

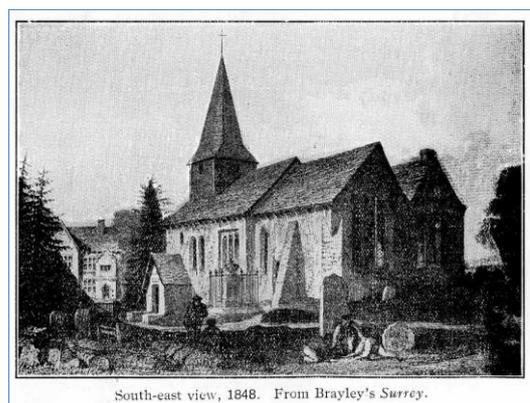
Abinger Church and its History

By John Arthur Gibbs 1934, revised 1938 Paper 6: The Churchyard

The Churchyard as it is to-day (1934) extends to about 26 yards north, 11 east, 12 west, and 80 south of the walls of the church. Up to 1863 the southern boundary was only at about 16 yards from the wall of the nave, but a rood of ground given by the patron, W. J. Evelyn, in 1862 out of his "Churchyard meadow" and consecrated 17th July 1863 brought the distance of the southern side to about 38 yards from the same point,¹ and in 1917 the distance was increased to 80 yards by the addition of 0.231 acre (nearly another rood) given by his successor J. H. C. Evelyn out of the same meadow and consecrated 9th September of that year.² In all probability the extent of the ground and its boundaries were just the same in 1863, before the enlargement, as they were 250 years or more earlier, since a document which I shall mention presently proves the length of the surrounding fence was the same; and it is likely enough that there had been no change during a much longer period. According to a note in a plan in the vestry dated 1860 (which coincides with the plan annexed to the conveyance of the one rood in 1862) the area of the ground before the first enlargement was 2 roods 5 poles, but my measurement of that plan gives barely 2 roods including the church. The map of the churchyard as it is at present which I have made for the church measures about 1 acre and 4 poles including the church.

The churchyard is entirely surrounded by a stone wall broken by the oak gates under the lych-gate, (which was designed by Basil Champneys and built in 1880) and the iron kissing-gate beside it, by the stone steps of the opposite western entrance³, by oak gates at the extreme south east corner (1922), and by an oak gate near the northern end of the western wall for the disposal of rubbish. This last mentioned one was made in 1934 in place of one (walled up at the same time) which was at 15 yards south of the steps. The rubbish is burnt in an incinerator

in an enclosure in the field outside the wall, both provided by Mr. Schiff who rents the field with Abinger Manor. He also defrayed the cost of the change of gate.



Picture (d) 1948

In picture (d) of 1848 - one of the pictures which accompany these papers - there is a view through the churchyard of the old Early Jacobean⁴ Abinger Manor House. The house was afterwards rebuilt except for the porch and room above it and came to be called the "Manor Farm". The present tenant re-named it "Abinger Manor".

The main entrance to the churchyard was probably always at the same place on the east as at present, and - before the lych-gate was built - by a simple gate. There would have been a gate also at the western entrance, as is depicted in the picture (d) of 1848, the footpaths from Abinger Manor and Abinger Hammer leading to it and passing through the churchyard. In the Rural Dean's (Dorking Deanery) Register book there is a record under date 1852 that "by the consent of John Evelyn Esqre. M.P. the path was made through the field on the south side of the churchyard and the stiles on the east and west sides of the churchyard abolished so that it is no longer a thoroughfare". This is puzzling as there is no stile on the western gate in picture (d) of 1848 while there is one on that gate in picture (c)

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which I date about 1815. As to the path through the field, the reference might either be to the path and stile seen in picture (e) crossing the southern fence of the churchyard, or to the path which now runs from near the lychgate to Sutton Lane. When the present stone steps took the place of the western gate, horse traffic through the churchyard was effectively prevented.



