

consisting merely of a cluster near the old village church, another nest of cottages at Cole Fields, a district now absorbed in the Royal Arsenal, and a few others scattered about the farms and gardens. At that time it was calculated that 980 acres were marsh, 510 arable, about 300 woodland, 100 upland pastures, about 100 market gardens, 100 orchards, and about 200 waste. The parish contains, on the whole, nearly 3,400 acres, and its two extremities of Shooter's Hill and Crossness Point are nearly five miles apart. It has two reaches of the river Thames on its northern boundaries, but all the water frontage belongs to the Government, though there is a public footpath along the river wall. There can be little doubt that before this wall was built the river overflowed the marshes, and Mr. Vincent, in his "Warlike Woolwich," inclines to the opinion that "the present irregular line of the Plumstead Road marks the ancient strand, or beach, in evidence of which there is 'Strand Place' in the village."

The first recorded owners of Plumstead are the abbot and monks of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, to whom King Edgar gave the manor in 960. At the Conquest it fell to the share of Bishop Odo, who, contrary to his usual custom, afterwards restored it to the monks. In Domesday Book it is stated that the Abbot of St. Augustine's had the manor of "Plumstede," which was taxed at "two sulings and one yoke," and that in the demesne there was "one carucate and 17 villiens, with six cottagers," and a "wood for the pannage of five hogs." With the monks of St. Augustine's the manor remained, together with the church of Plumstead and chapelry of East Wickham annexed, till confiscated by Henry VIII., who granted it to Sir Edward Boughton, whose descendants sold it to Mr. John Michel, of Richmond, who left it in his will to Queen's College, Oxford, for the purpose of founding eight fellowships, and four scholarships, and it is still the property of the University.

The western end of the village is called Burrage Town, and in it is comprised nearly half the houses of the parish, of which there are now about 6,000, most of which were built between the years 1854 and 1860. Burrage Town is said to have derived its name from an old family who owned the land; but the name has been strangely corrupted, even in recent times. In the reign of Edward III. it was the property of the family of de Burghesh, whose seat, called Burwash Court, was in existence early in the present century. It was then called "Burish Place," and it stood on the site now occupied by the houses at the bottom of Burrage Road, called Burrage Place to this day. The gradual

transition of "Burghesh"—through "Burwash," and its shorter sound, "Burish"—down to "Burrage," affords a striking instance of the mutability of names. In Phillipot's "Kent Surveyed and Illustrated," published in 1659, occurs the following notice of this estate, under the heading of "Plumstede":—"Burwash Court is an eminent seat in this parish, made more illustrious by being wrapped up in the revenues of the noble family of Burghesh, or Burwash. Bartholomew de Burghesh died possessed of it, in the 28th year of Edward III., and left it to his son Bartholomew, Lord Burwash, who, in the 43rd year of the above-said prince, conveyed it, with much other land, to Sir Walter de Paveley, Knight of the Garter, in which family it continued until the reign of Richard II., and then it was alienated to William Chickley, Alderman of London, who left it to his son, John Chickley, by whose daughter and heir, Agnes, it came to be possessed by Mr. Tattershall, of Well Hall, in Eltham, who, about the beginning of the reign of Henry VI., conveyed it to Boughton, in the descendant of which family it had a permanent abode until the age that our remembrance had an aspect on, and then it was passed away to Rowland Wilson, of London, and he, upon his late decease, gave it to his daughter and her heirs, who was first matched to Doctor Crisp, and now secondly to Colonel Row, of Hackney." From the Crisp family the estate passed by sale to Nathaniel Maxey, a merchant of London, the property being described in the deed of conveyance as "all that the manor or capital messuage, commonly called or known by the name of Burwash, Borrough Ashe, or Borage, with the appurtenances, containing about 300 acres." It was subsequently conveyed, by the marriage of Miss Mary Maxey, daughter of the above Nathaniel Maxey, into the family of the Pattisons.

Borstall, or Bostal, is a hamlet in the eastern part of this parish, and has always been reputed as a manor. In the reign of Henry VII. it was in the possession of the family of Cutte, of Essex, by whom it was sold to the abbot and convent of St. Peter's, Westminster, with whom it remained till the Dissolution. Later on it became vested in the Clothworkers' Company. A portion of these lands is still called by the name of Westminster, as having formerly belonged to that abbey. Suffolk Place Farm, in the hamlet of Bostal, derived its name from Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who owned the estate in the reign of Henry VIII. He alienated it to Sir Martin Bowes, from whom it went by a female heir to one Barnes, who was also the owner of the manor of Plumstead. In the