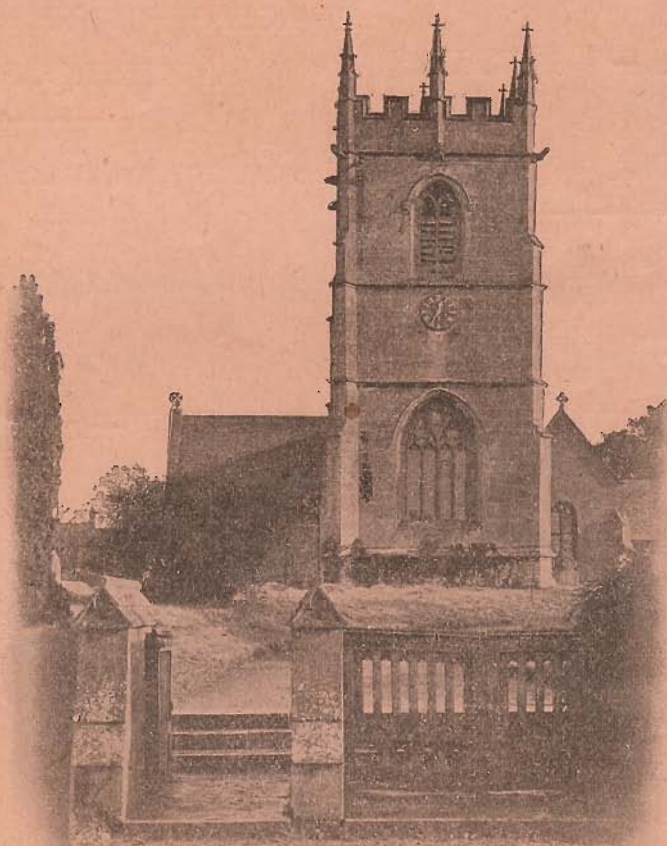


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NOTES ON THE MANOR OF ALDINGTON,

By E. A. B. BARNARD, F.S.A.

III.

I have recently become possessed of much new information concerning the Manor of Aldington in the 17th century.

In 1633 a marriage was arranged and took place between William Courten the younger, then 24 years old, and "the Lady Katherine, one of the daughters of the Rt. Hon. John, Earl of Bridgewater, Viscount Brackley and Baron Ellesmere, Knight of the most noble order of the Bath, Lord President of His Majesty's Councell established in Wales and the Marches thereof, and one of His Majesty's most honourable privy Councell. "A competent sum of money" being paid to the Earl and the two Courtens "as the marriage portion of his daughter and for a competent jointure to be had for the Lady Katherine in case she shall happen to overlive the said William Courten the son," the Courtens grant unto the Earl certain specified property in the county and elsewhere, which it is not necessary to detail here: suffice it to say that locally it included lands etc. at Great Hampton, the Manor of Bengeworth, "and all the seyte of the late dissolved Monastery of Evesham with the rights, members, liberties, appurtenances thereof in the co. of Worc. and all that house and tenement called or known by the name of Almerly House with the appurtenances And all that park and enclosed ground and tenement with the appurtenances called the Parke in Evesham aforesaid And all that house, tenement, and Inn with the appurtenances called or known by the name of the Crowne lying in Evesham aforesaid, all of which were purchased by Sir W. C. and W. C. the son of Sir John Woodward, knt., by indenture dated 22nd Nov. 1625 And all the Manor of Aldington als. Aunton, co. Worc., and all other the manors &c. of Sir W. C. in Aldington als. Aunton and Badsey co, Worc."

These were indeed the days of patentees, projectors, and monopolists, and great fortunes were made—and oftentimes lost—in a very short space of time.

