

CHAPTER TEN

AGRICULTURE

Saxon methods of agriculture have been described earlier. It is doubtful if any great changes took place immediately after the Conquest. The Normans were rulers, not peasants, (1) and left the work on the land to their Saxon subjects. The great mass of the people of England lived on the land, working to pay their manorial dues and provide for their own needs. The competent became prosperous, and the incompetent became poverty-stricken. (2)

Nothing seems to be known of the state of agriculture in Upton-cum-Chalvey in the period under the Priors of Merton, and not as much as could be wished between the Reformation and the beginning of the 19th century.

None of the early topographical writers mention Upton-cum-Chalvey, although Leland (3) was certainly at Staines and at Maidenhead between 1534 and 1543, and some of his successors undoubtedly passed along the main road to Bath. Returns made in 1517 show that enclosures had already taken place in Burnham and Stoke Poges. There is also mention of 'Upton', but it is not clear whether this was Upton-cum-Chalvey, or Upton-in-Dinton. (4) The Common Pound was at the end of Upton Lane, outside Upton Church. (5)

James and Malcolm, (6) writing in 1794/6, say: 'Upton has 1,500 acres in common fields. It is reported that in common with neighbouring parishes, the soil is good, well-manured (manure from Eton), and crops abundant, no fallow, but crops every year; no turnips, as fields are common from harvest to seed-time.' (7) This, as Professor Gray points out 'exploded entirely the old hodge of two crops and a fallow' on open lands.' (8) A reference by Pastor Moritz shows that the common idea that England was without hedges in the days of open fields was not entirely true, and that in this area, at least, hedges were already common in 1782.

By the end of the 18th century there were fewer open fields surviving in Buckinghamshire than in many other counties, and the Buckinghamshire farmers seem to have been fairly progressive in their agricultural technique.

An advertisement in the first issue of the *Windsor Express* (1 August, 1812), gives notice of the sale by Auction at Upton of '13 acres of wheat, six acres of Beans, six acres of oats (more or less) situated at Arbour Hill by the Turnpike-road leading from Windsor to Slough and Salt Hill'. This may be compared with the statistics given by the Rev. St. John Priest (9) in 1813. He says the culture was 'as before', and lists the 'seeds per acre' as 'Bushels of wheat, 3; Barley, 3; Beans, 3; Pease (sic) 3; Oats, 4;' and the produce per acre as 'Wheat, 28; Barley, 36; Beans, 28; Pease, 16 and Oats, 40'. (10) Priest says the farms in Upton-cum-Chalvey were of 60 to 200 acres, (11) and that there were 8 farm houses and 200 cottages in the parish. (12)

William Cobbett (13) rode through Slough some time before 1830, on his way to the West. He makes no mention of conditions in the parish, but says 'the turnips of both sorts by no means bad from Salt Hill to Newbury', (14) which suggests turnips were still not grown in this parish.

Another statement in *Rural Rides* does not refer specifically to this parish, but presumably applied to Upton-cum-Chalvey: 'You see here . . . and indeed, in almost every part of England, that most interesting of all objects, that which is such an honour to England, and that distinguishes it from all the rest of the world, namely, those neatly kept and productive little gardens round the labourers' houses, which are seldom unornamented with more or less of flowers'. (15)

Eventually, a Private Act for the enclosure of an estimated 752 acres was obtained in 1808. The Award (16) was made in 1819, and was enrolled in 1820, (17) and the strip system was finally abandoned. In this connection, the very clear maps and explanation of the alterations made in the area which lies between Stoke Road and Stoke Poges Lane (now within the Slough boundaries) published in the *Stoke Poges News-Letter*, (18) are well worth study. The benefit of the change from the strip system shown on the estate map of Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne in 1802, and the Enclosure Award Map for Stoke Poges in 1822, (19) is very obvious, even to those least acquainted with farming methods.

