

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

* John Fettiplace (circa. 1484) - (11/Oct/1524) m. (circa. 1504) Dorothy Danvers
(13th GREAT GRANDFATHER)

The History and Antiquities of Berkshire by Elias Ashmole Esq. 1736. Childrey
page 114 "...On the north wall of the Chancel is erected a Grey Marble M, Altar
wife, in which are drawn, upon Several Brafs Plates fixed thereto, the figures
following, viz a man kneeling at a faldftool in Armour, and out of his mouth
iffues this Scrowl

Deus, mifereatur nottri E benedict nobis

In English thus-

May God have Mercy Upon Us and blefs us.

A woman dreft in the Habit of her Times, kneeling after the famemanner, facing
the Man, with this Infcription on a Scrowl

Illuminent vultrum fuum fuper nos

In English thus-

Let Him Lift up the light of this Countenance upon us.

Behind the man are three sons, and behind the Woman Four Daughters, and under
the Figures is this Epitaph

Here under this Tombe, lyeth burried John Fettiplace, Esquire, and Dorothy
his Wife; which John deceaffed the 11th day of October, A* Domini 1524, for
whofe soule of your charitie, fay a pater Nofter and an Ave."

* Edmund Fettiplace (circa. 1505) - m. Margaret Mordaunt
(12th GREAT GRANDFATHER)

* Thomas Fettiplace (circa. 1506) -
(13th GREAT UNCLE)

* John Fettiplace (circa. 1507) - m. (circa. 1523) Mary
(13th GREAT UNCLE)

* Miles Fettiplace (circa. 1508) -
(13th GREAT UNCLE)

* Susan Fettiplace (circa. 1510) - m. (circa. 1531) Thomas Clifford
(13th GREAT AUNT)

* Anne Fettiplace (circa. 1512) - m. (circa. 1533) Pytts James
(13th GREAT AUNT)

* Bridget Fettiplace (cira. 1514) -
(13th GREAT AUNT)

* Eliszabeth Fettiplace (circa. 1524) - m. (circa. 1545) John Goddard *
(13th GREAT AUNT)

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Newbury District Field Club.

VOL. V.

THE FETTIPLACE FAMILY.

BY J. RENTON DUNLOP.

The Fettiplaces, of whom traces and memories are to be found in every nook and corner of Oxfordshire and Berkshire, were, as a recent writer observes, "a most remarkable family for their ancient descent, aristocratic alliances, acquisition of estates, and public benefactions." What peculiarly distinguished them, however, from other families was the hereditary and extraordinary attachment they exhibited, individually and collectively, century after century, to the two counties which first saw their rise, the spirit of clanship and similarity of aspirations dominating every member of the family, and the final extinction of a name at one time so numerously represented as to preclude any idea of such a possibility.

The origin of the name of Fettiplace (variously spelt by members of the family, Fetyplace, Feteplace, or Phetyplas) is veiled in obscurity, and the fact mentioned by Twyne in his MS. that the owner of Ape Hall, Oxford, in the time of King Henry III, was one "Torold l' Ape (afterwards called Adam Feteplace)" appears to be an impossible solution of the matter. The late Mr. T. C. Button, whose family was connected with the Dunchies of Little Wittenham, Berks, as well as with the Fettiplaces, and who was himself an antiquary, gives Fitz-de-Plaas, or Pleasy, as the origin, and this seems a more reasonable supposition. Be this as it may, all writers concur in stating that the first Fettiplace, who came over to England in the Norman invasion, was Gentleman Usher to William the Conqueror, and as, generally speaking, there is a considerable amount of truth to be found in tradition, the statement may be fairly accepted as correct.

THE FETTIPLACE FAMILY.

