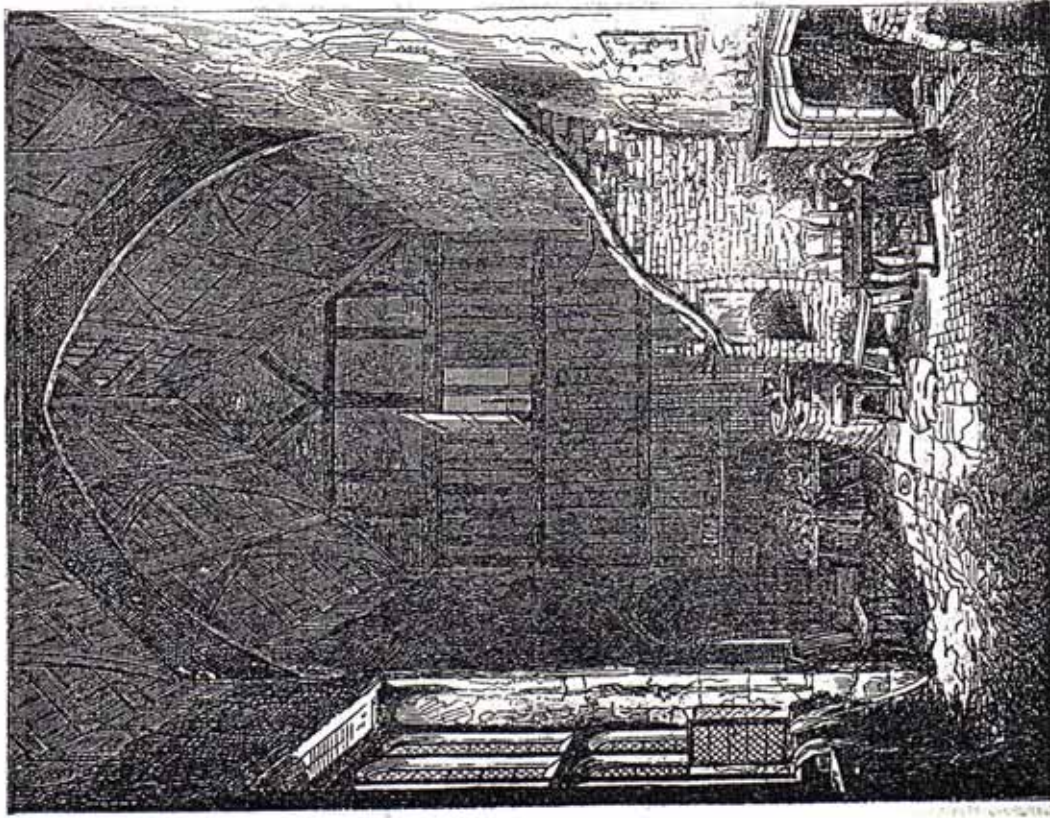


grandson of Anthony Fettiplace of Swinbrook and Childrey. This line terminated at the death of Francis Englefield Fettiplace, only son of Bartholomew Fettiplace and his wife, Mary Englefield, his sister Katherine marrying Charles, fifth Lord Dorner, who ultimately became the possessor of the Manor of Swyncombe.

Of the Swinbrook manor house, where the family resided for over four hundred years, and which so singularly resembled that of Little Shefford, both in situation and character, nothing now remains; but tradition says, as stated by Mr. Monk, that it contained a magnificent hall, the lofty windows of which were filled with the painted arms and matches of the family, and was approached by a broad flight of steps on each side of which was an enormous lion carved in stone. The house is said to have been built, or rebuilt, by Anthony Fettiplace at the latter end of the 15th Century, and writers make mention of its extraordinary splendor which equalled, if it did not exceed, that of the old moated mansion at East Shefford, the picturesque banqueting hall of which displayed, in its windows and on the corbels supporting the superb oak roof, the Arms of Fettiplace, and the five blue shields of the Royal house of Portugal.