Picture (c)

Burials, together with baptisms and marriages, began to be recorded in Abinger in 1559 A.D. An interesting light on the relative population⁵ served by Abinger Church century by century is shown by the following table which I have made from the Parish Registers.

	Years	Burials	Baptisms	Marriages
1559 - 1658	100	574	814	182
1659 - 1758	100	1049	1348	309
1759 - 1858	100	1273	2126	450
1859 - 1934	76	566	805	283
		3462	5095	1224

The great rise in the numbers in all 3 categories in the 2nd and 3rd periods must indicate a largely increased population served, with which the iron forging industry at Abinger Hammer and charcoal burning for gunpowder may have had

much to do. The numbers for 1859 - 1934 being at the rate of 760, 1050 and 370 respectively per 100 years represent a falling off as noticeable as the previous rises, which may in part be accounted for by the closing down of the forge at the beginning of the 19th century, by the separation of Oakwood from Abinger as a distinct ecclesiastical parish in 1853, the opening of Holmbury St. Mary Church in 1879 and of Forest Green Church in 1896. From 672 burials in the 50 years 1809-1358 the drop was to 394 in the following 50, and from 1232 baptisms to 561.

It is shown in the table that the burials in Abinger churchyard numbered 3462 in the 376 years 1559-1934.

Assuming that the present church was built in 1080 and that burials between that date and 1558 were only at the rate of 5 a year the total would be not far short of 6000 in the 855 years to 1934.

The number of graves in the churchyard recognisable by mounds or monuments at the end of 1934 was only 294.⁶ Of these, 219 bear dated inscribed memorials. The disposition of these 219 is of some interest and is shown in the following table (taking the earliest burial shown on each monument).

	Stone	Wooden Rails	Iron Crosses	Wooden Crosses
1700-1749	5			
1750-1799	6			
1800-1849	27	2		
1850-1899	88	10	2	1
1900-1934	75			3
	201	12	2	4

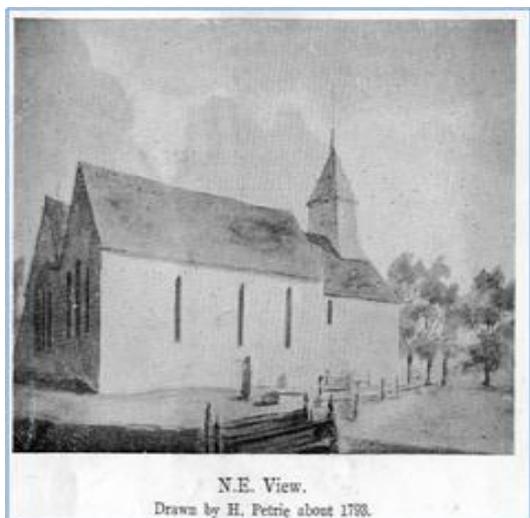
(Besides these there is a much broken table tomb of stone on the south side of the church on which there is no surname or date that can now be read.⁷ There are also 3 isolated foot stones⁸, one stone curb⁹, and 2 wooden rails¹⁰

without dates).

In the floor of the church there remain 2 gravestones, one of 1685, the other of 1743. Among the 5 of 1700-1749 in the above table one of them (Ann Worsfold's of 1704 A.D.) is known to have been originally in the floor of the Church.¹¹

For other burials in the floor of the church see Appendix to Paper No. 5. Of burials made in the churchyard, the earliest dated inscriptions are the flat broken stone of John Spooner (date defaced but identified as 1720) and the table tomb next to it of Henry Spooner 1722, both in the north side of the church¹². The latter is the only table tomb besides the one mentioned above.

It is not very remarkable that there should be no monuments earlier than those since it is only in a minority of the ancient churchyards in England that 17th century ones are met with¹³. That there are (as the table show) only 5 stone ones in the first 50 years and 6 in the second 50 years does not mean that a great number have disappeared – some may have done so but stone has a much longer lifetime than 200 years – but rather that stone monuments were rarely used, and least in a parish such as Abinger where well-to-do people were few. The common monument was the wooded rail (a board on edge, with inscription painted on it, running the length of the grave, supported by a wooden post at each end; sometimes called a “bedhead”).



