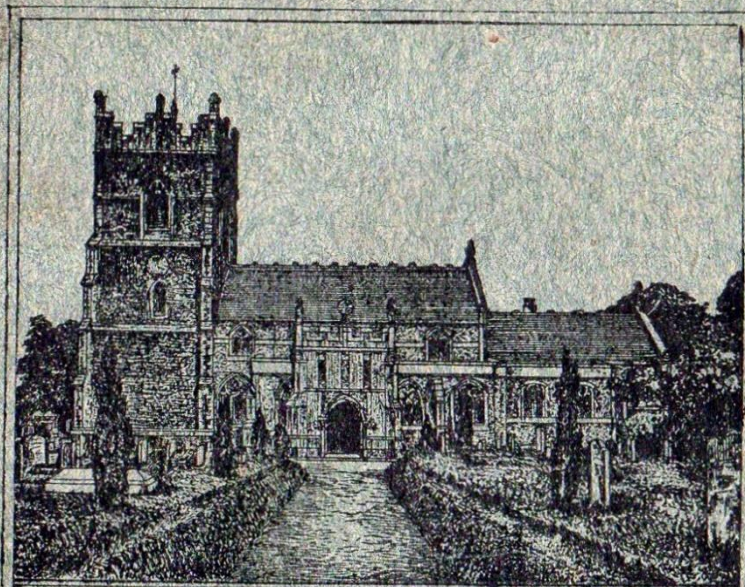


A Few Notes on the Parish of
ARDLEIGH

IN ESSEX

And its Neighbourhood.



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A few Notes on Ardleigh and its Neighbourhood.

I.—BEFORE THE CONQUEST.

Ardleigh is a British name signifying "High Pasture Land." In remote times when Essex was all Forest, we may believe some clearance was effected for purposes of pasture in some part of Ardleigh. The country was inhabited by a Celtic race, called the Trinobantes. Julius Cæsar, who invaded Britain in B.C. 55 & 54, can only tell us of these that they clothed themselves in skins, and subsisted on flesh and milk, that apparently they grew no corn and made no bread. They painted their bodies, and tattooed themselves, and went into battle naked. The mysterious rites of Druidism were practised in the Forests of Essex,—though no monuments remain, owing probably to the absence of stone in this county. In A.D. 43, the Emperor Claudius of Rome conquered the stronghold of Colchester, or Camolodunum. It was the scene of much fighting for many years, and no doubt the men of Ardleigh took part in many attacks on it. In the insurrection of the Iceni under Boadicea in 61—we may well suppose that her army having crossed the Stour and making straight for Colchester, came near, if not through Ardleigh. Colchester was burned to the ground. The insurrection however was subsequently suppressed, and the Romans ruled for 350

years. In 411 began the Saxon invasion. The Saxon kingdom of Essex was not established till 527. The chief relic of this period is the tumulus or barrow at Lawford, where no doubt some Saxon chieftain was buried. From 787 onwards the Danish invasion took place. They constantly came up the Stour, and Wrabness was one of their strongholds. The first Danish king of East Anglia was Guthrum, who made Hadleigh his capital. In 885, King Alfred's fleet defeated the Danish fleet in the Stour. In 920 the Danes took and fortified Colchester. In 991 they plundered Ipswich and marched to Maldon,—and again in 993 they plundered Ipswich. In 1010 a great battle was fought at Ipswich, after which the Danish supremacy lasted till the reign of Edward the Confessor, who married a Dane. The Danish occupation has left its mark in the name "Bergholt," and many family names in the neighbourhood.

In 1051, the snow fell so thick in Essex, that it covered the ground till the middle of March, causing cattle and fowls to perish in abundance. Then came an earthquake, and the crops were burned by lightning. Great scarcity followed. Thousands were starving. A quarter of wheat was sold for 60 pennies—equal to about £7 10s. of our present money.

In October, 1066, a great battle was fought at Hastings, and William of Normandy conquered England.

When King William I. was firmly established on the throne, he ordered a survey to be made of all the lands in England. For this purpose he issued a writ to the Sheriff of each county, commanding him to call before him all the Barons in that county, the "Reves of the Hundreds," the clergy, and six

"Villeins" (or labourers) out of each Parish or District. They were to give upon oath an account of all the estates in their neighbourhood. From this great work—which is now known as "Domesday Book," and is kept in the British Museum,—we can tell who owned the land in Ardleigh, and a few other things about our Parish at that time. It seems then, that in the days of Edward the Confessor the land in Ardleigh belonged to six gentlemen (Freemen). Shortly afterwards it all belonged to two, whose names were Osbert and Scapie. When William I. made his survey of Ardleigh for Domesday Book, the Saxon landowners had been turned out, and we find the parish divided among four of William's Norman followers. Their names were Roger de Ramis, who owned that part where Ardleigh Hall now stands: Hugh de Gurnai, who owned Bovills Hall and the lands around: Robert Gernon, who owned the neighbourhood of Moze Hall: and Geoffery de Magnaville, who owned the part where Martells Hall now stands.

II.—THE MANOR OF "PIGOTTS,"

now called Ardleigh Hall.

Roger de Ramis was one of those Norman nobles who came over from France with William the Conqueror, and after helping him to conquer England, was rewarded with several estates. To him was given the house and lands now known as Ardleigh Hall, formerly called "Pigotts." His chief residence was at Raines, in Essex. He had to pay to the king yearly, enough money to support ten knights with their horses and armour, in return for his estates. In 1140, one of his sons or grandsons, also called Roger

de Ramis, was fined 40 marks for making a park without the king's leave. It is not said whether this park was at Ardleigh. In 1167, we know that his son, William de Raynes, paid an extra mark for each of his ten knights to King Henry II. on the occasion of the king's daughter Matilda marrying Henry Duke of Saxony. In 1172, William and Richard de Raines contributed 20 shillings extra for each knight's fee for the war in Ireland. And again they paid the same in 1194 to help to ransom King Richard I. from his captivity. The last male of their family died in 1216, leaving his estates to be divided among three daughters.

The second Roger de Ramis, above mentioned, paid the king a half knight's-fee, *i.e.*, sufficient for the support of half a knight, for his estate in Ardleigh alone, which must have been considerable. He gave the Church in Ardleigh over to the care of the monastery of St. John's, Colchester, which probably means that he built the Church. This was in King Stephen's reign. But though the family of De Ramis owned this estate, subject to the yearly payment mentioned to the king, yet they had so many other estates that they "let" Ardleigh, as we should say, to a family of the name of Picott.

Sir Ralph Picott lived here in the reigns of Kings Richard I. and John. He also held an estate called Picotts, in Saling, Essex. His son Sir William, in Henry III.'s reign, was bound to provide, yearly, one sparrow-hawk to the King in return for holding the estate or manor of Pigotts, in Saling. In 1194, the first named Ralph Picott paid 50/- as the equivalent for providing his half-knight to the king. And about 1210 we find he tenanted one carucate of land,

i.e., about 100 acres in Ardleigh belonging to Roger de Ramis. Sir William Picott, his son, was living in 1226, and the jury of the Tendring Hundred certified before the itinerant judges at Chelmsford that he held 10 pounds rent in land by the service of keeping one hawking horse. Sir William, his son and heir, held the same at the time of his decease in 1283. His son, Sir Ralph Pycott, sold the manor in 1329 to William de Tey, it being still regarded as held of the king for the payment of half a knight's fee.

In 1350, Robert de Teye, Lionel de Bradenham, and Milo de Frenshe enfeoffed this manor to Richard de Sutton and Ann his wife. We find that one Sparrow-hawk had still to be provided for the King every year. In 1400, Robert Teye, son of the above, parted with the estate to John Bohun and others. Yet the Tey family appear to be possessed of it again. They were great people just beyond Colchester, and Marks Tey derives its name from them and a family called Marks, who also owned land at Ardleigh at this time. The above Robert Tey died in 1426, and his son John, who owned the property, died in 1440, leaving it to another son John. In this last John Tey's time we find the Manor of Pycotts consisted of 200 acres of arable land, 40 acres of wood, and 6 acres of meadow. He had to pay to the King yearly either one Sparrow-hawk or two shillings. He died in 1462, just as the Wars of the Roses ceased, his son and heir Henry being only seven years old. Henry had a son called Thomas who inherited Picotts, and was a knight. He died Dec. 31st, 1540. He used to pay King Henry VIII. twelve shillings a year for the estate.

All his large estates were divided among his four daughters. His land in Ardleigh went to his daughter Mary who married Sir Thomas Nevill. She died on Oct. 28th, 1544, leaving a son and heir, Thomas Nevill only nine years old. He seems to have parted with Pigotts Hall, for the next owner we find is William Cardinal, Esq., of Great Bromley, who died Aug. 7th, 1568, leaving it to his son William. He seems to have sold it to John Strut, of Hadleigh in Suffolk, gent, and from thence it passed to a family named Dawson. It later belonged to a family named 'Reeve' from whom it was purchased by its present owner, Mr. John Fenn. The house is now an old Farm House with a modern red-brick front.

III.—THE MANOR OF BOVILLS.

The Manor of Bovills or Bradvills derived its name from some owners who owned it in the reign of King Henry II. The Manor is what King William the Conqueror had given to Hugh de Gurnai, as we know from Domesday Book. This Hugh de Gurnai had attended William of Normandy in his campaign against Henry I. of France, and afterwards accompanied him to England. In his later days he became a monk in the Abbey of Bec in Normandy, to which Abbey he had been a Benefactor. He died there leaving by his wife Basilia, daughter of Girald Fleitall, two sons, Girald and Hugh. Girald the eldest, was a soldier. He and his wife Editha, sister of William, Earl of Warrenne, accompanied Robert Curthose to the Holy Land and died there. Hugh, his son and successor, was cared for and educated by King Henry I. as if he had been his own son. But he

proved ungrateful and rebellious to his benefactor. He married Maud, sister of Ralph de Peronne, Count of Vermandois, and dying in 1185 left Hugh his son and heir, who attended King Richard I. at the siege of Acre in the Holy Land and was made Governor of part of the Holy Land, accredited to the King of England. He was afterwards disloyal to King John and sided with the discontented Barons, for which his lands were seized. But he died in 1221 or 1222, and his lands were restored to his son Hugh by King Henry. This Hugh, however, also turned traitor, and in consequence all his lands, goods and chattels were forfeited. He died in 1237, and left by Lucy his wife, daughter of Robert de Berkley, Julian, his only daughter and heir, married to William Bardulf.

