

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Remarks on The Manor, Advowson and Demesne Land of English
Bicknor, Co. Gloucester**

by J. Maclean
1876, Vol. 1, 69-95

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REMARKS ON
 THE MANOR, ADVOWSON, AND DEMESNE LANDS,
 OF
 ENGLISH BICKNOR, CO. GLOUCESTER.

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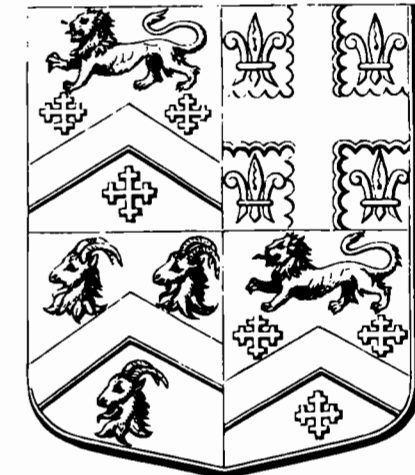
When I was honoured by a request from some members of the Council of the newly formed "Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society" to furnish a paper for the first Annual Meeting of the Society, it occurred to me that I could not do better than offer a few notes on my predecessors at Bicknor Court, and the Manor, Advowson, and Demesne Lands of English Bicknor. Hereafter, if desired, I may have the pleasure of supplementing my present paper by a few observations on the pre-historic remains which exist in the parish, and on the ancient and interesting Parish Church.

I should here mention that the time at my disposal at this present is insufficient to enable me to make an exhaustive search, and the few materials which form the basis of my paper were collected before I had had an opportunity of consulting Sir Richard Atkyns' work, as it relates to this parish.

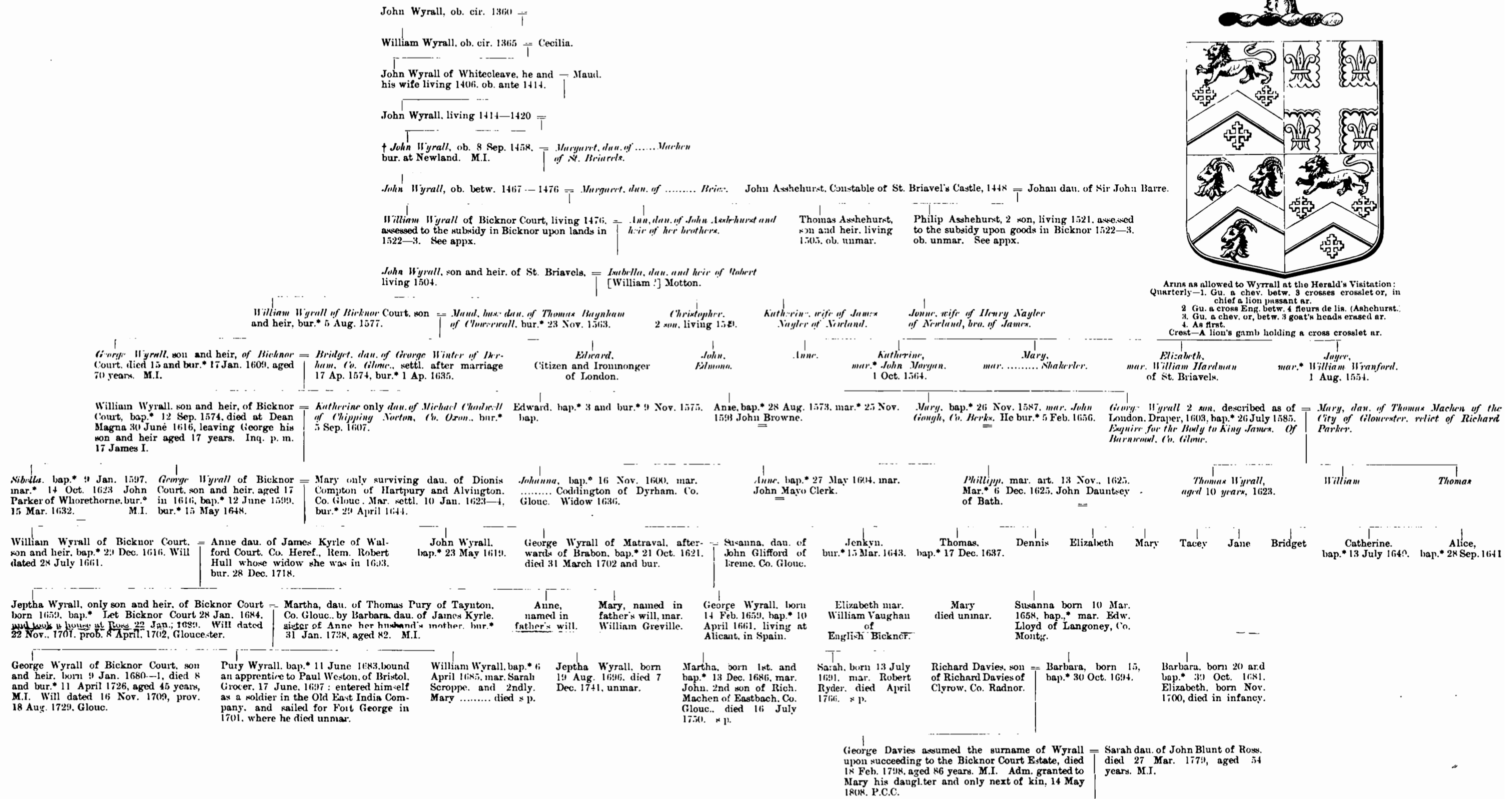
It seems a somewhat ungracious task to point out errors in generally received and respected authorities, nevertheless a regard for historic truth demands that the historian of our day should avail himself of the great facilities which have been placed within the reach of all who seek accurate information. It must not be supposed that I depreciate the valuable labours of the giants who have preceded me as local historians, in comparison with whom, after all, I feel myself but a pigmy. Considering the lack of advantages under which they laboured

PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF WYRALL, ALIAS WORRALL, ALIAS WYRHALE, OF BICKNOR COURT, IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER,

Compiled from Charters, Deeds, and other documents relating to the Estate, &c. That portion printed in italics agrees with the Pedigree recorded in the Herald's College.



Arms as allowed to Wyrall at the Herald's Visitation: Quarterly—1. Gu. a chev. betw. 3 crosses crosslet or, in chief a lion passant ar. 2. Gu. a cross Eng. betw. 4 fleurs de lis. (Asshehurst). 3. Gu. a chev. or, betw. 3 goat's heads erased ar. 4. As first. Crest—A lion's gamb holding a cross crosslet ar.



† This gentleman is commemorated by an Altar Tomb in Newland Churchyard, bearing a recumbent effigy. The figure is represented as clad in a short tunic and close fitting hose, the foot resting against a dog. On the right side hangs his hunting horn and on the left his Couteau du Chase. Around the upper part of the tomb and across the panels, which are enriched by quarterfoils within circles, is the following inscription now much defaced: "Here lythe: Jon: Wyrall: Forster: of: Foe: the: which: deseyd: the: vij: day: of: September: in: ye: yvare: of: our: Lorde: MCCCC liiij: On: his: soule: God: have: Mercy: Amen." (Nicholls, "Forest of Dean.")
 * At English Bicknor.

