

INKPEN.

READ TO THE WOMENS INSTITUTE, AUGUST, 1931.



## INKPEN. (Ingpen).

Read to the Womens' Institute, August, 1931.

## Homendature.

The name of your parish, though suggestive of pen and ink, has, I need hardly say, no such prosaic connection; in the 11th century it was written Ingpenne and I for one, wish we could revert to this ancient and prettier form, derived from ing, which as a prefix means a meadow or green enclosure such as would have existed in the then surrounding forest, and from the Cyneric word pen, a hill. The name still describes Ingpen Beacon or indeed the hill on which your rectory stands. I have read of another derivation (but cannot recall my authority) from Inga, a Saxon invader whom we may picture encamping on this hill, or pen.

Another suggestion of a local archeologist and naturalist is that the name derives from Ingle, the stream which flows down to the Kennet and gives its name to Inglewood. To repeat, I would plead for the ancient descriptive name still spelt Ingpen by the family who sprang from this soil, and dropped the "ink" with a splash!

## Prehistoric.

Many a one of you may have lived a long life in this district but what a speck in time when one looks back down the ages thousand of years ago to a time nearer to, though still immensely distant from, the Ice Age and picture this country, even before dense forest covered the Kennet Valley; before the advent of the Celts



or early Britons - to the Stone Age when man, depending alone upon hunting for his livelihood, attached extreme importance for fashioning his weapons, to flints (still thickly embedded in these chalky hills). Implements such as these have from time to time been found in barrows or tombs when excavated, like the Carrow upon which the Gibbit stands.

Leyman.

Let us picture this rude barbarian ancestor of ours lighting a beacon on this down to guide his fellows on the North Berks Downs along a straight track made by the Leyman or primitive surveyor; his name still preserved in such words as Winterley, Cowlees etc., and he himself is <sup>Surely</sup> ~~surely~~ typified in that curious, gigantic, surface drawing to be seen on the Sussex Downs called 'The Long Man of Willington' with his measuring staff in each hand.

Knapman.

Along this track, from beacon to beacon, would come the Knapman, or flint-finder and clipper, to search for and carry the precious flints upon which all <sup>men</sup> depended for weapons and knives. Where they stopped on some rising ground, there they would build their huts (the precursors of our villages) and there when they died they were buried, such spots thus becoming sacred ground and eventually the sites of temples and later again of churches.

Redman.

Along the track came also the Redman who made vessels and pots baked out of red earth such as you have in your ancient



potteries on Ingpen Common, which, I understand ceased to be used but some 40 years ago. If you look at the Ordnance Map you will trace bit by bit an ancient British Road (our Kintbury villagers call it the old Roman road, now mostly grass) from an earth work near the North Berkshire Downs in a direct line through Avington, Kintbury Farm, Winterley Lane, The Folly to <sup>these</sup> ~~the~~ Potteries.

From the air by means of aeroplanes, these ancient ways, nearly obscured by plough and hedges, are more easily desc<sup>ribe</sup>~~ribed~~ and defined than from below, their faint lines showing more plainly from the height above. The word ley, ly, lees, leeze is embedded in many place names, witness, Winterley, just quoted and Cowleeze; such roads to this day generally run through grassy clearings and may have been surveyed untold ages ago by the leyman, or surveyor of the day.

#### Celts.

In 1908 barrows on Ingpen down were excavated and found to contain burnt bones, charcoal, small urns, human and animal remains (bones) and a bronze knife. All are now to be seen in the Newbury Museum which you can visit next market day; Walbury Camp is said to be Neolithic, or after the Stone Age (when implements were made only of stone, before iron and bronze had been discovered). At Sadler's Farm in a dug trench were found human bones and Roman and British pottery. Just beyond Aவில் Farm there is, as you know, a square moat which when excavated displayed the remains of a Roman Villa. These also are housed in the Newbury Museum.



