

Penn August 9th 1802 — 204

Sir

I was favoured with your Letter containing 3 Queries. In answer to the first, I have to inform you, that there is an Estate, or rather a Farm part of the Old Penn Estate call'd Bailing, which I suppose to be the same as that which you call Billings, but it never, I believe, gave name to a Manor. It is at present the Property of A Viscount Curzon, and has not been in the possession of any other family since the death of Roger Penn Esq. The last of the Penns, who died a Bachelor. One of whose Sisters M^{rs} Sarah Penn married Sir Nathaniel Curzon, ^{Baronet} of Kedleston in Derbyshire, Grandfather of the present A Curzon, by which marriage the Curzons became connected with Penn; and the 3 other Sisters died Maidens. Penn House was the Old Seat of the Penn family. The present A Curzon abt 42 years ago pull'd down nearly 2 thirds of it, and fitted up the remainder as a country House, to which he might retire occasionally during the sitting of Parliament. In answer to the 2^d Query, I have to say, that Seagroves Farm gives Name to the Manor, which includes the whole Parish of Penn, and is part of the Old Penn Estate, and consequently the Property of A Curzon, tho' the Farm House is not the Manor House, but a small cottage in the Village of Penn. — To the 3^d Query I answer, that there are no Hamlets in the Parish of Penn. There are, however, besides the Village of Penn, three assemblages of Houses in the nature of small Villages, viz. Penn Street, beyond Penn House, and

ab^t 1½ Mile from the Church; Kmallocks or Kmolly Green ab^t a mile from D^o and Forty Green ab^t the same distance in different directions.

Penn, so called from its elevated situation, the Word being ancient British or Welsh, signifying the Head, Top, or Summit of any thing, i. e. an exceeding pleasant Village, commanding an extensive and rich prospect of the adjacent country. The Living is a Vicarage, and in the Gift of D^o Curzon. The Church, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is very neat, and has a ~~new~~ painted Window in the Chancel, over the Communion Table. There is a large Vault, which occupies the whole space under the Chancel, within the Walls, belonging to the Curzon family. It was made in the year 1797, when D^o Curzon's eldest son, the Hon. Penn. Thos. Curzon died. In digging the Vault, on one of the Foundation Stones the date of the year 1177 was legible, by which we may conjecture that the Church or rather the Chancel was built, or more probably rebuilt in that year. The Chancel was again rebuilt in the year 1736, and the year following the painted Window was put up. The Subject is Our Saviour and the two Disciples at Emmaus. - There is, also, under the Body of the Church, towards the Belfry, a large Vault built by the late Mr. Penn, Proprietor of Pennsylvania. Mr. Penn made this Vault altho' he had no House or Land in the Parish. He wish'd much to make some purchaser, but never c^d effect his purpose. He afterwards purchas'd a house and Estate at Stoke near Windsor, where his son at present resides, and where the family are now buried, a few only having been deposited in the Vault.

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at Penn. - There are several small Monuments belonging to the Curzon Family in the Chancel. The last was erected to the Memory of the Hon. Penn. Alphonso Curzon, delicately executed by Bacon, with a very neat and modest Inscription. - There are also two Monuments in the Church belonging to The Baker family, with Latin Inscriptions. This Family possessed a Mansion House with Lands &c in this Parish, which were sold by John Baker Holroyd Esq. now Lord Sheffield, the last of the family, to a Dr. Boucher a Physician, whose family possess it several years. The Mansion House is now a School for the Education and support of the Sons of French Emigrants, especially the Sons of the Nobility and those Officers who were killed in the English Service. It is supported by Government, and was patronized by the late Mr. Burke. The Establishment is for a Superior, with 3 Assistant Masters, and 60 Boys. The Number of Boys is now gradually decreasing, and in a little time it will probably terminate. ~~But~~ The Baroness Howe has lately purchased the Baker Estate, which will be added to that of the Curzons, and become the Property of her Ladyships Son the Hon. George Augustus William Curzon, who being the eldest Son of Lord Curzon's eldest Son, the Hon. Penn. Alphonso Curzon, by her Ladyships, will consequently inherit his Lordships Estates.

Besides answering your Queries I have added the above, and sh^d any of it prove of service to you, it

will, I assure you, give me great pleasure.

I am, Sir,

your obedient servant

W. Addleton

From the Tower of Penn Church may be seen clearly the following Counties, viz: Bucks of course, Berks, Hants, Oxford, Bedford, Herts, Essex, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey; perhaps also Northampton and Sussex.

The Word Pen in the Welsh Language, as I said above, signifies the Head, Top, or Summit of any thing, as Pen Dŷn, Denon's head; Pen Mynydd, the summit or Top of a Mountain, and Pen Ffôn the head or Top of a Staff &c. &c.

