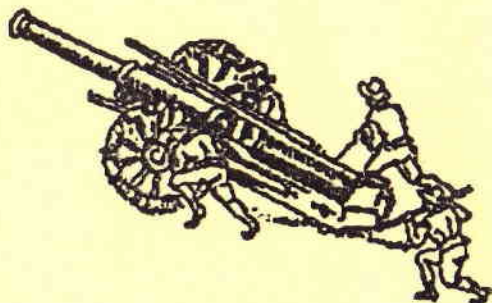


JOURNAL

No 25



THE RIVER OF THAMES
ARCHAEOLOGICAL &
HISTORICAL GROUP

JOURNAL

of the
**Henley Archaeological & Historical
Group**

December 2010

No 25

pages 1 - 17

Henley and the Civil War

Ann Cottingham

pages 13-17

Letter about the Skirmish at Henley by Capt. Samuel Turner

pages 18-19

The D'Oyly Family

(the late) Ann Flinders Petrie

pages 20 - 27

Lower Hernes Farm

Ruth Gibson

(Report by Ruth in 1984/5)

pages 28 - 32

Lower Hernes Farm

Ruth Gibson

Postscript to above report following findings by

Victoria County History

pages 33 - 34

Comments on two items in Samuel Turner's letter

Ann Cottingham

Henley and the Civil War

Ann Cottingham

The Civil War of the 17th century started officially when Charles I raised his standard at Naseby on the 22nd of August 1642. Before then there had been much unrest, and a war in Scotland, and opinions had been hardening, with many determining which side to support, the King or Parliament.

When one speaks of the general population however one gains a different view, it would seem that things were not so clear cut, many just wished to get on with their lives accepting whoever was in charge. This attitude seems to have made the role of Spymaster for the Parliamentarians easier than it might have been.

The Spymaster of whom we have record was Sir Samuel Luke¹ who from 9 February 1643 to 29 March 1644, recorded the spies which he sent to various towns and villages held by the King's forces, to spy out the land and to report on the situations to be found there.

Sir Samuel Luke was the eldest son of Sir Oliver Luke of Woodend, Berks., he represented Bedford in the Short Parliament in 1640 and was in the Long Parliament as a member of the Presbyterian party. He joined Parliament in the Civil War, and raised a Dragoon Troop in Bedfordshire. He became Scoutmaster General to the Earl of Essex.

The situation around Henley was that Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke, a Parliamentarian, owned Fawley Court and Phyllis Court or Fillets Court as it was then called, while the D'Oyley family who were mostly Royalists owned Greenlands. The people of Henley seem to have been either divided over their loyalties or possibly just resigned to events as they happened. If religious beliefs influenced people, then Henley was very divided. There was a strong party of Dissenters, Congregationalists and Quakers, also a fair number of Roman Catholics led by the Stonor family who owned many

1 Notes are at end of article

properties in the town. This list does not include the members of the Church of England, who may have been disposed to support either side.

During 1642 and early 1643 the situation was that the Royalists and the King were in Oxford, and also held Reading & Wallingford. The Parliamentarians were in Okeingham [Wokingham], Twyford, Maidenhead and Henley. However during 1643 troops came and went, the Royalists in October were said to have 2000 troops in Henley, but with news of Parliament forces from London they were advised to go either to Reading [more strongly fortified], or to go to Oxford. Later they seem to have been back in Henley.

An important fact to bear in mind is that prior to 1752 New Years Day was on 25th March, so that January February and most of March were at the end of the year, and did not start a new year.

In the Burial Register of St Mary's Church there are the following entries, which by modern calendars would have been in 1643.

22 January 1642	six soldiers of whom four were 'slaine with the discharging of a Canon as they marched up Duck Street to assault the towne'
2 February 1642	a souldier
4 February 1642	a souldier
6 February 1642	a souldier

At this time five months after the war's commencement, it was the Parliamentarians who were in Henley, and it was the Royalists who were attacking from the south, as they held Reading. So one gathers that four of the six slaine were Royalists, the other five may have been part of the attackers or perhaps three may have been defenders of the town. Turner's letter [see below] suggests that 3 of the defenders were slain, while others of the attackers died elsewhere.

The Royalist attack on the town in 1642 is graphically described in a letter by a Parliamentarian soldier Samuel Turner, to his brother in London. The full text of this I have reproduced at the end of this account.

The letter from a participant in what is now termed the Battle of Duke

Street, though then regarded as a Skirmish, is printed from a pamphlet which was reproduced and printed after the event. The Skirmish occurred as may be seen from the entries from the Burial Register of St Marys Church in January 1642, and not January 1643 as stated on the cover of the pamphlet. either the pamphlet was printed after 1752 which is extremely unlikely, or much more likely was printed in later months soon after the event, which had become 1643. It was probably intended to reassure Londoners that the Parliamentarians, who had the support of London, were doing splendidly.

Duke Street alias Duck Street described in the letter as narrow, has only been as wide as it is today since 1870, when the whole of the west side of the street was rebuilt. Before that it was approximately half the width, a photo of the 1860s shows the street with a horse and cart taking up most of the width. Which probably accounts for the deaths of the attackers and the success of the Parliamentarians in holding the town.

Soon after the events of January 1642 Sir Samuel Luke on 13 February 1642 made the following entry in his journal

‘Samuel Brayne returned this day from Oxford and informed that hee quartered for 2 nights last past at the White Swann at Oxford and that he sawe Prince Rupert gathering his body of horses and dragoones together intending to march to Henley, and from Henley to Maidenhead with an intent to take those townes’. ¹

Two days later Sir Samuel notes **‘that Sir Arthur Austin Governor of Reading doth usually frequent the house of Sir Charles Blunt at Maple Durham 4 miles from Reading on Sondayes and other dayes, and that hee might bee easily taken eyther there or in the way, or else at Mr Englefelds house at White Knights. And that both the foresaid places are papists houses, the last whereof is 3 miles from Twyford or thereabouts, and that the best way, is to goe from Okeingham to White Knights and from Henley to Maple Durham, with a troope of horse which might easily effect the busines. And that if he were taken the towne would quickly bee surprized.’** ¹

This suggestion of the kidnap of the Governor of Reading does not appear to have taken place, but it gives an insight into how the area near Henley

was divided, along both sectarian and religious lines. A few days later Sir Samuel had news from Reading **‘that one Mrs Blower an apothecaries wife is eyther to bee banished or hangd for having a little quantity of powder found in her howse. And that one Mrs Curtis is distracted by reason that the Governour seizd upon all her goods because her servant went to Henley to see his father and mother without her knowledge.’**¹

This last gives a glimpse of the difficulties encountered on both sides, when no one knew exactly what loyalties of family or otherwise existed in the various towns which they occupied. Also when it was a matter of spies or informants operating, they had the advantage of being unrecognisable from the rest of the population.

One also wonders if the unfortunate Mrs Blower was merely the result of the pre-war preparations as mentioned by Bulstrode Whitelocke² in his diary in 1640 **‘The Warre with the Scots being begun Wh[itelocke], as others did, furnished himselfe with a barrell of Gunpowder, & Bullets & 20 Carabines, with swords & necessary provisions, & hung them up in his Hall, men differed much in opinion touching the Warre most wishing it had not been begun.’**²

By March Sir Samuel’s men reported that **‘That the bridge called Cawsam [Caversham] Bridge which lyes on the further side of the Towne towards Oxfordshire is quite taken downe and flung into the river.’**

‘Edmund Morris returned this day from Reading and saith that there are about 1200 foote and many of them sicke and lame and about 140 horse which are divided into 3 troopes, and they dayly expect more to come in, that the drawbridge at Cawsam is throwne into the river and that they make shift with planks to go over this day being markt day’ **‘that they have puld down the wharfe house at Sonning nere Reading’**¹

Throughout the Summer both sides seem to have moved about, but in August Sir Samuel received this report **‘Thomas Gardener returned this day and saith that on Thursday last the Cavalliers came to Henley and apprehended one Mr Freeman a shopkeeper in the towne at whose house Collonel Holborne lay, and took him upp behind one of their**

troopes and threatened to carry him away, but for £10 they released him at the townes end.’¹

Who was Mr Freeman and where did he live in the town? presumably in fairly good accommodation since he housed a Colonel. He also must have been prosperous since £10 was a considerable sum in those days, and apparently he must have had it readily available. There are a Will and Inventory³ left by an Ambrose Freeman junior in 1661, who was a mercer, and there was a Henry Freeman who died in 1682 and left a brief Inventory. Ambrose Freeman was born in 1628 so would only have been 15 in 1643, and 33 at the time of his death in 1661. His father was still living, mentioned in his will, and his two sons were 4 and 1⁴. He also had a brother Henry, who was probably the Henry who died in 1682. The most likely candidate for the Mr Freeman abducted in 1643 was the father of Ambrose and Henry, also called Ambrose and referred to in the younger Ambrose’s will as ‘my loveing Father Mr Freeman’. That they were wealthy and mercers by trade is evident from the will and inventory, the younger Ambrose had four tenements to leave and his Inventory of goods, mostly stock in his shop amounted to £745-11-10., of which £225-11-0 was in debts owed him, and £8-8-0 was in ready money.

