

On Her Majesty's Service

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WASC 40:C

WINTERS W. - HISTORY
OF ANCIENT PARISH OF
WA OR HOLY CREED.
1888

W Winters

The History of the Ancient Parish of Waltham Abbey or Holy Cross, Waltham Abbey, 1888.

Footnote T pp 49-50

From the Sewardstone Manor Rolls (private) occurs the following note under date July 3rd, 1648. - John Berisford admitted on ye surrender of Richd. Stock to $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land lying in a place called ye Upper-Fortye-field, and to ye field called Parkes-field cont. 4a with ye water-stream and mills, called ye Powder-Mills, Tenements, Edifices, Wayes and Appurts belonging to ye same and to an Island near ye Town Ambrey cont. 6 perches, abutt on ye River Lea and to one Rood of Land lying in Mill Holme at ye end of ye sd. Mill. Fine xls. The Powder Mills here mentioned may have been situated at Sewardstone.

THE HISTORY

OF THE

Ancient Parish

OF

WALTHAM ABBEY

OR

HOLY CROSS,

BY

W. WINTERS, F.R., Hist. Soc.,

*Author of Select Passages in the Life of King Harold; Ecclesiastical Works
of the Middle Ages; Our Parish Registers; Queen Eleanor
Memorial, Waltham Cross, etc., etc.*

~~~~~ ESSEX FIELD CLUB. ~~~~~

"Of noble actes aunciently enrolde,  
Of famous Princes and Lords of Estate,  
By thy report are wouite to be extold  
Registeringe trewly every former date."

*Skelton, on "The Dolorous Death," &c.*

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PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR,  
CHURCH YARD, WALTHAM ABBEY, ESSEX,  
1888.

who shall put any Horse or other Cattle on the Marsh, Town Mead, or Edmondsey, which are not their own Property, will be fined Forty Shillings, and lose the Common Rights for three years after such offence.

3rd. That any Stone Horse, or unclean or cut Horse commonly called a Rig, or Bull, or Steer found thereon, will be pounded and each Head pay 6s. 8d.; likewise any Mare found thereon from Old Lady-day until after driving-hour on Old Lammas day, will likewise be pounded, and pay the same fine.

4th. That no Cow, nor Heifer be turned on the said Marsh before 4 o'clock in the Morning, nor remain after driving in the Evening, from Old Lady-day until Old Lammas day: if any be found thereon after driving, they will be pounded, and the owner thereof pay 3s. 4d. And all the above Fines are to be accounted for by the Marshwardens in their Accounts; and that the Marshwardens are to produce their Accounts to the Jury of the Court Leet and swear to the same; that they are bound to call two Rates within the Year for which they serve, or be liable to a Fine of Forty Shillings, and that they are allowed Two Pounds at each Rate-making.

5th. That no Persons but Householders, and who occupy the same, are entitled to the Common Rights of the said Marsh and other Commons; and that it is the duty of the Marshwardens to superintend the management of the Town Mead and Edmondsey equally with the Marsh.

6th. That the Owners of Cows and Heifers turned on the said Marsh, during the time of driving, are to pay to the Marshard, Sixpence per Head for his trouble, which has been a custom from time immemorial.

The Jury of the Court Leet, whose names are hereunto subscribed, have examined the above Regulations and do recommend the same to be Printed, and signed by the Marshwardens' Clerk, and that a Copy be given to the Marshwardens on their appointment.

JOHN UPTON (Foreman), FRANCIS WIGGS, JOHN PAIN, THOMAS THOMPSON, JAMES DEATH, LANCE TUCK WHITELEY, JOHN LIGHT, JAMES BARWICK, JOSEPH NIGHTINGALE, RICHARD GENTRY, WILLIAM PHIPPS, THOMAS DENCH; JAMES ALLSUP, Clerk to the Marshwardens.

A piece of marsh land situated on the east side of the river Lea near to *Cheshunt Lock*, 15 or 16 acres in extent, and which is bounded on the south by the *Government Cut*, has been the subject of dispute. On to that piece of land, both the parish of Cheshunt and that of Waltham had a customary right of turning "head to head," but just prior to 1870 the marshwardens of Cheshunt turned that particular piece of land into a "night lay" for cows belonging to Cheshunt *only*, and at the same time a fence was put up to prevent the Waltham people from turning into the same. This was an infringement of the commonable rights of the parish of Waltham. The Waltham marshwardens for the time being entered the



