

HITCHAM, OR HUCHAM,

is bounded, on the North, by Taplow-common; on the East, by Burnham; on the South, by Taplow; and on the West, by the Thames.

THE MANOR.

At the Domesday Survey, Hitcham was the land of Milo Crispin, and contained six hides. It was reckoned parcel of the Honor of Walingford, till the abolition of feudal tenures; and was holden by two feudatory tenants, Ralph and Roger, who also held eight hides and a half in Marlow.¹

In an Inquisition taken after the death of Edmund Earl of Cornwall, in 1300, (28 Edw. I.) it is stated, that Milo de Bello Campo held of him three Knights' fees, belonging to the Honor of Walingford, in Hitcham and Marlow, in Bucks; and in Crowton, in Northamptonshire. In the Testa de Nevill, (about 1234) Milo Neyrunt held that land in Crowton, of the Honor of Walingford.

In an Inquisition, after the death of Edward the Black Prince,² Hitcham is stated to be held of him, as of the Honor of Walingford, by the heirs of Milo Beauchamp, as one Knight's fee and a half; and that the same heirs held, in conjunction with John Welton, one Knight's fee in Little Marlow, of that Honor. Brydges states that these heirs held two parts of a Knight's fee in Crowton, at that time.³

By Isabella, heir of the Beauchamps, this Manor descended (6 Ric. II.) to the family of Ramsey, the first of whom, recognized as Lord of Hitcham, was Nicholas, son of Adam Ramsey, Esq. His grandson, or great grandson, Thomas Ramsey, died in 1509, seised of this Manor; as did his son Thomas Ramsey, in 1524, leaving an only daughter, Elizabeth, then an infant.

In 1247, fines were passed of lands in Hucham, between Gilbert de Lenglegh and Maud his wife, and Miles Neyrunt, the right of Maud; and between William Fukot, and Ralph Corkel and Agnes his wife, the right of the former.⁴

Another fine was passed in 1248, between Geoffrey de Hengsterre and Gilbert de Linley and Maud his wife, of lands here, the right of Geoffrey;⁵ and in 1262, between Walter Goinn and Ralph Goinn, of messuages, lands, and rents, in Burnham, Cypennham, Dorney, Eton, Tappelawe, Hucham, and Bekenesfeld, the right of Walter, who granted the same to Ralph for his life.⁶

In 1289, a fine was passed between Eustace de la Haleweye and Thomas de Lunleye (Langley?) and Alice his wife, of lands and wood in Hucham, the right of Eustace.⁷

Upon the advancement of Edmund Langley, Earl of Cambridge, to the dukedom of York, in 1391, he obtained a grant of the Manor of *Hychen*, in Bucks, then valued at 100*l.* per ann. as also the Manor of Somerford Keynes of 40 marks per ann., and of the Manor of Wendover of 84*l.*⁸

James Doe, Esq. died seised of this Manor, 23 May, 1678; as did Edward Nicholas, Esq. 28

¹ Terra Milonis Crispin. In Bvrehā Hd'. Raduf' et Rogeri' ten' de Milone Hvchehā, p. vi. hid. se defd. Tra'. ē. vi. cař. In dñio sunt. ii. et viii. uilli hāt. iiii. car'. Ibi. iiii. serui. P'tū. cař. Silua c. porc'. De una piscar' qngent' anguill. In totis ualent ual. iiii. lib. Q'do recep'. xx. sol. T.R.E. c. sol. Hoc tū tenuit Haming' teign' R.E. et uende' potuit. [Lib. Cens. tomi. fol. 149, b.]

² Esc. 2 Ric. II. n. 57.

³ Rot. Fin. 32 Hen. III.

⁴ Rot. Fin. 18 Edw. I.

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⁵ Hist. of Northamptonshire, vol. i. p. 158.

⁶ Ibid. 33 Hen. III.

⁷ Ibid. 47 Hen. III.

⁸ Dugdale's Baronage, v. ii, p. 157.