The Swinbrook Mansion must have been an ideal home, standing as it did, on gently rising ground above the little river Windrush, sheltered by beech groves and surrounded by the park formed by Sir Edmund Fettiplace, while sloping to the south were its terraced gardens leading past fish-ponds and dog kennels to the more distant little church of Widford standing on its Roman foundation and tessellated pavement. Close by the house was the small 13th Century Church of St. Mary's, the last resting place of many generations of the family, whose memorials, some elaborate and costly, others quaint and interesting, are all worthy of attention.

The Fetiplaces appear to have divided their time between the two manor houses of Swinbrook and Childrey, moving from one to the other as fancy or circumstances dictated, and it was at the latter that Lady Fettiplace entertained King Charles I. and his personal suite on the 10th April, 1644. Although the Childrey house was by no means so beautifully situated as that of Swinbrook or Shefford, yet it was not wanting in splendour.



HALL OF THE OLD MANOR-HOUSE.
CHILDREY, BERKS.

By kind permission of the Editor of the Illustrated London News

Built in the 15th century, it occupied three sides of a quadrangle and contained, besides other fine rooms, a splendid hall, 45 feet in height, with minstrels' gallery, and windows of noble proportions, filled with the armorial bearings of the family.

Opposite the Manor house stood the still existing church of St. Mary's, which is admirably described elsewhere by Mr. Charles Keyser, F.S.A., and under its shadow the little chantry house of the priest. The church itself, in its altar-tombs and brasses, heraldic windows, corbels and bench-ends, is redolent of the Fettiplace family and their kinsmen, and it is of more than passing interest to realize that within the precincts of the building, to the beauty of which they so largely contributed, and nearly four centuries after the death of the founder of St. Catherine's Chantry, is still to be heard, each first Sunday in Lent, the names of the self-same persons for whom William Fettiplace, in his will of 1526, desired the prayers of the Church, the people of Childrey offering their thanksgiving "for those benefactors whose liberality has been a blessing to this parish, and particularly for William Fettiplace, Esq., and Elizabeth his wife; for Richard, Anthony, and Sir Thomas Fettiplace, his brothers; for Margaret, their sister; for Robert, John, Joan, and Anne Horne, his half-brothers and sisters; for Margaret, Elizabeth and Alice, wives of the said Richard and John; for Sir William Norris, John Marsshall and Marmaduke Becke, husbands of Joan and Anne Horne and Margaret Fettiplace; for John, son and heir of Richard Fettiplace and Dorothy, his wife; for John Kingston and Susanna, his wife, sister of John Fettiplace; for John Kentwood, John Baldwin, the Provost and Fellows of Queen's College, Oxford; for Dr. Brian Roos and all other the succeeding Rectors of Childrey."

It has sometimes been said of the Fettiplaces that they never distinguished themselves in the Field, the Forum, or the Senate, but, notwithstanding this, the family constitutes a kaleidoscopic and very interesting group of individuals, the counterpart of which might be searched for in vain in the annals of county history. Ancient in descent, they were connected by blood or alliance with everyone of importance throughout the two counties with which their history was interwoven for centuries. They illustrated the best traditions of the life lived by English country gentlemen, and

residing, as they did, on their hereditary estates, the villages and neighbourhoods around them long felt the resulting benefits. If their manor houses and possessions were numerous and their wealth great, so were their charities, and, after all, it is a better fate that their name should be called to mind with respect and gratitude by posterity for lasting benefits conferred on the poor of the many villages in Berkshire and Oxfordshire with which the family were so long associated, than that they should be recorded on the Rolls of Fame.

MANORS, LANDS, AND PROPERTY HELD BY THE FETTIPLACES IN BERKS AND OXFORDSHIRE.

BERKSHIRE MANORS.

Appleton	Kentwood in Tilehurst
Ardington	Kingston Lisle, Kingston
Botley	Bagpuze, Kingston Ferrar,
Bray	and Kingston Longouville
Burton	Letcombe Regis (2), Antwica,
Buckland, and Carswell in	and Swane
Buckland	Letcombe Bassett
Besilsleigh, and Tinteynes in	Lyford
same parish	Lamcote
Charney	Longworth
Childrey	Langley in Chieveley
Compton Beauchamp	Maidencote in East Garston
Compton Parva	Marcham
Coweye in Wokingham	Ocolt
Duxford in Hinton	Pusey, and Mauncels Court in
East Shefford	Pusey
Elton	Shrivevenham
Ferriham	Shilton
Henley in West Shefford	Stanford in the Vale
Hanney (East), Southbury	Up Lambourn
Hanney (West), North Dench-	Wantage
worth, and Andrews Court (2)	

LANDS AND PROPERTIES IN BERKSHIRE.

