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AND  
**Natural History Society**

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The Council respectfully solicit contributions of Papers, specially Parochial Histories, for future volumes of the *Transactions* of the Society.

The Society does not hold itself responsible for the Statements, Opinions, or Errors of Authors of Papers.

The MS. Indexes to the Names of Persons and Places that are mentioned in the First Series of the *Transactions* (Vol. I. to XI.) have been bound in five volumes, and are deposited at the Shrewsbury Free Library, where they can be seen at any time by Members

# THE PROVOSTS AND BAILIFFS OF SHREWSBURY.

BY THE LATE MR. JOSEPH MORRIS

*(Continued from p. 32.)*

{ LAURENCE COX. See pp. 3779 and 3787.  
{ WILLIAM GOGH.

The family of Cox stand, as under, on the early Rolls; but I do not find them subsequent to the reign of Henry III. with certainty.

William Cox on the Roll of 1209. =

Laurence Cox on the  
Roll of 1209 (Provost)  
3rd in order of the  
Theynesmen on the  
Roll of 1252.

Mabilla married  
Robt. Wyschard  
of Salop.

Adam Cox (son of William)  
on the Roll of 23 Hen. III.,  
1239, 12th in order of the  
Theynesmen on the Roll of  
1252. (Provost).

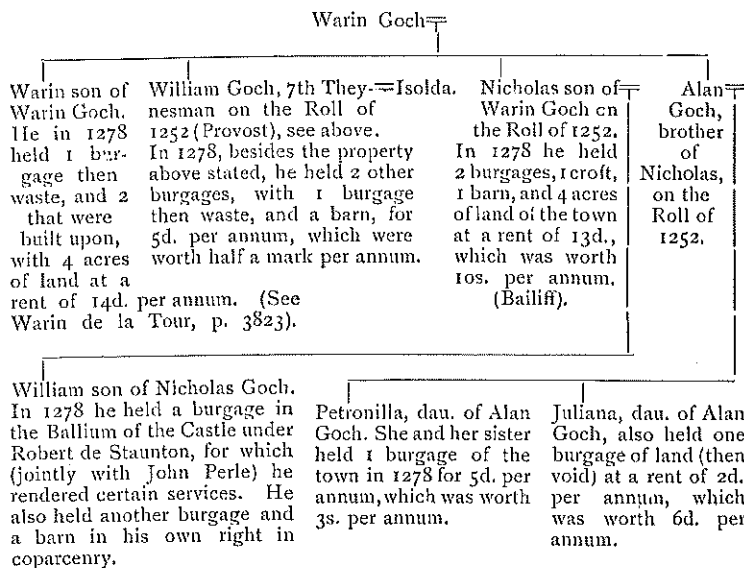
John Cox  
on the  
Roll of  
1239.

Peter *de* Cox, probably of the above family, is on the Roll of 1318.

[p 3782.]

In the commencement of the 16th century, a respectable family (of whom several descents are in the Visitation of 1623) was seated at Cantilope (Cantlop), near Shrewsbury, who bore the surname of "Cox." But they do not seem to have been connected with Shrewsbury.

William Goch does not appear on the Roll of 1209. I find him, however, on the Roll of 1239, and he is 7th in order of the Theynesmen on the Roll of 1252. In 1278, he in conjunction with William Rendulf held 1 burgage of the town at a rent of 12d. per annum, which was worth 5s. per annum. He also held another burgage at a rent of 1d., which was worth 2s. per annum. In a deed of the Haughmond Chartulary he is described as the son of Warin Goch, whose name also appears on the same Roll with his sons Nicholas and William in 1252.



Thomas Goch and Thomas his son were parties to recognizances under the Stat. Merch., in the 9th and 22nd of Richard II. (1386 and 1399), in the Exchq. of Shrewsbury. They were probably of the above family; but I find no other mention of them.

{ ROGER RUSSELL.

{ WILLIAM GOCH. See above.

There were two families of the name of Russell who held situations of respectability and trust in Shrewsbury, in the 13th and 14th centuries. The one were natives of the town, and among its earliest Burgesses and Provosts, of whom the sketch of their descent on the next page will give some account. The other family came from the Clive, near Wem, but in the ancient Liberties, and within the Parish of Saint Mary, Shrewsbury, and of this family I shall take some notice when I come to the record of those who have filled the office of Town Clerk.

The last of the old town family of Russells, of whom I find a record, was Richard Russell, who held the office of Bailiff in 1364 and 1381.

William Russell in 1331, and Richard Russell in 1338, represented Shrewsbury in Parliament.

