

REEPHAM'S
THREE CHURCHES

(INCLUDING AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF
HACKFORD, KERDISTON, REEPHAM
AND WHITWELL)

BY M. J. SAYER, B.A. (Oxon) 1972

Printed by L. F. Everett, Cowper Road, Dereham, Norfolk.

PART I — CHURCHES

WHITWELL CHURCH

Whitwell Church is dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels and has a nave and chancel, south porch, and a handsome west tower. The tower is of the late fourteenth century, with pinnacles and panelled battlements. It has a transomed west window and to the north and south small quatretoiled openings. The five bells existing in 1789 were in that year exchanged for the six present bells, hung by Thomas Osborn of Downham.

The interior of the church has been spoilt by the addition of a west gallery and doors dividing the front and back of the nave. The font is recent. There is a fine Jacobean pulpit with tester. There is a Norwich chalice of 1681 and a London paten of 1692. There used to be a chapel on the south east of the nave, and the remains of the piscina are visible near the door. The church clock commemorates the King George V's silver jubilee, and retains the motto of the previous one "Remember Eternity."

REEPHAM CHURCH

Reepham Church is dedicated to the Nativity of St. Mary the Virgin. It has a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, south porch, and a south tower, which stands half way along the south aisle. The tower door has good ironwork of the late mediaeval period and the belfry contains two bells, one weighing about 10 cwts. (replacing a larger bell, known as the Great Bell, sold in 1790 to pay for restoration work) and a smaller bell dated 1810. The tower has a string course over the door and may have been built before the nave to which it is now connected.

There is a good decorated west window, restored early this century. The piers of the nave are octagonal and the south arcade is of the thirteenth century while the north is a century later. The church has been much restored, and the clerestory was removed in 1790 or before, and a barrel vault roof put on the church. The chancel is, unusually, on a lower level than the nave and was also heavily restored towards the end of the last century, when a new chancel arch was introduced, the roof raised, the windows renewed, and the floor tiled. A mediaeval wall painting, thought to represent the "Three Living and Three Dead" was found in the clerestory in 1790, and a sketch is in the Parish chest.

The font is a Norman one, with a square bowl of Purbeck marble, with shallow arcading on each side, and is supported on five pillars.

There are two monuments of particular interest. The first is the fine canopied tomb on the north wall of the chancel, showing a knight of the Kerdeston family, in full armour, lying on a

bed of cobbles, and I am prepared to suggest that the knight is William, second Lord Kerdeston, for reasons stated in my account of the manors in Kerdiston. Note the mourners in the arcades.

Also in the chancel is a brass to Sir William de Kerdeston and Cecily his wife, daughter of John Brewes. The knight's armour shows little development from that worn by his father.

Four mediaeval birds and beasts are to be found on bench ends at the back of the nave.

The arms of George II, 1745, are set up at the back of the church. Cautley says they were probably those of Charles I and subsequently altered.

The stone cross with figures, built into the base of the west pillar of the north arcade is reputed to have marked the point where Whitwell, Hackford and Reepham (Kerdiston) parishes meet.

There is a chalice of Norwich silver, and a chalice cover inscribed for the town of "Refeham and Cardeston" 1567, a paten of 1720, and other Communion Plate.

There is an early alms box at the back of the church.

This church is now the Parish Church for the United Benefice.

HACKFORD CHURCH

See Page 17

MISCELLANEOUS

The inhabitants of Reepham refused to have Parliamentary troops billeted in their houses during the Civil War on the grounds that they were in Hackford (which, for the majority of Reepham, is true), the only town mentioned in the troops' orders being Reepham.

There was in the church of St. Mary an image or shrine, it appears, for Alice Cook of Horstead, wife of Robert Cook of Crostwight, in her will (dated 1428) mentions "our Lady of Refham St. Spyryte" and desires a man to make a pilgrimage there on her behalf.

There were the following guilds in the three parishes: St. Mary, St. Margaret, St. Peter & All Saints.

In 1603, the respective incumbents returned that there were 240 communicants in Hackford and Whitwell and 180 in Reepham St. Mary (and Kerdiston), and no recusants or dissenters.

According to Ekwall, Hackford derives from the Old English haca, a hook, or bend, while Kerdiston means Cenred's tun or town, and Whitwell means the white spring or stream. Reepham derives from the office of reeve, and is thought to mean the village under the reeve's supervision.

Reepham has several connections with the Diaries of Revd. James Woodforde, Rector of Weston Longville. The Priest family were friends of his, in particular the Revd. Richard Priest and his younger brother Robert, a Norwich wine merchant. Richard's

son St. John Priest was succeeded by John Mathew, a substantial beneficiary under the latter's will, who may have been his illegitimate son. John Mathew was baptised as son of Elizabeth Shave, and received into the church in 1797 (St. Saviour's, Norwich). He is buried in the same vault as St. John Priest.

Bretingham (Briton) Scurll, Woodforde's servant who died unmarried aged 82 in 1842 at Bergh Apton, was son of Robert Scurll, a baker in Reepham. Robert was ordered by Woodforde to supply 50/- worth of brown bread to the poor of Weston in February 1795, and the parson considered it "larger and lighter" than that of the Weston baker. Robert Scurll was the ringer of the treble bell listed in the following extract from the register:—"On Wednesday Nov. 18th 1789 The five old Bells from Whitwell Steeple were carried to Downham and exchanged for a Peal of Six; which were brought to Whitwell Nov. 20th 1789 and hung by Thos. Osborn of Downham aforesaid with new Wheels, Stocks, Brasses, Clappers, &c., &c. The hanging &c. was completed by the said Thos. Osborn Dec. 5th 1789."

The Old Bells weighed 31 cwt. 2 qrs. 12 lb. and the New Bells 33 cwt.—a difference of 1 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lbs. The Foundry allowed 14/- per cwt. for the Old Bells, and charged £3 per cwt. for new metal. The hanging and fitments cost £20. This transaction left £24 8s. 6d. to be provided locally, and of this, £10 was subscribed by the six ringers, namely:

Robert Scurll, who rung the Treble
John Symonds, who rung the Second.
William Norris, who rung the Third.
John Elmer, who rung the Fourth.
William Symonds, who rung the Fifth.
Stephen Leeds, who rung the Tenor.

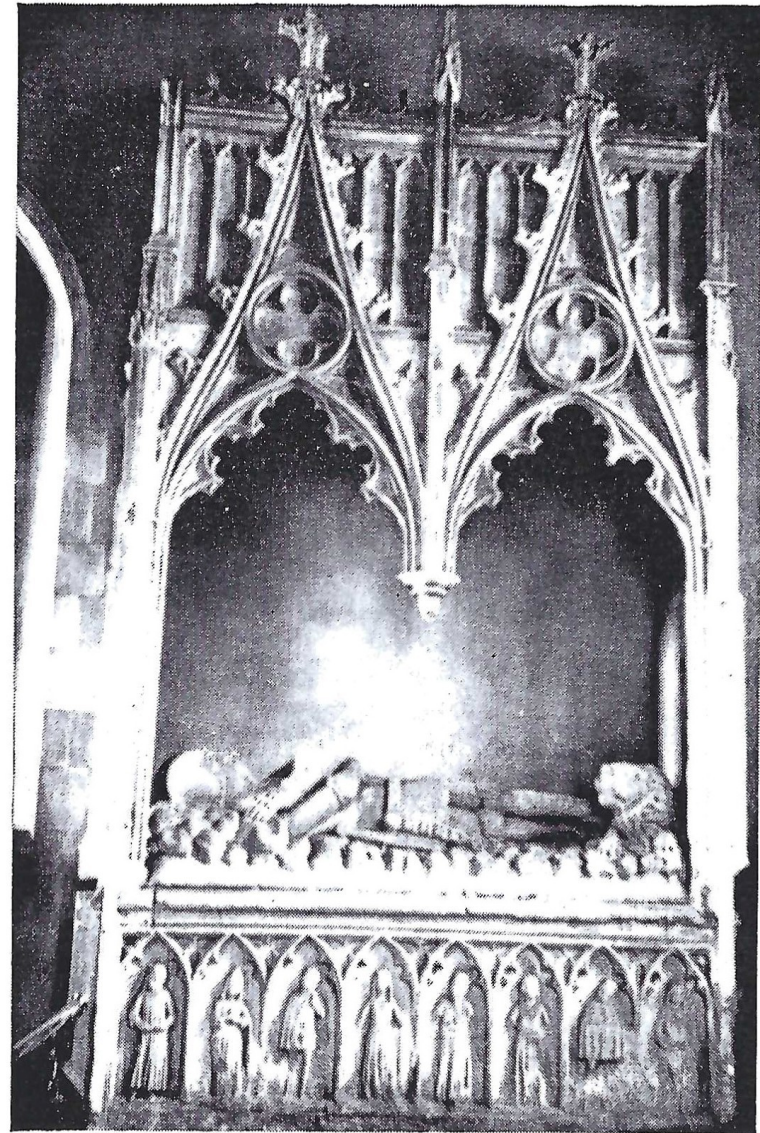
The other £14 8s. 6d. was subscribed locally.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS — WHITWELL

There are the following monumental inscriptions in Whitwell Church:

1. Robert Brese and Beteris his wife, no date (brass).
2. Charles Hunt, son of Edward and Elizabeth Hunt Holley, b. 2 Sept. 1838 d. 28 Feb. 1840.
3. John Wiggett, Citizen & Alderman of Norwich, second born son of William Wiggett of Guist d.s.p. 3 Oct. MDCVIII (1692) aged 73.
4. Richard Baker late of Whitwell, yeoman, d. 9 Jan. 1669.
5. Eliza widow of Robert Sewell of Bury St. Edmunds, and 3rd daughter of William Bircham of Hackford, gent. d. 30 July 1820 aged 53. Erected by W. B. Sewell, her son.
6. Charlotte wife of William, eldest son of William and Sarah Bircham d. 9 Nov. 1803 aged 39. Also William Bircham, Esq. d. 18 Feb. 1853 aged 83, and Charlotte his second wife, d. 5 Dec. 1854 aged 75.

