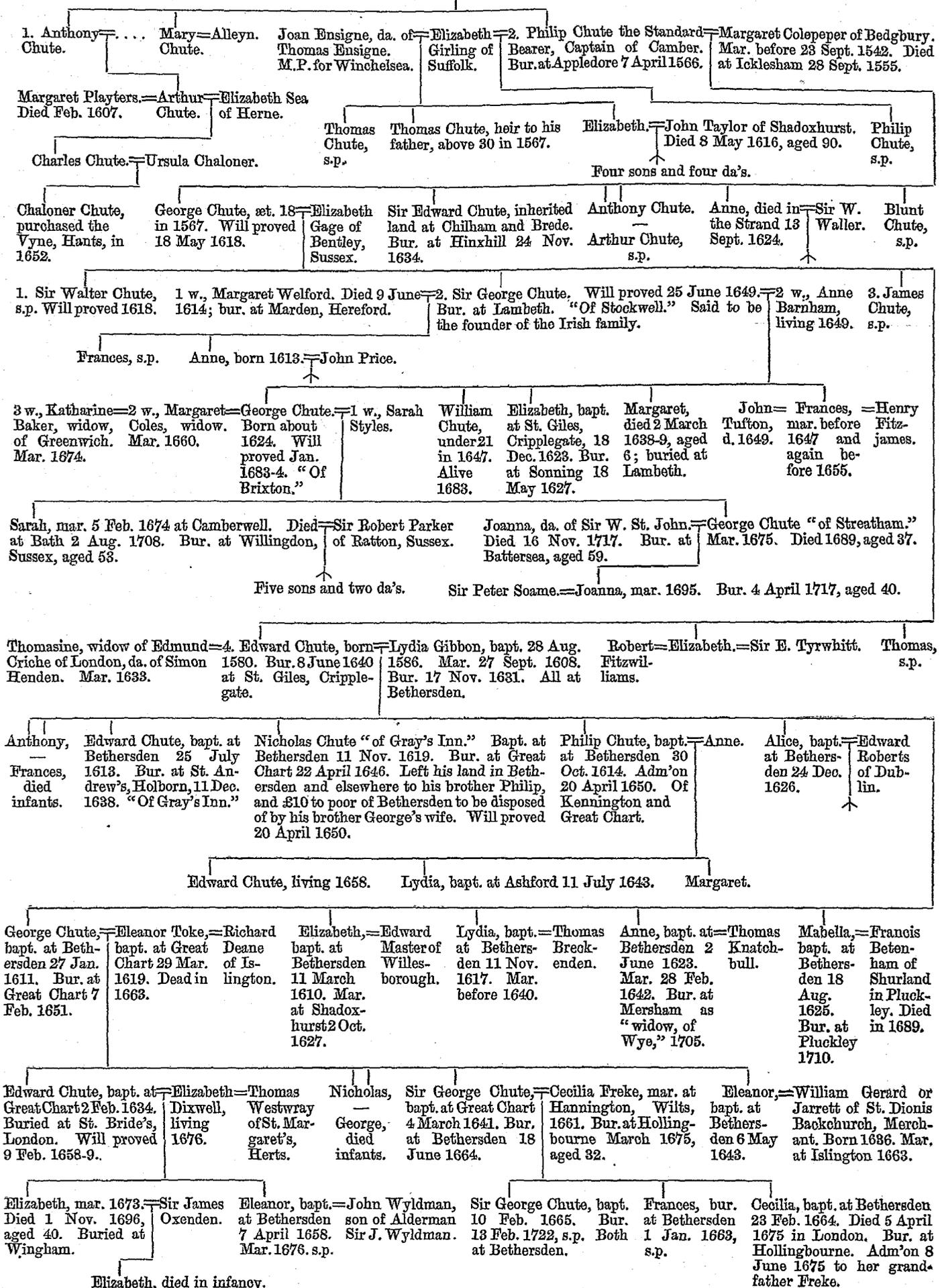


Pedigree of Chute of Appledore and Bethersden (p. 55).

Charles Chute. . . . Crispe of Thanet.



THE CHUTES OF BETHERSDEN, APPLIEDORE, AND HINXHILL.

BY THE REV. A. J. PEARMAN, M.A.

IN the Tenth Volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* I gave some account of the Lovelaces, an extinct Kentish family, whose seat stood at a short distance to the west of Bethersden Church. About a mile and a half in the opposite direction, near the north-eastern boundary of the parish, a farm-house occupies the site of another mansion of bygone days, of whose inhabitants I will now put on record such particulars as I have been able to collect. In so doing I shall be fulfilling one of the ends for which our Society was established, viz., “to reclaim and preserve the memories of men who with common passions with ourselves have stood and laboured on this soil of Kent.” I refer to the Chutes of Old Surrenden.

