

**THE UNTON INVENTORIES, RELATING TO  
WADLEY AND FARINGDON CO. BERKS.  
IN THE YEARS 1596 AND  
1620, FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE  
POSSESSION OF EARL FERRERS. WITH A  
MEMOIR OF THE FAMILY OF UNTON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649468898

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE BERKSHIRE ASHMOLEAN SOCIETY,

BY JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS AND SON, PARLIAMENT STREET.

M.DCCC.XLI.



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## CONTENTS.

	Page
PREFACE . . . . .	vii
<b>MEMOIRS OF THE FAMILY OF UNTON—</b>	
Henry Unton, Chirographer of the King's Bench . . . . .	xvii
The Untons of the City of London . . . . .	xviii
Hugh Unton and Agnes Danvers . . . . .	xx
Hugh Unton, and Sibella Fettiplace . . . . .	ib.
Sir Thomas Unton, of Minster Lovell . . . . .	xxii
The WILL of Dame Elizabeth Unton, 1536 . . . . .	xxv
Sir Alexander Unton . . . . .	xxx
Sir Edward Unton, K.B. and Anne Countess of Warwick . . . . .	xxxiv
The WILL of Sir Edward Unton 1581 . . . . .	xxxix
Colonel Edward Unton . . . . .	xlix
Sir Henry Unton, Ambassador to France . . . . .	1
Dame Dorothy Unton, afterwards Shirley . . . . .	lxvii
Sir Valentine Knightley . . . . .	lxviii
The Family of Purefoy . . . . .	lxx
Extracts from the Parish Registers of Hatford and Faringdon . . . . .	lxxii
The Untons of Drayton in Halles, co. Salop . . . . .	lxxiii
Abstract of Charters relating to the Estates of the Unton Family . . . . .	lxxiv
INVENTORY of Furniture, &c. at Wadley and Faringdon, taken on the death of Sir Henry Unton in 1596 . . . . .	1
INVENTORY of Furniture, &c. at Wadley and Faringdon, and partially at Astwell, co. Northampton, made in 1620 . . . . .	15
The WILL of Dame Dorothy Shirley, in 1634 . . . . .	31
Glossarial Index to the Inventories and Wills . . . . .	37
Index of Places and Persons . . . . .	51



## P R E F A C E.

TOPOGRAPHY, or local history, has now for many generations received considerable attention in this country; but, while it has been diffused widely, it has, for the most part, been accomplished very superficially; and, such is the pervading nature of its ramifications, that even where it has been best executed there will ever arise additional materials which may be interwoven in its varied texture, by which its lacunæ may be supplied, and the chain of its evidence strengthened and confirmed.

The subjects of Topography may be classed under the three general heads of—natural features, the works of man, and the descent of property. Some of our early topographers directed their attention principally to the former of these subjects, as Plot, Morton, and Borlase; whilst others, of whom the most successful in the elder line were Erdeswick, Dugdale, and Thoroton, adopted for their staple the records of property and genealogy, and their followers have formed the more numerous school; or, to speak more precisely, those subjects have occupied