

HANTS FIELD CLUB, 1893.



M. SNAPE, DELT. 1873.

INK PHOTO. SPRAGUE & CO LONDON.

NOTES CONCERNING ROWNER.

BY REV. E. S. PRIDEAUX-BRUNE, M.A.

Rowner is mentioned in Domesday Book as Ruenore, William Maldoit held it. "Coleman formerly held it of King Edward. It was then assessed at 5 hides. It is now assessed at 2 hides and a half. Here are 4 ploughlands; 1 ploughland and a half is in demesne, and 2 bondmen and 1 acre of meadow (the woods furnish 4 hogs), and ten villeins and 2 borderers, who occupy 2 ploughlands and a half. It was worth T.R.E. 70 shillings, afterwards 30 shillings. It is now worth 70 shillings."

There is mention of Rowner in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, where we find that in the year 1114, Sept. 15th, King Henry I. was at Burn (probably East-Bourne), whence he would have gone over the sea, but he was detained by the weather. The weather continuing adverse, he moved on to Rugenor, where he was on September 21st, and there he completed an ecclesiastical appointment, and the same day took ship at Portsmouth.¹

After this record of a royal visit, we pass on to the question of the connection of Rowner with the famous Cistercian abbey of Quarr, which was founded in 1133. Local tradition

¹ The king had conferred the Archbishopric of Canterbury on Ralph, Bishop of Rochester, and appointed Ernulf, Abbot of Peterborough, to the see of Rochester. He gave the abbacy to a monk of Sieyes, named John. Soon after this the king and the archbishop sent him, with two others, to Rome, for the archbishop's pall. "This was done on the 11th before the Kalends of October (1114), at the town called Rugenor (Rowner, near Gosport)." Anglo-Saxon chronicle, Bohn's edition, p. 485.

asserts that Rowner was a dependency of this abbey, and finds in the brick-work in the ditch by the church houses near the church, and in the indication of the former existence of a fish-pond, traces of a monastic establishment, but, there seems to be no ground for this tradition, or proof that Quarr had any *ecclesiastical* connection with Rowner. The connection between the two appears to have lain in the possession by the abbey of a grange and farm buildings, and some land in Rowner, and the remains of masonry in the aforesaid ditch may possibly belong to the old manor house of the Brunes.

There are four deeds in the possession of the lord of the manor¹ which have reference to Quarr. Three of these are undated, and one records how Hamo Brito de Leya, in association with Eudo, his father-in-law, and Richard, his son and heir, granted to God and to the abbot of Saint Mary of Quarr, a certain part of his land of Cherc, carefully and accurately described with reference to adjacent properties, and in return for this grant the abbot of Quarr gave unto the aforesaid son of the grantor one colt out of his stud—"unum pullum de haracio suo." Permission is also conceded to the monks to have their little boat, free of toll, along the sea-board, either at Cherc or at Leya—"naviculam suam libere et quiete per totum litus maris quod pertinet sive ad Cherc sive ad Leya." Another deed relates how Johannes de Visor made a similar grant to God, and the abbot of Saint Mary of Quarr, of land in his manor of Cherc, described in the same careful and accurate manner, and gave a similar permission with regard to the possession of a little boat on the sea-board. The third deed is a grant of Gillebertus le Bret de Cherc (presumably of the same family as Hamo Brito de Leya) to God and the blessed Mary of Quarr, and the monks serving God there. He concedes to the abbey that all his men in Cherc should grind their corn at the mill which the monks had in that land at Cherc, which was granted to them by his ancestors, nor were they to grind elsewhere—"nisi pro defectu dicti molendini. . . . Ego vero Gillebertus et heredes mei si quando ad supradictum molendinum moluerimus dabimus justam moltam

¹ Charles Prideaux Brune, Esq., of Prideaux Place, Padstow.

sicut et ceteri." The fourth deed bears date 1266, regarding a question between the monks of Titchfield and the monks of Quarr—"inter viros religiosos Abbatem et conventum de Tichefeld Praemonstratensis ordinis actores ex parte una et Abbatem et conventum de Quarrera Cistercii ordinis ex altera super duobus solidis annuis nomine decimæ de molendino ad ventum quod dicti monachi habent apud Cherc et super arreragiis dictorum duorum solidorum per terminum proximo elapsum." There was also a dispute about some small tithes payable out of the possessions of the Quarr monks at Cherc. The matter was amicably settled before the Dean and Treasurer of Sarum, the monks of Quarr agreeing to pay the arrears due, and the two shillings every year in future, 12 pence at Easter, and 12 pence at Michaelmas, and with regard to the small tithes, the monks of Titchfield quit-claimed the others. There is attached to this document a green ecclesiastical seal, the upper portion (about one-third of the whole) being gone.

