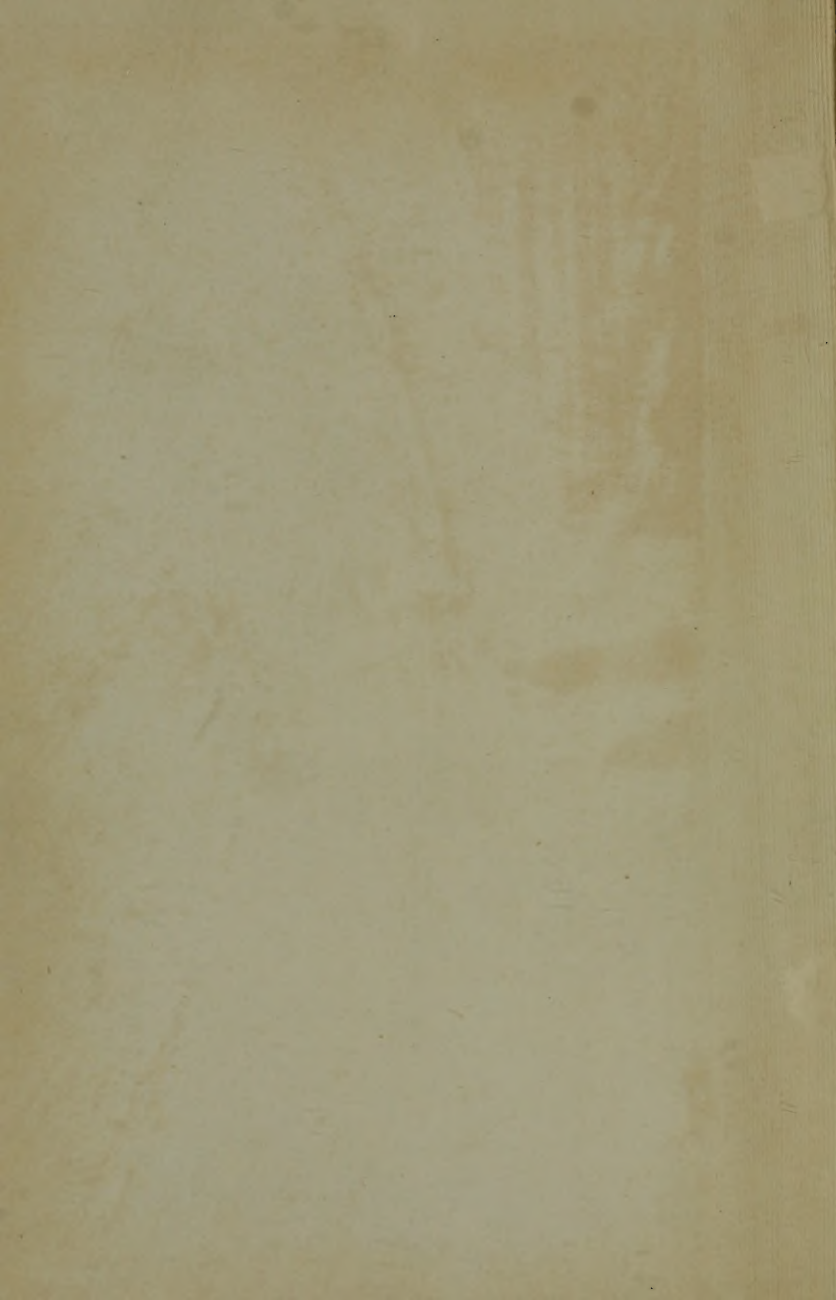


Lewisham Antiquarian Society

History of Lewisham.







Lewisham Antiquarian Society,  
1908.



The  
**P**roceedings  
of the  
**L**ewisham **A**ntiquarian **S**ociety  

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for  
  
1902=1907.

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1908.





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# Lewisham Antiquarian Society.

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## President.

Sir EDWARD W. BRABROOK, C.B., F.S.A.

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## Honorary Secretary.

JOSEPH W. BROOKES, Esq.

## Honorary Auditor.

LLEWELLYN W. WHITE, Esq.

# Lewisbam Antiquarian Society.

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## Eighteenth Annual Report, 1902.

The Council has the pleasure to present the Eighteenth Annual Report. During the year seven meetings have been held.

7TH JANUARY. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when papers were read: (1) on "Mediæval Lavatories," by Edward W. Brabrook, Esq., C.B., F.S.A., Vice-President of the Society; (2) "Fonts and their Sculptures," by George C. Druce, Esq. Both were illustrated by a number of lantern slides.

28TH JANUARY. Seventeenth Annual General Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. Lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, on "Underground Greenwich," by W. E. Ball, Esq., LL.D., President.

25TH FEBRUARY. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when A. R. Goddard, Esq., read a paper on "Nine Men's Morris," an old Viking game, illustrated by numerous diagrams. Herbert Jones, Esq., F.S.A., member of the Council, gave a brief description of the Roman Villa recently discovered in Greenwich Park. Leland L. Duncan, Esq., F.S.A., read a paper on "Some Glimpses of Lewisbam in the 14th Century," with extracts from the Court Roll of the Manor. R. Garraway Rice, Esq., F.S.A., member of the Council, gave a lantern exhibition of old buildings, tombs and other objects of antiquarian interest.

11TH MARCH. Meeting in the Court Hill Schools, when Leland L. Duncan, Esq., F.S.A., read papers: (1) on "The Attempt made in 1614 to enclose the Common of Westwood, which covered the ground now occupied by Sydenham"; (2) on "A Letter to the Rev. Abraham Colfe, dated 1642, hitherto unpublished, which gives some particulars of the place as seen by a London Puritan"; (3) on "The Action by the Rev. Abraham Colfe to recover Tythes withheld by certain parishioners in 1653."

21ST JUNE. Visit to Cobham Hall, Gravesend, by kind permission of Lord Darnley, when the house and its interesting collection of pictures, etc., were inspected. After tea a visit was paid to Cobham Church, which contains a fine collection of brasses and tombs.

12TH NOVEMBER. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when A. D. Webster, Esq., Superintendent of Greenwich Park, gave a lecture on "Greenwich Park: its History and Associations," illustrated by a large number of lantern slides.

15TH NOVEMBER. Meeting, arranged by Gifford Hooper, Esq., at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, by kind permission of Admiral Sir R. More Molineux, G.C.B., when the Crypt of the old Palace of Placentia was inspected, also the Museum, Chapel, etc.; afterwards A. D. Webster, Esq., conducted the party through the underground passages in Greenwich Park; and after tea in the kiosk, the various "finds," lately discovered at the Roman Villa in the Park, were explained.

During the year the Society has lost 38 members, 21 members have been elected, and the number now on the register is 174.

The volume containing Particulars of Visits, etc., 1899-1901, and the paper on "The Maze of Maze Hill, Troy Towns and Jerusalem Roads," by W. E. Ball, Esq., LL.D., has been published and issued to members whose subscriptions were not in arrear.

The Council desires to thank all members and friends who have contributed to the success of the Society in the past year by reading papers, arranging meetings, etc.

W. E. BALL, *President.*

HERBERT C. KIRBY, *Hon. Secretary.*

14th January, 1903.

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## Nineteenth Annual Report, 1903.

In presenting the Annual Report the Council congratulates the members upon the continued success and usefulness of the Society. During the year eight meetings have been held.

27TH JANUARY. Annual General Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. Charles Welch, Esq., Librarian of the Corporation of the City of London, gave a lecture upon "The Ancient Guilds of the City of London," illustrated by about 160 lantern slides.

- 24TH FEBRUARY. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when George C. Druce, Esq., read a paper upon "Early Christian Art in the Catacombs of Rome," illustrated by numerous lantern views.
- 10TH MARCH. Meeting in the Court Hill Schools, when (1) H. Chettle, Esq., M.A., read a paper, entitled "Words"; and (2) Philip M. Johnstone, Esq., gave an account of the Wall Paintings in Claverley Church, representing an incident of the Norman Conquest. Mr. Johnstone's account was illustrated by full-sized coloured tracings.
- 4TH APRIL. Visit, under the direction of A. L. Hardy, Esq., a member of the Council, to Crosby Hall, and the Churches of St. Helen, Bishopsgate, St. Andrew Undershaft, All Hallows Staining (tower and Norman crypt), and St. Olave, Hart Street.
- 9TH MAY. Visit, arranged by J. H. Porter, Esq., member of Council, to Lingfield, where the ancient Guest House was visited, by kind permission of C. J. Hayward, Esq., who afterwards conducted the members over the Parish Church, and gave an address upon its history and monuments. The neighbouring half-timber houses, and the village cross and stone cell were also visited.
- 6TH JUNE. Visit to Merstham and Chaldon, arranged by Gifford Hooper, Esq. At Merstham, T. Fisher, Esq., Churchwarden, conducted the members over the Parish Church. At Chaldon, under the guidance of the Rev. G. E. Belcher, Rector, the Church was visited with its unique twelfth-century wall-painting representing the Ladder of Salvation of the Human Soul, and the Road to Heaven. Papers were read in the two Churches by Mr. Gifford Hooper.
- 12TH NOVEMBER. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. A paper upon "Samuel Pepys and St. Olave's, Hart Street," was read by Mr. J. W. Brookes, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Society. Herbert Jones, Esq., F.S.A., member of the Council, gave an account of recent excavations at Caerwent and Silchester, and the discoveries at Newgate Prison; and a number of lantern slides were exhibited: (1) from photographs taken at Lingfield, Merstham, etc., by F. W. Nunn, Esq., and J. H. Porter, Esq.; and (2) Views prepared by J. C. Weare, Esq., of Blackheath, Greenwich, Eltham, etc.
- 8TH DECEMBER. Meeting at the Parish Church Hall, when a paper was read by Leonard M. May, Esq., member of Council, upon "The Architecture of our Parish Churches," illustrated by numerous lantern slides.

The number of members now upon the register is 187.

The Council desires to thank Charles A. Spon, Esq., who has kindly performed the duties of Honorary Treasurer during the absence of Miss M. L. Spon in the United States; also the members and others who have during the year read papers or otherwise contributed to the success of the Society.

The Council also wishes to express regret that removal from Lewisham has necessitated Mr. H. C. Kirby's resignation of the office of Honorary Secretary, and its high appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered the Society during his seventeen years' tenure of that office.

W. E. BALL, *President.*

JOSEPH W. BROOKES, *Hon. Secretary.*

15th January, 1904.

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### Twentieth Annual Report, 1904.

The Council has the pleasure to present its Report for the year 1904. The meetings held were nine in number.

26TH JANUARY. Annual General Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. W. E. Ball, Esq., LL.D., President of the Society, read a paper on "The Connection of Greenwich and Lewisham with Flanders, and its Influence on the History of England."

23RD FEBRUARY. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when Leland L. Duncan, Esq., M.V.O., F.S.A., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, gave an address upon "Lewisham and Blackheath in Days gone by," which was illustrated by over 70 lantern slides, mainly of buildings no longer existing, prepared from old prints and photographs.

22ND MARCH. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. Herbert Jones, Esq., F.S.A., a member of the Council, gave an address upon "The Roman Wall from Newcastle to Carlisle," which was illustrated by diagrams and a number of lantern slides taken and kindly lent by A. S. Gover, Esq.

12TH APRIL. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when Douglas Strutt, Esq., a member of the Council, gave a lecture upon "The Antiquities of Constantinople," illustrated by numerous lantern slides.

- 11TH JUNE. Meeting at Guildford, under the direction of Douglas Strutt, Esq. The members visited the Grammar School (endowed by Edward VI), Archbishop Abbott's Hospital, the Guildhall, the Parish Church of St. Mary, and the Castle Keep and Grounds. Tea was served at the "Sign of the Angel," where the 13th century vaults were afterwards inspected.
- 9TH JULY. Meeting at Chislehurst, under the guidance of E. A. Webb, Esq., F.S.A. The Parish Church of St. Nicholas was visited; also, by permission of G. Marsham Townshend, Esq., the site of Scadbury House. Mr. Webb gave an account of the history both of the Church and Scadbury. After tea at the "Bickley Arms," the members were conducted through the caves in the chalk by W. J. Nichols, Esq., who read a paper on their probable origin.
- 29TH OCTOBER. Meeting in the City of London, arranged by A. L. Hardy, Esq., a member of the Council. The Churches of St. Magnus the Martyr and St. Dunstan-in-the-East (both partly the work of Sir Christopher Wren) were visited; also the Hall of the Bakers' Company in Harp Lane; and the house in Love Lane supposed to have been built and occupied by Sir Christopher Wren.
- 15TH NOVEMBER. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when Leland L. Duncan, Esq., M.V.O., F.S.A., repeated his address upon "Lewisham and Blackheath in Days gone by," the lantern slides exhibited on the 23rd February being again shown, with one or two additions.
- 13TH DECEMBER. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when R. Garraway Rice, Esq., F.S.A., exhibited and described a large number of lantern slides of archæological interest, mainly of the City of York and neighbourhood; also a set of sixteen slides of some fine iron work at Hampton Court.

The number of members now upon the register of the Society is 180.

The Council again desires to thank Charles A. Spon, Esq., for performing the duties of Honorary Treasurer during the continued absence of Miss M. L. Spon; to Ernest S. W. Hart, Esq., for his valuable assistance in the management of the lantern; also to the members of the Society and others who have read papers or otherwise contributed to the success of the Society during the year.

The new long focus optical lantern recently purchased by the Society has proved a valuable acquisition, and enabled the slides in illustration of papers read to be shown to much greater advantage than before,



It is hoped that arrangements may shortly be made for the publication in a permanent form of Mr. Leland L. Duncan's lecture upon "Old Lewisham and Blackheath," with reproductions of the old views and photographs exhibited.

W. E. BALL, *President*.

J. W. BROOKES, *Hon. Secretary*.

15th January, 1905.

### Twenty-First Annual Report, 1905.

In presenting its Report for the year 1905, the Council desires to congratulate the members upon the Society having attained its "majority," and to express the hope that it may have many more years of usefulness before it. In 1905 nine meetings were held:—

- 17TH JANUARY. Annual General Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, W. E. Ball, Esq., LL.D., the retiring President in the Chair. W. E. Brabrook, Esq., C.B., F.S.A., etc., Founder of the Society, and its first President, was re-elected President for the ensuing year. Gilbert H. Lovegrove, Esq., gave a Popular Lecture upon "Westminster Abbey," fully illustrated by lantern slides.
- 14TH FEBRUARY. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. George C. Druce, Esq., read a paper entitled "Pictures in Ecclesiastical Architecture," illustrated by lantern slides.
- 14TH MARCH. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. Leonard M. May, Esq., member of Council, gave an illustrated Lecture upon "English Monumental Brasses, from the XIII to the XVI century."
- 6TH MAY. Meeting at Brasted and Sundridge, under the guidance of J. H. Porter, Esq., member of Council. The Parish Churches of Brasted and Sundridge were visited, and papers were read by J. H. Porter, Esq., and F. W. Nunn, Esq.
- 3RD JUNE. Meeting at West Wickham. Wickham Court and Gardens were visited, by kind permission of Sir Henry Farnaby Lennard, also the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, noted for its fifteenth century brasses, monuments and glass, and its original carved oak chancel screen. Afterwards the members walked to Hayes, where the ancient British entrenchments upon the Common were inspected.

- 29TH JUNE. Whole day Meeting at Maidstone, arranged by F. W. Nunn, Esq., member of Council. The fine Parish Church of All Saints, the Archbishop's Palace, the College founded by Archbishop Courtenay, and the County Museum in Chillingford Manor House, were visited; also, by kind permission of Dudley C. Falcke, Esq., the remains of Allington Castle, partly dating from the XIII century.
- 30TH SEPTEMBER. Meeting in Southwark Cathedral, under the guidance of the Rev. Canon R. Rhodes Bristow. Afterwards the members visited the remains of the "George," one of the old galleried inns for which Southwark was formerly famous.
- 7TH NOVEMBER. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when Andrew Oliver, Esq., A.R.I.B.A., gave an illustrated Lecture entitled "A Ramble in Old London," describing many old buildings lying between Trafalgar Square and the Tower, a large number of which no longer exist.
- 5TH DECEMBER. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. Philip H. Newman, Esq., F.S.A., R.B.A., F.R.S.L., gave a Lecture upon "Art Recollections of a Tour in Spain," illustrated by upwards of ninety slides prepared from Mr. Newman's own photographs.

In April last the Council forwarded to the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers, a petition in favour of the preservation of the old Almshouses founded by the Rev. Abraham Colfe, Vicar of Lewisham, 1610 to 1657. At the enquiry held on 1st December in the Town Hall, Catford, by the Charity Commissioners, this Society was represented by Leland L. Duncan, M.V.O., F.S.A., Vice-President, and by E. C. Thurgood, Esq., member of Council, the former of whom gave evidence. The Commissioner's report has not yet been made public; but the Council hope some scheme may be decided upon which will ensure the retention of the old buildings, "which have been for 250 years a picturesque element in the High Street of the Parish."

The Council regrets the death during the year of the Rev. J. Morlais Jones, formerly a Vice-President of the Society; and of James W. Ramsay, Esq., who for five years acted as Honorary Auditor.

The number of Members now upon the roll of the Society is 170.

The Council again desire to thank Ernest S. W. Hart, Esq. for undertaking the management of the lantern at the Society's meetings.

The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts will be laid before the Society, and whilst satisfactory as showing a balance in hand in favour of the Society, that balance is too small to allow of any publications or other efforts for the good of the Society being contemplated. The Council accordingly recommends to the consideration of the Society whether it would not be desirable to increase the annual subscription from 2s. 6d. to 5s.

EDWARD W. BRABROOK, *President.*

JOSEPH W. BROOKES, *Hon. Secretary.*

16th January, 1906.

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### Twenty-Second Annual Report, 1906.

During the past year eight meetings were held :—

- 16TH JANUARY. Annual General Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. The President, Sir E. W. Brabrook, C.B., F.S.A., etc., gave an address upon "The Coming-of-Age of the Lewisham Antiquarian Society."
- 13TH FEBRUARY. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall Club Room. A. E. Salter, Esq., D.Sc., a member of the Council, read a paper "On the Evidence for the Great Antiquity of Man in Northern Kent and Surrey," which was illustrated by maps, diagrams and specimens of flint implements.
- 13TH MARCH. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. Douglas Strutt, Esq., member of Council, gave a Lecture upon "The Cathedrals of England and Wales," illustrated by lantern slides.
- 18TH MAY. Meeting in Essex, under the guidance of J. H. Porter, Esq., member of Council, when Ingatestone, Mountnessing, Margaretting, Fryerning, Blackmore and Greenstead Churches were visited; also Ingatestone Hall, and Blackmore House, known as "Jericho." At the latter the members were entertained at tea by the kindness of the owner, T. R. Hull, Esq.
- 16TH JUNE. Meeting at Westerham, arranged by Lewis C. Thomson, Esq., member of Council, when by the kindness of Lieut.-Col. Warde, Squerryes Court was visited; and afterwards the spacious Parish Church.

22ND SEPTEMBER. Meeting at Waltham, Essex, arranged by Douglas Strutt, Esq., member of Council. The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross was visited, under the guidance of the Rev. J. H. Stamp, who afterwards conducted the members to the remains of the monastery, and also to the house of Mr. Cressy in Romeland, a fifteenth century building known to have been visited by Cranmer, Fox and Gardiner.

20TH NOVEMBER. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when the Rev. W. Chynoweth Pope gave a fully illustrated Lecture entitled "In the Italian Boot."

11TH DECEMBER. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. Leland L. Duncan, Esq., M.V.O., F.S.A., read a paper entitled "Church Notes in Kent," dealing mainly with the wills of Kentish folk in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The Lecture was illustrated by specially prepared lantern slides from Mr. Duncan's own photographs.

The thanks of the Society are again due to Mr. Ernest Hart for kindly working the lantern.

In accordance with the notice given in the Council's Report for 1905, a Resolution was submitted to the Meeting held on 13th March, and passed unanimously, raising the annual subscription payable by members of the Society, to five shillings; and the Council hopes shortly, by means of the additional funds so obtained, to resume the publication of occasional volumes of reports of the Proceedings of the Society.

The Council congratulates the Society on the success of the efforts made to prevent the destruction of the Colfe Almshouses, efforts to which the Society was able to give some assistance. The amount required for the repair of the Almshouses has now been raised, and it is expected that they will soon be put again into a habitable condition.

During the past year the Society has been admitted an Associated Society of the British Association, and was represented at the Conference of Delegates at York in August last by A. E. Salter, Esq., D.Sc.

EDWARD W. BRABROOK, *President.*

JOSEPH W. BROOKES, *Hon. Secretary.*

15th January, 1907.

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## Twenty=Third Annual Report, 1907.

The Council is glad to be able to report another successful year's work. The meetings of the Society during 1907 were nine in number :—

- 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY. Annual General Meeting held in the Parish Church Hall. Sir E. W. Brabrook, C.B., V.P.S.A., etc., President of the Society, read a paper upon "The Progress of Antiquarian Research up to and in the XIX Century." This paper has since been printed in the "Antiquary."
- 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when C. A. Spon, Esq., Hon. Treasurer of the Society, gave an illustrated Lecture entitled "A Visit to Cracow—the Old Capital of Poland."
- 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, when a paper was read by George C. Druce, Esq., upon "Animal Sculptures in Church Architecture, and their meaning," which was illustrated by lantern slides.
- 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall. Lewis C. Thomson, Esq., a member of the Council, read a paper upon "Early Man in Devon, with special reference to Dartmoor," with lantern views.
- 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY. Whole day Meeting in Tunbridge Wells and neighbourhood, under the direction of J. H. Porter, Esq., a member of the Council, when the ruins of Bayham Abbey, Scotney Castle, and Goudhurst Church were visited; descriptive notes being read by Mr. Porter.
- 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE. Meeting at Otford, arranged by Lewis C. Thomson, Esq., when the principal objects of interest visited were the ruins of the former Palace of the Archbishops of Canterbury, Becket's Well, the "Bull. Inn," built in 1650, and Otford Parish Church. Short papers upon these buildings were read by Mr. Thomson.
- 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER. A visit was paid to the Church and Crypt of St. John's, Clerkenwell, under the guidance of Mr. Churchwarden Fincham, who gave an interesting account of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John; and to the Church of St. Giles, Cripplegate, where the Rev. Prebendary Barff, Vicar, kindly acted as guide.
- 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER. Meeting at the Parish Church Hall, when Leland L. Duncan, Esq., M.V.O., F.S.A., a Vice-President of the Society, gave a Lecture entitled "An Archæological Holiday in Kent," illustrated by specially prepared slides from Mr. Duncan's own photographs.

10TH DECEMBER. Meeting at the Parish Church Hall, when Lewis C. Thomson, Esq. lectured upon "A Glimpse of Old Cornwall." The illustrative slides were kindly lent by Thurston Peter, Esq.

The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. E. S. W. Hart and Mr. C. A. Spon for working the lantern at the evening meetings.

In the Report for 1906 reference was made to the fact that the sum required for the repair of the Colfe Almshouses had been collected, and the Council now congratulates the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers, the Members of this Society, and the inhabitants of Lewisham generally, that the picturesque old houses, which Lewisham could so ill afford to lose, have been put into a state of efficient repair, and are again occupied.

The hope expressed by the Council in 1904 that arrangements might shortly be made for the publication in permanent form of Mr. Duncan's lecture upon "Old Lewisham," has hitherto been impossible of fulfilment owing to lack of funds. The increase in the annual subscription, however, has now enabled the Hon. Treasurer to accumulate a larger balance. Moreover, during the past year the Council has been in consultation with the Committee of the Lewisham Municipal Association, which has voted a substantial grant towards the object in view. The book is now in process of preparation by Mr. Duncan, and the Council hopes to issue it, adequately illustrated, to all Members of the Society within the present year.

The number of members upon the roll of the Society is now 124.

EDWARD BRABROOK, *President.*

JOSEPH W. BROOKES, *Hon. Secretary.*

14th January, 1908.

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Copy of the Audited Balance Sheets of the Lewisham Antiquarian Society, from 1902 to 1907.

1902.		£ s. d.	1902.		£ s. d.
Balance brought forward		18 18 3	Printing ... ..		19 18 9
Subscriptions ... ..		22 4 0	Postage and Stationery		3 14 1
Balance on Excursions ...		1 7 11	Hire of Hall, Expenses of		
			Meetings, etc. ... ..		7 16 10
			Balance ... ..		11 0 6
		<u>£42 10 2</u>			<u>£42 10 2</u>

1903.		£ s. d.	1903.		£ s. d.
Balance brought forward		11 0 6	Printing ... ..		3 9 0
Subscriptions ... ..		11 12 6	Postage and Stationery		5 7 4
Sale of Periodicals ... ..		4 6	Hire of Hall, Expenses of		
			Meetings, etc. ... ..		7 15 8
			Loss on Excursions ... ..		7 8
			Balance ... ..		5 17 10
		<u>£22 17 6</u>			<u>£22 17 6</u>

1904.		£ s. d.	1904.		£ s. d.
Balance brought forward		5 17 10	Printing ... ..		3 15 6
Subscriptions ... ..		20 7 6	Postage and Stationery		2 1 9
Excursions ... ..		11 10	Hire of Hall, Expenses of		
			Meetings, etc. ... ..		10 1 9
			Purchase of Lantern ... ..		6 14 0
			Balance ... ..		4 4 2
		<u>£26 17 2</u>			<u>£26 17 2</u>

1905.		£ s. d.	1905.		£ s. d.
Balance brought forward		4 4 2	Printing, etc. ... ..		5 5 0
Subscriptions ... ..		12 12 6	Postage and Stationery		2 1 1
Excursions ... ..		3 3 8	Hire of Hall and Expenses		
			of Meetings, etc. ... ..		9 9 9
			Balance .. ..		3 4 6
		<u>£20 0 4</u>			<u>£20 0 4</u>

1906.				1906.				
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.	
Balance ...	...	3	4	6	Printing, etc. ...	4	2	0
Subscriptions ...	...	13	17	6	Postage, Stationery, etc.	1	8	4
Excursions ...	...	2	15	9	Hire of Hall and Expenses			
					of Meetings, etc. ...	8	19	5
					Donation to Colfe's Alms-			
					houses ...	2	2	0
					Balance ... ..	3	6	0
		<u>£</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>17</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>17</u>

1907.				1907.				
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.	
Balance ...	...	3	6	0	Printing, etc. ...	2	11	0
Subscriptions ...	...	18	5	0	Postage and Stationery	2	15	9
Excursions ...	...	8	8	6	Hire of Hall and Expenses			
					of Meetings, etc. ...	8	13	1
					Balance ... ..	7	19	8
		<u>£</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>19</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>19</u>

## Rules of the Society.

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1. The objects of the Society are to study, and, as far as practicable, to record Antiquities, with special regard to the Parish of Lewisham.

2. The Society shall have for Officers : a President, Vice-Presidents, twelve Members of the Council, Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer, elected at the Annual Meeting in each year. The President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and nine Members of the Council shall be eligible for re-election.

3. Members shall be elected by the Council.

4. The Annual Subscription shall be 5s., payable on the 1st January. A Member may commute the 5s. for life, by payment of two guineas.

5. The Annual Meeting shall be held in January.

6. Rules may be altered or rescinded, and Members excluded, at General Meetings called for the purpose by the Council,



## Diary of Proceedings, 1897=1907.

*Continued from the Volume of Proceedings, 1896, Page 12.*

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1897. 3rd April. Meeting at St. Bartholomew-the-Great, Smithfield, under E. A. WEBB, Esq.
- 29th May. Meeting at Pulborough and Hardham Priory, under R. GARRAWAY RICE, Esq., F.S.A.
- 7th Dec. Meeting in the Parish Church Hall, Lewisham.—Lecture by A. R. GODDARD, Esq., on the Margate Grotto and its Shell Mosaic.
1898. 25th Jan. Thirteenth General Meeting.—Address by the President, P. W. AMES, Esq., F.S.A., on the Poetry and Science of Archæology; and Exhibition of Objects of Antiquarian Interest.
- 22nd Feb. Papers by J. LEWIS ANDRÉ, Esq., F.S.A., on Heraldry in English Monumental Art; and by R. GARRAWAY RICE, Esq., F.S.A., on the Capture of the Ship, "St. Paul," in Cuckmere Bay, by a French Privateer, in May, 1747.
- 22nd Mar. Lecture by HERBERT JONES, Esq., F.S.A., on the Excavations at Silchester.
- 14th May. Meeting at Southfleet, Kent.
- 16th July. Meeting at Horsham, under J. LEWIS ANDRÉ, Esq., F.S.A.
- 15th Oct. Meeting at Norfolk College, Greenwich.—Paper upon the College and its Founder, the Earl of Northampton, by C. A. BRADFORD, Esq.
- 6th Dec. Lecture by W. SLATER, Esq., on the Abbeys of England: their Rise and Fall.
1899. 31st Jan. Fourteenth General Meeting.—Lecture by the President, P. W. AMES, Esq., F.S.A., on the Archæology of Egypt.
- 14th Mar. Papers on Mazes on Village Greens, by W. E. BALL, Esq., LL.D.; on a View of Ladywell, circa 1820, by C. A. BRADFORD, Esq., F.R.S.L.; on the Round Towers of Greece, by the President, PERCY W. AMES, F.S.A.; and on a Schedule of

- Ancient Buildings in London for the  
London County Council, by LELAND L.  
DUNCAN, Esq., F.S.A.
- 1st July. Meeting at Eltham, under OSWALD BARRON,  
Esq.
- 29th July. Meeting at Tonbridge, under ALFRED L.  
HARDY, Esq.
- 5th Dec. Paper on the Medicinal Wells of London,  
with special reference to Sydenham.
1900. 16th Mar. Fifteenth Annual General Meeting.—Ad-  
dress by R. GARRAWAY RICE, Esq., F.S.A.,  
on Rambles of an Antiquary, in West  
Sussex.
- 24th Mar. Meeting in the Chapel of St. Etheldreda,  
Ely Place, and visit to the Soane Museum.
- 27th Mar. Lecture by P. M. JOHNSTONE, Esq., on Low  
Side Windows.
- 21st April. Visit to Newgate Prison.
- 9th June. Visit to Bexley, under ALFRED L. HARDY,  
Esq.
- 23rd June. Visit to St. Albans, under JOSEPH W.  
BROOKES, Esq.
- 21st July. Visit to Stone and Swanscombe, under H.  
STOPES, Esq.
- 13th Nov. Lecture by Professor ROMESH DUTT, C.I.E.,  
F.R.S.L., on the Great Indian Epics.
- 4th Dec. Lecture by WALTER SLATER, Esq., on the  
Canterbury Pilgrims.
1901. 12th Feb. Sixteenth Annual General Meeting.—Ad-  
dress by the President, Dr. W. E. BALL,  
on Education in the First Centuries of the  
Christian Era, and Notes on the Origin of  
Universities.
- 12th Mar. Lecture by W. J. HARDY, Esq., entitled  
“English History on Parchment and  
Paper.”
- 4th May. Visit to Knole House, Sevenoaks.
- 8th June. Visit to Penshurst Place.
- 17th Aug. Visit to Mote House, Ightham.
- 30th Nov. Visit to Gray's Inn, under Dr. W. E. BALL.
- 3rd Dec. Lecture by H. C. RICHARDS, Esq., K.C.,  
F.S.A., M.P., on Old London,

1902. 7th Jan. Paper by E. W. BRABROOK, Esq., C.B., F.S.A., on Mediæval Lavatories; and Lecture by GEORGE C. DRUCE, Esq., on Fonts and their Sculptures.
- 28th Jan. Seventeenth General Meeting.—Address by Dr. W. E. BALL, President, on Underground Greenwich.
- 25th Feb. Papers by A. R. GODDARD, Esq., on Nine Men's Morris; HERBERT JONES, Esq., F.S.A., on the Roman Remains in Greenwich Park; and LELAND L. DUNCAN, Esq., F.S.A., on Glimpses of Lewisham in the 14th Century.
- 11th Mar. Papers by LELAND L. DUNCAN, Esq., F.S.A., (1) on an attempt in 1614 to enclose Westwood Common; (2) on an Unpublished Letter to the Rev. Abraham Colfe, dated 1642; and (3) on an Action by the Rev. Abraham Colfe, in 1653, to Recover Tithes.
- 21st June. Visit to Cobham Hall.
- 12th Nov. Lecture by A. D. WEBSTER, Esq., on Greenwich Park.
- 15th Nov. Meeting at Greenwich, under GIFFORD HOOPER, Esq., and A. D. WEBSTER, Esq.
1903. 27th Jan. Eighteenth General Meeting. Lecture by CHARLES WELCH, Esq., Guildhall Librarian, on the Ancient Guilds of the City of London.
- 24th Feb. Paper by GEORGE C. DRUCE, Esq., on the Catacombs of Rome.
- 10th Mar. Papers by H. CHETTLE, Esq., M.A., entitled "Words"; and P. M. JOHNSTONE, Esq., upon the Wall Paintings in Claverley Church.
- 4th April. Visit, under A. L. HARDY, Esq., to Crosby Hall, and the Churches of St. Helen, Bishopsgate, St. Andrew Undershaft, and St. Olave, Hart Street.
- 9th May. Visit, under J. H. PORTER, Esq., to Lingfield.
- 6th June. Visit, under GIFFORD HOOPER, Esq., to Merstham and Chaldon.
- 12th Nov. Papers by J. W. BROOKES, Esq., on Samuel Pepys and St. Olave's, Hart Street; and by HERBERT JONES, Esq., F.S.A., on the Roman Remains at Caerwent, Silchester, and the Site of Newgate Prison,

- 8th Dec. Paper by LEONARD MAY, Esq., on the Architecture of our Parish Churches.
1904. 26th Jan. Nineteenth General Meeting.—Dr. W. E. BALL, President, read a paper on the Connection of Lewisham and Greenwich with Flanders.
- 23rd Feb. Address by LELAND L. DUNCAN, Esq., M.V.O., F.S.A., on Lewisham and Blackheath in days gone by.
- 22nd Mar. Address by H. JONES, Esq., F.S.A., on the Roman Wall from Newcastle to Carlisle.
- 12th April. Lecture by DOUGLAS STRUTT, Esq., on Constantinople.
- 11th June. Meeting at Guildford, under DOUGLAS STRUTT, Esq.
- 9th July. Meeting at Chislehurst, under E. A. WEBB, Esq., F.S.A.
- 29th Oct. Visit, under A. L. HARDY, Esq., to the Churches of St. Magnus and St. Dunstan-in-the-East, and the Hall of the Bakers' Company, etc.
- 15th Nov. LELAND L. DUNCAN, Esq., M.V.O., F.S.A., repeated his Lecture upon Old Lewisham and Blackheath.
- 13th Dec. Lecture by R. GARRAWAY RICE, Esq., F.S.A., on the City of York, and some fine Ironwork at Hampton Court.
1905. 17th Jan. Twentieth General Meeting.—Lecture by GILBERT H. LOVEGROVE, Esq., on Westminster Abbey.
- 14th Feb. Lecture, entitled "Pictures in Ecclesiastical Architecture," by GEORGE C. DRUCE, Esq.
- 14th Mar. Lecture by LEONARD M. MAY, Esq., on English Monumental Brasses.
- 6th May. Meeting at Brasted and Sundridge, under J. H. PORTER, Esq.
- 3rd June. Meeting at West Wickham and Hayes.
- 29th June. Whole Day Meeting at Maidstone, under F. W. NUNN, Esq.
- 30th Sept. Meeting in Southwark Cathedral.
- 7th Nov. Lecture by ANDREW OLIVER, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., entitled "A Ramble in Old London,"

- 5th Dec. Lecture by PHILIP H. NEWMAN, Esq., F.S.A., R.B.A., F.R.S.L., "Art Recollections of a Tour in Spain."
1906. 16th Jan. Twenty-first General Meeting.—Lecture on "The Coming of Age of the Lewisham Antiquarian Society," by the President, Sir E. W. BRABROOK, C.B., F.S.A.
- 13th Feb. Lecture by Dr. A. E. SALTER, "The Antiquity of Man in Northern Kent and Surrey."
- 13th Mar. Lecture on "The Cathedrals of England and Wales," by DOUGLAS STRUTT, Esq.
- 18th May. Meeting at Ingatestone and other places in Essex, under J. H. PORTER, Esq.
- 16th June. Meeting, under L. C. THOMSON, Esq., at Westerham.
- 22nd Sept. Meeting, under DOUGLAS STRUTT, Esq., at Waltham, Essex.
- 20th Nov. Lecture by the Rev. W. CHYNOWETH POPE, entitled "In the Italian Boot."
- 11th Dec. Lecture, entitled "Church Notes in Kent," by LELAND L. DUNCAN, Esq., M.V.O., F.S.A.
1907. 15th Jan. Twenty-second General Meeting.—Lecture, by Sir E. W. BRABROOK, C.B., F.S.A., on "The Progress of Antiquarian Research."
- 19th Feb. Lecture by C. A. SPON, Esq., on "A Visit to Cracow."
- 12th Mar. Paper, by GEORGE C. DRUCE, Esq., on "Animal Sculptures in Church Architecture."
- 16th April. Paper, on "Early Man in Devon," by LEWIS C. THOMSON, Esq.
- 8th May. Whole day meeting in Tunbridge Wells and neighbourhood, under J. H. PORTER, Esq.
- 8th June. Meeting, under L. C. THOMSON, Esq., at Otford.
- 5th Oct. Visit to the Churches of St. John, Clerkenwell and St. Giles, Cripplegate.
- 19th Nov. Lecture by LELAND L. DUNCAN, Esq., M.V.O., F.S.A., entitled "An Archæological Holiday in Kent."
- 10th Dec. Lecture, "A Glimpse of Old Cornwall," by L. C. THOMSON, Esq.

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BRITISH  
MUSEUM  
5 DEC 21  
NATURAL  
HISTORY.



History of the Borough of Lewisham.

BRITISH  
MUSEUM  
5 DEC 21  
NATURAL  
HISTORY.



LEWISHAM CHURCH, PRIOR TO THE REBUILDING IN 1774.

From a water-colour sketch in the possession of H. T. WOOD, Esq., of Hollington, Sussex.

History  
of the  
Borough of Lewisham,

With an Itinerary,

by

Leland L. Duncan,

M.V.O., F.S.A.

With Chapters on the Geology of the District by  
W. H. Griffin,

and

On the Local Authorities by A. W. Hiscox,  
sometime Mayor of the Borough.

Printed and Published by Charles North, The Blackheath Press, London, S.E.

1903.



## Preface.

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THE story of Lewisham and Lee which is the subject of the following pages has been set forth with a double object. First and foremost it is an outcome of a desire on the part of the members of the Lewisham Municipal Association and the Lewisham Antiquarian Society to interest their fellow-townsmen in the place in which they live, and, secondly, it seemed very desirable that the many changes which have taken place in the district within the last half-century should be placed on record in a handy form.

The very large increase in population within the Borough area during the above period, with the consequent building of new streets, has tended to obscure the historical interest of the place, whilst the ever-absorbing power of London has robbed the neighbourhood of any local feeling which once prevailed. That the claims of its history will ever by themselves rekindle that local feeling is not of course to be looked for, but they may play their part, and it is with that hope that this book has been prepared.

The outline of the history of the Manors of Lewisham and Lee and the subsidiary manors within the area of the Borough given by HASTED (Drake's edition) necessarily forms the groundwork of the first portion of the historical sections, but this has been developed by adding details of the local life and institutions from the Court Rolls and Rentals of the Manor, from the Assize Rolls and other documents in the Public Record Office.

The manorial history alone cannot, however, be made to tell the story of each part of the Borough, and an Itinerary was therefore devised as being the best means of dealing in a sequence easily followed with the particular history of each locality. The plan selected is that of a walk from Blackheath to Bromley Hill, with necessary deviations to Lee, Hither Green, Brockley, Perry Hill, and Sydenham.

Lewisham a little over half-a-century ago consisted of the villas round Blackheath, a few shops and cottages in the High Street, interspersed with larger houses standing in their own grounds, and small hamlets at Perry Hill, Sydenham and Southend. There were practically no side roads to the High Street, which was unpaved, and the stream with the elm trees on its banks down the western side gave it a rural appearance not without points of beauty. Lee was a parish of parks and farms, the houses being mostly grouped in the Old Road and at Lee Green. The Itinerary tells the story of the gradual change to the busy town of to-day, and will, it is hoped, give a fresh interest to the place even to the dwellers in the newest roads.

The section dealing with the Geology of the district has been kindly contributed by Mr. W. H. GRIFFIN, Hon. Secretary of the Catford and District Natural History Society, who has made the subject a special study. Few dwellers in the neighbourhood are aware how full of interest it is from a geological point of view, and how close at hand many of the problems of physiography can be studied.

After the decay of the manorial system came the gradual rise of the present Local Authorities, whose history is told by Mr. A. W. HISCOX, sometime Mayor of the Borough, on behalf of the Lewisham Municipal Association. The number of authorities having jurisdiction within the Borough is bewildering even to those fairly well acquainted with such matters. This section of the book will, it is hoped, tend to a greater knowledge of, and interest in, the work of these bodies which touch the daily life of the community at every point. In



drawing up this chapter Mr. HISCOX had the advantage of access to an exhaustive manuscript dealing with the subject, compiled by Mr. H. MOTT, Clerk to the Guardians.

It is a pleasant duty to record here the help given in arranging the Itinerary. The recollections of Lewisham about 1840 sent me by HENRY WOOD, Esq., now of Hollington, and Mrs. DOBELL, of Eltham, form the groundwork of the story of the High Street, whilst many of Mr. Wood's photographs taken about 1856-60 are reproduced in the illustrations. To HAROLD C. LEWIN, Esq., Steward of the Manor of Lewisham, I am indebted for much valuable information regarding the manorial property, the old fields, and the Inclosure Award of 1810. He was also instrumental in bringing to light much entirely new matter regarding the Manors of Lee, Bankers, and Shroffold. The WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF LEATHERSELLERS kindly allowed access to their records and to an interesting map of their Lewisham trust property at Perry Hill and Lower Sydenham, dated 1723. To the VICAR and CHURCHWARDENS I am indebted for access to the Tithe Books and Map of the Parish of Lewisham dated 1845, whilst the BOROUGH AUTHORITIES at the Town Hall have been ever ready to answer any enquiries. My special thanks are also due to W. H. NUNN, Esq., of Lee, who very kindly photographed many of the engravings reproduced in these pages; to J. CABBAN, Esq., for permitting copies to be taken from the Kadwell collection in his possession; and to other friends who have assisted with information or suggestions.

In dealing with a mass of facts, names and dates such as are contained in the Itinerary, it is too much to hope that no inaccuracies will be found, although every effort has been made to verify all statements. I would ask that any necessary corrections may be sent to me in order that a record may be kept of them for future editions.

One more word. It was of the essence of the scheme under which this book has been published that its price should bring it within the reach of all. The number of pages had

therefore to be limited, and exigencies of space have forbidden any elaboration. I would ask my fellow townsmen's indulgence if, in my desire to leave as few spots in the Borough unnamed as possible, the result seems more like a catalogue than a readable history.

LELAND L. DUNCAN.

LEWISHAM.

1908.

### Authorities

*In addition to those referred to above.*

*Hasted's History of Kent: Hundred of Blackheath.* Edited by H. H. DRAKE.

*Court Rolls of the Manor of Lewisham* (Edward I, II, III, and Henry V). Public Record Office,  $\frac{181}{45-61}$

*Rental of the Manor* (Edward II). Public Record Office, Rental No. 360.

*Court Rolls of Lee, Bankers, and Shroffold.* Messrs. Newton, Lewin & Levett.

*Wills of Former Residents, 1440 to 1600.* Rochester Consistory Court and Prerogative Court of Canterbury at Somerset House.

*Plan of Lewisham*, taken from JOHN ROCQUE'S Survey, 1741 to 1745.

*History of Lee.* By F. H. HART, 1882.

*Bulletins de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles Lettres de Bruxelles, 1842* (Tome ix, 1<sup>re</sup> partie).

*Messenger des Sciences Historiques de Belgique, 1842.* Précis analytiques des documents historiques concernant les relations de l'ancien comté de Flandre avec l'Angleterre, conservés aux archives de la Flandre Orientale. Par JULES DE SAINT GENOIS.

