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S. F. KELL, PHOTO-LITHO, 8, FURNIVAL ST. HOLBORN, E.C.

BAZING FARM, COWDEN.

## NOTES ON THREE ANCIENT HOUSES IN THE PARISH OF COWDEN.

BY GRANVILLE LEVESON-GOWER, F.S.A.

### BAZING.

ON returning from the "Beeches Camp" on the second day of the Kent Archæological Society's Excursion 26 July 1893, several members visited Bazing and Scarletts Mill.

*Bazing* stands in a low situation adjoining the brook and has a square garden in front surrounded by a low wall. It is possible at a spot just behind the house to stand with one foot in Kent, another in Sussex, and to stretch with your hand into Surrey. The old road which passes on the north of it has every appearance of being a Roman road and leads from Holtys Common, where it leaves the road between Cowden and Hartfield, in almost a direct line to Dormans Land in the parish of Lingfield. Of the origin of the name I cannot speak with any certainty, nor have I found it mentioned in any early charters or wills; it may be a tribal or family name,\* or may possibly be connected with "ing" which in some places signifies a low-lying meadow. The house is mainly Elizabethan, though probably part of the wall at the back is earlier.† It is entered by a porch of later date, seventeenth century, almost in the centre, which leads into the large kitchen or hall, to the left of which is the parlour, and out of which is the staircase. The outer kitchen with scullery and offices is at the back and at a lower level. In the big open fireplace in the front kitchen is a large plain iron fireback with roses and the date 1671, and in the back kitchen is a pair of andirons on which is a chevron between three boars' heads.‡ Above the fireplace in the parlour is a bracket, a drawing of which is given on Plate. The chief interest of the house centres in the large room upstairs; it was formerly in one, but is now divided by a partition through the centre; it is panelled throughout with oak panelling of Jacobean character. This had

\* Basing and Basingstoke are in Hampshire, Basingeham (Domesday) in Sussex.

† It shews large stones in ashlar work which may have belonged to an older building.

‡ These I believe are the arms of Luxford; they occur also upon some andirons at Marsh Green House in Edenbridge.

been carried up to the jambs of the fireplace and across the mantel. A piece of it on the south side had been removed and disclosed some old colouring in distemper with a bold pattern, the prevailing colours being red, black, and yellow. There was also the latter part of a verse in old English black-letter and the letters  $R^K E$  for Richard and Elizabeth Knight and  $I K$  for John Knight, the names of former owners. On my first visit in 1888 I suggested to the occupier, Mr. Shorter, to remove the panelling on the north side, as I felt sure that the remainder of the verse would be found on that side, and this proved to be the case, and the four lines run as given on Plate. The colouring on the wall was as fresh as the day when it was done, and this is a clear proof that the panelling had been put up very shortly after the painting was done. The lines are adapted from Proverbs xxi. 13, where in the Bishop's Bible the verse runs: "Whoso stoppeth his eares at the cryinge of the pore, he shal crye himself and not be hard." The picturesque drawing of the outside of the house is from the pencil of Mr. Wadmore, a member of the Council, and gives a faithful representation of this house which after several centuries has now ceased to be occupied as the farmhouse.\*

#### SCARLETTS MILL.

The name is a corruption of "Scale-hurst" or more probably of "Scale-house." The house adjoins the mill, and the name is connected with the scales which were kept for weighing.