enclosed land and opened it to the Waltham cattle, and the Cheshunt marshwardens were unable to prove their exclusive right to the land as it originally belonged to Waltham parish. A new Pinder House\* at the Waltham marsh gate was built in 1872-3, at the small cost of £250. In early times, as before stated, portions of the marsh and town mead were cut for hay. The whole of Waltham Abbey marsh originally contained 400 acres; this included Cheshunt marsh, which was then *not* divided by the river Lea, and was designated Waltham marsh, causing many hot disputes between the two parishes. Waltham Abbey marsh contains 59a. 3r. 4p.; *Hall Marsh*, 28a. 3r. 36p.; *Edmondsey*, purchased by the Government, 32a.; *Town Mead*, 52a.; *Great Hoppit*, 13a. 2r. 12p.; *Little Hoppit*, 2a. 2r. 28p. These Hoppits now belong to the Government. The land occupied by the river Lea and towing path, 6a. 1r. 30p., exclusive of ditch taken at half a rod wide, 3r. 13p., making a total of 7a. 1r. 5p. The Cut opened in 1770 takes its rise from "Ives Ferry," co. Herts, where it is supplied from the old river Lea. In the year 1772 it was proposed to make a canal from Moorfields to Waltham Abbey for £52,495. This canal was to be 60ft. wide 4½ft. deep, and terminating in a bason 400ft. long by 200ft. broad. This project was never effected from the opposition it met with in Parliament consequent on private interest. Ramney Mead Lock and Cut were opened September 10, 1864. John Want was lockkeeper at the time. The incorporations of the river Lea occurred in 1869. Some state that the Lea was made navigable *circa* A.D. 1424, but it was used for small barges long before that period. Freeholders and copyholders of Waltham had not only a right of turning any number of cattle on the forest at a certain part of the year, but a legitimate claim to fishing in the old marsh river and streams. The Government have held an indisputable right of fishing over their own waters since 1787.

THE FISHERIES.—Waltham Abbey and Cheshunt Fisheries were renowned in the Middle Ages when the abbots flourished in their Convents in Waltham and the nuns in Cheshunt.

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\* Mrs. Clark who kept the Pinder House, at Cheshunt Marshgate, Windmill Lane, was cruelly murdered on the riverside, between Broxbourne and her house, in 1886.

But these waters became famous for fishing in the quiet days of old Izaak Walton, the friend of Dr. T. Fuller, curate of Waltham. The Government waters are now preferable to any preserves for many miles round. These waters are private and are annually let to different persons. The *Lower Corn Mill Stream* is a portion of the river between the *Lower Island* and *Enfield Lock*. The *Upper Fisheries* extend from *King's Weir* to *Thorogood Sluce*. These waters abound with pike, carp, eels, perch, roach, chub, &c. Tom Taylor, the great angler, is said to have taken as much as 38lbs. of roach in less than two hours, near Harold's Bridge.

THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY.—The Royal Gunpowder Mills\* in this town are the oldest of the kind in existence. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1561), John Tamworth, a gentleman of substance in Waltham Abbey, was in treaty with Marco Antonio Erizzo, on behalf of the Queen, for the purchase of saltpetre, sulphur, and bow staves for barrels. The saltpetre was offered to him at £3 10s. per cwt., which he declared to be too dear. Erizzo, however, could not take less money, nor could he provide any for some time.† This John Tamworth is mentioned‡ in certain M.S.S. preserved in the British Museum as the executor of lady Joan Denny, widow of Sir Anthony Denny, Lord Chamberlain to Hen. VIII. and Ed. VI.§ John Tamworth's name also appears in the Churchwardens' Accounts for 1563. Item:—Received of Mr. Tamworth twenty loads of timber, ready hewed, which he gave to the parish. Dr. T. Fuller (1655) says, "This gentleman, by his bounty to the public, seems better known to God than to me, having neither heard nor read of any of his name in or near to Waltham." The same writer (Dr. Fuller) became curate of Waltham Abbey in 1648-9, and referring to the Powder Mills, he says, "The Mills in my parish have been *five times* blown up within *seven years*, but blessed be God without the loss of any man's life."|| Thomas Guttridge and

\* See History of Royal Gunpowder Works, by W. Winters.

† Cal. Stat. Papers (*Foreign*), temp. Elizabeth.

‡ Lansd. Charters, No. 16.

§ Lady Denny in 1553 let one Tenement, &c., adjoining *le Armytage*, in Waltham Abbey, at five shillings per annum. (See particulars for Grants Pub. Rec. Office.)

|| Worthies of England, p. 318.



