


CHAPTER VIII  
ANNALS OF THE PAST

The past is an unfathomable depth,  
Beyond the span of thought; 'tis an elapse  
Which hath no mensuration, but hath been  
For ever and ever.

H. KIRKE WHITE.

S has been already indicated, it must of necessity be in ancient records, wheresoever preserved, that search must be made for any facts that may bear on the life and history of a village in times long since past and gone. Though detached and isolated be the facts disclosed, though antiquated the terms that set them forth, and whether or not it may prove of much interest to the average reader of this book, yet any record of our Berkshire village would forfeit something of its attempted completeness without some reference to the information in regard to it such as the Public Record Office affords through what are called the Patent and Close Rolls, &c.<sup>1</sup>

*A Patent Rolls Calendar*, date 1264, reads:

'Commitment of Joan de Valentia of the Manors of . . . Schryveham and Fernham, Co. Berks, to hold in tenancy for maintenance of herself and children.'

<sup>1</sup> Rolls so called from the rolls of parchment on which the records are made. Patent Rolls are such as are open for general knowledge. The house in Chancery Lane, London, which contains them was built by Henry III, and in the reign of Edward III it was appropriated for the preservation of ancient records.

In the *Calendar of Hundred Rolls*, date 1276:

'The Manor of Scrivenham used to be in the hands of the King and William de Valence, Giles de Clifford and his heirs. Thos. de Alta Ripa holds this same Manor and was alienated by William Marshall, called Earl of Pembroke and William Longespeye.'

*A Calendar of Close Rolls*, in 1317:

'To Master John Walewayn—Escheator.<sup>1</sup> "Order not to intermeddle further with 2½ virgates of land in Shryvenhan acquired by Hugh, sometime Abbot of Cirencester, from William of Wykham . . ."' as it appears that the land of William of Wykham was acquired sixty years before the publication of the Statute of Mortmain.

In the year 1323 an order is thus recorded:

'To Robert de Hungerford, Keeper of certain lands in the King's hands, Co. Berks. Not to intermeddle further with a messuage and lands in Scryvenham because it was found that Ralf de Wylington, son of John de Wylington was seized thereof by feoffment of the said John, and that Ralf continued his seisin until Epiphany, when the premises were seized in the King's hands, because the aforesaid John was an adherent of the rebels, and that Ralf did not adhere to the rebels . . . Restore the issue thereof to Ralf.'

<sup>1</sup> *Escheator*, an officer who looks after the Escheats (land or rents that fall to the King or Lord of the Manor from forfeiture or death of the tenant) in the county to which he is appointed.

*A Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1325:*

Pardon is granted to 'Hugh le Despencer for acquiring 75 Kts' fees . . . in Shryvnham . . .'

In 1336 'Commission of oyer and terminer to William de Shareshall on Complaint of Henry Earl of Lancaster that Richard de Shryvenham and others broke into his park at Lomborne Co. Southton. . . hunted there, and carried away the deer.'

From the *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1339:*

Pardon to William de Shryvenham of West Wycombe for the death of Richard Atte Rokholte, as it appears that he killed him in self-defence.

Similarly in 1341, the roll alludes to a

'Licence for Richard Talbot and Elizabeth his wife to grant to Thomas Talbot, clerk, the reversion of two parts of the Manor of Shryvenham, said to be held in chief, which Mary, late wife of Aymer de Valencia, Earl of Pembroke, holds in dower of the inheritance of the said Elizabeth, for him to regrant the same to them and the heirs of Richard'.