The table shows how the fashion for called

stone memorials has grown greater and greater since the 18th century, but it does not show how the use of wooden rails has declined since then, for the life of these rails here seems to be less than 100 years, and only 12 inscribed ones are left of which the oldest original one is dated 1862 and the latest 1883, but there are 2 restored ones among them of 1846 and 1849 respectively.¹⁴



Transcripts of Abinger epitaphs made 45 years ago by A. R. Bax F.S.A.¹⁵ include 19 other rails which have since disappeared, the earliest of them dated 1802. The old pictures (k) of about 1793 and of 1824 show that these rails in our churchyard were numerous at those dates, but how remarkably common they were in Surrey churchyards may best be seen in Hill & Peak's engravings of Surrey Churches and their churchyards of 1819¹⁶. Abinger is not represented - among which Dorking is a conspicuous instance. One 18th century rail inscription from our churchyard is preserved by Aubrey (1718) who, while quoting the following charming epitaph of one George Nye who died in 1707¹⁷, mentions that it was on a “raised rail”.

“Here lyeth the body of George Nye who departed this life the 12 day of October 1707 being aged 57 years.

George Nye was my name

And England my Nashon

Abinger was my dwelling place

And Christ is my Salvation.”

But the use of wooden rails as the

commonest form of memorial doubtless went back to very much earlier days in our churchyard, as also throughout Surrey, Sussex and Kent (outside these counties they are rarely met with).¹⁸ "They probably have a very ancient pedigree and must have been the rule rather than the exception (in these counties) and in a wooden Country they have a special appropriateness. It seems a pity that they have gone out of fashion as they are not unpleasing and would fittingly mark the place of many a grave now only represented by an earth mound"¹⁹. When it was the custom to graze sheep, in the churchyards these boards formed a protection to the graves, and it is considered that the chief cause of their disuse was that the banishing of the sheep had removed the need for this protection.

Other animals may have been a danger at one time, for it is recorded in the Rural Dean's Register that one of the questions asked of him by the Bishop in 1829²⁰ regarding Abinger churchyard was: "Are pigs or cattle ever admitted?" Whatever may have happened in the past, he was fortunately able to reply "Only sheep are admitted". It is not at all improbable that the annual Fair held just outside the churchyard - now only a pleasure fair, but once a cattle fair - was at one time held inside the churchyard - see my paper No.1.

In the north east corner of the churchyard is an iron railed rectangular enclosure - No. 12²¹ - 13 by 9 feet, void of any inscription. It contains below the turf the vault of the Scarlett family and in it is the 1st Lord Abinger buried 14 Apr. 1844, the 2nd Lord buried 29 June 1861, the first wife of the late Lord and the wife of the 2nd Lord, to all of whom there are memorial tablets in the church, the 6th Lord who died 1927, and others of the family²².

Some of the gravestones in the old pictures are recognisable. The table tomb in picture (a) (of about 1793) and the one in (d) (1848) are doubtless the two mentioned above. The headstone under the east wall of the church in picture (b) (1824) and (d) is that of Arnold Champion (No. 20 1743). The headstone in (a) and (b) against the north wall is probably intended for that of Elizabeth Hoole (No.27 1792). The square stone monument to J. H.

Skardon of Abinger Hall, surmounted by a well-carved urn, is conspicuous in picture (c), (d), (e) and is seen to have round it an iron railing which no longer exists. The footstone in the foreground of (d) is that of the grave of Mary Ann Tegg of Ockley (No. 183) wife of John Tegg, and the inscription "M.A.T. 1837" is actually shown in the picture. The headstone of this grave is now right up against the footstone whereas in the picture it occupies its proper place and the explanation is as follows. Leave to move the headstone of John Tegg's grave down to the footstone was included in the Faculty for building the south-east vestry in 1880, but it is quite clear that this was an error and that Mary Ann's headstone was meant as there is no grave of John nor is there record in the Register of his burial. Her headstone had no doubt to be moved because it interfered with the alteration of the path necessitated by the new addition to the church.