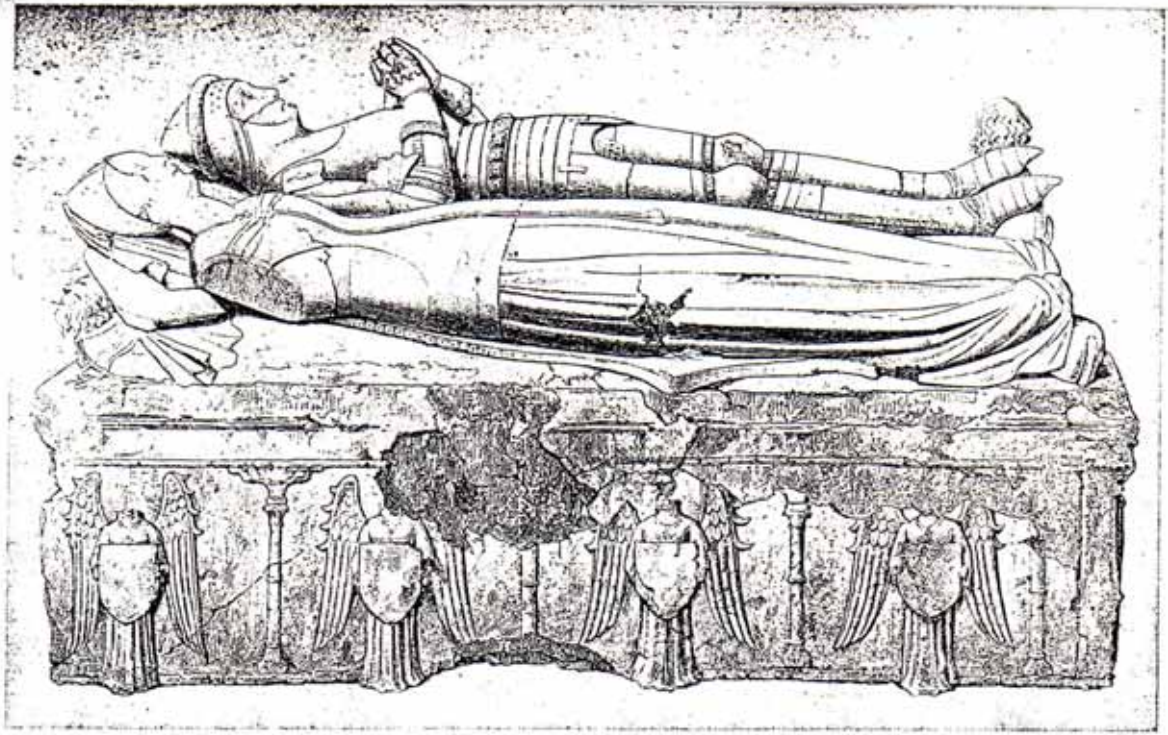
2

The earliest authentic record of the name appears about the year 1245, when Adam Fettiplace is found to be Mayor of Oxford and a prosperous citizen; but it is possible that the following extract from the Charter Roll, 29 Henry III, may take us one step further back in the family pedigree:—"Grant to Walter de Gray, son of Robert de Gray, nephew of W. Archbishop of York of the following gifts—of the gifts of Walter, son of Thomas Feteplace," etc. Hence it is conceivable that this last named Thomas may have been the father of both Walter, and Thomas Fettiplace the Mayor of Oxford.

