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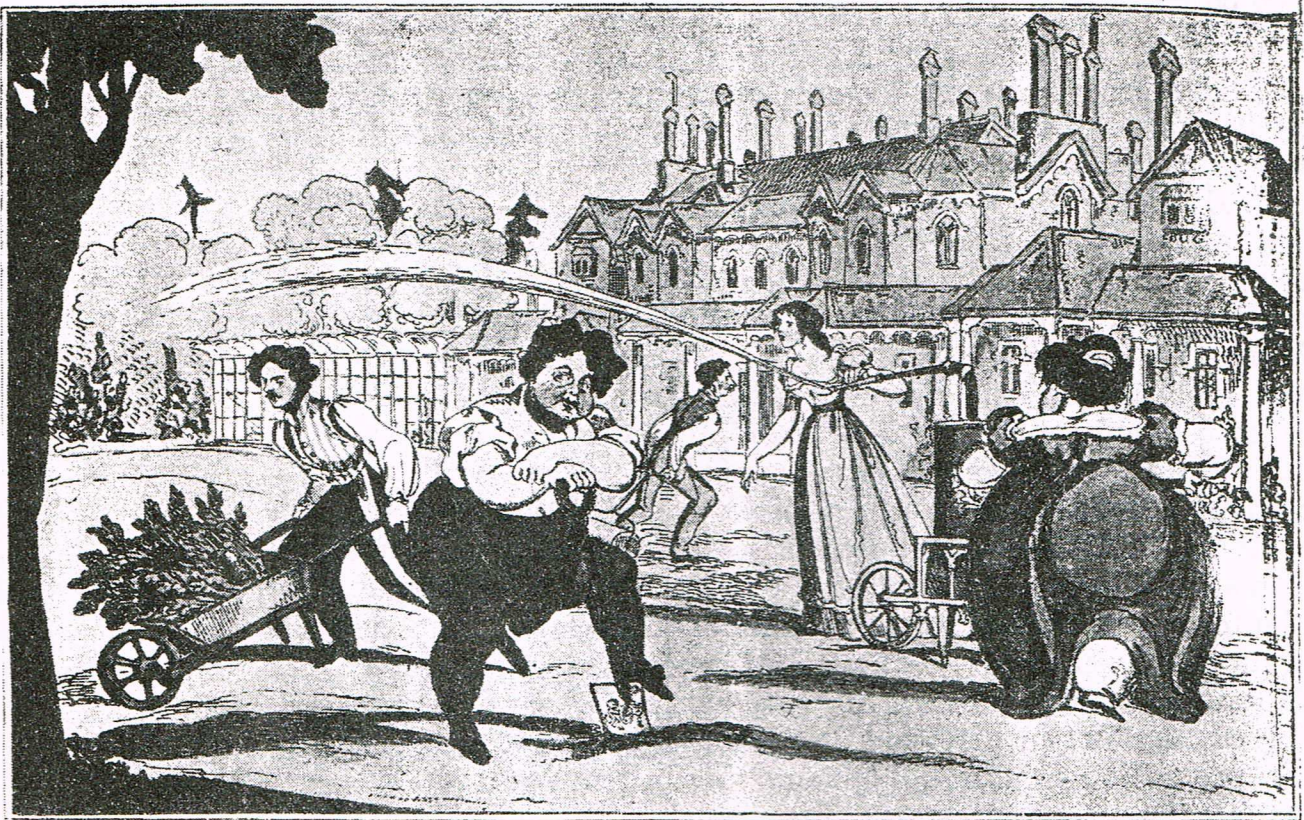


Elizabeth Corry
P



BAISE-MON-2

cartoon of 1820, showing the King with his last mistress, Lady Conyngham.



'Brobdignag Cottage. Rusticating.': caricature by William Heath, 29 March 1824. The King and the Conyngham family gardening at the Royal Lodge, Lord Conyngham pulls a roller; Lord Francis pushes a wheelbarrow; while Lady Elizabeth directs the jet of water from the portable pump operated by her mother.



'A fishing party, What great enjoyments rise from trivial things . . .': caricature by William Heath, 27 June 1827. The King is escorted down to Virginia Water to fish in the lake in a circular stand on castors (such as those used for toddling children) by Lady Conyngham and Sir William Knighton.

DEATH OF THE MARCHIONESS DOWAGER CONYNGHAM.

The Marchioness Dowager Conyngham died on Friday, at Biffons, the family seat near this city, at the venerable age of ninety-two.

Lady Conyngham was the daughter of Mr. Joseph Denison, of Denbies, in the county of Surrey. Up to the age of twenty-seven, Miss Denison resided with her father, then a wealthy merchant and banker, carrying on business in St. Mary-axe. Here the rich and beautiful heiress was won and wedded in 1794, by the Hon. Henry Burton, then a captain twenty-eight years old, and eldest son of the fortunate Francis Pierpoint Burton, of Buncraggy, who succeeded, through his mother, after the death of her two brothers, to the barony and estates of the old Conynghams, won at the battle of the Boyne by Sir Albert Conyngham, Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance of Ireland; and aggrandised by many forfeitures and marriages subsequently. Captain Burton carried off his wife to Ireland, and only revisited England in his 42nd year, to kiss hands, in 1808, on his promotion to a major-generalship. On succeeding to his father's title and estates, his lordship so industriously endeavoured to improve the condition of the latter that he was justly regarded as one of the benefactors of his country, and a visit to his estate at Slane, on the banks of the Boyne, is recorded by Mr. Parkinson, in his "Experiences of Agriculture," in the same terms as a visit to Holkham would have been chronicled in the days of Mr. Coke. The barony of Conyngham was increased to an earldom, as a reward for the spirited conduct of his lordship's father, which led to a reciprocity of trade between Ireland and England. Upon the conclusion of the war with France, George IV., as is well known, made a visit to Ireland, and was hospitably received and entertained at Slane Castle. Here, probably, commenced that more intimate acquaintance between his Majesty and the Marquis Conyngham and his family, which induced the King, upon his return to England, to invite the whole family to Court, and, after they had accepted the invitation, to retain them in his household. In 1816 his lordship was created Viscount Slane (the restoration of an ancient title forfeited in the Rebellion), Earl of Mountcharles, and Marquis Conyngham; and in 1821 he was enrolled in the British peerage as Baron Minster, of Minster Abbey, in the county of Kent. The marchioness was left a widow in 1832, and has survived to see both her sons peers of the realm—the one in succession to his father, the second, Albert Denison, as the heir to her own father's great fortune and estates, with the title of Baron Londesborough, whose two daughters, with their cousin, Lady Cecelia Conyngham, all granddaughters of the marchioness, were, it will be remembered, married on the same day a few months since.

FROM "KENTISH
GAZETTE", OCTOBER
15TH, 1861.

Harriette Wilson's Memoirs



Harriette Wilson

'He is there,' replied I, 'next to Lady Foley's box, leaning on his arm.'

Julia put her glass to her eye, as usual; being remarkably short-sighted, she could distinguish nothing without it.

'I know him,' said Julia, after gazing on him for some time.

'Not much?' I observed, almost breathless. 'Did you ever speak to him?'

'I have met him in society, when I was a girl,' continued Julia; 'but I was intimate with a girl to whom, when young, he proposed. Her wedding clothes were made; she used to sleep in my room, with his picture round her neck. She adored him beyond all that could be imagined of love and devotion, and, within a few days of their proposed marriage, he declared off. His excuse was that his father refused his consent.'

'For many years,' continued Julia, 'my friend's sufferings were severe; her parents trembled for her reason. No one was permitted to name her former lover in her presence. She is now Lady Conyng-ham.'

'And his name?' said I.

'Lord Ponsonby, who is supposed to be the handsomest man in England: but he must now be forty, if not more,' replied Julia.



*Lord Ponsonby's meeting with
Harriette at her own house*

① DENISON, WILLIAM JOSEPH (1770-1849), millionaire, was the only son of Joseph Denison (1726?-1806), a native of the west part of Yorkshire, who came up to London at an early age, and by continuous working and scraping amassed an enormous fortune.

① The son was born in Princes Street, Lothbury, in May 1770. He successfully engaged in mercantile pursuits, and became finally senior partner of Denison, Heywood, & Kennard, bankers, in Lombard Street. He sat for the borough of Camelford 1796-1802, was elected for Kingston-upon-Hull 1806, and was member for Surrey from 1818 till his death, which took place in Pall Mall on 2 Aug. 1849.

② JOSEPH DENISON WAS LADY CONYNHAM'S FATHER. ① WILLIAM DENISON WAS HER BROTHER.

③ DENISON, ALBERT, first BARON LONDESBOROUGH (1805-1860), third son of Henry Conyngham, first marquis Conyngham [q. v.], who died on 28 Dec. 1832, by Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Joseph Denison, banker, of St. Mary Axe, London, and of Denbies, Surrey, was born at 8 Stanhope Street, Piccadilly, London, on 21 Oct. 1805, and educated at Eton, where he entered in 1820. On 21 Sept. in the same year his name, with the rank of cornet, was placed on the half-pay list of the disbanded 22nd regiment of dragoons. He joined the horse guards on 24 July 1823, but after serving for twelve months retired from the army. On entering the diplomatic service he was appointed attaché at Berlin in May 1824, became afterwards attaché at Vienna in May 1825, secretary of legation at Florence in February 1826, and secretary at Berlin from January 1829 to June 1831. George IV created him a K.C.H. in 1829, and he was also named a deputy-lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire. He represented Canterbury in parliament from 10 Jan. 1835 to February 1841, and again from March 1847 to March 1850, on the 4th of which month he was raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Londesborough of Londesborough, Yorkshire. On 4 Sept. 1849 he assumed the surname of Denison in lieu of Conyngham, in accordance with the will of his maternal uncle, William Joseph Denison [q. v.], who bequeathed to him the bulk of his immense wealth. In 1854 he purchased the manor of Selby, Yorkshire, and other estates from the widow of the Hon. E. R. Petre for about 270,000*l.* He acquired the domains of Londesborough, near Market Weighton, from George Hudson, M.P., and the estate of Grimston Park, near Tadcaster, from Lord Howden. Altogether he held upwards of sixty thousand acres, which produced an income of about 100,000*l.* He was an enthusiastic antiquary. His and Mr. Akerman's communications to the 'Archæologia' on the contents of the Saxon tumuli on Breach Downs and in the neighbourhood recorded a series of facts which have furnished much of the information we possess respecting the arts, customs, and usages of the Anglo-Saxons. He was elected F.S.A. in 1840, and a fellow of the Royal Society 13 June 1850. On the formation of the British Archæological Association in 1843 he accepted the office of pre-

Denison very much increased his father's large fortune. He had extensive landed estates in Surrey and Yorkshire, as well as great investments in the funds. He was worth, it is computed, 2,300,000*l.* Dying unmarried he left his wealth (except 500*l.* given in charity and some legacies) to his nephew, Lord Albert Conyngham, on condition that he took the name of Denison only [see DENISON, ALBERT, first Baron Londesborough].

Denison wrote a patriotic poem of some merit on Napoleon's threatened invasion of 1803.

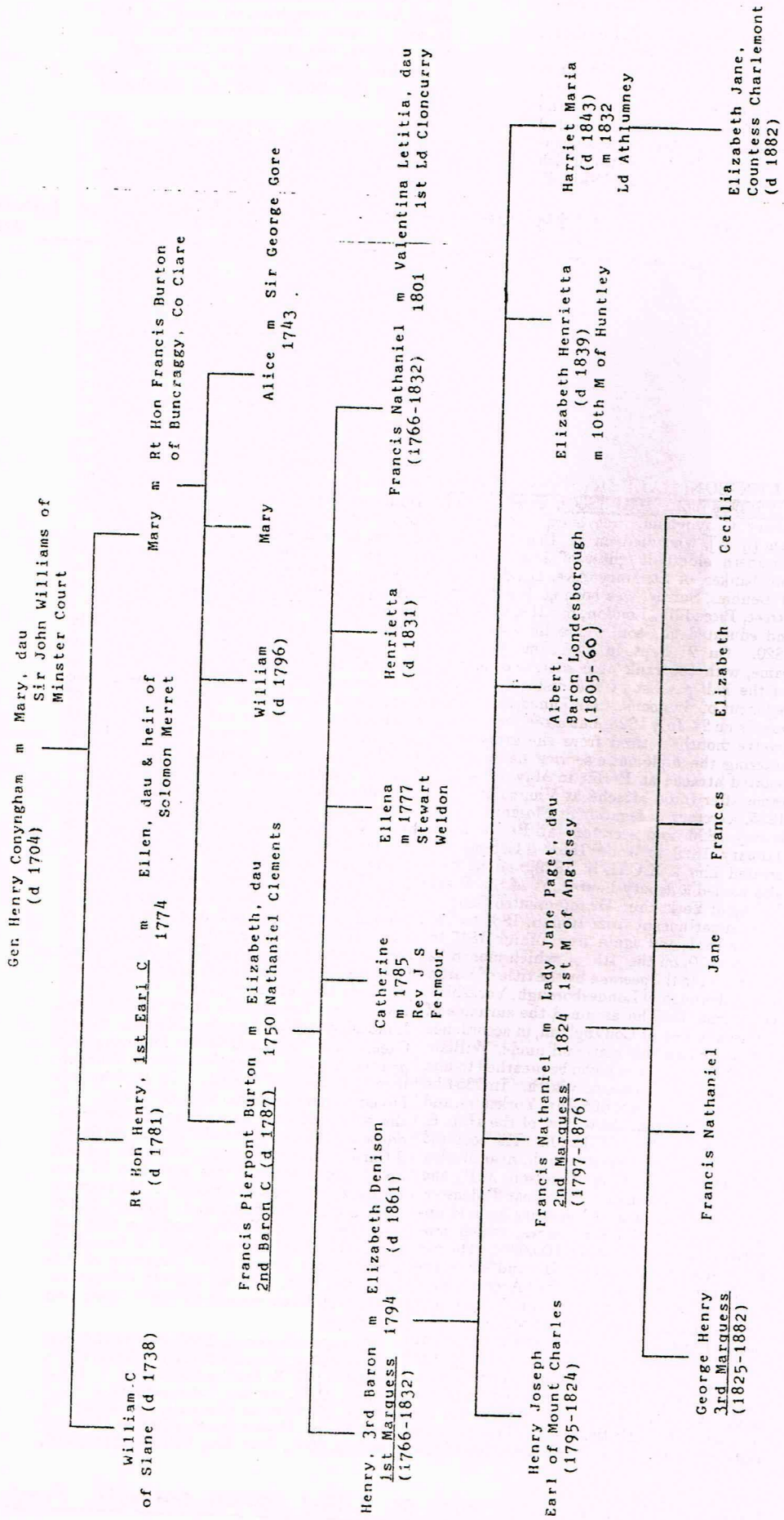
[Gent. Mag. 1806, p. 1181, October 1849, p. 422; Taylor's Leeds Worthies, 1845; Burke's Landed Gentry; Brit. Mus. Cat.] F. W. T.

sident, took the chair at the congress held at Canterbury, entertained the members at Bourne, and caused tumuli to be excavated in their presence. In 1849, with many other persons, he gave up his connection with the Archæological Association, and later on became a vice-president of the Archæological Institute, and president of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society in 1855. Soon after, when president of the Numismatic Society, he commenced a series of receptions in order that he might make the personal acquaintance of all the members. He was also a vice-president of the British Association at the meeting at Hull in 1853. His career as a runner of horses and as a breeder was equally unsuccessful, yet he took a great interest in the turf, and was a frequent attendant at Doncaster, York, and Beverley. With the mansion at Grimston he became the owner of a collection of armour and other curiosities, some of which are described in a work entitled: 'Miscellanea Graphica: Representations of Ancient, Mediæval, and Renaissance Remains in the possession of the Lord Londesborough. Drawn, engraved, and described by F. W. Fairholt. The historical introduction by T. Wright, M.A., London, 1857, 4to. An account of a collection of rings made by Lady Londesborough was privately printed in a volume edited by Crofton Croker, while the plate was described in a book entitled 'An Illustrative, Descriptive Catalogue of the Collection of Antique Silver Plate formed by Albert, Lord Londesborough. The engravings and letterpress by F. W. Fairholt,' 1860, 4to. Towards the close of 1848 Lord Londesborough, while in ill-health, visited Greece and Italy, and in the following year printed his tour under the title of 'Wanderings in Search of Health.' In 1856 he was forced to remain in his villa at Cannes. In the winter of 1859 he went to St. Leonard's-on-Sea, but removed to his London residence, 8 Carlton House Terrace, where he expired on 15 Jan. 1860, and was buried on 24 Jan. in the family vault at Grimston. He married, first, in 1833, Henrietta Maria Forester, fourth daughter of Cecil Weld, first baron Forester, she died in 1841; secondly, on 21 Dec. 1847, Ursula Lucy Grace, eldest daughter of Admiral the Hon. Charles Orlando Bridgeman. Twelve children were the issue of these two marriages.