The side path in picture (d) running south on the east side of the Tegg footstone was, after the extension of the churchyard in 1863, replaced by a gravelled one on the west side of it which actually crosses several graves, for instance that of E. and J. Tanner (No.178), of 1835 and 1837, of which the headstone is on one side and the foot-stone on the other side of the path. This path, which further on turns west and meets the gravelled path that now (since 1863), runs south from the south porch of the church, end is known also to cross graves, keeps within the area of the churchyard as enlarged in 1863. In the picture is also seen part of the gravelled path which encircles the church on the east, north and west sides, joining at its either end the path along the south side of the church.

Children are playing on the Legg grave in picture (d), and appropriately to this may be quoted another question asked of the Rural Dean by the Bishop in 1829, viz: "Is the churchyard ever profaned on the Lord's Day by being made a playground?", to which the reply was "It is not allowed to be profaned". This and the question about cattle and pigs point to misuse of churchyards in those days as not uncommon.

A quantity of unmade grave mounds were (sic) levelled in about 1878²³ but doubtless only in the original ground. Again, in c. 1928, in

order to facilitate the cutting of the grass all of this kind that remained in that ground, and in the ground that was added in 1863 were levelled after due advertisement, except those retained by the wish of relations of the buried people.

The following report on the churchyard, dated 1851, is taken from the Rural Dean's Register. "An unseemly erection at the east side of the churchyard made for the accommodation of the children when the school was held in the vestry room (in the patron's chancel) has been renovated, as has also another at the angle between the patron's chancel and the nave (where the 1920 vestry now is) intended for the keeping of fuel for the same. The former had been covered by the broken tombstone of Mr. Spooner, a Benefactor of the Poor, now mended and replaced on his grave. Both these were done at the expense of the Rector". As to the first part of this quotation it may be mentioned that in 1878 the architect Basil Champneys recommended making a building of like utility "in an angle of the churchyard, for worshippers from a distance", a suggestion which was not carried out. The tombstone referred to is probably that on grave No. 26 in the book in the Vestry, a stone flat on the ground, broken in two, the half obliterated inscription on which, interpreted with the help of the Register and transcription by Bax, declares it to be probably that of "Mr. John Spooner of Burchet" in Abinger who died 16th Aug. 1735, the Rural Dean having mistaken him for Henry Spooner who provided in his will for a perpetual Charity for the Poor, and died in 1613. The stone is close to the table tomb (No. 25) of the Henry Spooner who died in 1722.

There is a wooden hutch for wheelbarrow, mowing machine, and tools against the north side of the western end of the nave, which was erected in 1933.

The pipe (installed in 1933) which brings the Hurtwood Water Co's water to the church enters the churchyard under the kissing gate beside the lychgate and enters the church through the south wall of the southeast Vestry, a branch from it leads to a tap on the outside of the west wall of that Vestry, placed there in 1933 for the convenience chiefly of those who attend to the churchyard or who decorate graves with flowers.

In consequence the old pump behind the tool hutch above mentioned (which drew from a rainwater tank situated near the S. west corner of the church) was disused, and in 1933 it was removed.

The London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority pay to the Church Council an annual wayleave of 1/- for the branch line which they installed in 1934 to supply electricity to "Abinger Manor". It passes under the kissing gate and along the east-west path past the south porch of the church and out at the stone steps, and from a point opposite the Old Vestry a connection was made to the church when electric lighting was introduced there in 1938.

There is a wooden bench seat in the southern part of the churchyard against the west wall, near Colonel Lewin's grave (No. 95) placed there by members of his family .