Leya, now more familiar to modern ears under its name of "Lee-on-the-Solent," with its new houses and pier, is not in Rowner, but in Titchfield; the greater part of Cherc or Chark Common is also in Titchfield. On the other hand, the Grange Farm (the term *Grangia* pointing especially to a farm-house belonging to a monastery), with its very picturesque homestead and woodland surroundings is in Rowner, so that undoubtedly it may be said that the monks of Quarr had lands in Rowner and its vicinity, with farm-buildings, and a windmill, and a boat on the sea-board, but that there was any ecclesiastical connection appears to lack confirmation.

We may imagine how the brethren who were sent over from Quarr to till the lands at Rowner and Cherc would look in the direction of their old home on the opposite side of the Solent.

"tendebant manus ripæ ulterioris amore."

It is comforting to reflect that they had their means of communication, their "navicula," and in fair weather it would be but a short sail across.

We come now to the charters of Edward I., from which dates that association, which still continues, of the family of

le Brun, Bruyn, or Brune, with the manor of Rowner. These charters are in the possession of the lord of the manor, and are in beautiful preservation. On 6th February, 1276-7, Edward I. granted "dilecto valletto nostro Willelmo le Brun et Isolde uxori ejus" the Manor (among others) of Rouenore, and the advowson of the church there, which had been forfeited to the King on the occasion of a felony which William de la Faleyse had committed, for which he was outlawed, the Manor to be held by the yearly payment of 40 shillings to the King's exchequer at Michaelmas. The seal of this charter is lost. It was followed by a grant of free warren on 18th June, 1283, and on 12th January, 1288-9, by a grant that the land should be free from all charges upon it by the Jews. To the first of these two last-named the great seal is attached by four silken cords, two of them red, and two green, each plaited. The seal is in green wax, nearly perfect; the King, Edward I. on his throne is the impression on one side, and the King on horse-back on the other. To the other the great seal is attached by two silken cords, one white, and the other red, each plaited. The seal is the same as that last described, though not so perfect.

Sir William le Brun died in 1300. Isolda died in 1307, and by the inquisition taken after her death it was found that she held the manor of Rouenore by the service of finding one man for the defence of Porchester Castle for 40 days in time of war, for which service she paid 40 shillings, and it was found that Maurice le Brun was her son and heir. It was this Sir Maurice who married Matilda, the daughter and heir of Sir Philip de la Rokele.

On 1st Sept., 1375, there was an inquisition taken for the proof of age of Ingelram le Brun, the grand-son of the above-named Maurice. It contains many curious local allusions. It was declared on oath "quod Ingelram fuit natus apud Tychfeld et in capella de Chark infra parochiam de Tychfeld baptizatus in festo Sancti Nicolai, videlicet vi^{to} die Decembris anno regni Regis nunc xxvii^{mo}."

Passing over other matters connected with the manor, we may mention the death of Sir John Brune in 1559, because in his will he makes provision for the erection of a monument in Rowner Church, which monument we will describe, when

we come to speak of the fabric of the church. It appears that Sir John was lying at his house in Rowner grievously sick, and in his will, which is dated, August 28th, 1559, he gives this direction, "I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God . . . and my boddie to be buried in the Parish Church of Rowner, within my owne chapell there, upon which church and chapell I will shall be bestowed by mine executrix for the repairing of the same, the sum of £6, and also I will there shall be bestowed upon the making of my tombe the sum of £10." He also bequeathed to the church of Rowner a decente cope (cope) of black velvet or sad tawney velvet to the value of £5, the same to be bought within one month after his burial, otherwise the said £5 to be expended upon the repairing of Rowner church.

In the seventeenth Century Charles Brune, the then representative of the family, purchased the manor of Plumber, in the parish of Lydlinch, Dorset, and settled there. His grandson, Charles Brune, died in 1769, s.p., and in him the family became extinct in the male line. By his will his estates, including the manor and advowson of Rowner, eventually devolved on his great-nephew, the Rev. Charles Prideaux, of Padstow, Cornwall, whose grandson, Charles Glynn Prideaux-Brune, is the present possessor.

