

FOREFATHERS

Here they went with smock and crook,
 toil'd in the sun, loll'd in the shade;
 Here they muddled out the brook
 and here their hatchet clear'd the glade;
 Harvest Supper woke their wit,
 Huntsman's Moon their wooings lit.

From this Church they led their brides,
 From this Church themselves were led
 shoulder-high; On these waysides
 sat to take their beer and bread.
 Names are gone - what men they were
 these their cottages declare.

Names are vanished, save the few
 in the old brown Bible scrawled;
 These were men of pith and thew
 whom the city never called;
 Scarce could read or hold a quill,
 built the barn, the forge, the mill.

On the green they watch'd their sons
 playing till too dark to see,
 As their fathers watch'd them once,
 as my father once watch'd me;
 While the bat and beetle flew
 on the warm air webb'd with dew.

Unrecorded, unrenown'd,
 men from whom my ways begin.
 Here I know you by your ground
 but I know you not within -
 There is silence, there survives
 not a moment of your lives.

Like the bee that now is blown
 honey-heavy on my hand,
 From his toppling tansy-throne
 in this green tempestuous land -
 I'm in clover now, nor know
 who made honey long ago

Edmund Blunden CBE MC MA FRSI
 (1896-1974)
 Scholar, Christ's Hospital 1909-1915

LATEST INFORMATION

Firstly to up-date information appearing in the first issue:

Hilda's Bible and Jefferrey entries. An examination of the Parish Registers of Chalfont St Peter (a transcript by me at the Society of Genealogists and the original by Georgina at the Aylesbury Record Office coinciding!) showed the first entry on the printed list at the back of Hilda's Bible (Baptism of Thomas Jefferrey, son of John Jefferrey, Sept 13th 1619) to be entered in that register under the spelling 'Jeffery'. Further examination showed these additional entries with probable family connection:

Baptisms

26. 2.1614	Jeffery als Baker	Joyce	dau of	Richard
22. 3.1617	Jeffery	Winifred	" "	John
11. 3.1620	Baker (an insertion als Jeffrie)	Mary	" "	John
31. 8.1625	Jeffry	Wm	son "	John
23. 2.1627	Jeffory	John & Hannah	twins "	John