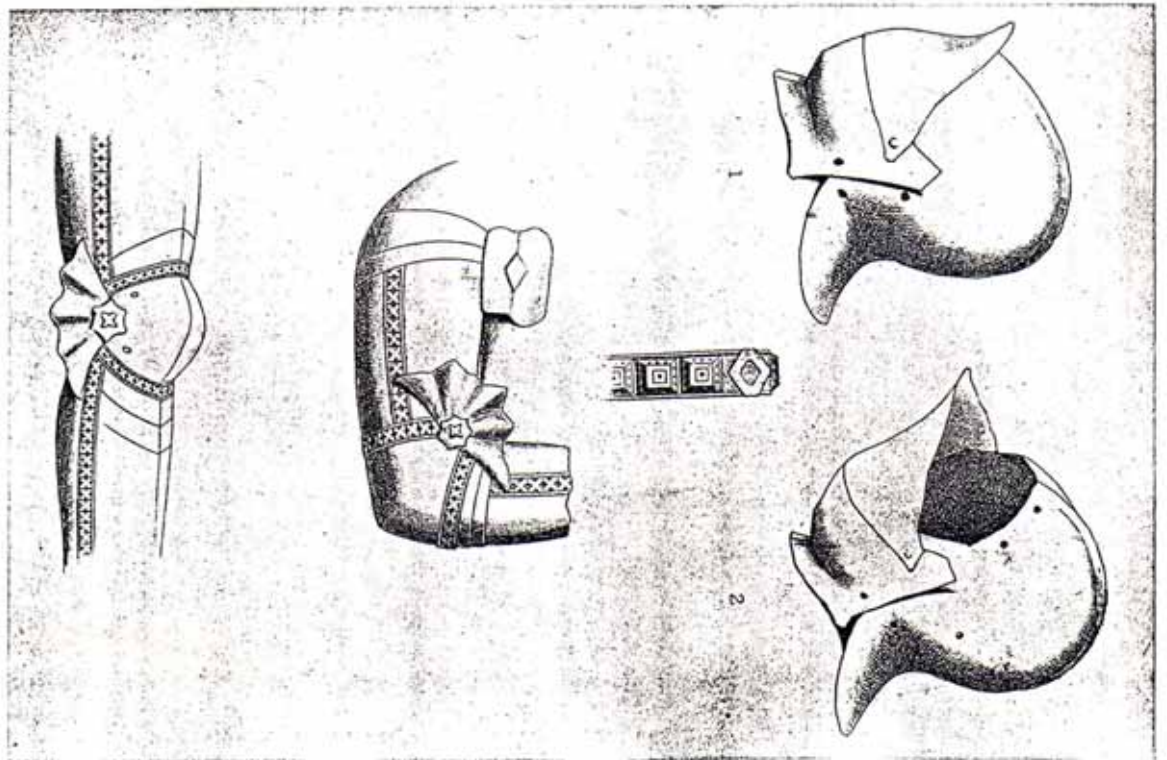
The wealth of Adam Fettiplace at this time, or shortly after, must have been very considerable, both in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, for he is found not only in possession of the whole Manor of Wantage ("Pro Ada Feteplace de Oxon de toto Manerio De Wantinge in Com. Berks: Cal. Pat. Rolls 41 Hen. III") and presenting, according to the Lincoln Register, Bartholomew, a chaplain, to the living of Kencott in Oxfordshire, but, in 1263, he had bought of Ralph de Camoys, one of the rebellious Barons, the estate of North Denchworth, where he and his successors continued to reside until the time of King Charles II. The position of the family must also have been of some consequence judging from the fact that Sir Philip, the eldest son of Adam Fettiplace, bore for his Arms "In a field two chevrons, quartering the coat of the Lord St. Amand,"—thus indicating his connection with that Baronial house.

Once established in their home at North Denchworth the family continued, gradually but surely, to increase in influence and quiet importance. With one exception its members do not appear to have been of a quarrelsome disposition at this or any other time through the long centuries; the exception being Walter Fettiplace, of Oxford, who was in a vortex of litigation about the year 1285, and was, in at least one case, heavily mulcted by the jury for the manner in which he had ejected certain tenants for arrear of rent, and, it must be regretfully added, for beating and ill-using the lady of the house.

During the next century a few glimpses are obtained of individual members of the family—such, for instance, as Sir Philip Fettiplace serving as a Knight of the Shire in 1306, "Henry Fettiplace, parson of the Church of Grendon, acknowledging (in 1317) that he owes to Peter, son of Eustace de la