Old Surrenden stands on rising ground to the right of the turnpike road from Ashford to Tenterden, and commands a good view of the surrounding country. I agree with the late Mr. Furley in thinking that this, and not Surrenden-Dering, is the place intended in the Charter printed in our First Volume. We are there told that “Leofwine the Red grants the pasture at Swithrœdingden to him to whom Boctun may go after his day,” the effect of which “would be to attach Surrenden pastures to the Boughton estate;” and the fact is that the owner of Old Surrenden still pays a quit rent to the Earl of Winchelsea as Lord of the Manor of Boughton Aluph. Nor does it appear that the Pluckley property was known as Surrenden until the marriage, centuries later, of John Surrenden, or Suthrinden, of Bethersden, with the daughter of William de Pluckley. These reasons

seem to justify the opinion that we have here a reference—the first, so far as I know—to the estate with which the name of Chute was, long afterwards, identified.

The received account is, that in the reigns of John and Henry III., Adam de Surrenden resided at this seat, and that it continued in the possession of his descendants until John Surrenden sold it, about 1425, to Cardinal Archbishop Kemp, by whom it was settled with other premises on his newly-founded College at Wye. At the dissolution of the College under Henry VIII. it passed into the hands of the Crown, and, 12 March 1544, was granted with other property to Walter Bucler, Esq., Secretary to Queen Katharine, to hold by the service of one-tenth of a Knight's fee; being apparently in the occupation of Thomas Hammerson, of whom it is said in the "rental of the College of Wye," written in October 1544, that "the same Thomas holdeth free lie the Farm of Surrendowne and payeth yearly 1s. 10d.; and 1 hen." In 1547 Sir Maurice Dennys was the owner, and in 1549 Sir Anthony Aucher. From Sir Anthony it passed in 1553 to Philip Chute, in whose family it continued 170 years, and was known during that period as Surrenden-Chute, in the same way as the neighbouring seat at Pluckley was distinguished by the name of Surrenden-Dering.

The new owners came of an ancient stock.* Their representative, the late Mr. Chute of the Vyne, near Basingstoke, informed me that he had in his possession a pedigree beginning in 1268, from which it appeared that they were then Lords of the Manor of Taunton in Somersetshire, and so remained until about 1500, when Edmond Chute sold his patrimony. Charles Chute, Choute, or Chowt,† grandson of Edmond, married a daughter of John Crispe of the Isle of Thanet, and was father of PHILIP CHUTE or CHOUTE

* "Silas Taylor remarked that the name of Chute carried the memorial of the almost forgotten third nation of the Germans that conquered the Britons, and were commonly called Jutes and often Chutes and Wights."—Harl. MS., quoted by Duncombe in his *History of Herefordshire*. Thomas Chute of Borton was M.P. for Canterbury in 1404.

† In the Tower of London (as I learn from W. M. Chute, Esq., of Chiswick) there is in the State prison of the Beauchamp Tower, on the south side of its east window, the name "C. CHOWT 1553" cut into the stone. It is immediately below the name of IHON SEYMOR.

above mentioned. This Philip Chute, for his bravery at the siege of Boulogne, where he acted as standard bearer to the men at arms of the king's band in 1544, received a canton or honourable augmentation to his paternal coat, viz., "the Lion of England."* "Captain Philip Chowte" was appointed by letters patent, 21 July 1544, captain for life of Camber Castle,† with a salary of two shillings per diem. This castle, which stands on a marshy plain north-east of Winchelsea, was one of the numerous coast defences built about 1539. Philip Chute had previously been placed in charge of the property belonging to the Black Friars and the Grey Friars at Winchelsea, when it passed into the pos-

* Guillim (ed. 1679) gives the Coat of Arms of the Chutes of Bethersden as "Gules, semy de mullets or, three swords barways proper, the middlemost encountering the other two, a canton per fess argent and vert, thereon a Lion of England."

He thus describes the shield of the Hampshire branch: "He beareth gules, three swords extended barrways, their points towards the dexter part of the escocheon argent, the hilts and pomels or, by the name of Chute, and is the bearing of Chaloner Chute of the Vine in Hantshire, Esq., a worthy successor of his father's vertues, who was a gentleman of much eminence and knowledge in his practice of the Laws."

The Irish family bears the same coat as the Chutes of Kent, but I do not know that their descent from the Standard Bearer has been *proved*, though it has been generally accepted.

The crest of all three branches is, "A dexter cubit arm in armour, the hand in a gauntlet, grasping a broken sword in bend sinister ppr., pommel and hilt or." Motto: "Fortune de guerre."