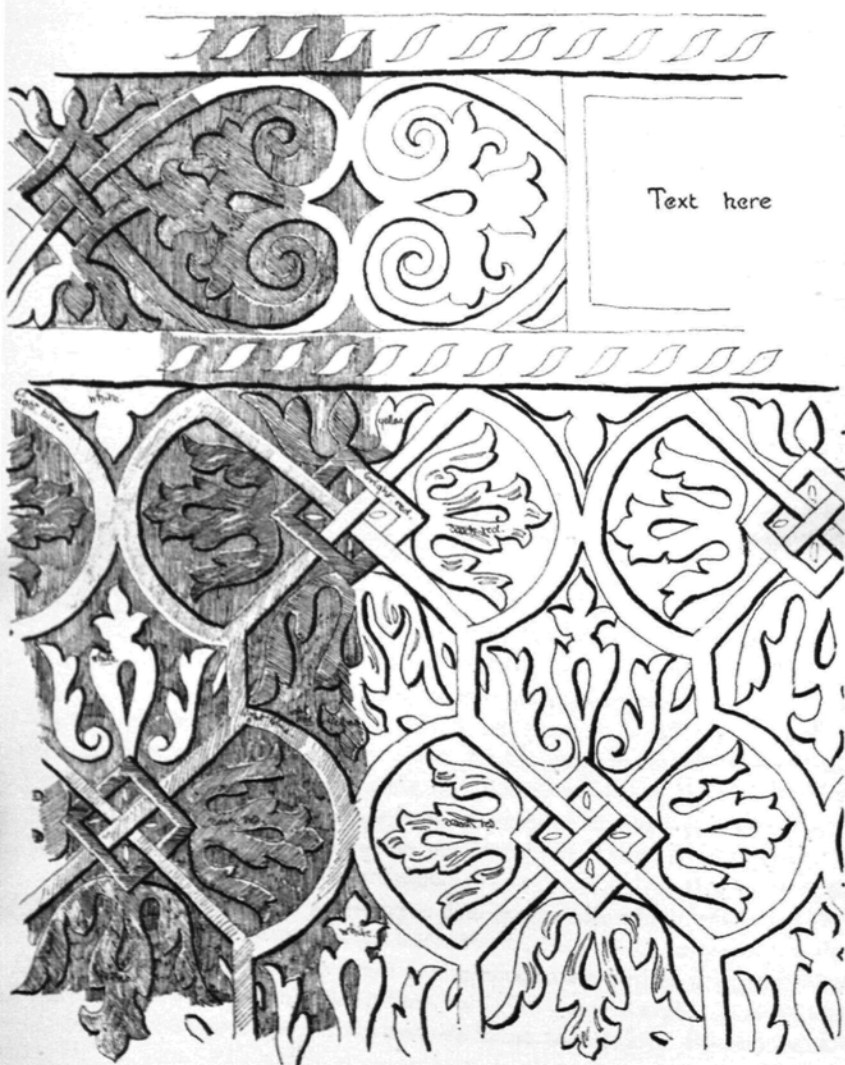
The house is very simple in plan, a parallelogram, and all apparently built at one time. It formerly extended further to the west, as was proved by the fact that in removing the weather tiling about three years ago, two fire-stone chimney-pieces, of which representations are given on Plate, were found *in situ*. They are drawn to scale, and the details are so carefully given that a description of them is not necessary. The larger one, which was in the lower part of the wall, was doubtless the fireplace to the principal chamber; on the face of the jamb is a pomegranate within a quatrefoil and in the spandril the letters  $I K \dagger$  (for John Knight as at Bazing). The upper one has the fleur-de-lis at the stop of the jamb and the date 1597, which is approximately that of the house.‡ The house

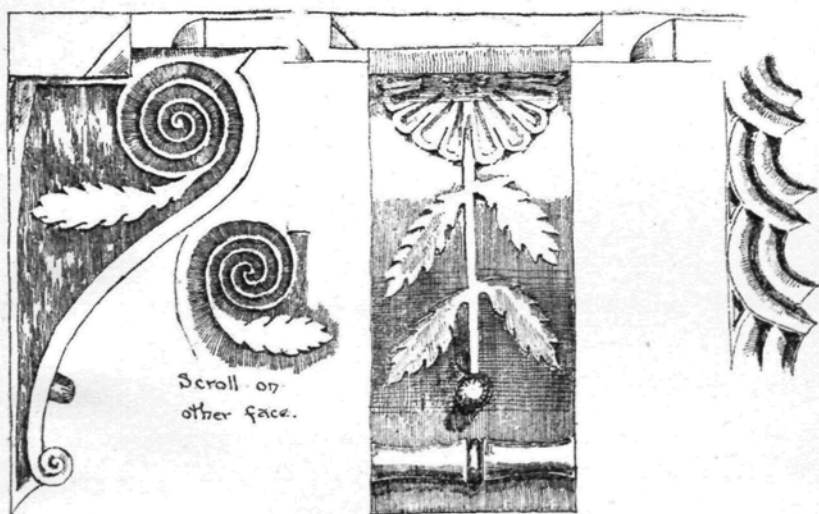
\* The drawings of the wall painting and of some of the details are by Granville Streatfeild, Esq., Architect, of 26 York Place, London, a great-grandson of the Kentish Antiquary.

