she had retired from Court. Bletchingly was given her as part of her dower—and it was here that Sir Thomas Cawarden, later on many Commissions with Sir Thomas Saunders, became her Bailiff, and



LARKINS (Lorkyns) FARM



Keeper of the Forest. Nevertheless, it was possibly this post of solicitor in the Queen's household which enabled Thomas to marry. The same year his father settled on him the manors of Sanderstead, East Purlew and Cruses "on his intended marriage with Alice daughter of Sir Edmund Walsingham" as her dower.<sup>90</sup> Sir Thomas' will, written 23 years later shows how greatly he loved and admired "my dere beloved wief".

His father-in-law, Sir Edmund Walsingham, was a man of distinction, uncle of the famous Sir Francies of Elizabeth's reign. He was knighted at Flodden Field, and attended Henry VIII at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. He was Lieutenant of the Tower for some twenty-two years until the death of Henry in 1547. During this time he had charge there of many eminent prisoners; Anne Boleyn, John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, and Sir Thomas More among them. In this office the torture of prisoners was under his supervision, but it is to his credit that when the unfortunate Anne Askew was upon the rack he refused to allow it to be stretched to the length demanded by the Lord Chancellor, Wriothesley. A sad footnote to this mercifulness; Anne Askew was burnt for her Protestant faith in 1546.

Thomas Saunder and Alice, his wife, had five children, four of whom survived him. Both Edmund, who was born in 1541, and who succeeded him and Walsingham were called after their grandfather. Thomas Wite was called after Sir Thomas Whyte, the brother-in-law and close friend of Sir Thomas Saunders, while his two daughters he christened Margaret and Elizabeth.

It seems certain that Thomas did not follow Anne of Cleves in her retirement. In 1541 and in the succeeding years, he was one of the Commissioners of the peace in the County of Surrey "to keep and cause to be kept the Queen's peace . . . touching hunters, workmen, artificers, servants, inn-keepers, beggars and vagabonds and other begging men calling themselves 'travelingmen' . . . to punish delinquents; to take sureties from those who threaten the people with bodily violence and burning of their houses, and if they refuse to find surety, to imprison them till they find it . . .

*Commissioner of the Peace, 1541*

and also touching those who go or ride armed in assemblies against the Queen's peace . . . those who lie in wait to maim or kill the people also touching those who use caps and other livery of one suit contrary to the statutes aforesaid . . . touching the abuse of measures and weights and sale of victuals . . . and touching sheriffs, mayors, bailiffs, stewards, constables and keepers of gaols who have been remiss in enforcing such statutes . . . etc."

For Surrey, the Commissioners were Matthew Archbishop of Canterbury, Henry Earl of Arundel, William Lord Howard of Effingham, William Cecil, Thomas Saunders

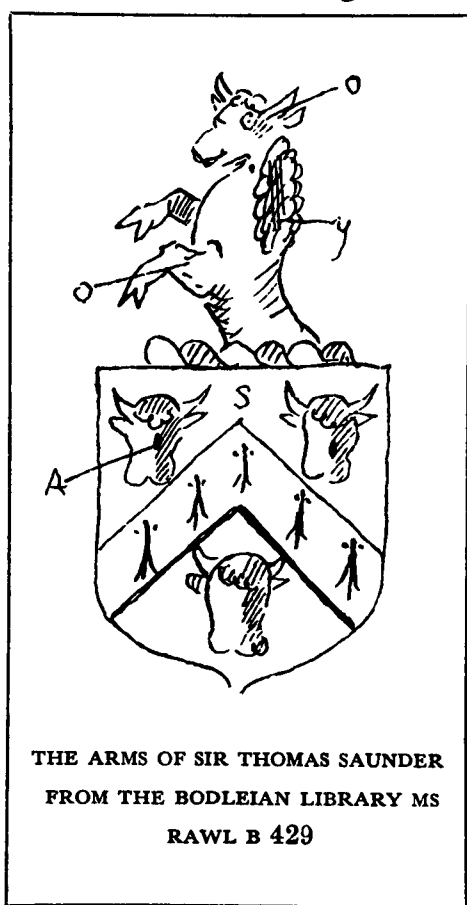
Kt., William Saunders, John Skynner of Rigate, and many others. Sir Thomas Saunders was one of the *quarum*".<sup>102</sup>

The same year in July he was one of the Commissioners of Sewers "For the district of marsh ground extending from Lambyth Towne to Batersy, thence to Putneth . . . Kyngeston upon Temys . . . and so by the Temmes to a certein slewse called Erllys Slewse Surrey".

Later in the same year on December 18th, Thomas Saunder "esquyere" had the honour of being returned as member of parliament for Gatton, then belonging to Sir Roger Copley, and he was

*Member of Parliament* again returned in 1553 and 1558 for Surrey Co., in the first place with the rank of "armiger" and in the second, "miles".

1541 This first year as a Member of Parliament coincided with the rise and sudden fall of Catherine Howard, kinswoman of his neighbours, the Culpepers of Rowley. His earlier



appointment as solicitor to Anne of Cleves had, perhaps, given him a close insight into the character of his monarch. This did not, however, prevent him from continuing to devote his life to the service of his country.

Matters much nearer home must have caused endless discussion and argument when by proclamation of the king every parish was ordered to “buy and provide Bibles of the largest and greatest volume and cause the same to be set and fixed in the Parish Church”. The price was high, being fixed at 10s. unbound. Miles Coverdale, who had already made a translation into “ynglysche” in 1535 had been given the task of further revision. It was “Fynished in Apryll” (1539) being known as the Great Bible. The 2nd edition, Cranmers Bible, was “the Byble apoynted to the use of the churches”. So, for the first time any who could read could study the Word of God in English for themselves, and the very large numbers who could not could hear it read in their own tongue.

*The  
Liturgy  
in English  
1541*

Only three years later Cranmer’s English Litany was being said, and by Whitsunday, 1549, the Prayer Book, almost as we know it, was in use. Latin had ceased to be the language of the Church.

What the Rector, Philip Mesurer, thought of these changes it is, alas, impossible to say, but on worldly matters we have more information. Some idea of his income, which amounted to about £40 worth of produce a year, can be had from the valuation of the Rectory made in 1535. The following translation is from the Latin.

VAL. ECCLESIASTCUS HENRY VIII. Vol. II, page 43.  
The Rectory of Charlwood in the Diocese of Canterbury. Philip Mesurer, Rector there sworn in the presance of the afore-said Commissioners at Godstone in the County of Surrey, 11th day of August, 27th year of the reign of Henry VIII. The Annual true valuation of the Rectory as assessed in the main part as follows.

	£	s.	d.
The house of the Rectory there with garden and cemetery of the church there.			
Value per annum	1	0	0
One tenth of the eggs, young pigs and geese with the offerings of the faithful	3	2	4

One tenth of the young stock with the land of the glebe.	Value per annum	£	s.	d.
One tenth of the grain, viz.		3	10	0
9 quarters of corn at 6s. 8d.	60s.			
30 quarters of oats at 2s. 0d.	60s.	6	0	0
On tenth of the wool and lambs.				
	Value per annum	2	0	0
One tenth of the hay and straw for thatching				
	Value per annum	3	0	0
One tenth of their fruit and wax and honey and hemp				
	Value per annum	11	0	
Quit rents of the various tenements of the said rectory.	Value per annum £20 13s. 4d.			
Paid to the church at Charwode there for a quarter of a year pension	10s.			
To the Dr. Curwen Dean in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury	16s. 8d.			
	6s. 8d.			
	and thus clear	19	16	8
	Xmas offerings	1	9	8

*Dissolution of Canterbury Priory, 1539* This valuation was only four years old when the connection of which had lasted for five hundred years between Charlwood and the Canterbury Priory was finally severed. The dissolution of the monasteries was going on apace and the Prior of Christchurch was forced to surrender the Manor of Charlwood to the King in 1539. By him it was granted to that notorious receiver of Church lands, Sir Robert Southwell, and his wife Margaret. She was the daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Nevil, Lord Abergavenny, one of the great ironmasters and owner of the ironworks at Ewood.

*Sir Robert Southwell, 1542* Sir Robert Southwell took over, in 1542, "The Manors of Charlwood and Shiremark, 6 messuages, 6 cottages, 200 acres land, 60 acres meadow, 100 acres pasture, 60 acres wood, 100 heath and furze and 60s. rent in Charlewood and Horley ; the Manors of Ifield, Crawley, and Wardyngley and Advowson of Crawley in Sussex" for £400.<sup>53</sup> He had also bought for £100 the reversion of "all the messuage in Cherlwode which Walter Whyght lately did ynhabyte . . . and all the rents medowes ffedynges between the said

mesuage and the Comon there called Lowfield . . . and all the lands called Wykelands being of the yearly value of eight marks above all charges".<sup>13</sup> It is a measure of his immense riches that he was charged to provide fifty foot soldiers for the army in Flanders while Sir Thomas Saunders was required to find no more than two. Sir Robert Southwell sold the manors of "Shelewood (Shellwood), Charlewode and Wykelond in Lygh otherwise Lye, Charlewood, Horley Newdegate and Erbage, otherwise Erbygge, and the advowsons of Charlewood and Lygh" to Sir Henry Lechford in 1547. Henry Lechford came of a family which had held land in the parish since 1408,<sup>113</sup> and so at long last Charlwood had a local man as lord of the manor which manor remained in the hands of the Lechford family for the next seventy years.

*Henry  
Lechford,  
1547*

Though there is no record that Thomas Saunders received Church land in Charlwood he was not without pickings. It appears from the Books of the Court of Augmentation which administered Church lands and was then presided over by Sir Robert Southwell that in 1543 Thomas Saunders received the lease of a "tenement within the Black Friars for 21 years. Had this anything to do with the fact that his father's cousin, William Saunders of Ewell, was "one of the seventeen particular receivers" of this court? Later he must have obtained full possession and in his will made 21 years later he wrote, "To Dame Alice my welbeloved wief I give the usage and lawful occupation of all my howshold stuffe and Implements of howsholde with brasse, pewter, hangings, beddings, seelings and other things nowe in my howse at the blacke friers in London" . . . "in assured truste that she will make noe waste nor spoyle or any other disorder . . . and . . . if it happen the same Dame Alice to marye" the house at the Black friers was left to his daughter Margaret.

A further gift is recorded in 1544, when Thomas Saunders, who already held the advowson of Charlwood, was granted that of Merstham by the Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. The document may still be seen at the British Museum bearing the "Thomas" of the Archbishop, so linking Charlwood with one of the most famous names in English history.

*Sir Thomas, King's Rem-  
em brancer,* A greater honour was in store. On 4th February, 1545, Thomas Saunder was appointed to the post of King's Remembrancer of the Exchequer in reversion after Sir Christopher More.<sup>103</sup> This Sir Christopher, who was also on various Surrey Commissions, died 29th August, 1549—so that Thomas had only just over four years to wait for what was one of the most important posts in the government.

This office of King's Remembrancer,<sup>62</sup> which still continues today, was from very early times an integral part of the Exchequer. The three principal officers or clerks of the Remembrance having the titles the King's Remembrancer, the Lord Treasurers Remembrancer and the Remembrancer of First Fruits.

The word Exchequer comes from the chequered cloth laid on the table to simplify the counting of the money paid in by the Sheriffs. In an old manuscript the duties attached to the office are thus defined: "He is the King's Remembrancer and by the title and name of his office is put in mind what he is to do, viz. to Remember all things that are to be done in the Office for the King's Service and profit, and to have care that all Business be duly and orderly done; and to appoint and direct all process to be made for the King's Debts and Accounts and for all other Duties, Profits and Casualties belonging to the King by Attainders, Escheats Forfeitures or otherwise by his Prerogative . . . and to see that they be well and orderly done. Further this word "Debt" comprehends all things due to the king as rents, fines, amerciaments and other things received or levied by the Sheriff".

His connection with the Sheriffs was very close. One of his duties was to prepare documents for their nomination and to "prepare the roll for pricking by His Majesty". In Henry VIII's time the rolls were "pricked" only with a black dot. The modern ceremony of "pricking" with a bodkin can be traced to the reign of Elizabeth, and therefore the bodkin came into use while Sir Thomas was in charge of the proceedings or very shortly after.

*Trial of  
the Pyx* Another of his picturesque duties was to attend the "Trial of the Pyx", which was instituted to maintain the coinage of the country at a proper standard both as to weight and

purity of gold and silver. The name came from the Pyx or box in which the coins were placed, and the first recorded Trial dates from 1281. The following is from a later manuscript but describes the trial as it was held during the tenure of office by Sir Thomas.

"The King's Remembrancer is to attend the Ld. Chanc, Ld. Trer and other Lords of the Council in the Inner Chamber next to the State Chamber to take the Assay of the Mint where a Jury of Goldsmiths of London . . . must be called and sworn by the King's Remembrancer truly to try the Pixe of Gold and Silver according to the Indentures of Covenants made between the King and Warden and Master Worker of the Mint, which Indentures the King's Remr. must have there ready—And the Pixe being sealed with the sevl seals of the Officers of the Mint containing the sevl. sorts of coins of Gold and Silver must be opened and tried by the Jury by the Fire, and after due Trial made the Jury is to deliver their Verdict in writing before the Ld Chanc. in the Star Chamber . . . where the King's Remembrancer must likewise attend to receive and keep the Verdict".<sup>62</sup> Other duties attached to the office of King's Remembrancer were of equal variety and importance.

On 28th January, 1547, Henry VIII died. Edward was only nine, and his short reign of six years was dominated by Protestant Protectors, first his Uncle Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, and later by the Duke of Northumberland. Protestantism was being pushed forward apace.

*Edward  
VI and  
the Church*

Sir Thomas' most arduous work at this time was in connection with "Church goodes" in many parts of the country as far from home as Farnham, Blackheath and Woking. This work had a double aim, the removal of all that could be considered Romish and the filling of the King's coffers, not to mention the pockets of greedy courtiers. This curious piece of church history deserves quotation in some detail.

Inventories had been made of all church goods, including "copes, vestments ornaments of sylke without gold, sattyn of bridges, dornix worsted saye" besides other things, but in spite of this it appeared that all was not well. "Yet nevertheless the King is informed that such goods in some places

are embezzled or removed".<sup>102</sup> Great powers were given to a further Commission. They were not only to make new inventories comparing them with the old but also had power to decide what was to be left in the Churches and what taken for the King's use. "To leave in every small paryshe one Chalyce", and the "honest and comely furnytüre of covernynges for the comunyon table and surplesses for the mynyster". On the other hand "ymmedyatlye to collect all redye money plate and juelles", the money to be sent to Sir Edmund Peckham and the "plate and juelles to be delyvered to the maister of our juell house".

Power was also given to sell, "all copes, vestments Aulter clothes and other ornaments whatsoever remayning" and "all peces of metall except the metall of the greatt bell, and saunse bells". These bells being left all "mynystres and parysshoners" were charged to "kepe unspoiled, unembesiled and unsold all suche bells". Linen ornaments and ymplements except those expressly ordered to be left, were to be given freely to the poore people "in suche order and sort as may be most to Godes glory and our honour".

And finally, so that there should be no doubt of their powers, or of the young king's wishes: "if ye shall fynde any persons that wilfully or stubbornlye will refuse to obey any commaundement whiche you shall geve unto theym in the execucion of the premisses we gyve unto you full power auctorytie to commytt every such person to warde and pryson there to remayne without baill or mayn price untill suche tyme as you shall thinke the same ymprisonment to be condigne for his offences".<sup>4</sup>

*Church Goods at Charlwood* It was on 17th October in the sixth year of King Edward VI that the Commission on the goods and ornaments of the churches in Surrey sat at Charlwood.<sup>22</sup> Sir Thomas Saunders 1552 with Thomas Caurden, John Scott and Nicholas Leigh bore the king's commission. One can imagine the anxiety felt eighteen days before while the first inventory was checked through by the church-wardens John Horley and John Charington and the sydemen James Edwards and John Lucas.<sup>24</sup> It is noticeable that in Charlwood as in most other Surrey Churches the inventories are signed by the

laity; the rector Philip le Mesurer is not mentioned.

The new inventory had to contain a list of the "guddes kept, deteyned, lost, solde or stollen, perloyned or neglygentlie forgotten, since the first inventory made", with an exact note as to what had happened to them. First the names of the earlier Church Wardens had to be given—William Horley and Rycharde Rickerode in the first, and John Saunder and John More in the fourth "yeare of the reigne of our soveraigne lorde the kynges majestie". A question was raised and answered "as to the accomptes of John Saunder and John More"—neither they nor any other churchwardens "solde any maner of the churche guddes . . . savynge onelie that the said John and John solde the alabaster tables of imagerie woorcke unto William Davie and John Fraunces of Horsham for the somme of xx s. whiche was done by the consent of the parisshe by reason that the same tables were commaunded by vertue of the statute lawe . . . to be taken awaie and utterlye destroyed".

These alabaster tables were small panels from the reredos, and it is said that far from being "utterlye destroyed" they were, many of them, sent across the seas to France, Germany and even Iceland. It would seem that a considerable trade was carried on at Horsham. From Betchworth it was reported "the alabaster tables solde to John Frencheman of Horseham for the some of 4s." and from Nutfield "for alebaster sowld to one of Horsam 4s."<sup>22</sup> The Churchwardens of Charlwood also note that the money including the 20s. (for the alabaster) and 5s. 4d. more, put thereto of the churche moneye" and "£3 14s. 6½d. which the parisshe on their partes hath laid forth at their owne propre costes and chardges concerninge the necessarie reparations and mendynge the glass wyndowes and the gutters of leadde and other ordynarye causes . . . amounteth in the whole to the some of £4 19s. 10½d." The full inventory is as follows:

In primis iiij copes, one of blewe damaske, one of blewe sattyn, one of whyte silck and one of blacke woorstedde. Item ij other copes the one of redde silke and the oder of greene. Item one whyte vestment with the albe and amyse thereto belongynge.

Item one black vestment of woorstedde

Item a sute of vestmentes of pied silke, lackynge the cope and the ij amyses.

Item ij auter clothes of sylke the one of blewe damaske and the oder of whyte silke and greene.

Item iij coporasses with the cases.

Item iiij auter clothes of lynmen.

Item iij suplesses.

Item iij tewelles.

Item one hersclothe of blacke woorsted.

Item ij chalyces of sylver.

One payre of great lattyn candlestickes.

Item iij payre of lyttell lattyn candlestickes.

One holy water potte of brasse.

Item a pewtre basyn and ij cruettes of pewter.

Item ij handbelles.

Item ij crosses of lattyn.

Item in the steeple iiij belles.

In addition there was the item "There is due unto the said wardens for dyvers expences at visytacon and other courtes for money by theym laid owte the sum of 11s.", and a further note that "the church is in dette unto the said parisshe the some of £4 7s. 6½d. over and besydes the church wardens allowances which amounteth in the hole some to the some of £5 12s. 10½d.". The Horsham stone roof evidently needed repair for on the back of the inventory is written that the churchwardens "have covenanted with one Seman a stone healer to cover the said church, and he for his paynes takynge to have a noble and uppwardes, bysydes the said money that the church oweth".<sup>22</sup>

Comparison with other inventories shows that the amount of church goods owned by Charlwood was much the same as that of other Surrey churches. It is to the credit of Charlwood that, unlike some other parishes, no list is included of items "perloyned, loste, detained or neglygentlie forgotten". There is no list of Service Books owned by Charlwood church, but the lists of these for some other villages throw a charming light on the local pronunciation of the day. The West Molesey list included "one Bible of the largest volume in ynglysche with the bouk of the paraphrasis of Erasmus latly bought, a masse bouk, the homyles, the bouk of the kynges latany with other old bowkes halffe a scor". Nutfield

had almost the same and St. Mary Beddington, "a bybull, a sawter, a commyon boke a pafasys of Erasmus," while at Malden they noted "a masse-boke of printe and another of wretyn hande".

The paraphrases of the New Testament by Erasmus had been translated into English in 1548, and were so popular that a copy was ordered to be placed in all parish churches beside the Bible.

Charlwood at any rate compares well with Gatton which *Gatton* Sir Thomas Saunders represented in Parliament at this time. The same questions having been put to Dame Elizabeth Coppely "wydowe", she answers superbly "that she has nother churche wardens nor syde men within the parishe of Gatton. But only hyrselff and hyr familye of hyr place and hath byn so longe tyme of memorye". After such a magnificent answer it is sad to see in what state of dilapidation the goods were found.

A cope and a vestment of olde blew satten of burges.

A vestment of rotten dornix.

A bell not lowde inowght to be hard a flight schotte agaynst the wynde.

A rustic haliwater stocke and two cruettes a corporas worth 1½d. Two raggyd lynnyn auter clothes and a peyr of auter clothes of olde say.

A chalys that is borrowed of the churche of Chepstyde for that dyd aperteyn to the churche was broken and sold for 18/9d. which money remayneth yet in the sayd ladyes handes.<sup>22</sup>

It is not surprising that later "all thornaments sold for 10s."<sup>24</sup>

These Commissions all took place in 1552. It was not until the following May that the final count was made. At Charlwood there was:

Left with the Churchwardens, John Charington and John Horley:

Imprimis, a chalice, priz xv oz. qr. oz. duple gilt.

Item ii auter clothes and a herst cloth for the comunion table. Also remaining with them in the steple iiii belles and ii hand-belles.

(and) Receyved to the kynges use.

Receyved a chalice poiz xiii oz dj.

Brass poiz Cii lb for xvi s.

All thornaments sold for £ v.

Summa CXVI s.<sup>4</sup>

What a tragedy that the reformers in their great hatred of all things Roman, and their search for reality in worship felt it their duty to sweep away so much that was beautiful. Charlwood was indeed swept bare.

Through all these changes the faith of the people remained clear and undimmed. If proof of this is needed it will be found in the wills of Charlwood men through the succeeding century and especially in the beautiful words of Andrew Jordan written in 1583:

First I bequeath and recommend my Soule into the hands of Allmightie god my creator through the merritte death and passion of my only redeemer and Saviour Jesus Christ, who dyed for my sins and rose again for my justification . . . My body to be buried in the Churchyard at Charlewood as conveniently near to my father John Jordan deceased there to remain until the general resurrection by which tyme I steadfastly believe yt shall rise again an incorruptable and glorious bodye and triumphantly enter through Jesus Christ, into that everlasting and unspeakable ioyes and felicity which the saide Jesus Christ our messiae and sweet saviour hathe alreadye, through many tribulations, entered into and taken possession for me and as many as . . . believe in him.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### *Sir Thomas Saunders, Landowner and Churchman 1551 - 1556*

**A**n earlier commission of 1551 strikes a particularly ironical note. The precipitate rise in prices was largely due to the late king's wanton debasing of the coinage followed by a further debasement under the Duke of Northumberland. By 1552 the nominal shilling contained only three penny worth of silver. However the King's advisers sought to put the blame elsewhere and in December, 1551, set up a commission:

To enquire by any means how the enhancing of prices of corn, victuals, and other things mentioned grows "by the insacyable greedynes of dyvers covetous persons" and to apprehend and punish such as hinder reformation of such enormities <sup>102</sup>

These soaring prices affected Charlwood in common with the rest of the kingdom. Whereas the farmers were selling their cattle and corn at three times the price which their fathers had dared to ask, everything that they had to buy cost them twice what it had in the past. The price of food is said to have nearly trebled between 1500 and 1560. Wages were forced up to keep pace with the cost of living and the landowner, if he were to avoid ruin, must turn his land to the most profitable use. Many acres of arable were put down to pasture and rents were raised whenever conditions of tenure allowed.

It is against this background that Sir Thomas Saunders carried out his duties as a considerable landowner. It would be misleading to consider him as merely an official of the crown; he was also a countryman with an immense interest in his estates. In Charlwood he owned Lorkyns and Charlwood Place. He also writes of "my great woode at the ffrith called Wykewood".

In addition, he owned land in many parts of the county. The Manors of Sanderstead, East Perlew and Cruses had been settled on him as his wife's dowry. He had other land in Chipstede, Woodmansterne and Ewell. He writes in his will of lands in Reygate, Walton, Betchworth and Chamberlayns at Buckland. The detailed knowledge of farming shown in regard to his estate at Flanchford must have come from personal supervision. No wonder that he needed the "Hackneys, usual riding Naggs and geldings" that he left "whollye to my wief".

This estate at Flanchford he left to his sons, Walsingham and Thomas Wite, with "the profitt of the Myll there" and the

Howse and lande at Hartewoode . . . upon this condicion that (they) shall well and truely from tyme to tyme without delays kepe and amend all manner repacions of howsinge hedginge and diking . . . at seasonable tymes of yere and pmitt and Suffer there elder brother Edmunde and his heirs to grinde at fflanshforde Mill toll free all his corne truely to be expended in his howse at Charlewood or ellswhere.

He is particularly interested in his timber and insists

That the said Walsingham and Thomas . . . shall neither fell

nor cutte any tree uppon the Premisses . . . without Lycens by writinge he shall Loppe and toppe any trees for fewel but for Hedgbote onely and not otherwise And that be done at Seasonable tymes of the yere and not otherwise.

Hedgebote was, of course, repairs to hedges and fences.

He also had a "faithful promise" from his wife on the subject of timber:

That she will favoure and preserve all my woods younge and olde . . . as well ashes as all other kindes of woods . . . Trusting that she will from tyme to tyme take good order for the maintenance of all the spring . . . leaving alwaies sufficient standards uppon everie acre . . . and shall also maintain and kepe . . . the closures of all the copised wood . . . after the felling of them . . . for the term of seaven years nexte after every fall and kepe the springe from the bite of all Cattell.

Trees are the silent background to the whole history of Charlwood. In the early days of the first clearings they appeared as the stubborn and unyielding enemy, each dying where he stood. to be conquered only by immense toil and sweat. Later they had become recognised as friends essential to home and hearth and, indeed, to life itself. During Sir Thomas' lifetime they were being offered up more and more wantonly in the furnaces, a sacrifice to the insistent demand for iron. It is clear that Sir Thomas shared the general anxiety for the future supplies and that he looked upon his timber as a cherished possession deserving of continual care and supervision.

Sir Thomas' will continues:

*Charlwood Place* And to my wellbeloved wife I leave also the upper ende of all my howse at Charlwood and the Gallerie and closett thereto adioyninge with the hole stuffe thereto belonginge in everie place from the hall upwards to use and occupie there . . . without waste spoyle or disorder with liberties of Hall Buttery Pantry Seller Kytchen gardens stable Brewhouse and other places . . . with the use of brasse pewter and other things. Also thuse of all my Plate bason and Ewre of silver with a neeste of gobletts gilte one Tankard of silver one salte with cover one lytle Ale Cuppe clene gilt and sixe spones of silver and all her jewells and Apparrell.

This description of a gallery and closet points to a house built to the old plan of a central hall with a small closet for the women, leading off a gallery. The kitchen, buttery, etc.,

though close to the hall, were separate buildings. It is probable that this house was destroyed during the Civil Wars or the troublous times which followed. In a deed of 1673, it was described as "the site and remaining part of the late capital messuage called Charlwood Place" showing that it was, at this date, in a ruinous condition. The main part of it was rebuilt before 1716.

Thomas Saunders and his father Nicholas held Charlwood Place of the Manor of Charlwood by fealty and rent of 15s. 1½d. The Manors of Shelewood, Charlewood and Wykelond had been acquired in 1547 by Henry Lecheford, gent. from Sir Robert Southwell. They consisted of six messuages, six cottages, ten gardens, 600 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 500 pasture, 200 wood, 400 heath and furze and £20 rent. The price paid was £847.<sup>53</sup>

Henry Lechford held a View of Frankpledge the following year and records of four other courts held by him between 1549 and 1553 are still extant. It is pleasant to find Sir Thomas' name appearing in 1550, the year he received his knighthood. The entry is as follows: *Knight-  
hood, 1550*

The steward presents that Nicholas Saunder, gent., and his son and heir apparent, Sir Thomas Saunder, Kt., surrender 11 acres 1 rood of land of the lord's waste at Bosworth Grene alias Whites grene in Charlwood to the use of John Braye who is admitted at the lord's will at 7s. 11d. rent and usual services and did fealty.

Three years later Sir Thomas was fined 4d. for non-attendance at court, though it was noted that he was ill at the time.

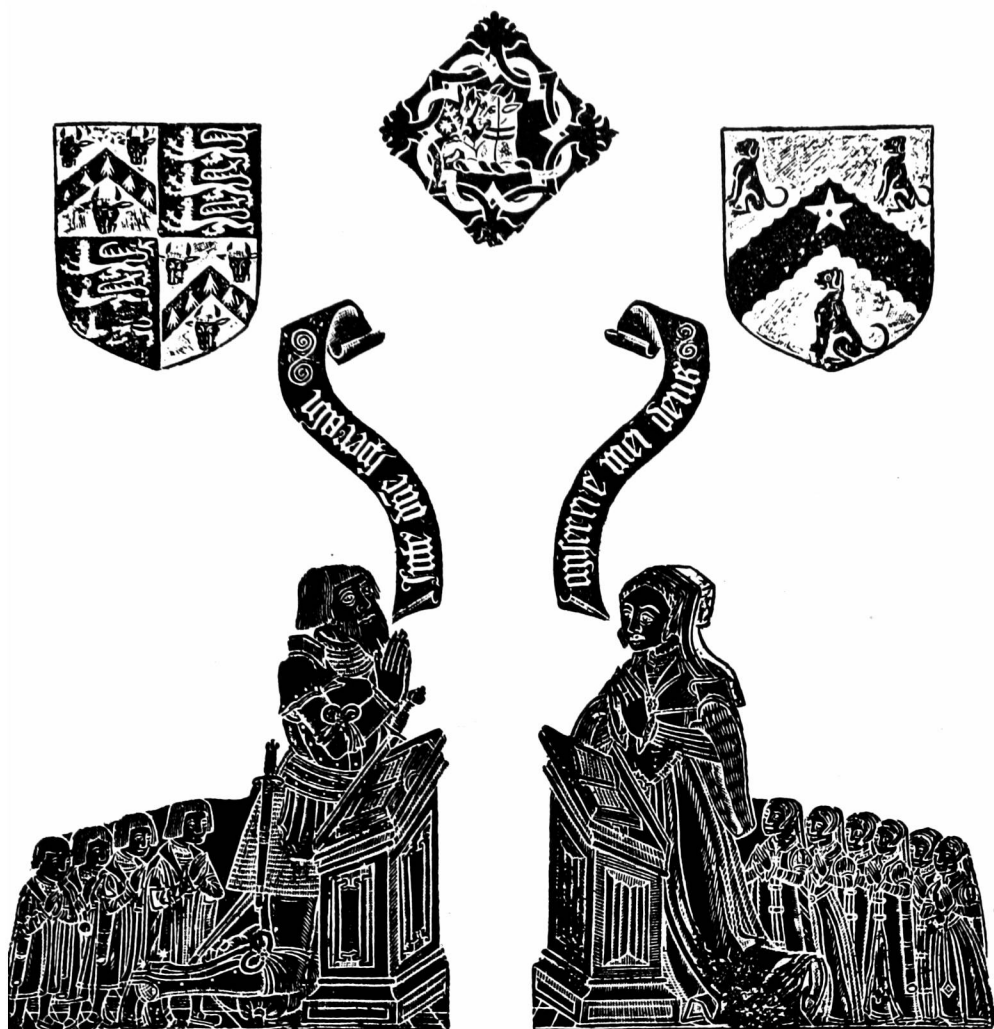
It is to be hoped that Sir Thomas' illness was not serious as 1553 events followed each other with great rapidity in 1553. It was on 17th April that he was too ill to attend the Court, on 12th May came the final count of the church goods at Charlwood, and on the 29th his daughter, Elizabeth, died at Flanchford. On 6th July the young king also died, but two days later the Lords in Council, blatantly ignoring his death, wrote to Sir Thomas Cawarden and Sir Thomas Saunders telling them of the flight of "the Lady Mary" and requiring them to take measures for the defence of the county and the suppression of disturbances. In their haste, they addressed

these two gentlemen as Mr. Carden and Mr. Saunders. They were evidently bent on losing no time in stabilising the position of the Protestant "Queen Jane", but the country was staunch for Henry's eldest daughter, Mary, and she was proclaimed queen on 19th July. Before her coronation on 1st October, Nicholas Saunders, Sir Thomas' father, had died in Charlwood.

1553 The helmet, now hanging in Charlwood church is, in all probability, a relic of the funeral. It was customary for the knightly insignia of the deceased, helmet, tabard, gauntlets, sword, spurs and shield, to be carried by the heralds behind the bier and later hung above the tomb. The crest spike of this helmet proves it to have been used for funerary purposes and its date is given by the Armouries of H.M. Tower of London as c. 1550. These funeral helmets were usually painted a dark slate colour with gilt floral decoration added. The crests were carved in wood, painted in their heraldic colours and attached to the spikes. They were not necessarily the helmet used by the deceased during his life-time, but were supplied by the undertakers who bought up old helmets for the purpose.<sup>47</sup>

The beautiful brass memorial also remaining, on the south wall of the chapel, was erected to his father's memory by Sir Thomas. Here may be seen Nicholas and Alys, his wife, kneeling at faldstools which have linenfold panels and on which lie open books of devotion, their sons and daughters ranged neatly behind them. Nicholas is bareheaded, with squarecut hair and long beard. He wears no gauntlets but frills at his wrists and is armed with sword and dagger. He is in full gothic armour which was designed to give the best possible protection compatible with freedom of movement. Other Surrey brasses of about this date show that it was still the custom to show the deceased in armour though civilian dress was beginning to be portrayed.

His wife's dress is typical of that worn some few years earlier. She wears a full flowing skirt with a fitted bodice. The full over-sleeve is turned back at the elbow in a huge fur-lined cuff and the close fitting under-sleeve is quilted lengthwise. Her pedimental headdress is similar to the one worn by



here is buried Nicholas Saunde Esquire and his wife  
 daughter of John Hungeate of the Countie of Northampton  
 there and mother to Thomas Saunde knight in whose remembrance  
 because of the cheere which Nicholas desired the xxix day of  
 August in the first year of the reign of queen Mary was set up

Rubbing of Nicholas Saunde's Brass 1553



Princess Mary in Holbein's portrait, but with the lappets hanging down.

The four sons, Thomas, Henry, Richard and a younger son are in civil dress. It is just noticeable that the dress of the eldest is slightly different from the others, perhaps to signify that he was at that time King's Remembrancer of Thexcheqr. Though they were certainly no longer children at the time of their father's death they are portrayed as such in the manner of the time. The six daughters wear a more simple head covering. Their overdresses are caught together in front and have short puffed sleeves, the lower arms being covered by the tight fitting sleeves of their underdresses. Their dress is noticeably more up to date than that of their mother and is, in fact, of the style then worn at the court to which their brother was attached.

The arms are shown above; over Alys the "canting arms" of three charming hounds, a pun on the name Hungate or Houndgate; over Nicholas the Saunders arms "a chevron ermin between three bull's heads cabossed" quartered with the Carew arms, "three lions passant" in honour of his grandmother, Joan Carew, the heiress. The centre plate has been described as one of the most charming bits of heraldry in the country; the Saunder crest, "a demi-bull salient, armed, horned and eared, holding between his forelegs a sprig of alisaunder, leaved".

This alisaundre is most intriguing. The name is an obsolete form of "alexanders", a plant rather like horseparsley, which was formerly cultivated and eaten. Saunder is one of the names derived from Alexander or Alisaundre. Mr. Homer-Saunders, a member of the family and an ardent genealogist, traces the family back to Sir Robert Alexander, "Alisaundre", a Baron of the Cinque Ports at Winchelsea, where he kept two galleys of eighty sailors in the service of Henry III in 1224, and through him back to Baldwin V, Count of Flanders, ninth in direct line of descent from Charlemagne.

The brass bears the following inscription:

Here is buried Nicholas Saunders Esquyer and Alys his Wyfe daughter of John Hungate of the Countey of Yorke Esquyer Father and Mother of Thomas Saunder knyght ye kyng remembrance' of thexchequer whiche Nicholas decessed the xxix day of

August in ye first yere of ye Reigne of quene Mary. Ano mvcliiij.  
*Queen Mary's* The first year of the rign of Qucen Mary! A difficult and  
*Rebellion,* dangerous time! Sir Thomas' own name appears on an  
1553 immensely long "Pardon Roll" from the Catholic Queen.  
In no case in the roll is any crime mentioned nor was his  
position weakened, for he retained his office as Sheriff of  
Surrey and Remembrancer of the Exchequer. Indeed it is  
certain that the discontent among a section of the people  
caused by Mary's violent return to the Roman tradition  
intensified his work as Sheriff of Surrey, a county of vital  
importance in the events which followed.

*Wyatt's* Almost immediately after Queen Mary's coronation, Sir  
*Rebellion,* Thomas Wyatt decided upon armed rebellion to put the  
1554 Princess Elizabeth on the throne in place of her half-sister.  
The final meeting of the rebel leaders took place on 22nd  
January, and the 25th was fixed for the rising. Sir Thomas  
Cawarden, Bailiff and Keeper of the Forest at Bletchingly to  
Anne of Cleves, was in possession of at least sixteen great  
guns and arms enough to furnish one hundred and ten horse  
and over three hundred foot. Ironically it was on the 25th  
that he received especial orders from the Queen to arm his  
servants and to watch over the order of his own neighbour-  
hood.

Sir Thomas Saunders did not wait to see on which side his  
late colleague proposed to employ this extensive armoury.  
On this fateful 25th January he, with his cousin, William  
Saunders of Ewell, backed by overwhelming armed force,  
descended on Bletchingly and carried off all Sir Thomas  
Cawarden's arms. Let his petition for the redress of his  
grievances speak for itself. He claimed:

That on the xxv January I Mary he was lawfully possessed at  
Bletchingley of and in certein horses with furnytüre, armure,  
artillarie, and munitions for the warres . . . value £2,000, and  
that upon certein mooste untrue surmises, brutes, and Rumers  
raised and spread against him . . . one Sir Thomas Saunders  
knight and William Saunders of Ewell, on pretence of comande  
did take into their hands and possession the said armure, and  
eight of his great horses, and did convey the same in 17 great  
waynes, thoroughly loaden, and at the same time spent no small  
quantity of his corne, haye and strawe, and had only restored

4 loades, and of the 8 great horse oon of the best the iii day after died, And the rest are in so evil plite and lyking and were never since otherwise liable to serve in the carte, to his great hindrance and undoing.<sup>5</sup>

Wyatt occupied Rochester on the 26th and in spite of Lord Abergavenny and Sir Robert Southwell who "appeared able to suppress the rising with ease", but who were unfortunately deserted by their men, Wyatt reached Southwark in February. He was, however, unable to penetrate the city and surrendered. He was brought to trial and executed on 11th April, but it is pleasant that Queen Mary's proclamation of free pardon to all except ringleaders was endorsed by Sir Thomas as Sheriff of Surrey.<sup>27</sup>

The following Pardon preserved among the Patent Rolls bears his signature. It appears that John Harper came before the Justices in his custody and pleaded guilty to the following charge:

Whereas John Harper of Cobham in Kent gentleman for that he and other false traitors on February 6th 1 Mary (1554) assembled with a great multitude of rebels . . . to the number of 3,000 at Sowthwarke and levied ware against the Queen . . . and fought with other true and trusty leiges of the Queen sent to resist them.

It was ordered that he should be hung, drawn and quartered at St. Thomas Waterings in Southwark. This place was so named as it was here that the pilgrims to the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket watered their horses. Three years later John Harper was pardoned "in pity and for £13 6s. 8d." and restitution was made to him of all his goods and lands from Christmas 1 Mary.

August of that year saw the magnificent entry of Philip and Mary into London after their marriage at Winchester, and all future state documents bore the two names.

In 1558, just before the death of Queen Mary, the office of King's Remembrancer was promised to a certain Francis Allen "from the time of its voidance by death or otherwise of Sir Thomas Saunder kt." but it was expressly stated that "Saunders still survives and is in full life". In 1561, after Elizabeth's accession, it was again noted that Sir Thomas

held the office, so that it is evident that the change of sovereign did not affect him.

The following entries in the Patent Rolls of, firstly Philip and Mary and secondly Elizabeth, show Sir Thomas sitting in judgement as Sheriff of Sussex.

Whereas Thomas Byffe of Petworthe "taylor" was indicted on August 21st I and II Philip and Mary . . . in that he . . . burglariously broke the close and mansion house of Richard Grevett "husbandman" bound and maltreated the said Richard so that he was in despair of his life, and stole 7 pairs of shetes value 46s. 8d., 8 kerchers value 10s. 8d., 2 silver rings value 4s. 8d., and a pair of silver tachehokes value 16s.

In the same year, in the custody of Sir Thomas Saunder kt. then Sheriff of Sussex, he came before the justices of Lewes and was found guilty "and that he had no goods or lands, judgement was given that he should be hanged." This in 1555. In 1557 at Greenwich, "Pardon to him of the said felony."<sup>102</sup>

also

Simon Carie of Southwarke "cook" "yowman" by an inquisition taken before Sir Thomas Saunders, Kt., William Saunders and others "Justices of oyer and terminer in the county" at Kingstone for the robbery of George Yates and Richard Jones of a sword and a dagger, at Lambeth was found guilty "and that he had no goods or lands, whereupon he was condemned to death."

Date 3rd October II Elizabeth (1560).

In this case, also, a pardon was granted two years later.

*Lawless-*  
*ness in*  
*Charlwood* The following complaint to the Court of Chancery came one year after Sir Thomas' death, but it serves to show that Charlwood itself was not entirely law-abiding. One cannot avoid a certain sympathy with the Thomas Gregory who, suffered in 1567. what appears to have been a concerted attack by his neighbours.

Complaint of Thomas Gregories that he was possessed of a certyne mesuage or ferme with certen lands belonginge for the terme of 22 years . . . scituate and being in Charlewode co. Surr. . . . On the eve of the feast of St. Michell, IX Elizabeth . . . Richard Stanbridge of Charlewood yoman Richard Cottingham of Charlewood yoman and Robte Cruste with other malefactors unknown of a wicked and develishe intente not having God before theire eiss forceblye brake in and entred into the same mesuage and then and there did beate and evill intreate the said Thomas Gregories and spoyle his possessions.<sup>13</sup>

This was a lawless age, and Charlwood lay in that particularly lawless district where, in 1573, the Justices of Sussex were charged to hunt out from the Surrey and Sussex borders "a great stoare of stout vagabonds and maysterlesse men, able enough for labour which do great hurte in the countrie by their idle and naughtie life". These bands of robbers, living as they did in the heaths and woods, were known as heathers. This order to the Justices decreed that when arrested they were to be shipped to the Low Countries as soldiers.

Sir Thomas was becoming an old man, and though in Sir February of 1563 he was on yet another Commission to try *Thomas'* Arthur Poole of London for treason, on 7th March he made *Will, 1563* his will:

In the Name of God Amen I Thomas Saunders of Charlewod in the Countie of Surr Knighte at this presente hole of bodye and perffitt of mynde and memorye Lawded be god being the vij daye of Marche a thousande fyve hunderth threscore and three and in the fithe yere of the raigne of Quene Elizabeth uppon good advisement and delyberacon wth myself doe ordaine and make this my presente Laste will and testament in manner and forme following . . . ffirste I bequeath my sowle to our Lorde Jesus Christe my onely maker and Savioure and my bodye to be buried in xpian (christian) buriall withoute funerall pompe in the parish church of Charlewod before my pewe there, yf it shall please god I shall dye there or nerer to yt Or ells where-sover yt shall please god to sever the sowle and bodye asunder.

It has been suggested that the Saunders of Charlwood, like their cousins, the Saunders of Aston, were staunch Catholics, and belonged to the recusant families who preferred to pay heavy fines rather than attend their parish church. Sir Thomas' will, on the contrary, shows that he was continually concerned for the order and improvement of the church and its services and, as quoted above, his last wish was to be buried there in front of his own pew. His will also makes it easy to imagine the fine picture that he and his family must have made as they sat "in Service tyme to thoner of God" in Sir Thomas' own pewe in the Chapel dedicated to his grandfather. His well trimmed beard and neckruff would be in the fashion of the time. Did he wear his "tawny

velvett gowne", or, perhaps, if the spring was cold, his "beste velvett gowne furred with martins", or his "beste coate or jacket of velvett and dowblett of silke" cut maybe in the fashion of his late Master, Henry VIII; jewels also, a "whistell of golde and a golde Ringe with a Redde stone", another ring with his "Armes" and yet another with a Turkestone (turquoise) thereon? His money he carried in a silver purse ring. Gay and colourful as this may appear, it was but the ordinary wear of the well-to-do. It is noteworthy that his gown is furred with the local martin that might well have been trapped in the woods of Charlwood. By his side wearing the dignified dress of the period would sit his "well-beloved wief", Dame Alice Saunder, and their four children, Edmund, aged 21 or 22, not yet married, Walsingham, Thomas Wite, and Margaret, later to marry Thomas, son of Sir Francis Goodyere.

Apart from the Saunders family in the Chapel, the Church would have been well filled. It was normal for every parishioner to attend Divine Service and few would risk the fine for non-attendance. Many would be standing, others seated on benches, which were in general use by 1450.

They would have become accustomed to the beautiful English words of the Bible and Prayer Book that must have seemed so strange the twenty years or so before. But it is evident from his will that there was one thing that concerned Sir Thomas greatly, namely, the improvement of the music in Charlwood Church. This was the great age of English *Church Music* music, when singing was an essential part of a gentleman's accomplishments, and he evidently loved music. It was some years before that Thomas Merbecke, a friend of Cranmer's, had written new "notes" to be used with the Book of 1550 Common Prayer; this was published in 1550, and it is not impossible that it had been introduced into Charlwood even at this early date. Be that as it may, it surely gives a measure of Merbecke's greatness as a composer, and the complete accord of his notes with the words to which they were set that his music is still heard Sunday by Sunday in Charlwood, as in countless other churches throughout the country. Whatever the music in Charlwood in the early years of the

great Queen Elizabeth, it was certainly too much for the powers of the poorly-paid Parish Clerk.

In an entry at the very beginning of the will, before any benefaction to his family he leaves "to the p'son of Charlewod 6s. 8d. and towards the clercks wages of Charlewod whiche will take some paines to teache childeren . . and playe at the Organes in service tyme to thoner of god as in my tyme hath byn weakly used and exercised". He returns to the subject again and provides that, if his younger children die without heirs, land within the blackeffriers is to be sold and other land bought "for the maintenance of enlargement of wages for an honeste parish Clercke at Charlewod also that can kepe and playe of thorganes there and teache childeren there for the maintenance of Godes service to the better example of the people whilst the world endureth with better diligence than of Late time hath ben used to be done". It is made quite clear that this is to be an increase in wages for "if the paryshioners and churchwardens shall happen to diminishe any of their benevolence or eny parte of thusual wages or habitation to the Clercke when this Legacie shall come to passe . . . this legacie shall be voyde and of none effecte". He also left the rent of Lorkyns (Larkins Farm) to augment the clerk's wages and "untyll such a Clercke may be gotten, to the maintenance of indigent and power people".