By October the Royalists seem to have been making attempts to regain control not only of Reading but also of Henley.

Raph Norton **‘saith that about foure of the clocke this day hee was in Readinge and sawe eight troopes of horse and foure regiments of foote comeinge thither and they intend as they say to keepe garrison there this winter. The foote regiments were redd coulours blewe yellowe and blacke and divers of the townsmen went to meet them at Cawsam and they say there shall as many more come to Henley.’**

Joseph Clun **‘heares that some of the Kinges forces are alsoe come to Henley.’**

‘William Lovegrove came from Henley and saith the forces which were there are gone to Redding, and that there were 20 warnd out of Henley to helpe make upp the works in Redding and some went and those that did not sent mony to hire others in their roomes.’¹

As in the case of Mr Freeman money seemed to talk whichever side was concerned.

At Reading ‘there are 4000 of the Kings forces already, and 12 pieces of ordnance and that they make bulwarks both there and at Henley which they intend to finish the next weeke at Henley.’¹

But in spite of this a few days later things had changed as on 22 October ‘Prince Robert came into Oxford with 3 troopes of horse and brought newes that the Parliaments forces were come out of London, and intended to fall both upon Redding and Henley, and thereupon sent to Henley to bidd them eyther repaire to Redding or else returne to Oxford.’¹

Throughout Sir Samuel Luke’s Journal spelling varies, and Prince Rupert is sometimes named Prince Robert which is how it seems he was commonly known. It also seems that the bulwarks at Henley were never completed and one wonders where they might have been, on the Reading Road or on the Fairmile, or perhaps both?

By November 1643 ‘there are not above 800 soldiers left in Readinge, Abbingdon and Wallingford, and that the plague is very much in Oxford and alsoe in Readinge.’

‘that Henly bridge is repaireing and alsoe Maidenhead bridge.’¹

Possibly the damage to Henley bridge was caused deliberately either when the occupying Parliamentarians left, or when they were fortifying the town, since there was no mention of the bridge being damaged by warfare. The only battle seems to have been in Duck Street, not near the bridge.

This is not the first mention of plague, during the summer plague had been rife in Oxford. There are several references to plague and also other unspecified diseases, including something referred to as a ‘new disease’. One of those suffering from illness was the Queen in Oxford, ‘**her doctors and phisitians have given her over.**’¹ It is significant that in Henley in the four years 1639-42 the number of deaths in the town were 91, 57, 84 & 79 respectively, while in 1643 deaths shot up to 204. There is no mention of plague but just burials. So maybe the extra deaths were the result of the unknown diseases and not plague as such.

In November Christopher Goodwine saith 'there were 2 barges loaden with sacke and suger going to Oxford, hee asked them where they had it, they said at Henly, for it came from London to Henly under Henly mens names.' ¹ So some Henley men were indeed Royalists sending supplies to Oxford, then in December

'Upon Friday last there went 500 horse and foote from Reading to Grinland [Greenlands] on this side of Henley to Mr Dawleys [D'Oyly's] house, there they seysed upon all his goods, some of his goods they sent to Reading and the rest they keepe for their own uses for there is 300 foote quarter there this winter and 200 horse at Hambleden. They send for the countrymen to come to helpe to intrench Grinland. Yesterday there came 5 waggons loaden with ammunicon from Reading to Grinland.' ¹

'There are diverse carrieres which come out of the west goe over Pangburne ferry to Henly and there load their horses with commodities which come from London thither, and soe retorne back into their owne country' ¹

In spite of everything Henley merchants were obviously still trading successfully, and Henley's use as a port was still functioning. This December reference is the earliest to the fortifying by the Royalists of Greenland House. They evidently removed furnishings and other goods, to clear the way for their defensive works.

A few days later 'That there are noe soldiers at Henley, but the townesmen and all thereabouts are making of bulwarkes at Greyes and Greenland howse, where there are about 200 men, which cause the contry [country] to bring in mony and provision'. ¹

In January 'That they are still fortifieing of Greenland howse neere Henley, and have pulld downe the rooffe of the stables and other outhouwses, and are filling them upp with earth, and there are about 200 foote quartered in the howse.' ¹

By February 'there is a troope of horse quartered in Henly under the command of Sir Charles Blunt. That there are about 100 foote soldiers in Greenland howse, which they have fortified and are now making bulwarkes to plant their ordnance upon. And they are commanded by Maior Gilby.' ¹

In March **‘That there are about 100 foote and 50 horse at Greenland howse, and 2 small peeces, and the howse is very strongly fortified and they say there are tow e peeces of ordnance more to come thither from Oxford.’**¹

This more or less ends Sir Samuel Luke’s Journal, the last entry on Henley affairs being on 29 March 1644

‘that at Greenland house are not above 120 foote and that they force the contry thereabouts to send to his Majesty £200 monthly besides the maintenance of that garrison; that at Wallingford, Redding and Greenland are noe horse only Sir Charles Blunts troope which is not above 30 horse.’¹

Another writer who experienced the war was Bulstrode Whitelocke, he like Luke was a Parliamentarian, but his diary was written from a much more personal level. He owned property and was concerned by its use by both sides, Fawley Court was one of his houses, and he also owned Phyllis Court, besides having land in the district.

At the end of 1643 **‘In the latter end of Feb[ruary] Wh[itelockes] house called the Bell an Inne at Henley was on fire, & received much damage, as some supposed it was done by the Carelesnes of some Parliament soldiers quartered there, & they att Phillis Court did him much spoyle & mischiefe, though he was a Parlem[en]t man, but bruitish soldiers make no distinctions. Major Ge[nerall] Skippon directed Phillis Court to be made a Garryson, & it was regularly fortifyed and strong, & well manned, because Greenland hard by it, was a Garryson for the King, & betwixt these two Garrysons stood Wh[itelockes] house att Fawley Court, miserably torne & plundered by each of them.’**²

This entry by Whitelocke in his Diary sums up the devastation caused by the war to ordinary citizens, the soldiers had no regard for anyones allegiance, and all property owners were at risk. Whitelocke owned the Bell Inn at Northfield End, which already at that time was a prestigious and well known inn, it is mentioned in a deed of 1592⁵, and in 1633 was the Inn where Archbishop Laud stayed in preference to staying with Whitelocke at Fawley

Court ⁶. In February 1643 it was occupied by Parliamentary forces but when the Royalists were in the town, it was the Bell that was used as headquarters by Prince Rupert. Indeed it is said that while there, a Parliamentary spy was captured and hanged on the elm tree outside the inn, which existed till 1995 when the bark remains of the tree were placed in the River and Rowing Museum.

