

HENEAGE FINCH

1st. EARL OF AYLESFORD

Born - 1649

Died - Aylesford, Kent, 1719.

The second son of Heneage Finch, 1st. Earl of Nottingham, he was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford. He entered the legal profession, being called to the Bar by the Inner Temple and earned the name of 'Silver-tongue'.

In 1678 (the same year as he purchased Albury Park), he was appointed Solicitor-General to Charles II and was removed by James II in 1686.

Two years later, he acted for the defence in the case of the seven bishops who King James was suing for the publication of a seditious libel, the background of the trial was a Declaration of Indulgence for Catholics and Dissenters, following the acquittal of the bishops, on June 30th. 1688, Finch was presented with a handsome piece of silver in gratitude for his services to the accused prelates.

On the accession of George 1st. in 1714 he was advanced in the peerage, taking the title of Earl of Aylesford, an estate he acquired through his marriage to Elizabeth Banks, daughter of Sir John Banks.

He died on June 22nd. 1719 and was buried at Aylesford, Kent.