

**THE HISTORY OF
SHAVINGTON: IN THE
COUNTY OF SALOP**

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The History of Shavington: In the County of Salop by Henry D. Harrod

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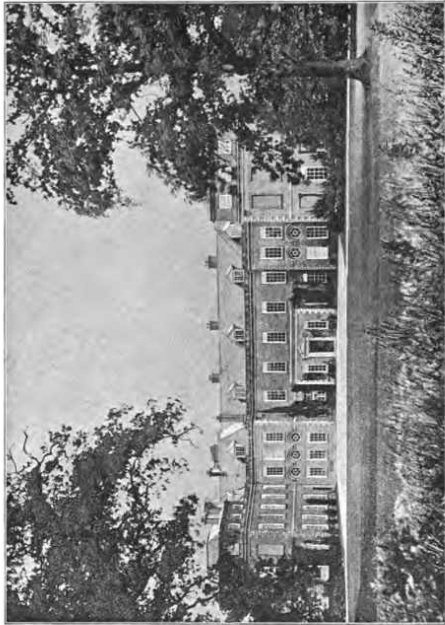
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HENRY D. HARROD

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BRAYBURN HALL.

THE HISTORY
OF
SHAVINGTON,
IN THE
COUNTY OF SALOP,

BY
HENRY D. HARROD, F.S.A.

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PREFACE.

THIS VOLUME owes its existence to the time-honoured disputes of which it contains an account.

When Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale agreed to purchase the Shavington Estates in 1884, various rumours of these ancient differences came to his ears which he naturally desired to have explained.

In the first place, he learnt that Mr. Corbet, of Adderley, claimed a heriot on the alienation of Shavington, though it seemed doubtful what the nature of the heriot might be. The only ascertainable fact was that the present Earl had compounded for the heriot for £5 on the death of his grandfather the late Earl, but vague rumours were afloat of much greater demands having been enforced on former occasions. There was a story of a former Viscount having had his best hunter taken by an ancestor of Mr. Corbet; on which occasion his Lordship, with the humour characteristic of his family, employed the crier of Market Drayton to proclaim his loss and announce a reward for the discovery of the perpetrator of the theft. The rights of the matter were, however, unknown.

There is, moreover, a family chapel, or aisle, in Adderley Church, which has been occupied by the family of Lord Kilmorey for many generations, and which Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale naturally wished to have made over to him. About this chapel, too, there were stories afloat of forcible ejection on the part of the Corbet family, even to the extent of armed intervention during Divine Service. No one could, however, say what were the rights of the dispute, or what might be Lord Kilmorey's title to the pew.

The immediate result of the researches made by me at that time was to prove conclusively that no heriot at all was claimable in respect of Shavington proper, though

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a heriot on death, but not on alienation, is claimable in respect of certain fields, copyhold of the manor of Stoke-upon-Tern, as will be mentioned hereafter. Further, it appeared that the aisle had been erected by a former Viscount Kilmorey, and that, though his right to erect it in the first instance had been disputed, and his occupation of the pew at one time forcibly contested, yet that, by license of the bishop and by the usage of centuries, it had been assigned to the use of the owner of Shavington.

The ultimate result of these researches was the preparation of the present volume, which Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale desired me to compile after hearing the nature and extent of the information obtained.

The history itself is interesting, less for features of striking public interest than for the complete manner in which it illustrates the gradual formation of an old English estate. There are, however, many details of historical interest, especially in connection with the Civil Wars, the Commonwealth, and the Restoration.

The documents at Shavington had previously been inspected by Mr. Maxwell Lyte (now Deputy Keeper of the Records) on behalf of the Historical MSS. Commission. I found a neat bundle of letters and papers which he had extracted from the heap, and which contained most that was of any public interest among the documents.

I doubt not that the Shavington Muniments had previously been inspected by another great antiquarian before Mr. Maxwell Lyte. Sir Peter Leycester, the historian of Cheshire, was connected with the Kilmoreys by marriage, he having married Elizabeth, (daughter of Gilbert, Lord Gerard) whose mother, Lady Gerard, (daughter of Thomas Dutton, of Dutton) was subsequently second wife to Robert, second Viscount Kilmorey; and Sir Peter was himself trustee of Viscount Kilmorey's estates.

The manner of keeping family title-deeds at Shavington was not elegant, but it has been effectual, for nothing material seems to have been lost, and the deeds themselves are in wonderfully good preservation. To this is owing the complete information of the devolution of the property which I have been able to gather together. The completeness of the documentary evidence indeed, whilst it has in some respects lightened my labours, has, from its great detail, somewhat complicated them. Those of the muniments which relate to the Shavington estate have

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now been arranged and scheduled, and a full account of them will be found in "The Muniments of Shavington."

Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale only desired such particulars of the history of Shavington as could be gleaned from the MSS., and, as will be seen from the history itself, I have seldom gone further afield for information.

There is very little trustworthy information, indeed, to be found outside, with the exception of such as is supplied by Eyton, and to him I am indebted for the greater part of the history of the two centuries after the Conquest. From the thirteenth century downwards the history as conveyed in the Muniments is almost complete.

I am indebted to the Rev. Athelstan Corbet for extracts from the Parish Registers of Adderley and for information as to Adderley Church, and to Mr. C. Trice Martin, F.S.A., of the Public Record Office, for his assistance and advice generally with reference to the materials in hand. In the work itself, some shortcomings must be set down to the limits of my commission, some to the pressure on my time, but none to the want of a good will.

HENRY D. HARROD.

*Reeves,
Chipstead, Surrey,
Xmas, 1889.*



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