

## BRENCHLEY, ITS CHURCH AND ANCIENT HOUSES.

BY J. F. WADMORE.

BRENCHLEY is situated partly in the Hundred of Watchlingstone, but its north-eastern part is in the Hundred of Twyford. In ancient muniments the name is sometimes spelt as Bræncesle or Branchesle. The parish is one of the largest in Kent, and formed a portion of the vast estate with which William I enriched his ungrateful relative, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux. On his disgrace it passed to Gilbert de Clare, ancestor of that Earl of Hertford who gave the Church of Alding (Yalding) with the Chapel of Branchesle and all appurtenances, in pure and perpetual alms, to the Priory of Tonbridge, which he had previously founded. Together with Leigh it formed a benefice of Tonbridge Priory up to the time of its suppression in the seventeenth year of Henry VIII. Brenchley contained the manors of *Criols*,\* which was held by the Criol family as half a knight's fee; *Mascals*† otherwise Marescalls, with the two appendant ones of *Copgrove*‡ and *Chekeswell*; ‡ *Parrocks*; *Catlets*; *Stokshill*; *Studmore*; *Barnes* and *East Bokenfold*. *Mascals* was held *temp.* Edward II by the family of the Colepepers, under the Lord Hugh de Audley, by the service of paying yearly to his larder eight hogs and a half, value 15s. *Copgrove* with *Chekeswell* was held by the family of *Copgrove*, but Henry de *Hoese* or *Hoesendene* had held *Chekeswell temp.* Edward I. John de *Copgrove* sold these manors, *temp.* Edward II, to John de *Vane*, who also became the owner of *Mascals*. Robert de *Vane*, as heir of John, paid 20s. as "Aid" in the

\* Hasted, 8vo, vol. v., p. 283.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 285.

† *Ibid.*, p. 284.

twentieth of Edward III, for all three manors as half a knight's fee at Chykeswell, formerly held by John de Copgrave.\*

*Parrocks*† in the Hundred of Twyford (now better known as Paddock Wood), was anciently a manor appendant to West Malling, and was given by Bishop Gundulph of Rochester, in the fourth year of William Rufus, to the Benedictine monastery founded there by him. It was for many years leased out by the abbess and convent to the family of Heckstalls of East Peckham, one of whom had married a co-heiress of Richard Grofherst.‡ Ultimately it passed to Thomas Fane of Badsell. In an Inquisition taken on the death of Richard de Clare, forty-seven Henry III,§ mention is made "of a certain market which is called Brenchelse, the assized rent thereof" is given as "value 21s. 9½d. The stallage and shops are extended at 24s." Mention is made of Brenchesle in the time of Edward I, when|| an encroachment on the highway at Brenchele by Isabella de Charlton, to the extent of half an acre, is recorded.

In 1347¶ the Prior of Tonebrigge was assessed for one-fourth of a knight's fee in Brenchley, at East Bokynfelde, which included the Rectory of Brenchley and some lands called Barnes.

The Parish Register commences A.D. 1539, and although well and faithfully kept, has nothing of particular interest worthy of record.

*Brenchley Church* is dedicated to All Saints. It was anciently esteemed a Chapelry of the adjoining parish of Yalding, which with its appurtenances Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford, gave to the Priory of Tonbridge, which he also founded. Afterwards it was considered no longer a chapelry but an independent church. Henry de Sandford,\*\* Bishop of Rochester, who came to that See in 1227, and held

\* *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. X., p. 150.

† Hasted, 8vo, vol. v., p. 286.

‡ An assessment made in 20 Edward III, records that William de Knol had formerly held half a knight's fee at Parrock in Brenchley, for which the heirs of Richard de Grofherst were assessed in 1347. *Arch. Cant.*, X., 150.

§ Inq. p. m., *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. IV., p. 313.

|| *Furley's Weald of Kent*, vol. ii, part 1, p. 131. Extract from Hundred Roll.

¶ *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. X., 150.