Abingdon (Pounds)	Hall Place, Charney
Bradley	Henwode
Benham	Hurst
Bockhampton	Maiden Erley, Sonning
Bedon	Presner
Chaddleworth	Sparsholt
Carswell	Stannore
Cheping Lambourne	Uffington
Donnington	Upletcome
East Hendred (Church house lands)	Woolston
East Hanney	Westcott
Finkesley	Woddell
Grove	Wantage

OXFORDSHIRE MANORS.

Asthall and Asthall Leigh	Swinbrook
Dorchester	Swyncombe
Grafton	Stokenchurch
Radcot	

LANDS, ETC., IN OXFORDSHIRE.

Chesilhampton	The Hamme
Ensham	Oxford
Fullbrooke	

ADDITIONAL NOTES

ON

THE FETTIPLACE FAMILY,

BY J. RENTON DUNLOP.

ROLL OF BATTLE ABBEY.

The name of Fettiplace is to be found included in the list of William the Conqueror's followers, recorded in the "Liber Niger Scaccarii," from the collection of William of Worcester (Lambeth MSS.)

1347. Writ to the Sheriff of Berks to exonerate the pledge of Aylmer Fettiplace from finding a hobelar, as the said Aylmer had died since the assessment on his lands, and Thomas, his son and heir, was serving in the retinue of William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton. 26th July by the Custos.

Aylmer Fettiplace, who had sent his son Thomas, who had served in the retinue of William, Earl of Northampton, at the date of the King's passage abroad to Hogges, in Normandy, (La. Hogue) in 20 Edward III., and at the battle of Cressy, and at the seige of Calais.

Dated 20th May, 30 Edward III., and allocated under Berks in the Pipe Roll of 29 Edw. III.

LETCOMBE REGIS.

A further search through the records of "Chancery Proceedings" between the years 1714-58 has afforded conclusive proof that it was William, elder son of William Scroggs, of Chute Lodge, Wilts, and his wife Anne, sister of the 8th Duke of Somerset, who was the first of his family to inherit the Letcombe Regis property—his cousin and godfather, George Fettiplace, of that place bequeathing him, in 1729, a moiety of his freehold and leasehold Estate, of a yearly value of £360 and upwards, and of a personal Estate to the amount of £10,000 and upwards.

visitors and contributed to their pleasure and enlightenment, and by the members to the officers who had arranged and conducted the day's proceedings, were fully deserved, for they had combined to make the excursion one of the most enjoyable by the joint societies.

The Field Club made their second excursion in 1909 on September 24th. Leaving the town shortly before ten o'clock, in three carriages, the first stage of the journey brought the party to EAST SHEFFORD. Glorious sunshine prevailed, though the air betokened autumn crispness, and further indications of the fall were to be seen in the autumn tints which were already turning the leaves into "mosaics of fiery colours." Alighting at the foot of East Shefford Hill, way was made across the meadows to the quaint old structure situated close to the stream along which flows the limpid waters of the Lambourn, and in which ancient sanctuary for centuries the parishioners had worshipped. Before entering the little edifice, which is now used only for occasional funerals, the site of the residence of the Fettiplaces was inspected, which in its day must have been one of the principal mansions of the county, and interesting information was imparted by Mr. Money, the latter also showing a number of drawings of the interior of the church, further descriptive remarks being afforded by Mr. Keyser.

EAST SHEFFORD.

The old Parish Church of East Shefford stands on low-lying ground on the left bank of the river Lambourn, between that place and Newbury. A new church having been built in a more convenient spot, the old building is now used only as a mortuary chapel. It is a small structure, and consists of chancel, nave, and south porch, with poor, square-headed, Late Perpendicular windows, and a wooden bell-cot at the west end, and was largely rebuilt by the Fettiplaces about 1500; but on the N. is a Transition blocked window, and a very small rood-stair window. Contiguous to the church is the site of an old moated manor house, rebuilt about 1450 by Richard Fettiplace, who married an heiress of the Besils. The picturesque old banquetting hall, with its magnificent oak roof and heraldic glass, displaying the arms of Fettiplace, Besils, and the five blue shields of the royal house of Portugal, was ruthlessly destroyed in 1870.