March 1700, whereupon it was purchased by Dr. John Friend, the celebrated Physician and Writer,¹ who died in possession thereof in July 1728; soon after which, it came by purchase, into the hands of William Wyndham, Lord Grenville, by whose representatives the estate is now holden.²

The Mansion House, long since demolished, stood N.E. of the Church; but many of the walls, which enclosed the kitchen gardens, and formed part of the domestic offices, still remain. In the old hall was a large picture of King Cha. I. on horseback, at full speed; and a full length of his Queen, in the character of St. Catherine; another, supposed to be an original of Oliver Cromwell; a copy of a portrait of King Cha. II. in armour; whole lengths of Lord and Lady Sunderland, presents to Dr. Mead, who was their Physician; with a copy of the celebrated picture of The Misers, at Windsor Castle, &c.³

RECTORS.

- Robert*, died Rector 1269.
Robert de Acle, pres. 13 Feb. 1269, by the Prior and Convent of Merton, in Surrey.
Richard de Herringwell, pr. 5 March 1277.
Edmund de Burnham, pr. 5 March 1324.
Elias de Sco Edmundo, pr. 7 Jan. 1342.
Thomas died Rector 1361.
John de Wrazton, pr. 14 Feb. 1361.
John Akerman exchanged for Thorley, Herts, with
John Barton, 2 June 1405. He exchanged for Rowbarrow, Co. Somerset, with
Lewis Kinnerdesley, 19 Sept. 1406.
Robert de Manfield was admitted 19 Feb. 1439. He was also Rector of Taplow.
Thomas Nordrym resigned 1444.
Robert Kokesey, pr. 14 May 1444. He resigned.
Robert Whithead, pr. 4 Dec. 1477.⁴
Richard Appulton died Rector 1483.
Richard Spurman, pr. by the Bishop, by lapse, 30 Nov. 1483.
William Sampson, pr. 4 July 1515.
Richard Erington, pr. 6 June 1522. He resigned.
John Belfield, A.B. pr. 5 Jan. 1531; occurs Rector 1534.
Thomas Beake succeeded 22 Aug. 1536.
Robert ap Griffith, pr. 2 July 1538; and was the last Rector presented by Merton Priory.
Thomas Story, pr. by the Queen 1553.
Bartholomew Green, pr. 9 Sept. 1555, by the King and Queen.
John Ball, pr. 2 Oct. 1556.
Thomas Hall, pr. by Roger Alford and Eliza his wife, 25 Dec. 1566.
Robert Lloyd, A.M. pr. 13 Oct. 1592. He occurs Rector 1607; Sir William Clarke being returned as Patron, and was living in 1625.
William Serjeant, pres. 1629, by Sir Francis Clarke. He occurs Rector 1650, when the value was returned, 80*L*.
James Herring, pr. 9 Nov. 1660, by Mr. Cha^r. Doe.
George Evans, inst. 28 March 1667, on the pr. of John Doe, Gent.
William Montagu, A.M. pr. 20 March 1701, by Mrs. R. Evans, of Windsor Castle; and, on his resignation,

¹ Dr. John Friend, married in 1709, Anne eldest daughter of Thomas Morice, Esq. then Paymaster of the Forces in Portugal, by whom he had issue an only son, John, who died, unmarried, in 1750. Friend is said to have had all the practise of the Tories, as Mead had of the Whigs; and when the former was sent to the Tower, on suspicion of being concerned in a plot, Dr. Mead attended his patients, and restored to him all the fees which he had received. Friend was in such repute, that he had 300 guineas for a journey from London to Ingestrie in Staffordshire, to attend Mr. Pulteney, who lay dangerously ill. He was succeeded in this property by his son. Mrs. Friend, who died in 1737, was buried here, near her husband. [Nicholls's Lit. Anec. vol. ix. p. 583.]