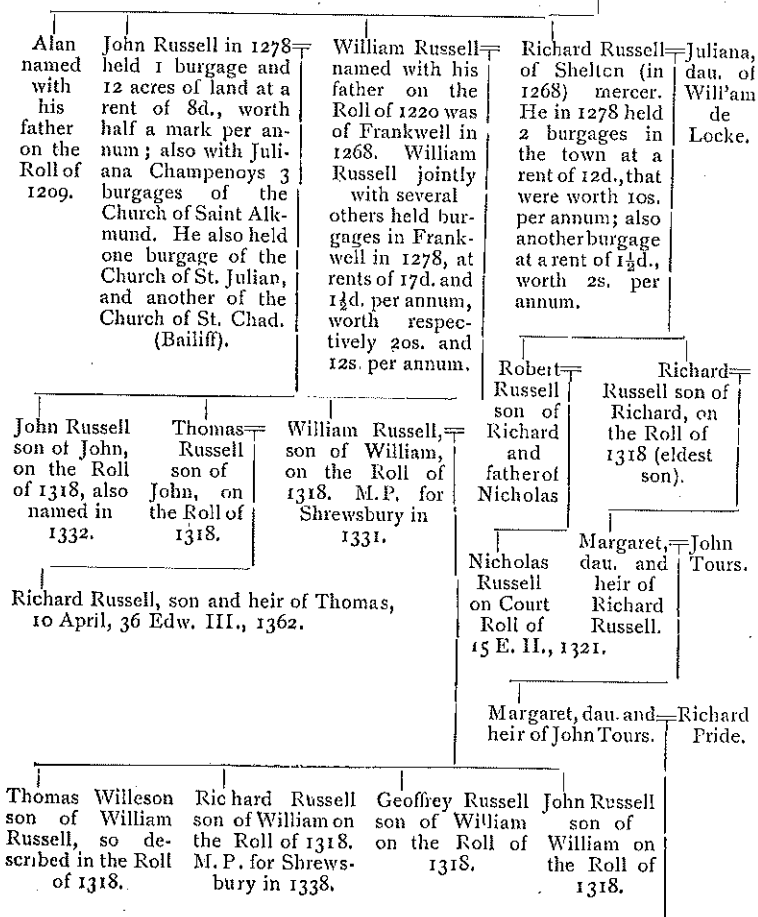
The only record we now have of this family is in the name of several fields, part of Crow Meole Manor, near Kingsland, which are still known as the Great Russell, Further Russell, Middle Russell, &c., fields.

[p. 3783.]

ARMS: Argent a fess between 3 water bougets sable.

Roger Russell on the Roll of 1209. (Provost)

William Russell on the Roll of 1209 and 1220



Thomas de Drayton, = Margaret, dau and heir of Richard = John de Ketelby,  
1st husband. Died in Pride. In the year 1362, when she 2nd husband. See  
or prior to 36 Edw. was the widow of Thomas de Dray- the Pedigree of  
III., 1362. ton, she sold the fields called the Keteley, p. 943.

Cecilia, the widow of Stephen Russell, was one of the most wealthy residents of the town in 6 Ed. II., 1313.

in the Liberties of Shrewsbury, to John Stury of Shrewsbury, in whose family these lands continued until the 30th November, 1621.

{ JOHN DE PRESTCOTE. They are as bailiffs, witnesses  
{ GILBERT DE HALCHTON. to a grant made to the Abbey  
of Shrewsbury, temp. Henry III. See *Hist. Shrewsbury*,  
vol. ii., p. 94.

{ RICHARD PRIDE. See page 3770.

{ RICHARD son of REINER. See page 3766.

{ HENRY DE HEREFORD. On the Roll of 1220, but nothing  
further can I trace of him (except as below).

{ PETER VILLANUS (*alias* Peter le Vileyn). See page  
3768. "Peter le Vilein" and "Henry de Hereford,"  
then Provosts, are witnesses to a Deed in the possession  
of the Drapers' Co., by which "Isolda Plune" conveys  
land in Coleham, to William son of Reiner Ruffus and  
Roger Russell.

{ ALAN son of GAMEL. See page 3772.

{ JOHN DE NORTON. He is the first person on the Roll  
of the 23rd of Henry III., 1239, and that was, probably,  
his year of office. He is also on the Roll of 36  
Henry III., 1252. He probably took his name from  
the hamlet of Norton, near Wroxeter, for on the Roll  
of those who were Burgesses in the 12th Edward II.,  
1318, I find the name of "Adam fil' Johan' de Norton  
juxta Wroxeter."