Jenkyn Wyrall of Bicknor Court, son and heir, died 2 Aug. 1801, aged 48 years, M.I. Adm. granted to his father, George Wyrall, of Pontypool, Harriet relict of deceased having renounced. s p. = Harriet, dau. of Richard Mabbot of Coleford, mar. settl. dated 20 Nov. 1797, mar.* 11 Aug. 1798. Martha Wyrall, died 9 Jan. 1808, aged 51 years. M.I. unmar. Adm. granted to Mary Wyrall her sister, 17 July, 1809. P.C.C. Mary Wyrall of Bicknor Court, died 21 Dec. 1826, aged 69 years. Will dated 23 July, 1819. Last Ccd. 8 Sep. 1826. Prov. 7 Feb. 1827. P.C.C. Being the last of her race, she devised Bicknor Court and all her real Estate to Edward Machen of Whitemead Park, Esq. John, Sarah, died in infancy.

and the great extent of some of their works, the degree of accuracy to which many of them attained is surprising. Atkyn's History of Gloucestershire, though not so elaborate as many, may be ranked among the best. It is very brief, and in some parts unavoidably incorrect. In some instances I shall corroborate his statements, and in others correct them, but I shall use my own materials, generally, without reference to him. In cases in which I differ from him, as he quotes no authorities, I have no means of verifying his statements, but for my own I shall, in all cases, cite my evidences. It will consequently be in the power of the members of the Society, and others interested in the subject, to follow out the inquiry.

Sir Richard Atkyns has assumed the identity of Bicknor with a place written in Domesday *Bicanofre*, which is therein described as being in Westberie Hundred. I experience some hesitation in accepting this conclusion. Whilst well aware of the very numerous errors in orthography which necessarily arose in names being written down by Norman scribes from English lips, it seems to me that the two words are scarcely reconcilable. Bicknor is now in the Hundred of St. Briavels and not in that of Westbury, but I do not attribute much importance to this discrepancy, for St. Briavels is not mentioned at all as a HUNDRED in Domesday, and perhaps it did not exist as a Hundred at the time of the survey, for though the Hundreds, generally, were formed in Saxon times, considerable alterations were, I believe, made in them in the reign of King Henry I., and, moreover, the accuracy of the Domesday Hundreds cannot be relied upon. I find St. Briavels mentioned as well as the Hundred of Westbury in the Hundred Rolls, only not specifically as either Hundr', Villa, or Burgus, and it would seem to be connected and confused with the Hundred of Westbury. It may at this time have been in process of consolidation as a separate Hundred. In Testa de Nevill under the Hundred of Westbury neither Bicanofre nor Bicknor^z are named in any form. It seems

* Henry de Bykenor is mentioned under St. Briavels.

to me that Bicknor was probably an assart from the Forest of Dene, of which it still forms a part, made subsequent to the date of the Domesday Survey. Perhaps some member of the Society, better acquainted than I am with the locality, may be able to say if there be any place within the Hundred of Westbury whose name is more nearly allied to Bicanofre than is that of Bicknor. Leaving, then, this point for future investigation and the researches of others, I will for the present assume the identity claimed by Sir Richard Atkyns and proceed :—

THE MANOR OF ENGLISH BICKNOR.

The Manor of English Bicknor, in the reign of Henry III, was parcel of the inheritance of a certain Cecilia, who became the second wife of Robert de Muchegros, of Somerset, though he also held in the County of Gloucester the Manors of Botinton and Towton, and a moiety of the Manor of Kenemerton, together with lands in Kilcote, in the Forest of Dene. This Robert would seem to have forfeited the Manor of Kenemerton, for it being in the hands of King Henry III he committed to Robert de Muchegros all the lands which the said Robert formerly held in Kenemerton, to be held in the same manner as he formerly held them.*

Robert de Muchegros, by the said Cecilia, had a son named John, and dying seized of all the lands above mentioned, the said John was found to be his nearest heir, and to have been aged 21 years, on 10 August, 1253.† The said John de Muchegros died in 1275, seized, *inter alia*, of two carucates of land in demesne, which were one knight's fee, in Kenemerton, leaving Robert de Muchegros, his son and heir, of full age.‡ Robert de Muchegros died seized, *inter alia*, of the Manor of Kynimerton, which he held by the service of one knight's fee, the value of the said manor, in all its issues, being £18 11s. 8d. per annum, without the advowson of the church of the same

* Rotuli Selecti, p. 259.

† Inq. p. m. 38th, Henry III, No. 39.

‡ Inq. p. m. 3rd, Edward I, No. 23.

ville, which was of the value per annum of 15 marks, the presentation to which pertained to the said Robert and Nicholas de Mutton alternately, and that the said Robert had the first presentation; and it was found that Hawise, daughter of the said Robert, was his nearest heir, and was aged 4 years on the day of St. Thomas the Apostle then last past, viz., 21 December, 1280.* It should be noticed that neither of the aforesaid members of the Musecgros family held the Manor of Bicknor. This Manor remained vested in the aforesaid Cecilia. She survived her grandson, Robert de Muchegros, many years, and died in 1301, seized, *inter alia*, of the Manor of Bikenor with appurtenances. The inquisition taken after her death gives us the following extent of the Manor: "The jury say that the aforesaid Cecilia held in her demesne as of fee on the day on which she died the Manor of Bikenor, with appurtenances, of the King in Capite, by the service of 15s. annually, paid at the feast of St. Michael, at Newenham, held of the King, of St. Briavels and by Sergeanty: viz., keeping a certain wood in the Forest of Dene by one man with bow and arrows. And they say that the Capital messuage with easements, houses, and curtelage, is of the value, per annum, of 12d., and that there is there one dovecote whose value, per annum, is 12d.; and there is there one fishery, called La Weye, and the value per annum is 20s.; and that there is there one water mill, whose value per annum is 20s.; and there is there one Fullers' mill, whose value per annum is 6s. 8d.; and there are there 120 acres of arable land, whose value per annum is 25s.—price, each acre, 2½d.; and there are there 8 acres of meadow, whose value per annum is 12s.—price of each acre, 18d.; † and there are there six score and four free tenants, who render, per annum, £23 7s. 7d., viz., at the feast of the Annunciation of St. Mary,

*Inq. p. m. 9th, Edward I, No. 21.

†The difference in the relative value of arable and pasture lands, as here shewn, is very remarkable, and would seem to shew that grazing held a disproportionate position to the higher processes of agriculture. The same fact is illustrated in the Report made in 1338, by Prior Philip de Thame to the Grand Master, Elyan de Villanova, on the lands of the Knights' Hospitallers in England—printed by the Camden Society, in 1855. From this report it appears that at that date the price of arable land, generally, ranged from 6d. to 12d. per acre, and sometimes was as low as 1d.; whilst the value of meadow land ranged between 18d. and 24d. per acre, and was sometimes as high as 3s.

in March, £11 13s. 9½d. ; and at the feast of St. Michael, £11 13s. 9½d. Item, they say that the pleas and perquisites of the Courts are of the value, per annum, of 20s. Sum total of the aforesaid Manor, per annum, £28 13s. 3d." The jurors also say that the said Cecilia held of the King, by service of 6s. 8d. per annum, a certain assart* at Greneway, containing 20 acres, which was the true value—the price of each acre being 4d. ; and that she held a certain other assart, containing 5 acres, at the rent of 20d., which, also, was the true value; and they found that Hawysia, wife of John de Ferrers, daughter of Robert de Muchegros, grandson of the said Cecilia (neptis dicte Cecilia), was the nearest heir of the said Cecilia, and was aged 25 years.†

By her marriage with John de Ferrers, Hawisia had a son Robert. She survived her husband, and married, secondly, John de Bures, whom she pre-deceased. After her death, John de Bures held her estates according to the law of England, and died at Botynton, on Wednesday in the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, 24th Edward III (1350), seized, *inter alia*, for the term of his life, of the Manor of Bykenore, which, according to the description, would seem to have become greatly diminished in extent and in value. The jury say there is one messuage which is of the value of 6d. per annum, and there are 60 acres of arable land of the value of 10s.—price per acre, 2d. ; and there are there 16 free tenants, who render, per annum, 20s. ; and the pleas and perquisites are worth 3s. per annum ; the total value of the Manor being 35s. only. And the jury say that John, the son of Robert de Ferrers, son of Hawisia de Ferrers, is the nearest heir of the said Hawisia, and is aged 19 years ; and that Katherine, daughter of the same John de Bures, and wife of Giles de Bello Campo, is the nearest heir of the said John, and is aged 35 years.‡

*An assart is land recovered from a forest.