The old church is chiefly noteworthy for a very beautiful and extremely interesting altar-tomb, figured in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, vol. XVI., p. 145, pl. 14 (details of armour in part of pl. 15), representing Sir Thomas Fettiplace, of East Shefford and Childrey, Sheriff of Berkshire and Oxfordshire, 14 Henry VI., 1435-36, with his wife, Beatrix, who had previously been the wife of Gilbert Lord Talbot, in alabaster effigies. He is habited in armour, which presents us with a very fine example of

the military equipment of the time, his head resting on a helmet much ornamented, but its crest (a griffin's head) has been broken off, and his sword and dagger are gone. On the north side of the chancel there is also a very fine Perp. Purbeck marble recessed and canopied altar-tomb with effigies to John Fettiplace, and Dorothy his wife, ob. 21st October, 1524. Near the altar a basenot of baviere of the fifteenth century (figured in *Journal* above quoted) is suspended. This helmet was stolen some years since, but fortunately, owing to the active measures taken, it was restored, when detection seemed probable, and was for a time kept at the Rectory. Dugdale in his "Baronage" (vol. 1, p. 328), has stated, apparently on the authority of a document of the 11th of Hen. VI., that Beatrix Lady Talbot "was an illegitimate daughter to the King of Portugal, who surviving him (*i.e.*, Gilbert Lord Talbot) became the wife of Thomas, Earl of Arundel," and he has been followed without question by Lysons and others. But it is evident that Beatrix, the illegitimate daughter of John, the first King of Portugal, was a perfectly distinct personage from Beatrix Lady Talbot, afterwards wife of Sir Thomas Fettiplace, of East Shefford. The Lady Beatrix who has generally been confounded with the latter was a natural daughter of King John of Portugal, by a lady named Donna Agnes Perez, but from her arms, as borne on her seal, and still partly visible on her tomb in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity at Arundel, it may be clearly inferred that she was acknowledged by her father, and as well as her brother, Alphonzo, Duke of Braganza, admitted to the rights of a legitimate child. The shield carries no mark of bastardy; on the contrary, it displays the true coat of Portugal, with its border of towers, impaled with the quarterings of Fitzalan and Warren. Her first husband, the Earl of Arundel, died in 1415, and in 1432 she obtained license to marry John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, a union which is proved to have taken place as well by an entry in the Register of Lewes Priory, as by the inquisition taken on the death of John, Earl of Arundel, in 1435, in all of which she is described as the "wife of John, Earl of Huntingdon." She died at Bordeaux in 1439, and was buried in the choir of the Collegiate Chapel at Arundel, with her first husband, where a monument of exquisite workmanship, on which lie the extended effigies of the Earl and Countess in their robes of state, is still existing.

We now come to the Shefford Lady Beatrix, a native also of Portugal, living in England at the same time, who has always been represented as the daughter of John, King of Portugal, but inquiries instituted on the subject satisfactorily prove that this notion is erroneous. She was of a noble Portuguese family of Souza, whose arms she bore, but she quartered also the royal arms, to which her family were probably entitled by a former marriage with the crown, and hence has arisen the mistake which has described her as the daughter of King John. She was first married

to Gilbert Lord Talbot, by whom she had one daughter, Ancoret, or Ankarét, born in 1417. On his death, two years afterwards, she obtained letters of naturalization, and was subsequently married to Sir Thomas Fettiplace, of East Shefford and Childrey, by whom she left three sons—William Fettiplace, eldest son and heir, of Stokenchurch, Oxfordshire; James, of Maidencourt, in the parish of East Garston; and John, citizen and draper of London, and of the household of King Henry VI. This John Fettiplace, by his will, proved 3rd September, 1464, bequeathed £40 to repair the Church of Shefford, to build new pillars, erect a "little steeple" of timber, and make a "closure" round the tomb of his father and mother buried there. Beatrix, wife of Sir Thomas Fettiplace, died December 25th, 1447, and was buried at East Shefford, where her tomb, but without any inscription, still exists. Her arms are known by those of her husband, Gilbert Lord Talbot, who impaled as her coat 1 and 4 Portugal without the border, 2 and 3 azure, five crescents in saltire or.