\*\* Hugo de Sanford held two fees in Pettes, Chekeshull, and Horsmonden at a value of £15. Inquisition post mortem, 47 Henry III, 1263. *Arch. Cant.*, IV., p. 315.

it until the year 1235, confirmed the grant of this church to the Prior\* and Canons of Tonbridge, "to be possessed by them as an appropriation for ever, saving a perpetual vicarage for a priest, to be presented to it by them, to serve in it and to have the whole altarage and all small tithes, obventions of the altar, and tithes of curtilages and all the tithes of corn, pulse, and hay, of Westroterindene (Witherindene) which was of the fee of the Abbess of Malling, between a road from Yalding to Condingebury, and the land of Hamon de la Doune, and extended from Badshulle to Matfield, together with four acres of land which lay adjoining the messuage of Simon de Wahol towards the north, near the road which leads to the house of the Parson of Brencheley; and further that he should have yearly from the barns of the Prior and Canons at Brenchelse two seams of oats and two seams of crowe for his palfrey, paying yearly to the prior and canons from the Vicarage two wax tapers of 4 lbs. each; but that the Vicar should sustain all episcopal burthens and other accustomed dues."

In this state, we learn from Hasted, the rectory with the advowson of the vicarage continued together with the appendant manor of Barnes, till the dissolution of the Priory of Tonbridge, when it passed in the seventeenth of Henry VIII to Cardinal Wolsey for the better endowment of his college at Oxford. Unfortunately the inventory of Church goods which was taken by a commission appointed in the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth Henry VIII, and again in the thirty-seventh of Edward VI, is amongst those which are missing, and is therefore not to be found in the interesting catalogue given in Vols. VIII., IX., and X. of *Archæologia Cantiana*.

On the fall of the great prelate above mentioned, in the year 1529, the advowson and vicarage were forfeited and came into the hands of the King, and he granted them in the thirty-first year of his reign to Paul Sydner, † gent., to

\* Hasted, vol. v., p. 291. The Prior of Tonbridge has the Church of this manor [Yalding] to his own uses. Inquisitio post mortem, 1263. Vide *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. IV., p. 313.

† Hasted, vol. v., 292.

hold in capite by knightly service. His son William succeeded him *circa* 1563, and Hasted says that he shortly afterwards alienated them to William Waller, of Groombridge, who married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Sir Walter Hendley. She married again, and died in the year 1596, but a handsome monument, erected to her memory in the Chancel of Brenchley Church, by a remarkable error of the stonemason, bears the date 1566 instead of 1596. Her grandson Sir Thomas Waller, of Groombridge, alienated the manor of Barnes and the rectory of Brenchley, with the advowson of the vicarage, to John Courthope, Esq., afterwards of Brenchley, the youngest brother of Sir George Courthope, of Whileigh in Sussex, who died possessed of them in 1649, and in whose family they still remain. Geo. Campion Courthope, Esq., of Whileigh, is their present owner.

The Vicarage was valued in the King's books as being worth £12 18s. 9d., and the yearly tithes at £1 5s. 10½d.

The Church is a fine building, with a massive square Tower at the west end, of Bishop Sandford's time, 1233; the labels and drip-stone to the west doorway are in good preservation. The walls and buttresses of the tower are six feet thick, except at the east end, where the wall is built up in a solid mass of masonry ten feet thick, pierced with an arched opening into the church, and containing on the south side a circular stone staircase which leads to a gallery and to the successive floors. The tower has had square-headed belfry windows inserted, and is surmounted by a turret of Tudor date. Although still picturesque, it is much altered from its original design. On a fine day the following churches are seen clustered around:—Horsemonden, Goudhurst, Lamberhurst, and Marden; further off are Yalding, Cranbrook, and Staplehurst. There is a good peal of six bells. The tenor bears on one side the inscription, *Joseph Hatch made me 1610*, and on the other *William Hunt C. W.* The second and third bells were also cast by Hatch. The fourth, fifth, and sixth bells were cast in 1813, 1720, and 1863 respectively.