†She held also in the County of Gloucester, the Manor of Longford, of Nicholas Fitz-Ralph; and the Manor of Teinton, of Mr. William de Boys, by the service of one Knight's fee. Inq. p. m. 20, Edward I, No. 29b.

‡Inq. p. m., 24 Edward III, No. 101 (1st Nos.).

John de Ferrers died in parts beyond the seas on 2nd April, 1367, seized, *inter alia*, of the Manor of Byknore, which he held of the King in Capite; and in the inquisition taken after his death we have a further description of the Manor, differing from those which we have already cited. The Jury say there is one messuage which is of no value beyond reprises; that there are 60 acres of land which are worth, per annum, each acre, 2d.; that there are three acres of meadow which are worth, per annum, each acre, 6d., when the grass can be mown and carried away on account of the inundation of the waters of Weye; that there is a certain water mill which is of the value, per annum, beyond reprises, 6s. 8d.; that there is a certain weir in the waters of Weye which is of the value, per annum, beyond reprises, 40d.; and that there is there rent of assize of free tenants, 26s. 8d.; and perquisites of Courts worth 2s. per annum. The Jury also find that the said John was seized there of the advowson of a certain church, which church is of the value, per annum, 40s. And they find that Robert, son of the same John de Ferrers, is his nearest heir, and is aged 7 years and more.* The messuage mentioned in this inquisition as being of no value, was, doubtless, the ancient castle near the church, now a heap of rubbish, though the outlines of the walls and ditches can be distinctly traced.† We have seen it mentioned before, viz., in 1301 as worth 12d. per annum with its appurtenances, and in 1350 as worth 6d. per annum. Hereafter we shall find it described as a "site" and worth nothing.

Robert de Ferrers died on 13th March 1412-13, seized, *inter alia*, in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Bykenore English, with appurtenances, together with the Advowson of the Church there, which manor was said to be of the clear annual value of 20 marks; and Edmund his son was found to be his nearest heir, and to be of the age of 27 years and more.‡

*Inq. p. m. 41 Edward III, No. 26 (1st Nos.).

†Some excavations have been made on this site within the past year, and a small apartment formed of Norman masonry was discovered.

‡Inq. p. m. 1 Henry V, No. 26.

Edmund de Ferrers died on Saturday next before the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, 1435, seized, *inter alia*, of the Manor of Bykenore English, together with the Advowson of the Church to the same Manor pertaining, in which same Manor, it is said, he had a certain site, which is of no value per annum beyond reprises, 20 Messuages which are of no value per annum beyond reprises, one Water Mill, worth, clear per annum 10s., 40 acres of land worth each acre, clear, ½d. 20 acres of meadow, worth, clear, each acre 6d., 200 acres of pasture which are of no value per annum beyond reprises because they lie in common, one weir whose fishery is worth, clear, 3s. 4d. per annum, and £20 rent of assize; and the Jury say that he has in the same Manor a certain office called the office of Woodward in the Forest of Dene, and keeping for one servant, which are of no value per annum beyond reprises; that he has one Court Baron held there three weeks by three weeks, which is of no value per annum beyond the fees and expenses of the Steward and Bailiff, and one Court of the View of Frank Pledge, held annually twice; viz., after the feasts of Easter and St. Michael, which is of no value per annum beyond the fees and expenses of the Steward and Bailiff. And the jury say that William Ferrers, Esq., is son and nearest heir of the said Edmund, and is aged 23 years and more.*

William de Ferrers was the last male of his race. He died on 9th June 1450, leaving a daughter Ann, wife of Walter Devereux, his nearest heir, aged 11 years and 8 months. The Inquisition taken after his death for the County of Gloucester is not extant, hence there is no formal notice of his lands in that County. Assignment of dower out of his other estates was made to Elizabeth his relict.† Walter Devereux having married Ann, sole daughter and heir of William de Ferrers, was summoned to Parliament, *jure uxoris*, though her father had never been summoned.

* Inq. p. m. 14 Henry VI., No. 33.

† Inq. p. m. 28 Henry VI., No. 22.

His son John Devereux, Lord Ferrers in descent from his mother, was seized of the Manor of Bicknore Anglicana, and being so seized, granted to William Rudhale the office of Steward of the said Manor, at a stipend of 40s. annually, for the term of his life, to be paid by the Bailiffs and farmers of the said Manor, and the said William was seized of the said office on 12th November, 1500, when the inquisition post mortem of John Devereux was taken, and also, in like manner, granted a similar annuity of 40s. to one David Edward, alias David Wardrope, for the term of the life of the said David, who at the date above-mentioned was still living. And the jury found that John Devereux died on the feast of the Invention of Holy Cross, (3rd May) 1500; and that the said Manor of Byknore English descended to Walter, son of the said John, as his nearest heir, who was aged 14 years and more.* The jury further found that the aforesaid Manor was held of the King by the service of a *moiety* of 30 parts of one Knight's fee, and that it was of the value per annum, in all its issues, of £10.

Our records now become very scanty, but it is clear that the Manor, to which, as we have seen, the Advowson of the Church pertained, continued in the family of Devereux. Walter, Lord Ferrers, mentioned above, in descent from his mother Cecily, sister and heir of Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex, was, on 2nd February 1550, created Earl of Hereford. He died in 1558, leaving Walter Devereux, his grandson, a minor, his heir; consequently the Manor of Bicknor, *inter alia*, was seized into the hands of the Crown, and on the 9th October, in the last-mentioned year, Queen Mary presented to the Church. In 1592, William Maylard presented by grant from the Earl of Essex, and on 25th September 1599, Sir Francis Merriek, Knight, presented under an assignment, dated 2nd of that month, of a grant from Robert, Earl of Essex, dated 22nd August preceding. The granter was Robert, the unfortunate Earl who suffered for his folly and impetuosity in 1600, when

* Inq. p. m. 16 & 17 Henry VII, No. 71.

all his honours and estates became forfeited. Robert Devereux his son and heir, was, however, restored in blood and honours, and succeeded, *inter alia*, to this Manor, for upon the Inquisition taken after the death of William Wyrhale of Bicknor Court, on 22nd September, 17th James, (1619) the jury found that the said William died seized of a capital Messuage and Lands in Bicknor Anglicana, which he held of Robert, Earl of Essex, as of his Manor of Bicknor Anglicana, in free and common socage by fealty and suit at Court, and rent of 33s. 6d. per annum.*

The Earl of Essex, soon after this date, purchased very extensive manors and lands in Warwickshire and elsewhere,† and before the end of the reign of King James, alienated the Manor of English Bicknor, which his ancestors had held for nearly three centuries, to Benedict Hall, of High Meadow, in the parish of Newland, and because this was done without the King's license, the Earl afterwards obtained special license and pardon.‡ In 1635, Benedict Hall appeared at a Court of the Forest of Dean, and made the following claim in respect of the franchises of his *Manor* of Bicknor, which is, we think, of sufficient interest to give entire.

FOREST ROLLS.

FOREST OF DEAN 10 CHAS. I.

BUNDLE 10, MEMBRANE 9.

THE MANOR OF BICKNOR IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

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<p>Forest of Deane in co. Gloucester.</p>	}	<p>And now to this Court comes Benedict Hall Esq. by his Attorney and says, that he is seized of the Manor of Bicknor within the Forest of Deane in his demesne as of fee; and for himself & his heirs he claims to have and to hold, as appertaining to the Manor aforesaid, these liberties underwritten, namely; Court of view of frankpledge of his tenants of his Manor of Bicknor and of all residents within the same Manor twice a year, once within a month after Easter and again within a month after Michaelmas every year before his Steward to be holden; and all amerciements & other profits whatsoever to his own use to levy, receive, & convert. He claims also,</p>
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* Inq. p. m. 17 James I.

† Indices to Patent Rolls, 1619-1635. Record Office.