Edward Simmons, carpenter, are the first recorded as being killed in these works. The first of the two was buried Oct. 4th, 1665, and the second one on the day following. The next person who lost his life by an explosion was Peter Bennet and who was buried Nov. 27, 1720.\* The most serious explosions in this Factory have taken place during the present century, and which have probably prevented many persons of affluence from settling down too near the town. However, their absence is perhaps more than equalled by the number of hands constantly employed in the Royal Works, and which may be considered the life of the town. The following are the explosions that have occurred since the Government have possessed the Factory, viz.—(I.) 1801, April 18th, *nine men* killed. (II.) 1811, Nov. 27, *seven men* lost their lives; (III.) Another *seven* were killed in 1843, April 13; and (IV.) in 1870, June 16, *five* men died in consequence of an explosion at the Lower Island. When John Walton was proprietor of the Powder Factory in this parish (1735) it was then considered to be the largest in Great Britain. The Board of Ordnance purchased the mills of John Walton in 1787, and continued the works in operation by several of Mr. Walton's best men. The Powder Mills at Faversham and Ballincollig were at that time in the hands of the Government, and which eventually became incorporated with the Waltham Abbey Factory under Sir W. Congreve, "Comptroller of the Royal Laboratory," who under date December 31st, 1799, gives an account of the progress of the Mills at Waltham Abbey, viz.: "Per contract—balance remaining in favour of these mills on this date after having paid off the original debt incurred, namely, £10,000; new erections, repairs, etc., so as to set at work, £13,449 7s 6d, making together the sum of £23,499 7s. 6d., which debt, with interest of 5 per cent. per annum, was paid off by the profits arising from the manufacture of gunpowder at Waltham Abbey from 1st March, 1790, and 31st December, 1795." The property of the Board of Ordnance, now War Department, in connection with the Powder Mills, is a narrow slip of land varying in width and running from the *Aqueduct, King's Weir*, through the town of Waltham to the *Lower Island*, towards *Enfield Lock*.†

\* See "Our Parish Register."

† From the Sewardstone *Manor Rolls* (private) occurs the following note under date July 3rd, 1648.—John Berisford admitted on ye surrender of

A SUMMARY OF THE BUILDINGS, LANDS, ETC., IN WALTHAM HOLY CROSS PARISH, OCCUPIED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1887.—There are 246 acres in Waltham Holy Cross parish belonging to the Government;  $67\frac{1}{2}$  acres are let to various individuals; 108 acres in the exclusive occupation of the War Department or its officers;  $175\frac{1}{2}$  acres belonging to the Royal Gunpowder Factory;  $54\frac{1}{2}$  acres are let to various individuals; 16 acres in the exclusive occupation of the War Department, or its officers of the Royal Small Arms Factory—246 grand total. There are  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the *River Lea*, besides numerous tributary streams and several mill heads, the water from which works the water-wheels for the manufacture of gunpowder. Over 250 War Department buildings are composed of wood and were in existence when the property was purchased in 1795\* as also several of the brick buildings, all in good condition. There are six quarters for officers and 38 cottages for workmen. A large corn mill with two water-wheels, worked by a mill head. The land is for the most part marsh, and often flooded in the winter; and there are several plantations of alder and willow. No rents are payable by the War Department for property which has come in the occupation of the department since 1st January, 1861. "Hall's" and "Hook's" marshes, let to Mr. W. Hudson at £3 per acre—13a. 1r. 35p. Rates and taxes paid by tenant. Possession resumed 29th September, 1874. Great Hoppitt is planted with willows—13a. 2r. 21p. Right of cutting grass is sold to Mr. W. Oram, at £3 per acre. The tenant is not liable for rates and taxes.  $16\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Cheshunt parish, planted with alders and walnut trees. One acre in Nazing parish planted with willows. *The Fisheries* let by the War Department are those of Mr. A. Wheeler for £3 per annum, consisting of the Corn Mill Stream and a portion of the river between the Lower Island and Enfield Lock; and the Upper Fisheries just let to Mr. R. B.

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Richd. Stock to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land lying in a place called ye *Upper-fortye-field*, and to ye field called *Parkes-field* cont. 4a. with ye water-stream and mills, called ye POWDER-MILLS, Tenements, Edifices, Wayes and Appurts belonging to ye same and to an Island near ye Town Ambrey cont. 6 perches, abutt on ye River Lea and to one Rood of Land lying in MILL HOLME at ye end of ye sd. MILL. Fine xls. The POWDER MILLS here mentioned may have been situated at Sewardstone.

\* The *lands* connected with the works were finally purchased in 1795; the buildings were purchased in 1787.



Colvin, extending from King's Weir to Thorogood Sluice, for £20 per annum.\*