The whole Kennet Valley was the battle ground of Britains against the Romans and Saxons successively, and, later, of these against Danes. Of forts of defence we find traces on the whole length of the South Downs. The huge camp on Walbury Hill, nearly 1000ft. above sea, was first a British, and subsequently a Roman camp; further west at the tail-end of Bull's Copse is a tumulus surrounded by a fosse or ditch and has a big barrow, or Oswald's Barrow see Saxon chart-tomb near it. Further west, above Ham we find a square camp with er of Wulfgar. a high earthwork, a deep fosse and a dew pond.

Wansdyke  
see Mr. Major's  
'Mystery of  
Wansdyke'

You have on the western border of your district one of the most fascinating, because most mysterious, relics of antiquity. I refer to Wansdyke, the origin of which remains unknown. Some archeologists consider it of Saxon origin and that it was not cast up by the Britons to keep out the Saxons, but by the latter to keep out the Danes. Some surmise it was made by the Danes to keep off the Saxons whom they had driven thus far west; others say it was but a boundary. From Chisbury Ring it runs down between the Bedwyns and is lost at that point for a space, but I think can be traced through Polesdon to Old Dyke Lane which in 1733 was called Wansdyke, and there is little doubt it continued its winding way up to Ingpen Beacon, a natural ending.

Wansdyke.

Since writing the foregoing I read in 'Rural Rides' (written 100 years ago) a statement by <sup>W</sup> Wm Cobbett the author, who says "not far from Uphusband" (officially known as Hurstbourne Tarrant)"



the Wansdyke crosses the country. Sir Richard Colt Hoare has written a great deal about this ancient boundary, which is, indeed, something very curious. In the ploughed fields the traces of it are quite gone; but they remain in the woods as well as on the downs."

Therefore we may suppose Wansdyke to have stopped short as far as Winchester - which, as Cobbett states elsewhere, is said to have dated 800 years B.C.

Colonel General Kerlake R.A., who has<sup>s</sup> devoted himself to the study of earthworks, is of the opinion that Wansdyke is certainly Saxon.

This Dyke is referred to in Wulgar's Charter as 'The Way'.

#### The Village.

The earliest history I can trace of your village begins in 931, in the reign of Aethelstan, grandson of Alfred the Great, when the Saxon Wulgar left his land there 'three parts to his wife ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> Giffe and the fourth part to the Servants of God at Kintbury,' where there was a 'Holy Place'; for the souls of himself, his father Wulfric and his grandfather Wulfrerye (who first had the land). ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> Giffe had to feed the Servants of God for three days each year. After her death the land was to go to this Holy Place at Kintbury, where as we shall see later, the Nuns of Fo<sup>u</sup>tevrault, held some land.

#### Templeton and Pemplars.

Edward the Confessor granted some land to Roger de Beaumont, who gave 10 hides at Inglewood to the knights Templars; these founded an establishment at Templeton (or Templeyneslod) till the dissoluti



of that order in 1311. Now Templeton is not in the parish of Ingpen but is perhaps more closely connected with it than we know. For may not this Roger De Beaumont who was the Son of Humphrey de Ingpen, <sup>be</sup> ~~by~~ the self-same Roger De Ingpen whose armed effigy lies in the chancel of your church? The Templars' first home, so I have been told by one whose family has lived for generations in Ingpen, was situated on the North Side of Hamspray Wood, West of Burljum Lane, which would account for the existence of snow-drops there now, and is borne out by a statement I read in a book on flowers that rare wild flowers such as snow-drops, tulips, crocus, ~~martagon~~ <sup>martagon</sup> lilies, <sup>+lilies of the valley</sup> all to be found in this fortunate neighbourhood are not indigeous, or native, but were brought to this country by monks and nuns from their parent monastic establishments in Italy and on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and even from the Holy Land. Now the Knights Templars were a mighty martial-religious order spread over western Europe and founded for the purpose of guarding the Temple at Jerusalem against the Saracens. They attained great power and wealth, so much so, as to excite the envy and jealousy of kings who conspired to suppress the order, which at last was effected in 1311 after terrible tortures following accusations, later judged to have been mainly false.