7. Sarah wife of William Bircham, d. 30 Oct. 1781 aged 38 and Charles their 3rd son d. an undergraduate at Caius College Cambridge, 9 Aug. 1794 aged 20. Also of William, husband of Sarah Bircham, d. 15 Sept. 1813 aged 77.
8. Samuel Bircham of Booton Hall, d. 5 May 1860 aged 87, and Ann his wife d. 31 Jan. 1837 aged 65. Also their children William, d. 10 Sept. 1798 aged 2, Samuel d. 2 Aug. 1811 aged 6, Elizabeth d. 5 Aug. 1811 aged 14, Charles Clement d. 19 Aug. 1811 aged 5, and Robert Francis d. 25 July 1813 aged 12.
9. Brigadier General J. J. Collyer, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., born at Hackford Hall, 21 Sept. 1870 d. 2 Aug. 1941.
10. Mr. David Williams, d. 15 Dec. 1811 in 58th year, native of Stormy, near Bridgend, Glamorgan, surgeon at Whitwell, and Charlotte his wife (d. 15 Nov. 1812 in 47th year) daughter of Peter Elwin Esq., of Booton Hall by 1st Wife Miss Paston of Bale, erected by their two sons, Peter Elwin Williams and Richard David Williams. (outside church).
11. Charles Henry Perry, b. 5 April 1814 d. 11 Feb. 1888 and his youngest son Edward Verdon Perry, O.B.E., J.P., b. 29 March 1852 d. 21 Jan. 1929, consecutively doctors here from 1846 for over 80 years.
12. Edward John Ellis, d. 29 Jan. 1821 aged 66.
13. Emily Johnston, youngest sister of Mrs. Georgina F. A. Collyer, d. at Hackford Hall 10 Aug. 1908 aged 90.
14. Georgina Frances Amy widow of John Collyer, Esq., of Hackford Hall, eldest daughter of Sir William Johnston of that ilk, 7th Bt. of Hilton, Aberdeen, d. 11 Feb. 1897 aged 91.
15. Clifford Frank Laskey, d. at Syracuse, U.S.A. 4 Jan. 1928 aged 32.
16. Stephen Leeds of Whitwell, d. 9 Feb. 1903 aged 59, erected by his stepmother Emily Maria Leeds.
17. Herbert William Clark, Nfk. Yeo. b. 28 Sept. 1891 in this parish, killed 11 Sept. 1918 at Ploegsteert, Flanders.
18. Samuel Bircham, b. 11 Aug. 1841 d. 4 June 1923 erected by his 2 daughters Gertrude Scudamore and Mildred Ricardo.
19. William and Marianne Bircham and their sons, William, Frank and Henry, in whose memory a nave window restored by Mary Shand and the Bircham family 14 Dec. 1893.
20. Richard Freeman, Priest, of Coll. Trin. Cantab, son of William Henry Freeman, d. 26 Feb. 1911 aged 42.
21. William H. Freeman, Rector of Hackford and Vicar of Whitwell, 1873-1904, d. 1914 aged 82, and Sarah G. Freeman his wife d. 1918 aged 85.
22. Robert Leamon d. 7 March 1853 aged 66.
23. Augustine Messenger, gent. and Susanna his wife, daughter and co-heir of Charles Prityman, late of Bacton, Suffolk, gent, who left one son Augustine. She died 5 Kal. Apr. 1655 aged 35. He died 6 Kal. Nov. sequentis, aged 49. **HLPI Bendysh exe dcti Aug.**



Canopied Tomb and Effigy of a Knight of the Kerdeston Family, probably William, Second Lord Kerdeston.

24. George Coke, gent, d. 17 Feb. 1609.
25. Mostly hidden by altar.
26. William Wasey, ringer 1914-44, Captain of the Tower, d. 22 April 1944 aged 52.
27. Edward Holley, 37 years Rector of Hackford with Whitwell d. 16 June 1873 in his 66th year.
28. Joannis a Joanne Bedingfeld Collyer Danielis Collyer de Wroxham in hoc comitatu, armiger, et illius Messengersi Monsey pronepotis d. Kal. Sept. 1870 aged 70.
29. Messenger Monsey d. aged 95 26 Dec. 1788 and his younger brother Clopton, d. 1762. Erected in 1868 by John Collyer and John Monsey Collyer.
30. Robert Monsey, b. 1655 d. 1737 and Mary his wife who survived 30 years and d. 30 May in 86th year, erected by his eldest son Messenger Monsey 1738.
 "Ego Robertus Monsey, Eccl.Angl.P.R.
 Natus eram in sexto D. Lucae 1655.
 Vixi rector (sed indignus) ecclesiae de Bawdswell
 Donec ob fidelitatem Jacobo II Regi prestitam
 Ejectus Eram
 "Tandemque cum sub scepra sex monachorum
 Me non male gesseram,
 Pedit Spoliatus semoque confectus
 Ad plures abii
 Anno Dom MDCCXXXVII
 "Messenger Monsey filius ejus natu maximus
 Hunc lapidem posuit
 Anno Dom MD CCXXXVIII"
 In short, he was formerly Rector of Bawdswell, but ejected as a non-juror for loyalty to James II, and died after living through six reigns.
 The inscription to Mary is added in English.
31. Thomas St. John d. 2 April 1829 aged 64 and Mary St. John his widow d. 23 Feb. 1848 aged 79. (on outside wall of church).
Blomefield gives the following additional monuments:
32. Augustine, only son of Augustine Messenger, gen. d. unmarried 4 Oct. 1690.
33. Rachel, late wife of Augustine Messenger, gent. and daughter of John Bowles, Esq., d. 25 May 1609.
34. Augustine Messenger, gent. d. 9 June 1626 and his second wife Mary, daughter of Reynold Mead, Esq., of Essex.
35. Augustine Barber and Elizabeth wife of Thomas Monsey of Hackford, children of Nicholas Barber of Fressingfield, Suffolk, gent. by Anne daughter of Augustine Messenger. He died 7 Aug. 1656, she died 3 May 1666.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS — REEPHAM

There are the following monumental inscriptions in Reepham Church:

1. Richard Heyward d. 29 April 1608 aged 68.
2. John Johnson d. 31 March 1772 aged 58 and Mary his wife, daughter of Benjamin Hopkins, d. 1 Aug. 1761 aged 42, and of Ann Johnson, spinster. d. 19 March 1788 aged —.
3. Michael Martow Umireville Wilkinson, Hon. Canon of Norwich Cathedral, Rural Dean of Sparham 1890-1911, Rector of Reepham 1864-1916, b. 10 Dec. 1831 d. 22 March 1916.
4. Edward Repps Jodrell d. 12 Nov. 1882 (2 windows).
5. Windows and altar pavement given in 1871 and 1885 in memory of Rev. Sir Edward Repps Jodrell, Bt., by his wife Lucinda Emma Maria.
6. Mary wife of John Wordingham, Esq., and daughter of Rev. Richard Priest and Mary his second wife, d. 24 Jan. 1826 aged 54. Also John Wordingham, Surgeon, d. 20 June 1846 in 75th year.
7. Rev. Richard Priest, 42 years rector of Reepham & Kerdiston d. 28 May 1799 aged 66. Also his second wife Mary, late Kingsbury, spinster, d. 14 March 1812 aged 73.
8. Rev. St. John Priest, d. 28 Sept. 1818 aged 59, 19 years rector, and Deborah his wife, d. 26 March 1822 aged 69.
9. Rebecca, daughter of Oliver St. John, gent. of E. Tuddenham, first wife of Rev. Richard Priest. She died at Norwich and was buried at E. Tuddenham, 29 Sept. 1765 aged 29.
10. Amelia Caroline (d. 13 Jan. 1860) wife of Sir Richard Paul Jodrell, 2nd Bt., erected by her son, Revd. Sir Edward Repps Jodrell, 3rd Bt. in 1867 (E. Window).
11. Rev. John Mathew, M.A., 23 years rector, d. aged 51, 25 Feb. 1842.
12. Mary Anne Dalrymple b. 16 May 1778 d. 2 June 1875, erected by her 2 surviving daughters.
13. Anne Harriott Wilkinson d. 17 April 1908 erected by her husband and children
14. Jane 3rd daughter of Stephen Leeds, d. 22 March 1836 aged 16. Also Sarah Leeds, spinster, only daughter of late John Leeds of Kerdiston, d. 13 April 1838 in 63rd year.
15. Robert Dack, d. 15 Oct. 1713 aged 44 and Mary his wife d. 28 June 1711 aged 28.
16. James son of Henry Neale and Mary his wife d. 10 Dec. 1717 aged 37.
17. Catherine wife of Augustine Breese, d. 6 Nov. 1732 aged 38. (48 erased).
18. Benjamin ——— d. ——— July ——— aged ——— and Elizabeth d. ——— April ——— aged ——— (hidden by pews).
19. Alice wife of Bartholomew Rippingal and widow of Henry Breese, by whom she had William, Rachel, Robert, and Mary, of whom only Rachel survived, and erected this monument. Alice d. 24 April 1744 aged 77.