† "Looking from the precipice which is the boundary of Winchelsea on the east, Camber Castle is seen at the distance of a mile and a half, like an immense tortoise lying asleep by the sea. It is a fortress of early Tudor times, and was built, it is said, upon the site of a still earlier castle. It stands—with reference to the one expanse of marsh which is formed by the three 'levels,' Pett, Camber, and Brede—exactly in the position of Pevensey Castle as regards the marsh of Pevensey; that is, in the point of most consequence for the command of the whole position. It was kept in full fighting condition until 1642, when it was determined that as the sea had receded so far as to render it of little use, the ordnance and stores should be removed to Rye, and the fortress left to ruin. But this extraordinary mass of stonework is likely to last as long as the Udimore Hills which look down upon it, unless it should come to be used as a stone quarry. It is a perfectly symmetrical building, like Bodiam, Hurstmonceaux, and Pevensey Castles; but is much more massive than either of these. The keep, a round tower, curiously like the tomb of Cæcilia Metella, in the Roman Campania, and, as far as I can carry the latter in my mind's eye, of about the same dimensions, stands clear in the centre, and around it are towers of the same kind, connected with blind walls pierced for guns. A subterranean gallery, of which the roof has partly fallen in, runs quite round the central tower, and close to its foundations, and probably had connection galleries with the outer towers. The castle is absolutely without architectural decoration except in the great moulded string-course round the keep, in which a few Tudor symbols are carved. Its utter solitude in the midst of the silent plain, and its simplicity, strength, and symmetry, render it by far the most impressive ruin in all that region of impressive ruins—the Sussex marshes."—*St. James's Gazette*, 20th July 1886.

session of the Crown, at the dissolution of the monasteries. In 1541 he was one of the Burgesses returned to Parliament for that borough. In 1546 he requested permission to "purchase a farm of marsh lands in the parish of Iden, lately belonging to the Earl of Essex, and a marsh and nine acres and seventeen acres then in the king's hands by exchange." In 1556 he still received 66s. 8d. per annum from the lands of the dissolved Abbey of Faversham.

Horne Place in Appledore was possessed and occupied by Philip Chute at the time of his death. Hasted describes the estate at Horne Place as consisting of "870 acres of arable and marsh, besides a considerable tract of woodland."

The Kent Archæological Society visited this old home of Philip Chute during the Annual Meeting of 1879, and its beautiful domestic chapel has been illustrated, by our Honorary Secretary, in *Archæologia Cantiana*, XIV., 363.

In Philip Chute's will made 1 March 1565, and proved 1 Feb. 1568, he says, "I desire my body to be buried in my Chappel in the p'ishe Church of Apledore in the countie of Kent and to have a tombe stone on me declaring the certayne day and tyme when God called me unto his mercy. Item I will and bequeathe unto every poore person that shall come to my buryall and aske for God's sake sixpence." To the poor of Winchelsea he gave forty shillings, and the same sum to those of Wrenam in Suffolk, and to those of Town Malling. "All the household stuffe which shall be in his house of Horne in Appledore at the time of his death," he leaves to his son George, together with his property at Iden, and all in Appledore and Kennardington or elsewhere that he had purchased of John Harper. His son Edward was to inherit lands at Herst, Godmersham, Chilham, and Brede. The estates at Bethersden and Seddlescomb were given to his son Anthony, with remainder to George; and the land at Playden to Thomas, on condition that he made no claim on the Bethersden property.

As is well known, the Registers of Appledore previous to 1700 have been long destroyed, nor are there duplicates at Canterbury. Great, therefore, was my pleasure when, on

opening by chance a copy of Harris's *History of Kent* in the library of my late friend, Mr. Walter of Rainham, I found written in pencil (in the same hand as other entries in ink, and subscribed, "These notes I copied from the Register of Aplemore 19th October 1723. J. W."), the following extract, "Aprill 7th 1566, Mr. Philip Choute, the Captaine of Camber Castle was interred." This entry is verified, as I have since found, by a pedigree in the College of Arms.

At Wortham Hall, near Diss, in Norfolk, the seat of the late Major Betts, there is a fine panel portrait of a "well-preserved" old gentleman of seventy, believed by the owner to be that of Philip Chute. It is described as having "above the left shoulder a medallion of a warrior with a drawn sword, while above the right are the arms and crest of Chute, with the scroll *Fortune De Guerre*. On the frame of the medallion is faintly inscribed, *Anno D'ni 1588; ætatis suæ LXX.*" The royal arms are in the corner. From the date 1588, it is plain that this portrait cannot have been painted in the lifetime of Philip Chute, the Standard Bearer. There is no existing memorial of him in Appledore Church.

2. GEORGE CHOUTE, the eldest son of Philip by his third wife, ultimately succeeded to the Bethersden estate, as well as to Horne Place, and probably made those additions to the house at Old Surrenden of which Philipot speaks.* According to the rate book he was living there in 1613. By his wife Elizabeth Gage of Bentley, Sussex, he had several sons. Under date 6 June 1600, R. Whyte writes from Penshurst to Sir Robert Sydney, then Governor of Flushing: "Mr. Chute hath lost his eldest sonne in Ireland, his second is with you and his third. He understanding by them the desire you had of a good Nagge told me he had the finest in England, which he refused £20 for, and that he would bestow upon you if he could tell how to send it. I desired

* In *Proceedings in Chancery*, temp. Elizabeth, we find a claim on his part "as heir of 600 acres of land called the Dowles in Appledore, late the estate of Philip Choute, deceased, his father," and a cause "George Choute, Esq., v. Martin Barneham, Esq., Robert Morle, and others, landholders, and officers of the courts of conservancy in Romney Marsh,—a bill respecting scouring drains and dykes—the premises being Fresh Marsh, called the Dowles, and also the five Waterings in Romney Marsh, the estate of plaintiff and his ancestors."

