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BRIDE HALL, SANDRIDGE (1928).

## Bride Hall, Sandridge.

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**B**RIDE HALL was, like Sandridge, the property of St. Alban's Abbey. The abbot had acquired it by the gift of a certain pious matron Thurflada, under the name of Bridela; and as Bridele it was confirmed to the Abbey by Henry II and later kings. Apparently the abbot in the fourteenth century let it to a family of Wheathampstead freeholders, who from residence or ownership here were known as the Brydell family. The Abbey still retained the tithes of this "Bridelhide," and at the time it was dissolved in 1539 they were leased to John Byg. Like Sandridge manor these tithes came to Ralph Rowlett senior, and are mentioned in his *Inquisitio post mortem*, 1543, as Brydell tythe.<sup>1</sup> Specific mention does not recur in his son Sir Ralph Rowlett's *Inquisitio post mortem*,<sup>2</sup> so possibly he had disposed of them before 1571.

The property itself "Bydylhyde," apart from its tithes, was in the possession of William Veysey at the end of the fifteenth century, when it passed from him to John Lawdy or Landy.<sup>3</sup> In 1499 John and Richard Lawdy or Landy acquired Lamers manor, and three years later (so the *Victoria County History* states) settled it on Brian Roche and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of Elizabeth,<sup>4</sup> but John Landy retained Bridellhyde. He died in 1507 owning it, and left it to his wife Elizabeth for life.

By his will made 22 September, 1507,<sup>5</sup> John Landy desires to be buried in St. Helen's Church, Wheathampstead, in the chapel of St. Nicholas before the image there. To his wife Elizabeth he leaves six silver spoons, forty sheep, two cows and all the household utensils except the goods of Margaret North, his sister, which are in his house. Richard Richardson, chaplain.

<sup>1</sup> *Herts Genealogist and Antiquary*, II, 87, 88.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 88-90.

<sup>3</sup> *V. C. H. Herts*, II, 435.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 299. The reference there is to *Inq. P.M.*, 8 Henry VIII, vol. 31, no. 65. This Inquisition contains no record of any such statement.

<sup>5</sup> *P. C. C.*, 30 Adeane.

receives a violet cloak, servant John Grundwyn 6s. 8d., servant Thomas Bally 3s. 4d., John Cornwell 2s., and John North 2s.; servant Elizabeth is also remembered. The executors are Richard Gadde and John Skattes of London, gentlemen, who witness the will; other witnesses are Thomas Peryent junior, Margaret North and John Heyworth junior. As to his lands, etc., he leaves all to his wife Elizabeth for life, namely, Bridell manor with appurtenances, a messuage inhabited by Thomas Ambray, another called The George in Harpenden occupied by Thomas Gardener, all his tenements in Wheathampstead and Harpenden; also all his lands in "Stoppeslay in Luton soke, Beds" except a messuage inhabited by John Est which servant Elizabeth receives for life, and a messuage occupied by Thomas Ivery which John Grundwyn receives for life. The will was proved eight days later.

Judging from the will of Brian Roche,<sup>6</sup> made on 12 March, 1514, in which he is described as a Serjeant of the Catry of King Henry VIII,<sup>7</sup> he did not own Bridellhyde, but from inference it belonged to his wife Elizabeth. The only lands he did own were at Wixley, Mykill Cattall and Fallisgrave in Yorkshire.<sup>8</sup> He leaves all his goods and chattels, wares and merchandise to be shared out in three parts: one part to go to his wife Elizabeth; the second to his children, but if they die before coming of age or marriage, then to charity; the third part to the payment of legacies. These legacies are: to the high altar of St. Marteyn Orgar parish church, London, 3s. 8d.; to Wixley parish church, Yorks, 20s.; to mending the highway between Buntingford and Royston, £10; to Sir John Cut, kt., Under Treasurer of England, a great grey horse bought from Anthony Nele; to Thomas Oodby, an old grey horse bought from John Tedde; to brother William Roche two great silver pots; to

<sup>6</sup> P. C. C., 33 Fetiplace.

<sup>7</sup> It is noticeable how the *fess chequy* figures in the arms of various families who held office at Court in connection with the provision of food. This *fess chequy* represents the mediæval steward's board, and thus appears in the arms of the Stuarts. The Roche canting arms were *Gules, a bull between three roaches erect Argent, and a chief chequy Or and Azure*. Those of the Botelers were *Gules, a fess chequy Argent and Sable between six cross crosslets Or*.

<sup>8</sup> Whixley and Great Cattall in the West Riding, Fal-grave a district of Scarborough.



BARN AT BRIDE HALL, SANDRIDGE (1928).