20. John Robinson, Rector, d. 26 Aug. MDCCXX (—?) aged 67 and Martha his wife d. 30 March MDCCXXXVI (—?) aged 65.
21. Augustine Breese d. 18 June 1793 aged 74.
22. John Neale had issue John and — by Prudence his wife — 13th, 1696 (partly hid).
23. Ann wife of William Dack d. 11 Dec. 1702 aged 69.
24. Robert Breese of Hackford d. 17 June 1694 aged 65, erected by his executors Robert Dack and Augustine Breese.
25. Ann wife of Robert Dacke MD., daughter and heir of Edward Rudd, DD., of North Runcton. She d. at Norwich 2 March 1781 in 61st year. Also the said Robert Dacke, MD, d. 8 Aug. 1792 in 79th year.
26. Frances wife of William Bircham, d. 6 Sept. 1761 aged 23.
27. Elizabeth wife of Matthew Breese of Great Witchingham d. 29 Feb. 1772 aged 62.
28. William Dack, d. 23 March 1689 aged 66.
29. Augustine Breese of Kerdiston, d. 29 May 1736 aged 44.
30. Frederick Field, M.A., LL.D., 20 years rector, editor of Origen's Hexapla, b. London 20 July 1801, d. Norwich 19 April 1885.
31. Rev. Sir Edward Repps Jodrell, Bt., MA., of Sall Park and Lewknor in Oxfordshire, born 20 June 1823 d. 12 Nov. 1882 aged 57. The monument, which consists principally of a bust, is signed "Florence Borgo S. Frediano N.82" and "Romanelii Raphael 1885".
32. Anne wife of Robert Dacke, M.D. daughter and heiress of Edward Rudd, D.D. of North Runcton. She d. at Norwich 2 March 1781 aged 60. Also Robert Dacke of Kerdiston and Norwich, M.D., d. 8 Aug. 1792 aged 78 without issue and left most of his property to his niece Frances wife of Rev. John Humfrey of Wroxham. Arms: Or, on a bend engrailed azure, between two cotises of the last, three martlets or (? Dacke) IMPALING Azure, a lion rampant or, a canton of the second (Rudd). Crest: a martlet argent, collared or
33. George Wymer, gent. d. 26 July 1839, in 75th year, and Elizabeth his wife, d. 17 Feb. 1847 aged 81. Arms: Azure, on a bend argent 3 torteaux gules. Crest: on a mount, a caltrap or.
34. Samuel Gardiner, gent. late rector of Reepham, d. 16 March 1671 aged 65 and Mary Thurrowgood, his sister, d. 20 March 1671 aged 63.
On a shield are these arms: a chevron ermine between 3 bugle horns. (Gardiner). On a lozenge, the arms of Thurrowgood (on a chief, 3 lozenge buckles) impale those of Gardiner.
35. Francis St. John, M.A., rector for 33 years, d. 28 January 1756 aged 62. Also Thomas Hunt, Surgeon, his grandson ("nepos") d. 3 Oct. 1793 aged 46.
The arms of St. John, Argent on a chief gules, two mullets or, are shown by the engraver mistakenly as per fesse, in

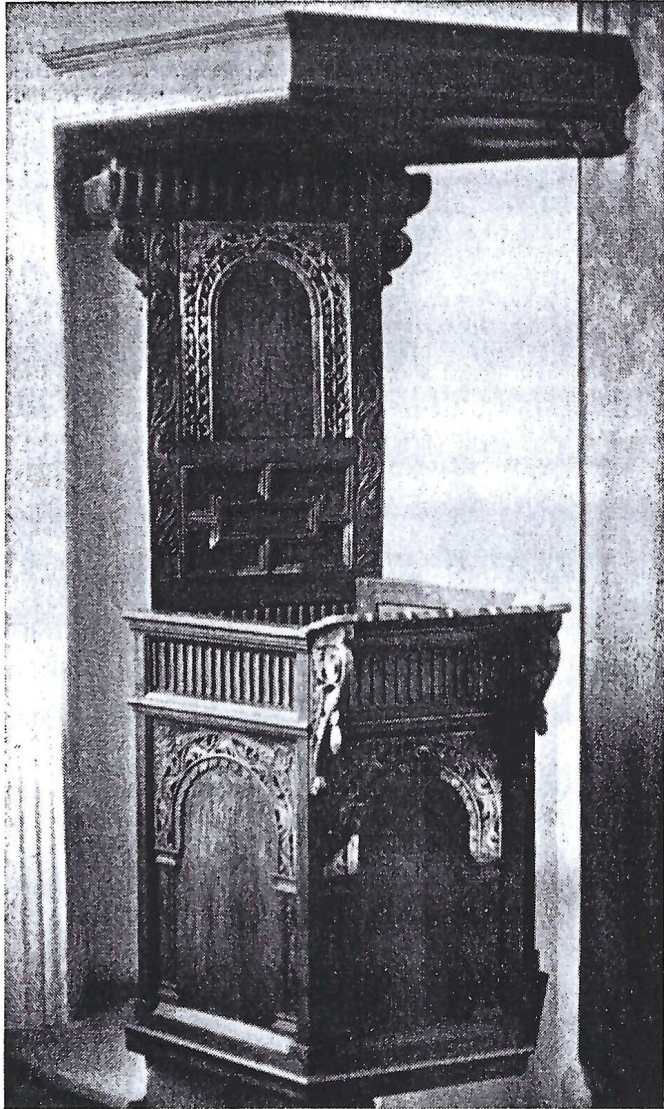
- chief two pierced mullets, in base a crescent, the crescent being intended presumably for difference. The crest is correctly shown: From a mount a falcon rising, belled and ducally gorged.
36. Hester Gardiner. The arms of Gardiner, as above, impale per chevron, a crescent between 2 leopards' faces in pale; on a canton 3 trefoils slipped; all within a bordure charged with roundels (Chapman).
"Hesteræ Gardineræ Mae Sm Filius
(In spe resurrectionis post matrem currens)
P.H.
"Scilicet una duos congiunxat terra sepultos
Quos semper vivos junxerat unus amor"
The final heroic couplet has been thus happily rendered by the Revd. Edmund Easten, Rector of Thurning and Vicar of Wood Dalling:
"Earthed in one Earth until the Resurrection
Aye flowed through both, alive, one Current of Affection."
37. Edward, elder son of Richard Heyward, d. 25 Sept. 16— aged 74. Arms: Argent, on a pale sable three crescents of the field. Crest: On a wing erect argent, a pale sable charged with 3 crescents of the first.
Blomefield also lists the following monuments:
38. Charles Robotham, S.T.B., rector, d. 4 Kal. Apr. 1690 aged 74 and Sara his wife, d. prid. Kal. Sept. 1688 aged 46. Erected by Charles Starkey. Arms: A fesse between — a lis — impaling a lion rampant.
39. John Robinson, M.A., 23 years rector, d. 26 Aug. 1723 aged 67. Martha his wife d. 1736 aged 65. (same as No. 20).
40. John Adwolde, rector of Kerdiston, d. 1426.
41. Margaret Camplyn, d. 1527.
42. Ambrose Cutting of Bacton, gent. d. 1682 aged 59.
43. Amy, daughter of John Neale, and widow of Samuel Ryseborow, d. 7 Nov. 1729 aged 31.
44. Mrs. Sarah Harborough, late of Hackford, d. 16 May 1729 aged 79. Arms: a Chevron between 3 escallops.
45. Robert Breese, d. 27 Dec. 1736 aged 77.
I also note a missing brass that had three figures and an inscription.