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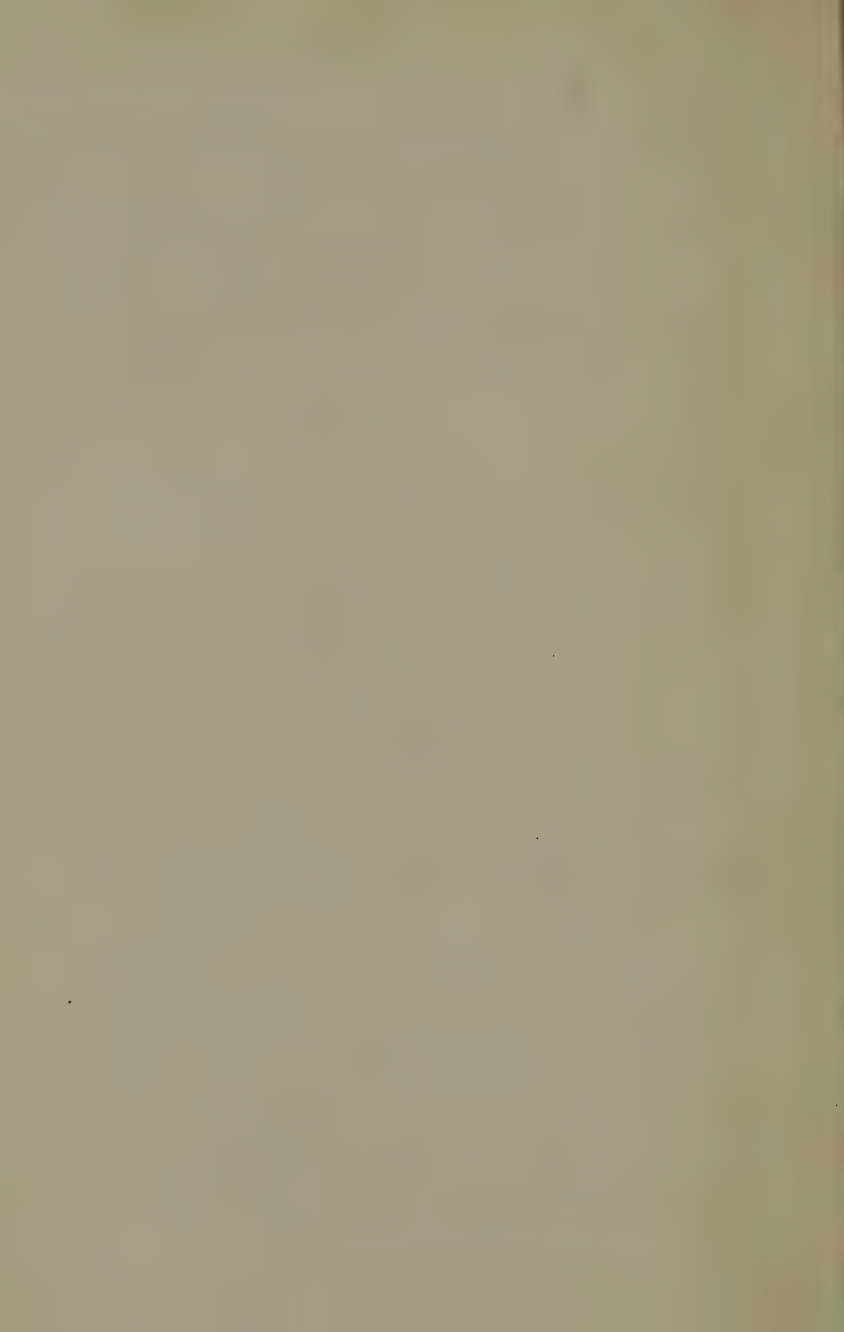
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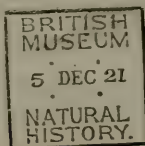
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# The Borough of Lewisham.

## PART I.

### The Geology of Lewisham and the Neighbourhood.

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HERE is a general impression that no locality can possess interesting geological features in the absence of exposed masses of fossiliferous rocks. This is quite erroneous. Fossils are interesting objects, and, moreover, they assist in determining the geological position of the rocks which contain them; but, apart from fossils, the acquisition of some knowledge of the manner in which the present surface configuration of any locality has been brought about, and of the nature of the underlying beds, is a fascinating pursuit.

No metropolitan suburb affords better facilities for such a pursuit than Lewisham and the neighbourhood.

Although we strongly believe in studying objects rather than relying entirely upon information gleaned from books; nevertheless, books are indispensable as tools to work with, and the following will be found useful to those who determine to study the geology of this district:—

- (1) Huxley's "Physiography," an eminently readable book, dealing especially with the London basin and the Thames valley.
- (2) Whitaker's "Geology of London," in two vols., price 11s.
- (3) Whitaker's "Guide to the Geology of London and the Neighbourhood." A useful little handbook, price 1s.
- (4) The last edition of Sir Charles Lyell's "Students' Elements of Geology," edited by Professor Judd.
- (5) Jukes-Browne's "Building of the British Isles."
- (6) Sheet Four of the "Geological Drift Map of the London District," price 1s. 6d.

There are two methods in which the geology of a stated locality may be dealt with: from the surface downwards, or from below upwards. For the present purpose the latter will be the more convenient.

## CHAPTER I.

## THE "SOLID" GEOLOGY.



HE lowest formation exposed in our district is the chalk which is the uppermost member of the Cretaceous system, that system again concluding the Secondary or Mesozoic Geological Period. A greyish mud is now in course of deposition on the floor of the North Atlantic which is known as the *Globigerina* ooze, the *Globigerina* being a large genus of the order *Foraminifera*. Probably this ooze will in some long distant future constitute the chalk formation of a yet unborn continent.

Although most of the neighbouring chalk is protected by the overlying Lower Tertiary beds, which will be presently described, it is doubtful whether any of it represents the original uppermost zone. In Mr. Whitaker's "Guide" mentioned above it is stated that the greatest thickness of chalk disclosed by well-borings near London is 685ft. at Bushey. At Margate a thickness of 704ft. has been bored through. We believe that at Dover it reaches 1,000ft. It has been estimated that the *Globigerina* ooze is now being deposited at the rate of a foot in a hundred years. If the chalk was deposited at the same rate, then 100,000 years was occupied in the deposition.

Many theories have been suggested in regard to the origin of the nodular flints which occur in bands in the upper chalk. Let it be premised that water charged with carbon-dioxide derived from the atmosphere is a powerful solvent. All rivers are continually carrying to the sea mineral matter of various descriptions held in solution. Carbonate of lime is one such mineral, and with it the *Foraminifera* form their shells. Silica is another mineral which is used by the *Radiolaria*, another order of microscopic Protozoa. It is also used by Sponges for their *spicula*. Assuming that the waters of the cretaceous ocean contained at alternating periods a preponderance, first of carbonate of lime, and then of silica, the *Foraminifera* or *Radiolaria* would alternately abound. They died in millions, and their tests sunk to the sea floor. But the tests were again dissolved, and the silica gathered about dead organic matter and nodules of chalk. Atoms of silica penetrated the dead organisms and the chalk nodules, and displaced the carbonate of lime. Thus fossil echinoderms are sometimes found, consisting mainly of carbonate of lime, and others entirely of flint. Tabular flint, of which masses may be seen in some of the galleries of the Chislehurst Caves, was probably deposited after the chalk had become indurated. Water, charged with silica, penetrated between the layers of chalk, and there the silica came to rest. From the impress of organic structures sometimes seen in flint, it is inferred that at an early stage the silica formed jelly-like masses, which ultimately became harder than steel.

Chalk is seen close to the surface in the railway cutting at St. John's Station. It also occurs at the surface between the south side of Blackheath Hill and the east side of the Lewisham Road.

We now leave the Secondary and enter the Tertiary or Cainozoic Period. This is thrice divided into Eocene (the lowest portion), Miocene, and Pliocene. In our district we have only to do with the lower Eocene formation, comprising:—(1) The Thanet beds; (2) Woolwich and Reading beds; (3) Oldhaven and Blackheath beds; (4) The London Clay. The three first-named are generally spoken of as the Lower London Tertiaries.

In our district the Thanet beds are represented by a white sand which is a marine formation, and contains in its lower



PLATE 1.

portion numerous glauconitic granules. Until recent years fine sections of this sand existed in the brick-fields off Loampit Hill. On the west side of the railway cutting close to the London side of St. John's Station, there is a gap in the chalk about 4ft. wide, due to a "fault," which is filled in with Thanet sand. In the cutting at and near Swanley Junction it is well shown, also in a lane at the side of "The Sandrock" Tavern on the Shirley Hills.

In 1906 the grounds of an old mansion at Belmont Hill were laid out as a building estate. In the excavations made for cutting out roads a fine section of Thanet sand was disclosed, which is shown in Plate 1, reproduced from one of a series of photo-

graphs of sections made for the Photographic Survey of Kent. The white cliff behind the human figure at the left of the plate is Thanet sand, which should be below the Woolwich beds shown on the right. The displacement was occasioned by current action at the period of the deposition of the Woolwich beds or by the local disturbance mentioned on page 15. The bed of Thanet sand exposed was 16ft. wide at the top, and more than 6ft. thick. It extended backwards 100yds. from the exposed face, and then terminated abruptly. Fossils are seldom found in this formation, which varies much in thickness in different localities, although it is fairly equal in our district. In borings described in Mr. Whitaker's larger book mentioned above, the thickness at the former Naval



PLATE 2.

School at New Cross is stated as 48ft. At Watney's Brewery, Brockley, it is 49ft.; at Lower Sydenham, a little to the south of the railway station, 59ft.; at Greenwich Hospital, 55ft.; and at Eltham and Shortlands, 49ft. and 48ft. respectively.

Superimposed on the Thanet beds are the Woolwich and Reading beds. We will mention them by the former name only because, although of similar age in both localities, they differ greatly in character. In our district we have red and purple mottled clay; blue, flaky, estuarine clay containing numerous shells of *Cyrena cuneiformis*, a bivalve mollusc somewhat like a cockle, and blue clay with pebbles. These variations were well shown at Belmont Hill. Plate 2 is reproduced from a photograph

of the *Cyrena* bed there, which is seen at the lower portion of the section behind the two human figures.

Sixty years ago the brick-fields at Loampit Hill were much resorted to by London geologists for obtaining fossil shells and plant remains from the Woolwich beds. In 1904-5 excavations for sewers were made in a newly-formed road leading through the Bromley Park Estate from the foot of Bromley Hill to Ravensbourne Railway Station. Shells of *Cyrena cuneiformis* were turned out in plenty, also a few of *Ostrea bellowacina*. We examined the blue carbonaceous clay frequently in the hope of finding imprints of leaves or stems of plants, but only found a solitary impression of the stem of a reed or sedge.

The following examples of the thickness of the Woolwich beds in our district are recorded in Mr. Whitaker's books:—

New Cross Naval School (Goldsmiths' Institute)	54 ft.
Brockley .. .. .	46 ft.
Lower Sydenham ... ..	46 ft.
Greenwich Hospital ... ..	23½ ft.
Eltham ... ..	39½ ft.

The Blackheath beds rest upon the Woolwich beds in our district. In some localities they are found to be intercalated, and occasionally they even rest directly upon the chalk, probably because the Woolwich and Thanet beds had been previously carried away. Sections of the Blackheath pebbles and sand were formerly exposed in pits on the Heath, and on the sides of Blackheath Point, but we fear they have all been hidden by turf. Many good sections are, however, now visible in new roads on the Kinnaird Park Estate to the east of Bromley Hill, and the Bromley Park Estate on the West, also between Ravensbourne and Shortlands railway stations. The sand contains much oxide of iron, and the shells of *Ostrea* and other mollusca afford lime. This mineral matter binds the pebbles, sand and shells into masses of conglomerate, which was formerly quarried at Sundridge Park, Bromley. On the west side of the main road at the foot of Bromley Hill, there is an old garden wall appertaining to an isolated cottage, which is composed of blocks of it. Again, nearly opposite the Ravensbourne railway station, there is a large excavation, where masses of it are exposed. Occasionally bands of light-coloured sand, free from pebbles, also occur. We have seen it exposed on the Kinnaird Park Estate, and in the Eltham Golf-ground. In 1905 excavations for sewers were in progress in a new road opposite to the approach to Well Hall railway station—large masses of the conglomerate were then turned out. In some instances they passed into a calcareous sandstone free from pebbles. After a few weeks' exposure the surface of this stone crumbled to a powder, and some ardent collectors whom we took there obtained from it teeth of sharks of various species.

Our remarks on the "solid" geology of the district will

conclude with the London Clay, which is the prevalent formation exposed at the surface. Inasmuch as there are in the less elevated localities tracts of "derived" London Clay generally containing sub-angular flints, it is well to explain that the clay, when *in situ*, is quite free from such stones. True, it rests upon a basement bed consisting of a mixture of clay and *well-rolled* flint pebbles, but the mass of it is quite free from them. The large, rounded concretions frequently found in it are known as septarian nodules, because they sometimes contain internally *septa*, or dividing bands of crystalline carbonate of lime. When opportunity offers it is worth while to break these septaria with a hammer, because they sometimes contain fossils.

The London Clay being the uppermost of our local Tertiaries, it follows that the highest elevations are of that formation. As a whole it has been subjected to enormous denudation. At the top of the slope in Whitefoot Lane, leading up from Southend Village (which slope, by the way, is the east bank of the older Ravensbourne), a good view may be obtained of Shooters Hill, rising to 420ft. and of the Crystal Palace, where the elevation is over 300ft. Both hills are of London Clay. The intermediate gap, about 7 miles wide, was undoubtedly also once occupied with London Clay rising to at least 500ft. This has all been swept away. But the highest point at Shooters Hill does not by any means represent the original deposit, because there, also, denudation has occurred. It is worth while to spend a few hours in exploring the summit of Shooters Hill. The observer will ask, Why should this huge pyramid of clay have withstood the influences which occasioned the denudation all around? If he has used his eyes in approaching the summit by way of the main road from Blackheath he will have noticed in roadside banks and gardens near the summit numerous water-worn flints, some of large size. Then in a narrow alley between the fences of enclosed pleasure grounds, that on the west side appertaining to Severndroog Castle, he will see a gravel pit, and through the fence may at times discern in the gravel white quartz pebbles. Returning to the main road proceed a short distance down the eastern side of the hill towards Welling, and take the first turning on the left. Examine the bank on the left side of that road. A few years ago we dug from it fragments of ferruginous sandstone. From the opposite side of the same road there is a newly-formed road. When it was in the making we saw there pebbles of jasper and quartzite, also numerous large water-worn, pitted flints with a specific gravity much exceeding that of ordinary flints. Further to the north there is an open piece of grass-land with shallow sand pits. The sand varies in colour, but some of it is highly ferruginous. Geologists are agreed in thinking that this puzzling drift on the top of Shooters Hill came from the former Wealden heights far away to the South, but they differ in regard to the period of transportation. In Mr. H. B. Woodward's "Geology of

England and Wales" it is attributed to the Middle Glacial Age, but there is a passage in Mr. Jukes-Browne's "Building of the British Isles" which appears to bear on the subject. Quoting the late Sir Joseph Prestwich, Mr. Jukes-Browne says: "He gives good reasons for concluding that at the beginning of the newer Pliocene Period the central area of the Weald was a plateau rising to a height of nearly 3,000ft. above the sea, and that from its watershed streams ran northward and southward. Those which ran north swept the debris of the Lower Greensand, Chalk and Tertiaries on to the lower ground. It is not unlikely, as Prestwich suggests, that these tracts are portions of broad, fan-like, sub-aerial deltas, spread out on a plain which then stretched out over the Thames Valley."

It will be understood that the pebbles from igneous rocks, which are found at Shooters Hill, were twice "derived," having been first transported from the north or west of England, where igneous rocks are at the surface, to the Wealden district, and then again from the Weald northwards. It is fairly certain that this drift has preserved Shooters Hill from the denudation which has gone on all around. There is little doubt that the whole of our district once had a mantle of at least 500ft. of London Clay, and when this is borne in mind, the following records from borings will show how great, and yet how unequal, has been the denudation:

New Cross Naval School (Goldsmiths' Institute)	23 ft.
Brockley, near the Cemetery ... ..	4 ft.
Lower Sydenham ... ..	102 ft.
Beckenham ... ..	16½ft.

The sea in which the London Clay was deposited no doubt extended over Kent, Surrey, Sussex, part of Hampshire, Essex, Suffolk, part of Norfolk, and over part of the German Ocean, British Channel, and north western France. The fossils indicate the prevalence of a warm climate at the time. As the clay was derived from the decomposition of felspathic rocks, the river or rivers which brought it to the London Clay-sea must needs have passed through regions where such rocks are exposed. Sir Charles Lyell thought it was a large river which drained a continent lying to the west or south-west of Britain. Other geologists have thought that the sediment was brought by several rivers from land lying to the south.

As we now take leave of the clays, it will be well to say something as to the distinction between brick-earth, a term frequently used in "superficial" geology, and the Tertiary clays.

Bricks have for years been made at Loampit Hill and Brockley of London Clay and the clays of the Woolwich beds; hence people sometimes speak of such clays as brick-earth. But brick-earth, in the language of geology, is a superficial deposit of stiff loam, sometimes clayey and sometimes sandy, which has arisen from sediment left by the overflowing of rivers. Again, there are in our

district deposits of "derived" London Clay overlying river gravel of Pleistocene age. This is where the river has left its earlier bed and wandered, perhaps, half-a-mile away. Then a "hill-wash" of London Clay has been brought down by rain-water, and spread over the river gravel to a thickness, it may be, of several feet. "Derived" material, and fossils derived from old beds and deposited by flowing water on recent formations, are frequently "booby-traps" which catch the unwary.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE SUPERFICIAL GEOLOGY.



AN unsophisticated person once remarked that it was a merciful Providence which ordained that a river should flow near every large town and city, so that the inhabitants were supplied with water. This was making the mountain go to Mahomet. Joking aside, the existence of the Ravensbourne and its tributaries must have attracted human beings to our district in very early times. The contours of the surface suggest that a lake, or chain of lakelets, once occupied the valley-plain through which the Ravensbourne and the Pool now flow from between Southend and Lower Sydenham to the rising ground which commences near the Obelisk at Lewisham.

It will be convenient to deal first with the Ravensbourne. The old village of Lewisham stands upon Ravensbourne gravel, but there is evidence that the locality was frequented by men of the Stone Age when the gravel was being laid down.

The first Napoleon is credited with the remark that an "army marched upon its belly." Previously to the domestication of animals, and the rise of agriculture, the needs of the human stomach were supplied by the wild fruits and roots of the forest, the fish of the streams, the birds of the air and the beasts of the field. These would be most plentiful in well-watered localities. We know that 35 years ago a trout of 2lbs. was taken in the Ravensbourne at Southend Village. The Thames was a salmon river within the historical period. The gravels prove that the Ravensbourne was formerly a river of considerable volume, and we have no doubt that very ancient Britons once took both salmon and trout from its waters. Our memory of the stream fifty years ago is that the present volume of water is only about half as much as it was then. The diminution in recent times may be accounted for by the diversion of water from springs and surface water, which formerly found its way to the river, into sewers.

A reference to the Geological Drift Map will show that just above Catford Bridge the river-gravel extends over a width of



half a mile. Although the Pool now joins the Ravensbourne a little above Catford Bridge, an earlier point of junction was slightly to the north of Southend Lane.

Upon many occasions in 1905-6 we inspected excavations for sewers on different parts of the Sangley Estate, in Bromley Road. The sections exhibited 4ft. of derived London clay (hill-wash) and 8ft. of river-gravel, containing numerous large water-worn flints, resting upon undisturbed London clay.

Mr. Hurdin, assistant surveyor to the Forster Estate, kept a look-out for any animal remains which might be unearthed.

Figures 1 to 3 on Plate 3 represent some of them. No. 1 has been identified as part of a thigh-bone of *Bos taurus*, the great wild ox called *Urus* by Roman historians, and which was probably the ancestor of the famous wild cattle still kept at Chillingham, Northumberland. Nos. 2 and 3 are bones of *Bos longifrons*, the long faced wild ox, supposed to be the ancestor of our smaller black cattle. These bones were resting on the clay at the base of the gravel. Attention is especially called to the fact that one condyle of the longest bone was *sawn* off. Our first



PLATE 3.

impression was that this afforded evidence that the *Urus* continued to exist in Britain at a time when mechanical art was sufficiently advanced to permit of the construction of a toothed saw of metal, but we subsequently obtained from Ravensbourne gravel at Hayes a small saw made from a thin flint-flake by which the operation might have been performed. Marrow, extracted from the larger

bones of mammals, has ever been a *bonne bouche* to primitive peoples. It was in most cases obtained by the simple process of smashing off the condyles as in figures Nos. 2 and 3, but the longer bone fell to the lot of an epicure who preferred to have his marrow free from splinters of bone. The bones and horn-cores shown in figures 4 to 8 were dug from the gravel by Mr. A. P. Macklin, of the Catford and District Natural History Society, when making an excavation in his garden in Bargery Road. They probably appertained to one or the other of the above-mentioned extinct species of ox.

At Bellingham the altitude of the valley-plain is 70ft. The slope on the arable land to the east rises sharply to 100ft. At the top of the ridge which there forms the sky-line a solitary tree is seen a little to the north of a wood. On walking from the road towards that tree we found that up to the 100ft. contour line on the Ordnance map the clay is strewn with broken water-worn flints for which "flood-drift" is a convenient term. Some miles higher up the valley, torrential flood-waters from the former Wealden heights, cut into the chalk, and tore out the flints, which were subsequently fractured and abraded by concussion. Looking across the flat on the west, which extends nearly to Perry Hill, the tortuous line of the Pool stream is marked by occasional trees on its banks. The entire flat is underlain by river-gravel, a proof that one or the other of the two streams has at different times occupied it.

At the entrance to Southend Village Whitefoot Lane on the east and Southend Lane on the west both rise up slopes which once formed the banks of the Ravensbourne. Many years ago we were led by reading Huxley's "Physiography" to devote attention to local superficial geology. Southend Lane then afforded us so much instruction that we regard it as one of the most interesting localities in the district. At first we thought it crossed a spur of undisturbed London Clay, but when we narrowly examined the banks of the roadside ditches, and those of the fields on either side, and also the earth turned up by excavations made for posts for wire-fencing, we found that the clay everywhere contains broken water-worn flints. The elevations are instructive. At the entrance to the lane from Southend the elevation is about 75ft. At the highest point in the lane it rises to 121ft., and at the Lower Sydenham end it descends again to 70ft. Between the Bromley Road and the bridge over the railway in the lane, a shallow pit was opened in 1906 which exposes about 3ft. of stratified gravel, once the bed of the stream. The highest point commences near the railway bridge, and extends for more than 100yds. This ridge is the end of a spur which runs out from the high ground at Beckenham and forms the water-parting. Below the north side of the lane the end of the spur drops into the plain of the united valley, and it was here that the junction of the two streams once occurred. The water-worn flints in the clay at the highest point

indicate that flood-waters, if not the actual river, once flowed over the ridge.

Beyond Southend Village a small tributary, which comes as a brook through the meadows on the south-east, passes under the road. It has its rise in a spring which forms a pond in a meadow towards Plaistow. After the water from it has passed under the Bromley Road through a pipe it enters a ditch in a meadow occupied by Mr. Perry, of the Upper Mill. Into the same ditch the water from another spring is conducted by a drain-pipe, and

Mr. Perry has informed us that in dry seasons the volume of water from the two springs exceeds the water brought down by the main stream. If, therefore, the water from these two springs had been diverted into sewers, as that of other springs in the neighbourhood of Bromley has been, the upper Ravensbourne would have had no water in dry seasons.

At the foot of Bromley Hill the valley turns towards the west, and may be followed by a new road through the Bromley Park Estate towards Ravensbourne railway station. On the Ladies' Golf Ground at Ravens-



PLATE 4.

bourne there is another shallow pit exhibiting stratified gravel, near which we once picked up a small flint implement of primitive type closely resembling many which we have obtained on the plateau of the North Downs above Otford, Kemsing, etc. The figure 18 in Plate 4 is reproduced from a photograph of the implement referred to. The elevations between Ravensbourne and Shortlands are noticeable. The valley-plain stands at 80ft.;

Bromley Hill, which forms the eastern border of the valley rises to 200ft.; on the western border at Beckenham the pebble gravel of the Blackheath beds rises to 180ft. A thickness of at least 120ft. which once overlaid the valley-plain has therefore been swept away by the river. The average width of the valley-plain for a length of one mile is a quarter of a mile. By cubing these dimensions it will be found that the quantity of material removed per mile has been 27,878,400 cubic yards, representing as many tons in weight, and this is exclusive of the quantity removed from the slopes on either side.

Throughout the valley, from the foot of Bromley Hill to the foot of Westerham Hill, at Cudham, the eastern side rises more or less steeply, while the western side presents a gentle slope.

The geological formation is the same on both sides, and we were at a loss to account for the difference in the inclines until the discovery of a terrace-gravel, high up on the western slope opposite Bromley, proved that the river first ran on that side, and afterwards cut its way towards the eastern side. Its final bed, while it still remained a river of considerable volume, was close to the eastern side of the valley. Therefore the deserted western side has had some thousands of years more weathering, which has toned down the original steepness of the slope.

In the lower part of the Bromley Recreation Ground, near Shortlands railway station, there was, until quite recent years, a small pit exposing the river-gravel, but the local authorities, influenced by æsthetic considerations, have had it filled in, and turfed over.

In ascending to the highest point of the Recreation Ground the steepness of the slope will be noticed, and at the top the fine view of the valley in both directions will be admired. In the road outside the lower south-eastern corner of the ground there is a notice board indicating a footpath leading to Pickhurst Green. By following this, and crossing the railway by a footbridge, a meadow is entered with a footpath leading up to the top of the valley. Close to the exit from the footpath is a small disused gravel pit. The bank at the back of the pit discloses a section made up of about 4ft. of sandy brick-earth, resting upon a stratum of river-gravel, about a foot thick, which again was laid down upon the pebble-gravel of the Blackheath beds. Both sides of the pit should be examined, and at some seasons it is necessary to scrape away the herbage and sand to obtain a good view of the section.

The river-gravel here exposed is 25ft. higher than the valley-plain, and about a third of a mile distant from the present attenuated stream where it runs through the Recreation Ground.

To appreciate the denudation which has occurred since the river flowed at this high point, it is necessary to bear in mind that it was then the bottom of a valley. Supposing the banks of that valley formed a slope similar to the present one, then over the

present valley-plain there was at least 50ft. of earth which has all been carried off.

Between Bromley and Hayes portions of the valley are of difficult access, but Hayes Ford, which is on the high road, is an interesting point.

The old river-gravel there lies in the meadows, etc., on either side of the road. On the western side a small stream called the Bourne flows in wet seasons. Another small stream comes down from the south-east in a ditch passing through meadows. This is the overflow from the Keston ponds, which are fed by "Cæsar's Pool" on Keston Common. The water from this source passes under the road through a pipe, and joins that of the Bourne.

The gravel exposed at the large pit near Hayes railway station is a portion of a very large accumulation in that locality. This accumulation is attributable to the fact that two rivers formerly met there. Before tracing their direction, attention must be directed to the character of the deposit exposed in the pit. If this had lain in the direct channel of a swiftly flowing stream the material would have been separated and stratified, whereas it is a confused mixture of water-worn flints, which vary greatly in size, rolled Lower Tertiary pebbles, and silt. Some of the flints weigh as much as 18lbs., and large ones occur high up in the gravel. A clear section shows about 1ft. of surface mould and 12ft. of gravel, which rests upon about 8ft. of white Thanet sand. Below the latter is the usual layer of green-coated unworn flints, resting upon the chalk. The elevation at the pit is about 210ft. About a quarter of a mile away, at Wickham Court, the Thanet sand is at the surface at 280ft. Allowing for the 8ft. of that formation still remaining at the pit we find that 62ft. of it has been carried away, as well as the whole of the superimposed Woolwich and Blackheath beds. The present surface elevation of the latter at the top of Coney Hill, West Wickham Common, near by, is 315ft. Deducting 210ft., the elevation at the pit, it is seen that 105ft. has been removed. Having regard to the surface configuration of the locality, and the mixed-up nature of the materials forming the gravel, we think that the two rivers which met here fell into a small lake-basin, and that from the northern end of that lake the Ravensbourne issued and formed the valley which extends from Hayes Village to the foot of Bromley Hill.

The existence of a lake-basin also accounts for the accumulation at the Hayes pit of numerous remains of extinct mammals, etc. Unfortunately the gravel does not contain the mineral matter necessary to effect perfect fossilisation. Consequently the bones, tusks and molar teeth which are frequently turned out are friable, and generally fall into fragments when exposed. In 1905 the workmen state that they turned out a bone as large as a big man's body, which crumbled to fragments. This was probably the femur of a Mammoth, or Woolly Rhinoceros. On the 5th January, 1907, just as we reached the pit, the men came upon a fine Mammoth's

tusk. Notwithstanding the care which they exercised under our direction in endeavouring to secure the whole or a large portion of the tusk intact, the largest fragment we could obtain was only 6in. long, 3in. wide and  $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, and although this fragment was immersed in hot size it very soon fell into small pieces. Some of the figures on Plate 4 are photographs of objects obtained here. No. 9 represents the disintegrated plates of a molar tooth of the Mammoth (*Elephas primigenius*), Nos. 10 and 11 are molars of the great two-horned Woolly Rhinoceros (*R. antiquitatis*), No. 12 a molar of the horse (*Equus caballus*), Nos. 13 and 14 were too fragmentary for determination, Nos. 15 and 17 are flint implements. The latter is cut out at the sides of the base to facilitate attachment to a shaft, which was probably effected by a bandage of raw hide put on when flexible. Such a band if drawn tight and beaten down would become quite rigid. No. 16 is an implement found on arable land higher up the valley on the western side, nearly opposite Keston Church. From the last-mentioned locality we also obtained a Neolithic polished implement, 5in. long,  $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide at the broad end, and tapering to a point at the other end. Nos. 19 and 20 are two small "fabricators" formed out of Lower Tertiary pebbles. One of them came from the Hayes pit, and the other from Norhead's Farm, which rises like an island in the middle of the valley on the west side of the Westerham Road at Biggin Hill, Cudham.

It now remains to describe, briefly, the courses of the two rivers from the foot of Coney Hill.

The least important of the two came from the direction of Farley and Chelsham, and passed through Addington, along what is now the road from that village to Hayes.

The course of the larger river follows the road which passes Coney Hill Farm, and runs below West Wickham and Hayes Commons towards Keston Church. On the eastern side of that road the border of the valley rises steeply, and exhibits old river terraces at several points. On the same side, near the foot of Fox Hill, there is a disused gravel pit exhibiting large water-worn flints. The river here also, as at the Hayes pit, cuts deeply into the Thanet sands. Nodules of iron pyrites have been found at this pit which were probably brought from the Gault or Lower Greensand formation during the planing down of the former Wealden heights. The arable land on the western slope is strewn with water-worn flints up to an elevation of 40ft. above the road, and for a distance of nearly half a mile from it, and here numerous palæolithic implements, and the cores from which the flint-flakes were struck, have been found. After passing the foot of Fox Hill the valley turns towards the west, and after passing through Purgatory Bottom it runs southerly, parallel with the Westerham Road, to the foot of Westerham Hill, where it branches off into several minor terminal valleys.

The Quaggy stream, which falls into the Ravensbourne near

Lewisham Bridge, may be dismissed with the remark that it was once of sufficient magnitude to lay down a considerable tract of gravel in the neighbourhood of Lee Green.

The stream which formed the valley along which the North Kent Railway passes from Blackheath Village to Lewisham, and which we believe continued to flow until the railway was made, has left small stretches of water which can be seen in the grounds of "The Cedars," adjoining the railway. When the building estate at Belmont Hill mentioned on page 3 was being laid out the sections exposed indicated considerable disturbance, probably due to a hill-slide. On the upper portion of the ground next Belmont Hill there is an unstratified flood-drift which is shown on Plate 2. From it Mr. H. Dixon Hewitt, who, until he went to reside in Norfolk, was Registrar of the Catford and District Natural History Society, found several flints exhibiting traces of

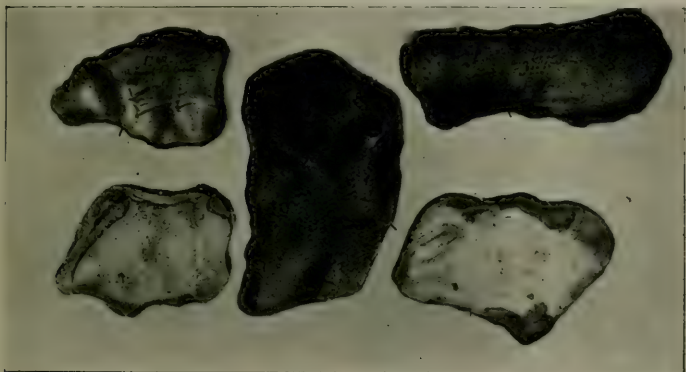


PLATE 5.

working. They are shown in Plate 5. We saw the originals, and discussed them fully with Mr. Hewitt at the time, and our mutual conclusion was that they were Eoliths of the class first found by Mr. B. Harrison, of Ightham, on the Kentish North Downs, and brought into prominence by the late Sir Joseph Prestwich.

The stones are greatly abraded, and were probably brought by running water from a considerable distance.

It only remains to refer briefly to surface irregularities of the locality bounded by the Ravensbourne and Pool on the east, and on the west by the range of London Clay hills extending from Peckham to Upper Norwood. A marked feature of this tract is the occurrence of numerous small hills of London Clay. No doubt it was once part of a wide-spreading plain of that formation. The

irregularities which now appear are due to subaerial erosion by streams now long extinct, and by the snows and frosts of winter, and the rains and droughts of summer. Where the clay has offered the least resistance it has been removed; where it is harder it has remained, and thus we have an undulating surface. Denudation of this description is ever in process, but so slowly that it escapes observation. Every fall of rain dissolves out or washes away a certain amount of earthy matter which ultimately reaches the sea. It is not lost. There will be in the future, as there has been in the past, upheavals, and that which the land now loses will in some distant epoch help to form new islands and continents, which may peradventure be inhabited by Tennyson's "Crowning race"

"Of those that eye to eye shall look  
On knowledge; under whose command  
Is Earth and Earths, and in their hand  
Is Nature like an open book."



## PART II.

### The History of the Borough.

#### CHAPTER I.

##### EARLY HISTORY TO A.D. 1300.



WHEN we pass from the records of stone and sand to those of human origin, in other words pass from geologic time to the pre-historic and historic periods, the evidences of early occupation of Lewisham and the surrounding neighbourhood are at first but few. Of pre-Roman date very little has been brought to notice within the borough, if we except some of the mounds on Blackheath, which are ill-defined, and to which a period cannot with any certainty be assigned. In 1803 some funeral urns were discovered in the grounds of Dartmouth House, on Blackheath, which were pronounced to be Roman. They were exhibited by the Earl of Dartmouth before the Society of Antiquaries, and afterwards presented by him to the British Museum.\*

In 1806 some Roman antiquities were found by a labourer as he was digging in a gravel pit on Sydenham Common. Amongst them were fragments of tablets of copper containing part of a decree of the Emperor Trajan in favour of the veterans of the auxiliary cohorts serving in Britain. An account of this discovery was published by Lysons.

The first documentary notice of the place is in a grant made in A.D. 862, by Aethelberht, of Wessex, to Deightwald, the thegn, of land at Bromley. In this the bounds of "Bromleag" are given in Saxon, and are stated to run from Ceddanleag to Langanleag (Langley in Beckenham) and "Liofshema," then to Wonstoc and Modingahema, &c., &c.† In a charter by Aethelred, regranteeing this land, in A.D. 968, the same bounds are named, but Lewisham is styled "Leofsuhaema."‡ These early instances, which were overlooked by Philpot, Hasted, and other historians of the county, supply the clue to the derivation of the name, of which Professor Skeat has given the following explanation:—

In the forms Liofshema and Leofsuhaema, the *-a* is only a case-ending. The phrase "Lēofsuhāema mearc," as it is found

\* Archaeologia, Vol. XV.

† Kemble's Charters, No. 287.

‡ Kemble's Charters, No. 657.

in charters, means "the mark or boundary of the inhabitants of Lēofsuhām"; hāēma being the genitive plural of hāēme, a nominative plural signifying "men belonging to a hām or farm-stead."

*Liof* is the Kentish spelling of A.S. *lēof*. *Leof* is the modern English *lief*, which was once an adjective and meant "dear." In *Liofs-hēma*, the *s* cannot be a genitive suffix, as that was *-es*, but it is the first letter of a second syllable; it stands for *Liof-s*.

In *Lēof-su* the second syllable is also incomplete; it stands for *Lēofsu'*.

The middle portion of a name is often partially suppressed, as is Lem'ster for Leominster, and the like. *Leof-su'* obviously stands for *Lēof-suna*, the genitive case of *Lēof-sunu*, which was a fairly common name, occurs in Kentish and Southern Charters and simply means "dear son."

Thus the obvious sense is "Lēof-sunu's home," or a farmstead in which lived a man named Lēof-sunu (lit. dear son).

As for the pronunciation, the modern English Leveson, which is the modern English form of *Leof-sunu*, is pronounced Lewson. So in modern English Lewisham means Leveson's-home; or, remembering that the genitive case of *sunu* (son) did *not* end in *-s*, but in *-a* (which now-a-days would disappear) it would more exactly be represented by "Lewson-home," and this by contraction regularly becomes *Lewson-ham* or even *Lusam*, as it was phonetically spelt in the seventeenth century.

Then popular etymology substituted the known name *Lewis*, for the form *Lus*, which had lost all meaning, and the *-is* of *Lewis* being now generally plainly heard, the form *Lewis-ham* has become fixed.\*

One wonders who and what manner of man this *Leof-sunu* was, who through all the intervening years has given his name to the wide tract now known as Lewisham. All we can say is that he was a Saxon, or perhaps a Jute, and that no doubt, attracted by the river and the pastures along its banks, he settled here somewhere in the period between A.D. 500 and A.D. 862, probably

\* In Hasted's History of Kent the name Lewisham is stated "to be derived from *Les* or *Leswes* [læswe, læsu] in Saxon, signifying pastures, and *ham*, a town or village," and this statement has been very generally copied by local writers.

The A.S. *læsu*, a pasture, became *leese* in Elizabethan English. It is now spelt *lees*, *leas*, *lease* and *leys*. The last spelling suggests that it is a plural, which is not the case. The word *lea*, A.S. *leah*, a fallow field, is a totally different word, with a mere accidental resemblance of sound. It is also spelt *ley*, *lay*, *leigh*, and is common in place-names.

The A.S. *læswæ* is the dative case of the form *læsu* above. Nevertheless, it produced the form *leasowe* or *leasow*, pronounced *lezzer* in Shropshire.

The A.S. *læsu* would have given us *Leesham*. The A.S. *læswæ* would have given us *Leasow-ham*; the contracted form of which would have been *Lesham*, pronounced *Lezham* or *Lezzum*. It shows that all that Hasted (or those upon whom he relied) did was to guess freely without testing the results.

It is necessary to add that some exception was taken to the above etymology in Notes and Queries, 8 S. xi, 311; but the writer of the note has since kindly informed me that he wholly withdraws his objection, and that my solution is certainly correct. —W. W. SKERT.

nearer the first than the latter date, since by the early part of the tenth century the name had become shortened down to Lievesham, and its origin forgotten.

But it is with the year A.D. 918 that the history of Lewisham really opens, and connects the place with the man all England delights to honour, Alfred the Great, for in that year Elfrida, the youngest daughter of Alfred and wife of Count Baldwin of Flanders, bestowed her lands "Lieuesham, Grenevic and Uulwich" on the Abbey of St. Peter, at Ghent. Considerable speculation has arisen as to the exact relationship which Elfrida—or Elstrudis as the name is latinized in the charters—bore to King Alfred, because in subsequent documents she is styled "neptis" (or niece). King Edgar, in 964, calls her "daughter of the uncle of King Edward, my grandfather," whilst Edward the Confessor in less round-about fashion, simply styles her "niece of the foresaid Alfred." That she was the daughter of King Alfred seems, however, to admit of no doubt, and the connection which Alfred had with Kent by his descent, accounts for his possessions in the County. Alfred's great grandfather was Ealhmund, King of Kent, whose son, Egbert, was chosen to succeed Brihtric in the Kingdom of Wessex, A.D. 800. Ethelwulf, who succeeded Egbert in 836, married twice. By his first wife Osburgha, daughter of his cup-bearer Oslac, he had Alfred and other children. Oslac was by race a Jute, whose forefathers had received the Isle of Wight from Cerdic, and probably held possessions in Kent on some of the old Juten lands. Alfred, the youngest son, succeeded his brothers on the throne in 871, and by his wife, Elswitha, daughter of Ethelred, Earl of the Gaini, of an old Mercian family, he had Edward the Elder, who succeeded him, two other sons and three daughters, the youngest of whom, Elfrida, married Count Baldwin of Flanders, who was the son of Alfred's stepmother, Judith.

Elfrida in the charter speaks of Lewisham, Greenwich and Woolwich, as "her inheritance." In her father's will in A.D. 901, he left her the ham of Cippenham, which Dr. Drake, in his History of the Hundred of Blackheath, suggests was Chippenham, in Wiltshire, but which may have been exchanged for land at Lewisham, since Cippenham is an old form of Sydenham. It does not seem necessary to go so far afield to account for the possession of Lewisham by the Countess of Flanders. It is much more likely that the greater portion of this part of Kent was looked upon as belonging to the royal house. Dartford and Chislehurst continued part of the ancient demesne of the Crown at the time of the Conquest, and the boundaries would not need to be much enlarged to have taken in Lewisham as well. On her marriage Elfrida would, no doubt, have received a portion from her father, and what more natural than that she should receive property in Kent which was nearest to her new home, and may have come to her through her Jutish mother.

Doubt has been cast on the authenticity of many of these early

charters giving grants of land to religious houses. In the present case there seems no reason to consider the charter a forgery. As we shall see, the Abbey of Ghent had great difficulty in retaining its hold on Lewisham, and if there had been any suspicion that the charter was spurious, full use would have been made of the doubt.

Of Elfrida we know but little. Her husband, Baldwin the Second, died on 2nd January, 918, and on the 6th September of that year she, with the consent of her two sons, Arnulf and Adolf, gave "her inheritance, Lieuesham, Grenewic and Uulwich, with the meadows, pastures and woods" to the Abbey of St. Peter, at Ghent, for the welfare of the souls of her husband, her sons and herself. She died in June, 929, and was buried with her husband in the Chapel of St. Lawrence in the Church of St. Peter, where their sons were also interred, and on her tomb was an epitaph, in which she is distinctly called the daughter of the noble-minded King Alfred :—

"Clara fui Elfridi generosi filia Regis  
Elstrudis proprio nomine dicta meo."

The Abbey at Ghent was a house of Benedictine Monks, which was founded about the year A.D. 608, by St. Amand, who destroyed the Idol of Mercury and built a church which, after suffering at the hands of the heathen, was rebuilt and dedicated in honour of St. Peter. Twice in the 9th century was it destroyed, but rebuilt by the monks, and Elfrida's son, Count Arnulf, appears to have added to it in 937. In A.D. 956, King Edwy became involved in a dispute with Dunstan, Abbot of Glastonbury, who fled from the Kingdom and took refuge at the Abbey of Ghent. Two years later the northern part of England rose in revolt and proclaimed Edgar, the brother of Edwy, king. The rebellion spread, Dunstan returned and took the part of Edgar, who had also the help of Odo, Archbishop of Canterbury. Edwy was forced to submit, and either died by violence or of a broken heart, and thus Edgar succeeded to the throne.

One of his first acts was to appoint Dunstan to the Archbishopric rendered vacant by Odo's death. The Archbishop did not forget the monks of Ghent who had sheltered him in his exile, and in A.D. 964 he besought Edgar to confirm the gift of Elfrida to the Abbey. King Edgar's charter is worded as a deed of gift from himself, which may indicate that the foreign abbey had already experienced difficulty in making good its hold :—

"I, Edgar, King and Chief of the English, by divine assistance, renouncing every low and transitory thing as dross, make known to all that I have granted to God and St. Peter, and to the Society of the Church of Gand, a certain extent of land in a place which the rustics from ancient custom have denominated Lieuesham, with all its appurtenances, viz., Greenwich, Woolwich, Mottingham and Coomb."

The monks of Ghent looked upon St. Dunstan as one of their benefactors, and treasured his gold ring amongst their jewels.

But St. Dunstan was not the only Englishman who sought refuge at Ghent. Ethelred the Unready, son of Edgar, after vainly attempting to stem the tide of Danish invasion, was forced to flee with his two sons, Edward and Alured, across to Normandy, and Edward found a home at St. Peter's. The Danes had meantime over-run the country, murdered Alfege, Archbishop of Canterbury, and no doubt scattered the little community at Lewisham, some of whom we can imagine would have reported their losses to the Abbot. Edward could give but little promise of immediate restitution, but on the 26th December, 1006, he made a solemn vow on the relics of the Saints, that should he ever in the mercy of God be permitted to reign in his father's kingdom in England, he would restore to the Abbey its possessions, viz., "The Vill of Liefesham with Gronenuic and Uuluuic," with their appenages, in houses, churches, lands, woods, mills, &c. The original charter is still preserved among the archives of East Flanders. It was not until A.D. 1042, that Edward came to the Throne, but he was not unmindful either of his word or of the kindness shown him at Ghent. In 1044 he gave the Abbot of Ghent a charter confirming the gift of "Leuesham with all its appertenances, viz., Grenwic, Wulewic, Modingeham and Cumbe." To these were added certain dennes in the great forest of Anderida, which then covered all the south of Kent. The dennes were named Aeshchore, Aeffehaga, Wingindene, Scarendene, Sandherste. Some of them can be identified in Cowden parish, and were known locally as the Manor of Lewisham, according to Dearne's History of the Weald. At the same time land in London, called Wermanacre (near St. Dunstan's-in-the-East), was also added to the Abbot's possessions.