The churchyard wall has the same general appearance throughout its 310 yards of length, being built of the local sand-stone and surmounted by a rounded coping a little wider than the wall itself, but if it be examined it will be seen that it is built in sections and that the sections of the east part north of the lychgate and for some distance south of it are curiously short. Thus in the 94 feet north of the lychgate to the point where the wall turns west there are 8 sections, 4 of them 6 to 8 ft. long, 2 of them 12, one 18 and one 26 feet. The section nearest the lychgate (of 6 ft.) has a layer of tiles 3 deep under the coping, the next section (26 ft.) has a layer of single bricks under the coping, the next (12 ft.) has a layer of tiles 2 deep under it. In the whole of the rest of the wall the layer is of 2 tiles, except for 17 feet south of the kissing gate where it is brick like the 26 foot section mentioned above. In some sections the mortar between the stones is "garneted" (or "garoted"), some more, some less, in others it is plain.

In the 118 yards of the wall which encloses on 3 sides the latest (1917) extension of the churchyard the bottom tiles are toothed. On the back of the wall, about 19 yards north of the lychgate, the initials "T.S." are cut on a stone, and 4 feet further north "R.W." with "1679" beneath it and at 9 yards further "W.R.": also on the back of the wall about opposite the

westernmost window of the patron's chancel there is "I.E. 1829".

Light is thrown on some of these matters by the old document referred to above. This document is written in at the end of the earliest of the Parish Register books and it is transcribed in the printed *Parish Registers of Abinger, Wotton and Oakwood*²⁴. It records "The Enclosing of the Church Yard of Abingeworth alias Abinger". From this wording it may probably be inferred that the ground was previously unfenced. The document is not dated but a comparison of the handwriting with that of the regular entries in the book shows that it was written into the book in the late 16th, or early 17th, century, and the original may of course have been of an earlier date than the transcript. The heading is followed by a list of 64 properties in the parish (the ancient ecclesiastical parish which reached to the border of Sussex) against each of which is set down in feet the length of fence for the making of which it was to be responsible, Most of the properties are called by their names but in some few the name of the occupier occurs instead. In handwriting of a much later date the name of the occupier of each property, presumably at the later date, is inserted. The first lines on the list read "Imprimis to begin at the South Weste end The Lord shall make for his parte there" 33 feet. Of the other 63 properties 1 is assigned a quota of 21 feet, 12 of 11 to 18 feet, and 50 of 5 to 10. The total feet is 559 which corresponds almost exactly with the length of the boundary before 1863 arrived at by measuring it in the plan annexed to the conveyance of the ground added to the churchyard that year.

At the end of the earliest Register book of our neighbouring parish, Wotton, there is a similar, and undated, list of Wotton properties with a number of feet against each and the owner or occupier. A heading in modern writing in pencil says that it shows the number of feet of fence of the Wotton churchyard which each was "bound to keep in repair", not, be it noted, "to enclose" as in the Abinger documentation. If the writer of the heading correctly expressed the purpose of the list, the fence must have been already in existence when the list was drawn up. The handwriting seems to my inexpert eyes to be more difficult to date than that of the Abinger

list. The properties and people number 55. To one was assigned "The Gate", to another "the Running Bars", and the other quotas were, one of 43 feet of fence, one of 36, one of 30, five of 24, one of 18, one of 14, and 43 of 6 to 12 feet. Among these "Mr. Evelyn" had, with 8 holdings, 90 feet, and "Mr. Steere" with 2 holdings 60 feet. From these and other names a student of Wotton history might be able to ascertain the date of the list with greater certainty than could an expert in handwriting, who indeed could but indicate the date when the list was copied into the book and that only approximately. The same of course applies *mutatis mutandi* to the Abinger list.

The custom of thus distributing the work on the fences of the churchyards is stated by Dr. J. C. Cox²⁵ to be peculiar to the Weald of Sussex and to date "from early post-Reformation days". He instances the villages of West Hoathly, Ardingly, Cowfold, Chiddingly, and Berwick, and says that the custom still survives here and there. But, besides Abinger and Wotton, it existed at Dunsfold, Ockham and Walton-on-Thames²⁶ in Surrey, and it was possibly common in well wooded parts of that county and, likely enough, of Kent too. In the Sussex villages the rails in each mans length of fencing were marked with his initials and are called "Church Marks".