PARISH REGISTERS

The WHITWELL register begins in 1559. A number of interesting families occur:

George Southgate married Amy Outlawe (of the Little Witchingham family) in 1583 and had Thomas (1587), Annes (1596), and Mary (1600), Amy being buried as a widow in 1622.

Thomas Hunt, gent., one of the same family as owned the Hackford manors, married in 1601 Susanna (born 1573/4) daughter of Robert Breese, and had Amy (1606). Thomas was



Jacobean Pulpit in St. Michael's

— Photo by Godfrey Barsted.

buried in 1619 (will pr. Norw. Archd.) and he was brother of Margaret (mother of Thomas Finch) and Elizabeth (wife of Edmund Rix, Rector of Bintry and Twyford.) Margaret Finch is mentioned as a cousin in the will of William Hunt of Hindolvestone (pr. 1644 N.C.C.), son of Sir Thomas Hunt who is splendidly commemorated in Foulsham church. Susanna was buried in 1628. I also find that Martin Breese married Anna Hunt in 1618 and had issue and the descendants of Henry Breese (will pr. 1658 P.C.C.) and Ann his wife, daughter of John Earle of Salle. Susan, daughter of Francis Shephard bapt. 1643/4.

Another important family here in the seventeenth century was that of Wiggett. William Wiggett married Ann daughter of John Sheringham of Guist here in 1616 and had issue William (1618), John (1619, baptised at Guist, worstead weaver and Freeman of Norwich in 1655, and buried here, unmarried, 1692), Thomas (1621, Guist, married Catherine Seaman at Lyng, 1640, and had Anne (born later in 1640) and Elizabeth (1642) both baptised there before dying later in 1642), James (1624, Guist), Francis, Henry (1627), Peter (1629, worstead weaver and Freeman of Norwich 1655, Alderman of Norwich, who had issue), Robert (1630), and Frances (1617, married Thomas Norton 1644). William the father may have been son of another William and baptised here 1591/2 but is said by Blomefield to have been son of Peter Wiggett of Wood Dalling, (whose son William is mentioned in the will of Thomas Wiggett, pr. 1602 Norw. Archd.) Anne died a widow in 1662 and her will shows her to have owned much property in Whitwell.

Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, the third son, married Thomas Kirby at Elsing in 1660/1, and the author is a direct descendant of her daughter Ann's second marriage with Henry Sayer (at St. Stephen's, Norwich in 1701).

Robert Wiggett, the youngest son, was of Guist and married there in 1687 Dorothy daughter of Rice Wicks and was grandfather of William Wiggett who married the heiress of the Bulwers of Guestwick and took the name of Bulwer, and whose son married the heiress of the Earles of Heydon where his descendants live to this day.

James Wiggett, the fourth son, married in 1642 Katherine, (bapt. 1613), daughter of William Parke and was buried in 1676 (admon. Norwich Archd.) having had John (1646), — (? Henry) (1648), William (1657), Robert (buried 1663/4), Judith (1645), Ann (1650), Mary (1654), Frances (1660) and also apparently James, of Hackford, worstead weaver, who with Katherine the widow and John the eldest son, then of Great Yarmouth, merchant, was granted administration of James's estate. This second James married Susan Suggott at Sparham in 1676 and had issue here, Robert (1681), James (1686), Catherine (1677/8), Mary (1684), and Susanna (1689). He or a close relation was latterly of St. Saviour's Norwich, dying in 1723 and in his will, dated 1705 (pr. P.C.C.) mentions his wife Mary, brother in law Thomas Mott, and children John, Margaret, William, James and Mary (under

21). From him descend the Chutes of Pickenham, later of the Vyne. Pedigrees of the Wiggett family will be found in Blomefield VIII (under Guist) and Norfolk Record Society XIII but should be read in the light of the information given here.

The Whitwell register records that there was plague in all three parishes in 1603. Nearly fifty burials are recorded at Hackford between July and September but no particularly large number at Whitwell or Reepham.

HACKFORD

Hackford register begins in 1559 (but there are no baptisms until 1584) and was maintained separately from Whitwell until the eighteenth century. Besides the Messenger and Monsey families (referred to under Whitwell) a number of other families of interest occur.

Philip Plumstead, gent. (of the family from Plumstead) married Frances Bayfield in 1610, had a daughter Bellaria (buried 1630) and was buried 1634/5.

Firmin Rokwood, (of the Rookwoods of Weston) had a daughter Mary, buried 1598.

Francis Shephard, gent. had Elizabeth (1640), Robert (1645), Margaret (b & d. 1646) and Susan (d. 1645).

Ann Stanhowe (probably of the family of Bedingham and Brandiston) married Edmund Okell in 1607.

The names Hunt, Founten, and Curson all occur but any link with the visitation families must lie well in the past, as I can trace none.

REEPHAM

The Reepham register begins in 1538. A number of entries relate to Visitation and other leading families. Christopher son of Edmund Langdon, gen. (one of the Langdons of Wolterton) was buried in 1590 and Katherine Mountney, widow, (of the Guestwick and Threxton family, I take it) in 1597. Nicholas Howlett, rector and Ursula, "his virtuous and blessed wife" (buried March 1614/5) had Ann (born 20th Feb. 1614/5) who married in 1632 John Reppes, Esq., and had Henry (1633/4) and Nicholas (1634/5). Lionel Pitts, gent. was buried 1670/1 and Bridget, wife of Mr. John Pitts in 1676/7. Ralph Outlaw, Clerk, incumbent of Necton and later Bintry, and one of the Outlaws of Little Witchingham had issue by Isabella his first wife Sarah (1652), Elizabeth (1654), and Isabell (1655) and by Mary his second wife (daughter of Matthew Lancaster) a son Thomas (1657). I also find: Richard Hunt (one of the Visitation family but I cannot say which one) had Nicholas (1582) and John (b. & d. 1587). William Calthorpe had Alice (1568). Robert Steward married Rose Coke 1588/9.

A separate register volume covers most of the Commonwealth period for Reepham, Hackford and Whitwell and includes the

marriage of Mr. Ralph Knevit (a minor poet, and Rector of Lyng) with Mrs. Ann Davy in 1655.

THE VICARS OF WHITWELL.

The rectory of Whitwell was originally in the hands of the de Vaux family, but granted by Sir John de Vaux to the priory of Pentney, to which it was appropriated, and the Priors presented from then until the Dissolution.

Henry VIII granted the impropriated rectory and the advowson of the vicarage to Robert and Giles Townshend who sold it to Robert Coke and his wife Winefrid, but at this time, the vicarage was annexed to Hackford and the Lords of the manor of Hackford Hall presented from then until as late as 1812. Francis Edward Arden, clerk, and William Repton Esq. presented in 1836 and William Henry Freeman in 1873 and his son in 1904. The advowson then passed to the Church Association Trust, and the living was united with Reepham in 1935.

The former parsonage house of Whitwell and Hackford is on the East of the Market Place. It was sold to the Bircham family in 1873 when the present house was acquired and added to.

A list of Vicars and subsequently Rectors of Hackford and Vicars of Whitwell, as far as they can be traced, is appended.

VICARS OF WHITWELL

1321 John Makehayt	1423 John Scot of Brunham
1345 Thomas Stutevill	1441 Simon Frishney
1349 Thomas Martin of Hackford	John Bytham
1375 John Benjamin of Walsingham	1477 Edmund Glydrow
1413 William Fitzpiers	1492 John Robinson
1415 William Symond	1493 Robert Northern
William son of William de Spanby	William Stalworthy
	1525 Henry Danyell
	1541 John Warner

RECTORS OF HACKFORD & VICARS OF WHITWELL

1542 Christopher Lockwood	1684 John Pitts
1559 William Colleson	1689 Nathaniel Palgrave
1563 William Dawson	1706 John Palgrave
1583 Stephen Jervies	1721 Robert Cory
1589 Anthony Maxey	1750 John Neale
1602 Robert Lamkyn	1758 Stephen Buckle
1617 William Quelch	1797 Thomas Drake
1620 Robert Griffith	1812 George Hunt Hoiley
1633 Robert Blotfield	1836 Edward Holley
1637 Thomas Symonds	1873 William Henry Freeman
1655 Sampson Townsend (usurper)	1904 Richard Freeman
1662 Thomas Symonds (restored)	1911 John Bingley Barraclough
	1913 Anthony Geake
	1933 Bernard Porter Luscombe

RECTORS OF REEPHAM

Reepham, or Kerdiston, was originally in two medietyes, one belonging to each of the original Domesday manors there, Sir Alexander de Clavinging presented to the Burgulions' mediety in 1303. Both belonged to the Kerdestons by 1318-19. These manors both came to Queen Elizabeth who retained the advowson of each mediety but Charles II sold it to Francis Annynson, who presented first in 1674. His descendant St. John Priest was still patron in 1816, John Mathew presented in 1818, and Trinity College, Cambridge, the present patrons, first presented in 1842.