Richard Gadd a gilt standing cup; to each servant a quarter's wages; to Wheathampstead parish church 20s.; to brother William Roche for Thomas Roche my uncle 40s.; to John Hotherson of Wixiey 40s.; and the residue for furnishing and making up the house, garden and orchard at Lamers. His son Nicholas is left a gold chain with cross of eleven ounces; John Pastall receives a russet riding habit; servant Christopher a black riding coat; Richard Plomer a russet gown furred with black bogy<sup>9</sup>; Thomas Ploverton a gown furred with white bogy; and Sir Thomas<sup>10</sup> four yards of dyed tawny for a gown. The feoffees of his lands and tenements at Wixley, Mykill Catall and Fallisgrave, Yorks, bought of "Guy of Richard Bank and — Cooke" to continue in possession, to the use of wife Elizabeth for life. Thereafter the property is to descend to his heirs male, and failing these to the heirs male of brother William Roche, and failing them to his own right heirs. Wife Elizabeth is appointed sole executor and overseers Richard Gadd and brother William Roche. The will was proved on 29 May, 1514.

Confirmation of the property owned by Brian Roche is afforded by his *Inquisitio post mortem* held at York Castle on 23 March, 1517, 8 Hen. VIII.<sup>11</sup> Only the Yorkshire estates are detailed; none in Herts. He had died on 1 May, 5 Hen. VIII, and Nicholas his son and next heir was aged six years or more at the time of the Inquisition.

This is the last we hear of this son Nicholas and, as no other children are named in his will, his daughter Griselda was evidently posthumous. It is evident too that Brian died quite a young man; and his, or rather his wife's acquisition of Lamers in 1502 may well have been on the occasion of his marriage; perhaps too his wife was John Landy's daughter. Brian and William, so Clutterbuck records,<sup>12</sup> were sons of Sir John Roche

<sup>9</sup> Bogy or budge: a kind of fur of lambskin with the wool dressed outwards.

<sup>10</sup> Perhaps Thomas Barton, rector of Wheathampstead.

<sup>11</sup> P. R. O., *Inq. p. m.*, Vol. 31, No. 65.

<sup>12</sup> Many authorities, including Burke in his *General Armory*, copy Clutterbuck's error of making Griselda daughter and heiress of William instead of Brian. William is called Sir William Roche of Lamers, perhaps because of residence at, but certainly not owing to ownership of Lamers. Since writing this paper I find that R. E. C. Waters in his *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, 1878, p. 159, suggests that Griselda

Guy of Richard Bank and — COOKE to continue in possession to the use of wife Elizabeth for life There-

of Wixley, Yorks. William long outlived his brother, and became a sheriff of London in 1525 and Lord Mayor in 1540, this being apparently the occasion of his receiving knighthood. His will, made on 12 July, 1549,<sup>13</sup> shows no connection with Lamers nor any daughter Griselda. According to the custom of the City of London, his property, unspecified, is divided into three equal portions. The first portion is left to his wife Margaret; the second to his son John Roche. The third portion is reserved for the following legacies:— 4s. to the high altar of St. Peter le Powre; 40s. to the poor of the same parish; 13s. 4d. to the Drapers Company for a repast on his burial day; 40s. to the poor of his Bassishawe Ward; £4 to Hornchurch town where his wife Juliana is buried (of this 20s. is to go to Romford town); 40s. to the poor of Aldenham; 40s. to the poor of Rickmansworth; £4 to servant George; £4 to apprentice Francis Myles; £4 to servant Roger Alsebroke; £4 to servant Anthony; 40s. to maid Kathryn Perry; 20s. each to all his other servants; £5 to St Bartholomew's Hospital; £4 to Ursula his wife's sister; £50 to his daughter Elizabeth wife of Rauf Latham citizen and goldsmith of London, for her children; the residue to his wife Margaret and son John, who are appointed executors. The will was proved on 13 November, 1549. His widow Margaret Roche, formerly Long, died some ten years later, and her will refers to Aldenham, Rickmansworth and Borden in Kent. It was proved in 1559.<sup>14</sup>

But to return to Bride Hall. The widow Elizabeth Roche married secondly John Edon and had two sons by him, Richard and John. She married thirdly Sir Griffin Dunne, but had no further issue. Bridelles, as we have seen, had been left by John Landy to his wife Elizabeth for life in 1507, and in all probability it came to Elizabeth Roche on her mother's death. After her

was Brian's daughter, and cites an entry on the flyleaf of an old Latin Bible in Christ's College Library, Cambridge, in which she is definitely called daughter and heir of Brian Roche.

<sup>13</sup> P. C. C., 42 Populwell.

<sup>14</sup> P. C. C., 27 Chaynay. Her first husband, John Long, salter, Sheriff of London, 1528, died in 1538, leaving her with a daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Robert Colte, of Rickmansworth. The mutilated inscription of John Long hangs in the vestry of Aldenham Church. In her will she desires to be buried with him in the choir there. She had no children by Sir William Roche. (Will, see Waters, *op. cit.*)

own death in 1541 her third husband had a life interest in Lamers, Bridelles and Botelers manors until he died in 1543.