Probably this family of Gournai or Gournay did not live much at Ardleigh. They had estates also at Fordham and Liston, in Essex.

Richard de Bovill, from whom the Manor takes its name, was a rich man in the place, and a Benefactor to St. Botolph's Priory in Colchester, in the year 1189. Both he and William de Bovill were Benefactors to the Abbey of St. Osyth.

Afterwards this Manor also came into the possession of the Tey family, before mentioned. It was held of the Honor of Clare, *i.e.*, the holder instead of paying his due to the King, as was the case in the Manor of Pigotts, paid it to the Baronial Family, who held the estates of the Earldom of Clare. Thus Richard de Sutton, who was "enfeoffed" here in 1361 by Robert de Teye, payed one Knight's fee to the Honor of Clare. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, kept a lete (a kind of assize) at Bovills every year. A certain John

Teye, in 1462, held the estate of Cecily, Duchess of York, mother of King Edward IV. (as holder of the Honor of Clare). His estate at that time consisted of 100 acres of arable land, eight of wood, two of meadow. His son Henry died in 1510 and was succeeded by Sir Thomas Tey who died Dec. 31st, 1540, leaving four daughters. Frances, the youngest, brought it in marriage to her first husband, Thomas Bonham, Esq., whose son, Thomas Bonham, sold it in 1582, to John Southwell. He alienated it in 1583 to Edmund Bedingfield, who conveyed it in 1584 to Richard Bedingfield, who conveyed it in 1584 to Richard Bridgewater (Doctor of Laws), after whose death, his wife Judith came into possession in 1587. Their son, Richard Bridgewater, died May 10th, 1589, leaving a son and heir named Richard, who conveyed this estate in 1635 to William Theedham. Of him it was nearly purchased in 1645 by James Arwaker; but eventually Bezalier Gael purchased it in 1649 and sold it to Henry Lamb of Colchester in 1655. His son Henry succeeded him in 1677, and a Henry Lamb possessed it 90 years later in 1768. William Sandford Lambe sold it in 1849 to James Cuddon. He left it to his two sons, James and Francis, who sold it to Henry Edward Paine and Richard Brettell in 1870, who conveyed it to Edward Cubitt Francis, of Norwich, in 1871. In 1892 it was purchased by Charrington Nicholl, Esq., of Colchester, who died in 1905, greatly regretted in Ardleigh, where he will be long remembered for his kindness and beneficence.

IV.—THE MANOR OF MOSE HALL.

A third Manor in Ardleigh was that of Mose or Moose Hall, sometimes called Moyes or More Hall.

The land about here belonged to Robert Gernon at the time of the survey for the Domesday Book. His successors lived at Stansted Mōntfichet and were named successively, William, Gilbert, Richard and another Richard. At Stansted Mountfichet are the remains of a Castle built by William Gernon mentioned above. He founded the Abbey of Stratford Langthorn in West Ham. The first of the above Richards had the office of Forester and keeper of the King's Forest of Essex with the custody of the King's House at Havering under Henry II. In 1194 he attended King Richard I. on a visit to Normandy. The Castle of Hertford was given to him in 1200 and he was Sheriff of Essex in 1201 and died in 1203. The second Richard Gernon son of the first Richard, sided with the Barons against King John and was one of the twenty-five chosen to govern the realm. He was made prisoner at the battle of Lincoln in 1217 but was liberated and afterwards in 1236 made Justice of the King's Forests in Essex and in 1242 Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire and Governor of Hertford Castle. He died in 1258 leaving no children, but his large estates were divided among his three sisters, and Moze Hall fell to the share of Aveline who had married William de Fortz, Earl of Albemarle. He died in 1241, leaving a son, William, Earl of Albemarle, who left three sons who died, leaving among them two daughters. Of these the younger daughter, Aveline, came into possession of Moze Hall and married the son of the King of England in 1269. This prince is known as Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, second son of Henry III. He was deformed as his name implies, and there is a legend that he was really the elder son and should have been

King in place of Edward I. The tenant of the estates at this time seems to have been Richard de Pevelin. After this time we find Mose Hall was absorbed into the estates of the Tey family. Robert Tey held the manor in 1426, and his son John in 1446, whose son, John Tey at the time of his decease in 1462 held 200 acres of arable land, 20 acres of wood, 4 acres of meadow in Ardeleigh. His grandson, Sir Thomas Tey held these estates of the King as of the Priory of St. Botolph's in Colchester by fealty and eight shillings rent a year and died in 1540. Some of the lands must therefore have been presented at some time to the Priory of St. Botolph. In 1570 Peter Penant held Mose Hall and sold it to William Theedham, Gent., whose name is a familiar one in the Parish Register at this period. William Theedham sold the estate to John Wall, whose son Daniel Wall inherited it and was Vicar of Bromfield. One of his sons named Sherman Wall sold it to Ralph Creffield, Esq., who died in 1723 leaving it to his widow who afterwards married Charles Gray. It now belongs to the Round family.

V.—THE MANOR OF MARTELLS.

The fourth Manor in Ardeleigh is that of Martell's Hall, sometimes called Martyn's Hall. This estate was given at the Conquest by the King to Geoffrey de Magnaville, one of his Norman followers. The name of Martell comes from a family that lived here as under-tenants soon after the Norman Conquest. They owned also an estate called Martell's Hall in Rivenhall.

One William Martell, son of Geoffrey and Albreda his wife, founded the Priory of Snapes in 1155, and gave it as a cell to St. John's Abbey, Colchester.

1438, at the age of 14. The estate went to his sister Elizabeth, wife of David Mortimer, and now 22 years old. She died in 1452, leaving two sons, Robert and David. Robert Mortimer held this estate of the King by payment of the eighth part of a knight's fee. He died August 22nd, 1485, leaving a daughter Elizabeth, only 10 years old. She married George Gilford, and had considerable estates not only in Ardeleigh, but in Great Bromley, Harwich and Dovercourt. She sold the Ardeleigh estate in 1528 to William Mannock, Esquire, of Gifford's Hall, near Stoke-by-Nayland. The estate remained in the Mannock family for nine generations, or perhaps more, for it still belonged to them in 1764. In Stoke-by-Nayland Church may be seen the tombs of several of these Mannocks, and the brasses and one recumbent effigy give us an idea to-day what manner of men these owners of Martell's Hall were.

The estate is now in the possession of William Nocton, Esq., of Langham. The old house was pulled down and a modern small farm house built on the site a few years ago. It has been tenanted by the Lugar family for two or three generations.

VI.—THE CHURCH.

The first mention of a Church at Ardeleigh is in King Stephen's reign (1135-1154)—when Roger de Ramis, Lord of the Manor of Pigotts, gave the Church to the Abbey of St. John's Colchester. In 1237 the Abbot gave the Advowson to the Church of St. Paul and to the Bishop of London and his successors—reserving to the Abbey and to the Vicar of the Parish 13 marks yearly. Soon after the Advowson of the Vicarage

Another Martell, by name Ralph, owned land here and gave it to St. Botolph's Priory in Colchester, in the time of Henry II. William was his son, whose wife Felicia died in 1252. Ralph, her son, died in 1259, and John, his son, held this manor and died in 1307. His son William succeeded him. John Martel, living in 1317, married Alice, daughter of Benedict de Cokefield. William Martel, Esquire, was the next owner, and after him Thomas, who held this Manor of the Duchy of Lancaster. It is described in his day as lying in the parishes of Ardeley, Dedham, Grynsted and Elmested. He died on June 26th, 1424, and lies buried in Ardeleigh Church, the last male apparently of his race.

Formerly there was in the middle aisle of the Church a flat stone with this inscription:—

"Hic jacet Thomas Martell Armiger qui obiit xxvi. die mensis Junii anno Domini millesimo cccc xxxiii. Cujus animo ppitiet Deus. Amen."

And on the stone was carved the arms of Martell—consisting of three hammers. This name means hammer. There it was in 1642, and in the South aisle was a window with three coats of arms. But alas, all has gone. Perhaps Cromwell's soldiers destroyed the window at the time when Colchester was besieged. The next owner and Lord of the Manor of Martell's Hall was Elias Dorewood, son of Walter and grandson of Elias Dorewood, by Anne, daughter of John, son of Benedict de Cokefield. It will thus be seen that this Elias Dorewood, who now owned the estate, was a very remote relative of Thomas, the last of the Martells. Elias Dorewood died in 1426, leaving by Joane his wife three children, Elizabeth, Margaret, and William. William died in

was reserved to the Abbot with an endowment of 10 marks yearly to the Vicar, and a pension of 3 marks to the Abbey. The Rectory or Great Tithes were appropriated to the Archdeacon of Colchester. At the Reformation, the advowson of the Vicarage fell to the Crown, and it is still in the Patronage of the Lord Chancellor. Probably the Church has been many times re-built. The Tower and Porch now standing, are said to date from 1460. Morant writing in 1768 says, "the body of the Church was re-built a few years ago and less than it was before. The South Aisle is leaded, the rest tiled." The North aisle appears to have been re-built again shortly before 1841; and finally the whole Church, excepting the Tower and Porch were re-built by the efforts of Canon Perry, Vicar of Ardeleigh, in 1882.