The rectory, a victorian building East of the church, has been sold and the Rector resides at Whitwell Rectory.

The medietyes, which existed separately until 1700, were known as Thomas's mediety (or Reepham St. Mary) and Hugh's mediety (or Reepham St. Mary alias Kerdeston).

A list of Rectors, as far as they can be traced, is appended. Those marked (K) served the Kerdeston mediety, those marked (M) served the other mediety, while I am uncertain which mediety was served by those marked (U).

RECTORS OF REEPHAM & KERDESTON

Ardewyn - temp.		1508 Thomas Bishop	(K)
Henry III	(U)	1511 James Rightwice	(K)
1261 Mathew Baynard	(U)	1521 John Strutt	(K)
Alexander	(U)	1540 John Strutt	(M)
1303 Henry de Clavinging	(U)	1558 William Grimsby	(K&M)
1318 William de Kerdeston	(K)	1563 William Dawson	(K&M)
1319 William de Kerdeston	(M)	1574 Richard Dawson	(K&M)
1319 Robert Qwytfot	(K)	1594 Anthony Maxey	(K&M)
1327 John de Brecham	(U)	1612 Nicholas Howlett	(K&M)
1347 Peter de Calthorpe	(U)	Samuel Gardiner	(K&M)
1356 Robert Atte Faldgate		1672 David Philips	(K&M)
of Brisley	(K)	1674 Charles Robotham	(M)
1361 Andrew Lesset	(U)	1674 Henry Pitts	(K)
1390 John son of		1681 Nathaniel Osborne	(K)
Richard Athelwald	(K)	1700 John Robinson	(K&M)
1391 Thomas Dykeon	(M)	1723 Francis St. John	
1395 Richard Faulkner	(M)	1756 James Baldwin	
1402 Robert Newent	(M)	1757 Richard Priest	
1422 Thomas Boleyn	(M)	1799 St. John Priest	
1427 Richard Parker	(K)	1816 St. John Priest (again)	
1429 Robert Leycestre	(M)	1818 John Mathew	
1452 Richard Ovee	(K)	1842 Frederick Field	
William Stemmys	(M)	1863 William Smith	
1481 Thomas Greene	(M)	1864 Michael Marlow	
1490 John Hughson	(K)	Umfreville Wilkinson	
1490 Nicholas Cokett	(K)	1916 Edward Wilton South	
1493 Thomas Croft	(K)	1925 Daniel Henry Moore	
John Brokeden	(M)	1935 Bernard Porter Luscombe	
1507 Ralph Porter	(M)	(united benefices)	

1946 John Harold McCubbin
1955 George Herbert Hurst

1968 William Frederick Paul
Kelly

HACKFORD CHURCH

Hackford church was dedicated to All Saints and the advowson belonged to the manor of Hackford Hall. The church, chancel, church goods, ornaments and jewels were destroyed in the fire of 1543 with most of the houses in Hackford, and the church was never replaced, its remains lying to the south-west of St. Michael's church, and the tower had to be demolished in 1790. In the ringing chamber of St. Michael's Church, there is a drawing by the late Miss E. F. Boon, formerly organist and schoolmistress, of All Saints' tower before it was pulled down. An entry in one of the registers reads: "1790. June 7th Hackford Steeple began to be taken down. 14th Mr. Samuel Sewell fell from the Top and had like to been killed." It was this Samuel Sewell who replaced the clerestory leaded roof of St. Mary's with a barrel vault roofed with Cumberland slates which lasted until the restoration of 1957-8. Following the fire, the church and vicarage of Whitwell was annexed to it and the one church served both parishes, the right of presentation continuing with the manor of Hackford Hall.

The list of rectors as far as can be traced, is as follows:

RECTORS OF HACKFORD

1317 John Pertryke	1428 John Sprygg
1338 Ralph Brown	1436 Thomas Boleyn
1339 John de Sixendal	1437 Robert Frodesham
1353 Thomas de Leverington	1440 John Smyth
1364 William de Berton	1454 John Gamelyn
1367 William Chattok	1479 William Cubyt
1383 John de Grimston	1506 John Hawkesford
1384 Adam de Popelton	1509 John Gooddyng
1396 Rowland Qwyk	1531 John Maners
1422 William Bungay	
1423 Thomas Essex	
John Radewell	

John Maners was, I take it, a near relation of Thomas, Earl of Rutland, who presented him.

PART II — SECULAR HISTORY

REEPHAM AND KERDISTON

There were two lordships in Kerdiston at the time of Domesday Book.

The first lordship belonged to William de Warenne, (whose chief seat in Norfolk was Castle Acre). It had been held by Godwin in the reign of Edward the Confessor and was held of William by Rardulf. At Domesday, it consisted of two ploughlands, and was one league long and half a league broad. There were 16 villeins and 20 borderers, 2 ploughs on the lord's demesne and 3 belonging to the men, 8 acres of meadow, woodland for 40 swine, 6 beasts, 7 swine, 60 sheep, 24 goats, a moiety of a church with 7 acres, a socman with 5 acres of land and a freeman with 30 acres and among them all one plough. All this was worth 100/- and in addition there was a freeman added to the manor in William I's time with 45 acres of land, and 6 borderers and between him and the men there were 1½ ploughs and 1½ acres of meadow, woodland for 10 swine and a quarter share of a mill. This freeman was worth 20/-.

The lordship belonged to William de Warenne following an exchange of two manors in Lewes and paid 15d. in the £1 Danegeld.

This manor was, by the thirteenth century part of five knight's fees held of the de Warennes by the de Say family in Kerdiston, Salle, Wood Dalling, Reepham and eighteen other villages. John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, had a royal licence in 12 Edward II to alienate 39½ fees including Kerdiston to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and since then the de Says and their successors have held of the County and then Duchy of Lancaster.

However, the de Say family did not involve themselves very actively in Kerdiston, for their manor was in 1302 subdivided into five. A third of a knight's fee was held of them by Robert de Burgulion, another third was held of them by Robert and of him by Walter de Calthorp, a twelfth of a knight's fee also held of them by Robert was held of him by Roger de Gyney, a ninth of a knight's fee was held of them by Walter de Clopton, and two parts of ⅓ of a knight's fee was held of them by Walter and of him by William de Kerdeston.

The other lordship in Domesday Book belonged to Ralf, Lord Baynard, and had been held by Tord, a freeman, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, and was held of Ralf by Geoffrey Baynard. At Domesday, it included two ploughlands and was half a league long and four furlongs broad. There were 16 villeins, 14 borderers, and 1 serf, 2 ploughs on the demesne and 3 belonging to the men, 5 acres of meadow, woodland for 20 swine, 4 horses, 10 beases, 40 swine, 50 sheep, 28 goats, 2 hives of bees, 3 socmen

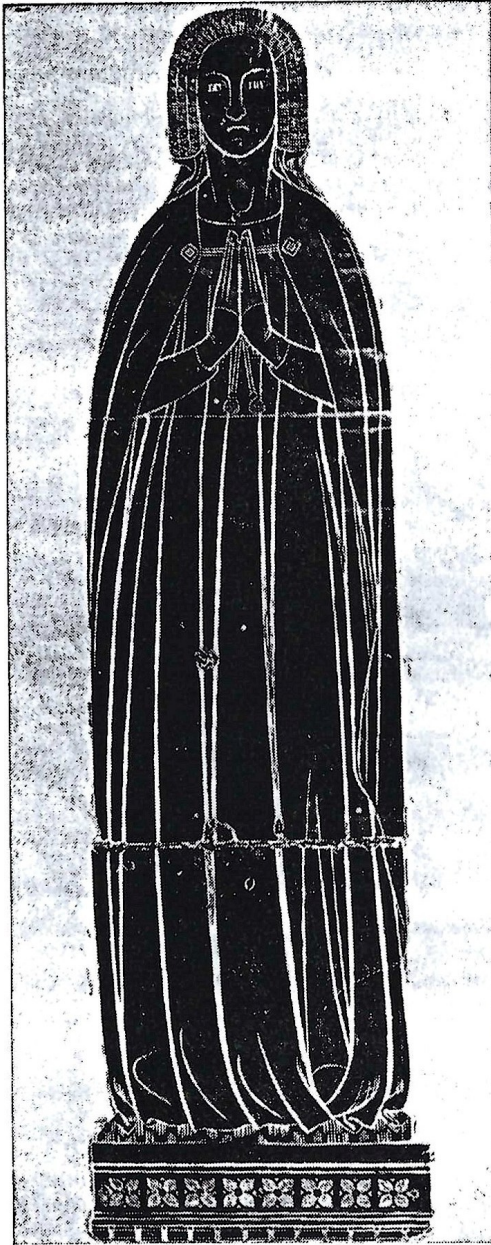
with 25 acres and half a plough and the lordship included Reepham, was worth £4-5-0 and paid 3d. in the £1 Danegeld. I take it that it also included the other moiety of the church.