Maps of Upton-cum-Chalvey drawn in the early 19th century show fields on either side of the highway. The Bath Road had grass verges 20 to 40 feet wide, and at short distances there were pumps to water Irish cattle on the way to London markets, and lay the dust in summer. The largest of the fields in this parish were East Field (cut in two by Uxbridge Road), which lay north of the Bath Road from Tetsworth Brook to Wexham Road; and West Field, stretching from Wexham Road to Stoke Road. South of the Bath Road, the Slough Field and Chalvey Field bordered the Windsor Road on the west, and to the east were Hencroft, stretching from Windsor Road to Upton, north of Albert Street; Windmill Field, south of Albert Street, and Eastbridge and Long Fourteen Acres south again to the Eton boundary. East of Upton village was the Poundfield, with Twelve Acres, Quave, Long Field and Upton Meadow bordering the Datchet boundary. For other Field names see pp. 19, 21, 29-32, 40, 51, 66, 146.

The last owner occupier of Slough Farm-house was William Bonsey, who owned and farmed it until his death in 1830. The Enclosure Award maps for Stoke Poges and Upton-cum-Chalvey show he was one of the largest landowners of the district, but with his property so scattered that it must have been difficult to farm economically until after the enclosures. Bonsey's land extended north as far as Upton Lea, and west of Stoke Lane in the parish of Stoke Poges, but some curtailment followed his death. Edmund Mason of Britwell, Burnham, became the tenant of Slough Farm after Bonsey's death, and was its last farming occupier. During his tenure, land was sold for the railway, and for Dotesio's Royal Hotel. The Railway Station was built on the Long Field of Slough Farm. (20)

The farmhouse was demolished in 1938, but the Slough Barn survived until 1959. It was moved piece by piece in 1878, by Mr. Sargeant, great-uncle of Mr. Edward Sargeant, and re-erected behind 25, High Street (later Halley's Mineral Water Works, No. 55). This relic of old Slough, a wooden building with a red tiled roof, stood on the original staddles, and had the pulley wheel for lifting grain still in position. The only alteration after it was removed from the site near Slough Farm house was the addition of a weather vane, with G.IV wrought into an intricate design. The vane was originally at Windsor Castle, in the time of George IV. An oil-painting of it is preserved by the Halley family. (21)

Mr. Michael H.H. Bayley, whose great grandfather's land lay across what is now the Slough Trading estate, tells how his great-aunt remembered oxen being used to help get in the harvest when she was a girl, not long before the hard times of the 1870's, when farming was badly hit, (22) but this must have been unusual, as local farmers seem to have moved with the times, and made use of modern methods wherever possible.

The Victoria County History says 'with the exception of the orchards in the Slough district, there is not much to be said of the general culture of fruit' (23) in Buckinghamshire. Some varieties of fruits first raised in this neighbourhood are mentioned on pp.101-2, and many people will remember the glory of blossom time in the great orchard of cherry-trees which stretched north from Shaggy Calf Lane to the grounds of Stoke Place, east of Stoke Road.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the farms had increased in size. Most of the local farmers farmed well over 1,000 acres, (24) and several were extremely prosperous. Some of the fields were of great size, as may be seen in a picture of a ploughing match on the site of the Slough Trading Estate, taken from the Dover Road Bridge in 1909. (25) Yet the writing was on the wall, and by 1936, only 58.6% of the area was in agricultural use, (26) and this has been decreasing ever since.

THE CATTLE MARKET

Up to the middle of the 19th century, cattle were sold at public markets and fairs, but in 1850, one of the first, if not the first, private auctions of cattle in this country was held at Slough by W.T. Buckland, founder of the firm of Buckland & Sons. The market was held monthly for several years after. Later it was held fortnightly, and on 7 June, 1863, a public dinner, presided over by John Nash, was held at the North Star Inn to celebrate the institution of a weekly cattle market here.

In 1881, Bucklands purchased the land on the west side of William Street, just south of the railway line, on which the Slough Cattle Market was held until the building of the Slough College of Technology and the Wellington Street extension caused its removal to Wexham Street, where it is now held every Tuesday. (27)

THE EARLIEST RECORDS OF FARMING FAMILIES

The earliest records of families in Upton-cum-Chalvey nearly all refer to landholders and farmers who held land for many generations, only to be forced to move away after the expansion of Slough covered more and more fields with houses and factories. Some of the older families died out, but the descendants of others are still farming in the Eton Rural District.