The plan of the Church is cruciform, with north and

south aisles, and transepts which project from the body of the church about twenty-five feet. The nave is sixty feet by thirty feet, with aisles ten feet wide, and on its north side there is a good sized porch. It is to be remarked that the columns of the nave, which are round with Early English caps and bases, are spaced differently on the north and south, although there appears to be no sufficient cause for this, unless indeed they were completed at different times, or by different workmen. In the north-east corner of the south transept there is a circular stone staircase, pierced with opening into the church; it led to a rood-loft, which was handsome, if we may judge from the excellent carved panelling which remains *in situ*, and which is worth attention from the freedom and vigour of its execution. The upper rail is ornamented with carved work of scrolls and figures, supporting a panel on which is to be seen the date A.D. 1536. The nave has a clerestory, pierced with double lights. The roof is supported by carved brackets springing from stone corbels with a moulded and cambered tie beam and king posts. The rafters and timbers are framed and braced together so as to form a septagonal open timber roof. The transept roofs are similar to that of the nave, but the aisles are low and have flat roofs. The church has been carefully restored by Mr. Joseph Clarke, the Diocesan Architect, and has some handsome tracery in several windows. There are piscinas both in the north and south transepts, and a bold Early English arch, springing from restored shafts and caps, opens into the chancel, forty by thirty, terminated at the east end with a handsome five-light window. There are the remains of sedilia and piscina and credence in the chancel, and a priest's door also on the south side, and side lights both on the north and south.

The chancel has an open framed timber roof, with curved braces, principal and hammer beams, terminating in well executed figures of angels; the seats are of oak. At the west end of the nave is a gallery approached by a circular turret staircase; it is a curiously designed erection, and may possibly have been constructed out of materials supplied by the demolition of the rood-loft. The octagonal font is plain.

The original west door in the tower is now closed, and the ground-floor of the tower forms the present vestry. The principal entrance is through a porch on the north side. The approach leading to the tower is flanked by an avenue of quaintly clipped yew trees.

#### ELIZABETH FANE'S MONUMENT.

In the Chancel, south of the Communion Table, is the long inscription which eulogises Elizabeth Fane, widow successively of William Waller, of Groombridge, and of George Fane, of Badsell. This monument represents that she died in September, 1566, aged 73. Canon Scott Robertson, editor of our *Archæologia Cantiana*, intimated to me that this date must be an error. From manuscript records connected with her first husband William Waller, he had discovered that she married her second husband about 1548, that her grandson Thomas Waller, who defrayed the cost of her funeral, was not born until about 1569, that her second husband George Fane lived until 1571, and that her long widowhood after his death most probably extended to 1596, so that she had lived forty-eight years after her second marriage. Badsell,\* the seat of George Fane, lies in Tudely, not in Brenchley, and I was enabled to verify the date of his death, by examining minutely the inscription upon his tomb at Tudely.

The monument commemorating George Fane, of Badsell, and Joan Waller, his first wife, is an altar tomb on the north side of the chancel of Tudely church. It has recently been restored by Viscount Falmouth, and Lady Le Despencer, his wife. Its front is divided into two compartments, and ornamented with circular scrolls. The ledger stone, around

\* Badsell was a fine old mansion with a centre and two side wings, surrounded by a moat, and approached by a drawbridge not unlike Groombridge, in which the Wallers resided. Badsell has, however, at present but little to remind one of its former importance, save that the moat on three sides still remains, although partially filled in. A picturesque stack of chimneys stands quaintly grouped together at the S.E. corner, supported by a battered stone wall springing out of the moat. Stone coping and chimney jambs, of the Tudor period, are still lying scattered about the premises, and a garden entrance-gate bears the crest of the Fanes of Badsell and the date 1581.

which runs (in Roman capital letters) the inscription given below, supports three Ionic columns, with entablature, frieze and cornice. Against the wall rises a pyramidal backing, on which are blazoned the arms of the Fane family. The three last letters of the inscription “*e Fe*” have recently been restored.

“Hic jacent Georg’ Fane et Joane Waller vxor eius, filivs et heres Ri’ Fane et Agnet’ flie et heredis Hen’ filii et hered’ T. Stidvlf et Marion Badsell flie et hered’ John’ Badsell, qvi G. F. obit 4 die Fe’ 1571, et Io’ Waller 6 die Fe’ 1545.”

The death of George Fane in 1571 rendered it impossible that his widow could have died in 1566. Accordingly when, through the courtesy of the Vicar of Brenchley, I was enabled to search the Register of that parish, I found that, as Mr. Scott Robertson had suggested, Mrs. Fane was buried in 1596. The entry in the Register is “1596, *September. The xx<sup>th</sup> day was buried the Right Worshapfull Mrs. ffane, widow.*” It thus became evident that the stonemason had simply reversed the tail of the 9 and cut 66 instead of 96. It is to me a great pleasure to be enabled thus to correct an error (of thirty years) in the ascribed date of Elizabeth Fane’s death; an error which has been reproduced, again and again, in various books for nearly three centuries.