² In October 1837, in the progress of the works on the line of the Great Western Railway, in this parish, near its abutment on Taplow, one mile east of Maidenhead bridge, on the declivity of a gravel hill sloping to the road, (subsequently entirely removed by the formation of the Railway) two very rude Roman Urns of unbaked pottery were found about two feet below the surface; the smaller, three inches and a half high, and the same in diameter; containing a number (not exactly ascertained, but said to be from 400 to 500) of Roman Silver Coins, averaging the weight of 2 dwts. 2 grains each. Amongst those which were minutely examined, were the Imperial Coins of Otho, Vespasian, Domitian, Nero, Trajan, Marciana, Hadrian, Sabina, Antoninus Pius, Faustina, Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius associated, Aurelius alone, and Lucilla. They were supposed to have been buried in the reign of Aurelius, or early in that of Commodus. The spot is not far from Bury-hill, at Taplow, the site of the Mansion of the Earl of Orkney. [Gent. Mag. vol. viii. New Series.]

³ MSS. Thorold, in Bib. Soc. Antiq.

⁴ See HEDGERLEY.

Richard Sleaf, A.M. inst. 6 July 1702. He died 1729-30; and was buried at Windsor, being Canon.

Thomas Archer,¹ succeeded 1729, on the presentation of Thomas Evans, Clk. and inst. 2 April 1730. [This Advowson was given to ETON COLLEGE, by Dr. Evans, whose heirs, on his death, he obliged always to present on Eton College nomination.]

Edmund Gibson, A.M. inducted 13 Dec. 1743.

Henry Sleaf, A.M. nominated by the Provost and College of Eton to the King, and by him presented for

this turn, by reason of the lunacy of Cath. Archer, inducted 3 Nov. 1771.

Thomas Pulton, Clk. pr. by the King for this turn, by reason as before, inducted 17 May 1785.

Joseph Goodall, D.D. pr. 7 May 1811. by Thomas Archer, of South Church, Co. Essex; the true and undoubted Patron thereof, in full right, on the nomination of the Provost and College of Eton.

W. M. Grover, A.M. was inducted March 1833, on the resignation of Dr. Goodall.

THE CHURCH

consists of a nave and chancel; and has, at the west end, a square embattled tower, and on the south side a porch. The windows, which appear to have been very rich in painted glass, still retain several figures, but much mutilated. The eastern window of the chancel consists of five lights, cinquefoil-headed, with two large quarterfoils, and a wheel above them. The chancel windows have slender columns of elegant proportion, their capitals being richly ornamented. Between the nave and chancel is a massive Norman arch, and on each side a large corbel carved, with a human head.

On a large plate of brass, affixed to a slab in the pavement, within the altar rails, is the following inscription:

HERE LYETH BVRIED SIR FRANCIS CLARKE KNIGHT YONGEST SONNE OF SIR WILLIAM CLARKE OF HITCHAM KNIGHT. HEE MARRIED GRIZELL DAUGHTER OF S^r DAVID WOODROOFE OF POYLE IN SVREY KNIGHT BY WHOME HE HAD ISSEVE THREE SONNES VIZ. JOHN WILLIAM AND EDMYND, AND FIVE DAUGHTERS GRIZELL DOROTHY FRANCES MARY AND ELIZABETH. HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE EIGHTEENTH OF MARCH ANNO DOMINI 1631.

At the head or west end of the same slab are these arms, in a lozenge-shaped plate:

Per fess and pale of six: 1. On a bend between 3 pellets 3 swans: in a sinister canton, a demi-ram saliant debriused with a baton in bend between two fleurs-de-lis in Chief: in middle Chief a crescent. *Clarke*. 2. *Ramsey*. 3. Vaire: in Chief a label of 3 points. 4. Within a bordure compone a lion ramp. 5. *Baldwin*. 6. *Erm.* a fess Cheque turtout in fess point a crescent. *Crest*: on a wreath a ram's head coupé at the neck.

At the foot or east end of the slab, these arms on an oblong square plate:

Clarke, as before impaling quarterly: 1. on a chev. 3 bucks' heads attired: on a Chief nebule of four pieces. 2. A fess charged with 5 *Erm.* between 2 lions passant gardant. 3 as 2. 4 as 1; within an arabesque border.