The *Inquisitio post mortem* of Sir Griffin Dunne, held at Buntingford on 2 July, 1543 (35 Hen. VIII),<sup>15</sup> is full of important details concerning Bridells. Before the death of Sir Griffin Dunne William Burche, gent., Richard Edon, gent., Nicholas Pokewood, gent., and Nicholas Thorne were seised of Lamers, Bridells and Botelers, manors to the use of Sir Griffin and Elizabeth his wife and to the use of whichever of them lived the longer; and after their decease to the use of John Boteler, Esquire, son and heir of Philip Boteler, Kt., and Griselda, John's wife, daughter and heir apparent of Brian and Elizabeth Roche; and failing issue of John and Griselda, to the use of Richard Edon, son of the said Elizabeth and John Edon; and failing issue to the use of John Edon, another son of the said Elizabeth and John Edon; and failing issue to the use of the right heirs of the said Elizabeth. On 10 May, 1528 (19 Hen. VIII.) an agreement had been entered upon by Sir Griffin Dunne and his wife Elizabeth on the one part and Philip Boteler, kt., then esquire, on the other for the marriage between Philip Boteler's son John and Griselda Roche. Bridells therefore came to Sir John Boteler and Griselda on the death of Sir Griffin Dunne on 8 January, 1543 (34 Hen. VIII).<sup>16</sup> It was of clear annual value of £3 and was held of Rauf Rowlett, kt., as of his manor of Sandridge.

In 1545, probably for purposes of a settlement, Sir John Boteler and Griselda conveyed the manors of Lamers, Botelers and Bridelles to Robert Orwell, clerk, and John Ryxson.<sup>17</sup> Sir John died in 1571-2, and Griselda in 1581-2; both are buried at Watton-at-Stone Church, Herts. Their son, Sir Philip Boteler, then inherited the manors and finally in 1597 disposed of them to George Peryent.<sup>18</sup> In 1608 his son Philip Peryent conveyed them to Sir Ralph Coningsby and others as trustees for Sir John Garrard, Kt., and thence-

<sup>15</sup> P. R. O., *Inq. p. m.*, Vol. 69, No. 79.

<sup>16</sup> Sir Griffin Dunne left a daughter Elizabeth, aged eighteen or more at the date of the Inquisition.

<sup>17</sup> Feet of Fines, *Herts Genealogist and Antiquary*, I, 160.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, III, 229.

forward they descended in the Garrard family.

Sir John Garrard was created a baronet on 16 February, 1621-2, and died about the year 1637. His son Sir John, by his first wife Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Edward Barkham,<sup>19</sup> succeeded as second baronet and died in 1685. His two sons, Sir John (d. 1700) and Sir Samuel (d. 1724), were the third and fourth baronets. Sir Samuel's son, another Sir Samuel, the fifth baronet, died unmarried in 1761, and his brother, Sir Benet, the sixth and last baronet, died unmarried in 1767; and so the baronetcy became extinct.

Sir John Garrard, the third baronet, had a daughter and heir Jane, who married Montague Drake of Shardeles. Their son Montague Garrard Drake (d. 1728) had a son William Drake (d. 1796) and grandson Charles Drake. On the death of the last Garrard baronet the manors of Lamers, Bridells and Botelers came to this Charles Drake, who thereupon took the name of Garrard in 1767. From that time Lamers and Bridells have descended in the same family until, in 1928, Mr. Apsley Cherry Garrard of Lamers sold Bridells to Mr. G. Lenanton.

Bridells, now called Bride Hall, had been for many years, until Mr. Lenanton purchased it, a farm house. It is said to have been built in 1630; and this points to Sir John Garrard, the first baronet, as its builder. On plan it is the E shape usually attributed as a compliment to Queen Elizabeth, but with two small projecting wings at the back, both containing staircases. There are some later additions. The plan recalls the sixteenth century and earlier type of house. The entrance passage suggests the screens, with the hall soler and other living rooms on the west and the buttery and kitchens on the east. But this plan has been modified by having an open fireplace at the east end of the "hall," backing on to the entrance passage. This fireplace may perhaps be a survival of the central chimney-stack of an earlier house. At the back are a number of original windows with chamfered brick jambs and mullions, and four-centred heads to the lights. Only one of the windows on the staircase retains its diamond

<sup>19</sup> Her elaborate monument, 1632, is in Wheathampstead church.

panes, a few of which are original glass. Two of the chimney stacks are original, and the third has been rebuilt with old material. The outer door of the two-storeyed central porch is modern, but the inner one original. The hall (now the dining-room) has its large open fireplace (until 1928 partly filled up but now opened up again) with moulded wooden lintel; in its ceiling is a large moulded beam. Many original solid oak door frames and batten doors still survive with their iron door furniture. In the kitchen is another wide fireplace. Both the staircases wind round plain circular wood newel posts, with short rails at the top and turned elm balusters.

[We are indebted to Mr. W. Pope Genge for kindly permitting us to use his two photographs from which our illustrations are taken.—ED.]