The Parish Clerk, in those days when there was no regular choir, played an important part in the services of the church. The "organes" which he played at Charlwood were certainly small, probably small enough to be moved about the church. In a picture of this date the organ stands on a table and has ten or twelve pipes of from one to three feet high. It is blown from the back by two pairs of bellows, such as we use for our fire, and has two manuals.<sup>89</sup> Charlwood was not alone in having organs for eleven years before Sir Thomas Saunders made his will, the church of All Saints at Kingston possessed "Two payre of orgaynes whereof one old payre".

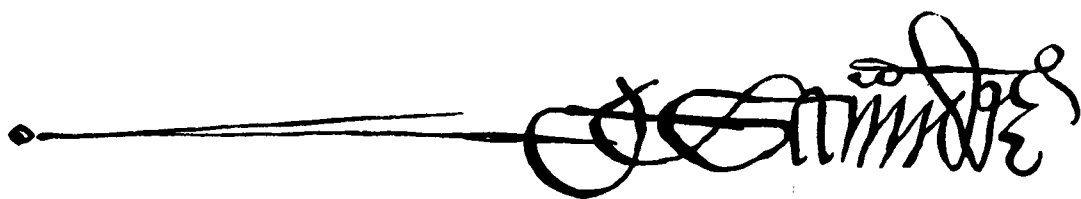
The Service attended that day by the Charlwood congregation was in all essentials as we know it today. The Church, under the wise guidance of the Queen Elizabeth, and her

*The  
Service,  
1563*

Archbishop of Canterbury, Matthew Parker, had at last, after twenty or more years of stress and strain, emerged into a period of comparative tranquility. The services were accepted by the majority, but as the words of the Litany were chanted, "In all time of our tribulation, in all time of our wealth in the hour of death and in the day of judgement" we may surely believe that Sir Thomas' thoughts turned to the martyrs of the past, many probably his friends, to the great number of men of all shades of thought who had suffered the utmost agony of death at the stake rather than renounce their faith. They turned, perhaps, to the pitiful death, seven years before, of Archbishop Cranmer, writer of that same Litany, a death dreaded with such intensity and yet welcomed at the end with such heroism.

Certainly the Church had gone through a fiery ordeal, but though there were still many who refused reconciliation, among them Nicholas Saunders the Jesuit, she was temporarily at peace.

*Sir Thomas' Death, 1566* Sir Thomas died on 7th July, 1566, in the "golden age of England", when her greatest poet was but a baby of two years old, but when "Peace and order at last prevailed in the land . . . politics so long a fear and an oppression . . . were for a few decades simplified into the service paid to a woman who was to her subjects the symbol of their unity, prosperity and freedom".<sup>58</sup> There can be no doubt that the ideal of Sir Thomas' motto, "While I breathe I serve", shared by many thousands of the Queen's subjects, had contributed to this end.



SIR THOMAS SAUNDER'S SIGNATURE AS  
COMMISSIONER OF CHURCH GOODS

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### *Elizabethan Times, 1558 - 1603*

It is a regrettable, but undeniable fact, that Nicholas Sander, or Saunder, cousin to Sir Thomas, was considered in his day to be a traitor, "a cunning lettered traitor" is the exact epithet. His career certainly throws light on the grave danger to the state caused by fanatical English Papists, many of them in the actual pay of Philip of Spain, he who was lately King of England and husband of Queen Mary. Secretary Walsingham had a long list "of such Englishmen as came into Spain for entertainment at the King of Spain's hands. The date of their arrival in Madrid and amount of pension granted to each".<sup>103</sup> It must be remembered that much information that follows is taken from the same ultra-Protestant source, and tends to show Dr. Sander in the most unfavourable light. There is no doubt that he was in fact an extremely able man, greatly admired by his friends and feared by his enemies. He gave up his life to further the cause of the Holy Catholic Church, and died in her service. Though an undoubted rebel and traitor to the state he has left the most famous name in Charlwood's history.

*Nicholas  
Sander,  
Jesuit,  
c. 1530 to  
1581*

Nicholas, who was the grandson of Richard Saunders who died in 1480 was born according to most authorities, at Charlwood in 1529 or 1530. His father was William Saunders of Aston, High Sheriff of Surrey in 1556. His mother was Elizabeth Mynes, who undoubtedly brought up her twelve children as determined Papists.<sup>84</sup> One sister, Elizabeth, wife of Henry Pitts, was arrested for having "certain lewd and forbidden books" and "a challenge of the Jesuits". Was this the famous challenge of Edmund Campion? In 1585 Bishop Cowper wrote to Walsingham "against any favour being shown to the wife of Mr. Pitts of Alton, committed to Clink, who was a very obstinate person and natural sister to N. Saunders, the traitor. Her return to Winchester would do more harm than ten sermons would do good".<sup>103</sup>

At the age of ten Nicholas was sent to be "educated in

grammar learning at Wykeham school near Winchester".<sup>87</sup> From 1546-1561 he was at New College, Oxford, and was made first a Fellow and then Bachelor of Laws.<sup>76</sup> It must be remembered that this was during the uncompromising years of the Reformation, and the lack of toleration of this period served merely to strengthen the convictions of this young and ardent Papist.

After the death of Queen Mary, "religion putting on another face", he left England for good. It has been suggested that some time during his career he may have returned secretly to this neighbourhood as a Jesuit emissary, and while hiding at Leigh Place scratched the faint words on the mantelpiece there,<sup>6</sup> but he certainly never dared to return openly.

1560 He became a Jesuit and was ordained Priest and later graduated Doctor of Divinity at Rome. Here he was considered so able that his friends hoped to obtain for him a Cardinal's Hat, that the English "might have a man of credit to solicit their cause". He travelled widely, and Cardinal Hosius having a great regard and respect for him, made him his especial companion in his journeys into Poland, Prussia and Lithuania. He also accompanied the Cardinal to the great Council of the Roman Church at Trent, where he was able to display his great talent for controversy.

The Roman Church was waging bitter war on Protestantism, and in 1570 Pius V excommunicated Queen Elizabeth and released her subjects from their allegiance. The next year Parliament replied by forbidding reconciliation with Rome, and making it treason to impugn the Queen's title. Dr. Sanders was being carefully watched by the authorities at home.

Between the years 1565-1572 he visited Louvain, where his mother was living in exile, and was at Antwerp "teaching false doctrine". From Antwerp he wrote that he was "being called to Rome". The true cause is perhaps given in another letter where it is mentioned that he and five or six others "have departed from hence (Antwerp) towards the Pope expecting to find better entertainment than they have done here" !<sup>103</sup>

He was shortly back in Madrid, in receipt of a pension of

300 ducats from Philip, and there he became a leader of Catholic opinion. In May, when Philip of Spain's title to the English throne was being discussed, "some thought he should make it by conquest by the authority of the Pope as upon heretics, but Dr. Sander who is of great credit among them put it into their head to take upon them but a regency in right of the Scottish Queen and her son".<sup>103</sup> 1574

Five years later he was Papal Nuncio to the small Spanish force which landed in Ireland where, with the help of the Earl of Desmond, they hoped to raise insurrection. After their complete defeat, nothing certain is known of his movements. He is said to have had many hairbreadth escapes, and that "the diligence of the cunning lettered traitor" baffled all Burghley's efforts at capture, though his servant was caught and hanged.<sup>76</sup>

Nothing certain is known of the manner of his death which was almost certainly in 1581. One version was that he died surrounded by his friends, and another that his body was found in a wood with his breviary and Bible under his arm. Wood puts it thus in his *Athenae Oxoniensis*: "At length after two years time being not able to hold out longer he did miserably perish by hunger and cold. . . . Thus the divine justice (if a man may judge) stopped that mouth with hunger which had been always open to encourage rebellions and belch forth malicious lies and slanders. . . . For he was the first man that broached that abominable lye concerning the birth of queen Elizabeth's Mother". 1581

It was in Dr. Nicholas' most famous book, "The Rise and Growth of the Anglican Schism", that this "abominable lye" is found. Here he put forward the tale which he certainly believed himself, that Anne Boleyn, later to be the wife, was the natural daughter of Henry VIII, and "if not his child, the child of his mistress", and was so considered in her lifetime. This book he was writing in Madrid in 1576, but it was not printed until some years after his death. No wonder the English translation from the Latin caused considerable concern to Elizabeth's government, who queried whether it was possible that it might be intercepted before dispersion.<sup>103</sup>

Burnets "History of the Reformation", 1679, was pro-

fessedly written to counteract the "palpable falsehoods asserted by Sanders", but perhaps this short sketch should end with Aubrey's praise. Writing of the Sander family he says, "of whom came the famous and learned Jesuit Nicholas Sanders, D.D., whose Writings, though not absolutely free from Exceptions, contain many bold Truths made out too plainly to admit of any Denial".<sup>94</sup> Recent historians agree with this verdict, and have proved that his narrative of facts is remarkably truthful.

While Nicholas Saunder was struggling vainly in a lost *John* cause in Ireland another connected with Charlwood, poss-  
*Charlewood* ibly of the same religious persuasion, was printing "the Oration and Sermon made at Rome the xxvii daie of Maie 1578", which work sold for 8d., and later "The  
1578 Masque of the League and Spanyard".

This was John Charlewood, who describes himself as "the Printer in the City of London", and in some imprints as "dwelling in Barbycan (near Cripplegate) at the signe of the halfe Eagle and the Key. Though he lived in London he can certainly be claimed as one of the local Charlwood family, and one of his apprentices was Geffrey, the son of Richard Charlewood of Lye, in the county of Surrey. He is known to have been printing during Queen Mary's reign at the Saracens Head, Holborn Conduit and his name appears in 1562 on a ballad styled "A diolige of the Ruffull burr(n)yng of Powles'.. It reappears frequently during the next thirty years chiefly in connection with ballads, religious tracts and other popular pieces.

John Charlewood has himself been described as "a somewhat disorderly person" from the fact that he was a persistent printer of "privileged copies" or those published without the necessary licence.<sup>85</sup>

Certainly in 1559 he was summoned before the city Chamberlain, apparently for some unlicensed work, and paid more fines for the same offence between 1578 and 1580.

Three years later he is mentioned by name among those who "runne up and downe to all ye faires and markets through a great part of ye Realme" and frequenting "Innes and Alehouses and other places considered with

vehement suspition . . . . . they retorne home more poore than they went out and so spoil ye whole trade of ye Company and deceave ye Maiesties subjects with bookes evilly and untruely printed.”<sup>86</sup>

It is surely ironical that at the Guildhall is still to be seen a little leather covered book printed by him entitled “ Law Precedents” and that on the title page appear the following words “meet for all such as desire to learne the fourme and manner how to make al manner of evidences”.

Undoubtedly his chief claim to fame is the fact that he is the earliest printer of Playbills to be found in the Stationer’s Register. On 30th October, 1587, there is “Lycenced to him by the whole consent of the assistentes, the onelye ympryntrnge of all manner of Billes for players,” with the proviso “yat if any trouble aryse hereby Charlewood to beare the charges.”<sup>86</sup>

It is the more interesting that this was the same year that the second theatre ever to be built in London, the “Rose” at Bankside, Southwark, was opened. In this theatre Shakespeare was playing in Henry VI at the very outset of his career, in 1592, the year of John Charlewood’s death. James Roberts, who purchased Charlewood’s copyrights, including “The Billes for Plaiers”, was the printer or several Shakespearian quartos. In addition to buying the copyrights, James Roberts seems to have made doubly sure of success by marrying the “widdowe Charlewood” who had herself printed three books and had licences for two others. The following entry is in 1593 “to Alice Robertes, late wyfe of John Charlewood for his gaynes from his share in Carrick goodes 4s. 6d.”.<sup>86</sup> 1587

Charlwood may thus claim that one of her oldest families was closely connected with the Shakespearian stage and played a leading part in making known to the public of that day, works which are now world famous.

In 1585 the threat of invasion by the Spaniards was looming large in the minds of all Englishmen. Troops were called for, and Charlwood men must have been among the 2,000 sent from Surrey armed with shot, bows, bills, corselets and pikes. The immediate danger past, they returned to their *The Armada,* 1588

homes only to be called out again three years later. On 28th July the Spanish Armada was sighted off the Lizard and, by a series of blazing beacons, the dread news was flashed to London. On the same day, 28th July, Surrey was honoured by the command to send 500 foot soldiers to attend Her Majesty's person in London.<sup>92</sup>

The great Spanish fleet swept up the Channel, attacked for a whole week on the flanks and rear by the little English ships armed with good Wealden cannon, like a great bull worried by a pack of terriers. On 6th August the English cannon and English seamanship completed the defeat started by the fire-ships, and the danger was past.

*Carrucage* It was the supply of all these cannon and the necessary shot which had brought so much prosperity to Charlwood that in the assessment for the Ship Money Tax of nearly fifty years later Charlwood was rated at £31; a tax equal to that of Horley and three times that of Newdigate.<sup>90</sup> This increased wealth had also enabled the people of Charlwood, in the reign of Charles I, to make a cash payment in lieu of providing horses, carriages and wagons when the Court moved from place to place in Surrey. This service had previously been compulsory, and at the beginning of the century Reigate Hundred had been forced to provide six carriages when the Court moved from Richmond, five when it left Hampton Court or Otelands, and seven from Nonsuch. Being in the Hundred of Reigate, Charlwood had to provide a share of these carriages, an inconvenient service which was resented as a restriction of freedom. This commission, at the rate of 2s. for every twenty acres, though expensive, must have been considered well worth while.<sup>93</sup>

The compulsory provision of this transport was pleaded, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as a reason for the exemption of the men of Surrey from the necessity of keeping a certain number of horses and brood mares enforced by acts of Henry VIII which were revived by his daughter Elizabeth. One of these acts insisted that owners of deer parks a mile or more in circuit should keep two brood "maars" not less than 13 hands high. The other, called "The Bill for Greate Horses" ordained that all persons with estates valued at 600

marks or more should keep, according to the value of their properties, from one to seven horses, "able for the warres", and 14 hands high. It also decreed that any man whose wife "shall were any gown or peticote of sylke" or "any Frenche hood or bonnett of velvett" or "any chayne of gold about her nekk" or "any velvet in her kyrtell" should keep one "trotting Horse for the saddill".<sup>92</sup> These throw an interesting light on the size of the horse in general use in Tudor times. The great horse of 14 hands "able for the warres" would nowadays be considered no more than a child's pony.

These acts, when revived by Queen Elizabeth, were hotly opposed by the Surrey gentry on the grounds that their county was one of the least and barrenest shires in England, and the "most chardged of anie by reason that her Majestie lieth in or about the shire contynyallie, and therby is chardged with contynual removes and caridge of coles, wood, and other provision to the Court; and likewis with contynuall caridge for the Admiraltie, and the Master of the Ordynance". They also added, rather naively, "by reason that it is so nighe the Corte that both gentlemen's lyvings and others are verie well knowen, whether it be londs or goods, so as if any defaulte should be, it is streight waie subject to controlement".<sup>92</sup>

## CHAPTER NINE

### *The Iron Industry 1396 - 1700*

The iron industry which played so large a part in the defeat of the Armada had flourished in the Weald from the earliest times and had already had a great influence on life in Charlwood. The digging of iron, the cutting of wood and the burning of charcoal for the furnaces must have provided employment for many and have brought much prosperity to the village. In a lease dated 1396 the Prior of Christchurch reserved the right to dig iron in Charlwood and this clause

occurs in many later deeds. When the industry was at its zenith, during the 16th and 17th centuries, a belated traveller approaching the village by way of Stanhill or Russ Hill would have seen the night sky ablaze with the glow from scores of furnaces.

Iron had probably been smelted in Sussex since Neolithic times, and the industry was noted by Cæsar and exploited by the Romans during their occupation. During the Dark and Middle Ages it declined but continued to produce domestic ironware, cooking pots and skillets, rushlight holders, tools and many small objects of everyday use including large numbers of horse shoes and nails. In 1253 the Sheriff of Sussex was ordered to provide 30,000 horseshoes and 60,000 nails for the army of Henry III, while in 1320 the forge at Roffey sent 1,000 horseshoes for the Scottish war by way of Shoreham at a cost of £4. 3s. 4d. and 5s. for carriage.

The early works produced iron by the Direct or Bloomery process, which gave a small mass of wrought iron fit for immediate forging. By Tudor times this process had been almost entirely superseded by the indirect or Blast process, which was introduced from the Continent. Though it was the French who came over to teach our ironworkers this new method it was the men of the Weald who perfected it. Very soon they were not only supplying almost the whole of England's need but were exporting large quantities of ordnance and other ironwork. This was, in fact, the first industry at which the English excelled, and the first time manufactured goods, with the possible exception of woollen cloth, had been exported on this scale. The new process, which produced cast iron, was expensive, needing buildings, plant and water-power to work the hammers and bellows, but the demand for iron was increasing and the Weald enjoyed almost a complete monopoly. The merchant princes from London needed no persuasion to invest their money in this promising industry, while the landowners grew rich by the sale of their ore and timber. The lesser gentry, who had charge of the actual management became wealthy and their prosperity must have been reflected throughout the village and probably accounts for the

number of comparatively large houses of this period still in existence. Many of the timbers in these houses bear unmistakable marks of previous use for, by the early part of the 16th century, the inroads into our wood reserves were already making themselves felt, and in 1548 the price of wood had risen from 4d. to 12d. a load.

*Timber  
Shortage*

Agitations to close down the iron works arose mainly in the coast towns of Sussex, where the population found the price of fuel soaring and their export trade of fuel diminishing by reason of this industry in whose profits they did not share. An inquiry, which lasted two months, was held at Westminster in 1548 before Sir Thomas Carden, or Carwarden, later Bailiff of Bletchingley. Here it was alleged that if the iron-mills were suffered to continue there would be such "scantie" of timber that there would not be sufficient for a multitude of purposes, including houses, mills, bridges, ships, gunstocks, arrows, buckets, bowls, piers and "jutties" nor for "fuel for relieving of the poor fishers after their arrival from their daily fishing to dry their clothes and warm their bodies". Other opponents alleged that there was an established "black market" in guns sold to pirates and to "strangers to carry over seas" where they were no doubt used to harry our own seamen when on their lawful occasions.

As a result of these agitations a bill was passed in 1558 prohibiting the felling of large timber for iron making within fourteen miles of the sea or any navigable river, with the exception of "Sussex, Weild of Kent, Charlwood, Nudigate and Lighe in the Wylde of the Countye of Surrey". John Evelyn in his "Sylva", published just over a hundred years later, explains this exception as being due to the careful way in which Christopher Darrell, who owned Ewood Furnace in Newdigate and Leigh Forge, "ordered his works that they were the means of preserving even his woods". This may have been so, but one wonders whether the fact that Christopher Darrell was in debt to Queen Elizabeth had any bearing on the matter for, owing to this debt, the Crown into possession of the furnace at Ewood had come and remained in possession until 1604, when the furnace prob-

*Charlwood  
Exempted,  
1558*

ably closed down. Ewood had previously been in the possession of the Nevill family of which Margaret, wife of Sir Robert Southwell, was a member, and it was from this and other iron works that they derived their wealth.

The exception of Charlwood from the Act of 1558 was certainly taken advantage of, and that timber was felled mercilessly is shown by an entry in the Court Rolls of the Manor of Shellwood, in which manor parts of Charlwood were included. An entry dated 1635 records that the waste of Norwood Hill, among many other wastes "in former times was full of great trees of oake and beeche, and other woods, wherein the Tenants of the Manor did keepe and feed their hogges and all man'er of swine, when ye woods were standinge, and did take the benefitt of ye acornes and mast falling under the trees there, and alsoe have used in the said waste to take and have loame to repair their houses and buildings when neede required; and also since those great woods were felled, the Tenants of ye said Manor have turned out their cattel into ye said waste, and have depastured the same there".<sup>91</sup>

*Damage to the Roads* The charge of reckless destruction of woodlands may have been exaggerated in some cases, but not so that of incalculable damage to the roads. These roads were mere tracks across the commons and between the enclosed lands; unmetalled, grass and dust in the summer and mud in the winter. Few roads in those days were better than Pudding Lane and Ringers Lane are today. They served mounted traffic well enough, but when, in Elizabethan times, the increased demand for timber for shipbuilding coincided with the increased demand for guns, these clay roads were found totally inadequate. Hundreds of loads of iron mine, as the ore was called, and charcoal had to be carted, mainly by ox wain, to the furnaces; the resulting sows and pigs of iron had to be taken thence to the forges and the finished products, comprising loads of great weight, had to be carted to their destinations. We have much evidence that the roads were practically impassable in winter, and even the ironmasters owned that this was largely due to their traffic. John Fuller tells how, as late as the spring of 1728, he had to bring in 774

loads of mine to the Heathfield Foundry upon horses backs owing to the state of the roads, and he also says, "I have gotten 20 nine pounders . . . to Lewes. These twenty have torn the roads so that nothing can follow them and the country curse us heartily". As the maintenance of the roads was the responsibility of each parish it is no wonder that they cursed the ironmasters.

Matters were somewhat improved by the act of 27 Elizabeth 1584, which forced the ironmasters to lay on the roads one load of "sinder, gravill, stone, sande or chalke" for every mile over which they carried, between 12th October and 1st May, six tons of charcoal or iron ore or one ton of iron. Thirteen years later a more stringent act forced them to lay cinder in return for summer cartage while, in the winter, they must pay 3s. per mile for three loads and, unfortunately, it was in the winter that the greater force of water available enabled the furnaces to work at full capacity. In 1628 a certain Thomas Saunders was indicted in Sussex for carrying 110 tons of sows without laying down the necessary cinder.

The ironworks produced a large amount of this waste or "cinder" which, being very hard and almost indestructible, was used extensively to lay on the roads. It is still to be found in many Charlwood gardens which were, in those days, part of the commons across which the tracks ran. When the road at Tinsley was excavated in 1949, for the Crawley New Town sewer, an old road surface, composed entirely of cinder, was exposed from 3 foot 6 inches to 5 foot below the surface of the present road. In the mud of the old road were found horse shoes dated between 1550 and 1750, one of which still retains the nails showing that it was torn off in the deep retentive clay. This road ran close to Tinsley forge, which gave its name not only to the nearby farm but also the Forge apple so popular in the district. On the farm the pond bay, or dam, built mainly of cinder, is still clearly to be seen and this cinder it was that gave its name to Black Corner close by.

In 1574 Tinsley Forge was owned by Henry Bowyer, who also owned a double furnace at Hartfield and acted as Ironmaster for Queen Elizabeth elsewhere in Ashdown Forest.

*Tinsley  
Forge*

*Henry  
Bowyer,  
1574*

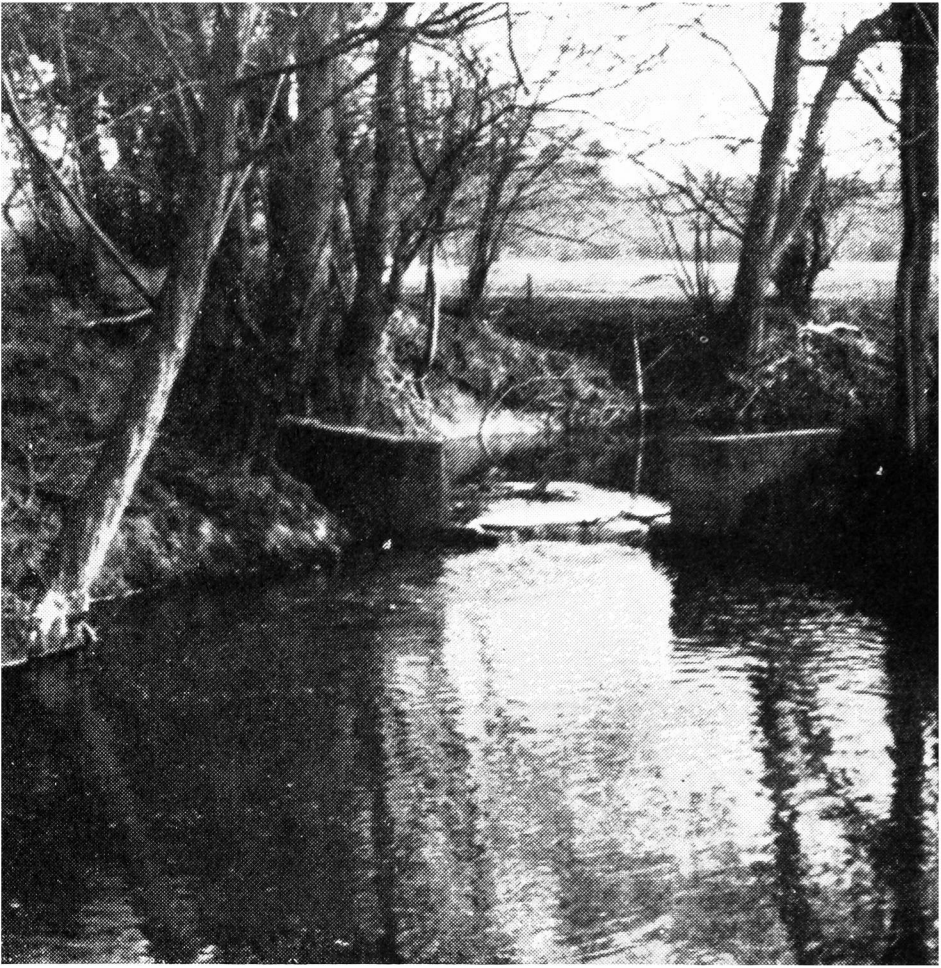
The double furnace was so formed to enable both halves of the gun to be cast simultaneously. Sir Henry Bowyer died in 1589 leaving Tinsley Forge to his son William. William Bowyer lived near his forge at Oldlands in Charlwood, and much of his land is now part of Gatwick aerodrome. He was churchwarden of Charlwood church in 1618, where his sons John and George were baptised in 1612 and 1614 respectively. He was considered one of the three wealthiest men in the parish and as one of the chief landholders of Surrey he was forced to "lend" Charles I £10 in the first year of his reign. However, when William Bowyer died Tinsley Hammer was mortgaged and John was instructed, in the will, to pay this off for £300. To William, his other son, he left the Manor of Woolborough in "Woorth", which is the site of a bloomery known as Cindery Seventeen. There is no mention of this ironworks in his will, so it seems probable that it was not working at this time. Following the fashion of the day, he left to the poor of Charlwood fourtie shillings and to the poor of "Woorth" twentie shillings.<sup>109</sup> He was buried in the churchyard here in 1632, where also Simon Bowyer was buried in 1611.<sup>115</sup>

Simon Bowyer, or Symon, as he appears in our Parish Registers, owned Burningfold forge and furnace at Dunsfold in partnership with Edward Caryll in 1580. The partners, however, fell out, Symon accusing Caryll of misappropriating some 14 tons of sows and the works were sold in 1604.

*Leonard Gale* 1656 In 1656 Tinsley Forge was bought by Leonard Gale. He partnered Walter Burrell for fifteen years in the management of Worth Furnace, and became sole owner of "Tinsloe Forge". He later handed over the working of this Forge to his men, for he wrote: "I would never have left my forge but that my men would work no other sows but Cowden, and they made me pay 20s. for every ton of sows more than I could have them at some other furnaces, which was a great hindrance to my gains; therefore, I let them my forge". The carting of sows from Cowden, ten miles or more, must, indeed, have been a very expensive business. Even if he did all his carting in the summer, he would have had to lay a



OLDLANDS FARM



The River Mole where it passes through the bay of the hammer pond at Tinsley. The large flat meadow in the background was the site of this pond whose water supplied the power to Tinsley Forge

load of cinder on the roads for every ton of iron he carried as well as having to pay the greater price for the sows. This was more than his frugal mind could bear. He advised his son to buy Cowden and so reduce some of the cost. He owned in Charlwood two acres of Hyders, Foxholes and land between Spicers and Charlwood Green.<sup>108</sup> When he died in 1690 he was buried in the churchyard at Charlwood.<sup>115</sup>

His son, also named Leonard, was but seventeen when he inherited Tinsley Forge and his father's fortune made entirely from iron. Following his father's advice, he acquired Cowden, either by purchase or by marriage to his cousin, Mrs. Sarah Knight. They were married in Charlwood church by Mr. Henry Hesketh. He outlived his wife by ten years, and died possessing much land, including Crabbett Park. Within the parish, as reported at the Court Baron of 1756, he owned the two acres of Hyders left him by his father.<sup>108</sup>

While the ironmaster had to contend with jealousies and opposition from without the industry they were also troubled with even worse jealousies and feuds within. Many were the pitched battles fought over the possession of these coveted ironworks and we have, in the Star Chamber Proceedings of Henry VIII, a vivid picture of one such fight between William Saunders, second cousin once removed of Sir Thomas Saunders, and Denise Bowyer, the mother of Sir Henry Bowyer, and a very spirited old lady.

*Denise  
Bowyer  
v.  
William  
Saunders*

She had leased and was in possession of the large ironworks of Parrock in the parish of Hartfield, but William Saunders claimed that he had bought them in 1547. According to Denise, William Saunders "intending and minding to expel and avoid her, broke up the said ponds and waters so that she could not use the forge", and he and his men came "with force and arms, to wit with swords, bucklers, staves and other warlike weapons, with skulls upon their heads, in manner of war arrayed, and would then and there letten the water out of the ponds of the said furnace so that the furnace or iron mill could not in any wise be set to work. And after the said misdemeaning persons of their frowardness and

malice carrying with them a cart and oxen did then and there riotiously and forcibly enter into the mill or forge, and assault and evil entreat Denise's workmen, . . . did strike with swords Christopher Tryndall upon the head and gave him many evil wounds, so that he was in great danger of his life, and cut off another man's finger, . . . did pluck up the bellows and broke the frame in which they stood and by force carried them away in the said cart, and will in no wise permit Denise to have them again". Refusing to acknowledge defeat, Denise Bowyer gathered together eighteen of her men armed with staves, bills, bows and arrows and, leading them in person, made haste to follow Saunders, whose men could travel no faster than the lumbering ox wain laden with Denise's essential tools and equipment.

In his evidence, William Saunders tells how after they "were departed from the mill almost to his own house, being in God's peace and the King's, Haywood and others suddenly without any word struck him upon his head and with a halberd brake his buckler and put him in jeopardy of his life, or had slain him. Denise, with a staff she had in her hands, struck the oxen over the muzzles, and would have turned them out of the way, and cried out in a loud voice, "Down with Greybeard, Down with Greybeard", and "Shoot at Greybeard". and so she persisted until Saunders picked her up and carried her bodily out of the way so that the oxen could proceed. Denise denied this spirited defence of her rights, and pleaded that "she had but a small stick in her hands which a lame and impotent woman used to walk withall to stay her".

The findings of the court are not recorded, but we fear that they must have gone against Denise, as in 1564 Sir William Saunders was in possession of Parrock ironworks which, on his death, he left to his son Nicholas.

*John Caryll* These Parrock ironworks had previously belonged to John Caryll, and in 1609 Sir John Caryll acquired the Warnham furnace. In 1590 John Carill of Warnham sold Testers, in Charlwood, now known as Tifters, the lands of which, at that date, extended south to the country boundary. It was probably he who dug so extensively for iron ore in

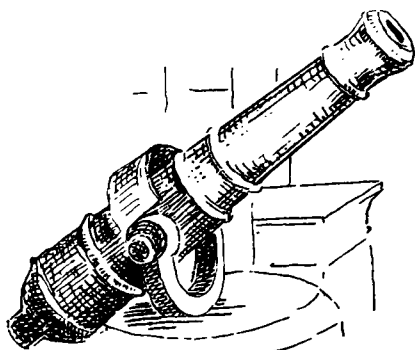
Minepit Close, two fields east of the present Longfield Cottages on the Ifield road, that it has never since been cultivated. It is now a little covert whose uneven surface to this day tells the tale of many tons of ore dug and carried to Warnham or perhaps elsewhere for the Carylls at one time owned nearly all the ironworks in the western part of the Forest. It was unusual to leave the land unlevelled. After digging the mine, which lay in a fairly shallow vein, the land was usually levelled and put back into cultivation again. This item occurs in an iron master's accounts of 1741, "Pd. Thomas Reed levelling 50 Minc pits at 6d. £1 5s. od.". It is for this reason that we see so little evidence today of all the mining which must have taken place in Charlwood in the past. Pit Meadow and Pit Croft on Little Park Farm, Pit Four Acres beside the Povey Cross road and Mine Croft on Edolphs all hold in their names memories of this work. A later John Caryll, whose death was recorded in the Court Rolls of 1670 owned Bush House and Barnelands.<sup>108</sup> Bush House stood close to where Shurbridge now is and the adjoining covert still retains the name. Barnelands was a moated house of which only the remains of the moat are still to be seen close to the River Mole at Moat Farm, Hookwood. There is no record that John Caryll owned the iron works at Cinderfield, just across the river, or even that they were still working at this date, but fields close to the moat are still known as Black Acres, presumably from the cinder which once lay there.

The bloomery at Cinderfield which lies just outside Charl- *Cinderfield* wood, in the parish of Horley, is noteworthy for its early documentary record. In 1371 John Neel and others were accused of digging up the highway in Horley in which was a "mina ferri". This land was in those days an open common or waste of the manor and the defence was that it was no highway. However, this defence failed, and the comparatively heavy fines of 2s. and 1s. were imposed on the offender and his man.

Rowley, a few miles to the south, is connected with the *Rowley* Culpeppers, another very prominent family of ironmasters. As early as 1354 Richard Colepeper rented Tudeley Bloo-

mery and in 1497 another Richard and his brother Nicholas Culpepper owned Rowley in Charlwood. Sir Edward Culpepper, his great grandson, also owned Rowley. He must have been a very wealthy man, for in 1560 he made the vast addition to Wakehurst Place, near Ardingly, which made it one of the finest examples of Elizabethan great house in the south of England. In 1566 he bought Tilgate Furnace, and from 1589 to 1626 he owned Chingley Forge, Goudhurst. In 1627 Sir Edward Culpepper of Wakehurst granted to his youngest son, Edward, part of the Manor of Rowley.

THE  
CULPEPPER  
GUN



NOW AT  
WAKEHURST  
PLACE

*The Browns* Sir Thomas Culpepper was associated with George Brown at various furnaces in Surrey and Sussex after the Restoration. An ancestor of his, Thomas Brown of Betchworth Castle, was a nephew of Sir Thomas Saunders, and owned a part share in Ewood ironworks. George Brown's grandfather, John Brown, was King's Gunfounder to Charles I. He was among the king's retinue when Charles, in 1642, entered the House of Commons and demanded the surrender of the Five Members, an act which proved to be the spark which touched off the conflagration of the Civil War. In spite of his office in the service of the King, John Brown relinquished it to become official gunfounder to the Parliament. He was given control of six other furnaces in Surrey and Sussex as well as his own and continued to cast guns for the Parliamentarians until his death in 1652. At the Restoration his grandson, George Brown, whose daughter, Phillippa, married William Jordon of Gatwick, became gunfounder to the King. Before the Civil War the Browns of Betchworth Castle had not been a wealthy family in fact at the end of the will of Sir Thomas Saunder, made in 1563

comes a clause leaving "the residue of my apparell to be divided amonge my sister Brownes children and my uncle Sawnders poore Childeren to whom I give £10 also to be divided amonge the pooreste of them". No longer could they be considered poor relations for by judicious disregard for politics and assiduous attention to business the family fortunes must have been well and truly retrieved !

The bloomery at Stumbleholm, in Ifield parish, was *Ifield* probably not at work during the Civil War, but the forge at *Forge* Ifield was suspected of working for the Royalists and was burnt down in 1643 by the troop of horse sent by Sir William Waller, to destroy all Royalist ironworks in the Forest. It stood, where the old corn mill stands, at the lower end of the great pond which supplied the water power to work the hammer. Its companion furnace at Bewbush probably suffered a like fate for the Parliamentary Survey of 16th March, 1649, describes it as an old furnace that "hath stood empty for about seven years last past".

After the Civil War the iron industry in the Weald slowly declined. In this district, around Charlwood, it had probably died out by the beginning of the 18th century for no iron works near here were mentioned in the list of 1717. In 1820 the last wealden forge, Ashburnham, closed down. The reasons for this decline were many and various but the main causes were firstly, the abnormally low rainfall during the first half of the 18th century when between 1737 and 1750 many furnaces were "blown out" for want of water; secondly, the rising cost of labour, the depletion of the forests and the resulting high price of charcoal; and last but not least the discovery in 1735 of a method of using sea coal, that is ordinary coal, for smelting. In 1769 the naval contract was given to the Carron Ironworks in Scotland. This was the final blow to a great industry which had brought prosperity to Charlwood and had contributed materially towards England's supremacy.

## CHAPTER TEN

### *The Charities and the Infection 1610 - 1949*

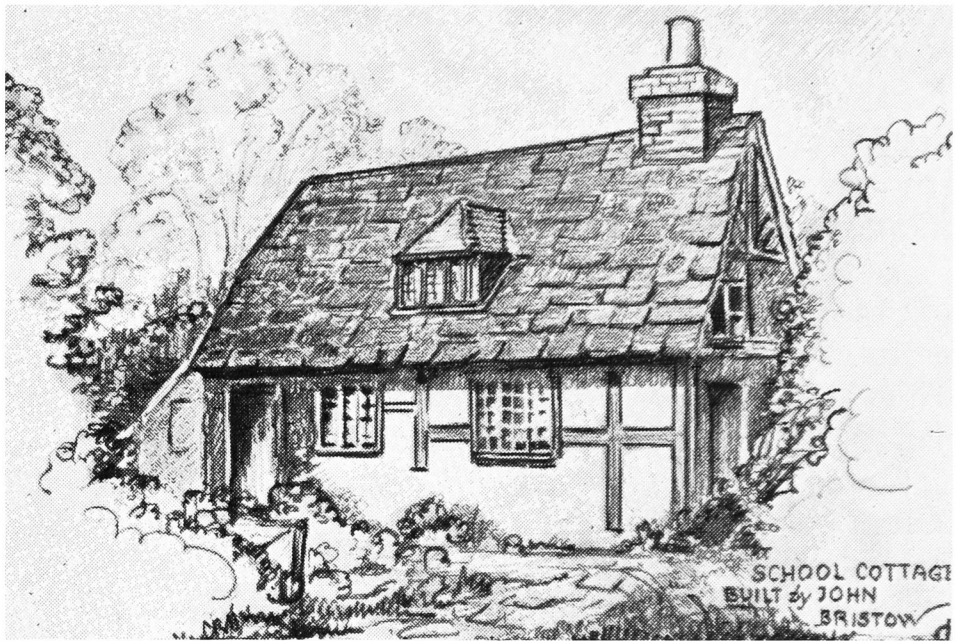
*The Charities* Throughout the 16th century there was a growing feeling that the Church was encumbered rather than animated by her great riches. During the succeeding centuries men of substance and piety tended more and more to leave land and money, not to the Church, but in trust for the alleviation of poverty or the encouragement of learning. This custom continued into the 17th century, and its fruit is seen in Charlewood in our Charities, some of which are still active.

*Michael Earle, Rector, 1598-1615* Michael Earle, who was rector of this parish from 1598 to 1615, left land in Horsted Keynes and Hothleye in Sussex, out of which was to be paid each year to the poor "forty shillings of lawful money of England at or in the portche of the Parrish Church of Charlewood upon the Feaste day of St. Michaell tharchangell". He nominated his "trustie and loving friend Mr. William Mulcaster", his brother-in-law, Thomas Lechford, and his kind neighbour, George Ede, as trustees, and expressed the hope that they would convey the annuitie and "also the house or tenement that Thomas Drakford now dwells in and a backside thereunto adjoining . . . situate in Charlewood . . . to some 6, 8, 10 or 12 such of the inhabitants of Charlewood as they shall think fit, the yearly profite from tyme to tyme for ever to come and accrewe to the poore of the parrish of Charlewood". He added a proviso that "in default of payment ther shall be 10s. paid for every month during which the rent is behind".

It is interesting to find in the Church Chest lawyer's bills, dated 1807 and 1809, which state that the deed of the late Mr. Michael Earl's Gift had been lost but the will was found. No payment had been made since 1788, but all arrears were eventually paid up. If the penalty for delay was enforced some £150 must have gone towards the relief of the poor at a time when it was much needed.

Michael Earle was a wealthy man, for he left much property in Sussex as well as in Newdigate and Charlewood. To his





School Cottage, built by John Bristow, Rector 1615-1637,  
now known as Bristow's Cottage

brother Richard he left "£20, my best gelding, my best Cloke and my best gowne, my staffs of fugerchest (*sic*), my watch and one silver bole". He was also a kindly man, for he left many legacies to his relations, his friends and his servants, and forgave both his cousin and his kinswoman their debts.

A clause in his will reminds us that glass windows were at this time still something of a novelty. It was still customary for a man of property, when he moved from one of his houses to another, to carry with him the glass windows and the wainscot. This wainscot was oak panelling used to help keep out the draughts, but not permanently fixed to the wall. Though neither glass windows nor wainscot were considered part of the house, Michael Earle, with his kindly thought for others, willed "that the wainscott and the glass of the parsonage howse of Charlewood which I bought and paid for shall remayne for ever to my successors saving that in the hall and the shutters to the windows there".

His will, in quite lyrical English, is written throughout in his own hand, in exquisite secretary script. It shows him to have been a strong Protestant, for he makes it "holding that unfaileable faith which the Church of Christ ever hold under the preaching of His most Glorious Gospell esteeming the nowe Church of Rome under Antichrist the Pope to be the Whore of Babylon".<sup>112</sup>

Part of his gift is still paid annually, but it now brings in no more than 17s. to 18s. and is given in the form of one shilling each to widows residing in the parish.

Michael Earle died in 1615, and was succeeded as rector by John Bristow, a Charlwood man whose family, of which there were many branches in the district, had owned land here certainly since 1374. John Bristow was brought up at Barnlands, a moated house overlooking the Mole, later owned by John Caryll. He was a young man when he became rector of Charlwood and had attained no more than middle age when he died in 1637. He was a comparatively wealthy man, owning properties in Horley and Charlwood, which latter included "Hiders alias Hidehouse and a parcel of land . . . in Hidemead, 21 acres, Reynolds and 15 acres and Eastlands and 36 acres".<sup>108</sup> During his lifetime he built

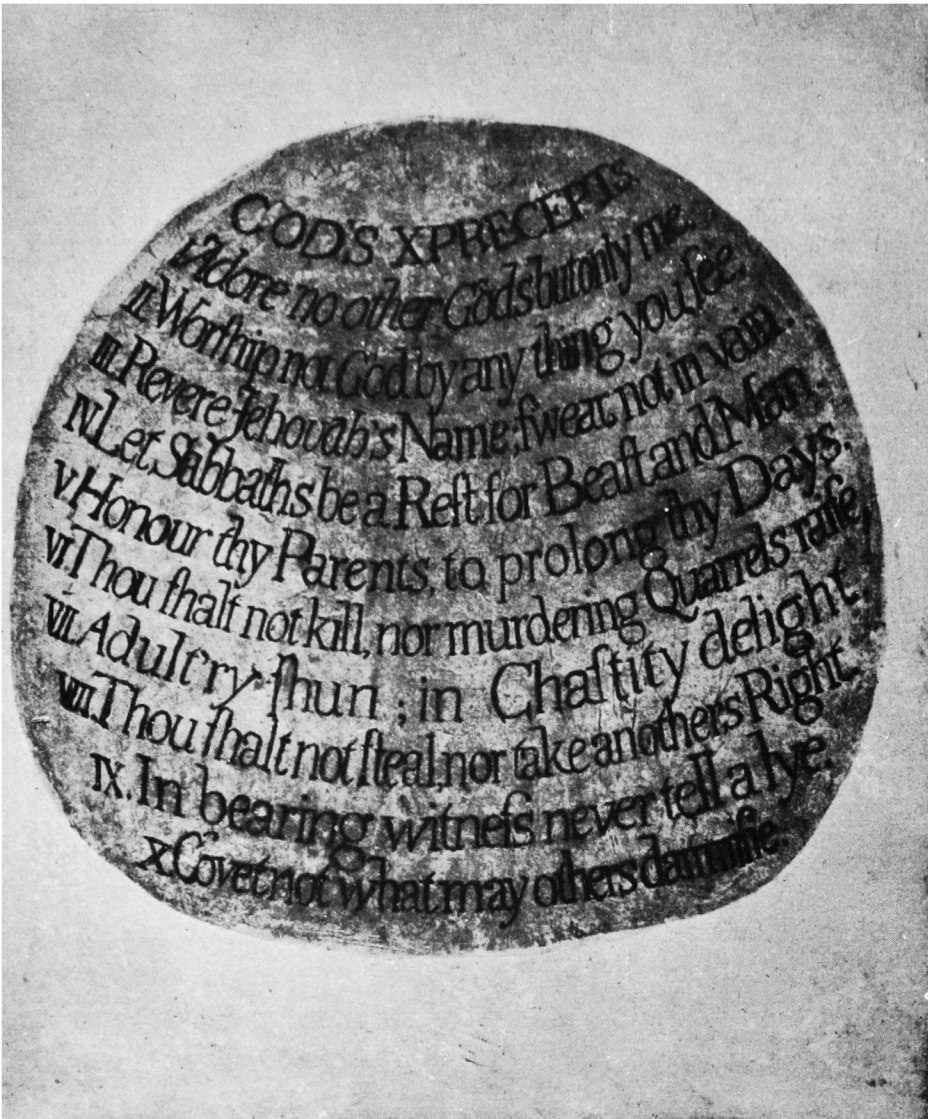
*John  
Bristow,  
Rector,  
1615-  
1637*

what is now known as Bristow's Cottage, and gave it and the half acre adjoining, under the care of six trustees, to be "a Schoolhouse, and for the teaching of two poor children therein gratis".<sup>13</sup> This, in common with other schools of this period endowed for the teaching of poor children, was probably intended for the relatively poor, the children of the lesser gentry and yeomen.<sup>58</sup> In his will, John Bristow added to this trust another field of seven acres "adjoining the lane leading from Charlwood Church towards Newdigate", which is now called Beggarhouse Lane. He named James Jordan, George and John Constable, John Sander and Edward and Richard Round as trustees, and increased to three the number of children who were to benefit.