The charter gave the Abbot almost regal powers, with the right to hold courts having jurisdiction over a large number of causes, and exempted the lands even from the *Trinoda necessitas*. This might give rise to suspicion of forgery, but the charter was evidently esteemed to be genuine, and was subsequently in large part confirmed by successive kings.

The Norman conquest would not necessarily have alarmed the Abbot for the safety of his possessions, Matilda, the wife of the Conqueror, was descended from Elfrida herself, and St. Peter's had therefore a good friend at Court. But the times were turbulent, and a confirmation of possession was a wise precaution. William's charter is dated A.D. 1081, and is witnessed by Queen Matilda and a great array of Bishops and notables. In this charter the property is described as the Manor of Lewisham, with all its appurtenances, viz., Greenwich, Woolwich, Mottingham and Coombe, with the places in the Weald before named and Wermennacres with Werns in London. The rights and privileges granted by the Confessor's charter are also confirmed.

Four years later came the celebrated inquest or survey, commonly called Domesday, and it is curious to find that notwithstanding the above confirmations, the property assigned therein to

the Abbot of Ghent is Lewisham only, although it is probable that a great part of what we call Greenwich to-day is comprehended under the description given. Greenwich itself is described as having been two Manors in the time of King Edward the Confessor, held by Earl Harold and Brixi respectively, but united after the Conquest and held by the Bishop of Lisieux of the Bishop of Baieux. It is practically impossible to reconcile the charters and Domesday, but the point belongs rather to the history of Greenwich than to that of Lewisham.

It must be remembered that Domesday Book was primarily a great valuation record, and that little was entered therein which had no bearing on the value for taxation purposes of the various Manors. It is spoken of sometimes as though it were a kind of eleventh century gazetteer, but it is only this to a very limited extent. One might be pardoned the wish now that the returns from which it was compiled had dealt with other matters, but we must not expect too much from it.

The entry in Domesday respecting Lewisham is as follows:—  
 “Terra Sancti Petri de Gand. In Grenviz Hundredo. Abbas de Gand tenet de rege Levesham et de rege Edward tenuit et tunc et modo pro ii solins se defendit. Terra est xiiii carucarum In dominio sunt ii carucae et l villani cum ix bordariis habent xvii carucas. Ibi iii servi et xj molini cum gablo rusticorum vii libras et xii solidos reddentes. De exitu portus xl solidi. Ibi xxx acrae prati. De silva l porci de pasnagio. Totum manerium Tempore Regis Edwardi valebat xvj libras et post xij libras modo xxx<sup>ta</sup> libras.”

“The Land of St. Peter of Gand. In Greenwich Hundred. The Abbot of Gand hold Levesham of the King and he held it of King Edward, and then and now it answers for two sulings. There is the arable land of fourteen teams. In demesne there are two teams, and 50 villans with 9 bordars have seventeen teams. There are three slaves and eleven mills with the gafol of the rustics rendering eight pounds and twelve shillings. From the outgoings of the haven forty shillings. There are thirty acres of meadow. Of wood 50 hogs from the pannage. The whole manor in the time of King Edward was worth sixteen pounds, and afterwards twelve pounds. Now thirty pounds.”

This may be paraphrased as follows:—In Greenwich Hundred (subsequently called Blackheath Hundred) The Abbot of Ghent holds Levesham of the King, and of King Edward he held it, and then and now it answers for two sulings, *i.e.*, the unit of assessment for taxation in Kent; in other counties the unit was known as a hide, which is generally understood to have been about half a suling. The Kentish unit was therefore low for taxation purposes.

In the time of King Edward, the area under cultivation was that workable by fourteen ploughs each with a team of eight oxen. In the portion of the Manor in the hands of the Abbot himself or his bailiff, and known as the Demesne, there were at the time of

taking the survey, two plough teams. The tenants consisted of fifty families of the class known as villans and nine known as bordars, who, between them, had seventeen plough teams. There were thus 19 teams in A.D. 1085, against the 14 in King Edward's days. In other words more land was being placed under cultivation. The villans and bordars were personally free, but only in a limited sense to our ideas. The former each held about 30 acres of land, but they could not quit their holdings without leave, and they were bound to perform many services to the Lord of the Manor, besides furnishing oxen to drive the ploughs on the demesne. The bordars or cottagers had smaller holdings of some five acres, and were more akin to farm labourers.



PLATE 6.—VIEW OF A WATER-MILL AT LEWISHAM, 1777.

There were three families of slaves, who performed the menial work about the Manor Court. There are thus 72 families recorded in A.D. 1085, or a population of between 300 and 400 souls.

Along the banks of the river would have been the 30 acres of meadow, whilst all around lay the woods, which remained at Sydenham and Forest Hill until almost within living memory. Their value is assessed, it will be seen, by the number of swine (50) which the tenants gave the Lord of the Manor for the privilege of turning their pigs out into the woods to fatten on the oak and beech mast. It would be interesting to know if the assessment of wood included the denes in the Weald near Cowden, which were attached to Lewisham.

A point of much interest in the Domesday entry, is the statement that there were eleven mills. The number, considering the size of the Ravensbourne—for they were all water mills—seems very large, and it has been suggested that the entry is an error.

There are, however, at least nine mills named in the 13th Century, and even to-day there are, or were until recently, six within the parish of Lewisham. The profits from them were valuable, amounting, with the gafol, or rent of the country folk, to £8 12s., since all corn had to be ground at one of the mills pertaining to the Manor.

The outgoings of the "haven" are given as 40s., from which we are led to assume that Lewisham was held to stretch as far as the mouth of the Ravensbourne at Deptford Creek.

The whole Manor is stated to have been worth £16 in King Edward's days, afterwards £12, and in A.D. 1085, £30.

Such is the brief outline given us in Domesday Book, and we have to fill in the details as best we may. It will be observed that no church is mentioned. The Commissioners were given no instructions to include the churches; they often did so, but the absence of any statement cannot be taken as implying that no church existed; indeed, the Charter of the Confessor includes the churches of Lewisham and Greenwich in the list of belongings. Moreover it is unlikely that a religious community, such as the monks of Ghent, would have neglected to erect some building for public worship.

It is clear that from the time of William the Conqueror, the property of the Abbot of Ghent consisted only of Lewisham and Greenwich, and that he dropped any claim he might have had under the older charters to Woolwich, Mottingham and Combe. Possibly the whole of Greenwich was secured to him in place of the last three named places, but there are no documents to show that any formal arrangement was made. William Rufus confirmed the Abbot's possession of "Liefesham and Grenuich," and a similar charter of confirmation was obtained from each succeeding king.

How necessary this was may be seen from the claimants who endeavoured to wrest the property from the monks. In the reign of Henry I, one Gervaise de Cornouailles (or Cornhill), apparently a Londoner, asserted a claim—on what grounds we are not told, and amongst the archives of East Flanders are three deeds by which he renounced his pretensions. The Charter given by Henry I, possibly in consequence of the above claim, enlarged the previous gifts by granting the Abbot the sole right of hunting—Free Warren, as it was called—on his lands, and further gave authority for the establishment of a market at Greenwich.

But another and more powerful claimant appeared in the person of Robert de Baunton, son of Walter de Douai, who was Lord of the Manor of Lee. It is an instructive example of the turbulent spirit of the time, that in spite of Royal Charters and the curses of the church on all who broke them, claims such as those of Robert de Baunton should have been set up and for years successfully pleaded. No doubt the Norman, Walter de Douai, seated at his place in Lee, looked with jealous eyes on the Abbot's



possessions, which lay close to his hands. The Abbot, too, was over the sea, and his representatives—probably only a few monks and lay brethren—could offer but little resistance, and so Robert, his son, seized Lewisham and Greenwich and held them in spite of Abbot and King.

Naturally the Abbot carried the matter before Henry I, and Robert de Baunton was summoned to appear and answer for his claim. This, however, he disdained to do, and in default King Henry adjudged the Manors to be the property of the Abbot of Ghent, and forbad Robert to molest him. King Stephen also gave the Abbot a further Charter, declaring that the pretensions advanced by Robert de Baunton were ill-founded, and Bulls were obtained from Popes Eugenius III and Alexander III, excommunicating all who should presume to interfere with the Abbot's possessions in Lewisham and Greenwich.

From proceedings which took place later, we learn that Robert and his friends murmured so loudly against these decrees, and held the King and Abbot in such ill-will\*—by which we may presume that no artifice within the law, or indeed without, which those troublous times allowed, went untried—that the Abbot, for the sake of peace, granted the Manors to Robert and his heirs, for a yearly rent of £25.

Robert's daughter and heir, Juliana, married William Paganell, who founded the Priory of Drax, in Yorkshire, and the Manors appear to have remained in their hands and those of their son, Fulke Paganell. The Abbot's Charter had been taken to Uffculme in Devonshire, for greater security, but in the wars between Stephen and the Empress Maud, the Manor House there, with the Charter, was burnt. Whether the Abbot became aware of this, or merely regarded his arrangement with Robert de Baunton as a lease, it is impossible to say; anyway, he obtained a confirmation from King John in 1208, and in 1222 he commenced an action in the King's Courts to recover possession from William Paganell, the son of Fulke.

William produced his two freemen, Simon, son of Humphrey de Grenewiche, and Michael, son of William de Silverton, in Devonshire, who offered to prove by their bodies in combat, if the Court should so decide, that their fathers had seen the Charter of the Abbot, granting Lewisham to Robert de Baunton, and had ordered them to come forward with their testimony if ever they heard talk of it, and they asserted that Robert de Baunton held Lewisham and Greenwich when Henry I died.

The Abbot was represented by Friars Arn and John, and the 21st of April was fixed for the trial. The case was, however, settled peaceably. The Abbot undertook to pay 101 silver marks to William Paganell, who on his part renounced all rights in the

\* Drake's Hasted, page 238, from the *Coram Rege Roll*, Henry III, No. 2, m. 7, Kent.

Manors, and undertook to annul any Charter that might hereafter come to light which favoured his claims. The original deed, dated at Westminster, 27th April, 1222, is preserved amongst the archives of East Flanders.

And so at last the Abbot was secure in his possession. Henry III gave him a further Charter of Confirmation in 1229, and during his long reign, so far as we can tell, nothing occurred to disturb his tenure.

Evidence of the insecurity of the Abbot of Ghent's tenure is, incidentally, to be found in the very large amount of subinfeudation, which took place within the Manor of Lewisham, and as the making of these subsidiary manors was prohibited by the statute *Quia Emptores* in 1291, we may safely assume that those in Lewisham were in existence before that date. They consist of the Manors of Bankers, Brockley, Catford, Bellingham, Shrafholt and Sydenham, which between them cover at least three-quarters of the total area.

**BANKERS.**—The family of Bonquer, or Banquel became possessed of land in Lewisham in the reign of Henry III, about the year 1260, by purchase from the Doget family, and this seems to have originated the manor since called by their name, corrupted to Bankers and Bankhurst. The manor is entirely in Lewisham, and comprises nearly all that portion between Loampit Hill and Stanstead Road, the parish boundary on the north and west and the river Ravensbourne on the east, from Lewisham Bridge to Catford. The Banquels in 1261 purchased

**SHRAFHOLT** from the Castillon family. This Manor is partly in Lewisham and partly in Bromley, comprising part of Southend, Bromley Hill and part of Plaistow.

In addition to the above, the Banquels became Lords of the Manor of Lee in the reign of Edward III, and the Manor of Lee is held to include not only the whole of the old parish of that name, but also that part of Lewisham comprising Mount Pleasant, Rosenthal, St. Swithun's (Hither Green), and the Park Hospital.

**BROCKLEY** belonged to the Maminots in the time of Henry II, and formed part of the endowment of Begham Abbey. It is doubtful whether the Lewisham portion was esteemed a Manor, nearly the whole area being within the Manor of Bankers, but certain estates in Lewisham paid quit rents to the Lord of the Manor of Brockley.

**CATFORD** includes the St. German's estate in the Brownhill and adjoining roads, and that in the Stanstead Road. It belonged to the Abel family in the time of Edward I, and subsequently to the College of St. Lawrence Pountney, in London.

**BELLINGHAM** seems to have included the greater part of the land between Catford and Southend. It became part of the endowment of the Cistercian Abbey of Stratford Langthorne in Essex.

**SYDENHAM**, in mediæval times, was the district now known as Lower Sydenham and Perry Hill. It is doubtful whether this was

rightly termed a manor, but nearly the whole of the property was very early alienated by the Abbot of Ghent.

With regard to manorial jurisdiction, the Manor of Lewisham was paramount over the whole, and persons from the whole area appear to have attended the Manor Courts. Separate Courts for Bankers and Shrafholt were held, however, with those for Lee, and there is also evidence that quit rents were paid by tenants within the Manor of Bellingham to their own lord.

The quit rents paid to the Lord of the Manor of Lewisham for the various tenures were :—

		s.	d.
For Bankers	...	33	4
„ Shrafholt	...	17	4½
„ Bellingham	...	30	1
„ Catford...	...	22	11

The glimpses we have of Lewisham life in the 13th century are chiefly contained in the Assize Rolls. If these present us with the worst side of the life of the times, they also give us the customs which are the foundation of much of the procedure of to-day.

Blackheath, as in after years, appears to have been a particularly perilous place to cross, several of the cases referring to murders committed thereon. Thus in 1254, certain malefactors unknown assaulted Hamo de Cherewood and Roger le Juene on the Heath, Roger was slain, and Hamo, as being present, was attached to answer for the crime, but was not suspected. The law then required that on the death of a man by violence it was necessary for the district to prove he was not a Frenchman. This was not done in the present case, and the Hundred in which the murder took place was accordingly fined. The township of Greenwich was also fined for burying the dead man without holding an inquest and the neighbouring townships of Lee and Charlton were fined for not aiding in the prosecution of the murderers.

Another interesting case in the same year was a quarrel, between Geoffrey le Bidelede and Margery, daughter of Roger David, on the one hand, and Agnes, daughter of Roger le Biche, on the other. Geoffrey and Margery between them beat Agnes to death, and being apprehended they were placed in the prison of the Prior of Lewisham. Margery effected her escape and fled to Lewisham Church, and having thus taken sanctuary she was permitted to abjure the realm before William Scot, the Prior's bailiff. Her companion in crime, Geoffrey, was taken to Rochester Castle, but escaping, he was declared exiled, outlawed and condemned to death. For having allowed the felons to escape the township of Lewisham was fined. The episode took place in that part of the Manor represented at the Manor Court by Adam de Catford.

Another case may be taken from the Assize Rolls for 1278. Matthew de Pontefract and James, son of Henry de Brocole

(Brockley), met in the township of Lewisham and quarrelled. Henry struck Matthew with a club so that he died the same night. Henry fled, was proclaimed and outlawed. His goods, which were valued at 6s. 9d., were forfeited. Lewisham was fined for allowing him to escape and "Elteham, Ketebroc and Wolwich" for not joining in the pursuit—which indicates the route of the assassin.

It will be seen from these cases that rough as the times were and ready as men were to lift up their weapons against one another the law was so devised that the wrong-doer was not likely to escape if those responsible for order did their duty. Another custom—the aim of which was to assist in detecting murder—was that of attaching the four next neighbours of a man for his death. The general proceedings for keeping the peace known as the View of Frankpledge will give us several examples of their working when we come to the period covered by the early Court Rolls of the Manor.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE 14TH AND 15TH CENTURIES.



**I**N order to understand the local life of Lewisham in the Middle Ages it will be necessary to explain, if only very briefly, the arrangement of land within the manor. This may be classed under four heads—(i) the lord's demesne; (ii) the land held by the various classes of tenants; (iii) the common fields; (iv) the waste. Of these the first-named needs little explanation: it included the manor house and the gardens and home farm immediately around it. This at Lewisham is generally believed to have stood at Rushey Green, although the site is not now the property of the lord of the manor. The pound, an indispensable adjunct, is, however, close at hand, and the land to the rear of this belongs to the Earl of Dartmouth.

The land held by the various tenants included their houses with the adjoining crofts, and these were generally grouped together in the village not far from the church and manor house. The houses for the most part were built of timber and wattle, and consisted of a hall open to the rafters of the roof, with a central fire, the smoke of which found its way out either by a louvre in the roof, or, in the smaller houses, as best it could. At one end of the hall, or both ends in the larger houses, were small chambers, the upper stories of which overhung the lower. The furniture was of the simplest description: a trestle table with benches in the hall, and a bedstead with a locker or two in the rooms.

But the chief point in the mediæval economy was the old custom of cultivation in vogue in the fields. Each free tenant

possessed certain acres of land in addition to the croft in which his dwelling was placed, but these acres were distributed in strips in the common fields and were not grouped together as they are to-day. The fields were cultivated generally in sets of three, in one of which early crops were raised, in another autumn crops, whilst the third lay fallow, and in each of these the tenants' strips were distributed. Much of the land held by the lord was also distributed in the same manner, his strips being mingled with those of the tenants in the common fields. From Lammastide (1st August) the fences which divided the strips were taken down and the whole field regarded as common property for grazing, etc., until the next ploughing time, the crops being varied each year for each field. In some manors the fields were managed on a two-field basis, one arable, the other pasture.

Outside the whole was the waste of heath and uncultivated land, upon which all holders of land within the manor had the right of pasture for their cattle and flocks according to the size of their holdings, and also the right of cutting furze, etc., for fuel. The soil belonged to the lord, but he could not enclose it if any damage was done thereby to those who had the "right of common," as it was called. In Lewisham there were two large tracts of waste, Blackheath and Westwood at Sydenham.

Our knowledge of Lewisham when the manorial system was in full working order is derived from the early records of the Court of the Lord of the Manor and his Rent Rolls. Those which survive are in the Public Record Office, and no doubt became part of the public records when the manor came to the crown on the suppression of the alien priories. The Court Rolls preserved commence in 1284, the twelfth year of the reign of Edward I, and they cover parts of the reign of that king, of the reign of Edward II, a few years of Edward III, and part of the reign of Henry V. They thus give us a series of peeps at Lewisham for a period of 140 years, and enable us to see something of the life and local government of the place. Incidentally they throw much light on the place names of the parish, so familiar to us to-day that it comes somewhat as a surprise to find how ancient some of them are. Could a Lewisham man of the 14th century revisit the old scenes he would truly recognise nothing, but were he spoken to of Brockley, Stumps Hill, Court Hill, Eastdown, Sydenham, Catford, Shroffold, and other places within the borough, he would soon feel that he was on familiar soil, for the names were as much household words to him as they are to us in the 20th century.

The earliest of the rent rolls is undated, but seems to be of the time of Edward II. It gives the small money payments made by the various free tenants in Lewisham in lieu of the personal service exacted in earlier times, or the rents which were agreed to on the creation of a new homestead from the waste. The manor was divided into two "burghs"—Northburgh, which

seems to have included the portion from Blackheath to Catford; and Southburgh, which took in Bellingham, Southend, and possibly Sydenham.

But besides the rents, there were still certain services due to the lord by various hides\* of land in the manor, and those which related to the hay harvest are specially set down as follows:

Hides in "la Norburgh of Leuesham" which owe services to the lord of the manor in Cassemede in time of hay harvest, viz.:

Draggeshide ought to bring two men, one iron fork, one wooden fork, a cart, and give 1d.

Harmakeshide ought to bring four men, one iron fork, one wooden fork, two rakes and two carts, and give 2d.

Rochulveshide and Alfildehide ought to bring as Harmakeshide.

Thurbarneshide does not do these services because it does suit at the court for the burgh.

Hides in Suthburgh which owe service as above:

Cordeleshide ought to bring four men, one iron fork, one wooden fork, two rakes, two carts, and give 2d.

Poncheshide ought to bring three men, one iron fork, one wooden fork, two rakes and two carts, and give 2d.

Copehodeshide, Potteshide and Frerenhide ought to bring as Cordeleshide.

Cassemede was apparently the name given to the meadows of the lordship, and we see from the above how the tenants assisted in getting in the hay. Other hides mentioned are Congedehide, Duehide at Schrafholte, Cassehide, Godeboldeshide; but the services due from the tenants are not stated. The designations of the hides probably give us the names of some of the earliest settlers in Lewisham.

Of the great common-fields of the manor the names of several have come down to us, and fortunately we can place most of them:—

*Sundermead* is the large field of 17 acres where Lewisham Station now stands, and which is even yet garden ground in part. In the reign of Edward II there are several entries in the Court Rolls of fines for services in this field which had not been performed.

*Broadfield* is the large field of about 80 acres on the eastern side of the railway, between Catford Bridge and Lower Sydenham, and is still farm land. It is mentioned in the Rental of the reign of Edward II.

\* The hide varied in different parts of the country, but may be taken as representing about 120 acres. It was originally the extent of a family's holding.

*Southfield*, of 42 acres, is now Lewisham Park, with the allotment ground hard by. It is mentioned in the Court Rolls of 1335, when John Sutor was fined 4d. for allowing his swine to run therein.

Westfield and Northfield are also named in the Rental of Edward II's reign, but their position cannot now be determined. The former may be identical with *Pickthornes*, the great field of 64 acres at Forest Hill, in the centre of which Christ Church now stands. The field is also mentioned in the same rental. Northfield may be the great field of nearly 40 acres called *Strodes*, which is now the Ladywell and Deptford Cemetery.

Another manor field was *Clangors*, the ground of about 32 acres at the back of the Pound at Rushey Green.

Certain lands in the manor were charged with providing ploughshares for the ploughs of the lord. Eighteen of these are shown as due yearly, valued at 9d. each. Other lands owed "Waldgavel," or wood rent, the sums being small, *e.g.*, Robert de Catford, for the third part of Thurbarheshide, paid 2d.; Henry de Rombergh, for his part of the same hide, 1½d.; Richard Copehod, for his part of Copehodeshide, 1½d.; William and Adam Atte Ford, for their part of Potteshide, 2d.; etc.

The whole rental, excepting the redemption of Waldgavel and the services due in Cassemede, came to £28 os. 8d.

The names of the various mills along the Ravensbourne in the early part of the 14th century occur frequently on the manor rolls:—

<i>Toddelesmill</i>	-	Now called the Silk Mill, near Lewisham Station.
<i>Semannesmill</i>	-	Belonging to the Bridge House, and probably that now called Riverdale.
<i>Slagradesmill</i>	-	This must have been near Ladywell. Slagrade is now the Bermondsey Union Workhouse.
<i>Fordmill</i>	-	Probably Catford Mill.
<i>Freremill</i>	-	Probably at Bellingham.
<i>Knappemill</i>	-	} Apparently at Southend.
<i>Livingesmill</i>	-	
<i>Shrafholtemill</i>	-	
<i>Pumfretesmill</i>	-	

At the time the Court Rolls were written the lord of the manor was to a large extent supreme within his own manor and held his court, which took cognisance of almost all matters which related to the daily life and well-being of the tenants. At the same time it must be remembered that the whole was governed by custom—that appeal to what had gone before, to what had always been done—and consequently much that seems strange, harsh, and vexatious to us would have been regarded by our predecessors

as coming in the ordinary course of things. The rolls are the records of the proceedings held in these courts, and we shall find that the matters dealt with included trespass, theft, assault, damage, encroachment, breaking the assize of bread and beer, *i.e.*, selling under weight and quality, and similar misdemeanours. At these courts, which as a rule were held once every three weeks, all transfers of land were recorded and fines for the privilege paid to the lord. The court also took cognizance of all cases of nuisance arising out of drains or watercourses being stopped up or roads left in bad repair, and any attempt to carry gravel or turf or furze from the common or heath lands was met by the imposition of a fine. The bailiff of the manor, as representing the lord, presided over the court, and was assisted by a jury elected by the tenants, who also elected a headman or "Boroughs-elder" or "Borsholder," as he was called, for each division of the manor, the aletaster, the appraisors or assessors, and other officials.

It will thus be seen that there was in each manor a very complete system of local government, and that nearly all those who carried on the work were elected by the people themselves. No doubt the power possessed by the lord of the manor could have been exercised in a tyrannical manner, but we have evidence that in some manors at least the lord was answerable to his own court and carried out its decrees.

In Lewisham the people had the advantage, if indeed it really was one, of having an absentee foreign abbot as lord of the manor, *viz.*, the Abbot of St. Peter at Ghent. His place here was taken by the prior of the cell or house which, as we have seen, was established at Lewisham to look after the estates and collect the revenues. It is more than probable that the comparatively mild sway of the prior was overbalanced by the fact that he had no further interest in the place than that of sending as much money as he could collect to his foreign master. At the same time he was willing to make grants of land to free tenants, and this is evidenced from the fact that out of the 5,773 acres of the old parish of Lewisham only 396 acres eventually remained in the hands of the lord of the manor, and this included the lammass lands.

The courts are frequently called the View of Frankpledge, the Anglo-Saxon system by which all freemen were pledged for the good behaviour of one another.

Before giving some specimens of the cases brought before the courts, it will be of interest to see what light the rolls throw on the place names of the parish. There are several references to Blackheath, principally in connection with persons cutting turf without authority. It is generally alluded to as "la Blakeheth," or the "Common de la Blakeheth" (1301).

At the further end of the parish we have to-day Beckenham Lane, the summit of which is known as Stumps Hill. This name



appears as Stomps Hill, Stombeshill, Stombelhulle, the last being probably the earliest form and giving the meaning of the name. It gave its name to a family the members of which frequently appear in the Court Rolls as Richard de Stombeshull, Ralph Stombelhulle, etc. (1301).

Forest Hill is represented by Adam atte Forest, Robert atte Forest, and others, and the name serves to remind us how thickly wooded the Sydenham Hills must then have been.

Catford appears as a family name in John de Cateford, who was a leading parishioner in 1320, in which year he was Bors-holder.

A name which has completely vanished from the parish is that of Romburgh. A family of de Romburgh flourished in Lewisham in the 14th century. Romburgh Forest is also mentioned, and other persons are named as dwelling in Romburgh. In a deed of the 13th century certain property is mentioned as being bounded by "the road which leadeth from Lewisham Church to Romburgh," and in another deed certain Romburgh property is spoken of as adjoining "Southfield," which is now Lewisham Park. It would seem, therefore, that Romburgh is the old name for that part of the parish where St. Swithun's, Hither Green, is now situated.

Camps Hill, in Hither Green Lane, appears in these early records as Kemp's Hill, probably called from a former owner or occupier, and not from the fact that a camp or entrenchment formerly stood there.

Richard de Brocle appears in 1301 presenting the excuse of Robert atte Forest for non-attendance at the Manor Court, and in 1312 John de Crey and Adam Ster are summoned for not building their houses in "Brockele."

The modern Sangley comes to us as Sanguinel, and this form survived as Sanwell as late as 1820.

The records of the courts held in 1301 are entered rather fully—we will take that held on the Thursday after Palm Sunday of that year. First of all come the "essoins" or excuses for non-attendance. The list is headed by John Flemyng, which reminds us of Lewisham's connection with Flanders. He makes the "common excuse," *i.e.*, illness, or that the roads were bad, or some other lawful hindrance. His excuse is presented by John atte Cruche (John at the Cross) and is accepted, and so on with twenty-six others.

Thomas the Miller accuses Sir Walter the Prior of Leuesham of trespass—one of the many proofs that the lord of the manor could be sued in his own court.

Ralph Stombelhulle (Stumps Hill nowadays) places himself "at the mercy of the lord," for default in making his appearance on previous occasions, and is fined 3d.

William le Webbe brings his plaint against Margery de Norwike for trespass. Margery does not put in an appearance and is held to be at the lord's mercy, as the phrase was.

Then come the cases of death amongst the tenants. Richard Conpart is dead, and his holding is taken into the lord's hands "until further order be taken," *i.e.*, until the lawful heir shall be admitted. Similarly with Isabel of Schrafolthe's holding.

On the death of a tenant the custom was for the incoming tenant to pay a fine, called a "heriot," to the lord of the manor, and at this court a heriot was declared due on the death of one Simon of Catford, *viz.*, a horse valued at 20s. Afterwards came John his son and paid the fine.

Questions of weights and measures fill up the work of the day. Alice Pod, baker, sells "wastell" bread, *i.e.*, bread of the finest flour, below the statutory weight, and is fined 40d. She was further fined for selling "Koket," an inferior kind of bread, below weight. Matilda Bolthod sells a "wigge," another variety of bread, below the weight demanded by the Assize of Bread, and also "Koket," and for both offences is fined 3s. 2d. and 40d.

Those who brewed and sold ale contrary to the strength and price prescribed by the Assize of Ale, were presented and fined various sums from 3d. upwards. There were 61 cases dealt with by the court. Apparently ale was sold by anyone who chose to brew it.

At the next Court held shortly after Easter there was a "View of Frank Pledge," *i.e.*, the presentments of breaches of the peace and drawing blood, hue and cry raised, etc.

John Scott draws blood from William Palefrayman. John Jacob is his pledge. Fine 3d.

William le Webbe draws blood from William Person. Richard Ingeld is his pledge. Fine 6d.

Adam son of John of Rombergh draws blood from Hubert of Rombergh—evidently a family feud. John Jacob will be his pledge. Fine 4d.

A more serious affray is that in which Robert, John and William Biwynd are accused of drawing blood from John the Shepherd of Amice Godson. Fine 18d. The pledges for the peace were William de la Stonyheelde and Richard Redhed.

Richard Redhed is at the lord's mercy because he held the presentment of the Borsholder in contempt.

Peter the son of Richard the Tailor of Sevenoke drew blood from William son of Adam Atteford. John the Tailor of Leuesham is his pledge.

The said John levied the hue and cry unjustly against Terri Cobbe. William le Rideler is his pledge.

Agnes wife of William the Smith levies hue and cry without cause against the said Terri Cobbe. Her husband will answer for her.

The above cases show the method of keeping the peace. The guilty party was "bound over" (as we should say nowadays), a neighbour being surety who would be fined if the peace were broken.

William le Webbe is reported to have made an encroachment on the King's highway at "le Thrul," viz., two virgates and a half long and in breadth two rods and a half, and is given a set time to remove the same, John Jacob acting as his pledge.

It is also reported to the Court that the highway opposite the Court of William de Marinis, one of the larger landowners, is in a bad state of repair and the Court orders the bailif to distrain upon the said William to repair the same.

This incident shows us that the repair of the roads was not, as now, the business of the local authorities, but was laid upon the owner of the adjoining land.

Upon question put John Jacob and Adam Ede, the "Borgesalders" or Headmen of Leuesham, declare that they have made their presentments as they ought to make them.

The sum of the fines, etc., of the Court came to 71s. 6½d., of which Greenwich should pay 39s. 7d. and Leuesham 30s. 10d. The afferatores or assessors of fines were Amis Godson, Adam Atte Forest, and John Calvel.

At another Court held at Lewisham, in the summer of the same year (1301), Robert Lord was summoned for digging turf on the common "de la Blakeheth" and is fined 3d. Jurdan the Shepherd is also fined a similar amount. Margery Calvel is indicted because she to the grievous damage of the lord and all the commonalty was wont to dig on the said common. Margery claimed an inquisition, which was held and declared her guilty, whereupon she is fined 3d. Giles of the Hall and Richard Grey and others are similarly fined.

These instances will show how jealously the common rights were guarded against unauthorized encroachment, but at the same time their number indicates a growing disregard.

At the same Court we have the election of certain officers. Peter Billuk was elected "Borgesalder" of the "Southborg" of Lewisham, Symon le Freend is elected aletaster, and both are sworn faithfully to do as they ought.

Another group of proceedings relates to the year 1320, when John de Catford and Peter de Bywyne were "Borghesalders." William Ede is elected Borghesalder by the whole homage (the freeholders) and Thomas Ede aletaster. Many are fined for brewing ale contrary to the assize, including Thomas Brekerop, John Vayrwyne and William Sanguinel. These and others mentioned previously will give an idea of the Lewisham names of the 14th century and will serve to show how many surnames arose.

If the Abbot of Ghent was left in peace during the reign of Henry III that period of undisputed possession was now to come to an end, mainly on account of the French wars undertaken by the Edwards. In 1294 Edward I was engaged in preparing for war against the French King, and besides obtaining large supplies from both clergy and laity he seized the lands and goods of the

alien priories. The monks were allowed 1s. 6d. a week and David le Graunt was placed in charge of the Priory of Lewisham for the security of the realm, lest, the lands being on the banks of the Thames, the aliens might convey intelligence by sea to the enemy. This was the pretext that was made from time to time, and during the reigns of Edward II, Edward III and Richard II Lewisham was frequently taken into the king's hands, the king acting as owner and presenting to the vicarage on any vacancy occurring.

It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the Prior of Lewisham, acting for the abbot, let the manor on lease whenever he could do so. In 1295 Lewisham was leased in this way to Sir William de Carleton for three years at an annual rent of £90, which was to be paid to the king if he was at war with France and to the prior if peace was concluded.

In 1337 the alien priories were seized by reason of the war with France, but were formally restored in 1361, and in that year Christo Cossimio, Prior of Lewisham, obtained the King's licence to visit Flanders and to take with him two attendants, 1 bow, 20 arrows, 1 pipe of salted beef, 8 bacons, and three barrels of beer for his use and that of his household.

In 1380, money being required for the French wars, Lewisham was again taken into the King's hands, and a survey was made by which the goods were valued at £27 12s. 6d. and the annual revenue at 67 marcs. The manor was placed in charge of Sir Nicholas Brember for life at an annual rent of 80 marcs. He was an alderman of the City of London and was knighted with William Walworth when Wat Tyler was slain. After serving as Lord Mayor he was concerned in plots against the Duke of Gloucester, and was finally executed with an axe of his own design on 18th February, 1388. His successor in 1399 was John Norbury, squire and treasurer to the king, and an adherent of Henry IV.

These frequent seizures of their property must have in part prepared the monks of Ghent for the final catastrophe. In 1414, when Henry V was getting ready for the campaign in France which led up to Agincourt, the Commons petitioned him to consider the case of the alien priories by means of which, they urged, the State was impoverished by money being sent out of the kingdom to the head houses abroad. They therefore desired the King to take these possessions of the foreigner once for all into his own hands.

Henry acceded to the request in a Parliament held at Leicester, and in spite of the protests of the Abbot of Ghent, Lewisham and Greenwich, which through some 500 years had been in his possession, passed away finally, never to return.

Lewisham was not, however, to remain for long part of the possessions of the Crown. Henry was engaged in founding a Carthusian priory at Shene, in Surrey, and in 1415 Lewisham and Greenwich were settled upon that house as part of its endowment, and for 116 years the Prior of Shene was Lord of the Manor,

although, following the example of his predecessor, he frequently leased the property.

The change in ownership did not probably affect the dwellers in Lewisham to any great extent, and things went on pretty much as before. The Court Rolls from the 6th to the 9th year of King Henry V give us one more brief insight into the life of the people. The old division of the manor into Northborow and Southborow continues, a Borsholder for each being elected at the various courts, together with an aletaster; those holding these important offices in 1420 being

<i>Northborow</i>	-	Borsholder, Thomas Reed. Aletaster, Thomas Lanne.
<i>Southborow</i>	-	Borsholder, Robert Broke. Aletaster, John Baly.

The principal case brought before the Manor Court at this time was the action of Robert Chapman, the Vicar, who had collected part of his tithe by force. At least that was the contention of John Fox, the bailiff of the Prior of Shene. According to the story told by the latter, Richard Chapman, on Monday next after the feast of St. Giles, in the fifth year of King Henry the Fifth, at Lewisham in a certain field called Holemannessell, had entered and *vi et armis* had carried off eight cocks of corn standing in sheaves, by which cause the said John was at loss to the value of 100s. The Vicar appeared in person and denied that he came *vi et armis*, but said he was the Vicar of the Church of Lewisham and that the said corn was his tithe belonging of right to the vicarage. The bailiff, however, declared them to be the tithe which being on the demesne lands belonged to the Prior as rector of the church. John Horwood, the sub-bailiff, was directed to summon a jury to hear the case, but the matter dragged on until 1431, when an arrangement was made between Mr. William Frome, then vicar, and the Prior and Convent of Shene, by which the tithes in dispute were formally adjudged to the Prior, and the Vicar was given half the wax offered in the church on Candlemas Day. A profitable arrangement in 1431, no doubt, but hardly so at the present day! The demesne lands are nowadays held to be tithe free.

The names of the mills at this period are:—

<i>Lithynghsmill</i>	-	This, which formerly belonged to the Banquel family, was probably at the Bromley end of the parish.
<i>Fordemylle</i>	-	Probably that at Catford.
<i>Cokesmille</i>	-	
<i>Newmill</i>	-	
<i>Seemanysmille</i>	-	Also called Brigesmill, and probably that belonging to the Bridgehouse Estate.
<i>Grangemill</i>	-	Belonging to the Abbot of Stratford and therefore at Bellingham.

The millers of these mills were all fined for taking excessive toll for grinding corn, contrary to statute. Fines are also recorded against those who sold beer by mug instead of by sealed measure.

During the latter part of the 15th century the people of Lewisham were engaged in building the tower of the Parish Church, which was commenced about the year 1471. Nearly every parishioner who had anything to leave mentions it in his will, and we may therefore assume that the project was a popular one.

During much of the period through which we have traced the story of Lewisham, the Court was frequently at Eltham, where Edward IV considerably enlarged the palace, rebuilding the great hall and other portions. Henry VII seems to have been rather partial to Greenwich, and Henry VIII practically deserted Eltham for the latter. No doubt it was found easier of access by water from London than the long ride over the wild open country of Blackheath as it then was. The possessions of the Crown at Greenwich were, however, of limited extent, and Henry VIII began to look around for means to extend the property. It is characteristic that he should at first have endeavoured to oust the Prior of Shene on a legal quibble. Henry V had granted Lewisham and Greenwich to Shene, as we have seen, but it was now alleged that the act of Henry was that of an usurper—being a Lancastrian—and that Edward IV had resumed possession of any lands so granted. A jury was therefore called together at Deptford in 1518 to try the Prior's title to the estates. At the enquiry it was shown that Lewisham and Greenwich had been given to Shene by Henry V, and that on the 19th July, 1461, Edward IV had confirmed the gift, and the Prior's right was therefore unassailable at law. Amongst the evidence it is interesting to note that it was recorded that Edward III had seized Lewisham and Greenwich in 1338 by reason of the war with France, and that they had remained in the hands of Richard II throughout his reign, and in those of Henry IV and V for the same reason, and were held throughout as of fee and by right of the Crown of England.

As Prior Joburn was not to be dispossessed by foul means, Henry proceeded to try and effect an exchange, and in 1531 this was arranged, Lewisham and Greenwich passing into his hands in lieu of certain property elsewhere, thus hastening by a few years what would have occurred at the dissolution of Shene Priory.

The religious changes of the middle of the 16th century made considerable alterations in the ownership of a large part of the parish. Bellingham, lying between Catford and Southend, which belonged to the Cistercian Monastery of Stratford Langthorne, in Essex, came to the Crown, and in 1547 the College of St. Lawrence Poultney, in London, was suppressed, by which the Manor of Catford also came into the royal hands. In the reign therefore of Edward VI for a brief period the whole of the manorial rights in the district were reunited under the King as Lord of the Manor.

This lasted but for a year or two, for in 1548 Catford was granted to Henry Polstede, of Chileworth, and William More, of Loseley, both in Surrey, for the sum of £2,034 14s. 10d.; in 1550 Lewisham Manor was granted to John, Earl of Warwick; and in 1554 Bellingham was conferred on Richard Whetely, to whom a lease had already been granted by the last Abbot of Stratford.

The Earl of Warwick did not long retain Lewisham but exchanged it with the king for other property, and it was then, in 1547, given to the king's uncle, Thomas Lord Seymour of Sudeley, K.G., Great Admiral of England, in support of his dignities. Two years later Lord Seymour was beheaded by order of his brother, the Protector Somerset, on a charge of designing to seize the king's person, and the Manor of Lewisham then reverted to the Crown.

Queen Mary granted it to Cardinal Pole and the clergy of England, but on the accession of Queen Elizabeth it again became Crown property, and was leased to Henry Knolles, Esq., who had successive leases which came to Sir Francis Knolles, a man much esteemed by the Queen, who made him Captain of her Guard, Treasurer of the Household and a Knight of the Garter.

### CHAPTER III.

#### FROM THE 16TH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT TIME.



HAVE referred in the previous chapter to the religious changes which, by the dissolution of the monasteries, altered so greatly the tenure of much of the land in Lewisham as elsewhere. It will be fitting that a brief account should be given of these changes which affected the everyday outlook of our predecessors. And here we should express our satisfaction that the same man was Vicar of Lewisham during the whole period of change, a man of moderate views, full of pity for the poor, large-hearted and generous if we may judge from his will. Mr. John Glynn was appointed vicar by Henry VIII in 1546, and he continued vicar through the reigns of Edward VI, Queen Mary, and until Elizabeth had been ten years firmly seated on the throne. Whether we agree with the changes which were made, or think they went too far or not far enough, changes were ordered by law, and it must have been greatly to the advantage of Lewisham that its spiritual head at the time was a man whose views permitted him to carry them out with as little dislocation of thought as possible. When he came to Lewisham there were two endowed chantry priests to assist him. These were sup-

pressed in the first year of Edward VI, and the revenues seized into the King's treasury. The principal change which had hitherto been made within the parish church itself was the removal of the various images therein, before which it had been customary to burn tapers "for a remembrance unto prayer." In 1549 the English Prayer Book was introduced, largely founded on the older Latin services. Meanwhile the extreme Reformers had commenced to destroy, sell, or steal the valuable plate and vestments which the requirements of the mediæval ritual and the piety of parishioners had caused to be provided for the services of the church. A commission was therefore appointed in 1552 which ordered an inventory to be taken of all the parish church goods, and these were delivered to the churchwardens for safe keeping. The intention was to leave sufficient for the proper administration of divine service and to annex the remainder for the King's use. Edward's death probably prevented this, but to what extent is uncertain. The inventory for Lewisham was drawn up on the 16th November, 1552, by Richard Dyngly and Richard Howlett, gentlemen, the churchwardens. It tells us there were two silver chalices, one of 23 ounces the other of 14 ounces, altar clothes of yellow and blue; copes of blue velvet, blue silk and green silk, chasubles of white satin, red velvet, blue silk, red silk and black; crosses, candlesticks, censers, etc., of latten, a "paire of organes," four great bells of brass in the steeple, and many other items. The inventory for Lee is equally full. Edward VI died on 6th July, 1553, and in Queen Mary's reign the old order was reverted to, when no doubt such of these vestments as remained came again into use, dying out gradually in Elizabeth's time, although they probably lingered as long as Mr. Glynn was vicar. He died in 1568, and in his will he gave little bequests to a very large number of his poorer parishioners, and left £100 to found a grammar school. His executors were David Morgan, a city merchant, and Mr. William Roper, of Wellhall, Eltham, whose wife was Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thomas More, and who was regarded as a "popish recusant."

It is in his bequest for a school that Mr. Glynn claims our interest. It laid the foundation of what we now called "Secondary Education" in Lewisham. His successor in the vicarage was Mr. John Bungay, a nephew of Archbishop Parker, by whose means a charter was obtained from Queen Elizabeth in 1574 for founding a Free Grammar School, which, refounded some seventy years later by the Rev. Abraham Colfe, has proved of incalculable benefit to many generations of Lewisham's youth.

Of Lewisham during the reign of Queen Elizabeth we have but little details. The manor belonged to the Crown, but was leased to Sir Francis Knolles as before related. The great Queen came frequently to Greenwich, and on May Day, 1602, went a-maying to Sir Richard Bulkley's at Lewisham. This may have been the occasion when she lunched under the shade of the oak on





PLATE 7.—MAP OF LEWISHAM, 1745.

the hill between Forest Hill and Brockley, which has ever since been called Honor Oak; but from its nearness to Greenwich she doubtless was often in the parish, and there were legends of her visiting the Earl of Essex at Place House, near Catford Bridge.