† A John Knight was overseer of the will of Thomas Wickinge September 1601.

‡ These chimney-pieces have been carefully removed, and are now in the house of Mr. Oswald Smith's (the owner of the farm) bailiff at Hammer Wood.







Side Elevation.

3 inches = 1 Foot.

Front Elevation.

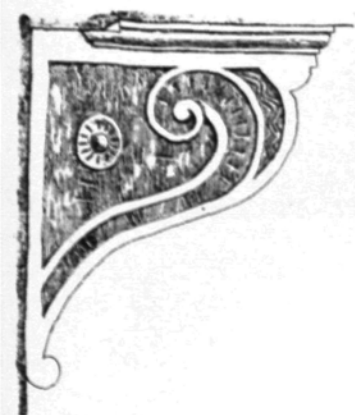
Text over five lines

For hee that will not heare y<sup>e</sup> crye  
of them that stande in neede,

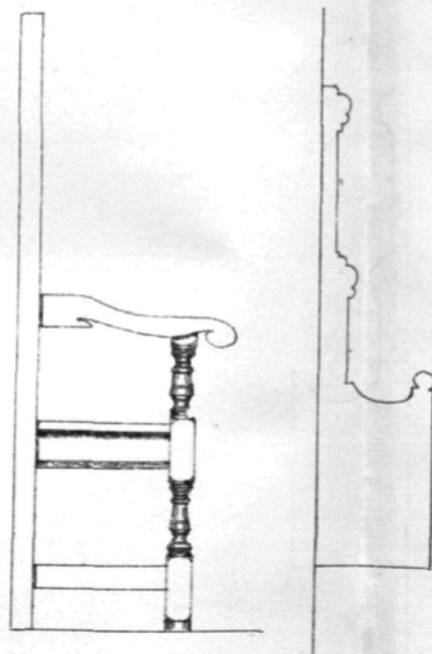
Shall crye himselfe and not be hard  
When he doth hope to speede R.E.

At Scarlett's Mill

near Cowden



Bracket over Fireplace :  
Scale 3 inches = 1 Foot



Bench Ends :  
Scale 1 1/2 inches = 1 Foot

Two Chimney Pieces

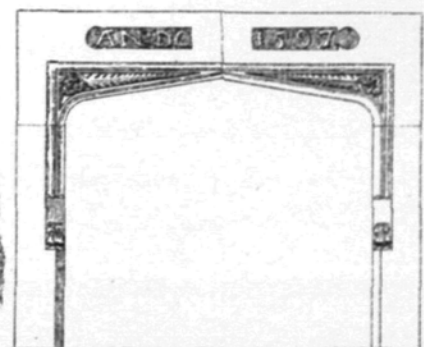
found at

Scarlett's Mill.

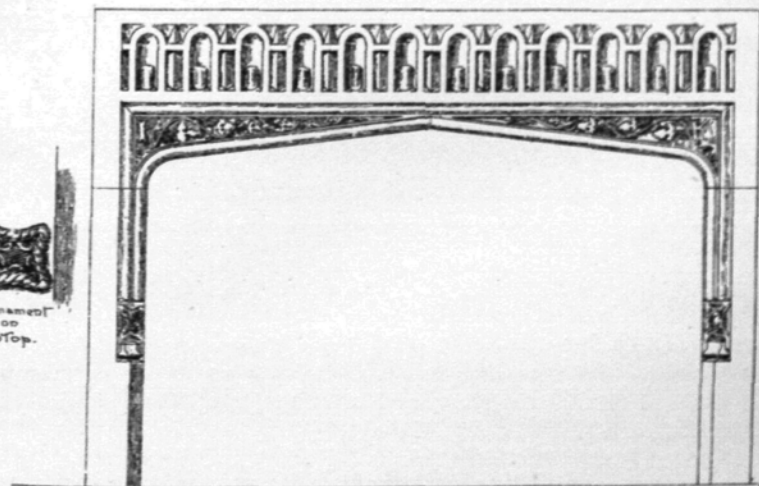
near Cowden.