‡ Index to Alienations and Pardons, temp. James.

to have goods & chattels, called 'weyfes & streyes' within the Manor. He claims also, for himself and his customary tenants, common of pasture in all open wastes and places of the said Forest for all Cattle upon all their lands & tenements within the Manor, a month only excepted. He also claims the bailiwick of Bicknor and the office of Bailiff & Woodward of the King's said bailiwick and of the King's woods within the same, and for keeping the same bailiwick. 'horseboote and heyboote' of the King's woods by the view of the Forester and Under-forester, and 'fireboote' of dry wood in the said Woods. He also claims bark of all trees, and all trees thrown down by the wind, called 'windfalls,' within the said Bailiwick. And for his title to have, hold & enjoy the said liberties & other profits the same Benedict Hall says, that he and all those whose Estate in the Manor of Bicknor he now has from the time of which the memory of man is not to the contrary, have used and enjoyed all & singular the liberties, privileges and profits aforesaid as above claimed by him. And that he Benedict Hall and all his ancestors, and all those whose Estate he now has in the Manor of Bicknor from the time aforesaid etc., were seised of the Bailiwick of Bicknor as of fee and right as belonging & appertaining to the said Manor; and they have held the same Manor of the King & his predecessors Kings and Queens of England as of the person of the Lord the King and his predecessors yielding yearly to the King or his Farmer of his Manor of S. Briavel for the time being fifteen shillings: and that he & all his ancestors etc. have been Bailiffs & Woodwards and have held the said office of Bailiff & Woodward as to them and to him was and is lawful Which all and singular the premisses the same Ben. Hall is ready to verify, and he prays that all & singular the liberties &c., in this plea as above claimed by him be allowed to him & his heirs according to the force, form & effect of his said claim.

Benedict Hall died 16th April, 1668, and was buried at Newland, in which parish High Meadow, whose Mansion House has now been demolished, was situate. He married Anne, daughter of Sir Edward Winter, of Lydney, Knight, by Lady Anne Somerset, third daughter of Edward, Earl of Worcester, and left issue a son named Henry Benedict, who died in 1687.

Benedict Hall, eldest son and heir of Henry Benedict, left an only daughter and heir, Benedicta Maria Theresa, who married Thomas, Viscount Gage, to whom she carried, *inter alia*, the Manor of Bicknor English, which descended to Henry Hall, his great grandson, the 4th Viscount Gage, who, by deed dated 30 August, 4th George IV, conveyed the same to the Crown for ever.

THE ADVOWSON OF THE RECTORY.*

The Church was formerly a member of the Deanery of Ross, in the Diocese of Hereford, but it is now in the Forest Deanery, in the Diocese of Gloucester, and the records of the Episcopal Registers of the latter City, which do not commence earlier than the middle of the 16th century, afford very scanty information concerning the benefice. Probably more facts might be obtained from the Registers of Hereford, but I have not had an opportunity of referring to them.†

Until the end of the 16th century, the Advowson of the Rectory pertained to the Manor, but soon after that date it would seem to have been dissevered and held *in gross*.

The last presentation to the benefice, made by a Lord of the Manor, or some one under his assignment, was in 1599, when Sir Francis Merrick presented, under an assignment of Robert, Earl of Essex. How the advowson became severed from the Manor, I have, as yet, failed to discover. In 1635 the advowson was vested in Nathaniel Wright, M.D., and Richard Barlowe, of Himsome,

*In 1309, the Dean and Chapter of St. Ethelbert, of Hereford, were implicated by the Bishop of Llandaff for taking tithes growing from the new Assarts made within the King's Forest of Dene which were not within the limits of any parish, which tithes the King, father of the now King, gave for the sustentation of a certain chaplain to celebrate Divine service in the Church of All Saints, of Lo Newland, within the Forest aforesaid, which Church the said Bishop holds appropriated by Charter of King Edward, father of the now King; to which the said Dean said that he is Dean, &c., by reason of which dignity he himself is Parson of Lydney and St. Briavels; and the Precentor said that he himself is Parson of the Church of Ruardyn; another said that he is Parson of Newenham, Westbury, and Parva Dene; another is Parson of Magna Dene; another is *Parson of Bykenore Anglicana*; and another is Vicar of Lydeney, and pleaded the taking of tithes within the limits of their parishes.—(Coram Rege Roll, 2 Edward II, m. 92.)

†Whilst these pages were passing through the press, through the obliging courtesy of H. C. Beddoe, Esq., Deputy Registrar of the Diocese of Hereford, I have had a brief opportunity of referring to the Episcopal Registers of that Diocese, which has enabled me to complete the list of Institutions to the Rectory of English Bicknor from 1288 to 1536, inclusive. For the later Institutions I am equally indebted to the Deputy Registrar of the Diocese of Gloucester.

Co. Hereford, who, by Indentures dated 10th June, in that year, conveyed it to John Abbingdon, of Over Compton, Co. Dorset, and Roger Gollopp, of the Inner Temple, London, for £300. By deed, dated 23rd September, 1667, these persons sold it to William Hughes, Vicar of Newland, and William Brown, of English Bicknor, yeoman. Tho same Hughes and Brown, by deed dated 20th July, 1669, sold the said advowson to Thomas Godwin, then Rector of the parish. In the following year Thomas Godwin, by deed dated 7th November, 1670 (1669?)* conveyed it to Edward Lutwych, of Lutwych, Co. Salop, and Georgo Bond, of Redbrook, Co. Gloucester, for £150. By deed dated 5th September, 1679, William Hughes, of English Bicknor, Clerk, and the same Lutwych and Bond, for the sum of £200, conveyed the said advowson to Francis Harris, of Aston, Co. Salop, and Thomas Lyster, of the Inner Temple, London. On 1st November following, Francis Harris sold all his right to the said advowson to the said Thomas Lyster, and on 1st June, 1680, the same Harris and Lyster† sold the same advowson to Samuel Harris, Vicar of Newland.

For some unexplained reason, by deed dated 24th March, 1686, for the sum of £80 and other considerations, the advowson was confirmed to the aforesaid Samuel Harris by Thomas Marshall, of the City of Gloucester, felt-maker, son and heir of Thomas Marshall, of English Bicknor, yeoman, and Mary his wife, deceased, which Mary was the only daughter of Thomas Godwin, late of English Bicknor, Clerk, deceased, that left surviving issue, and Walter Fortune, of Monmouth.

By Indentures dated 11th August, 1693, the above mentioned Samuel Harris and Sarah his wife, sole daughter and heir of Richard Keep, late of the City of Oxford, for considerations mentioned therein, transferred the same advowson to George Bond, of Redbrook, in the parish of Newland, and John Dalby,

*Edward Lutwych and George Bond presented to the benefice, and the Clerk was instituted on 2nd December, 1669.—See list of institutions, post, p. 85.

†On 1st December, 1679, the benefice being void by the death of William Hughes, Samuel Harris was admitted upon the presentation of Francis Lyster, Esq., and Francis Harris.

of the Inner Temple, in trust for the said Samuel Harris, for his life, Sarah his wife for her life, and their heirs, and the heirs of the survivor. By deed dated 1st August, 1698, the said Samuel Harris* and Sarah his wife, for £300, conveyed the advowson to George White, of Whitechurch, Co. Hereford, and Joseph Powell, of Hentland, in the same county, in trust for Richard Mantle, of Blakeney, in the parish of Awre, County Gloucester, by which family it was held until 1738, in which year, by Indenture dated 27th June, it was sold by Thomas Mantle, of Longhope, Co. Gloucester, to John Beale, of English Bicknor, for £300. By deed dated 29th September, 1744, it was sold to William Jones, of the City of Gloucester, for the sum of £1050, in trust for Somerset Jones, of Tidenham, Co. Gloucester, clerk, who died 23rd September, 1768, thereof seized. The trustees appointed in his will having declined to act, the advowson seems to have been sold under a decree in the Court of Chancery, to James Davies, of Chepstow, who sold it to John Davies,† of Monmouth, by whom it was conveyed, by Indenture dated 5th July, 1780, to the Visitors of the foundation of John Michel, Esq., in Queen's College, Oxford, who are the present patrons.