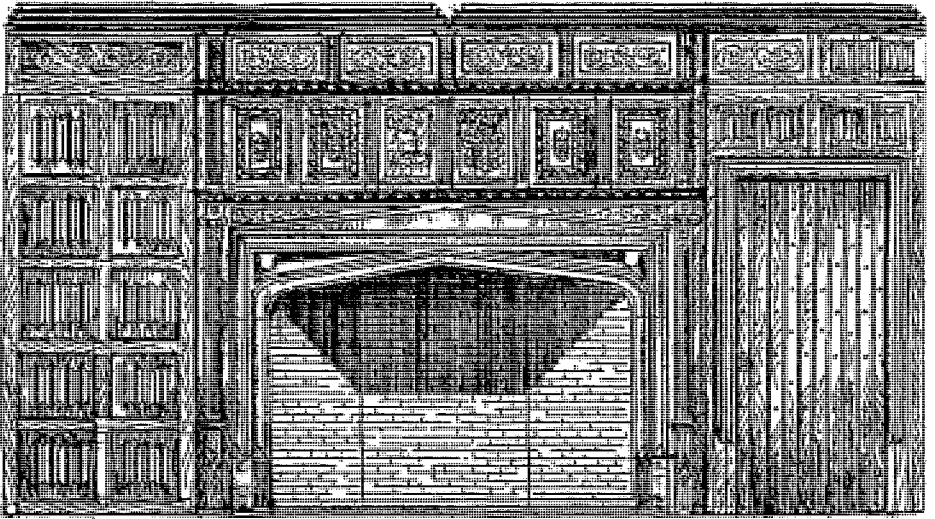
The inscription, in Roman capital letters, is as follows:—

“Here lyeth entered Elizabeth Fane widowe eldest of the three davghters and coheires of S<sup>r</sup> Walter Hendley of Covshrovrne in Crambrooke in Kent knight by his wyfe Hellen Ashborneham of Bromeham in Geslinge in Svsex this Elizabeth was first marryed to William Waller of Groomebridge in Speldhvst in Kent Esquire by whome she had issve Walter Waller Knight who svrvived her William and Margerie that dyed before her withoutt issve lastly shee was marryed to George Fane of Badsill in Tewdley in Kent Esquire by whome she had issve one sonne and fower davghters viz.: Frances, Margaret, Svsan Faith and Fath all which died young withoutt issve. Amongste other her vertves as her modestie in her virgin lyfe her vnspotted love to her hvsbands her reverend demeanor in her widdowhoods her motherly care of her servants her memorable hospitalitie made her famovs and renowned which she mainteyned

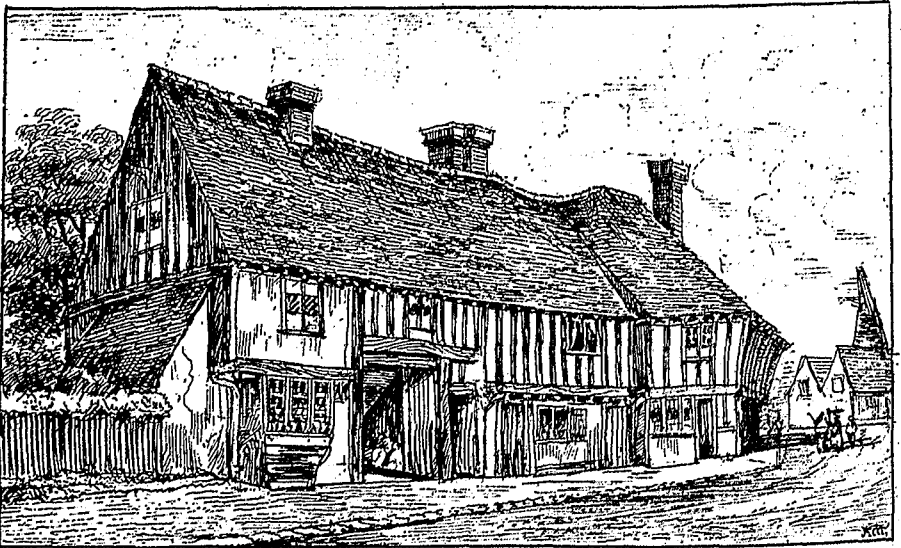
and continued 48 yeres without ever dissolving her household wherein shee was so provident and boventifull as she was ever able and alike willing in plentie and in dearth to have her doores open to entertaine the rich and relieve the poore which she did in such meavre as that both of rich and poore she was revered loved and desired as appeares after her death by their advancing her vertves their affectionate bemoning her fvneralls and their passionate bewailinge their deprivation of her she lived right vertvovsly seventy-three yeaes and dyed most religiovslye the sixte of September the moneth of her birth 1566 [*an error for 1596*] her fvneralles were accordinge to her worthynes worshipfvly perfovrmed at the cost of Thomas Waller knight the yovnger of her twoe grandchildren who in fvrtther testimonye of his dvtifvll love vnto her caused this monvment to be erected for the perpetvall memory of her name and vertves against the ingratefvll nature of oblivious time."