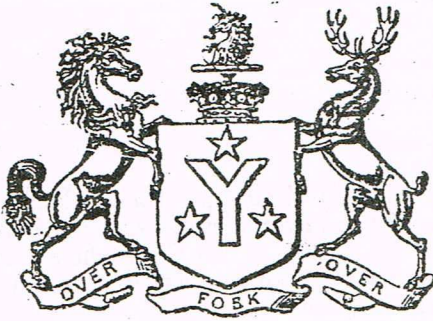
[Taylor's Biographia Leodiensis (1865), pp. 228-32, 482-3; Morrell's History of Selby (1867), pp. 275-7; C. R. Smith's Collectanea, v. 261-9 (1861); C. R. Smith's Retrospections, i. 262-8 (1883); Numismatic Chronicle, Proceedings for 1859-60, pp. 29-30; Sporting Review, February 1860, pp. 80-1; Gent. Mag. October 1853, p. 399,

③ ALBERT DENISON WAS ONE OF LADY CONYNHAM'S SONS.

CONYNGHAM



CONYNGHAM.



Lineage—ALEXANDER CONYNGHAM entered into holy orders, and removing into Ireland from Scotland, was appointed, in 1611, the first Protestant minister of Enver and Killymard, co. Donegal, and made Dean of Raphoe on the consecration of Dean Adair, as Bishop of Killaloe, in May, 1630. Dean Conyngham settled at Mount Charles, co. Donegal, which he held by lease from the Earl of Annandale, and m. Marian, dau. of John Murray, of Broughton, by whom he had twenty-seven children, of whom four sons and five daus. survived infancy. He d. 3 Sept. 1660 and was s. by his eldest surv. son.

SIR ALBERT CONYNGHAM, Kt., who was appointed, in 1660, Lt.-Gen. of the Ordnance in Ireland. This officer fought on the side of WILLIAM at the Boyne, Limerick, etc., and fell in a rencounter with the Rapparees, near Colcooney, co. Sligo. He m. Margaret, dau. of the Rt. Rev. Henry Leslie, Bishop of Meath, and was s. by his only surviving son,

HENRY CONYNGHAM, of Slane, co. Meath, M.P. co. Donegal, Capt. in Lord Mountjoy's regiment. When JAMES desired his Army to shift for itself, Capt. Conyngham prevailed upon five hundred of his regiment to remain united, and with them offered his services to WILLIAM. He became subsequently a Major-Gen., and fell in 1705-6, at St. Estevans, in Spain. He m. 9 Dec. 1698, Mary, dau. and heir of Sir John Williams, 2nd Bt., of Minister Court, Kent, and widow of Charles Petty, Lord Shelburne, by whom he got a very considerable property, and by her (who m. 3rdly, Col. Robert Dalway, and d. Dec. 1710) had issue,

1. WILLIAM, his successor.
2. HENRY, 1st Baron and Earl.

1. Mary, m. Rt. Hon. Francis Burton, of Buncraggy, co. Clare, M.P. Coleraine 1721-7, and co. Clare 1727-43 (d. 20 March, 1743), son of Francis Burton, of Buncraggy, M.P. for Ennis 1692-1714, and d. 1737, having had issue with two daus.,

1. FRANCIS PIERPONT BURTON, 2nd Baron.
2. William Burton, M.P., Teller of the Exchequer, and a Privy Councillor in Ireland, who inheriting, at the death of his uncle, Henry, Earl Conyngham, the family estates co. Donegal, and of Slane, Meath, assumed the name and arms of CONYNGHAM, m. — Studdert, and d. 31 May, 1796, leaving issue.

Gen. Conyngham was s. by his elder son,

WILLIAM CONYNGHAM, of Slane (an estate forfeited, in 1641, by Lord Slane), who d. 26 Oct. 1738, and was s. by his brother,

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY CONYNGHAM, 1st Baron Conyngham and Earl Conyngham, Capt. of Horse on the Irish establishment, and M.P. from 1727 until raised to the peerage of Ireland, by the title of *Baron Conyngham, of Mount Charles, co. Donegal*, 3 Oct. 1753. His Lordship was created *Viscount Conyngham*, 20 July, 1756, and *Earl and Baron Conyngham, of Mount Charles, co. Donegal*, 4 Jan. 1781, the Barony to descend, in case of failure of male issue, to his nephew, Francis Pierpont Burton, of Buncraggy, co. Clare, M.P. for that co. in 1761. His Lordship m. Dec. 1744, Ellen, only dau. and heir of Solomon Merretto. She d. 15 June, 1816, aged 97. He d.s.p. 3 April, 1781, when all his honours became extinct, except the Barony of Conyngham, which devolved, according to the limitation, upon the above mentioned.

FRANCIS PIERPONT BURTON, 2nd Baron Conyngham, m. 19 March, 1750, Elizabeth (d. 31 Oct. 1814), eldest dau. of Rt. Hon. Nathaniel Clements, and sister of 1st Earl of Leitrim; and had issue, with three daus.,

1. HENRY, 1st Marquess.
2. Francis Nathaniel Pierpont BURTON (Sir), G.C.H., M.P. co. Clare 1790-1857, Col. of the Clare Militia, (twin with his brother) b. 26 Dec. 1766; m. 4 June, 1801, Valentina Letitia (d. 4 Feb. 1844), 2nd dau. of 1st Baron Cloncurry, and d. 27 Jan. 1832, leaving issue.

1. Henry Stuart BURTON, of Carrigaholt Castle, co. Clare, D.L., J.P., b. 14 Sept. 1808; m. 24 July, 1836, Alicia Mary (d. 17 March, 1887), only dau. of Very Rev. Valentine Simpson, D.D., and d. 10 Feb. 1867, having had issue,

- (1) Francis Nathaniel Valentine, of Carrigaholt Castle, D.L., J.P., High Sheriff 1870, late 10th Regt., b. 13 Sept. 1842; m. 8 Nov. 1866, Marie, dau. and heiress of Savory, Duc de Rovigo, and d.s.p. 1883.
- (2) William Conyngham Vandeleur, of Carrigaholt Castle, co. Clare, D.L., J.P., High Sheriff 1868, late 68th Durham L.I., b. 19 Sept. 1846; m. 16 Jan. 1896, Lillias (d. 27 July, 1935), dau. of Thomas Green, of Wilby and Athellington, Suffolk, and d.s.p. 5 Feb. 1919.
- (3) Henry Stuart, b. 12 June, 1849; d. unm.

(1) Lucy Anne, m. 1stly, 17 Oct. 1863, Capt. Ormsby Rose. He d. Sept. 1870. She m. 2ndly, 2 Oct. 1872, Col. Ambrose Edward Saunders, and d. 6 Dec. 1874, leaving issue.

(2) Valentina Henrietta, m. 23 Oct. 1860, Francis Wise Low, of Kilshaw, and d. 1 July, 1861, leaving issue.

(3) Elizabeth Cecilia, d. unm. 6 Nov. 1870.

(4) Alice Katherine Lawless, Lawless, m. 6 Nov. 1879 (m. diss. by div. 1893), Gustav Leon Albert, Count de Hamel de Manin, and had issue. He d. 1906.

2. William Conyngham, Capt. Scots. Fus., b. 31 Dec. 1809, d.s.p.

His Lordship, on inheriting the title and estates of his uncle, assumed by royal licence, 3 May, 1781, the surname and arms of CONYNGHAM. He d. 22 May, 1787, and was s. by his son,

HENRY, 3rd Baron and 1st Marquess Conyngham, K.P., b. 26 Dec. 1766, who was created *Viscount Conyngham, of Mount Charles*, 6 Dec. 1789; *Viscount Mount Charles and Earl Conyngham*, 5 Nov. 1797; *Viscount Slane, Earl of Mount Charles*, and MARQUESS CONYNGHAM, 5 Jan. 1816, all in the peerage of Ireland. He was made a peer of the United Kingdom as *Baron Minister, of Minister Abbey, Kent*, 17 July, 1821. His Lordship was a Gen. Officer in the Army, Lieut. co. Clare, Constable of Windsor Castle, Lord Steward of the Household 1821-30, and one of the representative peers of Ireland. He m. 5 July, 1794, Elizabeth (d. 11 Oct. 1861), dau. of Joseph Denison, and sister, and eventually sole heir of William Joseph Denison, of Seamer, E.R. Yorks. and had issue,

1. Henry Joseph, *Earl of Mount Charles*, b. 6 April, 1795; d. unm. 26 Dec. 1824.
2. FRANCIS NATHANIEL, 2nd Marquess.
3. Albert Denison, created *BARON LONDESBOROUGH* (see that title). 1. Elizabeth Henrietta, m. 2 March, 1826, 10th Marquess of Huntly, and d.s.p. 24 Aug. 1839.
2. Harriet Maria, m. 22 Dec. 1832, Sir William Meredyth Somerville, Bt., afterwards Lord Athlumney, and d. 3 Dec. 1843, leaving issue, an only child, Elizabeth Jane, Countess of Charlemont, who d.s.p. 31 May, 1882.

The Marquess d. 28 Dec. 1832, and was s. by his elder surv. son,

FRANCIS NATHANIEL, 2nd Marquess Conyngham, K.P., G.C.H., and P.C., a Gen. in the Army, Vice-Adm. of the province of Ulster, and Lieut. of Meath, M.P. Westbury 1818-20, and co. Donegal 1825-31, Under Sec. of State for Foreign Affairs 1823-6, Lord of the Treasury 1827-33, P.M.G. 1834-5, and Lord Chamberlain 1835-9, b. 11 June 1797; m. 23 April, 1824, Lady Jane Paget (d. 28 Jan. 1876), dau. of 1st Marquess of Anglesey, K.G., and had issue, with four daus.,

1. GEORGE HENRY, 3rd Marquess.
2. Francis Nathaniel, Lieut. R.N., M.P. co. Clare 1857 to 1859 and 1874 to 1880, b. 24 Sept. 1832; m. 28 Sept. 1857, Georgina Charlotte (who m. 2ndly, 27 April, 1882, Lt.-Col. Alan Chichester, O.B.E. (see TEMPLEMORE, B.)), and d. 22 April, 1886), 5th dau. of 1st Baron Tredegar, and d.s.p. 14 Sept. 1880.

His Lordship d. 17 July, 1876, and was s. by his elder son,

GEORGE HENRY, 3rd Marquess Conyngham, Lt.-Gen., late 1st Life Guards, Equerry to QUEEN VICTORIA, 1870-3, and extra Equerry 1873-82, Lt.-Col. cmdg. Royal East Kent Yeo. Mounted Rifles, b. 3 Feb. 1825; m. 17 June, 1854, Lady Jane St. Maur-Blanche Stanhope (d. 28 Nov. 1907), only surv. child of 4th Earl of Harrington, and had issue,

1. HENRY FRANCIS, 4th Marquess.
2. Charles Arthur, Capt. late Royal Defence Force and T.F.R., formerly Lieut. Rifle Brigade, b. 1 Feb. 1871; m. 1stly, 1899, Lena Barbara (d.s.p. 24 Feb. 1902), dau. of Lewis Richard Morgan, of Mordon, Rhyl. Lord Charles m. 2ndly, 6 Aug. 1910, Annie Brewer (d. 14 April, 1955), widow of Andrew Wilson Hunter, and dau. of Daniel Morgan, and d. 7 March, 1929.

1. Blanche, d. unm. 13 April, 1946.
2. Constance Augusta, m. 20 Oct. 1881, Richard Combe, 2nd son of Richard Henry Combe, of Pierrepont, Surrey, and d. 14 June, 1941, leaving issue. He d. 14 April, 1939.
3. Jane Seymour, m. 26 July, 1883, Capt. Christian Combe, late Royal Horse Guards, eldest son of Richard Henry Combe, of Pierrepont, Surrey, and d. 30 Oct. 1941, leaving issue. He d. 11 Oct. 1940.
4. Elizabeth Maud, m. 30 July, 1887, Capt. Frederick William Ramsden, late Coldstream Guards, and d. 27 May, 1949, leaving issue (see RAMSDEN, Bt.). He d. 26 Dec. 1928.
5. Florence, m. 1stly, 30 April, 1887, Bertram Frankland Frankland-Russell-Astley, of Chequers Court, Bucks, and had issue (see HASTINGS, B.). He d. 11 Feb. 1904. She m. 2ndly, 17 June, 1905, Lt.-Col. Hon. Claud Heathcote-Drummond-Wiloughby, 3rd son of 1st Earl of Ancaster, and d. 28 Jan. 1946. He d. 24 Feb. 1950. The Marquess d. 2 June, 1882, and was s. by his elder son,

HENRY FRANCIS, 4th Marquess Conyngham, Vice-Adm. of Ulster, D.L. Lieut. Scots Guards, b. 1 Oct. 1857; m. 21 March, 1882, Hon. Frances Elizabeth Sarah Eveleigh De Moleyns (who m. 2ndly, 27

April, 1899, Major John Russell Bedford Cameron, and d. 1939), dau. of 4th Baron Ventry, and had issue,

1. VICTOR GEORGE HENRY FRANCIS, 5th Marquess.
2. FREDERICK WILLIAM BURTON, 6th and present Marquess 1. Blanche Frances, b. 10 March, 1884; m. 29 July, 1904, Sir Edward Seymour, K.C.V.O., D.S.O., O.B.E., late Gren; and d. 11 Feb. 1956, leaving issue (see HERRFORD, M.). 1 Feb. 1948.
2. Mildred Martha, b. 2 June, 1886; d. unm. 16 Feb. 1955.
3. Hersey Constance Evelyn, b. 24 Sept. 1887; m. 28 Jan. William Arthur Baird, yr. son of Sir David Baird, 3rd Bt., Aug. 1962, leaving issue. He d. 6 June, 1933.
4. Edina Dorothy Hope, b. 18 Oct. 1888; m. 1stly, 9 Feb. (m. diss. by div. 1925), Sir Thomas Ainsworth, 2nd Bt., issue. She m. 2ndly, 27 Oct. 1925, 2nd Baron HolmPatrick, d. 13 April, 1964, leaving further issue. He d. 5 Sept. 1942.
5. (Barbara) Helen, b. 13 Nov. 1893; m. 3 June, 1918, Major Hugh Bingham McCalmont, M.C., 7th Hus., of Mount Thomastown, co. Kilkenny, only son of Gen. Sir Hugh Mc K.C.B., C.V.O., and d. 24 Dec. 1938, leaving issue.

The Marquess d. 28 Aug. 1897, and was s. by his elder son,

VICTOR GEORGE HENRY FRANCIS, 5th Marquess Con. Lieut. SOUTH IRISH HORSE, formerly 3rd Bn. Wilt. Regt., b. 1883; d. unm. 9 Nov. 1918, and was s. by his brother.

Creations—Conyngham, B. (I.), 4 Jan. 1781; Conyngham 6 Dec. 1789; Conyngham E., &c. (I.), 5 Nov. 1797; Conyng &c. (I.) 5 Jan. 1816; Minister B. (U.K.), 17 July, 1821.

Arms—Arg., a shake-fork, between three mullets, sa. An unicorn's head, erased, arg., armed and maned, or. Supp. Dexter, a horse, arg., maned, hooped, and charged on the bre an eagle, displayed, or; sinister, a buck, ppr., attired, ungu charged on the breast with a griffin's head, erased, or. Blot fork over.

Residence—Lcs Prés, St. Lawrence, Jersey, C.I.

Refers to Coat of Arms above.

Conyngham

CONYNGHAM, HENRY, first MARQUIS CONYNGHAM (1766-1832), the elder twin son of Francis Pierrepont Burton [Conyngham], second baron Conyngham, by Elizabeth, sister of the first earl of Leitrim, was born on 26 Dec. 1766. He succeeded his father as third lord Conyngham in 1787, and on 6 Dec. 1789 was created Viscount Conyngham of Mountcharles in the peerage of Ireland. On 5 July 1794 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Denison of Denbies, Surrey, a lady who had much influence on his future career, and a month later he was gazetted lieutenant-colonel of the Londonderry regiment, raised by himself; it was disbanded in 1803. For this service, and his active influence as a magistrate in troubled times, he was created Viscount Mountcharles and Earl Conyngham in the peerage of Ireland on 5 Nov. 1797. He was a vigorous supporter of the union in the Irish House of Lords (*Cornwallis Despatches*, iii. 140), and when that act was passed he was elected one of the first Irish representative peers, was made a knight of St. Patrick, and received 15,000*l.* in cash for his close borough of Killybegs in the Irish House of Commons. After the passing of the union, Conyngham generally voted for the tory and ministerial party, but did not do much in politics, though from his wife's personal friendship with the prince regent he was created Viscount Slane, Earl of Mountcharles, and Marquis Conyngham on 22 Jan. 1816. When that prince succeeded to the throne as George IV, Conyngham's importance greatly increased; he was created Lord Minster of Minster Abbey, Kent, on 17 July 1821, in the peerage of the United Kingdom, and was in the December of the same year sworn of the privy chamber and made lord steward of the household, and captain, constable, and lieutenant of Windsor Castle. The Conyngham influence now became supreme at court. It showed itself as early as May 1821, when Lady Conyngham secured for Mr. Sumner (afterwards bishop of Winchester) a canonry of Windsor, because he had been her eldest son's tutor, in spite of the opposition of the prime minister,

Lord Liverpool, an appointment which nearly caused a ministerial crisis (*Greville Memoirs*, 1st ser. i. 45). The Conynghams always lived with the king, whether at Windsor or Brighton, and Mr. Greville reports a speech of the king's to Lady Conyngham, after she had ordered the Pavilion to be lighted up, which shows how great was the power she exercised over him: 'Thank you, thank you, my dear, you always do what is right; you cannot please me so much as by doing everything you please, everything to show you are mistress here.' The king heaped presents upon her, and she even wore the crown sapphires which Cardinal York had given to the king. Her influence remained unbounded to the very last; she used the king's horses and carriages, and even the dinners she gave at her town house were cooked at St. James's Palace. With the death of George IV, however, the power of the Conynghams disappeared. Conyngham broke his staff of lord steward at the funeral of his friend, and was not reappointed. He did not long survive his master. He died at his house in Hamilton Place, Piccadilly, London, on 28 Dec. 1832, and was buried at Patricksbourne church, Kent. He left two sons and two daughters: the second Marquis Conyngham and Lord Albert Conyngham, who succeeded to the Denison property and was created Lord Londesborough in 1849 [see DENISON, ALBERT]; Elizabeth, Marchioness of Huntly, and Harriet, Lady Athlumney. His widow long survived him, and did not die until 10 Oct. 1861.