It is now apparent that the 4 instances of initials carved on sections of Abinger churchyard wall likely enough represent a survival of a custom dating from the time when every man's section of the fence was marked with his initials. The original fence was probably of wooden posts and rails but that a great part of the eastern fence was early built in stone seems to be proved by the date 1679 on it and by its ancient appearance, and it is probable that some of the sections of this eastern wall correspond to individual quotas of feet under the original prescription or to several built simultaneously by one mason on behalf of these responsible. The wall on the north and west sides is in a different case as no part of it seems to be earlier than 1829 and it is very unlikely that the ancient prescription still ruled, so that the sections which can be seen in it (much longer ones for the most part than in the east wall) merely show that it was built bit by bit at different times. An entry in the Rural Dean's book in 1829 that "the fence needs repairs" is the

first record that we have in writing about the fence after the early one mentioned. In the next year he noted that “a good wall has been built as a fence to a part of the churchyard and it is intended to carry it by degrees all round”. The date 1829 carved, as I have said, on the back of the north wall is close to the end of a section of 76 feet from the north east corner and marks no doubt the work mentioned by the Rural Dean. By 1848 the wall had reached round to the western gate, as is shown in picture (d) (1848). South of the gate the fence was still a wooden one as seen in the picture. Four years later the Rural Dean noted that “the wall was completed, (in 1852), round the south east side of the churchyard”, see picture (e). The deeds connected with the consecration on 17th July 1863 of the rood of ground added on the south mention that the new piece was walled on three sides and that on the fourth it was bounded by the old churchyard, so that the wall had already been extended round it and of course the old southern boundary wall removed. Though the further addition of nearly a rood was consecrated on 9th September 1917 the wall was not extended round it till 1922. The stone was provided partly by J. H. C. Evelyn, partly by demolition of the southern boundary wall of the 1863 piece. A fund for building the 110 yards of new wall was opened in 1919. The total cost was £240 and the final payment to the builder, Mr. Joseph Harrison, was made in 1923.

In the middle of the south wall of the new (1917) ground there is a raised up portion of the wall, at the back of which is an inscription to record that the field that it faces is dedicated as a Village Green to the men of the civil parish of Abinger who fell in the war of 1914-18.²⁷ This field, being what was left of “Churchyard Meadow” and about 2 acres and 20 sq. poles in area, was bought as a Village Green from T. H. C. Evelyn in 1920 and vested in the Parish Council.²⁸

The new ground of 1917 has its own system of paths, namely a rectangle of gravelled paths, down the central line of which runs a paved path in a straight line with the gravelled path from the south porch of the church. Midway between the ends of this paved path is a square paved enlargement of it in the centre of which

stands the war memorial cross and from which to east and west a paved area extends to the gravelled side path. The paving referred to is of ‘crazily’ arranged Horsham slabs.



The said war memorial cross (of “specially selected best” Portland stone) with its setting of pavements was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens R.A., and carried out by H. Jenkins & Sons Ltd., of Torquay, and erected late in 1919, the cost being £190²⁹. The whole was presented by Mrs. Margaret Lewin³⁰ widow of Lieut. Colonel T. H. Lewin, of “Parkhurst” in this village, in memory of the men of the ecclesiastical parish of Abinger who fell in the war of 1914-19 (sic) and of her son Captain C. M. Lewin, who died March 1919.

In the Agreement for and Conveyance (18th and 19th June, 1917) of the new churchyard ground one sixth of it (in the N.W. corner of it in the plan in the deed) is reserved for the Evelyn family. It is also provided in the deeds that a portion of rectorial fees for monuments in this ground and for burials of non-parishioners may be claimed for upkeep of the churchyard, and there are stipulations as to the fees to be charged to non-parishioners.