[p. 3784.]

{ ALAN SHUTTE. See page 3780.

{ RICHARD CROWE.

John le Crou is named on the Roll of 1252, and William  
Crowe appears on the Roll of 1268.

Richard Crowe (the Provost) is named in the Inquisition  
of 1278. He then held a burgage of the Church of St.

Mary's, at a rent of 12d. per annum, which was worth 5s. per annum, and another burgage of the heirs of John Fitz-Alan (which burgage was then waste), at a rent of 3½d., which was worth 6d. per annum.

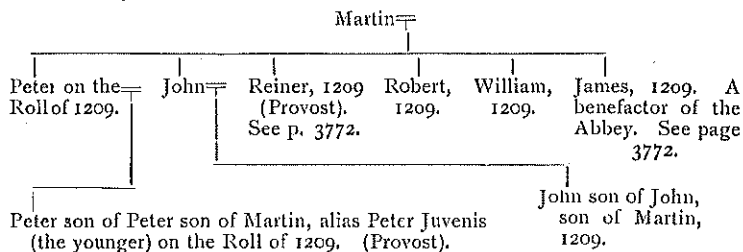
Robert Crowe, probably his brother, in the same year held a burgage under Hugh Colle and John le Vileyn, and Isabella Crowe held a burgage of the town, at a rent of 12d. per annum, which was worth 5s. per annum. No further mention is made of this family until 1318, when Hugh Crowe and Nicholas his brother appear on the Roll of Burgesses.

{ ROBERT son of JOHN. On the Roll of 1239, that is,  
Robert son of John Poncer.  
{ RICHARD CROWE. See above.

Robert Poncer and Richard Crowe, as Provosts, are witnesses to a Deed now in the possession of the Drapers' Company, relating to property in Cleremund.

{ PETER JUVENIS (*alias* Peter son of Peter son of Martin).  
{ HUGH VILLANIS (*alias* Hugh le Vileyn). See page 3768.

The family of Peter Juvenis stand thus on the Roll of 1209.



{ PETER CHAMPION (*i.e.*, Champoneys). See page. 3781.

{ LAWRENCE son of EDWIN. See p.p. 3779 & 3812.

These are omitted by Messrs. Owen and Blakeway, but as Provosts, they witness a Deed in the possession of the Drapers' Company, relating to property in Romaldesham.

{ RICHARD son of REINER. See page 3766.

{ ALAN SITTE (*alias* Allan Shutte). See page 3780.

{ ROBERT PONCER (father of Nicholas Poncer). See page 3777.

{ RICHARD son of REINER. See page 3766.

[p. 3785.]

{ALAN LE VILEYN. See page 3768.

{ROBERT PAELLI. Is on the Roll of 16 Henry III., 1232, by the name of Robert Palli, and on that of 1239, as also that of 1252, by the name of Robert Pally. The date of Robert Paelli being Provost was subsequent to 1256, as we learn from Haghmond Chartulary, but he does not appear to have survived till 1278. In that year, however, Richard Palli, probably his son, held one burgage of the town, at a rent of 3d., which was worth 5s. per annum.

{HUGH LE VILEYN. See page 3784 or 3768.

{PETER son of MARTIN (*alias* Peter son of Peter son of Martin). See page 3784.

They served the office of Provost together in 1246 and 1261; and doubtless the office was thus served conjointly several times by others whose names have been already mentioned.

{ROBERT PRIDE. See page 3770.

{WILLIAM GOCH, son of Warin. See page 3782.

{HUGH LE VILEYN. See page 3768 or 3784.

{REINER PORCHET. His name appears on the Rolls of 1239 and 1252.

On the Roll of 1268 he is described as Bailiff, "ball" being added to his name thereon.

This proves that the change from Provost to Bailiff in the persons placed at the head of our Municipality took place at an earlier period than is stated by Messrs. Owen and Blakeway, who say in their *History*, vol. i., page 523, that the change did not occur till the middle of Edward the First's reign; and they commence their lists of Bailiffs with the year 1294. The above fact, however, shews that the office existed in 1268, and probably before, for a Deed among the Cole evidences is witnessed by Lawrence Cox and William Ghoc, *bailiffs*, who served that office earlier, I think, than 1268, and in 1273, Hugh Colle and Walter Palmer were *Bailiffs*.

{ADAM COX. See page 3781.

{REINER PORCHET. See above.



I do not find any other person bearing the surname of "Porchet" on the Rolls.

{ HUGH LE VILEYN.

{ YVON PONCER. See page 3777.