EFFIGIES OF SIR THOMAS AND LADY FETTIPLACE.
EAST SHEFFORD CHURCH, BERKSHIRE

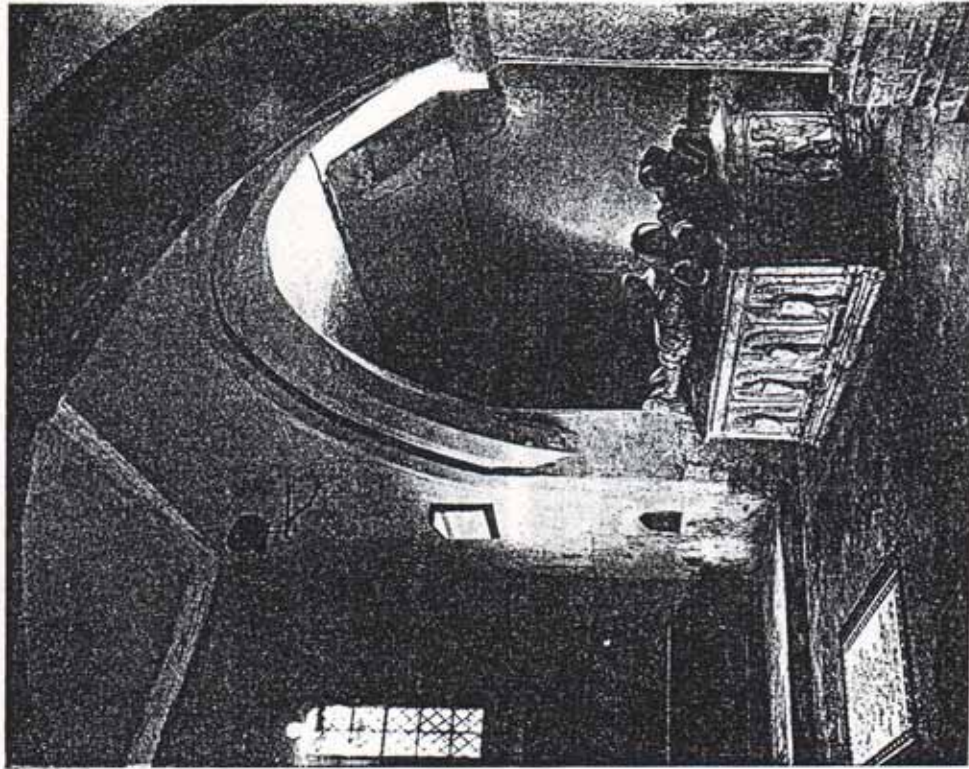


BASCINET & HAUBERK IN EAST SHEFFORD CHURCH
AND DETAILS OF THE EFFIGIES

Rokele, of Bourton, one hundred marks to be levied in default of payment on his lands and chattels in Com. Berks"; the curious instance of John Fettiplace, according to a Charter dated 21 Edward III, being called in that instrument—"John Southbury, son and heir of Richard Fettiplace, of Esthanney," the deed being sealed with the Arms of Fettiplace; and in 1399 Henry Fettiplace is found to be a witness to a charter of John Fettiplace of Buckland, Berks.

It was soon after this period, and at the opening of the 15th Century, that an event took place in the Fettiplace family which not only added immensely to their importance and wealth, but invested them with an atmosphere of romance which time has not dissipated. This was the marriage of Sir Thomas Fettiplace of East Shefford and Childrey with Beatrice, widow of Gilbert Talbot, Baron of Irchenfield and Blackmere, K.G. Unfortunately, no pedigree indicates the branch from which Sir Thomas derived his descent, but as he and Peter Fettiplace of North Denchworth—the then representative of the original line—were contemporaries, each High Sheriff of Berkshire within a few years of one another, and jointly appointed Commissioners of Array for the same county in 1436, it is here suggested that, though probably first cousins, it is quite possible they were brothers, Sir Thomas being the younger, as his arms are known in at least one instance to have been differenced with a martlet, the mark of a fourth son. His marriage with a daughter of the Royal House of Portugal infers that he was a man of recognised position, and suggests the idea of his being of a bold and resolute temperament and well-favoured in person, a conjecture not unconfirmed by his sculptured effigy in East Shefford Church.

Of the Lady Beatrice and the endless, but rather unconvincing, arguments concerning her birth and parentage, little must here be said. That she was of the Portuguese Royal House can hardly be questioned, although the argument against her being a daughter of King John I. is probably correct, and that in favour of her being a Pinto, or Souza, possible. Her quartered arms, and her marriage with Lord Talbot, whose first wife was Joan Plantagenet, granddaughter of King Edward III., indicates her royal descent, her mother, as likely as not, being a Pinto or Souza. Bishop White Kennett states:—"the family received a great addition of blood and honour by marrying Beatrice, daughter of the King of



ALABASTER ALTAR-TOMB OF SIR THOMAS AND LADY FETTIPLACE
EAST SHEFFORD CHURCH, BERKS.

Portugal, which match is mentioned and allowed of in the pedigree of the Kings of Portugal"—and it is to be heartily wished that he had left a record of the source of his information. Mr. T. C. Button says that Beatrice was in some way related to Peter the Cruel, King of Castile, and the Harl. MS. 5867 records that Sir Thomas Fettiplace "married the Ladye Beatryce, Countesse of Shrewsburye and daughter of Alphoncious, King of Portugal"—the MS. being obviously incorrect as regards Beatrice being Countess of Shrewsbury, for it was her brother-in-law, not her husband, who bore this title. But whatever the theories of Planché and other writers on this subject may be, no notice appears to have been taken of the following letter, a copy of which is to be found amongst the correspondence of a late Rector of East Shefford, and as the marriage of Sir Thomas Fettiplace with the widow of Gilbert Talbot is the one fact that has never been disputed, the contents of the letter, it must be admitted, only add to the confusion already existing in connection with this subject, and may have been already contradicted, or disputed, unknown to the present writer.

Legation of Portugal,

London,

August 20th, 1887.