‘The G[eneral] came to view Greenland house, & his forces quartered at Henly, where they did great mischief to Wh[itelocke] in his woods, & houses, the G[enerall] sent a letter to the Parlem[en]t that Greenland house was of great Consequence to be taken in, that he was upon a further advance, & could not stay about it, butt thought a party should be sent from London to beseige it.’ ²

‘The Lords sent to the Commons that a regiment or more of foote might be sent to joyne with the forces then before Greenland house & that they might batter it from the otherside of the Thames, this message Wh[itelocke] procured, to assist Brown who with some forces of London & some of the forces of the Eastern association, was sate down before it.’ ²

One of Whitlockes’ tenants had an interest with Sir Edward Boys the then Governor of Greenland and negotiations took place the result of which was that **‘by Order of the King Col[lonel] Hawkins surrendered that strong fort to Brown.’ ²**

This account seems to have omitted the fact that it is said that there was a considerable bombardment of Greenlands, and that it was **‘battered’**. Guns were set up on the field across the river from Greenlands and considerable damage was done, so much so that the house afterwards was entirely rebuilt, in a slightly different position, further back from the river. Interestingly the remains of the house was bought at the end of hostilities by Whitelocke from John and Robert D’Oyly. There are said to be cannon balls found in the area.

Strangely enough Whitelocke in his diary goes on to say **‘Many of Wh[itelockes] goods were in Greenland house when it was rendred by Hawkins the then Governour, which goods the Parlem[en]t soldiers tooke, & sold in Henley & in the Countrey, & none of**

them were restored to Wh[itelocke] though they were known to be his, & that he was a Parlem[en]t man, & designed to commaund that party. Brown would not help him upon complaint to him, butt had learned so much of the Martial law as to answear Wh[itelocke] that when the enemy had taken these goods, then Wh[itelocke]s property was gone, & now the Parlem[en]t soldiers had taken them from the ennemy, they were lawfull prize to them, so loath was he to displease the soldiers, or backward to doe right to Wh[itelocke] who had his goods thus injuriously detained from him by those of his own party.’²

The strangeness is that one wonders why any of Whitelocke’s goods should have been in Greenlands since he did not own it till the end of the war when he bought it from John and Robert D’Oyly. He did of course own both Fawley Court and Phyllis Court which were both plundered by the Parliamentary and Royalist forces. In fact according to his diary in October and January 1645. ‘Henley town complained of their losses by the soldiers & I promised to move the house for them.’ The house of course being Parliament.

Whitelocke ‘gave way to procure an Order for Martiall law for the Garryson of Phillis Court, the soldiers being very unruly.’

He ‘got an Order for money for Henley Garryson.’

By June 1646 ‘Wh[itelocke] being now Governour of Henley & Phillis Court Garryson was in the like condition with the other officers of the Army & sent for by the G[enralls] to their Councells of Warre, & his advice had much regard from the G[eneralls] & officers.’²

1646 June 3 ‘He procured an Order for pay for Henley Garryson, & moved for an Order for the slighting of it, which was wondred att to proceed from him who was the Governor of it, butt he thirsted after the end of War, & was the more desirous to have this Garryson slighted bicause it was his own house; nothing was now resolved about it, butt a generall debate was heerby occasioned touching the slighting of sundry Garrysons.’

1646 June 8 ‘He gott an Ordinance passed for 1000 for Henley Garryson.’²

After this Whitelocke says no more of Phyllis Court, but it is known that it was slighted like many other fortified properties all round the country. The Parliamentarians were determined that no renewal of the war should take place. The original Phyllis Court remained until 1870 when it was demolished and entirely rebuilt. The only remaining vestige of the fortified house is the water course on the northern side of Phyllis Court, which may have been part of a moat.

Ann Petrie made a study of the D'Oyly family, and among her papers were a resumé of the family as shown on the splendid tomb in Hambleden Church. Although their main property Greenlands was held as a Royalist stronghold, the sons depicted kneeling round their parents tomb, were divided. John and James are shown in Royalist attire while the other sons Robert, Charles and Francis are shown as Puritans. The eldest John married into a fervently Royalist family, though he was described as a moderate. James died young, Robert was an officer under Cromwell, and was sent to Ireland. Charles became an officer under Cromwell, and after being wounded, was made Governor of Henley and Phyllis Court. He was in Henley on the Parliamentary side while his brother John was defending Greenlands.⁷

Gilbert Thomas writing in the *Henley Standard*⁸ supplied some rather lurid information about misfortunes that occurred to two women in Henley. The account of the first of these⁹ is his account from a series entitled 'Some Aspects of Local History'.

"A poor woman having complained of the taxes levied on her and others by Parliament, had her tongue forced out until it could be nailed to a gatepost by the highway. She remained in this agonising position until three companys of soldiers had marched past."

"Elizabeth Cary, an aged widow"¹⁰, convicted of carrying the King's proclamations from Oxford to London, was condemned to the gibbet at Henley and to have her back broken — managing to escape death she was imprisoned until the Restoration in 1660, when she petitioned **"Charles II for a position for her son Peter, to enable her to subsist."** She was awarded a **"pension of £40 a year"**. One wonders how aged she actually was if she survived prison and a broken back for so many years.

Research done by the late Ivy Reeves on some of the occupants of Henley in 1698-1705 using Parish Register of Baptisms, which gives the professions or occupations of the fathers, gives some idea of the people then living in Henley. By then there were 64 bargemen, 40 labourers and 33 maltsters, the rest of the occupations were mostly below 10 except for butchers who numbered 12. Perhaps there were similar numbers in the Civil War.

- 1 'The Journal of Sir Samuel Luke 9 February 1643-29 March 1644', published by the Oxford Record Society, Vol I 9th Feb-31st May 1643 pub 1947, Vol II June -Oct 1643 pub 1950, Vol III Nov- Mar 1643-44 pub 1952-53 Transcribed from original papers by I G Philip M.A. Secretary to the Bodleian Library
 - 2 'The Diary of Bulstrode Whitelocke' edited by Ruth Spalding pub 1990
 - 3 HA&HG Archive
 - 4 HA&HG Archive St Marys Church Parish Registers
 - 5 Elmes Cartulary O.R.O. BOR/3/A/II/1, ff.72-3
 - 6 Spalding, Ruth 'The Improbable Puritan' 1975
 - 7 HA&HG Newsletter No 18 1980, & HA&HG Archive AP 10/1a & b
 - 8 Gilbert, Thomas "Some Aspects of Local History. No 3. Henley in the Civil War" Henley Standard 11 April 1980.
 - 9 An account of the woman nailed by her tongue appears in 'A History of Oxfordshire' 1899 by J Meade Faulkner, while the courier named Elizabeth Carey who may have only been passing through Henley, appears in 'The Story of Henley' 1983 by Geoffrey Hollingsworth alias the first Thomas Octavius of the Henley Standard (see also Note 10)
 - 10 Calendar of State Papers Domestic, 1660-1661, Public Record Office 1860 p19 (from papers of Ivy Reeves now being catalogued)
-

There follows in its entirety the letter written by Captain Samuel Turner to his brother in London, which presumably the brother had printed, and which displays the brothers' Parliamentary sympathies.

In Samuel Turner's letter, the letter 's' is printed as an 'f', so to make reading easier it has been copied as modern usage. Spellings remain as printed also place & personal names in italics as originally printed.

A true
RELATION

Of a late Skirmish at HENLEY
upon THAMES:

WHEREIN

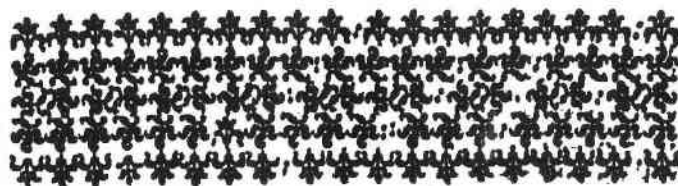
A great defeat was given to the Red-
ding Cavaliers, lately assaulting the
aforesaid Towne of HENLEY.

BEING

*The true Copy of a Letter sent from one
Captaine Samuel Turner, then in the
said service, to his brother in
LONDON.*

Si Deus nobiscum, Quis contra nos?

London Printed for Henry Overton, and are to sold at
his Shop in Popes-Head Alley. Jan. 26. 1643.



A true
RELATION OF A
Late Skirmish at HENLEY
upon Thames.