him to send it to Penshurst and I would take care to ship him over to you. The Nagge runs at grass at his own howse 20 miles hence: he gave me a letter to the Bailiff of his land to deliver him when I should send for him, and upon Monday he is to be sent for." Of these sons, Walter obtained some notoriety. Camden tells us that he was one of the select volunteers who in 1597, under the command of Sir Walter Raleigh, attacked and took Fayall from the Spaniards, and were afterwards, with their leader, cashiered and committed to custody for acting without the authority of Essex, but were pardoned on the intercession of Lord Thomas Howard. He was knighted 23 April 1603, by James I., on the occasion of the king's visit to Belvoir Castle, while journeying southward to take possession of the English throne; and, on 16 February 1605, he received licence to travel for three years. In December 1608, he writes to Salisbury, saying he "has had three occasions to solicit him, *has left him part of his property*, and seeks employment in his service." On 6 February 1611, he asks Salisbury for an appointment "as one of the ten who are to serve his majesty with especial diligence at a pension of £200 per annum." The application was successful; for, 29 November 1611, a letter was despatched to George Choute desiring him "to enable his son, Sir Walter, to pursue his course in the king's service by supplying him with means." 20 November 1613, we hear that "Sir Walter Chute's requests," whatever they were, "have been fulfilled." In the short-lived Parliament of 1614 he sat for the now disfranchised borough of Whitechurch in Hants. On May 20th in that year Chamberlain writes to Carleton: "The house busy with elections, privileges, and impositions. Sir Walter Chute offers to undergo all the odium of *undertakers*, though nobody thought him worth suspecting." Winwood says, June 16, "Never saw so much faction and passion as in the late unhappy Parliament, nor so little reverence of a King, or respect of the public good. Some seditious speeches made the King impatient, and it was whispered to him that they would have his life, and that of his favourites, before they had done; on which he dissolved them. Four of their

tribunes, Sir Walter Chute, Christopher Neville, Hoskins, and Wentworth are sent to prison." The captivity was not of long duration, for 12 October we hear "Sir Walter Chute released, but loses his place, and is restrained within three miles of his father's house."* In the following year, 1615, he made his will, describing himself as "of Bethersden," and mentioning only his "cousin Waller," whom he nominated his executor. He died unmarried in 1618. Another son, George,† was knighted 14 October 1608 at Christchurch by Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Deputy of Ireland, and is noticed as one of the visitors of rank at the Hereford races of 1609, "where was a morris dance by ten old people." His presence was, doubtless, owing to the fact that he had married, or was about to marry, Margaret, daughter and sole heiress of Thomas Welford, Esq., of Wisteston, in the neighbouring parish of Marden. Burke, in his *Landed*

* In the Journals of the House of Commons are several entries relating to these transactions. Under date 16 April 1614, we read: "Sir Walter Chute—That, before the Communion" (which the members were to receive together) "would discharge himself, as (he) thinketh others desire to do,—That, for accusation of himself, hath thought fit to deliver in a writing; which (was delivered) in and read by the clerk. Moveth for the Committee to meet this afternoon. Resolved: 'No.'" Certain persons seem to have "undertaken" to manage the House in conformity with the royal views if the King would summon a Parliament. Their conduct gave great umbrage, and they soon found themselves unable to please either party. The existence of such an "undertaking" was vehemently denied but more than suspected, and at length practically acknowledged. A Committee of the House "reported" on the matter, but their Report was never entered on the Journals, though space was left for it. Sir Walter appears to have needlessly accused himself, as no one had thought him possessed of sufficient influence or ability. Anthony Wood says, "At the same time our author (John Hoskyns) was committed to custody, were others also imprisoned with him for behaving themselves turbulently in the House of Commons, as Walter Chute a Kentish man, who had lately been put out of his place of carver to the King, one Wentworth, and a third named Christopher Nevil, second son to the Lord Abergavenny, who was newly come from school."

† Duncombe, when describing Marden Church in Herefordshire, says (pp. 138-9), "On a brass plate 3 feet long and inlaid in a flat stone is a well engraved effigies of the lady of Sir George Chute; on a smaller plate on each side are represented her two daughters, and below this inscription: Under this monument lieth the body of Dame Margaret, the most deere wife of Sir Geo. Chute, Knt., and daughter and sole heyre of Thomas Welford of Wisteston, Esq., deceased; whose Pietie and Vertues deserve to survive in the memorie of man, till this her body shall rise again, re-united to her blessed Sowle, to live with her Redeemer for ever. She had by her said husband two daughters onlie, Anne and Frances, which Frances died the first day of her birth, her said mother following her the next day after, being June 9, A.D. 1614. On a shield is a lion passant, with other quarterings." This shield really bears the Chute coat with its canton (charged with a lion passant), and over all on an escutcheon of pretence the Welford coat of four quarterings.