The accession of James I brought ultimately another master to Lewisham. Amongst the followers who accompanied him from Scotland was John Ramsay, Viscount Haddington, who when a page attending him at the house of Earl Gowry at Perth on the 5th August, 1600, was instrumental in discovering and frustrating the attempt that was made there on the life of the King. Ramsay was created Viscount Haddington for this service, and in 1620 was further made Baron of Kingston-on-Thames and Earl of Holderness, and as a special honour he and his heirs male were to bear the sword of state before the king on the 5th day of August as a memorial of his act. In 1624 King James announced to his Council at Westminster that in consideration of the great services rendered to him by the Earl of Holderness, and at the earl's request, he intended to bestow the Manor of Lewisham upon Edward and Robert Ramsay; and this he did on 29th June in that year, the grant apparently to take effect on the expiry of the lease held by Sir Francis Knolles. Edward and Robert Ramsay conveyed the manor to Sir George Ramsay, the brother of the earl and his heir, who died in 1629, when it descended to his eldest son, John Ramsay of Winlaton in co. Durham, who sold it on 23rd May, 1640, to Raynald Graham, of Humington in Yorkshire, citizen and draper of London.

The history of Lewisham during the first half of the 17th century is largely the history of the vicariate of that remarkable man, the Rev. Abraham Colfe, who filled the office for nearly fifty years. The son of the Rev. Richard Colfe, Prebendary of Christ Church, Canterbury, he was born in that city on 7th August, 1580. He was educated at the King's School, Canterbury, and Christ Church, Oxford, and taking holy orders he came to Lewisham in 1604 as curate to the saintly Hadrian de Saravia, the friend and confessor of Richard Hooker. King James had granted the next presentation to the vicarage to William Beeston, of Canterbury, evidently a friend of the family, and when in 1610 Saravia resigned Lewisham for the rectory of Great Chart, which was nearer Canterbury, Abraham Colfe was appointed Vicar, being instituted on 1st May of that year. Most faithfully did he fill the office, and until his death in 1657 he spent his whole time in labouring for the spiritual and temporal welfare of his parishioners.

His first great public work was his successful resistance of the attempt that was made to enclose Westwood or Sydenham Common. This consisted of about 500 acres, covering the part of the parish now occupied by Sydenham and Forest Hill. These common lands—which, such as Blackheath, are now largely used for recreation—were, in the period with which we are now dealing, the mainstay of the poorer inhabitants, who not only had pasture

(18)  
A Record of such books, as have bene  
given by Gentlemen and others, since the  
tenth day of June, in the yeare of our  
Lord God, one thousand fixe hundred  
and fifty two, to this publike Library:  
at which time, both the Grammar Schoole  
and this Library were first opened.

All praise to god alone. Amen.

thereon for their cattle, but by cutting furze obtained fuel. It was, then, with feelings of dismay that Lewisham heard in 1605 that King James had granted the common of Westwood to Henry Newport, one of the gentry of the place.

When Henry VIII obtained Lewisham from the Priory of Shene in 1531 the exchange was ratified by an Act of Parliament, in which there was a clause that the exchange was not to be hurtful to any person concerning the right of "common" which any might or ought to have therein. The Crown, however, seems to have considered that Westwood Common was a portion of the demesne lands of the manor, and thus the trouble came about.

Mr. Colfe has left several notes on the subject, one of which begins: "Memorandum, that in y<sup>e</sup> yeares of our Lord 1614 and 1615 we had many troubles and suites concerning our common of Westwood being in quantity about 500 acres of ground wherevnto the Lord of his mercy gave a good issue in y<sup>e</sup> end. The occasion was this: Henry Newport of Lewsham gentleman, and yeoman of y<sup>e</sup> boiling house to King James, having lived long in our parish, in y<sup>e</sup> yeare 1605 begged this common of the King and made meanes to his Majesty for a lease of it at a yearly rent."

The inhabitants appear to have taken action at once, and claimed that they had always had common of pasture for all manner of cattle without number and at all times (*i.e.*, that the land was not half-year land), and also common of estovers and shreadings of all trees growing on the said common, and they produced in proof the recollections of the "oldest inhabitants."

"Stephen Batt of Croydon of the age of 98 yeares testifieth for the same comon by the name of Westwood or Sheenewood in his knowledge 80 yeares agoe and never heard the contrary which testimony was five yeares before the same Acte was made (*i.e.*, 1525).

"John Heathe of the age of 90 yeares testifieth for the same comon for 75 yeares which was at the time of the Acte made that it was then in his knowledge a comon and alwaies so was used and that he never harde the contrary.

"Thomas Frenche of Bromley of the age of 80 yeares testifieth for the same common for 70 yeares. Arnolde Kinge of Beckenham of the age of 78 yeares testifieth for the same comon in his knowledge for 65 yeares."

It will be noticed that the Lewisham folk were careful to call in the testimony of their neighbours who had no personal interest in the open land.

Thus attacked Mr. Henry Newport made suit for a commission of enquiry, and Sir Thomas Walsingham, Sir Ralph Boswell, Henry Heyman, surveyor, and Michael Berisfforde were appointed "for the surveying and finding of a parcel of waste ground in Lewsham in the county of Kent called Westwood to be the King's and therein especially to enquire whether it be the King's own waste in demesne or whether it be the King's waste but yet a comon withall and of what yearly valewe it is."

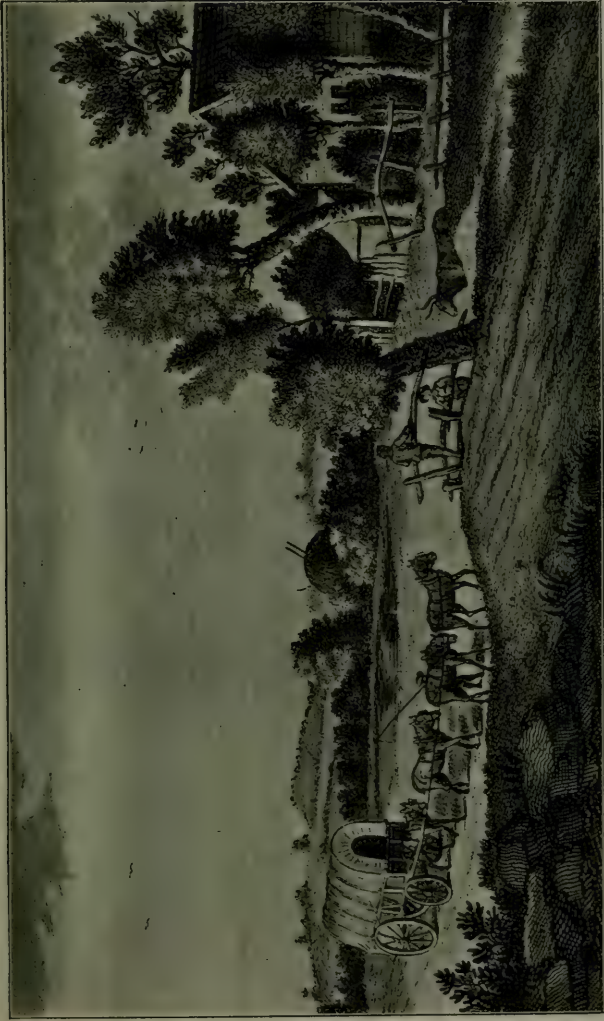


PLATE 9.—VIEW OF RUSHEY GREEN, 1771.

“On the 25th April 1606 the Commissioners did sitt at Greenwich to enquire and after evidence given to the jurye and the greater parte of the same jury meaninge to give up their verdict that Westwood was the king's waste and yet a comon, they were dissolved and left for that time, whereby that Commission was expired.

“Since which time the aforesaide Henri Newporte going about to defeat the inhabitants of Lewsham of their saide Comon hath secretly made an inquisition in a remote place and altogether without the knowledge of the saide inhabitants by that meanes seeking to get some sinister testimony uppon recorde againste the inhabitants and also to prevent them of geving their evidence unto the jury as defendauts of their rights of Comon.”

The following “Humble Petition of the inhabitants of the parrishe of Lewsham” was accordingly made:—

“Wherefore the poore inhabitants of Lewsham aforesaide most humbly praye the Right Honorable the Earl of Salisburie in respect of his greate wisdom and justice and because he is the high Stewarde of Lewsham aforesaide that he wil be pleased to be informed of the sayd Newportes unjust proceedings and to relieve the poor inhabitants of Lewsham aforesaid that being above 500 poore housholders with wives and manye children greatly relieved by the sayde Common and would be utterly undone yf y<sup>t</sup> should be unjustly taken from then. So shall these poore inhabitants be alwayes ready to praye God as nevertheles for his honours long life and happie dayes with much increase of honor.”

The case came again before the Court of Exchequer in 1607. “After dinner, on a Starre Chamber day,” notes Mr. Colfe, “and againe y<sup>e</sup> 9th of November 1608 but either Newport non suited himself or other error fell out in y<sup>e</sup> proceedings so y<sup>t</sup> he obtained not as yet his purpose.”

But the good people of Lewisham were by no means secure. Presumably trusting that the Crown lawyers knew what they were doing, Mr. Newport in 1614 joined two more with him, namely, Robert Raynes, gent., sergeant of the buckhounds, and Innocent Lanyer, of Greenwich, one of the King's musicians, and they jointly took a lease from the king of 347 acres of land in Westwood for a term of sixty years, and then, says Mr. Colfe, “began very much to vexe y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants.”

Seeing that their rights were now invaded in earnest, the parishioners, under the leadership of Mr. Colfe, took measures to defend themselves, and lodged a complaint against Newport and his co-patentees. After some preliminary proceedings it was agreed that Mr. John Burnett, one of the principal inhabitants, who amongst others claimed to have common rights in Westwood, should be sued as representing the parish. The trial took place on 14th October, 1614, with a jury of the County of Kent, and

judgment was given for the king against the parishioners on the point in dispute. Mr. Colfe records that John Sherman, of Greenwich was foreman of the jury, and that Henry Dobbins and Henry Abbott, of Greenwich, and John Leech, of Deptford, were members, as though to infer that their judgment was biased for fear of offending the holders of the lease.

Presently the patentees began to make ditches about the common and inclosed it, and drove out and killed sundry of the cattle of the inhabitants. A crisis had arrived, and the Vicar evidently saw that a final effort must be made. He therefore called together about a hundred of his parishioners, and, placing himself at their head, set out for London to make a personal appeal to the King.

Shortly before this (1607) there had been several disturbances



PLATE 10.—A VIEW AT LEWISHAM, 1770.

in the Midlands on the same subject, and King James gave special orders to the Commission appointed to enquire into the cause, that care was to be taken that the poor received no injury by the encroachments of their richer neighbours. The people of Lewisham may therefore have felt assured of a sympathetic hearing.

Colfe's own report is in the following words:—"Wherefore neer 100 people young and old went through y<sup>e</sup> City of London, and a little on this side of Topnam high-crosse petitioned King James who very graciously heard y<sup>e</sup> petition and ordered the Lords of his Privy Counsell should take a course that he might be no more troubled about it."

The other side naturally did not take these proceedings with equanimity, and promptly put in a petition:—

"Whereas on December 20th 1614 Mr. Abraham Colfe Vicar

of Lewisham led through the City of London one hundred of his parishioners to Tottenham High Cross and there petitioned his Majesty against the privileges granted to our clients in the common of Westwood, and made many and slanderous accusations against them thereby filling the ear of his most sacred Majesty with injurious regard of our clients. And whereas our clients are desirous to maintain the good esteem of their most dread sovereign and the peaceable occupation of the lands that have been granted to them and which they have at much cost fenced, etc., they desire to be confirmed in their possession."

Mr. Colfe appears to have heard of this petition, and being now thoroughly aroused, he, in the name of the parishioners, addressed petitions not only to the Earl of Salisbury but to the Earl of Somerset, Lord High Chamberlain, and to the Archbishop of Canterbury. This last gives a good picture of the proceedings, and may, therefore, fitly be quoted here.

"To y<sup>e</sup> right reverend father in God the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury his Grace Primate and Metropolitan of all England and one of his Majesties most Hon. Privy Councill. The humble petition of his Majesties poor tenants y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants of Lewsham in Kent neere Greenwich.

"Most humbly shew to your grace many hundreds of y<sup>e</sup> poore distressed inhabitants of Lewsham y<sup>t</sup> whereas we have time out of mind quietly enjoyed a wast peece of ground of 500 acres called y<sup>e</sup> Comon of Westwood (as we can shew by auncient deeds since y<sup>e</sup> 5th or 9th year of King Henry y<sup>e</sup> 5th being 196 years past, by an Act of Parliament reserving y<sup>e</sup> commons of y<sup>e</sup> manor of Lewsham to y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants, by y<sup>e</sup> Kings owne records calling it Westwood lying open and common and by witnesses for 80 yeares as long as man can remember) yet Robert Raynes, Innocent Lanier and Henry Newport three of his Majesties servants obtained a grant and a lease for 60 yeares from his Majesty of y<sup>e</sup> said common upon a rent of 40 markes by y<sup>e</sup> yeare and y<sup>e</sup> last terme impleaded your poor suppliants in y<sup>e</sup> Court of Exchequer and gott a verdict and judgment and are now closing y<sup>e</sup> said common to y<sup>e</sup> utter vndoing of above 500 poore people. And whereas thei had possessed diverse of y<sup>e</sup> nobles and by them had meanes to informe his Majesty that only 2 or 3 had y<sup>e</sup> chief benefitt of y<sup>e</sup> common and not y<sup>e</sup> poore, we were inforced to goe about and 100<sup>d</sup> of vs y<sup>e</sup> 19 of December with petition to y<sup>e</sup> Kings Majestie for his mercifull favore, who most graciously promised we should have justice and in y<sup>e</sup> end referred y<sup>e</sup> consideracon of our petition to y<sup>e</sup> Lords of his Privy Councill. We most humbly desire your grace when our petition shall come to be heard before you that your grace will afford us your gracious favour for our quiet enjoying of y<sup>e</sup> said common, it being as we do solemnly protest a chief stay and maintenance for pasture of cattell, furses and bushes for fyering to above 500 poore people and we shall pray to God for your graces health long life and eternall happiness."



The parishioners also took up the cudgels on behalf of their leader, who was being subjected to a personal attack at Court.

"We y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> parish of Lewsham in Kent whose names are under written hearing of the sundry defamations and vncharitable speeches given out in a petition to y<sup>e</sup> King's Majesty against Abraham Colfe Vicar of our parish, and being desired by him to testify our knowledge of his behaviour among us doe solemnly protest before God and witnes this for a truth unto all those whom it may concerne that the said Abraham Colfe having lived as a curate and vicar these 10 yeares among us hath not to our knowledg demeaned himself otherwise than becometh the minister of God's Word; for he hath bene very painfull in his calling, duly preaching once (and for y<sup>e</sup> great part of the summer twice every Sabath among us) liberall to y<sup>e</sup> poore, given to



PLATE II.—A VIEW AT LEWISHAM, 1770.

hospitality and other good workes, in his life peaceable, not having had any one suit or controversy in law all this time against any of us; no way savouring of a factious or sedicious spirit neither in publick or private speeches or actions; but continually dehorting us during y<sup>e</sup> time of our distressed suit about our common both from reviling them in speeches y<sup>t</sup> have sought to get away y<sup>e</sup> meanes of our living and from performing any outward act y<sup>t</sup> might be either offensive to his Majestie or prejudiciall to y<sup>e</sup> lawes of y<sup>e</sup> realme."

The result of these petitions was that the Privy Council referred the matter to the Lord Chief Baron and Sir Edward Bromley, one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer to endeavour to mediate between the parishioners and Newport and his friends. But the latter demanded £1,000 as compensation, and seeing

that there was no chance of agreement it was arranged that there should be a new trial, and that Mr. John Eaton, gentleman, of Lewisham, should be the defendant as representing the parishioners.

The patentees (Newport, Lanier and Raynes) being in possession, were permitted to hold the ground meanwhile, and the gates and ditches destroyed by the inhabitants were ordered to be repaired (from which we may infer that there had been some lively proceedings at Sydenham), on the other hand they were not to burn or sell any of the furze growing in or upon the common nor "disturbe or interrupt the said inhabitants of the Manor of Lewisham nor any other his Majestie's liege people to the use of all such wayes as have heretofore byn used in through or by or over the said parcell of ground called Westwood" until the trial and further order had been given.

Notwithstanding this order, one Henry Benden, the servant of Mr. Lanier, continued to drive off the cattle of the inhabitants and hindered the cutting of furze for fuel—a particularly harsh act, seeing that it was mid-winter. Upon this being represented the Lord Treasurer and the Chancellor sent an order commanding the patentees to desist. "Yet," says Mr. Colfe in one of his notes, "Henry Benden and other of the patentees servants still drove off the cattell and spoiled some of them to death and would not let the poore have furzes. Hereupon the 22nd day being Ash Wednesday, Henry Benden being at church after service I gave him advise and wished him not to molest the poore in such sort by driving and hurting their cattel and hindering them of furzes: for if he should be sent for by a pursevant and committed for his contempt I thought his master (namely Mr. Lanier) would not beare him out in it."

But the end was now in sight. On the 16th of October, 1615, the case came on for hearing before the Barons of the Exchequer and a jury chosen out of Kent, amongst whom there was no one belonging to the immediately neighbouring parishes, and adds Mr. Colfe, "The Lord's holy name for ever for his great tender mercies be blessed a verdict passed in the behalf of the poore inhabitants and on the 18th November following judgment was also granted and a copy both of the order and of y<sup>e</sup> judgment taken out under the seale of the Exchequer Chamber w<sup>ch</sup> is kept by us."

So ended the controversy, and the people of Lewisham, thanks to the energy and persistence of their vicar, were left in undisturbed possession of Westwood Common.

Whilst the troubles over Westwood Common were still unsettled Mr. Colfe was engaged in another work for the good of the parish. It will be remembered that his predecessor, John Glynn, had left money to found a Free School, for which a charter had been granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1574. In 1612 all the governors named in that charter were dead save one, Mr. Edmund Style, and little progress had apparently been made with the scheme. Mr. Hurpole, the schoolmaster, was present at Colfe's

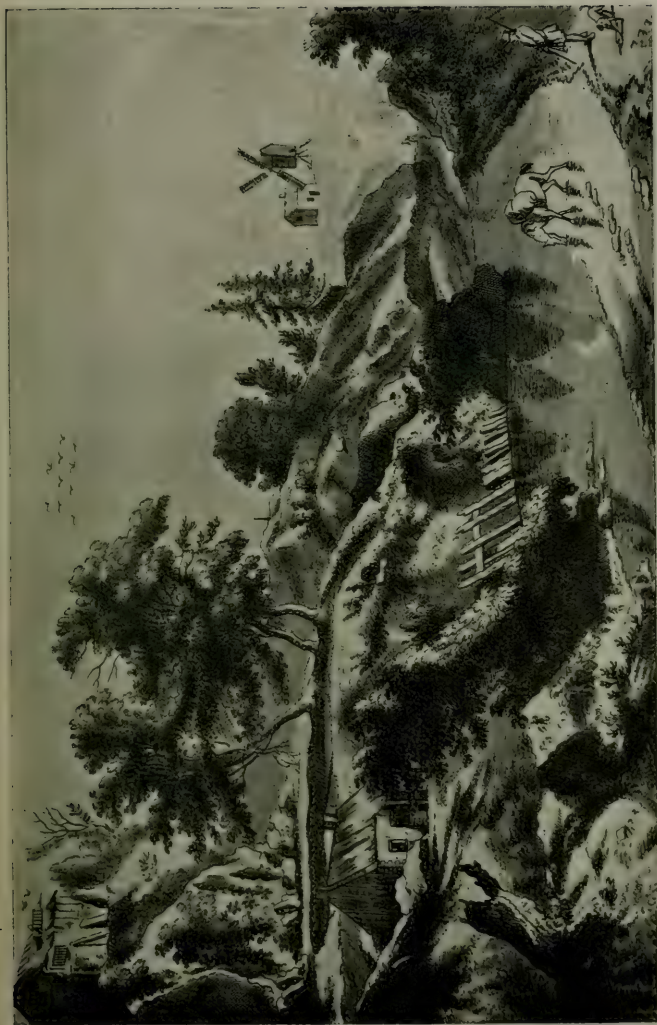


PLATE 12.—VIEW OF BLACKHEATH, LOOKING TOWARDS LEWISHAM, ABOUT 1750.

induction to the vicarage, but it is clear that the school was not on a satisfactory footing. A fresh body of governors was therefore appointed in 1613 by Mr. Style, under the charter, of whom Abraham Colfe was one. The years went by and no progress could be made, presumably for want of funds, and Colfe then decided to refund the school and endow it himself. For this purpose he saved all the money he could devote to the purpose, buying land in various parts of the parish—mostly at Lower Sydenham and Catford. In 1634 he approached the Leathersellers' Company, who already owned some land in the parish at Perry Hill, and they agreed to become his trustees.

The political and religious horizon had meanwhile become dark with the clouds of the coming storm, and it is necessary in order to understand the position of affairs to refer briefly to the events which were happening in London and the country generally.

In 1633 Laud was advanced to the Archbishopric of Canterbury, and endeavoured, unfortunately not always in the most tactful manner, to remedy the state of indiscipline into which the English Church had fallen. The Puritan movement had been slowly rising throughout the reign of James I, the Archbishop's proceedings were met by the most violent opposition, and on the assembling of the Long Parliament in 1640 he was impeached of high treason and committed to the Tower.

One of his orders, which gave offence to the Puritans, was a direction that the communion tables were to be placed at the upper end of the chancels and railed in to prevent irreverence. The order was generally obeyed, but in 1641 the Commons ordered the removal of the rails.

Amongst the Sloan MSS. in the British Museum is a diary kept by one Nehemiah Wallington, who lived in the parish of St. Leonard, Eastcheap, of which Mr. Colfe was also Vicar, and in this is the following note:—

“Of the exploits that I heere very credably the solgars did in Kent. At Lusume the 9th January, 1641, being Satterday at night when they were ringing y<sup>e</sup> belles, the Railes that were about the Communion Table ware pulled up, and it is not knowen who did it, nor what became of them, as it is thought they were cast into the river and so carried quite away.”

The quarrel between Charles I and Parliament had meanwhile developed into the Civil War which led by slow steps to the King's execution in 1649. No engagement took place near Lewisham, but the mustering of troops on Blackheath from time to time must have helped to bring events home to our predecessors, whilst the frequent orders of the House of Commons in matters pertaining to religion left few places untouched. Amongst these was a scheme in 1642 for appointing preaching lecturers in various parishes, the parochial clergy being required to lend their pulpits. In many places the appointments were no doubt justified by the want of zeal on the part of the incumbents, but this can hardly have been

the case at Lewisham, since we are told that Colfe preached twice every Lord's Day and expounded some portion of Holy Scripture on Wednesdays, Fridays and Holy Days. Nevertheless, a section of the parishioners petitioned Parliament for a lecturer, and a Mr. John Batchelor was appointed. The Vicar and his friends offered strong opposition to the arrangement, and so much so that the original petitioners addressed a complaint to the House of Lords in 1643 and an order was issued to restore Mr. Batchelor to the lectureship. We hear no more of the matter except that the "impudent lecturer," as Colfe calls him, endeavoured to get the vicar deprived of his vicarage. Nehemiah Wallington mentioned above addressed a long letter to Mr. Colfe, in which he urged him to give up the use of the Prayer Book and upbraided him for his want of sympathy with the lecturer.

That Colfe and the parishioners generally took the Solemn League and Covenant in 1644 is practically certain, since no exceptions were allowed and refusal meant deprivation and fine, but there is no documentary evidence on the subject, all the parish papers having been burnt in 1830. In 1645 the use of the Book of Common Prayer was forbidden under heavy penalties. In 1648 Colfe wrote to the Leathersellers saying that the hardness of the times and other things had obstructed the settling of the work he intended for the parish, and it was not until four years later that he was able to complete the buildings for the Grammar School, which was opened on 10th June, 1652, on a site granted by Mr. Raynold Graham, Lord of the Manor, with the consent of the Court Leet, being then part of Blackheath. To the school was attached a free library, and a reading school was also set up near the church where what we should call an elementary education was given, it being intended that the most deserving boys should go on to the Grammar School and so to the University. A complete system of education, in fact (see Plate 8, page 43).

Thus did this benefactor to the parish pass his days until his death on the 5th December, 1657.

Mr. Raynold Graham, who had purchased the Manor of Lewisham in 1640, married Susannah, second daughter of Sir William Washington, of Packington, in Leicestershire, whose eldest daughter, Elizabeth, had married Colonel William Legge, a devoted adherent of Charles I. Mr. Graham had no children, and on the 30th May, 1673, he conveyed the manor to his nephew, George Legge. Mrs. Graham continued to live in the parish, in Dartmouth Row, until her death in February, 1699, and sometime prior to 1695 built the first portion of a chapel there for the residents around, which has since in an enlarged form become the Church of the Ascension.

The Legges, who thus became the Lords of the Manor, claim descent from Thomas Legge, Lord Mayor of London in 1346 and 1354. His great grandson, William, went to Ireland, and it was Edward, the son of this William Legge, who may be said to

have laid the foundation of the family's fortune. He accompanied Sir Walter Raleigh to the West Indies, and on his return to Ireland he was made Vice-President of Munster. His son William, commonly known as Colonel Legge, suffered severely for his espousal of the cause of Charles I, and on the accession of Charles II, received many marks of royal favour, and amongst other appointments was Master of the Armoury at Greenwich.

George Legge, his eldest son and heir, who received Lewisham from his uncle, had a varied life on sea and land. As an Admiral of the Fleet he was sent to demolish Tangier, and received a grant of £10,000 for his services. In 1673 he was Governor of Portsmouth, Master of the Horse, Master of the Ordnance and Colonel of a regiment of foot, and in 1682 was created Baron Dartmouth. He was deprived of his appointments by William III, and committed to the Tower, where he died in 1691.

His tenure of the Lordship of Lewisham was marked by the grant he obtained in 1682 for a fair to be held twice a year and a market twice a week on Blackheath. The market house was erected on the east side of Dartmouth Row, between what is now known as The Grove and Dartmouth Hill.

His son, William, was made a Privy Councillor by Queen Anne, and created Viscount Lewisham and Earl of Dartmouth in 1711, the former title being held ever since by the eldest son. He and his grandson, who succeeded him as second Earl of Dartmouth, resided much at Blackheath, and entered largely into the local life. Whitfield was much thought of by the first Earl, and with Wesley preached frequently upon Blackheath to enormous crowds.

In 1774 the old Parish Church, which had become too small for the increasing population—it must be remembered that it was the only place of worship in the whole parish except the little chapel in Dartmouth Row and a small Presbyterian chapel at Sydenham—was in a dangerous state, and an Act of Parliament was obtained for rebuilding it. In the time of the second Earl of Dartmouth the fair on Blackheath, which had been in existence about 90 years, was discontinued owing to the undesirable characters it brought together. It had been held on the 12th, 13th and 14th of May, and 11th, 12th and 13th October in each year. Cattle were, however, permitted to be sold on the 12th May and 11th October, but no booths were allowed to be put up without the Earl's permission.

In the steps taken for the defence of the kingdom during the Napoleonic Wars the neighbourhood took its share. A small body of Blackheath Yeomanry was formed in 1798, and in the same year a four-company corps of Lewisham Volunteers was raised under Lieut.-Colonel John Forster. Of this corps other officers were Major Mayow Wynell Mayow (of Sydenham), Captain Abraham Constable (of Mount Pleasant House), Lieutenant Henry Mills (of the Limes), Ensign Thomas Watson Parker, and others. This was succeeded in 1803 by the Loyal Lewisham and Lee



PLATE 13.—VIEW OF BLACKHEATH BY MOONLIGHT, 1770.

Volunteer Infantry under Lieut.-Col. the Right Hon. Charles Long (of Bromley Hill House). Several officers of the old corps held commissions in the new regiment, and others joined, including Mr. S. C. Brandram, of Lee. In 1810 a corps of Local Militia was formed at Blackheath under Lieut.-Colonel Sir T. Maryon Wilson, Bart. With the final overthrow of Napoleon at Waterloo the need for these local efforts ceased, and the corps were disbanded.

Up to this period Lewisham maintained its old rural character, but the population had gradually increased from about 2,000 in Colfe's days, with 500 houses, to 4,000 in 1801, with about 700 houses. Of these about 120 were round Sydenham Common, about 40 at Southend, and over 100 on and around Blackheath. It was in the time of the fourth Earl of Dartmouth, who succeeded to the title in 1810 and died in 1853, that the place began to grow into a London suburb. In 1810 an Act of Parliament was obtained for enclosing all the common and waste ground in the parish, except Blackheath, together with the Lammas or half-year lands, containing about 350 acres. This was following the course which was going on all over the country. The old open field system, which worked well enough in the Middle Ages, was found to be inconvenient with the altered conditions and ideas of the 19th century. One cannot but regret that a portion at least of Sydenham Common, for which Colfe had striven so strenuously, was not left as an open space. This has, however, been remedied in recent years to a small extent by the formation of Wells Park on the upper slopes of Sydenham Hill.

The opening of the North Kent Railway to Lewisham and Blackheath in 1849 and of the Mid Kent Line to Ladywell and Lower Sydenham in 1857, brought a great influx of population, and consequent building in their train, whilst the erection of Hither Green Station on the main line in 1895 has led to a considerable town being built on what was the Earl of St. German's estate in that part of the parish. Under the London Government Act of 1899 Lewisham and Lee were united and formed into a Metropolitan Borough, and the population is now 152,000.

The old manorial rights and customs have gradually disappeared, or have been transferred to the Police Courts, the County and Borough Councils, and other bodies, as will be more fully explained in another chapter, but the Court Leet is still held yearly at the "Green Man," and solemnly elects a jury, with constables, aletasters, common drivers, pound keepers and appraisors, and duly declares all who have not done "suit and service" as amerced in the sum of 1s. It is to be hoped that this relic of Lewisham of the past may yet long continue, for it carries us back in an unbroken chain to the local assemblies of the days of Leof-sunu and of Elfrida. It reminds us of the rise and fall of the feudal system, the decay of which has led by many steps to the gradual emancipation of the people as they became fitted for the change, to their present position as a self-governing community.



## PART III.

### An Itinerary of the Borough.

#### CHAPTER I.

##### FROM BLACKHEATH TO THE CLOCK TOWER.



HERE are few places that can show a richer record of historical interest than Blackheath. Its ample extent, its proximity to London, and the ancient homes of our kings at Eltham and Greenwich have all combined to make it the meeting ground of royalist and rebel alike, the scene of fights real and mimic, of encampments without number, and pageants connected with some of the most stirring events in the history of the country. It will then be a fitting place from which to start on our itinerary of the Borough of Lewisham, within the bounds of which the greater part of the Heath lies.

The Hundred of Blackheath, which comprises the seven parishes in the north-west corner of Kent, is styled the Hundred of Grenviz or Greenwich in Domesday, but by the time of Edward I the title had been changed to that of Blackheath. The name has been variously derived from the colour of the soil—which seems rather fanciful—and its bleak situation, which is probably the more correct. It appears in early charters and court rolls as the Common “de la Blake Hethe.” On the Heath are various ill-defined mounds, which have been designated British, Saxon, Danish and Roman by various investigators. The mount known as Whitfield’s Mount has been thought by some to be a British burial place, but the whole surface of the Heath has been so continually disturbed from time to time, that it is almost impossible to assign any of the earthworks with certainty to a particular period.

After crossing Shooters Hill the Roman Road, Watling Street, passed along what is now called the Old Dover Road, and crossed that part of the Heath now Greenwich Park. Here, along the edge of the road by Vanbrugh Park, and within the confines of Greenwich Park, Roman remains have been discovered, including portions of a villa excavated in 1903 by Mr. Herbert Jones, F.S.A.\* The road probably passed down the slopes to Croom’s Hill (the name savours of a Celtic origin), and crossed the Ravensbourne near Creek

\* See an illustrated account in the “Home Counties Magazine” of July, 1903.

Bridge on its way towards London over the marshes, but this is a point which yet awaits investigation, and, moreover, lies outside the area of our perambulation.

It has been conjectured that the Danes encamped on Blackheath in A.D. 1011, when, after taking Archbishop Alfege prisoner at Canterbury, they advanced towards London. They more probably came up the river in their ships, and seizing upon Greenwich they cruelly murdered the Archbishop there upon his refusal to allow himself to be ransomed.

The first great gathering on Blackheath, of which we have historical evidence, was that connected with the Peasant Revolt in the time of Richard II, commonly called Wat Tyler's Rebellion. Tyler with Jack Straw and John Ball and their Kentish adherents, to the number of 100,000, after capturing the Castle of Rochester moved on to Blackheath, where they encamped prior to the descent on London. The mount on the Heath has been called Wat Tyler's Mount, but on what authority, save uncertain tradition, cannot be determined.

A scene of much magnificence must have been the meeting on the Heath between Henry IV and the Emperor Manuel Palaeologus, who came in 1400 to entreat for assistance against the Turks. But a far more interesting spectacle was that which took place on Saturday, 23rd November, 1415, on the return of Henry V from Agincourt. The night previous, coming from Canterbury, he had slept at Eltham, and on the Saturday morning at 10 o'clock the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City in their red robes and a great concourse of the citizens in red cloaks with red and white hoods, came out to Blackheath where they met the King, and with great acclamations escorted him to the City. There had probably never before been such a scene of popular enthusiasm. In the next year the Mayor and citizens again repaired to Blackheath to meet the Emperor Sigismund, who with a large retinue was escorted by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, the Duke of Bedford and the Duke of Clarence. Henry himself awaited their arrival at St. Thomas's Watering Place. After Henry's marriage with Catherine of France he brought her to England to be crowned in 1421, and before entering the City she was lodged for the night at Eltham, and on the following day she was met on Blackheath by a numerous company of the citizens in white cloaks with red hoods and capes, men of every craft in their diverse garments on horseback, and minstrels with clarions "in honour and comfort of the King and Queen and the glorious and royal sight of strangers that came with them from over-sea." It was a sadder company that assembled once more on the Heath the next year to meet the dead King's body, and escort it with all honour to its resting-place in Westminster Abbey.

It was on Blackheath that Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, met Margaret of Anjou in 1428, and escorted her to his house in Greenwich, and in 1431 King Henry VI was met here as usual by the

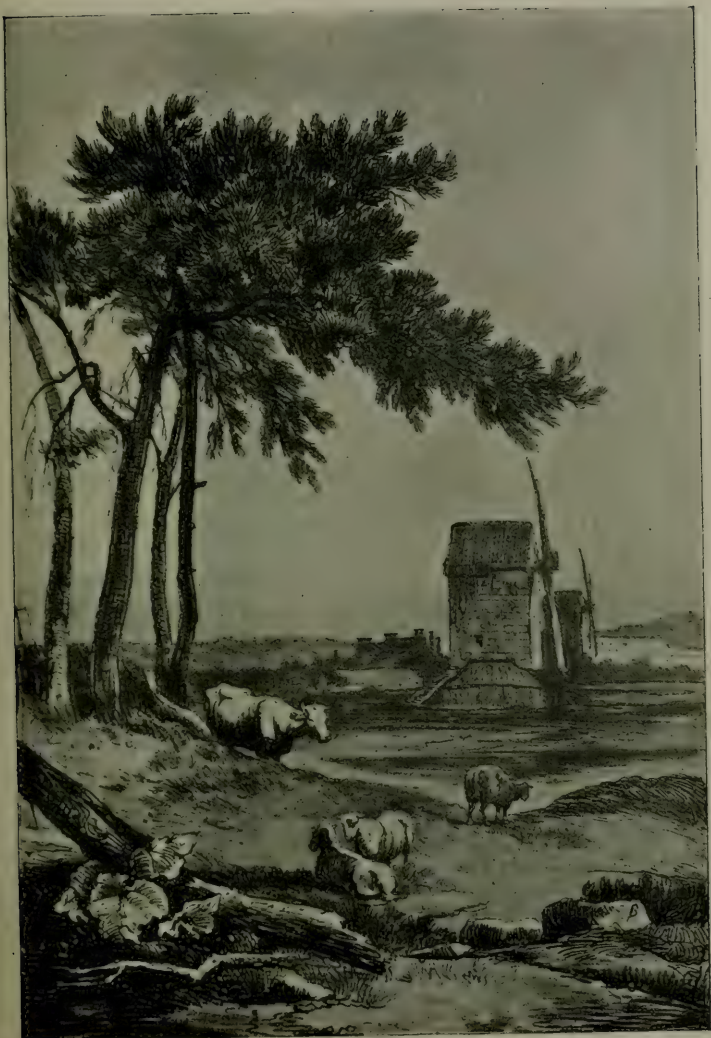


PLATE 14.—VIEW ON BLACKHEATH, FROM AN ETCHING BY S. PROUT, 1815.

Lord Mayor clothed in red velvet and the Sheriffs and Aldermen in scarlet cloaks, furred, together with a large company.

The year 1432 saw a curtailment of the Heath by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, who received a license from the King to enclose 200 acres of land, wood, heather and furze to make a park, which exists to-day as Greenwich Park, somewhat enlarged by the addition of other portions of the Heath.

In 1450 Blackheath twice became the rendezvous of those who supported Jack Cade in the insurrection of that year, first in June and again after the fight at Sevenoaks, when he was joined by many adherents from all parts of Kent. There is a considerable mystery attaching to the rising, as in some hundreds the men seem to have been summoned by the constables as though in response to regular authority. Cade himself is styled John Mortimer in the "pardon" which was issued to him. He subsequently fled and was killed whilst on the point of being captured at Heathfield in Sussex. A quarter of his body was sent to Blackheath as a warning to malcontents in the district. Amongst those pardoned was Edmund Ryculff, of Lee, the Constable of the Hundred of Blackheath, several Greenwich men and others of neighbouring parishes, but no Lewisham names occur in the lists of pardons. Stow says that on 28th February, 1451, numbers of the Kentish rebels, "naked save their shirts," met Henry VI on Blackheath, asked mercy on their knees and were pardoned.

Blackheath came in for its share in the Wars of the Roses. In 1452 Henry VI took up his stand on the Heath in order to oppose the Duke of York, who had encamped on the Brent at Dartford. Nineteen years later, after the Battle of Tewkesbury, Thomas Falconberge, known as the Bastard of Falconberge, organized an expedition to seize London, and set King Henry free. He addressed a letter to the Lord Mayor, urging him to join against the usurper, and requesting a reply to be sent to him "at the Blackheath." The Londoners, however, were not to be turned from their allegiance to Edward IV, and after an unsuccessful attempt on the City, Falconberge retired to Blackheath on the advance of that King, and finally submitted at Sandwich.

In the time of Henry VII the Cornish Rebels, headed by Lord Audley, encamped on the Heath, and were attacked on 22nd June, 1497, by the King, who gained a complete victory. Very many were slain, and must have been buried on the spot, and some of the hillocks may be of this period. In one of his sermons Bishop Latimer refers to this fight, and says he remembers buckling on his father's armour "when he went to Blackheath Field."

The reign of Henry VIII saw many notable meetings on the Heath. Perhaps the most imposing was the reception of the Pope's legate, Cardinal Campeggio. After staying at Otford he came to Lewisham on the 29th July, 1518, where he dined at Rushey Green with Mr. William Hatcliffe, one of the Clerks of the Green Cloth. After dinner about one o'clock he proceeded to

Blackheath, where he was met by the Duke of Norfolk with a numerous train of bishops and others of high rank. Here, in a tent of cloth of gold, he put on his cardinal's robes, and rode in much state into London.

In 1540 Henry VIII here met Anne of Cleves, for whose passage over the Heath a broad way was cut through the furze. The Court being so frequently at Greenwich, the Sovereign frequently used the Heath for exercise, and, as of old, the situation of the ground made it a convenient place for the assembly of troops. Edward VI, accompanied by his Court, was often on the Heath, and Queen Elizabeth here in 1585 reviewed the City Militia.

During the Civil War there were many musterings of troops on Blackheath, and it was here that the army was drawn up to receive Charles II at the Restoration.

John Evelyn in his diary mentions the formation of large camps on the Heath in 1673 and 1690, and in 1687 he remarks that on the 16th March he saw a trial of "those devilish, murdering, mischief-doing engines called bombs shot out of the mortar-piece on Black-heath. The distance that they are cast and the destruction they make where they fall is prodigious." On the map of 1695 the mount in the centre of the Heath is marked as "the mount for trying mortars," and if it is not an ancient tumulus, as some suspect, it may have been thrown up for the purpose which Evelyn mentions.

In the time of Queen Anne the "Palatines," who flocked to England, were encamped on the Heath to the number of 7,000, where they sickened and died in great numbers. They were forbidden to enter the City, and were finally shipped off to New York, Holland and Ireland.

The days of the Georges saw several reviews on the Heath, one of which was the subject of an engraving by Paul Sanby.

But it is time to turn from these historical reminiscences to the Heath itself. It is difficult to-day, with the well-defined roads, asphalt paths, gas lamps, etc., to imagine the Heath as it was in the times just referred to, and, indeed, as late as the early part of the last century. Covered with gorse and bracken, ill-defined roads, no lights of any kind at night, and with only a few houses here and there on the very borders, it is no wonder that the place obtained an unenviable notoriety for its highwaymen, so much so that associations were formed by the inhabitants for mutual protection.

In attempting to form some idea of the appearance of the Heath in days gone by, we must first remember that it originally extended from Blackheath Hill to Shooters Hill, and from Kidbrook to the slopes overlooking Greenwich, a wide unpopulated waste, covered with furze and bracken. The first curtailment, so far as we have evidence, was the enclosure authorised in 1432 of 200 acres, by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, to form Greenwich Park. Later on, enclosures were made on the eastern side of the Heath,

which resulted by 1695 in nearly the present boundaries at Vanbrugh Terrace and St. Germans Place, whilst on the western side, at the top of Blackheath Hill, the houses at Dartmouth Row were built about 1680, so that roughly the Heath had assumed its present shape by the last-named date. The houses were, however, almost entirely confined to those in Dartmouth Row, for St. Germans Place and Montpelier Row are quite a century later, and those in Vanbrugh Terrace and Shooters Hill Road are later still, so that in the 18th century there were some four miles of open heath and country between Woolwich and Lewisham. The maps of Blackheath of 1695 and 1745 show very clearly how few houses then existed, and enable us to understand how highway robberies were possible with little risk to the "gentlemen of the road."

The most conspicuous objects on the Heath from the 17th century onwards must have been the windmills, of which four appeared to have existed at one time or another. Of these the oldest was situated at the top of Lewisham Hill, where Holly Hedge House (the Territorial Force Headquarters) now stands. This mill is shown on the maps of 1695 and 1745, and in the latter map another mill is shown a little to the west at the top of Morden Hill. This is the mill which is apparently shown in the picture entitled, "A view of Blackheath towards Lewisham," engraved by J. Couse, who flourished about 1750 (Plate 12). The mills are mentioned in the parish registers, entries occurring as follows:—

Burials—	1716, Sept. 15.	Mr. Thomas Baizdon, miller on Blackheath.
	173 $\frac{3}{8}$ , March 2.	Elizabeth, wife of James Marlow, from the Windmill, Blackheath.
	1734, Aug. 1.	Elizabeth Saxby, from the Windmill.
	1737, Oct. 30.	William Baizdon, miller from Blackheath.
Baptisms—	1738, Nov. 26.	Jane, daughter of John Lamer, from Blackheath Windmill.
	1741, Nov. 29.	John, son of Wm. Hubbert, from Windmill, Blackheath.

These two seem to have disappeared by the end of the century, and others were erected near the centre of the Heath, one where Mill House now stands, and another close by on the ground now occupied by Talbot Place. Of these two mills several drawings were made. The earliest in date was published by Carrington Bowles in 1770. It is entitled, "A view of a Windmill near Blackheath by moonlight" (Plate 13), and is one of a series of six views of this neighbourhood, each bearing titles in English and French. There is a view showing both mills, etched by S. Prout, R.A., dated 1815 (Plate 14). Another view, also reproduced here, occurs in "Blackheath, a poem," by Noble, published in 1810 (Plate 15). A sketch made by Sir John Gilbert shows both the mills (a copy of this is in the possession of Mr. H. T. Wood, of Hollington).

The view by Noble shows very clearly the gorse which then covered the Heath, and which is said to have been largely destroyed in 1821, when it was set on fire as an illumination in honour of Queen Caroline.



PLATE 15.—VIEW OF BLACKHEATH, 1810.

The immense quantity of gravel which has been taken from the Heath at various periods has resulted in the surface being considerably broken, not altogether a disadvantage. Part of the gravel so removed is said to have been used as ballast for the colliers returning to the Tyne, and it may, we are told, be seen on the banks of that river, a reminiscence of the days before the advent of the steamboat. That the diggings were sometimes not devoid of danger, we are reminded by an entry in the burial register of 1741, of "John Davies, killed by a fall into the sandpitt, Blackheath."