He also showed his concern for the poor of his parish by following the not unusual custom of leaving £3 to be distributed at his funeral. Thomas Mulcaster, who succeeded him as rector, signed the will as witness.<sup>109</sup>

By 1863 this trust had fallen upon the rector alone, and the Rev. Thomas Burningham applied to the Charity Commissioners to have further trustees appointed whereupon they added the churchwardens to the trust. At this date, John Mann, the aged schoolmaster, was teaching, without charge, four poor children to read, write and cast accounts.<sup>13</sup> The alphabet and tables, painted on the walls of the cottage, could be seen until comparatively recently and the ten commandments in charming rhyme have lately been uncovered, but children no longer do their lessons there. The rent of the fields and the cottage, however, still go towards expenses connected with education.

*Henry Smith,* Shortly after John Bristow had devoted his money to education, a substantial contribution was made towards the alleviation of poverty by Henry Smith. Many romantic legends surround this name. One, calling him Dog Smith, tells how he went, disguised as a beggarman, from village to village accompanied by his faithful dog, for whom he never failed to beg a bone. Another legend tells how, having begged in every village in Surrey, he allocated his charity in accordance with his reception. How in Newdigate a woman taking pity on the poor, cold beggarman, stripped off her



The rhyming paraphrase of the Ten Commandments recently found under the wallpaper in Bristow's Schoolhouse. It is thought to date from the early 18th Century and has been beautifully restored by the present tenant



**Providence chapel, which it is said was brought from Horsham where it was used during the Civil Wars by Cromwell's troops.**

red petticoat to wrap around his shoulders, and so to Newdigate he left his money to distribute red petticoats among the poor women of the parish. To Rusper, where he was whipped out of the parish, he left horsewhips for the carters, and in Charlwood, where he was received more kindly, with a good meal of bread and meat, he bequeathed money to buy bread and meat for the poor.

These legends have gone the way of much that is picturesque, for it is now known that Henry Smith was a silversmith of Silver Street, Cheapside. He was born, of humble parentage, in 1548 at Wandsworth, and amassed great wealth in his trade, which, at that time, included that of banking and money lending, both of which were exceedingly profitable. He rose to be an Alderman of London, but his personal needs remained simple and, though married, he had no children. He invested his money in land, and in 1620 appointed trustees to devote the revenue to benevolent purposes, reserving only £500 a year for his own use. Many and various were the causes to which he devoted his munificence. The poor, the aged, the infirm, the apprentices and the workless all profited. He founded a fellowship at Cambridge, and left money "to redeeme poore captives and prisoners from the Turkish tyranie". He gave £1,000 to each of the market towns of Surrey, and every parish in the county, except three, eventually benefited by his generosity. Varying sums were allocated to the villages; Charlwood's share being £5.<sup>92</sup> Dying at the age of 79, he was buried at his native village of Wandsworth, where a memorial shows him kneeling, in ruff and gown, holding in his hands a skull.

Henry Smith appears to have had the touch of Midas, for, during the three hundred years which have since elapsed his investments have, almost without exception, appreciated considerably. In the Church Chest are accounts showing that by 1811 the £5 had increased to over £8, while that was doubled in the following year. This was distributed in sums varying from two to four shillings. For many years before the 1939-45 war it was given in the form of a round of beef and a loaf of bread to every poor family who had been living in the parish for five years or more, but meat rationing

reduced it to bread and flour. Owing to this, and to the appreciation in value, the fund has now mounted to as much as £85.

*Thomas Round,* Another bequest of a much later date is also given annually in the form of bread. Thomas Round of Ringers who died 1876 in 1876, left £666 13s. 4d. invested at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., one half for the poor of Charlwood and the other half for the Methodist Chapel. This chapel, known as the Providence Chapel, was erected by the descendants of those who, after the renewal of the Act of Uniformity in 1662, preferred persecution as dissenters rather than conform to that in which they did not believe. It was erected in its present position in 1816 having, it is said, been brought from Horsham where it was used, during the Civil Wars by Cromwell's troops.

*George Wheatley* Yet another charity of about the same date is still paid, but no longer in Charlwood, for it was given, in the 19th century, by Mr. Wheatley towards the upkeep of the Charlwood Cottage Hospital. When this closed down, in 1905, the charity was diverted to the hospital at Horley.

*Lost Charities* There have been other charities left to the village which for one reason or another are now lost. Brayley, writing in 1844 mentions three houses with orchards and one house in two tenements without an orchard, which were supposed to have been bought by the parish for the benefit of the poor. These were probably the alms houses mentioned in various accounts now in the Church Chest built on what is now the east end of the Churchyard. These five cottages are shown on the Tithe Map of 1842, but at that time they were no longer used as alms houses though the rents may still have gone to the poor. No trace of them now remains.

Further, Sir Thomas Saunders in his will of 1563 left to the churchwardens aforesaid all the hole rente and yearly proffitte of all my lands called Lorkyns in Charlewod nowe in the tenure . . . of Richard Cottingham payinge now tyentye shings by the yere for it . . . to thuse and proffit of . . . a clercks wages And in the mean tyme untill such a Clercke may be gotten . . . to the maintenance of all suche indigent and power people of the same parishe by the discreation of myne heire and the Parson of Charlewodde and pishions of the same for the tyme beinge.

This rent has long since ceased to be paid for this purpose if, in fact, Sir Thomas' wishes in this respect were ever carried out.

Charlwood was closely connected with one of the earliest *Archbishop* factories, which was founded by George Abbot, Archbishop *Abbot*, of Canterbury, for charitable purposes. George Abbot was 1562-1633 born at Guildford in 1562 of comparatively humble parents. His father, a cloth worker, suffered for his Protestant faith under Queen Mary, and this may have accounted for George Abbot's unrelenting persecution of the Roman Catholics after he became archbishop in the reign of James I. He it was who was chiefly instrumental in rekindling the fires at Smithfield in spite of the fact that public opinion by then frowned upon such excesses. He was a fanatical puritan, and where his faith was concerned he feared neither public opinion nor royal displeasure. In 1618 he dared to oppose his royal master and to forbid the reading of the King's declaration authorising sports and pastimes on the Sabbath. In other respects he was a kindly, learned man, devoting much thought and money to the public weal. He was one of the translators of the Authorised Version of the Bible, and his last charitable work was the setting up of a "manufactory" in Guildford for encouraging industry by setting the poor to work. Previously, all work had been done in the homes where stocks and capital were small and the workers were thus vulnerable to temporary trade depressions. The factory was a novel idea and with its greater resources was better able to ride out such passing storms. Archbishop Abbot endowed this factory with the rents from a farm in Burstow, £60, and Testers Farm, now Tifters, in Charlwood, £40. He died in 1633 before his manufactory was a going concern and so was spared the distress of seeing his project fail. The poor, for whom he worked so hard, refused to work in the factory except at excessively high wages. The money from the farms was used in various ways all of which proved equally unsatisfactory, and the income was finally diverted to augment that of Archbishop Abbot's School in Guildford.<sup>92</sup>

Michael Earle was rector of Charlwood in the disastrous

*Ye Infection* year of 1610. During the 17th century the plague visited London and the large cities about once every five years, being especially severe in 1603, 1625, and the famous and last visitation in 1665. Rural districts, where living conditions were immeasurably better than in the towns, did not suffer so severely. However, a serious outbreak in Charlwood started in the summer of 1610 and lasted about three months. Between the entry in the Parish Register dated 16th August and that of 24th August appears the note "The Infection begann" and after that of 11th November "Here ended ye infection". During this year twenty-five persons died and were buried in Charlwood, nineteen in three months, a staggering death rate for a village with a population of no more than four to five hundred. This number of burials was not surpassed until over 150 years later, by which time the population had considerably increased. Many families were hard hit. Owyn Browne, his son and his father all succumbed; John Burstow lost his wife and his son, as did Edward Edwards and Richard and Fruzan Fist, man and wife, were both buried on the same day.<sup>115</sup>

*Leonard Gale,* A vivid description of a plague stricken household is given by Leonard Gale the ironmaster, who later lived in Charlwood, and owned Tinsley Forge. He was born in Sevenoaks 1619-1690 in 1619, the son of a blacksmith. He says:

When I was between sixteen and seventeen years of age, . . . my Mother fell sick, and about six days after died, nobody thinking of such a disease (the plague). My Father made a great burial for her, and abundance came to it, not fearing anything, and notwithstanding several women layd my Mother forth, and no manner of clothes were taken out of the chamber when she died, yet not one person took the distemper; this I set down as a miracle. After her burial, we were all well one whole week, and a great many people frequented our house, . . . but at the week's end, in two days, fell sick my Father, my eldest brother, my sister and myself; and in three days after this my two younger brothers, Edward and John, fell sick, and though I was very ill, my Father sent me to market to buy provisions, but before I came home it was noysed abroad that it was the plague, and as soon as I was in adoors, they charged us to keep in, and set a strong watch over us.

(An act of James I had given the authorities summary powers to shut up the sick and infected.)

Yet all this while no one took the distemper of or from us, and about the sixth day after they were taken, three of them died in three hours, one after another, and were all buried in one grave, and about two days after the two youngest dyed both together and were buried in one grave. All this while I lay sick in another bed . . . but it pleased God most miraculously to preserve me, and without any sore breaking, only I had a swelling in my groin . . . and I have been worse for it ever since, and when I was recovered I was shut up with two women one man and one child for three months, and neither of them had the distemper.

Leonard Gale's long letter from which this quotation is taken<sup>51</sup> shows both the immense amount of money being made out of iron and also, quite unconsciously, lights up the character of this hard-headed, close-fisted puritan holding the Scriptures as a rule of life to walk by and resolving to keep a conscience void of offence towards God and man. He tells how "hating idleness and vain gloriousness . . . I never boasted of anything but to the Glory of God and my own comfort"! At the same time he did not hesitate to warn his son "not to be too familiar with your vile neighbours indeed they are a beggarly and bastard generation". He is specially violent about wicked and depraved priests, but begs his son to "hold fast the Protestant religion for a better religion cannot be found, only I could wish the abuses were taken away and wicked men found out and punished or turned out".

After his recovery from the plague he found himself alone in the world. He carried on his father's forge with a paid hand and kept a maidservant to look after him. He inherited £200 but lost £150 of it in two and a half years not, as he hastens to add, with ill husbandry, "but bad servants and trusting were the ruin of me". He therefore turned away both man and maid and keeping only a boy to strike and blow and a man to work by the piece he got back all that he had lost, and at 21 began to be looked on as a thriving man.

However, "being burdened by the free quartering of soldiers" he left Sevenoaks and took St. Leonards Forge near Horsham, and later Worth Forge. Here his skill and industry attracted the attention of that great ironmaster, Walter

Burrell, who, to Leonard Gale's genuine surprise, approached him in a friendly spirit and took him into partnership. From this time Leonard Gale's fortunes went from strength to strength. After twenty-six years of frugal living and hard work in the iron trade, he says he was worth between five and six thousand pounds. He continues "I bethought myself about taking a wife, and chose this woman, your Mother, the daughter of Mr. Johnson, with whom I had £500 and one years board with her". This was Phillippa, the daughter of Jeremiah Johnson, who lived at Colle, the second largest house in the village, of which nothing now remains but the well and the byres known as Fating Hovel at the eastern end of Pudding Lane.

He continued to make and save money, and at the age of 66 he had "at least £16,000, which is £500 a year, one year with another, which is a very great miracle to me how I should come to so great an estate, considering my small dealings, bad times" and other troubles, "which enforces me to extol the name of the great God".

He died in 1690 leaving between one and two thousand pounds to each of his younger children, and the residue to his eldest son Leonard,<sup>109</sup> who, by a curious coincidence, was also 17 years old when he was left fatherless.

*Leonard Gale, Junr., 1673-1750* Leonard Gale, the son, started life in very different circumstances from those with which his father had had to contend. He was educated by a private tutor, and later paid his own fees at University College, Oxford, where he remained for four years. At the age of 24 he was called to the Bar, but, "being too great a lover of idleness and ease", as he himself writes, he devoted his time to the management of his iron-works and his estates, to which he added Crabbett Park at the cost of £9,000.

When he was nearly 30 he married his cousin, Mrs. Sarah Knight, who was 23, and brought with her seven or eight thousand pounds. They were married in Charlwood Church by Mr. Hesketh.<sup>115</sup> They had three sons and seven daughters, but few of his children survived him. In 1710 he was elected "without expense or opposition" as member for East Grinstead, but sat for only one Parliament until 1713.

In the long letter which he left, following his father's example, he describes an epidemic of influenza as "the new distemper" which "was so universal that scarce any one person, young or old, in any family, city or country, escaped it". He also describes both "the greatest flood that was ever seen in our parts" which happened in June, 1703, and washed away many pond bays, including that at Cowden, which cost him £100 to repair, and in the following November a great storm which did "the greatest damage done by sea or land that was ever known".

Among other sage advice he includes "an excellent rule for getting both wisdom and wealth; Always take care that your income exceeds your expenses; as to getting wisdom, take care that you read and hear every day more than you speak or tell to others". He died in 1750, and the bulk of his wealth, over £40,000, went to his nephew, Henry Jackson,<sup>51</sup> who, it is hoped, benefited as much by his advice as by his fortune.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### *The Jordan Family 1304 - 1949*

The family of Jordan is probably typical of many throughout England who lived quietly on their estates, respected by their neighbours, and though taking a great part in local affairs were not ambitious to become famous in the outside world. They reached their greatest eminence in early Stuart days, by which time they had been living in the village for at least 300 years.

John Jurden witnessed deeds in 1304 and 1308, and it is evident that the family were of good standing, though not yet large landowners. Peter Jordan paid only 3s. in the Exchequer Lay Subsidies of 1332. 1304

It was after the lawsuit of 1495 that John Jordan and his wife, Rose, née Salmon of Burstow, gained possession of the manor of Gatwick. Three more Johns held the manor in

succession in Tudor times, but none of them appear to have taken great part in outside events.

*William Jordan* By the end of the 16th century, when William Jordan came into possession of Gatwick, the family had evidently acquired considerable wealth. In the Lay Subsidy of 1593 he paid the highest tax in the parish, 40 shillings on his land.

In 1600 William optimistically leased three acres of land in Caterham "for the residue of a term of 3,000 years"<sup>110</sup> but we are not told how much of the term was already expired! By 1607 he had acquired the manor of Caterham, for which he had letters patent from James I in 1617. Dying in 1625, he left this manor to his wife if she were contented to accept it "in full satisfaction and recoupment of her dower" . . . "with such goods, householde stuffe and plate" as were there at the time of his death, together with one "yearly rent of seventy pounds . . . of my mannoir or tene-ment of Gatwicke . . . wherein I now dwell". His legacies to the poor, 40s., and to the reparacions of the church, 10s., reflect the increased wealth of the family.<sup>109</sup>

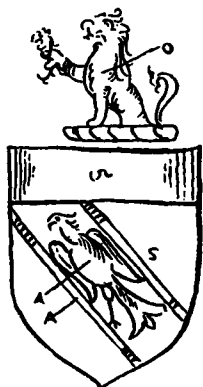
Catherine, his wife, who survived him by less than two years, was evidently proud of her parentage. Her father, Dr. Hussey, had lived at Gatwick and had been employed by Cardinal Pole in negotiations with Mary, Queen of Scots, against Queen Elizabeth, as was Nicholas Saunders, the Jesuit. The monument, now on the north wall of the Vestry of Charlwood Church, tells more of her father and grandfather than it does of her husband:

"Here lies William Jordan of Gatwick, gentleman, who died 7th May 1625, and Katherine his wife, only daughter and joint heir of Laurence Hussey, Doctor of Laws, master of the Chancellery and envoy to the Queen of Scotland; which Laurence was son and heir of Antony Hussey, agent of the Queen of England in Germany and overseer of the transactions of English merchants in Belgium and Muscovy; which Katharine died 30 January 1626".

*Edmund Jordan,* born 1594 Edmund, their son, who was born in 1594, must have had a successful career as a lawyer, being made Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple at the early age of seventeen,<sup>14</sup>

He inherited Gatwick on his father's death, but it was to his son Edmund, who was no more than ten years old at the time,<sup>115</sup> that his grandfather left "all the wainscott fixed and not fixed in Gatewick House glass doors locks keys and bolts iron and iron work Presse cupboards Cheste of timber and wainscott tables formes stooles clock and Bell brewing vessell and furnace all my brass and pewter, my study all my books within it or elsewhere all my pictures and other things whatsoever in the said study Two bedsteads and feather beds of my best and them and every of them to be furnished".<sup>109</sup>

Not being crippled by death duties, William's son Edmund and his wife, Susan, née Warnett, lost no time in adding to the family estates. They, at once, bought the Manor of Charlwood and the sub-manor of Wykeland from Sir Richard Lechford and the sub-manor of Shiremark from William Mulcaster. These sub-manors, with that of Gatwick, were from this time merged in the Manor of Charlwood. The addition of these manors to his already extensive estates made him a very considerable owner of land, and as



such he had to pay £30 in the forced loan extracted by Charles I from the Chief Landowners. He later acquired the sub-manor of Hook. By 1628 he was High Sheriff of Surrey and the same year was granted a new coat of arms, "azure a lion between nine crosslets or", in place of the earlier Jordan arms, "sable an eagle bendwise between two cotises argent and a chief or with three oak leaves vert therein".<sup>90</sup>

While the storm clouds were rolling slowly over England, the minds of men were fixed ever more firmly on the liberty of the subject and the rivalry between the two great families of Charlwood, the Jordans and the Saunders, came to a head in a controversy over another liberty, the "liberty to set and Bury in the Chappel". It was not unnatural that, having risen to such honours and knowing himself to be by far the largest landowner in the parish, Edmund Jordan should lay claim, and that most strongly, to the pew in the chapel of Charlwood Church wherein Edmund Saunder so stubbornly

sat. Edmund Jordan was 44 and Edmund Saunders 37 when this quarrel became so bitter that it was taken to arbitration.

Unfortunately for the Jordans the award given by Sir Robert Whitfield and Sir Robert Heath was:

Whereas in the Parish Church of Charlewod there is a Chappel or Isle abutting upon the Parsons Chauncil . . . wherein ye said Edmund Saunder claymeth ye interest for himself and his Family of Sitting to hear Divine Service and to Bury Dead there as he and his ancestors have anciently done as belonging unto the Mancion House wherein the said Edmund Saunder now Dweleth in Charlewod aforesaid and the said Edmund Jordan Pretendeth liberty to Set and Bury there. Wee . . . order and award that the said Edmund Saunder and his heirs and assigns owners of the said Mansion House Shal peaceably and Quietly have hold and enjoy ye Same accordingly without the Least Interruption or Disturbance of the said Edmund Jordan his Heirs or Assigns Saving only we do order and award that the Said Edmund Jordan and His Heirs owners of a Capital Messuage or Mannour House in Charlewod aforesaid called Gatewick wherein the said Edmund Jordan now Dwelleth Shall or may from time to time for ever hereafter have liberty for themselves their wives and Childeren to sitt in the three Seats in the said Chappell or Isle wherein the sd. Edmund Jordan his wife and Childeren have used to Sitt.<sup>114</sup>

Comment is superfluous, but we may spare some sympathy for Thomas Mulcaster, the new Rector, whose church was the battle ground for the rivals. He must have felt that the rich, as well as the poor, needed further education in the art of living.

This was not the end of the trouble between the two families, for in "ye Maj'ties Court of Comon Pleas at Westminster" Edmund Jordan was accused of "speaking scandalous words of the said Edmund Saunder (vis) he is aperjured Justice of Peace and I will prove him Soe and he is apurjured man and I will prove him Soe". This he denied though "it was justified before us in his presence by two Gents of quality", and it was ordered that

Edmund Jordan shall on ye 20th. day of November at ye said Dyneing Hall of Gray's Inn by writing and Subscribed with his hand which he Shal then and there Deliver to ye said Edmund Saunder Express and Declare that he did never Speak ye said Words nor any of them and that if he had Spoken the same he

had done the said Edmund Saunder great wrong and had been much to blame in the doing thereof."

Disputes over land had added to the ill-feeling. Edmund Jordan had charged Edmund Saunder with having published a lease of 1542 from Sir Robert Southwell to Edmund Saunder's great-grandfather, Sir Thomas, for six closes of land called Plain Coupers "knowing the same to bee a false corrupt counterfeit and forged lease". It was evidently felt that Edmund Jordan had exceeded the limits of free speech and while he was to receive a copy of the disputed lease he was ordered to relinquish to his rival both Abrahams Field, which is still known by that name, and Liddlands, which was the land lying to the east of it. What is more, he had publicly to "confess that the matter of the said Information is false and Scandalous and pay £100 of lawful money of England".<sup>114</sup> It is sad to leave so great a landowner in so great discomfiture.

Edmund Jordan had a large family, but few of his children survived their infancy. Two of his sons followed his career in the law, William to become Master of the Bench in 1635, and Thomas, a member of the Inner Temple ten years later.<sup>14</sup> Contrary to statements in some earlier histories, it would appear that it was this Thomas Jordan who, surviving his elder brothers, inherited the Manor of Charlwood.<sup>108</sup> He heads the list for the Hearth Tax which he paid on ten hearths, Gatwick being the third largest house in the parish. He was born in 1624 and had just arrived at full manhood at the time of the King's execution, which was followed by eleven years of Commonwealth rule. His politics do not emerge, nor his life before the Restoration, but his position in the country was assured. In 1664 he was elected High Constable of Reigate Hundred.<sup>52</sup>

*Thomas  
Jordan,  
1624-  
1694*

In the summer of 1673 tragedy came to Gatwick. Two of Thomas' children, Thomas, not yet four years old, and Joane, but a year older, died, either of the plague or some other epidemic. Terry, his servant, also died and his kinsman, Thomas, all within one month, and only ten months later the latter's baby son, Henry, was buried on what should have been his first birthday.

As Lord of the Manor, Thomas Jordan held manorial courts, the records of six of which, held between 1663 and 1687, still exist. He died in 1694, sixteen years after the Act for Burying in Woollen was enforced. This act was framed to bolster up the wool trade, and made it an offence to use for a shroud or coffin lining any material other than "sheep's wool only". The penalty was £5, half of which went to the informer and the other half to the poor of the parish. Thomas' son, William, appears to have been an astute business man. The Parish Register records that, refusing to be bound by this act, he buried his father "in linnen, information given by Mr. Wm. Jordan". He thus followed a not unusual procedure, and recouped half the cost by turning informer against himself and claiming the reward!

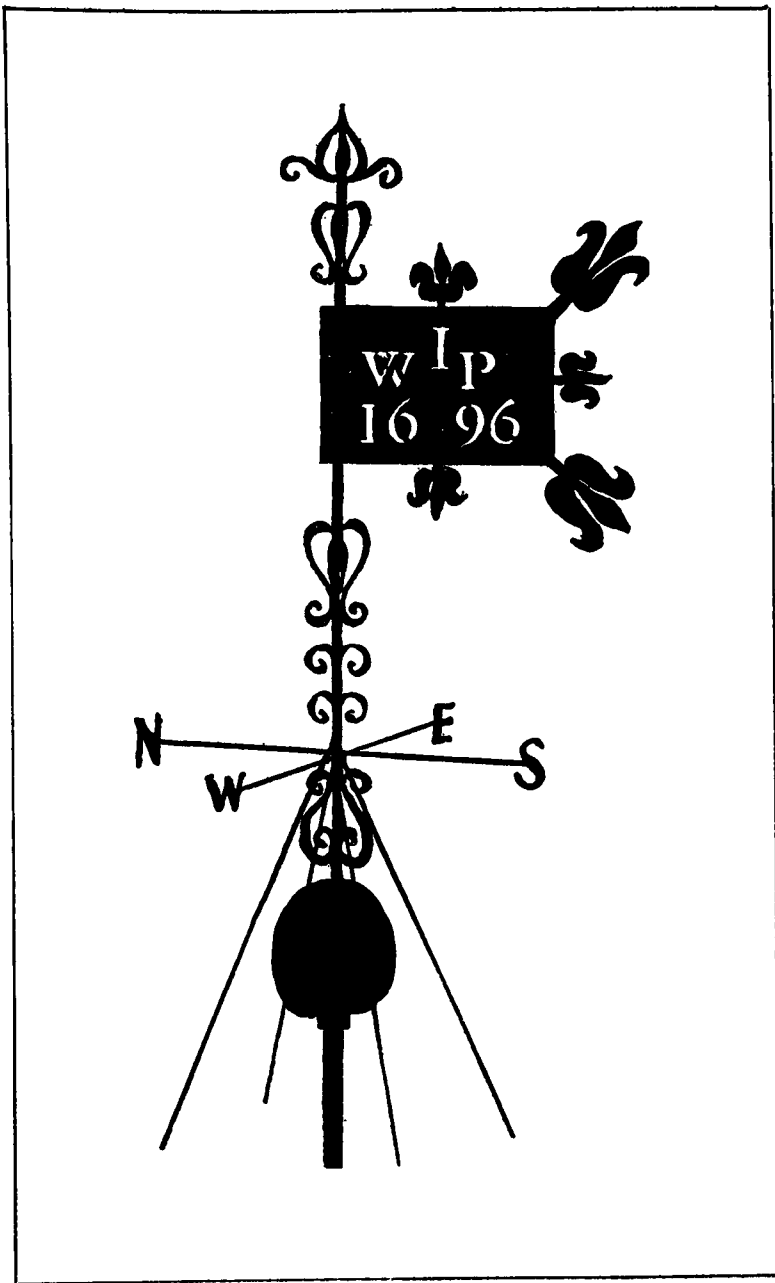
Although this act was not repealed until 1813, Henry William Hesketh, the rector, on his return to Charlwood in 1694, does not appear to have thought it necessary to keep the M.P., required records, for the above is the last mention in the 1663-1663- Parish Registers of burial in woollen.

1720 Two years after his father's death, William Jordan started to build the fine new house at Gatwick which replaced the old manor house and which has remained until this year.\* It was built in the new classic style of William and Mary, just coming into fashion, and to this charming and spacious house he, two years later, brought home as his bride Philippa Brown of Buckland, whose initial, with his own, he vaunted to the skies on the weathervane. She must have brought with



*Gatwick House*

*\*Demolished in 1950*



The wind-vane which topped the bell turret of Gatwick House. Made in the main of wrought iron, with the date and lettering incised, the design is completed by the solid block of wood at the head of the supports.

her a substantial dowry, for she came from a family closely connected with the prospering iron industry. He was a leading man in the county, being Member of Parliament for Reigate from 1716 to 1720.<sup>11</sup> He became Lord of the Manor of Charlwood in 1690, four years before his father's death, and on his own death, in 1720, his widow, Philippa, assumed this responsibility. She remained as Lady of the Manor for nearly twenty years, until her own death in 1740.<sup>108</sup>

*Thomas Jordan,* Her son, another Thomas, succeeded to the Manor of Charlwood, and had held, also, since 1733, the Manor of M.P. Buckland, which was left to him by his uncle, John Brown. He, like his father, was Member of Parliament for Reigate,<sup>11</sup> but he was the last of the name to hold the Manor of Charl-

*Philippa Sharp,* wood, for, on his death in 1750,<sup>91</sup> it passed to his sister, Philippa. Six years later she settled the property on her husband, 1756 John Sharp. He, disinheriting his son, left it to his grandson by a previous marriage. So the Manor of Charlwood passed out of the hands of the Jordan family, whose fortunes had for so long been bound up with those of Charlwood. Other branches remained in the district, and we are proud to have Jordans still among us as honoured members of the community after a continued residence in the parish for over 645 years.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### *A Commonwealth Interlude* *in a Stuart Century 1603 - 1703*

Much light is thrown on incumbents of Charlwood during the Stuart and Commonwealth times by the controversy which later arose between Dr. Walker, a churchman, and Edmund Calamy, a Nonconformist. Each sought to prove who suffered the greater hardships, the Anglican clergy under the Commonwealth or the Puritan ministers at the Restoration. From these and other sources it is possible to picture events in Charlwood during the Commonwealth.

The Mulcaster family came from the North. A forebear will have our sympathy. A certain Robert who “became an unthrift and for very smal somies of present money sold his lands to his uncle Ralf, Erle of Westmorland, who knowing the title to be weake by reason of the intaile did straightway alien the sayd lands by p’cells. Robert presently after the sayle dying”.<sup>54</sup> *Mulcasters*

Thomas Mulcaster’s great-grandfather William of “Carlile in Combland” had two sons who came south; one to become schoolmaster of St. Paul’s School in London, and George, who came to Charlwood.

The family prospered, and in 1616 George’s son William bought Shiremark.<sup>90</sup> This was a sub-manor of Charlwood, the house being what is now the Jordans Country Club, and the land extending into Charlwood and Ifield. In the Visitation of Surrey, 1623, the Mulcaster arms and the crest, a lion rampant azure, crowned or, were confirmed. This was signed by William Mulcaster, though a note was added that owing to the shortness of time allowed he could not furnish proof of his right to bear arms, but that this proof should be forthcoming. *William Mulcaster 1616*

Two years later he was one of the “Chief Landowners in Surrey”, called upon to pay the hated forced loan by Charles I. No sum is recorded, but there may be some sad

connection between this levy and the fact that the same year he sold Shiremark to Edmund Jordan after having owned the property for only nine years.<sup>90</sup>

*Thomas Mulcaster,* However that may be, William's son Thomas suffered more from Parliament than ever William suffered from the King. He was the fifth of seven children and was baptised at 1609 Charlwood on 23rd April, 1609. The baptism of Phillippa -1663 Saunders, who later became his wife, is recorded in the Parish Register three years later. She was the sister of Edward, the last in direct descent to own Charlwood Place.

1637 In 1637, some two years after Archbishop Laud had insisted on uniformity of ritual in the English Church, Thomas Mulcaster having matriculated at King's College, Cambridge, succeeded John Bristow as Rector. He must have known the Parsonage well, for his father had been a firm friend of a former rector. Michael Earle, in his will, calls William Mulcaster his "loving friend" and ordains him as Overseer "to whom I bequeathe 40s. to buy him a peece of plate". Thomas was 28 when he became Rector, and it would seem likely, both from his family tradition and marriage with one of the Saunder family, and especially in view of his later troubles, that he was one of the High Church party. If this was so, Archbishop Laud's injunctions would have met with a ready acceptance.

Popular discontent was, however, fast growing against both King and Archbishop, and the years during which Mulcaster was Rector were years of storm and upheaval throughout the country. During his first year's incumbency John Hampden made his stand against the payment of Ship Money, an arbitrary tax levied on the inland towns without the permission of Parliament. Though the judgement in this case went against him, Hampden continued his fight for the liberty of the subject, which culminated in the Grand Remonstrance of 1641, and finally in the Civil War, which broke out not quite a year later.

London and the South-eastern counties were solidly behind the Parliament against the King. Almost immediately after the outbreak of war in 1642, measures were taken to discover what "malignant persons" held benefices in the various

churches. The Rev. Thomas Mulcaster was definitely considered one of these, and Walker gives a full description of the proceedings. He tells how, in 1644, Thomas Mulcaster was proceeded against by "five or six of the very scum of the parish" at the instigation of Mr. (after Col.) White. This gentleman so managed matters as to get Mulcaster's case postponed from the first hearing, which most of the Surrey members attended and would undoubtedly have acquitted him, to the next sitting "when there was but a thin house, and the Surrey gentlemen had not come to it". 1644

Mr. Mulcaster charged White with bribery, and offered him a hundred pieces of gold to get him restored, saying "You who got me out for sixty Pieces of gold yesterday can doubtless get me in again for a hundred to-day". Mr. White contended that this was not in his power. Thomas Mulcaster retired to Mitcham, where he kept a school, "but was continually Harrassed and Perplexd. by the Soldiers, and on many a time in Danger of his Life".<sup>9</sup>

He was not, it would seem, devoted to any particular party, either political or theological, nor was schoolmastering the occupation of his choice. His ambition was but to be allowed to lead his flock as a good country parson, regardless of the ideologies of King or Parliament. So after seven years banishment from his chosen career, in 1651 he became rector of Nutfield, where two of his three sons were born. 1651 The gift was approved by Cromwell's Commissioners two years later. At the Restoration and the turn of the wheel of fortune he was re-appointed Rector of Charlwood by Charles II. His exile of sixteen years was at an end, and he held both the livings of Charlwood and Nutfield until his death three years later.

Walker asserts that "the person who feed Mr. White so largely was the then noted Mr. Lea, who succeeded to Charlwood, but being possessed of Three or Four other Rich Livings . . . he resigned Charlwood"; however, it was to his own son whose appointment was confirmed as follows on 10th May, 1645,<sup>9</sup> one month before the King's defeat at Naseby. *John and William Ley* 1645 1645

Charlwood approved. Whereas the Rectory of the parish

Church of Charlwood in the countie of Surrey is, and standeth, sequestred to the use of Mr. John Ley a member of the revend assembly of divines, and the said Mr. Ley hath appeared in person and desired that the said sequestracon may be settled upon William Ley a godly and orthodox devine, being his sonne, in whose behalf he first obtained said sequestracon. It is ordered that the said Rectory shall . . . be to ye use of ye said Wm. Ley who is thereby appointed forthwh to officiate the Cure of the said Church as Rector and preach diligently to the pishioners there.

John Ley, like the Mulcasters, came from the north, being a Prebendary and Subdean of Chester. He was later one of the "Tryers" and one of the Commissioners for Ejecting Scandalous Ministers.<sup>9</sup> The list of his livings shows that he did not do amiss for himself. Indeed, he seems to have been nearly as notorious a receiver of Church livings as Sir Robert Southwell had been of Church lands a century before. He had returned to Cheshire by 1648 for his name heads the list of an attestation by the Ministers of Cheshire in that year; "A testimony to the Truth of Jesus Christ, and our Solemn League and Covenant as also against the Errours Heresies and Blasphemies of these times and the Toleration of them".<sup>71</sup>

*Robert Wright,* By 1650 Robert Wright had become "minister" of Charlwood. He had been admitted to St. Catharine's, Cambridge, as Fellow in 1635, and was therefore an educated man. He was appointed Assistant to the Surrey Commission in 1654.<sup>71</sup>

There is a gap in the Parish Register from 1634 to 1650; another indication of troubles in the Church. From this date, for three years, Robert Wright kept the Registers until in 1653 his signature follows a note in his writing "In this year ended Ministers registering of births and buriall by an Act or Parliament". No further entries were made until after the Restoration. This act which took the keeping of the registers out of the hands of the Church and entrusted it to an official elected by the ratepayers, also laid down that marriages should no longer be solemnised in church but should be entered into before the Justices. This was a further blow at the Church. It followed an earlier ordinance of 1645 which forbade the use of the Prayer Book substituting A directory of the Public Worship of God and abolished entirely the

Burial Service. The body was to be immediately interred without any ceremony, and the keeping of "festival Days, vulgarly called Holy Days" was also forbidden.

This gives some idea of the conditions under which Robert Wright laboured until he in his turn was evicted at the Restoration. His will throws some light on the man himself. It was made in 1661 after he had retired to Dorking. 1661 He was prepared to accept Charles II, calling him in the approved way, "our most gracious sovereign king". He was not a poor man, for he held lands in Godstone and Tandridge. Though these were mortgaged when he made his will, it must be remembered that this was after his eviction. He wished this land to be sold "with all convenient speede". Throughout the will his restraint of language and lack of bitterness is amazing in spite of his summary ejection. In spite also of another item "Whereas those and divers moneyes due unto me from several p'sons Inhabitants of the p'ish of Charlwood for Tythes" which gives the impression that some of the landowners conveniently forgot the outgoing Minister on the restoration of their old friend and rector, Thomas Mulcaster.

These tithes had only been saved to ministers all over the country after a hard struggle by Cromwell himself and amounted in Charlwood to £120. The Parliamentary Survey, 1649-1658 gives the following: *Survey of Tithes*

Also we present that the parish of Charlewood within our hundred (one other of them) hath a parsonage that Edward (Edmund) Sanders Esquire hath the presentacon of the said Benefice That Robert Wright Clerke is the present Incumbent That the Tythes thereof are worth One hundred and Twenty pounds by the yeare and the Gleabe Land thereof is worth Sixteene pounds by the yeare, That the said pishe Church is scituate from Horley Two miles and from Leigh fflower miles or thereabouts and in winter are very bad and dirty waies.<sup>17</sup>

Surely these Commissioners wrote of the bad and dirty waies from bitter experience, having themselves ploughed through the hock-deep mire. One hopes that they found good hospitality at the Parsonage and some of Charlwood's best ale which was up to strength and did not break the assize. Wright had silver on his table and this at a time when

many Cavalier families were reduced to pewter. In his will he left his daughter, Sarah, born at Charlwood in 1650, in addition to £140 "Twelve Silver spoones, three silver porringers One silver Tankard and two little silver Salte". His "Two cloth Suites of apparaell" consisting of two pairs of Breeches and two Dubletts, which he later left to his friend Thomas Flood, were perhaps brought out while Sarah, his wife, dried the Commissioners' muddy garments.

Another of his bequests reads "I give to my sonne John Twentic Shillings to buy him a Ringe". Bequests of money to buy Mourning Rings were common at this time, and Michael Earle had left the same sum for the same purpose, but in that case to his sister. Robert Wright left "all the rest of my Goods and Householdstuffe" and "all my Bookes" to his younger children Jonathon and Katherine.<sup>109</sup>

*The Church under the Puritans* How utterly different was the church to which Thomas Mulcaster came back in 1660 to that which he left so suddenly sixteen years before. Puritan influence was all too apparent, walls and windows alike austere and colourless. The gay pictures were covered with whitewash, some only to be seen again, a faint shadow of their former selves, two hundred years later ; others lost for all time.

The following petition from Middlesex shows the popular feeling towards stained glass windows, and it is unlikely that the people of Charlwood held very different views.

"We desire that prophane glasse windows whose superstitious paint makes many idolators may be humbled and dashed in pieces against the ground; for our consious (*sic*) tells us that they are diabolical, and the Father of Darkness was inventor of them, being the chief patron of damnable pride".<sup>88</sup>

The figures of the Virgin and Saints, the paintings and colour which had helped their forefathers in their worship were held, in equal sincerity, by the Puritans to separate them from their God. Though the Holy Water stoup in the porch was smashed, by some miracle the lovely screen and Saunders cornice were left intact. Perhaps a continued affection for the family, who still lived in the village, may have saved it from destruction.

Nothing is more certain than that the Church itself, however changed, still held the affection of the people. The continuous care and money that was spent on the fabric is sufficient witness to this fact.

Henry Hesketh had married Sarah Mulcaster at Charlwood in 1662 and, on his father-in-law's death a year later, he succeeded him as Rector of Charlwood. Thomas Mulcaster's death is not recorded in the Parish Register, for this was not yet being kept again, but on the cover of the first Register against Henry Hesketh's name it is just possible to decipher "buried Mulcaster". Henry Hesketh signed the Register when, in July, 1663, baptisms, marriages and deaths were once again entered after a lapse of exactly ten years since Robert Wright wrote "In this year ended ministers registering of births and burials by an Act of Parliament".

Henry Hesketh was twenty-six when he became rector, and for the next fifteen years he kept the Register meticulously, including the record of the baptism of four of his own children and the burial of another. He was even more careful than his predecessors to enter the names of his two churchwardens with his own at the end of each year, thus the names of many of these leading parishioners appear between 1663 and 1675. Richard Willett, Thomas Jordan of Lowfield Heath, George Ede Junr., Ambrose Marten, Thomas Hinton, Thomas Taylor, John Dudeney, Richard Fisher, John Constable, William Ede, William Greenville, Thomas Alcocke, John Humphry, John Smith, Francis Young and William Willat.

In 1678 the writing in the Parish Register changes for Henry Hesketh, while retaining the living of Charlwood, had become vicar of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, where he remained until 1694. He attained distinction as honorary chaplain to both Charles II and William III, and was nominated Bishop of Killala though not apparently consecrated to this office. His sermons and writings while in London attracted favourable attention and the subject of one of his books, "Piety the Best Rule of Orthodoxy", which was written to recover Dissenters to the Church of England, may be taken to show the trend of his sympathies.<sup>76</sup>

1694 He returned to Charlwood in 1694 at the age of fifty-seven. In the same year the record of his marriage on 5th July appears in the Parish Register, "Henry Hesketh, Rector of this parish" to Mrs. Mary Pillett. He had already taken out a licence to marry this lady at St. Helen's in 1687 while he was rector there, but it evidently had not been put into effect.

Among Henry Hesketh's many publications was the substance of several sermons printed under the title "Exhortation to the Frequent Receiving of the Holy Sacrament". The orderly celebration of the Holy Communion was evidently much in his thoughts for, towards the end of his life, a completely new set of Communion Plate was given to Charlwood. The paten was inscribed "The gift of the Rev. Mr. Henry Hesketh" and bore the arms of the Heskeths of Hesketh in Lancashire. At the same time a flagon with the words "Good part of the flaggon was given by Mr. William Jordan and Mr. Henry Johnson", and a chalice inscribed "Charlewood 1703" were given. The following year a smaller paten was the gift of Mr. Sanders of Hookwood. Though all this communion plate was burnt in the disastrous fire at the Rectory in 1917, enough was saved to show the original shapes and the remains of the old silver was incorporated in the new plate. Henry Hesketh died at the age of 74, and was buried at Charlwood on 16th December, 1711.

*The Bells* The four bells left with the churchwardens in 1553 must have been removed when metal was at a premium during the Civil Wars. It was during Henry Hesketh's incumbancy that three of the new bells were hung, and it was possibly on the joyful occasion of his wedding that the earliest of these was rung for the first time. Indeed, the essential mark of the Restoration in Charlwood is undoubtedly the great bell—no. 6—still hanging in the belfry with the inscription  
1662 "William Eldridge made mee 1662". The "R.W.—I.E. Churchwardens" standing for Richard Willett and one of the Edes.

The sound of a church bell ringing over the village again after so many years of silence must have given intense pleasure not only to the old rector, Thomas Mulcaster, but to the

village as a whole, for after a short interval of only six years 1668  
 another was added, and a third before the end of the century,  
 all by the same maker, William Eldridge. 1697

It would seem likely that the tower was raised to carry  
 these bells and the three others that followed. Two in 1764 1764  
 inscribed "Henry Blacket Rector—Edwd Flint and Jn.  
 Tyler ch.wardens. Thos. Janaway of London Fecit". And 1835  
 another with "Thomas Mears of London Founder. Revd.  
 Henry Wise Rector Revd. Stanier Porten Curate. John  
 March and Wm. Brown Ch.Wardens".

Four bills still in the church chest show that considerable  
 work was done on the tower between 1786 and 1808.

1786	A Bill of Bricklayers Work Done for Charlwood Parish For the pearing The Tourer of the Church .. .. .	£20	13	1
1802	For Repairing post of the tower and puting the whether Cock up Right and a new stay to the Bell .. .. .		15	0
1804	Charlwood Parresh to John Manley for witoshen the Church And reparen the tour	£18	0	0
	Menden the paven in the Church .. ..	£1	0	4
	For menden and witoshen the woles .. ..	£3	4	8
1808	To a New Oak post to the tower of ye Church for the Cock to stand on .. .. .		7	0

From the same source comes evidence that the bells caused a certain amount of trouble and some expense. There is a blacksmith's bill of 1777 for "a stepel to the bell, for 6 weges to bels and for new lever bels" and another of the following year "for fasening of the Brasses and Stays to the great Bell, 2s. 6d. In 1793 John Charlwood rendered his bill "for Hangen the great Bell, putting in a New Stay and Making part of a New Wheel". Five more bills follow before 1811, including "Stays to the Great Bell 2s." and "for Drilling and Sawing the 5th Bell".

There are at least twenty-six bills for new bell ropes between 1777 and 1812. It would seem from these that a new set of ropes was provided each year at Easter. Until 1795 the price, with one exception, was 26s. but after this date the price rose steadily to 70s. in 1812. The new ropes called for particularly joyful ringing for included in the bills are many

items such as "Joil for the Bells" and "Beer for the ringers when they put the ropes on". Evidently the ringers complained of the lack of light, for in 1795 one shilling was expended on "a Candlestick to the belferry".

Two bells, numbers 1 and 2, were recast in 1925 and inscribed "W. Grainger Thompson Rector. Emery Wright John March Dalton. Churchwardens.

That Charlwood ringers have been masters of their craft is shown by five notices still in the belfry recording feats of ringing. The following is a fine example:

Charlwood, Surrey

Monday December 19, 1910. 2 hours and 52 minutes was rung  
A peal of the Treble Bob Minor, 5040 changes being 720 each  
of College Exercise, Violet and Woodbine and 2 each of Kent  
and Oxford. Tenor 16 cwt.

William Stacey	Treble
George Ellis	2
Arthur Knapp	3
Oliver Sippetts	4
Benjamin King	5
Albert Ellis	Tenor

Conducted by A. Ellis.

This peal was rung with the bells muffled as a mark of respect to the late Frederick Wickens Churchwarden and for over 40 years Captain of the Charlwood Ringers.

Rev. E. M. Gibson, Rector.

*Church Music* It was not only the music of the bells that had been silenced during the Commonwealth. All church music was anathema to the Puritans, and the ordinance for the "speedy Demolition of all organs . . . the better to accomplish the blessed Reformation so happily begun" was enforced, "that all Organs and the frames wherein they stand . . . shall be taken away and utterly defaced". The "payre of organs" on which Sir Thomas Saunders had expended so much thought were swept away for ever.

*Gallery Minstrels* An unexpected, but great good came, however, from this act. For the first time the villagers themselves took an authoritative part in the service. "Clever players and fine voices abounded in the weald . . . and thus it came to pass that when most of the small . . . mediæval organs had been demolished the villagers formed bands of musical

instruments and praised God with strings and pipe".<sup>67</sup>

Such praise must have been given early in Charlwood, for when the church was "repaired and beautified" in 1716,<sup>91</sup> 1716 during Robert Rawlinson's incumbancy, a gallery for minstrels was built at the west end of the south aisle. Later, a smaller one was added against the north wall.

The singing would have been either the Old (1562) or New (1696) Metrical version of the Psalms. A few of these still remain as part of our hymn book among others, "All people that on earth do dwell" and "The King of love my shepherd is", but hymns as we know them today were then unknown. The practice of lining out, the parson or clerk reading each line or verse before it was sung, was almost universal in that age of illiteracy. The melody was still sung by the tenor voice, and the congregation, now in pews, turned round to face the gallery during the singing.

Not only voices but instrumentalists were needed; violin, flute, clarinet, 'cello and bassoon being the most often played. In Charlwood between 1795 and 1810 there are several bills for "1st string for the violincello", the price generally being 8d. Third and fourth strings were also required on several occasions. The breakages hardly seem excessive over the years, and it is noticeable that there is no charge for violin strings. Perhaps the players paid for their own, and said nothing about it.