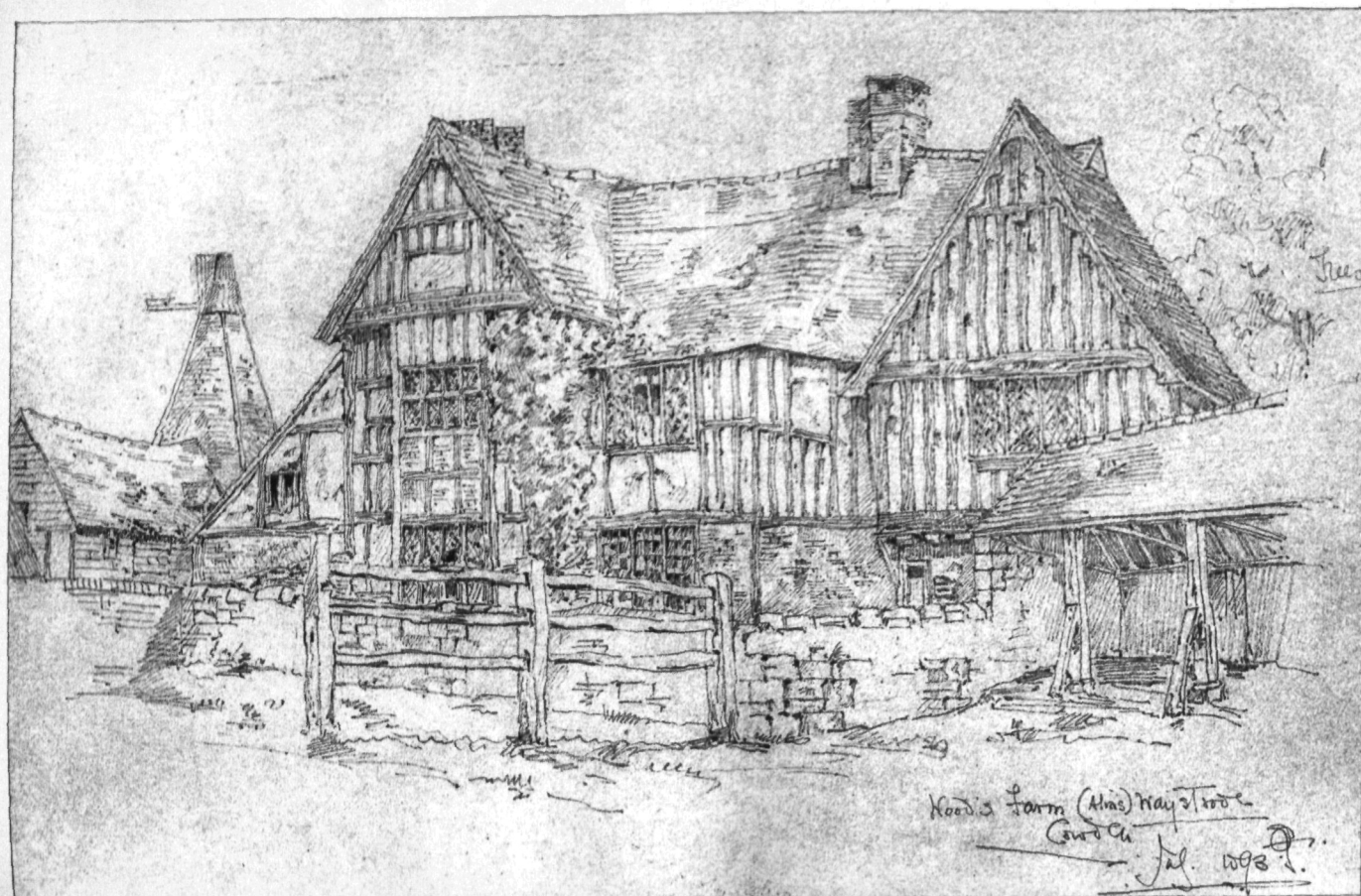


Stop.



Ornament  
on  
Stop.





