

THE DESECRATED CHURCHES OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

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DEANERY OF BURNHAM.

As it is not the object of these papers to notice Churches attached to Conventual Establishments, unless they were required also for parochial Services, the Chapel which belonged to the monastery at Burnham must be passed over, which leaves only two in this Deanery to be noticed, and these are both in the parish of Chesham.

GROVE is an ancient Manor which for many generations belonged to the Cheynes, of Drayton Beauchamp. They had a Mansion there, which, says Lysons, appears to have been strongly fortified, and this is confirmed by the site having still the remains of two moats around it. In the year 1585, John Cheyne of Chesham Bois and Drayton Beauchamp, the same who presented Hooker to the Rectory of Drayton, left Grove to his eldest son, John Cheyne, whom he had disinherited, — but for what reason does not appear, though the epitaph on his tomb, in the Church at King's Langley, indicates that he remained a Roman Catholic, whereas his father had become a zealous Protestant. — Lysons says there was a Chapel at Grove, and at my request the Rev. Bryant Burgess visited it, and has kindly given me the following report: — "The building stands East and West, and there has been a burial ground to the South. Tradition also calls it a Chapel. But I find nothing ecclesiastical in the architecture; and it evidently consisted of two stories. It appears to have been the refectory of a Religious house, with small buildings, probably dormitories, attached to it. I imagine there have been four such transepts, but only one remains, which is of two stories. The place is doubly moated, and full of massive flint foundations. It is an interesting spot, and there is a circular camp within a mile of it. It occurs to me that the *Chapel* may have been pulled down, having stood to the South of the present buildings."

Comparing Mr. Burgess's report with such historical facts of the place as I have been able to gather, I should imagine that the Chapel was intended chiefly, if not exclusively, for the Mansion, and was granted on account of its



Chapel & Manor Ho. Handridge in Chesham (for Records of Bucks)

distance from the parish Church: but I have not been able to procure any record in proof of this opinion, nor does Browne Willis, or Lipscomb, notice the existence of a Chapel. It must however have been a consecrated place from its having been used for sepulchral purposes.

HUNDRIGE is a Manor and Hamlet of Chesham, about two miles distant from the parish Church. Lysons says there was a Chapel of Ease there, but Lipscomb does not notice it, nor have I been able to find any authentic record of its foundation or early history. By the kindness of Mr. Burgess, and Mr. Aylward the Vicar of Chesham, I am enabled to give the following account of its present state. The outer walls of the Chapel, which stands East and West, still remain, and some of the windows retain the original mullions and jambs. The East window is perfect, and contains three lights of the perpendicular period. In the south wall are two lancet windows, and one in the north wall. The Chapel is built of flint, dressed with Tottenhoe stone, and measures externally forty-four feet by twenty. Chimnies have been built on the south side, and the north wall has been refaced with brick, and two-door-ways have lately been broken in. The greater part of the building is used as a brew-house, but the west end is converted into a dwelling, being partitioned from the rest. There is a garden on the south side in which human remains have been found, but not by the present occupiers of the dwelling. In this garden there are two fine yew trees, which are probably one or two centuries old, and were doubtless planted when this ground was held sacred as a spot consecrated to Christian sepulture. No entries, however, have been found in the Chesham Registers of interments, having taken place at Hundridge. Such interments, if they occurred since Registers were in use, were probably entered in a Register for the Chapel, which is now lost.

The present population of the Hamlet is not more than thirty. In the year 1801 the three Hamlets of Hundridge, Ashridge, and Chartridge in this parish, amounted to 626. The Manor-house at Hundridge, which is built of bricks, contains some handsomely panelled rooms, but they are not of very ancient date.

[For the illustration of Hundridge Chapel I am indebted to the Rev. Bryant Burgess.]