It is certain that these choirs and orchestras became the centre of genuine musical life in many parishes. The Parish Clerk, who was responsible for giving out the correct note or notes for the different voices and often taught the choir, was by now a figure of even greater musical importance than he had been in the days of Sir Thomas Saunders. *The Parish Clerk*

John Martin, when he died in 1787, had been parish clerk of Charlwood for "upwards of twenty" years.<sup>115</sup> One of his accounts "£4 4s. Clerk's fees and 10s. for washing the surplice four times" remains in the church chest. His successor, John Charlwood, may have excelled in his musical duties, but he was not adept in writing or spelling for his bill was rendered for "Clark's Phees". However, the beautifully written bills of Edmund Dunstall, parish clerk and village

cobbler, are a joy to read. His tombstone in the churchyard records that, when he died in 1832, aged 83, he had been parish clerk for nearly thirty-six years.

The clerk sat in a pew below the pulpit from which also Services were taken. This pew is clearly shown in a water colour painted by J. Hassell in 1823. This painting, now in the Minet Library, shows the pulpit complete with green cushions and hangings with an imposing sounding board overhead.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### *Country Life after the Restoration 1660-1720*

*The Heath Tax, 1662* Two years after the restoration of King Charles II, the cavalier Parliament voted him a tax of 20s. on every chimney in the country. This must have brought in vast sums. In 1662 Charlewood alone the tax was levied on no less than 244 hearths in 83 houses. The task of collecting the tax fell upon the village constable, Thomas Ede, who rented the house now known as Tifters.<sup>112</sup> His return will be found in full in Appendix C. The task cannot have been a light one but all except the two hearths of Widow Stedwell were paid for; a fact which speaks volumes for the constable's devotion to duty, and also for his compassion!<sup>13</sup>

*The Constable* The constable had, during the last two hundred years, superseded the tithingman. He was responsible for the good behaviour of all the inhabitants and had, as his assistants, one or more tithingmen. The tithingmen were no longer responsible for their tithing only, but had, by now, become petty constables for the whole manor. The constable was elected annually by the View of Frankpledge or, when this court failed to do so, by the Justices of the Peace. Being elected he was bound to serve although he drew no wages or salary in recompense for his onerous and manifold duties. It is not surprising that the honour was not much sought after. On 23rd April, 1663, Robert Bristow of Charlewood, yeoman,

was elected constable by the View of Frankpledge of Thomas Jordan, Esq., lord of the Manor of Charlwood. In July of the same year he was summoned to appear, under a surety of £20, before the Justices to answer for refusing to serve. They apparently failed to persuade him, for they found it necessary to appoint in his place a stranger from a distant village. This was Antony Smith, Esq., from Stoke next Guildford, and in the following year George Edmead from the same parish; both these men had filled the office for their home villages in the years previous, one assumes with outstanding success. The following year the office was back in the hands of a Charlwood man, Thomas Alcocke,<sup>52</sup> and we hear no more of recalcitrant constables in Charlwood.

The Manor of Charlwood had one constable and three tithing men, one for the East Borough, one for the West Borough and one for Erebridge, a sub-manor in Horley.<sup>108</sup> The Manor of the Rectory was content with one official of each rank.<sup>114</sup> These constables worked both under the Courts of the Manor and under the Justices of the Peace. As early as 1264 Justices or Keepers of the Peace had been appointed, but their function was mainly the suppression of riots and the control of more serious crime. The manorial courts, powerless to imprison or to impose any penalty heavier than a fine, were ill-fitted to deal with any but petty delinquencies. Their powers were gradually taken over by the Justices of the Peace until, by the 17th century, the only business of the View of Frankpledge of the Manor of Charlwood was the election of officers.

The Quarter Sessions were held at Easter, Midsummer, Michaelmas and Epiphany at Reigate, Guildford, Kingston and Croydon respectively. Here the Justices of the Peace were assisted by a jury composed of the more substantial freeholders. On the Jury Panels a number of the freeholders of Charlwood appear. Thomas Sanders and Thomas Ede junior are named in 1661, the following year they are joined by Ambrose Martin, George Humphries and Thomas Henden, and in 1663 John Ellis is named. An act calling upon the Sheriffs of Counties to supply lists of "able and sufficient Jurors" was passed in the 16/17 year of the reign of Charles

*The  
Quarter  
Sessions*

II. (As this reign was always assumed to have begun directly after the execution of Charles I this was in 1664/5). The list produced for Charlwood contained eleven names. William Throckmorton, Kt., Jeremiah Johnson, Thomas Jordan of Lowfield Heath, Thomas Jordan of Gatwick, James Ede, George Ede senior, George Ede junior, Thomas Sanders of Brick House, Thomas Alcocke, George Humfrey and Ambrose Marten.<sup>52</sup>

The Justices of the Peace had taken over the assize of Ale and in 1665 "ordered that the prices of strong Ale and Beere shall bee at 10s. the barrel and not more, and that small Ale and Beere at 5s. the barrel and not more, over and above the duty of Excise". No longer were all the ale-wives fined inevitably but instead they had to hold licences. In April, 1664, Widow Banister of Charlwood was accused of having kept a common tippling-house ever since the 5th March, without a licence. She was also charged, in company with two butchers from Charlwood, Richard David and John Killicke, with having been summoned and having refused to appear and for this she was fined. Two years earlier Edward Taylor of Charlwood, yeoman, was charged that he "at divers times in his house kept ill-rule and governance, allowing evil-disposed persons, vagabonds and idlers, to drink and get drunk there, to the great disturbance of those living near, in evil example and against the peace".<sup>52</sup> Edward Taylor was a prominent member of the Society of Friends, and it is not easy to credit him with this rowdy behaviour. It is more easily believed that this was a trumped-up charge—part of the policy of persecution followed by the adversaries of the Quakers.

Offences connected with the highways and watercourses were also, by now, dealt with at Quarter Sessions. In 1661 three yeomen of Charlwood, George Eade junior, John Younger and Thomas Henton, were charged that they "forcibly and unlawfully stopped up an old watercourse there, obstructing it with mud and other filth so that it overflowed to the grave damage . . . in evil example . . . and against the peace".

The following year Robert Bristowe, who appears to have

been a contrary fellow, was acquitted on a charge of having failed to find a man and wain or cart furnished according to the custom of the country to carry suitable gear for the repairs of the highways.

The juries, unlike the manorial courts, seemed loath to find a verdict of guilty. Even Edward Wickes or Wicker was acquitted, in 1664, though he was variously charged with using insulting words against Edward Soane of East Grinstead, making assault and affray upon him and, finally, with "wounding, maiming and bruising the said Edward Soane by driving a Teame over his body". Another case which ended in the exoneration of all concerned was in 1661, when John Finch, the miller at Hedgecourt, Godstone, and presumably the constable for that village, allowed John Dewdney to escape after wounding John Chantlor, both of Charlwood. Both were acquitted; the constable of dereliction of duty and Dewdney of assault. This John Dewdney was churchwarden of Charlwood Church in 1667.<sup>115</sup> Four years later he was accused of having dug lime pits on the lord's waste. In 1693, the heavy fine of 20s. was imposed on him by the View of Frankpledge of the Manor of Charlwood for, being constable, having failed to appear at court.<sup>108</sup>

Another case of refusal to accept office was that of Richard Wood, the Aletaster, who in 1690 was not present in court and was, as a penalty, continued in office for the following year. A more serious defiance of the authority of the court came from Thomas Brown, the tithingman for the Eastborough, who was fined 20s. at the same court where he "contemptuously refused to be sworn . . . and for other manifest contempts and unruly behaviour . . . to the bad example of the other resiants within this View and to the diminution of the authority and order of this court".<sup>108</sup>

It was small wonder that with an unwilling constabulary poaching flourished, but it did not always go undetected. In 1681 Thomas Saunder of Hookwood the younger, George Brown and John Weekes were each fined 20s. for having "fished in the water of the Manor called Kimberham Hole", and in 1687 John Hide and Thomas Browne paid the same penalty for having "drained water from Kimberham Hole

and taken and destroyed the Lord's fishes swimming there". The fine seems excessive in the case of one, at least, of the perpetrators of this heinous offence. Whatever the age of his companions, Thomas Saunders of Hookwood the younger was no more than five years old at the time.

*The Act of Uniformity,* Under an act of 1552 every person of sixteen years and more was bound to attend the parish church every Sunday.

1661 The Act of Uniformity of 1661 forced upon all the acceptance of the Church Prayer Book, and by its rigidity drove many to open nonconformity. About two thousand parsons found themselves unable to reconcile their consciences with every statement contained in this book and they, being sincere and zealous men, gave up their offices and many started congregations of their own way of thought. The Conventicle Act passed in 1664 strove to suppress these meetings and to drive people back to the established Church. It forbade the meeting of five, or more, not of one family, for worship not in conformity with the Church of England. It was not obeyed and, in an attempt to suppress this open defiance of the law, the older act was enforced, and many prosecutions followed under these three acts.

Edward Tayler, he who kept ill-rule in his house, William Baldwyn and Thomas Tax, all of Charlwood, were constantly summoned to all Quarter Sessions from April, 1661, to July, 1663, for failing to attend their parish church. They appear to have been equally stubborn in their refusal to attend the court. In July, 1662, a more serious charge was preferred against them and a true bill returned. Jeremiah Washford, the tanner of Charlwood, was among those who gave evidence. The charge was that in company with over twenty other leading members of the Society of Friends, including Richard Baxe of Capell, one of the earliest converts who owned land in Charlwood, and Thomas and John Blatt or Blott, the tanners of Reigate, they "forcibly . . . assembled in Charlwood 'colore exercendi act Religios adoracionis' other than is set out by the law of the Realm, to the great terror of the people and disturbance of the peace, in contempt of the king and his laws, in evil example . . . and against the peace".

It was for taking part in an unlawful assembly at Blatt's house at Reigate that Edward Bashford of Charlwood was, two years later, sentenced to six days imprisonment or a fine of 5s.

It is clear that the Society of Friends, or Quakers, already had a considerable following in Charlwood. It was but a few years earlier, in 1655, that George Fox, the founder of the movement, had visited the neighbourhood. In his Journal he writes, "Rode down to Rygate in Surrey where I had a little meeting". He spent the night at Hartswood, the owner of which, Thomas Moore, came to be "a serviceable man in the Truth".

George Fox, though at this time no more than thirty-one years old, had already been preaching up and down the country for eight years. The power of his message, his overwhelming sincerity, and the strength of his personality had already gained him many adherents and in spite of the persecution and imprisonment which was often their lot, they numbered some 60,000 by the time of the Restoration.

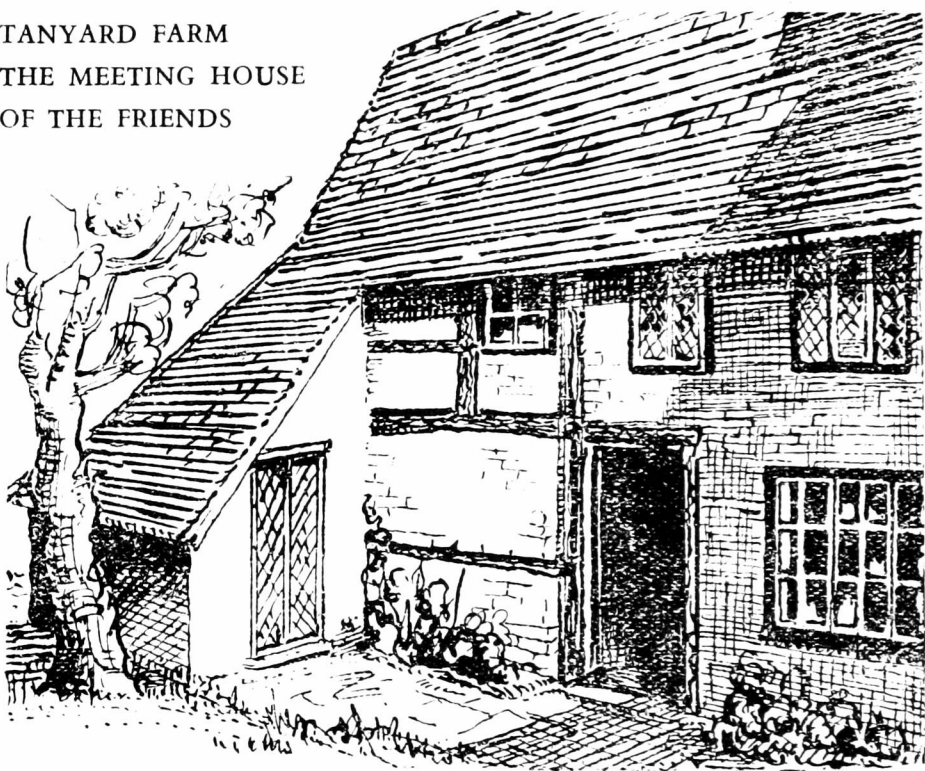
Tanyard Farm and about fourteen acres of land was in 1683 bequeathed to the Society of Friends by Edward Taylor<sup>73</sup> who was one of those so persecuted. It remained in their possession until 1934 and, until recently, the original benches were still fixed round the walls of the large old kitchen. The meetings of the Society were held here and on these benches must have sat those early Friends awaiting the moving of the Spirit, the less bold among them, maybe, listening apprehensively for the tramp of soldiery which would mean imprisonment for all present in the foul gaols of the day. During the years as many as 110 interments were made in their Burial Ground, which lay just west of Ringers. The boundary stones are still to be seen, as is the bank which divided the Burial Ground from what was, until 1846, Welland Green.

A tax, granted in 1695, on births, marriages and burials "for carrying on the war against France with vigour" was to be collected by the parsons who were paid 6d. for each item of tax collected. It was possibly this tax which led Mr. Henry Hesketh to record the births of eleven "Quakers

*The  
Society of  
Friends  
1655*

children" between the years of 1696 and 1699, and twenty-six "Dissenters children" between 1699 and 1739. The father's names were Thomas Hinton, Matthew Humphreys, Thomas Smith, Francis Cox, Thomas Chart, Nathaniel and John Chantler, James Round, Thomas Ellis, John Fillery, William Shove, Allen Garston and Edward Stanley, many of whom had been prosecuted on one charge or another during this intolerant period. This persecution the Friends suffered until King James II, in 1687, for the benefit of his Roman Catholic friends, issued the Declaration of Indulgence and finally the Toleration Act of 1689 gave to all their freedom to worship as their conscience dictated.

TANYARD FARM  
THE MEETING HOUSE  
OF THE FRIENDS



John Round, a Quaker, Edward Best and even Thomas Jordan of Gatwick, Lord of the Manor, and his kinsman Thomas Jordan of Lowfield Heath, had all been charged in 1663 with having failed to repair to the parish church for a period of three months. Edward Best was evidently a churchman, for he had married Ursula Cherrington in Charlwood Church three years previously, and was buried in the churchyard there in 1675. He and John Round were both exoner-

ated, and no very serious view can have been taken of Thomas Jordan's offence, for he was appointed High Constable for Reigate Hundred the two years following his trial.

As High Constable he had to deal with many special orders designed to stem the rapid spread of the plague in 1665, which caused something akin to panic in Surrey. Any influx of the population from the plague-stricken areas must be prevented and those who succeeded in slipping through must be returned whence they came. Even those, from Croydon, wishing to attend the court at Reigate to confess to certain misdemeanors must be diverted and "paying the fees of the Court shall and may be discharged". The High Constable was ordered to assess, levy and collect a special rate from the parishes not yet visited by the plague for the alleviation of distress in those already afflicted. This order was made on 5th October, 1665, when the scourge, sweeping south, had reached Croydon. As the rate was to be in proportion to the rates already payable, it must have fallen hardly on Charlwood which, in the previous year, was one of the most heavily rated parishes in the Reigate Hundred. Even in those days the rates were going up. In April, 1664, it was agreed that £600 must be raised in the county "for Pencioners, Goale (*sic*), hospitall and charitable uses". The rates for the Hundred of Reigate were increased by as much as a third. Charlwood's contribution, £4 14s. 8d. was only exceeded in the hundred by Reigate Forraigne and Horley, while the neighbouring parishes of Leigh and Newdigate got off with £2 16s. 6d. and £1 7s. 6d. respectively.

In many parts of the country feeling was rising against encroachments, but there is little evidence that the people of Charlwood as a whole resented small enclosures. However, it was probably as a demonstration against such an enclosure that Edward Baldwin, in 1662, "forcibly . . . carried off posts and pales of one Thomas Saunders of Brickhouse there". For this he was fined 12d. at the Quarter Sessions, while Thomas Saunders was fined 10d. at the View of Frankpledge for enclosing part of White's Green beside which his house, now part of Farmfields, then stood.

*The  
Plague,  
1665*

*Enclosures,  
1662*

*The Smithy*, smithy which is still in use as such. John Humphrey was presented at the courts of both the Manors of Charlwood and of the Rectory for having "lately built on the waste in the parish 'un fabric' Anglice a smith's shop". Even the courts themselves were uncertain of the extent of the manors for "whether it was erected on the waste belonging to the manor or no, they know not. Therefore, the Jurors ask a day to inquire further before the next court". The inquiry proved it to be within the Manor of Charlwood in whose rental, made towards the end of the century, there occurs: "The Heirs of John Humphreys: for erecting a smith's shop upon Charlwood Green paying the Lord of the Manor 1s. 1d. per annum for 99 years". The Court had a long memory, for it never allowed it to be forgotten that this smithy belonged to the public. When the commons were finally enclosed by Act of Parliament the smithy, house, garden and orchard were dealt with as though they were part of the common and therefore public property. This was the only building included in the Inclosure Award and in equity it was awarded to John Blanchard, the blacksmith.

*Pagewood* The Court of the Manor of the Rectory owned itself in doubt as to the inclusion of Charlwood Green within its jurisdiction, but neither this court nor that of the manor of Charlwood had any doubts about the common called Page-wood. They both claimed it irrefutably. In 1667 Nicholas Wilkins and Henry Brooker were each fined 20s. for encroaching on Pagewood by the Court Baron of the Manor of Charlwood. Eighteen years later they were both presented for the same offence at the Court of the Manor of the Rectory. This same court asserted its right by presenting that "the Common called Pagewood is in the Manor of the Rectory" while five years later their more powerful rivals replied "that Pagewood is in this manor and belongs to no other".

The Manor of the Rectory had been for many years becoming increasingly impotent. Henry Hesketh, on his induction in 1663, found himself lord of a manor already inert owing to the disturbances consequent upon the Civil Wars. At the

first court under his lordship of which we have record, that of 1664, the following entry occurs in the rolls: "Because no tenants of the manor have this day appeared to make their several suits of court, so no Court Baron can be held upon this day for the same, to the grave hurt of the lord of the manor; the bailiff is therefore ordered to distrain all the tenants of the manor for default of their several suits upon the day aforesaid". The records of only two later courts are found; those of 1685 and 1687. Little business appears to have been done at these courts beyond a presentation of a rental for twenty-four tenants holding  $216\frac{1}{2}$  acres with rents mainly in arrear, totalling £1 4s. 1d. With two exceptions of 30 acres and 100 acres these were all small properties of an acre or two. A rental of a year or two later shows practically all the rents as many years overdue, many of them by as much as seventeen years. And so the end came to the Manor of the Rectory of Charlwood during the lordship of Henry Hesketh, partly brought about by the troublous times and partly by the sturdy independence of the inhabitants of Charlwood, which characteristic is so noticeable through their history.

The Lord of the Manor of Charlwood continued to hold his courts, but with the decline of the influence of these manorial courts one of the last links with mediæval tradition was being severed. A new Charlwood was evolving in the days of Queen Anne and her successors. Landowners, large and small, were living quietly on their estates, and though their wealth was not curtailed by income tax nor by crushing death duties, these were the men who contributed so largely to the Poor Rate for the assistance of their more necessitous neighbours in the parish. Queen Anne

Substantial houses had been built in the parish in late Stuart times, but by far the most outstanding example was the new Gatwick House. It is our loss that when Rawlinson, in his *Natural History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey*, editing Aubrey, gave a description of Kilmanbridge and of the newly built gallery for the singers in the church he did not give an opinion on this fine new house built twenty years before by William Jordan. Here he was still living with

his wife and family and as M.P. for Reigate and lord of the manor he was undoubtedly the most influential man in the village.

Rowley, nearby, belonged to another branch of the same family, George Jordan having inherited this sub-manor from his uncle, George Luxford, in 1709. Who the neighbours and tenants of the Jordans were may be gleaned from various sources. Leonard Gale, the wealthy ironmaster, still lived at Oldlands and Hyders, nearby, belonged to John Cuddington and his wife Elizabeth, four of whose children were baptised in Charlwood Church. Testers (Tifters) still belonged to the Hospital of the Blessed Trinity, Guildford, and was farmed by William Shoe, while Spicers belonged to John Round. Spottles had been left by Henry Hesketh, the rector, to his wife Mary, while Henry Johnson, the son of Jeremiah, had inherited Colle and many acres to the north of the village, including what is now Edolphs farm. The Plough and Harrow was open as well as the Half Moon, and here the villagers could enjoy their tankards of ale.

Several other comparatively large houses which no longer exist were, at this time, still occupied. The great house at Westfield Common, Odworth or Parke, was no longer owned by the Saunders, but belonged with other land to the west of Welland Green to James Wood, father of the rector of Rusper. Weeklands, between Povey Cross and the present Charlwood Park, had been sold by George Ede to George Humphrey, while William Ede lived at Ringers or Ringmers. What is now Charlwood Place Farm was owned by Thomas Hinton, who also owned a large house called Telvet, which stood in the corner of Pudding Croft opposite the present barns and stockyard. Bosworth stood on Fell Street between Whites Green and Hookwood Common, but Barnelands, further to the north and east had already ceased to exist.

The glory had certainly departed from Charlwood Place. The last Saunder to live here had been Edmund, notable for his lawsuit over the Chapel, and when he left the house to his sister, Elizabeth Bradshaw, it was described as "the late capital messuage". She had sold it almost immediately to her

nephew, Sir William Throckmorton, and it had changed hands constantly until Henry Wise took over the mortgage in 1716. Even he did not live at Saunders Place, though he stipulated that accommodation for himself and his horses should be always available.

The Saunders, however, still held a great deal of property in the village. Indeed, the branches of the family were so numerous that it became necessary to distinguish one from the other by the names of their houses. One branch lived at Brick House on the edge of Whites Green (now part of Farmfields) which they had owned certainly since the Restoration. Others lived at Wolvers just outside the parish to the north, and others again at Povey Cross.

The branch which was descended from Thomas Wite, third son of Sir Thomas Saunders, Remembrancer of the Exchequer, lived at the northern end of Hookwood Common. The house, then known as the Hooke, was almost certainly built on the same site and perhaps incorporated material from the old home of Walter de la Hoke. The Saunders of Hookwood had lived here throughout the Civil Wars, and in 1662 Thomas Saunders of Hookwood paid the same tax on four hearths as that paid by his kinsman at Whitesgrene. The majority of the family clung fanatically to the christian name of their great ancestor, and for nearly two hundred years one Thomas Saunders after another followed in direct succession at Hookwood. There is no doubt that they were highly respected members of Charlwood parish, in many cases in the records being styled "Mr", an honour given to few. They added considerably to their property from time to time, buying Fullbrooks in 1670, and Gassons nearby, Bakeworth in 1693, and other properties outside the parish. These were later sold, but the house at Hookwood remained in the family until the death of the last Miss Saunder, who was buried among her ancestors at Charlwood in 1909 at the great age of ninety years. Thus the long connection of more than 600 years between this family and the village was finally broken.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

### *In the days of the Georges 1714-1814*

UPON the church, from the earliest days, had fallen the responsibility for the care of the aged, the infirm and the poor. The doors of the monasteries had been open to all who needed succour. When these monasteries were suppressed by Henry VIII, a vast number of indigent poor were cast upon the countryside with no one to whom they could turn for help. Severe penalties were imposed for vagrancy, but little was done to alleviate the causes of poverty. Alms were voluntary, to be collected and distributed by the clergy and churchwardens, while private alms were forbidden. In 1550 it was found necessary to empower the bishops to use their influence to enforce the giving of alms when sufficient was not forthcoming altogether voluntarily. Even this did not suffice, and an act passed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth gave the Magistrates power to enforce the charity which the exhortations of the bishops had not produced.<sup>56</sup> This was the birth of the Poor Rate.

*The Poor Law* The poor law of 1640 ordered the churchwardens and from two to four substantial householders to be nominated each year as Overseers of the Poor. They were to maintain the poor and set them to work. Every person now had, by law, to contribute towards the upkeep of the poor and, while accepting their obligation towards the poor of their own parish, they resented the obligation to contribute towards the upkeep of poor persons coming into the parish from neighbouring villages. This feeling led to the disastrous act of 1662, which was the foundation of the law of Settlement and Removal. It empowered the Justices to order the removal to his place of birth or apprenticeship of any person renting a tenement of less than £10 value unless he brought with him a certificate from his own parish agreeing to take him back should he, or his family, become chargeable on the parish. This policy, together with a rapid rise in the population, led to the wave of pauperism which engulfed the whole

country during the second half of the 18th century. The population of Charlwood had risen from about 450 at the beginning of the 17th century to 800 or more one hundred and eighty years later, and many a man able and willing to work, who could have found work in plenty in some other village, found himself tied to the parish whether there was work there for him or no.

The muniment chest in Charlwood Church contains forty-one Settlement Certificates and thirty Removal Orders. The earliest is a written Settlement Certificate of 1690. Most of the Removal Orders relate to neighbouring villages, but some entailed long journeys. In some cases the "vagabonds" were passed on from constable to constable until, at last, they were delivered to the Overseers of the place of their birth. An Order of 1732 commands the removal of some unfortunates from Charlwood to Emney in the Isle of Ely while a pass, dated 1778, for a "Rogue and Vagabond", his wife and five children, orders the constable of Charlwood to convey them "in a cart or on horseback to Westerham, in the County of Kent, in the direct way to Bexley" for which the constable was to be paid £2 12s. 6d. "and no more". The spelling of Charlwood in a Removal Order of 1753 reflects the dialect of the day for "Mary Chalwood" is ordered to be removed from Southwark, where she was apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, to "Challord" in Surrey.<sup>116</sup>

An act of 1794-5 strove to mitigate the evil consequences of the previous act by forbidding removal until the persons were actually chargeable on the parish. A Removal Order of 1798 is one of those in the chest in which the words "likely to be chargeable" have been altered to "is actually chargeable". This particular document proves that those who were bound to enforce these laws showed more humanity than the laws themselves. On the back of the order for removal is an instruction for its suspension owing to the illness of the unfortunate man. He was allowed to remain in Ifield at the cost of £20 12s. 0d. to be paid by the Overseers of the Poor of Charlwood, his native village, until his health was regained two years later.

*The Workhouse* The decline of the iron industry, together with the restrictions of the law of Settlement and Removal, led to considerable unemployment in this part of Surrey. By an act of 1722-3 the parish officers of each village were authorised to buy or rent workhouses in which the poor could be maintained and put to work. The first mention of the Charlwood



Workhouse is a little scrap of paper in the muniment chest; 1777 a bill from Moses Chantler, dated 1777, for "Degen a planten of Beens a Cabeges at the Workhouse o : 6 : o". From this date until 1813 there are a vast number of bills relating to the Workhouse and its inhabitants which give a fairly clear picture of them. It seems highly probable the Workhouse was the slate-roofed building in the centre of the village now used as a builder's store. We know from various bills in the chest that it was in the Street and that there was "ye cottage at the end of ye Workhouse". It contained downstairs a Kitchen, Middleroom, Brewhouse, Pantry, Spinning room and Vestry room, while the upper floor, reached by a broad step-ladder, contained a further six rooms. Into this building were crowded from thirteen to thirty men, women and children under the care of a Master. The Master received a salary of £30 a year and was also paid a certain sum per head per week. This was 2s. in 1790, when James Dandy, the village shopkeeper, was master. During the Napoleonic Wars the price rose, to keep pace with the cost of living, to 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d. and 4s. 6d., until it reached its peak of 5s. 8d. in 1812. Even this amount does not sound a very large sum with which to feed one person for a week, but food prices, though they had risen steadily throughout the war, were still low in comparison with the

present day. Beef was 6d. a pound, and in 1803 the inmates of the Workhouse were getting at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. each a week. Two years later this had fallen to 1 lb. and in 1807, after fourteen years of war, it was down to about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. The inhabitants of the Workhouse cannot have lived too frugally, for there is a bill for a cask of butter at £5 2s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and ten Dutch Cheeses at £6 18s. 10d., and another for forty-five Wilts Cheese at £9 4s. 10d. They kept a pig and they brewed their own ale. The old men were shaved and we have a bill, dated 1793, from John Dial, whose charge for shaving them was but 2s. 2d. per head per year! One wonders how many shaves each old man got for this small sum. Was it once a week at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a time?

The women worked at the spinning wheels while the men worked in the fields. The proceeds from this work went towards the alleviation of the Poor Rate. The children were "put out" as apprentices. One bill in the chest is for a meal of Bread, Cheese, Salmon and Beer at the White Lion at Loyal Heath when "putting out the children". One fears the children did not share this repast. These pauper children were bound apprentice, in most cases, "to learn the art and skill of husbandry", if boys, or if girls, "to learn the art and mystery of a housewife". This merely meant that they were to be odd job man or maid of all work. An apprentice's indenture in the chest bound the unfortunate boy until he reached the age of twenty-four, but an act of 1766 lowered this age to twenty-one.<sup>56</sup> The parish officers placed the apprentices and the masters were bound to receive them. Neither master or man had any choice in the matter. A bill, from Ambrose Glover, lawyer, dated 1793, records that Louisa Dandy, wife of the Master of the Workhouse, was prosecuted, not only for refusing to pay the Poor Rate, but for refusing to take a parish apprentice. On the same bill it is recorded that William Best was charged with ill-using his apprentice, Shelah Shaw, who found another, and it is to be hoped, a kinder, master, in Thomas Flint.

No man was allowed to set up in trade unless he had served his apprenticeship, but children of better to do people were apprenticed to particular trades. These indentures still

*Appren-  
tices*

remain, and among them are those of Thomas, son of Henry Johnson of Charlwood, apprenticed in 1714 to a Savoy Music engraver and seller, and Ann Sanders to a "Manteau Maker of Darking" six years later.<sup>30</sup>

*Inmates* They cannot have lived in great comfort in the Workhouse for there were, in 1800, for the twenty-one inmates, no more than eleven bedsteads and one old oak cradle, twenty-four blankets and fifty-seven sheets. They had twenty-eight pewter plates and trenchers and twenty wood and pewter dishes, but no more than eight knives, seven forks and fourteen spoons.

The inmates were constantly changing. During ten weeks, in 1795, twenty-two people left the Workhouse, and all were provided with one or two sets of clothing. Typical examples are:

for a woman—

Two jackets	.. .. .	4	0
pair of shoes two pair Stockings	.. ..	4	6
Two changes two tucks two petticoats	.. ..	10	0
Bonnet Hankchif	.. .. .	1	9

---

£1 0 3

while a man took with him—

Round frock Coat and Jacket	.. .. .	9	0
Shoes and Stockings hat two Shirts Breeches	.. ..	13	9

---

£1 2 9

The round frock was the smock, the general wear for the countryman of the day.

In 1783 Gilbert's Act made it possible for parishes to unite for purposes of the Poor Law. It was an adoptive act and a parish meeting was called to consider the question in 1796. The people of Charlwood showed their usual independence, and "the Majority determined not to adopt the provisions of the Act".<sup>116</sup> It was not until 1834 that the Poor Law Amendment Act finally made the amalgamations compulsory and gave us the Unions.

While the Workhouse stood on one side of the street the Alms Houses stood on the other. The Victoria History mentions four houses for the use of the poor "now lost". They were in what is now the eastern end of the churchyard on

what had previously been the site of the Plestor or Plaistow. *The*  
This was a narrow strip of ground, some 20 feet by 130 feet, *Plestor*  
belonging to the public<sup>6</sup> and it was here that games were  
played, and in all probability here too the annual fair,  
mentioned in 1592,<sup>90</sup> was held on St. James Day. In the  
papers in the church chest are constant references to repairs  
to the Plaster gate or the Plawster gate which may have been  
the very gates now leading into the churchyard.

By the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries *c. 1800*  
so many were forced to accept poor relief that others felt  
themselves hard done by if they could not also call upon the  
apparently bottomless public purse. Wives called their hus-  
bands fools if they preferred to remain independent, and  
eventually practically all the working classes were in receipt  
of poor relief in one form or another. In the Parish Registers  
between 1783 and 1795 the word pauper constantly appears;  
for example, of the thirty-one baptisms of 1792 fifteen are  
pauper's children, and five are bastards chargeable on the  
parish.

As might be expected with no sanitation, little education  
and so much poverty, the state of public health was deplor-  
able. Smallpox raged, and other infections and epidemics  
carried off whole families. In 1740, three out of every four  
children, or 75 per cent., died before the age of five. By 1800  
this infant mortality, at 41 per cent., was not quite so high  
but was still horrifying compared to 14 per cent. in 1924  
and the 5 to 6 per cent. in 1949. Babies who appeared  
unlikely to survive long enough to be christened in church  
were hurriedly baptised by the midwife, who held a licence  
from the bishop for this purpose. Those of them who  
managed to surprise all by clinging to the fragile thread of  
life were received into the church at a later date. The large  
number of private baptisms recorded in the Parish Register  
speaks for itself. The entry of 21st July, 1782, "James Botten  
natural daughter of Maria Hopkins" points to a very hurried  
christening!

The church chest abounds in records of this pauperism. In *Pauperism*  
addition to "in" relief at the Workhouse, an enormous  
amount of "out" relief was paid. There are many long lists

of cash payments. One of the early 19th century, taken at random, shows sixty different people in receipt of "out" relief and one hundred and thirty-seven payments of varying sums amounting to £36 11s. 6d. These payments, accepted as a right and spoken of as "pay", were also made to Charlwood people living elsewhere. A letter of about the same date savours of blackmail. It reads "Recd. Last Weakly Pay Oct. 22 13 Weeks due Jany. 21 I hope Gentelmen you Will consider and give me 1s. pr. Weak or I must come home to my Parish". Another is addressed to the Overseer of the Poor, Emery Wilkins, who lived at the house now called Staggers Avon and owned by one of the authors. His tombstone is still to be seen close to the eastern end of the church. The letter retains the original seal and reads:

September 6th. 1806. Mr. Wilkins Avon Reeves  
 Would Be Very Mutch Oblidge  
 to you if you Would Be So Good  
 as to Help ur to the mony By Mr Humfrey  
 Witch is my nabour for ur Child Witch is 6 Munts  
 from the Furst of martch to the Furst  
 of September Whitch is this month  
 the Child is Well and my Wife  
 my Best Respect to all in  
 Quired Frens, Sr. I remain  
 your most Obedient  
 Survent James Garrard  
 Elmsend Beckenham  
 Kent

Out relief was also paid in clothes, food and fuel, while weaving was paid for at 4d. to 6½d. per ell. Wool was bought in London by the Overseers, spun in the Workhouse and woven in the homes. The yarn and cloth were sold by the Overseers in London. There are innumerable little bills for weaving from Elizabeth Wicks who lived in the cottage now called Weavers Cottages, close to which lies another called Woolbarn. Here the wool was stored when the industry was at its height. Weaving had, no doubt, been carried on in Charlwood from an early date, but the first actual mention of it occurs in the Parish Register of 1596, when the burial is recorded of "John Byrde a boy whom Stanton the weaver kept".

From among the papers in the chest can be read the sad story of one, John Batchelor, which includes an interesting list of the household goods of a poor cottage of this period. He lived in a cottage near Horsham, though Charlwood was the parish of his birth and therefore responsible for him. In 1787 his landlord distrained on his goods for £7 arrears of rent. The list of his goods is as follows:

One Clock and Case one Dresser and Shelves one larg writing Desk one Table and form 5 Chairs 3 Pewter Dishes 6 Plates one Pair of Copper Scales one Frying Pann one Pair of Brand Irons and Tongs one Pair of Pothooks one Warming Pann one Iron Pottage Pott 1 feather Bed Hangings and all Belonging 2 Feather Beds and Steddells and all Belonging 1 pair of Sheets one Brewing Vate 1 Copper Furnace 2 Brewing Tubbs 3 Long Cyder Pipes 3 Barrells 2 Oak Chest about to Bushells of Aples 3 Ladders one Cyder Mill and Press one Roasting Jack one Dish Kettel and 2 Flatt Irons.

The landlord, however, did not get his goods; six days later John sold all these things for £10, and arranged to hire them back for 2s. 6d. a week. This he never paid, and seven months later the creditor foreclosed and John was forced to appeal to the Overseers of the Poor of Charlwood. They paid off his debts and also made an advance payment of 1s. a week from May to October. However, four years later he was insolvent again, whether from too frequent use of the Brewing Vate and the Cyder Mill we cannot say, but the Overseers of Charlwood had to send a team to Horsham for him and his goods and to pay John Honywood and Mrs. Briggs to look after his children.

The Overseers were unpaid but their duties were many and various. In an attempt to mitigate the effects of smallpox people were having themselves inoculated with a mild form of this deadly disease. This served, only too often, to spread the infection, and it was not until 1799 that Jenner introduced vaccination with cow-pox, and so reduced the menace. The Overseers of the Poor were kept busy dealing with the "Small Pox People", and there are bills relating to this subject dating from 1786 until as late as 1810. Those referring to William Bourne's illness at Worth are note-

worthy for their quaint spelling. First a letter notifying the Overseers:

Joseph Starley wourth 1787

November 24 I rite to yoy ovesernes

Wilam bourne has gout the

Smoul pouks Jouhn is in danger

if yoy gentelm ples to have him

in nochelealede he has gout aboarve

ouppertuneley.

Then four bills, one of which includes an original way of spelling "housekeeper".

Too bourns           ..   1   1   0

bournes hous ceeper   0   8   0

Another from his landlord who we feel deserved better luck in his efforts to spell "need".

Account of wot i paid Boones

fammoly on a Count of the Smool pox

July the 2 paid James Boorn for foechin

you doun to se him           ..   ..   ..   ..   0   1   0

and for half a pint of gin   ..   ..   ..   ..   0   0   4½

paid dame July the 3 in nead   ..   ..   ..   0   4   0

paid dame July the 10 in naead   ..   ..   ..   0   2   0

paid dame July the 12 in neead   ..   ..   ..   0   2   0

paid dame July the 17 in neead   ..   ..   ..   0   4   0

paid dame July the 24 in neead   ..   ..   ..   0   4   0

paid dame July the 31 in neead   ..   ..   ..   0   4   0

for a sack of brayes           ..   ..   ..   ..   0   0   8

Been Charges for Setin up and Berriin

of him           ..   ..   ..   ..   ..   0   5   0

pd, to Wm. Gardner

Then the final settling-up which throws light not only on the prices of the day but on the diet of a very sick man.

1790 Charlwood Parish To Jn Booker.

July 1 To 8d. Bread 2 oz Tea ½ 1d Sugar ½ 1d Butter

1d. Cheese 2 1d 3 oz Mutton ½ Gn. flour   3   8½

3 To 8d. Bread ½ 1d Suger. 1d. butter quart beer

½d Tobo   1   10½

5 To 1 Gn flour 1d Sugar 1.2 bacon ½ 1d Candles   2   9½

6 To 2 Quarts of Beer   ..   ..   ..   ..   8

7 To 8d. Bread pt Solt 2 oz Tea   ..   ..   1   3½

9 To Td. Bread ½ 1d Soap 1d Oil ½ 1d Candles   1   3½

To a Shroud   ..   ..   ..   ..   ..   5   0

10 To 1½ Gn flour 2½ 1d Mutton ½ 1d Sugar

			1d butter $\frac{1}{2}$	1d Pitch	3	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
	12 To 4d Loaf 2 oz Tea $\frac{1}{4}$	1d Soap	..	..	1	0
July 16	To $\frac{1}{2}$ 1d butter 2d Loaf 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz Cheese	..	..	..	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	To Coffin	..	..	..	9	0
	To Clerks Fees	..	..	..	4	0
					<hr/>	
					£1	15 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
The Nurse					10	6
					<hr/>	

For Wm. Bourn Deceased Paid £2 5 8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Other bills also disclose a somewhat surprising diet for sufferers from smallpox. One of 1794 reads:

To John Elliot & Famely with the Small Pox

one bottle of Red Port wine	..	..	..	2	4
for motton	..	..	..	0	6
for yest	..	..	..	0	6
one Bottle of Red Port wine	..	..	..	2	4
for motton	..	..	..	1	0
2 Bottles of Rasin wine	..	..	..	3	6
42 quarts of Milk	..	..	..	3	6
1 Bottle of Red Port wine	..	..	..	2	4
1 Peck of Bran	..	..	..	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Parish Registers record that in spite of this John Elliot died, but his family recovered, perhaps thanks to the attentions of Dr. Chatfield for one of his bills reads:

For attending the Poor	..	..	..	12	12	0
For Enoculating 3 of Elliotts Family	..	..	..	15	0	
					<hr/>	
					£13	7 0

This doctor had an original way of persuading his maternity cases to give him due warning. If they failed to do so he charged them double fees! There are several instances of this. In 1793 when his usual fee was 10s. 6d. he includes the following item in his bill:

Delivering Dame Saunders not spoke to before

Hand	..	..	..	..	..	£1	1	0
------	----	----	----	----	----	----	---	---

Smallpox not caused by inoculation was called the natural smallpox, and a doctor's bill of 1789 is for:

Inoculating Mr. Coxes 6 Children & attending one

in the Natrall way	..	..	..	..	3	13	6
Draying a touth for his wife	..	..	..	..	0	0	6
					<hr/>		
					£3	14	0

Another curious bill is for Mary Goble, who in 1810 was sent to hospital, which must have been some distance from Charlwood, for the chaise cost £1 3s. od. The bill referred to is dated three years later. It reads:

Sur I have sentt Mary			
Goble home by the Carter			
I paid the Carter	0	2	6
I gave Mary goble	0	1	6
3 times the hot bath	0	9	0
23 times the Cold bath	0	16	0
bord an loging	7	4	0
<hr/>			
	£8	13	0

The claims of infinite variety which had to be dealt with by the Overseers of the Poor were indeed legion. Appointment to these unpaid public positions must, in many cases, have proved a very real hardship. Another unpaid and unsought after post was that of Surveyor of the Highways. In Charlwood there were two Surveyors; one for the east and one for the west side of the parish. To them fell the thankless task of persuading the reluctant inhabitants to turn out and repair their roads. Many preferred to pay cash rather than to supply men or horses for this statute labour on the roads. For those who compounded the terms were "In lieu of every Team for one day three Men or pay four Shillings and Six pence".<sup>116</sup> The Surveyor used this composition money to employ labourers but, whether the work was done by the inhabitants responsible, or by paid labour, the parish had to supply an inordinate amount of beer to encourage the workers in their tedious labours. The Surveyor in 1786 attempted to solve the problem by paying "for liqr, at the Halfmoon the Day Compounding 2s. 6d.", but the experiment was not repeated. May be the proprietor of the Half Moon found himself out of pocket on the deal.

*The Causies* Many of the stone pathways, which are a unique feature of the village, were laid at the end of the 18th century. These causies are composed of large slabs of Norwood Hill stone, laid sometimes touching each other and sometimes in the form of stepping tones. They are now much overgrown and even buried, but many miles of them still exist. They form

our footpaths beside the roads, across country and through the woods. The pits, some large, some small, can still be seen on Stanhill and Norwood Hill where vast quantities of stone for these pathways and for the highways was once quarried. There are in the chest some fifty-three bills for digging and laying the "slabs" of the "Coseys" or "Causeys", forty-six of which bills are dated during the last fifteen years of the century. Without these causies the roads, during the winter, would have been quite unfit for the foot passenger for, being unmetalled, when they became too rutted they were ploughed up and harrowed. Many accounts were paid for the repair of the plough and the harrow owned by the parish and used for this work. Part of the harrow is still in existence, and these implements were kept, until comparatively recently, at what is now called Harrow House. From them the house took the name of the Plough and Harrow, a name under which it traded as a beer house in the 18th century. Here occasional parish meetings were held, for there is a bill of 1808 for "Parish Meatins at the Plow Harrow Charlwood". The ploughed roads were good enough for mounted traffic and the stone causies must have afforded the foot passenger some relief, but even so pattens were worn for there are two bills for "1 pare of pattins" and "1 pr pattens and strings". These pattens were attached to the boot and consisted of a wooden sole supported on an iron ring some two inches below, and served to keep the wearer up out of the mud.

The biggest bills the Surveyors had to meet were for the bridges. In 1792 the bridge over the Mole on the way to Lowfield Heath was rebuilt by Emery Wilkins, whose bill for the work reads thus:

The Overcers of the Parisch of Charlwood

To Hemmerey Wilkins Dr.

For Bilding the brig at Westfield finding all meterels

£23 10s. 0d.

The rebuilding of Long Bridge in 1804 cost little more, though the Mole here is far wider and the bridging of it must have been a considerably greater work. The bill is:

For Building Long Bridge

as Pr. Contract .. .. .

£ s. d

23 10 0

To 10 feet of Cube Oak Extra to post at 5/-	2	10	0
To taking down and clearing away the			
Old Bridge Baying & Turning the			
Watter & paid for Licquor the half part ..	1	14	6
	<hr/>		
	£27	14	6

*The Brighton Road* The people of Charlwood found their statute labour on the roads, in the heavy clay, most uncongenial. The least popular of all these tasks was the repair of that part of the main highway from Reigate to Crawley, which was within the parish. Here was a road, little used by themselves, but constantly in need of repair owing to the great increase in wheeled traffic which was taking place during the latter half of the 18th century and, what is more, these vehicles belonged to strangers who contributed nothing to the repair of the road which their wheels churned to a quagmire. At this time the road went over Horsehills. There was a short stretch within the parish at Bush House and then some three miles from Hookwood Common to the county boundary. No wonder that parts of the road were "very Ruinous, and almost impassable . . . insomuch that it is become dangerous to all Persons that pass those Ways". The quotation is from the act of 1697 which made this road the first turnpike in Surrey and fixed the tolls: "For every horse, one penny; For every stage coach, hackney coach, or other coach calash or chariot, six pence; For every waggon or cart, six pence; For every score of sheep or lambs, one penny; For every score of calves, two pence; For every score of hogs, two pence; for every score of oxen or neat cattel, two pence".

