

**THE REGISTERS OF
MERSTHAM,
SURREY, 1538-1812**

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The Registers of Merstham, Surrey, 1538-1812 by Reginald Illingworth Woodhouse & A. J. Pearman

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REGINALD ILLINGWORTH WOODHOUSE & A. J. PEARMAN

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OF

Merstham,

SURREY.

Issued by

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The Registers

OF

Merstham,

SURREY.

1538—1812.

TRANSCRIBED BY THE

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PREFACE.

THE name Merstham has been variously spelt. The topographer Salmon, writing in 1736, calls it Mestham, but he adds that it was anciently spelt with an r as now. Mr. Thomas Fisher, churchwarden for eighteen years, has letters addressed to him with the name spelt in thirty-nine different ways.

In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries we find it written Meyrstan, Merystham, and Marstham, but in Domesday Book it is Merstan. Many of the ancient inhabitants call it Mestam to this day, and do not sound the "th". Spelling, however, being formerly phonetic, we must turn our attention rather to the sound than to the letters. The derivation is probably from the word "Mére," defined as a marsh land or boggy swine-walk; and "stan," a stone, or house of stone. The situation and the fact of the lord's rent being paid in hogs, affords a considerable presumption in favour of this view, in preference to another possible derivation, *viz.*, from the word "Moer," a boundary.

As appears by *Domesday Book*, it was held by the Archbishop "de vestitu monachorum," presumed to mean for the clothing of the monks of Canterbury. There was a church and a mill and eight acres of pasture, and the lord's rent was twenty-five fat hogs and sixteen lean ones. The living is still in the gift of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and was one of his peculiars.*

We gather something of the nature of the country in the time of Edward I. from the fact of his having in the year 1383 granted the right of free-warren of his lands at Merstham and various places in Kent and Sussex to one Edmund de Passeleye, but reserving the King's own rights within the Forest.

In Vol. IV. of the *Surrey Archæological Society*, 1869, is an inventory of the goods and ornaments of the churches in the county of Surrey in the reign of Edward VI., communicated by

* "Peculiars" were abolished in Archbishop Howley's time.

John Robert Daniel-Tyssen, Esq., F.S.A., and extracted from the seventh Report of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records, dated the 30th of March, 1846, in the appendix ii., No. 10, p. 307. It is headed:—

"A catalogue, topographically arranged, of the inventories of the goods and ornaments in the several churches and chapels of the realm, as they were found by the various bodies of commissioners appointed to make inquiry concerning them, in the sixth year of King Edward the Sixth; and also of the indentures of the delivery of such goods and ornaments as were allowed to remain in the hands of the churchwardens for the use of the several churches; and in respect of some of the parishes of other documents connected with the proceedings of the commissioners".

From the original documents in the Public Record office are extracted the following particulars:—

"Mestham [Saint Catherine-Merstham] M^d The xij day of May in the vij yere of the reign of our soverayne lorde Kyng Edward the vj came before us Sir Thomas Cawerden Knight Nicholas Lygh and Jamys Skynner esquiers the Kynges comysioners within the counte of Surrey amongst other assigned severed and devided to and for the hunderdes of Tanrigge and Reygate within the same counte for the sale of the churche goodes jewelles and plate beyng within the same, Thomas Allen Robert Kynsman churche wardens of the parysshe of Mestham in the counte aforeseid and delyvered unto us suche goodes jewelles and plate as hereafter is wrytten on the bacsyde of this indenture according to their inventory thereof heretofore made and redelivered unto them thies parcelles under written:—

"*Imprimis* a chalice poiz xxij oz. dj.

"*Item* a cope of silke for the communion table.

"Also remaining with them in the steple v belles a sainc bell and a hand bell.

"Receyvvd to the Kynges use.

"Received a chalice poiz xij oz. dj.

"Received also a small pix poiz iiij oz. iij qr.

"*Item* a cope and a vestement sold for iiij^s iiij^d.

"*Item* all the reast sold for xxxiiij^s iiij^d.

"*Item* coper gilt poiz x^{li} dj v^s iiij^d.

"Summa cxviiij^s xj^d."

Church Plate now existing.

Silver-gilt Paten.—Weight, 9 oz. 2 dwt. Diam., $5\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Hall-marks as on the cup of 1895.

There is a Latin cross on the rim. It has the same inscription as the cup.

Silver Paten.—Weight, 3 oz. 12 dwt. Diam., $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Hall-marks as above.

Underneath are the initials R. I. W.

Silver Flagon.—Weight, 36 oz. 9 dwt. Height, 12 in. Diam. of base, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.

London hall-marks of 1762: 1. Leopard's head crowned in round shield. 2. W. G. script letters, in a shaped stamp; the mark of William Grundy, Fetter Lane. 3. Capital old English **G**. 4. Lion passant.

This is a jug-shaped vessel with spout, below which the usual star ornament is engraved. It is inscribed, "The Gift of Jer: Milles D.D. Rector of this Parish 1763."

Two glass Flagons with handsome silver-gilt mounts, hall-marked 1895.

Small glass Flagon with silver mounts and the same hall-marks. It bears the initials R. I. W.

Brass Alms Bason.

Silver Cup.—Weight, 12 oz. 10 dwt. (Marked under foot 16 . 17, but this must have included a lost cover.) Height, 8 in. Diam. of bowl, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.; of foot, 4 in. Depth of bowl, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.

London hall-marks of 1623: 1. Leopard's head crowned, in outline. 2. Very much worn, probably T F in monogram. 3. Italic small F. 4. Lion passant.

The bowl is deep and straight-sided with splayed lip; the stem evenly balanced and divided by a small round knob; the foot of the usual shape at that period.

The bowl is inscribed "Deo sacranit & gregi suo dedit 1623"; and the foot, "Tho: Goad Sr^{re} Theol^{re} Dr Rector eccl^{ie} pochialis de Mestham comitat Surrey".

Silver-gilt Cup.—Weight 18 oz. 4 dwt. Height, $8\frac{9}{16}$ in.

London hall-marks of 1895: Makers' initials, J.P.F.P. script letters.

This is a nice cup with conical bowl, and hexagonal stem which widens below the knob into a mullet foot; the knob follows the shape of the stem and has a flattened band round it. On one face of the base there is a Latin cross. On the reverse of base, "St Catherine's, Merstham. Mission 1895."