

CHAPEL AT HORNE'S PLACE, APPLIEDORE.

BY CANON SCOTT ROBERTSON.

ON Appledore Heath stands the ancient mansion of Horne's Place, now used as a farm-house. At its south-eastern angle there remains, in fair preservation, a small domestic chapel, built towards the end of the fourteenth century. It is now used as a barn for wool.

The character of many of its architectural details is remarkable, and they are probably unique in England. Sir Gilbert Scott said that the architect, who designed them, was probably a Frenchman, and certainly a poet. Sir Gilbert traced, in all the carving, forms of the leaves or flowers of the Lesser Celandine, a wild plant which blooms abundantly in the neighbourhood during the spring. So much did he commend the beauty of this very small chapel, that Mr. Benjamin J. Scott (then of Sevenoaks, now of Addiscombe) caused careful drawings and plans of the building to be made. These he has generously placed at my disposal, and from them the accompanying plates have been prepared.

Among the domestic chapels remaining in Kent, I know of none which, on the whole, excelled this in simple beauty and originality of design. At Leeds Castle, the chapel retains few of its original details; in the Mote at Ightham, the earlier of the two chapels has good features, but they have suffered more from age and neglect than Horne's Chapel has done. Perhaps the chapel at Old Sore more nearly resembled this. At Knole, the chapel is of much later date.

Such domestic chapels, called oratories, were not uncommon in the Middle Ages; but none could be used, for Divine service, until the bishop of the diocese had granted his license to that effect. Consequently, by searching the Registers of the Archbishopric, I discovered that in November, 1366, Archbishop Langham granted to William Horne, of "Apoldre," permission to hear Divine service in his oratory here.* At that period the stiffer vertical lines, of Perpendicular architecture, were beginning to supplant the more

* Langham's *Register*, folio 48^a.

flowing and graceful lines of the Decorated. Of this fact the chapel at Horne's Place furnishes an example.

It stands upon a crypt, which is six feet high in the clear, lighted by two small rectangular windows, deeply splayed; one at the east end, and the other at the west. This crypt was originally entered, from the south side, by descending four steps to a doorway in the south-west corner. It is now used as a cellar, and a doorway from the house has been made through its north wall.

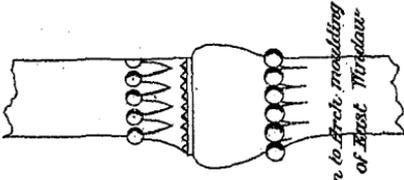
The area of the interior of the chapel itself is about 22 feet by 12; and its clear height is about 23 feet, from the floor to the apex of each of the three arched and moulded principals of the boarded roof. The ridge of the roof is five or six feet higher. The doorways are two; one at the north-west corner, by which Mr. Horne's family entered the chapel from the house; the other, in the west wall at its southern end, is the external entrance, approached by an ascent of three or four steps. The latter doorway is, in the clear, about 6 feet high and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide; it has round shafts, with moulded caps and bases. The segmental arch of its head springs not from the shaft-caps but from vertical stilts, which rise a foot above the caps.

Of the four windows, those in the north and south walls are alike, and partake more of the Decorated style; while the large east window, and the small one in the west wall, are decidedly Perpendicular in character. The latter window, placed high up in the west wall, has two cinquefoiled lights, with a square head (to which the central mullion runs up), and on the exterior a square label with its ends returned.

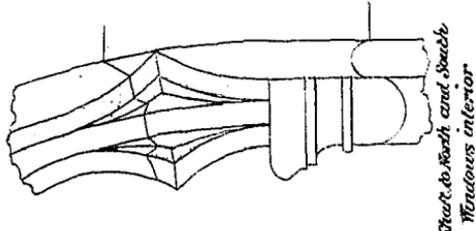
The north and south windows have, each, three seven-foiled lights, with shafted mullions of Decorated character. On the exterior the labels are ogeed, but have rather depressed curves; on the interior, the hood-moulding of each window is formed of four curves, crowned by a finial which some consider to represent a horse-shoe, on which, instead of nails, seventy-seven round beads are carved. This finial, 4 inches high and nearly 4 inches broad, is shewn on the plate of details. I do not myself think that the architect intended it to suggest any idea of a horse-shoe. The stop, with which the hood-mould dies away into a simple hollow, is extremely peculiar. Two views of it are shewn on the plate of details.

