

**ANNALS OF THE CHURCH  
OF ST. MARY, SHAW-  
CUM-DONNINGTON, IN  
THE COUNTY OF BERKS**

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Annals of the Church of St. Mary, Shaw-cum-Donnington, in the County of Berks by Walter Money

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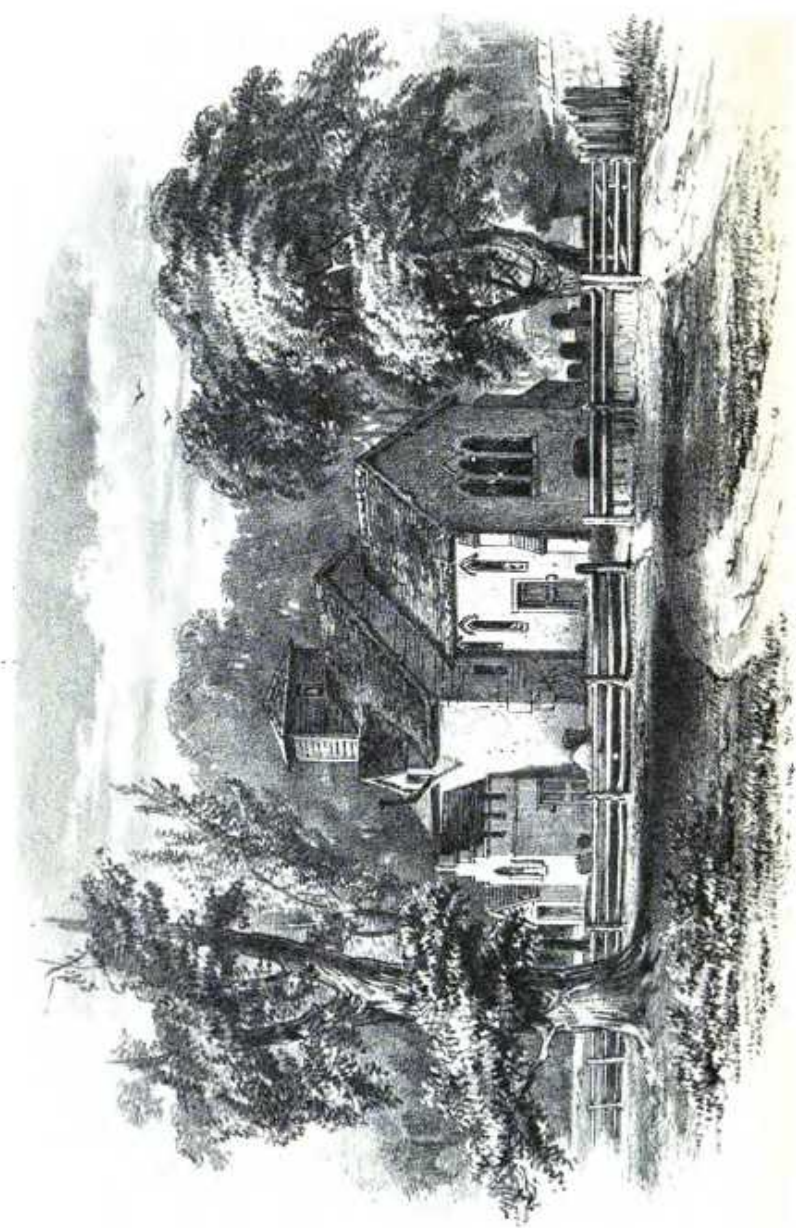
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**WALTER MONEY**

**ANNALS OF THE CHURCH  
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THE OLD CHURCH OF ST. MARY. SHAW.

ANNALS  
OF THE  
Church of St. Mary,  
SHAW-CUM-DONNINGTON,  
IN THE COUNTY OF BERKS.