Loving Brother,



Know ere this you expected to have heard from me concerning our welcome to this Towne of *Henlie*, where now we are, and indeed I had answered both your expectation, and mine

owne desire before this, could I have heard but of any one that had gone from hence to *London* : I know you have already heard in part what friends came from *Redding* hither to visit us, within few hours after we came here. But to give you a full and true Relation of what my selfe was an eye-witnesse of, from the beginning to the end : About nine of the clock at night we came to this Towne, where before we could get in, by reason the bridge was not quite laid down, we were enforced to stay an houre and a halfe at the least. So soon as we were come in, and our men gone to their quarters, some of us, amongst which my selfe was one, rid round to view the Towne how it lay, which when we had done, we appointed 4 Companies to watch that nigyt, one towards *Redding*, and the other at the Bridge, a third at the upper end of the Town, and my selfe having the maine guard, it being mine for that night as I was the eldest Captaine of those

that watched : I divided my Company and sent my Lieutenant, with about 40 men to guard some works which the Towne had made on the way to *Oxford*, I having the rest on the maine guard, which was kept in a little round house close by the Towne Hall, where the 4 wayes divide themselves, having thus ordered our men, and having placed our Ordnance, which were but 3 in all, one of our biggest pieces towards *Redding* road, and the other, which was our best, toward *Oxford*, and the third, which was but a Drake, we planted toward the upper end of the Towne, by that time this was done, it grew neere eleven of the Clocke, halfe an houre after, being in company with Captain *Beton*, it being my place to goe the grand round, he desired to goe along with mee, we went with 6 Musketers round about the hills which compasse the towne, halfe an houre after twelve we came in againe, and found all quiet and well, about two of the Clock in the morning, being in a house with the Maior, and most of our Gunners, discoursing together, news was brought that the enemy was come, and had fired upon our Centinels, which caused an Alarme through the Towne, we all (through Gods assistance) put our solutions to withstand them to the utmost, they came furiously on, with a loud cry, the Towne is ours, and did now way question to have broke through all, being most of them Troopers, and Dragooneers, the number as we heare by a Ensigne whom we took prisoner, who was mounted for the service, was about one thousand horse riding two and two on a horse, the first Centinell who made discovery of them, having given fire, presently ran away to the Court of guard, who presently were in readinesse, and came forth and fired upon them, so as that they could not come into the Towne so soon as they made account of, but being all horse save only ten or twelve of their Dragooneers which were on foote, at last they broke their way through, and came along the Lane towards the Towne, the way they came being but narrow, and not above a slight shot, or little more in length, from their first entrance, we being in readinesse to have fired upon them, durst not, by reason they drove our men before them all along the way, our Parliament dog lay ready to fire upon them, which being laden with one great shot, and two cases of shot containing 120

Musket bullets, at lengthe the way being cleare of our owne men, but full of theirs, we let flie, my selfe being within a yard or two at most when it gave fire, and saw the execution it did, some of their horse came desperately on, that they were even ready to enter upon the mouth of the Canon, as presently after the shot was given appeared, for we found 3 men and 4 horse lie dead within lesse then a quaites throw off the mouth of the piece, and an Ensigne which was was found halfe dead, and halfe alive, having his Leg shot short off, and some three shots more in his body beside, yet living, who confessed the whole businesse. I think they were so bit, that they will scarce brag of their Victory, or come again in hast, the number of men which we found of theirs but 4 which were killed outright, and 5 horse, one horse the Gunner tooke alive, and another, which by reason of their great hast in running away, as wee conceive, crowdind along a narrow way, who should get first away, fell into a muddy ditch, and there was left till morning, where we tooke him out, one of these 4 men as our Souldiers wre stripping of them, spoke a word or two, and so dyed, That he was the first Captaine of the Lord *Grandisons* Regiment, and desired to be remembred to his Colonell, and dyed immediately, hee having received above a dozen wounds, another as we heare was a Serjeant Major, and since we heare of sixe that were found dead in a wood, lying together on a heap, one of them a Captaine, and we are informed by some who came from a place called *Causome* [Caversham?], that there are divers lie wounded there, beside our men saw them lift up on their horses which they carryed away, some dead, others wounded, so that we conceive they lost thirty men at least, The whole Skirmish from the time they entred, to the time they ran away, was not a full quarter of an houre. We lost of our men but 3 in all, one of which was mine who was first slaine, he was shot as he was standing on the left of my Company, as I had drawne them up, with a Musket bullet, which went in at his left breast, and came through at his back on the right shoulder, so as he fell presently downe, with his armes spread out, not moving any part of his body, so that I conceive the shot went through his heart, he was honourably interred the next day, attended with a great

number of Souldiers out of every Company, another of my Souldiers, one *Tho: Hyat*, a Fishmongers man, who lives in your division, was shot through the body with a pistoll shot, as hee was comming from his quarter to the Court of guard, hee was forced to make use their language to sve himselfe, and to cry out, where are these Roundheaded rogues, but they pursuing of him, struck him through the hat with a Pole axe, but missing his head, I have great hope of his recovery, he hath told me since, hee hopes to live to have a revenge on them : Thus as well as I can remember, I have given you a narration of what passages hapned : Truly hee is more then blinde which could not see God manifestly in every particular working deliverance for us, and confusion to our enemies, we may truly say, never lesse of Man seen, and more of God, for I had almost forgot to tell you that the two Troopes of horse which were appointed to be with us, left us at the Townes end, and went away to their quarters, so that we were left naked, only God fought on our sides : if the enemy had got into the Towne, I believe few of us had been alive at this present, thus fearing to be over tedious to you, I rest

Your ever loving Brother,

Samuel Turner

FINIS

The D'Oyly Family Ann Flinders Petrie

The following notes come from research work done by Ann Flinders Petrie, daughter of the renowned archaeologist Sir Flinders Petrie .

Ann lived at Hambleden in part of Yewden Manor and died in 1989 . She was a founder member of our Group, a keen & active Committee Member, and left her papers to the Group, which are now being catalogued.

The following information is from "An Account of the House of D'Oyly" by William D'Oyly Bailey, printed by John Bowyer Nichols & Sons, 25 Parliament St., 1845.

Many villages still retain the prefix OUILLY, OILLY, OYLY; the territories of the D'Oyls in Normandy were very extensive. Most of these places are situated in the vicinity of Caen, Falaise and Lisieux. Near Lisieux are Ouilly le Vicomte and Ouilly la Ribaude. Near Falaise (of which William the Conqueror's mother was a native) are Ouilly le Busset and Ouilly le Troit; and only four leagues from Falaise, the River Orne is crossed by a bridge called 'Pont Ouilly'.

Ouilly le Vicomte was no doubt the barony relinquished by that branch of the family which settled in England at the Conquest. Three brothers settled in Oxfordshire in 1066 :

- 1) the Lord Robert D'Oyly, who was created Baron of Hocknorton and Constable of Oxford Castle by William the Conqueror in 1067
- 2) the Lord Nigell D'Oyly, who became heir male and successor to his brothers and was progenitor of the Barons D'Oyly of Hocknorton.
- 3) Gilbert D'Oyly, "he was no doubt the father of" Roger D'Oyly of Eston (Heston or Estcote) in Oxon. , who became a military tenant of his cousin the Barons D'Oyly of Hocknorton, and was ancestor of the D'Oyls of Estcote and Pishill in Oxon. , afterwards of Grenlands House, co Bucks, and Chiselhampton, co. Oxon.
Created baronets in 1666.

The D'Oyllys or D'Ouillyes, who were Lords of the neighbouring vill of Ouilly la Ribaude, remained in Normandy.

Lord de Oilleia la Ribaude founded the church there - the D'Oyly arms remaining in the stained glass down to 1787. The Convent of the Cordeliers at Falaise was founded by one of the D'Oyllys. From the Oillys of Oilleia La Ribaude those at Ouilly le Troit and Ouilly le Basset near Falaise no doubt were descended., both of which branches have been extinct for many centuries.

Ann continued her researches, and noted that :—

Six generations later (c.1270) Pishill was acquired by John D'Oyly by marriage; and three generations after that Yewden Manor was purchased by his great grandson Thomas D'Oyly (died 1384) . Richard D'Oyly (born c.1330) lived at Bixebond, adjacent to the parish of Pushill or Pishill.

In 1480 Thomas' grandson John acquired Greenlands House, and also owned Eweden Manor, Turville Manor and land in Hambleden, Bosmere & Fawley. The D'Oyllys lived at Greenlands until it was demolished by Parliamentary cannon in the Civil War. The tomb of John D'Oyly is in Hurley Church, described as a "famous soldier in France".