*Calendar of Close Rolls.*

1346. 'To John de Alveston Escheator, co. Berks. . . Order to remove the King's hand from an acre of land and a path of the Abbot of Cirencestre

in Shryvenham. The King ordered the Escheator<sup>1</sup> to certify why he had taken the premises into the King's hand. He replied that he had so taken an acre of the Abbot in Shryvenham because that he found that the Abbot had appropriated that acre annexed to his house, of John de Wylynton, without obtaining the King's licence, upon which he razed a part of his Grange, and he had taken the Abbot's path because the Abbot had appropriated that path of Ralph de Wylynton without licence. The Abbot afterwards besought the King to order his hand to be amoved as the said acre is a way very contiguous to the Abbot's house<sup>2</sup> in the town of Shryvenham, which Reginald de Albo Monasterio lately granted by charter to God, St. Mary, and the Church of Shryvenham in frank almoyn, and that the path is of the soil of Ralph de Wylynton and not of the Abbot, and the Abbot does not vindicate any property therein, except he and his men claim to cross and return by that path as they always have been accustomed to do. [The King's Escheator on inquiry] found that the said acre is contiguous to the Abbot's house in Shryvenham to a way which Reginald de Albo Monasterio granted to that church long before the said statute (of mortmain?), and the Abbots have held it by the same bounds from the time of the grant, and the said path is of the soil of Ralf de Wylynton, and the Abbot cannot vindicate any

<sup>1</sup> See footnote p. 67.

<sup>2</sup> The Abbot's house was situated probably on the north side of the Churchyard. The lane now commonly known as Pennyhooks lane was formerly called Abbot's lane, or Abbot's walk.

property therein except that he can cross and return thereby, and that the acre and path are held of the Earl of Salisbury in frank almain.'

*Calendar of Patent Rolls.*

1348. 'Whereas Martin Godard of Swanbourn co. Bucks, an approver late in the King's gaol of Wyndesore, appealed against Robert Hondde of Shryvenham and others of some felonies committed by them together and the appealed are now vagabonds lurking in divers counties, the King has appointed a certain Sheriff and Bailiffs to arrest them and lodge them in gaol.'

1348. Deed relating to the manor of Staulputte by Shryvenham. Eleanor, late wife of Ralf de Wylyngton, leased [the said manor] to sisters minorities of the order of St. Clare Deneye, co. Cambridge.

1352. Grant by the King of Dower to Joan de Bares, Countess of Warren, out of lands held by Queen Philippa, guardian to her son, Edmund de Langley, and for the manor of Stalput, co. Berks.

1353. Commission on complaint by John de Shareshall, clerk, that Richard Compton of Shryvenham and others at Bampton, co. Oxon, assaulted and imprisoned him, carried away his goods and assaulted his men and servants, whereby he lost their service for a great time. For one mark to be paid the King.

1360. 'To the Sheriff of Berks. Order to cause John<sup>1</sup> Vicar of Shryvenham, and . . . who are bound to the King in divers sums of money to be arrested and safe kept until they find security not to leave the realm before the King be contented . . . as the King has sure intelligence that they are selling their lands and goods, and speedily quitting England to defraud him of his due.'

1383. At the request of Richard Talbot, knight, tenant of the manor of Shryvenham, being a grant by the King's brother William de Valencia and his heirs of a market every Thursday, and a three days' fair, St. Mary Magdalen's day, every year at the said manor.

1389. Licence to David Candelayn,<sup>2</sup> Vicar of Parish Church of Shryvenham (Diocese Salisbury) to pass beyond the sea with one household servant and a reasonable sum of money to the Pope to defend his right to the Vicarage, and to obtain Church benefices with or without Cure from the Pope, notwithstanding ordinances and statutes to the contrary.

1391. Licence at the supplication of the Abbot and Prior of Cirencester, Walter Stokes, Jn.

<sup>1</sup> John Hauteryne held the living from 1350 to 1361 (Diocesan Register).

<sup>2</sup> David Candelayn died 1392 (see list of Institutions, Diocesan Register).

Middleton, Canons there, cited to be present in person at the Roman Court for the business of a plea between David Candelayn, Vicar of Shryvenham, and the Abbot. For Richard Latton, Canon of Cirencestre, and Richard Carleton, clerk, now staying in the said court, and John Brangare who will be sent thither, to remain for the prosecution of the suit until it is fully determined, notwithstanding any ordinance of the King and Council or proclamation to the contrary.