[Gent. Mag. January 1833; Greville Memoirs, 1st ser. i. 46, 48, 207, iii. 88, 113.] H. M. S.

Articles of Agreement made and entered into this 23rd day of
February in the year of our Lord 1830 BETWEEN The Right Honorable Edward Lord Skelmersdale
The Inverdale and Sir Herbert Taylor Knight a Lieutenant General in the Army of the one
part and The Most Noble Henry Marquis Comyngham of the other part Whereas the Manors
Advowsons Capital Mansion Offices Infruages Farms Lands Rectorial or Improvise Tithes
and hereditaments and also the Household Furniture and Effects hereinafter agreed to
be sold are vested in the said Edward Lord Skelmersdale and Sir Herbert Taylor as Trustees
for Edward Taylor Esquire with power to sell the same And whereas three roods and two
fifteen perches or thereabouts of the said hereditaments were by Indentures of Lease and Release
bearing date respectively the 5th and 9th days of Nov^r 1805 received from the Baron de Montesquiou
in exchange and other three acres or thereabouts of the said hereditaments were purchased of John

on the other part in manner following (that is to say)
That the said Edward Lord Skelmersdale and Sir Herbert
Taylor do hereby agree to sell and the said Henry Marquis
Cunningham doth hereby agree to purchase at or for the price
or Sum of £95,600, 0, 0 of lawful money of Great Britain the
Inheritance in fee simple in possession free from incumbrances
All those the Manors or Lordships or reputed Manors or
Lordships of Patriabourne Cheney and Patriabourne Merton
alias Merton with the appurtenances in the County of Kent
Together with all quit and other rents services Courts let liberties
buildings land woods underwoods franchises view of frankpledge
advowsons right of patronage and free warrens and other
hereditaments whatsoever to the said Manors or Lordships or
reputed Manors or Lordships or either of them belonging And
also all that the Rectory or parsonage of Patriabourne aforesaid
with the Scites barn and other edifices to the said Rectory or
parsonage belonging situate in the said parish of Patriabourne
And also all that the Advowson and right of presentation to
the Vicarages and the Churches or Chapels of Patriabourne and
Budge in the said County And also all that capital messuage
called Bigons situate in the said parish of Patriabourne And all
houses edifices buildings barns stables offices Dovehouses yards garden
pleasure grounds and appurtenances thereto belonging And also all
those several parcels of pasture and Hop ground containing 5 1/2 acres
more or less And also all that messuage with the outbuildings And
also all those several Fields or Closes of Arable pasture Hop ground
Down land and Wood land thereto belonging called the Hode farm
situate in the said parishes of Patriabourne and Braksborne or one of
them and containing 10 1/4 Acres more or less And also all those
several parcels of Wood Land called Paternoster Hill Wood Red Hills

N ^o	Estates	Tenants	Farm houses &c
1	Biprons Mansion	Late Lady Noel Byron	Mansion Stabling &c
2	In hand Bridge Place	Edward Taylor Esquire	Plantations and Shrubberies
3	Upper Pett farm Lower Pett farm	Richard Bruce	House and Stabling &c House 2 Barns Stabling House 2 &c Lodges &c
4	Hode farm	Mary Garner	House 2 Barns Three Cottages Stabling Lodges &c
5	Patnaaboun Court and Shepherds Close	Austen Gardner	House Stabling two Tenements two Barns Lodges &c
6	Little Biprons Park &c	P. Pilcher and George Dome	House Barn Stable Lodge &c
7	Lower Eaton Farm	James Bartholomew	House Barn Stable &c
8	Little Bridge Place	John Feed	House Stable &c
9	Vicarage	Reverend C. H. Hallett	House Stabling &c
10	Brick Ground	William Dunsall	Brick and Lime kiln
11	Biprons Orchard	William Vickers	House Carpenters Lodges &c
12	15 Brick Cottages	John Austin Robert Palmer William Hooker William Newport William Howell William Holbrook John Holliday John Osborn William Hopper Henry Leath William King William Grainger James Austin William Fairbairns and Andrew Holman	15 Cottages and Gardens from 15 to 20 perches each Garden

Received on the day and year first within written the sum of
eight thousand pounds being the Deposit money within mentioned } £8000.-
to be paid by the within named Henry Marquis Conyngham to us }

Witness to the Signature of
Edward Lord Skelmersdale

Skelmersdale

Thomas Fisher

Witness to the Signature
Sir Herbert Taylor

H. Taylor

Amb. Humphreys

2 SOURCES RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF A COUNTRY ESTATE BY THE CONYNGHAMS (1830).

HISTORY OF A KENTISH HOUSE

SIR.—With reference to Doris Ker's inquiry (*Correspondence*, January 30), the house called Bifrons was situated in a large park near Patrixbourne, in Kent, three miles from Canterbury. The house was built in the early 17th century by John Bargrave, of Patrixbourne. His brother, Isaac, was Dean of Canterbury in 1625 and receives mention in *The Dictionary of National Biography*. Two generations later, in 1694, Bifrons was sold to John Taylor, whose descendants held it for more than a century.

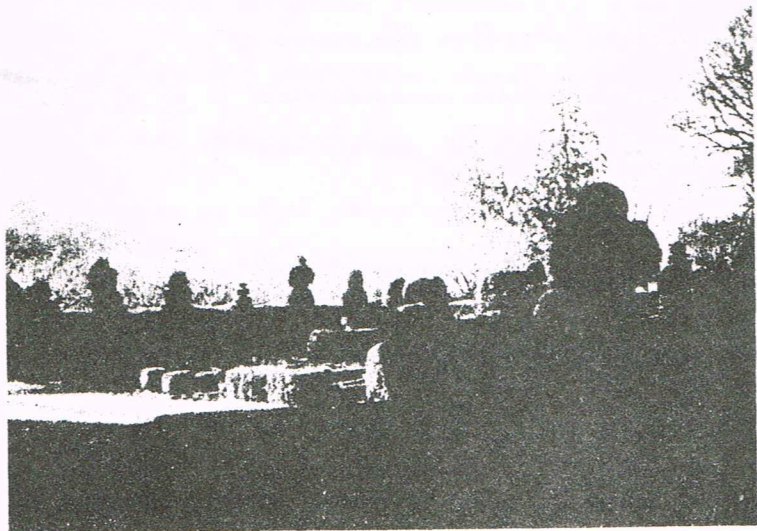
The house was rebuilt in 1770 by the Rev. Edward Taylor, vicar of Patrixbourne, who had carved upon the front of it a Latin inscription in commendation of his wife. Two of his sons, Lt.-Gen. Sir Herbert Taylor and Sir Brook Taylor, also have notices in the *DNB*.

Jane Austen, in a letter to her sister from Rowling in 1796, wrote: "We went to Bifrons, and I contemplated with melancholy pleasure the abode of him on whom I once fondly doated". Lord Brabourne, who edited the letters, states in his introduction that Bifrons was at that time in the possession of the Taylor family, from whom it afterwards passed to the Conynghams.

The 1st Marquis Conyngham who, through his wife's friendship with George IV, had great influence at Court, would undoubtedly have known Lt.-Gen. Sir Herbert Taylor, who was a confidential friend of the Duke of York; and it could have been through this contact that the Conynghams purchased Bifrons. The Marquis died in 1832 and was buried at Patrixbourne. The Marchioness held the estate until her death in 1861 (a portrait of George IV by Lawrence hung in the drawing-room), and her descendants retained it until 1939. The house was pulled down somewhere between 1945 and 1950.

I have been unable to discover any reference to Lady Byron's connection with the house.

The enclosed photograph, taken in 1951, shows the topiary that remained in the gardens of Bifrons after the house was demolished.—
J. W. BURCH, 7 *Milwood Road*,
Horsham, Sussex.



TOPIARY IN THE GARDENS OF BIFRONS, NEAR CANTERBURY, IN KENT

Lady Conyngham may have been bored with the King, but she still had reason to be grateful for his generosity. In 1827 the Duke of Clarence told George Seymour that he knew that George IV had paid £95,000 to Lady Conyngham to buy a country estate.

FROM :

THE MOST POLISHED GENTLEMAN

George IV and the Women In His Life

By

CYNTHIA CAMPBELL

(1995)

FROM :

COUNTRY LIFE—FEBRUARY 13, 1969

DEATH OF THE KING.

GEORGE IV.

Windsor Castle, June 26, 1830.

“It has pleased Almighty God to take from this world the King’s Most Excellent Majesty.

“His Majesty expired at a quarter past three o’clock this morning, without pain.

(Signed) “HENRY HALFORD.

“MATTHEW JOHN TIERNEY.”

Upon the announcement of the demise of King George the Fourth to the Lord Steward, the Marquis Conyngham, who was in attendance, together with Lord Strathaven, and two state pages, took charge of the body, and remained in the room until the arrival of Mr. Mash, Deputy Chamberlain, at half-past twelve o’clock, to whom he transferred it—the custody has remained since in some of the officers of the Lord Chamberlain’s office.

The Marchioness Conyngham, with the ladies of her family, had been very busy packing up during the whole of Saturday morning, and her Ladyship, with a carriage full of ladies, set out from Windsor, with four horses, at a quarter past 12 o’clock on Saturday, and drove with haste to Mr. Denison’s (her brother’s) house, near Dorking, where she arrived before dinner. The people about the Castle understood that her Ladyship intended to go to Paris. The Marquis Conyngham remained behind at the Palace, the corridor of which, near the late King’s suite of apartments, he paced like a man lost in abstraction; and it was not till one o’clock he was reminded that he had important duties to perform in London with the new Court and the Parliament. He then, as if suddenly recollecting himself, ordered a chaise and four, and came to town with all speed, arriving at Westminster at 20 minutes before 4 o’clock, just in time to enable the Speaker to take the chair in the House of Commons, after being sworn in the long gallery. The noble Marquis will no doubt explain these circumstances himself, which he will do better than those who profess to know so much about it in Windsor.

and almost, his conduct being a pure expression of his policy intended to be in an inquiry which they he remembered. In fact, there is which they conduct in a most happy manner, and it is already being... the continuation of the... produce no progress effect... That if His Majesty did... their unanimous approval... some honour and applause... in a single instance of dis... ment. If a portion of his... of the husband would... have long since fled; but... entered that severity in any... individual who has never... great authority to that un... the Fourth has, in fact, lost of popularity and pro...

low us to expatiate, to half the regal excellence in relation of these dignities. In two points, however, prerogative has allied itself to alliance has been more and further sign. Hence to, and expensive undertak... at once, intention for and relieving every modit... whether, in fact, whatever people in the permanent... tion to make the best use... without the land, inspirit... our national embarrass... and restoration... inguished himself by some... penitence; and he would... characteristics with... as extravagant comparisons... trail of these, he had been... tence, studious of his hap... woe would have equalled the woe would have kept... his sovereign... of His Majesty's life... city stands, we therefore... chieftly from the O... as only her duty, did he... of Duke of Cornwall, and... creted with the Order of... with the sword, and... sold order. Addresses of... King and Queen from all... tary embassies were re... furnished old, it was an... public that his Royal... freedom date, at 26... Accordingly to this inst... admitted to see the Royal... in passing through the... as possible, and he... greater security on this... off in the Chinese man... each of various persons... of this permission to see... the Majesty's sake, and... the daily expense he cat... consumption of wine was... the character of the age... were put on this occa... official advantage, to the... Sir Stephen, modes, we... who married the sister... more for the reputation of... than the justification of... The scientific science... ment as Dr. Doonan... cognate system of Lon... tk on midwifery; and re... from Aristotle to Qu... the Nation. Hence the... sculatory, or rather pro... a very delicate and... woe, others stated ign... aimed to predict the de... Mr. Dipper, who was the... reflect upon the subject... dertained as at pre... objects as features of an... up with the publication... the translation of the... the Duke Castle, four weeks... dent articles were writ... appearance; whilst the... the plea of the customs of... of England. A man... to establish a complete... afternoon, preceded again... a contrast to a complete... cored all this could be... able; and although any... on important, was all... n by the vulgar for G... of the Germans, and... population. Among the... this occasion, we may... on the Quakers... was the Earl of Hobbess... and merit. It is in... reitwick's recommen... a ground of the Queen's... Mrs. de Launay, the... (M) Gales, the celebrated... quired at a private... Lord... and it rancid, pretending... of behaviour. In vain he... addressed himself to the... relation to perpetuate... ral pupil, he reneged his... fruce. It is evident, that... of States must have been... for great was the pop... that ladies' studies... directing Lord Bruce... his Lordship held the... ed; though other states... been intended with... him, at the solicitation... had already fallen into... hep of York, was after... he sub-pretence was, Dr... Primary of Ireland, in... tion on a famous' preser... when Dr. Ford and Sir... states of Cambridge... produce of the very... Mr. Jackson possessed... he was easily raised by... possessed abilities equal... Jackson, could not be... absence over him; but... all; they were without... at the education of the... the soul's memory, no ac... a manly individual... that at an after... and which he was not... oweled. The unfavour... critical on sea, and the... spot to another foreign... ludicrous effect on his... of Wales had, under the... Governor the Third, kept... and the King having fin... the Prince would live the... cyover possession of... of a language boy... the state of residing in... a matter of surprise with... plunged into the felicit... which his lordship enjoy... doer. Long previous to... he had made great pro... at atmospheric and econo... on warm friends and ad... of the young Prince as... on a cruise, and his sp... consequent travelling with... what was reported of him, that he was subject to address...

MONDAY-MARKET and CITY INTELLIGENCE.
Friday Evening.
By the arrival of the packet...

EXPRESS FROM PARIS.
We have received by express from Paris, the Gazette...

DEATH OF THE KING.
THE TIMES OFFICE, Half-past Eight, p. m.
We have only time at present to announce an event...

DEATH OF THE KING.

THE TIMES OFFICE, Half-past Eight, p. m.
We have only time at present to announce an event...

With respect to the complaint of Mr. Brougham on Saturday evening, in the House of Commons, of the absence for the second time of the Lord Steward...

Mr. and Mrs. T.
Thursday, at their 11th Avenue...

About five o'clock on Monday morning, a hearse arrived at the Palace at Windsor, containing a coffin of the best Spanish mahogany, made by Mr. Warren...

Soon after two o'clock in the afternoon the Marquis Conyngham, the Earl of Mountcharles, Lord Strathearn, Sir William Keppel, Sir Frederick Watson, and other officers of the household, assembled in the room where the remains of the late King were lying...

It is His Majesty's pleasure that Lord Strathearn, Lord of the Bedchamber, the Earl of Mountcharles, Master of the Robes, and Sir William Keppel, Groom of the Bedchamber, should be in attendance at the Palace at Windsor during the time that the body of his late Majesty remains in the private apartments, until removed for the lying in state and the funeral.

Mr. and Mrs. T.
Thursday, at their 11th Avenue...
Friday, at their 11th Avenue...

Mr. and Mrs. T.
Thursday, at their 11th Avenue...
Friday, at their 11th Avenue...

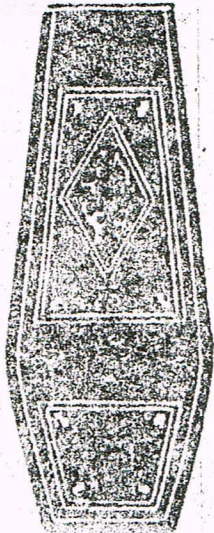
The Duke of Cumberland arrived at Windsor Castle at 3 o'clock on Wednesday, where he remained in close communication with the Lord Steward and the household officers who are appointed to take charge of the late King's remains until 6 o'clock, when he returned to town. It is understood that his visit had reference to the pending arrangements for the funeral, which will take place at midnight, on Thursday, the 15th.