The land thus possessed by the Government extends from *King's Weir* to *Enfield Lock*, and takes in Edmonsey,† portions of the Marshes, *Abbey Fields*, *Town Mead*, and the town proper. The premises near the Church known as the *Corn Mill* and the old *Pin Factory* were purchased in 1809 by the Government of John Halfhide for £9,500. This *Flour Mill* was originally bequeathed to the Abbots of Waltham A.D. 1108, by Matilda of Scotland, afterwards Queen of Henry the First. Gun-cotton was first manufactured by the War Department in the Saltpetre Refinery, Waltham Abbey, in June, 1870.

HIGHBRIDGE STREET.—From the Eleanor Cross or from the G.E.R. Station, Waltham Cross, the town of Waltham Abbey is approached by crossing the Old Lea Stream which runs toward the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock (a mile and a half south of the Abbey). The next bridge west of the church spans the navigable river Lea which mainly commences the town proper, of Waltham and is called HIGHBRIDGE STREET (originally *West Street*). This street derived its present name from a high bridge erected very early.‡ This bridge was no doubt the one over Powder Mill Lane Stream, as the yard near it is still called "Barge yard," and where was formerly a beerhouse, known as "The Two Barges." The bridge over the navigable Lea is kept up by the trustees of the river, who pay annually six pounds to the marshwardens for land cut through the Marshes. The bridge and road near the Refinery are kept and repaired by the War Department. The "Board of Ordnance" paid £10 for land cut

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\* Obligingly communicated by the late J. Ansell, Esq.

† In 1125 Robert Fitz Walter granted the tithes of Edmonsey to the Canons of Waltham (see Add. MSS. 5,937). Hen. II. (1177) gave the whole of the tithes of Edmonsey to the monastery. "Edmonsey" was then called "Gadwynesheye" (*vide* Hunter MSS. 25,269). In 1380 John Langrich possessed six acres of land in "Edwynseye" (Edmonsey), formerly held by John Matthews, vicar of Nazing. The "Chelnosie" mentioned in Henry the Second's Charter, A.D., 1177, appears from its connection with *Norman, Majorem Warden and Minorem* to be EDMONSEY.

‡ A new high bridge was erected in 1587 by order of Queen Elizabeth at a cost of upwards of £20 (Lansd. MSS. 53 fol. 94)—a heavy sum in those days—for the better navigation of her Majesty's royal barge as well as for barges in general. As far back as 1314 this street was called "Hayestrate" [High street] and "Hie-street" in 1485.

through Edmondsey and for the accommodation of a cartway and footpath. The other bridges in the town of Waltham, except the one near the Romeland and another on the Sewardstone-road, are repaired by the lord of the manor.

The premises called "THE REFINERY" are used for the refining and storage of saltpetre and for the manufacturing of Gun-cotton. The yard and field adjoining the large red brick house opposite the Marsh, formerly occupied by James Barwick, a local magistrate, were used in the last century for calico printing,\* a flourishing trade in the town at that time, and the old storehouses belonging to the Government south of the Refinery were once dwelling houses, occupied by the Jessopp family and Mr Torbut, a miller. In the interior of these buildings vestiges of old domestic architecture still remain, and near them once stood "The Goat" public house, kept by W. Pratt, beadle of the parish. This house has long been demolished as also the old "Leather Bottle" beerhouse and the butcher's shop tenanted forty years ago by Mr. Smith. On the same side of the road stands—

THE ALMSHOUSES.—This row or block of houses was erected in 1818, on the site of those given by Mr. Greene in 1626. Singular to say, the parish possesses no original deed of this gift, nor yet the donor's Christian name. This Mr. Greene was "Purveyor to King James I.," and that is all the parish authorities know of him. From early original documents we have discovered that the founder of the original almshouses in Highbridge-street was *Francis Greene*, whose will, bearing date December 15th, 1637, shows that he gave to Joan, his wife, a life interest in all his property in the parish, including the *barn, orchard, and garden* with the *four Almshouses* in Waltham.†

\* In 1782 Thomas Littler was hanged at Chelmsford for the paltry theft of a piece of lawn from these calico grounds. Mr. Barwick carried on the calico printing trade in connection with Mrs. Farran with great spirit in 1770. Mr. Hammond afterwards held these premises.

† A barn, orchard, and garden attached to the Almshouses were let in 1626 at £4 per annum. This land was again let some years ago at £20 per annum, and which is worth more in the present day. Out of this amount the four (senior) widows under the original grant were to have £5 per annum, paid quarterly, in addition to 2s 6d weekly from the parish; and the four (junior) widows admitted on the *new arrangement* of 1818 are to be provided for out of Woollard's gift, which amounted many years ago to 2s 2½d weekly, and 2s 6d weekly from the parish. The widows are also allowed a portion of Wollaston's bread gift. These houses require repairation.