The history of the advowson shows us that from the time of Edward I.'s grant the family of Brune have presented to the church, with a few exceptions, when, for one cause or another, the patronage had got into other hands for a turn. Very few of the family, however, have held the benefice, and after the two first recorded rectors, none of the name appear till the year 1884, when the present rector was instituted. Through the kindness of Dr. Kitchin the Dean of Winchester, who is ever ready to place his learning at the disposal of others, the treasures of the episcopal registers were opened to the writer, and a list of the rectors, which would seem to be complete since 1292, has been obtained. On 6th May of that year Philip le Brun was instituted, at which time he was a minor. Ten years afterwards he was still a minor, as his church was under the custody of John of Warham, rector of the church of Notsellinge (Nursling). Shortly afterwards he appears to have died, and his brother,

Nicholas le Brun, became Rector. His career was a short and not very eminent one. In 1306 he had leave from Bishop Woodlok to study at Oxford for a term, and there he got into debt to Master William de Gotham, a Balliol scholar, and died. There was yet another brother in holy orders, Richard le Brun, who was rector of Shorwell, in the Isle of Wight. On the death of Nicholas, Isolda la Bruyne presented William of Dean's Shireburne, and he was succeeded by Thomas of Worplesdone, and so on. The list is a long one, and one cannot fail to be struck with the short tenure of the benefice, which many of the incumbents enjoyed.

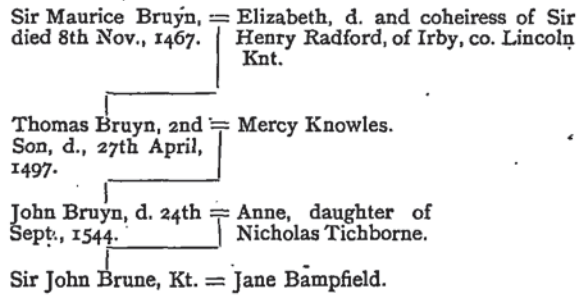
The parish church, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, is one mile from Brockhurst Railway Station, across the field, and stands in a remarkably pretty churchyard, which contains many striking modern memorials of the dead, and two of some historical interest, namely, a headstone in memory of Sir Frederick Thesiger, who was an intimate friend of Nelson, and agent for prisoners of war in 1805, who died in his house at Elson. On a flat stone outside the vestry door is an inscription containing the name of the notorious pirate Paul Jones, as follows:—"In memory of Rachel Hannah Burdon, who died the 7th of May, 1798, aged 72 years, widow of the late Captain George Burdon, of the Royal Navy, who was killed in an engagement with Paul Jones, off Belfast, in 1778." Fragments of two stone coffin lids remain in the churchyard.

The church at present consists of north chancel, originally the Brune chapel, and south chancel (now used as a vestry and organ-chamber), nave, and south aisle. It was in a very dilapidated condition in 1873, when the then Rector, the Rev. Richard Foster Carter, took in hand the restoration, which was successfully carried out, and on St. John the Baptist, 1874, the church was re-opened by Dr. Utterton, Bishop Suffragan of Guildford. The work of restoration proved more costly than was at first anticipated, and, we believe, eventually amounted to some £1400. The walls of the church were practically rebuilt, and the church enlarged on the north side, entirely re-seated, and an open-timbered roof throughout took the place of the old ceiled roof. At the

same time the ancient features of the church were carefully preserved, and the Early English piers and arches still testify its antiquity. There was also discovered a Norman arch quite hidden over the door of the south porch. This was removed to its present position over the new door-way leading into the south chancel or vestry, and forms the oldest feature of the church. The font (pre-reformation), which formerly stood in the Brune chapel, was then placed at the west end, near the door. The pulpit is modern. The lectern, made out of an oaken beam from the north side of the roof, which suffered by fire many years ago, is now kept in the vestry, being replaced (Easter, 1893) by a brass one, the gift of Captain Martin (60th Rifles). The Brune chapel has formed, since the restoration, the chancel of the church.

Some fragments of mural paintings were found in this chapel, apparently figures of saints. A sedile was discovered on the south side of this chapel, also a piscina, which was unfortunately removed, and is inserted in the north wall. These features indicate the existence of an altar in this private chapel, which also contains the monument of Sir John Brune, 1559. It is made of chalk: on either side of a canopy is a cherub, one bearing the arms of Brune, and de la Rokele, quarterly Brune, 1 and 4, *cz.*, a cross moline, or, 2 and 3, de la Rokele, lozengy, erm and gules; and the other cherub bearing the arms of Bampfield (mutilated), *paly of six or and vert, on a bend gules, three mullets argent.* Over the canopy is a third cherub bearing a shield charged with a goat passant, which is the crest of Brune. Underneath the canopy is a shield charged with the arms of Brune and de la Rokele, quarterly, surmounted by a Knight's helmet, and by the crest of Brune, a goat passant; underneath is the motto, "TOVS JOVRS PRES." On the base of the monument there are four shields, namely Brune and de la Rokele, quarterly; Brune and de la Rokele impaling Tichborne, *vair, a chief or*; Brune and de la Rokele impaling Knowles, *gules on a chevron arg three roses of the field*; and Brune and de la Rokele impaling Bampfield. Over the tomb is a helmet apparently old, and a breast-plate, comparatively modern, given by the late Mr. J. Lambert Wood, of Bury Place House, Alverstokey.