The Marquis Conyngham left Windsor this morning, and returns to-night. His visit to town was also said to have reference to the duties which he has to discharge as Constable of Windsor Castle.

The body of his late Majesty remains in its leaden receptacle: it is still watched by officers of the Lord Steward's household, and pages, in succession; and no person, except these attendants, is permitted to enter the apartment.

The funeral of his late Majesty

THE ROYAL BODY



Supporters of the Canopy,
Five Peers, assisted by Eight of the senior
Admirals in the Royal Navy.
Supporters of the Pall,
Three Dukes, assisted by Two eldest
Sons of Dukes.

Supporters of the Canopy,
Five Peers, assisted by Eight of the senior
Generals in the Army.
Supporters of the Pall,
Three Dukes, assisted by Two eldest
Sons of Dukes.

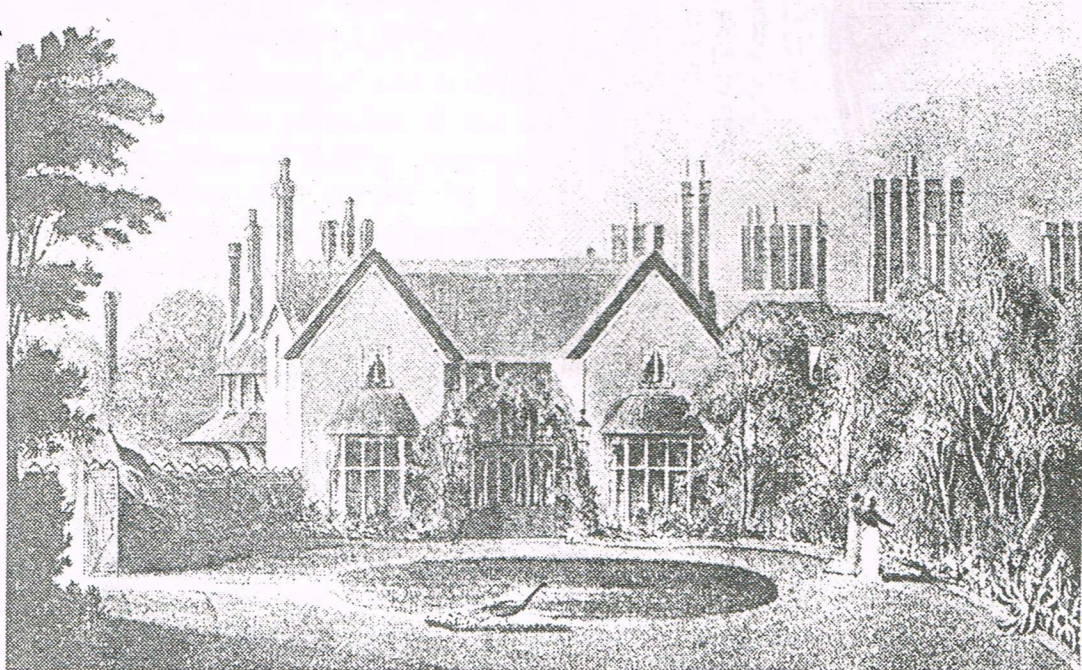
Covered with a Purple Velvet Pall,
adorned with Ten Escocheons of the Imperial Arms,
under a Canopy of Purple Velvet.

The coffin was only lowered about two feet below the aperture of the subterraneous passage; the splendid pall was removed, as the body was lowered, and the state coffin exposed to view. A number of persons crowded around the vault when the ceremony was concluded: among them were the Dukes of St. Alban's and Athol, the Marquisses of Clanricarde, Salisbury, Hertford, and Conyngham; the Speaker of the House of Commons, &c.

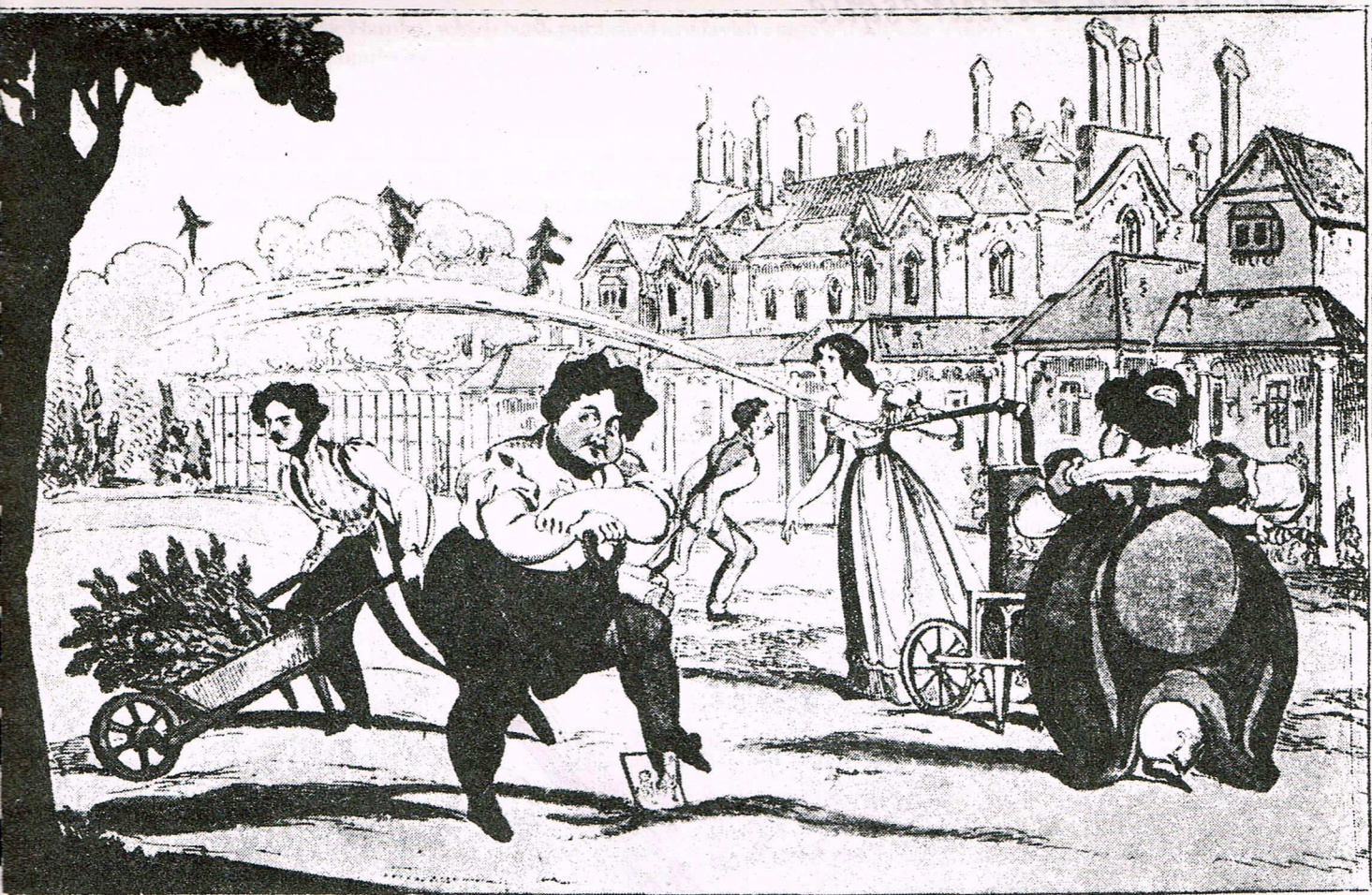
We shall reserve our further reflections and our remarks on the character of His MAJESTY till Monday. Flattery cannot reach him now, and Truth may be of advantage to his successors.



His Majesty's Royal Lodge, Windsor. (From Ackermann's 'Views of Country Seats', 1830. By courtesy of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.)



Royal Lodge, Windsor.
From R. Ackermann, *Repository of Arts*.



'Brobdignag Cottage. Rusticating.': caricature by William Heath, 29 March 1824. The King and the Conyngham family gardening at the Royal Lodge. Lord Conyngham pulls a roller; Lord Francis pushes a wheelbarrow; while Lady Elizabeth directs the jet of water from the portable pump operated by her mother.

The Prince Regent and the cottage orné

A relaxed life style away from London appealed to the Prince of Wales, especially as he had the ideal site for a scenic cottage orné in the depths of Windsor Great Park.

John Nash was instructed by the Prince Regent to convert a lodge into a royal thatched retreat. It was ornamented beyond recognition at a cost of £50,000 and much admired. A verandah, or thatched covered-way, supported by tree trunks, extended along the entire front, over which were trained honeysuckles and flowering creepers.

The cottage was further expanded in the 1820s at a cost of an additional £30,000 when the great restoration of Windsor Castle by Sir Jeffrey Wyatville was undertaken and the new King George IV spent much time at his Royal Lodge cottage orné, taking charge of the operations, which were completed in 1828.

Princess Lieven describes the life style of the royal cottage orné at this time: 'We led a lazy and agreeable life there, always in the King's society. Many promenades in the forest, on the lake, sometimes dinners under tents, always music in the evening, and in everything a habit of unspoiled magnificence.'

Prince Pückler-Muskau envied him such an existence, 'within the bounds of which you can live and do what you like, without privation and constraint'; all within his Great Park he could hunt, fish, ride, drive, entertain his 'cottage clique', go to the races or visit his menagerie.

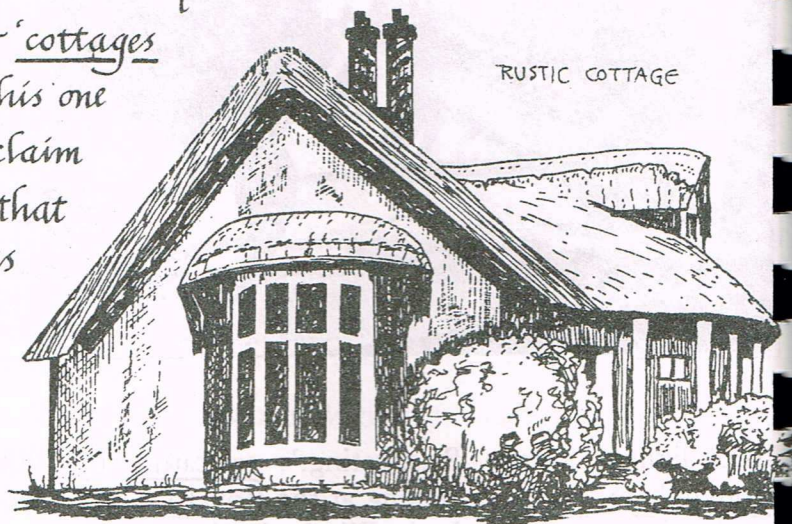
Cult of the Picturesque

It was becoming the fashion to redesign estates and gardens to make them look like the landscapes admired in contemporary paintings: lakes were formed, hills moved and fake ruins constructed.

But where a landlord made up his mind to build new cottages, it might amuse him to adopt the picturesque style of architecture. From the 1780s designs for picturesque cottages appeared constantly in the pattern books published by architects. The concern of their designers was for the charms of ruggedness and rusticity.

Many cottages in the late eighteenth century were insanitary and had become dilapidated. Some landlords found it amusing to rebuild them in a picturesque manner, and by the 1780s numerous pattern books provided appropriate examples. Variety was most important and irregular walls, projecting eaves, gabled ends and porches with elaborate barge boards over the gable roofs were built. Sir Uvedale Price's *Essays on the Picturesque* (1794), . . . did much to establish the cult. . . . The village was considered as a related and picturesque part of the landscape.

By the 19th ideas of rustic charm began to engage the interest of gentlemen & 'cottages ornées' like this one began to proclaim to the world that the owner was in step with Picturesque fashion.



The Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park (1814),

popularized the cottage ornée, . . . that aped the small-scale traditional buildings with its thatch and fancy detailing. . . . lodges and keepers' cottages began to appear. The richer landlords throughout the nineteenth century took great pleasure in this sort of building. Many of the books did, however, deal with cheap, practical and well-built housing.

During the early nineteenth century a large proportion of villages were built according to picturesque principles. Most were modelled, on Blaise Hamlet,

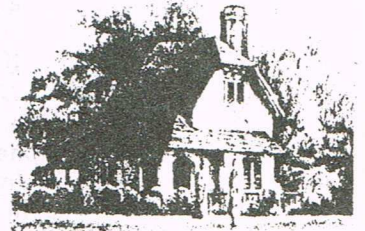
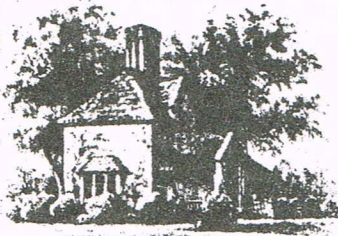
which was built in 1810-12 by John Nash who worked in association with

Repton. Blaise, unlike earlier examples which replaced a destroyed village, was new. Variety in plan and style was considered essential.

James Malton was the first to isolate the picturesque as a quality in architecture :

'that Peculiar mode of building which was originally the effect of chance',

Essay on British Cottage Architecture (1798)



Later villages such as Harlaxton (1831) in Lincolnshire which originally consisted of a core of older cottages grew as new cottages in the same style were built.

Cottages designed by John Nash at Blaise Hamlet near Westbury-on-Trym, Avon

The rediscovery of the cottage, primarily as a component in an improved Picturesque landscape, but secondarily as an architectural toy with an intrinsic interest of its own, led to a whole series of books of designs for such things being published. In the period 1790 to 1810 they came out at an average rate of more than one a year.

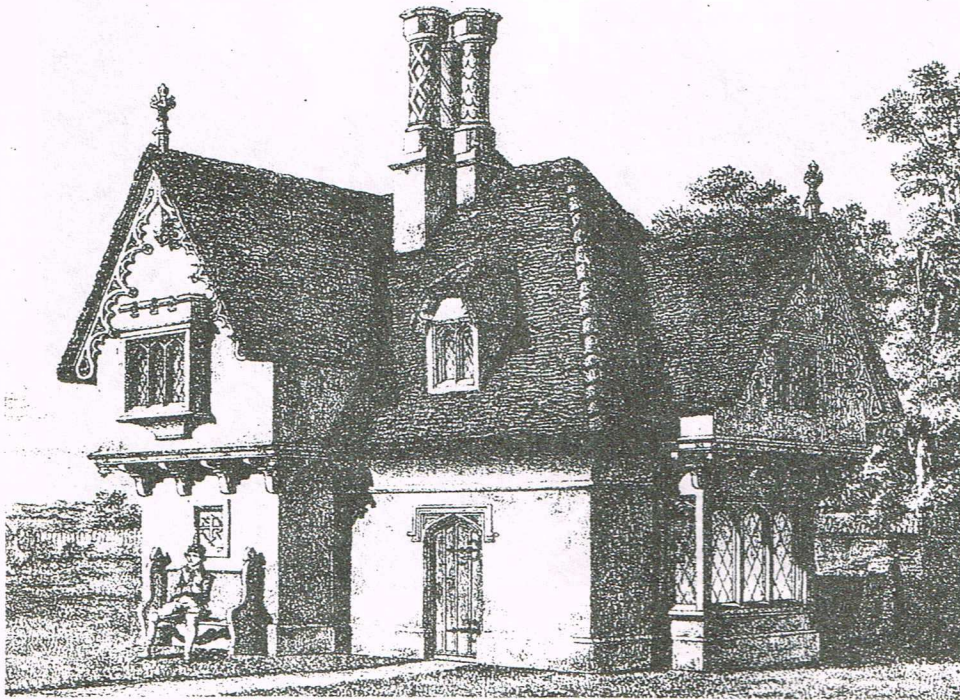
Hunt
'Old English'

After Blaise Hamlet, which Nash published in a lavish engraved edition, Tudor grew in popularity.

Tudor was particularly championed in the 1820s and 1830s in a series of books by T. F. Hunt.

The success of Tudor was its being domestic and almost infinitely adaptable, particularly to low, spreading houses. Big Tudor bay windows offered architects a further note of variety in the planning of rooms.

He called the style 'old English'.

