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The festival recital by Hamish Milne at the Dacorun College, amply demonstrated that this 24-year-old son of the music master at Berkhamsted School is among the finest solo pianists to have visited Hemel Hempstead in recent years, writes the Music Critic of the *Watford Observer*.

His technique and his prodigious programme indicated in the best possible way that he has an enviable career ahead.

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THE HISTORY OF BERKHAMSTED PLACE (Continued)

## Edward Carey's 'Fayre Mansion'

A LONG CHAPTER in the history of our town ended when Cicely, Duchess of York, died in 1495. She was the last person to live at Berkhamsted Castle, which, despite its massive walls, fell into decay as quickly as any other unoccupied building. There was never any possibility of making it habitable again, and 90 years elapsed before the town again had a home fit for the lord of the manor.

After the death of Cicely, the Honour of Berkhamsted, with the unoccupied castle, passed to Henry VII's queen as part of her jointure. In 1509 it was granted as jointure to Katherine of Aragon, and was afterwards held successively by Ann Bolyne and Jane Seymour. Jointure is the name given to property settled on a woman at marriage to be enjoyed after her husband's death—an unlikely prospect for anyone who married Henry VIII!

### A LEASE FROM THE QUEEN

Following the death of Jane Seymour, the honour remained in the hands of the Crown. In 1550, Edward VI granted the manor and park to his sister, Princess Elizabeth, who, in the second year of her reign, leased the site of the castle, the castle mead, long stable mead and two watermills to Sir Thomas Bengier. He apparently surrendered his lease, for a fresh one was made to Sir Edward Carey (or Cary), Master of the Royal Jewel House, in 1580.

Sir Edward already had some interest in Berkhamsted. For several years before obtaining the lease, he held the office of Keeper of Berkhamsted Park at an annual salary of £3 0s. 10d.

This was a minor addition to what must have been a large income. He was able to build a large mansion at Berkhamsted, causing further decay to the Castle by transferring cartloads of flints to a new site on Castle Hill. Contemporary writers described the building as "a noble and exceeding pleasant seat" and "a fayre mansion". We now call it Berkhamsted Place.

No early picture of the house that Carey built is available. The ground plan was a familiar one of the period, resembling the letter E as a compliment

to Queen Elizabeth. But two wings were destroyed by fire in the early years of Charles II's reign, and only the central part, which escaped serious damage, was restored. The present building is therefore a mixture of Tudor and Stuart work.

A survey dated February, 1650 (some years before the fire) mentions the chequered walls of flint and Totternhoe stone, a large, spacious and well-floored hall, a great parlour, a small room used as a chapel, and "one other darke roome" beyond it. "Above stayres in the first story" were a dining room, a large gallery, and other rooms "round a square court."

The mansion could not have been finished very long before 1588, when Sir Edward Carey bought the manor of Aldenham. He made his home in that village, probably because it was nearer London, and leased the Berkhamsted house to his brother, Sir Adolphus Carey, whose helmet is in the north transept of St. Peter's Church, where he was buried in 1609. A parchment in the church chest describes him as "a most loving benefactour of ye poor of this towne", but the only recorded gift is one of £10. His brother, Sir Edward, gave a similar sum to the poor of the parish.

### THE PRINCE'S PURCHASE

After the death of Sir Adolphus, Berkhamsted Place became the home of Sir Edward's son, Henry (afterwards Lord Falkland), whose illustrious son Lucius Carey spent some of his boyhood at Berkhamsted. Lucius, "a nobleman of the most prodigious learning," lost his life in the Civil War. After a particularly discouraging defeat of the Royalists he placed himself at the head of his regiment and rode out to meet his death at a gap in the hedge where the bullets rained thickest.

In 1610-11, the castle, manor and lordship were granted to James I's eldest son, Henry, Prince of Wales, who paid £4,000 for Berkhamsted Place. A document dated November 27, 1611, states: "The Prince receives Berkhamsted from Sir Henry Carey, as belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall". Less than a

month later, however, the following was recorded: "1611, Dec. 20. Warrant from Henry Prince of Wales to Salisbury to pay £4,000 due to Sir Edward Carey, for erecting a house within the Prince's Park at Berkhamsted, and for other things purchased from him."

If the second statement is correct, Sir Edward, not his son, owned the mansion. Despite the sale, it seems that Sir Henry Carey continued to live at the mansion until 1616.

Following the death in 1612 of Prince Henry, his brother Charles (afterwards Charles I) became Prince of Wales. In 1616 he leased Berkhamsted Place and the park to his former tutor Thomas Murray, whose wife Jane had nursed the prince in Scotland.

### PRINCE CHARLES'S VISIT

Only two months after the Murrays had installed themselves in the mansion, they were visited by Prince Charles. This description appeared in a vestry book which was lost many years ago:

"The noble Prince Charles came the 14th August, 1616, from Windsor, by Beaconsfield, to this towne. A number of twenty or thereabouts of the townsmen mett him at the hithermost or nearest corner of Brickline Green, and rode before his highnesse two and two into the towne; then they uncovered their heads, and so rode on till they came att the church stile in the Castle Street, where his highnesse made a stand to hear an oration pronounced by one of the schollers of the free schole. Now, which being ended, the same townsmen rode on as before up unto the hill before the gate, where partynge them-

selves one from another to the righte and to the left, a lane was made for his highnesse to pass up to the gate; and in the afternoon his highnesse hunted and killed a fat buck, which he gave to those the townsmen that attended him. The next day his highnesse rode towards Abbots Langley . . . the townsmen attended him from the gate to the town's-end lane, and rode on before him till they came to Boxe-Moone, and then returned."

### SABOTAGE

In 1627, Berkhamsted Park was reduced from 1,252 to 376 acres, and Mrs. Murray, sole lessee after the death of her husband, was authorised to use the disparked land for purposes of agriculture. Her refusal to pay tithes led to litigation, but that was a minor matter compared with the troubles that befell the family during and after the Civil War.

As the leading Royalists in a town with marked sympathy for the Parliamentarians, the Murrays were deprived of water, "the pipes being cut and carried away these troublesome tymes, and the watermill standeth affarre of which conveyeth water to the said house is also broken and carried away."

The part played by Thomas and Jane Murray's daughter, Ann, in aiding the Duke of York's escape from London to Holland has previously been told in these columns. We have another reminder of the family in St. Peter's Church, where there is a charming memorial to John and James Murray.

'BEORCHAM'

(To be continued)

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## CHURCH ARMY

There was a splendid response to the local appeal for clothing for the Church Army. 158 new garments were made by members of the Needlework Guild (including the Deaf-Blind members). These included baby clothes, socks, bedsocks, jerseys, cardigans and night-dresses. Mrs. Sanders wishes to express her grateful thanks for this result, and also appreciates the gifts of good used garments.

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