Geoffrey Baynard was, I take it, the same as Ralf's son and heir, but his son William forfeited his barony which was given to Robert Fitz Walter. However, a junior branch of the family must have been enfeoffed of the manor for in 1302 Fulc Baynard held ½ a knight's fee here of a subsequent Robert Fitz Walter, and it was held of Fulc by William de Kerdeston.

This all shows just how complicated the system of tenures had become before the statute of Quia Emptores in 1295, for the principal holdings were those of the de Kerdestons, Burgulions and Calthorpes. The Gyney 1/12 and Clopton 1/9 occur as late as 1401/2 when Margaret Vernon held the latter, and then disappear.

The de Kerdeston family, taking their name from Kerdiston, were the most prominent family of these. It is presumably the site of their manor that lies near Old Hall Farm and nearby are the remains of the original church. William de Kerdeston was with Edward I in the Welsh war of 1282 and Sheriff 1296-7. His son Roger, Sheriff 1330-1, was summoned to Parliament as a Baron 1332-7. Roger's son William, the second Baron, had a license to fortify his principal residence at Claxton in 1339, fought at Crecy in 1346 and in 1359 was one of the council of the King's son Thomas of Woodstock, who was left in charge of the kingdom in his father's absence. William died in 1361 and it is his tomb in the chancel of St. Mary's church at Reepham, I think, not only because the armour fits the period, but because his father and grandfather, according to Blomefield, were both buried at Langley Abbey. His son William, by his second wife, was born out of wedlock, and although he obtained possession of Kerdiston and Claxton, was never summoned to Parliament. He and his wife Cecily, daughter of John Brewes of Stinton, are commemorated by the brass in the chancel of St. Mary's. Their grandson Sir Thomas, son of Sir Leonard de Kerdeston, left an only daughter Elizabeth, who married Sir Terry Robsart, but before Sir Thomas's death in 1446 Kerdiston manor was settled on William de la Pole, Marquis, (and later Duke) of Suffolk and Alice his wife, who was granddaughter of Maud, a daughter of William, second Lord Kerdeston, by his first wife, and properly speaking his co-heir. On her mother's side, Alice was granddaughter of the poet Chaucer.

The turbulent history of the de la Poles belongs to national history, and they suffered several attainders. In 22 Henry VII, the King granted this manor to Sir John Peche, but it was later restored to the de la Poles, who finally lost their estates in 5 Henry VIII. Their Kerdiston manors also extended into Themelthorpe, and part became the present manor of Themelthorpe while that part that lay in Kerdiston was granted to Sir James Boleyn of Blickling by Henry VIII. Sir James Boleyn granted the manors of Kerdeston and Reepham to Edmund Lomner and Sir



The "Better Half" of the Reepham Brass, Cecilia, wife of Sir William de Kerdeston (d. 1391).

Thomas Paine, but this may have been a lease only. Sir James held Cawston as a result of the same grant, with remainder to Elizabeth, daughter of Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn. If this remainder also affected Kerdiston, it would explain how Elizabeth, when Queen, granted the site of the manor house to Ambrose Willoughby. She appears to have retained the patronage and granted the lordships to her cousin George, Lord Hunsdon, her Lord Chamberlain, also a Boleyn through the female line, for in 12 James I, George's widow Elizabeth, wife of Ralph, Lord Eure, owned the manors of Kerdiston and Reepham and with Robert Gore and Thomas Corbett (who were I take it, trustees or mortgagees) enfranchised the copyhold land of William Dennys and Jane his wife here, to be held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich in Kent in free and common socage. The two manors, the one presumably deriving from that of the de Warenes and the other from that of the Baynards, were bought by the Heyward family and are now known as the manor of Kerdeston Reiffhams.

The Calthorpe family's main estates lay elsewhere in the county and their manor in Kerdiston, now known as Kerdeston Calthorpes, passed by marriage to the Parker family and was also bought by the Heywards, and since then this manor and that of Kerdeston Reiffhams have always been in the same ownership. Francis Heyward was lord of Kerdeston Calthorpes as early as 1649 and still lord in 1655 when it passed to Edward Heyward. Edward Heyward was son of Richard Heyward (who died in 1608) and grandson of Richard Heyward. He was a barrister at the Inner Temple and a friend of Camden the antiquary. He took out a grant of arms but died in 1658 without issue (will proved P.C.C.) and left his manors here to his cousin William Heyward, of St. Laurence, Norwich, who was lord in 1658. William had two sons Francis (lord in 1664) and Daniel, and two daughters Rebecca wife of Francis Annyson and Elizabeth wife of Daniel Westall. Both sons died without issue and Annyson and Westall were lords of the manors in right of their wives 1666. However, Francis Annyson and his wife acquired the Westalls' share in 1668. Their daughter Sarah Annyson was lady from 1737 and probably a lot earlier, followed in 1754 by Rebecca Ward, widow, followed in 1765 by St. John Priest (son of the Rev'd Richard Priest by his first wife Rebecca daughter of Oliver St. John of North Tuddenham, who was Sarah's nephew). The manors were then bought by Edward Hase (first court 1784) and passed with his Salle estate to the Jodrells (by marriage) and to the Whites (by purchase), Sir John White, Bt., of Salle now being lord of both manors.

The manor of the Burgulion family, lords of Great Snoring, passed by marriage to the Sheltons of Shelton who sold it, and according to Blomefield it passed then to Edmund Lomner, whose widow Catherine held her first court 5 & 6 Philip and Mary, and then by 1590 to the Pastons, later Earls of Yarmouth. On the death of the second Earl, all the Paston property in Norfolk was

bought in 1758 by Admiral Viscount Anson, the circumnavigator, and the Ansons in 1821 sold this manor, now called Reepham Burpleons, to William Repton, whose family sold it in 1860 to W. H. Scott who conveyed it in 1861 to T. Copeman as trustee. Its subsequent history is the same as for the manor of Hackford Hall.

The Moor House, originally in Kerdiston parish but in the town of Reepham, is a large Victorian house in what might be called a neo-Jacobean style, built in 1890 by Samuel Bircham, owner of the Old Brewery House (see Hackford), who died in 1923. He was son of Francis Thomas Bircham, a London solicitor, and grandson of Samuel Bircham, tenant of Booton Hall. Following Mr. Bircham's death, the Moor House was sold to the present owner, Dr. Dorothy E. Eglington.

WHITWELL

At the time of Domesday Book, the chief lordship in Whitwell belonged to Reynold Fitzlvo and was held of him by Ketel, a freeman having held it in the reign of Edward the Confessor. It was a league long and half a league broad and there were two ploughlands, and fifteen acres of land, seven villeins, seventeen borderers, two serfs, two ploughs on the demesne and four belonging to the men, fourteen acres of meadow, woodland for eighty swine, two mills, a moiety of a fishery, one horse, six beasts, thirty-four swine, sixty sheep, twenty goats, twelve hives of bees; two freemen with a plough and three acres of meadow; and two freemen with a plough and two acres of meadow and woodland for five swine, these two freemen being worth 6/-. The whole was worth £6.0.6d. and paid 5d. in the pound Danegeld.

Little is known of Reynold Fitzlvo and his lordships were soon after granted to the de Clare family, later Earls of Hertford and Gloucester. In 1302 it consisted of 1½ knight's fees and was held of them by Roger de Gyney and of him by the de Ros family, who succeeded the de Vaux family here, as in Hackford. Henry, Earl of Rutland, conveyed the manor to Ralph Symonds of Cley 33 Henry VIII and this family owned the lordship until the seventeenth century. At this date it included a substantial part of Bawdeswell but the Symonds family split the manor. A manor, it now seems settled, can be split only by operation of law and not by act of party, but the point was not then settled and the split was certainly effective in practice. John Bendish of Bylaugh was lord of the new manor of Bawdeswell late Symonds, as it was once called (Whitwell late Symonds as it is now called) in 1665 while Giles Symonds sold the Whitwell part of the manor, known as Whitwell Symonds, to Augustine Messenger in 1678. Since then the latter has always passed with the other manor in Whitwell and the former with the manor of Bylaugh.

The other manor in Whitwell was at the time of the Domesday Book an outlying estate belonging to the King's manor of Cawston, and had been held by Harold, later King of England, in the reign of Edward the Confessor. There was a ploughland, with seven borderers, one plough on the demesne, woodland for twenty swine, and five acres of meadow, and it was valued with Cawston. It seems clear that it was this manor, not the de Ros manor, that was ancient demesne of the Crown. It was clearly the smaller lordship at the time of Domesday and would seem most likely to correspond with the half knight's fee held by the de Whitwell family of the honour of Clare in 1302. Although the inhabitants of Whitwell were granted freedom from toll, as being ancient demesne of the crown, in 1397, the Patent Rolls do not state which manor this was in respect of. The de Clares became overlords of this manor in a different way from the other, for, according to an exemplification in the Patent Rolls in 1366, Richard de Clare inherited it with a fifth share of the estates of the Marshal Earls of Pembroke through his mother, one of the five sisters and co-heirs of the last Earl of that family, and daughter of William, the great Earl of Pembroke, Henry II's Marshal who saved England for the infant Henry III by defeating the French invaders and rebel barons and who won the battle of Lincoln known as Lincoln Fair.