PEDIGREE OF BRUNE, ILLUSTRATING THE HERALDRY IN
ROWNER CHURCH.



Of the other monuments there are two brasses, modern and of no great interest, and memorials principally connected with different Rectors, especially the Henvilles, of Haydon, in Dorset. The east window of stained glass is in memory of Mrs. Southey, of Roche Court, Fareham, and four small stained glass windows are concerned with the families of Martin, of Fleetlands and Bullen, of Brockhurst.

In the south chancel is a mural tablet "to the memory of the Rev. Philip Henvill, 27 years rector, who died 1757. Frances, his wife, died 1743, and William Henvill, their son, died, 1768. On the north wall "In memory of William Henville, Esq., of Haydon, Dorset, died, 1776. The Rev. James Henville, grandson of the above, late fellow of New College, died, 1838." Arms, Henvill, *sab a lion rampant between eight cross crosslets arg.* Crest, *an eagle's head erased between two wings or.* Motto, *Virtus vera nobilitas*, impaling Prankerd, *arg and gu gyronny of twelve over all an escutcheon of pretence or.*

On the south wall a tablet "to the memory of the Rev. James Henville, rector, died, 1805; Susanna, his wife, died, 1827." Arms, Henville impaling Kedden *or a lion rampant sab*, "The Rev. Charles Brune Henville, incumbent of Portsmouth and Portsea, and afterwards vicar of Hound and Bursledon, and perpetual curate of Hamble, died, 1849. Margaret Lind Henville, his wife, died, 1866."

On the west wall "To the memory of Captn. Richard Burbydge, died, 1730." Arms, *arg a chevron azure between three boars heads coupéd sab guttée d'or*, impaling *or an estoile sab.* Crest, *a boar's head erect, holding in its mouth an acorn.*

On the north wall "Rev. John Mansfield, rector, died, 1837, also Winifred, his wife, eldest daughter of R. P. Blachford, Esq., of Osborne House, I.W., died, 1854."

"Richard Foster Carter, rector, died, 1876." Arms, *Quarterly 1 and 4 a bridge embowed of three arches embattled, bearing a turret surmounted by a pennon: 2 and 3, a chevron between three bugles, on a chief three buckles. Crest, a talbot's head coupé.*

The Parish Registers, which begin in 1590, are in fair preservation, containing some quaint entries, but nothing of striking historical importance. They were fairly kept during the troubles of the middle of the seventeenth century, and under the year 1655 there is mention of John Stares, "Register for the parish," also June, 1653, Robert Long, "Preacher of the Gospel," at Rownner. Towards the middle of the last century the church seems to have become popular for weddings—a sort of St. George's Hanover Square to the neighbourhood, people coming from all the parishes around to be married, and it was especially affected for matrimonial purposes by the officers in His Majesty's ships in the harbour. It is very amusing to note how Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act, of 1753, altered all this.

Our illustration of the church is from a drawing made in 1873, by Mr. Martin Snape, a member of the H.F.C., who has again placed the results of his talented pencil at the disposal of the Society. The sketch shews the condition and appearance of the building before restoration.¹

¹ Mr. Snape, in a letter to the Editor, mentions that the figure of an old man on two sticks, at the church porch, is not the conventional old gentleman who figures in most landscapes of a past generation, but is intended to represent a local celebrity, named John King, who was parish clerk at Rownner for many years, and who was always to be seen in or near the church in those days. His peculiarities were numerous. He had a habit of apostrophising the church stove if it did not burn well during the service—"Drat him! he's out again," with appropriate and noisy action with the poker. "No! he ain't, he'll do now!" and this occasionally during the sermon of a former rector, whose solemn sermons, conveyed in stately and well balanced sentences, were disturbed thereby.

A LIST OF THE RECTORS OF ROWNER, COMPILED FROM
INSTITUTION BOOKS AND OTHER SOURCES.