Gentry, represents him as the founder of the Irish branch of the family, but I know not upon what authority he does so. Burke says, "George Chute, a military officer, went into Ireland during the rebellion of Desmond, and obtained grants of land near Dingle and in the county of Limerick, which were soon however alienated. He married an Evans of the county of Cork, and had a son Daniel, who acquired in marriage with a daughter of McElligott the lands of Tulligaron, subsequently called Chute Hall, which was confirmed by patent in 1630." If this was the case, which I doubt, Margaret Welford must have been his second wife, and Anne, daughter of Sir Martin Barnham of Hollingbourne, his third wife. On referring to his will, I find that he mentions his children by his surviving wife, and Anne Price, his daughter by Margaret Welford, "to whom a fayre inheritance is descended from her mother, my former wife, which upon my marriage and upon payment of a great sum of money by George Chute, Esq., my father, was soe settled," but he makes no allusion to any family in Ireland; yet this does not fully decide the point at issue. In 1627 he seems to have been living at Sonning, in Berks, where he buried his infant daughter Elizabeth.* In 1638 he is described as "of Stockwell;" and in 1640 he acted as a magistrate for Surrey, at Southwark. In his will, which was proved in 1649, he desires to be "decently and without ostentation buried in the Parish Church of Lambeth, in that isle where my predecessors, the owners of the Manor of Stockwell, which through God's goodness I enjoy, have a right of burial."†

* On another stone, north of the last, is the figure of a woman in a veil—
"Here lyeth Elizabeth Chute, daughter of Sir George Chute, Knight, and Dame Anne his wife, who lived three yeares and six moneths and dyed the eighteenth of May, anno 1627.

"What Beauty would have lovely stiled
What Manners sweete, what Nature mild
What Wonder perfect, all were fil'd
Upon record in this one child
And till the coming of the Soule
To call the Flesh we keepe the Roll."

Ashmole's Berks.

† On a brass plate in Leigh's Chapel, Lambeth Church—"Here lyeth the body of Margaret Chute (daughter of Sir George Chute of Stockwell in the

I am disposed to think that these sons, Sir Walter and Sir George, had given their father some trouble. At least that is the impression produced on me by the terms of his will made in 1615, and proved 18 May 1618. He calls Sir Walter his eldest son, and leaves him an annuity of £200 per annum, which he is "*to forfeit if he alienates it or suffers any part of it to be taken in execution.*" Of Sir George no mention is made, but a codicil is added, "as he signified and declared the same by worde of mouth in the time of his last sickness whereof he died—that his sonne Sir George Choute should have the one half of all the money which the said testator had in his chest then standing in his bed-chamber where hee laye and also the one *halfe of all debts that were owing unto him by bond* made either to him the said testator, or to Edward Choute his sonne and executor, and further signified his mynde and will to be that such bonds wherin the said Sir George Choute stood bounde unto the said testator should be by his exor. delivered to him in the presence of the said Edward Choute only and noe other." He describes himself as George Choute of Bethersden, and mentions his property at Surrenden, Horne in Appledore and Kennardington, Iden, and elsewhere in Kent or Sussex, all of which he had (by indenture dated 6 Oct. previous) conveyed to his son Edward, and he now confirmed the gift, together with all his personalty, subject to the legacies above named, and annuities of £20 to his brother Sir Edward Choute; * £20 to his daughter-in-law Lydia, wife of his son Edward; and £40 each to his grandchildren Edward and Philip, sons of Edward and Lydia.

3. EDWARD CHOUTE, who, though the fourth son, thus

county of Surrey, Knight, and Dame Anna his wife) who departed this life the second of March 1638, being aged six yeares and one moneth.

"If Vertue, Beauty, heavenly Grace and Witt
 Could have procured long life, this child had yett
 Liv'd heere, the wonder of her time and age;
 But God did think it fitt to disengage
 Soe pure a soule from human frailties bands,
 And place her with His saints where now she stands
 Praising His glorious Name, and sings those hymns
 Which blessed Angels use and Cherubims."

Manning's *Surrey*.

* In January 1604 we hear of "seditious words spoken by Sir Edward Choute."

succeeded his father at Surrenden, is spoken of by Weever in very eulogistic terms as a "right worthy gentleman." In 1608 he married Lydia, the younger daughter and coheirress of Thomas Gibbon, Esq., of Frid in Bethersden, and so became ultimately the owner of that manor. In a poor rate made 27 October 1628, "Mr. Edward Chute Esq^r is assessed on 289 acres at xxiiijs," "Mr. Chute in abillitie xxxvs xjd." Sometime after the death of his wife in 1631 he removed to Hinxhill Court, and there, though only its tenant, kept his shrievalty 11 Charles I. His year of office was marked by the beginning of the famous contest about ship money, and from the State Papers we learn what difficulties the Sheriff of Kent had to encounter in levying that unpopular tax. The first writ addressed to the mayor, commonalty and citizens of London was issued by the Lords of the Council "for the assessing and levying of the ship money against this next spring," October 20, 1634. On the 5th of January following Edward Chute writes from Hinxhill to the Council, that "he had been in every circumstance obedient to their letters in the business of shipping but for some passages which have happened somewhat opposite to the fair progression of it, which being now pacified by mild persuasions he hopes to receive the money on the 20th and beseeches them to direct him how to dispose of it." Having apparently been censured (15th March) for "credulity and neglect of his Majesty's service," he "pleads guilty" (20 of March), and "craves their free pardon as the ignorance, not wilfulness, of one who has been always a zealous promoter of this service has caused the long delay;" adding, that, "on the receipt of their letters he used all diligence for the speedy levy of that which remains of their proportion," and declaring that "rather than his Majesty's service shall suffer through his default he will deposit the rateable proportion assessed on the county (excluding the towns)," and asking "leave to retain so much of the levy as will pay his disbursements."