In spite of this parliamentary encouragement, little was done for many years. However, the further act of 1755 "for repairing and widening the road from Sutton in the County of Surrey through the Borough of Reigate by Sidlow Mill to Povey Cross", was, to a certain extent, implemented, and toll gates were erected. The tolls went to help with the upkeep of the road and there is a bill in the church chest, dated 1792, showing charges at the gates at Horsehills 4d. and Woodhatch 4½d. In addition to the tolls, statute labour was required on the turnpike, but this the men of Charlwood

refused to do, preferring to compound at £29 19s. 6d. per annum. There are a number of receipts for this composition money between the years of 1786 and 1811. It was not until some years later that the present main road from Sidlow to Hookwood was built. In the Returns of the Turnpike Road Trustees, of about 1820, mention is made of "A New Line from or nearly from the South end of Sidlow Bridge onto the North side of Hookwood Common and from thence to a Bridge upon the said Road leading from Sutton to Povey Cross".<sup>52</sup>

This was the hey-day of the coaching roads. Thomas Telford and John Macadam were revolutionising road construction, giving a firm, smooth surface over which the mail and stage coaches, the post chaise and private carriages could travel at ever-increasing speeds. The favour of the Prince Regent had transformed the obscure fishing village of Brighthelmstone into the fashionable spa of Brighton. As many as twenty coaches a day came rumbling down the Brighton road, and they took such pride in their timing that one firm offered to refund the fares should their coach fail to arrive at Brighton on time. These coaches must have been a brave sight at Christmas as they rattled past Povey Cross; the horses rosetted, with holly on bridle and collar, and the coaches themselves weighed down with parcels and hampers, turkeys, hares and Christmas fare, and decorated overall with mistletoe.

May Day, too, was a great day for the coaches. Early in the 18th century, before the roads were improved, the coaches had, perforce, to be laid up for the winter. They restarted their services on 1st May, and were decorated as befitted the occasion. The horses' necks were wreathed with flowers, their harness bedecked with ribbons; the coachman's whip and the guard's horn were twined with blossoms and the coach itself could scarcely be seen for the boughs of young leaves and evergreens which bedecked it. The custom of offering the crew and passengers wines and pastries *en route* on this day<sup>78</sup> may have been instrumental in the prolongation of the observance of this custom long after the improved roads had made the winter laying up of the coaches a thing

*The  
Coaches*

of the past.

The main Brighton road was thus our first highway to become what we know as a road today, that is a firm metalled carriage-way, running down the centre of the highway. For many years after this the other roads of Charlwood remained as earthen tracks across the commons and between the enclosed fields, ploughed and harrowed occasionally with a small amount of stones and cinder thrown down to fill in the boggiest places. Within living memory the mud was so deep that when the farm carts, bringing the chalk for the fields from the North Downs faced the pull up to Norwood Hill the horses were all unhitched and formed into one great team to drag one cart at

*Indictments* a time through the mire to the top of the hill.

Though the Charlwood roads were probably no worse than those of neighbouring parishes the inhabitants of Charlwood had been in trouble over their roads from as early as 1665 when they were fined for allowing "a horsebridge in Charlewood leading from Reigate to Crawly" to fall into disrepair.<sup>52</sup> In 1803 a Charlwood man brought an action against the inhabitants for failing to perform their statute labour on one of their roads. Mr. Venour, who owned what is now Russ Hill House, presented the inhabitants of Charlwood for failing to repair the road from "Wilkin's Gill to Lawrence Green", probably referring to the road from what is now Glovers to Brittleware. The case drifted on for three years, with no profit to any but the lawyers, until, at a special vestry meeting, the people of Charlwood, with their usual independence, resolved to repair the Povey Cross lane instead. This offer was accepted by Mr. Venour who must, by this time, have been heartily sick of the whole business.

Before this case was settled, the inhabitants of Charlwood were presented on a similar charge by Mr. Sharp, High Constable, who was, perhaps, the John Sharp, Lord of the Manor and grandson of Philippa Jordan. He charged them with failing to repair Tinceley Bridge, but they had a quick answer to that. Although the three parishes met here, one end of the bridge, they said, lay in Worth and the other in Horley, and therefore they were not responsible, and this

plea was successful.<sup>116</sup>

Another long and expensive lawsuit was in connection with the digging of stone at Highworth for the highways. After much litigation it was held that the owner, Mr. Richards of Epsom, had no claim to the stones, but only for the damage done in the digging and the carting. One of the Justices, Mr. Jolliffe, who had made this order, went off to Brighton without signing it. As it had to be signed within six days the coachman of the Brighton coach was commissioned to get this done. This he failed to do, so a clerk was despatched, post haste, to Brighton. Here he searched the "Books of the different Libraries, the Post Office, the Inns and other Public Places" without success. The second day he searched the Livery Stables and finally sat down to wait at the Post Office. Here, after a wait of two hours, his patience was rewarded, for Mr. Jolliffe came himself to collect his letters. He signed the order but, rather contradictorily, advised a payment of £60 for the stone. On top of this expense Charlwood was faced with a lawyer's bill for £69 1s. 6d., of which the final item is "Much extraordinary Trouble during this Business £2 2s. od.", a sentiment with which we are inclined to agree, though it might have been more just had Mr. Jolliffe paid that two guineas!

Another indictment referred to Povey Cross and is mentioned in a Surveyor's bill which is also interesting for its variety.

John Gassons Surveyors Bill 1778

	£	s.	d.
To a Warrent .. .. .		2	6
paid to Mr. Harber on the account of Inditment .. .. .		13	0
May paid to Labourers mending Neals lane & Mill land .. .. .	1	17	10
pd. to Nicholas Elyott .. .. .	0	8	10
payed to Laboures .. .. .	0	2	0
Westfield Lane 4 Laybours & Beere .. .. .	0	8	0
Hourley Mill Lane 4 Laybours & Beere .. .. .	0	8	0
4 Laybours moveing the Brig at Westfield & Beere to days paid the expences agowing to gilford to the quourter Sesans .. .. .	0	16	0
	0	14	0

paid to Mr. Harber on the									
account of Inditment .. .. .	0	10	6						
paid Stefen Gray for									
Diging Stones .. .. .	1	10	0						
a journey to Micklam									
& attending at Rigat .. .. .	0	5	0						
Three Laborors two days									
att. 1..6 day .. .. .	0	9	0						
pd Joseph Habord									
for Stone Cartt .. .. .	4	12	0						
	<hr/>								
	£11	3	8						

*The  
Constable*

The Constable, too, had a variety of detail needing his attention. We have seen him before receiving his orders from the courts and from the Justices. Now we see him rendering his bill, which, in itself, must have been one of his most irksome duties. Nicholas Blanchard, the village blacksmith, was constable from 1792 to 1795, and again in 1799. From his writing one may guess that he was more used to handling the hammer than the pen. One of his bills reads:

April 21 1795 the Church Wardins & Overseares

Dr. to Nicholas Blanchard for Being Constable

for Going to Rygate to torn the Sesers Somans	2	6
28 for torning the Over Seares Somans .. ..	2	6
June 15 for Going Round the Parish to Sarch		
Travelers .. .. .	2	6
paide Exspences .. .. .	9	0
22 for torning the Warrent to Rigate .. ..	2	6
29 for Going Round the Parish .. .. .	2	6
Paide Exspences .. .. .	8	6
30 for torning the Warant to Rygate .. ..	2	6
July 28 for torning a Somans to Rygate .. ..	2	6
August 3 for Going Round the Parish .. ..	2	6
Paide Master Tidy for Diner & licker .. ..	13	6
29 for torning the Warent to Rygate .. ..	2	6
Sept 26 for torning the Lisand Somans to Rygate ..	2	6
29 for going to Rygate to the Highe Constables fest	2	6
Paide for Fest & Makeing the List .. ..	6	0
Oct 4 for torning the Jurey Somans to Rygate ..	2	6
Paide for Oath .. .. .	1	0
Novr 16 for takeing down the Melisha .. ..	2	6
19 for makeing the list .. .. .	2	6
28 for Going to Croydon with the List .. ..	5	0

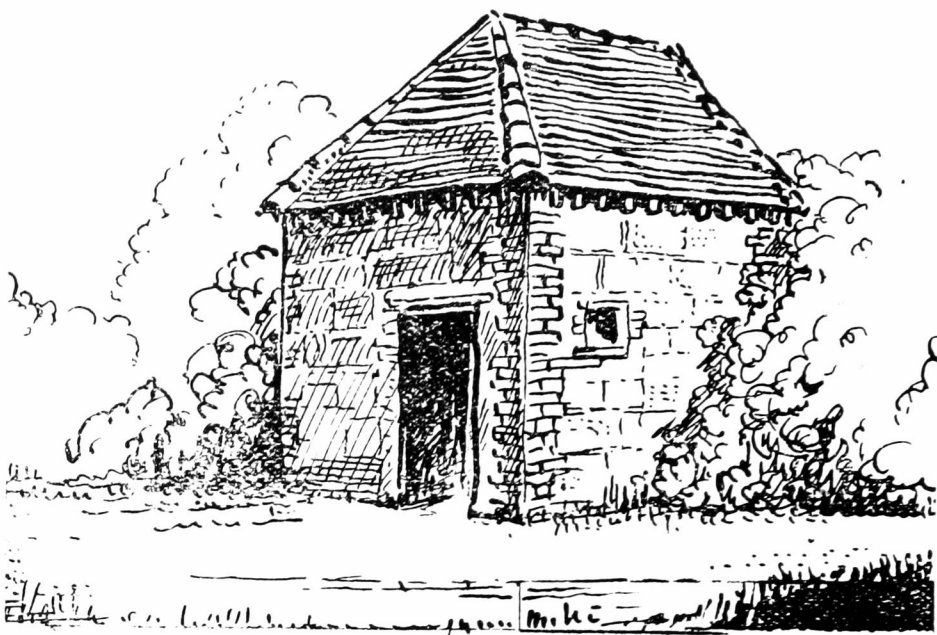
24	for torning Leshad Ris Bridgers Somans	..	2	6
1796				
Feb 2	Relieved a traveler on the Roade	.. ..	1	0
March 15	for torning the Sesers Somans	.. ..	2	6
			<u>£4</u>	<u>4 0</u>

It will be noticed that the heaviest expenditure was at the village inn for "Diner & lick", and another fairly large item was the Constables feast which was an annual affair held at Reigate and always costing the ratepayers the same sum, which, we trust, was not begrudged him, for he appears to have earned well his "fest" and his "licker".

One of his earlier efforts refers to the use of the Charlwood Cage or Hold which still stands near the present Rising Sun. There still appears to have been the same aversion to convict that was noticeable earlier. The constable expended a great deal of fruitless effort on one Mr. Apted, who must have been a very refractory prisoner to require three men to deal with him. In spite of this his prisoner was discharged by the Justice. It may be that the Justice thought that he had suffered enough languishing for two days and nights in the Cage while the entire police force were making merry at the Half Moon! One suspects that the constable had some assistance with his spelling as well as with his prisoner, for the bill reads:

1792	Surrey	)			
	to	)	Hundred of		Nicholas Blanchard
	Wit	)	Reigate		
Jany 21	To one Day for myself & assistants to execute a Warrant on Thos. Apted	.. ..		5	0
	Myself & Two Assistants two Days & two Nights while Apted was in Hold at Charlwood	.. ..		15	0
	Expences &c: at the Half Moon during Apted's Confinement	.. ..		1	6 0
	Expences for myself & assistants going to Epsom to Shaw Esqr. Where Apted was discharged	.. ..		7	6
				<u>2</u>	<u>13 6</u>
				1	
				<u>2</u>	<u>14 6</u>

THE  
VILLAGE  
LOCK-UP



Another Constable, whose writing is less legible and whose spelling is quite as original as Blanchard's later accounts, also appears to have had his labour in vain for the two following bills tell their own story.

1794	April 17	To the Church Wordens and oversears of the Parish of Chollard	£	s	d
		Taken Johnathan Innifer			
		Acpxenes from April 17 tell April 19			15
1794	May the 17	to the Parish of Coharlewood for taking in to Custurdy			
		Johnathan Innever and Bringing him			
		Before the Bench at Croydon in the	£	s	d
		County of Surrey Expences ..		5	0
		Sarven the Worrent .. .. .		2	0
		Discharging .. .. .		2	0
		Goi in to london 6 .. .. .	£	9	0
					15
		Worant 4 .. .. .			19

The items charged by Thomas Kent, who was Master of the Workhouse as well as Constable, show an amusing juxtaposition:

The Parish of Charlwood,		£	s	d
1805	To. Thos. Kent Dr—			
	Expences of Going Round the Parish in order to take up the Vagrants ..	1	0	0
	Pd. Mr. Humphery For a Goose .. ..		5	6
	Pd. John Nightingale For Edging and Digging .. .. .		4	0
	Pd. Brewer For Killing Rats .. ..		1	6
	Pd. For Brooms .. .. .		1	0
	Pd. For a Bottle of Gin Lying in and Hog Killing .. .. .		2	6
		<hr/>		
1806	9th March pd at Vestry	£1	14	6

The destruction of rats was paid for out of the rates under the 16th century acts for the “destruction of Noyfull Fowles and Vermyn” and the price current in Charlwood was Rats 6d. each, Sparrows 3d. per dozen and the harmless Hedgehog 4d. each.

*Vermyn  
and  
Vagrants*

As well as the Vermyn, the vagrants, all of whom must be “taken up” by the constable, were a constant source of trouble. One bill dated 1794, from Faulkner Tidy, the inn keeper, tells of a particularly troublesome vagrant, for it includes the following items:

For keeping the Bager Man 15 days at 9d. a day	11s.	3d.
Beer to Do. .. .. .	3	2
For Troubell with Do. .. .. .	5	0
To him in Money .. .. .	3	0

By 1811 the parish officials were beginning to tire of all this work consequent upon arrest and removal of vagrants. William Wicks was commissioned for “8 Boards prepared, and painted, and wrote, and fix’d, for Notice to warn off, all Vagrants etc. etc. from the Parish of Charlwood” for which he charged £2 8s. od. This warning may well have threatened a sojourn in the stocks.

The stocks were still in existence in 1797, for John Charlwood charged 12s. for “3 New postes to the whipping stocks” and Joseph Humphery got 1s. 6d. for “ficsing 2 Joints to the Stocks”.

Another responsibility of the Constables was the Pound, which is mentioned in bills of the early 19th century. The names Pound House Lane and Pound Land point to the village pound or pinfold having been situated at what is marked on the ordnance survey maps as Ladyland Barn, though there may have been another nearer the village. There was also a pound at Povey Cross, where the garage now stands, and one at Hunt's Green. In the pound were placed all straying cattle only to be reclaimed by their owners on payment of a fine for having allowed their beasts to stray and possibly damage their neighbours' crops.

*The Napoleonic Wars,* 1793 The French Revolutionary Government declared war on England in 1793, and this not unexpected news was proclaimed in Church. In the chest there is a bill, dated 6th April of this year, "for the Proclamation and prayers for the fast, 4s. od."

The Constable's lot was certainly not a happy one even before the Napoleonic war, but after the outbreak of this war more and more time had to be spent by him on matters connected with the Militia. Under the Militia Act of 1662 all owners of property had been personally responsible for providing horses, arms and men for the militia. By the act of 1757 the responsibility was lifted from the shoulders of the individual and the liability put upon the parish as a whole. Men were to be chosen by lot to serve for three years or to pay £10 for a substitute.

No sooner had war broken out than the Constable of Charlwood received an order to provide a list of names of those liable for military service. This order is a well-written document which states that all men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five were liable with the exception that "No Clergyman, Apprentice nor any Poor Man who has two children born in Wedlock can be compelled to serve Personally or provide a Substitute". In a similar notice, of two years later, the poor men are exempted but the clergymen and apprentices are not mentioned.

The following year, with the Dutch, Spanish and French fleets arrayed against her, England stood in imminent danger of invasion. The Rev. W. Ellis had special "prayers for

Sr. John Jervais Victory" read in Church. These prayers were answered, for in the following February Sir John and Lord Nelson shattered the Spanish fleet off Cape St. Vincent, and, in the autumn, Admiral Duncan practically destroyed the Dutch fleet off Camperdown. The threat of invasion was temporarily lifted, and amid their rejoicing the people of Charlwood did not forget to thank God for their deliverance, for in December 3s. was paid for "16 Prayers for the Thanksgiving".

One receipt, dated 1804, shows how general was the custom of providing a substitute and also to what lengths those responsible for the distribution of poor relief were prepared to go. This receipt shows that the Overseers and Churchwardens had paid £8 8s. od. out of the Poor Rate to James Gasson, who had been chosen by lot to serve in the 2nd Regiment of the Surrey Militia but had preferred to provide a substitute, James Ede. It states that this sum was judged to be half the current price then paid for a Volunteer and James Gasson was eligible for this assistance as he was possessed of less than £550 in goods and money. An account, dated 1802, for the relief of the family of a man serving as a substitute for a Charlwood man bears a note at the foot, "N.B. As the militia is now disembodied". This disbanding of the militia was the optimistic and precipitate action taken as soon as the short-lived Peace of Amiens was signed. This breathing space lasted only thirteen months, to be ended by the gathering of Napoleon's invasion forces and the subsequent hurried recalling of the militia.

In 1805 the men of Charlwood showed their opposition to compulsory recruitment by refusing to find a man to serve in the Surrey Permanent Force. This cost them £20 and the following year Emery Wilkins was sent to Croydon to pay the fine.

Another job for the Constable was the arrest of reputed *Bastardy* fathers of illegitimate children, and this was no sinecure, for at the end of the 18th century a wave of immorality swept the country. These unfortunate children were a charge on the Poor Rate, and even the daughters of well-to-do and respectable parents expected their illegitimate children to be

maintained at the public expense. This was naturally resented by the ratepayers, and to father a bastard became a crime as well as a sin. The mother was haled before a magistrate and cross-examined, none too gently, one imagines, for she usually ended by naming the father of her child. A warrant was then made out for the apprehension of the man who, when caught, was forced to pay what he could towards the upkeep of his child. On occasion he was forced to marry the girl which, while not making the child legitimate, served the purpose of relieving the parish of its financial responsibility. In the church chest there are innumerable Examinations, warrants for arrests and agreements to pay towards the upkeep of these children born out of wedlock. There is an order addressed to all constables of Surrey instructing the instant arrest of one such father. Another constable's account tells the tale of a marriage which, we hope, ended more happily than it began:

January 27th, 1801

To Expences Going to Buckland and Taking

George Hole and keeping him in hold all night and  
marrying him at Betchworth the next Day being

the 28th. Day of January,

the Whole Expence

£6 14s. 0d.

Even the pauper's taxes were paid by the Overseers, and a small printed tax form is of interest as showing on what the taxes of the day were levied. It was the last on the list which killed the fashion of white powdered wigs for men and women alike.

Jasper Briant. Your Assessed Taxes from 5th April 1806 to  
the 6th. April 1807 as follows

House and Windows

6s. 0d.

Inhabited House

Male Servants

Four-Wheel Carriages

Two Wheel Ditto

Horses for Riding or Drawing Carriages

Horses and Mules

Dogs

Armorial Bearings

Hair Powder

Paid at Vestry 1807

Out of the Poor Rate came all public expenditure not otherwise provided for. The first census of the whole country was taken in 1801, and this showed that there were in Charlwood at this time 136 houses in which lived 860 people. The second census was taken in 1811 by which time the population had risen to 959, which was slightly greater than that of Horley.<sup>92</sup> In the chest is a Court Order to the Overseers empowering them to take £5 13s. od. out of the Poor Rate for the purpose of taking this second census.

*The First  
Census,  
1801*

The Poor Rate was assessed at the Bookmaking and this financial effort appears to have called for a large amount of beer. A hog-killing was usually accompanied by an expenditure of 6d. on beer, bell ringing at the church needed "Joil for the Bells 5d. Beer for the Ringers 6s.", but a Bookmaking required 10s. worth of beer which, at 2d. a pint, meant 30 gallons. And that, too, came out of the Poor Rate!

*The  
Poor Rate*

No wonder there were objections to paying this rate. One lawyer's bill lists eight persons who were to be summoned on this count. A letter in the chest requests that "the Church Rate and that of the Poors" should be kept separate and ends by saying "However, I do intend not to pay the Poor rate until it is done as it is certainly a matter of conscience to me and doth not arise from a disposition that delighteth to make trouble in the Parish". Whether this gentleman delighted to make trouble or not, John Sanders' wife, an irascible lady, seems to have had no compunction. On 3rd November, 1794 the Overseers had the disagreeable task of seizing certain goods in lieu of the Poor Rate. They have left us the following record:

Put out of Doors by John Sanders Wife

Two beds and one Table

The Bedstead put out of Window and  
broke in Pieces.

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

### *Victorian Changes 1834 - 1900*

*The New Poor Law 1834* The burden of the oppressive Poor Rate fell heavily on the small farmer and shopkeeper, many of whom were eventually ruined and forced to accept poor relief themselves. It was an evil whirlpool dragging more and more down to the depths of poverty and degradation. A drastic remedy was called for and found in the New Poor Law of 1834. The responsibility for the care of the poor was taken from the overburdened shoulders of the Overseers and the parishes were combined to form Unions. Only those willing to enter these new workhouses were eligible for relief, and paid officials, who were less susceptible to local influence, were appointed to administer this New Poor Law. The Charlwood Workhouse was closed down for the poor of Charlwood must now go to the new workhouse on Earlswood Common or do without relief.

This new method of dealing with unemployment and poverty naturally got a very mixed reception, but not so the abolition of statute labour on the roads. This took place at the same time, and was heartily welcomed by all.

The price of bread was still high, though not so high as it had been at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, and the new farm machinery, the seed-drill, the horse-hoe and the threshing machine filled the simple countryman's mind with fear of unemployment. These factors had led in 1830 to the Swing Riots during which stacks were burnt in the neighbourhood, at Capel. With the reduction in poor relief, wages stationary, and the cost of living rapidly going up, poverty and hunger stalked the land and earned for the following decade the sombre title of the Hungry Forties.

*The Golden Age of Farming* However, a new age was dawning, the Golden Age of Farming. The population of the country was rising by leaps and bounds. That of Charlwood had risen in the thirty years following the census of 1811 from 959 to 1,291.<sup>92</sup> All these additional mouths had to be fed, and the farmers were able

and willing to serve all their new customers. Nearly two hundred years earlier Sir Richard Weston, a Surrey man, had introduced turnips and clover into England from Holland, and the adoption of these crops, though slow, had revolutionised farming. Not only did the farmer no longer have to leave one-third of his land fallow each year, but he could now winter a far greater head of cattle. This gave the cattle breeders their chance, and Robert Bakewell, grasping it, had improved the Longhorn cattle and Leicester sheep out of all knowledge. Charles Colling, his pupil, later had done as much for the Shorthorns. These pioneers were followed by many other skilful livestock breeders and the farmers of Charlwood, in common with those of the rest of the country, were not slow to grasp their opportunity.

Two impediments to good farming in Charlwood had been removed by the commutation of the Tithes (1838) and the enclosure of the commons (1846 to 1854). The tithes had been an annoyance to the farmers and a labour to the rector, for the farmer was not bound to deliver the produce. He could leave the milk in the dairy, the wheat on the threshing floor and the wool wherever the sheep were shorn, and it rested with the rector to collect, which must have proved an arduous task. The Tithes Act of 1836 made it possible to commute the tithes to a rent charge and incidentally led to the making of the large-scale Tithe Maps. These maps were in triplicate; one copy to be kept in the parish, one in the diocesan registry, and the original by the Tithe Commission. The Charlwood copy was lost in the Rectory fire of 1918, but the original and one copy remain at the Tithe Redemption Commission, from which much information can be gleaned of Charlwood in 1842.

*Tithe  
Commuta-  
tion,  
1838*

At an adjourned meeting held in the parish on 26th May, 1838, it was agreed that £905 Rent charge should be paid in place of all the tithes great and small. The original agreement is now in the Muniment Room at Guildford, and is signed by thirty-four farmers and landowners and by Henry Wise, as landowner, Rector and Incumbent. It also gives some interesting acreages:

Cultivated as arable	..	..	..	..	3530 acres
----------------------	----	----	----	----	------------

Cultivated as meadow or pasture	.. ..	1085 acres
Cultivated as woodland	.. ..	1002 acres
Common land	.. ..	800 acres
Glebe	.. ..	22 acres

*The Commons* This great acreage of common land, though convenient for the cottager, was not putting the land to its best use. Early in the 19th century the increased appreciation of the value of the land led the Court Baron to lay down rules designed to defend the rights of the tenants. In 1820 they agreed to assist each other by impounding cattle put on the commons by persons having no right of grazing there, and they also agreed to limit their own herds on the commons to the numbers which each man's land could support throughout the winter.<sup>108</sup>

The tenants were still prepared to countenance small enclosures, but the great demand for these made them realise that their permission should not be given without due consideration. In 1793 they decided that any petition for a grant of a small portion of the waste made at one court must not be ratified until the next. Two things stand out about these enclosures of small pieces of common or roadside waste which were made in great numbers before 1846. They were made in the main by the people of the village and not by the large landowners, and they were made with the full permission of the homage composed of all the farmers of the parish. The lord of the manor appeared in the transaction only as a figurehead.

*The Inclosure Act, 1845* When the Inclosure Act of 1845 made the enclosure of larger tracts possible, without the necessity of a private act of Parliament, Charlwood did not hesitate. The following year the Inclosure Award was made for this parish. By its authority Charlwood Green, Matches Green, Spottles Common, Staggers Avon, Norwood Common, Dolby Green, Welland Green, Westfield Common, Lowfield Heath, Hunts Green, Watermans Green, Hookwood Common, Whites Green, and a considerable acreage of wayside waste were allotted to all the tenants of the manors in proportion to their previous rights on these commons, and were enclosed between 1846 and 1854. Young Scotch Pines were available in quantity and many were used as boundary

marks for these newly enclosed acres. They have grown in beauty during the last hundred years and are now an attractive feature of our countryside. What is now the Recreation Ground was allotted "unto the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Charlwood . . . four acres as a place of exercise and recreation of the neighbouring population". The majority were well satisfied with the award. The only complaining voice was that of the poor man who had had perhaps, the right to graze his donkey on the common. He found himself allotted a very small strip of land around which he could not afford to plant hedges. He was therefore forced to sell to his more affluent neighbour which left him with a few pounds, soon spent, but nowhere to graze his ass. But on the whole it worked fairly equitably and gave to Charlwood an added 800 acres of farm and building land.

Houses were badly needed, for during the twenty years following 1811 the number of houses had increased by two only, in spite of a population swelled by 217, and many families were sharing living accommodation. During the next decade seventy-six houses were built, many by the son of Emery Wilkins, the Surveyor of the Highways. Thus, when the commons were enclosed it was not long before houses began to spring up where formerly the cattle had grazed. Unfortunately, these houses were built close to the roads and, the architecture of this period not being of a high standard, many a beautifully proportioned cottage of the 16th century, built on the fringe of the common, was obscured from view by these less attractive products of the Victorian era. *New Houses*

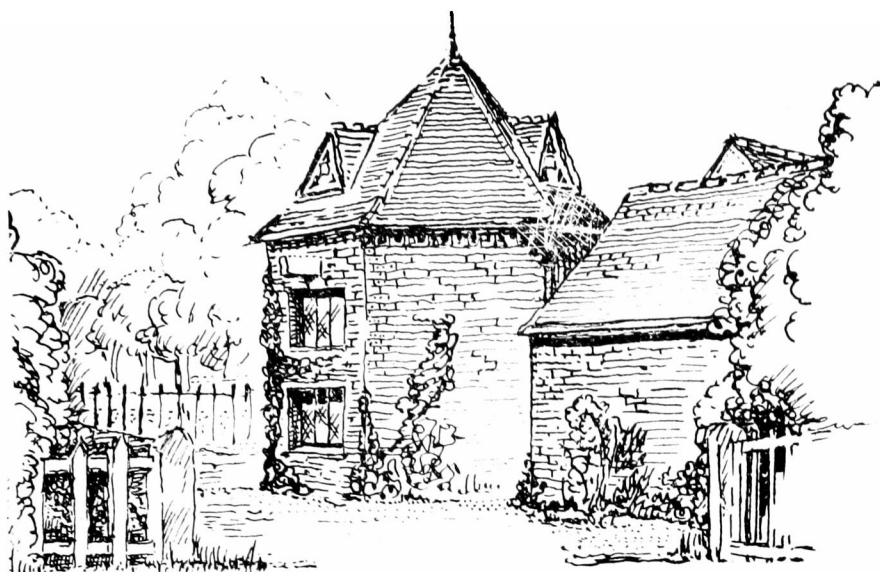
When the demand for more and more wheat, meat and milk arose to feed this rapidly increasing population the farmers found themselves well equipped to satisfy it. They had more varied crops, improved stock, new machinery and consolidated farms. The farm labourer's wage was still but 1s. 6d. a day, but there was employment for all, low rents, free milk, and many other perquisites readily given by the now prosperous farmers. This Golden Age of Farming has left its mark in Charlwood in the form of substantial brick

farm buildings such as those at Charlwood Place and the Homestead. This prosperity lasted until the corn from the virgin acres of the New World, carried across the ocean by the new steam ships, flooded our market and brought about the depression of 1875.

*The*     The steam engine, in another form, had a great influence,  
*Railway,* and a happier one, on Charlwood. In 1841 the Brighton  
1841     Railway was opened, and this brought Charlwood within  
an hour and a half of the Metropolis. The short, but glorious,  
epoch of the coach was at an end. Only five years before the  
main road had been flower-strewn and beflagged when the  
young Queen passed by on her triumphant drive to  
Brighton. In 1842 it was crowded with all manner of  
vehicles for the last time for half a century. Coaches, car-  
riages, chaises, gigs and carts carried the people of London  
out of that city in panic flight. It had been foretold that an  
earthquake would engulf the whole of London on 16th  
March. How the stolid rustics must have gaped as their  
more volatile town cousins streamed across Hookwood  
Common and Lowfield Heath on their way to Brighton and  
safety. The railway very soon monopolised all the long-  
distance traffic, leaving only the infrequent pleasure coach to  
remind the Brighton road of the days that had been. It soon  
began to slip back into a state of neglect which left it rutted  
and grass-grown until the age of the bicycle and the motor-  
car brought it once more to life.

In 1896 it was the scene of the Emancipation Drive to  
Brighton with which the motorist celebrated the removal of  
the regulation forbidding him to drive his snorting autocar  
on a public highway unheralded by a man carrying a red  
flag. This drive is now commemorated annually by the  
"Old Cocks" which include some very early models,  
passing down the main road, not always without trouble, on  
their way from Westminster Bridge to Brighton.

*The*     The coming of machinery put an end, too, to the wind-  
*Wind-* mills of Charlwood. The mill which many years before had  
*mills* stood where Greysouthen now stands at the top of Stanhill,  
had long since fallen into disuse and had been removed. The  
same fate had befallen the mill which used to grind the corn



BASE OF  
CHARLWOOD  
MILL  
AT TIFTERS

on the slightly rising ground close to Little Park Farm. Both these windmills had gone by the middle of the 18th century and left nothing but the field names, Windmill Plat and Windmill Field, to tell where their sails had once turned. Three mills, however, remained to see their trade diminish in this new mechanical age. At Hookwood, John Saunders, a younger son of Thomas, was given permission by the Court Baron of 1820 to enclose the land around his windmill on High Hookwood Common<sup>108</sup> close to the Hops, and this mill remained until 1896. The mill that used to stand on Charlwood Green was burnt down within living memory, and the base remains, forming part of Mill Cottage at Tifters. The only one of our mills still standing is that at Lowfield Heath. In 1827 it stood on the common, and the miller, a Mr. Parker, lodged an objection to the enclosure of part of the common before what is now Lovel House, and to the proposed additions to this building. On 2nd April, a long poem appeared in the "Morning Advertiser" newspaper which began:

"Curse on the Great White House I say  
Rearing its saucy front so high".

It went on to tell how this building, combined with the growth of the trees, would soon take all the wind from the sails and included some fulsome flattery of the Vice-Chancellor, before whom the case was to be heard. In spite of this, the application was refused, the Vice-Chancellor stating that

they would soon have objections to people "crossing the square". A few weeks later a Special Court Baron granted permission for the land round the mill itself to be enclosed, "of a circular form in diameter 90 yards". The sails are now still but the mill remains thanks to the public-spirited action of Mr. Edward Lowes, who bought the mill in order to preserve it from dilapidation and destruction.

*The Last Manorial Courts* These grants of common land, including those round the mills, were the last effective actions of the courts of the Manor of Charlwood. As the manorial courts found their functions taken over more and more by the Justices of the Peace they met less and less frequently until they found themselves with no duties left to them and so ceased to meet at all. The last View of Frankpledge or Court Leet was held on 25th October, 1820. The Courts Baron continued until 1834 to be held at about seven yearly intervals, for the sole purpose of granting small pieces of waste. At the last Court of Michael Clayton, Lord of the Manor of Charlwood, the only business transacted was a grant of roadside waste to John Snow of Timberham Lodge, Coachmaster. This land is now the garden in front of Gatwick Hall.

From time to time until as late as 1918 Quit Rents, Ground Rents and Heriots were redeemed and so, to all intents and purposes, the Manor of Charlwood withdrew in favour of the modern methods of administration.<sup>108</sup>

The Constable was appointed by the Justices until 1856, for although Robert Peel's "bobbies" were introduced in the metropolitan area as early as 1829, it was not until twenty-seven years later that their blue uniforms were seen in the rural areas, and this burden was lifted from the unwilling shoulders of the amateur.

*Hunting* The hunting of the deer, the fox and the hare have always been popular sports in Charlwood. As late as 1844 a trencher fed pack of Southern Hounds was still kept here. Each farmer kept a hound or two, and as the huntsman passed through the village blowing his horn he would be joined by first one and then another of his pack. They hunted the hare and the men followed on foot carrying leaping poles much as the otter hunter does today. These hounds were succeeded

by Lady Gifford's Harriers, and later by the Buckland Beagles, which were at one time hunted by Francis Gibson, son of the Rector of Charlwood. After an amalgamation they became the Worcester Park and Buckland Beagles, and still meet in the village.

The Surrey Stag Hounds used to meet in the village, and the Warnham Staghounds also hunted over this country. At one period the boundaries of three packs of foxhounds met at Charlwood. The Crawley and Horsham, the Burston and the Surrey Union. All three packs met in turn in the village, and heated was the competition for the privilege of drawing Glovers. Today the Surrey Union is in undisputed possession, and one of the Joint Masters, Mr. R. W. Sewill, is a Charlwood man.

Charlwood Place and the advowson of the Church had been in the hands of the Wise family since 1716, when Henry Wise, Henry Wise had purchased the heavily mortgaged property from Francis, Lord Aungier, Earl of Longford. Some 80 years later his descendant, another Henry Wise, became Rector, Rector of Charlwood. He remained as rector for over fifty 1797-1850 years, during which time he did much for the village, loyally helped for the last thirty-seven years by his curate, Mr. Porten, who, in 1850, succeeded him as rector. During these James Porten, years the Register was steadily and beautifully kept with the exact ages of all those who died carefully recorded. Among Rector, these records are those of Harriet Porten, aged 44, and 1850-1854 Harriet Mary Porten, a girl of 19, his wife and daughter. These must indeed have been sad services at which he assisted. It was in his day that the present church clock was installed, a continuous boon to the village. This faithful servant of the Church is commemorated by the memorial stone in the present chancel, "Stanier James Porten, Rector of this Parish" who died in 1854 at the age of 71.

Ever since the time of John Bristow (1615 to 1637) Charlwood had had a school for a few poor boys, but in 1840, while Mr. Wise was rector and Mr. Porten curate, a far more commodious school, now known as the Old Boys' School, was built by the Church on a corner of Charlwood Green. Here all boys who were sent by their parents could learn

their three Rs. Twelve years later another school was built, also by the Church, during Mr. Porten's short term as Rector, for the girls and infants. Here they sat on forms in the one large room and recited their "twice times" in unmelodious unison. It was many years before the art of writing became general, and a careful study of the Parish Registers shows that in the two decades during which these schools started many of the older people still had to rely on others to sign for them. At the 116 marriage services held between 1840 and 1860 only 316 witnesses were able to write their own names, some in curious fashion, while 147 still made their mark. During the two decades following the influence of the new schools began to make itself felt. There were 153 marriages whereat 541 witnesses signed, while only eighty made their mark. The year 1880 was the first in which all signed a name and, though there were still a few illiterates, the number diminished rapidly after this year.

The Education Act of 1870 provided Board Schools as an alternative to Church Schools, but in Charlwood the schools continued to be administered by the Church. The present schools were built by the County Council in 1913; the old boys' school was converted into three cottages, while the girls' school became a Church Hall. In 1929 this hall was given by Sir Wathen Waller, a nephew of Henry Wise, on whose ground it had been built, to the people of the village, and so became the Parish Hall, the centre of many activities and a great asset to village life. The Lowfield Heath Schools were built in 1911, while the children from Hookwood had had for many years the benefit of the school established by the Horley Church. This school was started during the incumbency of Dr. Rice, who was instituted in 1823 and who was also headmaster of Christ's Hospital.

This energetic and generous gentleman combined with the Rector of Burstow and the Rev. Henry Wise, Rector of Charlwood, in the formation of a Medical Club to which each rector contributed £20 per annum.<sup>92</sup> The poor of all three parishes were able to call on this club in times of sickness, and this practical and truly Christian work alleviated

much suffering during the dark days of the "Hungry Forties". In 1873 Charlwood Cottage Hospital was opened at the top of Stanhill, and remained open until 1905, when the Horley Cottage Hospital took over the responsibility and the Charlwood building became a private house, Greysouthen.

In 1835 Mr. Wise had officiated at the marriage of the daughter of his curate, Juliana Porten to Thomas Burningham of Burstow. Twenty years later Mr. Burningham succeeded Mr. Porten as rector of this parish, and for nearly thirty years showed himself as energetic and zealous as his immediate predecessors.

*Thomas  
Burningham,  
Rector,  
1855-  
1884*

The year 1858 was of great importance to Charlwood Church. The Rev. Thomas Burningham had been rector for three years. He was a keen archæologist, and was later elected to the Council of the Surrey Archæological Society. This specialised knowledge was of great value when, thanks to his energy, the church was restored for the sum of £1,000. From Brayley's History of Surrey we have a fair picture of the church as he must have found it; the interior remarkably antiquated and rude style, the pews of oak, very old and much shattered, over the screen the Lord's Prayer, Creed and Ten Commandments, above which are the Royal Arms. The pulpit and font were in their present positions and the galleries still standing. Various texts of Scripture were inscribed upon the walls.

After this restoration the church was practically as we know it today. New pews were installed, the choir was moved to the present chancel (iv) which took the place of that used for eight hundred years (iii). The old chancel became the vestry and the present organ was installed. Hymn singing, as we know it, and modern choirs, were taking the place of the metrical psalms sung by the gallery minstrels. Charles Wesley's hymns had been written about a hundred years before and were loved by Methodist and Churchman alike. The Ancient and Modern Hymnbook, published in 1861, just after the restoration of Charlwood Church, shows that all our well-known hymns had been written by that date. The galleries, being no longer needed, were

removed. The Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments which, with the Royal Arms, were taken from the top of the screen, were placed one each side of the altar in its new position, where they remained until 1935.

The pulpit had been constructed at a much earlier date. The fine Tudor linenfold panelling, possibly from the Saunders' pew, had been used and the Jacobean strapwork with the gold texts had been fixed on top of these panels. These texts read, "Lorde be mercifull unto me and shewe me the light of the trewth of thy most holy worde", "Blessed is the man that walketh and delighteth in the worde of God", and "In the begening was ye worde the worde was made fleshe the worde of ye Lord is everlastyng". This pulpit was now restored and a new foot built.

*Rediscovery of Mural Paintings, 1859* Above all in interest was the discovery of the old mural paintings under the whitewash. The whitewash was removed by Mr. Burningham with his own hands, assisted by Mr. Burges, and the pictures stood revealed, brightly coloured and with much detail showing. They were again cleaned, and it was hoped preserved, by Mr. Philip Johnston in 1924, but, alas, the preparation used was not effective, and very little colour or detail now remain.

That Mr. Burningham was not only interested in the past but keenly alive to the needs of the present was shown by his interest and financial help with the building of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels at Lowfield Heath, which was consecrated on St. Michael's Day, 1868. This chapel of ease, with the exception of a period of ten years in the time of Mr. Gibson, has been served continuously by curates from Charlwood, and has been the centre of an increasing population not only of Lowfield Heath but also of Tinsley Green and Hookwood.

*Late Victorian Changes* In 1882 Brickhouse was sold and became known as Farmfields. It was much enlarged and used as a home for women inebriates. In 1925 it changed hands again and became, what it is today, a home for high grade mental defectives.

Another important house was also changing hands and user at the end of the 19th century. Gatwick House was advertised for sale in 1872 with "the permanent and portable

railway, together with the turntables, points, crossings and sleepers . . . extending over a mile and a half in length; also the rolling stock consisting of about forty trucks, and Six-horse power steam engine, and other machinery" all of which were valued at £1,000. A similar miniature railway, possibly this identical one, was used for some years by Mr. Büchler at Ricketswood, and another in Glovers to assist the transport on and about the farms where a large number of pigs were kept.

Nineteen years later the Gatwick estate was sold to become the Gatwick Racecourse, and later the Brighton Railway opened a station there for the convenience of the many thousands of racegoers.

The adjoining land to the south became, in 1936, the Gatwick Aerodrome, which was so much enlarged during the war of 1939 to 1945 that it encroached on the race track and necessitated the diversion and piping of Crawters Brook.

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

### *Charlwood Today 1900 - 1949*

The end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries was a period of vastly improved amenities for the people of Charlwood. In 1897 the East Surrey Water Company brought an adequate and pure supply of water to the village. The opening of the telephone exchange at Norwood Hill in 1905 and later the coming of the motor bus services put an end to the comparative isolation of Charlwood, bringing it into close touch with the surrounding towns and villages. In 1924 gas for lighting and cooking simplified the work of the housewife, and in 1933 electricity supplied an alternative.

These amenities brought a number of wealthy people into the district, and it was at this period that many of the cottages and small farmhouses were enlarged to become the

“desirable gentlemen’s residences” that they are today. Mr. Tom Wickens, Senior, builder and parish clerk, was expert at this period work, and it is thanks to his skill that these old houses were not spoilt but grew in beauty.

*Societies* As early as 1867 Mr. Wheatley, of Charlwood House in the of village, who was commemorated later by a beautiful *Charlwood* window in the church, started the Charlwood and Lowfield Heath Horticultural Society. This society, among its other activities, held an annual flower show which was a great social as well as horticultural event in the village. The Women’s Institute was formed in Lowfield Heath in 1917 with Miss Robinson as the first president. Charlwood Women’s Institute held its first meeting in 1925 under the presidency of Mrs. Lane, one of the authors, and she was also the first president of the Hookwood Women’s Institute, which was formed in November, 1945. These Institutes now form active centres of great cultural and social value to the rural women. The Charlwood Girls’ Club was started under the auspices of the Charlwood W.I., with Mrs. Macauley as its first leader. The Boys’ Club was sponsored by the Entertainments Committee of the Parish Hall, and has been energetically led by Mr. Ayling since its inception in 1946.

*Royal* In 1936 Charlwood was honoured by a visit from Her *Celebra-* Majesty Queen Mary. She drove over from Balcombe to tions take tea with Lady Templemore and the Hon. Sir Gerald 1936 Chichester, her private secretary, who were at that time living at Tifters. All the village was out to welcome her, and she commemorated her visit by planting a Cedar of Lebanon in the garden where it still thrives. The previous year the 1935 village had celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the reign of King George V and Queen Mary. There had been sports on the Recreation Ground, a free tea for all, and finally a magnificent bonfire and community singing. This programme was 1937 more or less repeated in 1937 at the time of the Coronation of their son, King George VI. A great loss to the village was sustained as an indirect result of these celebrations. While a meeting of the committee responsible for the arrangements was in progress all the records of the Parish Council since its inception were stolen from the car of the Clerk of the

Council, Mr. Tom Wickens, Senior, Parish Clerk for fifty years. This was a great blow to Mr. Wickens, who, during his long term of office, had seen the administration of the village pass, by the Act of 1894, from the hands of the Justices of the Peace and the Overseers of the Poor to the newly-formed Parish Council.

The disastrous fire which burnt the old rectory to the ground in 1917 also destroyed the Tithe Maps and much Church property, including the Communion Plate. It, however, gave an opportunity to the new rector, the Rev. W. Grainger Thompson, to build the present charming rectory more in accord with the needs of the 20th century than the rambling old Jacobean house which was destroyed.

Much has been done under Canon Thompson's guidance to improve the beauty and orderliness of both fabric and services. In 1919 the War Memorial window was installed, and in 1934 a beautiful reredos designed by Mr. Johnston, was given by Mrs. Hearne in memory of her mother.

A greater lay responsibility for church life was given in 1922 when Parochial Church Councils took over some of the responsibilities of former Churchwardens though many duties remain. At the time of writing, 1949, the office is held by Mr. W. Cunliffe and Mr. H. T. Butler. Charlwood had already been transferred to the Diocese of Southwark when that became an independent diocese in 1905, and the village now sends a representative to all Diocesan Conferences.

Charlwood Church today inherits in its fabric and liturgy from every phase of the past, Roman, Reformed, Puritan and Anglican. One thing there is which is completely new, abundant and instantaneous light. Electric light was installed in 1934, and the beauty of the painting and design of the screen was seen as never before.

This new form of lighting simplified the return of drama to the church in its earliest and most beautiful guise. No praise can be too high for the reverence and simplicity of the acting by the members of the Boys' and the Girls' Clubs and their friends. An unforgettable picture remains of that winter evening at Christmastide, 1944, when the Nativity Play was first revived. The ancient church transformed,

*The  
Rectory  
Fire,  
1917*

*Nativity  
Plays*

seeming to have renewed its youth; brilliantly lighted, gay with holly and, above all, thronged with children, eager, expectant, craning forward in their seats, their eyes shining as they saw enacted, for the first time, the old story of the Holy Family, the angels, the shepherds, and the Wise Men. The unusual shape of the church lent itself to the unrolling of the drama. The crib was placed below the old pulpit, which, with its winding stair was itself transformed into a resting place for the angels with their promise of peace for a war-torn world, and as a background to the changing pictures was heard the lovely message of the carols. As Joseph and Mary, so reverently played by a father and daughter, walked slowly through the doors of the Saunders screen and up to the lighted altar beyond the whole congregation joined in the last Christmas hymn, and many must have felt that on that night they had indeed seen Christ's star in the east and were come to worship Him.

*The Great Wars* During the war of 1914-18 Charlwood sent her sons to fight for the freedom they valued so highly. Almost a hundred Charlwood men made the supreme sacrifice, but the village itself was spared any active participation. In the later conflict of 1939-45 the village played an active, almost front-line part. Mercifully, the casualties in this war were not so heavy, but, even so, twenty-nine men from the parish gave their lives. Every man and woman served the country in her time of direst need, either in the forces, the defence services, or in industry or agriculture.