*James Harrington*, born at Waltham Abbey about the year 1664, was a learned barrister and author of many excellent works. The preface to the *Athenæ Oxon* was written by him. He was buried at Oxford in 1693.

*Edward Pelling, D.D.*, a great author, held large possessions in Waltham Abbey. He was rector of Petworth in Sussex, in 1683. Most of his family were buried in Waltham.

*John Farmer*, born in Waltham, studied Law, and was the author of the history of Waltham Abbey, and the history of Abbies from 977 to the reign of Elizabeth, published in one vol., 1735. He was buried in the Churchyard, Oct. 3rd, 1750.

*John Auther*, the first Baptist minister of Waltham Abbey (1729) was the author of a printed Funeral Sermon, delivered on the death of John Wright of this town, Nov. 15, 1730.

*Henry Bridges*, a native of Waltham, was an ingenious carpenter, and inventor of a musical clock which took him nine years to complete. His tomb stands near the south entrance to the church. He died June 27, 1754, aged 57.

*John Adams*, a writer and translator, was a resident of Waltham in 1772. A work originally compiled by Don George Juan and Don Antonio de Ulloa, captains of the Spanish Navy, entitled "A Voyage to South America," was translated from the original Spanish, with notes, by John Adams, Esq., of Waltham Abbey. John Stockdale published a fourth edition of this work in 1806, dedicated to Sir H. Popham. The work, which is illustrated, displays considerable literary ability and sound taste.

*William Sotheby*, who held the manor of Sewardstone early in the present century, wrote his "Orestes" in the Manor House. He was a splendid linguist, and entered the field against Alex. Pope by translating the "Iliad" of Homer into English verse.

*James Upton*, of this town (1776), published a volume of letters on Evangelical Truth. He became pastor of a Church in Blackfriars, and died much respected, September 22, 1834.

*R. Coleman*, Clerk at Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey, 1790-5, wrote a treatise on the Manufacture of Gunpowder (See Phil. Mag. Vol. ix.)

*William Newman, D.D.*, of Bow, formerly a member of the

Baptist Church, Paradise Row, was the author of several publications. Born at Enfield, May 10, 1773; died Dec. 22, 1835.

*Samuel Howell*, "Master of the Academy, Waltham Abbey," resided in the large red brick house in Sewardstone Street, now occupied by Dr. Henderson. He wrote a small volume of poems entitled "Village Rambles," &c., in which he styles himself the "Author of Trifles," &c. These poems were printed for the author in 1816. The subject matter of the first poem is drawn from Chingford and its vicinity.

*Tom Hood*, the Comic Poet, though not a native of Waltham Abbey, was a frequent visitor at the house of his friend James Wright, Esq.\* of Powder Mill Lane, Highbridge Street. It has been stated that Tom Hood recited his "Song of the Shirt" in Waltham with great effect. The late Mr. H. Wright, son of the above, informed me that when he and his brother James (now of Mooresburg, Tennessee) were at school at Cheshunt, a celebrated walker by the name of "Skipper" was walking fifty miles a day for twenty-one days, and these two Master Wrights were anxious to see him perform the last mile, but to do this they had to make a hole in the playground wall to get out of, which circumstance Hood took advantage of and wrote a poem on "Getting a hole holiday;" and on another occasion when Hood was staying at Mr. Wright's, the young Wrights blew up the copper with gunpowder (in order to make it *draw*) and Hood wrote a piece on "Skying the Copper," and another on "Lawk! how the blacks are falling." Hood presented a copy of his "Comic Annual" to Mr. Wright, and on the fly leaf he sketched a pawnbroker's sign, the three balls, and underlined it with the words "To my Uncle." Mr. Hood wrote a description of Epping Hunt, in 1827, as before stated. Another of Hood's acquaintances in Waltham appears to have been the late Mr. F. Joyce, percussion cap manufacturer, Farm Hill, of whom he writes in connection with Mr. Hall, a gunpowder merchant, thus—

"Percussion cap I dare not snap,  
I may not mention Hall,  
Or raise my voice for Mr. Joyce,  
His wadding to recall."†

And when the great explosion of the Powder Mills occurred on

\* Government Storekeeper at Waltham Abbey many years.

† Hood's Works (Moxon Ed.) Vol. II., 252.

April 13th, 1843, Hood wrote, not in the most serious manner, *i.e.*, "Talking of Engineering, it is strange that Brunel never calculated on one great use of the Thames Tunnel, namely to give Cockneys at Easter a *hole holiday*, some day I predict the tunnel will become a water pipe, and I'm a prophet, I foretold, in last month's (June, 1843) Magazine that the comet would blow up the Waltham Abbey Powder Mills, July 18th, 1843."