They are omitted by Messrs. Owen and Blakeway, but as Provosts they witness a Deed now in the possession of the Drapers' Company, relating to property on Cleremont.

[p. 3786.]

{ JOHN DE VILEYN. See page 3768.

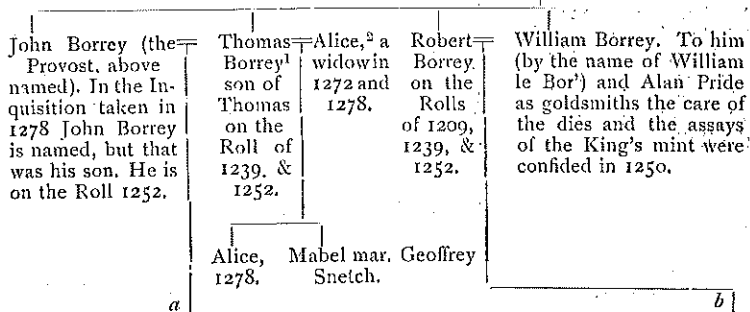
{ JOHN BURGH. Phillips in his History gives this name as the colleague of John le Vileyn, but I think it is an error. The name of BURGH is not on any of our Rolls of that period, unless, indeed, the name "BORREY" is a corruption thereof.

John le Vileyn also served the office of Bailiff with "Ivo de Salop" (p. 3775). See Eyton's *Ant.*, vol. vii., p. 30.

The name of John Borrey is on the Rolls with that of John le Villey, and he is, I have no doubt, the person intended for his colleague. All our antiquaries agree that the name of "BORROW," afterwards "BOROUGH," was a corruption of the surname of BURGH. And it is, therefore, very probable the surname of "BORREY" was a similar corruption, in which case Mr. Phillips (or rather Mr. Bowen, who used Phillips's name for his publication), would be right.

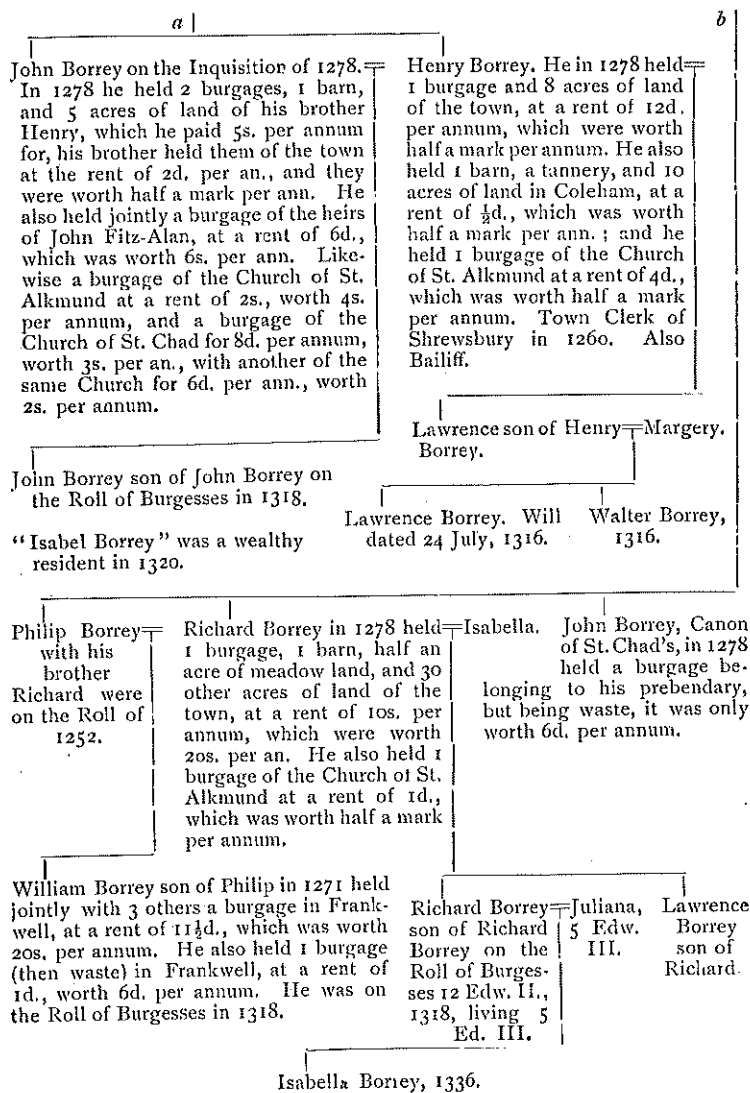
The family of Borrey stand thus on the early Rolls, &c.:—

Thomas Borrey on the Roll of 1209



<sup>1</sup> Thomas Borrey on the Roll of 1252 (see above).

