
Mackery End House and its Inhabitants.

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In reference to the history of this house, it may first be noted that John Heyworth, No. 3, the last of his name, who inherited it, died here in 1558. In the same year died also Sir John Bocket, Kt., of Wheathamp-

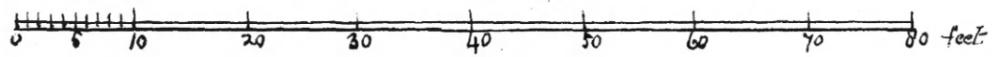
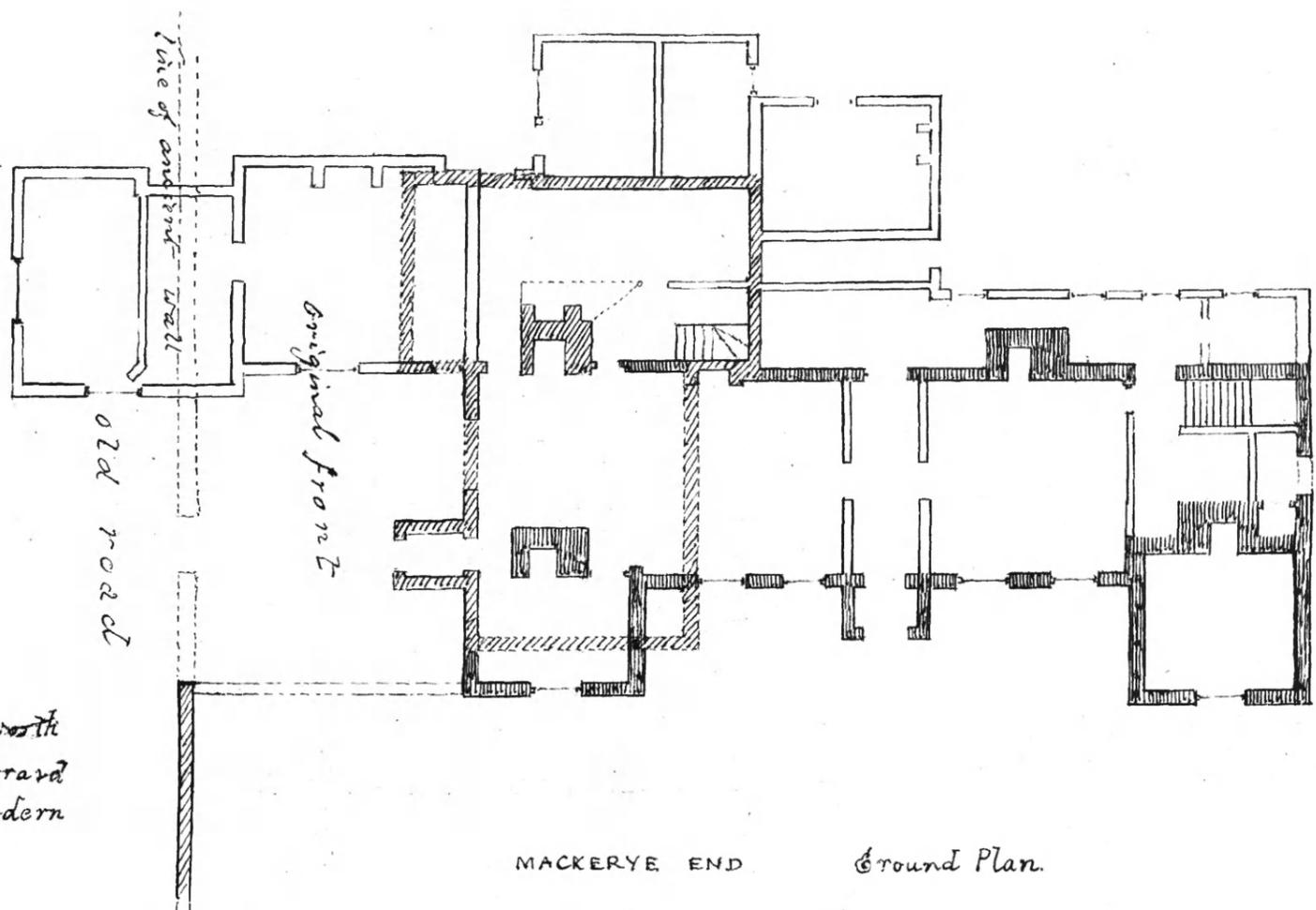
stead Place. His brother, Nicholas Brocket, was the second husband of Margaret Hoo (of Kimpton Hoo), the heiress to the Heyworth estate.—[See Clutterbuck's Herts. II. 360.]

About this date, it is supposed, Mackery End (house and manor) was purchased by Sir William Garrard, Kt., who had come into possession of Lamer in 1553.*

The oldest part of the present mansion, containing the kitchen offices, is apparently substantially identical with the habitation of the Heyworths, which thus passed from Margaret Brocket to the Garrards. Its half-timber character and the massive chimney stack accord with this supposition. A spacious chimney recess, now disused, must have belonged to the Heyworth kitchen. The ancient hall adjoined this, the same chimney stack serving for both. The chimney top here has been modernised. Subsequent additions to the offices have obscured the ancient plan: all ornamental features have been obliterated. The old staircase in this part of the house is, no doubt, on the original site. The Heyworth south gable is now carried on a beam over the modern kitchen. The gable had to be reconstructed a few years ago on account of settlement, but the old lines are preserved. The ancient entrance seems to have been on the south side, where the porch facing the stable court now is. This porch has been, in recent times, reconstructed out of the ancient materials, the original features being reproduced. It may here be noted that three kinds of bricks are used in different parts of the structure; the oldest, presumably Tudor, being the thinnest. The substantial wall separating the garden from the stable court may perhaps be of the Jacobean period. About three feet has been subsequently added to its height, the old cornice thus appearing out of its place.