The Pitt (or Pytte) family is the earliest of these families on record. They were first mentioned in the Church Inventory made in 1522, in the reign of Edward VI, and are believed to have lived in Upton House, on the site now occupied by Dudley Court. Mrs. Mary Pitt, widow of John Pitt, of Upton House, married Sir William Herschel. Generations of the family were buried in Upton churchyard, and their graves can be seen beside the path on the south side of the church. The earliest date still decipherable is Charles Pitt, 1805.

The Purser family lived in Pond House (now The Red Cow) in the 17th century. The Upton Court Rolls show that 'A message called Poundhouse' was conveyed from Barnard to Purser in 1671, which is probably a mis-spelling of Pond House, but Pursers were in Upton before this date. John Purser was buried at Upton on 17 November, 1670. The graves of several of the Purser family can be seen at the south-west end of the path west of the church, ranging in date from 1792 to 1860.

The earliest mention of the Pocock family is in 1733, when John Pocock and Mary Moody were married at Upton. A later John Pocock gave the £50 in 1835 which saved Upton Church from demolition. It was presumably this John Pocock 'formerly of Dutchman's Farm', who is said by Thomas Luff to have died a widower and childless in 1841, reputedly worth £150,000. More recently, Miss Lucy Pocock took the part of the Fairy Queen in the Slough Operatic and Dramatic Society's production of *Iolanthe* in 1910.

The Bonseys appear to have first settled in the parish in 1735, when Samuel Bonsey of Hillingdon in Middlesex married Sarah Bisley of Upton. As mentioned earlier, William Bonsey, who died in 1830, was the last owner-occupier to farm Slough Farm, but the family did not die out. There is a mural in the south wall of the chancel of Upton Church to William Bonsey, of Belle Vue, Windsor Road, who died in 1867, and his wife Mary, who died in 1850.

Memorials in Upton church commemorate John Baldwin, of Slough Farm, who died in 1785, and other members of the family.

HORTICULTURE

The earliest recorded nursery gardens at Slough were laid out in 1774 by Thomas Brown. They are shown on the Trumper Award Map of 1819, covering the area south of High Street from The Crown to approximately present-day Church Street, but later they extended along the main road from the Church Path (which partially survives as the passage running south between Nos. 224 and 226, High Street) to Ivy Cottage (now 286, Ivy Parade). On the opposite side of the main road they ran from about present-day 275, High Street, opposite The Grove to Wexham Road.

Brown's Lily (*Lilium Brownii*) is said to have bloomed in England first in 1837. It was introduced from China by the owner of Brown's Nursery, and was named after him. It is not known how or from whence Brown first obtained the bulbs, but it is believed they came from the Kwantung Mountains, about 300 miles inland from Hong Kong. (28) Patrick M. Synge, Editor of the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, says of it:

'Undoubtedly one of the most distinguished and beautiful of all lilies, a large trumpet of perfect form, with a smooth waxy glistening quality of petal, white inside with a rich purplish-mahogany outside, anthers chocolate brown, faintly scented. Stem purplish-brown, seldom more than 3 ft. with up to 4 fl. L. deep glossy green This is probably the earliest Chinese lily to have been introduced into England No exact complement to this plant has been discovered wild in China, although two other varieties have been . . .' (29)

Mr. Synge gives the date of introduction as 'about 1835', and the time of flowering as July. He also gives many other interesting details, and instructions for growing it.

All the bulbs of *Lilium Brownii* sold in Europe since it was grown in Slough have originated from Brown's bulbs, some of which he sent to a nurseryman at Lille, from whence they were sent to Holland and Belgium.

Directories for 1827 show Elizabeth and Charles Brown as the Proprietors of the Nurseries. In 1847, they are shown as Thomas Brown's Royal Nurseries, but later in 1847 William Cutter's Royal Nurseries, and in 1850 Charles Turner's Royal Nurseries. Turner may have taken them over in 1848. (30) By 1875, the Nurseries were north of the main road only. Part of the Nurseries was bought by Messrs. Sutton & Sons, Ltd., in 1919, and in 1930 the remainder of the Nurseries was acquired by Brown & Such of Boyn Hill, Maidenhead, but the name of Turner was retained. By 1935, the Nurseries had contracted still farther, and lay at the back of the newly-built Grove Parade, extending to Wellington Street, and providing a short cut between High Street and Wellington Street, but by 1960 the firm was represented only by the shop of Charles Turner (Slough) Ltd., and now even that has vanished, together with the magnificent wistaria which once covered the home of the Turner family (opposite the Grove). The wistaria was chopped down in 1932, when shops were built on the site.