<sup>2</sup> Alice Borrey in 1278 held 2 burgages of the town at a rent of 2s., which were worth half a mark per annum.



[p. 3787.]

{ LAWRENCE son of WILLIAM.

{ RICHARD PRIDE. See page 3770 (Richard Pride, *junior*, see below).

Neither Messrs. Owen and Blakeway nor Phillips mention these persons as having served the office of Provost together,

nor does either of them mention "Lawrence son of William" at all, by that name. There is, however, no doubt he is the same person called on the Roll of 1209 "Lawrence son of William Cox," and who served the office of Provost also, jointly with William Gogh (see page 3781). That he served the office likewise with Richard Pride, there can be no question, for I find one of the early Deeds among the Cole evidences, witnessed by them in their official capacity, previous to the period at which dates were inserted in private instruments. They are also, as provosts, witnesses to a Deed in the possession of the Drapers' Company, relating to property in Cleremond, in which Deed the name of Richard Pride stands first, and he is there described as Richard Pride, junior.

{ RALPH LE PARMENTER.

{ RICHARD STURI.

Messrs. Owen and Blakeway name Ralph le Kent and Richard Sturi more than once as serving the office of Provost together. But the colleague of Richard Sturi, one year at least, was not Ralph le Kent, but Ralph le Parmenter, who is not mentioned by either of our historians as having ever served that office; I have, however, seen a Deed among the Cole evidences, which is witnessed by "Ralph le Pet" (Parmenter) and Richard Sturi, in their official capacity (but without date). Ralph le Parmenter is on the Roll of Burgesses in 1252. Richard Sturie and Ralph de Kent, then provosts of Shrewsbury, are with others witnesses to a deed in the Mytton evidences, sans date. I do not find the name of Ralph le Kent on any of the Rolls previous to that of 52 Henry III. (1268), but in that year, I find him on the *Foreigners'* Roll, by the name of Ralph de Kent, clearly showing that he was a different person from Ralph le Parmenter, who was on the Roll of Burgesses in 1252. It is probable that Ralph was brother of Thomas and Richard le Parmenter mentioned in page 3779.

"Warin Stiry" with Robert Stiry his son appear on the Roll of 1209. Richard Stury, the Provost above named, "son of Robert," served the office of Bailiff of the town in 1277.

In 1278, he held 4 burgages of the church of Saint Alkmond, at a rent of 8s., which were worth 20s. per annum. In the

same year, Richard Stury, the younger, his son, held one burgage of the town, at a rent of 12d., which was worth 5s. per annum. He also held another burgage (then waste), with a burgage (built upon) and 1 croft, 1 barn, and 4 acres

[p. 3788.]

of land of the town, at a rent of 22d., which were worth together 1 mark per annum. His residence was where the Crescent now (1848) stands, and the premises here last named were, no doubt, adjoining the land, since called "Sturys Close," of which, for his services to the town, he obtained a grant in 1304.

From that period until the year 1648, when the last heir-male of this line died, the family of Stury occupied a distinguished post in our local annals, as may be seen by their Pedigree, pp. 1511, &c. See also Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii., p. 333. William Stury of Shrewsbury, as appears by Kennett's *Parochial Antiquities*, page 457, was one of the chief persons within the County of Salop, who in 1344 were summoned to raise forces (men at arms, &c.) to accompany their sovereign King Edward III. to France in 1346, whither they proceeded from Portsmouth on the 10th July, in that year, and on the 26th of August took their glorious part in the ever memorable battle of Cressy, and I find from Deeds in the possession of the Drapers' Company, Shrewsbury, that William Stury was Knighted for his services on various occasions. See page 3790.

{ JOHN VILLANUS (*alias* John le Vileyn). See page 3768.

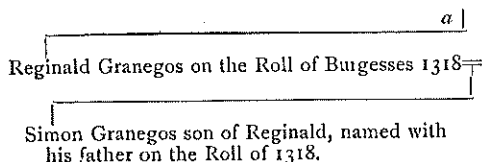
{ SIMON GRANEGOS. The family of Granegos, *alias* Glanegos (for so, the name is variously written), do not appear, as far as I can discover, on any of the town records excepting those of the 13th century (where they stand thus), and the commencement of the 14th century.

Reiner (*alias* Reginald) "G'anegos," on the Roll of 1239 by the name of "Reinerus Glanegos," and on that of 1252 as Reiner "G'anegos."

