

## BROOK FARM, RECVLVER.

BROOK FARM is in the parish of Reculver, and will be found marked on the 1 inch Ordnance Survey Map about three-quarters of a mile south-west of the ruined church of St. Mary. It is approached from the Canterbury-Reculver road, and in the opposite direction from the new coastal road, by a lane remarkable for its primitive surface.

The house was anciently of considerable local importance, was called Helborough (the modern Hillborough), and belonged at the beginning of the fourteenth century to Nicholas Tingewike, the last Rector of Reculver, who consented to the conversion of the living to a vicarage in 1310. He died in 1321, and the house passed to the Pine family, one of whom, James de la Pine, was Sheriff of Kent in the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh years of Edward III. At the beginning of the fifteenth century it was sold to the family of Cheyney, who held it until it was again sold, in the following century, to George Maycot, Esq., son of Anthony Maycot (*d.* 1532) whose brass remains in Hoath church. George Maycot's son was Sir Cavalliero Maycote, a courtier of some celebrity in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I, who married Mary, daughter of Thomas Monyns of Swanton in Lydden, and died on Christmas Day, 1606. His elaborate monument, of which descriptions exist, was in Reculver church, and perished when the building was destroyed in 1809.

From Sir Cavalliero the house came into the possession of Sir Christopher Clive, of Copton, near Faversham, who lived for a time at Zutphen in the Netherlands, where his daughter Zutphania was born. She married John Wood of Faversham, and, dying in 1635, was buried in Faversham church, where a brass commemorating her existed until the eighteenth century.<sup>1</sup> I cannot now find it, but a shield bearing the Clive arms remains at the west end of the nave.

<sup>1</sup> Lewis, *History and Antiquities of Faversham, 1727*, Funeral Monuments, p. 20.

Sir Christopher Clive conveyed away Helborough to the Contry family of Bekesbourne, one of whom, Elizabeth, was his wife ; and it eventually came into the possession of the family of Masters, from whose former house of Brooke, near Ash, it is said to have assumed its present name.<sup>1</sup> Finally it passed in the eighteenth century to Sir George Oxenden, from whose son, Sir Henry, Mr. Collard, grandfather of the present owner, acquired the property.

The most interesting architectural feature now remaining at Brook is the fine Tudor gateway of moulded brick, the arch in the debased Perpendicular style of the sixteenth century, flanked formerly by two curiously shaped pillars (one is now gone), and surmounted by a pediment and three urn-shaped pinnacles. It is a grand and unusual monument to find in a remote country lane, and its warm dark red colour gives it an added charm.<sup>2</sup>

The house itself was furnished by Mr. Collard with an entirely new front, and he also demolished the upper storey, so that the only remains of the old building are on the ground floor at the rear. An ancient cellar, now quite outside the house and approached by a stone stairway, appears to be at least in part a relic of the earliest building, but the old brickwork of the house itself is, like the gateway, of the sixteenth century, and is probably to be attributed to the Maycote family.

A room at the south end has its great hooded brick fireplace still intact, and adjoining this on the north remains the hall, with several massive beams in the ceiling, though here the windows are modern, and the fireplace is filled with a modern range. Over the fireplace are the arms, in plaster, of King James II. (See Note at foot.)

The hall was formerly panelled, and at another house in the parish are preserved four of the panels, measuring about 12 by 22 inches, each one having painted upon it a shield of arms represented as hanging by a strap from a nail. These

<sup>1</sup> Duncombe, *Antiquities of Reculver and Herne*, 1784, p. 78.

<sup>2</sup> The present aspect of the gateway is not in accordance with its builder's intention, since the brickwork seems originally to have been covered with stucco.



*Photo : Mrs. John Archibald.*

BROOK FARM, RECVLVER.

PLATE I.



IN BROOK FARM, RECULVER.

arms, which seem to indicate that the panelling was erected during the period of Sir Christopher Clive's ownership of the house, are :

- 1.—The Royal arms of England (France modern quartering England).
- 2.—Argent on a fesse between 3 wolves' heads erased sable 3 molets or (CLIVE).
- 3.—Argent a fesse and in chief 3 roundels gules (perhaps COUNTRY of Bekesbourne).
- 4.—A shield of six quarterings, viz. :
  - (i) and (vi).—Clive, as above.
  - (ii).—Ermine on a bend between 2 cotises gules 3 crescents or (HUXLEY).
  - (iii).—Sable 3 garbs or (STYCHE).
  - (iv).—Gules a lion rampant or between 3 crosses formy fitchy argent (LONGSLOW).
  - (v).—Quarterly, argent and sable, 4 cocks counter-changed (BROUGHTON).

This elaborate shield displays the arms of the Clive family with their connexions, and is or was also to be seen on a tomb-slab in Gillingham church commemorating Alice (*d.* 1610), sister of Sir Christopher Clive, and her husband William Haward, lord of the manor of Grange in Gillingham.<sup>1</sup> The north-country arms take us back to the original home of the Clive family in Shropshire, where was born at a later date the great Lord Clive of India.

Note.—I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. Ralph Griffin, F.S.A., for his interpretation of the shields, which on the original panels are greatly discoloured by age.

[This panel, unknown to Mr. Torr, has since been photographed by Mr. T. A. Bennett, of Herne Bay, whose attention had been drawn to the house by Dr. T. A. Bowes. Mr. Sydney Wilson, Local Secretary for Faversham, has been kind enough to send us the photograph with the suggestion that the panel might have originally come from Reculver church.—*ED. Arch. Cant.*]

C. R. COUNCER.

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, VI, 301.