Editor's note :

The following report is one that Ruth did in 1984/5 but which has been added to by later research and findings.

Vernacular Buildings, Report No 20 '84/85 **by Ruth Gibson**

Lower Hernes, Rotherfield Greys SU 742 828

Owner — Mr R Ovey, Hernes Estate

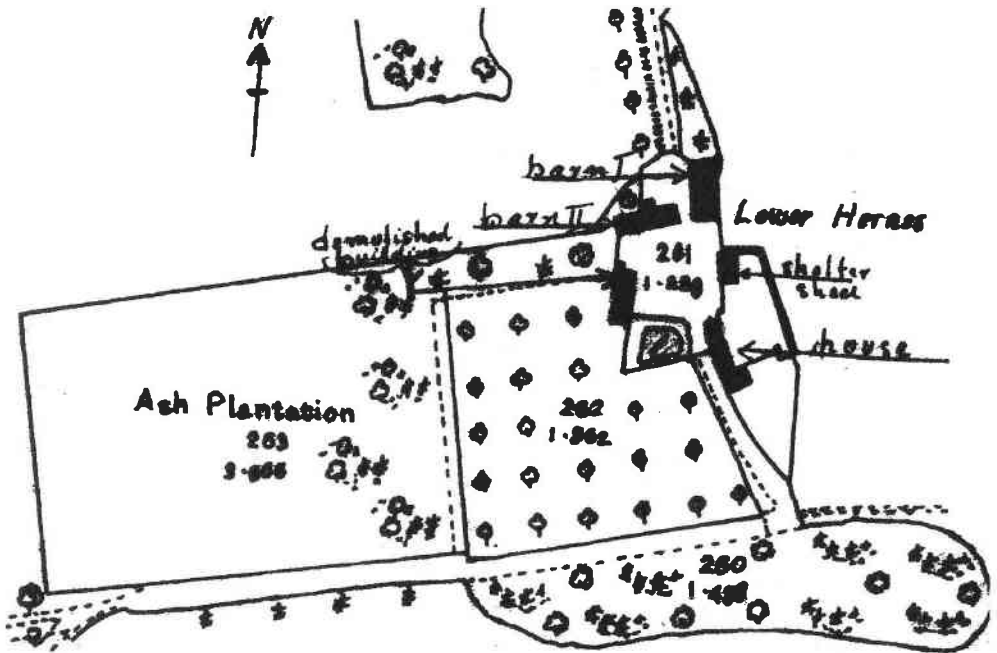
The farm is situated on the northern slopes of the Hernes Valley which runs from Henley to Greys Court. The ancient track way called 'Pack & Prime' passes close by on the southern slope of the valley. Its situation is very sheltered and it is approached from the Henley to Greys road by a chestnut avenue planted by the present owner's ancestor 90 years ago.

The farmstead consists now of two barns, a shelter shed — now used as a garage, and the farm house. A further farm building, which housed a blacksmith's forge, was demolished during restoration work of the late 1960s. It is shown on the O.S. map of 1913 on the west side of the yard next to the pond, which has also gone. The track which used to go straight through the farm yard was re-routed and now goes in front of Barn II and then turns down the hill along the line of the demolished forge.

THE ARCHITECTURAL EVIDENCE

The Farm House This is a timber framed house with a main range and a cross wing, built in several stages. The panels are now nearly all infilled with bricks and some flint, the roof is tiled and there is a 4 flue brick chimney stack.

The earliest part of the house consists of a 2 - bay building (Bays I & II) of two storeys. Bay I is 3.70m wide by 4.80m deep, the unheated Bay II is 3.30m by 4.80m. The timbers are of heavy scantling — 0.25m by 0.35m , the panels large and rectangular and there are braces from wall post to wall plate, the braces are straight on the west side but slightly curved on



Scale : 1 : 2500

O.S. Map 1913

the east. There is a door in the northern Bay on the east side of the house, the opposite door on the west side is now blocked. The northern Bay also had a staircase, which was removed during restoration work, but it is not known whether this was the original stair. (*see ground floor plan*). The northern Bay is unheated, and has a plain heavy spine beam.

The southern room has a fire place with chamfered and stopped mantle beam. The spine beam is chamfered and stopped, and so are the joists. Upstairs the northern Bay is now used as a landing, having been opened up with a modern staircase. The tie beams, from which the queen struts rise to the collar, are slightly cambered. There are braces between tie and wall posts and slightly curved wind braces from the principal rafters to the clasped

purlins. The ceiling was inserted above the collar, it had been open to the apex, and all timbers had been painted. The southern room has a fireplace and this looks like a survivor from the original building date, it has a carved mantlebeam. There is an original window with diamond mullions, and one lead window pane in this room.

The stack was an external one on the south gable wall. The timbers visible from inside the half bay which now connects the cross wing with the main range are weathered. There is a difference in ceiling height between the two Bay building and the half-bay of about 0.40m. — a small bay was added to the north gable, it was originally unheated, but later had a small external brick stack added on its eastern side, a mullioned window was discovered behind the stack. This extension has the same large rectangular panels as the main range, but the timbers are somewhat slighter. A further mullioned window was found in its north gable when a low brick extension was demolished.

The cross wing which could have been built in the early to mid 17th century, is of 2½ storeys, the timbers are of narrow scantling and the panels are small and rectangular. Up to the first floor level the wall consists of flint



with brick corners and a chalk block lining inside, it is about 0.40m thick. The wing was divided by a framed partition, only the western room was heated. The large fireplace was found under several later ones, and had to be restored, the mantle beam comes from the demolished smithy. The spine beam is chamfered and the original stair rose from the western room, the modern open plan staircase is almost in the same position.

A small outshut is accessible from the unheated eastern bay, the partition between them is timber framed, and weathering on the north wall of this section of the cross wing in Bay V shows that it used to be an external wall for the first part of its existence (Fig1).

If one wall was completely timber framed, it is very likely that the rest of the wing was timber framed, and only later under built (Fig 3) when the timbers rotted at ground level, probably due to inferior building material and also the position of the wing on sloping ground. The present occupants mentioned that during heavy rain the water tends to flow down the hill straight towards the house.

One of the first floor bedrooms was probably also heated, the wall shows a bulge, but the fireplace was never unblocked. The attic bedrooms have a connecting door with an arched recess cut into the collar for access, the staircase leading to the attic is still the original. In the south wall two mullioned bedroom windows were unblocked during restoration work, they have ovolo sections, typical for the late 16th to mid 17th centuries.

Conclusion A house of the late 16th or early 17th century, originally two bays with a through passage in the unheated northern room. An external stack on the south side provided heating on the ground and first floor, with a carved mantle beam in the shape of a Tudor 4-centre arch in the upper chamber. More heated and unheated rooms were built when a bay was added to the north gable and a cross wing to the southern gable. This cross wing was built against the stack, adding two flues and two fireplaces, it probably dates to the early to mid 17th century, as it preserves one original ovolo moulded window at first floor level, typical for that period.

The brick, flint and chalk block wall of the lower part of the cross wing

may replace earlier timber framing, as the bricks are of different sizes and look re-used, but one cannot exclude the possibility of the lower part having been constructed originally in masonry to take account of the steep slope and the fact that there are problems with water running down the site from the steep track above the farmstead.

It is interesting that “the best side” of the old part of the farmhouse, which has slightly curved braces and the front door, looks away from the 18th century farmyard towards the east. It is likely that formerly the farm buildings would have been located on that eastern side, where a wall and shelter sheds are indicated on the 1913 map.