The chief seats of the Fettiplaces, so prominent in Berkshire annals, and who shared so largely in the spoil of the dissolved monasteries, were Childrey, Swinbrook (Oxon), Besselsleigh, and East Shefford; but they had many important properties beside, and the family at one time held 31 manors, and the old distich is a surviving evidence of the former wealth and influence of the Laceys, of Shipton, and the Fettiplaces of Swinbrook:—

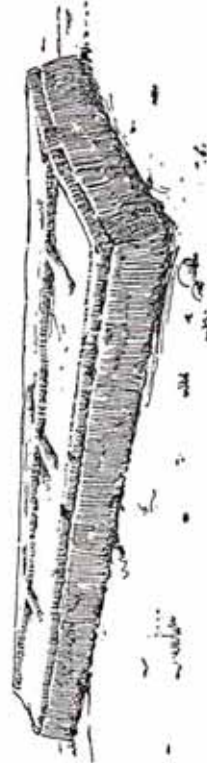
"The Laceys, the Trays, and Fettiplaces
Own all the mansions, the woods, and the places."

Sir George, the last of the Fettiplace family in a direct line, died in 1743, and left £100,000 in ready money, besides his annual income, and devised his estates to his sister's son, Thomas Bushell, of Cleve Prior, Worc., who took the name of Fettiplace. He died in 1767, leaving his estates to his eldest son, Robert Fettiplace, who died in 1799, and was succeeded by his brother Charles Fettiplace, Gorges (he married Frances Fettiplace, 1757), who took the name of Fettiplace. He died suddenly at the Bull, in Burford, on his way from Gloucester to his residence, Southlawn Lodge, Forest of Whichwood, in 1806. He having no issue, left his estates to his five sisters, Diana, Arabella, Meliora, Elizabeth, and another. The name of Fettiplace then became extinct, and as the memorialist tritely remarks, in the Parish Register of Swinbrook,

"Sic transit gloria mundi!"

The old church, owing to its damp situation, and by disuse, having become in a ruinous state, in the year 1883 an effort was made by the then rector, the Rev. R. J. Mooryaart, in conjunction with the writer of these notes, and others, to place the old fabric in a proper state of repair, which was satisfactorily accomplished by the aid of a public subscription. In removing the earth be-

tween the porch and the angle of the western wall a massive 12th cent. Caen stone coffin lid, bearing a triple cross, was dug up, and



covered an oak coffin containing the skeleton of an ecclesiastic with pewter funeral chalice and paten. A piece of enamel was also found with the body, evidently part of an ecclesiastical ornament. The monumental slab, which is a composition of much beauty, is placed at the W. end of the church. There was formerly in the old church some very rich and beautiful remains of ancient painted glass, part of which has been removed to the new church built in 1880, and inserted in one of the side windows. The principal subject is that of a bishop with mitre, and vested in alb and maniple, tunic with fringed border, and cope, fastened at the neck by a large trefoil shaped morse or brooch. The hood attached to the cope is brought up over the head, partially covering the mitre. In his right hand he holds a service book with cover mounted with jewels. The pastoral staff in his left hand has the crook turned inwards (abbots, on the contrary, hold their staff with the crook turned inwards in the right hand). He wears also the episcopal glove on the right hand, on the back of which are figured the usual jewels emblematic of the wounds of Christ. Below the above figure is a representation of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Virgin is seated, holding an open book on her knees. This is a very unusual treatment of the subject.

Above these two figures, although not connected with them, is a shield of arms, Gules, two chevrons argent, Fettiplace; quartering, Argent, three torteauxes, 2 and 1, Besils; and a lion passant gardant, crowned or, Leigh.