Kood's Farm (Mrs) May 2 1893  
Cov. Co  
J. H. 1893

is entered from a doorway on the roadside which leads into a long corridor with a range of windows high up in the wall,\* which forms a very pretty and rather uncommon arrangement, and under them against the wall is an oak settle. Outside the long pent house should be noticed; it is possible that the hooks in the wall may have been the place where the maypole was suspended. On the right of the entrance is the parlour, now a modern room, but I am informed by an old resident† that there were formerly in this room various texts of Scripture on the walls, and probably of the same character as those at Bazing. John Knight seems to have been the owner or occupier of both houses. At the west end of the corridor is the front kitchen, now a living room; the large chimney opening is in part blocked; on the wall above it is the very ornamental bracket given on Plate. The hearth is made of an iron fire-back; it is semé of roses and fleurs-de-lis with a rose and crown in the centre and date 1688. The oak settle and bench ends in this room are exceedingly good, being Jacobean in date, and they occur also in the little pantry which separates this room from the back kitchen and wash-house.‡ In front of the house is a mound on which some of the buildings stand; it is composed of the "scoriæ" or refuse of the iron works; whether dating back to Roman times it is impossible to say. A few yards to the west of the house is an old green lane leading to the camp called Spode Lane, which by some has been connected with the Latin word "Spodium," refuse. The large ponds immediately adjoining, known as the Hammer Ponds, and Hammer Wood close by, are evidence of the iron works of bygone times.

#### WAYSTRODE§ OR WOOD'S FARM.

This, the earliest and most interesting of the three houses, is a beautiful example of half-timber work. It lies out of sight in a field to the south of Cowden village. It is generally known as Wood's Farm, but the ancient name is Waystrode. It is mentioned by this name in the will of John Style of Cowden, dated St. Peter's Day June 1471. "Thomas my son to have my lands and tenements in Cowden called 'Wheystrode,'" and again in the will of Thomas Styll of Cowden, dated 18 May 1543, "To Thomas my son my tenement called 'Whystrode' in Cowden." It belonged to the Style or Styll family for a considerable period, of whom there are the following wills:—

\* Some of these windows are unhappily blocked up and would well repay opening.

† Mrs. Comber, now living at Cowden.

‡ The drawings of this house are by Granville Streatfeild, Esq.

§ The suffix "strode," whatever it may mean, occurs in the name of Shovelstrode, a large wood just over the border of Cowden Parish in Sussex.

JOHN STYLE, 1471.—“To be buried in the Church yard of St Mary Magdalen in Cowden, residue to son Thomas my Ex<sup>or</sup> for good of my soul, to son Thomas lands in Cowden called Wheystrode, the same if he die without an heir to be sold and disposed in works of mercy.” [Cons. Rochester, N, clxxxii.]

ALICIA STYLL (probably widow of the foregoing).—“To be buried in the Churchyard, residue to sons John and Richard my Ex<sup>ors</sup>, my messuage with its garden called Rengs to be sold for the good of my Soul.” Witness, Sir John Bambery, Rector of Cowden. Proved 3 Dec. 1487 by John Still, the other Ex<sup>or</sup> being dead. [Cons. Rochester, vi., clx.]

RICHARD STILL.—“To be buried in the Churchyard. To the Friars of Aylisforde 6s 8<sup>d</sup>, my son shall have my tenement called ‘Ricard.’ Item lego co’filiis et co’filiabus 4<sup>d</sup>, all houshold goods to son Thomas whose guardianship I give to John Styll.” Witness, Sir Thomas Bambery, Rector. Dated 3 Dec. 1487. [Cons. Rochester, vi., clx.]

JOHN STILL. Dated 18 Feb. 1511.—“To the Kyng’s high waye ledyng between Cowden and Edenbreg 3s 4<sup>d</sup>, residue to wife Johane. I desire my feoffees, Mr Edward Guldeford, Esquyre, Thomas Isley, Esquyre, William Tornar, and William Wykenden to suffer my wife Johane to take the issue of my lands, etc., in Kent and Sussex for her life, and afterwards they shall make an Estate thereof to Richard Wekynden and Johan his wife, my daughter, to them and their heirs save the house I dwell in with two gardens and a barn which shall be at the disposition of my said daughter.” Witness, Sir Richard Chapman, Syr Nicholas Byrsall, priests. Proved 28 April 1511. [Cons. Rochester, vi., celxxxvi.]

THOMAS STYLL of Cowden.—“To be buried in the Church yard. Wife Margaret, daughters Agnes, Denys, and Alys, my daughter Alysaunder, my daughter Elizabeth. Residue to son Thomas, Ex<sup>or</sup>. Cousin John Delyarde (Selyarde) Overseer. To Thomas my son my tenement called ‘Whystrode.’ To William my son my tenement called ‘Rykards.’” Dated 18 May and proved 27 Aug. 1543. [Cons. Rochester, x., xxxv.]