"William G'anegos" on the Roll of 1252.

Simon Glanegos (*alias* Simon Granegos) mentioned by both these names in the Inquisition of 1278. (Provost and Bailiff).

"John son of Reginald Glanegos."



In 1278, Simon Granegos, the first of that name above mentioned, held one burgage of the town, at a rent of 4s. 4d., which was worth 10s. per annum. He also held one burgage and a garden of the Prior of Wenlock, for 8s. per annum, which the said Prior held under the Lady Isabel ("Do. Sibelle") in alms, and for which she paid to the town a rent of 12d., the same being worth 10s. per annum. [The Lady Isabel here named was Isabel de Mortimer, then the widow of John Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel]. In the same year, Simon Granegos likewise held one burgage and 42 acres of land of the town, at a rent of 5d, which were worth 10s. per annum.

[p. 3789.]

Simon Granegos served the office of Provost or Bailiff, certainly not less than three times; and as he is the first of the Burgesses named in the Inquisition taken as to the town in 1278, I think it may be fairly assumed he was then in office.

In this place, therefore, I would briefly advert to that instrument which throws so much light on the then state of the Town and Liberties of Shrewsbury, and of those by whom the town was held and inhabited, it being clear that the principal resident burgesses were rather what would now be considered yeomen or farmers, the most wealthy of them occupying the lands within the town and its liberties, paying their proportion of the rent due to the Crown for the same as a fee-farm rent, which gradually as assessments came to be made and required, left them pure freeholders, contributing to the general taxation of the town, from which the rent due to the Crown was afterwards paid in one sum without being specifically levied on the separate burgages, as we find it was in 1278.

The title and preamble of the Inquisition of 1278 are as follows :—

"Inquisitio Quo Warranto. Veredictum duodecim Juratorum Ville et Libertatis Salopie," &c. 7 Edwardi I. (1278).

"Ad primum Articulum ubi inquirendum est que fuerunt feoda et feodalia Domini Regis in manu sua sic," &c.

"Dicunt quod Burgenses Salopie tenent totam Villam Salopie cum Hundredo et Libertate ad feodifirmam de Domino Rege per Cartam a tempore Regis Johannis pro triginta libris argenti per annum Reddendo medietatem ad Festum Pasche et aliam medietatem ad Festum Sancti Michaelis."

"Dicunt eciam quod Dominus Rex habet in dominio in manu sua præter hoc unum pratum pertinens ad Castellum suum Salopie et valet per annum unam marcam Et dicta villa cum Hundredo et Libertate in totos tenentes [? tot tenementa] dividitur."

"Feoda que tenentur per legem Brittolie in Villa Salopie."

(That is, "Fees which are held according to the law of Bristol, in the town of Salop," meaning that the Burgesses held by the same tenure and under the same regulations as the citizens of Bristol held under the Charter which had been also granted to them by King John).

Under this head about 250 holdings in the town, and the names of the holders thereof commencing, as I have above stated, with Simon Granegos, are given. These holdings comprised 407 burgages and about 770 acres of land. Of these, many burgages are stated to be *waste*,

[p. 3789.]

some few had shops attached to them, and many had barns, so that there can be no doubt that a great part of the town that is now covered with houses, was then fields, and occupied for farming purposes. These were all in the town itself, or in the suburbs of Castle Foregate and Cotton. The term *waste*, as here used, was in contradistinction to those burgages which were *built upon*.

"De Frankevill."—Under this head 16 burgages (two of them waste) only are mentioned. One of these was the Priory of "The Hospital of St. John," to which a barn and 6 acres of land are also stated to be attached.

"De Colneham."—Under this head 19 burgages, 5 barns, 1 tannery, and 40 acres of land are mentioned.

"Ballia."—This was the precinct of the Castle. Here were 14 burgages, held directly from the Crown, but by what tenure the jury were ignorant. The holders in 1278 were:—Robert Corbet of Morton, Vivian de Rossall, Thomas Corbet of Tasley, Robert Corbet of Tasley, John Fitz-Hugh, John de Hawkestone, the heirs of Robert le Broy, Robert de Staunton, Ralph le Boteler, Roger de Pivelesdon and Agnes his wife, William Baldewyne and Sibell (Isabel) his wife (the representatives of Philip de Huggeford), and William Marescote (from which Eaton Ma'scot takes its name).

All these were then great men in the county, and held by military service, there can be no doubt they all underlet them, and several of them to tenants for services to be rendered to them at their houses, or in consideration of services rendered (*per servicium ad illum hospitandum*).