The de Whitwells were an old knightly family but not as prominent as the de Kerdestons. William de Whitwell held half a knight's fee here in Henry III's time and married Clarice, daughter of Hugh de Skeyton, thereby acquiring the manor in Skeyton now called Whitwell Hall. In 1242/3, Robert de Skeyton and Clarice de Whitwell held a knight's fee in Skeyton. Sir Richer de Whitwell, son of William and Clarice, held these manors, and bought a manor in Runhall. He also held that of King's Winterbourne in Dorset (held in chief of the King paying 40/- a year) with property in Aylsham, Tibenham, and Great Witchingham and died 46 Henry III (I.P.M.) leaving Alice his widow and William his son and heir.

William de Whitwell died unmarried 22 Edward I and was followed by John his brother who died four years later leaving William his son and heir aged 14 (I.P.M.). Isabella de Whitwell who held the Runhall manor in 1315, was presumably John's widow, holding in dower. This William was one of the commissioners appointed to collect the Norfolk share of 30,000 sacks of wool granted to the King in 15 Edward III and died 31 Edward III leaving by Catherine his wife, who predeceased him, a son and heir Simon, then aged 11, and it was found that the manor of King's Winterbourne had been settled on William and Catherine and their descendants, remainder to William Briks of Witchingham and his heirs.

Simon de Whitwell presented to Skeyton in 1367 and left two daughters, of whom one seems to have married John de Whitwell, a cousin (see Blomefield VI 561) and the other, Cecily, married William Gambon and brought him the manor in Whitwell and

half those in Runhall and Skeyton. John de Whitwell was of Felmingham and a descendant of James de Whitwell, (who was probably a younger son of the first John) and while I have not investigated the pedigree of this or other branches, some information will be found in Blomefield VI 561 and XI 34. However the dates in the footnote at VI 561 are muddled for the Simon de Whitwell whose will is referred to died in 1371.

William Gambon was lord of the Whitwell manor as early as 1378 and in 5 Henry IV held of Anne, widow of Edmund, Earl of Stafford, whose husband was descended from one of the de Clare co-heiresses. William and Cecily had Richard who left Richard, who was followed by his cousin John (who married Ellen) whose sister Joan's son Robert Sterne inherited by 22 Henry VI as his uncle left no issue. Robert Sterne, by Margaret, left Thomas, who died without issue, and Henry, father of Henry Sterne whose son Simon sold the Whitwell and Skeyton manors in 4 & 5 Philip and Mary to Robert Coke and Thomas his brother. Robert was father of Sir Edward Coke, Chief Justice under James I, and ancestor of the Earl of Leicester. Thomas died in 1561 (will pr. N.C.C.) leaving Joan his wife and two sons George and Henry. Henry must have predeceased George unmarried, for George died, also unmarried, in 1609/10 (will pr. 1610 N.C.C.) having given his manor here (now known as Gambons in Whitwell) to Augustine Messenger, his mother's eldest son by her second marriage.

This property was the nucleus of the present Hackford Hall estate for George had acquired much property there from Sir Christopher Heydon, and the present Folkard's Farm, still part of the estate, may have come to George from his Folkard great-grandmother. Augustine Messenger married firstly Rachel daughter of John Bowles, and on her death in 1609 remarried Mary Palgrave, widow (lic. N.C.C. 1610) daughter of Reynold Mead. Augustine died in 1626 having had issue by his first wife Roger (d. unmarried 1630), Frances (1604), Augustine and Rachel (twins, 1606), Leah (born 1606, buried 1635) and Ann. A daughter Mary was buried 1621/2.

Augustine Messenger, heir to his brother Roger, married Susan, daughter of Charles Pretymen of Bacton, Suffolk and they both died in 1655 leaving an only son Augustine, who acquired the manor of Whitwell Symonds in 1678 and died unmarried in 1680.

Of the daughters of the first Augustine Messenger, Rachel married Sir Isaac Astley but left no issue while Ann married Nicholas Barber of Thurlton and Fressingfield and had issue Augustine, who died unmarried, and Elizabeth who married Thomas Monsey. Thomas and Elizabeth had issue Robert (1655), Thomas (1656/7), Elizabeth (1659), Augustine (1660, died 1684, M.I. Hevingham), Lucy (1663) and William (buried 1662). On Elizabeth their mother's death in 1666, Thomas remarried Sarah Allen and had Rachel (1670) before dying in 1671.

Thus it was Robert Monsey who succeeded his cousin, the third Augustine Messenger. By Ann Fincham, his first wife, who died in 1690, he had Elizabeth (1683), Ann (1685), Mary (1687) and Jane (1689) and by his second wife Mary, daughter of Roger Clopton, he had Messenger (1694), Clopton (d. 1762), Charles Sarah, Penelope (1697) and Rebecca. Robert Monsey was the non-juring Rector of Bawdeswell and died in 1737, being succeeded by his son the eccentric Dr. Messenger Monsey, Physician to Chelsea Hospital, and said to be the only man who could and would beat Sir Robert Walpole at chess. He died aged 95 in 1788 leaving his estate to his granddaughter Catherine, wife of Archdeacon Collyer, and daughter of William Alexander by Charlotte Monsey. A character sketch of him is in R. W. Ketton-Cremer's Norfolk Portraits.

The Collyer family owned the Hackford Hall estate and the Whitwell manors until Brig. General J. J. Collyer sold them in 1930. A younger son, D'Arcy Collyer, had a practice as a solicitor in Reepham which was taken over by the late Colonel T. W. Purdy and is now represented by Messrs. Purdy and Holley. General Collyer sold his properties here to Colonel G. Delves Broughton from whom it passed to the Stimpson family, and Mr. J. A. B. Stimpson now resides at Hackford Hall.

It will be seen that I had to choose between recounting the history of Hackford Hall under Whitwell or that of the Whitwell manors for the last 350 years under Hackford, and chose the former course, but all the entries relating to the Messenger and Monsey families are in the Hackford parish register and not that of Whitwell.

Whitwell Hall was built mainly by Robert Leamon about 1840, in the Georgian Style, on the profits of his tannery. In the park are the remains of a manor house and no doubt the site of both houses formed part of the demesne land of one of the manors in Whitwell and must have been sold off. Robert Leamon was followed by his son Robert, who, however, sold the house in 1883 to the Springfield trustees when the tannery failed. The trustees sold it in 1923 to Mr. Burton who sold it to Colonel Evelyn Barclay, who sold it in 1938 on inheriting the Colney estate to Mr. A. H. Ivins, the present owner, to whom I am grateful for this account of it. A picturesque story concerning the Leamons is that one winter they gave a ball and that all the guests were snowed in for several days and the entire flock of sheep kept on the park had to be eaten.

The White House, beside Whitwell Common, was built by the Leeds family, also on the profits of a tannery. On the death of Stephen Leeds at the turn of the century, it was bought by the Whites of Salle who sold it to the Stimpson family, who retained the land and sold it to Mr. Phillips. The latter sold it to Major W. Shuttleworth who about 1955 sold it to the Palmer family

who sold it to Commander Collard, M.P., whose widow sold it to the present owner, Air-Commodore R. Sorel-Cameron, to whom I am grateful for an account of its recent owners.

Whitwell Common is a long L-shaped piece of rough ground, damp and with scrub trees, and somewhat picturesque. It has been registered under the Commons Registration Act 1965 and the soil is vested in the lord of the manors.

HACKFORD

At the time of Domesday Book, the principal lordship in Hackford belonged to William de Warenne. Wither, a freeman had formerly held it and it was now held of William by Turolde. There were 1½ ploughlands, 6 villeins, 10 borderers and 1 serf, 2 ploughs on the demesne and 3 belonging to the men, 4 acres of meadow, woodland for 60 swine, 1 socman with 11 acres of land and ½ a plough, a mill, 3 horses, 10 beasts, 40 swine, 60 sheep, 5 hives of bees, a church with 9 acres of land and 2 acres of meadow, and the whole was worth 50/-, was 5 furlongs long and 3 broad, and paid 4d. in the £1 Danegeld. William de Warenne held this as a result of an exchange affecting manors in Lewes.

In addition, Berner the Arblaster (Crossbowman) had one ploughland, held by a freeman in the time of Edward the Confessor, together with 3 villeins, 3 borderers, 1 plough on the demesne and ½ belonging to the men, 2 acres of meadow, woodland for 30 swine, 1 horse, 5 swine and 12 sheep, the whole being worth 20/-.