The eastern window (now bricked up) has a central seven-foiled light, flanked by two lower five-foiled lights, with shafted mullions, which extend through the tracery (of quatrefoils and triangles) to

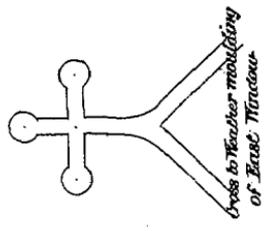
**HORNE'S PLACE, APPLIEDORE.
DETAILS OF CHAPEL**



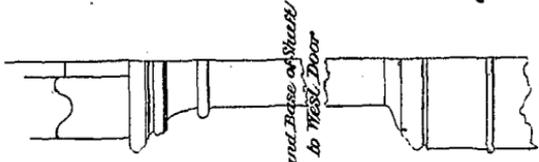
*Stop to Arch, moulding
of East Window*



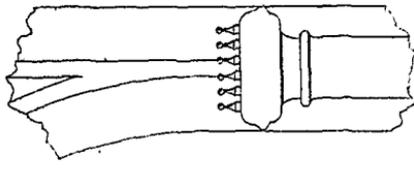
*Cap of Shaft to North and South
Windows interior*



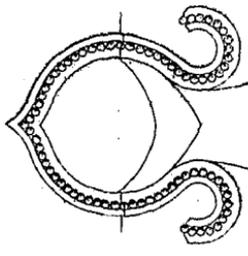
*Cross to Window moulding
of East Window*



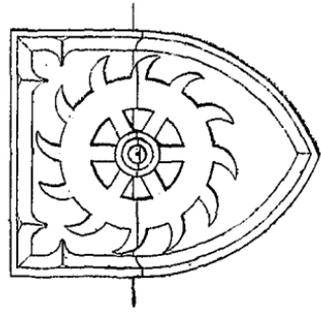
*Cap and Base of Shaft
to West Door*



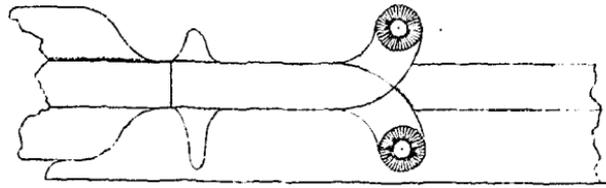
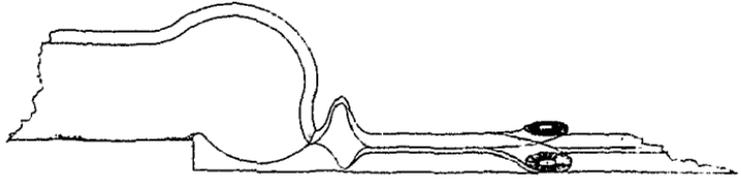
*Cap of Shaft to
East Window*