These burgages had, there can be no doubt, descended to the then holders from ancestors who received grants from the first of the Norman Earls of Shrewsbury, but on the attainder of the last Earl of that race, the superiority had with the Castle again reverted to the Crown.

"*Ffeoda que tenentur de Heredibus Johannis filii Alani.*"—

John Fitz-Alan, the sixth Earl of Arundel, had at this time been dead eight years, leaving his son Richard, the seventh Earl, a minor. To him 15 burgages in the town belonged, which are here enumerated, 5 of them being waste. The Fitz-Alans were for a long period the patrons of the town of Shrewsbury, the friends of the burgesses in all cases of extremity, and their advisers and benefactors in all periods of difficulty and public distress

[p. 3790.]

This good feeling was for a time interrupted in the person of Edmund, the seventh Earl of Arundel, but was again fully restored in the person of his son Richard, Earl of Arundel, who appears to have lent sums of money to the burgesses on every emergency that required it, as is evidenced by the great number of acquittances given by him on the repayment of the same, which may now (1848) be seen among the Records of the Borough,

several of which retain the impression of the Seal of Arms of this Earl (Fitz-Alan quartering Warren) as perfect as when the Deeds were executed.

Under him it was that William Stury, with others that formed the Shropshire contingent, fought at the battle of Cressy, and he was one of the most distinguished and popular noblemen of the glorious reign of Edward the Third.

The direct male line of this great family expired in its head branch in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; but from Walter, the younger brother of the first William Fitz-Alan, the Royal House of Stuart and all its branches are lineally descended.

"Ffeoda que tenentur de Ecclesia Beate Marie Salopie." Eighteen burgages belonged to the Church of St. Mary. Of these the Dean of the said Church held one as appurtenant to his Prebendary; Ranulph de Wycumbe, canon and chaplain, held one as appurtenant to his prebendary; Peter le Faulkner and Geoffrey le Faulkener, canons, each held a burgage as appurtenant to their respective prebendaries. Robert Parroke and Nicholas de Melborne held each the burgage attached to their respective prebendaries, two other burgages appear to have been granted to the Friars Preachers, and by them underlet to Henry le Taylour and his wife for life, which were worth 20s. per annum. The remainder were let at various rents to lay tenants.

"Ffeoda que tenentur de Ecclesia St. Alkmundi Salopie". Forty-four burgages belonged to the Church of St. Alkmund. Of these, the Abbot of Lilleshull held one burgage as Rector of the said Church; the Chaplain, whose duty it was to celebrate Mass for the soul of Nicholas son of Yvo (see page 3775), held another; the remainder were let to lay tenants. Besides these the Church of St. Alkmund held one burgage from the Abbot of Lilleshull for 12d. per annum, which was worth half a mark (15s.) per annum. This was the tenement noticed by Messrs. Owen and Blakeway, vol. ii., p. 267, which in 1287 was under lease to Roger Seister (Taylor) and Ysolda his wife.



[p. 379<sup>o</sup>.]

"Ffeoda que tenentur de Ecclesia St. Juliane." Thirteen burgages and 3 acres of land in the town belonged to the Church of St. Julian, 2 of which burgages were then waste.

„Ffeoda que tenentur de Ecclesia Sancti Cedde Episcopi Salopie."—Twenty-one burgages in the town are enumerated as belonging to the Church of St. Chad the Bishop. One of these was held by the Lord Robert Burnell (Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Treasurer, Lord Chancellor, and Privy Councillor to King Edward the First). Four other of these burgages were let to Nicholas Bonell and Ralph Payne, which are stated to have been once the demesne house (que quondam fuit dominicum hospicium) of the Lord Bishop of Chester.<sup>1</sup> The Dean of St. Chad's held one burgage as appurtenant to his prebendary. Six other burgages were held by Master Benet, Master Matthew, Master Gilbert de Roffa, Roger de St. Constantine, John Borrey (Canons), and Nicholson de Villa as appurtenant to their respective prebendaries. The remainder were let to lay tenants.

The burgages above stated to have once belonged to the Bishop of Chester, and to have been his residence here, were, doubtless, the remnant of the sixteen masures, each inhabited by a Burgess, which the Bishop of Chester, according to *Domesday*, held in Shrewsbury in the reign of Edward the Confessor. Longnor, Betton, and Shelton, now parcels of the parish of St. Chad, which were also stated to have belonged to the Bishop of Chester when *Domesday* was compiled, had also become severed from that Prelacy, but at what period does not appear. Crow Meole was given to the Abbey of Buildwas by its founder, Roger, Bishop of Chester. See page 3792.