Recorded 1984 / 85

by members of the Henley Archaeological & Historical Group

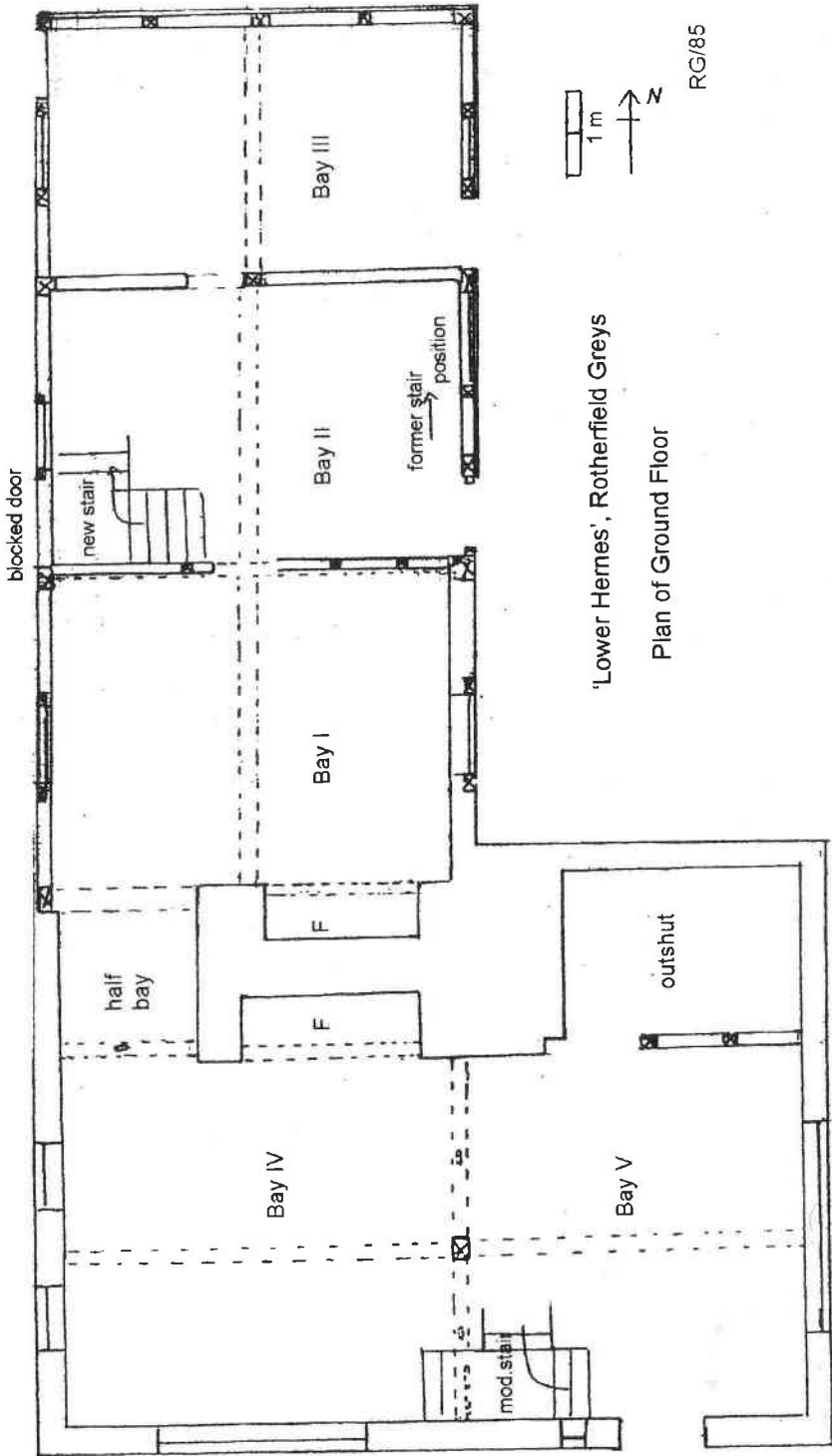
Drawings by J Howard, W Clenshaw, S Bromilow & R Gibson

Photographs by R Gibson

Report by R Gibson

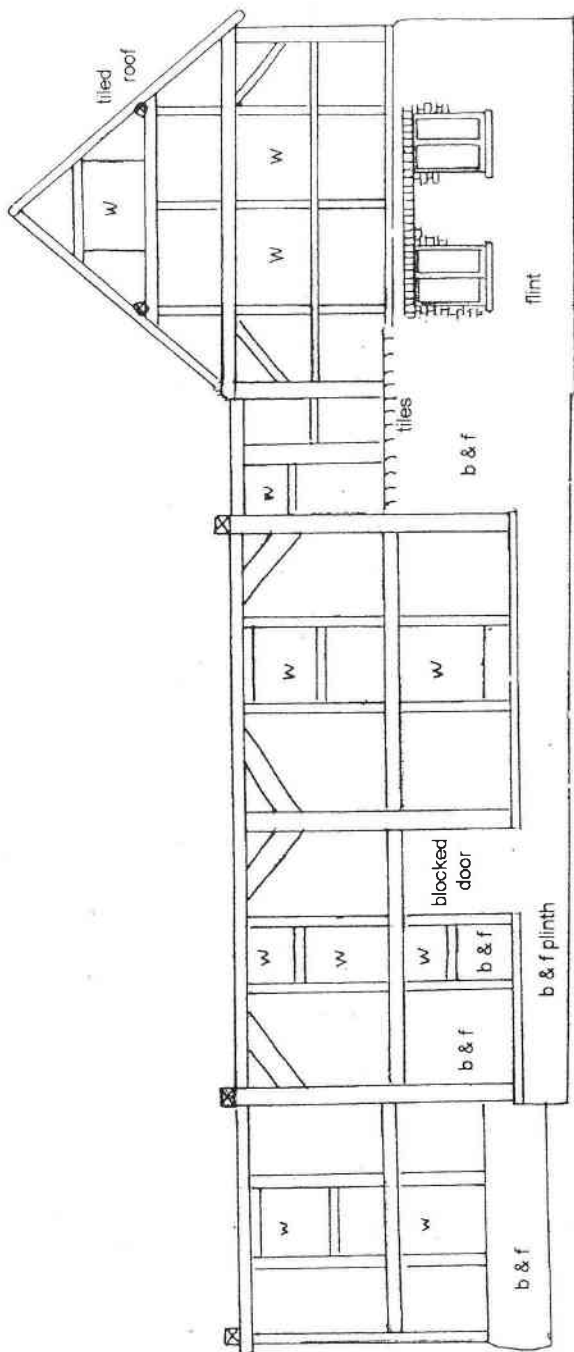
A copy of this report was sent to the Royal Monuments Commission, London & to the Oxfordshire County Museum, Woodstock

After the 3 drawings there is a recent Post Script to the report, giving some details found by the Victoria County History Team.