*Lord Alfred Tennyson* composed his poems, entitled "Talking Oak" and "Locksley Hall," when a resident at Beech Hill House, Waltham Abbey.

*John Clare*, a poet and the son of *Thomas Campbell* the poet, were inmates (1837-40) of Dr. Allen's Lunatic Asylum at Fair Mead House.

*Thomas Sturgeon* compiled several hymns for Paradise Sunday School. He went to Fernandi Po, as a missionary with Dr. Prince in 1842.

*James Carr*, of this parish, wrote during the early half of the present century several parochial pamphlets and broad sheets of local interest. A dialogue on the preaching of Wiltshire Staunton Austin, "late of Demerara, now lecturer at the Parish Church Waltham Abbey, 1826," was probably written by the same hand, as the initials "J. C." are appended to the preface.

*Charles Cooté*, late of New Bond Street, London, a gentleman well known in the musical world for many years, was a native of Waltham Abbey, having been born in Sewardstone Street, in 1808, in the house now occupied by Dr. Henderson.

*John Braddock*, a resident of Waltham Abbey, compiled a "Memoir on Gunpowder," 8vo. 1832.

*James Hargreaves*, pastor at the Baptist Chapel, Paradise Row, Waltham Abbey, for 16 years, was the author of a work on the "Divine Decrees," and several religious pamphlets. He died September 16th, 1845, aged 77 years.

*R. A. Austin* published a work in 1653 entitled "A treatise on Fruit Trees." This work was reprinted by a resident of Waltham Abbey, in 1847, under the title of "The Spiritual Orchard."

*Major Baddeley, R.A.*, of Waltham Abbey, compiled a small work on Gunpowder, 8vo., 1857.

*Edmund Littler*, a native of this town and a clever draughtsman, wrote several papers on archæological subjects in 1859-60.

*W. Burges*, Architect, published a report on the state of the Abbey Church, before its restoration, 1859-60.

*John Maynard*, many years a resident of this town, was the author of the History of Epping Forest, 1860; and the History of Waltham Abbey, 1865. He was a good musician and school-master, and died July 20th, 1871, aged 69. His remains were interred in Theydon Bois Churchyard.

*Jesse Upton* (living), born in this town author of a poem entitled "Echoes from the Walls of our Ancient Abbey," 1865, two pamphlets on the Book of the Revelation, &c.

*Captain F. M. Smith R.A.*, of Waltham Abbey, wrote an able work on "The Manufacture and Proof of Gunpowder as carried on at Waltham Abbey, 8vo. 1870. Born at Penfont, Dumfriesshire, 1834; died 1873, and interred in Waltham Abbey Cemetery.

*Major-General Sir Charles Warren, K.C.M.G., R.E.*, was for some years Superintendent of the Royal Engineers' department, Waltham Abbey. This occurred after his return to this country from the Holy Land in 1871. Sir Charles Warren, Her Majesty's Chief Commissioner to Bechuanaland, was born in 1840, and received his education first at Cheltenham College, and afterwards at Sandhurst and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He obtained his first commission on December 27th, 1857, being appointed to the Royal Engineers. In 1867, when only twenty-seven years of age, he was entrusted with the command of the exploring party sent out by the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and greatly distinguished himself by the skill with which he conducted the excavations. He discovered the foundations of the Great Temple of Jerusalem, and completed the surveys of Philistia and the Jordan Valley. Sir Charles Warren is now superintendent of the police force in the place of Colonel Henderson.

*William Alfred Gibbs* (living), of Gillwell House, Sewardstone, in this parish, inventor of a hay-drying machine, is the author of several volumes of poems of a very high order, published about 1870-6, viz.,—"The Story of a Life," "Battle of the Standard," "Harold Erle," "Kling, Klang, Klong," "Lost and Won," "Church Porch," "World, Press and Poets," "Aslon Grange," &c.



*John Holloway* ("Defender of Lucknow") a novel writer, was clerk in the government works in this town several years, and which position he vacated about the year 1876.

*J. B. Baynard*, pastor of Paradise Row Chapel (1867-72) was the author of a three-volume novel, the heroes in which were thought to be mainly those who had been officers in his Church. He afterwards went over to the Established Church.

*Major Wardell, R.A.*, published a small work on the manufacture of Gunpowder, during his term of office at Waltham Abbey, 1878, 8vo. ✓

*William Jackson*, pastor of the Baptist Church, Paradise Row, wrote a small history of his Church, from 1729 to 1880.