The eastern range of building, with its picturesque Tudor chimney tops, appears to belong to the time of Sir William Garrard. This must have replaced an

* Sir William Garrard was Lord Mayor of London in 1555. He was a merchant, who had a residence in the parish of S. Magnus. He was of a Kentish family, whose monuments are in Sittingbourne Church. He purchased the manor of Lamer, otherwise Sauncey, of Sir Philip Boteler, of Wotton Woodhall, Herts, whose wife Grisall (Roch?) was the heiress to this estate.—See Chauncy's Herts. II. 426, also Cussans, III. 327. The arms of Garrard are: "Arg., on a fess sa. a lion passant of the field." Crest: "A leopard sejant proper."



earlier wing, and is, no doubt, a considerable enlargement on the old structure, a change of front being effected (see annexed plan).

According to the usual arrangement of the Elizabethan period, the front entrance (in the middle of the eastern side) would have opened into a spacious hall. This probably extended from a screen or partition placed a little south of the entrance to the north end of the building. This would be used as the dining hall for the whole household and guests. It was wainscotted in oak; some remains of this exist beneath the canvas covering of the walls. The other portion of the wing would form a "withdrawing-room." There was a north entrance from the garden, now blocked.

It is a probable supposition that these improvements were made by Sir William Garrard for the accommodation of his own family, while his manor house of Lamer was being enlarged or rebuilt. It may be noted, in passing, that the Tudor mansion erected by him (or possibly by his predecessor, Sir William Roch, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1545*), was pulled down in 1761 by Sir Bennet Garrard, who erected the present Georgian structure.—[See Cussan's Herts. III. 328.]

It is thought that Mackery End continued to be inhabited by members of the Garrard family till Charles I.'s reign, when Jonas Bailey became the occupier. The traditional name of "Dower House" favours this supposition. Within the parish of Wheathampstead is a house called "Bride Hall," which may perhaps be associated with the Garrard *bridals*.

There is the record of the death of "Alice, wife of Jonas Bailey, gentleman, of Mackeryend," in 1642. She was heiress of William Hodson, of Bourton, Bucks. Of her husband's death there is no monumental record. It was perhaps in his time that the Elizabethan gables of the front wing were altered into the Carolan fashion as they now appear. The date "1666" carved in brick, is seen in the northern gable. The windows of the front were also altered at this time, and some small Elizabethan windows in the projecting wings walled up.

Lady Jane Garrard, wife of Sir John Garrard, the first Baronet, may have resided here during the twelve

* A writer in "The Athenæum" (Sept. 20, 1879) asserts that the will of Sir William Roch shows that he was not in possession of Lamer, and that Grisell, wife of Sir Philip Boteler, was not his daughter.

years of her widowhood. After her death in 1692, her son-in-law, Richard Emerton, was the occupier until the year 1713, when his wife Rachel, one of the twenty-three children of Sir John and Lady Jane Garrard, died here, aged 55.

Then Thomas Garrard, Lady Jane's grandson, succeeded. He was second son of Sir Samuel Garrard, became Serjeant-at-Law of the City of London in 1729, and was for many years Recorder of the Borough of S. Albans, as stated on his monument in the church. About the beginning of his tenancy considerable alterations appear to have been made. The fine, massive oak staircase was erected in the north end of the great hall. For the purpose of this improvement the north doorway was walled up. The hall was considerably curtailed, the drawing room being formed out of it by placing a partition on the south: the panelled oak wainscot was covered up, and the plaster ceiling, decorated with the central device of the "Pelican in her piety," introduced. The wainscot in the library (the south projecting wing) was also now covered with canvas (or possibly later). The fine oak mantelpiece here, of Renaissance character, had been erected at an earlier period, probably early in Charles I.'s reign; also the well-sculptured chimney-piece in the north bedroom;* both these are very interesting specimens of Jacobean wood-carving.

Thomas Garrard was married in 1738; he died in 1758. His widow, Mrs. Margaret Garrard (née Gay), perhaps resided here till her death in 1765. During her widowhood Lamer house was rebuilt by Sir Bennet Garrard, who died in 1767. After this, Thomas Hawkins, grandson of Richard Emerton, the former tenant, occupied the house for nearly half a century: he died in 1804, at the age of eighty-three. It was in his time that Charles Lamb paid his first visit to his relatives, the Gladmans, at Mackery End farm, to which he thus alludes in his *Essays of Elia*:—"I can just remember having been there on a visit to a great aunt, when I was a child." We may date this about 1780. It is interesting to note that Lamb's great aunt, Miss Bruton, was housekeeper to the Hawkins family here. When the essayist made his second visit, about forty years later (c. 1820), to "the farm-house delightfully

* An illustration of this chimneypiece kindly drawn by Miss Howard has unfortunately been lost in transmission by the Post Office.

situated within a gentle walk from Wheathampstead," the Misses Sibley were tenants of the mansion. The farm-house, lying a little to the north, still contains the Gladman homestead, but transformed in aspect by modern additions. The Sibley tenancy extended to nearly half a century, the last of the sisters, Miss Martha Sibley, dying here in 1850 at the age of ninety-five. The longevity of these three ladies, whose united ages numbered two hundred and seventy-seven years, affords a remarkable parallel to that of the three eminent ecclesiastics presumed to have been nurtured here in the fourteenth century.

The early and interesting traditions of this house, the record of which has now been brought down to the time of the present occupier, entitle it to be ranked among the historical residences of Hertfordshire.