Thereupon Templeton was transferred to the Knights Hospitallers, the Red Cross Knights, who retained it till the Dissolution of all ecclesiastical orders in Great Britain by Henry 8th. In

Church  
Maples  
Meadows.



In 1543 he granted it to Richard Bridges of West Shefford and then it went successively to the Knights, Sloughtons, Jordans,<sup>R</sup> Smiths, Dormers, Tippings, Faithfulls, Watts and to Adam Blandy who in 1836 sold it to Willis of Hungerford of whom the late Mr. William Dann purchased it. All that is left of the original building at Templeton<sup>s</sup> is an upper east bedroom said to be part of the refectory or dining hall. In front of the ancient house stood the chapel; when alterations were being made in 1886-95 three human skeletons were unearthed on the site of the present tennis-court, once no doubt the grave-yard, and it is believed were re-interred in Kintbury Church yard.

Whether the remains of fish-ponds between Tollerdown and Templeton belonged to the order or to Balsdon is not known.

Mill.

In the time of the Domesday Survey, which was compiled soon after William the Conqueror wrested the English throne from its long line of Saxon kings in 1066, there was a mill belonging to Ingpen, given in the 12th century to the Nuns of the order of Foultervrault, at Kintbury who transferred it to the Priory of Nuneaton, Warwickshire which Nuns held land adjoining to Kintbury. This mill (perhaps some-one here can say for certain?) may be on the site of the one that existed up to 50 years ago in Weavers' Land across the Ingle Stream where was carried on a blanket and <sup>silk</sup> ~~lino~~-weaving industry. Or did the Mill stand on the Kennet? where another Adam Blandy, dying in 1636, held a fishery called 'le weare' extending to 'le watering place

Blanket and  
Silk weaving  
Mill.



of Inglewood Down! Samual Phillips and his wife held this fishery in 1687 apparantly with the mill at Denford and sold it in 1695 to Mrs James of Denford.

#### Rope-walk.

Besides the pottery and blanket and silk-weaving industries there was started here about 1660 a rope-walk which lasted but ten years when the nephew of Mr. Falkener who, worked it, discontinued the business, <sup>in</sup> which as a lad Mr. James Edwards tells me he worked. The walk was situated on the further side of the wood opposite your Council Schools and is still plainly defined, its straight line running some 250 yards between hazel bushes and trees.

#### Church.

Your ancient Church dates from 13th century, the South wall and chancel, at least; the North and East are modern, 'drastic alterations', (to quote the Victoria County History of Berkshire,) "having been made in 1696" giving it the appearance of a new Church. The font may be 13th century, the Litany desk is made up of 17th century wood-work." The oldest mural tablet (external) ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> dated 1728 <sup>Mohun,</sup> to the memory of one Leekes- a good old Norman name. It seems that the lady it commemorates wished to be buried with her ancestors in the chancel, but having sold her property to strangers the latter objected, so her tablet was placed outside the chancel wall, but as near as possible to the ancestral vault. I have already referred to the stone Effigy of a man in arms lying in the chancel as that of Sir Roger de Ingpen. The old stone now lying in a nook outside the porch dated 1686 once fronted the arch in the original porch. The new porch, built in memory of the late



rector, is adorned by a beautiful sculptor 'Entombment'; notice the refinement of the features and the grave and pose of the figures. It is the work of the son of Mr. Henry Heems of Exeter and was erected at the end of the 19th century.

The dormer window in the nave is a quaint and unusual feature in ecclesiastical buildings.

The registers begin in 1633, or about 100 years later than those of Kintbury. The advowson held by the Priory of Dudley, before the Dissolution of Monasteries by Henry VIII, passed to John Cheney and his wife, lords of the Manor of West Woodhay, whose family held it with the Manor of Titcomb from 1618 to 1721 when it passed to the <sup>Landes</sup> then to the Brickendens and then to the Butlers of Wantage in 1779.

