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## A Map of 1766

Before leaving Berkhamsted for his new home in Cheshire, Mr. Edward Popple gave me a map of outstanding local interest.

It is not so old as the works of Saxton, Speed and other early cartographers, whose county maps, often beautifully coloured by hand, are treasured by many collectors.

But it is the oldest map I have seen which is sufficiently detailed to be of more than passing interest to the local historian. Roads, lanes, fields, woods, houses, gardens—these are shown in as great detail as one can expect on a scale of approximately 2-in. to the mile. Owners or tenants of important properties are named. Though there are no contour lines, hills are shaded to show steep gradients—and some appear rather formidable. Berkhamsted Place looks as if it lies in the crater of an extinct volcano!

Andrew Dury and John Andrews, the map-makers, surveyed a wide area. The sheet in my possession, extending from Tring to Chipperfield, from the Bucks boundary to Markyate, is but one of a series. There were three editions, in 1766, 1777 and 1782, and complete sets are preserved at the County Record Office, Hertford.

### EASILY RECOGNISED

Accompanying this article is a small section of the 1766 map showing Berkhamsted and the immediate surroundings, reduced for space reasons to a scale of about 1½-in. to the mile. You will probably be as surprised as I was to find so many recognisable features, particularly on the south side of the High Street.

Once the less populous side of the valley, this is now the home of con-

siderably more than half of the townspeople. Well over 2,000 houses, compared with only a dozen or so in 1766 (not counting those fronting the High Street), have been built on this hillside.

We have filled in the wide, open spaces, adding to but not materially changing the ancient plan. In other words, we have no more and no fewer direct links between the High Street and Shootersway than we had in 1766, or indeed at a much earlier date. Starting from Northchurch, we find Darrs Lane, Bell Lane, Durrants Lane, Cross Oak Road, Kings Road, Chesham Road, Swing Gate Lane, and Garden Field Lane. Their twists and kinks are unchanged, though the only one which survives in anything like its old condition is Garden Field Lane, east of the Hall Park Estate.

### ALONG SHOOTERSWAY

Of especial interest is Shootersway, or Sugarsway as it was known in Dury and Andrews' time. Today we tend to limit the name Shootersway to the road which starts near Newground Farm and ends at the corner of Brickhill Green. It really belongs to the whole of the ancient way which, from Brickhill Green, continues as a drive to Ashlyns Hall and then as a footpath through Sandpit Green and Long Green to Bourne End. The last section is still called Sugar Lane, and the name alone is sufficient to link it with Sugarsway. This ancient "bypass" is said to have been the haunt of robbers and other ne'er-do-wells who did not wish to be seen in the valley highway.

Note other spellings on our 1766 map: Gossom End, Ashlyns Hall, Kingsell for Kingshill and Durance for Durrants (not correctly sited; it should have been west of Cross Oak Road). Harrats Foot End and Harrats End, now Haresfoot and Harriotts End, arouse as much interest and speculation as any of our place-names. Very early spellings were Haresfordeshende (1287) and Harefotehull (1357). As the county boundary is only a short distance away, I believe the name was originally Hertford (or Hertfordshire) End.

### THE MILESTONES

Ashlyns Hall was the home of J. Nicholl in 1766, and it is interesting to recall that a recent tenant, the secretary of the Foundling Hospital, bore a similar name.

"The Wood," a house halfway along the ancient track to Marlin Chapel, mystifies me. If it existed—and there is no reason why we should doubt Dury and Andrews, despite a few obvious inaccuracies elsewhere—it is surprising that nothing is now known of the house. It has disappeared without a trace. Incidentally, just off the section of the map reproduced here are the spellings



Marlen Chappel and Hodge Lane (Hogg Lane).

If you look closely, you will find symbols representing milestones in the High Street. The most prominent of these is near St. Peter's Church. This was the "26 miles to London" stone, and its modern cast-iron successor was taken up, never to be restored, at the beginning of the War, so that Nazi

invaders, if they came, would not know where they were. On the map, though no longer in fact, you will find the "25M" stone near Garden Field Lane and the "27M" stone a short distance east of Durrants Lane.

Next month's article will deal with the northern slopes. Please keep this copy, as the map will not be reprinted.

## YOUNG WIVES' FELLOWSHIP

Miss Brookfield's  
South African Slides

January 7th was a very foggy and cold night in Berkhamsted but the Young Wives' Fellowship had a kind of artificial sun-ray treatment all their own which did them more good than any clinical sunlamp.

Miss Brookfield went to South Africa a few years ago. She only intended to stay for eighteen months but it was in fact three years before she returned to England. While in South Africa she bought a camera and started taking 35 mm. colour transparencies. Miss Brookfield was able to get out of town at the week-ends and she also had a motoring holiday in Rhodesia, and so found plenty to photograph. Miss Brookfield had a tremendous variety of people and scenery to show us on her projector and always with sunshine and blue skies above.

We should make certain of having at least one travel talk "full of the warm south" every winter, and we are very grateful to Miss Brookfield for this one.

### FEBRUARY MEETING

This is a combined meeting with the Mothers' Union and arranged by them. It is on the 18th. The meeting will take the form of a Brains Trust, so if you have a question to ask either the Rector, Mrs. Bennett, Miss Timson, or Mr. Sutcliffe please send it to Mrs. Brown at the Rectory in good time before the meeting.

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