

CHAPTER IX.

IN LATE PLANTAGENET AND EARLY TUDOR TIMES.

Some information with regard to the parish at the end of the 14th Century is supplied by the Record of Rentals and Surveys of the Duchy of Lancaster, to which at that time the Manor belonged, as part of the possessions of the Pembroke family.

Here are some extracts :

" Extent of the Manor, of Hartley, 14th February, 1392, upon the oath of John Fauer, William Dalton, John Smyth, Robert Crabbe, and Geoffrey of ye Stable."

" There is a small aula with one solar for the bailiff, one granary thatched with straw and reeds, one cattle shed and two granges thatched with straw."

"The lord of the manner shall have the amends of bread and ale, infangthef, outefangthef,* and all other things pertaining to view of frankpledge."

" There are 100 acres arable in a field called ' Ie Rede.' An acre is worth 4d. by the year. There are 50 acres arable in 'le North&eld ' and 16 acres in ' Culcroft.' There are 30 acres in a field called Eyleye and 10 acres in a croft called Brydone. In the demesne there are 5 acres meadow. There is a certain pasture within the garden and wood next the manor which is worth by the year 20s."

* In-fangen-thef. The right of the Lord of the Manor to apprehend and judge thieves taken within his jurisdiction. The prefix oute would seem to refer to this right outside his domain.

" There are the following rents,
 Of hens and eggs, by the year, 2s.
 Of 18 acres of plough land by the year. price 12d.
 the acre.
 Of 12 acres of reaping."

" There is a certain wood called 'Ie Fryth' of old and great wood containing 5 acres. There is another wood called 'le hok' containing 10 acres of young wood."

"Memorandum—All the tenants ought to have right of common upon all the demesne lands except in the garden and wood, with all their beast except pigs, between the feasts of St. Martin and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

The village at this time had not yet assumed the aspect which is familiar to us.

Hartley Woods were much more extensive. Hose-land Woods covered the land on both sides of the road up the hill.

Following this roadway through the woods we should have come out on the common which extended on the one side over what we now call Trapp's land, and on the other to the boundary of Fawkham parish.

The trackway across the common branched off, as the road does now, into the one leading to the Church and the other to Ash. There was probably a way-side cross where our war-memorial now stands.

The way to the village was up Stock's Hill, at the

top of which we should have found ourselves on the village green, which was probably co-extensive with the six-acre plot now called Barn field.

Roads and footpaths from all parts of the parish led to this spot.

Here stood the village stocks and whipping post which, if not near the Church, were usually so-up where the people mostly congregated. Not far off would be the cage in which local misdemeanants were incarcerated. This was probably a small brick building with double locked doors and a peep hole, through which the village constable handed in food and kept an eye on the prisoner.

Somewhere near the green stood the Church House where the Church Ales, the Harvest Supper and other parochial functions were held.

There were many holidays and these meant a good deal of gaiety in the village. Besides Mayday and Hocktide* and Shrovetide there were all the Saints' Days, and at these times there were sports, and games and dancing and other revels.

The Church House was the centre of most of this merry-making. The pots and pans and cups and platters necessary for the feasting were kept here. There was no lack of good fare on these occasions. The Churchwardens were usually the custodians of a store of provisions contributed by the parishioners.

* A festival observed on the second Monday and Tuesday after Easter, in memory of the victory over the Danes in A.D. 1002.

There was much play-acting too, and we may be sure that this village like most others, had its companies of actors and minstrels.

There was, of course, the annual fair on All Hallows Day. And as by this time the Churchyard was forbidden ground, it would be held on the green; This was a great day for marketing, but a good deal of the people's shopping was done with the journeymen pedlars who visited the village from time to time.

The smithy and the wheelwright's shop were in Grub Street, where till quite recent times they were still to be found.

The Church Ales mentioned above were parish gatherings at which beer and cakes were bought from the Churchwardens at a profit to provide funds for the benefit of the parish. They were the forerunners of our modern bazaars and fancy fairs and public dinners.

The Church at this time must have looked outside much the same as now except that there was a west door.

Inside it would have appeared to us very different. We should have found the earthen floor strewn with rushes or straw. In some churches the straw or rushes survived till the middle of last century. They were renewed at more or less

regular intervals. In Churchwardens accounts we find such items as "for rushes against All Hallows Day 4 pence."

