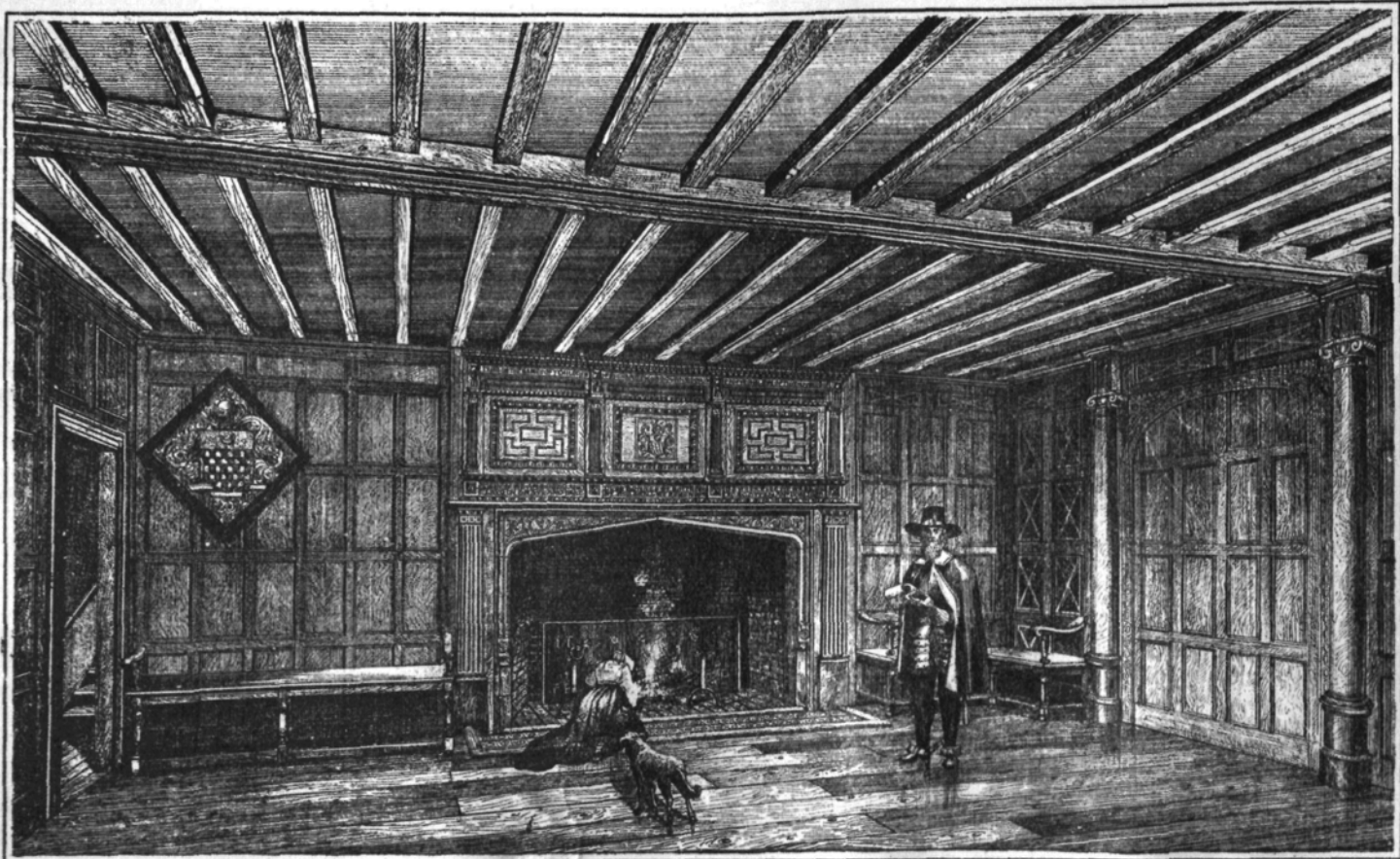




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INTERIOR OF THE HALL
CRITTENDEN NEAR EDENBRIDGE KENT.

RICHARD TICHBOURNE'S HOUSE OF CRIPPENDEN, IN COWDEN.

BY THE REV. W. A. SCOTT ROBERTSON.

THE fine old mansion called Crippenden, or Crittenden,* in the parish of Cowden, was built by Mr. Richard Tichbourne, in 1607. The annexed view, of the interior of its panelled Hall, is reduced from an admirable drawing made by Mr. J. F. Wadmore, and kindly contributed by him to *Archæologia Cantiana*.