Although the Wallers did not possess Brenchley rectory for more than fifty years, the old rectory-house seems to have become inseparably connected with the memory of young William Waller's widow, better known as Elizabeth Fane. She seems to have had it as her dowry house, and as she lies buried in Brenchley, not in Tudely, it is probable that she passed her long widowhood in this house rather than at Badsell. The old rectory-house, at the west end of the town of Brenchley, stands on the verge of what appears to have been an ancient chase, and is enclosed with a walled garden on two sides. On the east it is over-shadowed by a magnificent oak, more than thirty-six feet in circumference, at five feet above the ground level. A handsome arched gateway, supported on either side with Doric rusticated columns on pedestals, with frieze and pediment over, gives access to the fore court; there is a mounting stone or "jossing block" beside the gateway. On a shield over the pediment there is a crest of a falcon, or some such bird, and beneath it the date 1522. The front door originally opened directly into a spacious hall; this has been divided by a passage, and now forms two rooms, which are modernized. On the left of the entrance, however, there is a handsome parlour, wainscotted with oak, in panels of the linen or ribbon pattern, and a handsome stone chimney-piece, having carved oak paneling above it. The side panels





*Sumner-Wainscot Room .  
 Old Rectory Arachley Kent.*



Whiteman & Bass, Photo-Litho London.

*Residence of GEORGE ROBERTS Esq<sup>r</sup> AD 1580.*

are filled with a surcoat and trophy of arms and scrolls, and the centre bears the arms of the Fanes and the Hendleys quartered. Over them is a crest, similar to that which appears over the entrance gateway, and on either side of it are the letters E and F, the initials of Elizabeth Fane, to whose generosity and taste the building may be attributed. A carved frieze and bold moulded cornice runs round the room, and over the door nearest the entrance is a date cut in the panelling A<sup>no</sup> D<sup>om</sup> 1573. The chimney-piece is illustrated upon the annexed plate, but the smallness of the scale unfortunately precludes any possibility of shewing the quaintness of the carving and details. The old Rectory-house is now occupied by S. Courthope, Esq., who has the Glebe farm.

#### MONUMENTS OF THE ROBERTS FAMILY.

There are some brasses in the north and south aisles of Brenchley Church. Those on the south side represent a merchant and his wife, and are in good preservation; unfortunately the inscription has been destroyed. Those on the north side are sadly mutilated, as the school children pass backwards and forwards over them every time they come to church. They represent Thomas Roberts and his three wives, Elizabeth, Joan, and Agnes; the inscription which remains runs thus:—

“Orate pro aiab’s Thome Rob’rt Merceri’ senior’ Elizabeth’ Johne’ Angi’ . . . uxoris eius quorum animabus propicietur deus Amen.”

Below these are several children on a smaller plate.

On the west of this inscription, which is partially concealed by the pewing, is the following one to George Roberts:—

“Here lyeth the body of George Roberts Sonne of Thomas Roberts late of Brenchley in Kent Generos’ w<sup>ch</sup> said George deceased the xxv<sup>th</sup> day of December Anno D’ni 1556.”

The descendants of George Roberts long resided in one of the old timber buildings in Brenchley High Street. The

house although now cut up into several cottage tenements is still interesting, as one of the few remaining timber buildings of the Elizabethan era. A view of this house is given on the plate, beneath the elevation of the rectory chimney-piece.

The roof of this old house, although solidly and substantially constructed with king posts, now shews symptoms of decay; it is open throughout, and is not lacking in a sort of rude grandeur. There is also a carriage entrance somewhat similar to that in the old house at Chiddingstone. It would be a sad pity if such a structure were allowed to fall into irreparable decay without some attempt to restore it.