*Robert Tabraham, M.A.*, a native of Waltham Abbey, gradually rose in scholarship until he became head master of Leamington Grammar School. At Trinity College, Dublin, he was Senior Moderator; University Gold Medallist in Law, History, &c., and Bishop Stearne exhibitor for uniform excellence in previous examinations. After his degree, he was for four years assistant master at Worcester Cathedral School, and next for seven years assistant master of Malvern College. These honours, however, he did not long enjoy, for whilst in the prime of life his mental faculties gave way, and he became an inmate of an asylum, where he died. Before this serious calamity occurred he had contemplated publishing a learned work which he had compiled on *Comparative Philology*. Whenever he visited Waltham Abbey he generally preached in the Abbey Church, and was considered an eloquent preacher.

*Col. C. B. Brackenbury, R.A.*, a literary gentleman, and Superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder Works in Waltham Abbey, from 1880 to 1885. ✓

*William Winters*, a native of Walkern, co. Herts, from which place he removed to Waltham Abbey, at the age of four years; became a Reader of the British Museum, 1869; Member of the Essex Archæological Society, 1871; Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, 1874; Member of the Anastatic Drawing Society, 1876; author of the History of Waltham Abbey; Boy Life; Life of Harold; Pilgrim Fathers; Annals of the Clergy; Ecclesiastical Works of the Middle Ages; Life of John Foxe; Memoirs of A. M. Toplady; Who was the Author of the

Pilgrim's Progress; Musical Talents of the Wesley Family; Is the Soul Immortal; Our Parish Registers; Hymns and Poems; History of the Lady Chapel; Handbooks of Waltham Abbey, Cheshunt, and Barnet; History of the Royal Gunpowder Works, Waltham Abbey; History of Warlies and its Surroundings, &c., &c.; also a contributor to the New England Hist. and Gen. Register; Royal Hist. Soc. Trans.; Notes and Queries; Editor of several Christian Monthly Publications, &c.; also Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, Waltham Abbey.\*

### DISSENTING CHAPELS IN WALTHAM ABBEY.

**N**ONCONFORMITY had taken deep root-hold in Waltham Abbey, long prior to the existence of

PARADISE ROW CHAPEL.—How the locality surrounding this Chapel obtained the beautiful name of "Paradise Row" is difficult to tell unless by the Abbots of Waltham holding it, in the middle ages, as a kind of Elysium. It may have originated from the erection of the Chapel there, which the founders in 1729 called "Paradise Chapel," and which in after years proved to many a *Paradise* in the highest sense, namely *a place, or garden of pleasure*. The cottage property called "Paradise Row" belongs to Paradise Chapel.

In the middle of the 17th century the Quakers were strong in this town, many of whom met with much opposition, suffering themselves for conscience sake to be imprisoned in some instances in the *Crypt* or *Vestry* of the Abbey Church, and their property taken by the harsh justices of the peace. In the journal of George Fox (the founder of the Quakers) under date 1654, he says, "I went to Waltham Abbey, and had a meeting there; the people were very rude, gathered about the house and broke the windows." It appears that he went out with his Bible in his hand and quieted them. Shortly afterwards a Quakers' Meeting House was erected in *Quaker Lane*, in which Fox frequently preached. This old house or Chapel was in later times used as the British School-room, and was demolished in 1844, when the "the Old Boys' School-

\* F. Johnson, of Sewardstone, and the late Colonel Palmer, have written much on the history and rights of Epping Forest. The late Mr. W. T. Wakefield, of this town, originated *The Waltham Abbey & Cheshunt Weekly Telegraph*, May 30th, 1863. Bishop Stubbs, and E. A. Freeman have written largely on the early history of Waltham Abbey.

age to the once famous Abbey of St. Cross at Waltham in Essex. Every one knows that a cross with the figure of our Saviour upon it, which had been found at Montacute and had been transferred here, gave a name and sanctity to the place. Dugdale, in the passage just cited, tells us that a cross found at Montacute had a figure of our Saviour upon it, was in fact a crucifix, the pilgrim's sign only exhibiting a cross. The arms of Waltham obviously refer to the cross which was considered one of the chief treasures of the house. There are two coats of arms, viz., I *Argent*, on a cross engrailed *Sable*, five crosslet fitchee *or*; II., *Azure*, two angels volant *or*, supporting a cross Calvary on three grieves *argent*. The stone mould exhibits a plain cross similar to the latter arms.

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## LOCAL DIRECTORY.

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**I**N addition to the parish Church of Waltham Holy Cross, there is Holy Innocents' Church, High Beech. The Dissenting places of worship are Baptist Chapel, Paradise Row, founded 1729, rebuilt 1836, new school-room erected 1879; Ebenezer, Fountain (Baptist) founded 1824, new Chapel erected in Fountain Square 1868, enlarged 1879; Bethel, Church Street, built 1845; Wesleyan Chapel, Quaker Lane, founded 1818, Chapel erected 1824; enlarged in 1879; and Plymouth Brethren Room, Quaker Lane, in which the Salvation Army meet.