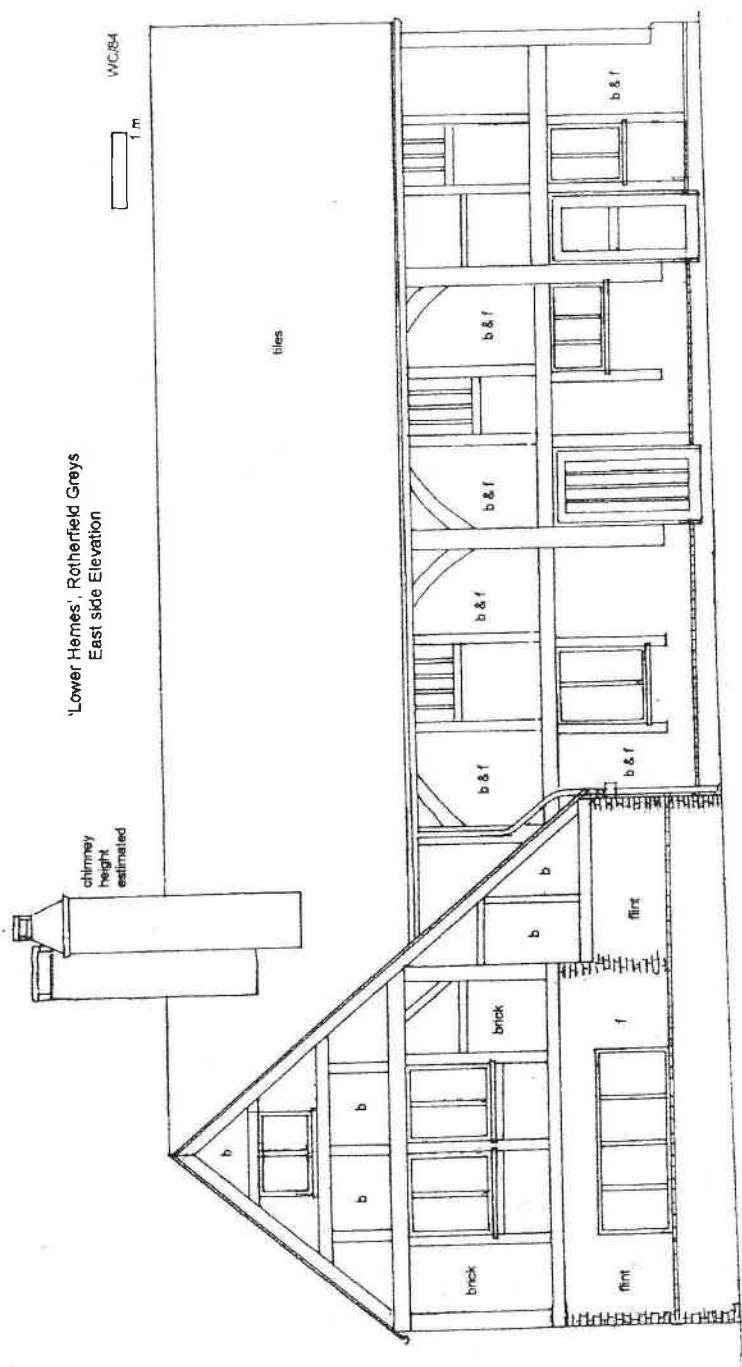
'Lower Hermes', Rotherfield Greys

Plan of Ground Floor



'Lower Hernes' west side elevation

Cross wing west gable JH/85



'Lower Hemes', Rotherfield Grays
East side Elevation

The Victoria County History
on
Lower Hernes
Rotherfield Greys

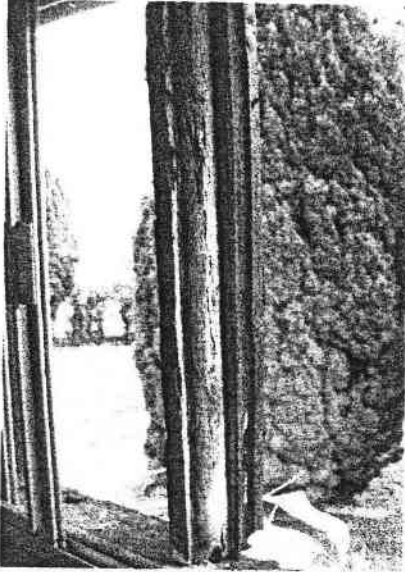
Ruth Gibson

Work carried out by the Victoria County History team on Henley and four surrounding villages was the occasion for re-visiting this interesting farmstead in the Hernes valley in Rotherfield Greys.

Research by Dr Mark Page shows that Lower Hernes belonged to the Knollys of Greys Court until the sale at the end of the 17th century, when it was acquired by Francis Heywood of Oxford. An Indenture of 1742 between William Heywood of Crowsley Park and other names, concerns Lodge Farm, formerly Corderoys (both former names of Lower Hernes) as well as Ardens Farm now Hernes Farm (*Bodl. MS Top. Oxon.f260 10.10.1761*).

The fact that it was in the ownership of the Knollys is particularly interesting with regard to the construction date of 1567 or soon after, as a large amount of building works at Greys Court were carried out between 1559 and 1586 by Sir Francis Knollys, treasurer to Queen Elizabeth.

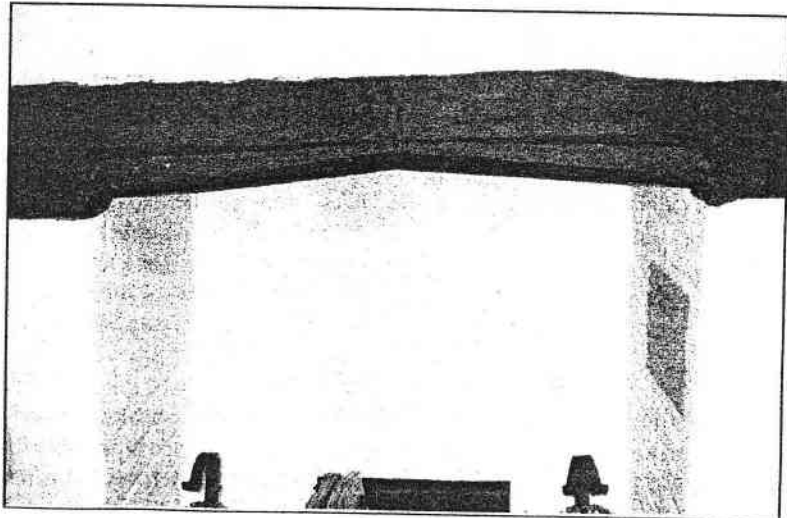
Dendrochronological investigations have confirmed that timbers at Lower Hernes in Bays I and II (*see ground plan*) were felled between winter of 1566 and summer 1567 (*Report 2008/17 by Oxford Dendro Lab*). The conversion of the felled oaks into the framing members for the house would have taken place very soon afterwards, whilst the timber was green. This means that our earlier conclusion dating the house to the late 16th/early 17th centuries has to be revised, but the south cross wing, which has given no dendro dates, probably still falls into this bracket. The ovolo mullioned window found there became popular in the second half of the 16th century and remained popular in the early 17th century (*Linda Hall, 'Fixtures and Fittings 1300-1900' p 84-5*). It is certainly later than the medieval diamond mullion of Bay I.



Large ovolo mullion window
in south wing

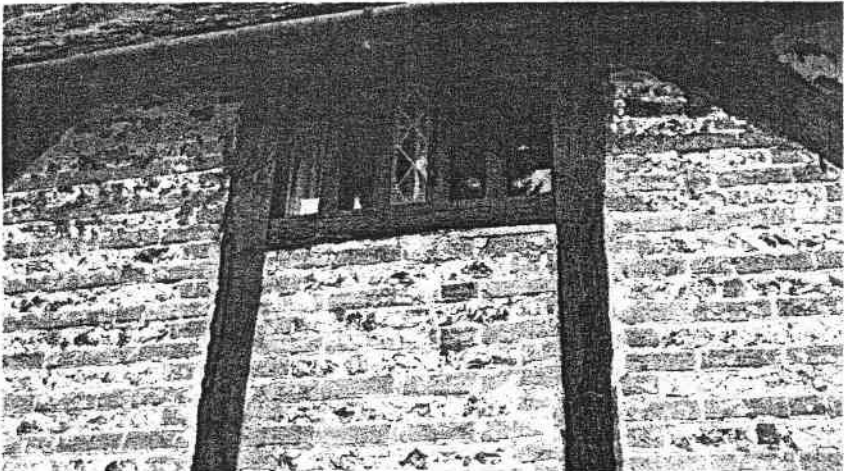
The dated timbers which came from among others, the main ceiling beams, also confirms that the Listing entry of 1985 which says, '*16th century hall house.....*' is incorrect, as a hall house would have been of one storey, that is open from floor to apex without a chimney. There is little doubt that the brick chimney is original, built on the outside of the south gable, then later enclosed when the south wing was built against it. The original chimney gave the two bay farmhouse 2 heated rooms, a luxury at the time, the room in the upper chamber has a typical 'Tudor' carved overmantle. When the south wing was built, perhaps 50 years later, two more fireplaces were added.

First floor fireplace in Bay I with
carved spandrels in Tudor arch
overmantle set into the brick work of the fireplace



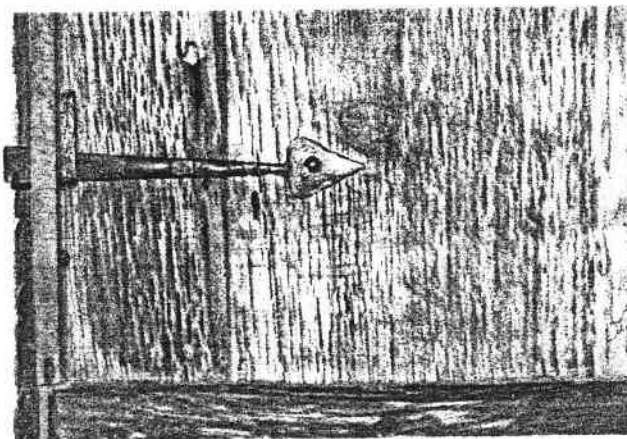
Meanwhile the building works at Greys Court were also going on with the erection of the Keep, a new range creating the present Mansion, two long lodging ranges on the west and east sides of the base court (only partly preserved and used as the tea room) and the Well or Donkey Wheel House.