Ingpen.

Your Rector tells me that the statement that the grounds are a French garden, was an old story in 1820; the ground must have been laid out after 1733 when Enclosure Act was passed as a road ran between them and the house. He thinks the garden may have been planned between those dates by a rector of West Woodhay who was a Frenchman. But on consulting the list of Rectors the present rector of West Woodhay finds their names were all English throughout the 16th century, and that the only name of French origin is that G.A. Moulins, from 1661-67. It seems more likely, my informant states, that it was not a French rector of West Woodhay, but a French man staying with a rector there, between 1733 and 1792 who planned the Ingpen rectory garden, possibly a refugee from the



### French Revolution.

History  
of  
Ingpen.

There is not much more to be discovered relative to the History of Ingpen till we come to Norman times, during which period its lands were mainly held by the Abbot of Titchfield in Hampshire.

The Manor of Haslewick, situated around Upper Green, and often known as Strattons, had in 1290 belonged to William de Stratton and his wife Scholastica. Wherefore, we may pause to wonder, her learned name? and here I may remark that there is nothing essentially modern in woman being put to the fore; for in ancient documents we find the wife is very often associated with her husband in the ownership of property and lordship of Manors, probably a necessary proceeding in days when fathers and sons were liable to military service far afield whence they too often never returned; hence too, the frequent descent of holdings in the female line, continual changes of ownership occurring no less often in those warlike times, than in these days, when the fact is due to entirely different causes.

In 1309 Haslewick (or Strattons) which had been successively held, after the Strattons, by the Knights Templars and the Knights Hospitallers, reverted to Job de Hartrough, and in 1357 was held by the Abbots of Titchfield together with the Manor of Titchomb, the two manors being held together till 1798 when both were sold to Cuthbert Johnson. He sold Haslewick in 1793 to Joseph Butler of Kerby House which house was built in 1771 by James Kirby who parted with it to the Butlers of Wantage in 1792.



Beside Kirby House rises the little river Enbourne along whose latter course was fought the first battle of Newbury in 1643.

Eastcourt.

The Manor of Eastcourt (this name was not used till 16th century surrounds the present Ingpen Manor Farm) was held in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by John Mansell and Peter Lukemund who later gave it to the Abbots of Titchfield in whose fee, it was held till 1537 when the last abbot conveyed it (no doubt compulsorily, to Henry viiith of whom it was held successively by the Wriothesleys, Southwicks, Whites, Garrards and Brends. The Garrards, whose tombs, by the way, adorn Lambourn Church, were in possession from, 1559 to 1660 when they sold it to the Bankes and Hawburys, from whom it came to the Wallops of Farleigh which family sold it in 1731 to Lord Craven.

Westcourt  
(now Sadler's  
Farm.)

Westcourt was the original name of Sadler's Farm which still possesses fine panelled rooms, dormer windows and an old-world air, and is still far from the maddening crowd. Possibly Humphrey de Ingpen owned this Manor in 1176. It passed by marriage to the Handelons, Bendyns, Fychels, Hills, Keryells, Sags, Chenays (of Enbourne before mentioned) Waldegraves and Richardses, the latter selling it to John Edmonds. In the 16th century, Westcourt was owned by the Spencers (who by the way bought and built or rebuilt Titchcomb Manor),. Between 1664 and 1731 it is uncertain what happened to the Manor of Westcourt, but in 1731 William East held it and in 1784, two-thirds of it were conveyed by the Rev. Martin Stafford Smith (probably his descendant) to the trustees of George John, second Earl Spencer. He sold it in 1799 to Francis Durnford of



whom the estate was purchased in 1629 by the Cravens.

Westcourt  
of  
Today.