Sir JOHN GRENE, parson of Cowden, 28 Jan. 154.—“To rep<sup>y</sup> of Chaunsell 6s 8<sup>d</sup>. To pey waye betwex Cowden Crosse and Edenbregge 20s. Mr W<sup>m</sup> Levyt, clarke, and Mr Rich<sup>d</sup> Stechebowrne, gent., Overseers.” Proved 27 March 1548. [Book ii., fo. 52<sup>a</sup>.]

Waystrode passed afterwards to the family of Wickenden, probably from the marriage of Johan Stile with Richard Wickenden. They were an old family at Cowden known as Wickenden or Wyking, and both surnames still exist in the district. The John



Wickenden whose name is on the board in the belfry earned notoriety by having been "relieved and maintained in the Parish near 40 years."

The following are extracts from wills of members of the family:—

THOMAS WIKYNG of Cowden.—"To be buried in the Churchyard of B.M. Magdalene. Wife Joan, Executrix. Sir Richard Chapman, Chaplain, Witness. Sons Richard and Thomas, daughter Joan, my tenement called 'Gunys.'" Dated 20 June, proved 9 Sep. 1510 by Ex<sup>ix</sup>. [Cons. Rochester, vi., cclxxiii.]

JOHANNA WIKYN, widow of above.—"To be buried in the churchyard. Sons Richard and Thomas, daughter Joan." Witness, Sir Morgan Aprice Curi and Richard Wikynden. Dated 10 July, proved 22 Sep. 1511. [Cons. Rochester, vi., cclxxxiii.]

RICHARD WYNGENDEN th'elder of Cowden.—"To be buried in the Churchyard. I bequeath to the house of Motenden\* xii<sup>d</sup>, godson Thomas Wikeyng, wife Margaret." Witnesses, Thomas Still, John Still. Dated 19 Sep. 1510, proved 8 March 1511. [Cons. Rochester, vi., cccxii.]

JOHN WEKYNDEN.—"To be buried in the church yerde of Cowden. To son John a litill howse called 'Kyngs' nexte to Chaunterells in Cowden. To son William a house called 'Cardis.' To son Antony my howse where I dwelle in Cowden Strete with a garden and a barne; daughter Besse." Witness, Sir Richard Chapman, John Wikynden. Dated 20 Jan., proved 20 March 1524. [Cons. Rochester, vii., ccclxii.]

JOHN WYKENDEN, son of William Wykenden, senior, of Cowden, yoman.—"Three daughters Alice, Elizabeth, and Margarete under age, brother Thomas Wykenden. Father living." Dated 1 Dec. 1557, proved 21 May 1558. [P.C.C., 13 Noodes.]

JOHN WYKENDEN of Cowden, son of William Wikenden, senior.—"To be buried in the Churchyard, youngest daughters Elizabeth and Margaret under age, brother Thomas Wykenden, Ex<sup>or</sup>." Witness, Thomas Wykinge, William Wickenden. Dated 10 Sep. 1557, proved 22 Nov. 1559. [P.C.C., 57 Chaynay.]

HENRY WICKENDEN of Cowden, yoman.—"All lands, etc., in Cowden and Heaver to be sold by Overseer John Curthopp of Lingfield, Gent. Sons Henry and Thomas, daughters Joan Plawe, Margaret, Anne and Isabell. Wife Joane, Ex<sup>ix</sup>." Dated 22 Feb. 1596, proved 16 April 1597. [P.C.C., 32 Cobham.]

\* A Trinitarian Priory founded at Mottenden in Headcorn by Sir Richard de Rokesle in 1224; it was granted at the Dissolution to Sir Thomas Cromwell, Lord Cromwell (Hasted, vol. ii., p. 391).