Over the mantelpiece there are two series of inscriptions. One, which ran closely beneath the cornice of the ceiling, is now imperfect; it commenced thus: "These be the names of y^e children of Richard Tichbourn, born before y^e building of this house, 1607" The names have disappeared. The other inscription runs immediately above the mantelshelf, and is arranged in double lines, regardless of the rhymes which ought to terminate each line.

{ WHEN WE ARE DEAD | AND
 { LAYD IN GRAVE | AND THAT
 { OURE BONNES BE ROTTEN |
 { BY THIS SHALL WE | REMEMBERED
 { BE | WHER ELSE WE WHER
 { FORGOTTEN | AN^o DOM. 1607.

Within the spandrels of the carved mantelpiece are the initials R. T. and D. T., for Richard Tichbourne and Dorothy his wife.

The fire-back was made at the Tichbournes' iron foundry here, during the lifetime of John Tichbourne (the father of Richard), whose initials appear upon it in the left-hand corner at the top, while the initials of Richard and Dorothy are twice repeated, in the corners at the bottom. A cannon, cast at the foundry of John Tichbourne, here, is still preserved on land adjacent to the Rectory.

Over the centre of the fireplace, is carved the armorial coat of

* Hasted, *History of Kent* (8vo ed.), iii., 206, says, "The Manor of St. John of Jerusalem . . . is now with the ancient mansion of *Crittenden*, in the possession of Mrs. Sophia Streatfeild, the widow of Thomas Streatfeild of Oxsted, Esq." The Post Office Directory of Kent for 1862 likewise spells this place *Crittenden*. On the Tithe Map of the parish, however, and on that of the Ordnance Survey, the name is spelt Crippenden. It may be identical with the Manor of Grippinden which was purchased by Godfrey le Waleys in A.D. 1311. (*Arch. Cant.*, XI., 347.) Perhaps it came to Richard Martin as the portion of his wife, a Wallis; and passed with Martin's daughter to her husband, John Tichbourne of Edenbridge.

the Tichbourne family :—*Vair*, on a chief *or*, a crescent for difference. The same coat is emblazoned upon an escutcheon on the wall.

An offshoot of the ancient Hampshire family of Tichbourne settled in Edenbridge during, or soon after, the reign of Henry VI. One John Tichbourne then married the daughter and heir of Richard Martin* of Edenbridge; her mother was an heiress named Wallis. The sons issuing from this match (Morice, Nicholas, and Martin) quartered the arms of Martin (*argent*, a chevron *gules* between 3 talbots passant *sable*) and Wallis (*gules*, a fess *ermine*).† Crippenden had probably belonged to the heiress of Wallis.

Of the sons of Morice Tichbourne, Richard, the eldest, seems to have had no sons. He contributed £5 towards the royal loan levied for Henry VIII in 1542; and his daughters Margaret and Mary Tichbourne married Bertram Calthrop and Thomas Potter respectively. Richard Tichbourne's granddaughter, Dorothy Potter, became the wife of Sir John, son of Sir George Rivers, of Chafford.

John, a younger son of Morice Tichbourne, probably settled first at Cowden. At all events, his second son (likewise named John), who resided at Cowden, but was not buried there, was the father of Richard Tichbourne who built Crippenden House; and of Robert Tichbourne, of London, citizen and skinner, whose son, Sir Robert, became Lord Mayor in 1657.

The second John Tichbourne's elder brother (uncle of the builder of Crippenden) was named Morice after his grandfather. The pedigree of this Morice Tichbourne appears in the Herald's Visitation of 1574. The brothers Morice and John seem to have married sisters, Jane and Mary, daughters of Thomas Challoner of Lyndfield.

With courteous kindness, the Rev. R. A. Tindall, Rector of Cowden, has carefully copied from his parish registers every legible entry relating to the Tichbourne family.‡ Hence we know that

* Richard Martin was the son of Thomas Martin; and the nephew of John Martin, a Justice of the Common Pleas 1420-36. In Edenbridge Church a tomb commemorates both Richard Martin and his father.

† Harleian MS. 1548, fol. 123. On the tomb of Thomas Potter (ob. 1611) in Westerham Church, these quarterings of his wife, Mary Tichbourne, are impaled with the quartered coat of Potter.

‡ EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS OF COWDEN; WHICH
COMMENCE IN A.D. 1566.