The number of persons into whose hands the patronage of this benefice passed in the century and half subsequent to 1635 is very remarkable, and it seems still more remarkable how few of those patrons presented.

The total quantity of land subject to the payment of all manner of tithes, great and small, is 2,377 acres, viz.—

Arable land	1,273	0	0
Meadows and Pasture	733	0	0
Woodland	362	0	0
Rector's Glebe	9	0	0
	<u>2,377</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

No modus, or composition, real or prescriptive, ever existed, and

*The benefice being vacant by the death of Samuel Harris, on 6th May, 1710, Richard Mantle was admitted upon the presentation of William Hodges, of Gloucester, gentleman, whose title does not appear.

†Duncombe Pyrke Davies, son of Dr. Davies, was admitted on 4th April, 1780 upon the presentation of his father.

none of the lands are exempt, except the glebe, containing 9 acres,* when in the manurance of the Rector.

The tithes, in 1841, were commuted at £390, exclusive of the glebe, upon which £2 is apportioned.

INSTITUTIONS TO THE RECTORY.

1288. Ralph de Abenhale, Priest,¹ was admitted to the Church of Bykenor Anglicana, upon the letters commendatory of the Lady Cycilie Mychegros, the true Patron.
1340. June 23. Walter de Otlee² was admitted to the Church of Bickenore English, vacant by the death of Ralph de Abenhale, last Rector, upon the presentation of Sir John de Bures, Knt., the true Patron, in right of the Lady Hawisia, his wife.
1348. Oct. 1. Thomas Mayel, Priest,³ was admitted to the Church of Bickenore Anglicana, vacant by the death of Thomas Otlee, last Rector, upon the presentation of Sir John de Bures, Knt., the true Patron.
1348. March 9. Johu Esebern,⁴ was admitted to the Church of Bikenore Anglicana, vacant by the death of Thomas Mayel, last Rector, upon the presentation of Sir Johu de Bures, Knt., the true Patron.
1362. March 6. John de Curtlington, Clerk,⁵ was admitted to the Church of Bikenore Anglicana, vacant by the resignation of John Osbern, last Rector, upon the presentation of John de Ferrers, Lord of Bikenore.

*In exchange for the tithe rent-charge assessed upon the Crown Lands in the Parish, the Crown has, since the date of the commutation of the tithes, granted about 16 acres of land, as an addition to the glebe, so that the glebe is now about 25 acres.

¹ Hereford, Bishop Swinfield's, Reg. fo. 48. He was also Canon of Hereford Cathedral. (See ante, p. 79, n. *)

² H. Bishop Chorlton's. Reg. fo. 49.

³ H. Bp. Trilleck's Reg. fo. 17.

⁴ H. Ibid. fo. 20.

⁵ H. Bp. Lewis Chorleton's Reg. fo. 3.

1378. Mar. 24. William Bloxham,¹ Rector of the Church of Irtlyngleigh, Diocese of Lincoln, was admitted to the Church of Bykenore English, upon exchange, upon the presentation of King Richard, by reason of the wardship of Robert Ferrers, son and heir of John de Ferrers, Knt., deceased.
- Unknown Thomas Guldefeld.
1394. Sept. 9. Samuel de Wyk,² was admitted to the Church of Bykenore English, upon exchange with Thomas Guldefeld, upon the presentation of Robert de Ferrers, Lord of Chartley.
1395. Oct. 21. Thomas Guldefeld,³ was admitted, upon exchange with Samuel de Wyk.
1400. Peter Whitney,⁴ was admitted in the place of Thomas Guldefeld.
1413. Feb. 6. John May, Clerk,⁵ was admitted to the Church of Bikenore English, vacant by the resignation of Peter Whitney, upon the presentation of Margaret Lady Ferrers, the said John and his successors to pay the said Peter an annual pension of (*blank*) during his life.
1457. John Vychan,⁶ was admitted to the Church of English Bikenore, vacant by the death of John, last Rector, upon the presentation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Sarum and John Dyve, enfeoffed in the Manor of Bikenore to the use of Elizabeth Lady Ferrers.
1465. Mar. 15. John ap Howell, Priest,⁷ was admitted to the Church of English Bikenore, vacant by the resignation of Mr. John Vaehan, upon the presentation of the same persons as last presented.

1 H. Bp. Gilbert's Reg. fo. 4.

2 H. Bp. Trefnant's Reg., Vol. II., fo. 21.

3 H. Bp. Trefnant's Reg., Vol. II., fo. 32.

4 H. Bp. Trefnant's Reg., Vol. II., fo. 55.

5 H. Bp. Mascall's Reg. fo. 47. John May, Rector of Bicknor Anglicana, is named in a Charter of 33 Hen. vi. (1454), (Wyrall Charters).

6 H. Bp. Stanbury's Reg. fo. 96.

7 H. Ibid. fo. 72.

1471. Feb. 1. Sir John Skynner, Priest,¹ was admitted to the Church of Bikenor English, vacant by the resignation of John ap Howell, last Rector, upon the presentation of Sir Walter Devereux, Knt., Lord Ferrers.
- Unknown. Richard Judde.²
1506. July 8. Sir Thomas Worth, Chaplain,³ was admitted to the Church of Bikenore English, vacant by the death of Richard Judde, last Rector, upon the presentation of the King, by reason of the minority of Walter Devereux, son and heir of John Devereux, Lord Ferrers.
1558. May 6. John Harrys was instituted to the Rectory of English Bicknor, vacant by death, upon the presentation of Queen Mary, by reason of the minority of Walter Lord Ferrers, Viscount Hereford.
- Unknown. Henry Tailer⁴ was Rector in 1562.
1592. March 6. Thomas Hosyer was admitted to the Rectory of English Bicknor, void by the death of Henry Tailer, upon the presentation of Walter Maylard by grant of the Earl of Essex.
1599. Sept. 25. Humphrey Smart⁵ was admitted upon the death of Thomas Hoser, (*sic*) upon the presentation of Francis Merriek, Knt., by an assignment, dated 2 Sept. 41 Elizabeth, of a grant from Robert Earl of Essex, dated 22 August 41 Elizabeth.
1630. July 6. William Claybrook, M.A.,⁶ was admitted upon resignation of Humphrey Smart, upon the presentation of John Bridgman, Knt., Chief Justice of Chester, *pleno jure*.

¹ H. *Ibid.* fo. 90.

² Richard Judde was, on his death, Rector also of Welch Bicknor.

³ H. Bp. Mayew's Reg. fo. 31.

⁴ 1592. Henry Tailer, Rector of Bicknor English, buried 9 March. P. R.

⁵ *Matric.* from Trinity Coll., Oxford, 27 April 1582, aged 15, son of a Minister, Co. Warwick.

⁶ *Matric.* from Balliol Coll., Oxford, 15 August 1619, aged 16, as second son of an "Armiger," Co. Somerset.