The dangers to which travellers were exposed in crossing the Heath have been referred to. These appear to have reached such a pitch in 1753, that the inhabitants of the neighbourhood subscribed to suppress the lawlessness, offering rewards for the conviction of highwaymen, footpads, and house-breakers. Notwithstanding this the newspapers of the time are evidence that matters did not improve, although occasionally the ruffians were brought to justice. The following from a newspaper of 21st July, 1759, may be taken as a sample:—

"Tuesday morning, 17th, about 10 o'clock, a highwayman, well mounted, robbed three gentlemen's coaches on Blackheath, in the last of which was Mr. Morris, etc., from whom he took two guineas, a purse, and then made off. As soon as he had turned his back, Mr. Morris ordered the coachman to take the horses off, one of which he mounted, and the coachman the other, and went in pursuit. They followed him to Dartford, and found him drinking in a booth at the camp, where they apprehended him, and brought him to Mr. Birches, the 'Green Man,' on Blackheath. On searching him they found a brace of pistols, loaded each with a brace of balls, a hat and a piece of stocking sewed to it for a mask, a watch, eleven guineas, some silver, a pair of silver buckles, and two Spanish pieces. He says his name is Sam Walker, alias Jack of the Green, and that he belonged to the 'Blenheim,' man-of-war. He was known to have been a post-boy on the Kentish Road. On Tuesday night he was secured in the cage at Greenwich, and next day committed to Maidston goal."

A further accusation was mooted in 1792, at a meeting of the inhabitants. Relatives of the late Dr. Bramley, going to Paris in 1816, drove across the Heath with pistol pointed on the driver, whom they suspected of wishing to land them in the arms of confederates lurking in the gorse.

The gradual extension of buildings round the Heath, the destruction of the gorse, and the better police arrangements of the 19th century, slowly eliminated the highwayman, and removed the last remnant of uncomfortable romance from the neighbourhood.

The present area of the Heath is 267 acres, and that of Greenwich Park 185 acres in addition, the whole of the latter being in the Parish of Greenwich. The boundary between the two parishes, starting from the Ravensbourne at the Silk Mills, passes up Morden



Hill to Lewisham Road, down the centre of which it formerly ran to the bridge over the Greenwich and Nunhead Railway,\* then turning eastward, along the backs of the houses in Blackheath Hill it comes out into that road nearly opposite Holy Trinity Church, and passing up the hill to the Heath keeps just to the north of the Shooters Hill Road to the corner of Greenwich Park wall. At this point within the Park formerly stood Montague House, which was built on land enclosed from the Heath. There is a view of it on the title page of Noble's "Blackheath." It was pulled down in 1815, and the grounds thrown into those of the Ranger's Lodge (Chesterfield House). Crossing Shooters Hill Road at this point the boundary-line keeps to the south of that road to a point about 170 yards from the eastern boundary of the Heath (St. Germans Place), and thence turning southwards, cutting



PLATE 16.—THE SEAT OF THE LATE SIR GREGORY PAGE AT BLACKHEATH.

The Paragon in two, it passed through the round pond to the Blackheath railway.† The boundary between Lewisham and Lee passes just north of the Blackheath line, through the centre of the ponds in the grounds of "The Cedars," and thence obliquely in the rear of Cressingham Road and St. Stephen's Church to the Quaggy. That between Lee and Kidbrook passes down the centre of Lee Road, Lee Green and Eltham Road.

In the centre of what is now Blackheath Park, and close to the site of St. Michael's Church in the Liberty of Kidbrook, formerly stood the fine mansion of Sir Gregory Page, the grounds

\* By a recent rearrangement the boundary is now Lethbridge Road and Drysdale Road.

† The modern boundary leaves The Paragon in Kidbrook, and passes down Pond Road to the Railway.

of which took in the entire country from Blackheath to the Eltham Road. The estate, anciently known as Wricklemarsh, is entered separately in Domesday Book. After passing through several hands it was sold to Sir John Morden in 1669, who founded the college, which bears his name, on a portion of the estate. The mansion house and the main portion of the park he left to Dame Susan Morden for her life, and on her death in 1721 it was sold to Sir Gregory Page, Bart., of Greenwich. He rebuilt the house in a most magnificent style, and at the time it was considered one of the finest seats in England. It was built entirely of stone from designs by John James, and, notwithstanding its size, is stated to have been erected in the space of eleven months. It cost £90,000. The centre of the building consisted of a basement, state and attic storey, with a large Ionic portico on the south front, the ascent to which was by semi-circular flights of steps. The wings projected two hundred feet from the north front at right angles, and contained the offices, stables, etc., communicating with the house by colonnades. The picture gallery contained a very choice collection of paintings by Reubens, Vandyke, Titian, and other masters.

Sir Gregory died in 1775, leaving no issue, and the estate passed to his great-nephew, Sir Gregory Turner of Ambrosden, Bart., who assumed the surname and arms of Page. He sold the estate in 1783 to John Cator, Esq., of Stump's Hill, Beckenham, for £22,500, who resold the house in lots to be taken down. It was accordingly dismantled in 1787, and stood in a half-ruined condition for many years. The Paragon and Montpelier Row were built on the Blackheath frontage of Wricklemarsh Park. There is a tradition that the columns of the colonnades in The Paragon and the stone of some of the houses in Montpelier Row came from the old house.

Pond Road, Morden Road, Blackheath Park, The Manor Way, and Part of Weigall Road are on the site of the park, as also the houses fronting Lee Road. The pond from which Pond Road takes its name, was the piece of ornamental water which stood in the centre of the avenue of the north front of Wricklemarsh House; another piece, now drained, stood to the south of the mansion. The Avenue and Wemyss Road, both in Lewisham Parish, are more recent formations.

On the map of 1695 the boundary of the Heath varies considerably from that at the present day. At the corner now occupied by the "Princess of Wales" Hotel were two cottages marked "Sir John Morden's two new tenements," and beyond these no houses seem to have been erected on this part of the Heath, the boundary of which appears to have then been where Paragon Place and The Avenue now stand. Within this triangle (which must have been subsequently enclosed from the Heath) stood a maze. The ground at the bottom of the slope, now occupied by the railway, is shown as Sir John Morden's vineyard and orchard, whilst at the point where Tranquil Vale and Montpelier Vale meet,

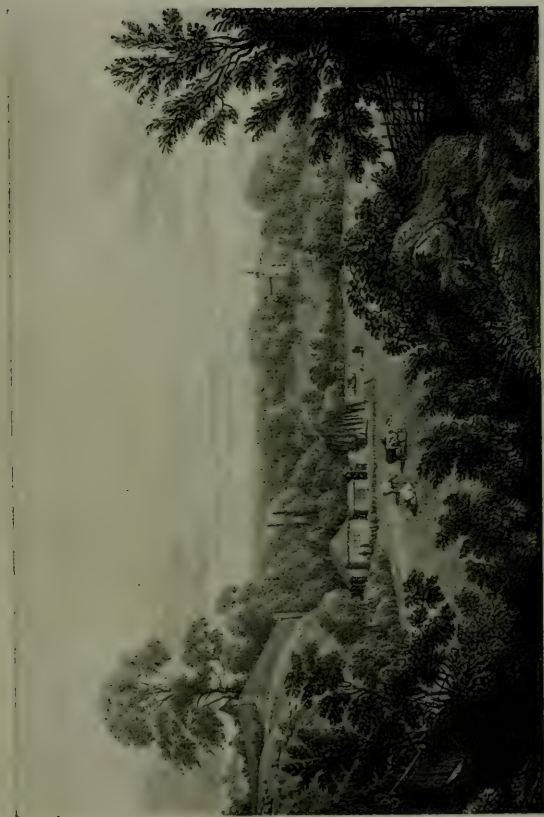


PLATE 17.—VIEW FROM LEWISHAM HILL TOWARDS LEE, 1823.

"Queen Elizabeth's Well" is shown. The irregular triangle bounded by the last-named roads and Royal Parade has been obviously enclosed from the Heath—probably during the 18th century—as also the portion now occupied by Lloyd's Place. The "Three Tuns" in Tranquil Vale is mentioned in Lewisham Parish Registers in 1737, when Richardson Headley, the innkeeper, was buried. Other Blackheath hostelries mentioned in the registers of the same year are the "Harrow" and the "Crooked Billet." They were then distinct houses, but whether they are both now represented by the "Hare and Billet" it is difficult to say.

The ground now occupied by the pits in front of Royal Parade is shown as "Gilbert's Piece" in 1695, and opposite the "Hare and Billet" was a portion called "Beggars' Bush," a cross marking the meeting of the roads. The part known as Blackheath Vale is an enclosure from the Heath, and was formerly a gravel pit. As previously described, the two windmills occupied the site of Mill House and Talbot Place.

Grote's Buildings and Eliot Place date from the 18th century, the former being apparently a little earlier than the latter, the houses in which appear in the "View of Blackheath by Moonlight," published by Carrington Bowles in 1770 (Plate 13). One of the houses in Eliot Place is dated 1792, and one in Eliot Vale 1805. Grote's Buildings are part of the Morden College Estate, and occupy ground anciently known as Ancock's Hill. The remainder of this side of the Heath and the southern slope generally, from Grote's Buildings to Granville Park and Eliot Hill, is the property of the Earl of St. Germans.

The Orchard and Aberdeen Terrace enclosures are the property of the Earl of Dartmouth. Holly Hedge House was originally an enclosure for a windmill. It was occupied by the Rev. the Hon. Henry Legge during his long tenure of the Vicarage of Lewisham (1831 to 1879). Since that time it has become the headquarters of the 2nd Vol. Batt. Royal West Kent Regiment (now the 20th London Battalion). Of the houses in Dartmouth Row we shall speak separately.

Granville Park was formed about 1850, and subsequently Eliot Park. Oakcroft Road has been made within the last few years on the grounds of the house known as "The Knoll."

No account of Blackheath would be complete without some reference, however brief, to its place in British sports. Golf, football, cricket, all have flourished here. The Royal Blackheath Golf Club was the first club formed in the South of England, and is said to owe its origin to James I, who brought the game with him from Scotland. However this may be, it is certain that the club was a fully-organised body in 1766, since it possesses a silver club bearing the inscription, "August 16, 1766, the gift of Mr. Henry Foot to the Honourable Company of Goffers at Blackheath." The course then appears to have been a five-hole one, altered in 1844 to seven holes. Nowadays the game is sadly restricted, owing to the

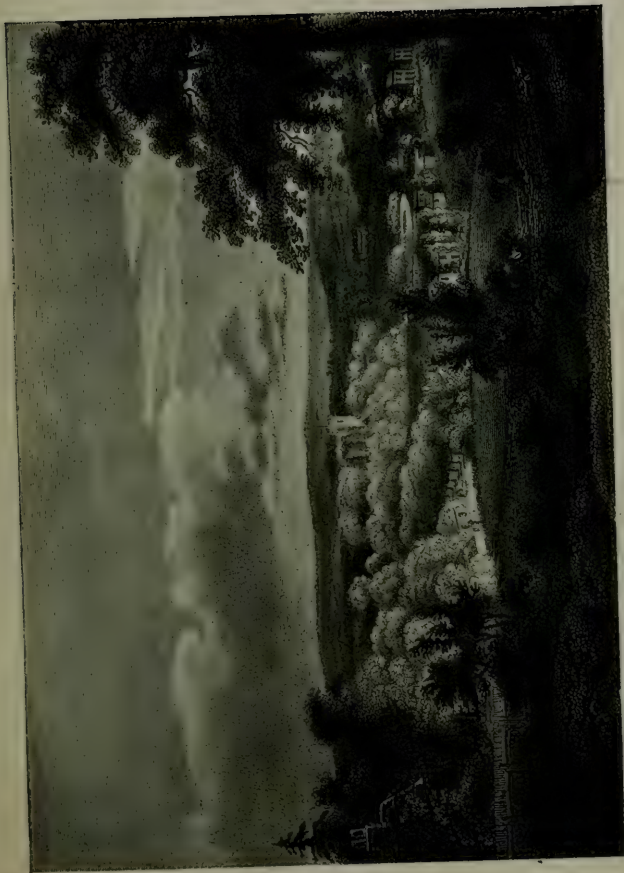


PLATE 18.—VIEW FROM LEWISHAM HILL, 1810.

crowded state of the Heath. An interesting portrait of Mr. William Innes, Captain in 1776, was painted by Lemuel F. Abbot, R.A., in 1790. He is attended by a Greenwich pensioner as a "caddie." In Rugby Football Blackheath is entitled to a place of high honour, and the encouragement both football and cricket received in the latter half of the 19th century from residents on and around Blackheath, no doubt largely contributed to the popularizing of those games amongst the working classes. The more important clubs nowadays play on private grounds, but the lover of sport cannot survey Blackheath on a Saturday afternoon with any other feeling but that of satisfaction.

In the survey of the King's Manor of Greenwich in 1695, and the map by Samuel Travers, Esq., the Surveyor-General attached thereto,\* the houses in what is now known as Dartmouth Row, are shown as "The New Buildings," and then numbered eleven, No. 1 occupying the ground between Blackheath Hill and Dartmouth Hill, Nos. 2 to 8 from Dartmouth Hill to Morden Hill, No. 9 the site of Dartmouth House (now the Greyladies) and the chapel adjoining, No. 10 the site of Perceval House, and No. 11, which was the Market House, at the corner of Dartmouth Place, the space between Dartmouth Place and Blackheath Hill and the Heath being occupied by the Bowling Green House, now the "Green Man."

These eleven houses were declared "encroachments" on the Heath, and to have been erected on pretence of a right to do so by grants or leases from Mrs. Graham or Lord Dartmouth. Lord Dartmouth disputed the claim that these houses were in the Manor of Greenwich, and it is evidence of how uncertainly the boundaries between Lewisham and Greenwich were defined at the time, that the Crown did not proceed in the matter, and Dartmouth Row and the greater part of Blackheath Hill were ultimately agreed to as belonging to Lewisham.

The houses on the western side of Dartmouth Row have been considerably altered, both externally and internally, but some of them still retain details which place their date at about 1670 or 1680.

On the eastern side of the Row, and at its northern end is the "Green Man" Hotel, formerly the Bowling Green House—the ground appears to have been first enclosed in 1629. Evelyn, in his diary, under date 9th May, 1683, says: "I went to Blackheath to see the new faire, being the first procured by the Lord Dartmouth. This was the first day, pretended for the sale of cattle, but I think in truth to enrich the new tavern at the bowling green, erected by Snape, His Majesty's farrier, a man full of projects. There appeared nothing but an innumerable assembly of drinking people from London, pedlars, etc., and I suppose it is too neere London to be of any great use to the country." Evelyn was right, and after a trial of some 90 years the fair was practically discontinued.

\* Printed in Kimball's "Charities of Greenwich."

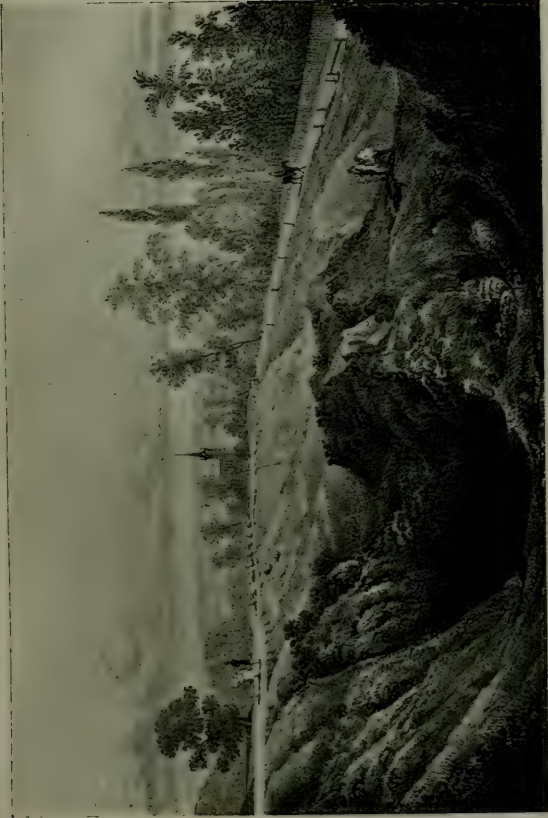


PLATE 10.—GRAVEL PITS AT THE TOP OF LEWISHAM HILL, 1823.

The "Bowling Green" was at one time a place of resort for persons coming to the Heath, and the Leathersellers' Company used to dine there when they came to the annual Visitation at the Grammar School. The name became changed to the "Green Man" towards the end of the 18th century. The house was rebuilt in 1869, when the old green was also built on. Lansdowne Place, at the back of the hotel, and facing the Heath, is built on a further enclosure from the Common. Two of the houses appear to be of a date about the middle of the 18th century, the others were built about 1855.

The Market House, which stood at the corner of Dartmouth Place, is shown in the map of 1695, but when it was pulled down is not recorded.

The best house in the Row is that known as Perceval House, so named after the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, who was assassinated on 11th May, 1812, in the lobby of the House of Commons, and who at the time was living here. In 1695 it was occupied by Sir Martin Beckenham. It has now been divided into two houses called "Perceval" and "Spencer" respectively.

The Church of the Ascension was founded by Mrs. Susannah Graham, at some date just prior to 1695, as it is shown on the plan of that year. The original building appears to have been the apsidal chancel and a portion of the present nave. The nave was extended to the road by the Fourth Earl of Dartmouth, about 1834. During the rebuilding of Lewisham Church, from 1774-7, it was constituted the Parish Church. A separate ecclesiastical district was assigned to it in 1883.

Dartmouth House, the last building in the Row, is a plain brick structure of the late Adams period. It was sold a short time since by the Earl of Dartmouth to the College of Grey Ladies.

Passing along Dartmouth Row southwards, and leaving Trail's Lane or Morden Hill on the right, we come to the southern slopes of Blackheath, at the top of Lewisham Hill. Of the condition of the gravel pits in 1823, we have a view by T. M. Baynes, reproduced in Plate 19, which will be readily recognised. The building of Aberdeen Terrace has nowadays shut out the view of Lee Church, and the line of trees along Eliot Hill, down which a horseman is to be seen riding in the view, was subsequently broken by the erection of "The Knoll." In the gravel pits was formerly a pump, which has, however, long disappeared. On the brow of the hill a small space was for some years railed off for a flagstaff and two cannon, the property of the local volunteers, but these have also been removed.

The house immediately at the top of Lewisham Hill, on the left, known as "The Hermitage," was rebuilt in the '70's. The view from this spot in 1823, is shown in another drawing by T. M. Baynes (Plate 20). The old wooden houses on the right were pulled down in the '70's, and the present brick villas erected in their place, Princes Road and Blackheath Rise dating from about the same time.



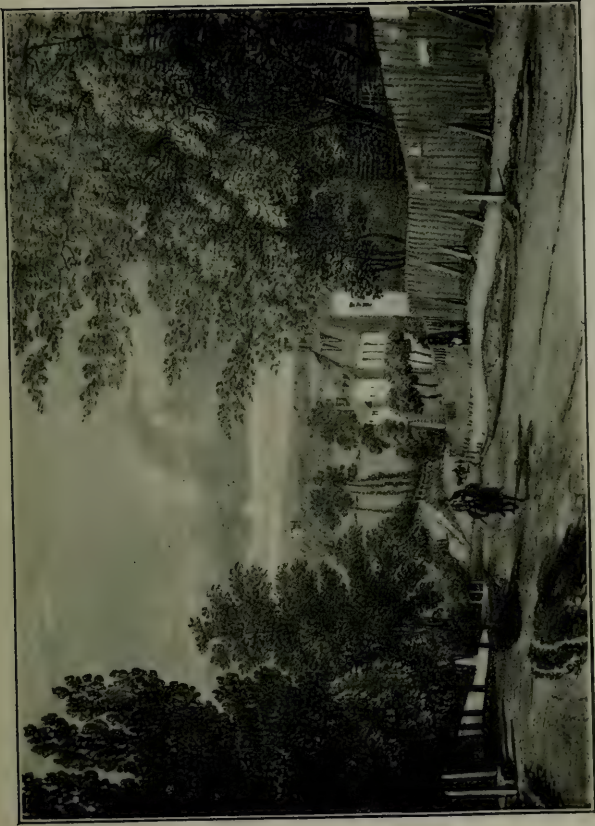


PLATE 20.—VIEW FROM LEWISHAM HILL, LOOKING SOUTHWARDS, 1823.

The whole of the left hand side of the hill was, prior to 1652, part of Blackheath, and was granted by the Court Leet and the Lord of the Manor (Raynold Graham) to the Rev. Abraham Colfe, as a site for his projected Grammar School. It is described by Colfe as of about two acres in area, "full of great pits and holes," and he was authorised to enclose this, provided he left a way one rod broad into "Coneyberry Field." This way and the field are now called Walerand Road.

A Grammar School had been founded in 1574 by the Rev. John Glynn, Vicar of Lewisham, whose executors obtained a charter of incorporation from Queen Elizabeth. When Mr. Colfe became Vicar in 1610, this school had languished for want of funds, and he was instrumental in the appointment of a fresh body of Governors, of which he was one. Later on he found it necessary to remodel the scheme and endow the school himself, and appointed the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers as perpetual Governors, for which purpose they were specially incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1664. Mr. Colfe erected the buildings himself, and the new school was opened on 10th June, 1652. Like all old Foundation Grammar Schools certain free places were reserved for deserving boys of the poorer classes. These are now allotted as scholarships. The school was to be conducted on the same lines as "Merchant Taylors, Pauls, and the free school of Eaton." In or about 1750, when the Rev. Edward Norton, an old Westminster boy, was headmaster, the school was enlarged by the addition of a wooden building on the north side for an additional number of boarders. This is shown in the view published in 1831 (Plate 22). In a room over the big schoolroom was for many years accommodated the Founder's Library, which was, with additions, maintained as a Free Library for the Hundred of Blackheath. Owing to settlements in the walls, this upper room was removed in 1807, and a wooden tower at the eastern end of the schoolroom erected, in the lower part of which the library was housed. The books are now almost entirely out of date, and are not of general interest, although some are good specimens of early typography. One contains Archbishop Cranmer's signature.

In 1890 the whole of the old buildings of the School were demolished, as the result of a new scheme, dated 15th September, 1887, and new buildings were erected at the cost of the Leathersellers' Company. These were added to in 1897 as a Jubilee gift, the total cost being about £12,000.

In the 18th century the school is spoken of as "a considerable boarding school." This element disappeared in 1880, and it is now a Day School only.

The ground above and below the school, formerly the headmaster's garden, was let on lease for building in 1861. In the upper portion, between Eliot Park and Walerand Road, was a spring, which supplied the house with water before the days of Water Companies and Boards.



PLATE 21.—COLFE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL, GARDEN FRONT, 1887.



PLATE 22.—COLFE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 1831.

Dartmouth Terrace, on the opposite side of the hill, was built about the year 1820.

Facing the foot of Lewisham Hill is Heath Terrace, built in 1854. On the site of the shops adjoining Heath Terrace was formerly an old wooden house called "The Manor House," the residence of Mr. Bennett, a friend of Charles Dickens, who, of course, is said to have written at least one of his books whilst on a visit here. It was the property of the Lord of the Manor.

The advent of the North Kent Railway in 1849 made great changes in the immediate surroundings. Granville Park was laid out for building about 1850, and the old "Plough" Inn was pulled down and rebuilt. Views of the old house from paintings are given



PLATE 23.—THE "PLOUGH" INN, ABOUT 1820.

in Plates 23 and 24. A small low bridge here spanned the Quaggy for carts, a wooden plank bridge sufficing for foot passengers. This part is marked the "Water splash," in Rocque's map of 1745, but the name does not occur elsewhere. The Quaggy joins the Ravensbourne at the rear of the "Plough" garden, and runs towards the Silk Mill. This mill, as we have seen, was previously known as Armoury Mill, and in mediæval times as Toddlesmill, being mentioned in the Court Rolls of the reign of Edward I. The mill pond has been filled in, and the site is now laid out as tennis courts.

The greater part of the land in Lewisham Road, from Lewisham Hill to Morden Hill, is the property of the Lord of the Manor, and was formerly Lammas, or half-year land, stretching

from Blackheath down the slopes to the Ravensbourne at the Mill. The houses are of various dates in the latter half of the 19th century. Further on, at Lethbridge Road, we reach the site of the Lime Kilns in Loats Pit. Here a vast quantity of chalk has been cut away, making a steep cliff at the rear of Dartmouth Row, on Blackheath. It is said that a large amount of the lime required for rebuilding London after the great fire, was obtained from this spot. A view, engraved by J. Course, about 1750, is given in Plate 12.

The ground between the "Plough" and Lewisham Bridge was an open green with trees thereon, called Plough Green, and a species of fair was held there on St. Thomas's Day, 21st December. It



PLATE 21.—THE "PLOUGH" INN, ABOUT 1840.

was enclosed in 1810, and built on, from the "Plough" to the "Duke of Cambridge," which later stood back from the road, the present house being built on the fore court of its predecessor.

The "Roebuck," on the opposite side of the road, which formerly stood some yards nearer London than its modern representative, was a picturesque wooden house, of which sketches are given in Plates 25 and 26. It is an old-established house, although the earliest mention in the Parish Registers is in 1740 when "Wm. Hart from Mr. Edmonds at the Roebuck was buried by y<sup>e</sup> Yew Tree."

The old house occupied the site of Nos. 40 and 42 High Street, Nos. 34 to 38 being built on the site of the garden or bowling



PLATE 25.—THE "OLD ROERUCK" AND THE PLOUGH GREEN, 1810.

green. In the garden was a famous chestnut tree, shown in the drawing in Plate 26. This is said, according to local tradition, to have been planted in 1683, and to have been the parent tree of those in Bushey Park. The stream, which ran through the village, passed the "Roebuck," and joined the Ravensbourne at Lewisham Bridge, which at this spot yielded many a good fish to the angler.

Lewisham Bridge is marked in Rocque's map of 1745 as "Stone Bridge," see Plate 7. If this is to be taken literally, it would indicate that one of the mediæval high-backed stone bridges existed at that date, which is not unlikely.



PLATE 26.—THE "ROEBUCK" INN, ABOUT 1830.

In the will of Christian Sprigg, widow, dated 17th August, 1473, is a bequest of 10s. "to the making of the bridge at the north end of the town of Lewisham."

The bridge which occupied this position for the first half of the 19th century was a red brick bridge, probably of 18th century date, narrow and sufficiently high to allow of boats going under it. It had three arches, the centre being the largest, and on either side were V-shaped refuges. These can be seen in the sketch (Plate 27). The foot traffic increased considerably with the removal of Lewisham railway station to its present position from that at the foot of Granville Park, on the opening of the Mid-Kent Line in January, 1857, and a wooden plank addition was made to the southern side of the bridge for the accommodation of foot



PLATE 27. — OLD LEWISHAM BRIDGE, LOOKING TOWARDS LOAMPIT VALE, 1810.



passengers. Carts could enter the river on the northern side for watering and drive through. The bridge was replaced in 1872-3 by the existing iron bridge.

The appearance of this part of the town was considerably changed by the making of the so-called Mid-Kent Railway in 1857, and later by the Tonbridge and Sevenoaks portion of the main line of the South Eastern in 1865. The former bounds the district called Loampit Vale on the east, and the latter passes directly through its centre. Passing over Lewisham Bridge, a turning on the left, now known as Mill Road, leads up to one of the many mills on the Ravensbourne. It is marked as "Corn Mill" on Rocque's map of 1745. There is a group of cottages of 18th century date on the right-hand side of the road, before the mill is reached, formerly known as Botany Bay. The name occurs in the Parish Registers from 1791 onwards and is said to have arisen from the character of the then inhabitants.

Retracing our steps to the Bridge, and passing under the archway of the Mid-Kent line, there are a few 18th century houses on the left-hand side of the road, and others of the early part of the 19th century in Elmira Street and adjoining roads, and the intervening space has been filled in of more recent years. On the right-hand side the houses are nearly all of a date from about 1860 onwards, but a few older buildings fringe the highway on either side of the road where the main line of the South Eastern Railway crosses.

Sundermead, one of the great fields of the Manor, occupied the ground from Loampit Vale to the river at the Silk Mill. The railway now runs through it to Lewisham Station and Thurston Road, Jerrard and Horton Streets are built on part of it. The name in modern times has been corrupted to "Sundry Meadow" and "Thundery Mead." The works of Messrs. Elliott Brothers are built on a field called Lock Mead, which was partly in Lewisham and partly in Greenwich.

The portion of our route called Loampit Vale is marked on the map of 1745 by the more undignified title of Loampit Hole. It was then a well-known locality for a rich loam which seems to have been worked for a considerable period.

In the early part of the 19th century, Messrs. John and Henry Lee held the ground on either side of Loampit Vale, and the slopes of Loampit Hill up to the parish boundary were converted into brick fields, until the available material was exhausted. As Loampit Hill is approached there is an outcrop of chalk, and on the rising ground Mr. Lee built himself a house shown in Plate 28. This still stands, and was known for many years as Ellerslie House. The brick fields on the right hand side of the road are now occupied by Elswick Road, Sunninghill Road, etc.

On the left-hand side of Loampit Hill the loam and chalk have been cut away to a considerable depth. On a portion of the rising ground Mr. J. E. Lee built another residence, known as Loampit

Hill House. On this property and the chalk pits several roads have recently been built, with the more or less appropriate names of Shell Road, Undercliff Road, etc.

At the top of Loampit Hill, the boundary between Lewisham and Deptford is reached. This runs by the side of the Nunhead and Greenwich Railway on the right. On the left the boundary formerly ran along the lane, called in modern times White Post Lane, at the rear of the gardens of the houses in Tyrwhitt Road, but by a recent rearrangement the eastern side of Tyrwhitt Road now forms the boundary.

Having reached the parish boundary on the London Road we must now retrace our steps to Lewisham Bridge, and start again

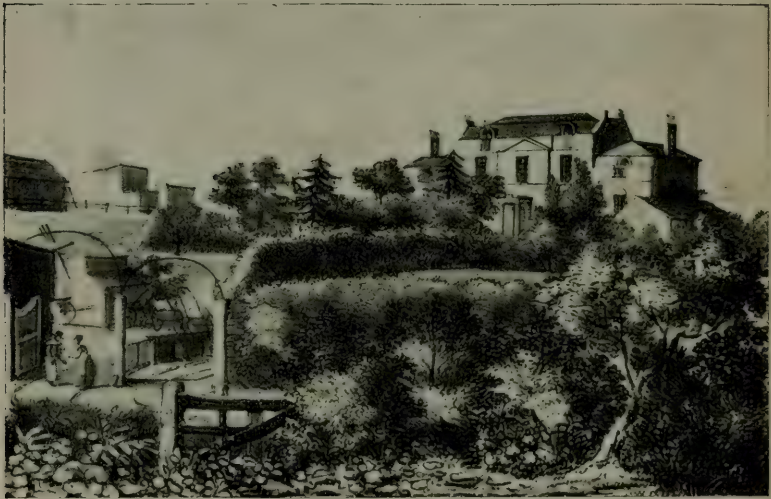


PLATE 28.—MR. LEE'S HOUSE, LOAMPIT HILL, 1824.

from "The Obelisk." This, by-the-way, is a misnomer. The site was occupied formerly by a lamp post, which was replaced by a fountain with lights overhead. This was popularly dubbed "The Obelisk," and the name has remained.

Down to about the year 1840, the ground on the further side of the Quaggy from the Plough Bridge to Lee Bridge was farm land, corn and pasture, with the well-wooded rising ground of "Belmont" and "The Cedars" in the rear. A small stream from Wricklemarsh, which occupied the valley in which the Blackheath Railway now runs, after feeding the ponds in the grounds of "The Cedars" emptied itself into the Quaggy. Two or three small villas were built near Lee Bridge, by the turning to Belmont Hill, and

about 1840 the High Pavement (with the shops thereon) was constructed. In 1865 the new ecclesiastical district of St. Stephen was formed, and the church was built by the Rev. S. Russell Davies, M.A., from the designs of Sir Gilbert Scott, in the style of the opening years of the 13th century. From an architectural point of view St. Stephen's is undoubtedly the best church in the parish. The ground on which it is built was marshy, and this has hitherto prevented the completion of the building with a tower, which would no doubt add to the appearance of this part of the town. The boundary between Lee and Lewisham was formed by the small stream alluded to above, and passing behind St. Stephen's Church came down the southern side of St. Stephen's Road to the Quaggy, which from this point forms the boundary between the two parishes as far as Manor Park.

Turning to the western side of the High Street, at the "Roebuck," we have Rennell Street and Molesworth Street, which were originally small villa roads, which sprang up soon after the opening of Lewisham Railway Station.

At the corner of Rennell Street stood the Lewisham Toll-gate House. This was set up in 1849, and removed in 1866.

The small terrace of four shops from the corner of Rennell Street date from about the same period as that thoroughfare, but those which follow are part of Old Lewisham. They consisted of three small wooden houses, long since turned into shops, and three brick houses of the 18th century, which have shared the same fate. The centre house (now the "Joiners' Arms") is being rebuilt as these lines are being written.\* Three shops, with gables and windows of mid-Victorian Tudor, come next; they probably occupy the site of older houses whose memorial is vanished. Adjoining the shops just mentioned was an older house occupied by the Shoves, father and son, for more than half-a-century. It was pulled down and rebuilt in 1907. The double-fronted villa which is the next building southwards, was converted into a large shop, which has in its turn been divided into two.

We have now reached the block of buildings which covers the site of the old "Lion and Lamb" Inn and its stables, whilst opposite us, on the site now occupied by the Bank and other shops, was Lewisham (or Watch-house) Green, on which stood the Cage or Lock-up, and the Village Stocks.

The "Lion and Lamb" was one of the old Lewisham hostelries, nearly all of which have been rebuilt in recent years. It is mentioned in the Parish Registers of 1700, and is no doubt even older. At that date it was held by the Holmes family, and it is recorded that Mrs. Holmes planted a yew tree in the churchyard in memory of her husband. In 1732 there is the baptism of "Thomas a foundling at the Lyon and Lamb doore." One wonders which name was adopted for him! The house was a long low building of the type

\* Others have since been rebuilt at this point.

often found in country villages, with a porch to the main entrance. In the 19th century this latter was removed, and the front considerably modernized (and spoilt). It was pulled down in 1899, when the present shops (Nos. 90 and 92) were built on the site, and the licensed premises needlessly renamed "The Salisbury," were moved a little northwards to their present position.

Lewisham (or Watch-house) Green included the whole of the "island" between Lewis Grove and High Street. It was enclosed in 1810. The yeomanry are said to have encamped there in the early part of the 19th century, during the Napoleon scare. The Cage and Stocks stood on the site now occupied by the London and Provincial Bank. Representations are given in

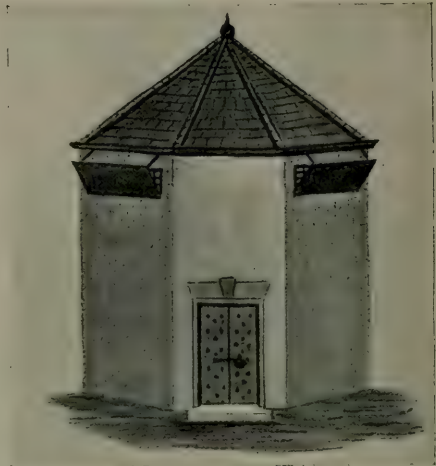


PLATE 29.—THE CAGE, LEWISHAM, ABOUT 1840.

the accompanying sketches. The last occupants were burnt alive. It is supposed that they set the straw, given them as bedding, alight by smoking, the constable who held the key could not be found, and

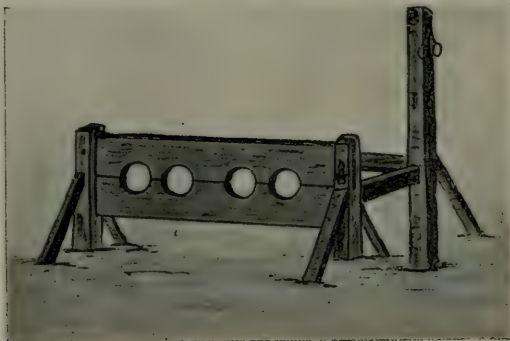


PLATE 30.—THE STOCKS, LEWISHAM, ABOUT 1840.

the unfortunate men were literally roasted to death. The last occupant of the Stocks is said to have been placed therein for abusing "Squire" Thackeray, one of the local Justices, who was dispensing the law at the "Lion and Lamb" opposite.

## CHAPTER II.

## AN ITINERARY THROUGH LEE.



T will at this point be convenient to turn aside from the Lewisham High Street to make a survey of the neighbouring Parish of Lee, which, with the Parish of Lewisham, makes up the Metropolitan Borough. The Parish of Lee is a very ancient one, and the manor prior to the Conquest was held of King Edward the Confessor by a Saxon named Aluvin. It was seized by the Conqueror, and with many others in this county conferred upon his half-brother Odo, Bishop of Baieux and Earl of Kent, of whom it was held by Walter de Douai at the time of the Domesday enquiry. It was then assessed at half a solin – or at one quarter that of Lewisham. In the time of Edward the Confessor the land under cultivation was that workable by four plough-teams. In 1085 (the date of the enquiry) this had not increased, as we are told that in the demesne there were two plough-teams, whilst eleven villans and two cottars between them had two also. There were two families of slaves on the demesne. There were also five acres of meadow, and for the use of the wood lands the tenants gave ten hogs yearly, *i.e.*, the wood land was a fifth of that in Lewisham. The yearly value of the manor used to be £3, but in 1085 it was 100s. From this statement, then, we gather that, beside the family of Walter de Douai, there were fifteen households within the manor or a population say of seventy souls.

The manor passed to Robert de Baunton, son of William de Douai, who endeavoured, as we have seen, to enlarge his possessions by seizing Lewisham and Greenwich from the Abbot of Ghent. His only daughter married William de Paynell, whose grandson, William Paynell, sold the manor in 1225 to Richard de Montefichet, by whom it was given as a marriage dower to his sister Philippa Montefichet, the wife of Hugh de Plaiz. Richard de Montefichet was one of the barons selected to enforce King John's observance of Magna Charta.

About this time a family named Banquel had become land-owners in the district, possessing the subsidiary Manor of Shrafholt (or Shroffolds) in Lewisham—the border country so to speak between the parishes of Lee, Lewisham, and Bromley. The name is variously spelt Bonquer, Banquel, Bankwell, and was finally shortened down to Bankers. Sometime during the reign of Edward III the Banquels became possessed also of the Manor of Lee, so that when Thomas Banquel died in 1361 his possessions in Lee and the surrounding neighbourhood were considerable. From the Banquels, Lee and Shrafholt passed to Sir Richard

Stury in the reign of Richard II. He was a person of considerable influence in Edward III's reign, and shared with Alice Perrers the control of the king in his old age. In the next reign he took a leading part in the politics of the day, and was an active supporter of the Lollards. His grandson alienated the manor to Richard Wydeville in 1445. Wydeville was created Baron Rivers in 1447, and Edward IV, who had married his daughter Elizabeth, advanced him to the dignity of Earl, making him Constable of England in 1465.

Earl Rivers was seized by a body of Lancastrians at Northampton in 1469, and beheaded by order of the Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick. His son Anthony was beheaded at Pontefract in 1483, by order of the Duke of Gloucester, on a charge of suspected treason, when the title and estates came to



PLATE 31.—LEE BRIDGE HOUSE.

Richard his brother, and he, dying in 1491 without issue, appointed his nephew, Lord Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, his heir.

His life being threatened by Richard III, the marquis fled to Brittany, and joined Henry Earl of Richmond on the accession of the latter to the throne. After the Battle of Bosworth he resumed possession of Lee and his other property. His son exchanged the Manor of Lee, with Bankers and Shroffold, with Henry VIII in 1512 for other lands in Leicestershire.

The manor remained with the Crown until the year 1631, when Charles I granted it to Ralph Freeman, of Aspeden in Hertfordshire, Lord Mayor of London in 1633, and he, by will, left

the manor to his grandson, Freeman Sondes, of Lees Court, Sheldwich, Kent, who, dying young, the property came to his father, Sir George Sondes, Kt., who was created Earl of Faversham. He left two daughters, and the manor eventually came, in 1709, to Catherine the younger, who married Lewis Watson, Earl of Rockingham.

The manor remained in the possession of this family until 1798, when Lewis Thomas, second Baron Sondes, sold Lee, Shroffold and Bankers to Sir Francis Baring, Bart., from whom they have descended to the present Earl of Northbrook.

The manor Pound formerly stood on the eastern side of Burnt Ash Road, near Lee Green. At the Court Leet a bailiff, aleconner, and hogwarden were chosen. The meetings seem to have been regularly held until about 1809. In 1841 the jurors were again summoned, but since then the Court has lapsed. The quit-rents, which represent the money payments in lieu of personal service of the free tenants amounted to about £40 a year.

With this preliminary sketch of the lords of the Manor of Lee, we will cross Lee Bridge and proceed by way of Belmont Hill. Lee Bridge, built in 1792, has been replaced in recent years by an iron girder bridge. The whole of the roadway here has been considerably raised to keep it above the level of the Quaggy, which in times past was wont to overflow its banks and flood the surrounding country.

Belmont Hill is called Lewisham Lane on Rocque's map of 1745. In the return of church property made in 1634 to the Archbishop of Canterbury it is styled Lee Lane or Butt Lane. The land on the right-hand side of the hill and at the lower end of the left-hand side, as far as Belmont Road, is the property of the Earl of St. Germans, but from Belmont Road to Boyne Road there is an estate which is part of the endowment of Morden College. On this site was one of those mounts dear to the folk of the early part of the 19th century, from which in those days a very picturesque view could be obtained. In 1830, a house was built on the spot by Mr. George L. Taylor, Surveyor of the Dockyards, and called "Belmont," which thereupon gave its name to the road. The house was afterwards occupied by Mr. John Wainwright, and pulled down in 1907, when Boyne Road and Caterham Road were made and the estate built over. The road was formerly a narrow and somewhat steep country lane, the only houses being "Lee Grove" ("The Cedars") and the Rectory, with the church. The crown of the hill was cut down in 1830, and the road straightened to the lodge gates of "The Cedars"; subsequently it was diverted so as to skirt the gardens of that house.

"The Cedars," formerly known as "Lee Grove," was originally a small house, where dwelt one Will Prat, who was a well-known London character and sheriff in 1734, and he died here in 1746. In 1733 it belonged to Mr. John Lucas, and in 1766 to Mr. Thomas

Edlyne. Subsequently it belonged to Miss Boyfield, who planted the cedar trees. She sold it in 1790 to Mr. Samuel Brandram, who greatly improved the property, forming the lakes out of the little stream from Wricklemarsh, and adding to the house, a view of which in 1838 is given in Plate 32. His son, Mr. Thomas Brandram, had designed to let the whole estate of fifty-one acres for building, and made a beginning with the houses in Belmont Grove. He died in 1855, and the property was purchased by Mr. John Penn, who re-named the estate "The Cedars," and during his lifetime spent a considerable sum in remodelling the house and adding to the beauty of the grounds. After his death in 1878 and to the present day his widow has continued to



PLATE 32.--"LEE GROVE" ("THE CEDARS"), 1838.

reside there. His son, the late Mr. John Penn, was the second member of Parliament for the newly-constituted Borough of Lewisham.

Near the upper lodge gate formerly stood the Rectory house, which was rebuilt by the rector, the Rev. Abraham Sherman, in 1636, and was pulled down in 1866, when the grounds were purchased by Mr. Penn to enlarge those of "The Cedars," a new rectory being built at a short distance along the road on glebe land. A view of the old house is given in Plate 33.

We have now arrived at the parish church of St. Margaret,





PLATE 33.—LEE RECTORY AND PARISH CHURCH, 1841.

Lee, which formerly stood on the left or northern side of the road in the old graveyard. Of the original church little or no description is necessary, as we fortunately possess drawings of it, two of which are reproduced in Plates 34 and 35. It will be seen that it was very small, being only 56ft. in length. Within the church were brasses to Nicholas Ansleye, Sergeant of the Cellar to Queen Elizabeth, died 1593; to Elizabeth Covhyll, 1513; Henry Byrde, 1545; and Isabell Hatteclyf, wife of Nicholas Ansleye, 1582. These are preserved in the present church. A tablet to Bryan Annesley and his family, 1604, is preserved on the base of the old tower.

This church was taken down in 1813, and another erected in "Strawberry hill Gothic" with aisles, to meet the increase in



PLATE 34.—THE OLD CHURCH, LEE, FROM A WATER-COLOUR DRAWING, ABOUT 1800.

the population, but this again proving insufficient a new church was built on the opposite side of the road in 1839, and consecrated on 11th March, 1841. This was subsequently enlarged in 1876, and a considerable sum has been spent at various times in beautifying the interior.

Proceeding along Lee Terrace we pass several villas, some of which were built in and about 1825, and others of somewhat later date. At the end of Lee Terrace on the north side, and at the turning down into Blackheath Village, are the buildings of the Blackheath Proprietary School. This school was started in January, 1830, by residents at Blackheath, to provide, as a day

school, the same type of education commonly associated with the term "public school." For a time the school was very successful, especially during the principalship of the Rev. E. J. Selwyn, M.A., when the numbers reached 274, and several boarding-houses were started in connection with it. In the days of his successor, the Rev. J. Kempthorne, M.A., the numbers reached 284, but afterwards declined, until in 1907 the committee decided to close the school after 77 years working. During its existence the school turned out many first-rate men, and its list of scholars is one of which any institution might be proud. The honours' boards are preserved in the corridor of the Blackheath Concert Hall.