We hear no more until October 13, when he requests the Council to "help him against Maidstone, which had assessed the adjoining parishes." On the 2nd of November

he complains that "it is impossible to satisfy a multitude," and maintains, in answer to a petition of the Hundred of Ruxley, that he has "obeyed the directions of the Council in not following what the petitioners call the most equal way, viz. by composition, but that of laying all or most on the landholders and little or nothing upon ability." As for "the disproportion complained of between the hundreds of Ruxley and Axton," he says, "the one is as easy at £250, as the other at £170," and he "repudiates partiality." Three weeks after, he reports that "he has paid in £4950, and is collecting the remainder of the £3000," and petitions that as he had been "constrained by indisposition of body to rely on the promises of those appointed for assessment and collection of the ship money in Canterbury and the ports, and now finds Canterbury £50 in arrear, and the ports £79 13s. 2d.," their Lordships will "excuse this default and give directions for further proceedings." Again, he writes that "on two levies of ship money he has collected £200 above the imposed sum," and asks leave to keep it "towards the expenses" (£300) he has incurred. Finally, 7th January 1636, he writes that he has "used his best endeavours to cause the inhabitants of Herne to give contentment to Mr. Milles, the farmer of that parsonage, but finds it so hard to bring them to restore the 45s. imposed on him towards the former ships, that he would more willingly pay the sum out of his own purse than undertake to bring them to do the same, the whole parish being strongly inclined to oppose it. He will pay what he has to pay, when he comes to town at the beginning of term." The last year or two of his life he seems to have spent at Boxley. He made his will there in 1639. It is a document which, if it can be taken as any indication of character, speaks well for him. I instance such sentences as these: "Injoyinge thankfully at this present the great blessing of perfect health both in mind and body yet seriously considering that I cannot promise to myself the continuance of it for a moment, that I may not be troubled with worldly matters when it shall please God to cast me upon my bed of sickness I make," etc. To be buried at the discretion of his

executor, "forbearinge all vaine pompe and superfluous expense." He had "always thought it better to bestowe his benevolence with his owne hand than to leave it to be done by his executor," yet gives £5 (each parish) "to the most needy poor of Bethersden, Appledore, and Iden," directs that "such as he has lent cows to" shall retain them, and "accounting it a work very commendable and much for the good of the commonwealth to repair the highways," leaves £40 to the roads of Bethersden. To Nicholas, his youngest son, he bequeathed all the lands called Worsbridge in Bethersden, which he had bought of Sir William Lovelace the younger, and then occupied by Benjamin Norwood, gent., or his assigns; also £200 to be paid within three years, and in the meantime £10 per annum towards his maintenance in his studies. To his daughters Anne, Mabella, and Alice, £1000 each at marriage, or when 21; in the interval, £50 per annum each, to be paid quarterly. To Elizabeth Master, and Lidia Breckenden, his two eldest daughters, £20 each to buy them a ring. To his sons-in-law Edward Master and Thomas Breckenden 40s. for a ring. To his son Philip "all such goods and household stuff as he has of mine in possession." To Nicholas and Philip all his wearing apparel "equally and indifferently between them." To his "old and trusty servant John Perkins £10. To Sarah Brook, servant to Mrs. Master, 20s. To the poor of Boxley 40s., to be given by Lady Margaret Grimston if living, otherwise by the Vicar for the time being." To "my ancient and dearest friend Sir Henry Grimston, K^{nt}, 40s. to buy him a ring which I desire him to accept of and weare in remembrance of me." All his lands and tenements in Bethersden and the City of London to be sold to pay the legacies unless his son George shall choose to keep them and pay the legacies out of his other estate. Of his son he says that "his former dutiful behaviour towards him has made him so confident of his future good carriage," that he makes him his sole executor and residuary legatee. He was "brought from Fleet Street," and buried at St. Giles's, Cripplegate, 8th June 1640, the day his godson Edward Godfrey, King's Scholar of Westminster, died. Of his eleven children eight survived him.