Then there were no pews. In those days, the people, when they were not kneeling, stood. There was no necessity for seats till the sermon became one of the chief objects of attendance. If in some, churches a few seats were to be seen they were intended for the old and infirm.

We should have found, too, in the Church at this time the Chancel Screen and the Rood, and candlesticks on the Rood beam for the lights.

There was an image of the Virgin here besides the Crucifix for we find that several old parishioners left in their wills provision for lights for both of them. There was a stone altar too, we may be sure, and the walls would be bright with fresco painting.

Outside there was the Churchyard cross. This was probably of stone with steps leading up to it. On Palm Sunday there were processions round this cross in commemoration of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem.

The Rectory was near the Church and close by was the tithe barn. The Manor House at that time is said to have stood somewhere behind the present Court in Foxborough Wood. The other big houses were The Hayes on Hartley Hill, The Stocks House

near the Village Green, Fereby or Fairby, and farm houses somewhere near, if not on the sites of what were later known as Middle Farm and Hartley Wood Farm. There were about twenty other smaller houses and cottages. The population was somewhere about 140.

Besides the principal and smaller landowners or yeomen and the parson, the little community included the parish clerk, who was an official of importance, and the bell-ringer, who had other duties besides summoning the people to church. His hand-bell was often heard on the Village Green and other parts of the parish, for there were frequent announcements to be made to the people

Then there were the farm bailiffs, the borsholders or constables, perhaps a tailor or shoemaker, almost certainly a carpenter and a smith. There were also the agricultural labourers and the shepherds and herdmen. There does not seem to have been a miller in Hartley. The corn was probably ground at Fawkhams or Meopham where there were mills. The Churchwardens were, of course, at this time prominent and responsible officials in every parochial community.

There is a spot in West Yoke which though over the Ash boundary must have been intimately associated with the village life of Hartley at this

time. The few houses here at the present day, just beyond the parish boundary, are within the Hartley postal district. This little hamlet, which at that time was a separate manor, was called Scotgrove. The origin of the name is not known but as it obviously dates from Saxon times a meaning suggests itself.

History tells us that Hengist, as the first ruler of the re-constructed kingdom of Kent in the 5th century levied heavy taxes on the conquered race, and as there seem to have been convenient forest tracks and packways converging at this spot, it may have been the appointed place to which the Kentish men of this district were required to carry their tribute. If so, in the Saxon tongue it might have come to be known as Scot-grove. (Saxon Scot, Icelandic skot, a tax.)

Records respecting Scotgrove in the middle ages are very scanty, but at any rate we know that there was a church here, and also a number of houses including almost certainly a manor house. The foundations of the church are still to be seen. There are portions of what appear to be old boundary walls, and there is the well which supplied the villagers with water. Of the Lords of the Manor little more is known than their names.

In the 13th century the manor was held by John de Torpel. Later it was in possession of William de

Fawkham and of Jeffray de Fawkham. In the latter half of the century Richard and John de Gotewyk held it. The last named died in 1300. In the middle of the 14th century William de Warrin was in possession and after him the Frankenhems. During the 15th century a branch of the old Kentish family of the Culpepers possessed it. And then in the 16th century it passed in succession to the Fanes, Walters, and finally to the Lambardes,.

Of the past history of the place we know little or nothing. We do not even know the dedication of the Church, or by whom it was built. All we know is that so far back as 200 years ago the Church was in ruins, all the houses and farm buildings were gone, and a growth of trees, henceforth known as Chapel Wood, sprung up in their place.

There is, however, among the manuscript possessions of the Society of Antiquaries, a memorandum made by Dr. John Thorpe, dated August 2nd, 1728, which is as follows :