BY  
WALTER MONEY, F.S.A.,

*(Member of Council for Berks, Brit. Arch. Assoc.)*

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'Tis to this Church I call thee, and that place  
Where slept our fathers, when they'd run their race  
We too shall rest, and then our children keep  
Their road in life, and then, forgotten sleep.

*Crabbe.*

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

NEWBURY:  
WALTER J. BLACKET, PRINTER, NORTHBROOK STREET.

1878.

~~B. 5231.49.70~~

✓ B. 5231.135



*Denny fund*

TO  
THE HON. AND REV. JOHN HORATIO NELSON, M.A.,  
RECTOR,  
THE  
CHURCHWARDENS,  
AND PARISHIONERS OF SHAW-CUM-DONNINGTON,  
THESE ANNALS OF THEIR PARISH CHURCH ARE  
RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

## PREFACE.

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The deficiency of this county in topographical literature has been often noticed.

It was observed by Lord Carnarvon, in his eloquent address delivered to the British Archæological Association at Newbury, that there is a dearth of written records or information as regards Berkshire, almost incredible, except to those who like himself have been compelled to look with some care and particularity into the subject.

The truth of this remark has been severely tested; and it is with the hope of adding something, however unimportant, to our stock of local history, that these chronicles of the Church of Shaw-cum-Donnington, which are intended as an accompaniment to papers already published on Donnington Priory and Hospital, are offered to the public.

In the accomplishment of this object, original documents have been consulted and personally collated; and by omitting, as far as possible, such matter as will be found in the pages of *Lyson's, The History of Newbury*, and other available sources, the endeavour has been to render these slight contributions the means of increasing our knowledge of the places of which they treat, and to give an aspect of more general interest to the local scenes and circumstances described.

*Newbury, July, 1872.*



THE  
CHURCH OF ST. MARY,  
SHAW-CUM-DONNINGTON.

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THE former Church of St. Mary, at Shaw, was of early date, as appears from the accompanying sketch; and is said to have been built about A.D. 1200.\*

It was remarkable for an early Norman round tower; with walls of great thickness, consisting of small faced flints, and Chilmark stone, which seems to have been commonly used in the construction of the more ancient churches in this district.

The old bells were removed to the new church. The first, which is of pre-reformation date, bears this inscription:—"✠ **Sanc ta Ma ria Ora [Pro] Bo his.**" The second. "**FEARE GOD.**" The third. "**SERVE GOD.**" One of the latter has been recast; the other has the date of "1663," and were both most probably the work of Wallis, of Salisbury, or his successor, Danton. The Priest's Bell, which has been recently removed from the Belfry, has the inscription:—"J. BURROUGH, IN DEVIZES, BELL FOUNDER, 1751."

The Nave of the old church exhibited several good Norman

\* Mr. Petit Andrews, F.S.A., in his reply to More's Berkshire Queries, in 1759, states the Church at Shaw was originally covered with "Roman antique tiles." *Bib. Top. Brit. vol. iv., p. 79.* And Charles Knight in his *Journey Book of Berks*, p. 130, says—"The Church presents some Saxon Remains."

Since the above note was written a remarkable discovery has been made in the church-yard at Shaw, of a very large Ancient British Cinerary or Sepulchral Urn, containing ashes and burnt bones. It was found in removing the ground on the north side of the church near the post and rail fence, at a depth of about four feet, but unfortunately broken in removal.

A description of this Urn will be given in the 2nd Vol. of the Field Club Transactions, now in the press.

In immediate proximity to the spot where the vessel was discovered, the writer has since picked up several good specimens of flint flakes and scrapers.

A number of pieces of Roman pottery and glass are lying about in different parts of the church-yard.

features, with many introductions and alterations of a later date.

The Chancel was early English in character, with an east window of three lights, and two lancets and a priest's door on the south side.

The Porch had a Norman doorway, decorated with the characteristic zigzag moulding.

The interior of the church was fitted up in a very primitive manner. There were west and north galleries with an outer entrance on the north side, which were also reached by a staircase from the nave. Some of the principal residents sat in the gallery; and here was stationed the village choir, which consisted of two or three male and female voices, led by an aged performer on the violoncello, who was the sole instrumentalist.