The path leading south from the south porch has where it begins a golden cypress on either side and on either side of it as far as the beginning of the 1917 extension of the ground there are roses and young yew trees. There are many other trees and shrubs in the churchyard but I will only mention the large well grown

ones. There is a large yew about half way between the church and the north east corner of the churchyard — pictures (n) and (o) — and a smaller one in the corner. A large one growing alongside of but outside the wall — picture (m) — overshadows the churchyard near the north end of the western side. A very tall cypress — pictures (k), (l) and (m) — stands near the south west corner of the church, and a lime tree (picture (k) — on either side of the stone steps on the west. A spreading horse chestnut - pictures (f), (l), and (n) — near the wall on the eastern side is just within the southern boundary of the 1863 extension of the churchyard. On the south side among other trees a copper leaved *Prunus* may be mentioned beside the west wall between grave 201 (Genl. Bourne) and 95 (Col. Lewin) and a thorn at the south end of the western sidewalk in the 1917 extension of the ground.

In Dec. 1877 “six tall fir trees and other trees and laurels (in the churchyard) which darkened the church were cut down and ivy taken from the walls and windows whereby much light was let into the church³¹, and somewhat later W. J. Evelyn cut down Elm and other trees outside the churchyard which made the church dismal”. The stump remains of a very tall spruce which was just within the original southern boundary between the headstones of graves Nos. 185 and 135, cut down in 1931, and of one which was beside the kissing gate of the lych-gate, cut down about 1925. These two appear as young trees in picture (e) of 1852-56, and as old trees in picture (f) of 1921 and (g) of 1901. Other trees are seen picture (g) inside the churchyard facing the east end of the North Aisle,

which have also disappeared.

A pair of cypress trees — picture (k) — which were near the grave of J. Charman (No. 130 in *Book of Inscriptions*) in the southern part of the churchyard, and a pair in the northern part between the graves of H. Harrison (No. 46) and W. King (No. 50) were removed in 1938. There were laurel bushes in the churchyard in this century undo, under the west wall on both sides of the stone steps, under the north wall, and under the east wall south of the lych-gate picture (m) — all have been grubbed up, the last of them in 1938.

Pictures (f), (g), (h), and (i) show how ivy covered the walls of the church after 1877. It was all removed between 1928 and 1933 following advice given by the Archdeacon (Irwin), the last being that on the north wall of the North Aisle (not shown in the picture). Virginian Creeper which covered the South Porch (pictures (h) and (i)) was removed in 1935-36.

In a little guide to *Dorking & Neighbourhood* 2nd ed. (Fisher Union circa 1882) “The churchyard presents an instance or two of a practise which would appear in former times to have been common in Surrey churchyards, as still seen at Ockley and some other places, of planting rose trees at the head of maiden’s graves. This custom is a peculiar instance of survival, for it is almost certain that the people in this quarter of England derived it from the Romans who, as scholars tell us, used to plant roses in this manner — a custom which they again derived from the Greeks.” The author quotes Camden as mentioning the custom in Ockley.

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¹ The original documents (with plan) concerning the 1863 addition are in the Bishop’s Registrar’s keeping and copies in his Muniment book. There are no copies in Abinger Vestry. The deed of consecration, as was then the custom, contains the whole of the service and the whole of the hymns.

² The following documents (with plan) concerning the 1917 addition are in Abinger Vestry (a set of originals is also with the Bishop’s Registrar and copies in his Muniment book). Original agreement 18th June, copy of conveyance 19th June, copy of the instrument of consecration 9th September with declaration as to a portion of the ground reserved for the Evelyn family.

³ Lord Farrer writes to me that 1863 is too early a date. He says “In my youth there was a riding gate at this place when farmers rode horses to church from Raikes Farm direction!” Lord Farrer was born in 1859.

⁴ Dr. J. C. Cox’s *Rambles In Surrey*, 2nd. ed.1911.

⁵ There are no records of the actual population of Abinger before 1801. For the population 1801-1931 see Paper 8.

⁶ These particulars are obtained from the manuscript book of inscriptions prepared by me which is in the Vestry.