At the end of Lee Terrace we are on Cresswell Hill, and, turning southward, we have in front of us Lee Road—down which



PLATE 35 —THE OLD CHURCH, LEE, FROM AN ENGRAVING, 1809.

runs the boundary between Lee, Charlton and Kidbrook—and Lee Park. Northwards, at the foot of the hill, is Blackheath Railway Station, opened in July, 1849. Close to the station is the School for the Sons of Missionaries, opened in 1857, and the Blackheath Congregational Church, built in 1853.

What is now known as Lee Park is shown on Rocque's map of 1745 as "Lee Green," and Lee Road is styled "Lee Green Lane." It was formerly leased to the owner of Dacre House (which stood in Brandram Road) as a park, but on the death of Lady Dacre in 1808 it was cut up for building purposes, houses

being built first at the north-east corner towards Blackheath Village and afterwards along Lee Road. The avenue diagonally through the property was converted into the road named Lee Park, houses being built on either side.

Lee Road was a very rural spot in the early part of the 19th century, with much broom and furze, which also abounded in Lee Park. At the south end of Lee Road we arrive at Lee Green (so-called nowadays). The Green was formerly about two acres in extent, with a few cottages and the "Tiger's Head" Inn, which was originally built about 1766. A windmill also existed on the eastern side. The whole of this part of the parish was much subject to inundations from the sudden rising of the Quaggy, and at Christmas, 1830, the water is recorded as having been 7ft. deep at Lee Green. The Green was a favourite resort for meetings not always conducted in the quietest manner. It was gradually built over, Wall's Place, Eastbourne and Gordon Terraces being built on part of it. Races were formerly held in Lee Park until the building operations began, when they were held in the Harrow meadows (so named from a public-house called the "Harrow," which formerly stood there).

A short distance along the Eltham Road stood the farm buildings of Lee Green Farm, and near the boundary with Eltham the Lee Toll Gate, which was abolished in 1866. The boundary between Lee and Eltham passes across the Eltham Road and through Horne Park southwards, Burnt Ash Road running centrally through this part of the parish. The origin of this name is obscure. In early documents it is called Brindishe. It may be derived from the making of charcoal from the wood which formerly covered the southern part of the parish.

Half-way up Burnt Ash Hill we come to the turning to Bromley, now known as Baring Road. This leads to Grove Park, so named from Grove Farm then existing. Burnt Ash Hill itself continues into Burnt Ash Lane, formerly known as Marvell's Lane, so called from its leading to "The Marvells," a farm and piece of woodland at the Bromley end of the parish. The boundary of the parish on the west is formed for some distance by a small stream which runs by the side of Shrofield's Manor in Lewisham. This stream runs at the rear of the Lee Cemetery and along the side of Hither Green Lane, and, passing under the S.E. Railway, joins the Quaggy in Manor Park.

Returning to Lee Green on our way back to Lewisham we come to the bridge over the Quaggy, which was enlarged about 1825 to allow the water to flow more freely with a view to obviate the overflowing of the river. Camden Place was built at the same time, the first of the modern smaller houses. Boone's Almshouses, a little further towards London, were built in 1875 on the removal of the original buildings, to which we shall refer presently. Lampmead Road commemorates a field formerly given to Lee Church to maintain a lamp in the church before the altar. Confiscated at the

Reformation, it was granted to Mr. William Hatcliffe, who again left it to the Parish Church. Of the building on Lee Park we have already spoken.

That portion of the High Road between the two ends of the Old Road was cut through the grounds of "Lee Place" in 1826. This may be regarded as the centre of the parish, and it was in that part of the High Road, now called the Old Road, that the larger houses were formerly grouped.

"Lee Place" stood on the north side of the Old Road, between that thoroughfare and where the High Road now runs. The latter is on the site of the gardens and of a piece of ornamental water therein, probably part of an ancient moat. The house, which was a red brick mansion of late Tudor date, belonged, in the 17th



PLATE 36.—BOONE'S OLD ALMSHOUSES, HIGH ROAD, LEE.

century, to Mr. Christophier Boone, the founder of the almshouses, and it remained in the possession of that family until the death of Mr. Charles Boone in 1819, when it passed to his only daughter, Lady Drummond. It was tenanted for some years by Mr. Benjamin Aislabie, who took an active part in parochial life, and after whom Aislabie Road is named. It was sold in 1824, when it was pulled down, the new High Road made, and Church Street, Dacre Street, etc., built on the grounds.

On the south side of the Old Road, at its eastern end, was Lee

House, which stood on the site of the mansion of Sir Thomas Fludyer. It was built in 1830 by Sir Francis B. Morland, and was pulled down about 1886, when the estate of some eight acres was built over.

Between this house and the Manor House was another house, of which Mr. Bonar was a tenant until his removal to Camden House, Chislehurst, where he and his wife were murdered by a valet in 1813.

The Manor House was built by Mr. Thomas Lucas about 1780, and has been at times occupied by the Lords of the Manor. Amongst the better known tenants of recent times was Mr. Wolfram, the army coach. In 1902 the house and grounds were sold by Lord Northbrook to the London County Council for use as a free library, etc., and public park.



PLATE 37.—THE SEAT OF THE LATE LORD DACRE, LEE.

Pentland House, which adjoins Manor House, is an old red brick house of the latter part of the 17th century, but the face has been stuccoed.

Manor Lodge, which stood at right angles to Pentland House, was the old Manor Farmhouse, and in the rear is Manor Lane, which formerly led to the farm. On the western side of the Old Road was formerly a large house called "The Firs" (previously Lee Lodge). This was the seat of the Papillon family, the Sladen family, and, lastly, of Mr. John Wingfield Larking. Shortly after his death in 1891, the house was pulled down, and the whole estate was built over (Abernethy, Rembrandt, Lochaber and Murillo Roads).

In the High Road, opposite the entrance to the Old Road, were the almshouses built and endowed by Mr. Christopher Boone in 1683 (Plate 36). The houses were pulled down in 1877, but the old chapel, said to have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren, has been permitted to remain. The Merchant Taylors' Company, who are the trustees, purchased the ground in the rear, and erected a further set of almshouses in 1826.

Brandram Road was formerly a country avenue by the side of the Boone estate, leading up towards Dacre House, which stood on the right-hand side at the top of the ascent. This house was occupied by Sir John Lade in 1745, and was afterwards the seat of Sir Samuel Fludyer, who died here in 1768. His niece, Mary, married Charles Trevor Roper, 18th Baron Dacre. She died in 1808. After being leased to various tenants, the grounds were eventually built over. A view of the house is given in Plate 37. In its later days it was, like so many others, stuccoed over and spoilt. The view from the house in its prime is said to have been one of much beauty.

Manor Park, with Northbrook Road, perpetuate the name of the old Manor Farm, together with that of the owner (the Earl of Northbrook).

Weardale Road is an enlargement of a pleasant field-path by the side of the Quaggy, which, crossing over the river by a foot bridge, entered another field-path in Lewisham Parish, known as Hokum Pokum, which led towards Lewisham Church. Its route can still be traced via Dermody Gardens and Ryecroft Road. At the corner of the road stood a small house, known as "Rose Cottage," on the site of which the "Rose of Lee" is built, the adjoining shops being built on the garden. The greater part of the roads on the opposite side of the road—Belmont Park (at first named Middleton Road) and Blessington Road—are on the property of the Merchant Taylors' Company, and were formed in the late "fifties" and early "sixties." Holy Trinity Church was opened in 1863.

At the corner of Eastdown Park is the Lee Baptist Chapel, which was built in 1854. Adjoining are a few small houses of late 18th century date, followed by the detached villas, known formerly as Lee Place, which were built about 1812. They were the first of their kind to be erected in the parish, and were built by Messrs. John and Henry Lee, of Loampit Hill. Between these houses and Lee Bridge there were, at the end of the 18th century, a few villas standing in their own gardens, with the brook and the fields of the College Farm in the rear. Early in the 19th century small houses (Albion Place), subsequently turned into shops, were built on the gardens. Some of these were in their turn rebuilt, and a large number were removed in 1906-7, when the electric tramways were laid down.

## CHAPTER III.

## FROM THE CLOCK TOWER TO THE VICARAGE.



WE have now returned to Lee Bridge, and will continue our survey of Lewisham High Street. The Clock Tower, which stands at the parting of the ways, was erected as a memorial of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, 1897. The cost was met partly by subscription and partly from a fund left by Mr. Michael Whitehall, an old inhabitant. It is in a species of English Renaissance, but the expense caused the omission of a series of panels bearing coats of arms, and this detracts much from its appearance.



PLATE 38.—MR. ALLEN'S HOUSE, HIGH STREET, LEWISHAM (NOW NO. 108).

Next to the old "Lion and Lamb" came the stables of the house which still exists as two shops (Nos. 102 and 104), and can be readily distinguished from its red brick neighbours. It was a comfortable residence of the latter part of George III's time, with high iron railings in front and a row of white flags leading up to the entrance door. Here lived for many years Mr. Steele, a Quaker, and subsequently a Mr. Cresswell. Opposite this house, in what is now the roadway, were two fine elm trees, which, like



so many of the trees which were the glory of Lewisham, have been needlessly removed.

The shops from the turning to the Lewisham Postmen's Office to John's Place (Nos. 108 to 120) occupy the site of an ancient house, with its gardens, of which a representation from a faded photograph is given in Plate 38. The house itself occupied the position now taken by Nos. 108 and 110, and appears to have been of Elizabethan date, or even older. It was occupied for many years by Mr. Septimus Allen. A modern Gothic villa, known as Brooke House, was built about 1840 on the site of Nos. 112 and 114, the old house was pulled down and a villa (now No. 108) erected in its stead, whilst a similar villa (now 120) was built on a portion of the garden. Brooke House in its turn was



PLATE 38.—SKETCH OF MR. WM. ALLEN'S HOUSE, ON SITE OF AVENUE ROAD.

also demolished, and the intervening space between No. 108 and No. 120 filled in with the present red brick shops. In front was a pleasant grove of plane trees, which are, alas, no more. The stream which ran through the town in days gone by has left a good memorial of itself in this part of the High Street in the wide pieces of green which with a little more care might be made one of the chief attractions of the borough.

From John's Place to Fuller's Place we have the site of a long low white house and its gardens, tenanted by Mr. William Allen, father of Mr. Septimus Allen alluded to above, a lawyer of Lincoln's Inn Fields. The house itself stood where Avenue Road now runs, and the green in front, now partly a costermongers' market, was known as Allen's Green, and a favourite place for "rounders" by

the village youth of the time. Avenue Road takes its name from a long avenue of poplar trees which extended towards Fuller's Place. The house was pulled down about 1835, when Avenue Road was formed, the shops from John's Place to Avenue Road were built and named Frederick's Place, and also Lewisham Terrace, between Avenue Road and Fuller's Place. All these changes marked the increase of population caused by the move of Londoners towards the suburbs.

On the other side of the road, occupying the site of Clarendon Road, Albion Road, Bonfield Road and Gilmore Road was College Farm, part of the endowment of the College of The Holy Trinity at Greenwich, founded in 1613 by the Earl of Northampton. The



PLATE 40.—COLLEGE FARM HOUSE, 1860.

farm house (Plate 40) stood on the ground now occupied by Nos. 131 to 135, at the corner of Albion Road.

In Clarendon Road is St. Mark's Church, built in 1870. Lower down the road is the Baptist Church, built in 1873. In Albion Road is the Wesleyan Church, built in 1867. The first Wesleyan centre was formed in 1822, in a room near Lewisham Bridge. In 1838 a small chapel was built in Avenue Road, which was enlarged in 1863, and is now occupied by the Salvation Army.

At the top of College Park is Holly Hedge Terrace, which is

named after a famous holly hedge which it replaces. Eastward of this is the ground belonging to Lord Dartmouth, formerly called Quaggs, and now covered by Dermody Road (named after the poet) and part of Pascoe and Ennersdale Roads to the river. Eastdown Park perpetuates the ancient name of the slope on which it, with Wisteria Road, is built, a name at least as old as the 14th century.

Adjoining College Farm, in the High Street, were two old houses of the 18th century, now Nos. 137 to 141, marked in plans of 1793 as "Mr. Evan's Estate." Their position, occupying but little space, hemmed in between the College property and that of "The Limes," then the property of Lord Eliot, is curious. Of



PLATE 41.—THE OLD "WHITE HART" INN, 1870.

"The Limes" we shall have more to say, and meanwhile we will cross the road and continue the story from Fuller's Place. At the corner of this lane for many years stood the village smithy (the chestnut tree, it will be remembered, was down by the "Roebuck.") After the smithy, the site was tenanted as a baker's, but has for some time now been devoted to secondhand books. The next house has always been a butcher's as long as the oldest inhabitant can remember.

The "White Hart," which stood on the site of No. 162, and of which a representation is given in Plate 41, was another of the old Lewisham wayside inns, although, curiously enough, there is no mention of it in the Parish Registers or other documents. The

house, it will be seen, appears to have been of the 17th century. The present building occupies the site of the old stabling, in the forecourt of which were chestnut trees with seats beneath for the beguilement of the traveller. It was built in 1886.

Nos. 168 and 170 take the place of two weather-boarded cottages shown in Plate 42, whilst on the site of Nos. 174-6 were two small cottages with windows which were doubtless intended to be Gothic, and spoke plainly of the early Victorian period. The row of small houses, Nos. 180 to 198, now all turned into shops, belong also to the early years of Queen Victoria. The modern shops, Nos. 198 to 204, occupy the space of a small



PLATE 42.—OLD HOUSES NEAR THE "WHITE HART" (NOW NOS. 168 TO 178).

whitewashed house of the 18th century. Bath House, now No. 208, is apparently another of the early 19th century villas which sprang up along the roads leading from London when the first movement to the suburbs took place.

We have now arrived at the Bridge House Mill, and must cross the road to the site of "The Limes."

This spot, sacred to the memory of John Wesley, is now the site of the shops numbered 169 and 171, which bear a tablet, "'The Limes,' rebuilt 1903." The house had been much altered and added to from time to time, but was apparently originally built in the 17th century. The house and garden immediately

surrounding it belonged to Lord Eliot, and were leased by Mr. Valentine Sparrow, whose widow died in 1748, Mr. John Wesley preaching her funeral sermon. He first visited Lewisham in 1746, and in 1747 speaks of "retiring to Mrs. Sparrow's, at Lewisham." Mr. Ebenezer Blackwell, of the old banking firm of Martin, of the "Grasshopper," in Lombard Street, then took up the lease of the house, and also purchased the ground now occupied by Limes Grove and the houses in the High Street to Morley Road. This part of the property had another house, which stood about a hundred yards from "The Limes," with a small open green between it and "The Limes" gates.\* Mr. Blackwell spent much time in beautifying the grounds, with a summer-house at the top of what is now Limes Grove. Mr. Wesley very frequently retired to



PLATE 43.—"THE LIMES," 1835.

"The Limes," and there wrote many of his sermons and other works until Mr. Blackwell's death in 1782. His estate was afterwards purchased by Mr. Henry Mills, who also purchased from Lord Eliot the freehold of "The Limes," and obtained permission from the Manor Court in 1804 to enclose the small green mentioned above. He was succeeded by his nephew, Mr. Edward Legh, who in 1858 built the houses known as Limes Terrace, Nos. 143 to 155, opened up Limes Grove for building, and also erected (1851-3) the houses from Limes Grove to Morley Road. Later, in 1867, the houses Nos. 175 to 185 were built on a further portion of the

\* The new Prudential Buildings stand on the site of the house and green.

garden. In 1894 the whole property was sold by Mr. Legh's trustees, when the shops Nos. 161 to 167 were built on the site of the stables, and the old house itself disappeared. *Sic transit*, and the story of this house and its grounds is that of nearly every other estate, not only in Lewisham but all round London.

An engraving of the house appeared in the "Youth's Instructor" for 1835, and is here reproduced in Plate 43.

The ground now occupied by Slaithwaite, Morley and Lingards Roads is the property of the Earl of Dartmouth as Lord of the Manor, and was known as "Forelands," probably the same as "Porlange" in a survey of the Manor of Lewisham in 1370, the acreage (10 acres) being also identical.

On the opposite or western side of the High Street on passing Bath House we come to part of the Bridge House Estates, which comprise the mill lately known as "Riverdale," with the land around and the houses in the High Street known as Camden Place.

The mill is a very ancient one, and there is little doubt it is on the site of one of those mentioned in Domesday. In 1299 it is spoken of in the Court Rolls as "The Mill of London Bridge," but subsequently appears to have been known as "Semanesmill," possibly from the name of a miller. In 1420 it is called variously "Seemanysmill" and "Brigesmill." In Rocque's map of 1745 it is called a Leather Mill. The present mill house was built by Mr. John Penn, who succeeded Mr. Henry Wood as tenant in 1828. The whole is now (1908) about to be let for building purposes.

Set back some little distance from the street is the building erected in 1823 and known as the Union Chapel. It was the first meeting place of the Congregational or Independent Church in Lewisham. The site was formerly occupied by a brewery, a portion of which was leased in 1798 and fitted up as a chapel, which was enlarged in 1813. In 1822 a fresh lease was taken and the present building erected. It was opened on 14th October, 1823, the Rev. Thomas Timpson, author of "Church History of Kent," being the first minister. The original chapel was converted into a dwelling house and is now No. 218, being the lodge at the gates of "Riverdale." The Congregational Church worshipped in this building until 1866, when the present church was opened. After being used for some time as a school of art a lease of the building was taken by the Unitarian Church, who at present meet there pending the erection of another building near the Free Library.

The house next to the chapel (No. 222) is somewhat older, and would appear to be of the end of the 18th century.

The four double-fronted villas known as Camden Place were built about 1820. They are being converted into shops. Next to them, and occupying the site of Nos. 232 to 236 were two old houses, pulled down about 1878. In front of these was a large



PLATE 41.—THE HIGH STREET, ABOUT 1860 (NOW NOS. 246, 256, ETC.).

elm tree, which was removed in 1906, when the electric tramways were laid.

The two houses Nos. 240 and 242, formerly known as Magnolia House from the fine specimen of that tree which partly covered the front walls, are among the few remaining portions of Lewisham of the early part of the 18th century. The gateways and lamp stand are not inelegant examples of iron work of the period.

Camden House, No. 246, is a very good specimen of the suburban house of the 18th century—it may, indeed, date from the time of William and Mary. It was tenanted in the 19th century by General Mann, Miss Finch, Mr. John Wood, Mr. James Jay, Mr. Page and others, and is at present held by Messrs. Antill, builders. It was originally only two stories high, the portion above the cornice which runs along the front having been added probably in the time of George II.

Between Camden House and the house now occupied by the Conservative Club were three small houses, which were removed when the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Railway was made in 1865. One of these was tenanted by a greengrocer and fruiterer, and as an illustration of the rural character of the place at the time we are told that as late as 1840 he kept his ducks in the little stream which then ran in front of the house, wire netting being placed to prevent them from wandering up and down! Opposite this, on the site of the railway, was a small farm house called Yew Tree House.

The Conservative Club House on the south side of the railway bridge was for many years the residence of Dr. John Brown, one of the village physicians. It is a good red brick house, probably of the early part of the 18th century, but the character of the front has been completely obscured by being cemented—there is scarcely a house of this date in the place which has escaped this fate. The general appearance of this part of the street in or about 1860 will be seen in Plate 44.

Nos. 262 to 266 are built on the site of the stables of Brooklands House. This last, No. 272, now the Liberal and Radical Club House, was built about 1820, and was for many years the residence of the Hadley family, to whom there is a large monument in the churchyard eastward of the chancel. It was tenanted by Mr. Henry Wood from 1859 until his death in 1894 in his 99th year. The property was subsequently sold by the Hadleys, and Rhyme Road and Whitburn Road were built on the gardens and meadows. On the eastern side of the High Street was a four-gabled house, apparently of Elizabethan date, which occupied the site of the Congregational Church, and was pulled down in 1847 (Plate 45).

The surrounding ground was for many years at the opening of the 19th century the once famous nursery garden of Messrs. Russell and Willmott, afterwards Willmott and Chaundy. Court



Hill, which is an ancient name in Lewisham, going back to early times, and probably at one time the old place of meeting, is perpetuated in Court Hill Road, which was formed in 1865. The Congregational Church was built in 1866, and the handsome Sunday Schools attached in 1880.

At the corner of Hither Green Lane stood the barns, etc., of the four-gabled house above mentioned, and the site is now in the market.

The name Hither Green first appears in the Parish Registers in 1716, and in most of the earliest references is spelt Hether or Heather Green—which is the most probable origin of the name. On the other hand, in the early part of the 19th century the lower



PLATE 45.—OLD GABLED HOUSE ON THE SITE OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

portion of Hither Green Lane, near Brownhill Road, was known as "Further Green," which would indicate "hither" or "nearer" as the origin. Although proof is wanting there seems little doubt that the ancient name was Romburgh, which is of frequent occurrence in documents of the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries, but has now quite disappeared. Hither Green for many years consisted of farm land. There were a few cottages built on a strip of roadside waste near and opposite the "Spotted Cow," and a few houses standing in their own grounds. The site of two of these is now occupied by the Park Hospital, the greater part of the grounds of which was the original "green" enclosed in 1810.

Campshill House—part of the property of Norfolk College, Greenwich—was built in 1820 by Mr. Henry Lee, and perpetuates the name of Kemp Hill, a name which appears in rentals and other documents of the 15th and 16th centuries, and seems to be derived from a family named Kemp, who were owners or occupiers in the 14th century.

On the site of the houses opposite Lanier Road was a villa with a duck pond, once the residence of the Spring Rices, whilst at the corner of George Lane, on other property of Norfolk College, was a small villa called Highfield Cottage, which was afterwards rebuilt and known as Beacon Lodge. This in its turn has given place to shops.

In Duncrevie Road, near Hither Green Railway Station,



PLATE 46.—OWEN'S SHOP, 304 HIGH STREET, LEWISHAM, ABOUT 1840.

was North Park Farmhouse, the farm lands extending over the district now occupied by Brownhill Road and others adjoining. The lands on the western side of Hither Green Lane formed South Park Farm. This part of the district—some 300 acres—was the property of the Earl of St. Germans (as Lord of the Manor of Catford), who sold the whole for building purposes. A railway station on the Main and Dartford Loop Lines was opened at Hither Green on 1st June, 1895. A large town of some 15,000 inhabitants has now sprung up, and the entire area will shortly

be covered with houses. In the middle of the 18th century a large wood of 40 acres, known as Butler's Gardens, occupied the ground where the Brownhill Road joins Hither Green Lane. This portion of Brownhill Road was made in 1883, and building operations then began.

Further along the lane is the cemetery, originally formed to meet the needs of Lee, but now belonging to the whole borough, and at the southern end lies "Shroffold Farm," which commemorates the ancient manor of that name.

Returning to the High Street, to Whitburn Road, we find a block of shops erected in 1901 on the site of some villas known as Greenaway Place, part of the Bridge House estates. The "Castle" Inn is parish property, the site having been bequeathed in 1630 by Mr. Bevil Moulsworth.

From this point to the Vicarage the houses are mostly old, and probably buildings have occupied the site for some centuries. Next to the "Castle" is a building which may be as old as the latter part of the 17th century—it was formerly a private house (possibly two houses) but has for many years been converted into a shop. The adjoining premises are of 18th century date. A little further southwards is a row of shops, one of which has for many years been occupied as a butcher's, and is shown with the small stream in front in Plate 46. It was then occupied by one Owen. This property is part of the St. Dunstan's estates, and was bequeathed by Mirabelle Bennett in 1632. The "Bull" is an ancient Lewisham hostelry, mentioned in the Parish Registers of Elizabeth's time. It was entirely rebuilt in 1907. The shops between this and the Vicarage replace houses of the time of the Georges. There were formerly several fine trees on the banks of the stream in front of these houses which have disappeared one by one.

The shops on the other side of the road, at the corner of Hither Green Lane, occupy the site of humbler predecessors of the early part of the 19th century, which seem to have been built on land enclosed from the road side.

Ladywell Park was laid out about 1860 on ground that was formerly a nursery garden. It is part of the Morden College estates.

A word must be added here respecting Henry Grubb, one of the eccentric characters of "old Lewisham," who lived in the house on the northern side of the "Black Bull," and died in 1863 at the age of 87. He lived alone, allowing no one to enter his house, and by his miserly habits had amassed considerable wealth. For seventeen years prior to his death he was in the habit of sleeping in a chair with a loaded blunderbuss in his arms, to protect the treasure concealed about the house, whilst cobwebs filled the rooms, many of which had not been opened for thirty or forty years.

## CHAPTER IV.

## THE VICARAGE, LADYWELL, BROCKLEY, AND HONOR OAK.



At the corner of Ladywell Road stands the Vicarage House, and it is tolerably certain that this has been the position of the Vicarage for a very considerable period. The house which sheltered Abraham Colfe and his predecessors was doubtless a timber-framed dwelling, and this by 1692 had become so dilapidated that Dr. George Stanhope, Dean of Canterbury, who was appointed Vicar in 1689, requested permission to rebuild it. From the report of the Commission appointed by the Bishop of Rochester, we gather that they "found the dimensions of the ground the old vicaridg house then stood on to bee vpon the flatt twelve square and 2 foote and to contain about 16 or 18 roomes great and small, that it was ruinous and out of repair and not habitable," and they recommended that "it be pulled down and the new house to be sett some few yards backwards more from the roade and into the orchard, and to contain upon the flatt 13 square and 90 foot and 12 roomes besides cellars."

Accordingly a faculty was issued to Dr. Stanhope on the 3rd May, 1692, and in his diary, which is in the church safe, he has left us a complete account of the cost, which he defrayed himself:—

1692	P <sup>d</sup> for Serving and Return of the Comm. of View	£00 15 0
1693	For faculty to build, entry &c., and Comm. under Seal &c. ... ..	02 17 10
	For pulling down the Old House and making good fences ... ..	07 4 0
	For clearing rubbish and digging the foundations	03 10 0
	To Mr. Moore for Timber ... ..	56 10 0
	P <sup>d</sup> for 70,000 Place Bricks ... ..	} 54 06 0
	10,000 Stock Bricks ... ..	
	and 2,000 Rubbing Bricks ... ..	
	To Mr. Nich. Goodwin, of Hamersmith	
	To Bricklayers in part ... ..	61 16 6
	More to Bricklayers ... ..	18 10 0
	More for Bricks .. ..	23 0 0
	More for Timber ... ..	27 0 0
	To Carpenters for work on my House ... ..	82 16 6
	To Sawyers ... ..	11 02 0
	To Plaisterers ... ..	40 10 0
	To Stonecutter ... ..	27 05 0
	To the Lime Man ... ..	30 00 0
	For Sand and Carriage .. ..	03 09 0
	For Laths Nails and Tilepins ... ..	06 05 0
	For 2700 and half of Tiles ... ..	02 15 0
	To the Joyner ... ..	48 16 0
	To the Blacksmith ... ..	22 10 0
	To the Locksmith ... ..	03 19 0
	To the Glasier .. ..	15 10 0
	To the Plumber ... ..	26 12 8
	To the Painter ... ..	25 05 0

Besides many other Bills mislaid or lost. The totall which I find summd up from particulars not to be found amounts to £739 13s. od.

Repairs of Vicaridge Barn to Carpenter	... ..	£18 10 0
Paleing to my garden and yard	... ..	47 10 0
For making my garden—		
For Workmanship	... ..	10 12 0
For Turf, Gravel, Sand, Seeds, Trees, and		
Setting and Laying	... ..	42 06 6

In 1692, the making of my garden and the fence of that and the yard stood me in £114 9 0½.

In this year the building the base of my house and the brick wall to the street stood me in £653 0 0.

1693. In this year the finishing of my house stood me in £315 os. od. The repairs of my Barn and Stables in £28.

1700. May. Altering the chimney in the little parlour £00 07 4.

1718. Nov. 12. Pd to John Finch of Deptford for clay for raising my kitchen pavement £01 05 0.

1719. Sept. To Mr. Gilham, for wainscoting my Study below stairs £04 06 0. For other repairs and improvements £06 03 0.

1723. Memorand. That my wife did out of her allowance for the year 1723 pay to the Bills of Bricklayers, Carpenters &c., for the repairs and improvements of my Vicarage House at Lewisham more than £70 0 0.

The house thus erected by Dr. Stanhope in 1692 remained without any material alteration until 1879, when the Rev. the Hon. A. Legge, on his appointment as Vicar, caused it to be renovated, and added a drawing-room and other apartments on the garden side. The Rev. Samuel Bickersteth, during his Vicariate, added the wing on the left hand side of the house, which was built largely of bricks from Lewisham House, then being pulled down.

Lewisham House, which stood at the opposite corner of Ladywell Road, was a large red brick mansion, built or rebuilt in 1680, if we may judge from the date on one of the leaden water heads. This waterhead also bore the initials of I.L.A., those of Sir John Lethuillier and Anne, his wife, daughter of Sir Wm. Hooker, who is the lady referred to by Pepys, in 1665, as "Our noble fat brave lady in our parish, that I and my wife admire so."

The house must originally have been a fine specimen of the domestic architecture of its day, but had been considerably altered in appearance, and completely spoilt by the substitution of modern windows, and by being covered with cement. The entrance doors led into a well-proportioned hall, but the interior had been so much modernized, that except in the upper rooms little remained of the original fittings. Behind a modern mantelpiece in one of the lower rooms was discovered the remains of a good fireplace which had the appearance of being Elizabethan work, and suggested that the house had been enlarged, rather than rebuilt, by Sir John Lethuillier. His great grandson, John Greene Lethuillier, sold it in 1776 to Mr. Sclater, of Rotherhithe. It was subsequently for a time divided into two, but was purchased in 1812 from Mr. William Curling by Mr. Thomas Watson Parker, whose son, Mr. George Parker, lived there until his death in 1889, filling the role of village Squire, and, with his wife, a generous benefactor to the poor of the parish.

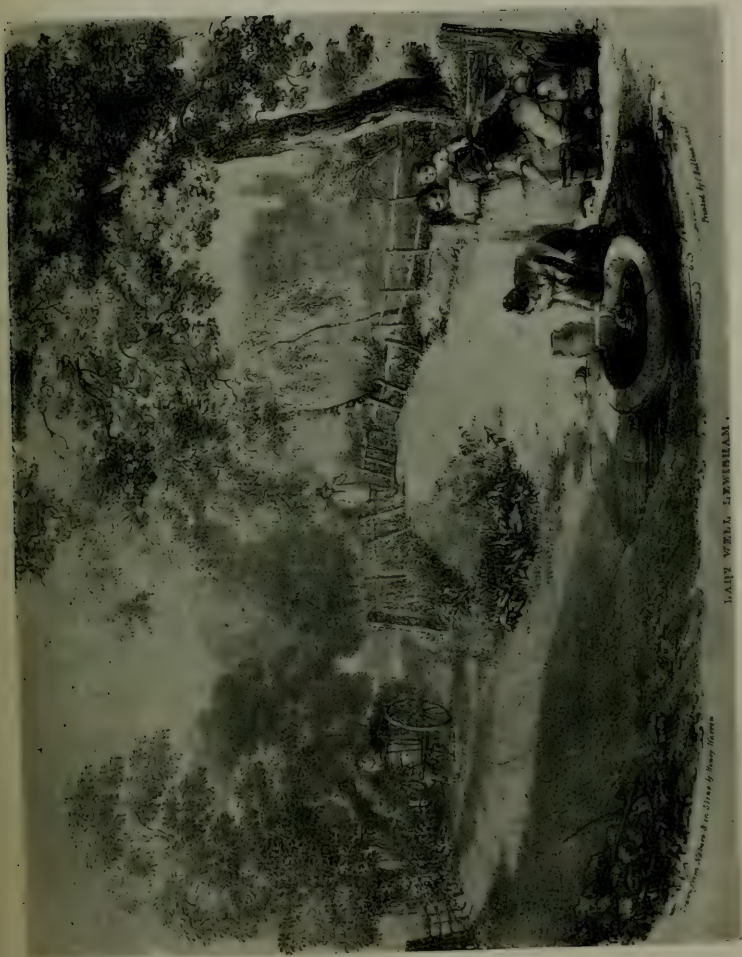
The house was pulled down in 1894, and its site and that of the garden is now occupied by some shops, the Fire Station (1898), Police Station, and the Coroner's Court.

Here we may turn to the right to visit Ladywell and Brockley, before completing the story of the High Street.



PLATE 47.—LEWISHAM HOUSE.

“Ladywell” has a mediæval ring about it which speaks of holy wells and pilgrims to the shrine of Our Lady. Unfortunately we have found no evidence of a holy well here in the middle ages, and neither on Rocque's map of 1745, nor Andrew, Drury & Herbert's map of 1769 does the name appear, nor are any houses shown, save the Bridge House Farm. The first appearance of the name in the Parish Registers is on the 7th May, 1793, when one Hester Grubb, was buried from Ladywell. No further entry occurs until 1800, when “Ladywell Lane” is mentioned, and then no further entry until 1809. In 1810 it appears as “Lady's Well.” Hasted



LADY WELLS, LEWISHAM.

PLATE 48.—LADYWELL.

Printed by Gillman and Co. 1853

Engraved from a drawing by Mrs. Stone & Miss H. Stone

does not refer to this well in his History of Kent (1778), but Lysons, in his History of the Environs of London (1796-1811), says: "Between Lewisham and Brockley is a well of the same quality as those at Tunbridge. A woman attends to serve the water, which is delivered *gratis* to inhabitants of the parish. The spring is the property of Lord Dartmouth." This well was situated about half-way up the hill leading to the Cemetery, in a portion of ground enclosed from the waste, on which two small cottages were built. The well known as "Ladywell" was not far from the western bank of the Ravensbourne, and the site is now covered by



PLATE 40.—LADYWELL BRIDGE, 1810.

the arches of the roadway which crosses the Mid-Kent line. The coping stones of this well are preserved in the garden of the Lewisham Swimming Baths.

From the late date at which the name first appears, we can come to no other conclusion but that it is a pretty but fanciful title, and has no connection with the Patron Saint of Lewisham Parish Church.\*

Turning into Ladywell Road from the Vicarage, there formerly existed at the end of the Vicarage wall three old houses of Georgian date. These were demolished about 1890. Opposite to them was a row of small tenements, the backs of which formed the fruit wall

\* The whole question was discussed by Mr. C. A. Bradford, F.S.A., in the "Home Counties Magazine," for July, 1903.



of the gardens of Lewisham House. The site of these is now occupied by the Coroner's Court and adjacent buildings. The Lewisham Public Swimming Baths were built in 1884, on a part of the Glebe, formerly known as Church field, as also the Parish Church Hall in 1891. The pathway to the church ran through this meadow, and was railed in when the Hall was built and the Ladywell Recreation Ground formed.

The small houses on the northern side of the road, together with Church Grove, were built in 1857.

Up to about the year 1830, the bridge over the Ravensbourne



PLATE 50.—LADYWELL BRIDGE, 1857.

was for foot passengers only. A reproduction of a pen and ink sketch of this bridge is given in Plate 49. Horses and carts drove through the river which was usually shallow at this point. In 1830 the first portion of the present brick bridge was built, and on the making of the Mid-Kent Railway in 1857, it was widened, and further arches constructed to carry the roadway over the line. It was then that the old well finally disappeared. On the northern side of the bridge is the turning to Vicar's Hill, which, with the roads adjacent, is the Vicar's glebe. This remained pasture land until about 1882, when Algernon Road was formed on the site of the Lewisham Cricket Club ground, and building was commenced in the other roads. "Vicar's Hill" is the name by which the ground has been known at least as far back as Elizabeth's days, the term Hilly Fields being quite modern.

Ladywell Village consisted of a cluster of small cottages at the foot of the hill, on the ground now occupied by the shops between Ladywell Road and Gillian Street. They were built on land enclosed from the waste, and probably dated from about 1810. They were removed in 1885. Mercy Terrace and the houses, etc., round the Railway Station, followed the opening of the line in 1857. The remainder of Ladywell Village on the south side of the road consists of small cottages of a date about 1830-40.

A word should here be said concerning the Ladywell Recreation Ground, which is some 51 acres in extent, and consists of several meadows by the side of the river Ravensbourne, between Ladywell and Catford. A movement was started about 1888 for a recreation ground for Lewisham, owing to the extensive building which had taken place, and this site was finally chosen in preference to that of the Rosenthal Estate then in the market. The ground was purchased in 1889 by the London County Council, and cost £21,880, of which Lewisham contributed half. The fields which make up the first portion of the ground, from Ladywell to Medusa Road, were purchased from the Lord of the Manor, and are the "meadows of the lordship," which also comprised the land where Malyons Road is built, and that on the other bank of the river behind the Workhouse and Infirmary. These fields, there is little doubt, are the "30 acres of meadow" mentioned in Domesday.

The Hilly Fields Recreation Ground of 45 acres on the summit of Vicar's Hill, was acquired in 1896, at a cost of £44,872, towards which Greenwich contributed £7,000, Lewisham £2,800, the Lewisham Parochial Charities £2,500, and £9,000 was collected in the surrounding district, the balance being met by the London County Council. This neighbourhood is therefore well provided with open space for recreation.

On the left or southern side of the Ladywell Road was an estate named Slagrove Farm, consisting of some 35 acres (the fields were named Dissington, Foxborough Hill, etc.) The farm was sold in 1894 to the Guardians of the Poor of the Parish of Bermondsey, who have built thereon a "Home of Rest" for their aged poor.

Further along the road, and on the same side of the way, was the Bridge House Farm, another of the estates of that Corporation. It has belonged to them from mediæval times. The old farm house and buildings were demolished in 1895, and the whole estate laid out for building small houses. The area is roughly indicated by Chudleigh Road.

At the top of Ladywell Road is the Lewisham Cemetery, formed in 1856 and opened in 1858, the parish churchyard being full. On Rocque's map, 1745, part of the site is marked as "Brockley Wood," whilst on the Tithe Map, 1845, the whole area of 30 acres (which then belonged to the Earl of Dartmouth) is styled "Great Field." Its earlier name appears to have been Strodes or Shrouds, and it was Lammas or half-year land.



PLATE 51.—LADYWELL VILLAGE, ABOUT 1870.

At the Cemetery we enter that part of the Borough known as Brockley. The district bearing this name is partly in Lewisham and partly in Deptford, and has been so from time immemorial. Although it is styled a "manor," no record exists of the holding of any Manor Court, and the inhabitants of the Lewisham portion appear to have attended the Court of that Manor. The Manor of Bankers claimed jurisdiction over a large portion of the area, and the owners of Brockley paid quit rent of 4s. 8d. yearly to the Lord of that Manor. In the reign of Henry II, Brockley was held by Wakelin de Maminot, by whom it was granted to Michael de Turnham, who, however, sold it to Juliana, wife of Wakelin, to found a religious house. Meanwhile the Premonstratensians had settled at Ottham, in Sussex, and to them Brockley was given as a more convenient spot. Whether they ever removed to Brockley is doubtful, since Begham, in Sussex, was shortly afterwards conferred upon them, and there they built their Abbey, and dwelt until the days of Henry VIII.

King John, in 1208, confirmed them in their possessions of "Brokele," and they continued to hold the property until 1526, when, with other small religious houses, the Abbey was suppressed. Brockley was then settled by Cardinal Wolsey on his new College at Oxford, but on his attainder in 1529, it came with his other estates to the Crown.

The portions in Deptford were then separated from those in Lewisham, and ultimately descended to the Wickhams, Drakes, and Tyrwhitt-Drakes, after whom some of the roads are named. The Lewisham portion (28½ acres of land and 120 acres of wood) was granted away by the Crown, and came in 1579 into the hands of Brian Annesley, of Lee, who purchased it for £800 from Sir Roger Manwood, Baron of the Exchequer. In Annesley's will it is styled "Forest Place, now called Brockley Farm House in the hamlet of Brockley, in the parish of Lewisham," and he left it to his second daughter, Lady Christian, wife of Lord Sandys. It afterwards came to her younger sister, Cordelia, who married Sir William Harvey (Baron Kidbrook), and was sold by them to Edward Montague, who was created Baron Montague, of Boughton, in 1621. The trustees of his great grandson, John, Duke of Montague, sold Brockley in 1717, to James Craggs, Esq., senior, Postmaster General. At his death in 1721, his property passed to his three daughters, and, eventually, through the second daughter, Elizabeth, to Edward Eliot, of St. Germans, who was created Baron Eliot in 1784, and whose descendants were advanced in the peerage as Earls of St. Germans.

On the maps of the country round Lewisham in the 18th century (Rocque's, 1745, and others), Brockley appears as consisting of the house now known as Brockley Hall, a few houses opposite to this, and a little further down Brockley Road—about the junction with Stondon Park—was Brockley Farmhouse, the buildings of which extended northwards. A lane ran nearly on the site of Crofton

Park Road, and came out into Brockley Road, not far from the farm. The remainder was open country, with woods stretching over the whole of Honor Oak, from the borders of Surrey down to Brockley Road and up Brockley Hill. The woods have long since disappeared, and streets are fast covering the fields.

Adelaide Road is built on part of the Bridge House estates, the trustees of which gave the site for St. Cyprian's Church, built in 1901. Ivy Lane, which bounds the northern side of the Cemetery, is an ancient right of way which appears on the maps of 1745. The history of the site of the Cemetery has already been given (page 114).



PLATE 52.—THE "BROCKLEY JACK" INN.

Further along the Brockley Road is Crofton Park Station, on the Nunhead and Shortlands Railway, which has given its name (a modern one) to the surrounding roads.

A word must be said of the "Brockley Jack," once an old-world, wayside, wooden hostelry, which is said to have been frequented by Dick Turpin and other highwaymen, and, since in those days there was scarcely a house in Brockley Lane (as it was then called) from Stanstead (Stonystreet) Lane to New Cross, it must have been an ideal spot as a rendezvous. In the Enclosure Award of 1810 it is styled the "Brockley Castle," and then stood on Brockley Green, which was enclosed by the Act of Parliament of that year.

Honor Oak is marked in Rocque's map of 1745 as "Oak of Arnon," probably due to a fault in the local pronunciation of that

date. The name has of late years been associated with the visit of Queen Elizabeth, who, on May Day, 1602, came a-maying to Sir Richard Buckley's, at Lewisham. The tradition is that the great queen dined under the shade of an oak tree on the summit of the hill either on this or some other occasion. The story is not improbable, seeing the proximity to Greenwich, where the Court was frequently in residence, but it must in truth be confessed that there is no direct evidence which can be brought in support. The name, Oak of Honour, is, however, at least as old as 1612, as it then occurs as one of the bounds of Lewisham Manor. The view from the hill, which is 300 feet high, is very extensive, and must have been of great beauty before the long lines of streets began to cover the surrounding landscape. As the result of a strong remonstrance against the enclosing of what is claimed as an historic site, the summit of the hill was purchased in 1905, and is maintained by the Borough of Camberwell as an open space, a fresh oak tree being planted to keep in remembrance the story of the name. On the eastern slope of the hill is the Church of St. Augustine, which was built in 1874. This is now for administrative purposes in the Parish of Camberwell. By a rearrangement of boundaries that portion of Lewisham from Honor Oak Park to Ivydale Road, Nunhead, was exchanged with Camberwell for a somewhat similar area south of Forest Hill Road, bounded on the west by Wood Vale and Sydenham Hill. Historically, however, Honor Oak must be claimed as within the bounds of Lewisham.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE PARISH CHURCH TO RUSHEY GREEN.



WE must now turn back, through Ladywell to Lewisham High Street, to the building and site around which the parochial life of the parish has centred for at least a thousand years—the Parish Church. It is the story of no splendid fane, with “storied aisles and windows richly light,” that we have to tell, and yet, simple to insignificance as the building was throughout the greater part of its history, it can tell us of the devotion of many a generation for the worship of Almighty God, whilst in the churchyard sleep countless numbers of our predecessors from Saxon times almost to the present day.

When a church was first erected here it is not possible to say. As we have seen, the district was settled, with a name, in the 9th century, and in 918 became the property of the Abbey of St. Peter, and when in 964 the grant was confirmed by King Edgar, the words, speaking of Lewisham, Greenwich, etc., “with their

churches, churchyards, etc.," were inserted. This may have been mere phraseology, but it is highly probable that a church did exist at the time, and was no doubt built soon after the grant of A.D. 918, when the Abbot of Ghent would have sent over a representative to take charge of his new possessions.

There is no mention of a church in Domesday Book, but the Commissioners were not specially charged to report as to the existence of churches, and frequently omit them in cases where they are known to have been built prior to the Conquest. It is most improbable that a population of 300 or 400 would have existed without a building for worship.