The Church is dedicated to St. Mary. The Porch is "large and handsomely built, with a mixture of free stone and flints." On the front of it is this inscription:—"Orate pro animabus Johannis Hunte, at ye Wode, et Aliciæ uxoris ejus, Johannis Hunte, Williemi Hunte." "Pray for the souls of John Hunt at the Wood and Alice his wife, [also] of John Hunte William Hunt." Within may be seen the remains of the Holy Water Stoup. The Tower contains eight bells. The paintings in the Sanctuary, which are much admired are in memory of the late Canon Perry. There are no monuments of any age. In the South-Eastern corner of the Church are the remains of a Canopy, wherein a statue no doubt once stood. It has been preserved from the demolition of the old Church, and it is conjectured that it may have contained a statue of St. Margaret, whose day was apparently celebrated with much ceremony here,

or a statue of the Virgin Mary to whom the Church is dedicated. It will be noticed also that the old Screen and old Door have been carefully preserved as far as possible. The oldest tombstone in the Churchyard is dated 1697, and is in memory of Mr. Robert Stephens, gent. The handsome Lych Gate was the gift of Mr. Charrington Nicholl in 1897—the diamond Jubilee year of Queen Victoria.

VII.—THE COURT ROLLS.

The Court Rolls of the Manor of Bovills, together with some of those of the other Manors, have been preserved and date back to 1360. The following notes may be of interest:—

Here is a translation of the oldest dated, 1360:

“Bovilles. A Court held there on the day of Venus next after the festival of Saint Martin in the 33rd year of the reign of King Edward the third after the Conquest.

“John at Tye is fined 2d. for running his pigs in the forest and in our pasture. William at Hel [the Hill] for running his pigs in the pasture and in the forest 2d. John Gylemyn, junior, is fined 2d. for the same. John Stephene is fined 3d. for the same. John Gosse is fined 2d. for the same with his pigs at Mosse [probably Moze Hall.] Robert at Lee [at the Meadow] confesses to transgression in the pasture with three of his pigs. He is fined 2d. William Gosfield pleads guilty to the same and is fined 2d. John Norhamton pleads guilty to the same with his pigs and is fined 2d. Eustace at Hache confesses that he pastured on the common of the Lord at Brendehath [Burnt Heath] without license. He is fined 2d.

What did the country look like 500 years ago? Probably there were more trees. A frequent offence mentioned is the cutting down of a tree on the Lord's domain without license. Thus, in 1384, John Pyncel cut down an oak tree valued at 8d., and he is made to do eight-pennyworth of work for the Lord as a fine. Another oak cut down by Richard Mellere in a wood called Bretemlishet is valued at 4d. Hedges are also mentioned. Elena, wife of Walter Knoleman, at the same date was fined 4d. for breaking down and carrying away some of the Lord's hedges.

Mention is also made of fish and fish-ponds, which were evidently of some value. Thus, Robert atte Weye, in 1387, “entered private land of the Lord and blocked up the fish and fish-pond to the heavy damage of the Lord.”

In the same year—“Item that John atte Weye has hunted and is a frequent hunter on the private land of the Lord and places snares on the same lands and with them captures pheasants, partridges or other birds.”

In 1534 it is decided that “Consultation be held with the Lord of the Manor about erecting stocks within his domain.”

Of trades mentioned as existing in Ardleigh in the 14th and 15th centuries, we may note those of Cooper, Waiver, Dyzer, Tiler, Husbandman, Wever, Smith. Mention is made of a Pound in 1477, when William Warner broke the Pound-fold of the Lord and took out fourteen of his calves imprisoned there for trespassing on the pasture of John Wylly. He was fined sixpence.

The earliest mention of the office of Constable is in 1492, when Thomas Nevard was elected to that

“It is ordered to distrain on William Chapman and William Morant for pasturing on the common of the Lord at Brendehath.

“It is ordered to distrain on Robert le Ponder because he has enclosed 4 acres of the common of the Lord at Brendehath

“It is ordered at once to distrain on William Payn for 8d. being rent due for 8 years for one croft of land formerly belonging to John at Lee. And he [William Payn presumably] made satisfaction to the Lord.

“John the Clerke for not coming to the court is fined 2d.”

The fines for the whole day's work amount to 21 pence.

Here are a few extracts from other rolls of this period:—

“In 1377 John at Helle [at the Hill] has trespassed into the Lord's woods with his sheep and done damage to the amount of 40d!

“Thomas Marcel has committed ‘many transgressions’ with his sheep in the Lord's woods and seems hard to get hold of. The damage is estimated at 6/8.

“Thomas Marcel in 1383 seems to have given much trouble. Different indictments are made against him for trespasses with a bull, with cows, with sheep, and with dogs. Further he and Adam Myhel with other of their domestic servants enclosed four acres of land and refused to surrender it. The Court determines to go and pull down the fences.

“In 1387 Gilbert Level is fined 6d. for allowing his house to be in bad condition! The house was called Sheredewys.”

office by the ‘Homage’ of the Court and made to take the oath. After that frequent mention is made of the office of Constable. He was elected yearly by the Homage. The custom existed until quite modern times. Several old truncheons and hand-cuffs are preserved in the parish chest.

In 1523 the Prior of St. Botolph's, Colchester, is summoned to appear at the next Court—“to show to the Lord by what right and title he holds the tenement lately belonging to William Gossys and to pay to the Lord certain debts, &c.

In the year 1540 John Cook is elected “Taster” for a year and takes the oath. In later Courts mention is made of “Ale-tasters” being elected. The office of these men was to taste the bread, ale and other victuals sold in the village to see whether they were good.

Also in 1537 mention is made of ‘Decennarii’ or ‘Tithing-men.’ “Item, it is ordered to all Tithing-men who are within the precinct of this court-lete that they be here at the next covrt-lete under penalty to each of them of paying to the Lord twelve-pence.”

They are frequently mentioned in later Court Rolls. Their office was to see that all offenders on the Manor were presented to the Court by the Homage or Jury.

In 1588 occurs the following interesting entry—“And because many tenants of this Manor have made default at this Court, but it appeareth to the Homage that they are in the service of the said Lady our Queen at West Tylbury in defence of the kingdom of England against the Spaniards. therefore their defaults are pardoned.” The reference is to the Invasion of the Spanish Armada.

Reference is made sometimes to village squabbles. Thus in 1516—"Thomas Baker, John Stevyn, Robert Hunt and Richard Warren are elected Arbitrators between John Page and John Hayward to arbitrate and make peace between the aforesaid persons for all matters and causes pending in debate between them—before the next Court—under penalty that each of them who may be disobedient shall forfeit to the Church of this village 10 shillings and to the Lady of the Manor another 10 shillings."

VIII.—OLD DOCUMENTS.

The following is a copy of the Churchwardens' Accounts of 1550 to 1552. They show how in these years a strong tide of "Protestantism" had set in after the re-action towards the old Religion in the last years of Henry VIII., and beginning of Edward VI.'s reign. The Altar—presumably of stone—was broken up and a wooden "Communion Table" took its place. The sale of Brass and "Latyne" means alas almost certainly that monumental brasses were torn up and sold for the value of the metal. We know this was done in Puritan times, on the plea that these things were "superstitious." We learn that St. Margaret's Day was held as a great Festival in Ardleigh for some reason. Perhaps Queen Margaret, mother of Henry VII. had been a Benefactress to our Church—as she was to so many others at the end of the 15th century. This tended—we know—to make St. Margaret a popular Patron Saint at that time. Who can say how valuable the two chalices, "gilt and partly gilt," the books, the "old pewter," so ruthlessly sold by these Churchwardens, would be in these days? The 2½ "Seams" of lime were no doubt

Item off John Archer ffor dette to the Chyrche	xx ^d
Item resauyt of John Lambe ffor Increase	xiiiij ^s
Item resauyt off Roland Vynton ffor olde pewter	vj ^s vjd
Item resauyt off Lawrence Lyttle ffor Increase... ..	viiij ^s
Item resauyt off John Jeynkyn of Colchester for ij chals [? chalices] xij cruetts gylte & pcell [? partly] gylte weying xxxij ti ownces ffor every ownce vij ^s Abatyl [a bottle] xx ^d . In the hole	xi ⁱⁱ ij ^s ijd
Item resauyt off John Sayer ffor dette to the Chyrche	x ^s
Item off Thomas Dyxe for dette to the Chyrche	xi ^s
Item off John Cowey the yonger ffor dette to the chyrche	vi ^s viii ^d
Item off the Wydo Netarde ffor dette to the chyrche	iiij ^s iiij ^d
Item resauyt off Wellys the Bowyer ffor dette whych John Hunte dyd owe to the chyrche	iiii ⁱⁱ
Item off hym ffor the Increase off the same	viiij ^s
Item resauyt off John flaysye for Increase whych was due at Crystmas in the iiiij th yere	viiij ^s viij ^d
Item resauyt ffor iiij boschells off pease	v ^s iiij ^d
Item resauyt ffor ij boschells tyme ...	vj ^d
Item resauyt off Thom Greneleff ffor dette to the chyrche	xiiij ^s iiij ^d

Sum xxxviiijⁱⁱ xvij^s viii^d ob.
[i.e. £38 17s. 8½d.]

used to whitewash over the old mural paintings. The wax presumably was the remains of old wax candles offered at some shrine,—probably to an image of the Virgin, as the Church is dedicated to her:—

Ardleygh. The acownts of Thomas Parker and Gyles Alen chyrchewardens ffrom the xxth day off Aprill in the iiiijth yere off the reign off or Soffereyn Lord Kyng Edward the VIth unto the xxiiijth day off September In the VIth yere off or sayd Soffereygn Lorde the Kyng.

