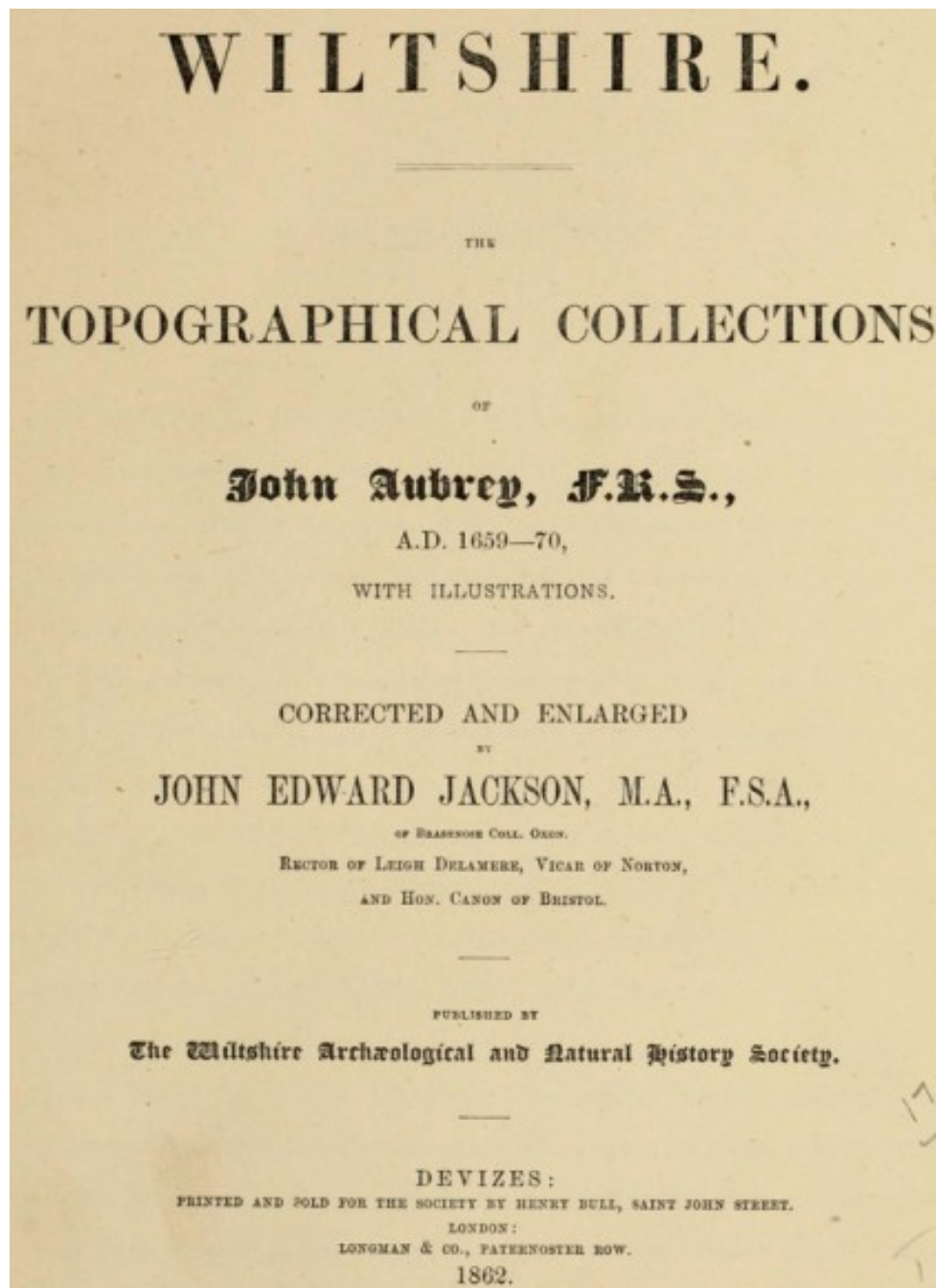




*John Aubrey's
View of
Minety*



MINTY

It anciently belonged, saith the Parson, to the Abbey of Cirencester.