1631. June 2. James Lancashire, M.A.,¹ was admitted upon the resignation of William Claybrook, upon the presentation of George Mynn, Esq., *pro hac vice*.
1639. April 29. Morgan Godwyn² was admitted upon the death of James Lancashire, upon the presentation of Roger Scudamore, gent., *pro hac vice*.
- Unknown. Thomas Godwyn³
1669. Dec. 2. William Hughes⁴ was admitted upon the death of Thomas Godwyns, upon the presentation of Edward Lutwyche, Esq., and George Bond, Gent., *pleno jure*.
1679. Dec. 1. Sam. Harris⁵ was admitted upon the death of William Hughes, upon the presentation of Francis Lyster, Esq., Francis Harris, *pleno jure*.
1710. May 8. Richard Mantle,⁶ A.B., was admitted upon the death of Sam. Harris, upon the presentation of William Hodges, Gent., *pleno jure*.
1728. July 6. Richard Lloyd, A.B.,⁷ was admitted upon the death of Richard Mantle, upon the presentation of William Hodges of Gloucester, Gent.
1731. July 9. John Beal, A.B.,⁸ was admitted upon resignation, upon the presentation of William Hodges, Esq.
1744. June 1. James Meredith, Clerk,⁹ was admitted upon the

1 Matric. from Balliol Coll., Oxford, 20 Novr. 1618, aged 17, son of a "gent" of London.

2 Matric. from Christ Church, 8 June, 1621, aged 18, son of the Bishop of Hereford. "Morgan Godwyn, L.L.D., Archdeacon of Salop, Rector of the Church of Bicknor English, 30 April, 1638", (*sic*) P. R.

3 1643. Johannes Clarke de sacro Ordine sacerdotis sepultus fuit, 16 January, P. R. Thomas Godwyn, Clerk, Rector of English Bicknor read the 39 Articles on 16 March, being Sunday, 1641. He was of the family of Godwyn, Co. Hereford and married Anna Gollopy of Co. Dorset. She died 17, and was bur. at Bicknor 19 August 1664.

4 Six of this name matric. at Oxford between 1629 and 1667. Probably this Rector was the one who matric. from Corpus Christi Coll. 10 May, 1643, aged 18, son of Thomas Hughes "Pleb.," of Bagenden, Co. Glouc.

5 Matric. from Magdalen Hall, 18 May 1666, aged 15, son of Francis Harris, Gent. of Aston, Co. Salop.

6 Matric. from Jesus Coll., 16 July 1675, aged 19. Son of Thomas Mantle of Llanbeller, Co. Radnor. 1727. Richard Mantle, Rector of English Bicknor, was buried, 5th March. P. R.

7 Many of this name matric. at Oxford, and it is impossible to identify him.

8 Matric. from Merton Coll., 20 Novr. 1721, aged 18, son of Miles Beale, Gent., of Newent, Co. Glouc.

9 Matric. 14 Decr. 1724, aged 16, son of Rev. James Meredith, of Colston, Co. Wilts. 1775. Ann, wife of James Meredith, Clerk, Rector, bur. 16 Oct. P. R. He would seem to have had two wives named Ann, for there is, or was, a monument in Gloucester Cathedral commemorating, Anne, wife of James Meredith, Rector of English Bicknor, died February 8, 1758. (See Fosbrook's City of Gloucester, p. 139, No. 114.) He died 2 May, 1777, at Highgate, Co. Middlx. and was buried there, aged 70 years.

- death of John Beal, Clerk, upon the presentation of Samuel Whitmore, Miles Partridge, Miles Beale, and Thomas Trigg, Gentlemen, true patrons.
1777. Oct. 7. Morgan Evans, Clerk, was admitted upon the death of James Meredith, Clerk, upon the presentation of William Jones, of Tydenham, Co. Gloucester, Esq., Ann Jones and Jane Jones of the same place, spinsters, true patrons.
1780. April 4. Duncombe Pyrke Davis¹ was admitted upon the resignation of Morgan Evans, upon the presentation of John Davis of Monmouth, D.D., the true patron.
1815. May 27. John Maber Maunder, Clerk, was admitted upon the death of Duncombe Pyrke Davis, upon the presentation of the Visitors of the Foundation of John Michael, in Queen's College, Oxford.
1822. Jan. 15. Thomas Marwood² was admitted upon the cession of John Maber Maunder, upon the presentation of the Visitors of the Foundation of John Michael, Esq., in Queen's College, Oxford.
1833. Jan. 9. Edward Feild, Clerk, M.A.,³ was admitted upon the death of Thomas Marwood, Clerk, upon the presentation of the Visitors of the Foundation of John Mitchell in Queen's College, Oxford.
1844. June 25. John Burden, Clerk, M.A.,⁴ was admitted upon the presentation of the Visitors of the Foundation of John Michael, Esq., in Queen's College, Oxford.

¹ Matic. from Queen's Coll. Oxford 19 Oct. 1769, aged 16, son of Rev. John Davis, of Grosmount, Co. Monmouth.

² Son of Rev. George Marwood of Busby Hall, Co. York, and Canon Residentiary of Chichester Cathedral.

He appears to have matic. from St. Mary Hall, 6 Feb. 1804, aged 18, as Thomas Metcalfe, son of Rev. George Metcalfe, of Stammer, Co. Sussex, and took his B.A. degree in that name, 1 March, 1808, but probably changed his name, as he had his M.A. degree 5 Decr. 1810 as Thomas Marwood.

³ Matic. from Wadham Coll. 18 June, 1819 aged 18, 2nd son of James Field, Esq., of City of Worcester. Consecrated Bishop of Newfoundland, 28 April, 1844, died, 8 June, 1876.

⁴ Matic. from University Coll. Oxford, 1 June 1829, aged 17, 3rd son of Rowland Burden, of Castle Eden, Co. Durham, Esqr.

THE BICKNOR COURT ESTATE.

The lands composing this Estate were doubtlessly severed from the Manor, of which they probably formed the demesne lands, but at what date I have not been able, hitherto, to discover, but I have noticed the diminution of the Manor subsequent to the death of Cecilia Muchegros. William Braas, Bras, or Brouse, and John his son, appear from ancient charters to have held lands within the lordship of English Bicknor, forming parcel of this Estate. These lands would appear to have passed from John Braas to Sir Simon Basset, but whether by sale or inheritance there is no evidence to show; and Sir Simon conveyed them to John Pullesden, the son of Nicholas Pullesden, in 1359. Alexander, son and heir of John, sold the reversion of them, after the death of Margaret his mother, to John Greyndor, Knt., Lord of Abenhall, and Isabella his wife, and by deed dated on the Pur. B.V.M., Alexander de Pullesden, and Agnes his wife, appointed Richard de Staunton their attorney to deliver seizin. Sir John Greyndor, and Isabella his wife, by Charter dated on Monday next after the feast of St. Martin, 4 Henry IV (1402), conveyed to John Lasselles, of Strugull (Chepstow), and Margaret his wife, all the lands and tenements lately purchased of Alexander de Pullesden, son and heir of John de Pullesden, within the lordship of Bicknore Anglicana, which lands, it is stated, formerly belonged to John Braas, of Bicknore, aforesaid; and by Letter of Attorney, dated 2nd March, 6th Henry IV (1404-5), Sir John Greyndor appointed Henry Woodestock, Rector of Staunton, his attorney to deliver seizin to Margaret, relict of John Lasselles, of lands, described as being "within the lordship of Bicknore Anglicana, which had formerly belonged to Alexander Pullesden." Margaret Lasselles, described as of Strugull, by deed, dated on Wednesday next before the feast of St. John Baptist, 12th Henry IV (1411), quitclaimed to Richard Staunton, and Florence his wife, all her right to certain lands in Bicknore, which had belonged to John Lasselles her husband. By his Charter, dated 21st January, 21st Henry VI (1432-3), Richard Staunton, Lord of Staunton,

granted the same to William Walleweyn, of Bykerton, County Hereford, and four other persons, of whom John May, Rector of Bicknor English, was one, to hold to the said grantees and the heirs of the said William Walleweyn for ever. And soon afterwards, viz., by his Charter, dated 20th March, 32nd Henry VI (1453-4), the said William Walleweyn, then described as of Ruardyn, Esq., granted to John Asshehurst, all those lands, &c., &c., heriots, reliefs, escheats, &c.,* with appurtenances, which the said William lately held conjointly with John May, Rector of Bykenore English, and the other trustees named in the above recited Charter, and which the same John May and the others had quitclaimed to the said William, to hold to the said John Asshehurst, his heirs and assigns for ever.