War was declared on 3rd September, but two days before this the Parish Hall was thronged with 114 children and seventeen adults evacuated from London. These were followed a few days later by fifty-six women and their 116 children. All were welcomed into the homes of the women of the parish. The post of Billeting Officer, under the W.V.S., was filled by one of the authors, Mrs. Sewill, and she was loyally assisted by a team of women helpers. Between September, 1939, and January, 1946, when the last evacuee left the village, 281 householders gave hospitality, care and comfort to 524 children and 264 adults. The brunt of accommodating this large number of evacuees was borne

by the smaller houses, owing to the fact that practically all the larger houses were on a "top secret" list of those to be reserved for possible military requisition. True to the traditions of Charlwood, the Billeting Officer handed in her resignation (which was not accepted) rather than conform to the order to billet children compulsorily !

The Air Raid Wardens were headed by Mr. Tom Wickens, the son of the first clerk of the Parish Council. They mounted a day and night guard throughout the five years of war, and dealt with "incidents" with commendable promptitude and efficiency. Many high explosive bombs, six flying bombs and many hundred incendiaries fell in the parish, but Charlwood was fortunate in sustaining few civilian casualties. The First Aid Section was led by Miss O. Billingham.

In the summer of 1940, invasion was thought to be imminent and the route of the invading armies was expected to bring them through Charlwood on their way to London from the coast. A Charlwood company of Local Defence Volunteers, or L.D.V.s, was formed prepared to defend their homes, with their lives if need be. They were at first lamentably short of arms, but "forts" were hastily built at vantage points and movable road blocks constructed. This force was later known as the Home Guard, and arms and ammunition were issued to them as soon as they became available. The battalion, 7th Dorking, was commanded by Col. Lane, O.B.E., the company by Major V. A. Hearne, with J. W. Shepherd, M.C., as second in command. The platoon commanders were H. J. Simmons, C. Drawbridge, C. A. Hasting, S. E. Dudley, and A. P. H. Aitken. The Home Guard was not disbanded until December, 1944, when the risk of invasion was finally past.

That Charlwood would lie on the route of the invader was accepted by all, and has since been confirmed by captured German plans. Signposts were removed, maps hidden away, and plans laid for sabotaging the enemy transport. The rumble of the guns from Dunkirk could be plainly heard, though the people of Charlwood had no means of guessing at the drama which was being played out on that distant beach. One night, soon after Dunkirk, the village was

awakened by an eerie clattering and rumbling which seemed to fill the whole air. When light came it disclosed England's few remaining heavy tanks parked in Chapel Lane, for Charlwood was centrally placed wherever the first landing might be made. They remained until July, when the 2nd Canadian Division was stationed in the area. These troops were encamped all round the village, and every tree and bush seemed to act as camouflage for a tent, gun or truck.

*German Bombs* 1940 On 15th August the first bombs were heard when 111 were dropped on the defence works along the Mole between Salfords and Leigh. Nine days later, just before midnight, a stick of eleven bombs fell round the searchlight in Happy Acres. At nine-thirty the following evening another stick was dropped in the same place, one bomb actually falling in the bombhole made a few hours previously. This attack heralded the Battle of Britain, which was fought out overhead. Day after day the sky was full of wheeling planes to the accompaniment of the rattle of machine-gun fire. German planes were brought down within sight of the village, and on 30th August a German pilot, having baled out, was brought a prisoner into Charlwood. Night after night the raiders dropped their bombs. On 7th September the "invasion imminent" warning was given, and the following night the sky to the north was aglow from the fires in the London docks. On 16th September the people of Charlwood were heartened by the sight of some scores of German planes turning tail at the sight of but a few of our own without a shot having been fired. Six days later a lone raider, flying low and machine-gunning the ground as he went, dropped one bomb with deadly accuracy on the depot at Hookwood.

The German night raiders were guided by a beam which our experts succeeded in deflecting. Many bombs intended for Gatwick aerodrome fell, as a result, comparatively harmlessly on the fields of Charlwood. A typical example of the beam bombing occurred on the night of 10th-11th October. Three planes, at different times during the night, dropped in all seventeen bombs, which fell so neatly in a line between Brook Farm and Larkins Farm that they might well have all

been dropped, one after the other, from one single plane. The bomb which fell nearest to Brook Farm fortunately buried itself deeply in the clay before exploding, and thus caused little damage except for the giant "molehill" which it raised and which is still to be seen close to the Povey Cross road. This phase of intensive bombing lasted until the end of October, 1940.

On 1st November the 12th Lancers replaced the Canadians in the village. The mass night raids on London continued, culminating in the raid of 10th May, and the raiders passed 1941 over or close to Charlwood frequently unloading their bombs indiscriminately on the countryside. The Germans tried every means in their power to terrorise and disorganise this country. Charlwood had a taste of all their methods; the night raider, the low-flying day raider swooping down out of the clouds, and later the flying bomb. The first of these "doodlebugs" came over in the early morning of 16th June, 1944, ten days after D Day, and the last one on 29th August of the same year. At first they came from the Cherbourg area, flying due north over the village. As our troops advanced in Northern France they came from further east, but always with the same drone swelling to a hoarse roar, and then, if Charlwood was unlucky, a silence as the engine cut out, a swishing sound followed by the roar of the explosion and a column of smoke.

Throughout all this period of stress the little shadow factories, which had sprung up to manufacture war material, continued to work twenty-four hours a day. They were manned mainly by the women of Charlwood and the surrounding villages. The men and women of the farms continued to produce food for the nation, only pausing to fling themselves to the ground when the whistle of a bomb gave warning that it was falling too close to be healthy.

From the autumn of 1943 the night skies were filled with the drone of hundreds of British planes, their lights giving the impression of a transitional firmament ablaze with stars all moving inexorably to the destruction of our enemies. These were the mass raids which disorganised Germany and prepared the way for our invading forces. Peace in Europe

*Peace* came on 8th May, 1945, V.E. Day, and on 10th August the 1945 war was over. Charlwood celebrated by a bonfire on the recreation ground, but it was not on the lavish scale of that of the Coronation. Five years of war had taught economy, fuel was short and faggots precious, but the hearts of the people of Charlwood were warmed by a sincere and profound thankfulness.

## *Epilogue*

On May Day, 1949, the War Memorial was dedicated "In memory of the men of this village killed in the war 1939-45". The plain stone tablet, designed by Mr. John Denman of Brighton, was unveiled by the Bishop of Woolwich. The service was taken by the Rector, Canon W. G. Thompson, who, only four days before, had received the honour of being installed as Hon. Canon of Southwark Cathedral.

Every seat in the old church was filled, and an added note of colour was given by the banners of the British Legion, both men's and women's sections, as they were carried up the nave to be laid at the altar.

At the end of the service the triumphant notes of the Last Post and Reveille rang out. They seemed to embody not only the courage and endurance of this generation, and especially the great dead, but the courage also of all those who had lived and died, fought, struggled and endured for English freedom through a thousand years of Charlwood's history. A fitting tribute to the free men of a great past, a challenge to a greater future.



**Charlwood Church and Parsonage, painted in 1795 by the Reverend William Ellis.**

## *List of Rectors and Vicars of Charlwood*

Notes.—(i) The Court Rolls mentioned are the Court Rolls of the Manor of the Rectory of Charlwood.

(ii) An asterick denotes that the signature will be found in the Parish Register.

1242—HENRY DE WENGHAM, king's clerk, was granted the living of Cherlwud. He was Bishop of London and Dean of St. Martin le Grand when he died in 1262. (Pat. Rolls). See p. 9.

*Advowson held by Christchurch, Canterbury.*

1298 RICHARD, parson of Cherlewode, witnessed a grant, with Master Hugh de Merstham, from Homo de Gatton to Lewes Priory. (S.A.C. XLIII.)

1314 WALTER, SON OF JOHN, late vicar of Cherlewode, was mentioned in a deed with Walter de Wyggepole. (Add. Chart.) See p. 4.

1313 THOMAS DE CODELOW, parson of the church of Cherlewode, acknowledged a debt of £20 to Hugh le Desponser. This is again mentioned in 1339 when he is described as late parson of Cherlewode. (Close Rolls).

1325 JOHN DE ESTON, parson of the church of Cherlewode, acknowledged a debt between himself and Richard de Wygonia of Brecham, diocese of Norwich, also between them both and James Prigge of Bokland. There are many further references to John de Eston in the Patent Rolls, 1282 and 1337. He held king's fees in Yorkshire and also the livings of Keynham, Weremouth and Colemere. He had a controversy with his wife, Joan, in 1309 over a house at Hale. In 1337 he was charged by Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III, "to carry money and things belonging to her from parts of York to London". An entry of 1331 reads "Commission to Master William Marecschall keeper of the King's great horses, to survey the King's stud in the park of Odyham and to sell and retain horses, mares and foals on testimony of John atte Berwe, Robert atte Nasse and John de Eston". (Fine Rolls.) It seems likely that John de Eston's colleagues were both Charlwood men; John atte Berwe or Beruwe may have been the father of the later vicar and Robert atte Nasse a member of the Charlwood family of that name, constantly mentioned in the Court Rolls between 1406 and 1426.

- 1349 *WILLIAM ETHERIDGE*, vicar of Cherlwode, granted a tenement to Henry Rolf of Cherlwode, dated the Feast of St. Nicomedes and witnessed by John Edolf among others. (Harley Charters.)
- 1384 *JOHN ATTE BERUWE*, vicar of Cherlwode, with Henry de Merston, vicar of Horlee, granted to William (de Cobham) "Charter of the Manor of Gatwyk and 53s. 4d. of yearly rent" etc. Close Rolls.
- 1403 *RICHARD, Famulo*, vicar of Charlewood, is mentioned frequently in the Court Rolls between 1403 and 1408 as vicar but not as lord of the manor. He was fined for non-attendance and for failing to scour his ditch "to the damage of the land of the tithing". Also in 1407 "to this court came Richard, vicar of Charlewode and put himself in the lord's mercy for many defaults of suit for the land late of William Walssche. He did fealty."
- 1413 *JOHN GYLES*, lord (of the manor) and rector, held courts at Charlwood the records of eighteen of which between 1413 and 1426 remain. In 1415 he described as "Tempore Magistri".
- 1415 *WILLIAM STURDY*, vicar.  
*JOHN WELBOURNE*, vicar, exchanged with
- 1419 *WILLIAM JONYS*, vicar, died 1426
- 1426 *JOHN TALGARTH*, vicar, resigned 1428.
- 1428 *WILLIAM HALIDAY*, instituted rector. Also mentioned as rector in 1440.
- 1428 *THOMAS CUMBERFORDE*, vicar.  
*ALEXAN BROUNE*, resigned 1440.
- 1440 *WALTER CUNTYRUYNT*.  
(All vicars from 1415 from Register of Henry Chichele)
- 1447—*JOHN GOFFE* was rector at this date. (Manning and Bray). He was a native of Charlwood, having been "put in the tithing and sworn", probably at the age of 12, in 1408. (Court Rolls). In 1451, "Pardon to John Goffe, clerk, rector of the Church of Charlewode alias late parson of the same" for failing to appear before the Justices to answer for a debt of 20 marks. (Pat. Rolls.) Note the error in the printed calender where the name is given as Gosse, a confusion between the long "s" and "f".
- 1471 *WILLIAM GRINDELL*, lord and rector, held a court on the morrow of St. Simon and St. Jude, 29th October.
- 1502 *JOHN MILLET*, rector, held a court on 24th May.

- 1535 PHILIP MESURER, rector of the time of the valuation of the Rectory, see p. 55.
- 1536 *Advowson held by Sir Robert Southwell.*
- 1547 *Advowson held by Henry Lechford.*
- WALTER BACHELER. This name appears on the cover of the first Parish Register, among those of the other rectors, but there is no date given.
- 1584 STEPHEN CHATFIELD, clerk, lord and rector, held his first court on 9th January and the record of another in 1596 remains.
- 1598 \*MICHAEL EARLE, rector. As clerk, lord and rector he held a court in 1599 and at least four others before 1610. He died in 1615. See p. 94.
- 1609 *Advowson held by Richard Dallender.*
- 1615 \*JOHN BRISTOW, rector. He died in 1637. See p.
- 1637 THOMAS MULCASTER, rector. (Manning and Bray.) Baptised at Charlwood in 1609. Deprived 1644. See p. 111.
- 1644 JOHN LEY. Though the living stood sequestered to John Ley and was given by him to his son William, neither of them appear to have lived in the village. (S.A.C. XXVII.) See p. 113.
- 1650 \*ROBERT WRIGHT, minister. He was evicted in 1660 and made his will in 1662 at Dorking. See p. 114.
- 1660 THOMAS MULCASTER regained the living of Charlwood which he held in addition to that of Nutfield. (Nutfield Parish Register.) He died in 1663. See p. 117.
- 1661 *Advowson held by Elizabeth Bradshaw.*
- 1662 *Advowson held by Sir William Throckmorton.*
- 1663 \*HENRY HESKETH, rector. Born in Cheshire in 1637 and educated Brasenose, 1653. (Dict. Nat. Biog.) He is mentioned as lord of the manor in 1685 and 1687. Buried at Charlwood 1711. See p. 117.
- 1673 *Advowson held by Sir Andrew King.*
- 1674 *Advowson held by Francis Lord Aungier.*
- 1711 \*ROBERT RAWLINSON, rector. Trinity Coll., Camb. He held the post of Prebendary of the Cathedral Church of Chichester and was Chaplain to the Royal Regiment of Scots Guards. (Aubrey.) In 1737, "The Rev. Mr. Robert Rawlinson, jun." was buried in Charlwood. See p. 121.
- 1716 *Advowson held by Henry Wise, great grandfather of the later rector of that name and it remained in the Wise family until 1888.*
- 1747 JOSEPH DAVIE. This name appears twice on the cover of the first Parish Register. After it is written "in trust for". Henry Blackett.

- 1749 \*HENRY BLACKETT, rector. (Act Books of Arch. Cant.)  
Trinity College, Oxford.
- 1770 \*NORMAN FOTHERINGHAM, rector. (Manning and  
Bray.) M.A., Baliol College, Oxford.
- 1784 JOSEPH DAVIE, rector. (Act Books of Arch. Cant.)  
D.D., Trinity College, Oxford.
- 1792 WILLIAM ELLIS, rector. (Act Books Arch. Cant.)
- 1797 \*HENRY WISE, rector. See p. 159.
- 1850 \*JOSEPH STANIER PORTEN, rector after 37 years as  
curate. Brasenose, Oxford, 1803. Buried at Charl-  
wood in 1854, aged 75. His memorial is in the  
church. See p. 165.
- 1855 \*THOMAS BURNINGHAM, rector. Retired in 1884.  
See p. 167.
- 1884 \*EDWARD GIBSON, rector. Born in Tyrone, 1843. Buried  
in Charlwood, 1913. *Held the Advowson.* See p.120
- 1913 \*JAMES BUCHANAN, rector  
*Advowson held by the Right Honourable Robert  
Thompson, D.L.M.P. . .*
- 1918 \*W. GRAINGER THOMPSON, rector. Born Belfast, 1890.  
Educated Merchant Taylors school and Downing  
College, Cambridge, M.A., Hon. Canon, Southwark  
Cathedral, 1949. See p. 171.  
*Advowson held by Rev. W. F. Buttle.*

#### NOTES ON THE CHARLWOOD PARISH REGISTER

The first Parish Register, Charlwood's most precious document, was started in 1595 during the incumbency of Stephen Chatfield, though his name does not appear. Michael Earle and John Bristow signed almost every page during their incumbencies. The part of the register written during Thomas Mulcaster's tenure was torn out, possibly during the Commonwealth. Robert Wright kept the register until forbidden to do so by the law of 1653. Henry Hesketh signed almost every page from 1663 until he went to St. Helen's in 1678, and Robert Rawlinson also signed it regularly.

From 1745, for about fifty years, the work was done largely by curates; Melmoth Skynner, "curate", being in charge from 1772 to 1792. The rectors, Henry Blackett and Norman Fotheringham, only signed the register occasionally, while the signatures of Joseph Davie and William Ellis do not appear at all.

Henry Wise signed each page from 1797 to 1812, when he handed over to James Porten, "curate"; Thomas Burningham also left much to his curate, but on occasions signed the Register himself. From the time of Mr. Gibson's installation to the present day the signatures are all those of the rectors.

The Lowfield Heath Register is kept separately.

The Muniment Chest in the Church is stated by experts to be 17th century work, but may well have been made at the end of the 16th century to contain the register. It originally had three locks, one key each for the parson and church wardens.

# APPENDIX B

## *Lay Subsidy, 1593*

The extracte Indented of all sommes of monye to bee leveyed to and for the payment of the first Subsidie granted unto the Queenes moste excellent majestie in her high Court of Parliament houlden at Westminster in the xxxvth yeare of her highnes moste noble and prosperous Reigne taxed rated and assessed . . . by William Howarde esquire, Mathew Carew . . . Edmonde Saunder and Richarde Bostocke Esquire Commissioners . . . CHARLWOOD. James Jordon Pettie Collecto' for Charlewood, Lighe & the Hamlet of Nudgate.

Gylbert Powlsden for £6 goods	..	..	..	16s.
Salomon Wright for £3 goods	..	..	..	12s.
Alice Stanbridge wid: for £3 goods	..	..	..	8s.
Thomas Gratwicke for £4 goods	..	..	..	10s. 8d.
Robert Bristowe for £1 lands	..	..	..	4s.
John Bristowe infante for £1 lands	..	..	..	4s.
Wm. Patchinge for £3 lands	..	..	..	12s.
Thomas Patchinge for £4 goods	..	..	..	10s. 8d.
John Smythe for £1 lands	..	..	..	4s.
John Skynner £2 lands	..	..	..	8s.
Wm. Langlye for £3 goods	..	..	..	8s.
John Bottinge for £3 goods	..	..	..	8s.
Andrew Saunder, sen., for £10 goods	..	..	..	26s. 8d.
Thomas Jordan for £4 lands	..	..	..	16s.
Richarde Pickarde for £6 goods	..	..	..	16s.
Richarde Cottingham, sen., for £4 goods	..	..	..	10s. 8d.
John Bristowe of barnelande for £2 lands	..	..	..	8s.
Richarde Wright for £2 lands	..	..	..	8s.
Nicholas Jeale for £4 lands	..	..	..	16s.
John Alwin for £6 lands	..	..	..	24s.
Nicholas Jaffe, gen., for £8 goods	..	..	..	21s. 4d.
Wm. Jordan for £10 lands	..	..	..	40s.
James Jordan for £8 lands	..	..	..	32s.
James Nye for £6 goods	..	..	..	16s.
Thomas Cawlye for £5 goods	..	..	..	13s. 4d.
Thomas Saunder for £4 goods	..	..	..	10s. 8d.
Somme				£18 4s.



**The “new” Rectory from a painting by John Hanell about 1820. This building was burned down in 1917.**

## APPENDIX C

### *Exchequer Lay Subsidies, Hearth Tax.*

The return of the constable of Charlwood of all the names of the householders of the saide parish and of the number of theare severall hearthes as given to hime under theire handes made the 5th day of July 1662 as followeth:

#### FROM OTHER SOURCES

Note C. — *Courts of the Manor of Charlwood.*

R. — *Courts of the Manor of the Rectory.*

Q. — *Quarter Sessions.*

Imprimis Tho. Jordan of Gatwicke	10	Jury Panel 1663, Q. See also p.107
Mr. Jeremy Johnson	12	Colle, see Appendix E. Jury Panel 1665, Q. Charged with enclosing the lord's waste in 1663 and again in 1667, C.
Mr. Thomas Mulcaster	8	The Rectory. See p. 112.
Mr. Benet Martaine	7	Hyders. Presented for enclosing the lord's waste in 1663 and 1667, C.
Ambrose Martaine, Gent.	8	30 acres near Lofield Heath, probably what is now Lovel House. Jury Panel 1662 and 1665 Q. Jury Hommage and Affeerer 1663, C.
Richard Willate	4	Pains Croft, which is now Fairlands. Constable 1670, C.
It. at his other house	3	Longland now the Thatched Cottage between Fairlands and Larkins.
George Ede of Whitegreene	7	Weeklands, which stood on the bend of the road between Povey Cross and what is now Charlwood Park. Jury Panel 1665, Q. Constable 1667. Presented for enclosure 1663 and 1667, C. See also p.124
Thomas Sanders of Hookwood	4	The Hooke, now Hookwood House. Jury and Homage 1667. Presented for enclosure the same year, C.
Thomas Sanders of Whitegreene	4	Brickhouse, now part of Farmfields. Jury Panel 1665. Presented for enclosure 1663, C. See p. 124.

John Young	4	
It. at his other house	2	
James Round	4	One of the houses on what is now the Ifield road.
John Ellis of Larkins	3	Larkins Farm. Jury Panel 1663, Q.
John Nottingham	6	
Widdowe Jerden of Lofeildheath	10	The Offings, the Field and the Hale, 180 acres near Gatwick Lane and Kimberham Lane.
Richard Lucas	2	
Widdowe Jeale	3	2 acres formerly of Hyders.
Thomas Swayne	1	Jury 1670 and 1687, R.
Moses Chantler	1	Tithingman for the "West Borough", 1669, C. Gave evidence against John Finch. See p. 125.
John Bachelor	1	Tithingman for the "East Borough", 1670, C.
John Botcher	1	
Richard Dench	1	
Will Waterman	1	
Thomas Washford	1	Jury 1663, C. Tithingman for the "Westborough", 1667, C.
Robert Sanders	2	Jury 1663, C.
John Dudney	3	Presented for enclosure 1667, C. See also p. 125.
Will. Roffey	2	Homage and Affeerer 1667, C.
John Tapsell	2	Herringcot, 5 acres (unidentified). Presented for enclosure 1663, C.
Widdowe Cooper	2	Hedgers, which was where Slab Castle now is.
Henry Milles	2	Presented for enclosure 1663, C.
George Ellyate	2	
Widdowe Banister	1	See p. 124.
Michael Wright of Backworth Lane	1	This was probably one of the two cottages, now gone, which used to stand near the Lyons. Traces of one, including the old pear tree, remain. Jury 1667, tithingman for Westborough 1670, C.
John Nightingale	1	Jury 1667 and tithingman for the Eastborough 1667 to 1670, C.
James Ede	6	There were two James Edes. One of Ringers and one of Hookmead.

		Jury Panel 1665, Q. Gave evidence in case of Thomas Tax and William Baldwin, Q. See p. 126.
John Constable	6	
Thomas Bashford	3	
Charles Jordan	2	
Richard Taylor of Norwqod	2	
George Milles	1	
John Hall	1	
Edward Best	1	Prosecuted for recusancy 1663, Q. See p. 128.
Richard Fishare	3	
Will. Simones	3	
John Wilkines	2	
In Chorlwood Place	15	This is the only instance in which no owner's name is mentioned. Edward Saunders died in the year this tax was levied and the house was probably unoccupied at this time and possibly already in ruins. It was certainly a ruin 12 years later.
Thomas Robardes	3	
Widdowe Stedwell	2	nott paid.
Robert Haybeetle	2	
George Brooker	1	Jury 1663, C. Jury 1664, R.
Will Bacheller	2	Jury 1667, C.
John Banister	1	
Edward Taylor	1	One of the leaders of the Society of Friends in Charlwood, see p. 126
Thomas Eade, sen.	4	This was the constable making the return. He lived at Testers, now Tifters.
Thomas Eade, jun.	4	
John Round	4	Spicers Jury, Homage and Affeerer 1663, C. See also p. 128.
Thomas Henton	6	Probably what is now Charlwood Place Farm. Jury Panel 1662, Q. Jury 1667 and 1670, R. See also p. 124.
Widdowe Henton	1	Cottage and garden at the east end of Matches Green, now gone. This was at the end of Pudding Lane.

Will Stedman	2	Message and orchard within the manor of the Rectory.
Will Baldwing	1	Jury 1663. Presented for enclosure 1667, C. Charged with recusancy 1662 and described as a brick-layer, Q.
Richard Dann, jun.	1	Butcher. Aleconner 1664, 1685 and 1687, R.
Will Henton	1	Message and 1 acre of land taken out of Liddland. Probably the neighbouring cottage to that of Michael Wright above.
John Tex	1	
John Blundell	1	
John Baldwing	1	Jury 1664, R.
John Sweetinge	1	Message and tenement set in Charlewood Street.
Widdowe Henn	1	
Joseph Boocker	2	
Richard Dann, sen.	2	Gave testimony in his 81st year in 1664, R.
John Ellis, jun.	4	Jury 1664, C.
George Humphrey	6	Probably Eastlands. Jury Panel 1661 and 1665, Q. Jury 1687, C. Gave evidence in case of George Eade. See p. 124.
Thomas Tex	1	Randalls or Randolphs at Pagewood (unidentified). Charged with recusancy 1662 and described as a stonecutter, Q.
Oliver Nye	2	Jury 1663, C.
Will Bysh	1	Elected constable in 1664 and at the same court fined 2d. for failing to attend, R.
Will Bysh, his wife	1	This does not appear to have been a very united family!
John Washford	2	
It, his hilland house	1	
Nich Wilkenes	1	Jury 1664, R. Charged with enclosure on Pagewood and digging brick earth on Charlwood Green 1681, fined 20s. Also presented for enclosure 1667, C.
Waisse house in Fraunces Cudding- stones possessor	2	

Henry Tapsell	4	Jury 1664, R.
John Humphrey for his new house	2	This was probably the cottage by the smithy. See p.130. He also owned Spottles.
Robert Bristowe	1	Tenement, orchard and 1 acre on what is now the Ifield road. He refused to serve as constable in 1663. See p. 122.

All paid except 2 hearthes.  
Thomas Ede, Constable.

## APPENDIX D

### *Notes on Charlwood Families*

Although the name Chantler is not found before the 17th. century, as early as 1420 to 1426 John Chandler and Thomas Chaundeler are mentioned. In 1622 Moses Chantler married Anne Wright and two years later transferred to Richard Dann a messuage near the church gate. Two of their children, John and Anne were baptised in 1623 and 1626. Moses himself died in 1653 but the name evidently passed to his son for Moses Chantler paid tax on one hearth in 1662. He was tithingman of the Westborough of the village in 1669 handing on the office to Michael Wright, his kinsman, "to whom the rod is sent" in 1670. C H A N T L E R

Two Chantlers, Nathan and John, are in the list of Non-conformists made in 1697 and a hundred years later another John was Overseer of the Poor in 1792 and Surveyor of the Highways five years later.

Peter Chantler and Rebecca, his wife, were living in Charlwood in 1839.

These notes would be incomplete without some further mention of the C H A R L W O O D family which took its name from the village where the de Cherlewodes were certainly living in 1211 (see p. 9). Members of the family migrated to other parts and one, Geoffrey de Charlewode, was pardoned in 1352 for the death of Master John de Melleford for breaking prison at Sterteford and for robberies in Essex and consequently outlawry.<sup>102</sup>

Later, in 1517, Alexander Cherlwod of Chipstead owned the Manor of Perrots in Banstead, near Epsom. This was sold prior to 1533, but the name continues to be found in the Banstead Register from 1565 to 1580. Another Allexander Charllwod, a new version of the spelling of the name, was churchwarden at "Walton on the hyll" in the fateful year of 1552 and, with Thomas Frank, had charge of "all and every soche gooddes, jewellis, bellis, vestimentes with soch other ornamentes as doth or ought to appertene unto the parish."

At home, Thomas Charlwood was one of the "free jurors" at the Courts of the Manor of the Rectory of Charlwood when John Millett was lord and rector. He attended in 1502 and 1512, though he failed to do so in 1510. There are, however, no references to the family in the Parish Register until 1688, after which time the name occurs constantly.

We are indebted to Mr. Edward Charlwood of Richmond, a proud member of the same family and an ardent historian, for the following notes. Benjamin Charlwood of Windlesham was a distinguished member of the Society of Apothecaries and, as such, was attached to the household of George III. He was also made

a Sheriff of the City of London and held that post until his death in 1766. His daughter, Harriet, married James, 5th Duke of Roxburghe, as his second wife, and her fine portrait by Raeburn, with that of her husband, was hung at Floors Castle.

A most interesting connection with South Africa is given in a letter from a lady of advancing years, Miss Haarhoff, now living at Graaf Reinet, S. Africa. She writes that "somewhere in the eighties" a Mr. and Mrs. Charlwood had a small farm near Graaf Reinet and when this spot became a settlement and was chosen for a station on the railway it was called Charlwood and the name may now be seen on the maps of Cape Province.

There are Charlwoods too in the New World, for early in the present century the four sons of Mr. Edward Charlwood of Surrey went to the U.S.A. Here they prospered and now, having retired, are living in New Orleans, Miami, and Stonnington, Conn.

Charlwood has even closer links with Australia. During the last war, Flying Officer Donald Charlwood, of Melbourne, constantly visited the village in the intervals between his thirty operations over Germany in a Lancaster bomber. His branch of the family had gone out to Australia during the second half of the last century, but his grandfather, who married a Wicks, is buried in Charlwood churchyard.

So the journeys of de Cherlewodes have lengthened from the ten miles to Merstham on the king's business in 1211, to circle the world by 1949. May we, on behalf of this ancient village, send greeting to all Charlwoods wherever they may now live.

At the time of writing Sir John Charrington is Treasurer of the same CHARRINGTON church of which John Charrington was Warden exactly four hundred years ago. This was in the disastrous year of 1552 when the sweeping removal of so many church goods was taking place.

Though the chief branch of the family lived just outside the parish there are various references to members of this family in the Parish Registers and elsewhere. Alice Charrington is the third entry under burials, being buried in Charlwood churchyard in 1595 and the burial of Nicholas Charrington's widow "who dwelt at Hookwood" is recorded the following year.

In the reign of Charles I John Charrington occupied "a messuage called Horsehills." Later when, on July 2nd, 1691, John Cherrington married Anne Jordan in Charlwood church, Thomas Jordan her father and lord of the manor, alienated Perrylands, abutting on Charlwood Green, q.v., and 40 acres to his son-in-law. There is also a record of an early marriage in 1630 between Ursula Charrington and Edward Best

This family so well known and respected in Charlwood to-day has a long record of service to the village. The earliest records show that the family clung closely to the christian name of George and these Georges between them saw English history in the making from Queen Elizabeth to Queen Victoria.

E D E

George Ede the elder who was buried in 1608 must have heard the bells ring out for the defeat of the Armada. George who followed him was churchwarden in turn to Michael Earle and to John Bristow. His son George, who lived at Whites Green Farm, saw the Commonwealth struggle to power and before his death in 1663, the restoration of the Stuart monarchy.

His son George, whose five children were baptised between 1664 and 1677, was churchwarden to Henry Hesketh in the former year. In 1750 the entry in the registers recurs, "George son of George Ede" and was revived again in 1828. This George Ede certainly lived into the reign of Queen Victoria.

Thomas Ede, who prepared the list for the Hearth Tax of 1662 included his son's four hearths and the six of James Ede. Some thirty years later William Ede left Ringers to his son William, while Thomas Ede owned Odworth.

William Ede and his wife Mary were living in the village during the Napoleonic Wars and Jeremiah and Sarah shortly after.

The name of Edolph is as familiar in Charlwood to-day as it was in the 14th century. The house and farm which perpetuate the name lie to the north of the village. The house still retains its Horsham stone roof, heavy oak beams and fine panelling, while part of one of the walls is said to date from the 12th century.

Though no record has been found of an Edolph acquiring land, John Edolph was in great request from 1314 to 1349 as a witness to the land transactions of many of his friends. At least eight of these deeds are still extant and also another witnessed by Walter Edulf at Rowley. John also made a grant of "an annual rent of fourpence for a curtilage with a garden lying in the parish of Cherlewode" to Walter de Wyggepole in 1318 and again transferred land to him in 1330.<sup>106</sup>

The family survived the Black Death in 1348 and remained in Charlwood—Stephen and Beatrice, his wife, held land there which, in 1372, they transferred to William Walsshe. Stephen was again a witness to Henry Lechford six years later. After this there is no further news of the family. The Parish Registers contain no mention of the name and the earliest extant deeds of the farm go back only to the early 19th century.

As long ago as the 38th. year of King Edward III (1364) John Elys' name appears in the Court Rolls of Merstham and Charlwood. He was among those who had "kept themselves without the tithing for a year and a day" and were ordered to put themselves within the tithing before the next court. Thomas Elys was in trouble in 1413 having been insulted by Robert Turner who was furthermore charged with "striking him with a stick against the peace" but there is no record of the course of Justice.

In 1548 and the following four years Thomas Elys, Senr. and Junr. were fined for non-attendance at court though, by this time, this was held in Charlwood. Richard Ellis must have gone

further afield being one of the seven Charlwood men to be "mustered" in 1569.

The first mention of the name in the Parish Registers is in 1598 and in 1625 Mary the daughter of John Elys was baptised. In 1662 John Elles was living at Larkines, a house with three hearths while his son, John paid tax on four hearths, fair sized dwellings when compared with the many cottages having only one fire.

Edward Flint's name is on the number one bell which hangs in the belfry and rings out Sunday by Sunday, for he was churchwarden in 1764 when this bell was first hung. Though the name is of Saxon origin the first record of the family in Charlwood is in Stuart times. This refers to a less reputable member "Willelmus fflynt de Charlewode laborer" who was bound over to keep the peace after resisting arrest at Tandridge.

## FLINT

The first mention of the name in the Parish Registers is the baptism of William the son of William Flint in 1671, and in the same year the marriage of John Flint to Susan White. William Flint, the elder, died in 1689 only thirteen days after his wife.

On a plan of 1733 the land between Russ Hill and Upper Prestwood Farm is described as "Flint Gent his land". Later in the century the accounts now in the Church Chest show Flints in many official capacities. The offices of Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Surveyor of the Highways, Master of the Workhouse and Constable were filled on many occasions by Joseph, Nicholas, Richard, Benjamin or Thomas Flint throughout the period 1777 to 1814.

Walter de la Hoke, who lived at the at the "hoc" or heel of the Parish paid the second highest tax in the Subsidy Roll of 1332. His name appears with that of John de la Hoke on at least eight deeds between 1250 and 1335. The family had lived long in the neighbourhood, for as early as the reign of Henry III a man of this name claimed common rights over certain lands and woods at 2d. and 3d. and acre, from the Abbot of Chertsey, who held Horley.<sup>13</sup> The family survived the Black Death, for Walter ate Hoke witnessed a deed in 1386.<sup>112</sup>

## de la HOKE

The records abound with examples of this name spelt in every conceivable way, Humferie, Humfire, Humfrey, Humfrie, Humfry, Humpery, Humphery and even Humphrery. Indeed there are few pages in the Parish Registers when one or other of these spellings is not to be found.

## HUMPHREY

The first mention is that of Robert Humfrie's burial in 1598 followed eight years later by that of his wife. He owned Spottles with John Humfrie who was brought up before the Justices of the Peace in 1613 in company with Edward Cottingham for an unnamed offence. John served constantly on the Jury and

Homage of the Courts of the Manor of the Rectory between 1599 and 1610. It was his son John, born in 1606, who caused so much consternation by building the smiths shop on the common and a new house close by for which he paid tax, in 1662, on two hearths. His death was reported in 1687 "John Humphrey the elder of Spottles otherwise Pattle or Spattles" and two heriots were paid to the lord of the manor of the Rectory, Henry Hesketh. His death was also presented at the court of the Manor of Charlwood and it is to be hoped that two more heriots were not extracted on this occasion.

John Humphreys was churchwarden in 1672 and many other members of the family held official positions in the self-governing village community of the 18th. century. Matthew and James were Overseers of the Poor in 1734 and 1769; William, Constable in 1789 and John, Surveyor of the Highways both in 1793 and 1794. Peter Humphrey kept the butchers shop in the eighteen thirties.

A Killicke whose christian name is not recorded marches into history in 1569 **K I L L I C K** equipped with blacke bill and corseletes in company with Edmund Saunders, gent., the son of Sir Thomas Saunders, carrying a pike and Richard Burstow with harquebus and murion. With them went five other inhabitants of Charlwood, Thomas Sawnder, William Isacke, Robert Shoo, Thoms Tillie and Richard Ellis. The bill he carried was certainly a formidable weapon though the shape varied; it may have been a concave blade on a long wooden handle or a kind of axe, also concave, with a spike at the back and the shaft ending in a spearhead. The men were mustered in the year when rebellion in the north in favour of Mary Queen of Scots was causing anxiety to Queen Elizabeth and her government.

John Killick's name first appears in the Parish Register almost a hundred years later, in 1650, and that of his son in 1667 followed by at least six other children.

In 1759 two deaths are noted at the Court of the Manor of Charlwood, Thomas Killicke, weaver, of Barebones and Ann Killicke, nee Flint, whose heir was her son William. This William died only six years later owning a "messuage, barn and platt near the church" and the heriot of a cow was compounded for the sum of £2 2s. The name of Killick appears constantly in the Registers from that time onwards.

Though there is no mention of Shelley in the Parish Registers between 1595 and 1840 variations of the name are found in the Court Rolls at an early date. **S H E L L E Y**

In 1365 John Shulley sold meat for there is a record of him being fined 2d. "for selling meat against the assize" and he was "therefore in mercy." Nine years later he was again fined for the same offence but this time it cost him 3d. . . .

In 1387 John Payn was distrained to answer John Shelleye

as to a debt. This was evidently not paid for at the next court "John Payn has his law day v. John Schyllle the elder in a plea of debt." However, less than three weeks later the matter was successfully concluded for it is recorded that "John Payn pays 2d. for a licence to agree with John Schelleye the elder in a plea of debt."

The family of Skynner is mentioned as early as 1387 when Richard Skynner and John Beneyt fell out and the case of trespass was brought before the manorial court at Merstham. In 1415 a distraint was ordered against John Skynner for having failed to attend the court at Charlwood of "John Gyles lord and rector there." He, however, avoided this difficulty in the succeeding years by paying, in advance, 4d. per annum for the privilege of staying away.

A little later John Skynner was also fined 4d. for default of suit of court in 1548 and again in 1553. In the previous year, 1552, he not only attended the court but was one of the "12 Jurors there for the lady the Queen," a somewhat misleading description for he was one of eighteen jurors and King Edward VI was on the throne! It may have been this John Skynner, or his son, who in 1599 lost both his wife Joan and his servant who bore the delightful name of Parnel Snot.

Such was the mortality rate of those days that his grandson John, the son of John Skinner the younger, born in 1597, survived but a few days as did his brother Robert born in 1611. Their sister Margaret lived only twenty-eight years but John's other children Michael, born in 1598, and Agnes, born in 1603, survived. She married James Cottingham in 1622. The only other records of the name prior to 1840 are the marriages of Elizabeth Skinner in 1607 and Thomas Skinner two years later and his burial in 1618.

Both Richard and John de Sloth'wyk or Sloghterwyk's names appear in the Roll of 1332, and Richard's in three deeds between 1300 and 1357.<sup>112 & 90</sup> Adam de Sloghterwyk must have been of age at this date,<sup>112</sup> but he paid no tax. He owned what is now Tanyard Farm and must have been a man of some character, for his name was long remembered. As late as 1756, Tanyard was mentioned at the Court Baron as "lands late of Adam Sloughterwickes". The last member of this family known to have lived in Charlwood was John, son of Adam. He left the village without ceremony, for in 1374 the Beadle reported that neither he nor several others, including William Flemyng and Henry Grenyng were to be found, nor had they left any possessions in the village.<sup>113</sup> This is not surprising, for at this period many villeins, seeking their freedom, were fleeing from the land to which they were tied and becoming, through their industry and skill, freemen of the towns in which they settled.

Another name which cannot be omitted is that of de Wygepole, which gave rise to many delightful variations of spelling: Wikepole,

Wygepole, Wiggepole and even Wyggepole. In 1241 Andrew and Walter sold land to Richard de la Horse and Walter de Wygepole was actively acquiring land in Charlwood, possibly including Wellpools, at the beginning of the 14th century. Six deeds referring to these transactions with John and Alexander Tournour, William le Page<sup>106</sup> and John Edolf remain, while his name as witness is appended to many deeds up to 1386, when it appears for the last time.

## APPENDIX E

### *Places and Place Names*

**ANGRY FIELD**, on the parish boundary west of Chantersluer derives its name from the Old English "anger" meaning grassland or meadow.

**BAREBONES**. There were two fields of this name in the parish. One near the church and the other, still known by this name, north of Alder Gill. The name is either a derogatory appliation or comes from the O.E. "baere," a woodland pasture. The legend that bones of ancient Britons slain by the Danes have been found here lacks proof and it seems more likely that the name gave rise to the legend.

**BELLPITS FIELD** takes its name from the stone pits here. Bell pits were dug in the shape of a bell, a small opening at the top increasing in diameter as the work progressed. These pits have now fallen in and formed what are now called the Bell Ponds. It is this name which has given rise to the legend that as the church bells were being brought to the church the wagons were met on the hill by the Devil himself who overturned them with their precious burden into the ponds which have ever after been known as the Bell Ponds!

**BOSWORTH** was a house which used to stand on Fell Street q.v. . . It is mentioned in the Court Rolls as having been in the possession of Christopher Wood until 1687. A few years later "John Wicker by right of his wife held 30 acres land called Bosworth" and in 1791 William White sold the property. In 1842 it was reduced to 3 acres and was in possession of John March. (See also p. 67).

**BRITTLEWARE** is marked on Greenwood's map of 1822 as Roundabout Farm and on the Tithe Map of 20 years later as Franks Farm. It has been suggested that the name Brittleware points to pottery having been made here at one time. The industry certainly flourished in the Reigate district from an early date but, other than the name, no evidence that the craft was practiced here has come to hand.

**BULL-HEAD-LAND** is mentioned in a deed of 1806 as being a large tract to the south of Edolphs. Charlwood Place, with which these fields used to go, was at one time known as Bullhead Farm. It seems likely that this name has some connection with the Saunders arms (see p. 69) which may have been displayed on the earlier buildings.

**CHANTERSLUER** (see p. 48) was in the Manor of Shellwood. In 1802 it was described as "Chilcotts, Chantersluer alias Chantisluer and Godfreys, 96 acres abutting on Norwood Common." In 1842 it is marked as Jordans Farm.

**CHAPEL FARM** was owned by Jeremiah Johnson until his death in 1687. In a rental of a few years later it is described as "land

heretofore of Owen Grenoway, 15 acres lying west of Matches Green and south of the Stanhill Lane."

**CHARLWOOD HOUSE**, Lowfield Heath, was early known as Ticcaridges, possibly from the family of Thomas Tekerygge who took part in the uprising of 1449 (see p 44 ). In 1673 Edmund Jordan sold Tickeridges to Mary Martin who, dying the same year, left Pickeridges to her son Ambrose Marten. In a plan of the Manor of Rowley, 1819, it is marked as Ticcaridges and was owned and occupied by Charles Middleton. In 1822 Greenwood marks it as White House, a popular name. In 1827 Sybil Middleton, widow, owned Ticcaridges and in 1835, when it is again called Pickeridges, the quit rent of 3/- was 17 years overdue!

**CHARLWOOD PARK** is marked on a map of 1822 as Kimberham Park and in 1842 as Archery Ground House. In 1845 the house was owned by Michael Clayton, lord of the manor.

**CHARLWOOD PARK FARM HOUSE** was known as White's Green Farm and with it went 100 acres called the Field Lands and the Offings. It was owned by George Ede who paid 20s. rent and died in 1663. The rent of this property was the highest shown on the rental of c. 1690 which gives John Spencer as the owner. In 1759 Jacob Mendez transferred the property to Major Charles Clarke of Ockley. Dying in 1791 he left this, with many other properties, to his grandson, Charles, who, on coming of age, sold it and, going to Paris after the Peace of Amiens in 1801, was killed by a fall from a scaffold.

**CHARLWOOD PLACE OR SANDERS PLACE.** See p. 66 and Appendix F. A deed of 1627 speaks of "a capital messuage called Charlewood Place with the Great Park, the Little Park, Kewne, Great Godfreys, Lesser Godfreys, Greater Bigglehaw, Lesser Bigglehaw, two closes about Bannister's tenement Bushfield and the Granthams, Parsons Hilson, the Warren, Hither Riddles, the Middle Riddles, farther Riddles, Skewles Mead, The Lyons, Riddlesmead and the Andrews, 300 acres. Lands called Telvet and Fenners Croft 45 acres." A deed of 1664 mentions Causey Field and Ticklehaw while a later deed of 1673 while speaking of the "late capital messuage" mentions the same fields with little variation. Many of the names survived until 1842.

**COLLE, COLLY OR COALEY** was a large house which stood at the eastern end of Pudding Lane where the barns now stand. Jeremiah Johnson was in possession when he died in 1687 and he paid the tax on 12 hearths a number only exceeded in the parish by the 15 of "Chorlwood Place." This may also have been the Colney Ground on which land James Whitinge was ordered to have a day to retract the water in 1552.

**COOPERS**, the wood at the top of Stanhill, is so known locally through the Ordnance Survey marks it as Edolphs Copse. In 1542 Sir Robert Southwell conveyed to Thomas Saunder six closes called Plain Coupers. An estate plan of 1871 shows Coopers Farm at the southernmost extremity of the wood and it is interesting to note that ricks are to this day built on the

site of the old rick yard beside the house. The name may be derived from the family of John de Coupere mentioned in 1355. **DENCHER FIELD** is a common name in Surrey there being at least three such in the parish of Charlwood. The name comes from the process, which came from Devonshire in the early 17th. century, of paring off and burning the turf and afterwards spreading the ashes over the field. This was known as Devonshireing. Weeds and rubbish to be burnt on the fields are still known as dencher.

**EASTLANDS** was also known as Tastards and Taslands in 1690 and Testwood Farm in 1842. 1537 John Bristow died leaving to his wife Sarah, Eastlands and 36 acres. In 1761, William Clayton sold Eastlands and 36 acres in the occupation of Henry Humphrey to Joseph Young of Ockley and John Young of Dorking.

**EDOLPHS.** See p.132. In the Manor of Shellwood this house takes its name from the Edolf family who were resident here as early as 1314. See also App. D.

**FAIRLANDS** may be identified with an earlier house on the same site owned by the family of William Payne, mentioned in 1332, see p. 23. In 1399 or 1413 Simon Rokenham granted in fee simple Payneslond in Cherlewode to Reginald de Cobeham, lord of Gatwyke. In 1756 Richard Willett left Pains Croft to his wife Jane who, being a lady of a financial turn of mind, later advanced £100 to the parish at 5%. In 1819 the house was occupied by Peter Caffin and bore the fascinating name of Pens and Breaches while by 1842 it had become, more simply, Pains Farm.

**FARMFIELDS.** See p. 168. The Superintendents house is built round what was Brick House. It was so named having been built of brick at a time when timber and daub were the more usual materials. From 1662 or earlier until 1750 it was in the possession of the Saunders of Brick House and once, in 1664, it is termed "White House otherwise Brick House."

**FELL STREET** was the old road whose course is now marked by the footpath from Farmfields to Hookwood Bridge. It was closed as a road by Inclosure Award of 1846.