In the very early days of the Commonwealth, on 1 Nov. 1649, an indenture was made between Sir Edward Littleton, of Pilleton Hall, co. Stafford, and George Carew, whose name now becomes

associated with the property for the first time, from which it transpires that Sir Edward had become bound in great sums of money to divers persons for the proper debt of William Courten, late of London, esquire," and that in 1643 he had received for security thereof the Manor of Aldington and that of Pirton, near Pershore. A certain Thomas Coppin also has an interest in these manors "for satisfaction of some debt due to him by Courten, and whereas the manors are settled on Dame Katherine Courten as her jointure, this indenture witnesses that Sir Edward for £2,000 paid to him by Carew discharges him for the reason that Carew has given up the bond whereby Sir Edward stood bound with Courten in the penalty of £3,000 for the payment of £2080 to William Walton, of London, on May 25, 1638; and he leaves Pirton and Aldington to Carew for 99 years, and agrees that he may compound with Coppin for satisfaction of the debts due to him.

On 25 Jan. 1653, articles of covenant were drawn up between George Carew, of Gray's Inn, London, gent., John Culpeper, of Riverhead, co. Kent, and Thomas Shenton, of Gray's Inn, of the one part, and William Gervard, or Jarrett, of Aldington, gent. They recite that William Courten, esquire, leased to Gerrard the Manor of Aldington for 21 years at a yearly rent of £180, of which there are six years yet to run; and whereas Carew claims an estate in the manor for the term of 99 years or thereabouts, and one William Courten hath likewise an estate in it of £50 per annum, and the reversion is now vested in Culpeper and Shenton in trust of several deaths owing by Courten, these trustees, so far as concerns the interest of Courten, confirm the lease to Jarrett until the 21 years are completed. Giles Pigeon is one of the witnesses to the agreement. The next year the same parties agreed to further extension of the lease for an additional 15 years.

(To be continued).

THE WAR.

There was a Memorial Service for Gunner F. Cox at Wickhamford on Aug. 4.

We regret to learn that Sergt. Amos and Corpl. McDonald are still far from convalescent, and that

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the former has lost the sight of his right eye which was seriously injured when his steel helmet was struck by a piece of shrapnel.

Sergt. Sparrow and Pte. A. E. Knight have also been wounded. Sergt. Sparrow's injuries are not serious, but Pte. Knight narrowly escaped with his life, the bullet entering by one cheek and passing out by the other.

Pte. G. Crisp, who has seen much service for one of his years and was twice wounded in Gallipoli, has again been hit but not put out of action.

Pte. O. Moisey is in hospital at Rouen suffering from rheumatism.

Lieut. J. M. Drysdale, who was wounded in an air-fight behind the German lines on Aug. 26, is, we are glad to hear, rapidly recovering. He received his wound when at an altitude of 2000 feet, but managed his descent so skilfully that he alighted at the spot from which he started. He was warmly commended by his C.O. for his gallantry and skill.

The announcement that Lt. Brown-Constable was a prisoner was unhappily premature; there is no official news of him whatever. There is also no news of Cpl. W. Barnard, and to these names must be added that of Cpl. D. Powell who has been missing since Easter.

IN MEMORIAM.

Universal sympathy is felt for Mr. Joseph Marshall in the death of his wife who passed to her rest on Thursday, August 10, at the advanced age of 83. Mrs. Marshall's final illness was a short one, but she had long been a patient sufferer, having been confined to the house for over 30 years. A devout communicant, she bore her

cross with wonderful fortitude and was probably the most cheerful person in the parish. There could be no better tonic for the fretful and despondent than a visit to Mrs. Marshall. Such lives as hers witness more convincingly than anything else to the present power of Christ in the world, for they show that suffering and joyfulness are not inconsistent in those who belong to Christ. "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." R.I.P.

THE REGISTERS.

BADSEY.—BAPTISMS.

Aug. 20—Reginald Frank Jarman.

BADSEY.—BURIALS.

Aug. 14—Lucy Jane Marshall, aged 83 years.

OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

		Badsey.	Wickhamford.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aug. 3	Sick and Needy ...	1 8	
" 6	Sick and Needy ...	2 0	2 7
" "	Church Expenses ...	1 1 0½	7 10½
" 13	Sick and Needy ...	1 5	
" "	Church Expenses ...	11 0	5 1½
" 20	Sick and Needy ...	2 1½	
" "	Church Expenses ...	11 5	8 2
" 27	Sick and Needy ...	1 2	
" "	Church Expenses ...	10 7½	4 9½
		£3 2 5½	£1 8 6½