Quære de hoc: for, by the Legier-Book of Malmesbury, King Athelwulph gave Five "*mansiunculas*," tenements, at "Mintih" to Malmesbury Abbey. See MSS with Mr Bayliffe of Monkton near Chippenham. The impropriation here is a corps, belonging to the Archdeacon of North Wilts.¹ The Church and Parsonage-house are in the Countie of Wilts; the Parish in the Countie of Gloucester. *Mem.* The Church was dedicated to St Leonard. They have of late disused the Revell on that day, (Nov 6).² On the outside, near the Porch is such a lineary crosse in freestone as this [No 389]; which was for the Consecration, as at Sarum Cathedral Church.³

There have been very good painted glass windows, some fragments whereof are yet left.

(West Window)

In the West window, is [No 390] Arg. a chev: S. between 3 badgers or pigs S. saliant, Q. SWYNNOW? But Swynnon is without a chevron: and part of another, [No 391,] impaling NICHOLAS. In the limbe (edge) of the window is ".....*pro bono statu Leonardi Poole.....uxor fenestram fieri fecerunt nono die M.....*" A third coat is broken out.

(South Window)

In a S window of three columnes (lights) is part of the effigies of 3 Kings, the 3 Kings, I suppose, of Cullen (Cologne) finely donne. In the top are these two escutcheons, 1st [No 392] by the name of CHICHE. 2. [No 393] by the name of CLAY. Minetey Court in this parish was the mansion of the Lord of the Mannour, or some great person: the seat in the church belonging to the house is under the window in which these two coates (CHICHE and CLAY) are, and therefore not unlikely they were coates of some of the possessors of the Court aforesaid.

In the limb: "*Orate pro aiabus de.....generosi et Alicie.....*"

In the third column, "*.....ac Itoferi.....Johis.....Dorothee.....Isabelle.....qu.....hane fenestram.....*"

Over this inscription in the window, is the effigies of a Knight armed cap-à-pee, with his mandilion or surcoate, on which his coat of armes. (HUNGERFORD: with a mullet for difference. No 394) with the effigies of his 3 sonnes and 3 daughters. They are in purple gowns. First daughter, in a cap Arg. *semée guttée de poix*: second, a kind of French hood, like Madam Nye, at Kington [Pl. Xi No201]. Third, haire dishevelled, temples bound round with pearles. The sonnes have haire to their shoulders. Over the 3 sonnes and 3 daughters' heads in a scroll, "*That we may long.*" "*Laudate pueri.*" These, in this and the next window, are the pictures of the benefactors and their children kneeling, in the habitts of those days, and *bidding* their beades.

¹ King John gave to Cirencester Abbey Rents of assize and demesne in Mynty, worth at the Dissolution, £13 4s 5d. It had also the rent of a close called "Sewen's," towards the Cook's salary: and, by gift of Hen IV, four does a year from Braden Forest. Malmesbury Abbey also had at one time some estate here: and in AD 1248 it had the Right of Patronage. [See New Monast. Malmes: Chart No xiii]. In 36 Hen VIII a Manor at Minty belonged to Edward Bridges and his wife. In 17 Jas I, the "Day Closes" to William Hicks.

² The bells of St Leonard's here ring a half-muffled peal on the evening of Innocents Day. [See Notes and Queries, 2d. S. VII. P 245]

³ This is nothing more than a fragment of grave-stone with a cross on it, used as old material in building.

The next windowe, 3 columnes, one is semée horseshoes Or. [No 395]. The other semée fetters Or. [No 396]; a terrett of a grey-hound's collar [No 397].¹ Perhaps he was ranger or keeper of the Forest of Braden, within whose limitts this Church is. Another semée escallops Or. [No 398]: Besides M and R, for the blessed Virgin (Maria Regina) which is common.²

In a North Windowe

“Orate pro aiabus Thome Hungerford militis et Dame Cristian uxoris ejus qui.....” This coat is in severall places of the windowe: [No 399, POWLETT impaling HUNGERFORD with a mullet for difference. Underneath is a little brass inscription of Nicholas Powlett and Mary his wife, who was a Hungerford.³

Mem. The tradition of the old people here, is, that here was an organ.