Charles Turner was known as the 'King of Rose-Growers' for the exceptional number of new varieties he introduced. He had achieved fame as a rose grower by 1878, when Queen Victoria made a tour of his Nurseries, but it was not until 1893 that he introduced the Crimson Rambler, which figures on the Borough coat-of-arms.

George Lilley, when foreman at Turner's Nurseries, raised the rose *Lady Curzon* a very beautiful single rose. He raised the white rose *Marcia Stanhope* in his own Nursery at Cippenham in 1928. *Stanhope Road*, Cippenham, was named after this rose. (31)

The only Nurseryman advertising in the Royal Windsor Guide, 1848, is A.J. Stewart, of Salt Hill, who gives a list of prices:

Verbenas, 18s. and 9s.
 Camellias, £7 to £2 a dozen varieties.
 Geraniums, from £5 to £1 a dozen.
 Fuchsias, £1. 10s. 0d. and £1 a dozen.
 Rhododendron Arboreum, £5, £1. 10s. 0d.
 Ghent Azaleas, £1. 10s. 0d.
 Piccotees (12 pairs, choice show flowers) £1. 10s. 0d.
 Chrysanthemums, 18s. and 12s.
 Roses: Isle de Bourbon, Tea scented, Bengal, Noisette and other roses
 (in pots) 15s.

The advertisement adds: 'The names of the varieties which comprise either of the foregoing collections may be had upon pre-paid application'.

Apparently there was at least one other nursery in Slough at this period, for Mary Russell Mitford wrote to her friend Emily Jephson in 1845 that she had had a magnificent display of dahlias that autumn, and one of her seedlings was sold for £20 'the highest price given for a dahlia this year . . . I don't know what the nurseryman (Mr. Bragge of Slough) means to call it. It is white, of the most exquisite shape and clearness tipped with puce colour'.

Mrs. Sinkins' pinks (*Dianthus Mrs. Sinkins*), one of which is shown on the Borough coat-of-arms, were first advertised in 1883. They were raised by Mr. Sinkins during the time he was Master of the Workhouse in Albert Street, and named in honour of his wife, who was Matron of the Workhouse.

Miss V. Sackville-West, writing in 1949, extols the heavy scent of the Mrs. Sinkins Pink, but suggests that it originated at least 60 years before Mr. Sinkins first raised it. (32) She gives no authority for this purely speculative suggestion, and there can be no real doubt that it was raised by Mr. Sinkins, but it was apparently distributed before 1883, when W. Weare of Taplow put it on sale, not as a Pink, but as 'the new Hybrid White Clove'. (33)

Miss Sackville-West also mentions that Mrs. Sinkins Pink had 'a daughter', Miss Sinkins. (34) Few have even heard of the Miss Sinkins Pink, which was less ragged-looking than the Mrs. Sinkins Pink, but far less heavily scented.

Sadly, Miss Sinkins is no longer grown, and even Mrs. Sinkins is rarely, if ever, grown commercially now, (35) although it, and a pale pink variety, still scent the air in many gardens.

In 1880, the celebrated firm of Veitch & Sons, of Chelsea, who had introduced the attractive red creeper, *Ampelopsis Veitchii* from Japan, and pioneered the hybridisation of orchids in 1856, (36) opened nurseries on the north-east of Slough which spread over into Langley parish.

After the retirement of Sir Harry Veitch, (37) the business was carried on for a year or two under the original name, but the land was gradually sold off, and in 1914 Veitch's went out of business in the Slough district. The seed department was taken over by Messrs. Sutton & Sons (founded at Reading in 1806); the orchid department by the new world-famous firm of Messrs. Black and Flory, Orchid Specialists; and the fruit and flower departments by Messrs. J.C. Allgrove, Ltd.

Sutton's bought land from Veitches in the Autumn of 1913. Many Slough residents remember the glorious blaze of colour north-east of Slough Station, seen on a railway journey from Slough to Paddington.