The remaining third, namely the Manor farm (now called Westcourt) and the church farm belonged to Margaret Heron who left it to her nephew Robert Twitchen; he sold it in 1715 to Anthony Guidott. From 1756 it was possessed in turn by the Strattons, Bradbournes, Nutleys, Hutchings, Frys, Redmans, Sainsburys, Mills, Sewells and Husseys, whose mortgagee sold it in 1900 to W.D. Brown.

Combe  
Gibbet.

Probably the story specially attached to the famous Gibbet on Combe Down, is to you more than a twice-told-story. Several versions of the tale concerning a certain murder circulate about this gruesome object; the authentic one seems to be that found in Winchester City Library which is as follows:

"On March 7th, 1676 a man and a woman were hanged on this gibbet and their bodies exposed to all sinners. Their names George Brownman and Dorothy Newman; they were hanged for the brutal murder of the two children of the woman by a former husband. The children's bodies were discovered in the little pond near the gallows. This pond was in Ingpen parish, but the authorities repudiated it and refused either to arrest, or go to the expense of punishing, the murderers. The parish of Combe, in which the man and woman lived, took the case into its own hands, drew a new parish boundary to include the scene of the crime 25 acres and a pond, erected the gibbet and exposed there, the bodies of the murderers. The strange part of the story is that; the gallows owes its continuous existence to a



clause in the lease of Eastwick Farm, lying at the foot of the hill. The Tenants of this farm have for 250 years been obliged to keep the gallows in repair. The present gallows is the third erected on the site. On the day that the man and woman were hanged, Mr Kimber of Eastwick killed a pig, not necessarily in celebration, but by way of provisioning his household.

#### The Chine.

A chine was salted and placed in storage. About 150 years after it was still sound, it was placed in a granary during repairs to the house where mice raided it. On Christmas Eve, round about 1625 two friends called on Mr. Kimber, and he offered them for supper, the unique fare of pork 150 years old and a dish of ripe white currants which he had gathered that (Xmas) day in his <sup>garden!</sup> ~~garden~~. The chine has been preserved as a relic & is now enclosed in a glass case in the possession of Mr. Gilbert Kimber of Newbury, a descendant of the Eastwick family? <sup>the</sup> Thus far <sup>the</sup> extract from the City Library at Winchester. I may add that some time ago Mr. Kimber kindly showed me the chine, a black, gritty, looking mass but the outline of the chine still distinguishable. He also stated that the foregoing is the authentic account of the Combe tragedy rather than older and more ornate tales. W.H. Hudson, in his interesting book 'Afoot in England' gives a totally different account, which had been related to him by the late Vicar of Combe, to the effect that the murder was perpetrated <sup>not upon the children but upon his wife by Newmen,</sup> ~~ed, not at Combe but, at East Woodhay,~~ who tipped his wife <sup>to</sup> in a bush containing a hornet's nest, so that she was stung to death, thus leaving him free to marry the Combe widow, whom this account does not



even hint ~~etc~~ had been necessary to the murder, yet she too was hang-  
ed! quite discrediting this version.

Prosperous  
Farm.

One of the greatest of farmers lived at Prosperous Farm (so  
called, I believe, in his honour) just over your borders is it not?  
Born in 1674, Jethro Hull went to live there in 1709 and there  
invented his famous machine drill and made experiments in his  
system of sowing in drills and important discoveries in agriculture  
with reference to the use of manures and to that pulverising of  
soil, and thence published his well-known works "Horse-hoeing  
Husbandary and Principles of Tillage and <sup>Vegetation</sup> ~~vigour~~. He died 1741.

In 1822 the former work was re-edited by William Corbett, soldier,  
politician, writer and farmer. Corbett wrote of this book "From  
this famous book I learned all my principles relating to farm-  
ing, gardening, and planting. It ~~really~~ <sup>really</sup> without a ~~purpose~~ <sup>run</sup> goes to  
the root of the subject. Before I had read this book I had seen  
enough of effects, but really knew nothing of the causes. It con-  
tains the foundation of all knowledge in cultivating of the earth."

