



#### THE GRIGSBY FARM

Kent, England

Situated in the historic village of Smarden, in the heart of Kent between Ashford and Tunbridge Wells, this house, part of the structure of which is dated 1690, still is known locally as 'Grigsby Farm'. The birthplace of a forebear of a relative - herself now senior in the family - it's no longer a farmhouse, nor owned by any of the name for a good many years. Ordnance maps show it to be first so styled some hundred years ago. But there were some Grigsbys in Smarden in the 18th century - still are in nearby Fritteden - and marriage entries in this part of Kent show it as early as 1622. So some who had it could well have seen the first Queen Elizabeth in 1576 when, on leaving Sissinghurst Castle, she halted her retinue at Smarden to renew the Royal Charter of Edward III that, in 1333, authorized its market and annual fair. A replica of her Proclamation is in Smarden's huge church, long known as 'the Barn of Kent'.

The illustration is from an oil-painting made last year by Myrtle Grigsby of Swallowfield in Berkshire. Her husband - John Rolfe Grigsby - has been my principal partner in the family-tree researched triggered-off by the interest of 'cousins' in various parts of the United States.

(Courtesy of Harold Grigsby of London, from his 1981 Christmas card. See p. for more information on Kent, England.)

Editor's Note: See page 275 for more information on Kent, England.