Many new varieties of flowers were raised in Sutton's Trial Seed Grounds there, of which the best-known to-day are the Cascade Chrysanthemum, first offered in 1933, after gaining an Award at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall in 1932; and the Charm Chrysanthemum, a 'sport' of the Cascade Chrysanthemum, which won a Gold Medal at the National Chrysanthemum Society's show in 1945. *Digitalis* (Foxglove) Sutton's Excelsior Hybrid, a new 'break' in which the blossoms are carried all round the stem, and the flower-bell is turned up instead of hanging down, was first offered in 1950, and gained an award at the Royal Horticultural Society's Trials in 1954. The *Venidio-Arctotis*, a daisy-like flower, received an Award of Merit at Chelsea in 1953, and several subsequent awards. They were first offered for sale as plants in 1954. They also specialized in varieties of South African flowers.

Mr. A.P. Balfour, Associate of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society, and holder of the Society's highest award, the R.H.S. Victoria Medal of Honour, was Manager of the Slough Trial Seed Grounds from 1921 to 1954. He is the author of *Annuals from Seed*, published by Penguins. In 1961, the Nursery was run down as the older staff retired, and Mr. Balfour became Manager of Sutton's Trial Seed grounds at Reading until his retirement. Mr. Jack Perrin, who was Assistant Manager at the Slough grounds, is still living in Slough. (38)

The firm now known as Black & Flory was originally Flory & Black. The late Sidney William Flory, who had been associated with his uncle, H. Tracy in the Orchard Nursery at Amyand Park, Twickenham, came to Slough in 1914 to take over the Orchid Hybrid establishment of James Veitch & Sons, Ltd., and took John Mackenzie Black, who had been working with Thwaites of Streatham, into partnership. (39)

Black & Flory have produced many new varieties of orchids at their Nursery in Nursery Lane, Middle Green, among the best-known of which is the white *Cattleya* Bow Bells, which has won many awards, and varieties originating from which, raised at Middle Green, are given the distinguishing name of Langley Strain. The magnificent *Potinaria* Bunty, Variety Red Eclipse, was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's First Class Certificate in 1967 — the first F.C.C. given by the Orchid Committee of the R.H.S. to *Potinaria* for nearly 40 years. Other outstanding Orchids originating from Black & Flory's are the *Cymbidiums* Doria Aurea, Langley Variety; and Matchless Langley Variety.

On the death of J.M. Black, the Nursery was taken over by his son, Mr. Peter M. Black, whose book, *Beautiful Orchids*, was published by Paul Hamlyn, Ltd., early in 1973. (40)

Messrs. J.C. Allgrove, Ltd., are especially noted for their many new varieties of fruit. J.C. Allgrove, grandfather of the present Director (also J.C. Allgrove) raised the Langley Pippin, the Langley Bullace Damson (from a Foley Damson), and the Black Orleans Plum when he was the

Manager of Veitch's fruit department. During this time he also raised the Rev. W. Wilks, which Mr. Percy Thrower, the T.V. gardener, has acclaimed as the finest early cooking apple in existence. It was a cross between Peasegood's Nonesuch and a Ribston Pippin. The firm of J.C. Allgrove has since raised other varieties of fruit, including the Middle Green apple, a fine eating variety. (41)

Allgrove's have won many prizes for their fruit, among the most recent the Lawrence Medal in 1970 for the best exhibit of the year, the Gordon Lennox Cup for the best exhibit of 1972, (42) and a Gold Medal at the Royal Horticultural Autumn Show, 1972, with an entry described in *The Times* as 'a superb exhibit of more than a hundred varieties of apples and pears . . . Many brightly coloured dessert varieties include Fortune, Gascoigne's Seedling, James Grieve and A.W. Barnes.' (43)

Mr. J.C. Allgrove and his mother, Mrs. M.C. Allgrove, broadcast on Radio London in 1972 on the choice and cultivation of fruit trees in small gardens, with such success they were invited to repeat their talk.