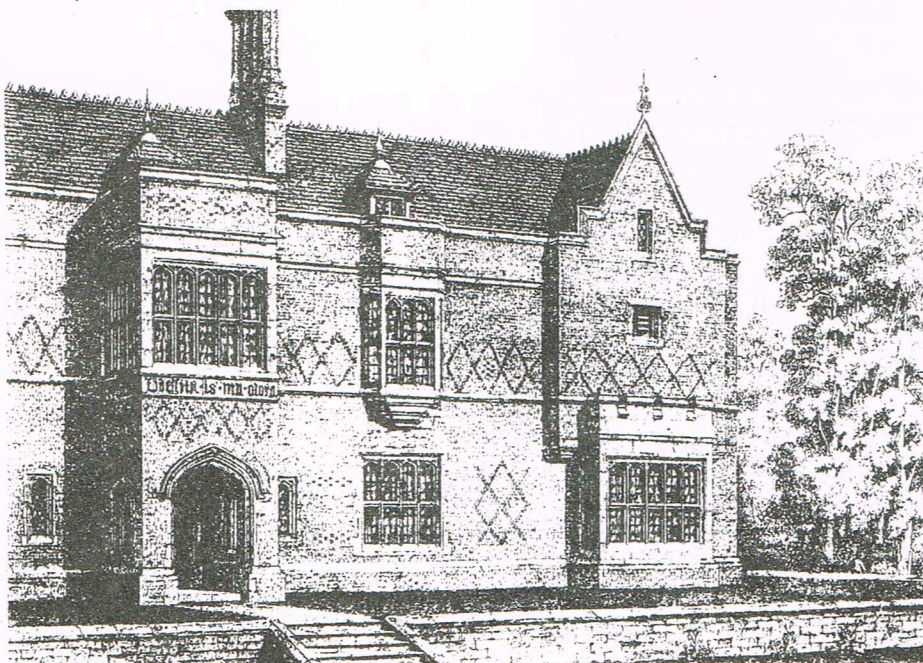


Hunt's second book
(1827) followed quickly upon
the success of his first

In these Designs the Old English Domestic Style has been preferred to every other as admitting of greater variety of form and outline, and as being better suited to the scenery of this Country, than a Greek Temple or Italian Villa.

T. F. Hunt's book Half a dozen Hints on Picturesque Domestic Architecture (1825, 2nd edition 1826)

All achieve their 'variety of form and outline' by gables, bow and dormer windows, jettied storeys, richly fretted bargeboards and towering 'Tudor' chimney stacks.



Design for a downy-house, 1820, by T. F. Hunt

LODGES



BIFRONS , PATRIBOURNE .

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE LODGE
EARLIER THIS CENTURY .

THE PUBLIC face of a house was always important. Apart from the frontage of the house itself great attention was paid to the entrance, which was often some distance away.

This had to make a public statement about the owner .

‘ Since the introduction of the present system of landscape gardening, Gate-Lodges and other small domestic structures, have become objects of greater interest . ’

T. F. Hunt.

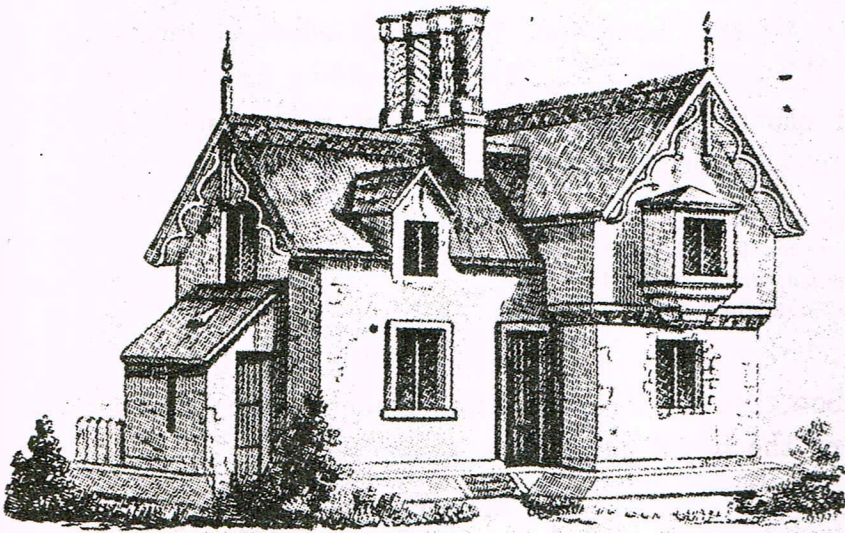
WRITING IN 1834, Talleyrand's niece, the Duchess de Dino, made an interesting and pertinent comment on the sites and surroundings of English country houses:

‘ English people, however, hate to be seen, and, to secure privacy, are quite willing to dispense with an extended view. It is rare that a great house in England has any prospect but that of its immediate surroundings, and you need not hope to amuse yourself by watching the movements of the passers by, the travellers, the peasants working in the fields, the villages or the surrounding country. Green lawns, the flowers round about the house, and splendid trees which block all the vistas — these are what they love and what you find almost everywhere. ’

ARCHITECTS AND THEIR PATTERN BOOKS GAVE ADVICE ...

Naturally it is the squires whose taste ran to architecture who have left most mark on the village landscape with their park gates and lodges, their model cottages and sometimes their romantic toys.

. . . . Cottages that would house their occupants in a style appropriate to a new generation of landowners, who felt bound to make gestures at least to social responsibility.



Designs for picturesque cottages from J. C. Loudon's Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture, 1833.

J. C. Loudon's *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture*, which became a standard reference work for cottage builders in the nineteenth century, was hailed on its publication in 1833 with surprised admiration by both architects and reformers. Loudon himself was a landscape gardener rather than a trained architect. His work contained eighty-one designs for cottages and for furniture to go inside them. A rich blend of romanticism, practical advice, and comment, it is a landmark in the history of cottages.

A distinguished architect, P. F. Robinson, wrote in a volume of picturesque designs in 1830:

'Village architecture may at a very small expense be rendered attractive, and a variety of forms and embellishments introduced pleasing to the lover of painting and of charity, by adding to his sources of amusement and interest. In this manner landed proprietors may find delightful employment and add to the value of their estates by improving the condition of the cottagers and their dwellings, here and there adding a porch or a lean-to, or judiciously altering a chimney. Ancient buildings are frequently capable of being made both comfortable and scenic by trifling alterations and additions and more pleasing effects are by such means produced than by rebuilding the structure . . .' but 'the labourer's cottage cannot be too simple in its form and it should be comprised in a very small compass . . . the dwelling is only one storey in height, and the rooms are kept to the smallest possible size.'

A dictionary of architects states that Bifrons – meaning the house that stood in the Conynghams' time – was the work of Thomas Hunt. He was born in 1791 and from 1813 – at the age of 22 – he was employed by the Office of Works at St. James's and Kensington Palaces. He is said to have been an able architect who made a special study of the Tudor style but, unhappily, suffered from a tendency to run into debt and so spent some of his time hiding from the bailiffs. He died on 4th January, 1831, at the young age of 40

Hunt was probably best known for his books of which he wrote four, all concerned with the design of cottages and houses in a style derived from his studies of Tudor architecture of which he had experience from the Tudor palaces in his charge.

His volumes on Tudor Architecture, published by Messrs. Longman, had great effect in recommending this style of building again to the choice of country gentlemen; and gracing English landscape with appropriate and picturesque mansions.

The only evidence for an association of Thomas Hunt with Bifrons occurs in remarks made by William Jerdan in his four volume autobiography. Jerdan founded and edited the *Literary Gazette* of that time and was an acquaintance of Hunt who contributed to the *Gazette*. Jerdan says that Hunt

became what is called a labourer-in-trust on the establishment which has the charge of the Royal palaces . . .

He designed and fitted up the State apartments for holding courts and levees . . .

He also altered the house towards the park for the abode of the Duke of Clarence, with whom he was an especial personal favourite, as he was with others, both male and female, of the Royal family .

Jerdan records that Hunt carried out other works in all departments of the royal palaces. It is worth noting that Lord Conyngham may well have met Hunt in the course of Hunt's work on the royal palaces:

. . . he was the palatial factotum, esteemed and indulged by all ranks, from the throne itself to the officials in board-rooms, barracks and kitchens, whom he had it in his power to oblige in their several departments, whenever architectural alterations or improvements were required; which, in palaces, is very frequently.

Jerdan goes on to praise Tudor architecture in contrast to the 'naked, bizarre' Greek, Roman and Palladian and then says that

Bifrons, the seat of the Dowager Marchioness of Conyngham, is a fine original specimen of Mr. Hunt's skill.

Bifrons, the seat of the Dowager Marchioness of Conyngham, is a fine original specimen of Mr. Hunt's skill.

THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF
WILLIAM JERDAN,

M.R.S.L., CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE REAL ACADEMIA DE LA HISTORIA
OF SPAIN, &c. &c.

WITH HIS
Literary, Political, and Social Reminiscences and Correspondence

DURING THE LAST FIFTY YEARS.

VOL. IV.

LONDON:
ARTHUR HALL, VIRTUE, & Co., 25, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1853.

However, in view of the total dissimilarity between Hunt's known work and interests and the style of the altered house as can be seen in the late nineteenth-century photographs, it seems possible that for some reason Jerdan was mistaken in his attribution of Bifrons in a Tudor style to Hunt. On the other hand, Jerdan knew Hunt quite well,

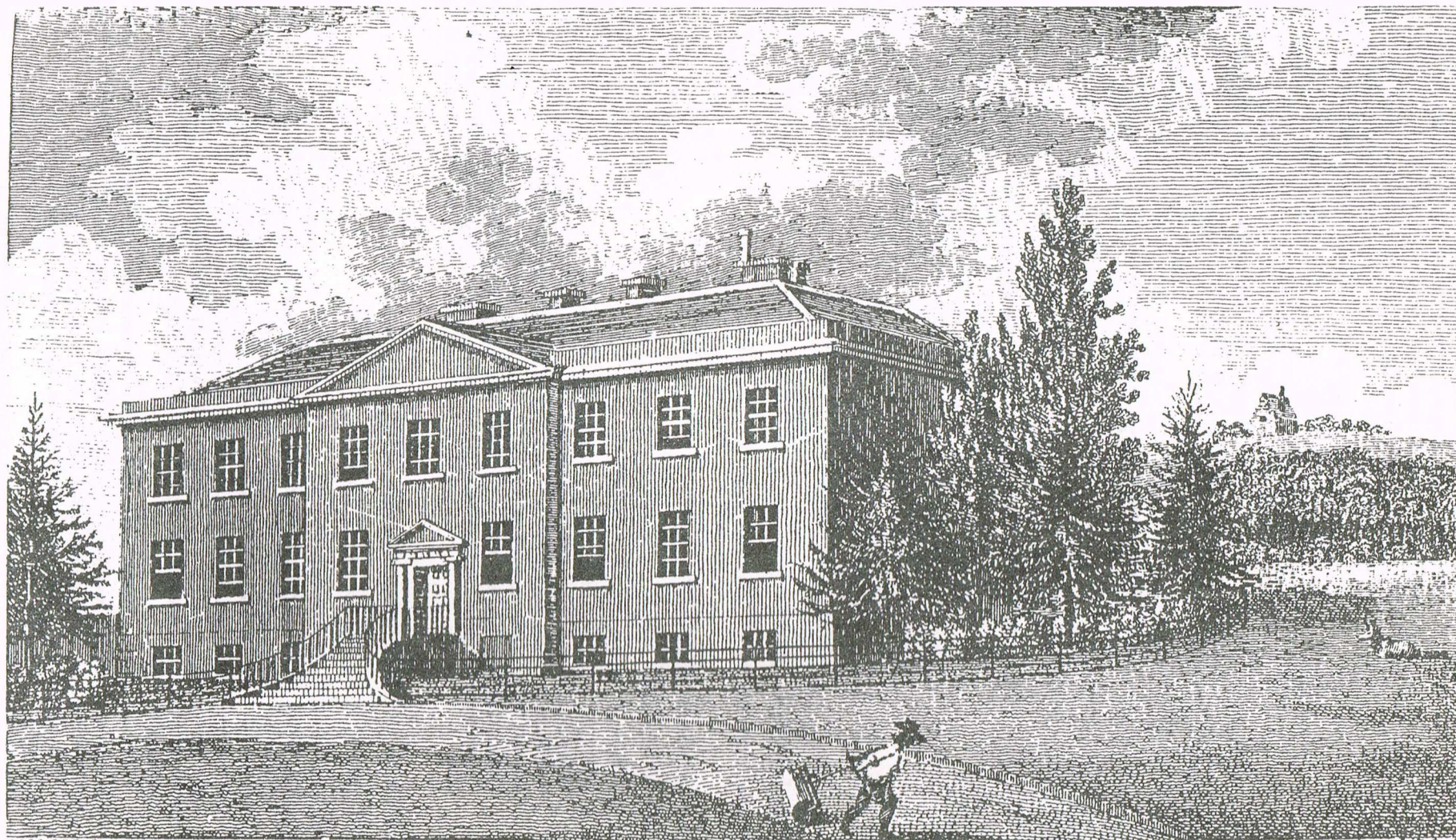
“ my estimable friend ”

and it seems strange that he should make such a mistake. Certainly in 1806 in Brayley's *Beauties of England and Wales* and again in 1829 in Ireland's *History of the County of Kent*, Bifrons is described as a house rebuilt by Edward Taylor with no mention of subsequent alterations. However, we have no record of the house's appearance between the early days of Edward Taylor and the photographs of the greatly changed house of the later years of the nineteenth century.

There are in the villages of Bridge and Patricbourne some half a dozen cottages and two lodges to the Park with a Tudor cottage look to them akin to John Nash's work at Blaise Hamlet near Bristol (c. 1810) and in a style reminiscent of some of Hunt's illustrations to his books.

Hunt had a pupil named G.H. Smith of whom little is known but to whom some alterations to Bifrons in 1835 about which we know nothing are attributed.

BIFRONS MANSION HOUSE



Oldfield Del.

K. & J. Sculp.

BIFRONS, the Seat of the REV. EDW. TAYLOR,

Published July 1st 1794 by Simmons, Kirkby & Jones, Canterbury.

The new Bifrons: An engraving in the Kentish Register of 1794 drawn by Oldfield.





The additions in pencil herein have reference to numbers and titles appearing on the diocesan copy of the tithe map

**Tithe Map
1838**



BEAKSBOURN HOUSE

GLEBE

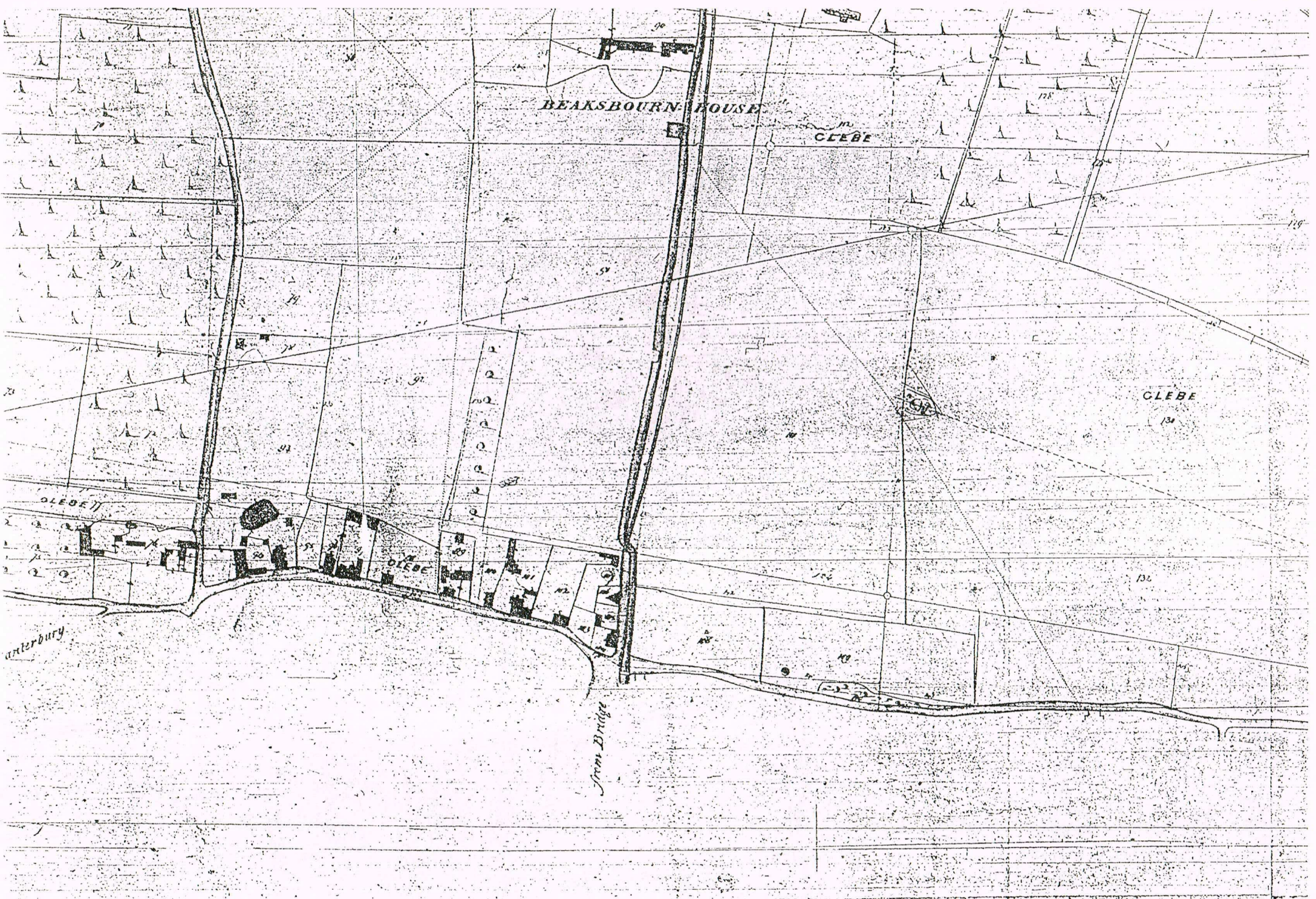
GLEBE

GLEBE

GLEBE

Wentbury

St. Mary's Bridge



BI FRONS

To Littlebourne

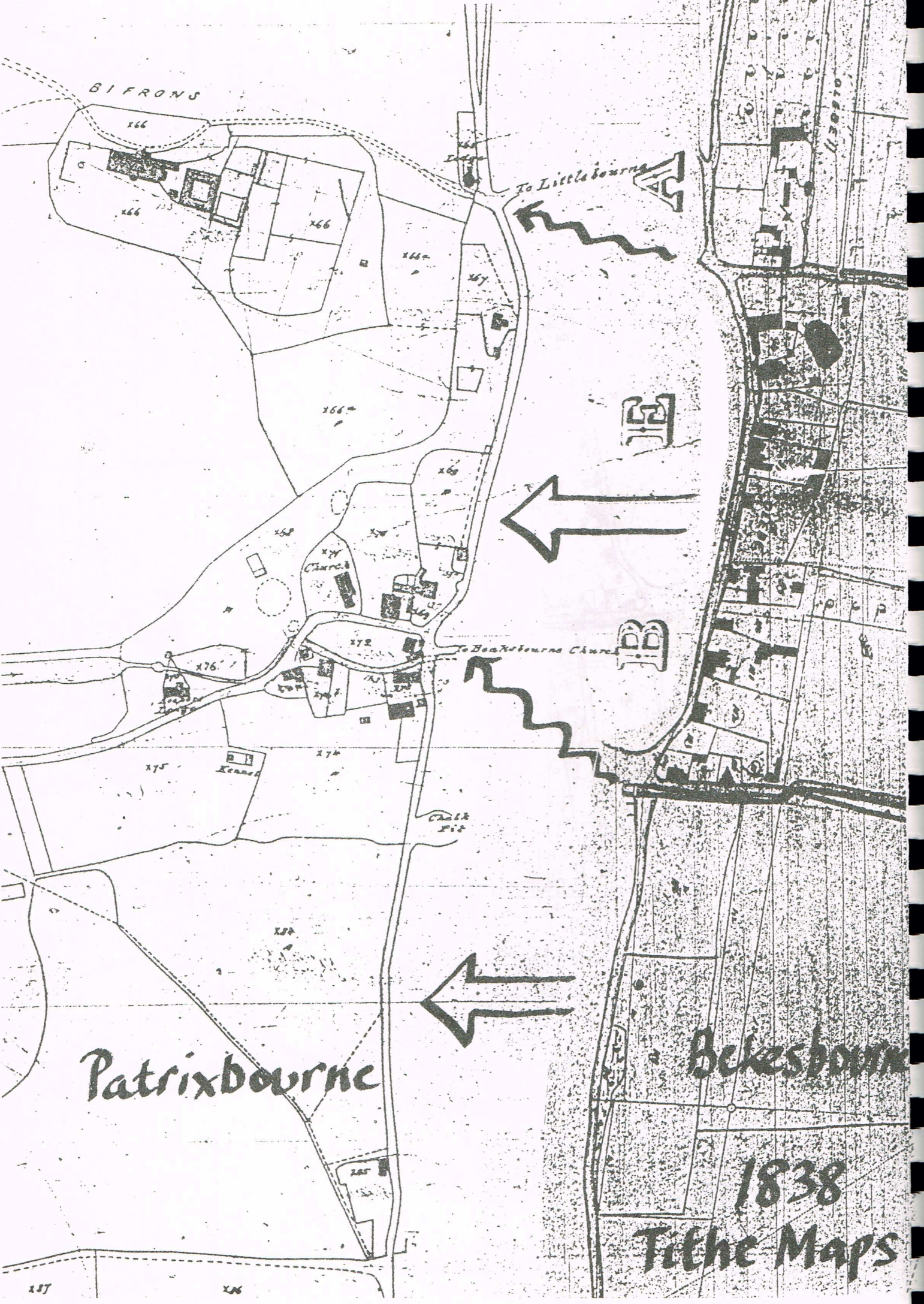
To Beakesbourne Church

Patricxbourne

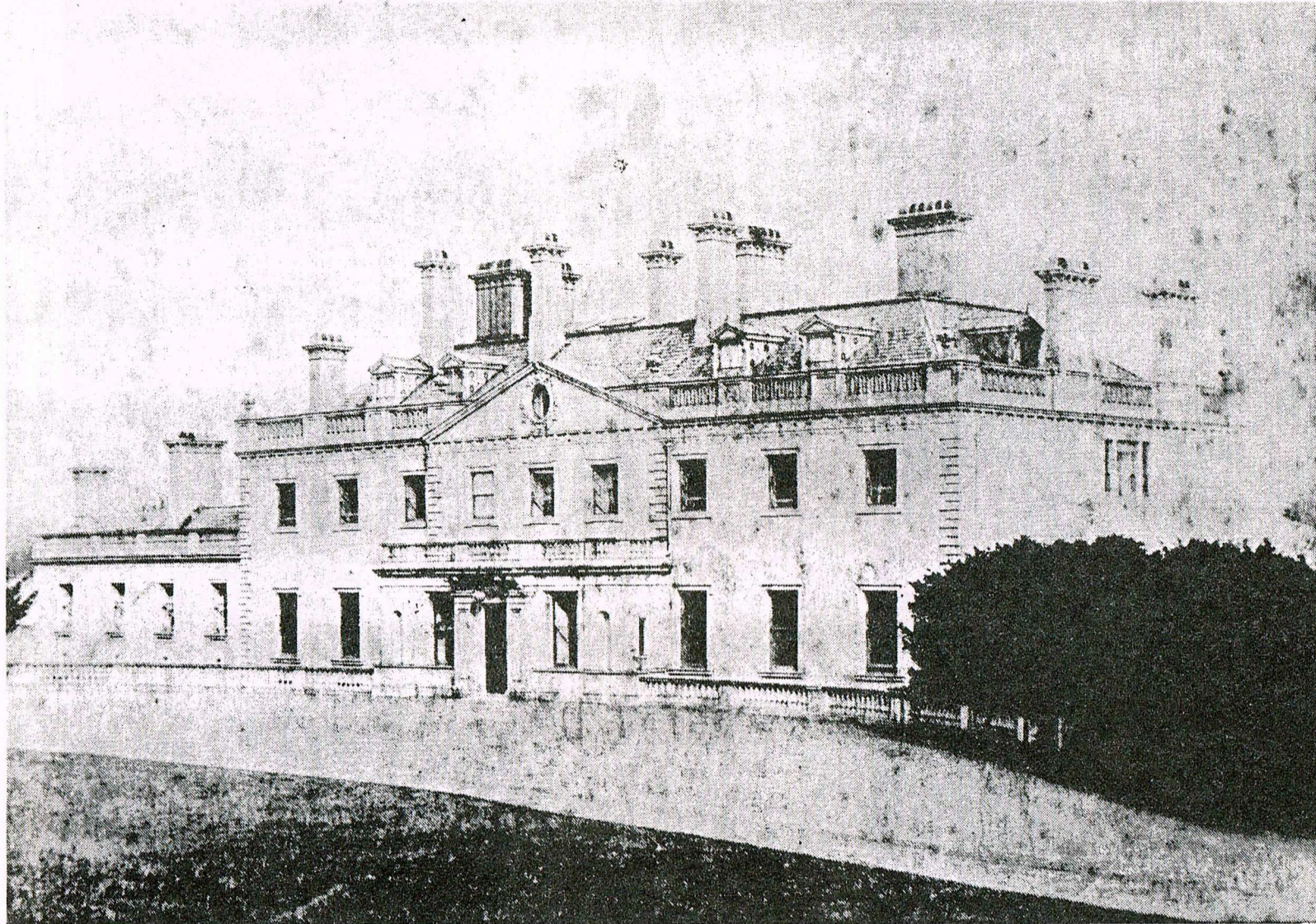
Beakesbourne

1838

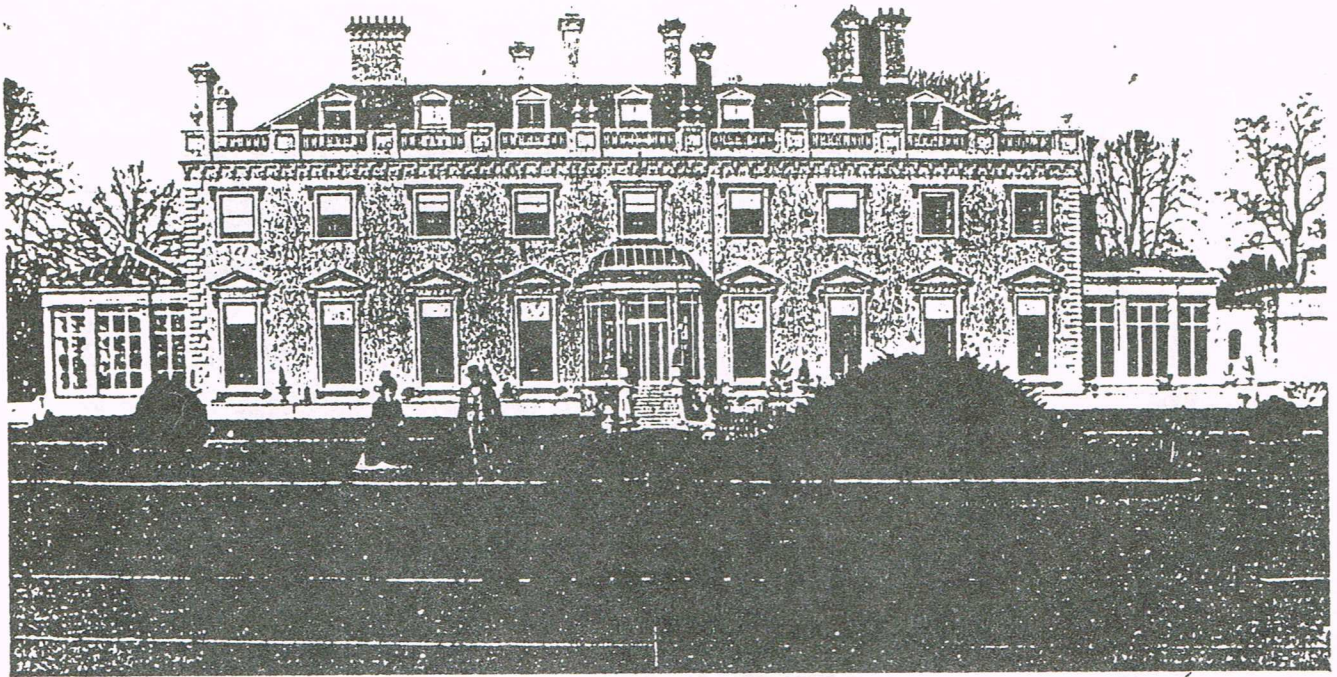
Tithe Maps



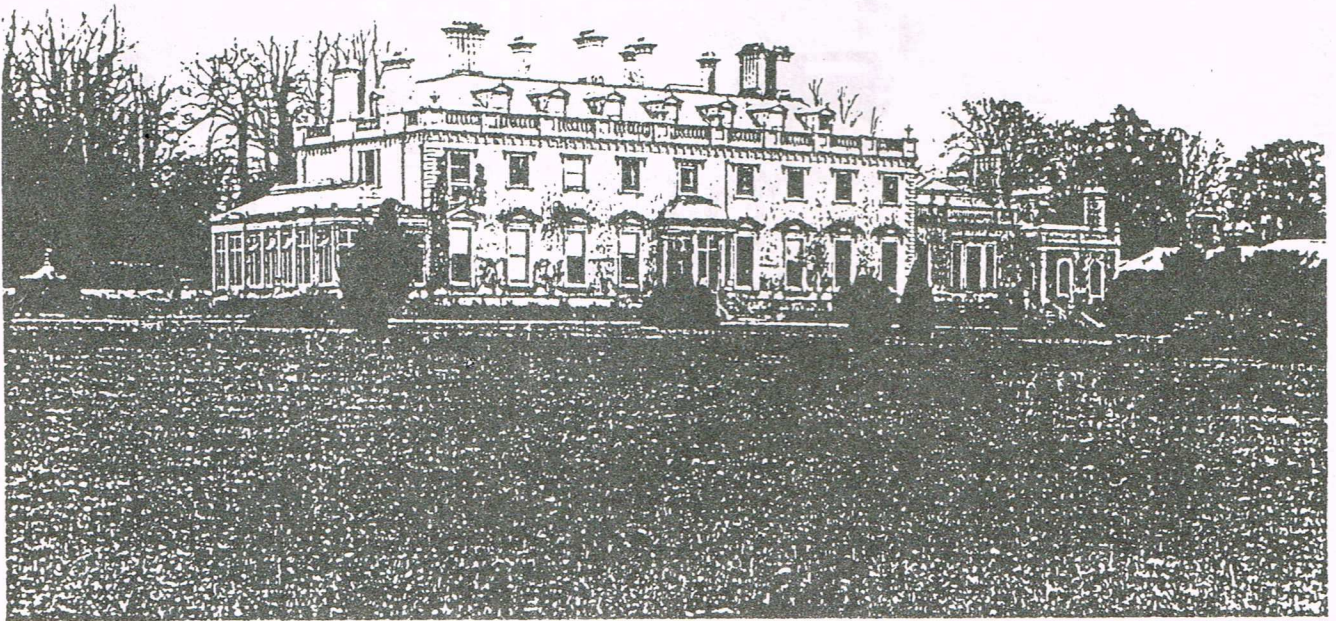
BIFRONS MANSION HOUSE



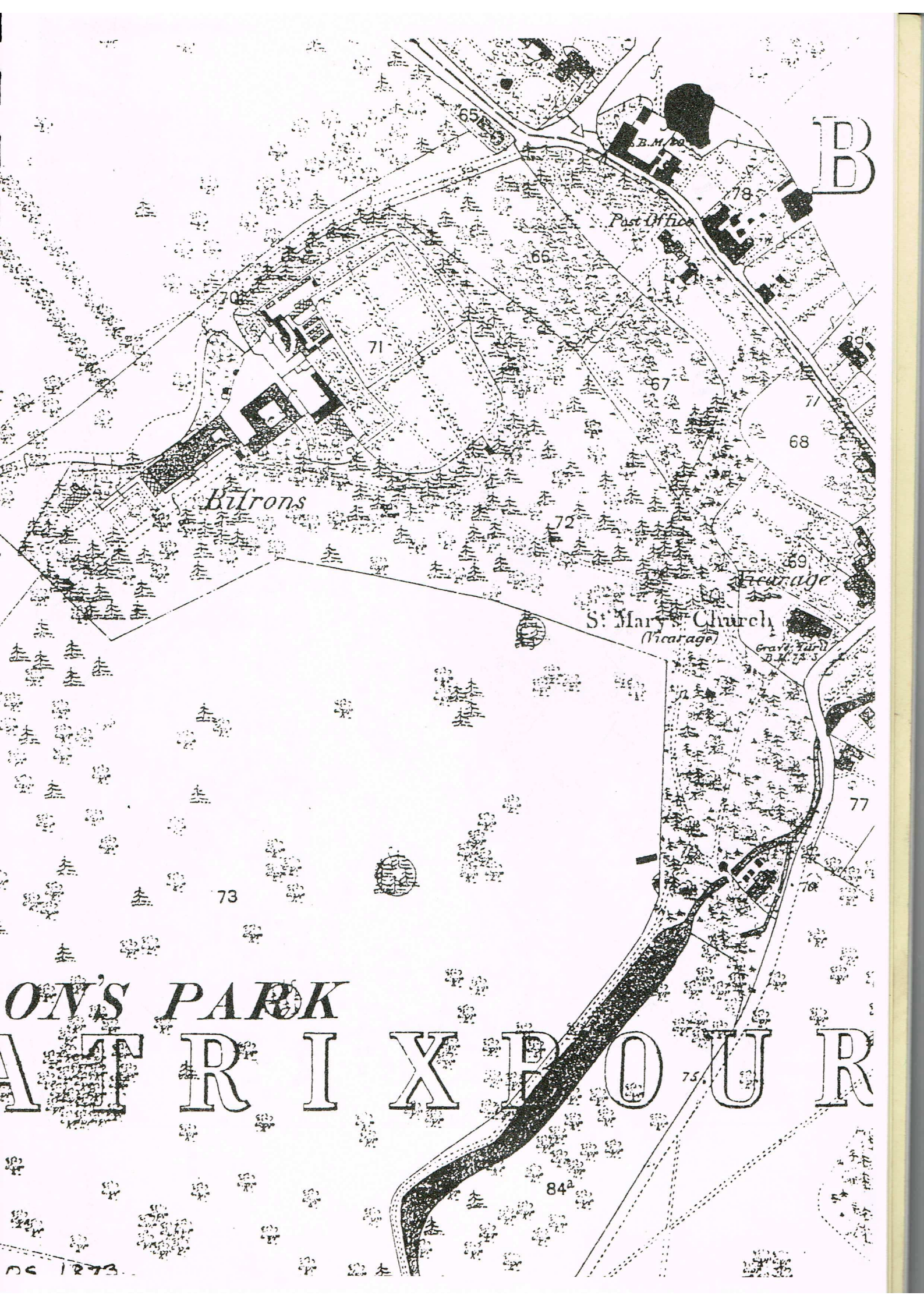
The entrance front: A photograph of Bifrons in the late nineteenth century.



BIFRONS SOUTH FRONT c 1870



BIFRONS SOUTH FRONT c 1890



B

B.M. 70

Past Office

Bilrons

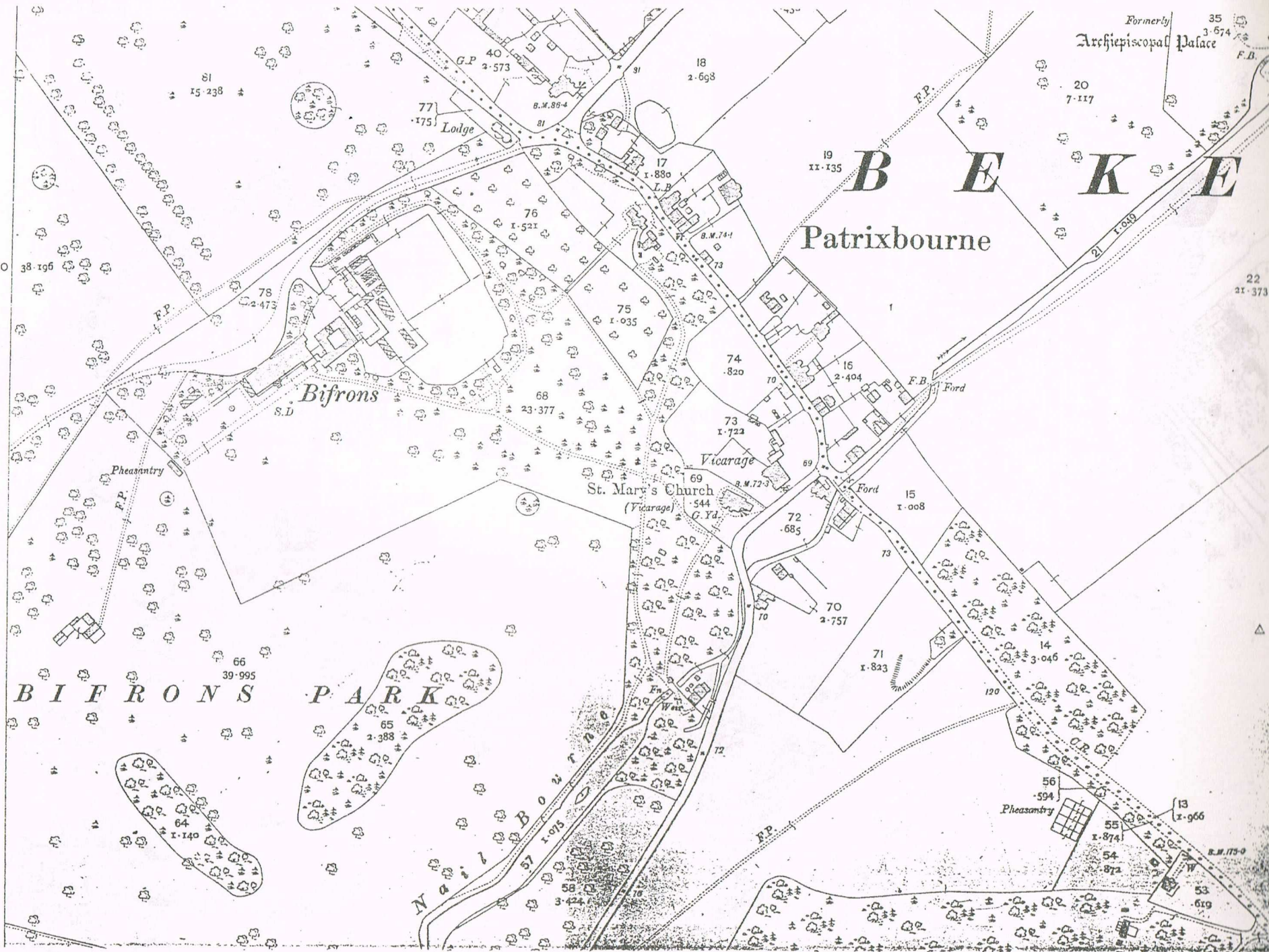
St. Mary's Church
(Vicarage)

Graveyard
B.M. 75.3

ON'S PARK

AT R I X P O U R

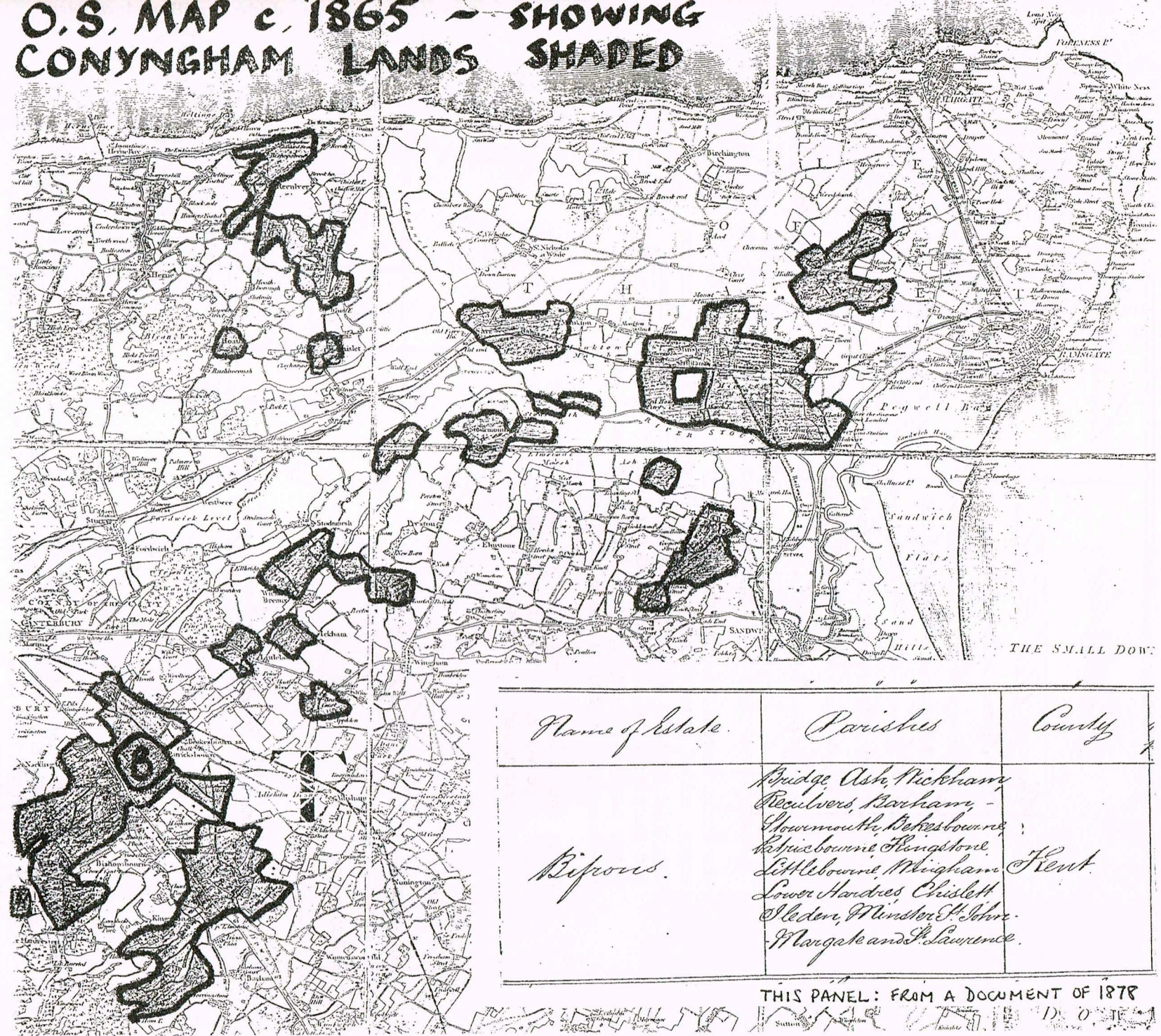
1873



ORNANCE
 SURVEY
 C. 1902

XLVI. 12.

O.S. MAP c. 1865 - SHOWING CONYNGHAM LANDS SHADED



Name of Estate.	Parishes	County
Bishops.	Bridge Ash, Nickham, Reculver, Barham, Howmouth, Bekebourne, Baplebourne, Hingstone, Littlebourne, Mingham,	Kent.
	Lower Andres, Chislett, Stedon, Minster, St. John, Margate and St. Lawrence.	

THIS PANEL: FROM A DOCUMENT OF 1878

D. O. T. E.

Bifrons Estate.

Parishes	County
<i>Bridge Ash, Nickham, Reculvers, Barham, Showmouthe, Bekesbourne, Patricbourne, Kingstone, Littlebourne, Mingham, Lower Hardres, Chislett, Oleden, Minster St. John, Margate and St. Lawrence.</i>	<i>Kent.</i>

FROM A DOCUMENT
OF 1878

The first Marchioness Conyngham, a rich and acquisitive woman, added considerably to her estates in Kent by buying not only Bifrons with the manors of Patricbourne, Cheney and Martin but also farms and parcels of land in fourteen other parishes ranging from fields as small as one acre to farms of several hundred acres.

Among the holdings are some 36 farms and many houses bought, it would seem, in a haphazard fashion with the aim of accumulating acres.

B.M. THOMAS
1940

Landowner

The Most Honble. Marquis Conyngham

Total Acreage			Total Rental		
A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
7038	1	37	12845	4	10

(1878)

Conyngham estates.—These, in 1883, consisted of 9,737 acres in Kent, worth £17,432 a year besides 122,300 acres in co. Donegal, worth £15,166 a year; 27,613 in co. Clare, worth £10,808, and 7,060 in co. Meath, worth £6,670 a year. Total 166,718 acres, worth £50,076 a year.

The Marquess Conyngham is one of the 28 noblemen who possess above 100,000 acres in the U.K., being in point of acreage the 12th. but in point of yearly value the 23rd or 24th.

FROM "THE COMPLETE
PEERAGE" BY G.E. COCKAYNE
(1883)

major works at Bifrons which were completed in 1863. The architect was Thomas Cundy of Eaton Chambers, Pimlico.

It seems likely that it was at this time the house was encased in stucco, the parapet given a heavily ornamented balustrade. dormer windows were inserted into a roof that is still recognisably that of the original Taylor house.

large numbers of chimneys were erected to serve no less than 42 hearths in the main body of the house.

Bifrons. Kent. - The Marquess of Conyngham

D^o to Mrs. Cundy

1862.

For Professional Services in

& -63.

Connection with the several works

carried out at Bifrons, Kent,
a Commission of Enq^y on the

Aggregate Amount of £12914. £645. 14. 0

For Costs on Railway journey 33. 0. 0

£678. 14. 0

1863 & -64. D^o - D^o for rebuilding the Old Gardener's Cottage £53. 1. 0

Bifrons
Account for Painting, Decorating, Papering

To Amount of Estimate for internal Painting &
Attic Floor, Passages & - - - - -
Bedroom Floor - - - - -
Vestibule, Entrance Hall, Staircase
Anti-room, Library, and Sitting room
Paper hanging extra - viz Morning room,
Sitting room, Library, Bath room, and Living
paper to Bedrooms

Dining room - - - - -

Drawing room - - - - -

Basement - - - - -

Turkish Bath & Lobby
Passage leading to do - - - - -

Estimate for External works
Additional Works
Large Conservatory
Gables - - - - -

Ed. Tho. Cundy
Oct 7 1863

Francis Conyngham died in 1876 and was succeeded by George Henry, the third marquess. In 1878, the architect David Brandon . . . was called in for further work on Bifrons. His Estimate, in the Conyngham archives, covered alterations to the east side to the cost of £6,000 and to the Stables and Coach House amounting to £750.

It would appear that what had been built on the east side in 1863 as a small conservatory with another building of a single storey was expanded to accommodate a billiard room and a smoking room, . . . much else must have been done which we cannot now discover.

D. Brandon
24 Berkeley Square
Jan'y. 23rd 1878

Notice is hereby given that The Most Honorable The Marquis Conyngham Bifrons, Canterbury, . . . has applied to the Enclosure Commissioners for England and Wales for leave to change his lands in the undermentioned parishes with a sum not exceeding that understated towards the cost of the Improvement of and addition to the Mansion House of Bifrons, and to be repaid with Interest by way of Rent Charge or Annuity in the terms of the said

Names of Estate.	Parishes	County	Sum applied for imp. the maximum amount it is proposed the Rent Charge shall be applied on the estate.	Term of Years over which it is proposed the Rent Charge shall be applied
Bifrons.	Bridge Ash, Nicheham, Reculvers, Barham, Howemouth, Keston, Littlebourne, Flington, Littlebourne, Wingham, Lower Hardres, Chisleth, Stedon, Minister, St. John, Margate and St. Lawrence.	Kent.	£8000	25

Witness my hand this 9th day of March, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight.

Bifrons		November 1878	
General Summary of Accounts		£ s d	£ s d
Mr. Simpson's Contract for works to House		5960	+
Do do Stables		760	-
			6720
Additional Works			
New roof over Smoking Room		88	13 8
Additional rooms over Coach house		100	0 0
Architect's charges and travelling		408	3 1
Clerk of Works		110	0 0
Total Amount		£	7715 15

A Board of Agriculture survey of cottages, prepared at the close of the eighteenth century, gives some idea

. . . . Kent was well off for cottages of sound studwork faced with tiles, and for brick ones; however, mud cottages existed there, too.

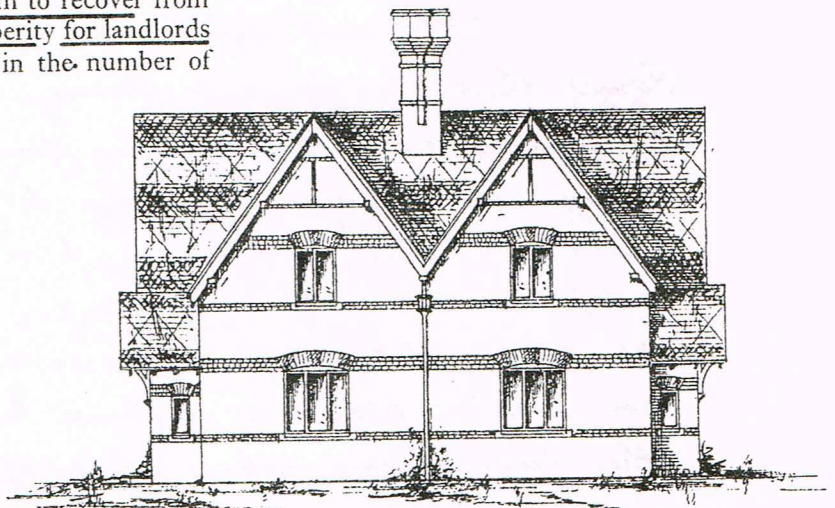
'Look at these hovels, made of mud and straw, bits of glass or of old cast-off windows, without frames or hinges frequently. Enter them and look at the bits of chairs and stools, the wretched boards tacked together to form a table . . .' So wrote Cobbett in *Rural Rides* after riding through Leicestershire. (1820s)

The dilapidation of rural property – resulting from the agricultural depression – and the state of the poor in general were becoming a noticeable scandal. (1815-40)



The old cottages, cramped, insanitary and ruinous.

It was becoming clear that farming had begun to recover from the post-war depression. The comparative prosperity for landlords and farmers of the years 1840-70 is reflected in the number of cottages dating from this period.



A GREAT REBUILDING. (1) The winning design for a pair of cottages in a competition promoted in 1864 by the Society of Arts. These cottages were put up in seventeen counties and the style is very familiar.

After 1875 the building and repairing of cottages was undertaken with reluctance: an influx of cheap grain from America had brought about a sudden and prolonged collapse in English agriculture.

After the year 1879, in which all crops failed and livestock died in thousands, farm buildings and cottages virtually ceased to be rebuilt, or even maintained. For twenty years or more there was no general prosperity in the farming industry.

Dear Sir,

Bifrons Cottage
27th January 1873

In compliance with your request I beg to submit the following remarks for your consideration relative to the providing of a sufficient number of Labourers Cottages to each Farm on the Bifrons & Minster Estates, also the Drainage of those Lands on the Estates where it is necessary.

On receiving an application for a Farm in the present day, nearly the first question asked is What is the cottage accommodation?

As to the majority of Farms on the Bifrons and Minster Estates they are deficient in Cottage accommodation for the Laborers.

It is a difficult matter to obtain honest and skilled Agricultural Laborers unless you can offer them a good cottage which is generally the only means of retaining their services.

It is not with the resident Laborer on a Farm that the Tenant Farmers have had trouble, but those men who thro' various circumstances live in the Villages in Cottages belonging to small Freeholders, and they feeling themselves to a certain extent - independant of their Employers, embrace the first opportunity of demanding an increase of pay, and this always takes place at a time like Harvest, or some other busy season when plenty of work is to be had, and the Employer must accede to the demand or lose the services of an able and strong servant. Where the Laborer lives in a cottage on the Farm on which he is employed he is generally industrious, sober, and contented and also very careful of giving offence to his Employer, knowing full well that his home is at stake,

COTTAGE - BUILDING - PILCHER'S EVIDENCE ON THE BIFRONS ESTATE

On the other hand, even building the most basic of cottages was not a particularly paying proposition, and whereas no responsible landlord wished to be identified with bad housing, a £150 cottage could only be let economically at a rent beyond the means of a £25-a-year labourer. Nor could cottage building be left to farmers; even those with 21-year leases, the longest generally granted, were unlikely to build for posterity.

Yet whatever the financial disincentives to cottage building, only landlords could provide any solution.

For 200 years it was up to landlords to house their poor; if they did not and the poor could not house themselves, no one else would do it for them.

N. COOPER, COUNTRY LIFE,
1967

1873

To build a pair of substantial cottages on the same principle as his Lordship has adopted, containing Living Room, good Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, W.C. & Lodge (to each cottage) the cost is £308, the Tenant doing the carting of materials.

As an approximate 50 cottages at an average of £150 each are required on 40 Farms belonging to his Lordship

Annual instalment to repay Loan £ 538. 0. 2

Interest paid by Tenants 5 per Cent on £7500 = £ 375. --

Leaving a Deficiency of £ 163. --

By these figures it is shown that in point of interest his Lordship would be a loser annually of £163 on the investment, but the letting value of the Farms would be increased.

Those Farms on the Bifrons and Minster Estates that have had cottages built, do not yield to the Tenants on an average more than 80 per cent of the annual interest they pay to the Marquis, but they have the accommodation and control over their men which more than compensates

The great benefit derived would be the providing a highly respectable and intelligent body of Tenantry with proper accommodation for their Labourers, considerably enhancing the value of the Estates generally, and carrying out a work that would reflect the greatest credit on his Lordship, and tend to improve the morality and welfare of the Agricultural Labourer

Pilcher

"Drainage"

Very few Estates of the same magnitude are less in want of Drainage generally than the Bishops and Ministers, but it is most essential that those Farms that contain Lands where Draining is required (and there are several) should be thoroughly drained, so that they may produce the Maximum Rent, and yield the greatest amount of Corn &c.

The Tenants would obtain an immediate benefit by growing crops of a superior quality and quantity, and his Lordship would hereafter realize an increased Rent in consequence of the Improvement.

The question arises as to the most equitable manner of carrying out extensive permanent improvements on an Entailed Estate, and no plan appears to be so satisfactory as the borrowing the capital required of "The Lands Improvement Co." for a term of say 25 years that the Estates may be charged with the repayment of the Principal and Interest during that time.

Lams, Dear Sir,
I am the dearest servant
Arthur P. de la P. de la P.

THE LANDS IMPROVEMENT COMPANY,

1, Great George Street, Storey's Gate Westminster, S.W.

17 Mar. 1874

Application of

The Marquis Conyngham
for the advance of a sum not exceeding £ 6,500

to be applied to permanent Agricultural Improvements on the Lands stated therein, provided the Inclosure Commissioners shall certify that the proposed outlay would yield an annual increase of value greater than the yearly charge to be imposed on the Lands in respect thereof, under the provisions of the Lands Improvement Company's Acts.

THE LANDS IMPROVEMENT COMPANY hereby give Notice, that application has been made by *The Most Honorable the Marquis of Blandford* in the County of *Hent* for the advance of a sum not exceeding that understated by way of Loan, under the Provisions of "The Lands Improvement Company's Acts," to be applied to Improvements on the Lands understated, and to be repaid with Interest by way of Rent-Charge or Annuity, in the terms of the Acts.

Name of Estate.	Parish.	County.	Sum applied for—viz., the maximum amount proposed to be applied to the Improvements.	Term of Years over which it is proposed the Rent-Charge shall be spread.
<i>Bifons and Winton</i>	<i>Bridge, Ash, Baddelesmere, St. Mellbourne, Bishopstowne, Longston Wing, Long, Bledbourne, Lower Hardies, Winton, Owl, St. John's Mangate, and Winton</i>	<i>Hent</i>	<i>£6500</i>	<i>25 Years</i>

Witness my hand this *4th* day of *March* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy *four*.

J. G. Granville
Managing Director.

Lands Improvement Company,
1, Great George Street, Storey's Gate, Westminster, S.W.

Behind all these changes lay the Great Depression in agriculture of 1873-96 and its profound effects on landownership. Most contemporaries saw this as an unparalleled disaster, caused by a run of atrocious weather in 1878-9 and again in 1893-4, and by a swiftly rising flood of imported foodstuffs, which left English agriculture prostrate.

Most historians have agreed with them. The evidence is impressive and appears to admit of little doubt. First American prairie wheat in the 1870s, and subsequently Canadian, Indian, Australian and Argentine wheat, knocked the price of English wheat down from an average of 56s. a quarter in 1867-71 to 27s. 3d. in 1894-8, with a low point of 22s. 10d. in 1894. The price of other grains did not fall by so much as wheat's 50 per cent, but still fell substantially, as did the price of wool. With the perfection of refrigerating techniques the import of frozen and chilled meat grew apace from the middle of the 1880s, and meat prices also fell, while the traditional English breakfast of Danish bacon and eggs was being established at the same time.

It was above all a depression in wheat, and to a lesser extent in barley and wool.

... worst hit of all were farmers on the heaviest arable lands, perhaps recently drained at great expense,

The effects were to be seen in mounting arrears of rent, bankrupt and ruined tenants, and falling rent rolls; and they were to be seen written across the countryside in a dwindling arable acreage, in farms thrown up, and in land suffered to run to weed and waste.

THE LAST YEARS

In 1882, on the 2nd June, George Henry Conyngham died and Bifrons passed to his eldest son Henry Francis, the 4th marquess. Neither he nor his successors ever lived at Bifrons again.

30

The Trustees of the Estates
settled by the Will of the
most Honorable Francis
Nathaniel Marquis Conyngham

London, 1891

The Proposal of the most
Honorable Henry Francis
Marquis Conyngham

The mansion at Bifrons is the principal family residence on the settled property and is in a defective and dangerous condition owing to bad drainage and insufficient storage of water. Serious cases of illness have occurred in the house and a difficulty has been experienced in letting the mansion as a furnished residence on account of the defective drainage.

It is necessary to put in an efficient modern system of drainage and it is proposed to carry out the Works at an estimated cost not exceeding £550

From 1882 the Voters' Lists show that Bifrons was let to various tenants: Edward Weinholt, J.A. Miller, Frank Penn from Upper Hardres and finally to Col. The Hon. Milo Talbot the younger son of the 4th Lord Talbot of Malahide. Mrs. Talbot remained in residence in some state with ten indoor servants until 1939, the Colonel having died in 1932.

All this came to an end in 1939 when Mrs. Talbot moved with a few servants to Hampshire leaving Bifrons to play its small part in the war effort. As the war began the house was emptied of its contents and taken over for military purposes and then as a hostel.

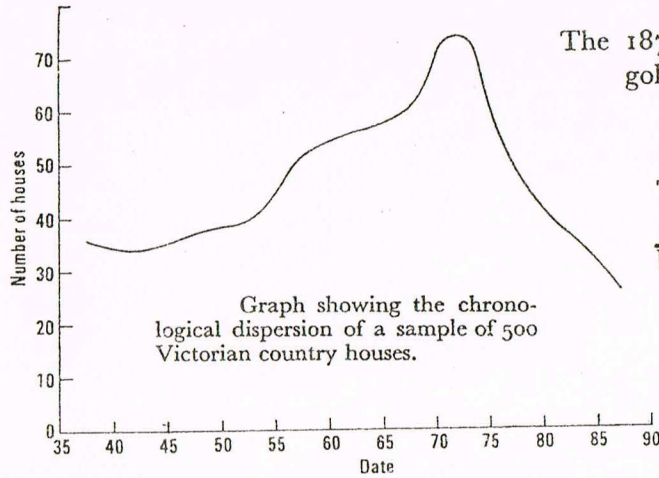
The condition of Bifrons at the end of the war was very dilapidated and to avoid costly repairs to a large house for which there seemed to be no economic use at that time the house was demolished in 1948.

Conyngham

An analysis of the building dates of 500 country houses either built or remodelled between 1835 and 1889 is summarized in the accompanying graph.

Country House PEAK & DECLINE

COUNTRY HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN



The 1870s, with industry and agriculture booming and British prestige at its height, were the golden age of Victorian country house building, as of most other aspects of Victorian life.

The country house boom was brought to an abrupt end by the agricultural slump of 1879-94, when disastrous harvests and the influx of cheap American corn, South American beef, and Danish bacon reduced many rent rolls by a half or a third.

When the development of the railroads in N. America opened up the prairies British agriculture suffered a long decline.

This depression reduced the landed aristocracy's & gentry's rent income in a significant manner from the 1870s.

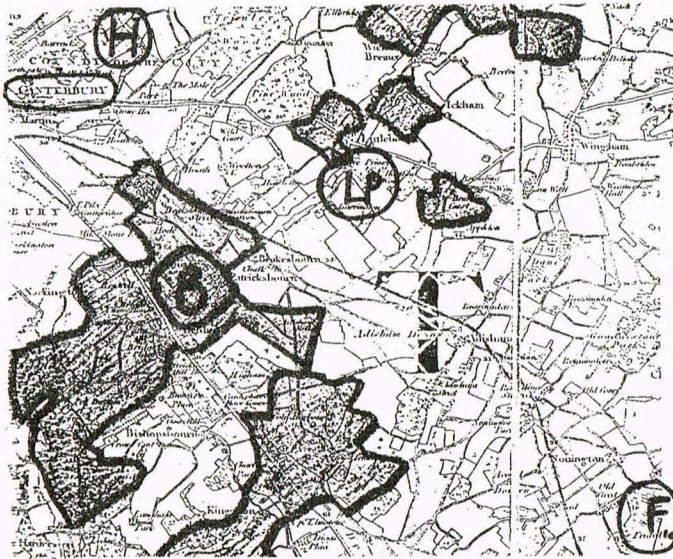
Lloyd George's Death Duties & Surtax in 1909 added to the difficulties of the great estates.

Since 1945 some four hundred country houses have been demolished.

Stable blocks were converted to flats, redundant gatehouses, lodges & estate cottages were often sold off. When tenancies fell in some farmhouses were also disposed of to create working capital for the development of new enterprises.

KENT

Addington Place
Belvedere (1957)
Bickley Hall (1963)
Bifrons (1948)
Blendon (1934)
Bradbourn Hall (c. 1934)
Brenley House (c. 1938)
Calehill Park (1952)
Capel Manor
Chipstead Place (c. 1930)
Culverden Castle (1956)
Deane Park (c. 1880)
East Cliff Lodge
Eastwell Park (1926) PD
Evington Place (1938)
Falconhurst Lodge (c. 1938)
Foots Cray Place (1949) F
Fredville (c. 1939)
Gore Court (c. 1925)
Great Bayhall (1908)
Hadlow Castle (1952) PD
Hales Place (1928)
Halstead Place (1952)
Hill Park (c. 1880)
Langley Park (1913) F
Lee Priory (1953)
Lees Court (1910) F NH
May Place (1959) F
Montreal (c. 1938)
North Cray Place (c. 1945)
Norton Place (c. 1967) F
Olantigh (1903) NH
Oxney Place R
Redleaf
Sandling Park (c. 1940) NH
Shurland Castle R
South Park PD
Surrenden Dering (1952)
Syndale (1961) F
Torry Hill (c. 1938)
Trosley Towers
Vine Court (c. 1878)
Vinters (1952)
Woodstock (1971)
Wootton Place (c. 1952)



The condition of Bifrons at the end of the War was very poor, and, to avoid costly repairs to a large house for which there appeared to be no economic use at that time, the house was demolished and a sale held to dispose of the useable materials.

At the same time most of the houses in the village belonging to the estate were sold and the land rented out to a farmer on a long lease together with the stable block which was converted into houses for farmworkers.

Page 15. The Times gives details of the burial at St George's Chapel, Windsor. Lord C was with the Royal Body until it disappeared into the Vault. The Times' remarks at the bottom of the page were not complementary about George IV. This gives an indication as to the prevailing public mood that the Conynghams had to deal with. Note Lady C was out of the way already, rumoured to be in Paris (see page 13)

Page 16. A new section of the booklet begins here, looking for influences on the style of the cottages in the village of Patrixbourne, that were built or rebuilt, following the purchase of the Bifrons estate by the Conynghams. This page shows the King's Cottage or Royal Lodge in Windsor Great park, where the Conynghams spent so much time with the King in the mid 1820s. This fashionable "cottage" style relied on gables, barge - boards, tall chimneys in the "Old English" fashion., and bay windows, features that can be traced in Patrixbourne cottages on a more modest scale. The King was constantly altering his buildings, so fashionable architecture must have been constantly in the forefront of the King's notorious monologues, to which Lady C was a practised listener. She may well have initiated similar changes at Patrixbourne, especially after Lord C died in 1832 and she lived at Bifrons.

Page 17. The caricature, familiar from the first booklet, pokes fun at the king and the Conyngham family at the Royal Lodge. In Swift's "Gulliver's Travels", everything in the land of Brobdignag is on a vast scale. Here it is not only the "Cottage" which is on a vast scale. Below the print is some information about the Lodge.

Page 18. Cottage building was also stimulated by the artistic fashion known as the "picturesque". Landowners could easily add to their stock of inherited cottages and transform the architectural aspect of their village. Many pattern books showed them how to do it, and it was quite common to do so, even if it could not be described as "typical" to do so.

Page 19. Such a pattern book was published by T.F. Hunt in the 1820s. The top illustration should be studied to trace similarities with such "Old English" or "Tudor" features in the Patrixbourne cottages (e.g. the door and the chimneys and the barge- boards) ... especially as a tradition links Hunts name with the Conynghams at Patrixbourne. The bottom illustration has ridge - tiles found in Patrixbourne.

Page 20. Gate Lodges were fashionable with "picturesque" architects, as they were there for all to see and admire. Hunt recommended them. Here is an outstanding example at Patrixbourne.

Page 21. Loudon's book of the 1830s was very well known. The illustration again shows features found at Patrixbourne. Robinson's advice of 1830 seems uncannily similar to what was carried out at Patrixbourne and should be read through carefully. There is also the motive of adding value to estates and being seen to be at once both fashionably artistic and concerned about tenants' cottages.

Page 22 / 3 . Perhaps these pages are a little difficult for most of the pupils, but they can be usefully explained, and give an interesting angle on sources. Hunt is quoted ,in a friend's book , as rebuilding Bifrons in the "Old English" (Tudor) style. The "before" and "after" illustrations that are seen later in the booklet make this seem most unlikely. But so is a friend making a categorical statement and getting it so wrong. Hunt died in 1831 and the Conynghams came to Patrixbourne in 1830- not time enough to effect changes. What is likely is that the Conynghams would have come across Hunt in his work for the Royal Family; and that his pupil , Smith, did work for them in 1835. Perhaps the work was Hunt inspired alterations to cottages - perhaps the lodge. The accent is on "perhaps" and pupils could be made to see that these details are more like suggestions for further enquiry than hard and fast conclusions, and should be expressed as such.

Page 24. Bifrons in 1794: a plain Georgian mansion (actually built of red brick). Typical and unremarkable. (Slane Castle in Ireland was much more impressive a building). This appears to be what the Conynghams bought in 1832.

Page 25. A Bifrons estate map of 1830. Find the words "Bifrons park" (this is the landscaped park surrounding the House). The House is the tiny rectangular block seen opposite the avenue of trees that the pupils would have seen on their visit. (The open square near it is the stables). This map seems to confirm that in 1830 the shape of the House was as seen in the 1794 illustration on page 24.

Page 26. Taken from the Tithe map of 1838. This was a Government inspired survey of the whole of the country for the [purposes of taxation upon pieces of land and property. It is a very well known and much used source, giving very close detail; it gives every building and every field. So each cottage can be checked off and conclusions drawn. Look for example, at the cottage near the bottom of the page - Keepers Cottage. In 1838 it appears to be on the road side, whereas the pupils remember it (either from the slides or actually looking at it on the day of the visit) as up a long path. The date on the side wall was 1866 remember, so the two sources together confirm that this cottage was re - built; and the date and the monograms tell us by whom it was re - built.

Look at the Mansion top left. It has an addition and is slightly different from the 1830 map. Is this the Smith / Hunt work?

Look at the Lodge: it looks like the familiar round shape seen on the visit. But this shape does not seem evident from the 1830 estate map. Is this the Smith / Hunt work (for Lady Conyngham) ?