ffirst resauyt [received] off the Acawnts of Hary Newton & Wylliam Louerain	v ^s vii ^d
Item resauyt [received] off Robert fyllys off many-tree [Manningtree] ffor boks solde to hym	xx ^s
Item off the same Robert ffor brasse & latyne	xxxv ^s
Item off the same Robert ffor an olde whyte mothe eatyn vestement, ij olde Albs with ij chesables... ..	xxxvi ^s viii ^d
Item off hym ffor an olde baner clothe...	xx ^d
Item we resauyt [received] on Saynt Margarets day at the drynkyn	iii ^s viii ^d
Item resauyd [received] off Symond Everard ffor a brokyn Spytte	ij ^s ob
Item resauyt ffor a pece off olde Tymber	xx ^d
Item resauyt ffor an other pece off olde Tymber	ij ^s
Item resauyt off ffacone off Colchester, Glasger [Glazier] ffor vij pece off cope & vestements gode & badde	x ⁱⁱ — xx ^d
Item off hym ffor olde waxe	xj ^s iiij ^d
Item resauyt off Rychard Hayward ffor dette owying to the Chyrche	vij ^s iiij ^d

PAYMENTS BY US THE ABOVE SAYD THOMAS & GYLS.

ffirst payd at Colchester at the byshopps vysytacion ffor syche chargs as hap-penyd to Those yt were comaundyth thither	iiij ^s vj ^d
Item payd ffor costs when we solde the boks and other thyngs... ..	xij ^d
Item payd ffor the chyrche gods [goods] to the seconde parte off the releff ...	xviii ^s
Item payd to a Surgeon Towards the curyng off Luffkyns man	vj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to Sefford ffor breakyng upp the Awter [altar, probably a stone one] and caryng out the same	xx ^d
Item payd to a Surgeon ffor healyng off Peter Chace his wyffs hande	iiij ^s
Item payd to Wylliam Wace ffor makyng the comunion Table	viiij ^d
Item ffor nayls for the same	ob.
Item payd for a newe key ffor the greate cheste	xviii ^d
Item payd on Saynt Margarets day ffor half a barell bere, iiij dozen off bread and ffor chese ffor pore folks	viiij ^s ii ^d
Item payd to Wylliam Loveron ffor halff a Tonne & vj fote off Tymber ...	iiii ^s
Item ffor the costs of Gyls Alen & his horse at Thorpe when the chyrchewardens & the constables were comaundynt to come byfore the kyngs Justyces	vj ^d
Item at the offycyalls vysytacion ffor the costs off ij off us	xiiij ^d

Item payd ffor matts ffor the chyrche ...	ij ^a xj ^d
Item gyven by us to mother Sunday In alms ffor iiij weks	xvj ^d
Item in Alms to mother Hamon agaynst Crystmas	viiij ^d
Item in Alms to Wydo Netard yonger agaynst Crystmas	iiij ^d
Item payd for mendyng the bells ffor meyte & wages... ..	xij ^d
Item in Alms to John Cowey the Elder & his wyff before Crystmas	viiij ^d
Item to Seffords for mendyng the gutter off the chyrche in snowetyme	ij ^d
Item in Alms to mother Sunday apon Ashe Wedynseday.	iiij ^d
Item in Alms to mother Sunday every weke in lent iiij ^d	ij ^a
Item payd to a Surgeon Towards the healyng off a pore man	iiij ^a iiij ^d
Item in alms to Mother Sunday ffor v weks endyng apon Trynyte Sunday ...	xx ^d
Item in Alms to mother Sunday ffor other vj weks	ij ^a
Item payd ffor makyng the Towe Butts	xvj ^a iiij ^d
Item in iiij Seams off rye whyche we bought ffor the pore yt coste evry boschell iiij ^a iiij ^d we gave thaim in the price [?] in evry boschell viij ^d & too we lost	xxj ^a iiij ^d
Item we bought more come and malte the quantite off xiiij seams in all and we lost in the measure and in the makyng cleane off hyt... ..	xv ^a j ^d

Item we bought hearyngs [herrings] both whyte & reade ffor the pore flowks iiij barells of whyte & v cads of reade and the caryage coste	iiij ^a
Item the costs off those yt bought thaim in ij days	xiii ^d
Item in Alms to mother Sunday for other v weks	xx ^d
Item in Rewardyng a preacher wt iiij ^a iiij ^d we payd	xv ^d ob
Item in Alms to mother Sunday one other tyme	vj ^d
Item payd for ij Seams & an half off lyme for the chyrche	v ^a
Item ffor bread & drynke ffor hym yt brought hyt	j ^d ob
Item payd to a brekelayer & his man ffor ij days meyte & wags	iiij ^a
Item ffor makyng cleane the chyrche ...	ij ^d
Item payd to a Glasyer ffor glasyng the wyndows in ye Chyrche	xij ^a
Item we have v boschells off pease yt coste every boschell xx ^d lefte off the provysyon for the pore... ..	viiij ^a iiij ^d
Item payd to Grene Carpenter ffor makyng fforms and mendyng stols in the chyrche and ffor makyng a styele against the chyrche yerd	iiij ^a viij ^d
Item we lende to Hary Everarde ...	xiiij ^a vj ^a viij ^d
Item we lende to Wylliam Syre ...	xij ^a
Sum of all or payments & lende monies	xxxiiij ^a vii ^a v ^d ob
So remaynynt in saffe keypyng in or costodye In the Chyrche v ^a x ^a iiij ^d	

IX.—OLD DOCUMENTS.

The following two Documents are extracts of presentments made by the Churchwardens of Ardleigh in the years 1735 & 1770 in answer to a form of questions sent to them by the Bishop. They are copied from the Registers of the Diocese of London.

A PRESENTMENT FOR ARDLEIGH, 4TH JUNE, 1735.

- Article ye 5th** Our Font is not of Stone only y^a Pedestall it is y^a same that have been for many years.
- Article ye 7th** We have no hood nor have had for many years.
- Article ye 12th** The fence which separate ye Vicarage Yard from the Church being shattered and rotten a new one has been made. Close adjoining and touching ye Pales stood 7 Ash trees planted, as is conceived foran Orniment to yefront of the Vicarage House, which, one being dead and ye rest being in part decayed, ye Vicar cut ym down apprehending ym a nuisance as they darkened ye house and hindered ye prospect. Some of those trees he applied towards a fence parting his backyard from ye garden. Ye rest lie in the Churchyard ready for any future uses about ye house or yard for which they shall be judged proper.
- Article ye 19th** The time of our Ministers Catechizing is in Lent when he gives notice for the children to be sent and during yt time he catechize twice or thrice a week those yt will come.

- Article ye 21st** [Adultery or Fornication or Incest.] There is some in our Parish yt lie under ye scandall of those first two crimes but how far it may be credited we cannot tell.
- Article ye 22nd** [Swearers or Drunkards.] There is some reported to lye under ye scandall of those two fallts but whether true we cannot say.
- Article ye 23rd** There is those (we have observed) yt absent themselves from their Parish Church and we are designed to inquire whether they attend any other place of worship if not to give y^m notice to attend and upon y^m neglect of such notice to present them.
- Article ye 24th** As our Ale house keeper dwel upon ye great roads they do draw some beer on ye Sabboth but we do not remember to have seen any disguised with liquor on y^a day at their houses since we have been in office.
- Article ye 33rd** There was a poor man yt kept a private school and we believe without a license but we never inquired, for he is since removed more distant from us and whether he keeps a school now we cannot tell. If he do it must be with very few Schollars for he is not a man fitt for that profession so yt very few people will trust their children with him.

As to all ye rest of ye articles that we have not mentioned we can answer they are (nearly) well.

WM. LUGAR,
ROBT. BRADSTRETT.

EXTRACTS FROM ANOTHER DOCUMENT, DATED 1770.
Ardley. Answer of the Churchwardens to the Articles of enquiry by the Right Revd. the Bishop of London, given in May 18th, 1770.

1. Our Parish Church with the Chancel and Tower are in good repair.
 4. There is a convenient pew for the Minister to read Divine Service and a decent Pulpit for him to preach in, a fitting surplice but we have no hood.
- Our Minister is a person of a sober unblameable and exemplary life.
- He preaches constantly every Sunday in all the service he gives the king and Royal Family their proper Titles.
- He administers the Sacrament of the Lords Supper seven times a year of which Easter is one.
- He catechises the youth of the Parish every Wednesday and Friday during Lent.
- There are to our grief many swearers and Drunkards but they are too many to be recollected, proved or set down.
- There are doubtless many who do not go to any place of Divine worship but it is impossible to ascertain them.
- We have a very good congregation at Church who behave themselves reverently and orderly there and the rest have not wanted admonition.
- We have no shops open or business transacted on the Lord's Day and the Public Houses are often Visited to see if any are tipping there during Divine Service.

Twice a year apparently there was a Parish Dinner at the King's Head or at one of the Inns—when the Overseers, Constables, and Churchwardens and others sat down. Always the drink bill was the heaviest item. Thus we have one bill :—

“Easter Meeting Ardleigh Kingshead.

	£	s.	d.
To 33 Dinners at 2/-	3	6	0
To Beer	12	6	
To Gin Rum and Brandy and Water &c	14	6	
To Wine 28 Bottles at 4/6	5	6	0
To Beer for Southgate, Mum- ford, James and Long	4	0	
To tolling the Bell Beer and Spirits for Davey	0	9	
	<hr/>		
	£11	3	9”

This is but a sample and there is no date on this bills—but no doubt it was early in the 19th Century. The Parish paid £5 out of the Rates for these dinners latterly—but it appears that originally they paid the whole. There was Beer for the Ringer, beer for the “Jury men,” beer for the “Singers,” &c., &c.

The references to Coach-travelling are interesting and will be more so as time goes on. We learn the various Inns where the Coaches stopped and where invariably there seems to have been some refreshment which was charged by the Parish Officers when they journeyed to the Parish. In 1822 for instance the Overseer for some reason was sent at the charge of the Parish to Kersey, in Suffolk, to be present at a

A woman in the Parish teaches what children are sent to her by charity or otherwise. She teaches them their catechism and performs her office to the best of her power.