Cobbett himself farmed land at Botley, Hampshire and his book,  
'Rural Rides,' an account of many hours spent on horse-back, <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ full  
of admirable descriptions of this neighbourhood and elsewhere. He  
visited Prosperous Farm, as the following extract shows.

Prosperous  
Farm.

"As a certain village (certainly named by some author : I  
called Inkpen, we passed a neat little house and padlock, ~~the~~ ~~house~~



~~at the Rectory,~~ the residence of Mr. Butler, a nephew of Dr. Butler of Oxford, whom I remember hearing preach at Farham in Surrey, when I was a very little boy. I have his feature and his wig as clearly in my recollection, as if I had seen him yesterday; and I dare say I have not thought of Dr. Butler for forty years before to-day.

About two miles from Inkpen we came to the end of our pilgrimage. The farm, which was Mr. Tull's is on an open and somewhat bleak spot, in Berkshire, on the borders of Wiltshire, and within a very short distance of a part of Hampshire. The ground is a <sup>loam</sup> ~~lime~~ mixed with flint, and has the chalk at no great distance beneath it.

It is therefore, free from wet; needs no water furrows; and is pretty good in its nature. The house, which has been improved by Mr Blandy, the present Proprietor, is still but a plain farm-house.

1821.

Mr Blandy has lived here 30 years and has brought up ten children to man's and woman's estate. Mr. Blandy was from home but Mrs. Blandy received and entertained us in a very hospitable manner."

John Wesley.

John Wesley frequently visited this neighbourhood riding from <sup>to village</sup> village. In 1777 he addressed large gatherings in Newbury, but formed a poor opinion of the ability of the town-men saying "they were mostly attentive but as wild as colts."

Anvill's Farm.

Anvill's or <sup>Henvils</sup> ~~Hensell's~~ Farm, though wedged <sup>into</sup> ~~with~~ Inkpen parish really belongs to that of Hintbury, Hugh de Cumberwell gave the



estate to Stephen de Hanvil and his wife Juliana in the 13th century. After 100 years it went to the de la Beches, Danvers, Darrels and to the Butlers of Wantage, changing hands several times before being purchased by the late Mr. Walmesley.

La Hulle.

In the Victorian County History of Berkshire (from which and from the British Encyclopaedia and other sources I have gained the information, I have put before you) I find the following statement:

"In the S.W. of the Parish of Ingpen is situated La Hulle".

Perhaps some are here, can presently give the precise spot; so far I can find none who has even heard of the place; which is described as an estate near Hanspray where in the 13th century, lands were granted by Simon Punchard (or <sup>Pinzard or</sup> ~~Punchard~~ Fozard) to his son Walter and then the estate appears to have followed the same descent as Ponzardess land in Hungerford, in 1294.

Agricultural Riots 1830.

A hundred years ago after the Napoleonic wars unsettled conditions in the labour world <sup>were</sup> much the same as now after the German War. Then as now out-relief (nowadays called pensions and unemployment pay) produced, pauperism, idleness and reduction of wages.

In an article contributed to the Newbury News in 1898 the late Mr. Walter Money described the riots which in Nov; 1830 had taken place all over the south-west part of this county, resulting in the smashing of agriculture machinery recently introduced ~~to~~ which



the labourers looked upon as the means of reducing wages and employment. Both in Kintbury and Hungerford the attitude of the mobs was most alarming; here in Inkpen the curate was attacked for some undefined reason. Kintbury was the centre whence the sedition sprang and the Blue Ball Inn, the place where the plotters met; in Kintbury the force amounted to 300 men joined by 250 from Hungerford. At last the Government sent a detachment of the Grenadier Guards and a troop of Lancers to Newbury when 138 rioters were arrested and after trial most of them deported to Australia whence years later some of their descendants returned having prospered greatly.

MABEL BOWEN