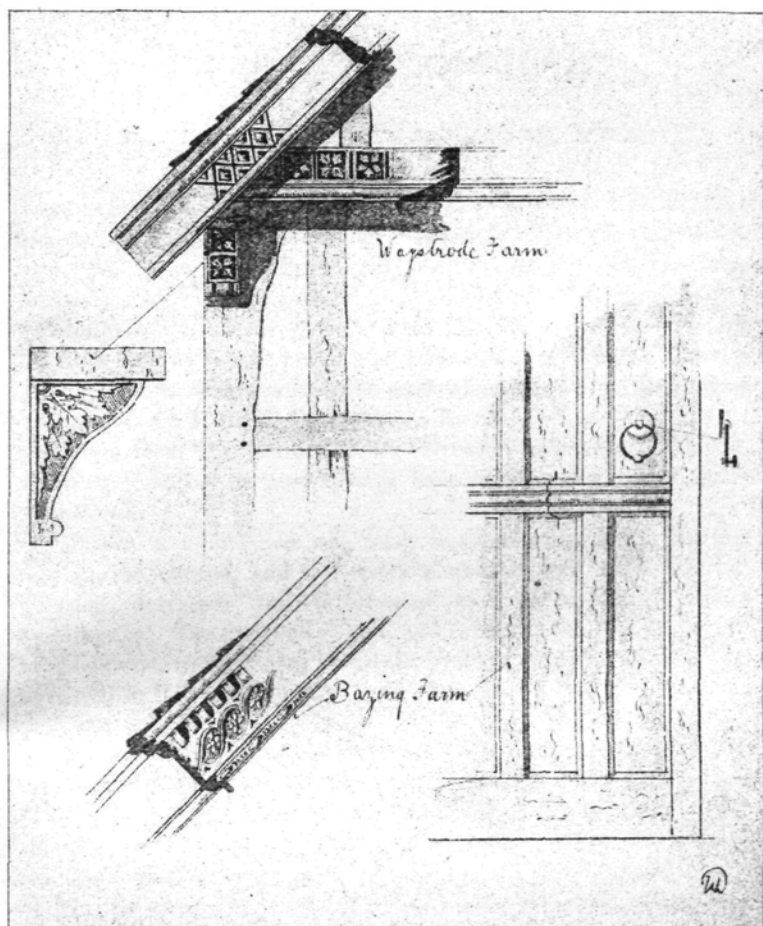
THOMAS WICKYNGE of Cowden.—“Brother Francis Wickenge of Cowden, yeoman. Sons Thomas, John, Fraunces, and Edward, daughters Marye, Dorothe, Anne, and Joane, daughter Elizabeth wife of George Knighte. Wife Marie, Executrix. Overseers, John Knighte, Francis Wicking,” etc. Dated 20 Sep., proved 26 Oct. 1601. [P.C.C., 68 Woodhall.]

WILLIAM WICKENDEN th'elder of Cowden, yeoman.—“To be buried in the Church or Church yard. Daughters Fraunces, Katherine, Marie, and Dorithie. To son John my best chest and the house he dwelleth in; to son Edmonde my ‘cubbart,’ and a little house called the Mylkhouse to be carried away from the ground; to son William the house I dwell in called Coales, to him residue, and he Ex<sup>or</sup>. Overseer, Thomas Wickenden of the Hole.” Witness, Thomas Jackson, parson. Dated 14 Feb. 1603-4, proved 24 Nov. 1604. [P.C.C., 91 Harte.]

In the will of William Turnor of Cowden, dated Nov. 1511.—“I will that Richard Wykenden and William Wykenden shall have the oversight and rule of the goodes bequethed to my daughters till they bee mariable. William Wykenden shall have my two youngest daughters, and have for the keypyng of the yongest a grote a weke till it bee seven yere olde, and for the tother a grote a weke till 11 yere come oute. Richard and William Wykenden shall have rule of my lands till my son John come to 21 yeares, and I make them my Ex<sup>ors</sup>.”

To return from its owners to the house, it belongs to the latter part of the fifteenth or beginning of the sixteenth century; it consists of a centre and two wings slightly projecting; in the northern gable is a very elaborately carved barge board and beam decorated with lozenges and the Tudor rose;\* the south gable has sunk considerably; there is a newel staircase at the north end of the house leading to the upper story. There is no panelling in the house and no old chimney-pieces, but nearly all the original latches and door handles remain. The appearance of the house is much spoilt by a farmyard with some ruinous sheds immediately in front of it. The whole is terribly dilapidated, and it is to be feared that, unless it should fall into the hands of some one who had the will and the means to restore it carefully, it will shortly disappear altogether, and with it will be lost one of the most characteristic houses in the whole of the district.

\* This is shewn on Plate. The drawings are by Mr. Walter Dunn of Park Road, Bromley.



DETAILS  
COWDEN, KENT.