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PAPERS, ETC.

Memorials of the Manor and Rectory
of Limington.

EXTRACTS FROM A PAPER
CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN TANSWELL, ESQ.,
(INNER TEMPLE.)

THE parish of Limington, (or the town upon the Torrent *Lim* in the old British, vide Collinson), is situated on the River Yeo or Ivel, about a mile from the ancient town of Ilchester. It contains about 300 inhabitants, and is divided into two tithings, namely, Limington, and Draycot, a hamlet lying a short distance to the eastward.

In the time of King Edward the Confessor, the lordship of Limington was in the possession of one Saulf. From him it came into the hands of the monks of Glastonbury, who conveyed it to Roger de Curcelle in exchange for five

hides of other land (from 500 to 700 acres). From him it descended by inheritance to his son Roger de Curcelle, who possessed it at the time of the Norman survey (1070 or thereabouts), its value at that time being the same as in the reign of Edward the Confessor, namely, £7.

Draycot was the land of Robert, Earl of Norton. A small portion of this town was held by Godwin, one of the King's Thanes. It rendered 2s. per annum.

From the De Curcelles the manor of Limington came to the Barons Beauchamp of Hache; from them to the Fitzbernards; and subsequently to the Gyverneys.

In the reign of Edward the Second, a Sir Richard Gyverney, or Juverney, was Lord of the Manor, and resided in a "farme" or manor-house, on the N.E. side of the church.

Having no issue (male) the estates of Sir Richard descended to Henry Power, who had married Maud, his sister; which, Henry Power died, seized of this manor, 35th, Edward III., 1360 leaving an only daughter Joan, aged 18 years, who was married to William de Sharesulle.

In the 15th of Richard II. (1391) John Schurchulle, or Churchulle, released to Thomas, Bishop of Exeter, William Boneville, John Streccher and others "a moiety of the manor of Limington, late of Henry Power, in the county of Somerset."

Sir William de Boneville held this manor at his death (9th of Henry IV., 1407) of Lord Beauchamp, and from him it descended by inheritance to his cousin Sir William Boneville, of Chewton, Somerset. He had issue by Margaret, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Sir John Meriott, knight, a son, Sir William Boneville, who was summoned to Parliament by the title of Lord Boneville, of Chewton, from 23rd Sept., 1449, to 30th July, 1460, and

received the order of the Garter. To his custody was committed Henry VI., after the battle of Northampton. This William, Lord Boneville, had an only son William, who died before his father, having married Elizabeth, sole daughter and heiress of William, Lord Harrington, K.G., and had issue William Boneville, Lord Harrington, who was slain at the battle of Wakefield (1460), in the lifetime of his grandfather, leaving an only child, Cicely, who became the second wife of Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, K.G. Their son Thomas, Marquis of Dorset, Lord Groby of Harrington and of Astely, K.G., &c., presented Thomas Wolsey (afterwards Cardinal) to the rectory of Limington. Upon the attainder in 1554, of Henry, Duke of Suffolk and Marquis of Dorset, (being a grandson of the above-mentioned Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset), the Boneville estates came to the crown.

On 15th May, 1563, Queen Elizabeth granted—in consideration of £1135 6s. 4d., to William Rosewell, Esq., Solicitor General, and William Rosewell, his father, Thomas Rosewell, of Dunkerton, gentleman, cousin of the said W. Rosewell, jun., William Smythes, of Wyke and Henry Dale, of Yatton, co. Somerset, and their heirs—the manor of Limington, &c., in trust for William Rosewell the son, and his heirs.

In the 15th of Charles II. (1663), by act of Parliament, and a decree of Chancery, arising out of nonperformance of trust by Sir Henry Rosewell, the manor was sold to James Tazewell. James Tazewell died 26th March, 1683, seized of this manor, leaving three sons, James, his heir, William and Stephen him surviving. In 1689 it was conveyed by James Tazewell to Vertue Radford and Edward Allen; and in 1703 by their son to E. Aden; he devised it by will to John Aden, who sold it to James

Colebrook and James Ruck, and they sold it to John Walker. The manor subsequently became the property of St. Barbe Sydenham, Esq., whose daughter and heiress married Lewis Dymoke Grosvenor Tregonwell, of Cranbourne, Dorset, Esq.