The Vicar has only a glebe of 2 acres and a half, a House, Garden and Orchard, Stable, Coach house &c and forty shillings a year paid from the great tithes.

EDWD INGRAM Churchwarden.

The other is gone to Barth for his health.

X.—GLEANINGS FROM OLD PARISH BOOKS AND BILLS.

The old documents, torn and tattered, and fast rotting to dust give us a glimpse of the manners and customs in Ardleigh, one hundred years ago. A great many of these concern the Workhouse and show how much or how little was spent on feeding and clothing the Paupers. It is difficult to say—without very minute calculations—whether they lived well or badly. One thing is certain: that they had plenty to drink. Bill after Bill exists for liquor consumed at the Workhouse, or given by the Parish Doctor to those suffering from the Small Pox or other diseases. Gin, Brandy, Peppermint, Beer, seem to have been most liberally disbursed. But it was not only the Paupers who drank much. One cannot help being struck with the heavy drink bills over and over again. If work was done at the Church or at the Workhouse, if there was a Burial or the Bounds of the Parish were beaten, or the Bells rung, *always* there is an allowance for Beer. Sometimes this is expressed :—

“Lowance for Beer 2d. in the 1s.” &c.
or even “Lowance for Beer 4d. in the 1s.” &c.

wedding—for which the Parish even paid the License. The following is his bill :—

1822 parish of Ardleigh to J. B— Senr
for Expenses Attending the marriage of
E— R— B— of this parish to J— C—
of Kersey Suffolk.

	£	s.	d.
Ap 23 Paid at Bilderstone Bull	5	5	½
24 Paid at Higham Kingshead	1	9	½
Paid at Black Swan, Hadleigh	3	9	
Paid at Royal William Ipswich	5	2	
25 Paid at Lyon East Bergholt	2	9	
Paid at Hare and Hounds East Bergholt	17	6	
Paid S. J—	2	6	
Paid at Manningtree	5	10	
Paid Tollgates	11		
Paid License and Church fees	4	4	0
Paid for examination	6	0	
Paid Marriage lines	1	0	
Horse Cart and Self 3 days	15	0	
	<hr/>		
	8	11	8
Paid S— J— for his time	4	6	
	<hr/>		
Settled &c &c	8	16	2

We gather from these old bills what were the chief duties of the Constables. They “relieved passengers” with money—i.e., poor people passing through—sometimes described as “shipwrecked” people. On the other hand they constantly make a charge for “searching for Vagrants.” They made lists of Jury men and of men capable of serving in the

Militia, lists of waggons and materials which might be required in case of war. They summoned Publicans frequently and occasionally shut people in prison. The following few items from their bills represent very fairly their duties and charges :—

	s.	d.
1788. Relieven two Woman five children	1	0
1804. To putting Boyls in Cage by order	2	6
1806. Summoning 8 waggons for baggage	8	0
Journey about the Parish after Vagrants	5	0
To apprehending Boy Saunders and putting him in the Cage by order	4	0
1807. To making a large list of all names liable to serve	10	6
1810. To summons 4 Publicans	4	0
Journey to convey Vagrants to prison	10	6
1809 To billiting soldiers	1	0

There is, however, an old printed list of duties required of the Constable and Overseers of the Parish. Unhappily it has no date but must be at least prior—probably considerably prior—to 1823. Here are a few of the duties thus laid down by authority ;—

1. You shall enquire or certify whether any Riots, Routs or other Breaches of the Peace have been committed within your Parish since the last Quarter Sessions, not having been complained of to some Justices of the Peace for the County.

Lord's day, repaired to some Church, Chapel, or other usual Place appointed for the Church-Service, as it is mentioned in the Book of Common Prayer, and hear the same: and also what Carriers, Drovers or Butchers have offended against the Statutes for the Observation of the said Day by travelling, killing or selling Victuals upon the said Day: and what Persons have gone out of their own Parishes to be present at any Pastime prohibited by Law.

9. You shall enquire and certify what Persons are Depravers of the said Church-Service or Common Prayer-Book, and what Persons to the number of Five or more, being of several Families, have, contrary to the late Statute, assembled themselves within your Parish, upon Pretence of serving God in a way dissonant from what is established by law; you shall deliver in their Names, together with the Time and Place of their Meeting.
10. You shall enquire and certify what Stock of Money is provided in your Town, for setting the Poor on Work, whether the same be sufficient to set such Poor on Work as are able Bodies, &c &c. And what Poor Children are fit to be put out Apprentices &c &c.
12. You are to enquire and certify whether you have any Popish Recusants, profane Cursers and Swearers, and who they are, by whom entertained and encouraged in your Parish, &c.

The Church Wardens Books and Bills are also full of interest. It seems strange—especially in a Sporting County—that one of the duties of a Church

2. You shall enquire and certify whether Hue and Cry hath been made and duly observed according to the Statute for apprehending of Rogues and Felons, whether Ward by Day, or Watch by Night, for the apprehending of Rogues and Vagabonds, and whether good order be duly observed, and by whose Default the same hath been neglected.
3. You shall enquire and certify who hath been remiss in apprehending such Rogues and Vagrants, as come to their Doors, &c &c.
4. You shall enquire or certify what Servants or Apprentices have been put out of their Service, or have put themselves out, their Time not being expired: and when this has happened, and in whose Default, and what is become of them. And what unmarried persons of able Bodies live out of Service, that have no means to maintain themselves, and what Persons live idly, or will not work for Reasonable Wages, or whether Servants or Labourers do not take greater wages than is allowed them by the Statutes.
5. You shall enquire and certify what Taverns, Inns, Ale Houses or Victualling-houses, are in your Parish &c &c. And what Keeper of Inns Taverns or Ale Houses in your said Parish have entertained People to sit tipling in their Houses since the last Quarter-Sessions and which of them have kept ill Order, by receiving Vagrants, or other suspicious Persons, or have suffered unlawful games to be used there.
8. You shall enquire and certify what Persons within your respective Limits, have not, every

Warden should be to pay for the killing of Foxes. Yet from 1788, onwards for several years, the sum of 6/8 was paid by the Church Wardens to certain individuals for each Fox killed or trapped. An item for "keeping the boys still in the Gallery" also constantly occurs. From 1777, onwards for several years, a pound of Gunpowder was paid for on November 5th—showing that the Guy Fawkes celebrations were ardently kept up. The Church constantly needed repair. In 1777, the sum of £229 3s. 2d. was expended on it. In 1798, a Gallery was built for the Singers and the Children of the Sunday School; and evidently the greater part of the Church was arranged in big Family Pews. Again in 1805 and 1829, new Pews were constructed. In 1805 there is the following bill :—

At Ardleigh Church by Robt Stebbing.

	£	s.	d.
May & June. 553 yards painted at			
8d. per yard	18	8	8
4 large windows Painted Both sides at 5/- each	1	0	0
Cleaning and Varnishing			
Picture	3	6	
	19	12	2

In 1806 it appears the Tower was injured by Telegraph wires. A bill for plumbing done in Ardleigh Steeple, amounting to £4 18s. 3d., has written on it: "These bills settled by Government for damage done by telegraph." Again in 1813 the Government paid £10 towards the expenses of re-leading the roof.

Here are a few extracts from the Church Warden's and Overseers' bills against the Parish:—

	£	s.	d.	
1788-9 June 15	Paid Robain Mason for trapping a Bitch Fox ...	0	6	8
1800 Feb 14	Paid Herrington for killing a Bitch Fox ...	0	6	8
	A Form of Prayer for the Clark ...	0	0	3
March 8	Paid G. Jakes for a Fox ...	0	6	8
April 4	Pd Southgate and Marchant for teaching the children on Sundays ...	1	1	0
1801-2	Paid Mr Bull for the alteration upon the Gallery ...	3	17	3½
	Paid ditto for the alteration in the maids Pew ...	2	7	10
	Paid Marchant for teaching the children on Sundays ...	1	1	0
1804 Jan 16	Paid Mr Briant for re-casting the 5th Bell 28 p. cwt ...	18	1	0
27	Munnings for casting the Brasses for the Bells ...	5	2	8
Ap 2	Pd Long for keeping the boys still on the gallery ...	5	0	
	Pd Bull and Vince for 2 Ringing Days, each £1 4s. od. ...	2	8	0
1805 Ap 15	Pd Long for keeping the Boys still in the Gallery ...	10	0	
	Pd Stebbing a bill for painting inside the Church ...	18	17	7
1806	To putting slak [? stake] up at Cage ...	2	6	

coast, as communicated by the Minister to Parliament, I have thought it my duty to number my Parishioners, which I have done by a domiciliary visitation: that in the event of an actual invasion, such a list may be useful either to assemble us in order to make resistance, or, in case of dispersion, to enable us, upon our return to discover and ascertain our respective claims and settlements." There were then 102 families in Ardleigh, containing in all 593 males and 552 females, total 1145. The number of males between 15 and 60, capable of bearing arms, was found to be 352.* The room at the Vicarage, known as "The Parish Room," is said to be an old wooden hut in which soldiers were quartered at this time at Clacton. The Rev. H. Bishop, a few years later, erected it at Ardleigh. It is said that some of the officers names were formerly scratched on the windows.

There exists among the Ardleigh records a collection of forms filled in by order of Government at this time relating to the defence of this part, if the enemy should land. Unhappily there is no date attached. Schedule I. is entitled "Form of paper to be given in, shewing the Live and Dead Stock of the Parish of Ardleigh." From this form, duly filled in, there appear to have been 41 people farming or possessing stock of some sort. The numbers are carefully given of sheep, cows, horses, &c., the numbers of acres growing carrots and turnips, the amount of seed in hand and the value of implements of husbandry.

