

The inscription is—

To the memory of John Cleeve, Esq., late of this Parish, who departed this life Nov. 20, 1726. Also of Ann Cleeve, relict of the above-said, who departed this life Jany. 6, 1739.

1726

Likewise the bodies of Thomas and Mary Cleeve, their son and daughter, whose remains all lie near this monument, under a black marble gravestone.

Before 1690 Alexander Cleeve was married to Mary the daughter of — Duffield, by whom he had four sons, namely, Alexander, born 1690, died 1759. John, born 1701, died 1777. Benjamin, born 1706, died 1761. And Simon, date of birth and death unknown, but the latter previous to 1751.

Of the birth, death, and place of interment of this his first wife, I can find no record, but the date of her death must have been after the year 1706, when Benjamin was born, and before 1712, when he married for the second time. She cannot therefore, have been that “Mary Cleeve” recorded in the Parish Register, of Greensted, as “buried in Wooling, Sep. 1st, 1697,” unless this date could have been recorded in error for 1707.

In 1712, a deed of settlement, in my possession, shews Alexander Cleeve to have married for his second wife, Ann, daughter and heiress of John Bouchier, who brought him the manor and estate of Vaux, in the parish of Otten Belchamp, Essex, and upon whom he settled as her dower the manor and lands of Greensted Hall.

It is not one of the least extraordinary incidents in the history of this Parish, that Ann Bouchier descended from Thomas Bouchier, brother of Henry, 1st Earl of Essex of that name, to whom belonged the manor of Greensted, with many others in the County, among which was the estate of Otten Belchamp, which therefore would appear to have passed to the younger branch, and thus to have escaped the wreck of the other portions made by the Marquis of Northampton.

By this Ann, his second wife, Alexander Cleeve had