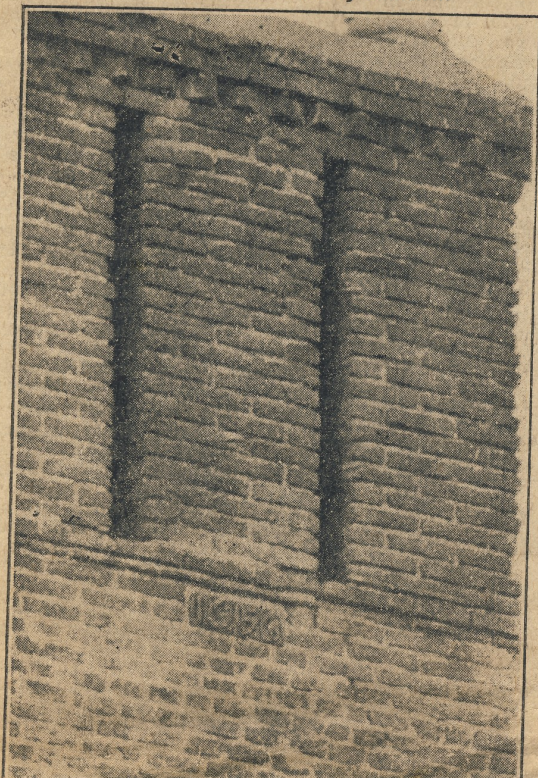


HISTORY OF MELBOURN.

*By DR. W. M. PALMER.



Main entrance to the Sheen Manor in the time of George Pyke. The date 1656 is under the middle shaft of the left hand chimney stack. On the extreme right the gable of the oldest portions of the house is seen, underneath which is a slated nineteenth century addition.



the farmyard of the present house. I had a dove house on it until recently and is surrounded by running water. Perhaps this dates from the 13th century, when the manor of Goda was divided into two. In a terrier of 1664 (*See Note 5*) this dove house with the pightle of ground on which it stood was valued at £3 a year.

The earliest site of the manor is further away across the road, on the right of the footpath leading to Meldreth. The area of the moated enclosure is 5 roods, and is much larger than the second site. This is the site of the undivided manor and may go back to Goda's time. Here the Abbot of St. Erroul had a private chapel; for the privilege of which he used to pay 2 lbs. of woad to Meldreth Church on Trinity Sunday. (*See Note 7.*) This enclosure is called "Coulsouter's Orchard, moated round," in the 1665 terrier. Of this orchard a russet apple and cooking pear survived until 50 years ago.

NOTES FOR SERIOUS ANTIQUARIES.

1. In the year 1086 there were 240 acres in this manor demesne, and 480 acres in villenage and two mills. In the year 1272 there were 212 acres in demesne and 492 in villenage. Rents of assize and perquisites of Court £8 5s. 6d. In the year 1324 the Prior of Ware held 160 acres of arable land in demesne and a water mill, with rents and perquisites £5 12s. 4 acres of meadow and 4 of pasture. In 1340 John de Brampton held of the Prior of Ware 160 acres of land, 7 acres of meadow, and 6 of pasture, a mill, and rents of 44s. 6d. for homage service and 8s. rent.

2. In the year 1544, the Sheen Manor then being in the hands of the Crown, the steward issued an order to distrain the Master of the Savoy Hospital, owner of the Manor of Toncliff, for a rent of 8s. in arrears for 10 years.

3. Thomas Sterne, gent., bought the Manor of Sheen, with 20 messuages, 20 gardens, 20 orchards, a watermill, 280 acres of arable land, 100 of meadow, 100 of pasture, 20 of wood, a sheep walk over 300 acres of furze, heath and moor, and £10 rent, for £540.

4. The earliest Court Roll is dated Friday, April 8th, 1512. The homagers who attended the Court were Nicholas Hyche, John Sutton, William Inerey, Thomas Hervy, Richard Sparowe, Thomas Gateward, Richard Goodchild, and William Prythard. The chief business was the repairs of copyhold tenements which had been ordered in previous courts. A house called Grene's had not been put in habitable repair, and in a tenement called Lylles a barn had no thatch, and a building 60 feet long was ruinous in timber work and thatch, and on the south side had fallen down. Sixty feet seems a good length for a barn or maiting, but that is the length given. They both belonged to Thomas Hervy who, the bailiff said, had paid no rent for them for 21 years. The Court ordered both tenements to be forfeited and "let Thomas try the usual remedies for recovery." Apparently Thomas sat by with his tongue in his cheek. He did not want tumbled down copyhold property. John Sutton, another homager, was also an offender. He had partly repaired the chamber of his tenement in Chesewyk, but the hall, which he had pulled down and carted away, he had not rebuilt. His property was also forfeited.

5. From a terrier of the manors of Sheen and Streets drawn up in 1664 we get the following particulars of the premises. The mansion house with two great barns, two stables, with granary and woodhouse adjoining to a hay barn compasseth the inward yard, which contain with the farm and other yard about two acres, and are worth nothing beyond expenses. The gardens, with cherry orchard and great orchard containing two acres worth yearly £9. A dove house worth yearly with the pightle of ground £6.

The meadows are particularly described. The Sheen meade of 17 acres; Coulsouter's Orchard, moated round, of 5 roods, worth 30s. a year. The square meade of 5 acres on this side Coulsouter's. The meade