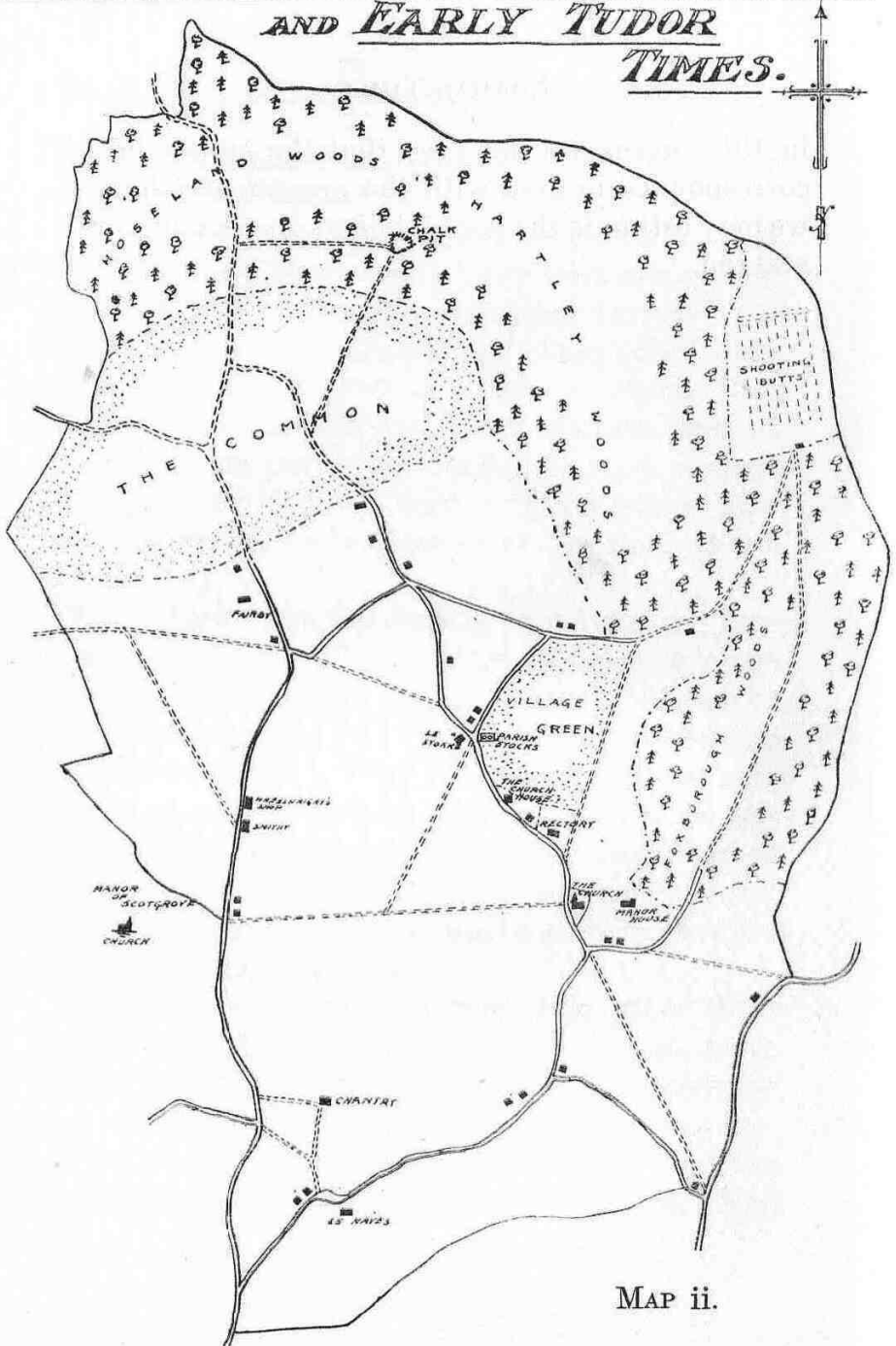
"I went this day in company with Mr. Samuel Atwood, Rector of Ash, and Mr. John Barnard, to view the site of the Chantry at Scotgrove. It lyes in a wood now commonly called Chappel Wood. Through the wood runs a path, leading from Ash towards Hartley. The next field to this on the

north side lyes partly in Ash and partly in Hartley.

A very few rods on the west side of the path, and if I mistake not, about half-way across the wood, are ye remains of this Chantry. The vestiges, of the walls thereof are plainly distinguished, being two or three feet above the level of the ground, and at the west end four or five feet. The door seems to have been on the south side. About ten rods on the west of it is a deep draw-well. This place has been entrenched round, and within it are many foundations and marks of buildings."

That was written two hundred years ago, and nothing has since been recorded which tells us anything about the place as *Scotgrove*.

*HARTLEY IN LATE PLANTAGENET
AND EARLY TUDOR
TIMES.*



MAP ii.