The Communion plate, of the 17th century, a silver chalice, flagon and paten, are now used at the new church. The chalice is inscribed "The gifts of Mistress Marye Winchcombe"; and the flagon, "The gift of the Lady Mary Clarke, 1640." The donor was the same in both cases—Mary, the eldest daughter of Edmund Dunch, of Wittenham, Esq., who married, 1st, William Winchcombe, of Bucklebury, Esq., and secondly (as his third wife) Sir Edward Clarke, of Ardington, Kt. She died in 1646, and was

buried at Wittenham, by the side of her first husband, to whom she erected a monument, with an inscription commencing:—

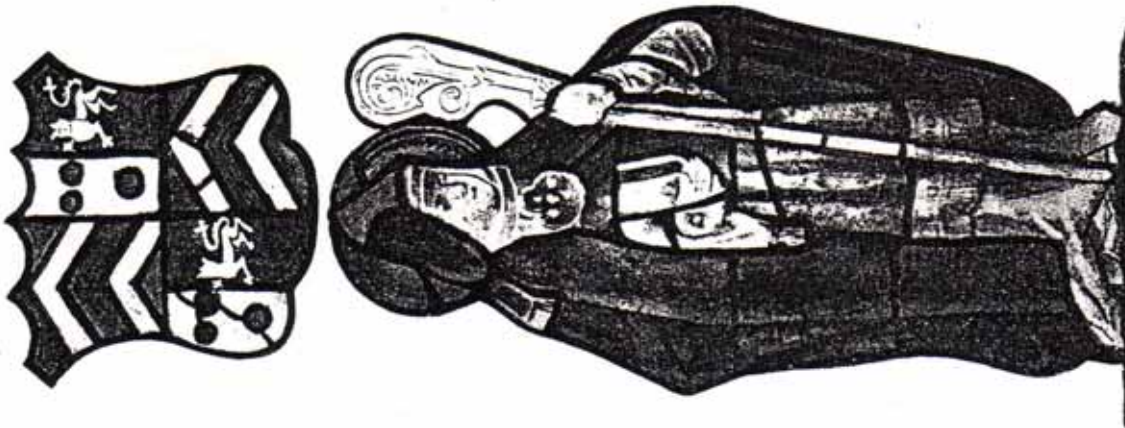
"I loved Thee living, and lament Thee dead,
 But in what measure cannot be express;
 Yet Love and Sorrow, both will needs be reade,
 Even in this Marble (Deare) they do their best,
 And 'tis for others too I putt this Stone;
 To me thy Tombe shall be my Heart alone."

The Winchcombes purchased the manor and advowson of East Shefford from the Fettiplaces, hence the connection of Lady Clarke with the parish. This Lady Clarke gave £10, the interest to be distributed to the poor of East Shefford on St. Thomas's day. In the list of Benefactions in the church, and in the Charity Commissioners' Reports, the name is erroneously printed "Lady Church," a blunder which is repeated in various local accounts of the parish. The bequest of Lady Clarke was augmented by the gift of £20 from Miss Elizabeth Froome, a member of a family for many generations connected with East Shefford. The font is a plain, round bowl, supposed to be Norman, but fonts of this date are generally in some degree ornamented, and as Early English fonts are also very often circular and devoid of enrichment, it is difficult to decide to which of these styles they belong.

By no class of people are monuments of antiquity more valued than by our American friends, who venerate whatever reminds them of that ancient England whence they too are sprung, and in this sense the little village church of East Shefford has many claims on their sympathy and attachment; for in this old sanctuary the Rev. John Prince ministered for many years, in the 17th century, and was afterwards the founder of Princetown College, New Jersey. From this old Puritan divine have come a long list of descendants, whose names are among the most honoured in the annals of New England.

In making the railway cutting near the bridge at East Shefford, in 1890, an extension Anglo-Saxon cemetery was discovered, and many skeletons disinterred. Valuable finds of amber-coloured and other glass drinking vessels, enamelled fibulae, amulets, beads, rings, swords and spear-heads were made, besides several Roman and Anglo-Saxon coins. Most of the articles are now in the British Museum.

The Rev. R. H. Murphy, the present rector, joined the party, and he stated that only last year a member of the Prince family, a descendant of the former Rector, visited the parish and lingered for hours under the shadow of the old church. Among other things shown him was the Communion plate, and taking a cup which was close on three hundred years old handed it to his son, who was with him, solemnly charging him always to remember that he had held the very cup which his ancestor had used during the time he had been rector.



PAINTED GLASS FROM THE OLD CHURCH, EAST SHEFFORD.