John Asshehurst, who, by Letters Patent, tested at Westminster, 14th March, 27th Henry VI (1448-9)†, had been granted the Office of Constable of the Castle of St. Briavels, married Jane, or Johanna, daughter of Sir John Barre, Knt., and it appears from an Indenture dated on Wednesday in the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady, 7th Edward IV (1467), that John Asshehurst placed in the hands of Sir John Barre 100 marks to make purchase of a livelihood to the use of the said John Asshehurst and Jane his wife, daughter of the said Sir John Barre, and that the said sum was afterwards repaid to John Asshehurst, and that it was agreed between the parties that Sir John Barre should give 50 marks towards the said purchase, of which, at the date of the Indenture, 10 marks had been paid; and I find an acquittance, dated on Tuesday next after the feast of St. Hilary, 8th Edward IV (1469-70), given by the said to John Asshehurst for 40 marks the balance of the said sum. Accordingly I find several Charters of Enfeoffment of lands to the said John Asshehurst about this period: *e.g.* By Charter dated 6th September, 8th Edward IV (1468), William Walleweyn, described as of Ruardyn, Esq., and others therein named, granted to Thomas ffilley, and Alice his wife, lands and

*These franchises would imply that the lands were then reputed a *manor*.

†The Patent, with a large portion of the Great Seal in white wax attached, is still extant, and lies before me.

tenements which they had of the gift of the said Thomas in Bekenore, and elsewhere in the County of Gloucester, to hold to the said Thomas, and Alice his wife, for the term of their lives, with remainder to John Asshehurst, and Johanna his wife, and their heirs and assigns for ever. And by a Charter dated 6th February, 9th Edward IV (1469-70), John Jordan, senior, of Bekenor English, granted to the said John Asshehurst two pieces of land in Yawens Wall, now part of Bicknor Court Estate, and immediately contiguous to the house, to hold to the said John Asshehurst, his heirs and assigns for ever.

John Asshehurst, by Johanna his wife, had two sons, Thomas and Philip, and a daughter, Ann, who married William Wyrall, by whom he had a son, named John. Thomas Asshehurst,* being unmarried, by his Charter, dated 8th September, 20th Henry VII (1504), as Thomas, son and heir of John Asshehurst, granted all his lands in Bicknor Anglicana, Newland, and St. Briavels, to William Wyrall and John Wyrall, his son, to the use of the said William for life, and after his death to the use of the said John, his heirs and assigns for ever, and he suffered a Common Recovery to the same effect;† And I have before me a Charter, dated 12th March, 20th Henry VII, by which Phillip Asshehurst, described as son of John Asshehurst, Esq., quitclaimed to William Wyrall and John Wyrall, their heirs and assigns, all his right, title, and claim to the lands which belonged to John Asshehurst, his father. We shall see by the sequel that this last quoted Charter was spurious, for in the Court of Requests, on 3rd May, 1532 (24th Henry VIII), John Copynger, Esq., appeared as plaintiff, against William Werall, gent., defendant, concerning the title and inheritance of the Manor, lands, and tenements of Byknour Courte, in the parish of English Byknour, with appurtenances. It was alleged that one John Asshehurst, gent., and Johane his wife, were seized in their demesne as of fee, in right of the said Jane, as well of the said Manor of Byknour Court, as also of diver other

*Thomas Asshehurst was alive on 9th November, 1508, when he granted a general release to William Wyrall from all actions.

†Recoveries, 20th Henry VII, Mich.

lands and tenements, meadows, woods, rents, reversions, and services to the same belonging, and that they died so seized, after whose death the said Manor, &c., descended to one Thomas Asshehurst, as son and heir to the said John and Jane, who entered and was seized for many years. He having special trust and confidence in the said William Werall, "beyng his brother in lawe," caused a "Recovery of Writ of Entrie in the post" to be had in the name of the said William Wyrall against the said Thomas Asshehurst, of all the aforesaid Manor, lands, &c., which Recovery was had to the only use, &c., of the said Thomas and of his heirs, and for the performance of his last will. After the Recovery so had, it is said, the said Thomas died s.p., after whose death the use of the said Manor descended, and ought to descend, to Philip Asshehurst, as brother and heir to Thomas, which said Philip, by his Indenture dated 23rd May, 22nd Henry VIII (1530), for a certain sum of money to him paid, sold to the said John Copynger and his heirs, *inter alia*, the aforesaid Manor with all Charters, &c. William Werall answered and said that Thomas Asshehurst was seized of the said Manor by good and just title of inheritance, and by his deed made a lease of the said Manor, called Byknour Court, to him for the term of his life, by viture of which he was seized of the said Manor in his demense as of freehold. And that after, for certain sums of money agreed upon between them, the said Thomas sold and released all his right in the same to the said William, and to John his son, and their heirs for ever, and that, for further assurance, the said Philip by deed released all his right to the said William with warranty.

The Court held that the said William had not proved the bargain and sale, or that he had ever paid any sums of money in respect thereto, and affirmed the Indenture specifying the sale to John Copynger to be good and true, and finally decreed on 3rd May, 24th Henry VIII (1532), that William Werall should enjoy for his life the said Manor according to the terms of the lease aforesaid, and that after his death it should revert to John Copynger and his heirs, without any interruption of the said

Werall or any other person or persons, until he or they should prove their title good in the premises.* John Copynger, however, by his Charter dated 26th November, 26th Henry VIII (1534), quitclaimed for himself, and his heirs, to William Werall, his heirs and assigns for ever, all rights, title, claim, and interest which he had in all those lands which were Thomas Asshelhurst's, in English Bicknor and Forest of Dean.†

All the defect in title, if any, on the part of the said William Wyrall having been cured by this deed, the Bicknor Court Estate continued in the family of Wyrall, in direct descent, until the death of George Wyrall, in 1726, who dying s. p., and all his brothers and sisters having pre-deceased him without issue, except his sister Barbara who, having married Richard Davis, of Clyrow, Co. Radnor, left a son named George Davis, upon whom, after the death of the aforesaid George Wyrall, the Estate devolved. Mr. Davies thereupon assumed the name of Wyrall. He died in 1798, leaving an only son named Jenkyn Wyrall, who survived his father only three years, and dying s. p., the Estate devolved upon his sisters and heirs, Martha Wyrall and Mary Wyrall. Martha died in 1808, unmarried, as did Mary in 1826, and being the last of her race of the blood of Wyrall,‡ by her will dated the 23rd July, 1819, and proved 7th February, 1827, devised all her real Estate, charged with heavy pecuniary legacies, to Edward Machen, of Whitmead Park, Esq., after whose death it devolved upon his son, the Rev. Edward Machen, Eastbach Court, in the parish of English Bicknor.

*Court of Request, Orders and Decrees, 14 to 25 Henry VII. Vol. 5, fo. 167 (p. 339), Copynger v. Werall.

†This account of the devolution of the Bicknor Court Estate is derived from the Wyrall Charters and Deeds relating thereto.

‡A branch of the family of Wyrall or Worrall was settled in the City of Gloucester. In the Churchyard of St. Peter's were, or are, memorials to: Joshua Worrall of this City, died January 1, 1726, aged 71. Elizabeth his wife daughter of Samuel Willett, died Jan. 30, 1745—6, aged 78. Also three children of Joseph (Joseph or Joshua?) Worrall by Elizabeth his wife: Amy, died April 24, 1696, aged 6 months Elizabeth died July 11, 1712, aged 23½ years; Joshua died February 19, 1720, aged 30 years; Mary their daughter died Jan. 26, 1737—8, aged 40; Samuel Worrall of this City, alderman, died Dec. 17, 1745, aged 52. Mary his wife died April 20, 1757, aged 55. Elizabeth Counsell, died May 7, 1758, aged 33; Joseph Counsell, died Nov. 17, 1759, aged 32. George Worrall, of this City, pinmaker, died March, 16, 1756, aged 53 years. Also six children of George Worrall, by Mary, his wife: Elizabeth died Dec. 14, 1733, aged 4 years 9 months; Joseph died July 18, 1734, aged 11 months 16 days; Joseph died Oct. 24, 1741, aged 1 year, 3 months, 16 days; Thomas died March 18, 1747, aged 19 years, 9 months, 7 days; Sarah died May 1, 1749, aged 5 years 3 months 25 days; George died Oct. 2, 1756, aged 21 years 2 months, 15 days. (Fosbrook's Gloucester, p. 143.)