It was afterwards purchased by Thomas Lockyer, of Maperton, Esq.; he left it to his daughter Elizabeth, who was married to Edward Phelips, of Montacute, Esq., sometime M.P. for Somerset, and after his decease, to Samuel Rodbard, of Evercreech, Esq. At her decease it came to her sister Mary, who was married to Samuel Smith, of Aldermanbury, London, Esq., M.P. for Worcester, and after his decease, to Robert William Brettingham, of London, Esq. By the marriage of Elizabeth Smith, eldest daughter and only surviving child of Mary Smith, with George Thomas Williams, Esq., barrister-at-law, the manor of Limington is vested in Mr. and Mrs. Williams, who reside in a new house built by them on the site, and partly consisting of, the old manor house.*

The advowson of Limington was, by an indenture made the 4th of May, 1695, "betweene James Tazewell, of Limington, in the county of Somersett, gentleman, and William Tazewell, student of Christ Church in the University of Oxford," conveyed by the said James Tazewell, to his brother William;† who proceeded to the degree

* Since writing the above, Mrs. Williams departed this life, at Limington, on the 14th March, 1857.

† This gentleman (who became Rector of St. Mary, Newington Butts, Surrey, where he died in 1731) used the orthography of *Taswell*; his grandfather's baptism is thus entered at Buckland Newton, co. Dorset:—"Julii, 1588, vicessimo quinto diè mensis predicti baptizatus fuit *Jacobus Tanswell* filius *Will'mi Tanswell* de Buckland." This name, like those of Gascoigne, Raleigh, and others, has undergone various mutations; that of Gascoigne no less than nineteen, and Raleigh about six. In the parish register of Limington, are four variations from the original at Buckland Newton, and on other registers a greater number.



LIMINGTON CHURCH, SOMERSET.



EFFIGIES, FONT, AND PANEL, LIMINGTON CHURCH.

of D.D. He settled the advowson, on his marriage with Frances, daughter and co-heiress of Edward Lake, D.D.; on his eldest son; who, (having the vicarage of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire,) sold it to John Walker, Esq., from whom it passed to John Shirley, Esq., and from him to the Rev. E. C. Forward, who sold it to the warden and fellows of Wadham College, Oxford.

(*Plate 1.*) Limington Church is the ancient parish church of the village, dedicated to St. Mary. It consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle or chapel; with a plain tower at the west end, containing four bells. It was probably built by one of the lords Beauchamp, in the 12th century.

Sir Richard Gyverney, in 1329, gave a messuage, five acres and one rood of arable land, one acre of meadow, and seventy-two shillings rent, with appurtenances in Limington, to God and the church of Limington, and to John Fychet, chaplain, and to all other chaplains his successors, to perform divine service every day at the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the parish church of Limington, for the souls of him, the said Sir Richard, and Maud his wife, and for the souls of Gilbert Gyverney and Mabel Gyverney, father and mother of the said Sir Richard, and others of his family. Soon after founding this chantry Sir Richard died and was buried in a chapel on the north side of the church.

(*Plate 2.*) In a niche under the north window of this chapel (*fig. 1.*) there now lies the figure of a knight, cross-legged, having on his shield a bend, between six escallops; this is probably the effigy of Sir Richard. At his feet lies the figure of a woman, having a chin-cloth, (*fig. 2.*) Underneath the arch which divides the chapel from the nave, on a large tomb, lie the effigies of another of the

Gyverneys, (*fig. 3*), (without armour, and probably Sir Gilbert) and his lady by his side, (*fig. 4*).

There is a mural tablet, with a Latin inscription, to the memory of Edward, eldest son of Edward and Mary Beaton. Also to the memory of Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Edward and Mary Beaton, who died about 14 days before the great hurricane in November, 1703.