The most famous fruit raised in the neighbourhood was, of course, Cox's Orange Pippin. It was raised by Richard Cox, a brewer of Bermondsey, who retired about 1820 and lived in a house then known as The Lawn, Colnbrook. He gave it to Messrs. E. Small & Son, Nurserymen, of Colnbrook, in 1836, and they put it out locally four years later. It was taken up by Charles Turner in 1850. The first mention of the variety in horticultural literature was in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 31 October, 1857. (44)

In 1886, an attempt was made to establish the culture of mulberries in a large building at the back of the shops in High Street. As nothing more seems to be known about the attempt it was presumably a failure. (45)

The importance of horticulture in Slough and district during the 19th and 20th centuries has largely been forgotten with the increasing industrialization of the town, and it is as well to remember the fact that, as has been shown, some of the early firms are still in existence, even if under different names, and the town has played — and is still playing — a significant part in making horticultural 'history'.

Between 1900 and 1914, so many new Nurseries sprang up that it is impossible here to follow their progress further, although some of them also raised prize-winning new varieties of fruit and vegetables. All that can be noted is that of those listed in the 1928 Directory, the only ones which survive (apart from those already mentioned) are Mr. Percy H. Artiss's Hill Rise Nursery, Messrs. Joseph Rochford & Sons, Ltd., and the Westfield Nurseries, although a few new names appear in the Eton Rural District.

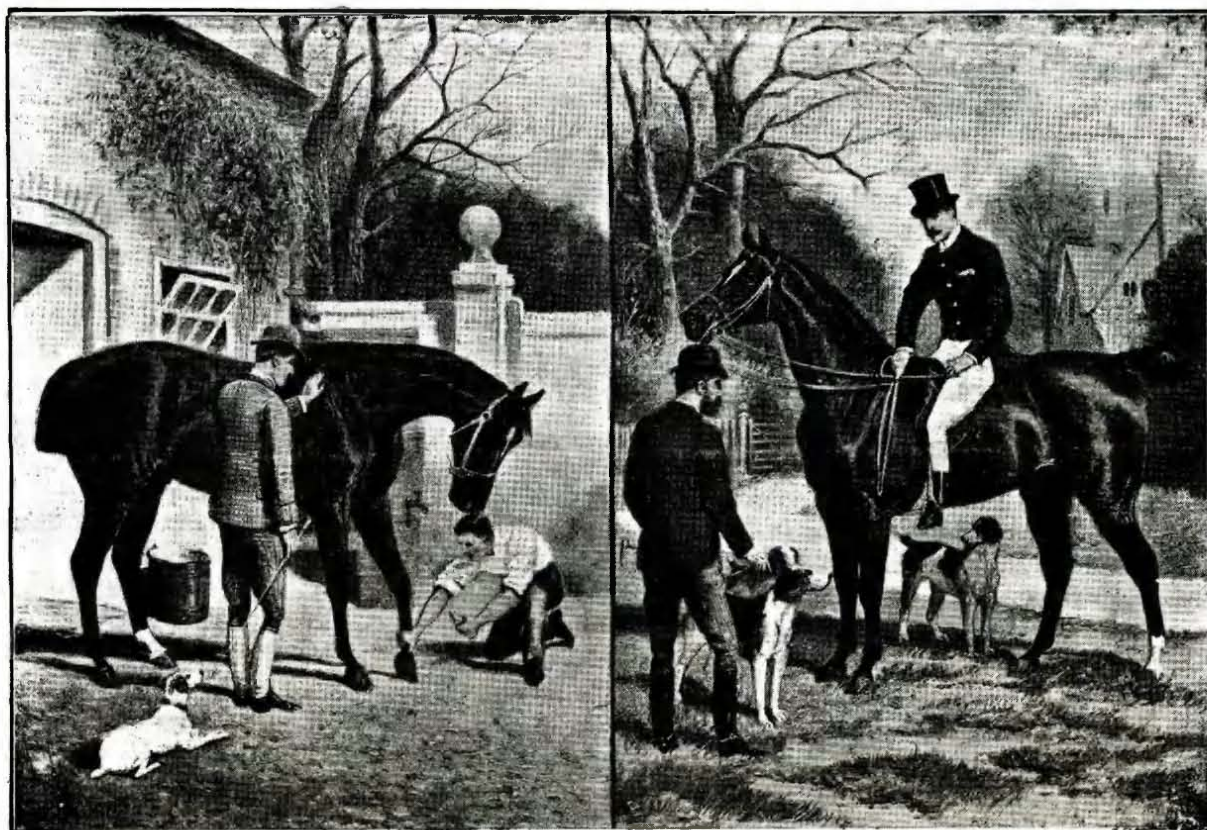
Among the many famous gardens in the near neighbourhood of Slough with a tradition of horticultural experiments — notably Dropmore, Dorney Court and Iver Grove — mention must be made of Huntercombe Manor, close to the south-west boundary of the Borough. John Evelyn visited his cousin, George Evelyn, there in August, 1679, and described Huntercombe Manor as ' . . . a very pretty seat in the forest . . . on a flat, with gardens exquisitely kept, though large, and the house a staunch, good old building . . . '. Huntercombe Manor subsequently changed owners and tenants so frequently that the gardens suffered much neglect. When it was bought by the Rev. the Hon. Richard Cavendish Boyle in 1871, his wife set about re-creating the garden. (46) Among the many books she wrote under the initials 'E.V.B.', *Days and Hours in a Garden*, (47) a classic of gardening literature, describes a year in the garden at Huntercombe Manor, and the house and garden are also described in *Seven Gardens and a Palace*. (48)