At this period the church would have been what we call to-day a rectory, the parish priest receiving the whole of the tithe. A custom sprang up of appropriating a parish church to some religious house, for the support of the latter, whereby the whole of the tithe was transferred to the favoured monastery, which not infrequently made but scanty provision for the spiritual needs of the places from whence they drew their revenues. The evil grew at length to such a pass, that the Lateran Council in 1179 decreed that in all such cases the religious house which held the tithes should be bound to appoint a cleric as its vicar, to serve the parish, with an adequate salary.

The ultimate result of the system was not of course foreseen. When the monastic houses were suppressed by Henry VIII, that portion (much the larger as a rule, although not so in Lewisham) of the tithe held by the monasteries was not returned to the parochial clergy, but passed with the other property into lay hands. The old parish churches of England thus carry with them to-day the story of their former owners, and if the incumbent is a "vicar" we know at once that the church formerly belonged to a religious house, and the "rector" to-day in such cases is a layman, *e.g.*, at Lewisham the Earl of Dartmouth.

Acting on the above-mentioned decree, the Bishop of Rochester, in the reign of Henry II, appropriated the Church of Lewisham to the Abbey of St. Peter at Ghent, the Abbey undertaking to appoint a vicar, and the list of vicars is almost complete from that time onwards.

The early church would have been very small, and, judging by examples in other places, we may imagine a building with a nave 30 or 40 feet long by 20 feet wide, with a small chancel at the eastern end. As time went on an aisle was added on the south side, also with a chancel or chapel to the east, and there would have been a bell turret on the western gable. The whole building was probably not larger than the Parish Church Hall. In 1471, when the Wars of the Roses were dying down, a movement was started here, as in many other places, to build a bell tower. One William Sprig's name occurs first on the list, and in that year he bequeathed his houses in Greenwich towards the Building Fund. His example was followed by nearly every one in the parish who

had anything to give, and the bequests cover the period from 1471 to 1498. In that year a Robert Cheseaman, who owned Sydenham, desired his executors to "glaze the grete new wyndowe in the belfraye with the picture of the passion of our Lord," and in 1512 the little newel stairway, or "vice," was built, William Batt giving 26s. 8d. towards it. This tower still stands, and was carefully repaired in 1907.

When the tower was finished the parishioners commenced to furnish it with bells. In 1517 John Whiston left £3 6s. 8d.—a large sum in those days—to buy a bell. Other bequests also occur for the same purpose, Thomas Gryme, husbandman, in 1529 leaving 6s. 8d. "to the belles of Leuysham," and in 1552, when an inventory of the church goods was taken, there were "four great bells of brass" in the steeple. There is now a ring of eight, varying in dates from 1766 (No. 7) to 1819. No. 5, which was cast in 1777, has the lines:—

"Ye people all who hear me ring,  
Be faithful to your God and King."

To return to the old church. From a description printed in 1790, we learn that the entrance then, as now, was by a large porch descending one step, and into the church two steps more, thus the floor was level with the vaults under the present church. The church consisted, as we have said above, of a nave and south aisle, each with a separate roof, and at the east end was a large central pillar, from which sprang the arches of the roof and aisle. The ceiling was painted, rudely representing clouds, stars, etc. The floor was paved with small square tiles. In the body of the church were four rows of pews: the two middle rows joined, the side rows being separated by an aisle or passage-way round the church. The pulpit and reading-desk were against the north wall. Such is the picture drawn for us by one who had seen the building, and many a village church will help us to imagine fairly correctly what the church was like.

From the Parish Registers we gather that as late as 1759, the aisles were known as the "men's aisle" and the "women's aisle" respectively, recalling the time when the sexes were separated in church, and the custom may have obtained even at that date, since it lingers yet in part in some country places.

In mediæval times the chancel at the east end of the south aisle was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and two chantries (suppressed by Edward VI) were founded therein, one by Richard Walker, citizen and grocer of London, in 1494, and the other by Roger Fitz, of Rushey Green, in 1504. In this chancel was an image of St. John Baptist. In the high chancel, *i.e.*, that at the east end of the nave, was an image of the Patron Saint, St. Mary, and there was another image of her in a little niche in a pillar in the nave. Another image was that of the unfortunate king, Henry VI, who was regarded as a saint by the people, and images of him were set up in several churches. As his father, the gallant



Henry V, had conferred Lewisham on the Priory of Shene, we have a possible reason for his image in the church here. All these images had lights burning before them, the gifts of pious persons, and having thus been "superstitiously abused" as the phrase was, were removed in the reign of Edward VI, under whose injunctions only two lights were to remain, viz., those on the high altar.

Of the church in the 17th century we have little account. In 1641, during the vicariate of Abraham Colfe, it was visited by the Puritan soldiery, who pulled up the altar rails and threw them in the river. By 1773 the church had fallen into disrepair, and many cracks appearing in the great central column above mentioned, due no doubt to burials, a committee was formed, under the Earl of Dartmouth, to consider the condition of the building. The architects consulted recommended the raising of the floor, and the taking down of the interior arches, and other alterations, and it was finally decided to rebuild the church entirely, save the tower. An Act of Parliament was obtained in 1774, and the plans of Mr. John Gibson were approved. Tenders were invited, which varied from £5,150 to £4,086, and this latter, that of Oliver Burton & Co., was accepted. The money was obtained by a system of annuities secured on the sums received for letting the vaults and the pews in the galleries. The new church was finished in 1777, the first service being held on the 7th September of that year. The work included the raising of the tower by the addition of the present upper storey.

On 26th December, 1830, the overheating of the flues set fire to the woodwork, burning some of the pews and portions of the gallery, and most unfortunately destroying a large part of the Parish Registers and papers.

In 1881, during the vicariate of the Rev. The Hon. Augustus Legge, now Bishop of Lichfield, an extensive scheme of rearrangement was carried out. The Earl of Dartmouth replaced the small eastern apse by a chancel, with north and south chapels, and Mr. George Parker, of Lewisham House, refitted the nave. The whole was carried out from the designs of Sir Arthur Blomfield.

Leaving the parish church we turn to the houses on the other or eastern side of the street, and retrace our steps to the corner of Ladywell Park. Here the block of villas at the southern corner, now turned into offices and shops, was built in 1860, and those at the northern corner in 1863, on the nursery ground which extended over the area at present covered by Ladywell Park. Next we have a small square cottage, and southward of that come two houses, probably of the latter part of the 17th century, which for many years have been occupied as a butcher's and grocer's respectively. They still form a picturesque little group in the modern street.

The next house (No. 295), formerly known as Streete House, is parish property, standing on ground bequeathed to the parish in 1626 by Mr. Humphrey Streete.

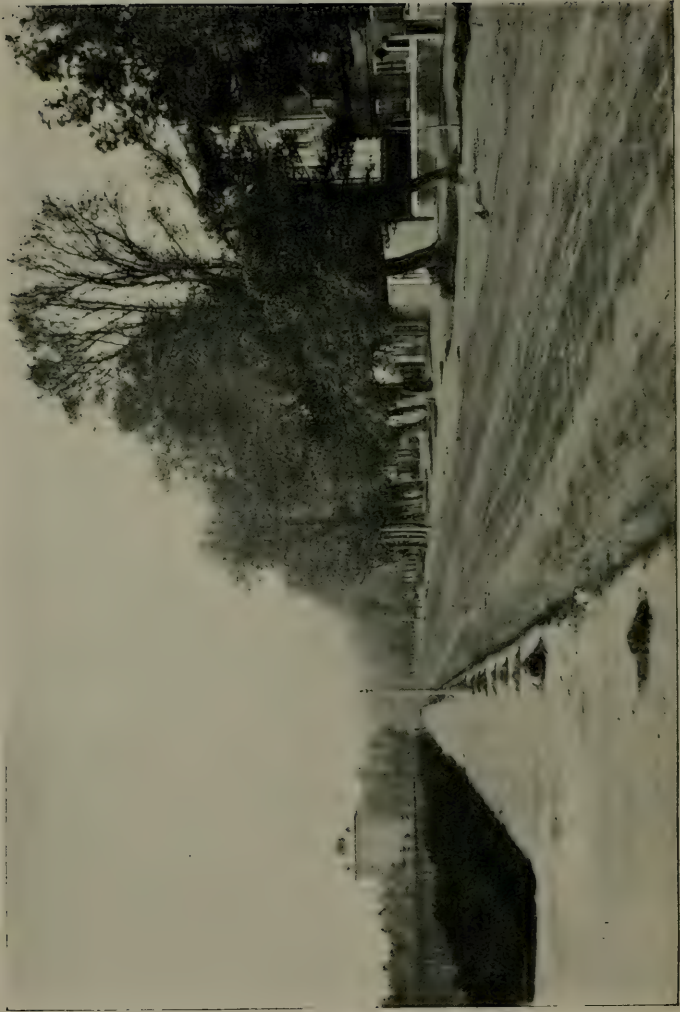


PLATE 53.—VIEW OF THE HIGH STREET FROM THE PARISH CHURCH SOUTHWARDS, 1860.

The adjoining shops (Nos. 297 to 301) are built upon the forecourts of what were originally small private houses of the early part of the 19th century. The frontage now occupied by Nos. 303 to 307 was formerly occupied by a row of small cottages, which were pulled down about 1875. They will be seen, together with the Streete House, etc., in Plate 55.

A more recent disappearance has been the house shown in Plate 54, known some sixty years ago as "Pilcher's," and lately



PLATE 54.—MR. PILCHER'S HOUSE (LATELY WEATHERLEY'S), NO. 313 HIGH STREET, 1860.

occupied by Mr. Weatherley, which was pulled down in 1906. The two next houses are of the 18th century, one with a modern shop on the forecourt.

The house at present known as the "Coach and Horses" was formerly a hay and straw dealer's.

Two small cottages come next, and then the St. Mary's National

Schools. The Reading School founded by Mr. Colfe seems to have occupied the place of an elementary school for boys for many years. In 1699 Dean Stanhope and his wife started a school for girls, to which they left a small endowment. In 1833 new schools for both boys and girls were established, on the National System, on land belonging to the Earl of Dartmouth, who, in 1856, conveyed the site and buildings to the Vicar for the above purpose. The buildings have been enlarged from time to time by subscription.

Opposite St. Mary's Schools, and adjoining the churchyard, stood, until 1907, a weather-boarded timber frame house of the



PLATE 55.—COTTAGES OPPOSITE ST. MARY'S CHURCH (NOW NOS. 303 TO 309).

18th century, known as Church House. It was not parish property, but its site and name suggest that it occupied the position of the mediæval church house, a building which seems to have existed in every parish, where various parochial property was kept, ales were brewed, and persons coming from outlying hamlets to church could rest themselves. The church house of mediæval days disappeared in the times which followed the Reformation, and has been resuscitated in recent years in the Parochial Hall.

Adjoining the wooden house referred to is a brick house of the 19th century, and further south come some houses of the 18th century, much altered in outward appearance, one the "Jolly Farmers," having been rebuilt in recent times.

Next to these last is Sion House, a large brick fronted and cemented house, with the rear portion weather boarded. This house was formerly known as the "George." In 1588 it was the property of Mr. Peter Manning, of Downe in Kent, who sold it in that year to Mr. Humphrey Streete, citizen and merchant tailor of London. Mr. Streete left a rent charge of 20s. a year to the poor of Lewisham on this house, which is still paid. The "George" Inn was removed from hence to its present position at the corner of George Lane some time in the 18th century. There formerly existed in the parish church a Guild of our Lady and St. George, and this house may have been originally connected therewith. It has been purchased by the Unitarians, who intend erecting a church on the site of the stables.

The Lewisham Free Library, which comes next to Sion House, was opened in 1900. It stands on the site of a house known as Cliffe Villa.

In his will Mr. Colfe records that out of consideration of the great poverty of the parish and the inability of most to relieve the poor, he desired that in 1662 three almspeople were to be chosen, and subsequently two more, making five in all. They were to be threescore years old, past hard bodily labour, and able to say without book the Lord's Prayer, the Christian's Belief, and the Ten Commandments. They were to have 3d. a day allowed to them, and every second year a gown of black or dark-coloured cloth with a badge bearing the words "Lewisham in Kent" on the breast. He further desired that in 1662 £210 should be laid out in building three almshouses of flint and well burnt brick, and during the succeeding years two more houses for the other almspeople. Every house was to have a chimney, one room below of fourteen or fifteen feet long and twelve feet broad and a little buttery, and each of them a good loft or room above with convenient stairs to go up to it. They were to be joined together and built on two sides of the yard of a house he had purchased, together with a little brick room with a window, where the five almspeople were to meet daily for prayer. Little garden plots were to be laid out for each, sixteen feet broad. The gate next the street was to have a good lock carefully locked every night, and every almsbody was to have a key to that lock, but yet not suffered to go out in the night without leave of the master of the reading school, who was apparently to exercise a general supervision.

Mr. Colfe died in 1657, and the Leathersellers' Company, as his trustees, proceeded to give effect to his wishes. At a meeting of the Court held on 7th July, 1663, it was resolved that as the arrangements detailed by the Founder for building the almshouses gradually would prove expensive, the whole of the houses should

be built forthwith. The exact arrangement of the houses round two sides of a yard, as detailed above, was evidently not considered advisable, and as the Governors added a sixth house themselves, a plan was approved with the little chapel in the centre and three houses on either side, as we see them to-day.

Over the chapel door is a shield containing the Arms of the Founder together with those of the Leathersellers' Company. There is also the following inscription:—

AN'O DECIMO SEXTO CAROLI 2<sup>DI</sup> AN'OQ; D.N.J. 1664 THE GIFT OF MR. ABRAHAM COLFE LATE VICAR OF THIS PARISH WHEREOF THE COMPANY OF LEATHERSELLERS IN LONDON, ARE, ACCORDING TO THE DESIRE OF HIS WILL, BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT, APPOINTED GOVERNORS; AND BY THE SAID COMPANY THE SAME GIFT IS ENLARGED.

The designs for the almshouses were prepared by a Mr. Peter Mills, to whom in 1665 a sum of £5 10s. was paid for drawing "several platformes [*i.e.*, plans] for the said building." The building was entrusted to Mr. Botsford, carpenter, and a sum of 10s. was expended in 1663 "for a platforme of the Alms Howses" for his use. The cost of the actual building is entered in the Leathersellers' accounts as follows:—

1663-4	Paid unto Mr. Botsford, carpenter, in parte of what is agreed for building of Mr. Calfes Almshouses ... ..	£170
	Item, spent at severall meetings of the Committee about the said Almes Howses and treating with severall workmen about building them ... ..	5 <sup>1s</sup>
	Item, payd vnto certaine workemen of Greenwich and Lewisham that came from thense about the saide worke for their paines and time attending therevppon ... ..	40 <sup>s</sup>
1664-5	Paid Mr Botsford the carpenter in further parte of what is agreed for building Mr Calfes Almes Howses ... ..	£85
1665-6	Paid Mr Botsford remaining payment for building Almshouses... ..	£65
1667-8	Paid vnto Mr Williams [master of the reading school] which was by him laid out for the reading deske and seats about the chappell at Lewisham... ..	47 <sup>s</sup>

The total cost of the building was therefore a little over £330. One of the first occupants, and so named in Mr. Colfe's will, was his old and trusty servant, Christian Padmore, and she continued to live therein until her death in 1667-8, when there is an entry in the accounts:—

	Paid by order of Court unto Margaret Smith sister of Christian Padmore towards her buriall... ..	10 <sup>s</sup>
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In 1700 Matthew Jennings, the tailor, was paid 17s. for making "five gownes and a coat for Lewisham Almes people," no doubt according to the Founder's directions. About this time



PLATE 56.—COLFE'S ALMSHOUSES.

items begin to appear which indicate that reparations were needed:—

1701-2	Paid Joseph Rawbone his bill for ripping and new laying 30 square and 69 feet of plain tiling and for repairing the tops of Chymneys, Hearths, and plaistering at the Almshouses the last year ... ..	£24	19	3
	Paid Major George Heath his bill for plumbers work done at Lewisham Alms Houses last year ... ..	£7	16	2
	Paid Lettice Good for glaisiers work done at Lewisham Almshouses last year ... ..		17	1½

Other items occur occasionally as follows:—

1726-27	To a carpenter for work at the Alms Houses ... ..	£1	9	0
	For glaisiers work at the chappell ... ..		15	0
1730-31	Paid the Carpenters for pales at the Alms houses ... ..	£4	19	0
1755-56	Repairs at the Almshouses			
	Mr. Baker, bricklayer ... ..		6	3
	„ Corbett, carpenter ... ..		12	2
	„ Saint, glasier ... ..		2	5

Nothing further seems to have been required until 1790-91, when evidently extensive work had to be undertaken, since a sum of £205 was paid to Messrs. Corbett & Co., carpenters and bricklayers, “for repairing almshouses at Lewisham as per estimate of Richard Norris,” the latter receiving a payment as surveyor of £10.

It will not be necessary to follow all the repairs executed during the 19th century, but it may be recorded that in the course of some work done about 1860 the two oval windows in the chapel were bricked up. They still appear as retaining their glass in photographs of 1856.

During the last few years at least £200 was spent upon the buildings in order to try and keep them standing, but at last, in 1905, the sanitary authorities stepped in and ordered them to be closed. Estimates of the work required to put the houses into thorough repair, together with a sum to clear off past liabilities, amounted to £870, and it seemed as though the old almshouses must disappear. A strong wish was expressed locally that something should be done to save these picturesque remnants of the fast-vanishing Lewisham of the past, and a public enquiry was held. After considering the matter the Leathersellers' Company offered to be responsible for £470 if the remainder could be provided by the people of Lewisham. Of the £400 thus required £200 was forthcoming from certain funds known as Herbage Rents, and the remaining £200 was raised by subscription. The work of reparation was carried out by Messrs. A. J. Staines & Co., under the superintendence of Horace Porter, Esq., surveyor to the Leathersellers' Company, who is to be congratulated on having so admirably preserved the ancient appearance of the buildings.

The property fronting the High Street, from and including the ground where the almshouses are built to about half the frontage of the Infirmary, was purchased at various dates by the Rev.



Abraham Colfe for the purpose of establishing his almshouses and reading school, and to form part of the endowment of his educational schemes. On the ground now occupied by the almshouses was a house and tanyard, which had belonged to Jasper Valentine, Mrs. Colfe's former husband. This house was held of the Manor of Brockley. Where the villas Nos. 380 to 386 High Street stand



PLATE 57.—MR. WOODHAM'S HOUSE, HIGH STREET (NOW NO. 394).

was a house built by Mr. Michael Frisby in 1628, on ground which also belonged to Jasper Valentine. The house on this side was afterwards known as Yew Tree House, and subsequently as Dartmouth House, and was demolished in 1861. The present villas were erected in 1871.

The house immediately south of the preceding is described by Mr. Colfe as "a house and tan yard"; it was also part of the Valentine property, and was held of the Manor of Bankers and Shroffolds. This house was rebuilt at the end of the 18th century, and was latterly known as "The Jasmies." Together with the remaining part of the Colfe property adjoining it to the south, it was acquired in 1890 by the Lewisham Guardians for the enlarged Infirmary, and a house for the medical officer was built on the site.

The site of the carriage entrance to the Infirmary, the Infirmary Office and part of the Infirmary frontage, was occupied by two old plastered houses—one known as "Woodham's" in 1845, from the name of the occupier—and by Mr. Colfe's Reading School. A view of Woodham's house is given in Plate 57.

The Reading School was founded by the Rev. Abraham Colfe about the year 1652. It possibly preceded the opening of the Grammar School. It was intended to be what is now called a "primary school," but included the rudiments of Latin, and the Founder's intention was that it should be a stepping stone for boys "of good wit" to the Grammar School, and thence to the Universities. Thirty-one boys were to be freely instructed, the master being permitted to take others on his own terms. The school seems to have been conducted as desired by the Founder during the 17th century, and there are records of boys passing up to the Grammar School, but the system fell into decay in the latter half of the 18th century, and on the establishment of the Elementary Schools, subsequent to 1870, the school was closed. The site was granted for the Grammar School for Girls, but was sold in 1889 to the Guardians of the Lewisham Union for the Infirmary buildings.

The Lewisham Infirmary and Workhouse have also absorbed the site of an interesting row of houses known as Exchequer Place, which extended from the Reading School up to, but not including, the site of the office of the Relieving Officer. The houses, which probably dated from about the year 1700, were in two blocks, with an ancient timber house in the centre, as will be seen from Plate 58.

No. 392 High Street is on the site of the house nearest to the reader in Plate 58, and to some extent reproduces the appearance of its predecessor. This little row of houses was one of the most picturesque in the village, and one cannot but regret that the necessary enlargement of the Workhouse entailed its removal.

When the first Workhouse was erected in Lewisham we have no record. The altered condition of things in the middle of the 16th century, made some systematic provision for the poor essential. This was at first met from the "poor men's box" in the parish church, but it was soon found that the State would have to make the care of the poor a compulsory matter, and in 1601 the basis of the present poor law system was laid. The early records of the Overseers for Lewisham were destroyed in the fire at Lewisham Church in 1831, except one book now at the Town Hall, which

contains particulars of poor rates from 1764 to 1769. From this we gather that the average rate for the poor was 1s. 6d. per annum in those years, and that a rate of 6d. in the £ produced £184 7s.

The Workhouse in the early part of last century was situated nearly opposite the "George" Inn. The first portion of the present building was erected in 1821, and it was considerably enlarged in 1884.

Until the year 1884 the site from the Workhouse to Thackeray's Almshouses was occupied by a house known as "The Priory," with its gardens and adjoining grounds, which extended in the rear to the present Recreation Ground (Plate 64.) The house, of which portions



PLATE 58.—EXCHEQUER PLACE, HIGH STREET, LEWISHAM.

still remain in the present shops, notably No. 418, which was the entrance hall, was a sham Gothic structure of the early part of the 19th century, and must not be confused with the mediæval Priory, which stood on the other side of the road nearer Catford.

Amongst those who have occupied the house, mention must be made of Mr. John Thackeray, who in 1840 built and endowed the six almshouses called by his name. He died in 1851, and is commemorated by his almshouses, and a large monument in the Parish Church, now placed on the wall over the western arch.

The property was sold in 1884-5, when Albacore Crescent,

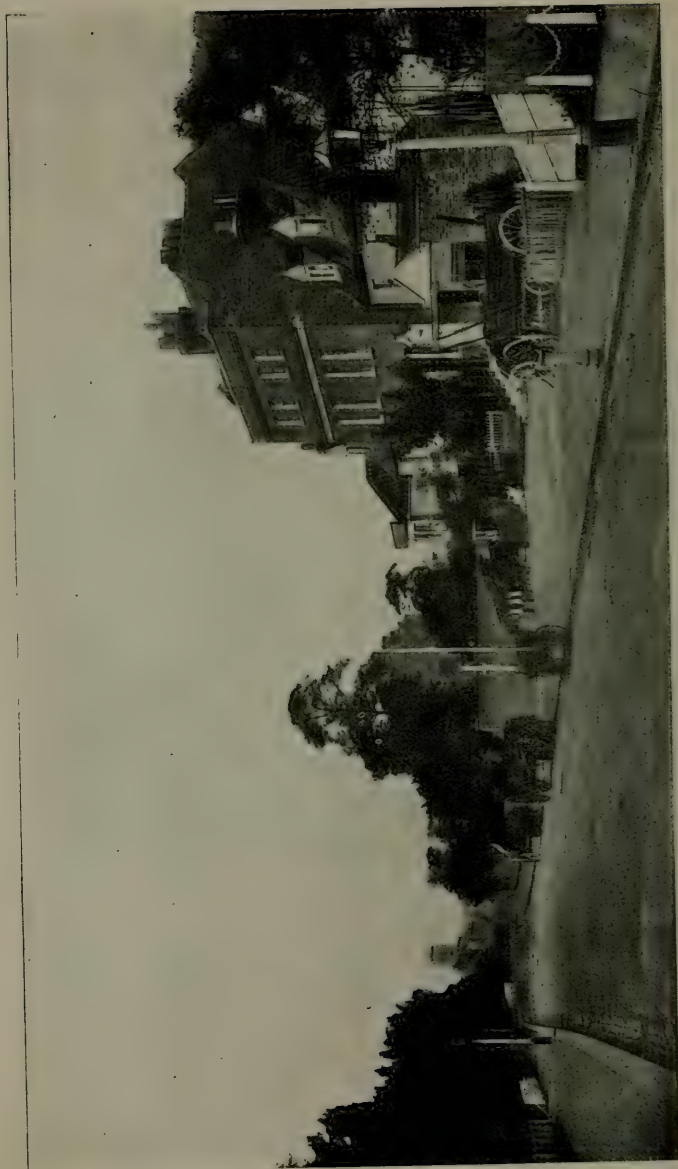


PLATE 59.—VIEW OF THE HIGH STREET NEAR THE "GEORGE" INN, ABOUT 1870.

Medusa Road, Blagdon Street and Felday Road were formed on the site of the gardens.

Next to the Almshouses is a house, now converted into a shop, on the site of the old Workhouse.

From this point to Hawstead Road the frontage was occupied by the house known as "Springfield," with its stabling, etc. The house remains converted into shops (Nos. 20 and 22 Rushey Green). Another villa, part of the same property, occupied the site of Bradgate Road, and the grounds extended in the rear to the Mid-Kent Railway. They were laid out for building about the same time as the Priory Estate, under the title of "Springfield Park"; Bradgate Road, Holbeach Road, NelgarJe Road, Silvermere Road, Brookdale Road and Springfield Park Crescent being, for the most part, built thereon.

It was at "Springfield" that the rivulet commenced which formerly flowed down the side of the High Street, and passed into the Ravensbourne at Lewisham Bridge, near the "Roebuck" Inn. Along its banks were many fine elm trees, and the appearance of the High Street is stated by those who remembered it in the days referred to, as more like a road through a park. In 1855, when the main sewer was being constructed, the water was drained off. The space formerly occupied by the stream was then fenced in, and planted, and it is these plantings which still give a distinctive air to the High Street. They are one of the assets of the Borough, and the local authorities might do more to make them a really attractive feature of the place. It is to be hoped that any attempt to curtail them will be rigorously opposed.

At the corner of Hawstead Road is the Grammar School for Girls, which is built on a part of the gardens of "Springfield," purchased with the proceeds of the sale of the ground granted out of the Colfe Estates. The school owes its origin largely to the Rev. Joseph Prendergast, D.D., Headmaster of Colfe's Grammar School, who left a sum of about £5,000 for the purpose. This was augmented from various other local educational charities, and the buildings were erected in 1890. They were enlarged by the London County Council in 1907.

It will now be necessary to take a survey of the eastern side of the High street, from the St. Mary's National Schools. The foot-path by the side of these schools is an ancient right of way, and led eastward over Kemps Hill, Rycroft, and Hocum Pocum to Lee High Road.

Lewisham Park, with the ground at present (1908) used as allotment gardens, is the property of the Earl of Dartmouth, as Lord of the Manor, and originally formed part of the great "Southfield" of the Manor. The name was perpetuated in the villas erected at the southern corner near Mount Pleasant Road (Nos. 359 and 361). The earliest mention of the field is in a grant about the year 1260, by one William le Plummer, of Leueseham, to John, called "Ferdebin," of all his land in the field called

“Suthfeld” in Leueseham, adjoining the land of the Prior of Leueseham, and in an extent of the Manor of Lewisham in 1370, it is recorded that “in the same manor there are in Suthfeld 40 acres of arable land of the value of 3d. per acre.” The land was “half-year” land, *i.e.*, it was open for the benefit of the freeholders of the manor yearly, from Lammas to ploughing time. These rights were ended by the Lewisham Enclosure Act of 1810. Under the name of Lewisham Park it was laid out for building about 1840, the houses being well set back from the high road, and the whole centre of the field left an open space, with houses built on the outer circle. If other landowners would follow this excellent example, there would be less danger of overcrowding and insanitary areas.



PLATE 60.—VIEW OF MOUNT PLEASANT HOUSE, 1825.

In some pleadings of the time of James I, it is recorded that a right of way was claimed through Southfield, and this is no doubt the footpath mentioned above.

Continuing along the High Street, and passing No. 361, we come to Mount Pleasant. There formerly stood an old red brick house on the site of No. 363, which, in its later stage, was used as a home for boys of the Parish of St. George, Southwark. Mount Pleasant House itself stood on the brow of the hill, with the gardens stretching down the slope and farm buildings in the rear, near where Fordyce Road now enters George Lane. The orchard occupied the ground between Fordyce Road and Littlewood Road.

At "Mount Pleasant" lived Mr. Abraham Constable; and a view of the house in 1825 is given in Plate 60. It originally consisted of a ground and first floor, but a second floor was added as shown in the drawing. Mr. Constable is said to have been the last man in Lewisham to wear a queue. The house was subsequently tenanted by Mr. Richard Constable, and from 1852 to 1859 by the Rev. John Holdsworth Morgan as a school. It was pulled down about 1860, and Mount Pleasant Road subsequently formed through the centre of the estate.

At the corner of George Lane stood another villa known as "The Maples," a view of which about 1830 is shown in Plate 61.



PLATE 61.—"THE MAPLES," CORNER OF GEORGE LANE, ABOUT 1830.

The pond in the front disappeared in later years. The house was occupied by Mr. Thomas Tanner, and later by Mr. Castendick, Mr. (Sir) John Aird, and others. It was pulled down in 1890, and Roxley Road was built on the site, together with the shops Nos. 389 to 401 in the High Street.

George Lane, so named from the "George" Inn, which now stands at the south-east corner, is a comparatively modern road. It is not shown on the maps of 1745 (Rocque and others), and may

originally have been either a footway or farm track. A few of the houses at the south-western end of the road are of early Victorian date, and the two houses which form the buildings of Catford Collegiate School were built in the "fifties," the remainder of the houses in the road being of modern date; those on the northern side are built on the grounds of Mount Pleasant House.

On the brow of the hill, on the southern side of the road, stood "Mountsfield," the residence of the late Mr. Henry Stainton, the eminent entomologist. The grounds were purchased in 1905, and formed into a public recreation ground, enlarged by the addition of adjoining land which had been previously purchased by the London School Board, the whole forming a park of about 14 acres. The house was pulled down, with the exception of outbuildings utilized as refreshment rooms. There is an extensive view from the grounds, with the Hilly Fields, Forest Hill, and the Crystal Palace hills on the horizon.

The "George" Inn, which now occupies the corner of George Lane, was removed hither from Sion House, near the church (*q.v.*) sometime in the 18th century. The buildings were the homestead of a large farm belonging to the Stoddard family, which extended over the fields in the rear. They are of about mid-eighteenth century date.

Next to the "George," southwards, was a group of 18th century weather-boarded cottages, which, with two brick houses of slightly later date which had been inserted in the group, formed a picturesque "bit" of old Lewisham. They have during the past few years been altered considerably, some having shop fronts built on the fore-courts, and others rebuilt altogether (Plate 59).

The "George" Inn on the eastern side of the road, and Thackeray's Almshouses on the western side, form the commencement of that part of the parish known as Rushey Green, a name which, like so many others, has become unintelligible to the "modern" on account of the buildings which now cover the ground. The old form of the name was "Rishotetes Grene," as it appears in the will of Richard Howchenson, in 1500, and "Rushet Green," in 1544, in the will of Isabella Fleming. In a rental of the Manor of Lewisham, temp. Edward II, Walter de Castello and William the Smith, atte Russchete, paid 5s. for land called Russcheteslond in Brodefeld. The name was subsequently shortened into "Rush Green," but the form "Rushy Green" is used in the 17th century. The greater part of the ground seems to have been marshy, with small water courses, and the name was no doubt quite descriptive of the locality from the Pound to Catford, and some distance along the Bromley Road.

In the 16th century there stood here "Rushy Green Place," the Lewisham seat of Roger Fitz, Esq., of Tavistock, but the exact site is unknown. His wife was the Isabella Fleming mentioned above, who was daughter of John Harvey, of Thurley, in Bedfordshire, by Annis, daughter of Sir John Paston. She had



previously married John Leigh, of Addington, in Surrey, and after Roger Fitz's death, re-married William Hattecliff, and lastly a Mr. Flemyng. The house must have been of some size, since during Mr. Hattecliff's lifetime he entertained Cardinal Campeggio on his way to London in 1518. Isabella Fleming died in 1544, and in her will left 20s. towards mending the highway before her house at "Rushey Green," and amongst other things her kirtle of "crynison satton," to make a vestment for the church, and her damask jacket of white and green to make an altar cloth.



PLATE 62.—THE "ELM TREE" INN, NEAR THE POUND, HIGH STREET.

The shops and houses from No. 17 Rushey Green to the Wesleyan Church, occupy the frontage of the estate known as "Rosenthal," formerly the residence of Mr. Alexander Rowland, of Macassar Oil fame. The Wesleyan Church and the adjoining villas stand on the site of the house. The estate was sold about 1888, when Davenport Road and Rosenthal Road were formed.

The public footpath between the Wesleyan Church and the Pound formerly led over what were known as the "Pound Fields," now covered in part by Farley Road.

The Pound, one of the most ancient institutions of the place, still remains, but of late years beasts found straying within the Manor have seldom been incarcerated therein, being dealt with by the police, although four "Pound keepers and Common drivers" are annually chosen at the Court Leet of the Manor. The ground behind the Pound, on which Farley Road and part of Honley Road is built, still belongs to the Lord of the Manor. Beyond the Pound, and built on a strip of land enclosed from the waste, was a small

inn known as the "Elm Tree," and a few cottages. These were all removed when Honley Road was formed.

From Honley Road to Brownhill Road is the site of "The Priory Farm," the house of which stood about midway between Ringstead Road and Brownhill Road. A view of the house is given in Plate 63. The house is said to have occupied the site of the ancient Priory, and to have been built of the old material, but



PLATE 63.—"THE PRIORY FARM" (NOW NOS. 113 TO 133 RUSHEY GREEN).

there is some doubt as to the accuracy of this tradition, seeing that the ground is not part of the property of the Lord of the Manor, and was held of the Manor of Shroffolds. On the other hand, so much of the demesne lands have been alienated at various times, that it is quite possible this site may have been granted away during the period that the Manor was in the hands of the Crown in the 16th century. The farmhouse as shown in the engraving was of the latter part of the 17th century, and was partly surrounded by a moat, which is indicative of an ancient site. It was pulled down about 1877, and Ringstead Road (which runs through where the farm buildings and barns stood to the north of the house), and the Catford end of Brownhill Road, were formed on the farm lands in that year. Plassey, Bowness and Jutland Roads are built on a field known as "Hobley Field."

A name which occurs in many documents of the 16th century is "Clangors." This is the hill to which Carswell Road leads, behind the Brownhill Road end of Laleham Road.

From Brownhill Road to Sangley Road there have been houses

for many years—several are shown as existing on the maps of 1745, etc. The majority of these were small cottages, interspersed with villas, but they have all been rebuilt of recent years. No. 127 still remains (1908) as a specimen of the weather-boarded houses of the 18th century, but much altered. The public house known as the "Black Horse and Harrow," first appears in the Parish Registers for the year 1700, under the name of the "Harrow, Rushy Green," when it was held by one William Balthire.

Turning to the western side of the High Road we have already traced its story as far as Bradgate Road. From this point to the turning to Catford Bridge the ground is shown in Rocque's map (1745) as unoccupied by buildings except a block opposite "The

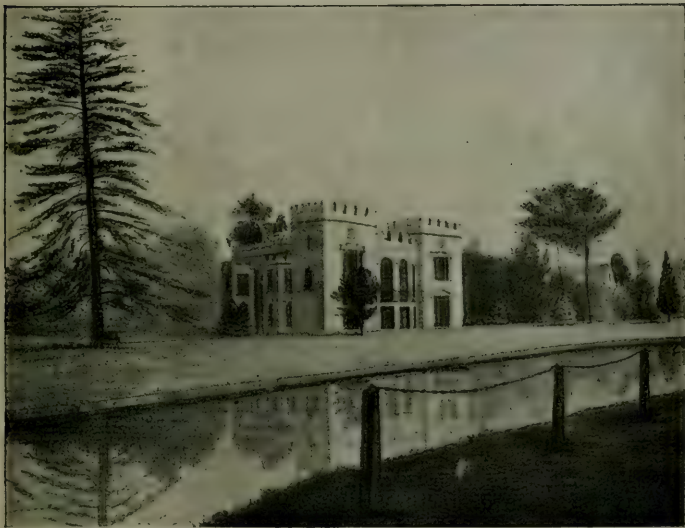


PLATE 64.—THE LAWN VIEW OF "THE PRIORY," ABOUT 1835.

Priory Farm." These were probably the old wooden cottages formerly standing at the corner of Willow Walk. The change in this part of Rushey Green is due to the enclosure of the common lands in 1810, when the open part of the green (about 10 acres) was enclosed, the portion now occupied by the Fire Station, Town Hall, and Hatcliffe's Almshouses being allotted to the parish as compensation for loss of any common rights the parish, as such, claimed. The various cottages and shops now existing date from this time, but a considerable number have recently been rebuilt. The three houses at the corner of Holbeach Road (formerly "The Retreat"), known as James Place, were built in 1830.

## CHAPTER VI.

## CATFORD, PERRY HILL AND FOREST HILL.



CATFORD is an ancient place name, which goes back in documents as far as the reign of Edward I, and is probably still older, as it was even then giving its name to a family of "de Cateforde." At what period the Abbot of Ghent alienated the lands round Catford is uncertain—it was certainly prior to the reign of Edward I—but in the 13th century, Sir John Abel, who belonged to the family of Abel, of Erith, owned a considerable property in the district, together with the family of De Castello. Nicholas de Castello, Clerk of the Exchequer, in 1300 sold about 160 acres to Anthony Bek, Bishop of Durham, and the Bishop seems to have also acquired the Abel's lands, so that at his death in 1311, amongst his possessions were lands and rents at Catford and Romburgh, in Lewisham, for which he paid quit rent to the Abbot of Ghent of 23s. 4d. and a plough share at Michaelmas.

This property coming to the Crown on the Bishop's death, Edward III, in 1331, granted Catford to Sir William de Montacute, as a reward for having apprehended Roger Mortimer, Earl of March. In the same year Sir William, and Katherine his wife, purchased about 400 acres of land in Lewisham, and these, together with the Manor of Catford, they bestowed in 1338 on the College of St. Lawrence Poultney, in London, and the College continued in possession until its suppression in 1548. In that year Catford was granted with other lands to Henry Polsted, of Chisleworth, and William More, of Loseley, in Surrey, for £2,034 14s. 10d. Henry Polsted's son, Richard, dying without issue, the property came to Francis Polsted, his cousin, who in 1578 sold it to Brian Annesley, of Lee, another cousin, and from him it has descended to the Earl of St. Germans in the same manner as Brockley. Catford, historically, includes the St. Germans Estate at Hither Green (*q.v.*) and that in the Stanstead Road.

The connection which lasted for more than 200 years between Catford and the College of St. Lawrence Poultney on Pountney Hill, in the City of London, is commemorated by the dedication of the church opposite the Town Hall, which was so named in honour of St. Lawrence. It was built in 1886.

The building now known as the Town Hall was erected in 1874 by the Lewisham District Board of Works for its offices. It is built on land which was the property of the parish, being a part of the Rushy Green, and cost £9,784. Considerable additions were made in 1900. It is intended to be in the Gothic style of the 13th century, but the details are open to criticism. However, taken together with St. Laurence's Church and the new shops on

the eastern side of the road, the group of buildings makes a dignified appearance as befits the civil centre of the Borough.

The Hatcliffe Almshouses are so named from Mr. William Hatcliffe, of the Inner Temple and of Greenwich, who died in 1620, and left the income from certain property in Greenwich to be divided, one half to the poor of Greenwich, and the other half between Lee and Lewisham. The Lewisham portion of the income amounts to about £170 a year. In 1857 a new scheme for its management was approved, and five of the almshouses were erected in that year, a sixth being built by subscription, which was endowed by Mr. Thomas Watson Parker. Two additional houses were added in 1880.

Between the almshouses and the river were two houses, one of which, formerly known as "Elmwood," is now the Catford Conservative Clubhouse—the original portion of which is of Georgian date. On the site of the other house are the shops in Catford Road, and Nelgarde Road and Doggett Road are partly built on the garden.

All this portion of the parish—and doubtless all Rushey Green—was liable to inundation from the River Ravensbourne whenever there were heavy rains. This was especially the case in mediæval times when the river was a stronger and deeper stream than it is at present, and there are several bequests in wills to making a causeway at Catford, *i.e.*, one of those raised paths with stones laid on the top, which are to be seen in many country places, a reminder of the time when the roads were not so well cared for as they are nowadays. These bequests are of interest and may be recorded here:—

"To the making of the nu waye betwene Syppenham and Leuesham Church." William Feyrewyn, 1494.

"I gif to the causey at Catforde 6s. 8d." Thomas Gryme, husbandeman, 1529.

"To the causey 40d." Denys Batt, alias Gryme, late the wyff of Thomas Batt, alias Gryme, 1529.

"Towards y<sup>e</sup> making of a causey be twen Catford and Catford Brige 6s. 8d." Robert Rogers 1530.

"To the causey at Catford Bridge 8d." Joone Jhonson, 1532.

At Catford was one of the many mills on the Ravensbourne, probably one of the eleven recorded in Domesday, and known in the 13th and 14th centuries as Fordmill. It stood on the western side of the river, on the left hand side of the road going towards Catford Hill, but was removed a few years since. (Plate 65). The roadway was considerably raised when the Mid-Kent Railway bridge was built.

Beyond the bridge the road leads up the slope now called Catford Hill, towards Perry Hill and Sydenham, and the site of Place House—of these parts we shall have more to say later. At the foot of Catford Hill on the right is Stanstead Road, which is

an old thoroughfare leading to Forest Hill. In the 17th century it was known as Stanyhurst Lane, from which Stanstead has obviously been derived. On Rocque's map (1745) it is curiously corrupted into Steucers Lane. It was then a country lane with no houses, and it was only during the latter half of the last century that buildings began to cover the fields, at first on the northern or right hand side on the property of the Earl of St. Germans, and later on the southern side. The Cranston, Kemble and Colfe Roads are built on part of the Colfe estates, on a field known as Great Ozey lands, purchased in 1655 by Mr. Colfe from Mr. George Edmund, who then owned the Manor of Sydenham.

Stanstead Road seems to have formed the southern boundary of the Manor of Bankers, the eastern boundary of which to



PLATE 65.—CATFORD BRIDGE, ABOUT 1835.

Lewisham Bridge was the River Ravensbourne. Beyond Kemble Road, the area of about 64 acres now covered by the parallelogram formed by Stanstead Road, Sunderland Road, Westbourne Road and Perry Vale, was anciently the great field of the Manor of Lewisham, called Pikethorne, being Lammas or half-year land. It is mentioned in the Rental of the reign of Edward II, and in more recent times in the Inclosure Award of 1810.

At the entrance to Stanstead Road is St. Dunstan's College, the largest Secondary Public School for Boys in the neighbourhood. It owes its origin to the various bequests which had been made to the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-East, in the City of London. By

a scheme settled by the Court of Chancery in 1867, and amended by another scheme in 1883, a large part of the income was allocated for educational purposes, and the College buildings were erected at a cost of £45,000, on land which had been part of the Charities' estates. The school was opened in 1888, accommodation being provided for 400 day boys and 40 boarders, with a headmaster's residence and several acres for playing fields. The boarding element was afterwards dropped and the College is now a day school only. The school is built on a field which was bequeathed to St. Dunstan's Parish in 1632 by Mirabelle Bennett.

Standing back from the road at some distance, and near the junction of Catford Hill and Perry Hill, stood the large house known as Place House, which was accounted the Manor House of



PLATE 66.—PLACE HOUSE, CATFORD, ABOUT 1810.

Sydenham. A view of the remains of this house as they then existed, was published in 1791, a reproduction of which forms Plate 67. From the description which accompanied this print, it would appear that there was a local tradition that the house was built by Queen Elizabeth about the year 1580, and was presented by her to her favourite, the Earl of Essex, and that she frequently honoured him here with visits, on which occasions his wife, the Countess of Rutland, was concealed in a secret chamber, the only entrance to which was by a false door from the wainscot of the Earl's study, covered by a full length portrait of the Queen. The apartment was still in 1791 known as the Countess's Room.

In one of the windows were the following lines cut with a diamond :—

Longus et invito pectore sedit amor.  
 And long has love possess'd my breast in  
 defiance of all my resolution.  
 Since my Love seseth shyning  
 All my Hopes are in declyning  
 Synce my day by night is banyst  
 All my joy<sup>s</sup> are fled and vanyst  
 Beware I say'd of Lady Wife  
 Foresee the end before the fall  
 Thrice happy is the man and bleast  
 Who warned is by others thrall.



PLATE 67.—PLACE HOUSE, CATFORD, 1791.

The lines were of course assigned to the Queen, and indicated the strength of her resentment at his deception.