Schedule II. is a "Return of Overseers and Persons for the removal of Waggons, cattle, horses, livestock, &c."

* In 1811 the Population was returned at 1186; in 1821 it stood at 1387; in 1831 it was 1545. The reason given for females exceeding males in number is that the young men were constantly being taken off for the Mercantile Marine Service.

1807	For Wings in the year [?] ...	6
1808 June 4	A Communion Table Cloth and Pulpit Cushion made of superfine Crimson Cloth fringed and Tassalls ...	7 4 0
1809 July 7	Paid Winch for killing a Bitch Fox ...	6 8
Oct 2	Form of Prayer for Clark ...	3
Nov 8	Pd Doc' Kelly a Year Rent Church Yard ...	15 0
Mar 15	Omitted Exps perambulation last year ...	1 1 0
Ap 2	Pd Mr Bull for Hanging Bells and repairing Wheels ...	13 19 4½
1821 Oct 5	Item For Toling the Bell For the Queens Burial By Mr. Bishop's order ...	2 0
1824 June 12	Pd for 2 Brifes ...	0 2 0
	Pd for repairing Bassoon ...	0 2 6
Aug 21	Pd for 6 Dorses for the use of the Church ...	0 6 0

XI.—FEAR OF A FRENCH INVASION.

In the early years of the 19th century there was perpetual fear of a French invasion. Minute particulars were written down as to how many wagons, horses, how much bread, how many men, &c., &c., could be raised at a few hours notice. The Vicar, John Kelly, in 1796, took the trouble to count up his Parishioners with their various ages. He writes in one of the Registers:—"In consequence of the avowed intention of the French to make a descent upon the

Twenty-three names of persons are given who are to carry such persons as are unable to move themselves. The very wagons are named which are to convey certain people's wives and children. The Workhouse people and Indigent Poor are described as "innumerable," yet only one wagon is set apart to convey them all.

Schedule IV. shows "the number of persons between 15 and 60 willing to act as Pioneers or Labourers, and willing to be classed in Companies under such Leaders or Captains from their own body as may be approved by the Civil Authority." It is recommended that they should form themselves into companies of 25 to 75 men. There are exactly 75 names on the Schedule and John Vince is named as Captain. They undertake to provide 25 Felling axes, 11 Pick axes, 13 Spades, 4 Shovels, 16 Bill Hooks, 7 Saws. It appears that William Francis and Abraham Polley Senior were also to act as Leaders. Schedule V is "Names and Residences of Persons appointed to act as Guides, being mounted and chosen from amongst the most intelligent residentees in the Parish." Under this distinguished title are three names, viz:—

William Simson Ardleigh
John Venn* "
Henry Gardiner "

The last is described as "armed and accoutred with Sabre and Pistols."

Schedule VI. is a "Form of a paper to be subscribed by the Nobility, Gentry and Yeomanry," who are prepared to provide wagons, men, horses, &c., &c.

* Probably should be Fenn.

There were sixteen subscribed, viz:—

Henry Blomfield	Phillip Fearis
William Cook	William Simson
Thomas Cooper	Phillips Bromley
John Fenn	Isaac Rogers
Daniel Cooper	Sheppard Stammers
Samuel Lott	Marshall Lugar
Stephen Dunningham	Samuel Abrey
Benjamin Nice	Alexander Keeble

XII.—A LIST OF THE VICARS OF ARDLEIGH

So far as they can be discovered.

	Robert Ward	1531	Richard Borowghe
1371	Stephen Balton	1544	William Johnson
	John Gresham	1569	Lawrence Lyde
1427	William Cosby	1602	Geoffrey Alderton
1432	Richard Weynge		Gabriel Honey-fold
1439	John Awbrey	1642	John Notles
1452	Thomas Seley		John Doughty
1454	Adam Sabyu	1662	Stephen Brewer
1456	Roger Chaplaine	1664	John Doughty
1457	Thomas Benet	1723	Lawrence Jackson
1460	Thomas Thurton	1772	Nathaniel Forster
1462	Thomas Fray	1791	John Kelly
	Edmund Salter	1806	Henry Bishop
1474	John Javyn	1851	Charles Cuthbert
	John Graveley		Southey
1506	John Baldwyn	1855	James Todd
1521	Alexander Cooke	1872	Thomas Walter Perry
1526	Robert Harvy	1891	Greville Turrier Hales
1527	John Smyth	1897	Frederick Joseph Ball
1528	Thomas Lownd	1902	Reginald Hall Grubbe
1529	Thomas Wilkinson		

Richard Borowghe (1531) would have witnessed the Reformation. He may have been the first married Priest, as baptisms of Robert, Margaret, Grisell, and

another Margaret—children of Richard Bowrough,—are mentioned in the Registers dated 1560, 1563, 1565, 1567. Lawrence Lyde (1560) writes his name on every page at the beginning of the oldest register, certifying that it is a correct copy of previous registers. He married Alice Allen (a great Ardleigh family at that date) in 1571, and had two children, Lydia and Anna, baptised at Ardleigh. Geoffrey Alderton (1602) had three sons baptised at Ardleigh, and was buried there himself in 1612. Gabriel Honeyfold may have succeeded Alderton in 1612. He is mentioned elsewhere in this book as having been stoned and hooted at by the mob of Colchester in 1642. He took refuge in the jail, and was then 70 years of age. He was evidently turned out or died that year. The two John Doughty are probably father and son. They are mentioned frequently in the Court Rolls and owned land. The latter John Doughty seems to have had eleven children baptised in Ardleigh. There is a large marble monument in the Church in memory of Lawrence Jackson. It is written in elegant Latin and tells us that he and his wife are buried just outside the Church. He died in 1772, aged 81. John Kelly (1791) was a Doctor of Laws, and apparently a man of some importance in the neighbourhood. Henry Bishop was Curate for 4 years, before being Vicar for 45 years. Charles Cuthbert Southey (1851) was son of the Poet, and exchanged the living for one in Dorsetshire. Thomas Walter Perry was an expert in Ecclesiastical Law. By his efforts the Nave and Chancel of the Church were rebuilt in 1883, in which year he was made Canon of St. Albans. Greville Turner Hales left Ardleigh for the living of St. Mary-at-the-Walls, Colchester.

XIII.—SOME ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH AND BENEFACTIONS, &c.

Ardleigh is the possessor of a beautiful old silver Chalice and Paten. The Paten has the inscription: "I.H.S. Made Anno Dmi 1584 April 21," and forms a cover to the Chalice. There is also a Plated Flagon, Paten and Chalice, of which the two former pieces bear the inscription: "I.H.S. Ardleigh 1816." There is a third Chalice and Paten, silver-gilt, dated 1883. The Bells are eight in number. The following are the inscriptions on the six oldest:—

John Darbie made me 1676 [of Ipswich].

John Darbie made me 1675 Thomas Lufkin CW.

Fecit 1727 Thomas Gardiner Sudbury.

Charles Newman made mee 1689 [of Norwich].

J. Briant Hertford fecit 1802. P. Bromley and T. Cooper C Wardens.

Sum Rosa Pulsata Mundi Vocata [probably dates from 1450].

In the Vestry is the old Altar Table removed after the Church was rebuilt in 1883. It is probably of the 17th or 18th century.

The Registers go back to 1555, and have been on the whole well kept.

In 1642, when the Civil War broke out and Puritan destruction began, the entries are few until after the Restoration. There are no entries of Burials 1642—1653 and 1655—1660. The Baptisms fail between 1637 and 1641, but those between 1648 and 1653 are entered probably at a later date and are few in number. The marriages are wanting from 1642 to 1653 and from 1654 to 1661.

- 920 The Danes capture and fortify Colchester.
- 991 The Danes plunder Ipswich and march to Maldon.
- 993 The Danes plunder Ipswich.
- 1010 Battle at Ipswich by which the Danes completely conquer all this part of the country.
- 1066 Norman Conquest—Battle of Hastings.
- 1086 Doomsday Book. Ardleigh is now found to be divided among four Norman nobles.
- 1208 The whole of England laid under an Interdict by Pope Innocent III. No Marriages, no Burial-Service, no celebrations of the Lord's Supper allowed.
- 1237 The Abbot of St. John's, Colchester gives the Advowson of the Church of Ardleigh to the Church of St. Paul's, London and the Bishop of London.
- 1347 Colchester supplies 5 ships and 170 mariners to King Edward III's fleet for the siege of Calais. French Prisoners taken at Cressy are quartered at Colchester. The Black Death ravages Europe.
- 1348 The Plague raged violently at Colchester.
- 1360 The Plague raged violently at Colchester.
- 1381 Wat Tyler's rebellion. Some of its leaders came from Colchester.
- 1387 Colchester put in state of defence owing to fear of French invasion.
- 1403 The Abbot of St. Osyth and of St. John's, Colchester, implicated in a conspiracy against King Edward IV.—led on by the Countess of Oxford who pretended Richard II. was still alive.

BENEFACTIONS.

- I. Mrs. Mary Kelly's Charity dates from 1868. The income is about £2 13s., and is divided between Coal, Schools and Maternity Help.
- II. Thomas Love's gift dates from 1565 and is part of the rent of land in Lexden, which rent is divided among 12 Parishes. The Ardleigh portion amounts to about £12 12s. 8d. per annum and is expended in Blankets and Vests for the Poor.
- III. Mrs. Mary Lyford's Charity dates from 1850. It amounts now to about £12 10s. per annum and is divided among 10 deserving families.
- IV. John Fitzsimmons Bishop's gift dates from 1886. It amounts to about £7 6s. 8d. per annum and is expended in Flannel and Vests.
- V. Charrington Nicholl's Coal Gift. This dates from 1888, amounts to about £9 8s. 2d. per annum and is expended on Coal for the Poor.
- VI. Charrington Nicholl's Pound Gift. This dates from 1896, amounts to about £7 18s. 3d. per annum and is distributed in gifts of one Pound sterling.