(Communicated by the Rev. R. Abbey Tindall.)

1567, baptized Robert Tichburne the 5 of October.

1569, baptized John Tichburne the 27 of November.

George Tichbourne, gentleman, a brother of John Tichbourne, was buried there in 1614; and that Robert, John, and Martin Tichbourne (younger brothers of the builder of Crippenden) were baptized there in 1567, 1569, and 1573 respectively.

The builder of Crippenden, Richard Tichbourne, was, no doubt, born before the year 1566, in which the registers commence. He married Dorothy, daughter of John Saxbie, and by her had ten children, five sons and five daughters. He lived until 1637, and was then buried at Cowden on the 18th of October. His wife did not long survive him; she was interred at Cowden on the 25th of April 1640.

Two of Richard Tichbourne's sons (John and Benjamin) died young, in 1605. Nine years later another son of his was likewise baptized John in 1614.

The eldest son Thomas, who was 25 years of age in 1619, was apprenticed to his uncle Robert, of London, citizen and skinner, on May 1, 1607; as Mr. Wadmore kindly informs me. He was buried at Cowden in 1642, and the register does not mention any wife or children of his.

1572, buried John Tichburne the 30 of March.

1573, baptized Martin Tichburne the 28 of June.

1592, baptized Friswid Tichburne 4 of Februarie.

1595, baptized Anne Tichburne the 10 of August.

1598, baptized Richard Tichburne the 9 of Aprill.

At the end of the entries for A.D. 1600 the register is signed by

RICHARD TICHBOURNE, } Churchwardens.
JOHN KNIGHT, }

1601, baptized Benjamin Tichburne the 29 of March.

1603, Dorothy the daughter of Rychard Tichborne was baptized the viijth day of January.

1605, Beniamyn the sonne of Rychard Tichborne gentle. was buryed the xxiijth day of July.

1605, John the sonne of Rychard Tichborne gent. was buried the xiiijth day of August.

1607, Marie the daughter of Richard Tichborne gentleman was baptized the xxvijth day of September.

1611, baptized Joanna the daughter of Richard Tichborne gent. the ii of August.

1614, baptized John the sonne of Rychard Tichborne gent. the iij of July.

1614, buried George Tichborne gentlema' the 8th of September.

1616, Thomas Wickenden and Friswide Tichborne was married (*sic*) the xvijth day of December 1616.

1637, buried Richard Tichborne sen^r gent. October y^e 18th.

(Seven entries of baptisms in 1639 are illegible, also four entries in 1640.)

1640, buried Dorothy Titchbourne widd. y^e relict of Rich. Titchbourne sen. gent. Aprill y^e 25th.

1642, buried Thomas Titchborne gent. August y^e 22th.

1644, baptized Joanna y^e daugh. of Richard Tichborne gent. July 21th.

1644, baptized John y^e sonne of Jo. Tichborne gent. March y^e 6th.

1646, buryed ffrances y^e wife of Richard Titchbourne gent. Jan. 4th.

1648, buried Richard Titchbourne gent. Nov. 21th.

The second son was named Richard, after his father. Born in April 1598, he married a lady whose christian name was Frances; and they had a daughter christened Joanna in 1644. His wife, however, died in 1646, and he himself was buried here in 1648.

The third surviving son of the builder of Crippenden was his youngest boy, John Tichbourne, whose son of the same name was baptized at Cowden in 1644-5.

Mr. Wadmore had believed that Sir Robert Tichbourne, who was Lord Mayor in 1657, had resided at Crippenden. The registers, however, and the pedigrees* make no mention of him whatever. At my suggestion, Mr. Wadmore has kindly made further search among the records of the Skinners' Company. The result shews that the Lord Mayor was a Londoner; not a Kentish man by birth. He was a nephew of the builder of Crippenden; being the son of Robert Tichbourne, of London, citizen and skinner. The future Lord Mayor was apprenticed, on the 4th October 1631, to Gilbert Ward, citizen and skinner.

Crippenden is now the property and the residence of John Thomas Morton, Esq.

It is remarkable that no mention is made of Crippenden, nor of the Tichbournes of Edenbridge and Cowden, by Philipot, nor by Harris in his *History of Kent*, nor by Hasted in the folio edition of his *History of Kent*. Only in the later, octavo, edition of his book does Hasted insert the short notice which I have quoted in a note at the beginning of this paper.

* Harleian MS. 1548, fol. 123, and Berry's *Genealogies of Kent*, p. 361.