A large square pew in the nave was known as the "Farmer's Pew," which was occupied by the better sort of male parishioners generally. There was a writing desk in the centre of this pew, for use at the "Select Vestries," which were usually held in this enclosure after morning service; when the Rector and parish officials gave orders for money and clothes to be distributed to the deserving poor. This was before the era of the present Poor Law system.

Another pew was called the "Farmers' Wives Pew," and occupied by the ladies appertaining to the gentlemen on the right. The poorer classes sat in the remaining portion of the nave; the sexes being divided—the men sitting on the south side, and the women on the north side.\*

A faculty pew belonging to the Grove formed an excrescence on the south-east angle of the church. It had a small entrance on the east side, and a large window overlooking the churchyard. This pew was fitted up with a fire-place, chairs, and other necessaries tending more to bodily comfort than spiritual exercise.

The bowl of the old font, which is round and plain, is in use in the present church:

The first historical circumstance we meet with connected with the church at Shaw occurs in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV., which was made in consequence of the grant in 1288, by the Pope to King Edward I., of the first fruits and tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices for six years, towards the expense of an expedition to the Holy Land.

\* This was according to ancient usage.—"Men used to stand on the right hand, or south side; women on the left, or north." *Fosbroke's Enc. Antig.* vo. I., p. 96.

From the volume printed by the Commissioners on Public Records, the following account of the Rectory of Shaw is derived. It is found in that portion which relates to the taxation of spiritualties in the Diocese of Salisbury.

"Ecclesia de Schawe."

Taxatio - - - - -	£4	6s.	8d.
Decima - - - - -		8s.	8d.

The Institutions of the Rectory of Shaw, in the Episcopal Registers of Sarum, (of which diocese Berkshire was formerly a part) commence in the 34th reign of King Edward I, 1305,—a date which carries us back to the stormy time of the Barons, one of whom, Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, we are enabled intimately to connect with this neighbourhood. He was owner of the manor of Newbury, and also, by virtue of his office as Earl Marshall, of the accompanying manor of Hamstead Marshall. A statesman by whom, the great issue of "England for the English" had been put and challenged in the face of day. The leader of a party, which, loyal to Rome in things spiritual, repudiated with the emphasis of freedom her encroachments on the political independence of the realm; and out of whose enduring conflict, rose, indirectly, the political principles which contributed so largely to bring about the Reformation of the English Church.

The first institution recorded to the Church of Shaw, is that of Thomas de Chelreth [Chelrey] who was instituted on the presentation of John de Columdarum. Milt, 5th January 1305.

\* The following interesting documents † relating to Newbury have escaped the notice of local topographers :—

- 1.—Charter of Roger Biggot, Earl of Norfolk, made to William Mortemer and his heirs of 106s. 2d. annual rent to take from certain premises in Newbury. Sans date.
- 2.—Charter of Maud de Mortemer to her son William de Mortemer of all her lands in Newbury, and Crendone, and in default of issue of the said William is to return to the said Maud and her heirs. Sans date.
- 3.—An Indenture by which Walter de Thorbury, guardian of the lands of Roger de Mortemer, leases certain fisheries in Newbury to Thomas of Sandlesford to farm. Dated 33rd year Edw. I.
- 4.—Charter of William Trewit to William de Mortemer of certain lands in Newbury, called "The Isle of Newbury," with the right of fishing therein and all appurtenances. Same date.
- 5.—Grant by Edward IV., to his mother, Cecilia, Duchess of York for life, in completion of a grant of lands of the value of 5000 marks, in recompense of her jointure, including the Manor and Lordship of Newbury, with the Borough of Newbury, and its appurtenances, with many other lands. Dated Westminster, 1st June, 1 Edw. IV.

† *Register of the Muniments of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, Add. Ms. 6041, f. 14. b. Brit. Mus.*