On the north side of the chancel is a very noble monument of alabaster, with the recumbent statue of a man in armour, of full proportion, on a mat upon an altar tomb, under a canopy, from which are suspended curtains of marble, held back by two Knights in armour. The principal effigy has a pointed beard, large ruff, his hair combed up before, his hands devoutly placed on his breast, with finely finished coat of mail cuirasses and greaves; within the recess, under the canopy, on one side, in alto-relievo, a helmet, with a beautiful plume or crest of feathers: on the other side a pair of gauntlets saltire-wise; the plume painted red and white, the gauntlets party gilt, as is the armour of the Knight. The armed Knights, who support the frieze and cornice above the recess, and hold back the curtains, are exquisitely finished; the one on the sinister side rests his left hand on the pommel of his sword, and has wrinkled or folded boots, with piqued tops turned down.

On the base:

Here lies Sir William Clarke, Kn^t sonne and heire to Nicholas Clarke, of North Weston, Esq. & sonne and heire to Elizabeth Ramsey, of Hitchā. He died y^r first of February A^o Dni. 1624.

In front of the altar tomb on which the statue reposes, are small figures of three sons on the dex-

¹ He was the Son of Benjamin Archer, S.T.P., Rector of Quainton.

ter side and two daughters on the sinister side; of the former, one is in armour, the other in cloaks, as are also one male and two female figures, on a grade lower, in front of the tomb: and all the figures devoutly kneeling. Above this monument is an old steel helmet and the remains of a banner.

On an altar-tomb of Sussex marble, in the body of the chancel, on a brass plate, the effigy of a man in armour, his head resting on an helmet, his hands devoutly pressed together, and a long sword by his side. On his right hand the figures of two sons in gowns; on his left the figure of one daughter, and the mark of a plate of another which has been taken away:



Here lieth Nicolas Clarke Esquier sonne and heyer to syr John Clarke of Weston Knight that tooke the Duke of Longebyle prisoner, who married with Elizabeth Ramsey sole Daughter and heyer unto Thomas Ramsey of Bycham Esquier, by whom he had iiij

children, namely, Jane, William, Dorothee, & John: and Dyed of the Sweet in the moneth of Julpe, in the yere of our Lorde mccccli.

Here also lyeth by her father Ann Clarke one of the sayd iiij Children, who Dyed in her tender yeres before marriage, in April Anno dni mccccxliij.

On a plate of brass the arms of *Clarke*.

Impaling quarterly. 1. A chev. between 3 ram's heads. 2. Vaire. 3. A lion ramp. within a bordure. 4. A saltire between 4 eagles displayed.

On a brass plate the following inscription:

An Epitaph upon Jane Clark.

Lapt in the moode wherein the father lyes
The daughter dead here resteth in her grave
F fraught erst with thynges and vertues in such wise
As eber yet such tender yeres could have
But God who kntke her meete for him alone
Dyd take her hens and left her frendes to mone.

Affixed to a slab, in the pavement of the nave, are effigies of a man in armour, with a very large and broad sword by his side, the skirts of his doublet of chain mail; and of a lady with pointed head-dress, long veil, open cuffs of ermine, and pointed stomacher: at their feet four sons, in open sleeved gowns, or surplice, and three daughters, with veils:

Near the angles of the stone are escutcheons of brass with the arms of *Ramsay*:

Pray for y^r soules of Thomas Ramsey & Margaret his wyf, which Thomas decessed the xxx day of January the yere of o^r lord M.V.LX. on whose soules Jhu have mercy. Amen.

On the south side of the chancel, within the Communion-rails, is a monument with statues: a man in plate armour with a large ruff, kneeling on the east side of a desk: and a lady with an angular head dress, long lappets, and ruff, opposite to the former. Behind the principal figures, two smaller statues of a son and a daughter, similarly habited, within a recess, bounded by pillars of black marble, supporting a broken pediment; in the centre of which is a shield, with these arms:

Gu. Six pears, 3 and 3, and a Chief Or. *Crest*: on a wreath Gu. and Or. a bear's head S. The like coat is repeated on a smaller shield within the recess, above the altar.

On the cornice is inscribed:

TRUST AND MISTRUST.

In the recess:

We believe that our Redeemer Lyveth, and that we shall rise out of the Earth at the last day, and that we shall be clothed again with this skin. Job xix.

On the altar or desk, between the figures:

Christ is to us life; and Death is to us gain. St. Paul to Philippians, ch. i.