⁷ No. 162 in the churchyard inscriptions in the said book. A. R. Bax in 1990 transcribed this one as "Thomas R. or B....Yeoman, who departed....December....". Thomas Russell, buried 9 Dec. 1621, is the only Thomas R. who fits, and Thomas Bridgers, buried 3 Dec. 1771, the only Thomas Be., but the latter seems to be of Shere family and the ruined and worn state of the tomb points rather to 1621, which would make it older by a century than any other here.

⁸ Nos. 35D, 134A and 187 in the same book.

⁹ No. 109 in the same.

¹⁰ Nos. 52 and 104A in the same.

¹¹ No. 76 in the same.

¹² The numbers of the 11 dated stone memorials of 18th century in the churchyard in the book of inscriptions are (op. cit.) 10, 20, 21, 25 (Henry Spooner 1722), 26 (John Spooner 1720), 27, 76, 83, 122, 168 and 185.

¹³ *English Church Fittings Furniture and Accessories* Dr. J. C. Cox (1933 ed.) p. 32.

¹⁴ The numbers of the 12 rails in the book of inscriptions (op. cit.) are 14 (1862 Julia Ward), 38 (1846 Eliz. Harrison), 90 (1883 Robert Wood), 97, 98, 100, 101, 105, 126, 131, 140 (1849 Henry Hubbard) and 194.

¹⁵ 3 remarkable epitaphs (one of which is transcribed overleaf) are transcribed in my printed pamphlet *Abinger Parish Church*.

¹⁶ *Epitaphs of Surrey* 3 vols MS; in Surrey Archaeological Society's Library in Guildford

¹⁷ *Natural History & Antiquities of the County of Surrey* Vol IV

¹⁸ Dr. Cox. *Eng. Ch.Fittings* (op. cit.) p. 35. There are many in Hertfordshire.

¹⁹ Quoted by Dr. Cox (op. cit.) p. 35 from Mr. P. M. Johnstone.

²⁰ This Register, opened in 1829, was one of the results of Bishop Sumner's reform, who that year restored the appointing of Rural Deans in the Dioceses by the Bishop (instead of by the parochial clergy as had become the custom) and committed to them the inspection of the churches. See *Vict. Co. Hist. Surrey* II, p51.

²¹ The grave numbers inserted here and elsewhere refer to the numbers in the book of inscriptions.

²² In 1935 the railing was removed and a flat stone inscribed with the names and dates was placed on a stone paving covering the vault. The latest burial was in 1937.

²³ *Abinger Monthly Record* Jan. and Sept. 1890 and Aug. 1892.

²⁴ Printed for the Surrey Record Society 1927.

²⁵ *English Church Fittings*. (op. cit.) p. 38.

²⁶ For Dunsfold see Judge's *Some West Surrey Villages* (1901) p.90. For Ockham see *The Church of Ockham* booklet by R. N. Bloxam (1937). Walton is information from R. N. Bloxam.

²⁷ The same inscription faces the Green at Abinger Hammer and that at Forest Green.

²⁸ The Conveyance is dated 11th Aug. 1920. A copy of the; Land Registry Certificate dated 29th Nov. 1923 with plan showing the field and churchyard is in the Vestry. In 1935 the Green received a net gain of 1 rood 8 poles by the addition of the plot opposite the Hatch Inn, and roadside strips on Abinger Lane (including the pond), and on Sutton Lane (in all 1 ac. 8 poles), in exchange for & corner westward of the churchyard given over to the Wotton Estate.

²⁹ Information from Sir E. Lutyens. The whole structure is very similar but on a smaller scale to Lutyen's City of York memorial cross, and the design of the shaft of the cross is precisely the same. His war cross at Busbridge near Godalming is similar.

³⁰ Mrs Lewin, who died in 1929, bequeathed in her will 50 £5 shares of the Hurtwood Water Co. as an endowment towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

³¹ Note in *Register Book of Preachers*. Dec. 1877-88 in the Vestry.