George Roberts left a son Walter, and a daughter Margaret, who married Walter Roberts, son and heir of Sir Thomas Roberts, Bart., of Glassenbury. She on the death of her brother Walter without surviving issue, entitled her husband Sir Walter Roberts to the estate. Their second son, Walter, resided here and died in 1652. A curiously designed classical mural monument, with all the characteristics of the period of the Restoration, was erected to his memory by his wife Barbara. Well executed busts of Roberts and his wife are placed in an arched opening under a broken pediment, with his arms displayed above, and beneath is the following inscription:—

“In expectation of a joyfvll reserrection neere this place lyeth interred y<sup>e</sup> body of Walter Roberts of Glassenbvry in y<sup>e</sup> covnty of Kent Esq<sup>re</sup> second sone of Sir Walter Roberts k<sup>t</sup> & baronet and of Dame Margaret his wife sole daughte and heire of George Roberts of Brenchley in y<sup>e</sup> same covnty gent he married Barbara Potter third daughte of Simon Potter of Chesterfield in y<sup>e</sup> covnty of Stafford Esq<sup>r</sup> a man zealovsly and constantly affected to trewe religion ivst discreete covrteovs and faithfvll to his friends generally beloved in his life bewailed in his death he dyed the 30<sup>th</sup> of September in the 37<sup>th</sup> yeare of his age and in the yeare of ovr Lord God 1652.”

“Fidelia Christianorvm resvrrctio mortvorvm.”

“Barbara Roberts his sorrowfvll widdow caused this monvment to be erected in memory of his virtve & there mvtval love & her trewe affection.”

The Roberts family possessed Moatlands, which originally belonged to the Pimpes. Reginald Pimpe\* is said to have died in 1438 possessed of a messuage in Brenchley called the Moat. His residence has long since been destroyed, but the moat still exists surrounded on all sides by wood. It then came into the possession of James Brenchele, one of whose family, Sir William Brenchele, of Brenchley, was a justice of the Common Pleas, who died in 1446, and lies buried in Canterbury Cathedral. The estate then passed to John Brenchley, Esq., whose daughter, in the twenty-first of Henry VI, carried it in marriage to William Moore, of Moore Court, Ivechurch, who was succeeded by his son Walter Moore,† Esq., of Benenden, who died A.D. 1506, leaving it to be divided between his two sons, Thomas, of Benenden, and William, of Bettenham in Cranbrook. Hasted tells us that the estate was so divided that the line of division cut the moat in two. The manorial rights were allotted to Thomas; and his son John, in the reign of Queen Mary, alienated them to Thomas Robert or Robertes, gent., whose monumental brass remains in Brenchley Church.

The estate descended in direct succession to Sir Walter Roberts, of Glassenbury, who died in 1745.‡ The present owner, Colonel Roberts, kindly allowed the Society to visit and inspect his interesting house, called Glassenbury, at Cranbrook, in the autumn of 1873. The moated house, the magnificent avenue of limes, and picturesque situation, will be fresh in the memory of all who had the pleasure of seeing them.

Hasted says§ that the other moiety of Moatlands was alienated by William Moore, the second son of William Moore before mentioned, to George Payne, of London, in the time of Elizabeth, by whose heirs it was afterwards sold in

\* Hasted, vol. v., p. 288.

† There is a monument of Sir Walter Moore, with Alice his wife, one son and one daughter, in Benenden Church. The arms are some kind of wingless insect in bend fess ermine, between three lions rampant in chief, and three crosses engrailed in base. See list of Gentry temp. Henry VII, *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XI., p. 396.

‡ His only daughter married George, Duke of St. Albans, who survived her and enjoyed a life interest in the estate, when by the Duchess's will it was left to the family of Roberts in Ireland. Hasted, vol. v., p. 289.

§ Hasted, vol. v., p. 289.

1698, together with Broadoak, to John Hooker, Esq., of West Peckham. A solidly constructed monument, covered with a black marble ledger, stands under an opening cut into the wall of the Church, on the west side of the north porch. The arms and crest are incised on the slab.

*Crest.*—An escallop shell with wings.

*Arms.*—Party per pale and fess, four escallops counter-changed sable and argent.