In 1242/3 William de Hackford held ½ a knight's fee here of the de Warennes, while in 1302 this was held of the de Warennes by the Calthorpes and of them by the de Ros family Lords de Ros. The de Warennes had later enfeoffed the de Vaux family of this lordship, (but later than Blomefield implies, I think), and Sir John de Vaux had a grant of a weekly market on Saturday and a fair on the eve, day and morrow of the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul from Edward I, this being the origin of Reepham Market (the market place being in Hackford). Sir John's daughter and co-heir Maud married Sir William de Ros and in this family the lordship remained until it passed by marriage to that of Manners, later Earls and now Dukes of Rutland. Henry, Earl of Rutland, sold the manor to Thomas Lodge in 1 & 2 Philip and Mary and it was then acquired by Sir Christopher Heydon. This manor is now known as Hackford Hall, although the market was later to become part of, or treated as, a separate manor, now known as Hackford Market.

Sir Christopher was also lord of the manor now known as Hackford Est's and Thorpe's. This itself must have been two manors once. Roger Est lived in the reign of Edward I and an-

other Roger in that of Edward III while William de Thorpe and Cecilia his wife, and Beatrice their daughter, lived in the reigns of Edward I and II, and were, I take it, of the family of the Thorpes of Ashwellthorpe. Thorpe Hall here belonged to Nicholas Wichingham in 2 Henry VI and John Wichingham in 21 Henry VII. John Heydon died holding a manor here called Heydon's in 19 Edward IV, presumably the same manor of which Sir William Heydon was lord in the reign of Elizabeth, then called East's alias Nugoun's. (The Nugouns were a mediaeval family who had held the manor of that name in Salle of the manor of Folkestone). John Heydon held this manor of the Say family who presumably held it of the Duchy of Lancaster, as in Kerdiston. I am uncertain how Thorpe Hall is held, or when the Wichinghams sold it, or from whom the Heydons later bought it.

Sir Christopher Heydon sold much of his Hackford property to George Coke, including, almost certainly, the present house of Hackford Hall, which certainly belonged to the Messengers, and their successors, passing the same way as the manor of Gambons in Whitwell. Sir Christopher sold the Hackford manors to Thomas Hunt, later knighted, who died in 1616 and is buried at Foulsham. From his son William, of Hindolveston, they passed to one of his younger sons, William Hunt, lord in 1667, and in 1712 John Palgrave, clerk, great nephew of the second William Hunt, held his first court, and Mary Palgrave his half sister in 1721. The manors then passed to the senior branch of the descendants of the first William Hunt, and James Hunt held his first court in 1723 and Frances his widow in 1734. From the Hunts they passed by marriage to the Holley family who sold the manors to Thomas Copeman on trust for W. H. Scott in 1859. The latter sold the manor of Hackford Market to Robert George in 1866, and his only child, the late Mrs. K. S. Eglington was lady of the manor and sold the market place and market rights to St. Faiths and Aylsham R.D.C. in 1937. Copeman and Scott sold the manors of Hackford Hall, Hackford Est's and Thorpe's, and Reepham Burgleon's to J. W. Woolsey in 1867 and he to W. Sadd in 1868. The latter's son, W. J. Sadd sold it in 1925 to the late Mr. Lionel Standley, solicitor, of Norwich, father of Mr. Peter Standley.

The Old Brewery House, on the north side of the market place, has a 10 bay front and an attractive porch with a curved pediment bearing the initials JA and the date (17)28. There are no old deeds but it became the property of the Bircham family, who once had a brewery here, by the end of the eighteenth century. It was substantially added to at the back about 1900 by Mr. Samuel Bircham, who died in 1923. His son, Mr. F. R. S. Bircham, left a widow, Mrs. Nan Bircham, who died in 1969, and two sons, and a daughter, Miss Ann Bircham, who lived there until it was sold in 1971 to N. Raynes.

The Ollands is a mansion built about 1830 by William Bircham, (whose father William was tenant of Hackford Hall). On his

death in 1853 it passed to his nephew William (son of Samuel Bircham, tenant of Booton Hall) on whose death about 1870 the brewery business was sold. Since then the Ollands has passed successively through the Kendrew, Oppenheim, Harmer, and Irwin families and from the last in 1968, to a construction company, who have taken the lead from the roof. The house is now more or less derelict.

BIRCHAM FAMILY

This family was very prominent in Reepham itself during the last two centuries, as has been seen, so it may be as well to give a short account of it.

William Bircham, who first had the brewery, and also rented Hackford Hall, was son of William Bircham of Hindolvestone and Guestwick (who died 27 December 1752 aged 78). He married first Frances Dack and had a daughter Frances (who married Revd. John Humfrey). He remarried Sarah Parrant and had issue William, Samuel, Robert (of Dunton, married Margaret daughter of Richard Lloyd and had issue), Charles Parrant (died an undergraduate), Sarah (married John Stephenson Cann), Mary (married Stephen Reeve), Eliza (married Robert Sewell), Martha (married Guy Lloyd, son of Richard Lloyd), and Anne (died unmarried). William Bircham married thirdly Priscilla Alpe and had Priscilla (died unmarried) and Harriet (married John Alpe of London). William Bircham died in 1813 aged 77.

His eldest son, William Bircham III, was born in 1769 and built the Ollands. He married first Charlotte Quarles of Foulsham and secondly Charlotte Bartell of Holt, and died without issue in 1853.

Samuel Bircham, the second son, rented Booton Hall. He was born in 1776 and married Anne, daughter of Robert Francis of Aylsham, and died in 1860. They had issue, two sons William and Francis Thomas, and three daughters Sarah (married Francis John Gunning), Ann (married Francis Parmeter, son of Robert Parmeter of Aylsham), and Martha (died unmarried).

William Bircham IV, eldest son of Samuel, inherited the Ollands, but neglected the brewery, and this, and the house were sold in 1883. He was born in 1800 and married Marianna, daughter of William Dalrymple, and had William, Francis Samuel, Henry and Marianna (married Revd. George Shand of Heydon).

Francis Thomas Bircham, second son of Samuel, was a London solicitor, whose firm is still called Bircham and Co. He married Catherine, daughter of William Dalrymple and died in 1883. They had issue, three sons and three daughters, Samuel,

Francis Thomas (married Edith Okeden from Turnworth, Devon, and had issue), Ambrose Humphrey (married Emily Mary Grace Scott), Katherine Dalrymple (married Edward Joseph Halsey), Margaret Anne (married Norwood Jacken) and Laura Caroline (married Revd. Henry Murray Downtra).

Samuel Bircham II, the eldest son, was born in 1838 and married Caroline Elizabeth, sister of Edward Joseph Halsey and daughter of Henry William Richard Halsey of Henley Park, Surrey. He built the Moor House, and died in 1923. He had issue Gertrude Caroline (married Mr. Scudamore), Mildred Alice (married Mr. Ricardo), and Mr. F. R. S. Bircham, who married Nan, daughter of Alexander Bruce of Douglas, Isle of Man, and had issue Mr. Merrick Bircham, Mr. Michael Bircham, and Miss Ann Bircham of Swannington, my informant.

Sir Bernard Edward Halsey-Bircham, K.C.V.O., private solicitor to H.M. King George V, was son of Edward Joseph Halsey and Katherine Dalrymple Bircham, and took the additional name of Bircham. He married Ivy, daughter of Arthur Powys Vaughan, and had one son, Mr. Christopher Halsey-Bircham of St. Peter's Port.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This account is taken from a number of manuscript sources, namely the parish registers, (kept in St. Mary's), the court books of the eight manors in the three parishes (kept at the Norfolk Record Office), and Tanner's Lists of Institutions taken from the institution books of the diocese (also kept at the Norfolk Record Office). Other manuscript sources emerge from the text. Other sources used are Blomefield's Norfolk, vol. VIII, Victoria County History of Norfolk, vol. II (for Domesday Book); Norfolk Archaeology X (1603 communicants), and Ekwall's Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names. Other recommended works are Cautley's Norfolk Churches, Pevsner's Norfolk Buildings (two volumes), and Farrer's Church Heraldry of Norfolk (three volumes). For church plate in 1368 see Norfolk Record Society XIX and in 1915 Norfolk Archaeology XIX. There was no inclosure award for Reepham and Kerdiston, but the Norfolk County Council holds those for Hackford and Whitwell. Useful pedigrees of most of the leading families, including Kerdeston, de Ros, de Vaux, Symonds, Hunt, Holley, Messenger, Monsey, Collyer, and Wiggett, may be found by using Marshall's Genealogist's Guide (1903) in conjunction with Whitmore's Genealogical Guide (1953) which are in all public libraries. A good pedigree of the Priest family occurs in the Journal of The Parson Woodforde Society vol II, no. 4 (Winter 1969).