On the basement:

Here lieth buried Roger Alford of London and late of Hitcham Esquire, who married Elizabeth Clark, Widow, late Wife of Nicholas Clark of Weston Esquire, and daughter and heir of Thomas Ramsey of Hitcham Esquire, and after they had lived together about twenty years he died the 16th day of July A^o Dni. 1580, et Reg. Eliz. 22. leaving issue behind him by her Anne and Edward. The said Anne married since her Father's death Edmund Fettiplace of Chorley Esq^r and Edward Alford his Son and Heir, who was at his Father's death of the age of 15 yeares 2 moneths and odd dayes. The said Elizabeth had issue by Mr. Clark her first Husband, who was son and heir of St^r John Clark of Weston, Knight, 2 sonnes and 2 daughters; Jane, who died before marriage; William, who married Margaret one of the daughters of St^r John Borne, Kn^t and Dorothy, who first was married to Henry Long of Shingay, and after to Charles Morrison of Chashiobery, Esquire, and John, a Student and Master of Arts in Camebrige. This monument Elizabeth Alford made in her widowhed for Mr. Alford and for herself, when God shall appoint the tyme.

On a sepulchral slab, within the altar-rails, arms of *Friend*, in relievo:

H. J.

Johannes Friend, M.D. Serenissimæ Reginæ Carolinæ Archiater et hujus Manerii Dominus, Obiit 26^{to} Julij 1728, æt. 52.

On slabs, in the floor of the chancel:

Here lieth buried y^e Body of Gresselda Clarke, Daughter of John Clarke, Esq. & Philadelphia his Wife, who was born the 2^d of Dec. 1646, and died y^e 4 Nov. 1647.

Here lieth the body of Philadelphia Clarke, daughter of John Clarke, Esq. and Philadelphia his wife, who departed this life y^e 18th of September 1646, aged 9 months od dayes.

In the pavement, are several ancient sepulchral stones, some of them coffin-shaped; and on one of that form, in the nave, is a pastoral staff in relievo.

On a slab, in the pavement of the nave, at the entrance into the chancel:

John Grey Bennet, second son of Charles Earl of Tankerville, by Alicia his Wife, died August 23^d 1753.

On another slab, in the nave:

Three infant children of the Rev^d George Gretton, D.D. and Mary his wife: also their dearly beloved son, Edward Thomas Gretton, who died October the 9th 1800, aged eight years the first of June.

Stop, Passenger, and shed the plaintive tear
For youthful innocence that slumbers here:
Like a fair flower in spring, his mother's pride,
Nip'd in the bloom of opening sweets, he died:
Yet less for him let Pity's tear be giv'n;
He changes pain for bliss, and earth for heav'n.
Weep for a Father's heart with grief oppress,
And the keen pangs that rend a Mother's breast.

On a mural monument:

In a vault near this place are deposited the Remains of Robert Walpole Esq. son of the Hon^{ble} Robert Walpole, and Nephew to Horatio 4th Earl of Orford. He died on the 15th day of August 1811, aged 49 years.

Also of Elizabeth Walpole, Relict of the above, and third daughter of the late Sir Benjamin Hammet, M.P. for Taunton. She died on the 19th day of March 1815, aged 49 years.

Arms: Quarterly, 1. Or. on a fess between two chevrons S. three cross crosslets of the First. 2. Az. a lion ramp. Or. 3 as 2; 4 as 1. impaling party per fess, Arg. and Gu. a pale counterchanged; surtout, a lion ramp. Or. powdered with comets. In a canton Arg. five fleurs-de-lis, 2. 1. 2.

On sepulchral slabs, in the pavement:

Richard Walpole, Esq. and Elizabeth his wife: also Louisa Hammet, widow.

On a white marble tablet:

In memory of Louisa Hammet, widow of the late Sir Benjamin Hammet, M.P. for Taunton, who died at Florence on the 16th of November 1814, aged 70 years: from which place her remains were conveyed to England for interment in his Vault in this Church.