*Parochial Registers.*—The existing Registers of Christenings, Marriages, and Burials in this parish commenced in 1563. They are in an excellent state of preservation, well bound, and secured in an iron chest.\* The Non-Parochial Registers, which by Act of Parliament have become national records, are—(I.) Book of Births, 1799 to 1818; (II.) Book of Deaths, 1770 to 1831; (III.) Books of Burials, 1836 to 1837, at Paradise Row Chapel. (I.) Births and Baptisms, 1818 to 1837, at Wesleyan Chapel. There is a Relieving Officer and Registrar of Births and Deaths.

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\* Copies of these Registers were taken in 1868, and are possessed by the Author.

*Town Reading Room*, opposite the Church. This room was opened shortly after the old Literary Institution had ceased to exist.

*Government Reading Room and Library*.—Powder Mill Lane.

*High School* for Boys and Girls, Harold House, Waltham Lane.

*High-Class Boarding and Day School* for Girls, Highbridge Street.

*Board Schools*.—Quaker Lane, Milton Street, Sewardstone, High Beech, and Copt Hall.

*School Board*.—Instituted in 1873. The first members were Sir T. F. Buxton, Bart. (Chairman), Josiah Norton (Vice-Chairman), T. Chapman, W. R. Clark, J. Claydon, C. Hunt, P. Mills, and H. Gough (Clerk.)

*Royal Gunpowder and Gun Cotton Works*.

*Percussion Cap Factory*.—Farm Hill.

*Imperial Bank*.—Highbridge Street (open on Tuesday and Friday) established 1871.

*Benefit Societies*.—Benefit Building Society; Oddfellows (M.U.) Providence Lodge; and Ancient Abbey Lodge; Friendly Union Society; and Foresters (St. Lawrence).

*Inns in the Town of Waltham Abbey*.—Angel; Cock; Green Dragon; Greyhound; Welsh Harp; King's Arms; New Inn; White Lion; Red Lion; Sun; Three Tuns; White Horse; Three Compasses; Ordnance Arms.

*Victoria Swimming Bath*.—The new bathing place at Rumney Marsh Lock (ten minutes from Waltham Town Bridge) was formally opened on Saturday, 18th June, 1887. George Corble, Treasurer; W. Alps, Secretary.

RECENT LOCAL EVENTS.—A Fountain erected in the Rome-land, and Pump in Greenfield Street. "Clark's Bridge" widened. Sewerage Works removed to south-east of Town Mead after a long litigation and much expense. Tar path made on the causeway bank (Oct. 1884) leading to Small Lea Bridge, which bridge requires to be widened (1887). The almost sudden death of the Rev. James Francis, M.A., occurred March 3rd, 1885, succeeded as vicar by the Rev. F. B. Johnstone, M.A. Essex Agricultural Show held in "Capershott" Field, Sewardstone Road, June 4th and 5th, 1885. This was an immense success. The Government have purchased (1886) Quinton Hill Farm for the purpose of erecting Gun Cotton Works



thereon. A plan for making a roadway from Enfield Lock to Waltham Abbey, is under consideration and which, if carried out, will be of great benefit to the town. The East London Waterworks Company have sunk a large well in Canward and are (1887) carrying water pipes through the town to London *via* Sewardstone.

*The New Memorial Church Clock.*—On Tuesday, October 18th, 1887, the new Illuminated Memorial Clock fixed in the Tower of the Abbey Church was finished. After a short service in the Church, the Rev. F. B. Johnstone, Vicar, led the way to the clock chamber, and behind him immediately followed the Rev. J. H. Stamp, Mr. John Bentley (churchwarden), John Parnell, Esq. (the donor of this handsome gift), and many others. At ten minutes to twelve o'clock the Vicar, who stood facing the company, said: "To the glory of God, and in memory of John Jessopp Parnell and Mary Anne Parnell, I set this clock going;" and having said these words he touched the pendulum, and in a few minutes afterwards the clock chimed and struck the hour of twelve. On the wall near the clock case is placed a memorial tablet of Sienna marble, on which is the following inscription:—

THIS CLOCK  
WAS PLACED IN THE  
ABBEY CHURCH TOWER,

By JOHN PARNELL, J.P.

OCT. 18th, 1887,

IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS,  
JOHN JESSOPP PARNELL, SOLICITOR,  
Who died Dec. 28th, 1857, aged 47 years;

AND

MARY ANNE E. J. PARNELL, HIS WIFE,  
Who died Oct. 18th, 1886, aged 79 years.

The old clock just removed from its ancient position was purchased by the churchwardens of Waltham Abbey, during the ministry of Dr. Joseph Hall. In their accounts, under date 1626, occur the following curious entries:—

"Item, to Frances Arnold for mendinge the leads over the vestrie and for eighteene pound of lead added to the Clocke Waighte, *vis. vid.* Item to Marmaduke Howe for mendinge the clock diall *x*d. "To Goodman Dickerson