There is also a mural tablet to the memory of the said Edward Beaton, (father of the above) and Mary his wife.

There is a mural tablet to the memory of Edward Gould, who died January 20th, 1747, *ætat.* 21. Arms, Paly of six argent and sable, six cross-crosslets, or.

In the central passage of the nave of the church, near the steps leading to the chancel, there is an oblong flat stone, with an inscription as follows:—"Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Barbara Tazewell, wife of Mr. Stephen Tazewell, and daughter of Mr. John Pinny, of Hardington, who departed this life y^e 18th day of June, Ano Domini 1706; *Ætatis* Suæ 33."

This is surmounted by the Tazewell family arms, (with the helmet of an esquire): vair purpure and ermine, on a chief gules a lion passant, or; crest, a demi lion.

In the chancel are two mural tablets, one to the memory of "James Ray, second son of William Ray, rector of Limington, who departed this life in the third year of his age, June 30th, Anno Dom. 1707." And the other to his elder brother, "William Ray, M.A., canon of the cathedral church of Wells, minister of Westbury-upon-Trym, and many years rector of this parish; he died 6th June, 1779, aged 72. Also of Arabella his wife, sister of the late Benjamin Carpenter, Esq., general in the army. This monument was erected by a much loved son and daughter to their memory."

There are also two ancient pews, (which probably once formed part of a screen), some of the panels of which contain carved armorial shields, with the bearings of the houses of York and Lancaster. (*Plate 2, fig. 5*). Another coat is, quarterly, first and fourth six mullets, second and third a fret, and underneath a cypher, W.C., which has been explained by Collinson as Wolsey Cardinal, but as the arms are those of Bonville and Harrington, it seems more probable that the cypher, which is entwined by a knot, denotes William and Catherine, or William Bonville, Lord Harrington, and his wife, Catherine, daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury.

(*Plate 2, fig. 6*.) There is also an elegant font, which appears, by the form of the escutcheons, to have been executed at the beginning of the 16th century, and therefore, probably placed there by Wolsey, sometime rector.

The manor house was re-built in 1672, by James Tazewell, Esq. Of that building only a wing remains, the rest having been pulled down by the present owner, and a new house erected on its site.*

A list of some of the patrons and rectors of Limington church. In 1192 the annual value of the rectory was certified at thirty marks, (£20), and in 1535 at £21 6s. 5d.

	Rector.	Patron.
1329.	John Fychet,	Sir R. Gyverney.
1388.	John Reynald, <i>probably</i>	William de Sharesulle.
1500.	Thomas Wolsey,	Marquis of Dorset.
1535.	Walter Cocks,	Marquis of Dorset.

* Limington house stands upon a mound of moderate elevation; during the excavations for the foundation, numerous Roman coins were turned up; from which, and its proximity to Ivelchester, (*the camp on the Ivel*) there is little doubt that it was used by the Romans as an out-post to their camp.

1575.	{ Thomas Raphlyne,	Queen Elizabeth.
	{ John Wygwood,	Queen Elizabeth.
1577.	Tobias Walkewooke,	Queen Elizabeth, (in the minority of Wm. Rose- well.)
1660.	Robert Bryan,	Sir Henry Rosewell, of Ford Abbey.
1668.	Joseph Francklin,	Henry and Elizabeth Crisp, and the widow of Sir H. Rosewell.
„	Matthew Bryan,	Alex. Westerdale & James Tazewell, Esqrs.
1700.	William Ray,	Rev. W. Taswell, D.D.
1739.	William Ray,	John Walker, Esq.
1779.	John Clothier,	John Shirley, Esq.
Circa 1800.	John Rose,	John Shirley, Esq.
„	1809. E. C. Forward,	Rev. E. C. Forward.
1839.	Thomas Griffiths,	Wadham College.
1849.	Thomas Brancker,	Wadham College.

The registers of Limington are very defective, and in some parts (being apparently a copy) very uncertain. They commence—baptismal, 1691; burial, 1681; marriage, 1695; in the latter there is an hiatus from 1710 to 1730.