On a mural monument, affixed to the south side of the nave, having a medallion, with the head in profile, and various ornaments:

Underneath lie the remains of George Cruickshank, Esq. formerly a Merchant of Amsterdam, who, by uncommon abilities and indefatigable application, acquired an ample Fortune with the strictest integrity and honour, which he employed in constant acts of charity and generosity most agreeable to his nature. Few men ever possessed a greater share of natural Talents, and none (in busy life as his was) ever improved them with more acquired endowments, which were aided by such a perspicuity of judgment and of reasoning on all subjects, as convinced and delighted all who conversed with him. Superior to every interested consideration, all the actions of his life discovered the most enlarged and benevolent mind: in fine, the greatness of his capacity was equalled only by the goodness of his disposition.

Finella, his wife (one of the Daughters of Henry Pye, late of Faringdon House, in the County of Berks, Esq. by Anne, sister of Allen Lord Bathurst), who possessed his most tender affection, returned the same particularly, by a faithful and constant attention to him during a tedious illness, which, alas! being ineffectual to preserve him longer in life, she hath erected this monument of affection for him in his death.

He died September 1st 1765, aged 56 years.

Arms: Or. three boars' heads S. impaling

Crest: On a wreath, a boar's head.

On an atchievement in the chancel:

Az. a pouter pigeon Proper: impaling, a lion ramp. Or. crowned Proper. *Crest*: On a wreath, a pouter pigeon.

On another atchievement, in the nave:

Hammet impaling *Crest*: A zany's head, with his cap Gu. on a ducal coronet.

On another:

Az. a lion ramp. Or.: in a canton Arg. seven mullets 2, 2, 3, impaling Gu.; a lion's head erased between three estoils of six points wavy Or.

On a mural tablet, in the chancel:

To the memory of the best of Wives, the best of Parents, and most excellent of Women, Anne Delme, Lady Ravensworth, who died June the 12th 1794, in the 82^d year of her age, and is buried in this Church. Her truly grateful and affectionate daughter placed this tablet. "The blessing of him who was ready to perish came upon her, and she caused the widow's heart to sing for joy."

Arms: Arg. fretté Gu. *Liddell*, Baron Ravensworth. On a chief of the Last, three leopards' faces Or. impaling Or. an anchor Proper, between two lioncels passant guardant Gu. *Supporters*: on the dexter side, a lion; on the sinister, a lion spotted purple; both gorged murally Az.

On a slab in the pavement:

Anne Delme, Lady Ravensworth.¹

On another slab, in the chancel:

Here lieth the Body of Sir John Henry More, Bart. who departed this life the 16th of January 1780, in the 26th year of his age.

Also of Susanna Jane Dickson, only Daughter of Sir Henry Moore, Bart. by Catharine-Maria, his wife, who died 15th of April 1821.

On an atchievement:

Az. three mullets Arg. on a chief of the Last, three bendlets; sinister, purple: in an escutcheon of pretence Arg. three greyhounds courant in pale S. collared Or.

Here lies y^e Body of Edward Nicholas Esq. second Son of the R^t Hon^{ble} S^r Edward Nicholas Princip^l Secretary of State to their Maj^{ties} King Charles the 1st and 2^d. He departed this Life the 21st Day of May 1696.

Here also lies y^e Body of Bridgett Nicholas his Wife, Daughter of S^r Thomas Clayton of the Vache in the Parish of S^t Peter's Chalfont in this County. She departed this Life the 28th day of May 1692.²

The REGISTER BOOKS contain the following entries:

Dr. John Friend, Lord of this Manor, and first Physician to Her Majesty Queen Caroline, was buried on the 2^d of August 1728.

Mrs. Ann Friend, widow, relict of Dr. John Friend, Lord of this Manor, was buried Sep^r 21st 1737.

John Friend, Esq. Lord of this Manor, was buried April 8th 1750.

Robert Friend, Esq. buried in the chancel Jan. 25th 1760.³

¹ She was sole daughter of Sir Peter Delme, Knt. Alderman and Lord Mayor of London; married April 1735; and mother of Anne, Duchess of Grafton.

² Le Neve, vol. iii. p. 174.

³ Vide Nicholls's Literary Anecdotes, vol. v. p. 100.