THE MANSION HOUSE.

Very little of the ancient mansion of the Wyralls now remains. It was probably erected about the time of King Henry VII., by John Wyrall, who married Isabella, the heir of Motton. He was the son of William Wyrall, by the heiress of Asshehurst, through whom the estate was derived, and was living in 1504. The most marked feature in the old portion of the building is a window extending from near the basement to the eaves of the house. It is $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and is divided into five compartments by transomes, and lights a newel staircase. The kitchen, from whence this staircase ascends, and two bedrooms over it are also ancient, having three or four lights, mullioned and transomed. The old mansion is partially described in a lease granted by Jephtha Wyrall, dated 28th January, 1684, in which are mentioned two lower rooms by the parlour and the rooms over the gatehouse. It was partially re-edified about the middle of the 18th century, probably by Mr. George Davies, afterwards Wyrall when he had acquired the estate.

It is very singular that a heap of cinders should have been selected for the site of the house. In the memory of persons now living this ancient cinder heap is said to have been to some extent naked, but it is now covered with good pasture and forms the lawn, bearing some very large and handsome timber trees. The cinders probably contain a large quantity of iron, which, by modern appliances, may, it is presumed, be extracted. I have before me an agreement, dated 24th October, 1692, by which Mr. Jephtha Wyrall sold to Richard Avenant and John Whealler "ten thousand dozens of cinders which are good and merchantable, lying and being near my Mansion House, in English Bicknor," at the price of tenpence the dozen, each dozen being twelve bushels, whereof six were to be heaped and the other six even with the top of the bushel, according to the bushel then used at Bishopswood furnace, the said cinders to be dug, raised, and carried away by the said contractors to the furnace at Bishopswood, or at Park End, in the Forest of Dean; but it was provided that the said Jephtha

Wyrall should have the privilege of carrying as many dozens as he pleased to Park End at the rate of 4s. the dozen, and he was to receive 13d. the dozen for carrying them to the bank of the river Wye, below his Mansion House.*

After the death, in 1858, of Mrs. Mary Ann Davies, who under the Will of Miss Wyrall, held Bicknor Court for her life, the house was occupied by Colonel Davies, whose widow now possesses "The Wilderness," in the parish of Abbenhall,† subsequently to the death of Colonel Davies General Woosman was the occupant for several years, and to him has succeeded the writer of this article.

*It may be worthy of remark that in 1276, Rulph de Sandwics, the King's Lieutenant for the Castle of St. Briavels, received as a portion of the emoluments of his office the sum £5 15s. received from the sale of cinders.—"Nicholls' Personalities of the Forest of Dean," p. 18.

I have before me a treatise, in the very neat Autograph of Mr. George Wyrhale, who was no mean antiquary, entitled, "Observations on the Iron Cinders found in Dean Forest and its neighbourhood." It has the following Preface which will explain its origin and character.

"The following observations were thrown together in the year 1789, at the request of Mr. Isaac Taylor, of Ross, in answer to the under-written queries, proposed by Doctor Nash, who was then compiling the History of Worcestershire.

Having no acquaintance with the Doctor, nor ever read his History, since published, we know not what use he made of these remarks, nor whether he made any. They were given to Mr. Taylor in a short time after he communicated his Queries."

I.—Of what era do you think the Iron Cinders were? Are they British, Roman, or Saxon.

II.—Do they find mixed with them Coins, Implements, or anything else that can denote their date?

III.—Is it true that the Cinders yield more or better Iron than the native Ore, dug from the Mines?

IV.—In how large a tract of Country do they find them? And how far distant from any of the mines now worked.

This document has very recently come into my hands, and I have not had any opportunity of referring to "Nash's History of Worcestershire," to see to what extent, if at all, he has used it. If, however, it has not been published it is, I think, well worth the attention of our Society.

† Died at the Wilderness, 5 May, 1877, whilst these pages were passing through the press.

APPENDIX.

SUBSIDY ROLL FOR THE PARISH OF BICKNOR IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, 1522-3.

RECORD OFFICE—LAY SUBSIDIES, 14 & 15 HENRY viij., 1523

John Beynam Esqwyer in lands	...	...	xx li	xx s
Willm. Wyrall in lands	...	...	xxi li	xxi s
Jamys Webbe in wages	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Willm. Drewe in goodes	...	...	xxij s viij d	iiij d
Wyllm. Curtese in goodes	...	...	v marke	xx d
Dauy Meredith in goodes	...	...	xxvj s viij d	iiij d
Thomas Jurdan, junr. in goodes	...	...	v li	ij s vj d
Agnes Jurdan in goodes	...	...	v marke	xx d
Willm. Godwyn, junr. in goodes	...	...	v li	ij s vj d
Thomas Jurdan, senr. in goodes	...	...	vij li	iiij s vj d
Phelipp Ashurste in goodes	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Willm. Hyggyn in goodes	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Phelipp Abnell in goodes	...	...	xx li	iiij s vj d
Jamys Godwyn in goodes	...	...	xl s	xij d
Thomas Curtese in goodes	...	...	xx s	iiij d
John Godwyn in goodes	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Phelipp Waythan in goodes	...	...	xl s	xij d
Thomas Clereek in goodes	...	...	iiij li	xviiij d
Agnes Clerek in goodes	...	...	xl s	xij d
Ric. Taylour in goodes	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Jeyn Myllyng in goodes	...	...	v li	ij s vj d
Willm. Stephyns in goodes	...	...	xl s	xij d
Willm. Grene in goodes	...	...	xxvj s viij d	iiij d
John Gibith in goodes	...	...	xij s	iiij d
Edward Gamull in goodes	...	...	v li	ij s vj d
Thomas Gamull in goodes	...	...	vj li xiiij s	iiij d iij s iiij d
Andrewe Doll in goodes	...	...	iiij li	ij s
Willm. Godwyn, senr. in goodes	...	...	iiij li	xviiij d
John Mylward in goodes	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Richard Mungey in goodes	...	...	v li	ij s vj d
Agnes Mungey in goodes	...	...	xl s	xij d

Johan Worgan in goodes ...	...	...	xl s	xij d
John Smyth in goodes ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
John Gamull, junr. in goodes ...	...	...	xl s	xij d
Phelypp Trewith in goodes ...	...	...	vj li xiiij s	iiij d iiij s iiij d
Thomas Taylor in wages ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
John Taylor in wages ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
John Walker in wages ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Willm. Howell in goodes ...	...	...	xl s	xij d
Thomas Mungey in goodes ...	...	...	iiij li	xviiij d
Thomas Fermor in wages ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Willm. Sevrans in goodes ...	...	...	vij li	iiij s vj d
John Trewith in goodes ...	...	...	vij li	iiij s vj d
John Hapkyn in goodes ...	...	...	vij li	iiij s vj d
Willm. Jurdan in goodes ...	...	...	xx mks	vj viiij d
John Gamull in goodes ...	...	...	x li	v s
John Ettowe in wages ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Jamys Gryffyth in goodes ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
William Abyan in goodes ...	...	...	xl s	xij d
Willm. Curteyse in goodes ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
John Barne in goodes... ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Phillipp Thomas in goodes ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Henry Mathewes in goodes... ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Henry Godwyn in goodes ...	...	...	xl s	xij d
John Polen in goodes... ...	...	...	xx s	iiij d
Willm. Thomlyn in goodes	xx s	iiij d
Willm. Evan in goodes	xx s	iiij d
Roger Taylowre in goodes	xx s	iiij d

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