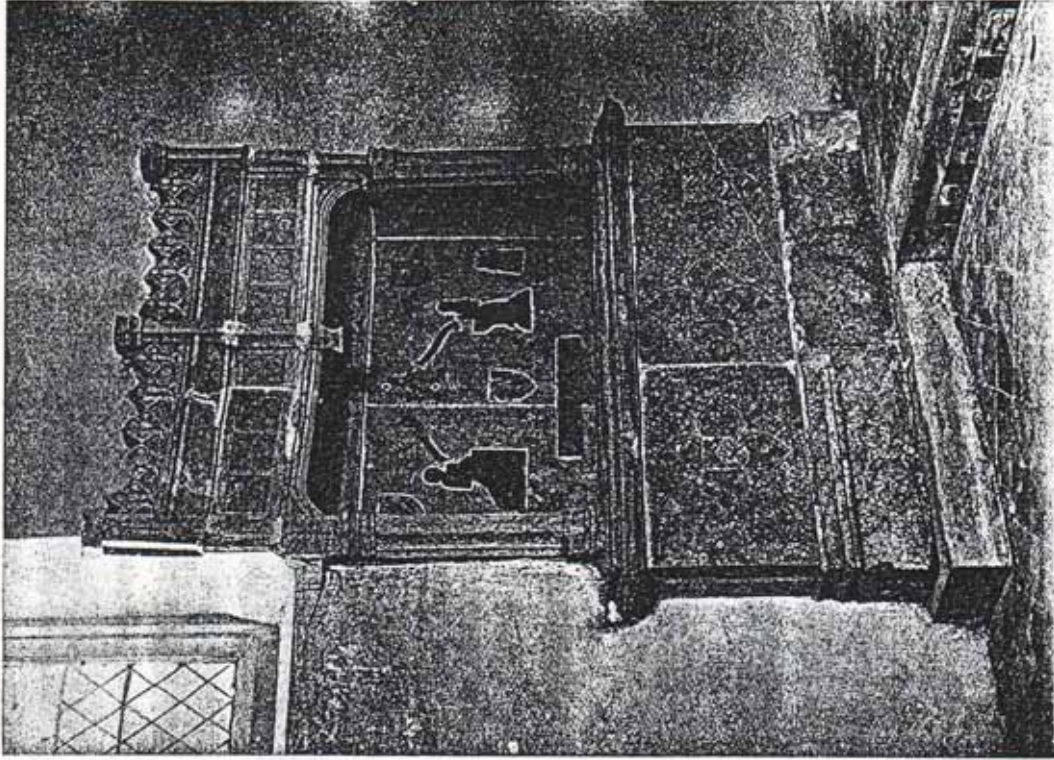
Sir,

Pray accept my best thanks for your letter relating to the Fettiplace Tomb. All that I can say in reply to it is that in 1405 an illegitimate daughter of King John I. of Portugal, named Beatrice, married Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surrey. Left a widow she re-married in 1415 to Gilbert Talbot, Baron of Irehensfield and Blackmere, K.G. She was again left a widow in 1419. I am convinced that she did not marry Sir John (? Thomas) Fettiplace as her third husband. I am sorry that I am unable to give you further information.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) M. D'ANTAS.

The Lady Beatrice died Christmas Day, 1447, and she and her husband lie buried under a beautiful alabaster tomb in the little old and disused Church of East Shefford, their great-grandson, John, and his wife, Dorothy Danvers, being buried close by under a fine canopied tomb of Purbeck marble. Both church and