1393. Pardon of 20s. paid the King by Richard Hanyndon, clerk, for his trespass in acquiring without licence a messuage and land at Shryvenham, held in chief, and a grant that he may so hold them.

1394. Licence to Richard Hanyndon, clerk, to demise the said land in Shryvenham.

1395. Licence, twenty marks paid by him to the King for Gilbert Talbot to enfeoff John Mackworth, clerk, and John Pope, clerk, of two parts of the manors and hundreds of Bampton, co. Oxon, and Shryvenham, co. Berks, held in chief.

1434. Presentation to John Fitz, Vicar of church of Shrevenham, Dio. Sarum, to church of St. John Baptist, Bysseley, Dio. Winton, on exchange with John Phelipp.

1436 and 1445. Pardon to John Frye, of Shrevenham, co. Berks, carpenter, for having assaulted Robert Plastehed on Sunday before Whitsun last at Shrevenham with staves, knives, and a staff, called 'sperestaf', worth 2*d.*, and struck him to the ground and pierced his throat there, he was slain forthwith; and of any consequent outlawry.

1449. Whereas John, Archbishop of Canterbury, William, Bishop of Salisbury, Abbot of St. Peter's, Gloucester, John, Lord Lysle, Ralph, Lord of Seudeley, William, Lord of Ferrers, Thomas Green, Kt., and Roger Stedman, chaplain, and Richard Banastre, Esq., acquired without licence of John, Earl of Shrewsbury, the manor of Shrevenham held in chief of the King, for 100s. paid in the hanaper,<sup>1</sup> has pardoned the trespass and granted the licence.

1469. Commission to arrest William Brown of Shrevenham and others to bring them before the King in Council to answer for certain riots.

1473. Appointment of Thomas Stydolff as Steward and Receiver of the manors of Shrevenham, now in the King's hands, by reason of the minority of George, son and heir of John, late Earl of Shrewsbury.

<sup>1</sup> *Hanaper*, an office connected with the Court of Chancery.

June, 1475. Grant to the King's kinswoman, Katherine, Countess of Shrewsbury, of a third part of the Manor of Schryvenham (wife of the late John), to hold for her life in full allowance of her dower.

December, 1475. Vacated by the attorney of the Queen . . . custody of the said manors of Shrevenham, &c., &c., granted to William Lord Hastings<sup>1</sup> Chamberlain of the [King's] household.

1478. Grant to Lord Hastynges Chamberlain of custody of the manors of Shrevenham, &c., &c., during the minority of George, son and heir of John, late Earl of Shrewsbury, rendering to the King £300 yearly.

*Calendar of Domestic State Papers.*

1527. Grant to Thomas Redhood of the wardship of John, son and heir of Thomas Beckingham, with an annuity of £5 6s. 8d. out of the Manor of Claycourt, and lands in Shrivenham and Burton, co. Berks.

*History and Antiquities of Cirencester.*

1539. John Blake, the last Abbot of Cirencester, surrendered in 1539 and received a pension of £250.

<sup>1</sup> Executed by Richard III, 1483.

*Calendar of Domestic State Papers.*

1545. To Sir William, Ld. Wyndesore, and Margaret his wife. Pardon for alienation without licence of the manor of Fernam and lands in Fernam, Shrenam (Shrivenham), Longcote, Shenfield, Theale, Tylehurst, Burfelde, and Englefield, which, *inter alia*, they transferred to Robert Somerford and Henry Hampden.

1546. Funds of Abbey confiscated to Augmentation Court by Sir Antony Kingston.

1560. Sir Henry Nevell to Sir Thomas Parry relating to musters in co. Berks. Certificates of musters of selected soldiers furnished with weapons for the hundreds of Shrivenham and Wantage.

PRINTED IN ENGLAND AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, OXFORD  
BY JOHN JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY