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print

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The following MSS., Add. MSS. 44846-44848, were presented by Lady Muriel Elizabeth Anna Louisa Capel Cure, daughter of Sir Percy Dixwell Oxenden, 10th Bart.

44846. LETTER-BOOK OF SIR THOMAS PEYTON, 2nd Bart., of Knowlton, co. Kent; 26 Mar. 1640-17 July 1656. The letters are generally (but not always) in chronological order. Some pages (ff. 1, 9, 15, 35, 42) have been cut out. The letters relate to both personal and public matters, and include some referring to the writer's imprisonment in the Tower and elsewhere after taking part in the abortive Royalist rising in Kent in 1648. A number of the letters have been published by Dorothy Gardiner, *The Oxinden Letters*, 1607-1642, 1933, and *The Oxinden and Peyton Letters*, 1642-1670, 1937. For other letters, etc., of Sir Thomas Peyton see the Oxenden Papers, Add. MSS. 27999-28005, 40696-40713. Names of the correspondents are not given in the Index to the present Catalogue. Paper; ff. i + 71. Folio. xvii cent. Memorandum by Edward Henry Capel Cure, (knt. 1919), 11 Sept. 1892, f. i.

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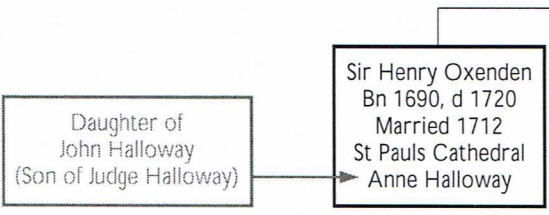
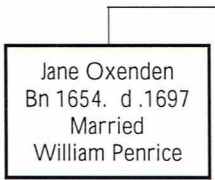
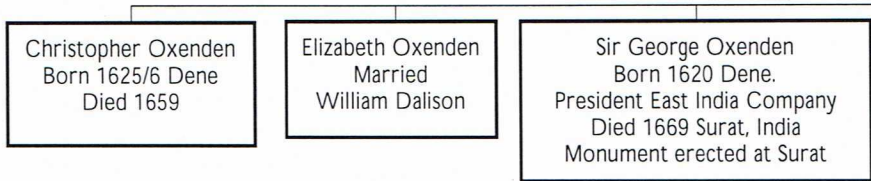
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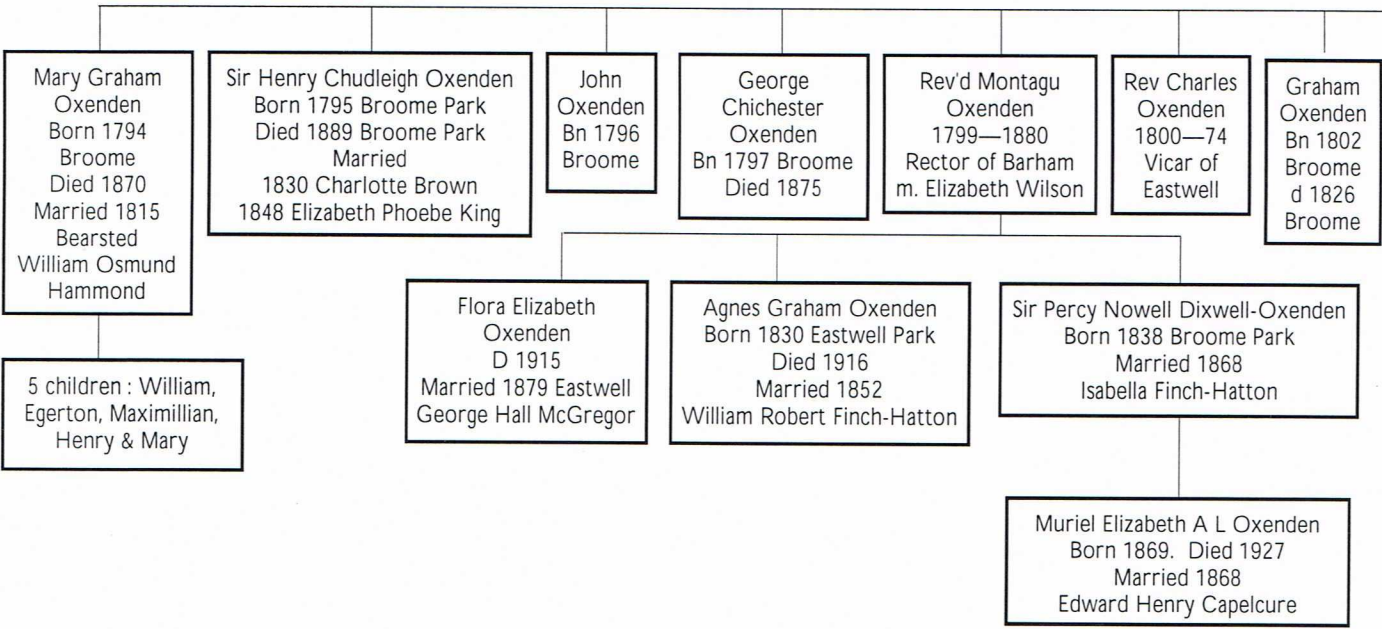
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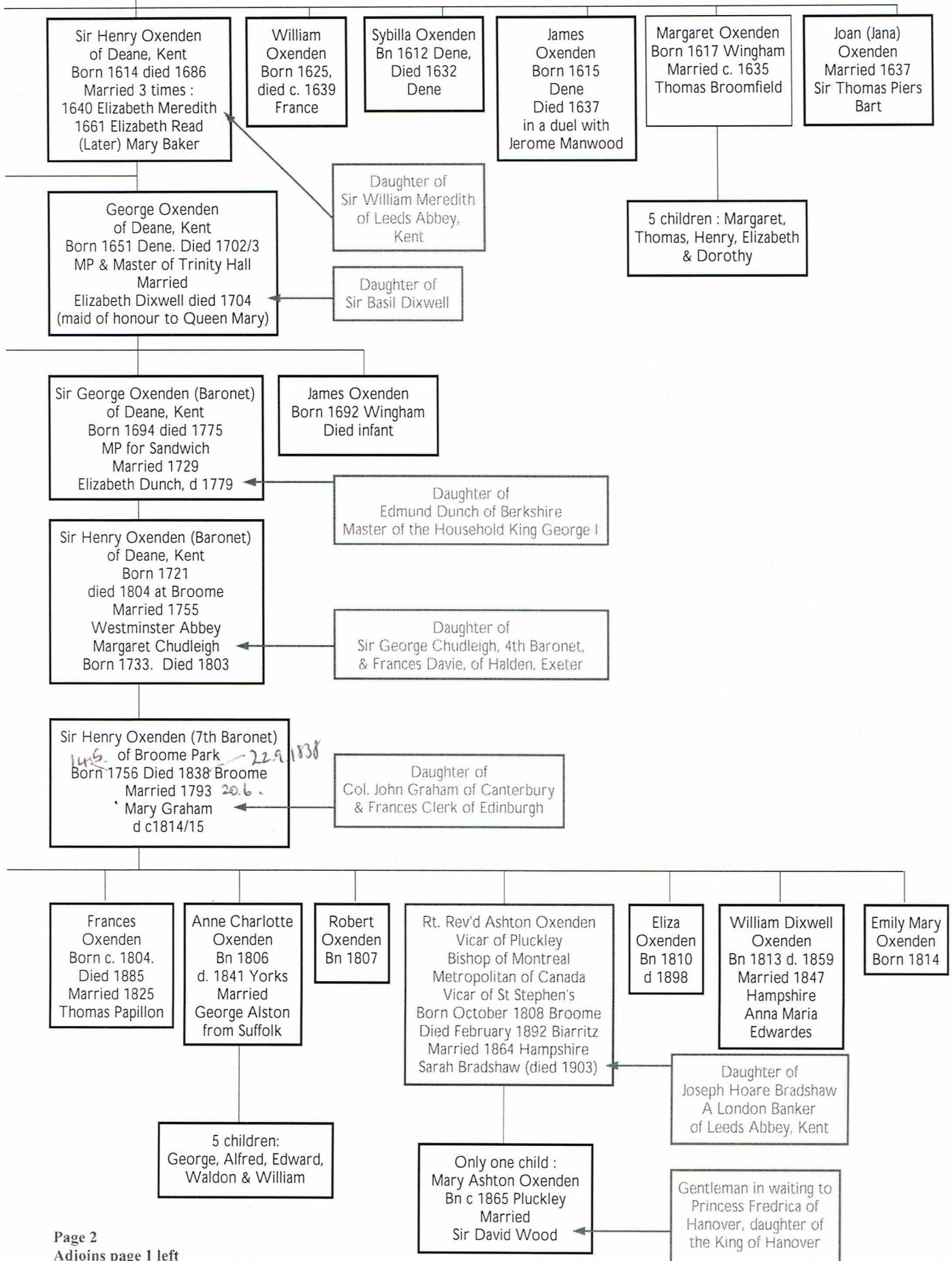


Pedigree of the Oxenden family
showing the ancestors of
Rev'd Ashton Oxenden

Page 1
Adjoins page 2 right
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Sir James Oxenden of Deane, Wingham, & Mary (nee Nevinson), of Eastry



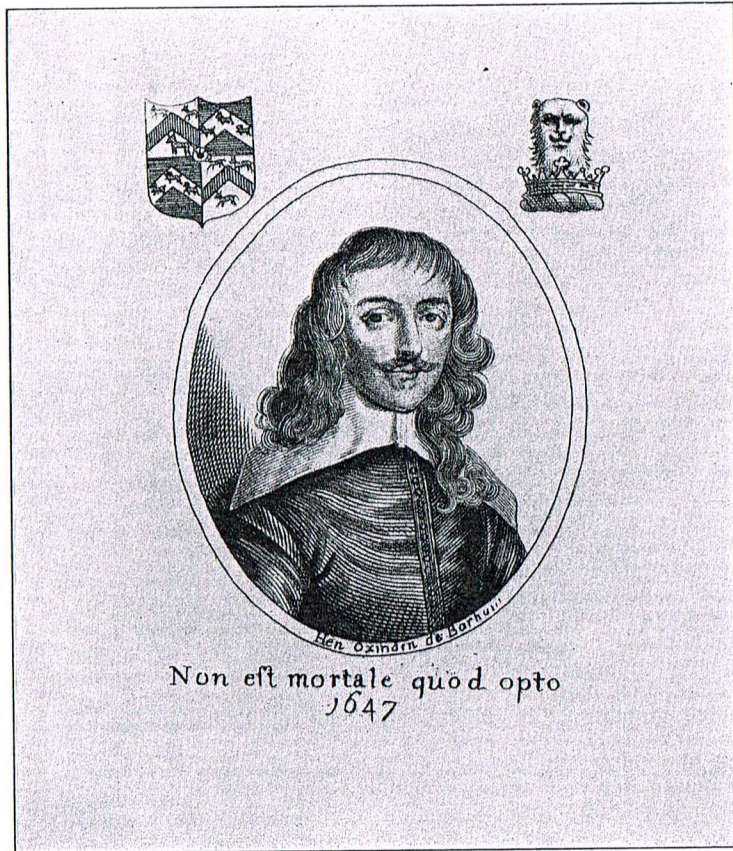
THE OXINDEN AND PEYTON
LETTERS

1642-1670

BEING THE CORRESPONDENCE OF
HENRY OXINDEN OF BARHAM,
SIR THOMAS PEYTON OF KNOWLTON
AND THEIR CIRCLE

*Edited with Notes and an Introduction
by*

DOROTHY GARDINER



MEDALLION OF HENRY OXINDEN OF BARHAM

Frontispiece to his Latin poem *Religionis funus et Hypocritae finis*, after the original in the possession of Dr. F. W. Cock

The Oxinden and Peyton Letters

Frontispiece

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1937

- Barrow, Thomas, linen-draper, xvi, xxxiii, 1, 40, 123, 235, 266-8, 273, 279, 280, 295, 318, 342; letters from, to Henry Oxinden, X, XXVI; wife of, Katherine (Oxinden), letter to her from Henry Oxinden, 16; son of, Thomas, 236.
- Beavan Mr., schoolmaster, xxvii, xxx, 108, 128, 129, 156
- Berkhamsted, 164, 195.
- Bifrons, seat of Robert Bargrave, 23, 46, 47, 258.
- Birkhead, Henry, scholar, xxxii, 231, 237; account of, 240; 241, 258; letters from, to Henry Oxinden, CLIV, CLVIII; his works, *Poemata, Poematia, Otium Literatum*, 240.
- Bishops, the, xiii, 35-7, 92; estates of, xxiii, xxiv, 69, 78, 92-4, 104.
- Bishopsbourne, Rector of, *see* Warner, John
- Boys, Sir Edward, of Fredville, xiv, 2, 28, 34, 35, 83; letter to, from Sir Thomas Peyton, 28.
- Boys, Edward, of Uffington, Sequestrator, 57, 73, 79, 89, 90, 99, 103-5, 298.
- Boys, James, 317.
- Boys, Captain John, of Trapham, 2, 44, 46, 68, 79, 104, 106; letter to, from Sir T. Peyton, 22.
- Boys, Sir John, of Bonnington, 232.
- Bradshaw, Henry, Headmaster of Wye School, xxviii, 107, 126; letter of, to Henry Oxinden, LXXVIII.
- Brams, Walter, of Bridge Hill, 123, 125.
- Brett, Captain, 337.
- Brewer, Mr., solicitor, of Hythe, 351, 352.
- Bridge Hill, muster at, 86; 123, 258; church, 123.
- Brook, Nathaniel, printer, 195, 215.
- Broome, seat of the Dixwell family, xii, xxv, 39, 61, 99, 103, 174, 175, 203, 206, 251, 256, 259, 261, 307.
- Brouncker, Henry, 336, 337, 347.
- Bucke, James, 152, 153.
- Burgess, Mr., of the Charterhouse, 316, 317, 341.
- Butler, Samuel, author of *Hudibras*, 200, 207, 276, 332.
- Busby, Dr., of Westminster School, xxviii, 108, 131.

C

- Calais, 51, 58-60, 65.
- Cambridge, 255, 268, 333; colleges in: Emmanuel, 87; Queens' 263, 265; Clare Hall, 322.
- Canterbury, Cathedral of, 58, 203, 254, 259, 309; Prebends of, *see* Aldey, Edward; Bargrave, Dr. John; Casaubon, Dr. Isaac; Du Moulin, Peter (father and son); Hardres, Peter; Paske, Dr. Thomas; Reading, John; King's School of, 152, *and see* Ludd, William.
- Canterbury, city of, xii, xviii, xxviii, xxxviii, 11, 58, 133, 153, 180, 187, 189, 193, 203, 240, 257, 265, 266; churches in: St. Margaret's, 240, 254; St. George's, 254; St. Mary Bredman, 255; St. Alphege, 255; Mayor of, *see* Lade, John; Recorder of, *see* Denne, Thomas; St. Nicholas, Thomas; Sheriff of, 189; Post of, 106, 180; Castle of, 188; Gaols of: Westgate Towers, Westgate Without, 296.
- Carpenter John, a city man, 231; (account of), 247; 248-50, 267, 275, 287, 291, 292, 327, 339; letter from, to Henry Oxinden, CLIX; letter to, from Henry Oxinden, 258.
- Carre, Mary (Danvers), Lady, 1, 7; husband of, Sir Robert Carre, 7; letters to, from Sir Thomas Peyton, 7, 12.
- Casaubon, Isaac, Prebend of Canterbury, 212, 213.
- Casson, Captain John, pirate, 326, 339, 349.
- Cater, Thomas, Vicar of Ospringe, 263, 264, 268, 286, 292, 294, 301, 302, 333; his wife, 263, 288, 302; letter from, to Henry Oxinden, CXC.
- Charles I, xiv, xxxii, 40, 55, 82-4, 97, 100, 108; prisoner at Newmarket, 113; 116, 119, 122, 123, 137, 138, 142; reference to his execution, 150; 211, 214; relic of, 215; 311.
- Charles II (Prince Charles), 140; flight from Worcester Field, 169; 194, 229, 231-3, 241, 243, 260, 265, 267; sermon before, at Whitehall, 277; 278, 292, 327, 330, 336, 338, 340, 348, 349; queen of, Catherine of Braganza, 278.
- Charlton, John, clockmaker, 74.
- Charterhouse, Sutton's Hospital of the, xxxiii, xxxix, 303, 310.
- Chartham, 186.
- Chatham, 55.
- Childrey, Dr. Joshua, Headmaster of Faversham Grammar School, 270, 308.
- Chilham, xl, 268, 331; Vicar of, *see* Cumberland, Robert.
- Cholmley, Mary, 212, 213.
- Clarendon, Earl of, Edward Hyde, Lord Chancellor, xxvi, xxvii, 260, 266, 267, 275, 277, 294, 335, 340; his flight, 336, 338.
- Clark, Lawrence (alias Mr. Charles Barnard), highwayman, 346.
- Clark, Thomas, Rector of Boughton Aluph, 45, 46.
- Cleveland, John, Cavalier poet, 143, 177, 194; verses quoted, 143, 177; 207, 209.
- Common Prayer, Book of, 45, 46.
- Coppin, Edward, Vicar of Wootton, 290.
- Council of State, 171, 172, 184.
- Coventry, Sir William, 336, 347.
- Covert or Covett Woods, xxiii, xxiv, 69; account of, 78; 81-3, 94, 96, 98; survey of, 99; 101-3; woodwardship of, xxiv, xxv, 78, 79, 81, 104.
- Cox, James, 67, 68.
- Cranbrook, living of, vacant, 273.
- Creep, Crepentissimus, *see* Dixwell, John.
- Crew, Sir Clippesby, 52.
- Crispe, Sir Nicholas, xxi, 153, 154, 188-90; seat of, Quex, 153, 188; Quex Chapel in Birchington Church, 153; wife of, *see* Denne, Thomasine.
- Cromwell, Oliver, Lord Protector, 108, 138, 141, 161, 169 - 71, 197, 198, 202 ("Nol"), 207, 222, 303.
- Culpeper, Alexander, deputy Admiral, 324, 325, 339.
- Culpeper, Thomas, Lord, Governor of Isle of Wight, 325, 339.
- Cumberland, Robert, Vicar of Chilham, xl, 331; marriage of, to Margaret (Oxinden), 331-3; son of, Thomas, 331; daughter of, 348.

XV

SIR THOMAS PEYTON to SIR JAMES OXINDEN
and JOHN BOYS OF TRAPHAM IN WINGHAM

[Capel Cure MSS., Peyton Letters]

[By a further Ordinance of August 24th, 1643, tenants were made liable to pay the sums assessed by Parliament on their landlords.¹]

TO MY HONOURED FREINDS SIR JA: OXINDEN AND MR. JO:
BOYS OF TRAPHAM.²

NOBLE GENT:

By virtue of a warrant signed under your severall hands, Mr Gaye came, I understand, to my house, to demand 60^{li} for the better maintenance of those forces now rayseed in Kent for the peace of the County, with a pouer, where the parties are non-residentiaries, to take this Taxe of the Tenants by way of distresse; which under favour and collaterally I take leave to observe unto you that I doe nott find this power derived to any of us by virtue of that Ordinance and Instructions made upon it for Kent, if the owner have goodes enough of his owne to discharge the Taxe; and I beleeve t'would bee soe interpreted upon any Tryall with a Collector that should, when he is in the way to the proper goodes of the refuser, check at another man's. Butt that which I have now to say is, That you would soe farre take mee into your Consideration as to thinke I am over-rated in this Taxe. For by that which I have certainly heard, I find myselfe a double proportion higher then any of my neighbours co-equall every way to mee: which I am very certen is nott unknowne to you too. And therefore I am in the more study to collect what should bee the cause of it. I can assure [you] and there is truth in it without further asseveration, that I have nott yett found money enough to discharge the sumptuary occasions have

¹ Firth and Rait, *loc. cit.*, p. 261.

² Members of the Committee for Kent.

bin brought upon mee this yere, as well out of choice as chance, to adde to the troubles of the publike. And therefore I must needes desire you to command Ralph Philpott and Jo: Paramour, who I heare were the Cessors, for I shall nott thinke any friend of mine had a hand in this inequ,ality to observe the proportions used elsewhere in the Lath, or else, which I had rather, to bee pleased to lett mee receive the courtesy from your hands immediately, which shall very much oblige

Your true servant in all the
faculties of this life

Lond. July. 10.
1643.

THO: PEYTON.

XVI

SIR THOMAS PEYTON to THE EARL OF ELGIN

[Capel Cure MSS., Peyton Letters]

[The first Earl of Elgin, Thomas, third Lord Bruce of Kinloss, and Christian Cavendish, "My Lady Devonshire," were children of Edward, second Lord Bruce of Kinloss. Christian married William Cavendish, second Earl of Devonshire, and after his death (1628) had the wardship of the young earl. She was a devoted Royalist. Her son, Charles, third earl, fell in the battle of Gainsborough, on July 28th, 1643, but a fortnight before this letter was written. No other record remains of the brother and sister's sojourn at Knowlton, or the reason of it; they were doubtless under surveillance. "A sister of mine," Mrs. Bargrave of Bifrons, Patrixbourne; "some little ones," Sir Thomas's three small daughters.]

TO THE RIGHT HON^{BLE} AND MY VERY GOOD LORD, THE
EARLE OF ELGIN AT KNOLTON HUMBLY PRESENT

Sir, this leaves before another letter which
should have come long after this.

MY LORD,

I find by your Lordship's letter what great honoure my poore house hath received in the two noble presences of your selfe and my La: of Devonshire; where I could have

next Wy in mistris Moyle's parish. Fearing the not delivery of my letter, I have sent this messenger.

The place is vacant for an honest man. Mr. Clarke desires to resigne to such an one. I have refused it for Denton's sake, from which I hope to be no more absent after next Lord's Day (then I rely on my brother) if Mr. Swan and the parish accept of me and that I can be ordayned.

I pray send Mr. Drayton if it may be: he shall have content for his paines howsoever and enterteinment at Mr. Clark's house at Boughton hard by the church. I pray send your answer. Mr. Clark useth not the book of common prayer.

My humble service to yourselfe and Mistris Oxenden and the vertuous Lady and Mr. Swanne presented. I heartily thanke you for the continued streame of your love, which I hope my ingratitude shall neither stop nor dry up. So commit both you and yours to the Lord and rest

Your poore friend to command

SURTÔNHE NICHOLS

Wy April 14. 1644

XXXII

SIR THOMAS PEYTON to HENRY OXINDEN

[MS. 28,000, f. 327]

[On January 25th, 1643/4, Sir Thomas petitioned the Committee of Kent for permission to return to Knowlton to inspect the repairs he had made in the church before paying for them.¹ His request, though vigorously opposed by John Boys, was granted, and he evidently stayed with his sister at Bifrons. On his return to prison he was moved from Billetter Lane to St. James's Palace. He brought with him from Kent his little daughters, "some few uncommitted children." The "good Captain": Thomas Southland of Lee in Ickham; he succeeded his father, Sir William Southland, who purchased the estate, in 1638. Cheapside Cross had been destroyed on May 2nd, 1643.]

¹ Peyton Letters.

BRO: OXINDEN,

Your letter of Apr. 26 I received May 6th, being the 4th day after the demolition of Cheapside Crosse according to the Rubrick of my Almanack, by a very good Cousin of ours, who entertaines Communion and fellowship with us still, though some have broken it off and are become towards us Separatists. And since I have received another. Your kind visitt intended to mee at Bifrons with the good Capt. my very good friend, I have thought often to have acknowledged in writing; and am now ashamed to bee remembred of it by the succession of new and double engagements. Butt I hope you will pardon mee that very lately have brought hither to sweeten this exile I live in some few uncommitted children, who, with themselves, brought some present trouble and disorder upon me, from which I am newly recovered. 'Twas chiefly this, and nott indisposition or ill memorie I assure you caused the omission. The businesse which became of another's transaction I had notice of by your letter and others interested in itt, which made mee leave that care; wherein your inclination was very valuable and obligatorie; for if intentions to doe evill without Act shall nott want their punishment, intentions to doe good may nott surely want, by the same proportion of Justice, their estimation and reward.

And now give me leave to say I am gotten into a feild where I often use to walke; the contemplation of the diversity of men's natures . . . [MS. stained]. For it is nott possible that overture you make of extending friendship (in a time when we are all become the tired and hopelesse clients of overbusy men) should proceed from any other foun[dation] then pure virtue it selfe. For when all the world of men besides are everywhere busie to adv[enture] out of every little power they are invested with, some feare of that sting they carry about [with] them into all others,— you have chosen a more Angelicall office of guarding and defending [MS. torn] from these evils of the times which our nationall sinnes, nott those of a few Malignants and

disaff[ected], have brought downe from heaven upon us. I am extremely glad you had soe happie a hand in finishing soe farre the busines of S.A.P.'s¹ discharge as could bee done in the Country, for I assure myselfe you will find all your endeavours soe well bestow'd that your owne workes will please you wonderfully when you shall come more and more to understand the qualities of that Gent: whom I honour for them. I would faine say somewhat, but I shall doe you more right, and myselfe, to speake it to others, who may bee brought to study by your example the true and evangelicall virtues of good neighbourhood. 'Tis nott the neerenesse of doores nor the confining of Inheritances makes us Neighbours; but the Acts of love and charitie which exercise their offices in all places and att all distances. Should I sett downe Mr. S., Mr. M., Mr. O., and aske which now of these three was neighbour unto him that fell ect: 'twere easily answered. For myselfe, I must esteeme of your affectionate offers as enlargements of a liberal and kind heart; and lay them up in my owne breast for my study and observation, when it shall please god my faults and fortunes shall cease to render mee soe contemptible to the worlde. I have nott learnt to bowe at the command of meere irregular will.

For this is positively true, though some pretend derivative power—as who will confesse his owne secrett passions?)—that many things are done, and much power is exercised over the persons and estates of many persons in that Countie (where my poore lott is fallen, I know nott how fortunately) which proceed of meere arbitrary command (and it may bee, I will nott deny, butt this is derived and granted to them likewise). But in the meane time, when men have power to make intense or remiss their Jealousies and Feares of others (the ground of all other proceedings), and so to execute their pleasure either in mercy or judgment—it is impossible that when feares and jealousies are made to extend beyond all Rules of Reason and probable deduction, but that some

¹ *I.e.*, Sir Anthony Percivall, see Letter XXX.

mixture of private passions and other ingredients must have infused itselſe into the minds of those men, to make their rule ungratefull and odious to us. Some, may be, hate nott our persons but thinke it fitt enough wee should live in a lower forme in the world. What else meanes the burden of these they call the Malignant Cesses? But this is the policie of all states, private as well as publique. Noe nation would have another more rich or potent then itselſe. Among private men 'tis the same; and a great deale of grace and virtue must goe to the subduing of man's proud and lofty nature which retaines this depravitie from the beginning of the worlde. Butt I that have nothing to doe butt write, runne on, as if you had nothing to doe butt read: and therefore desiring you to excuse this extravagance; for I like the progress of many actions soe ill that I could never leave complayning, though in the end to be attained the difference is not much betweene us. For I am and wille be bold to say it. He that saies he dares doe more for Religion then I is a lyer; and the same I affirme of our Lawes and publique liberty. And hee is little better that saies he hath in him greater desires and inclinations to doe you all serviceable respects and offices then

Your most affectionate brother

THOMAS PEYTON

St. James. May 13th

1644

WORTHY SIR,

I have beene very ill ever since I came to London that I could not soe readily serve you as I desire. I had these little pages printed newly for you and the pictures I gave 6^d for. By the next Munday posté you shall receive 100. of your owne effigies and the Meddall shalbe safe. Mr. Maxwell sayes nowe he hath sold very fewe of your prose bookes, and that Mr. Birkhead left 9^s 3^d to pay for the printing. Whatever you order to be donne shalbe endeavoured by

Sir

Your most obliged servant

THO: WILLIAMS

London: $\frac{11^{\circ}: 9^{bris}}{61}$

Your owne 100: will cost 1^s: 3^d:

CLXX

HENRY OXINDEN to JOHN CARPENTER

[MS. 28,004, f. 288]

[Carpenter wrote, November 30th, 1661, to request that "Possession shalbee delivered upp to mee (as you promised) att Christmas next, which is the uttermost tyme you desired and the longest I intend to graunt."]

SIR,

This is to entreate you by al the former friendship you have shewed me, by the love your honored Father bare to mee and by your last expression of love you had written, that I should see you would have a regard to mee now your Father was gon,—I say this is to entreat you to let things stand one halfe yeare longer as they do, without any noise, which will as yet spoile mee in regard of my severall occasions. Bifrons, a house that was my brother Bargrave's, beside Bridge hill, was lately sold;¹ and now I doubt not

¹ This was effected through Sir Thomas Peyton.

1661] WHEN THE KING CAME AGAIN

but mine will follow. I ly at your Mercy: you have shewed a great deale of friendship to mee which I will always acknowledge, pray, pray continue it, For I really am

Your faithfull as wel as obliged servant

Dec: 9. 1661.

H. O.

Copie to Mr. Carpenter

Pray whilst I am in misery let nothing happen may breake my heart which I wish may serve you.

CLXXI

HENRY OXINDEN OF DEANE to HENRY OF BARHAM

[MS. 28,004, f. 292]

[Dr. Peter du Moulin, Rector of Adisham, son of Peter du Moulin the Huguenot refugee, succeeded his father in the fourth Prebend of Canterbury Cathedral and died in 1684.¹

Mrs. Westrow, a daughter of Mrs. Dixwell.]

Dec: 16. 1661.

DEAR COSEN,

I sent this Morning to Broome to enquire how M^{rs} Westrow doth and our freindes at Mersham, and I could nott omitt saluting you and my Cosens, and complaining to you of the unhappines of D^r Du Moulin's interruption of our good Societic and to tell you that it was nott a little trouble to mee to hear my Mother's freedom of discours with you, which shee might have forborne for my sake, shee well knowing how much alwaies I have affected your company; and in which discours I thinke shee was much mistaken. Her replie to my exceptions is, that itt's out of a godly jealousie, and that shee would draw you to an exemplary holy Conversation preceding the pure and holy Calling you intend to enter into; that your excesse she understood you thatt you made att Broome that night put her upon that

¹ Somner and Battely, p. 125

PREFACE

IN compiling the first series of Oxinden Letters, two volumes only of the family correspondence, acquired by the British Museum in 1869, were drawn upon, namely Additional MSS. 27,999 and 28,000. The letters contained in the second series have been chosen from the remaining five volumes (28,000-28,005). Much additional information was supplied by the family papers—wills, accounts, legal documents—included in MSS. 28,006-28,012. Henry Oxinden's Diary (parts of which are printed in *The Genealogist*), Sir Thomas Peyton's Letter-Book, and the correspondence of Charles Nichols and Henry Oxinden have recently been presented to the Museum by Lady Capel Cure, and are now numbered 44,846-44,848; many letters come from these sources. Dr. F. W. Cock of Appledore generously placed at my disposal not only his collection of Oxinden papers but his copies, annotated by the author, of Henry Oxinden's very scarce volumes, *Jobus Triumphans* and *Eikon Basilike* (no tribute to King Charles, but a play upon the name of Sir Basil Dixwell). He has added to my debt by "cracking several hard nuts," including the meaning of "sparadraste," and by allowing the reproduction of Henry's medallion portrait, the original plate of which is in his possession. I very much regret that considerations of space have made it impossible to include here an account of Henry Oxinden's authorship, to supplement the somewhat meagre notice in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Henry's Account Book, belonging to the Kent Archæological Society's collection in the Maidstone Museum, and certain Oxinden MSS., chiefly wills and title-deeds, in the Dean and Chapter Library at Canterbury, I have also used, by the owners' permission. The book owes much to the kindness of those who contributed to the notes, which enhance the interest of letters covering so long a period and dealing with such a variety of subjects. Mr. Arthur Hussey, the historian of

P R E F A C E

Wingham, sent me valuable transcripts of Oxinden, Denne and Greenstreet wills. The Reverend E. A. Cook traced the entry of Thomas Oxinden's burial in the registers of St. George the Martyr, Southwark; the Reverend M. M. Vischer gave me particulars of his predecessor in the vicarage of St. Mary, Sandwich, John Lodwick; and the Reverend B. J. Corder, of Henry Oxinden's tenure of Radnage Rectory, Bucks. The Rector of Chillenden; the Reverend W. Waite, Vicar of Graveney; the Librarian of Winchester Cathedral and Dr. C. W. Foster, kindly made searches for me. The Reverend H. D. Dale supplied facts from the Hythe records. Mr. C. I. Hindle, of the Bodleian Library, skilfully solved the riddle of Ashmole's Almanack.

As regards the illustrations, the Reverend R. B. Pyper of Pluckley drew my attention to the portrait of Unton, Lady Dering, formerly at Surrenden Dering; Lady Capel Cure lent the photograph of Dorothy Peyton's picture. In both cases the reproductions have been made with the kind permission of the present owners of the pictures.

Lady Capel Cure possesses a portrait of Sir Thomas Peyton, but he is an earlier Sir Thomas, grandfather of our hero, of whom unfortunately no likeness appears to be extant.

I must express my great indebtedness to the Sheldon Press for undertaking the publication of this volume, and my sincere hope that the interest it arouses in lovers of such intimate illustrations of English history in critical times may fully justify their enterprise.

To have left the story of the Oxindens unfinished meant not only the loss to Kent annals of Henry of Barham's finished portrait, so whimsical, so tragic. Sir Thomas Peyton and his fellow-prisoner in Billetter Lane, Charles Nichols too, the epitome of friends of all ages, and kind old Captain Swan of the Charterhouse, to name four only from a longish roll, are also characters it is good to know, a privilege to introduce to other Englishmen.

These letters approach more nearly than their pre-

P R E F A C E

decessors to normal standards of orthography, except for the incorrigible Lady Zouch, who seems to have inherited, and passed on to her descendants, the perverse habit of spelling by ear and not by eye.

Otherwise there are few stumbling-blocks for the reader who can remember and forgive the careless interchange of *on* and *one*, and the use of *to* as preposition, adverb and occasionally numeral. Throughout the book efforts have been made to render correctly the Latin tags, whether original or quotations from the best authors—not always an easy task. In this I have had the invaluable help of Dr. Lowther Clarke.

DOROTHY GARDINER.

14 PRECINCTS, CANTERBURY,
October, 1936.