Whilst Sir Francis used the most expensive and fashionable material for Greys Court, that is mostly bricks and ashlar stone, at Lower Harnes the traditional timber framing continued to be used for the construction of the house. However looking at the wall panels, which fill the gaps between the framing, but are not load bearing, it becomes apparent that the tenant too had the means to acquire some of this new building material. Nevertheless he used the bricks of about 2" sparingly, alternating them with flints, thereby creating an attractive pattern, which must have been quite novel at a time when the traditional brick and flint walls of the Chilterns were not common, most timber framed buildings had wattle and daub infill panels.



East elevation of Bay I with brick and flint panels between the timber studs. Note the first floor original diamond mullion window lighting the heated chamber.

Concluding. It is useful to put the findings on this fine farmhouse, newly built in 1566/7 into context.



Wrought iron door latch, popular throughout the 17th & 18th centuries
(*Linda Hall Journal p28*) First floor landing in south wing of Lower
Hernes Farm

Another Knollys tenant, Philip Aveye, husbandman, who died nearly a hundred years later in 1662 lived in very different circumstances. He left a will and an inventory was taken of his goods. He had a 999 year lease from William Knollys for his 'howse and piddle and pit of ground'. This was about one acre, worth £3, located to 'the south of the highway leading from Henley to Graies and adjoining a ground called Bodgeares on the north'. The location is interesting, it would have been uphill from Ancastle Cottage, probably where Henley Parish and Badgemore (Bodgeares?) meet. Ancastle Cottage is another farmhouse on the south side of the road, built in about 1600, with internal stack and 4 fireplaces. It too might have belonged to the Greys Court Estate, as its fine jettied front looks west up the hill rather than east towards the town.

By the time of Philip Aveye's death in 1662 his 3 room medieval house seems to have been still very primitive, it only had a hall, a low and upper chamber with very few furnishings. The hall had 'one spit' which indicates

a fireplace, but a spit could also still have been used over an open fire for cooking. His most valuable possessions, apart from the lease, were 5 quarters of winter corn and barley, and a sack of oates, coming to a total of £11. 2. 10.

The difference in living standards in the second half of the 17th century between John Corduroy the tenant of Lower Hernes or Corduroy's Farm as it was known in 1685 (*verbal information from Dr M Page , VCH*) with its house of 10 rooms, 4 of which were heated, the tenant or owner of the other substantial farmhouse, now Ancastle Cottage, and that of the Aveye family is vast. It is a useful reminder that many changes had been made in the construction of houses during the past 100 years, which provided separate spaces and privacy for different activities within a houses, but that the use of a single space, the hall, for all family uses was still very much a reality.



Comments on two items in Samuel Turner's letter Ann Cottingham

Samuel Turner in charge of Parliamentary troops describes being held up at the bridge by reason of the bridge needing repair. Probably it had had some of its roadway wrecked to delay troops, since it is believed that the bridge at the time was mostly of wood. The original flint and stone bridge (c.1170) having long since, at least in mid span, been lost to the river. There are records in the 13th century that it was mended by wood from Windsor Forest, which at the time included Wargrave & Remenham. However it seems that repairs did not take too long in 1642.

Samuel Turner continues that he despatched 40 men to guard the road to Oxford, but that the main guard was "*in a little round house close by the Town Hall*", is this a description of the Market building described by Robert Peberdy in his thesis on Medieval Henley¹. He says that the Cross known from 1308 was a roofed building with stalls beneath for traders. In 1437 two burgesses had to collect money from strangers standing under the Cross with their merchandise.

It sounds as if there would be room for the main guard of troops in 1642 to congregate in such a building, the only additional query is 'was it round?' Another query is, was there still a cross on top of the building? There is no mention of it.

Samuel Turner goes on to say that the round building was '*close by the Town Hall*'. The Town Hall or Guild Hall in 1642 was probably the one constructed in 1487,² and demolished at the end of the 18th century. A plan of Middle Row which included the Guild Hall, was found among papers belonging to the town² (Fig 2).

1 Peberdy, Robert B "The Economy, Society and Government of a small town in late Medieval England: A study of Henley on Thames from c1300 to c1540." Thesis for a Doctorate at Leicester University 1994

2 See HAHG Journal No 12 Spring 1997

Fig 1 shows the placing of the east end of the buildings shown in the 1780s plan as they may have been in 1642. It is known that all four corners of Bell street and Duke Street (Duck Street) were widened in 1808³, and that the entire west side of Duke Street, was demolished and rebuilt widening the road in 1871. Also at the end of the 18th century the whole of Middle Row including the Guild Hall was removed. The continuing line of Middle Row which extended eastwards down Hart Street, for which no plan seems to exist, had already been destroyed in the mid 18th century, probably eradicating the 'little round house' as well.

In Fig 1 the size that the buildings of Middle Row are shown on the modern map is open to question, but it's general position must have been similar. Its position is suggested by the plan itself (Fig 2) in that it shows its closeness to the north side of the Market Place, and that it is known from the Borough Rentals that the Plume of Feathers was included as being part of Duke Street, so must have been more in line with that street rather than with Bell Street. In medieval times the main road to Oxford was up Greys Hill.

3 Tyack, Geoffrey. 'The rebuilding of Henley on Thames 1780-1914'

HAHG Journal No 7 1989

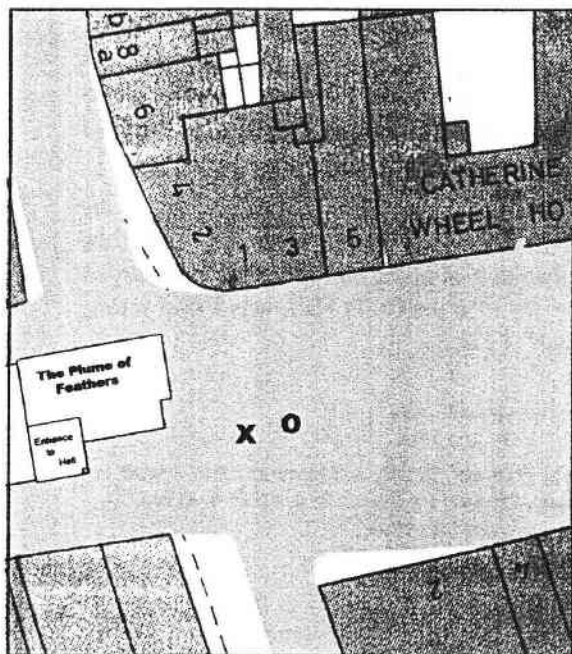
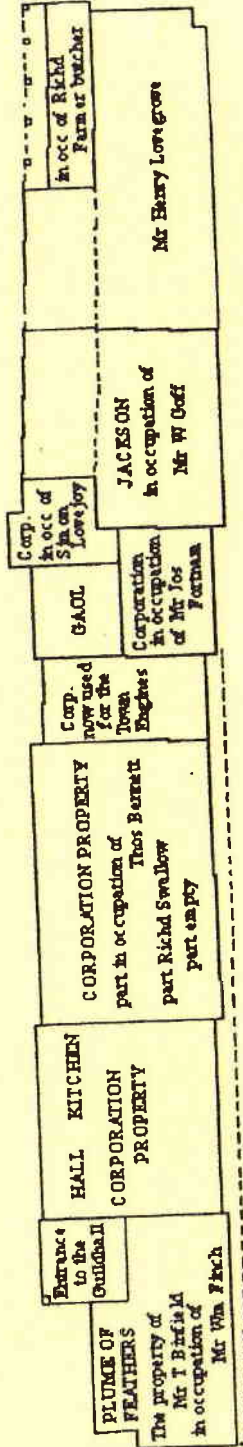


Fig 1 Henley cross roads O.S. map 1978

1642 details superimposed

X possible site of gun
O possible position of 'little round house'

possible extent of 1642 roads



FISHER ROW

180' X 24' roughly
4320 sq yds

Fig 2 Plan of Middle Row possibly of the 1780s, much reduced and the written text typed