**FLEMMINGS.** See p. 195. In 1681 John Williams died holding a messuage and garden called Flemmings being near the school-house at Pagewood, now Bristow's Cottage. The rent was 4d. About 1690 Edward Ford of Buckland owned this house and in 1756 George Tapsell left it to John Iles. It is mentioned in the Inclosure Award of 1846.

**FULBROOKS** was probably the home of John de Fulbrook whose name appears in the Feet of Fines, 1241. In 1670 William Hewitt alienated Fullebrooks to Thomas Saunders of Hookwood and it is described some twenty years later as a holding of 15 acres. In the British Museum there is a beautifully decorated plan, dated 1733, of "A Yardland of T. Saunders, Gent." Thanks to the fact that the field boundaries have remained unchanged throughout these 216 years we have been

able to identify this yardland with Fullbrooks and the fields to the south as far as the brook. Charles Clarke, dying in 1791, left it with Gassons among much other land to his grandson of the same name. In 1800 Richard Grace sold them to Rowland Yallop and Thomas Flint. Fulbrooks is mentioned in the Inclosure Award.

**GASSONS** stood just north of Fulbrooks where the remains of its wells may still be traced in the old brickyard. In 1693, John Round of Spicers alienated it with 10 acres to Thomas Saunders of Hookwood after which it passed until 1800 with Fulbrooks.

**GATWICK.** See p. 103 and Appendix F. It is probable that a dwelling has existed on this site since sometime before 1241 (see p. 24) and, if the memorial to Philippa Sharp is correct, as early as a hundred years before the Conquest. Be that as it may this early home which was probably in the form of a hall had been replaced by a house with ten hearths by 1662 and was rebuilt again in 1698 (see p. 108).

**GATWICK HALL** was known until recently as Timberham, taking its name from the bridge close by. The house was built by Mr. Sharp who was the lord of the manor from 1771 to 1806. In 1834 the Court Baron granted John Snow of Timberham, coachmaster, a small amount of roadside waste. (See p. 164).

**THE GRANGE, HORLEY** was previously known as Bonehurst or Bournehurst, names which have been borrowed by its more modern neighbours. These names came from Bourners and Bonus. Earlier still the house and surrounding land was known as Erebridge or Errebrygge and was a sub-manor of Charlwood which elected its own tithingman and paid the Common Fine of 9d. . . . It is mentioned in the Court Rolls of the Manor of Charlwood between 1548 and 1800.

**GRATTEN FIELD** lies to the south of Lower Duxhurst. The name means a stubble field on which stock is grazed after the corn is carried.

**GREENINGS** was probably associated with the family of Henry Grenyng mentioned in 1574. The approach used to be by Beggar-house Lane and by what is now the farmyard. The drive across the park is comparatively modern.

**GUZZLE SHAW** is part of Coopers the name coming from the old meaning of guzzle, i.e., a gutter or drain.

**THE HALF MOON**, parts of which may be original, dates from the 15th. century. In the Parish Register there is an entry dated 1749 "Rec'd of George Head of the Half Moon Alehouse for ye marriage of his wife late Mrs. Martin 10s." In 1826 the Half Moon was owned by Thomas Neale and occupied by John Arnold and two years later by Richard Tilly. Kelly's Directory of 1845, the first issue, gives William Sayers as the occupier.

**HARROW HOUSE.** See p. 145. This house was mentioned in 1701 as the Plough and Harrow, at which time it was occupied by Edward Flint. In 1821 it was called the Plough and Harrow Public House. In 1826 it was under the same ownership as the Half Moon and occupied by George Redford followed by

Benjamin Nunn in 1828 and Thomas Gasson in 1829. Other occupiers have been John Tullett, Fredrick Wickens, Caleb Ellis and Thomas Arnold.

**HATCHET AND HELZE** is the attractive name given on a plan of 1871 to the fields between Coopers and the Stanhill road. They are roughly the shape of an enormous billhook and handle or a hatchet and helve.

**HILLANDS** appears in the Court Rolls of 1552 when "the farmer of Hillond" was ordered to scour the ditches and lop the boughs of the trees overhanging the Russhill lane. In 1802 Hillands with Russes was bought by Joseph Venour (See p.148).

**HOLEBROOKE.** In 1259 Petrus Atteholebrok de Cherlewode was granted a tenancy by Henry III. He appears to have caused the death, intentionally or accidentally, of William le Bart and for this crime to have been outlawed. However, in the above year he, Peter atte Holebrok de Cherlewod was pardoned at the instance of the Bishop of London. The name of Richard de Holebrok appears on a deed dating from the 13th century. In 1410 Peter Walsche of Chelewode conveyed to John Brokham "a parcel of wodland called Holebrooke." Rocques' map of 1762 appears to show a house at the centre of the four fields lying to the north west of Glovers Wood which are marked on the Tithe Map as the Holbrooks.

**THE HOPS, HOP PLAT AND HOP GARDEN** were common field names in Charlwood when men not only brewed their own beer but also grew their own hops. One property called the Hoppe abutted on Westfield Common but the most important house of that name still remains at Hookwood. In 1552 John Jorgayne, who lived at Gatwick, left it to his son John. At the end of the 17th. century Thomas Saunder of Hookwood, Senr., owned "a croft 10 acres and a Mead plott with the Grove and 2 acres called the Hops abutting east upon the River and west upon High Hookwood Common." See also p. 163.

**HYDEMEAD** was at one time one great field between the River Mole near Larkins Farm and Westfield Common. It was divided up into parcels under different ownerships until as late as the beginning of the 18th. century. A plan of that date shows two acres of Glebe in Hydemead. It is also marked on plans of 1649 and 1791 which show the boundary hedges practically as they are to-day. In the 13th. century Walter Vavasur conveyed 4 acres in Hydemead to William Wakehurst. In 1637, John Bristow left a parcel of land in Hidemead to Edward Round. In 1681 Thomas Tax died holding 2 acres in Hydemeade and it was recorded that "widow Tax enjoys the land."

**HYDERS.** See p. 18. In 1637 John Bristow left Hyders alias Hidehouse to Edward Round who was living there at the time. In 1663 Bennett Martyn left Hyders, rent 4s. 2d., to his son of the same name. He is mentioned in the Parish Register as "Bennett Martene of Tinsley Grene." In 1681 he conveyed Hyders with 70 acres to John Blanke who was fined 20s. the same year for putting up rails on the Lord's waste or Lowfield

Heath. He left the property to William Blanke who died in 1711. It came into the possession of John Cuddington who, dying in 1756 left it to his son William. In 1763 the Parish Register mentions Thomas Brown of Hidehurst, by which name it was known until comparatively recently its name was changed back to the old form of Hyders. It later came into the hands of Henry St. John of Epsom who left it to his grandson Attewood Wigsell of Sanderstead. His brother the Rev. Thomas Wigsell, inherited it and, in 1805, left it to his sister, Susanna. It then came back into the Cuddington family for Susanna Wigsell sold it to the Mr. Cuddington whose tomb is to be seen in Charlwood Churchyard close to the Vestry door.

**JOHNSONS COMMON** which lies to the east of Edolphs takes its name from the Johnson family who owned the neighbouring land in the 17th. century. Little is known of Jeremy Johnson beyond the fact that he lived in the parish and his children were baptised in the church early in the century. His son Jeremiah was a wealthy man, his house Colle being the second largest in the village in 1662. Three years later he became the father-in-law of the even wealthier ironmaster, Leonard Gale. Jeremiah was in trouble twice, in 1663 and 1667, for encroaching on the common and died in 1687. His son Henry was presented in 1681 for having dug limepits on the Lord's waste.

**JORDAN'S COUNTRY CLUB** was the manor house of the sub-manor of Shiremark. (See p. 56 and Appendix F). It came into the possession of Edmund Jordan in 1625 and from him, or his family, took the name of Jordans. This family seems to have had the art of leaving their name attached to the land long after their ownership was a thing of the past.

**JORDANS** near Rusper must be another case in point. Though this house is now in the parish of Newdigate it was at one time in a detached portion of the parish of Charlwood known as "the outparish by Rusper."

**KENTROES** was the early name for the land to the west of Whites Green and now west of the Farmfields drive. The name appears to point to a Kentish method of agriculture. In 1552 Walter Symond was ordered to retract the water on the land called Kentroes under pain of 20d. About 1690 the acreage was given as 15 and the owner was John Spencer, gent. In the 18th. century Charles Clarke owned "Kent Rolls otherwise Rowe" and left it to his grandson, see Charlwood Park Farm House. On the Tithe Map of 1842 these fields are marked as Kent Rolls and Rent Rolls. This is an interesting example of the gradual change of name to that of a well known object though an object quite unsuited to a field name. The rent rolls were the bailiff's lists of rents paid, written on long strips of paper and, for convenience, rolled up.

**KILN FIELD.** There are at least six fields of this name in the parish. They are reminiscent of the days when every farmer carted his own chalk from the North Downs and burnt it on his own farm.

KITCHEN FIELD is adjacent to Rowley. It may have been the field in which the kitchen produce was grown as suggested by "The Place Names of Surrey" but it seems more likely that it was the site of the kitchen in the days when, as an insurance against fire, the kitchen was an entirely separate building.

LARKINS FARM. (See p. 98). The Parish Registers of 1611 record the burial of "William Round, sonne of John Rounde dwelling at Lorkins by Lofield Heath." Half a century later it was John Ellis who paid the tax for three hearths at Larkins. A plan of the Hides Mead of 1791 shows the adjoining land as owned by a mythical Mr. Larkin! In 1819, Larkins was owned by Widow Wells.

LOVEL HOUSE was known as Little Hydehurst in 1819 and was owned by Mr. Cuddington. (See Hyders). It seems highly probable that this was the "2 acres parcel of Hyders" held by Michael Martin until 1670 and then by Leonard Gale (see p.89) until 1693, when he left it to his son Leonard. On his death his property went to his co-heiresses, Mrs. Clitherow, Mrs. Humphrey and Mrs. Blunt. (See also p. 169.)

LOWFIELD HEATH was known by this name in 1541. Since then it has been known also as Lowfield Common, Lofield Heath and Lovell Heath. As late as 1940 the signpost at the end of Bonetts lane pointed the way to Lovell Heath, but the legend of a highwayman of the name of Lovell appears to be an artistic invention.

LOWFIELD PARK was known as Highbouse in 1673 when a parcel of Highbouse was in possession of James Bonad. Spoulesland and Lorkins were also described as "parcel of Highbouse". It was later in possession of James Round, John Martin and later Edward Flint, who, in 1777, alienated Highbouse to Thomas Eastland. On a plan of the Manor of Rowley, 1819, this house is shown as being in the possession of William Brown. In 1827, on the death of the owner, William Reeves, a horse was claimed heriot but compounded for at £9 by his heirs who sold the property to Richard Cuddington. In 1915 it was known as Hydecroft.

LOWFIELD PLACE was occupied by John Pennyfold in 1819. In 1915 it was known as Oaktree House.

THE MANOR HOUSE appears to have no historical foundation for its present name. Until recently it was known as Taylors Farm and probably took its name from the Taylor family which has been long resident in Charlwood, Phillip le Tayllur being mentioned in an Assize Roll as early as 1255.

MOORS FARM may possibly be identified with land called Mores and Morecroft which are mentioned in the 16th century. In 1502, Richard Pollard was ordered to amend his ditch between Broadmede and land called Mores. In 1510, Juliana Pollard left Mores to her son Richard who was again ordered to scour the ditch and to pay 12d. relief. In 1584, Thomas Edwards sold Morecrofts to William Round, the quit rent being 2s., and in

1664, Richard Dann, in his 81st year, testified that Morecrofts belonged to John Humphreys who owned the neighbouring cottage, Spottles. (See Twin Wells.)

THE MORGANS was in the Manor of Shellwood and as late as 1876 a heriot of one cow was claimed on the death of James Brooker who left the house and about 6 acres to Robert King and Frederick Wickens.

NEALES LANE was the old name for the Povey Cross road.

OLD TIMBERS was called Longlands in 1756. It was left in this year by Richard Willett to his widow Jane. (See Fairlands). In 1819 it was owned by Mary Caffin and occupied by Peter Caffin. In 1915 it was known as The Elms.

PAGEWOOD was the common stretching from the gate at what is now the Parish Hall end of Rectory Lane to the bridge by Tanyard Farm. It included what is now the Rectory orchard and the gardens on the other side of the lane where the old cottages faced directly on to the common. This district is still known as Pagewood, which name was probably taken from the family of William le Page mentioned in 1317.

PAGES was in all probability the home of this William le Page. The house stood "on the north of the highway leading from Charlwode to Rusper". There was Great Pages, with 12 acres, rent 22d. and a tenement called Little Pages, rent 6d., both of which are constantly mentioned in the Court Rolls of the Manor of the Rectory between 1471 and 1610. Great Pages was under the same ownership as Odworth (see Pond Farm) and was mentioned as late as 1846.

PERRYLANDS used to be close to where the Old Boys School now stands. Nothing of it remains except the old hovel, now converted into the bungalow called The Pastures. In 1693 the Court Rolls recorded the alienation by Thomas Jordan of this house and 40 acres "to John Cherrington, gent., on consideration of a marriage of Anne Jordan, his daughter." The rent was 5s. The marriage of John Cherrington to Mrs. Anne Jordan is recorded in the Parish Register of 1691. Perrylands was later owned by Charles Clarke and left by him to his grandson (see Charlwood Park Farm House). It was still standing just over a hundred years ago, for it is marked on the Tithe Map.

PICKLE HALL is the large field between Edolphs and Coopers. Though now part of Edolphs farm it used to go with Charlwood Place until within living memory. It is mentioned in deeds of 1627 and 1673 as the Greater and the Lesser Bigglehaw, in 1664 as the Ticklehaw and about 1720 as the Pickle Hay. Pickle Hall is the name given on the Tithe Map of 1842. The name comes from "pightel", an enclosure and "Hlaw", a hill; thus, the enclosure on the hill.

POLES ACRE was in 1673 known as Spoulesland and was held of the sub-manor of Rowley. It was in this year left by Ambrose Martin to his widow Mary. In 1777 it was held by John Cutler of Ifield. On a plan of 1819 it is marked as Spoules Barn owned occupied by Charles Middleton. In 1827 it was recorded that

the heirs of William Middleton had conveyed Spoules to Sybil Middleton who, in 1835, was in possession and the quit rent, 6d., was 17 years overdue! In 1842 it appears as Pools Farm and in 1915 as Poles Farm.

POND FARM is now but a shadow of its former self. The house which stood here was known for many years as Odworth or Parke. It was probably the home of Andrew Oddeworth whose name appears constantly, not always in a very reputable connection, in the Court Rolls of 1365 to 1388. The family name is not found after the incidence of the Black Death but the house continued to be known as Parke alias Odworth. It was owned by John Saunder in 1599. The Parish Register mentions John Saunder of Parke in 1608 and 1613 and John Saunder of Odworth in 1611. In 1644 it was occupied by George Saunders who died the following year. In 1690, George Ede died holding "60 acres called Odeworth abutting on Westfield", after which it came into the possession of James Wood. His son, who inherited, was the rector of Rusper, Thomas Wood, who died in 1791. The first issue of Kelly's Directory, 1845, gives two Parke Houses occupied by William Dennis and John Lee both farmers. It is mentioned in the Inclosure Award of the following year as Park House alias Odworth. The story of the end of this house is rather curious and was remembered by an old man who must have been born in the eighteen sixties. He told how, its glories past, it stood a great rambling, ruinous and untenable building. The owner seeing two men with steam engines ploughing nearby persuaded them to place ropes round the old building. This they did and with one strong pull the house was no more and they received for their service 10s. The granary, the well and some of the great slabs of Norwood Hill stone which had formed the foundations are all that remains of Odworth.

PUDDING LANE and the neighbouring field of Pudding Croft take their name from the state of the surface of the lane which can well be imagined to have resembled a pudding of the heavier type when this lane carried a considerable amount of horse and wheeled traffic.

RAINBOW FIELD. There are at least six fields of this name in the parish. The shapes of the fields support the supposition that the name was taken from the old ploughing pattern "rainbow" which in each case would have been convenient.

RAWBONES. There were two fields of this name in the parish. One has been swallowed up by Gatwick Aerodrome and the other by Coopers. The name was probably derogatory and the theory that here were sites of ancient victories is more romantic than convincing.

RINGERS was Ringmers in 1846 and this name was displayed at the entrance until comparatively recently (see also p. 127).

ROWLEY. (See p. 17 and Appendix F. In 1791 the Rev. Dr. Bethune, Rector of Worth, who at this time owned Rowley, had made a coloured map on parchment of the estate. This showed the fields with their names and whether coppice, arable or

meadow, The details round the house show the orchard and even the rows of vegetables in the garden! An earlier plan of 1649 shows the same field boundaries and very similar field names.

**RUSS HILL HOUSE** may have been the Rushes or Rushisland on the King's Highway from Newdigate to Charlwood, owned in 1687 by George Booth. In 1802 it was known as "Russes on the lane from Charlewood to Rusper" and was bought in this year by Joseph Venour (see p. 148).

**SHURBRIDGE** is close to the site of Bushes or Bush House which latter name is still retained by the nearby covert. In 1670, John Caryll (see p. 90) left it to his son Thomas and it remained in the Caryll family until 1762 when it was bought by Sir Jeffry Amhurst.

**SLAB CASTLE** is marked on a map of 1822 as Hedgers Castle. In 1663 Robert Cooper left Hedgers to his son, an infant. Four years later Thomas Moor had gained possession and he left it to his son Elliot Moor. At the end of the century the name of the owner is given as "Maggott" but a hundred years later it was sold by John Miggott with 18 acres to Owen Clutton. The quit rent and heriot were redeemed in 1902.

**SPICERS** may be associated with the family of John Spicer whose name appears on a deed of 1396. In 1502 it was mentioned as Spycers and in 1550 the inhabitants of Charlwood were ordered to have a day to raise the highway called Spicersbridge (see p. 42). In 1693 Spicers, alias Withyland and 30 acres belonged to John Round. In 1756 Michael Frisby left it to his widow Elizabeth after which it came into the possession of John Saunders of South Park. In 1791 John VEVERS sold Spicers and Withyland to James Hebbard. The bridge is marked on Roques map of 1762 as Spices Bridge and the Inclosure Award of 1846 mentions Spicers alias Wittingland.

**SPIKEMEAD** appears to have been a house with two names. The sub-manor of Rowley knew it as Spittmead while to the manor of Charlwood it was Hairbrains. In 1611 James Jordan left Speake Mead to John Jordan. In 1673 Thomas Jordan held Spittmead and a few years later he appears on a rental of the manor of Charlwood as holding Hairbrains. Allan Garston left Hairbrains to his son George in 1756. It appears, unnamed, on a plan of 1819 as being owned and occupied by James Constable who in 1835 owed 17 years quit rent of 1/4 for Spitmead. This quit rent and ground rent for Harebrains was redeemed in 1898. The house is marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1915 as Harebrains.

**SPOTTLES COMMON** was a large common stretching from the Street to the foot of Stanhill and included the fields and gardens on either side of the present road. Though it was called Spotless Common on one 20th. century deed this was an error, for the name Spotles has been in use since the 16th. century at least. (See p. 208).

**STEVENS CRAWL**, Great and Little, are two fields opposite Fulbrooks. The name probably has the same meaning as Kraal or

Corrall, an enclosure or fold for cattle, horses or hogs. This field name, Crawl, appears in many parts of the country and frequently gives rise to a romantic legend. This tells of a charitable lady who, dying, wishes to leave money to the poor. She begs this of her husband, who is usually a great lord and always totally lacking in either affection or sympathy. He promises her as much land as she can crawl round in a certain length of time and she is, on occasions, credited with remarkable feats of endurance!

TANYARD FARM was owned in 1664 by George Brigstock who leased it to Jeremiah Washford (see p. 126). In 1667 Jeremiah himself leased it for twenty years to Edward Bowden, tanner of Lewis for £11 per annum. It shortly after came into the hands of Edward Taylor and by him was given to the Society of Friends (see p. 127). In 1718, though it still belonged to the Society, Mary Prior was in occupation and in 1780 and 1827 John Chantler. Tanning was a subsidiary trade of the iron industry but it continued at Tanyard long after the iron works in the neighbourhood had closed down and hides were tanned here within the last hundred years. (See also p. 195).

THE THATCHED COTTAGE, Lowfield Heath, was known until at least as late as 1819 as Longcrofts and was within the Sub-manor of Rowley. In 1541 Sir Robert Southwell and Margaret, his wife, sold Longcroft and 9 acres pasture to Richard Round for £30. In 1673 John Humphrey was in occupation "after to Sarah Humphrys." In 1777 Mrs. Brown held Longcroft and in 1819 Peter Caffin from whom it descended to Mary Caffin and from her to Jacob Caffin.

TIFTERS was known as Testers from the 16th to the 20th centuries. The Inclosure Award called it Tilters or Testers. The change from the original is clearly due to a misreading of the archaic long "s." Southlands was an earlier name for the whole or part of the estate. In 1393 Roger Pepyn was fined 2d. for allowing his ditch at Southlands Croft to go unscoured. In 1550 James Edwards and Eustace Moone were also in trouble over the same ditch. Two years later John Horley "obstructed the watercourse at Southlondes from the meadow to his gate." Shortly after this it was in the possession of John Carill of Warnham, the great ironmaster (see p. 90) who, in 1590, sold it to Henry Hewat, clothmaker of London. A number of ancient deeds referring to this property are held by the Hospital of the Blessed Trinity at Guildford. They cover the period 1660 to 1838 and show the property to have extended from the house to the county boundary, from 80 to 90 acres. They all show Testers let for £40 per annum which sum went towards The Archbishop's Manufactory (see p. 99) and as late as 1918 it was known as the Manufactory Farm. In 1660 it was leased to Thomas Ede (see p. 122). There is a terrier of 1685 which describes the property as consisting of "One dwelling house two Barnes One Stable two Hovells for Cattell one Orchard and one Garden" and goes on to give a list of the fields by

name with their acreages. An extension of Thomas Ede's lease, dated 1692, includes "also all the Oare Iron Myne and Stone." A beautifully written letter of 1697 orders the felling of some timber for the repair of the farm at Burstow whose rent also went to the same cause and a bill of the same year refers to the sale of twelve pounds worth of timber. In the same year Thomas Ede sub-let to William Shoe of Nutfield who, in 1703, became the direct tenant of the Master and Bretheren. Twenty years later his widow, described as Mrs. Shove, took over the lease for ten years after which Richard Holmwood became the tenant. In 1755 Benjamin Flint occupied the farm until in 1796 Phillis Carter, widow, took it until 1817. It was then let to William Brown who was still in occupation in 1846. It is erroneously marked on the Tithe Map as Park Farm. (See also p. 170).

TWIN WELLS was until recently known as Spottles Cottage. In 1584 George Lane held freely of the lord of the manor a cottage and three acres of land called Spottles and he conveyed the same to Robert and John Humfrey and the heirs of John (see p. 130). In 1687 John Humphrey, the elder, died holding "Spottles otherwise Pattle or Spattles." In 1718 Henry Hesketh, the rector, left Spottles or Pottles to Mary, his wife, with remainder to Mary his youngest daughter.

WESTLAND FARM, Hookwood, is mentioned in a rental of the late 17th. century. It was described as a property of 70 acres in the occupation of William Hinton and abutting on Hookwood Common.

WOODLANDS FARM, Hookwood, was earlier known as Wodend and Wodsend, being at the northern end of the wood or common. In 1545 John Vaylerd of Slougham, Sussex, alienated to Robert Burstow a cottage and land called Wodend in Charlewode and lands in Horley, 20 acres, which he had of the gift of Henry Lassforth (Henry Lechford, lord of the manor) of Charlewode and Maria, his wife. In 1690 it was in the possession of Thomas Saunder of Hookwood who owned the adjoining properties of the Hops and the Hooke. The quit rent and the ground rent were redeemed in 1898.

## APPENDIX F

### *The Manor and the Sub-Manors*

#### *The Manor of Charlwood*

	THE PRIOR and CONVENT OF CHRIST-CHURCH, CANTERBURY held this manor as a member of Merstham from an early date. They surrendered possession to	(90)
1539	HENRY VIII in July and he, in August, granted it to	(90)
1539	SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL and LADY MARGARET his wife. They conveyed it to	(90)
1547	HENRY LECHFORD who left it to his son	(108a)
1567	RICHARD LECHFORD, who was later knighted, and who left it to his grandson	(90)
1611	SIR RICHARD LECHFORD who conveyed it to	(90)
1625	EDMUND JORDAN who left it to his son	(90)
1662	THOMAS JORDAN who left it to his son	(108a)
1690	WILLIAM JORDAN who was succeeded by his widow	(108a)
1720	PHILIPPA JORDAN, née Brown, who left it to her son	(108b)
1740	THOMAS JORDAN, M.P. who left it to his sister	(108b)
1750	PHILIPPA JORDAN who settled it on her husband	(90)
1756	JOHN SHARP who left it to his grandson	(108a)
1771	JOHN SHARP who sold it to	(90)
1806	THOMAS KERR who sold it to	(90)
1820	JAMES WOODBRIDGE who sold it to	(108a)
1834	MICHAEL CLAYTON with whose family it remains.	(108c)

#### THE SUB-MANORS

##### *Gatwick*

	DE GATWICK'S held this manor from an early date,	
1304	JOHN DE GATWICKE owned the manor and left it to his daughter Elizabeth and her husband	(92)
	THOMAS DE COBHAM who left it to his son	(92)
1363	WILLIAM DE COBHAM who left it to his son	(90)
1396	REGINALD DE COBHAM from whom it descended to	(90)
	JOHN DE COBHAM and then to	(90)

	REGINALD DE COBHAM whose widow, Joan, brought a suit claiming Gatwick but the defence was that it had been sold to	
1495	JOHN JORDAN who left it to his son	(108a)
	JOHN JORDAN who left it to his son	(13)
1552	JOHN JORDAN who left it to his son	(108a)
1587	WILLIAM JORDAN who left it to his son	(108a)
1625	EDMUND JORDAN. After which Gatwick merged with the Manor of Charlwood until John Sharp, the younger, sold it to	(90)
1841	ALEXANDER FRASER who sold it to the	(90)
1890	GATWICK RACE COURSE COMPANY in whose possession it remains.	(90)

## *Hook*

1335	THOMAS FLYNSFORD held this sub-manor which two centuries later came into the possession of	(90)
	HENRY LECHFORD who, retaining Backworth and Littleworth, sold it to	(90)
1546	HENRY AMCOTTS. Later	(90)
	WILLIAM HEWITT left it to his son, a minor	(90)
1608	WILLIAM HEWITT who sold it to	(90)
1627	MR. SYMONDS who sold it to	(90)
	EDMUND JORDAN	(90)
	and it was absorbed into the Manor of Charlwood.	

## *Sanders Place or Charlwood Place*

Though the Saunders family was settled in Charlwood from as early as the reign of Edward II the first to be definitely known to have been in possession of Charlwood Place was

1434	THOMAS SAUNDER who left it to his son	(90)
	WILLIAM SAUNDER who left it to his grandson	(90)
1485	NICHOLAS SAUNDER who left it to his son	(108a)
1553	SIR THOMAS SAUNDER who left it to his son	(108a)
1566	EDMUND SAUNDER who left it to his son	(90)
1615	THOMAS SAUNDER who left it to his son	(90)
1623	EDMUND SAUNDER who left it to his sister	(90)
1661	ELIZABETH BRADSHAW who sold it to her first cousin	(90)
1662	SIR WILLIAM THROCKMORTON, J.P., who left it to his son	(108c)
1670	SIR WILLIAM THROCKMORTON who conveyed it to	(108a)
1673	SIR ANDREW KING who sold it to	(108c)
1674	FRANCIS, LORD AUNGIER, later Earl of	(108c)

- Longford, on whose death the mortgage was  
taken over by
- 1716 HENRY WISE who left it to his son (108c)  
 1738 MATTHEW WISE who left it to his brother (92)  
 1776 HENRY WISE who left it to his son (92)  
 HENRY CHRISTOPHER WISE who left it to  
 his son (92)  
 1805 THE REV. HENRY WISE, Rector (92)  
 and it remained in the Wise family  
 throughout the 19th century.

### *Erbridge, Bonus, Bonehurst or Bournehurst*

- This sub-manor lay in the parish of Horley though  
 it was a member of the Manor of Charlwood  
 to whose Courts it sent a tithingman and paid  
 the Common Fine of 9d. . . .  
 It came into the hands of
- 1539 SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL who sold it to (108a)  
 c.1547 HENRY LECHFORD who sold it to (91)  
 1602 RICHARD BONWICK of Horley who sold it to a (91)  
 MR. SPENCE of South Malling and after repeated (91)  
 transfers it was conveyed to  
 JOHN MITCHELL and came back into the (91)  
 Manor of Charlwood under the ownership of
- 1756 JOHN SHARP, of Gatwick, whose grandson (108a)  
 1771 JOHN SHARP again sold it away from the Manor (91)  
 1805 THOMAS PACKHAM who left it to his daughter (91)  
 1810 SARAH LUCY GUISE who left it to (91)  
 1839 WILLIAM NUNN (91)

### *Shiremark*

- 1542 SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL was in possession (90)  
 and sold it to
- 1544 HENRY LECHFORD who sold it to (90)  
 1546 HENRY AMCOTTS who sold it to (90)  
 SIR THOMAS HEWETT who sold it to (90)  
 1616 WILLIAM MULCASTER who sold it to (90)  
 1625 EDMUND JORDAN after which it was absorbed (90)  
 into the Manor of Charlwood and later became  
 known as Jordans Farm.

### *Rowley*

- EMMA VAVASUR left Trule to her son (112a)  
 WALTER VAVASUR who granted it to (112a)
- 1150—1250 WILLIAM DE WAKEHURST in whose  
 family it remained until RICHARD DE  
 WAKEHURST granted Throwle to

- 1409 JOHN WAKEHURST from whom it descended (112a)  
to  
MARGARET & ELIZABETH WAKEHURST  
who married  
RICHARD & NICHOLAS CULPEPPER.  
Rowley remained in possession of the Culpeper  
family until  
SIR WILLIAM CULPEPPER conveyed it to
- 1648 THOMAS LUXFORD who left it to his son (112a)
- 1670 RICHARD LUXFORD from whom it descended (108a)  
to
- 1673 GEORGE LUXFORD who left it to his nephew (108a)
- 1718 THOMAS JORDAN who left it to (112a)  
GEORGE JORDAN of Burwash who left it to (112a)  
his wife
- 1754 MRS. JORDAN of Burwash who sold it to (112a)
- 1772 GEORGE BETHUNE who gave it to his son (112a)
- 1777 THE REV. GEORGE MAXIMILLIAN BETH- (112a)  
UNE, Rector of Worth and his sister Anna in  
whose possession it remained at least until
- 1832

## APPENDIX G

### *Authorities*

1 to		
50	Surrey Archæological Collections, 1 to L.	
51	Sussex Archæological Collections.	
52	Surrey Quarter Session Records.	
53	Surrey Record Society Publications.	Surrey Feet of Fines.
54	Visitation of Surrey - - - -	<i>Harleian Society LX</i>
55	Wealden Iron - - - -	<i>Straker</i>
56	The Parish Chest - - - -	<i>Tate</i>
57	History of English Law - - - -	<i>Pollock &amp; Maitland</i>
58	English Social History - - - -	<i>Trevelyan</i>
59	England under the Stuarts - - - -	<i>Trevelyan</i>
60	English Local Government - - - -	<i>Webb</i>
61	Short History of the English People	<i>Green</i>
62	The Office of King's Remembrancer	<i>Bonner</i>
63	Medieval Foundations of England	<i>Sayles</i>
64	Place Names of Surrey - - - -	<i>Gover, Mawer &amp; Stenton</i>
65	British Costumes - - - -	<i>Charles &amp; Ashdown</i>
66	Medieval Chantries - - - -	<i>Cook</i>
67	Old Church Gallery Minstrels -	<i>Mc.Dermot</i>
68	England in the Later Middle Ages	<i>Vickers</i>
69	The English Parish Church - - - -	<i>Cox</i>
70	Farms and Fields - - - -	<i>Unwin</i>
71	Calamy Revised - - - -	<i>Matthews</i>
72	Walker and the Sufferings of the Clergy - - - -	<i>Tatham</i>
73	Early Friends in Surrey and Sussex	<i>Marsh</i>
74	Records of the Saunder Family -	<i>Homer Saunders</i>
75	Origin of British Surnames - - - -	<i>Ewen</i>
76	Dictionary of National Biography -	
77	Literae Cantuarensis, vol. I	
78	Travel in England - - - -	<i>Burke</i>
79	Index of the Act Books of the Archbishops	
80	Registers of Henry Chichele -	<i>Stephen Gardner &amp; Matthew Parker</i>
81	How to study an old Church - - - -	<i>Needham</i>
82	Statute of Labourers - - - -	<i>Putnam</i>
83	Archeological Journal XXI	
84	Sander's Rise and Growth of the Anglican Schism - - - -	<i>Lewis</i>
85	The Libraries and other activities of the Guildhall	
86	Arber's Transcript of the Stationers Registers	
87	Athenae Oxoniensis - - - -	<i>Wood</i>
88	Wealden Glass - - - -	<i>Wimbolt</i>

*Histories of Surrey and Locality*

- |    |   |                  |
|----|---|------------------|
| 90 | Victoria County                           |                  |
| 91 | Manning and Bray                          |                  |
| 92 | Brayley                                   |                  |
| 93 | Malden                                    |                  |
| 94 | Aubrey                                    |                  |
| 95 | Arthur Young                              |                  |
| 96 | Place of Surrey in the History of England | <i>Hearnshaw</i> |
| 97 | Highways and Byeways of Surrey            | <i>Parker</i>    |
| 98 | Reigate Through the Ages                  | <i>Hooper</i>    |
| 99 | Reigate Guide                             | <i>Phillips</i>  |

MANUSCRIPT

*London*

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

- |     |                          |   |              |                  |    |            |                          |              |    |                      |            |    |              |  |
|-----|--------------------------|---|--------------|------------------|----|------------|--------------------------|--------------|----|----------------------|------------|----|--------------|--|
| 100 | Deeds                    | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>a.</td> <td>E 142 46 12 John</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>b.</td> <td>Star Chamber Proceedings</td> <td>Henry VII 31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c.</td> <td>Valor Ecclesiasticus</td> <td>Henry VIII</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d.</td> <td>Other deeds.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | a.           | E 142 46 12 John |    | b.         | Star Chamber Proceedings | Henry VII 31 | c. | Valor Ecclesiasticus | Henry VIII | d. | Other deeds. |  |
| a.  | E 142 46 12 John         |   |              |                  |    |            |                          |              |    |                      |            |    |              |  |
| b.  | Star Chamber Proceedings |   | Henry VII 31 |                  |    |            |                          |              |    |                      |            |    |              |  |
| c.  | Valor Ecclesiasticus     |   | Henry VIII   |                  |    |            |                          |              |    |                      |            |    |              |  |
| d.  | Other deeds.             |   |              |                  |    |            |                          |              |    |                      |            |    |              |  |
| 101 | Calenders                | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>a.</td> <td>Close Rolls</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b.</td> <td>Fine Rolls</td> </tr> </table>  | a.           | Close Rolls      | b. | Fine Rolls |                          |              |    |                      |            |    |              |  |
| a.  | Close Rolls              |   |              |                  |    |            |                          |              |    |                      |            |    |              |  |
| b.  | Fine Rolls               |   |              |                  |    |            |                          |              |    |                      |            |    |              |  |
| 102 | Calender Patent Rolls    |   |              |                  |    |            |                          |              |    |                      |            |    |              |  |
| 103 | Calender State Papers    |   |              |                  |    |            |                          |              |    |                      |            |    |              |  |

BRITISH MUSEUM

- |     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| 104 | Harley Charters     |
| 105 | Sloane Charters     |
| 106 | Additional Charters |
| 107 | Other Deeds         |

MESSRS. HASTIE, 65 Lincoln's Inn Fields

- |     |                            |  |    |                      |           |    |            |  |    |                 |  |
|-----|----------------------------|--|----|----------------------|-----------|----|------------|--|----|-----------------|--|
| 108 | Deeds, Manor of Charlwood. | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>a.</td> <td>Court Rolls &amp; Copies</td> <td>1548—1834</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b.</td> <td>Rent Rolls</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>c.</td> <td>Other documents</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | a. | Court Rolls & Copies | 1548—1834 | b. | Rent Rolls |  | c. | Other documents |  |
| a.  | Court Rolls & Copies       | 1548—1834  |    |                      |           |    |            |  |    |                 |  |
| b.  | Rent Rolls                 |  |    |                      |           |    |            |  |    |                 |  |
| c.  | Other documents            |  |    |                      |           |    |            |  |    |                 |  |

SOMERSET HOUSE

- |     |        |
|-----|--------|
| 109 | Wills. |
|-----|--------|

MINET LIBRARY

- |     |                           |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 110 | Calender of Surrey Deeds. |
|-----|---------------------------|

OXFORD

BODLEIAN LIBRARY

- |     |        |
|-----|--------|
| 111 | Deeds. |
|-----|--------|

#### GUILDFORD

- 112 Deeds           a. Muniment Room  
                      b. Hospital of the Holy Trinity.

#### KINGSTON-ON-THAMES      SURREY COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

- 113    a. Court Rolls of Merstham 1365—1396  
       b. Other deeds.

#### WARWICK

#### WARWICK COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

- 114 Charlwood Green Book.   Copies of Court Rolls of Manor  
                                  of the Rectory 1403—1687 &  
                                  other records.

#### CHARLWOOD

- 115 Parish Registers.  
116 Documents in Muniment Chest.  
117 Deeds in Private Hands.

#### MAPS

- 120 Bowen, 1760.  
121 Rocque 1762.  
122 Greenwood, 1822.  
123 Tithe, 1836. Tithe Redemption Commission.  
124. Inclosure Award and Map. 1846. Surrey County Record  
      Office.



# POSTSCRIPT

## 1950-1980

*By Brendon Sewill*

“The Free Men of Charlwood” was first published in 1950. Since then the people of Charlwood have had to struggle, as perhaps never before in their history, to protect their own village.

Private flying had started at Hunts Farm, Tinsley Green, in 1930. This site was opened in 1936 as Gatwick airport. Although enlarged during the war it still had grass runways and occupied a comparatively small area close to the main London-Brighton railway. In 1952, however, the Government announced that “it has now been decided to develop Gatwick as a southern alternative to London Airport. . . .” (Hansard 30th July 1952).

Details of the project were made public on 7th October 1952. They showed two parallel East-West runways, one of which pointed directly at Charlwood, and also a third runway running North-South. The main London-Brighton road was to be diverted to the west bringing it close to the village. These proposals aroused a storm of local, and national, criticism. A Gatwick Protest Committee was formed. In July 1953 the Government published a White Paper “London’s Airports” which contained a revised plan showing the runways aligned away from Charlwood and the main road diverted to the East. In order to allay public apprehension the Government stated:

Gatwick will not be used intensively all the year round. Its principal purpose will be to receive aircraft diverted from London Airport when visibility is poor there and this purpose could not be achieved if too many regular services were based at Gatwick . . . Gatwick’s use as a

base shall be restricted to some short distance services and to charter operations. Almost all the short distance services will operate only in the summer months and the hours of daylight. (Cmd. 8902).

Despite this assurance, the Gatwick Protest Committee continued to campaign vigorously. Their case, as set out in a pamphlet "Gatwick Airport: a tragedy of errors" (October 1953), was that if the airport was to be used as little as claimed it was being planned on an unnecessarily large scale; but if, as was already suspected, what was wanted was a second international airport then Gatwick, cramped between the railway line and Russ Hill and in the midst of a heavily populated but rural area, was the wrong site. This view, which was strongly supported by "The Times" and other national newspapers, was argued at the Public Inquiry held in Horley in 1954. Since, however, the terms of reference of the Inquiry precluded consideration of other possible sites, the result was a foregone conclusion. In October 1954, in a further White Paper "Gatwick Airport" (Cmd 9296), the Government announced their decision to go ahead, but only with the one runway furthest from Charlwood.

Although the battle had been lost, a good deal had been achieved to protect the village. More significantly from a national point of view, public opinion had been alerted and when in subsequent years similar proposals were brought forward for airport development at Stansted or Cublington, the desire of the British people to preserve their precious countryside prevailed.

The new Gatwick Airport, with a single runway, was opened in June 1958. During its construction over 60 homes had to be demolished, including a number of ancient houses, notably Larkins Farm (page 98), Hide Croft and Heath House Farm. The airport was not the only development threatening Charlwood. In 1947 Crawley had been designated as a New Town, and has been gradually growing towards the County boundary. The development of Gatwick and Crawley brought a number of changes. The Manor House of Shiremark



### Lowfield Heath

(page 211) was absorbed into the new town as the Jordan's Country Club. The old house of Hyders (page 18) at Lowfield Heath has become a restaurant (known inaccurately as Gatwick Manor). Russ Hill House has become the Russ Hill Hotel, and Grey Southern, originally the cottage hospital, has become Trumbles Hotel. The site of Gatwick Manor, demolished in 1950 (page 108), remains so far undisturbed just to the east of Povey Cross. The village of Lowfield Heath became enveloped in the maintenance and warehouse area of the airport, and in 1973 many of the householders were given permission to sell their properties for industrial development. Of the main part of the village only the church and the ruins of the windmill now remain.

Fortunately, before the village disappeared, Jean Brown and Jean Shelley compiled a scrapbook of the memories of some of the older inhabitants of which the following recollection by Percy Bish is typical:

To us locals who had spent most of our lives in what was once a quiet country village, the destruction of Lowfield Heath came as a very great blow. Many of us have memories of Lowfield Heath as a small country village, made up of a collection of farms both great and small in size, all clustered around the village centre, which contained a church, a school, a public house, a village store and post office, a small builder's yard, a blacksmith's shop and a wheelwright's workshop. Almost all transport

was horse drawn and peace and quiet reigned, the only noise coming from bird song and the blacksmith's hammer on the anvil. As children we made the roads our playgrounds and it was not very often that we had to move off the road to allow a horse and cart to pass.

At an earlier age Lowfield Heath was not so quiet. A painting in Bucks Club shows a coach and four crossing the heath at a flat out gallop—Jim Selby's famous drive in 1888 from London to Brighton and back for a wager in under 8 hours. In 1891 Lord Lonsdale driving in turn a buggy, a two horse trap, a four in hand, and a phaeton, covered the 20 miles from Crawley to Reigate and back in 56 minutes 55 seconds.

*Charlwood remains a village* Charlwood village, however, remained remarkably unchanged, and still retains its rural character. Some attractive new local authority houses were built on the site of Perrylands (page 204) and, as in so many other villages, an ugly new garage was built in front of the old forge. But apart from this there has been very little new building since the war. The Dorking and Horley Rural District Council (now the Mole Valley Council) was determined not to let haphazard development associated with the airport spoil the surrounding country and applied the planning restrictions strictly. The centre of the village was made a Conservation Area. Perhaps the most vigorous demonstration of the determination of Charlwood people to preserve the character of the village, and to prevent further urbanisation, came in March 1965. The Parish Council had circulated leaflets describing possible proposals for street lighting. A parish meeting was held and voted by 300 to 15 to abandon the scheme forthwith.

A further threat arose in 1971 when the Local Government Boundary Commission recommended that Charlwood together with Horley and Gatwick Airport should be transferred from Surrey to Sussex. It was soon realised that this would mean that Charlwood would become incorporated, and probably submerged, in Crawley New Town. Once again the people of Charlwood mounted a vigorous campaign which ultimately

resulted in special legislation. This was the Charlwood and Horley Act which, while leaving the airport in Sussex, redrew the boundaries so as to return Charlwood to Surrey. It received Royal Assent just in time, the day that Parliament was dissolved in February 1974.

Meanwhile the airport had been growing steadily busier. Concern about aircraft noise and other adverse effects on the environment was felt over a much wider area. Under the leadership of Eric Epton of Norwood Hill, who represented Charlwood on the District Council from 1964 to 1979, the Gatwick Anti-Noise Executive was formed, later to develop into the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC). Eric Epton also took the lead in forming the British Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise, and was appointed to the Noise Advisory Council. Pressure by these and other environmental groups has forced successive Governments to lay down strict regulations to limit noise and these have helped to keep life in Charlwood tolerable.

In April 1970 the British Airports Authority published plans for extending the existing runway and adding the second parallel runway which, as in the original proposals, would have come within a few hundred yards of Charlwood village. Again this raised a massive protest, led by GACC. A public inquiry was held at Horley in 1971. So strong was the opposition to the expansion of Gatwick that, while the extension of the runway was approved, the Government announced that it had dropped the plans for building the second runway. In September 1971 plans were announced for building the third London airport at Maplin, thus raising hopes of eventual relief for Charlwood; hopes that were dashed when the Maplin scheme was abandoned in 1974. The result was a massive increase in activity at Gatwick, intensifying the pressures on the surrounding area. At the time of writing (August 1979) the British Airports Authority have applied for permission for a second terminal building and this is to be the subject of a further public enquiry. But they have also taken the unprece-

dented step of signing a legal undertaking for the next forty years that no second runway will be built.