4. GEORGE CHOUTE was 29 at his father's death, and perhaps he lived at Surrenden after his marriage (in or about 1633) to Eleanor Toke of Godinton. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was evidently an ardent Royalist, for he it was, as appears by the Commons' Journals of 30 April 1642, who delivered to Capt. Lovelace, his neighbour at Bethersden, for re-presentation, the famous Kentish Petition, which so greatly roused the anger of the Parliament. It prayed for a restoration of the Bishops, the Liturgy, and other constitutional measures, and being voted "seditious and against privilege and the peace of the kingdom," was "ordered to be burned by the hands of the common hangman." He also it was who at the following Summer Assize at Maidstone sent to Augustine Skinner, the Knight of the Shire, the "Instruction from the County of Kent," so eagerly suppressed by the Parliament, requiring him to vindicate the County "against the scandalous aspersions cast upon it," and to offer their advice to the House that "His Majesty should have full satisfaction given him in his just desires." On this account in all probability he incurred the displeasure of the Parliament, for we find in the Commons' Journals, under the dates 23 September 1642 and 10 January 1642-3, entries relating to his release from imprisonment: "Resolved that George Chowte, now in the Serjeant's custody, shall be forthwith discharged from any further restraint," and "Ordered that Mr. George Chute, a prisoner by order of this House, shall be bailed upon such bail as the House shall allow of." I have not met with any further account of his exertions in the Royal Cause, but there can be little doubt that he shared in the sufferings of his party, and dying at the age of 40 did not live to witness the Restoration. From his portrait which hangs in the hall at Godinton, together with that of his wife, he appears to have been a stout, thickset man, of dark complexion, with a long prominent nose. Their pictures were exhibited at the Loan Portrait Exhibition, and photographed as those of "*Sir George and Lady Choute*," but I believe they were wrongly described. The main provisions of his will were as follows: "To be buried in the church of the parish in which

he might happen to die." As for the debts owing to his sisters and others, he had by deeds, lease of estates, and otherwise, made some provision, and desires the same to be paid accordingly. To his daughter Ellinor £1200 when 18, and to his son George £1000 at 12; till then, £40 per annum to *her*, and £30 per annum to *him*. To his wife an immediate legacy of £100, the furniture of her chamber now in use, with treble provision of all sorts of linen, her wearing apparel and jewels. Nicholas Toke, Esq., Richard Hulse, Gent., and Thomas Knatchbull, Gent., of Mersham, to be executors, and to have power to sell any or all of his lands in Bethersden, Romney Marsh, and Sussex, to pay the legacies, employing the remainder as his heir might wish. He was buried at Great Chart 7th February 1651, and his will was proved on the 30th of April following. George Choute left two sons, Edward and George, successively his heirs.

5. EDWARD CHOUTE, Esq., "a person," says Philipot, "who for his support of learning in these times cannot be mentioned by the fautors and abettors of literature, or at least the pretenders to it, without some grateful acknowledgments," married Elizabeth, daughter of Mark Dixwell, Esq., of Broome Park, and died in London, of small-pox, about 1659, at the early age of 25. He bought Hinxhill Court, which his grandfather (and perhaps his father) had formerly hired.* Of his two daughters, who

* In 1621 Hinxhill Court Estate consisted of 336 acres, £20 per annum of quit rents, and the manor-house, says Hasted. Edward Chute was possessed also of "manors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Hinxhill, Wye, Willesboro', Mersham, and Sevington," besides "those already settled" in Hinxhill, Swatfield, and Waltham, as well as of "the manor, or reputed manor, of Surrenden and other lands in Bethersden, the manor of Craythorne, with lands in New Romney, St. Mary's, Hope, or one of them," and "lands in Wittersham, Sussex," all of which he devised to his "much honoured and ever-loving grandfather Nicholas Toke of Godinton, Esq., and his loving and much esteemed uncle Richard Hulse of Bethersden, Gent.," as trustees for a term of 31 years to pay out of the rents legacies left by his father to his brother George and his sister Elinor, and so much of his own legacies as his personalty would not meet. The latter legacies included £200 to his "well-beloved and loving wife to provide furniture for her chamber and to furnish her with mourning garments," £20 each to his aunts Master, Knatchbull, and Bettenham, the same to his grandfather to buy him a ring; £100 apiece to his uncle Hulse and Clara his wife, and to the former the best saddle gelding or mare he should die possessed of with his best sword and belt. The lands, in default of sons of his own, he bequeathed to his brother and his heirs.

seem to have had £3000 apiece, and who both died childless, Elizabeth became the wife of Sir James Oxenden, Knight, and was buried at Wingham 7 November 1696, where the following lines commemorate her virtues :—

“All graces did concenter in her life
The best of Christians and the kindest wife
Wisdom and Goodness both in her did meet
Her person charming and her temper sweet
Who'er would her just character indite
Must first have learnt of her to think and write.”