*Key Stone
to North and South Windows interior*

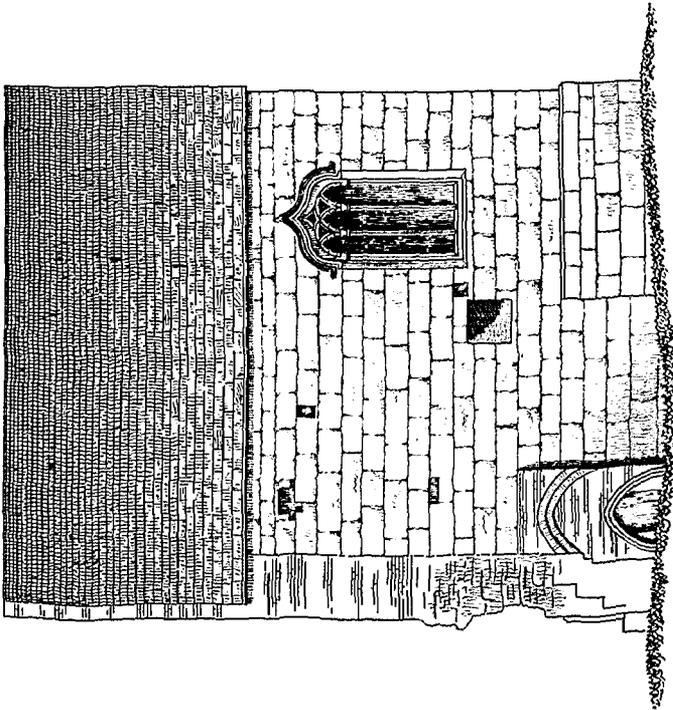


*Shield on Arch of
Roof Principals*

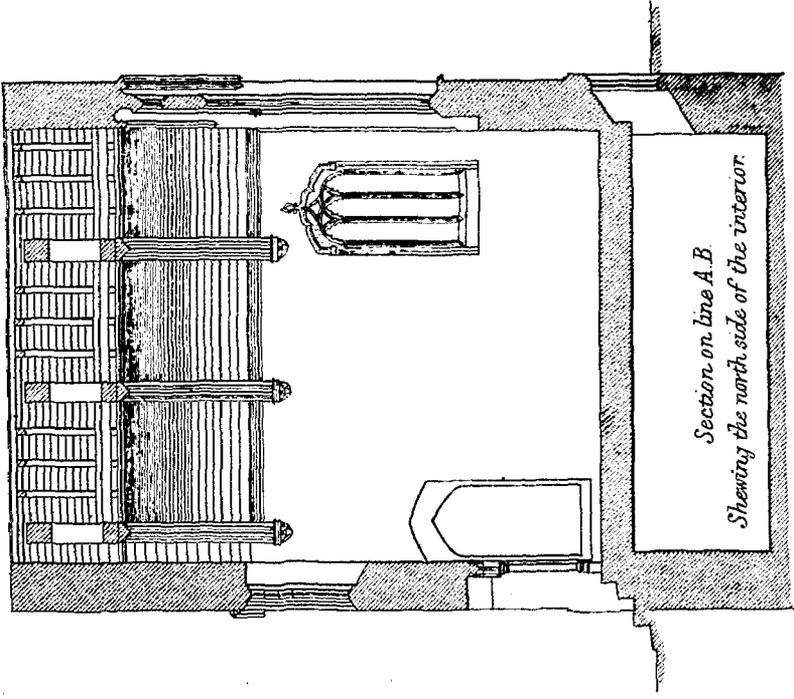


Stop to North and South Windows

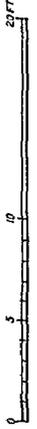
CHAPEL AT HORNE'S PLACE, APPELDORE.



South Elevation.



*Section on line A.B.
Showing the north side of the interior.*



the window arch. The exterior hood-mould is capped by a cross with round ends as a finial. On the interior, the hood has only a simple hollow moulding, in which, at the level of the mullion caps, there is a stop similar to them. Sir Gilbert Scott traced, in these caps and stops, a resemblance to the flower of the Lesser Celandine (when stripped of its petals) crowning its slender stem.

The boarded roof is very richly moulded. Its three arched principals spring from corbels, of clunch or fine chalk, on each of which, embedded in a cluster of the heart-shaped leaves of the Lesser Celandine (said Sir Gilbert Scott), is carved a shield (having ogeed cusps at its three angles) 4 inches high and 3 inches wide, charged with one Katherine wheel. This is clearly an intimation that the chapel was dedicated to St. Katherine, who in England was one of the most popular of Saints. The suggestion that it bore some allusion to the arms of the Scotts, of Scots Hall, is quite inadmissible. The Scotts bore, on their armorial shield, three Katherine wheels within a bordure. Their family had no connection whatever with Horne's Place, when this chapel was built; nor was the Horne family connected by marriage with the Scotts.

A curious "squint," or long slanting hagioscope, is pierced through the southern wall of the chapel, at about 7 or 8 feet from the ground outside. This is one of the peculiar features of the building. Its external aperture is 2 feet square; and through it ventilation could be effected when none of the windows could be opened; through it, also, the priest could see, and communicate with, any one outside (which he could not do through the windows, so high are they in the walls). From the outside, no persons could look into the chapel, through this squint, unless they were mounted upon some external gallery or stage.

The family of Horne flourished at Romney and Appledore during the thirteenth,* fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries, but it disappeared from that district before the end of the sixteenth. In Romney Marsh there was a bridge, called Horne's Bridge, which was taken down in 1393.

King Edward I, when at Romney in 1276, granted to Matthew de Horne a piece of land upon which he might construct a quay. He, or one of the same name, also possessed the manor of East Horne, in the hundred of Blackheath.