How much truth there is in the story it is now almost impossible to say. Early in the reign of James I the property was in the possession of the Edmonds family, and in 1641 it came to George, Abraham, and Robert Edmonds as coheirs in gavelkind. Robert sold his portion to his brothers, and the estate and house were divided between them. The house was inconveniently divided, rooms belonging to one share being over those belonging to another. That portion which belonged to Abraham Edmonds was finally purchased in 1765 by Mr. Richard Brooke, and is that shown in the picture. The other part was purchased by Mr. Jonathan Sabin, and was pulled down.



Mr. Brooke, who was concerned in the India trade, fitted up two rooms in the Chinese style, with large screens decorated with grotesque figures, forming a curious combination of Eastern finery with Elizabethan wainscot.

This part of the house in 1810 became the property of Mr. John Forster, of Southend, and was pulled down (Plate 66). Not a vestige now remains, and the site is covered by Creeland Grove.

The name Perry, *i.e.*, the place where the pear trees grow, is found in very many parishes in the South of England. Here, in Lewisham, it is of early date, occurring in a rental of the manor of the time of Edward II, in which it is recorded that amongst the payments made by Sir John Abel was 14d. for land he had bought of Gerard atte Pirie. In 1473 Cicely Lamkyn mentions her house and gardens in "Perystrete," and in the Parish Registers of the 18th century there is evidence of two hamlets, one called "Perry Street" (now Perry Hill), the other known as "Perry Slough" (now Perry Vale), which latter was apparently marshy ground on the confines of the forest.

From the maps of the 18th century it may be gathered that the roadways—perhaps trackways would be a more appropriate description—in this part of the parish were Stanyhurst (Stanstead) Lane on the north, a lane now Vancouver Road, with a connecting lane now Blyth Vale, but marked on the Ordnance Maps of 1870 as "Stoney Street"; a lane now Woolstone Road, which Mr. Colfe, in his will dated 1657, calls "Green Lane," which led to Perry Slough; Perry Street Hill (now Perry Hill), and a lane now called Perry Rise, which in Rocque's Map of 1745 is marked as "Glover's Lane." These last led down to Sydenham or Bell Green, a piece of open common, enclosed in 1810, and now covered by the houses near the gas-works.

Commencing at the Catford end of Perry Hill, on the eastern side, the houses are of various dates within the last thirty or forty years as far as Castlands Road. This road is an ancient right-of-way leading across the river to Castle-lands, part of Broadmead, one of the great fields of the manor. At the corner of Castlands Road is Orchard House, on a small estate, shown on plans of 1723 as then belonging to Thomas Dyer, Esq. Beyond this, as far as the foot of the hill, is the estate of the Leathersellers' Company, anciently known as "Brongers," probably from Walter Bronger, who held land here in the time of Henry VII. The old house, "Brongers," has recently been pulled down, but the farmhouse, now known as Perry Hill Farm, still maintains the appearance of a small 18th century homestead. In 1723 it was known as Clowders Farm. The house now styled "Clare Lodge" had not then been built, the site being styled on plans as "The New Orchard," but it must have been erected shortly afterwards. The fields stretching down the hill were known as "Tanner's" and "Annable's" respectively, the latter being that next the road, whilst the land between them and the river was styled "Rowland's."

On the western side of the road, and opposite "Annable's," is a field, also belonging to the Leathersellers, called "Priestfield," which, in the 15th century, belonged to the Walter Bronger above mentioned. Stretching up the slope are the grounds of the house now named The Manor House. In a view published in 1838, and reproduced in Plate 68, it is called Perry Hill House. The house appears to be of early Georgian date with later additions. In 1723 the estate belonged to Mr. Richard Brooke, and in the early part of the 19th century the house was the residence of the Rev. P. A. French, M.A., of Sydenham. It now belongs to A. W. Marriott, Esq.



PLATE 68.—PERRY HILL HOUSE (MANOR HOUSE), 1838.

The house latterly known as Perry Hill House came next to The Manor House. It was pulled down about 1900, and a row of small villas erected on the site. The footpath, which here runs to Woolston Road, is an old right-of-way leading by the side of two meadows known as Upper and Lower Hawkes, now nursery ground. They belong to the Leathersellers' Company. The ground next to this footway is marked in plans of 1723 as "The White Hart." This may possibly be the old house still standing thereon, now called Ratcliffe Cottage. Another old house near the footpath, in which Charles Mackay is said to have lived, has been pulled down. Next to Ratcliffe Cottage is "Ivy Wall," an old

house much added to; and beyond this was another house, now removed, which was once the residence of the father of Professor W. W. Skeat.

An 18th century house opposite Castlands Road has been an inn, with the sign of the "Two Brewers," for many years. It occurs in the Parish Registers of 1807. The cottages which occupy the slope of the hill are built on ground formerly known as "Beechfield," the property of the Leathersellers' Company. A few older cottages at the bottom of the hill were formerly known as Sabin's Cottages, from the owner of part of Place House. The new shops at the corner of Woolston Road are built on a field known in 1723 as "Herbert's Croft." St. George's Church was built in 1880, at the sole cost of Mr. George Parker, of Lewisham House.

At Perry Slough (Perry Vale), in 1802, died the unfortunate Irish poet, Thomas Dermody. His tomb may be seen in the centre of the river portion of St. Mary's Churchyard.

On Rocque's Map, 1745, the land under cultivation is shown as extending as far as Perry Slough (Perry Vale) and near where Dacres Road now runs. All beyond this was wild open forest, and had been so from time immemorial, hardly a house existing west of a line represented by the railway. A country track from Perry Slough led over "Crow Green," which occupied about the position of Forest Hill Railway Station, and westwards over the hills to Dulwich. This is represented to-day by the London Road.

The district was known from early times simply as "The Forest," and those who dwelt there were styled, "John atte Forest," "William atte Forest," etc. In the Rental of the Manor of Lewisham, about 1320, Adam and Robert atte Forest are shown as paying 3½d. for their tenement, which formerly belonged to one Martin Syward, and they further paid 3s. for land "at the Forest." They were probably free tenants holding small farms on the outskirts of the manor. The name, Forest Hill, does not occur in the Parish Registers until the year 1797, which is further evidence of the paucity of inhabitants.

The Enclosure Act of 1810 made a considerable difference to this part of the parish. The forest land, then mostly scrub, was allotted to the various freeholders of the manor, and enclosed; roads were speedily made and building began, but it was the coming of the railway which contributed most to the change. The commencement of this enterprise, however, was the Croydon Canal, which was projected in 1800, and opened in 1809. This started at New Cross and passed through Brockley, Honor Oak, Forest Hill, Sydenham, and thence through Norwood to Selhurst and Croydon. The rise through Forest Hill necessitated some twenty-five locks, and reservoirs were formed at Sydenham and Norwood.

After a precarious existence of twenty-seven years, the canal was closed in 1836, having been purchased for £40,000 by the Croydon and London Railway, which was laid for the most part

along its course. Portions of the canal remained as late as 1870 at the rear of the houses on the western side of Devonshire Road, and east of the line near where Dacres Road now runs.

The new Croydon line, which was thus opened in 1839, joined the Greenwich railway (which had been opened in 1836) at Corbett's Lane. There were stations at "Dartmouth Arms" (now Forest Hill) and at Sydenham, Penge, etc. From 1845 to 1847 the railway was worked by atmospheric pressure, an iron tube being laid between the rails, and the air pumped out, when the pressure drove a piston connected with the carriages forward. The system proved a failure, and was discontinued in 1847.

## CHAPTER VII.

### SYDENHAM.



PROCEEDING along London Road to the summit of the hill, we come to the boundary between Kent and Surrey, on the further side of which lies the Horniman Museum and Park. The boundary of the old Parish of Lewisham passed along the western side of Eliot Bank and Sydenham Hill to the gates of the Crystal Palace; the modern boundary of the borough is Wood Vale and Sydenham Hill.

The name Sydenham was formerly Sippenham or Cypenham, and as such occurs down to the middle of the 18th century, after which the modern form gradually came into use. The greater part of the district, now known as Upper Sydenham, was open common land called Westwood, a name which is at least as old as the time of Edward I. Although styled a "manor" in later documents, it is doubtful if the term was strictly applicable to Sydenham, for the whole of Westwood was esteemed part of the common land of the Manor of Lewisham. Many free tenants of the manor, however, held small portions of land in "Syphenam," according to the Rental *temp.* Edward II, and there seems to have been a fringe of cottages and other houses along the Sydenham Road, from Bell Green to Peak Hill, from very early times.

In 1442 Sir John Welles, Grocer and Alderman of the City of London, left his "manor of Sippenham in the parish of Leuesham in Kent to be sold for pious and charitable uses, saving an annuity of 40s. to William Osborn." ("Husting's Wills.")

In the reign of Henry VII, Robert Cheseman, a member of an old Lewisham family, possessed the "Manor" of Syppenham, and had also a lease of the Manor of Lewisham from the Prior of Shene. In his will, dated 1498, he left Syppenham and Perystreet to his wife for her life, with remainder to John Cheseman, his son.

The latter's daughter and heir, Joan, married William Ford, and they sold the manor to Richard Howlet, of Lewisham, whose daughter, Rachel, became possessed of it under his will, dated 8th September, 1560. At his death an inquisition was held, which declared all his lands in Sydenham to be gavelkind lands. Rachel Howlet married Robert Edmonds, and on her death in 1609 the property came to her three sons, George, Robert, and Abraham, as coheirs in gavelkind. Portions of the estate were sold at various periods. Some of the lands were purchased by the Rev. Abraham Colfe to endow the Grammar School. The fate of the manor house, known as Place House, has been already narrated (page 144). The whole of the property was probably situated more round Perystreet than in the district we now know as Sydenham.

At this period Westwood (now Upper Sydenham) was well wooded, and an order of Queen Elizabeth, dated 28th October,



PLATE 69.—THE DWELLING OF ALEXANDER ROBERTS AT SYDENHAM WELLS.

1559, reserved the wood for shipbuilding. Sydenham may therefore claim a share in the glories of the British Navy of that stirring period.

In the middle of the 17th century the solitudes of Upper Sydenham were broken by the discovery of the medicinal character of the springs, which gushed forth in the hollow now occupied by Wells Park. Our knowledge respecting these springs is principally derived from a treatise on them by John Peter, physician, printed in 1681. From his account it would appear that in the year 1648 a poor woman, suffering from disease, was cured by the waters, which thereupon became famous. Previous to this date the inhabitants had noticed that the water which trickled down the hillside was frequented by multitudes of pigeons. Wells were sub-

sequently dug and built round, and the water was delivered gratis to any who desired.

In 1651 the numbers who flocked to drink the waters excited the suspicion of the Commonwealth Government, and a declaration was published "to all that come to drink the waters at Lewisham to behave themselves peaceably at their utmost peril," a party of horse being ordered to attend to prevent tumult. Dr. Peter, in his treatise, complains of the rabble of Londoners and others weekly frequenting the wells on Sundays, and not content with the natural water, proceeded to drink upon it "an excess quantity of brandy or other strong liquors, thereby many of them becoming greatly prejudiced in their health (to add to their folly and crime) have not been ashamed to impute their indisposition to this water."

The wells continued to exist down to the inclosure of Westwood Common, but ceased to be regarded with favour as a fashionable resort.

Rocque's Map of 1745 shows Sydenham as a fringe of cottages and houses along the road from Sydenham Green (now Bell Green) to Pigg Hill (now Peak Hill). From this latter point was Westwood Common, a roadway across which followed the lines of the present Kirkdale and Sydenham Hill Road, another roadway followed the lines of the present West Hill, whilst a third existed on the site of the road now known as Sydenham Hill. The wells lay in the bottom now occupied by Wells Park, the slopes to the north, now occupied by St. Mary's Oratory, being shown as "Hutton Comb Hill," continuing northwards into "Hambrick Hill."

The Act of 1810 authorised the enclosure of the whole of this open common and its division amongst the freeholders of the manor who had common rights. A very large part has now been built over, but most opportunely the Lewisham District Board of Works urged the London County Council to purchase the site of the wells, and nearly eighteen acres were acquired at a cost of £7,210, of which Lewisham contributed half. The grounds cost another £5,000 to lay out, and were opened on Whit-Monday, 1901.

The site of at least one of the wells (there were about twelve of them) is marked by the font in St. Philip's Church. Even now, in spite of the surrounding houses, one can form some idea of the picturesqueness of the place in its wild state. The views from West Hill across the Wells Park, with the groups of fir trees in the grounds of the Oratory, and along the crest of the hills above Upper Sydenham Station, form a pleasing memento of the old common, and it is to be hoped that private owners will combine with the local authorities to preserve the appearance of the district as much as possible.

At the top of West Hill are the gates of the Crystal Palace grounds, which, however, lie entirely outside the borough.

St. Bartholomew's Church, which stands on the lower slope of West Hill, is interesting as the church of the first ecclesiastical

district to be created within the ancient civil Parish of Lewisham. It was built in 1832, and enlarged in 1858.

Descending West Hill we come to the ground west of Sydenham Station, known in the 18th and early 19th century as Pigg Hill, which has now been softened into Peak Hill. The name reminds us of the early custom of turning the swine into the forest to feed on the acorns and beech mast, the toll for which here was 50 hogs paid yearly to the Lord of the Manor, as noted in Domesday. Sydenham Park occupies the site of the large reservoir which was formed to feed the Croydon Canal from 1809 to 1836.

There are still a few old houses left in Sydenham Road, but



PLATE 70.—THE "GREYHOUND" INN, SYDENHAM, WITH THE CANAL, IN 1818.

they are rapidly disappearing. The "Dolphin" Inn, near Mayow Road, is mentioned in the Parish Registers for 1st July, 1733, when "Stephen son of Richard Peke from Sipeham, y<sup>e</sup> Dolphin," was buried, whilst on the southern side of the road is another old hostelry, the "Golden Lion," from which one, John Robinson, was buried on the 24th May, 1746. The "Greyhound" Inn, at Peak Hill, is also an old house. A pencil sketch of it in 1810 is in the British Museum. (Add. MS. 32366, fol. 233). (Plate 70).

The site of Christ Church is marked in Rocque's map (1745) as "Dissenters' Meeting." The house of Alexander Lindsay, of Sydenham Causeway, had been licensed in 1707 by Bishop Sprat, for the use of Presbyterians, being the first recognised place of

worship in the parish for those who had separated from the Church of England. A chapel was afterwards erected on this site about 1760, of which Dr. John Williams, author of a concordance of the Greek Testament, an enquiry concerning the discovery of America, and other works, was minister from 1767 to 1794. It was then leased to Hugh French, Esq., M.D., who converted it into a chapel-of-ease to the Parish Church, his son, the Rev. Pinkstan Arundel French, being incumbent for many years.

The house now occupied by Lady Grove, widow of Sir George Grove, is one of the few remaining 18th century houses of the district, and a good specimen of a weather-boarded house of its date.

The Free Library, which was built in 1904, stands at the corner of Home Park, one of the open spaces provided by the



PLATE 71.—VIEW ON THE SYDENHAM CANAL.

Lewisham Borough Council. The park, 8 acres in extent, was acquired in 1901, part of the purchase money being provided by the County Council. It is formed out of a portion of the grounds of a house known as Home Park Lodge.

The ground between Sydenham Road and Perry Vale remained farm land down to about 1870, and has been opened up for building at various dates during the last 25 and 30 years. In the Mayow Road, which practically bisects it, is the Sydenham and Forest Hill Recreation Ground, an open space of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  acres, acquired and maintained by the Lewisham Borough Council, which contains several fine old trees. The house and grounds of Mr. Mayow Adams occupied the site of Earlsthorpe Road and adjacent roads,



whilst in front of the house where the shops in Sydenham Road now stand was a pleasant green. The house was an old one, dating from about 1660, but modernized. In 1723 the land hereabouts belonged to Mr. Edward Hodsdon, but towards the end of the century it had passed to Major Mayow Wynell Mayow.

On the maps of the 18th century the part now known as Bell Green is marked as "Sydenham Green," and shown as an open space. The name "Bell Green" appears in the Parish Registers at the end of the 18th century, but its origin is uncertain. The tradition that there was a bell tower here to give notice of visitors to Place House is absurdly fanciful. The opening of the Crystal Palace Gas Works revolutionized the neighbourhood, bringing in their train not only the gas-holders and other buildings of the industry, but many streets of houses of the working classes. It is in fact the manufacturing district of the Borough.

The Pool River, which joins the Ravensbourne midway between this spot and Catford, is here crossed by a bridge leading into Southend Lane. An old bridge known as "Kengley Bridge," a little lower down the stream, is now in the grounds of the Gas Works. In Southend Lane, on the northern side, is Firhill House, which, with the land around, is part of the educational endowments administered by the Leathersellers' Company. A portion known as "Riddlesdown," containing 15 acres, was purchased by the Rev. Abraham Colfe in 1631.

The lane leads into Southend, the remaining hamlet within the parish, which still retains much of the appearance of a country village, with its mill pond and wooded slopes.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### SANGLEY, BELLINGHAM AND SOUTHEND.



**I**NSTEAD of entering Southend from Lower Sydenham, it will be more convenient to retrace our steps to the Town Hall, and proceed by way of the Bromley Road. On the right hand, or eastern side of the road, is Sangley, anciently known as Sanguinel or Sanguels, an old home-  
stead. The name occurs in the Court Rolls of the time of Edward II. In 1495, in the will of Thomas Causton, of Beckenham, he leaves his land called Sanguells, in Lewisham, to his son William, and in 1545, there is the will of Stephen Batt, of "Sangues." In 1627 occurs the burial of Thomas Coomes, of Sanguels Farm. The name seems to have been changed to Sangley early in the 19th century. Part of the old house of timber remained until a few years ago, when it was rebuilt, but the old kitchens

still exist. The farm lands are now being built over. The road now known as Sangley Road was formerly styled Cockshed Lane, and led to a farm of that name, which may possibly have been a modern form of Crokestede, which occurs in mediæval documents as a place name in the parish.

Beyond Sangley, and still on the eastern side of the road, is another farm known as White House, which is shown on Rocque's map of 1745.

All this portion of the Borough on either side of the road forms the old Manor of Bellingham. At what period it was alienated by the Abbot of Ghent is unknown, but it became part of the possessions of the Cistercian Monastery of Stratford Langthorne, at West Ham, Essex, founded in 1134 by William de Montfichet. It was confirmed to them by Henry II, and in an award dated 1218 concerning tithes, it is stated to consist of two hides. At the dissolution it came to the Crown, and was granted in 1554 to Richard Whetely, whose grandson sold it to John Leigh, and he in 1598 sold it to James Altham. From him it descended to Charles Tryon, who in 1724 sold it to Thomas Inwen, whose only daughter, Sarah (Lady Falkland), having no children, bequeathed it to Mr. Francis Motley Austen, of Sevenoaks. The Austens exchanged Bellingham for other property with the Forsters. The old Manor House was largely rebuilt early in the 19th century by Mr. Robert Saunders, and is now styled Park House. The old Manor Farm still exists by the banks of the Ravensbourne, and is probably as old as the early part of the 17th century.

Whitefoot Lane leading to Shroffold Farm and Hither Green is not shown on Rocque's map of 1745, and is presumably of later date. The name, which seems to be derived from a belt of woodland known as Whitefoot Shaw, first occurs towards the end of the 18th century.

At the corner of Whitefoot Lane is "The Hall," one of the residences of H. W. Forster, Esq., M.P., who is the largest landowner in the Borough, holding over 1,000 acres.

The houses in Southend Village are now nearly all modern, but they stand on old sites. The "Tiger's Head" was anciently known as Randall's House. It was the residence of the How's, who worked the mill hard by. Subsequently it was tenanted by Mr. Richard Chillingworth, who appears to have turned it into an inn. It was a house of early 18th century date, but has recently been rebuilt. Neither it nor the "Green Man" appear in the Parish Registers, but a "King's Arms, Southend," is mentioned in 1739, and the "George, Southend," occurs frequently from 1713 onwards. The "King's Arms" was the old red brick house in the High Road near Bellingham Farm.

The Ravensbourne enters the Borough of Lewisham a little to the south of Southend, in the grounds of Bromley Hill House. In deeds of the reign of Henry VII it is styled the "Randisbourne." At Southend there are two mills, now both corn mills, but that in

the village was rendered famous as a cutlery mill in the 18th century, by John and Ephraim How. The former died in 1736, and is buried in Lewisham Churchyard, near the tower. His tomb states that "the art of cutlery was improv'd and carry'd on to the greatest perfection" by the above-named father and son.

The road from Southend to Beckenham passes round the end of the mill pond, and here was a small green until the enclosure of 1810. The roadway ascends gently to the boundary between Lewisham and Beckenham. The hill is still known as Stumps Hill, one of the oldest place names in the Borough, for under the form of Stumbleshill we find it in the Court Rolls as early as the time of Edward I. Beckenham Place House is just within the Parish of Beckenham, but a portion of the park is in Lewisham.



PLATE 72.—VIEW AT SOUTHEND, 1770.

This property was acquired from Viscount Bolingbroke in 1773 by John Cator, Esq., who rebuilt the house and made many improvements in the grounds, including the alteration of the High Road to its present position from that of the Avenue within the park, which is the old site.

At the junction of Beckenham Lane with the Bromley Road is Flower Hall, formerly known as Elm Cottage. About 1750 it was bought by Mr. Francis Flower, after whom it has been named. It subsequently became part of the Forster estates, and was the residence of Captain Henry Forster, R.A. The house, which was of considerable age, was practically rebuilt and much enlarged about 40 years since.

Along the road to Bromley, nearly opposite the second mill, was the residence of Mr. John Knapp, shown on Rocque's map

(1745), which was pulled down many years ago. Nearer Bromley is Holloway Farm, on the property of the Earl of Northbrook. The farmhouse is now on the eastern side of the road, but was formerly on the western side, a portion of the old house forming part of the gate house of Bromley Hill Place. The farm was held for nearly 200 years by the Valentine family, members of which occupied many parochial offices and entered largely into the life of the place.

A large part of Bromley Hill Place, including the house, is in the Borough of Lewisham. It was the seat of the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Long, G.C.B., who was created Baron Farnborough in 1826. He added much to the house and improved the grounds, and there entertained George IV, William IV, and Queen Adelaide. The estate is now being opened up for building.

All this portion of the Borough is in the Manor of Shroffolds, which commences at the "Tiger's Head," in Southend, takes in part of Beckenham Place, Bromley Hill Place, part of Plaistow, and the lands of Shroffold and Holloway Farms, which are the property of the Earl of Northbrook, as Lord of the Manor.

Here, at the top of Bromley Hill, we take our leave of the Borough of Lewisham, tired it may be by the length of our journey, but interested, let us hope, in the story of its past and of its growth. The rush of modern life has left us but few relics of bygone days, but the preceding pages will have shown, however imperfectly, that beneath the dull monotony of modern streets and villas, almost every foot of ground has its own story, which is intertwined with that of the Borough of which it is a part.

## PART IV.

### Our Local Authorities.

By A. W. HISCOX,

*Sometime Mayor of the Borough.*



HE man in the street is generally supposed to have an opinion about most things, and he usually believes he could govern far better than any persons in office, from Town Councillor up to Prime Minister. Yet, how few people can give a fair idea of the organization for governing the town they live in, or, if they do know in general terms what governing bodies rule in the locality, can describe how they came to take their present-day form, and why.

Unless local government is to be more and more officialized, the old English idea of self-government will have to be widely revived in practice. That is to say the people themselves, as a whole, not only a small section, must learn what takes place under the powers that be, and they must then express their own views, as occasion demands, on the methods and the work done by those in authority for the community, which is represented by them.

Local government in Lewisham, as in other parts of London, has been in the hands of so many different bodies, that probably few people in the past cared to spend the necessary time to find out what they were and what were their functions. Though somewhat simplified in recent years, the task is still no easy one, and the authorities controlling Lewisham, and supplying its needs municipally, are more numerous than most people suspect.

Imagine a visitor entering our Borough by tram from London. Coming into Lewisham, via Loampit Hill, and travelling along the High Street or High Road, Lee, the rider benefits by the provision of electric transit made by the County Council, while the streets he passes through are paved, cleaned and lighted by the Borough Council. If he goes along the High Street he sees a Public Library, with lending department, reading rooms, etc., maintained by the Borough Council, and, further on, a big institution, which inhabitants as a rule avoid, and which, under the name of Workhouse, supplies a home to some hundreds of men and women unable to support themselves. The latter is controlled by the Union Guardians, as is also the next large building, the well-known,

excellent Infirmary, which for want of a general hospital anywhere near, often opens its doors to accident cases and gives surgical help.

Up the hill, on the other hand, a glimpse is had through the side roads of another huge building, a home of the healing art, where infectious cases, such as scarlet fever, diphtheria, etc., are dealt with. This Hospital is controlled by a centralized authority, viz., the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

He will find that the streets are patrolled by police, who are not under either of the above authorities, while the water supply is managed by the newly-constituted Metropolitan Water Board. The parks and open spaces are most of them maintained by the London County Council, but some by the Borough Council, and the schools, as perhaps everybody knows, are now in the hands of the County Council.

A stranger to London government would naturally ask how it is that there are so many authorities working, to a large extent, over the same area, but not related to one another, or under any organized control.

#### A CENTURY AGO.

Going back a century we find that Lewisham, though a large parish in acreage, was inhabited in 1801 by only 4,007 persons, who lived in 686 houses. It covered 5,774 acres, with a circumference of 16 to 17 miles, and it was entirely severed from London by stretches of country very sparsely inhabited. Its government was of a simple kind, which had taken its rise, nobody knows how, like that of most country places. There was a Vestry, that is to say, an assembly of the whole parish, which met in the vestry or other accessible place; there were Justices of the Peace of the County having jurisdiction in this area, who, amongst other powers, appointed the Overseers; and there was the Lord of the Manor, possessing considerable manorial rights, who presided over the Court Leet. All the work of local government was done by these three authorities. Broadly one may say that the poor were provided for by the Overseers; the management of the land and the business of the parish were conducted by the Lord of the Manor and the Court Leet, who also administered justice in minor matters; and the Justices of the Peace, who appointed the Overseers, were administrators of justice in the area, and had considerable powers of control as well. The Justices of the Peace, for instance, suppressed the Sydenham Fair in 1766, declaring it to be a public nuisance.

The Court Leet still retains many of its old powers, though it seldom exercises them, for while it even now has authority to fine persons for certain light offences, the amount being limited to one penny or some such trifling sum, it would not be worth while to collect it. The Pound, still to be seen in the main road, and now seldom used, is controlled by the Lord of the Manor.

In 1814 an Act of George III, gave authority to the Vestry to appoint persons with power to assess and collect money for the relief of the poor. In addition to the elected members were the Churchwardens and Overseers *ex-officio*, and this body went by the name of the Guardians of the Parish. This was the authority for making assessments of properties in the parish and for collecting rates, and was only abolished when its powers were transferred to the Borough Council in 1900. The preamble of the Act of 1814 commences, "Whereas the poor within the Parish of Lewisham in the County of Kent are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great expense," and then goes on to relate how the new body will have power to take over the Poorhouse, or Workhouse, which was then in a decayed state, and not sufficient in size, for the purpose of enlarging or rebuilding it.

#### THE UNION GUARDIANS.

This state of things continued until the appointment of the Union Guardians, under the Act of 1834. Since the commencement of the century the number of inhabited houses in the parish had nearly trebled, and the population was about 10,000, but the rapid increase of later years had not commenced. Throughout the country the cost of the Poor Law work was so great, and so many abuses existed, that, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, the Poor Law Commissioners (now, after further changes, known as the Local Government Board) were empowered to unite certain parishes to form a "Union," for the administration of the Laws for the Relief of the Poor. In this way in 1836 seven parishes were united, of which Lewisham was one, to form Lewisham Union, and a Union Workhouse was afterwards built. Only Lewisham, Lee, and Eltham are now left in the Union, which still is the second largest of the Metropolitan Unions, and contains 10,795 acres. The Guardians of the Poor of the Lewisham Union were constituted under the above-named Act, and practically remain the same now, except that the number of members has been increased from time to time. The number of Guardians now is twenty-nine, all of whom are directly elected, no *ex-officio* Guardians having been appointed since 1894.

They are elected by the various wards of the Union as follows: Church Ward (Lee), two; Manor Ward (Lee), one; South Ward (Lee), one; Blackheath Ward, two; Lewisham Village Ward, three; Lewisham Park Ward, two; Brockley Ward, two; Catford Ward, five; Forest Hill Ward, four; Sydenham Ward, five; Parish of Eltham, two.

The work of the Union Guardians involves a large expenditure of public money, and is in every way most important to the community. It is not only a large concern, looked at from a business point of view, but the methods adopted may have a very considerable influence for good or evil. The number of Statutes

affecting the Guardians' work amounts to between four and five hundred, starting from the time of Queen Elizabeth, so that members must very largely look to officials for guidance on technical points.

The work done by the Guardians includes all that relates to the relief of the poor, either in establishments built for their reception or by means of out-relief; the removal of lunatics; the maintenance of schools and homes for the children of the poor; maintenance and schooling of the blind, deaf and dumb of poor parents; giving assistance to poor persons emigrating; apprenticeship of poor children; the provision of a register office for births and deaths; appointment of vaccination officer. About thirty or forty institutions have cases sent to them by the Lewisham Union. In addition to the many Statutes already mentioned, the Guardians have to work under the orders of the Local Government Board, which are equivalent to law, and of which there are about 120 in force at the present time.

*Lewisham Workhouse*, including the Lunatic Wards, is now certified to hold 641, the original premises having been purchased from the Local Guardians in 1880 for £7,500, to which additional lands were soon after added at a cost of £15,000, and new buildings and fittings for £45,960. New Casual Wards have also been added at a cost of over £4,000.

*The Infirmary* is a modern one, built in 1894, and is of the best of its kind, both in regard to the building itself and its equipment. The total loans incurred for land, building and fittings amount to £68,300. From the first the Infirmary has been a very efficient and much-appreciated institution. There being no general hospital in the Borough, accident cases, and cases requiring surgical skill, are often taken there in addition to the sick from the Workhouse. A separate building for the temporary accommodation of the insane was added in 1899, at a loan expenditure of £3,700. There is room for 401 inmates in the Infirmary, including the insane.

Besides the two large institutions just referred to, the Guardians are part owners in the Residential Schools at Anerley, and the grounds attached thereto, the other partners being the Guardians of the Wandsworth Union. Lewisham had during 1906-7 a weekly average of 173 children in these schools, and as long as the partnership lasts, Lewisham ratepayers must pay their share of the upkeep. Recently some "scattered homes" in rented houses have been tried. Opinion is divided as to their success, and as the Guardians were opposed to the extra cost, while they were still paying for places at Anerley, the "homes" have been closed. The annual cost per head of the children at Anerley, belonging to Lewisham, is £32 12s. 10d.

In connection with the Guardians' expenditure it should be remembered that there is a Common Poor Fund, to which all parts of London contribute, and certain matters of local expenditure are



borne by it. Thus, the poorer neighbourhoods benefit by the larger contributions of the richer. The amount paid by the Lewisham Guardians to the fund for the year ended March, 1907, amounted to £8,537. On the other hand the Guardians get back from the fund a much larger amount.

#### THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

No one can have anything to do with Poor Law Work, or read about Guardians' Work, without hearing of the Local Government Board. The work of this body is an instance of government by officials, more after the style of some continental methods in comparison with our usual lack of central control and freedom from officialism. By the Act of 1834, Poor Law Commissioners were appointed for the central control of the relief of the poor, and they were empowered to issue general orders and regulations. Some years later, with added powers, they were reconstituted the Poor Law Board, and in 1871 were re-organised into the Local Government Board, with supervision of other local matters added to their Poor Law Work. The President is a Minister of Cabinet rank, and one of the Secretaries must have a seat in Parliament. The Board has a large staff, including Secretaries, General Inspectors, Medical Inspectors, District Auditors, Solicitors, Architects, Surveyors, Analysts, Clerks, &c.

The orders of the Board are as binding as Acts of Parliament, and, as has been before pointed out, are very numerous. Though they do not meet in our midst, their influence is felt, and no large capital expenditure can be made without the Guardians first obtaining their consent, while they have a voice in the appointment and dismissal of the chief officers of the Workhouse and Infirmary, and in fixing the amount of their salaries. They also make recommendations to the Guardians, if occasion arises, as to the carrying out of their work, even to the extent of insisting upon additional accommodation being built.

#### METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board having a large hospital at Hither Green, to which numbers of patients for scarlet fever, diphtheria, etc., are taken from Lewisham and the surrounding districts, the management of it may be looked upon as a matter of local concern. The Body of Management, however, meets in London, and controls all such hospitals within the County of London, as well as performing other important duties. The Metropolitan Asylums Board was constituted by an Act of 1867, and was empowered to provide asylums for the reception and relief of the sick, insane or infirm. They also provide hospitals for cases of small pox. The Poor Law Board defined the district and prescribed the number of members, viz., 54, elected by Boards of

Guardians, and 17 others, nominated by the Local Government Board. They have independent control of their own expenditure, may borrow money for land, buildings, etc., and they obtain the money they need by precepts served upon the Union Guardians. In 1869 further powers were given them to enable them to purchase, or hire, and fit up ships for training boys for sea service. The amount contributed by Lewisham Union to the Asylums Board for the year ended March, 1907, was £27,383.

#### DISTRICT BOARD OF WORKS.

Whilst from 1834 onwards, as we have seen, there has been a constantly growing organization to deal with Poor Law work, there were a great many other matters in the districts adjoining the City of London requiring organized management. The first solid attempt to systematise this work was the passing of the Metropolitan Management Act of 1855, which established the Metropolitan Board of Works as a London Authority. Connected with this body there was in Lewisham the Lewisham Board of Works, consisting of 21 members, elected by the Vestry to represent Lewisham Parish and 6 for Penge. Their duties included the drainage of the district, lighting, watering, maintenance of highways, cleansing, and the removal of nuisances, scavenging, etc. They had to see to the carrying out of the Building Act, Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and laying out new roads. They licensed cowhouses and slaughterhouses, inspected bakehouses, insisted upon the supply of water to dwellings, carried on the work of the Notification of Diseases Act, and the disinfection of infected houses, and had the management of certain recreation grounds. Their accounts were annually audited, and a statement had to be prepared and published with a printed report every year, in June, at a price not exceeding 2d. This body was abolished by the Act of 1899, which gave over the work to the Borough Councils.

#### THE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

The work of the Borough Council, though a newer body than the Guardians, affects all residents much more directly, and is very extensive. Literally, from the cradle to the grave, they have to deal with matters affecting the welfare of the inhabitants. They carry out the law for insisting upon the milk sold being of a standard quality, and they have control of the burial grounds, while they constantly give evidence of their work in street cleansing and lighting, dust collecting, the provision and maintenance of baths and wash-houses, the building and controlling public libraries, and in many other matters.

By the Local Government Act of 1899, they became the Rating Authority in the place of the Local Guardians, and had the power

given them to prepare the Assessment lists of all the properties in the Borough. By the Act establishing Borough Councils in 1899, a certain amount of system was introduced into our local government. The old Vestry was abolished, as were also those bodies elected by them, viz., the District Board of Works, the Parochial Guardians, the Commissioners for Baths and Wash-houses, the Public Libraries' Commissioners, and the Burial Boards. The duties of all these bodies, together with other work, were thrown upon the Borough Council.

An appeal, however, can be made from the Rating and Assessment Committee of the Borough Council to the Union Assessment Committee Meeting at the Guardians' Offices, and consisting of representatives of the Guardians and Councillors.

The total rateable value of the Borough, after certain allowances are made, is the sum upon which the London County Council, the Police Commissioners, and the Asylums Board base their precepts, consequently the London County Council are interested in seeing that no Assessments Committee unduly lowers the rateable value of the property in its area. The rateable value of Lewisham has increased from £752,462 in 1899, the year before the Borough Council came into existence, to £1,072,532 in 1907, this increase being largely due to the rapid house-building that has gone on, and the growth in value of business property.

The area ruled over by the Borough Council is not co-terminous, unfortunately, with the Lewisham Union or the Parliamentary Borough of Lewisham, so that confusion sometimes arises on that account. It is third in size of the London Boroughs, only Wandsworth and Woolwich being larger. It contains 6,991 acres, and extends from Blackheath to Upper Sydenham, touching the Boroughs of Woolwich, Greenwich, Deptford and Camberwell within the County of London, and the Borough of Bromley in Kent.

It has forty-two Councillors, elected by the voters, in ten wards: three wards in Lee, Blackheath, Brockley, Lewisham Village, Lewisham Park, Catford, Forest Hill, and Sydenham. The election takes place triennially, and one of the first duties after election is to appoint Aldermen, either from amongst themselves or from outside. There are seven Aldermen altogether, and their term of office is for six years, three retiring at the end of one triennial period, and four three years later. The Mayor, like the Aldermen, may be a Councillor, or may be chosen from outside, and is elected for one year only, but may be re-elected. At the Annual Meeting on November 9th the election of the Mayor must take place.

By the Act of 1899 Lee was combined with Lewisham to form the Borough, and in 1904 the civil parishes of Lee and Lewisham were also united. The same rate is made and levied throughout the whole Borough.

The wards of the Borough are as given below, with their population in 1896, the date of the census which was used for the purposes of limiting the size of the wards and apportioning the number of members of the Council. The population of each ward in 1907 is also given, and it will be seen at a glance what growth has taken place, and how badly proportioned the representation is when the wards are compared one with the other. The Local Government Board will probably be asked to make an order for re-arranging the wards, or possibly for enlarging the Council at some future date.

## BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM.

Ward.	1900. Population, 1896.	Number of Members.	1907. Population as Estimated by the Medical Officer.
Blackheath ...	7,619	3	6,880
Lewisham Village	11,034	3	14,995
Lewisham Park ...	9,116	3	17,404
Brockley ... ..	7,392	3	11,777
Catford ... ..	10,891	6	34,033
Forest Hill ... ..	13,945	6	18,374
Sydenham ... ..	23,216	9	28,962
Church ... ..	} 16,749	9	6,971
Manor ... ..			7,433
South ... ..			5,643
Totals ...	99,962	42	152,532

It will be noticed that the population of the whole area has increased over 50% in eleven years, the addition being equal to the population of a large provincial town.

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

A great change in London government took place in 1889, when, in accordance with the Act of the preceding year, the London County Council took over the powers and duties of the Metropolitan Board of Works. The London County Council then became the authority for the main drainage of London, took over the control of the Fire Brigade, and have since had a large number of other duties put upon them. Carrying out the Housing and Health Acts, and the control of Lunatic Asylums, taken over from the County Justices, form part of their work, and in 1892 they became the authority for Technical Education in the County. More recently, in 1903, the whole of the work formerly done by the School Board was handed over to the London County Council, together with the control and maintenance of the Volun-

tary Schools, or, as they are now called, Non-Provided Schools. In addition to the Elementary Education, they had to continue the Technical Education work, and powers were also given them to deal with Secondary Schools. This last work is being carried out by subsidising some of the Secondary Schools already in existence, and by building and maintaining schools of their own, while their Scholarship Scheme provides for the transfer of a large number of children from the Elementary to Secondary Schools. There are eighteen London County Council Provided Schools in the Borough supplying nearly 20,000 school seats, and fourteen Non-Provided Schools with over 4,000 seats. The Council Schools are being added to shortly, and there is a new Non-Provided School contemplated in the High Street connected with the Roman Catholics. There are also excellent Public Secondary Schools: Colfe's Grammar School, St. Dunstan's College, and a new school on the Hilly Fields established by the Council, all for boys; and for girls, the Blackheath High School, the Lewisham Grammar School, the Sydenham Secondary School, and Manor Mount School, Forest Hill.

Lewisham is represented by two Councillors, but owing to its rapid growth it is now proposed to increase the number to four.

#### METROPOLITAN POLICE.

In provincial towns the police force is generally controlled by a Watch Committee of the Town Council, but in London, outside the City boundaries, where the Corporation controls the police, the force is governed from the Home Office. The area for the Metropolitan Police work was first fixed by the Metropolitan Police Act of 1829, when certain parts of Middlesex, Kent and Surrey (not including the City of London) were constituted. A further Act ten years later provided for the addition of any further parts of the Central Criminal Court district being added by an order in Council, so that any place situated not more than fifteen miles in a straight line from Charing Cross may be placed under the supervision of the Metropolitan Police. The district at present contains 688 square miles. The Police Acts provide for the necessary money for maintenance, etc., being obtained from the local rating authorities by warrants for sums payable out of the poor rates. The amount must not exceed a rate of 9d. in the £, and Parliament bears one-quarter of the total cost. There are fourteen police-court divisions, with a court to each, Lewisham Borough being included in the Greenwich Division.

#### METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD.

Until quite recently the Borough was supplied with water by two distinct companies, the Kent Water Works in the eastern and

larger portion of the area, and the Lambeth Water Works in the western portion. After many attempts at buying out the Water Companies, an Act was at last passed establishing a Water Board for London and a large area around it, and we now have to pay our rate to this body, which was established by the Metropolis Water Act of 1902, and took over the Companies' undertakings in 1904. In still more remote times water was obtained from the streams and wells, Lady Well being a notable example, and it is of interest to note that the first supply by means of pipes took place in 1809, in the Parish of St. Mary, under the Kent Waterworks Act.

The Lambeth Company, by an Act of 1848, was authorised to supply a portion of Lewisham to the west of the Ravensbourne, and in 1894 the Southwark and Vauxhall Company was empowered to supply a small portion of Lewisham, which was cut off from the Lambeth Company by the London, Chatham and Dover Railway. Lee has been supplied by the Kent Company under the Act of 1809.

#### LOCAL CHARITIES.

Lewisham, like nearly all old towns, has been endowed from time to time with charitable bequests, left for the benefit of the poor. These, by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, are managed by a body called the Trustees of the Lewisham Parochial Charities. The Vicar of Lewisham and the Churchwardens are *ex-officio* members, together with a number of elected members now appointed by the Borough Council. The charities include monies for the maintenance of certain almshouses, for educational purposes, and for gifts of money and kind to poor persons at Christmas and Easter annually. The Trustees meet at the Town Hall.

#### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Justices of the Peace formerly had considerable powers, which have nearly all been given to newer authorities as they have been established from time to time—the Guardians, District Board, Stipendiary Magistrates, etc. Those having authority in this district are appointed to the Blackheath Division, and, like those in other parts of the country, receive their appointment from the Lord Chancellor. One of the most important duties now left to them is that connected with licensing houses for the sale of intoxicating drinks.

#### REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS AND MARRIAGES.

Though not looked upon as the work of the Guardians, the registration of births and deaths so far concerns them that by an Act of 1836, they have to form all necessary districts within their

Union, appoint the Superintendent Registrar and Registrars, and provide a Register Office, where the registers are kept. The Register Office for Lewisham is at the Union Workhouse, and the Superintendent Registrar is the Clerk to the Guardians. No fees are payable to Registrars for recording births or deaths unless they are required to visit the residence for the purpose. The register of marriages for the district is also kept at the offices in the Workhouse.

#### LUNATICS AND ASYLUMS.

To get a house licensed as a private asylum, one would not have to go to any local authority previously mentioned. By the Lunacy Act of 1845, eleven Commissioners of Lunacy are appointed by the Lord Chancellor, of whom three are medical men and three barristers, who are paid for their work. They have the power of granting licences for private asylums and houses, and of registering hospitals not under public control. The County Asylums are governed by the London County Council, and Lewisham patients may be sent to either of the following: Barming Heath, Cane Hill, Banstead, Hanwell and Bexley Heath. The Imbecile Asylums are at Caterham and Darenth.

In giving this bare outline of the work done by the Local Governing Bodies, one is reminded that changes are again in contemplation, and the organisation of the government of this huge aggregation of towns, the metropolis of the Empire, is passing through a critical period of evolution. The desire for efficiency with the necessity for huge business undertakings which exists, induces many proposals from various quarters which would give more power to officialism. On the other hand the purely local bodies are strongly against any alteration which will transfer powers from them to the Central London Authority, or make them merely a part of an organisation controlled by the larger Authority, instead of being solely answerable to the electors. Suggestions are being made for abolishing the Guardians entirely, and for providing that their work shall be done by the London County Council and the Borough Councils, while it is proposed that the work of the Metropolitan Asylums Board shall be divided up, and that body done away with. Other proposals have been put forward for establishing a much larger body than the present London County Council, to take under its management, not merely the present metropolitan area, but also those districts around, which are sometimes spoken of as Greater London.

Certainly the government of London needs simplifying and organizing, and those who undertake the work will have to consider how far voluntary workers can be relied upon for carrying out the multifarious duties required to be done. On the Continent the practice of paying for the services of the Mayor and some other members of the town authority gives the principal power to the

officials, though it has the advantage, especially in Germany, of securing men who make a thorough study of municipal work, who depend for their promotion upon the success of their work, and have therefore, in many cases practically and successfully carried out ideas which to us appear very advanced, if not even Socialistic. The solution in London may perhaps be found in a combination of skilled officials with the democratically-elected bodies more fully organised.





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