6. GEORGE CHOUTE, his only brother, inherited on the death of Edward the bulk of his property. He must have been the person who was knighted 11 July 1660, not (as Le Neve in his *Book of Knights* represents) George Choute of Stockwell. The disease which proved fatal to his brother carried him off at the still earlier age of twenty-three. His will is dated 31 May 1664. In it he describes himself as Sir George Choute, Knight, of Bethersden, and leaves £5 to the poor of each of the three parishes with which he was chiefly connected—Bethersden, Hinxhill, and Appledore. All his unsettled lands, moveables, and personalty were to be “sold to pay his own debts and the debts and legacies left by his dear father and brother.” To Cicely his wife he left £1000, her apparel and jewels. If she should bear a son, then to his daughter Cicely £1500 at marriage or attaining 21. To his sister Eleanor, wife of William Gerrard of London, Merchant, he left £200. To his “faithful and dear uncle, Richard Hulse, Esq.,” £200. To Mr. Robert Cole, minister of Bethersden, 40s. He was buried 18 June 1664, and under that date the following quaint entry occurs in the Bethersden Register: “S^r George Chout, Kn^t who dyed of the small pox aged 23 yeares. Edward Chout, Esq., his elder brother dyed of the same disease in London, and was buried by D^r George Wild (now Bishop of Londonderrie in the Kingdom of Ireland) in S^t Bride’s Church, who was also of or about the same age: two as hopeful young gentlemen as the court yealded.”

“Goe sleepe S^r George. Where’s such another
Can equal thee? or th^r Squire thy brother?”

7. SIR GEORGE CHOUTE, Baronet, only son and heir,

born after the death of the late Sir George his father, was baptized at Bethersden 10 February 1665, and created a Baronet 16 September 1684. He pulled down his mansion at Hinxhill, of which some small remains are standing near the church, and returning to Bethersden became the tenant of Lovelace Place. There he resided, serving the office of Churchwarden in 1714, and taking his part in parochial and magisterial business until his death in 1721-2. In 1688 and in 1713, he as patron presented clergymen to the rectory of Hinxhill. His name appears in the list of subscribers to Harris's *History of Kent*, a proof that he had some taste for literature and some disposition to patronize it. This Sir George was never married; he bequeathed his estates to his maternal relative, Edward Austen, Esq., subsequently Sir Edward Austen, Bart., of Tenterden, who shortly after he came into possession sold Old Surrenden to Thomas Best, Esq., of Chatham, from whose descendants it passed (through Mr. Edward Wood) to the family of the present owner, W. F. Mann Cornwallis, Esq., of Linton. At the funeral of Sir George Chute, a number of handsome mourning rings, enamelled black and gold, were given away. One of them I have often seen in the possession of an inhabitant of Bethersden.

In the North or Frid Chapel of Bethersden Church is a handsome mural monument surmounted by the family arms and thus inscribed: "In this chancel lies interred the body of S^r George Choute, Bart., who died Febr 4th, 1721, in the 58th year of his age. He was a true lover of the interest of his country, a generous neighbour, a kind master, and a faithful friend. He left his estate to his relation Edward Austen, Esq., who erected this monument in memory of his dear benefactor."

On a slab in the middle aisle, removed from its place below the monument when the church was re-seated, we read "Underneath are laid the bodys of Sir George Choute, Knight, and of his son Sir George Choute, Baronet."

The wife of the one and mother of the other was buried at Hollingbourne. Her memorial bears this inscription: "Here resteth in hope of a joyful resurrection the

body of Dame Cicely Chovet late wife of S^r George Chovet of Bethersden in the county of Kent, Knight, and daughter of Ralph Freke of Hannington in the county of Wilts Esq. by Cicely Culpeper his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Culpeper. She departed this life on the seventh day of March 1674 in the two and thirtieth year of her age."

With Sir George the Kentish Choutes became extinct, but the descendants of Philip, the Standard Bearer, still flourish, if Burke's assertion be substantially correct, at Chute Hall, in the county of Kerry. The elder branch of the family, to which Chaloner Chute, the Speaker of Richard Cromwell's Parliament, belonged, was seated at the Vyne, near Basingstoke; a mansion purchased, by a somewhat singular coincidence, of the representatives of that Lord Sandys who commanded at the siege of Boulogne, whereat Philip Chute was standard bearer in 1544; in its chapel are some tiles said to have been brought from Boulogne by Lord Sandys. An interesting account of this house has recently been published by Mr. Chute, the owner.

There is, or was, in Kingsnorth Church this mention of Elizabeth, daughter of Philip Chute, on an ancient board fixed to the north wall: "Underneath this place lieth buried the body of John Taylor, Gentleman, whose first wife was Elisabeth ye daughter of Philip Chute, Esq., by whom he had issue four sons and four daughters. He died 8 May 1616, aged about 90." (*Faussett MSS.*)

At All Saints' Church, Ellough, Suffolk, "on the south side of the chancel is a figure wearing an immense head-dress (resembling the horned head-dress of the fifteenth century) and a kirtle with sleeves, also a girdle, necklace, and bracelets, all ornamented with jewels. Above are two shields, one bearing the arms of Playters, bendy wavy of six argent and azure; and on the other is this coat, or (?), three swords barways, with their points to the dexter, sable;" above is written Cheut: "Heer lyeth buryd Margret Chewt, the faithfull lovinge wife of Arthure Chewt Gent. . . . Daughter to Christofer Playtors Esquier whoe died at the age of 55 (? in Februarie 1607." (*Oxford Manual of Monumental Brasses*, p. 160.)