After the Hon. Mrs. Boyle's death in 1916, the house again had various owners, and in the early 1930's it was sold to Professor and Mrs. G. Grey Turner. Mrs. Grey Turner was as great a gardening enthusiast as E.V.B., although her book *Earnest Earth* (49) tells of the creation of a Northumbrian garden, before she came to Huntercombe Manor. The gardens are now maintained by the Buckinghamshire County Council, who use the house as a Residential Adult Education College to serve the needs of industry, commerce and the local community. (50)

NOTES

1. Loyn, p. 331.
2. *ibid.*, p. 333.
3. John Leland (or Leyland) 1506? -1552. Itinerary c. 1535-43, edited Miss L.T. Smith (1907) Vol. I pp. 105-8; Vol. II, pp. 110-3; V.p.7.
4. Hand-list, p. 18.
5. Miss Mason's Walk Round Slough and Upton.
6. W. James & Jacob Malcolm, A General View of Agriculture in Buckinghamshire, 1796. A Board of Agriculture Report.
7. I am indebted to Mrs. Elizabeth Elvey, Hon. Librarian of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, for checking this quotation. The Hand-list, p. 24, gives the figure as 500 acres but the correct acreage in common fields was 1,500 acres as shown here.
8. Hand-list, p. 16.
9. The Rev. St. John Priest: A General View of the Agriculture of Buckinghamshire (1813). Board of Agriculture Report.
10. Priest, *op. cit.* p. 389.
11. *ibid.*, p. 385.
12. *ibid.*, p. 411.
13. William Cobbett, (1762-1835).
14. Cobbett, Rural Rides (1830), Dent's Everyman Edition, Vol. I, p. 37.
15. *ibid.*, p. 87.
16. The Trumper Award, and the map to which it is keyed, are preserved in the Town Hall, Slough.
17. Hand-list, p. 36.
18. Stoke Poges News-Letter, No. 21, March, 1972, published by the Stoke Poges Parish Council. I am indebted to the Editor, Councillor Lionel Rigby, for a copy of this interesting publication.
19. The Private Enclosure Act for Stoke Poges was obtained in 1810, but the award was not made until 1822. It was enrolled the following year. See: Hand-list, p. 36.
20. Luff.
21. I am indebted to Mr. Halley for this information.
22. Michael H. Bayley, They Took the Best Wheatland in Three Counties . . . and created a Thriving Community; Windsor Express, 150th Anniversary Supplement, 1 August, 1962, p. 20. Col. 1.
23. V.C.H., Vol. II, p. 404.
24. Michael H. Bayley, *op. cit.*, p. 20, Col. 4.
25. Windsor Express 150th Anniversary Supplement, p. 21
A picture from an album in the possession of Mr. Michael Bayley.
26. Edgar Thomas & C.E. Elms: An Economic Survey of Buckinghamshire Agriculture, Part I, p. 8: Eton Division (Agricultural Economics Department, University of Reading, 1938).
27. Luff; Kelly's Directories. W.T. Buckland, who practised in 1826 as a farmer, surveyor and land agent at Tithe Farm, Wraysbury, specialized as an auctioneer and particularly concerned himself with compensation to local landowners for land taken over for building the Great Western Railway. He opened an office in High Street, Windsor, in 1850. The name of the firm was changed to Buckland & Son in 1853, and they opened an office in Slough in 1904. I am indebted to Mr. E.J. Hillier and his partner, Mr. E.B. Bowyer, of Buckland & Sons, for this information. Mr. Bowyer, who retired recently, is now writing a history of the firm.
28. The Times Educational Supplement; an undated cutting of about 1938.
29. P.M. Syngé, Collins' Guide to Bulbs (Collins, 1961), p. 198-9. I am indebted to Messrs. Collins and to Mr. P.M. Syngé for permission to quote from this bulb guide.
30. I am indebted to Miss Charmian Jones, of the Reading Central Library, for this information.
31. Alderman Robert Taylor kindly supplied this information.
32. Miss Vita Sackville-West (Lady Nicholson): In Your Garden (Michael Joseph, 1951), p. 152.
This was originally published as an article in The Observer, 11 December, 1949.
33. Alderman Robert Taylor has interesting documents relating to the introduction of Dianthus Mrs. Sinkins, and tells me its parent was Dianthus Plumarius Fimbriata. Its one fault is that it frequently burst its calyx, owing to the number of its petals.
34. V. Sackville-West, *op. cit.*