1292. May 6th, *Philip le Brun*, on the presentation of Sir William le Brun, Knight.

1306. *Nicholas le Brun.*

1306. December 10th, *William de Shireburne*, Priest, on the presentation of Isolda la Bruyne.

1311-12. January 30th, *Thomas de Worplesdone*, Priest, on the presentation of Sir Maurice le Brun, Knight.

1335. May 5th, *William (Whitebred) de Fromptone*, Priest, on the presentation of Sir Maurice le Bruyn, Knight, on the death of Thomas, the last rector.

David Bonn.

1348-49. January 8th, *Richard de Louth*, Priest, on the resignation of David Bonn, on the presentation of Sir Maurice de Breon, Knight (this was an exchange with the vicar of Hambledon).

1349. March 28th, *Hugh Corteys*, Priest, on the presentation of Sir Maurice Bruyn, Knight.

1361. October 13th, *Richard Pruwet*, Priest, on the presentation of Sir William Bruyn, Knight.

1392. November 8th, *William Fromond*, Priest, on the presentation of Sir Robert Marny, Knight, "dīctæ ecclesiæ hac vice patroni."

1392-93. January 23rd, *John Just or Inet*. He was Vicar of Hertford, in the diocese of Lincoln, and exchanged with William Fromond. On the presentation of John Martham, rector of the church of Bekenham, in the diocese of Rochester.

1405. July 6th, *Peter Camerynham*, clerk, on the presentation of King Henry IV., on the death of the late rector.

1405-6. February 7th, *Baldwin Westcote*, Chaplain, on the presentation of King Henry IV., on the resignation of Peter Camerynham.

1413. June 9th, *John Aston*, Chaplain, on the presentation of Sir Maurice Bryn, domicellus.

1459. *Richard Tresforburgh*, resigned.

1459. April 12th, *Hervey Bonzar*, Chaplain, on the presentation of Sir Henry Bruyn, Knight, on the resignation of Richard Tresforburgh.

1461. April 1st, *John Herford*, a monk, of Battle Abbey, on the presentation of Sir Henry Bruyn, Knight, on the resignation of Hervey Bonzar.

1462. November 5th, *Henry Couper*, Chaplain, on the death of John Herford, on the presentation of Thomas Bruyn, Esquire.

1486. *Thomas Assowe*, resigned.

1486. May 9th, *John Tesedale, M.A. and B.D.*, on the resignation of Thomas Assowe, on the presentation of Thomas Brune, Esquire.

1486-87. March 19th, *Maurice Johnson*, Priest, on the presentation of Thomas Brune, Esquire, on the resignation of John Tesedale.

1510. *William Boleyne*, resigned.

1510. May 6th, *Peter Langton*, Chaplain, on the presentation of William le Bruyn, Esquire, on the resignation of William Boleyne.

1513. *Thomas Butler*.

1513. November 19th.———This appointment took place on the death of Thomas Butler. It is absolutely blank in the register—a space being left. It was made by the Bishop of Winchester, to whose custody Thomas Bruyne, the son and heir of William Bruyne, was entrusted.

1519. December 27th, *Robert Laurence*, on the presentation of Thomas Brune, gent.

1565-66. *William Peneys or Pigney*.

1566. March 21st, *Thomas Hernan or Harnaye*, on the presentation of Queen Elizabeth, on the death of William Peneys.

1593-94. February 21st, *Arthur Dade, B.A.*, on the presentation of Thomas Dade, on the death of Thomas Hernan.

1612. *William Moore, M.A.*

1613-14. February 21st, *William Bennett*:
Philip.

1634-35. January 9th, *James Searle, M.A.*

1659. *George Whitmarsh*.

1662. November 11th, *William Duncumbe*.

1683-84. March 1st, *Alexander Good*.

1689. May 5th, *Christopher Good*.

1691. July 20th, *John Burbidge*.

1728. December 10th, *William Lewys*.

1730. May 26th, *Philip Henville, M.A.*

1757. July 28th, *John Aiskew*.

1760. March 3rd, *James Henville, M.A.*
1805. June 28th, *John Mansfield, B.D.*, on the presentation of the Rev. Charles Prideaux-Brune.
1837. September 15th, *Richard Foster Carter, M.A.*, presented by himself.
1876. *Edward Amyatt Amyatt-Burney, M.A.*, on the presentation of Charles Glynn Prideaux-Brune, Esq.
1884. April 1st, *Edward Shapland Prideaux-Brune, M.A.*, on the presentation of Charles Glynn Prideaux-Brune, Esq.
-