Quære If here was not a chantry.

Mem In the glass at the top of the pointed windows here, are white roses, as [No 400], sc: the cognizance of the House of York.

Sir William Penn the famous Seaman, Rere-Admirall in the Expedition to Jamaica in Oliver's time, father of William Penn the proprietor of Pennsylvania was descended in a direct line from William Penn of Mynty who lieth buried in the Chancell here near the South door. The grave-stone was broken at the last paving of the Church. P... is yet visible.⁴ He (Sir William) was born here,⁵ and had he lived he would have bought the estate.

¹ A “Tirrett” is a name in heraldry for a manacle or handcuff. It is one of the badges of the House of Percy.

² The figure of the knight “cap-à-pee,” and the rest of the stained glass here described, (which, from a few pieces now left, appears to have been very good,) were probably in the window of a small Chantry at the East end of the North aisle used by the Hungerford Family. The Knight was Sir Thomas Hungerford of Down Ampney who died October 1494. His wife was Christian daughter of John Halle, of the Halle, Salisbury. A few combine flowers (the charge on the shield of her family) are still scattered over the windows: and there are also well executed heads, of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the letters M R, and of a Saint with white roses in her hair, bearing a palm-branch. Also the Hungerford crest, a Wheatsheaf between two Sickles, (without the usual coronet). Of one of the inscriptions, only the words “**Militis et Dame**” remain.

³ In Edmondson's pedigree of Earl Powlett, there is a Nicholas, second son of Sir Hugh Poulett of Hinton St George, co. Somerset, and brother of Sir Amias the jailor of Mary Queen of Scots: but no wife's name is given. The style of dress on the Minty brass corresponding with the period (Sir Amias having died 1588), his brother Nicholas may have been the person here buried. Mary the wife of Nicholas Powlett of Minty was daughter of Thomas Hungerford of The Lea near Malmesbury and Edith Strange his wife: great grandson of Sir Thomas and Christian Hungerford above-mentioned. The children of Nicholas Powlett named on the brass are Ames an only son (who would be nephew to Sir Amias) Elizabeth, Mary (who married Henry Long of Ashley near Box in Wilts) and Edith. See Mr E Kite's Wilts, Brasses, p 84.

⁴ The letter P is now the only one that is not visible. The inscription is “WILLIAM –ENN DYED THE 12 OF MARCH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1591.” This was Sir William's great grandfather soon after whose death in 1591 the estate was sold to the Pleydells. [Burke's Land, Gent. II, p 1021]

⁵ Sir William was son of Captain Giles Penn, and was born at Bristol 1621: he was knighted 1665: died 1670, and was buried in Redcliff Church. {See Mon. Insc. There]

Q If he was not one of Oliver's Knights. He was Knighted by K Chas 2. He dyed and was buried at Bristoll.

Mem. The Penns have been here a long time, but, I think, only Yeomen, Stewards, or relating to the Lord Abbot of Malmesbury. In Braden Forest in the parish of Brinkworth is Penn's Lodge, yet so called. At Rodbourne there were Penns : which.....Power, of Stanton Quinton, married.

This is not taken notice of by any body.

In Minty Common, near the road which leades to Ashton Kaynes, is a boggie place, called the *Gogges*,¹ where are springs, rising up out of the blew clay. This is in the Manor and belongeth to George Pitt Esq. In hott weather, round the spring it lookes like froste: but if you taste it, it much resembles salt-petre; but there may be a mixture of allum with it. Vide my Natural History of Wilts (p 25) de hoc. In the prints of the cattle's feet in the Forest, the standing water is of copper colour; quod N.B. In this parish mints are very common, from whence it hath its denomination. Here also grow wild camomile and penny-royal, such as in gardens.

The Common is part of (Braden) Forest. *Quod N.B.* ²

¹ Perhaps a corruption of *quag*, itself a corruption of *quake*. " I be all *in a gogg-mire*" is a North Wilts phrase for being in what appears an inextricable difficulty.

² See a curious Map of Minty, temp Eliz, in *Archæologia* xxxvii, p 307.