35. Mr. F.W. Ingwerson of Birch Farm Nurseries, Gravetye, East Grinstead, Sussex, used to raise both varieties commercially, but he tells me he no longer does so, and knows of no-one who can supply Miss Sinkins Pink now. He confirmed many of the foregoing details of the origin of D. Mrs. Sinkins.
36. James Herbert Veitch (1868-1907), who entered his father's Nursery at Chelsea in 1885, compiled an elaborate history of the firm, (which became a limited company in 1898) in *Hortus Veitchii*, 1906.
37. Sir Harry James Veitch (1840-1924) joined his father's Nursery at Chelsea in 1868. He was the uncle of J.H. Veitch (1868-1907).
38. Information about Sutton's Trial Seed Grounds at Slough kindly supplied by Miss D.E. Green, of Messrs. Suttons Seeds, Ltd., Reading; Mr. A.P. Balfour and Mr. Jack Perrin. I am particularly indebted to Miss G.P.P. Knowles, then Librarian of Slough Public Library, for directing my attention to the Cascade Chrysanthemum and the Venidio-Arctotis as having originated in Slough.
39. *The Orchid Review*, February, 1955. Obituary of Mr. Flory, who died 22 December, 1954.
40. Information about Messrs. Black & Flory Ltd., also kindly supplied by Mrs. D. Gomez, Royal Horticultural Society; Mr. Peter Black and Miss Connie Flory.
41. Information kindly supplied by Mrs. M.C. Allgrove and Mr. J.C. Allgrove.
42. *Evening Mail*, 1 January, 1973.
43. *The Times*, 1 November, 1972.
44. *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, Vol. LXVIII, Part 2, November, 1943. Article by A. Simmonds.
45. The late W.H. Fussell informed me of this attempt to grow mulberries.
46. Among several new varieties of flowers raised by the Hon. Mrs. Boyle was the beautiful *Viola Gracilis* Huntercombe Purple.
47. I have a copy of the fourth edition of this book, published in 1884.
48. I have a copy of the third edition of this book, published by John Lane, The Bodley Head, 1900. In it the Hon. Mrs. Boyle mentions that a description of Huntercombe Manor is given in Miss Jane Porter's *Tales Round a Winter Hearth* published in 1826, the idea of one of the stories having come to her whilst she was living in Huntercombe. Another of the 'Seven Gardens' described by E.V.B. is that at Dropmore.
49. Elsie Grey Turner, *Earnest Earth, the Making of a Garden*, published in 1933.
50. Mr. G.F. Thomas, the first Warden, has written a *History of Huntercombe Manor* which gives much additional information about E.V.B. and her books.



36. *Trade mark of Elliman's Royal Embrocations*