XIV.—A FEW EVENTS CONNECTED WITH ARDLEIGH AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

A.D.

- 43 The Romans conquer & fortify Colchester (Camolodunum).
- 61 Queen Boadicea, and her people, the Icenii of Suffolk rebel and burn Colchester.
- 884 Naval battle at Harwich, in which the Danes defeat Alfred, and landing, ravage the neighbouring country.

A.D.

- 1424 Thomas Martell of Martell's Hall died and was buried in Ardleigh Church.
- 1432 William of Ardeley became Abbot of St. John's, Colchester, and ruled till 1464.
- 1445 King Henry VI. visited Colchester on Aug. 5.
- 1460 The Porch and Tower of Ardleigh Church date from this year.
- 1516 Queen Catherine of Arragon came to Colchester with her retinue on her way to Walsingham, on pilgrimage to the famous image of the Virgin there. She abode at St. John's Abbey for the night, being met at Lexden by the Bailiffs, Aldermen, and a great number of Burgesses. They gave her a purse of £40, and on her departure attended her to the further bounds of Milend Parish.
- 1525 A great rising took place against the Taxes. Hadleigh, Lavenham and Sudbury, were centres of this rebellion. 40,000 met at Lavenham. They threatened to kill Cardinal Wolsey, the Duke of Suffolk, and Sir Robert Drury. John Green was the leader. Later on, hundreds of the rioters sued for pardon at Bury, clad only in shirts and having halters round their necks.
- 1532 There was in Dovercourt Church a Crucifix, thought to be possessed of wondrous power. Many miracles were said to have been performed by it. It was believed to make the shutting of the Church door by day or night an impossibility, so that instant death was certain to befall any one who might attempt to close it. One Winter's day this year, four men named Robert King, Robert

- A.D. Debenham of East Bergholt, Nicholas Marsh and Robert Gardiner, met at Dedham, started for Dovercourt Church, tore down the Crucifix and burned it on the Green close by. They then fled. Robert Gardiner escaped; but Robert King was hung in irons at Burchet, Robert Debenham at Cattawade and Nicholas Marsh at Dovercourt.
- 1533 Farmers were forbidden this year to keep more than 2,000 sheep, or to rent more than two Farms.
- 1538 Monasteries throughout Essex suppressed, including St. John's, Colchester.
- 1539 John Beche, Abbot of St. John's, Colchester, was accused of Treason and executed in front of the Abbey Gate on December 1st.
- 1549 A great dearth in this neighbourhood, for the remedying of which an order in council was made to Justices and other Gentlemen of the County to communicate with the Mayors, Bailiffs and other Head Officers of every Market Town, empowering them to search Barns, Graneries, and the houses of every Farmer and others having corn to sell, and to oblige them to bring every Market Day such a quantity of grain to market as they could conveniently spare.
- 1553 Colchester declares for Queen Mary against the claims of Lady Jane Grey. Queen Mary rests at Colchester on July 26th, on her way from Framlingham.
- 1555 On March 29th, John Lawrence, and on June 14th, Nicholas Chamberlayne, were burned at Colchester.

- A.D. Many Dutch and Flemmings settled in Dedham and Colchester, having fled from their own country owing to Spanish persecution. They brought with them the 'Bay and Say' Trade.
- 1578 Plague ravaged Colchester till August, 1579.
- 1579 September 12th, Queen Elizabeth visited Colchester. On August 22nd she went from Smallbridge to Ipswich, on August 26th to Harwich, on August 29th to the Lord Darcy's, and on September 1st to Colchester. On this occasion she ordered the "Petty Constable of every Parish to show upon able men's backs all such common and Parish armour, which the whole Parish by itself must find, scowered and in all points perfect, with a schedule of the names and surnames of all able men within their several Parishes and the quality of their Vocation, together with the names of all such persons as kept any armour or weapon."
- 1582 Several poor women were executed at St. Osyth for witchcraft.
- 1588 Defeat of the Spanish Armada. It is evident from the Court Rolls of this year—quoted elsewhere—that many Ardleigh men went to Tilbury to help as Soldiers and Sailors on this occasion. Ipswich provided two ships for the fleet, and Colchester provided the "Foresight," the "Margaret and John" and the "Mark Speedwell."
- 1600 There died at Ardleigh, Mercy Kemp, "Wyddow buried as an ex-communicate person in Skipping forrest" (Ardleigh Register). Was she a Witch?

- A.D. Robert Samuel, Rector of East Bergholt, was a married Priest. He was deprived of his living by Queen Mary and had to hide. A magistrate named Foster, living at Copdock, laid wait for him with some constables and caught him by night on his way to visit his wife. He was burned at Ipswich on August 31st.
- 1556 On April 28th, John Mace, an Apothecary; John Spence, a Weaver; Simon Joyne, a Sawyer; Richard Nichols, a Weaver; John Hammond, a Tanner, were burned at Colchester. In June, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Pepper; and Edmund Hurst, both of St. James, Colchester, were burned at Stratford-bow.
- 1557 On August 2nd, William Bougeor, of Colchester; William Purcas, of Bocking; Thomas Benold, Agnes Silverside alias Smith; Helen Ewing and Elizabeth Folks, were burned outside the Town Wall of Colchester in the morning. In the afternoon, within the Castle Yard, were burned William Munt, Alice Munt, John Johnson and Rose Allen. John Thurston also died for his religion, a prisoner within the Castle. About the same time fourteen men and eight women were apprehended and fastened together with a rope and driven to London, where they were imprisoned but shortly after released on their submission.
- 1558 May 26th, William Harris, Richard Day and Christian Gedge were burned at Colchester.
- 1561 Queen Elizabeth visited Colchester.

- A.D. William Gilbert, author of works on the Magnet and Electricity, famous in Science, died on Dec. 10th, and was buried in Holy Trinity Church, Colchester. He owned and perhaps lived at Badley Hall, Ardleigh.
- 1642 The mob of Colchester rifled the house of Gabriel Honifold, Vicar of Ardleigh, in Colchester. He went to the Mayor but could get no redress and was then followed through the streets with shouts and hooting, dirt and stones. A kinsman gave him shelter, but as the mob threatened, Honifold left the house and took refuge in the common jail. He was 70 years of age. The mob also rifled the house of the Lucas family. At the same time many churches in the neighbourhood were sacked on the pretence of being purified of superstitious ornaments.
- 1643 The Parishioners of Brantham took the solemn League and Covenant.
- 1644 In this year and next Matthew Hopkins, "Witch-finder," with other "Witch-finders," visited every town and village in the neighbourhood to find Witches and charged 20 shillings for their searches.
- 1645 Twenty-five Witches were tried at Chelmsford. Rebecca West deposed that "Elizabeth Clark, of Manningtree, desired of her spirit that Mr. Edwards might be met withal about the middle bridge as he should come riding from East Bergholt in Suffolk, that his horse might be scared and be thrown down and never rise again." Master Edwards deposed

- that "his horse started and stumbled at the bridge, but that he kept his seat, whereupon he heard something about his horse cry 'Ah Ah' much like the shriek of a Pole Cat." Elizabeth Clark was condemned to death on this evidence.
- 1648 Colchester besieged by the Parliament army. Troops guarded the fords of the Stour at Cattawade, Stratford and Nayland. On June 18th, two Frigates, the last hope of the besieged, were captured at Harwich. A field in Ardleigh, North of the Church, lying towards Good Hall, is called "Battle Field," and is believed to have been the scene of a skirmish on this occasion.
- 1666 4,731 people died of plague at Colchester, 2,251 at Norwich, yet only 5 burials are recorded at Ardleigh in 1665 and 3 in 1666. The truth is after 1642, the Register was ill kept for many years.
- 1678 The Act was passed requiring every person to be buried in "Woolen," in order to encourage the Woolen trade. A list of those buried in this way was made every year in Ardleigh and affidavits were made that burials had thus been carried out from 1678 till 1814.
- 1692 The Harvest failed, price of wheat doubled and a large number of Highwaymen were about.
- 1705 The river Stour made navigable from Mistley to Sudbury.
- 1761 Queen Charlotte, bride of George III, landed at Harwich and proceeded (doubtless through Ardleigh) to London.

ACCOUNT OF COLLECTIONS UPON BRIEFS IN THE PARISH OF ARDLEY.

		£	s.	d.
1737	July 31 For Blidworth Church	...	00	02 01
	Aug. 21 Ravenstonedale Church	...	00	02 05
	30 Measham Church	...	00	01 09
	Sep. 25 Puttonham Fire	...	00	02 08
	Oct. 4 Stony Stratford fire	...	01	11 00½
	Feb. 5 St. John Baptist Church	...	00	02 08
	12 Preston Church	...	00	01 11
	Mar. 5 Abton Church	...	00	01 11¼
	Penckrych fire	...	00	02 11
1738	Upchurch Inundation	Bierton Fire		
	Ledbury Church	St. John's Chapel		
	Mathall Fire	Stirchley Church		
	Dunstew Hail Storm	Heapey Chapel		
	Fairwell Church	Cromer fire		
	Berksurch Church	Prestwould Church		
	Longdon Church	Bascot fire		
	St. Mary's Church in Gateshead	Congleton Church		
	Kelshall Fire	Foulness, &c., Inundation		
	Royston Fire	1741 Marrick fire		
1739	Dunbar Harbour	St. Andrew's Church		
	Marchington Church	St. George and John Wapping fire		
	Nuneaton Church	Thimbleby Church		
	Dorchester Church	Waters Upton Church		
	Fennstanton Fire	Oyster Dredging in Kent		
	Standon, &c., Hail Storm	Marsh Gibbon Fire		
	Bobi & Villar Inundation	1742 Sleap Fire		
	Walton fire	Trinity Church		
	Macclesfield Church	Much Wenlock Church		
	St. Chad Church	Polesworth Church		
	Twyford and Stenyon Church	Whittington Church		
		Midole Church		
1740	New Alresford Fire	Huby and Northmayton		
	Hinxton fire	Fire		
	Shareshill Church	Drayton Fire		

- 1768 At this time a Coach went to Colchester daily from London except on Sundays, and another returned thence daily. Both set out at 5 a.m. and arrived at 2 p.m. There was also a "Machine" which set out from London at 7 and from Colchester at 9, performing the journey in 8 hours. Coaches from Norwich, Ipswich, and Harwich also passed through Colchester.
- 1795 Queen Caroline, wife of George IV, landed at Harwich and proceeded thence (through Ardleigh) to London.
- 1796-1805. Great scare of a French invasion. Many precautions taken.
- 1821 The corpse of Queen Caroline was brought from London through Ardleigh to Harwich. In the Clerk's bill this year occurs "Oct. 5 Item. For toling the bell for the Queens Burial by Mr. Bishop's order 2s. od."