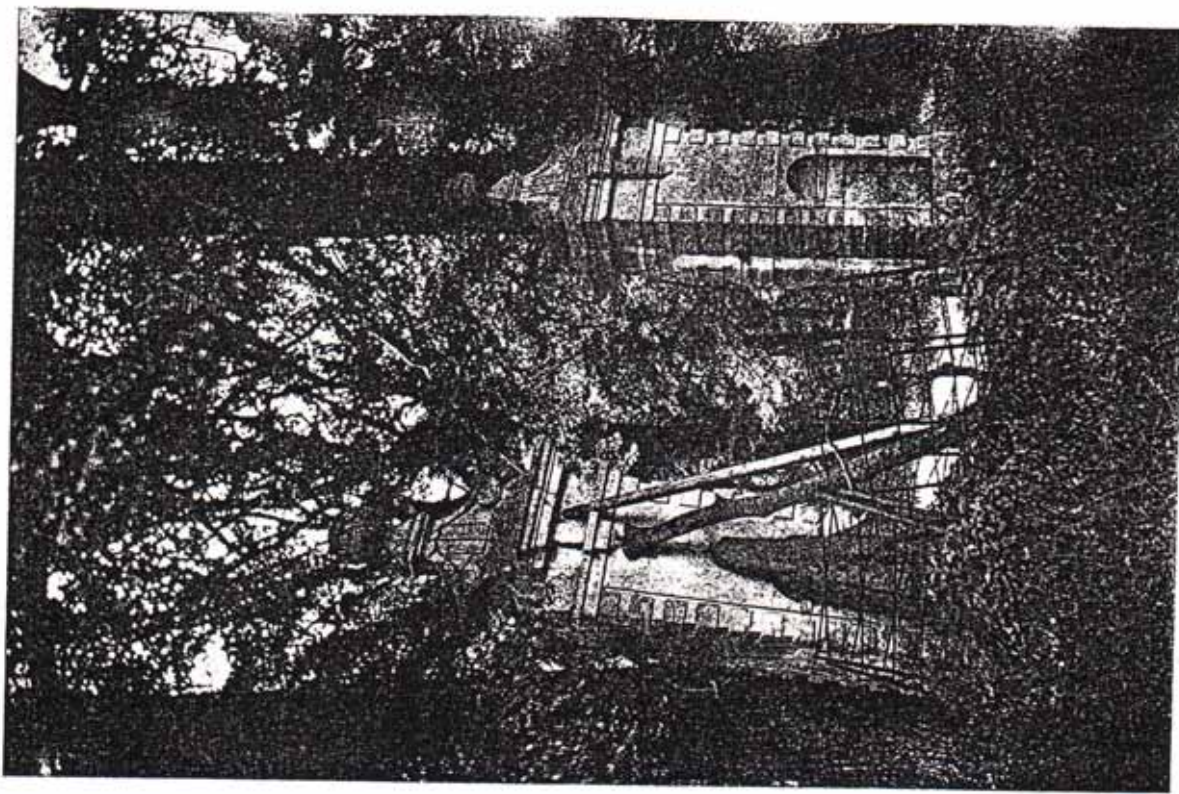


PURBECK MARBLE MONUMENT OF JOHN FETTIPLACE (1524)
EAST SHEFFORD CHURCH, BERKS.

tombs, the permanent preservation of which is sincerely to be desired, have been already so fully described by the late J. R. Planché, and Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., that the subject needs no amplification here, beyond recording the interesting information, confirmed by Mr. W. St. John Hope, an eminent authority on English Alabaster Monuments, that the configuration of the angels' wings on the tomb of Sir Thomas Fettiplace, and the orle, or fillet, encircling the basinet of his effigy, clearly prove the whole composition to have been executed in the workshops of Thomas Prentys and Robert Sutton, of Chellaston in Derbyshire, the school from whence so many of the richest and most celebrated examples of sculptured tombs in this beautiful material emanated at the later end of the 14th and first part of the 15th Centuries, including, curiously enough, what is, perhaps, as sumptuous a memorial as any existing, that of Thomas, Earl of Arundel, and his Countess, Beatrice, daughter of King John I. of Portugal.

The death of Sir Thomas Fettiplace could not have occurred before 1442, for in that year a Commission was issued to him and others "to treat with spiritual and secular persons in the said County (Berks) for a loan to the King in his present necessity, and to bring the same to the receipt of the Exchequer"—and this appears to be the last mention of his name in official documents. He left three sons, William of Stokenchurch, Oxon, James of Maidencote, Berks, and John, the first of whom had an only daughter and heir, Sybella, married to Hugh Unton of Wadley, Berks, and who, no doubt, largely contributed to the fortunes of that house, which evidently attached much importance to the match. This is indicated in the Unton Chapel in Faringdon Church, where the Fettiplace arms are to be seen in all directions, quartered with those of Unton. The great-grandson of Sybella, Sir Alexander Unton, married Anne, Countess of Warwick, daughter of the Protector Somerset, and first cousin of King Edward VI., the marriage taking place with great pomp at Hatford Church, Berks, "the third calends of May in the first and second years of the reigns of Philip and Marie," as recorded in the Hatford Parish Register.

James, the second son, settled at Maidencote, Berks, and his line, in the fourth descent, terminated in a female heir who was married to Edmund Dunche, of Little Wittenham, Berks, in the Church of which place a fair monument was erected to her memory,



OLD GATE-WAY. BESILS LEIGH.