The inscription is as follows :—

“ Here lyes y<sup>e</sup> Body of John Hooker\* Gent. late of this parish who departed this life Septem<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1737 in the 46<sup>th</sup> Year of his age He left his wife Eliz<sup>th</sup> & issue 3 sons & 5 daughters Tho: John & Stephen Ann Eliz<sup>th</sup> Mary Hannah & Margaret. Here also lyeth the body of Elizabeth his wife Who departed this life November y<sup>e</sup> 15 1755 aged 83 years.

There are also other mural tablets to the memory of his sons John and Stephen, who are described as of Broadoak; Stephen died in 1755, and his wife Elizabeth in 1788; John in 1799.

The estate of Broadoak remained in the Hooker family until John Hooker, the son of Stephen Hooker before mentioned, pulled the house down in 1785, and laid some part of the lands into the lawn before Broadoak, and disposed of some parts to William Collins which are at present chargeable with Stephen Woodgate's legacy.† It was afterwards purchased by John Ruxton, whose monument, with his arms and crest emblazoned, is placed on the west side of the south transept, with this inscription,

“ In the Vault beneath are deposited the Remains of John Ruxton of Broad Oak in this parish Esq<sup>r</sup> Eldest Son of Thos. Bellingham Ruxton and Susanna (Willis) his wife and great great grandson through John and Matthew the 2 son of Captain John Ruxton M.P. of Adare in the County of Louth Ireland who represented

\* Hasted, vol. v., p. 219, says, “that the family of Hookers came from Hampshire. They settled first at Oldbury Hill, near Ightham, from whence they removed to Peckham, where John Hooker kept his shrievalty in 1712. He left two sons, Thomas, and John from whom the Hookers of Brenchley are descended.” Thomas, the eldest son, had a son who purchased the manor and castle of Tonbridge, and his son dismantled the porte and keep, using the materials to construct the residence which now exists. John settled at Broad Oak, Brenchley.

† Vide Parish Registers.

Adare in the Irish Parliament in the year 1661 and whose entailed estates in that Barony confirmed & granted to him by Chas. II were enrolled in the year 1666. He married Anna Maria youngest daughter of Col. Patric Hay & Sarah Dashwood his wife and died Nov<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1828 aged 57 leaving issue six sons.

“ Charles Dashwood Ruxton fourth son of the above died May 18, 1851 aged 27 & is buried here.”

Captain John Henry Hay Ruxton is the present owner of Broadoak.

The old tithe barn of Mascall Manor now exists on the estate, and Mascalls Pound is a well known spot in the parish.

Some other interesting features there are connected with Brenchley. On the easternmost road to Broad Oak, within half a mile from the town, stands an old timber farm house, where local tradition declares that Wat Tyler was born! Half a mile further, on the same road, a little to the right, there are the remains of an early British encampment; it occupies a commanding position, and is protected with both fosse and embankment. The area is small, not above two acres, but it is difficult to estimate it correctly, as it is entirely covered with trees and underwood of many years' growth. There is also a mound at Broad Oak, thrown up as spoil, so I conceive it, from excavations in search of iron stone, of which there are several “ ponds,” as they are called.

Brenchley formerly enjoyed a portion of the trade in beaver hats carried on profitably at Cranbrook.

### BENEFACTIONS TO BRENCHLEY PARISH.

Geo. Payne, of the Middle Temple, London, Gent., son and heir of Geo. Payne, late of Brenchley, in the county of Kent, Esq., by his last will and testament, in writing under his hand and seal, bearing date 17th day of August, 1682, in the thirty-fourth year of Charles II, gave to the Minister and Churchwardens of the parish of Brenchley, one sum of £10, to be issuing and going out of the messuage or farms called Broad Oak in Brenchley, in possession of John Caslowe, to the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, eight days before either

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of the said vigils and feasts, and upon such festivals as shall follow my decease, to the Parson, Churchwardens, and their successors, from time to time to the poor of the parish of Brenchley.

John Woodgate, by will dated March 14th, 1672, left the sum of £1 10s. from a part of Broadoak meadow.

John Downard left by will, 1636, the sum of £2, out of an estate of Upper and Lower Brinklow, adjoining Maskall's Heath.

Mr. Richard Birch by will dated May 14th, 1696, left 10s. a year from house and land adjoining the five vents.