XV—A LIST OF BRIEFS.

Formerly, by Royal Command, collections were in Churches for certain causes, e.g., repair of certain Churches, repair of damage by flood, fire or storm, &c. These were called "Briefs." In most old Registers there are a list of them. The following list occurs in Ardleigh Register. It will be seen that frequently the spelling is so indifferent that it is very difficult to identify the places. The figures are put after the first few names to show how ponderously the old accounts were kept, but it has not seemed necessary to enter all the figures.

Culcheth Chapel	Knutsford Church
Collected by the King's	St. Ives Church
Letter for the Society	Stillington & Healy Fires
for Propagating the	St. Albans Fire
Gospel in Foreign	Willenhall Chapel
Parts, £3 3 0	Battlefield Church
Altcarr Church	Wimbish Church
Llanhasa Church	1746 Hemingford Grey Church
Lower Wallop Fire	Rodington Church
Stogumber Fire	Garstang Church
Chilton Fire	Wyke Fownhope fire
Formby Chapel	Weston Turville fire
1743 Chilsworth Fire	Hythe Church
Hunsingore Church	Shitlington Church
Llangwin Church	Poulton Church
Cheam Church	Neole Brace Church
Feversham Oyster Dred-	1747 Flixton Church
gery	Mold Church
Sutton Fire [Cambs]	St. Paul Shadwell Fire
Great Steeping Church	Rocester Church
Croston Church	Overton Church
Melverley Floods	Bradley Church
Maxey & Elsworth Fire	Heaton, &c., Inundation
1744 Pulloxhill Church	1748 Wayhill Fire
Collected for Credit Fire	Wellington Church
Rosterne Church	Snareston Chapel
Beiedly Chapel	Wood Cumption Chapel
Fretheriddene Inundation	1749 Upham & Winstow fires
Pryors Salford Fire	Berkeley Church
Sheepwash Fire	Sutton Coldfield Binbrook
Barrow Church	fires
Aswardby Church	St. Michael's Church
Stallingbrough Church	Chadesley Corbett Fire
Eynsford Fire	Denbigh Fire
Buckerell Fire	1750 Bishop Thornton Audlem
1745 Harthill, &c., Storm	&c., Fires
Westborough Church	Henley Chapel
Cobwall fire	Kelvedon Hatch Church
Blacktoft Inundation	St. Nicholas Church

Halton, Grafton, Saxton fires	Harbourne Church
Storrington Church	Newnham Church
Thurstonland fire	Rastrick Chapel
Stone [or Stowe] Church	Gorton Chapel
St. Laurence & St. John's Church	Pinckston Church
Stoney Middleton and Darwent Chapels	Hindon Fire
St. Mary Magdalene Bermondsey loss by Hailstorm	1756 Robert Town and Holbe-ton Fire
1751 Upton upon Severn Church	Hemsley Inundation
Shipston Church	Morton Church
Knighton Church	Buthin [? Ruthin] Church
Stamford Bridge	Heathfield Church
Nether Seal Church	Preese Church
1752 Society for Propagation of the Gospel	1757 Clunn Church
1753 Effingham Church	Newendon, Rolvendon, &c., loss by fire and hailstorm
Teighford (?) Church	Lightcliffe Chapel
Ranvills & Dawfish Fire	1757 Stoke Church
Greasley Church	Wetherby Chapel
Fosdyke Chapel	St. Peter's Church, Colchester
Thornton Chapel	Brightelmstone fortif.
Bighton Fire	Ellenhall Church
Haworth Chapel	Wallazea Church
Amesbury Fire	Dwigyfylchi Church
Horthmeels, &c., Fire	Coreley Church
1754 Adoringham Church	1758 Knockin Fire
Rusbrock Church	Hayling North Fire
Hale Chapel	Wick & Monk Sherborne
Newborough Chapel	Edgware Church [Fire
Ampleforth, &c., Fires	Wombbridge Church
Flockton Chapel	Whittington Church
1755 Marsdon Chapel	Austrey [or Anstrey] Church
Dorsington Church	Brinkworth and Cauford fires
Coppull Chapel	Dorchester, Temple Farm
	Earith fires

Norbury Church	Calverton Church
1759 Scutcoates Church	Illingworth Chapel
Acton Church	Blackrod Chapel
St. Warburgh Church	Hailstorm in Berks
Wapping Fire	Saarbruck Church
Iping, &c., fires	Knapp Mill, &c., Fires
Chalk fire	Sutton Church
Hagen Church	Barlaston Church
Wendlebury Church	New Brentford Chapel
Tadcaster Church	Llansannon Church
Lutterworth Church	1763 Colleges America
Anderby Church	£4 5s. 10d.
1760 Llanfair Fire	Sittingbourne Church
Sandford Mills Fires	Alveley Church
Wroxeter Church	1764 Padiham Chapel
Bryn Eglwys Church	Wooler Church
Eastwood Church	Hindley Chapel
Rings Wood Fire	Frodswell Chapel
Stoke Ferry Church	Foston Church
Bunhill Row and North Sway fires	Kirke Andrews upon Eske Church
Frowlesworth Church	Shackerston Church
St. Peter's Church, Wallingford	Ratby Church
Orton Church	Sparrow Moor Fire
1761 Standford Fires	Frizzinghall Fire
Haddenham Fire	Philippen Colony
Warden Church	Hailstorm in Sussex
Brigeworth, Fearby, fires	1765 St. Albans Church
Everingham Church	Collingborne and Abbots-bury fires
Frimley, &c., Fires	Penn Church
Quatt Church	Lytham Church
Albourne Fire	Hailstorm in Kent
Halbyn [or Halleyin] Church	Tudeley Church
Penal Church	Sankey Chapel
1762 Packington Church	Chatton Church
Carlton Church	Halghton Fire
Elinton Church	Hailstorm Yorkshire
	Hailstorm Hampshire

family of Badley or Badele who lived here in the 14th Century. Simon Badele in 1387 was called on to pay six shillings and sixpence to the Manor of Bovills. Walter Badele is mentioned in 1415. William Gilberd of Colchester, a very eminent man, Physician to Queen Elizabeth, and a writer on Electricity and the Magnet, who died Dec. 10th, 1603 is said to have "held the Manor of Badley Hall with appertenances in Ardley, and Badley Meadow and a messuage and lands called Croffes." It belonged after this to Captain Philips of Harwich, and later to the Lugar family.

Edward Reeve, Esq., of Pigotts Hall, gave the land whereon the National School was built in 1865.

In 1861 a Cemetery was opened and partly consecrated, the Churchyard being declared unfit for further burials.

In 1862, a part of the Parish towards the South was cut off to form with parts of other parishes a new Ecclesiastical Parish called St. John's, Ardleigh, or St. John's, Colchester.

A Fair was formerly held in Ardleigh on September 29th. It was suppressed apparently in 1823:—at least there is a Magistrates' order to that effect among the Ardleigh Documents.

The "Pest Houses" frequently referred to in the old records, still stand (though they have to be propped up) in Green Lanes. It is difficult to find

out when the workhouse was built or first used as a workhouse. In 1771, March 1, we read:—

"At Public Vestry held in the Church to Let the workhouse, which we whose names are under writing did agree with Joseph Farnham to hold the Workhouses by the Head at two shillings each person p' week for one year from a Lady day next. The Paris Officers allowing to the Workhouse about five Chalder of Coles and five Load of Wood and the said Joseph Farnham to find all other nessaries as to Soap Candel Spindel and all Eatables and Drinkables that shall be wanting in the Said Workho Clothing and Beding Exepted, and Making, Mending to be Done by the keeper of the said Workhouse. To give a Quarter warming or take on Quitting the Sa [me].

Witness my hand	Joseph Farnham
Witness our hands	} Churchwardens
[no signature]	
Philip Lugar	} Overseers
Phillips Bromley	
James Lugar	
Samuel Allen	
Thos Ingram	
Thos Cooper	
John Cross	
Philip Fearis	
The + mark of Benj ⁿ Day	
George Hazell	
William Pett	
Joseph Girling.	

In 1902 a 'Parish Lamp' was erected at the corner of the Churchyard to commemorate the Coronation

of King Edward VII. It is lit in the Winter months from Sunset till 10 o'clock.

In 1874 some Palaeolithic Flint Monuments were found at Hill House Farm, near the House.

The Parish one hundred years ago had far more Heath Land. The old records tell us of :

1. Smythies Heath, in the neighbourhood of the Workhouse.
2. Skippers Street Heath and Ardleigh Coch Common appear to have been almost identical, viz :—skirting the Ipswich Road South of Ardleigh Crown and having the road on S.E. of them.
3. Beggars Oak Heath lay south of the Fox and Hounds, partly on the East side of the Colchester and Harwich Road.
4. Crockleford Heath still retains its name, though no longer a Heath.

A large amount of common land was enclosed about the years 1801 and 1803.

