

of the parish, the whole of the deeds and conveyances are in my hands, and from them and other sources I have extracted and arranged the following particulars :

In the year 1695, Alexander Cleeve, Citizen of London, and Pewterer, purchased the estate of Greensted Hall, from the last mentioned Robert Hulson and others having an interest in the sale, together with the Advowson of the living.

It may serve to carry the readers mind back to the lapses of time since this took place, if I add that in this year the Duke of Berwick was organizing a force to replace James the 2nd on the throne of England, William the 3rd was engaged in the siege of Namur, and the Parliament was laboriously legislating to bring down the current value of a guinea from thirty shillings to twenty and sixpence.

I could wish that some of the private papers of Alexander Cleeve had fallen into my possession, so that I might have constructed his biography from materials less slender than wills and tombstone inscriptions afford me.

He was undoubtedly born in 1666, the year of the great fire of London, and as at the time he purchased Greensted, his age was only twenty-nine, it is to be inferred that he must have inherited a large fortune from his father, (of whom I can discover no trace) since by that age he could hardly have accumulated it for himself.

John Cleeve, of St. Giles in the Fields, and of Friern Barnet, Esquire, may possibly have been his brother, since I find him associated with Alexander in several deeds of purchase, and the arms upon his fine mural monument in the pleasantly situated Church of Friern Barnet, are the same as those on Philippa Cleeve's tomb, in Greensted Churchyard, (although in the former instance impaled with his wife's arms,) namely, argent, on a fesse, between three foxes' heads erased as many mullets or : impaling argent a bend, gules.