William Horne, who in 1366 obtained the Archbishop's licence

* In A.D. 1260 Roger de Horne was steward of the Earl of Gloucester for the Lowy of Tunbridge. (*Hundred Roll, Furley's Hist. of the Weald*, ii., 123.)

to hear Divine service within his oratory at Appledore, held much land there, from the Priory of Christ Church, Canterbury. He was made a Justice of the Peace in 1378, and perhaps on that account, or on account of his connection with the church lands around, his house was one of those which Wat Tyler's adherents attacked and broke into in 1381. Two figures, formerly painted in a window of Appledore Church, seem to have represented him and his wife. Beneath them were the names of William Horne and Margaret his wife. We do not know how he was related to Edmund Horne who represented Canterbury in Parliament from 1382 to 1406; nor to Richard de Horne who probably resided at Lenham, and was a man of consideration in the hundred of Calehill in 1381.

William Horne's successor was Henry de Horne (probably his son), who was elected to represent Kent in Parliament in October 1404. He served as Sheriff of Kent in 1406.

The family seems to have had three branches. In 1426, among the gentlemen of Kent were numbered Henry Horne of Appledore, John Horne of Lenham, and Richard Horne of Westwell.* According to the Digges pedigrees, a few years later one James Horne of Horne's Place, dying in 1442, left only a sister Juliana, wife of John Digges, who was his heir. How this could be does not appear. Certainly, Horne's Place in Appledore continued in the Horne family for more than a century after that.

Robert Horne, who was in 1455 a trustee for the transfer of Eastmarsh,† in Appledore and Kenardington, represented Kent in Parliament in 1460. He served the office of Sheriff, also, in 1452, and seems to have been the head of the family at Appledore. Yet the pedigrees‡ place Gervase Horne in that position about A.D. 1451. The children of Gervase were Henry, William, and Margeria, who married James Dering of Lyminge. Henry Horne (son of Gervase) had three sons, Gervase, Robert, and Henry. Gervase, the eldest, was admitted to the freedom of the town and port of New Romney, in April 1478; and lived until the 14th Feb. 151 $\frac{3}{4}$. His two sons were young children when he died; Roger born in 1505, and Thomas in 1507. Roger, the elder of the two, married Ann, daughter of Thomas Ashburnham (by his wife Elizabeth Dudley). In 1525, while Roger Horne was still a minor, under age, John Shery, Rector of Kenardington, resigned his benefice. Young Roger was the

* Fuller's *Worthies*, ii., 87.

† Close Roll, 33 Henry VI, memb. 4.

‡ British Museum *Additional MS.* 5521.

patron; and consequently his guardian, Sir Edmund Walsingham, presented Hugh Fresell to the living. Fresell was instituted by Archbishop Warham on the 28th of January 1525-6. As the advowson was appendant to the manor, we must suppose that the manor of Kenardington was possessed by the Horne family before 1525. Hasted says (vii., 26) that Roger Horne purchased, in 1533 (24 Hen. VIII), that manor in Kenardington the seat of which has ever since been called (like the original mansion in Appledore) Horne's Place; but he must be in error respecting the date. Roger Horne seems to have been an active country gentleman. In July 1528 he and John Bell of Appledore went to Sir Edward Guldeford at Rolvenden to complain of the lewd sayings of John Crake, parish priest of Brenzett, who was in consequence committed to Maidstone Gaol.* When a royal loan was levied for Henry VIII, in 1542, Roger Horne contributed £10; and this was among the later acts of his life. His will was made on the 8th of June 1543. He died before Kenardington Church was ruined by lightning. His son Henry must therefore have been the lord of the manor who contributed so largely (as Hasted says) to the reconstruction of that church in 1559-60.

Of the four children of Roger Horne only two left any issue. Henry, his eldest son (who married Katherine Moyle), died on the 6th of June 1565, leaving an only child and heiress Benett Horne, then but five years old. She married Richard Guldeforde, a Roman Catholic, who refused to take the oath of supremacy required by the Government of Elizabeth; he fled (in 1570, 12 Eliz.) into exile; was attainted; and died at Rouen in 1586. His wife died at Brussels in 1597, leaving no issue.

Roger Horne's daughter Katherine survived until New Year's Day, 1609. She had married Thomas, third son of Sir Walter Mantell, and she left issue by him; but the forfeited estates at Appledore and Kenardington could not be regained for her children. Horne's Place in Appledore was granted, by the Queen's Government, to Philip Chute; and Horne's Place in Kenardington to Walter Moyle.

* Furley's *History of the Weald of Kent*, ii., 451.