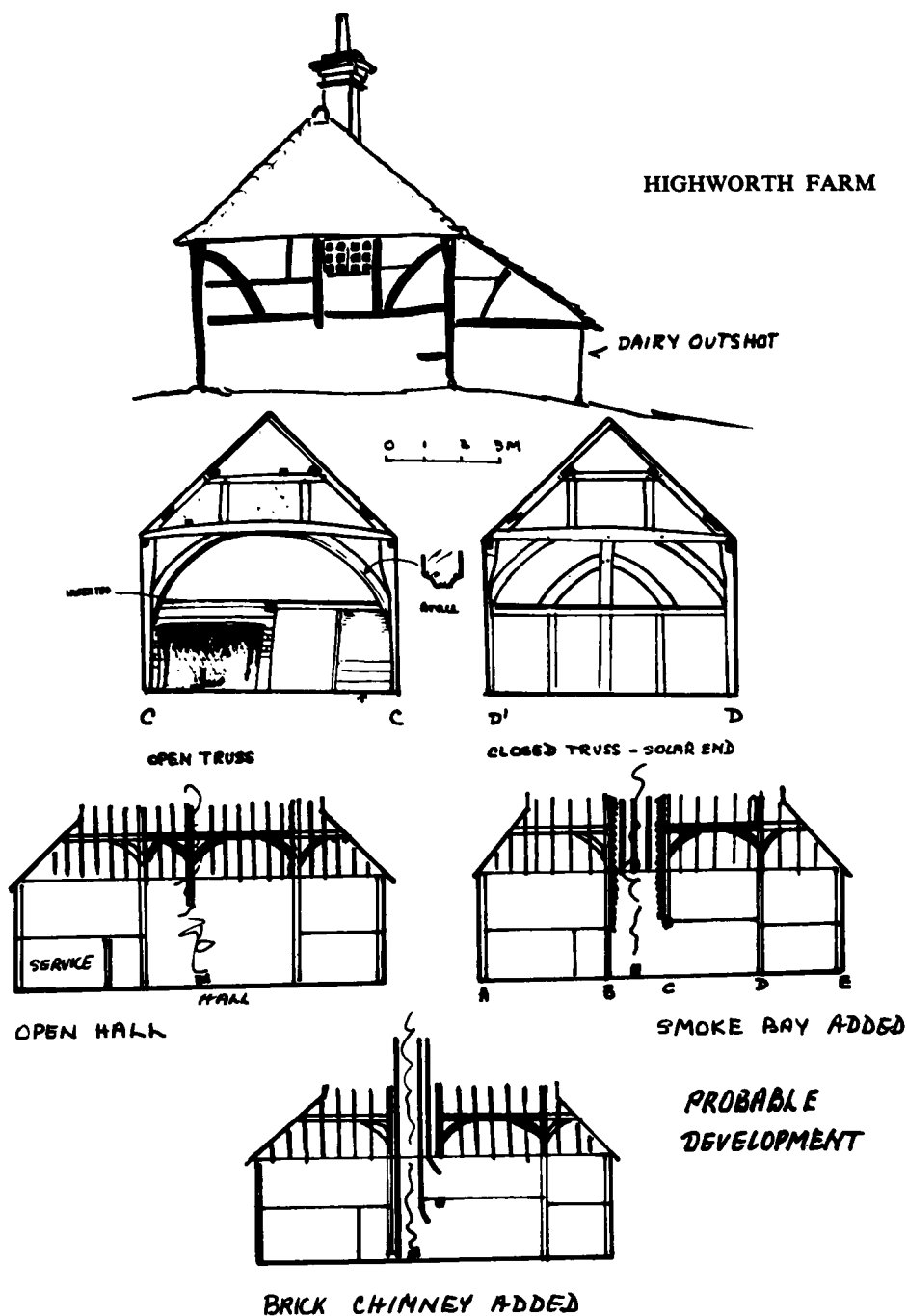
As well as epic struggles with the modern age, the past thirty years have also seen some new discoveries about Charlwood's past history.

*Mesolithic sites* Zara Frith who lived at Pagewood Farm (now Barfield Farm) found a large mesolithic chipping floor at the top of Strawberry Field (TQ 232414). She described it: "when I first saw the newly ploughed field it resembled nothing so much as a pudding stuck with almonds—the flints were so thickly embedded". Many of the flints were waste chips but there were also some good micro-liths, two axeheads, a few scrapers, knives, borers, four saws and various all-purpose tools. These latter fit the hand comfortably and could be used for almost anything to do with a nomadic hunting life. Indeed the site, on rising ground sloping down to the stream, is just where one would expect to find the early hunters who lived in the forests of the Weald some five to ten thousand years ago.

Two other mesolithic sites were also discovered by Zara Frith, both in similar positions on the comparatively dry ground on the brow of Stanhill. At one site (TQ 236415) close to the footpath from the village to Stanhill she found part of a bow-drilled mace made from a beach pebble. At the other site (TQ 238418) just above Trumbles Hotel she found many "pot-boilers". These were stones that were heated in the fire and then thrown into a pot of water to heat it—the pots themselves were not strong enough to put over the fire. This whole site has now been buried under large quantities of waste soil from the airport.

*The survey of Medieval Houses* The finding of a polished flint axe and a barb-and-tanged arrowhead showed that the same sites had been in use during the neolithic period (roughly 3000 to 1800 B.C.). All the flints and axeheads are now in the Guildford Museum.

Another important insight into village history came in the early 1970's when a survey of nearly 80 ancient



One of the illustrations from "Four centuries of Charlwood Houses"

houses in the parish was carried out by two experts in vernacular architecture, Joan Harding and Peter Gray. The results of this survey were published in 1976 in the book "Four Centuries of Charlwood Houses: Medieval to 1840" by Joan Harding F.S.A. The architectural development of each house is explained and beautifully illustrated. It is shown that in the village there are still twenty-eight medieval hall houses built before 1550—Brook Cottage, Chantersleir, Charlwood Park Farm, The Cottage (opposite the Half Moon) and The Cottage (in Norwood Hill Road), Dormers Cottage, Fulbrook Cottage, The Half Moon, Highworth Farm, Hillands, Hookwood Manor, Hyders, Laurel Cottage, Little Dolby, The Manor House, Mores Cottage, The Old Bakehouse, Pagewood House, Primrose Cottage, Robins Farm, Spottles, Swan Cottage, Tanyard, Temple Bar House, Tifters, Upper Prestwood Farm, Vintners Wells and Weavers.

These houses or cottages originally had a central hall which was open to the roof. The cooking hearth was in the centre of the floor and the smoke, having got into everyone's eyes, found its way out through the rafters. In many houses the smoke stained beams can still be seen. Then, from about 1550, the fire was moved to one end of the hall and a large part of the hall was floored over so as to provide rooms upstairs. The smoke was then carried up through a wide opening, a smoke bay, or in some cases caught by a wattle and daub hood. From this developed the brick chimney. At Hookwood Manor a chimney was added in 1571, while Charlwood Place Farm was built with a central brick chimney dated 1590.

The remarkable number of medieval houses and cottages in Charlwood demonstrates the prosperity of the village in Elizabethan times. Indeed there are so many old houses in Charlwood that when, in 1975, the Vernacular Architecture Group visited Surrey they broke with all precedent and spent a whole day within the bounds of one parish.

Further work on the history of the village has been *Inven-*  
done by Jean Shelley. Her family came to Charlwood *ories,*  
about 1811-12, and her father and grandfather, the *Wills and*  
master builders of the village (see page 170), between *Tomb-*  
them held the office of Clerk to the Parish Council be- *stones*  
tween 1894 and 1966. At the Lambeth Palace Library  
she found 32 original inventories of the contents of  
Charlwood houses between 1664 and 1726, and also a  
number of wills of Charlwood people between 1616  
and 1779. There is for example the will by which Edward  
Taylor left Tanyard Farm to his wife and on her death  
to the Quakers (page 127). In 1689 John Wilkins added  
a codicil witnessed by the Rector, Henry Hesketh, to  
the effect that "my daughter Marey Wilkins in con-  
sideration of the great paynes and trouble she hath taken  
intending me in my sickness shall have solely to her self  
all the geese, hens and chickens about the House, and  
also my Bible."

At that time, when someone died the appraisers made  
an inventory of all their possessions, walking through  
the house and noting the contents of each room. These  
documents, which few other Surrey villages possess, are  
reproduced in full in an appendix to "Four Centuries of  
Charlwood Houses".

All the inscriptions on the gravestones in the church-  
yard have now been recorded. Among them was found  
the tomb of the wife of Leonard Gale, the ironmaster  
(page 100). The faint inscription reads:

Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Phillippa Gale widow. Relict of Leonard  
Gale late of Crawly in the county of Sussex, gent, by whom she had five  
children, who were all living at her decease. She was daughter of Mr.  
Jeremiah Johnson of this Parish. She died November 29th 1726 in the  
88th year of her age.

New information has also come to light about the *The Mill*  
history of Charlwood Mill at Tifters (page 162). It is  
uncertain when the first mill was built but the following  
letter from Thomas Foster dated 13th January 1703/4  
describes its destruction during a great storm (probably



Charlwood Mill

the one recorded by John Evelyn which occurred on 26th November 1703):

Two windmills were blown down, and in one there happened a remarkable Providence, and the story thereof may perhaps be worth your observation, which is viz. That the Miller of Charlwood Mill, not far from Reigate, hearing in the night the wind blew very hard, arose from his bed and went to his Mill, resolving to turn it towards the wind, and set it to work, as the only means to preserve it standing; but on the way, feeling for the key of the Mill he found he had left it at his Dwelling House, and therefore returned thither to fetch it, and coming again to the mill, found it blown quite down, and by his lucky forgetfulness saved his life, which otherwise he most inevitably would have lost.

By 1804 there was a smock mill on the site. (The succession of millers and the workings of the mill are described in "The Windmills of Surrey and Inner

London" by K. G. Farriers and M. T. Mason 1966). This mill was burnt down in February 1901, and an entry in the Horley Fire Brigade Book shows why: "The Brigade turned out but Mr. Burstow would not allow the horses to be used as he had no guarantee that they would be paid for, and stated that he had not been paid for horsing the engine to Copthorne July 1900. The Brigade therefore did not attend the fire". After the fire the mill was operated by steam power until March 1920.

Horley Fire Brigade was not always so remiss. The foreman's report on a fire at Brittleware Farm, Charlwood, 27th May 1898 reads: "Received the call at the Fire Station at 2.48 p.m. Engine left at 2.53 and reached the fire at 3.16 about. Found Barn and Granary well alight and Bailiff's house in danger, got the fire under and saved the house".

Charlwood's own Fire Brigade was started in 1907 by Mr. Francis Gibson, the Rector's son, and remained a colourful part of the village until 1940. The first fire engine was a handcart with a standpipe and hose that ran off the mains. It was housed in the shed beside the Rectory garage. Later they had a horse drawn engine, with the horses hired from the butcher's nearby. In 1920 the Brigade were given an old car, a Lancia, which they converted and which became their pride and joy. Over the years the fire station moved from the Rectory to the Old Boys School, to the Mill and finally to Victoria Place. *The Fire Brigade*

Charlwood still has its share of natural disasters. In September 1968 a freak storm caused such flooding that for 24 hours the village was cut off from the outside world. And in August 1976 one of the worst farm fires ever recorded in Britain occurred when John Lory's massive farm buildings at Charlwood Place caught alight. Luckily the house, largely rebuilt in the seventeenth century after a previous fire, was saved.

The agricultural returns show how the pattern of farming in Charlwood has changed during the past 100 years. In 1875 the village was predominately a corn growing *Farming changes*

area, with 1900 acres cultivated for wheat, barley or oats, and indeed this is confirmed by the number of windmills (page 162). There were 230 cattle in milk—any milk not used in the village had to be taken in churns by horse and cart to Horley station. 184 farm horses were in use, and most of the people who lived in Charlwood must have worked on the land or in an occupation directly connected with it, such as blacksmith, wheelwright or miller. By 1900 as cheap corn from North America caused prices to fall, so the acreage of wheat, barley and oats fell to 960, the number of milking cows rose slightly to 270, and the number of farm horses fell to 149. The heavy wet clay is always difficult and expensive to work, and by the depth of the agricultural depression in 1930 the number of acres growing corn were down to a mere 230, and the number of cart horses down to 85. Cows in milk had however risen to 580. During the second world war there was an intensive ploughing drive, and by 1945 the acreage of corn had risen to 1070. Since then it has only shown a small decline, although nowadays a far greater yield is obtained. In 1945 there were 520 cows in milk; now there are about double that number. In 1945 Charlwood had 46 farm horses in use, in 1950 18, in 1955 9, by 1960 sadly none.

But if farming changes, hedges—unless destroyed—do not. In 1971 Ruth Sewill and Jean Shelley made a partial survey of hedges in the parish, using Professor Hoskin's theory to date them. They found that the hedgerow on the wide bank north of Brittleware is probably of Saxon origin; others were found to be many hundreds of years old. Most of the road side hedges date from the middle of the last century when the commons were enclosed. Nearly 200 Scots pines were identified as marking the corners of the new fields or gardens created by these enclosures.

*People and Societies* Although the decline in agricultural employment and the coming of the motor car have meant that most people who live in Charlwood no longer work there,

the village has gained vigour from the variety of its newcomers. Now airline pilots, hostesses and executives, as well as commuters to London, mix with families with names such as Eade, Ellis, Flint, Killick or Skinner whose records can be traced back in Charlwood for hundreds of years (pages 190–195). In addition it has now been established that many descendants of the Jordans of Gatwick (page 103) still live in the village. One distinguished newcomer is Barry Sheene, world motor cycle champion, who came to the Manor House (previously Taylors Farm) in 1978. Charlwood also continues its links with the Court. Following the tradition of Sir Thomas Saunders of Charlwood Place, solicitor to Anne of Cleves (page 52), Sir Leslie Farrer of Charlwood Place Farm has served as solicitor to King George VI and to Queen Elizabeth II, and this post is now filled by his son Matthew who also has a house in the village.

Village societies have always flourished in Charlwood (page 170), and the records of the Charlwood Cottage Garden Society from 1867 to 1887 have recently been restored and bound in the County Records office. Many societies exist at present, but special mention should be made of the Charlwood Society started in 1971. Under the leadership of Lady Farrer and Gerry Lowth, it has done much to create interest in local history, to help preserve historic buildings and to press for good planning. One of its first publications was a map of the parish with drawings of some of the old houses. It was this that caught the interest of Joan Harding, and it was the Charlwood Society that encouraged her research and published her book.

Another publication by the Charlwood Society has been “Charlwood: a look into the past”, a short history of the village compiled for the benefit of local school children. One aspect of village life it revealed was extracts from the log books of the old Charlwood schools (page 166). These books date back to 1872. Poor attendance was the main topic of the earliest years, e.g. “The

scantiness of the attendance is to be regretted"; "18 absent, It would seem that nothing but compulsion will get the children to attend"; "May 8th 24 absent. Crawley Fair. Children gone". Hay making, stag hunting, hare hunting and gathering acorns caused much absenteeism, and there are frequent entries of children sent home for not bringing the money to pay for their schooling.

In 1875 the log reads—Jan 8: "Diptheria on the increase". Jan 15: "Much alarm at increase of diptheria. George Ellis dead. Attendance much worse". Jan 18: "William Brown dead. Diptheria spreading rapidly. An order from the Local Sanitary Board to close school . . . for a month".

*The Church* During the past century, indeed during the past 30 years since "The Free Men of Charlwood" was first published, there have been great changes in Charlwood. But the Parish Church of St. Nicholas remains an unchanging reminder of the continuity of our faith and history.

1950-  
1980

After 41 years as Rector, Canon Grainger Thompson (page 182) retired in 1959, to be followed by Alan Westrup, and in 1972 by the present incumbent David Clark. When Lowfield Heath became cut off by the airport, the church of St. Michael's, previously part of Charlwood parish, was transferred to the Chichester diocese. In October 1977 the Rector's responsibilities were enlarged again when he also became Rector of Sidlow Bridge, the two parishes being held in plurality. One responsibility he no longer has is that of managing the land. The last 11 acres of Glebe land were transferred under the 1978 Act from the control of the Rector to that of the Southwark diocese, thus bringing to an end a tradition at least as old as the Manor of the Rectory (page 130); a tradition which continued through generations of Rectors who farmed their own glebe. The last to do so in Charlwood was Edward Gibson before the first world war.

Moves toward Christian unity have been reflected



Charlwood Church from Cracklow's "Surrey Churches" 1827

locally. An historic occasion occurred on 24th January 1975 when, for the first time for over 400 years, Roman Catholic mass was celebrated in the Parish church. For several years joint services have been held with the United Reform Church, themselves an amalgamation of the Congregationalists and Presbyterians, thus beginning to heal a breach that has existed since the Act of Uniformity in 1662, although the Strict Baptists prefer still to continue their separate way in the ancient Providence Chapel (page 98). The Church has also become more tolerant of other faiths. For example in the Parish Hall in 1977 the Chairman of the local Jewish community conducted a Passover Supper in the traditional way so that the Charlwood congregation could experience the ritual of what is thought by many to have been the Lord's Last Supper.

In the Church of England itself the past thirty years have brought changes in the services and worship. The walls of St. Nicholas, which echoed before the Reformation to the Latin Mass, and for several centuries to

Cranmer's Liturgy and the Authorised version of the Bible, have now grown accustomed to the Family Communion, the New English Bible and the contemporary idiom. Yet the building itself has changed little. The pews under the tower have been removed. The Saunders brass has been renovated and made the subject of an article in the Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society (March 1975). The old helmet (page 68) was stolen from the church and only recovered after a two year chase that extended from Brighton to Yorkshire via the Victoria and Albert Museum.

One mystery about Charlwood church remains unsolved. Why only fourteen years after the Conquest did the Normans choose to come to this impenetrable part of the wealden forest, the wood of the Saxon ceorls or freemen, and persuade them to build the stone church. Was it that Charlwood was an important Saxon iron working centre; if so no traces have yet been found.

1980 will be the church's 900th anniversary. To mark the occasion a week of celebrations is planned, and about an hundred American visitors are to be invited to stay in Charlwood houses.

They will see a typical English village: not particularly picturesque, no stately home, no smart antique shops. A village struggling to maintain its distinct character against the pressures of the modern age and the proximity of an international airport. And yet if they look a little deeper they will find, tucked away out of sight, a wealth of medieval cottages and a community with its roots deep in English history. At the centre of the village the church, a symbol not only of an undying faith but also of the peaceful continuity of village life. A continuity that combined with a resolute resistance to all forms of encroachment has ensured that the people of Charlwood, like their Saxon forefathers, remain free men.

## *The Authors*

Elisabeth Lane died in 1969. Her daughter, Priscilla, has written this *Elizabeth Lane* account of her life.

Geoffrey and Elisabeth Lane bought Lomond in 1921 and lived there for the next forty-six years. The house, at the bottom of Horse Hills, lies just outside the parish boundary, but they decided from the start to belong to Charlwood.

They both loved England – and especially its countryside and countryside people – in a detailed, practical way that focussed happily on the Surrey Union country and Charlwood in particular. Horses and foxhunting were my father's most absorbing passion, and one that mother fully shared. She rode very well indeed and fellow members of the Surrey Union still remember Elisabeth Lane on Mr Jinks up among the leaders.

Her lifetime covered a fascinating span of history. She used to say the starting point was when, as a small girl, she was introduced to an old lady who had met Napoleon; her last thrill was watching the first man to walk on the moon. She saw the lasting stuff of history, from buildings to beliefs, as essentially the creation of ordinary people coping with the pressures and tumults of their times.

Mother had a real genius for friendship and must have known practically everyone in Charlwood. She also had the knack of shaping good ideas into actual projects, recruiting working parties of friends and neighbours and getting her schemes not only off the ground but successfully completed. Under her leadership three W.I.s were formed, successively, in Charlwood, Norwood Hill and Hookwood. The Charlwood W.I. in particular, was a tremendously lively organisation with a dashing dramatic section and a choir which my mother formed and conducted.

Her other major commitment was to Charlwood Church which she served for several years as secretary to the Parochial Church Council. Her success with the W.I. choir led to an invitation to train that of the Church; typically her enthusiasm proved infectious, Charlwood choir really could get the congregation singing with them, and acquired the considerable skill and confidence needed to introduce the difficult but intelligent modern pointing for the psalms that make sense of the words. Mother believed things should make sense. Charlwood is the outermost parish of Southwark diocese and mother's bright idea was of Charlwood-grown flowers and greenery decorating the somewhat sombre cathedral, and of the pleasure this would give to the London congregation. Her journey up from Horley with a carriage full of flowers became a regular Friday special not least to her commuter friends shamelessly pressed into helping cart them across London Bridge.

Of all mother's projects, researching, writing and publishing "The Free Men of Charlwood" in a very happy partnership with Ruth Sewill, was one of the most ambitious and absorbing, and typically the source of many new friendships and additional interests.



Ruth Sewill at Larkins Farm. This fourteenth-century house was demolished during the construction of the airport.

### *Ruth Sewill*

The following notice appeared in the Horley and District News in March 1979.

Ruth Sewill died at her home in Charlwood on March 11th. It is a measure of the pace of modern progress that one of her memories was of being driven by her parents, she was ten at the time, in their old fashioned upright open car from their house in Margate to the cliffs above Dover to see the strange flying machine in which Blériot had just crossed the Channel.

At the end of the first World War she went to France to help care for the blind and the wounded. By then her parents had moved to Purley, and when she returned home she took up the sport of beagling with what were then the Buckland Beagles. It was out beagling that she met her husband, Roger Sewill, who in the early 1920s was starting up a small transport business in his home town of Reigate. In 1932 they moved from Reigate to Charlwood, and the garden of their charming old house 'Staggers Avon' was from then on her constant joy.

During the 1939-45 war while Roger Sewill, who by then had become Director of the Road Haulage Association, was organising the nation's wartime transport Ruth Sewill was Evacuation Officer for Charlwood and coped with billeting several hundred children from London. After the war Roger Sewill became Master of the Surrey Union Foxhounds and she became District Commissioner of the Surrey Union Pony Club, a combination that led them into many amusing equine adventures. At the same time she decided to follow her father's example as an amateur historian (his "Wealden Iron" remains the classic study of the early iron works of Surrey and Sussex); with her friend Elisabeth Lane, she wrote "The Free Men of Charlwood" an outstanding history of the village.

Foxhunting experience meant that there was hardly a field or a farm between Reigate and Horsham, or between Peaslake and Crawley that the Sewill family did not know. And this local knowledge served Ruth Sewill well when, in 1948, she became a member of the Dorking and Horley Rural District Council. She served on the Council for 21 years, being Chairman in 1954-55—the first woman to hold that office. Her particular interest was on the planning side and to her must go at least some of the credit for the fact that this part of Surrey has contained the spread of urban development and retained its rural character. She was a member of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee, and for many years Chairman of the Charlwood Parish Council and a Governor of Charlwood School.

# Index

- Abbot. Archbishop, 99.  
Abrahams Field, 107.  
Ailbright, Nicholas, 17.  
Aitken, A. P. H., 173.  
Alcocke, Thomas, 117, 123, 124.  
Anne of Cleves, 53, 55, 70.  
Apted, Thomas, 151.  
Arundel, Henry, Earl of, 54.  
    Richard, 18. William, 36.  
Attewood (atte Wode), Peter, 28.  
    Simon, 44. Thomas, 30, 43.  
    William, 40, 44.  
Aungier, Francis, Lord, 165.  
Ayling, Mr., 170.
- Bakewell, Robert, 159.  
Bakeworth, 133.  
Baldwin, Edward, 129. William, 126.  
Banister (Banyster), John, 40.  
    Widow, 124.  
Banstead, 18, 29.  
Barebones, 4.  
Barnelands, 91, 95, 132.  
Bashford, Edward, 127.  
Batchelor, John, 141.  
Bax, Richard, 126.  
Beddington, 37, 46, 63.  
Beggarhouse Field, 37.  
Beggarhouse Lane, 37, 96.  
Beggars Gill, 37.  
Belhost, Herbert, 17.  
Best, Edward, 128. William, 137.  
Betchworth, 61, 65, 92, 156.  
Bewbush, 93.  
Billinghurst, Miss O., 173.  
Black Acres, 91.  
Black Corner, 87.  
Blacket, Henry, 119.  
Blackfriars, 57, 75.  
Blanchard, John, 130. Nicholas, 150.  
Blatt (Blott), John, 126. Thomas, 126.  
Bletchingley, 5, 52, 70, 85.  
Bonwicke, Peter, 30.  
Bosworth, 67, 132.
- Bourne, James, 142. John, 142.  
    William, 141, 142, 143.  
Bowyer, Denise, 89, 90. George, 88.  
    Henry, 87, 88, 89. John, 88.  
    Simon, 88. William, 46, 88.  
Bradshaw, Elizabeth, 132.  
Brick House, 124, 129, 133, 168.  
Brighton, 149, 162.  
Bristowe (Burstowe), Christopher, 30.  
    Geoffrey, 17. John, 95, 96, 100, 112,  
    165. Richard, 30. Robert, 33, 122.  
    124.  
Bristowe's Cottage, 96.  
Brittleware, 148.  
Brodmede, 36.  
Brook Farm, 174, 175.  
Brooker (Broker), George, 34, 35, 39.  
    Henry, 130. William, 44.  
Brown, George, 92, 125. John, 92, 110.  
    Thomas, 92, 125. William, 119.  
Buchler, Mr., 169.  
Buckland, 52, 65, 108, 110, 156.  
Burningham, Thomas, 96, 167, 168.  
Burrell, Walter, 88, 102.  
Burstow, 45, 99, 103, 166, 167.  
Bush House, 91, 146.  
Butler, H. T., 171.
- Cade, Jack, 43.  
Calamy, Edmund, 111.  
Canterbury, Christchurch Priory, xii,  
    1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 15, 24, 26, 56, 83.  
Capel, 126, 158.  
Carew, Francis, 39. Nicholas, 37, 38.  
    Richard, 37.  
Carpenter alias Tony, Henry, 43, 44.  
Carwarden (Caurden or Carden),  
    Thomas, 52, 60, 67, 68, 70, 85.  
Caryll (Kirrill) Edward, 88. John, 46,  
    90, 91, 95.  
Caterham, 104.  
Chantersluer, 33, 48.  
Chantler, John, 125, 128. Moses, 136.  
    Nathaniel, 128.  
Chapel Lane, 174.

Charlwood (Charlewood or Cherlewude) 13, 17. Felic, 23, 26. Geoffrey, 80. John, 80, 81, 119, 121, 153. John de, 22, 24, 27. Margery, 27. Mary, 135. Richard, 80. William, 9, 17, 26, 27.

Charlwood Park, 132.

Charlwood Place (Sanders Place), 51, 65, 66, 67, 112, 132, 133, 165.

Charlwood Place Farm, 132.

Charrington (Charington or Cherrington), John, 60, 63. Ursula, 128.

Chart, Thomas, 128.

Chatfield, Dr., 143.

Chaucell, Guy de, 8.

Cheam (Cheiham), 8, 9.

Chichester, Sir Gerald, 170.

Chiddingfold, 10, 16.

Chipstead, 63, 65.

Church, Plans of, 6, 10, 16, 48.

Cinderfield, 91.

Cindery Seventeen, 88.

Clayton, Michael, 164.

Cobham. Anne, 52. Elizabeth née Gatewyk, 25. Joan, 44, 45, 46. John, 45. Reginald de, 17, 25, 52. Reynald, 44, 45. Thomas de, 25, 26.

Colle, 102, 132.

Colling, Charles, 159.

Colmansham (Colmannesham), 36, 37, 39.

Constable, George, 96. John, 96, 117.

Copley, Dame Elizabeth, 63. Roger, 54.

Cornhull, Roger de, 8.

Cottinge, John, 40.

Cottingham, Richard. 72, 98.

Coupers, Plain, 107.

Cowden, 88, 89, 103.

Cox, Francis, 128. Mr., 143.

Crabbitt Park, 89, 102.

Cranmer, Archbishop, 55, 57, 74, 76.

Crawley (Craweley). 45, 56, 87, 146, 148.

Crawters Brook, 17, 169.

Cruste. Robert. 72.

Crutchfield (Crowchfeilde or Cruchefeld), 33. John de, 23.

Cuddington. John, 132. Elizabeth, 132.

Culpeper (Colepeper), Edward, 92. Elizabeth née Wakehurst, 18, 45. John, 45, 46. Margaret née Wakehurst, 18, 45. Nicholas, 45, 92. Richard, 45, 91, 92. Thomas, 45, 92. William, 46.

Cunliffe, W., 171.

Dalton, John, 120.

Dandy, James, 136. Louisa, 137.

Darrell, Christopher, 85.

Dolby Green, 160.

Dorking, 1, 5, 45, 115, 138.

Drawbridge, C., 173.

Dudeney (Dewdney), John, 117, 125.

Dudley S. E., 173.

Dunsfold, 88.

Dunstall, Edmund, 121.

Dyer, Mrs., 21.

Earle, Michael, 34, 50, 94, 95, 99, 112, 116.

Eastlands, 95.

Ede (Eade), George, 94, 117, 124, 132. James, 124, 155. Thomas, 122, 123. William, 117, 132.

Edmead, George, 123.

Edolph, 13. John, 22, 23, 24.

Edolphs, 2, 33, 35, 91, 132.

Edwards, Edward, 100. James, 30, 60.

Eldridge, William, 118, 119.

Elizabeth of York, 37.

Elliot (Elyott), John, 143. Nicholas, 149.

Ellis (Ellys), Albert, 120. Edward, 40. George, 120. John, 123. Thomas, 30, 128. Stephen, 44. William, 154.

Epsom, 149, 151.

Erebridge (Erbage or Erbygge), 57, 123.

Evelyn. John, 85.

Ewell, 6, 65, 70.

Ewood, 56, 85, 86, 92.

Farmfields, 129, 133, 168.

Fatting Hovel, 102.

Fell Street, 132.

Fillery, John, 128.  
Fist, Fruzan, 100. Richard, 100.  
Flanchford, 52, 65, 67.  
Flint, 2. Edward, 119. Thomas, 137.  
Fox, George, 127.  
Foxholes, 89.  
Fronge, le, 36.  
Fulbrooks, 133.

Gale, Leonard, Senr., 88, 100, 101, 102.  
Leonard, Junr., 89, 102, 132,  
Phillippa née Johnson, 102. Sarah  
née Knight. 89, 102.

Gassons (Gasson), James, 155.  
John, 149.

Gassons, 133.

Gatewik (Gatewayk or Gatewayke), 13.  
Joan née de Ifield. 26. John de, 17,  
22, 24, 25, 26. Peter, 24. Ralph, 25.  
Gatton, 5, 54, 63.

Gatwick (Gatewick), 22, 43, 45, 52,  
88, 92, 103-108, 124, 128, 131, 168,  
169, 174.

Gatwick Hall, 164.

Gibson, Edward, 120, 168. Francis, 165.

Glover, Ambrose, 137.

Glovers Wood, 2, 148, 169.

Goble, Mary, 144.

Godebald, 3.

Godbaldesfeldes, 3, 47.

Godstone, 5, 45, 115, 125.

Goodyere, Francis, 74.

Gregories, Thomas, 72.

Greysouthen, 162, 167.

Grindell, William, 41, 51.

Hale, John de, 17. Richard de la  
(atte), 9, 24. Thomas atte, 41, 42.

Hales Bridge, 22, 41.

Half Moon, 132, 144, 151.

Happy Acres, 174.

Harper, John, 71.

Hartswood (Hartewoode), 52, 65, 127.

Hassell, J., 122.

Hasting, C. A., 173.

Hearne, Mrs., 171. Major V. A., 173.

Hesketh, Henry, 89, 102, 108, 117, 118,  
127, 130, 131, 132. Mary (Pillet) 118,  
132. Sarah née Mulcaster, 117.

Highworth, 149.

Hinton (Henton), Thomas, 117, 123,  
124, 128, 132.

H'lawe, John de la, 9.

Hok (Hoke), 13. John de, 17, 22, 27.  
Walter de, 17, 22, 24, 133.

Holebrook, Richard de, 17.

Hook, 105.

Hookwood, xi, 42, 91, 132, 133, 146,  
147, 160, 162, 163, 166, 168, 170,  
174.

Hops, the, 163.

Horley (Horle), 18, 24, 27, 29, 38, 56,  
57, 82, 91, 95, 98, 115, 123, 129, 148,  
149, 157, 166, 167.

Horley, John, 30, 60, 63. William, 61.

Horne, 45.

Horsehills, 146.

Horsham, 61, 98, 101, 141.

Howard of Effingham, William,  
Lord, 54.

Hull, Julian atte, 35.

Humphrey (Humfrey), George, 123,  
124, 132. John, 117, 130. Joseph, 153.  
Matthew, 128. Mr., 153.

Hunts Green, 154, 160.

Hussey, Dr. Laurence, 104.

Hyde (Hide), John, 125. John atte, 23.  
Richard atte, 18. Thomas atte, 23,  
44.

Hydemede, 17, 95.

Hyders, 18-21, 89, 95, 132.

Ifield (Ifelde), 45, 56, 93, 111, 135.

Ingulf, Reynald, 9.

Jackson, Henry, 103.

Janaway, Thomas, 119.

Johnson, Henry, 118, 132, 138.  
Jeremiah, 102, 124, 132. Thomas, 138.

Johnson's Common, 35.

Johnston, Philip, 168, 171.

Jolliffe, Mr. 149.

Jordan (Jurdan or Jordayne).  
Andrew, 64. Catherine (née  
Hussey), 104. Edmund, 104-107, 112.  
Ernest, 24. George, 132. Henry, 30,  
107. James, 96. Joane, 107. John, 24,  
30, 43, 44, 64, 103. Peter, 22, 23, 24,  
103. Phillippa (née Brown), 92, 108,  
110. Rose (née Salmon), 103. Susan  
(née Warnett), 105. Thomas, 107,  
108, 110, 117, 123, 124, 128, 129.  
William, 29, 92, 104, 105, 107, 108,  
118, 131.

Jordan's Country Club, 111.

Katherine of Aragon, 37.

Kent, Thomas, 153.

Killicke, John, 124.

King, Benjamin, 120.

Knapp, 2. Arthur, 120.

Ladyland Barn or Liddland, 107, 154.

Lakere, John, 40.

Lane, Col., 173. John de, 35, 36.  
Mrs., 170.

Lanfranc. Archbishop, 5, 7.

Langton, Simon, 9. Stephen, 8.

Larkins (Lorkuns), 41, 65, 75, 98, 174.

Laukerudene, 3, 28.

Lawrence Green, 148.

Lechford, Henry, 34, 45, 57, 67.  
John, 44. Richard, 105. Thomas, 94.  
William, 40.

Leigh (Lee, Lighe, Lygh or Lye), 18,  
27, 57, 78, 80, 85, 115, 129, 174.

Ley, John, 113, 114. William, 113, 114.

Little Park Farm, 91, 163.

Long Bridge, 24, 145.

Longbrugge, John atte, 24.

Lovel House, 163.

Lowes, Edward, 164.

Lowfield Heath, xi, 18, 57, 124, 128,  
145, 160, 162, 163, 166, 168, 170.

Lucas, John, 60.

Luxford, George, 132, Thomas, 46.

Malden, 63.

Mann, John, 96. Matilda, 23.  
William, 43.

Mans Brook, 22, 42.

March, John, 119.

Martin, Ambrose, 117, 123, 124.  
John, 121.

Mary, H.M. Queen, 170.

Matches Green, 160.

Mears, Thomas, 119.

Medicus, Nigel, 17.

Merstham, xii, 4, 7, 8, 9, 26, 29, 42, 57.

Mesurer, Philip, 51, 55, 61.

Millet, John, 37, 51.

Mine Croft and Minepit Close, 91.

Mitcham, 113.

Moat Farm, 91.

Mole, River (Emel), 17, 41, 91, 95,  
145, 174.

Moone, Eustace and Katherine, 35.

More, Christopher, 58. John, 61.

Mores, le, 36.

Moton, John, 41.

Mount Noddy, 2.

Mulcaster, George, 111. Phillippa (née  
Saunders), 112. Robert, 111.  
Thomas, 96, 106, 111, 112, 113, 115-  
118. William, 94, 105, 111, 112.

Neurs, Simon de, 8.

Neville, George, 45. Thomas, 56.

Newdigate (Nudigate), 15, 41, 57, 82,  
85, 94, 96, 97, 129.

Norwood Hill, xi, 1, 5, 86, 144, 145,  
148, 160, 169.

Nutfield, 5, 61, 62, 113.

Ockley, 4, 45.

Oddeworth, Andrew, 41. Stephen, 40.

Odworth or Park, 30, 132.

Oldlands, 88, 132.

Pagewood, 42, 130.  
 Pit Croft, Four Acres and Meadow, 91  
 Plestor, 139.  
 Plough and Harrow, 132, 145.  
 Pockmires, 2.  
 Poke Okes Lane, 41, 42.  
 Pope Nicholas IV, 15.  
 Porten, Harriet, 165. Juliana, 167.  
 Stanier James, 119, 165, 166.  
 Pound House Lane, 154.  
 Povey Cross, 91, 132, 133, 146-149,  
 154, 175.  
 Providence Chapel, 98.  
 Puckney Gill, 2.  
 Pudding Lane, 86, 102. Croft, 132.  
 Puteo, Reynald de, 9.

Queens Field, 37.

Rawlinson, Robert, 121.  
 Reigate, 7, 21, 54, 65, 82, 110, 123,  
 126, 127, 129, 132, 146, 148, 150.  
 Rickerode, Richarde, 61.  
 Ricketswood, 169.  
 Rings, 98, 127, 132. Lane, 86.  
 Rising Sun, 151.  
 Roberts, Alice (widow of John Charl-  
 wood), 81. James, 81.  
 Robinson, Miss, 170.  
 Roffey, 84.  
 Rounde, Edward, 96. James, 128.  
 John, 128, 132. Richard, 96.  
 Thomas, 40, 98.  
 Rowley (Trule), 17, 18, 45, 54, 91, 92,  
 132.  
 Rowley (Roulegh), John de, 28.  
 Rusper, 97, 132.  
 Russ Hill, 84, 148.  
 Salfords, 174.  
 Sanderstead, 46, 53, 65.

Saunders (Saunder, Sander or Saundre),  
 Agnes (née Courtney), 47. Alice (née  
 Walsingham), 53, 57, 74. Alys (née  
 Hungate), 51, 68, 69. Anne, 138.  
 Edmund, 53, 65, 74, 105, 106, 107,  
 115, 132. Edward 112 115. Eliza-  
 beth, 53, 67. Elizabeth (née  
 Mynes), 77. Henry, 30, 37, 69. Mr.  
 Homer-, 69. Joan, 45. Joan (née  
 Carew), 37, 46, 47, 69. John, 30, 43,  
 45, 61, 96, 157, 163. Margaret, 53,  
 57, 74. Miss, 133. Nicholas, 47, 51,  
 67, 68, 69, 90. Nicholas, Dr., 76-80,  
 104. Richard, 36, 37, 43, 44, 46, 47,  
 48, 51, 69, 77. Roger, 48. Stephen, 36,  
 46. Thomas, 43, 46, 87, 118, 123-126,  
 129, 133, 163.  
 Thomas, Sir, 49, 51-54, 57-60, 63,  
 65-77, 89, 92, 98, 99, 107, 120, 121,  
 133.  
 Thomas Wite, 53, 65, 74, 133.  
 Walsingham, 53, 65, 74. William, 37,  
 43, 46, 47, 54, 57, 70, 77, 89, 90.

Sewill, Mrs., 172. R. W., 165.

Sharp (Sharpe), John, 110, 148.  
 Phillippa, (née Jordan), 110, 148.  
 Thomas, 34.

Shave, Henry, 30.

Shellwood (Shelewood), 28, 33, 34, 57,  
 67, 86.

Shepherd, J. W., 173.

Shiremark, 56, 105, 111, 112.

Shove (Shoe) William, 128, 132.

Shurbridge, 91.

Sidlow, 18, 146, 147.

Simmons, H. J., 173.

Sittingbourne, John of, 9.

Six Bells, 24.

Skyner, John, 54.

Sloghterwyk, 2, 4, 47.

Sloterwik, John ate, 23. Richard de, 22.

Smith, Antony, 123. Henry, 96, 97.  
 Thomas, 128.

Southwark, xii, 71, 72, 81, 171.

Southwell, Margaret (née Nevil), 56,  
 86. Robert, 34, 56, 57, 67, 71, 86,  
 107, 114.

Spicers, 42, 89, 132.

Spottles, 132, 160.

Stacey, William, 120.  
 Stagers Avon, 140, 160.  
 Stanbridge, Richard, 72.  
 Stanhill, 84, 145, 162, 167.  
 Stanley, Edward, 128.  
 Stoke, 123.  
 Stombelhole, 93, Alice de, 23. Alice de, 23.  
 Stone Bridge, 42.  
 Stote, Richard, 9.  
 Sutton, 146, 147.  
 Symond, William, 3, 4.  
 Symondesrudene, 3, 28.  
  
 Tandridge, 115.  
 Tanyard Farm, 127.  
 Tax, Thomas, 126.  
 Taylor (Taylour), Edward, 124, 126, 127. Margaret, 47. Thomas, 117.  
 Tekerygge, Thomas, 44.  
 Telvet, 132.  
 Templemore. Lady, 170.  
 Thompson, W. Grainger, 120, 171, 177.  
 Throckmorton, William, 124, 133.  
 Thunderfield, 4.  
 Thurnham, Robert de, 8, 9.  
 Tidy, Faulkner, 150, 153.  
 Tifters (Testers), 90, 99, 122, 132, 163, 170.  
 Tilgate, 46, 92.  
 Timberham (Kimberham, Kymber-sham or Kilmanbridge), 4, 42, 125, 131, 164.  
 Tinsley (Tinceley), 87, 88, 89, 148, 168.  
 Tournour, Alexander, 3.  
 Tournoursrudene, 3, 28.  
 Tyler, John, 119. Wat, 31.  
  
 Venour, Joseph, 148.  
 Vitrearius, Laurence, 10.  
 Vivasur, Emma, 17. Walter, 17.  
  
 Wakehurst (Wekehurst), John, 18, 23, 24. Richard, 18. William de, 17, 18.  
 Walker, Dr., 111, 113.  
 Waller, Sir Wathen, 166.  
 Walsingham, Edmund, 53.  
 Walsingham, Edmund, 53. Francis, 53, 77.  
 Walshe (Walshe), John, 42, Peter, 40.  
 Walton, 29, 65.  
 Warnham, 90, 91.  
 Wassheford, Jeremiah, 126. John, 30, 33. Richard, 33. Robert, 33. Thomas, 33.  
 Watermans Green, 160.  
 Weavers Cottage, 140.  
 Weeks, John, 125.  
 Weeklands, 132.  
 Welland Green, 127, 132, 160.  
 Wellpools, 2.  
 Wengham, Henry de, 9.  
 Westerham, 135.  
 Westfield, 41, 132, 149, 160.  
 Weston, Richard, 159.  
 Wheatley, George, 98, 170.  
 White (Wyte, Whyte or Whyght), Col., 113, Thomas, 23, 43, 44. Walter, 56. William, 44.  
 Whites Green, 67, 129, 132, 133, 160.  
 Wickens, Frederick, 120. Thomas, Senr., 170, 171. Thomas, Junr., 173.  
 Wicks (Wicker), Edward, 125. Elizabeth, 140. William, 153.  
 Wiggepole (Wyggepole), 2, 13. Walter, 3, 23, 24, 46.  
 Wilkins, Emery, 140, 145, 155, 161. Nicholas, 130.  
 Wilkins Gill, 148.  
 Willet (Willat), Richard, 117, 118. William, 117.  
 Windmill Plat and Field, 163.  
 Wise, Henry, 119, 133, 154, 159, 165, 166, 167.  
 Wogern, John, 21.  
 Wolvers, 133.

Wood, James, 132. Richard, 125.

Woodhatch, 146.

Woodmansterne, 65.

Woolbarn, 140.

Worth (Woorth), 88, 101, 141, 148.

Wrighte, Emery, 120. Jonathan, 116.

John, 30, 34, 116. Katherine, 116.

Robert, 114-117. Sarah, 116.

Wyatt, Thomas, 70, 71.

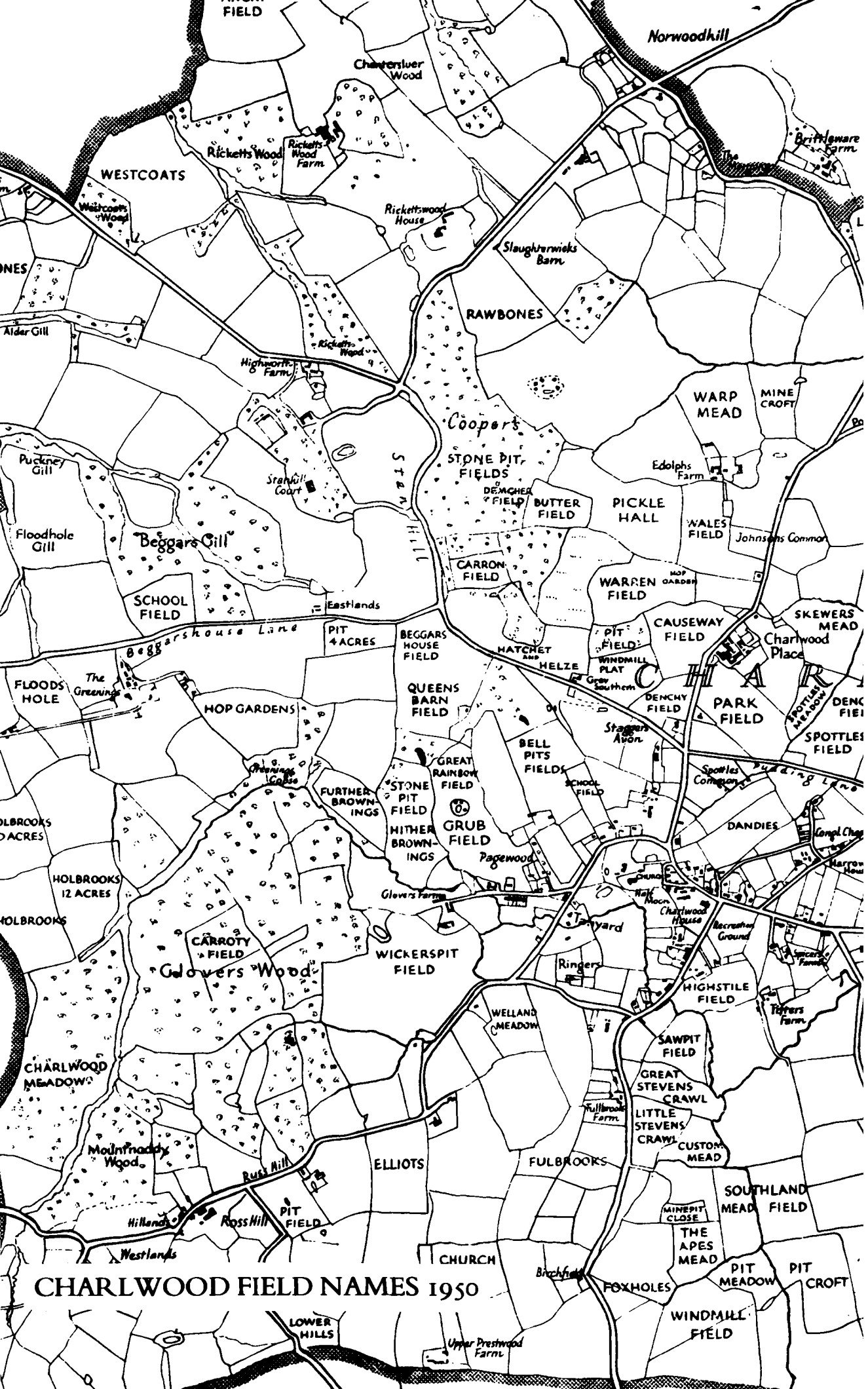
Wykeland (Wykelond), 34, 57, 67, 105.

Wykewood, 65.

Wytecroft, Ralph de, 9.

Further names will be found in the  
Appendices and on pages 23, 30, 40,  
43, 44 and 117.





# CHARLWOOD FIELD NAMES 1950