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<sup>1</sup> In *Domesday* all that pertained originally to the See of Lichfield is stated to belong to the Bishop of Chester, to which city the then Bishop had removed the head of his Diocese. So that what is here stated to have once belonged to the Bishop of Chester was in fact the demesne house of the Bishop of Lichfield.

"Ffeoda que tenentur de Capella Sancti Michaelis in Castello."

Two burgages in the town are stated to have belonged to the Chapel of St. Michael in the Castle of Shrewsbury, which were let to Alan Stawllone and Nicholas Bernard.

"Ffeoda que tenentur de Priore de Wenloke." Fourteen burgages in the town belonged to the Prior of Wenlock. Eleven of them were waste, four of which were held by the Prior himself, the remaining seven waste burgages, with the other 3 (not waste), were let to lay tenants.

"Ffeoda que tenentur de Ecclesia Sancti Andrei de Condovery." The Church of St. Andrew of Condovery held two burgages in the town, which the Jury say had belonged to the said Church from a time beyond the memory of man, but by what authority the same were so held by that Church, they knew not.

"Ffeoda que tenentur de Abbate Salopie." Eleven burgages (with 20 acres of land) in the town are enumerated, which the Abbot let to lay tenants. Besides which the Abbot is stated to have held in his own hands other burgages of the value of 20s. per annum.

[p. 379<sup>1</sup>.]

"Ffeoda que tenentur de Abbate de Haymon." Eleven burgages and a shop are enumerated as the property of the Abbot of Haghmond, and let to various lay tenants. Two of the tenants are called Adam Parmentarius and Petrus Parmentarius. They, doubtless, followed their calling as skinnners on the premises still occupied as a skinner's yard, &c., on the bank of the Severn, under the castle on its western side, and which premises now form part of the estate derived with the Haghmond Abbey estate itself, first by the Barkers, then by the Kynastons, and lastly by its present owners, the Corbets of Sundorne, under the original purchase of the grant thereof from the Crown by Sir Rowland Hill, the first Protestant Lord Mayor of London.

The Abbot of Haghmond also had, in demesne, in his own hands one burgage for which he paid a rent of 4s. to Ralph le Botyler, who had the same of the gift of Hugh Partolf.

"Ffeoda que tenentur de Andulpho le Bracey." Five burgages and a half are enumerated as belonging to Andulpho le Bracy in the town, the tenants and rents, as also the actual value whereof are particularised. [From the family of *Bracy Meole Brace* derives its name, and they were large proprietors there, as hereafter shown.]

With these the enumeration of the burgages in the town terminates, and the Inquisition proceeds thus in the Liberties.

"Ffeoda Abbatis de Lylleshull."—The Jury state that the Abbot of Lylleshull holds the ville of Hennecote as appurtenant to the Church of St. Alkmund, and that he had there in demesne two carucates of land (i.e., 200 acres of plough land), and one acre of meadow, together of the value of four pounds per annum. He had also a park of one acre of land with two water mills there, together of the value of three marks. He had also seven *villains* (tenants at rack rent) there, who held among them 5 virgates (about 125 acres) of land, at rents amounting together to 4s. 10d.

"Ffeoda Ecclesie Sancti Cedde Episcopi."—Under this head the possessions of the Church of St. Chad, in Shelton, are enumerated.

The Dean of St. Chad held half a virgate of land in Shelton as appurtenant to his Deanery.

Adam de Welynton held one nook (12½ acres) of land there of Nicholas de Vile, canon of the same church, at a rent of 12d., which was worth 3s. per ann.

Petronilla Ketell held a nook there of the like rent and value, of Gilbert de Roffa, canon, who also let half a nook with a messuage there to Hugh Colle for 10d., worth 2s. per annum. And the same Gilbert had in his own hands a place of land there, then waste, as appurtenant to his prebendary, worth 6d. per annum.

Alan Pride held a messuage and a nook of land of Geoffrey de Foston, canon, for 10d. per annum, which were worth 2s. per annum.

Roger de St. Constantine held half a nook of land there, as appurtenant to his prebendary, which was worth 2s. per annum.

John de Strodes, canon, held a burgage and half a nook of land there as appurtenant to his prebendary, worth 2s. per annum; And

Robert Yvon held half a burgage of land there of the said Church for 3s. per annum, which was about the value thereof.

[p. 3792.]

"Ffeoda Ecclesie Sancti Juliane." These were in Shelton, 1 virgate and 3 nooks of land let for 3s. 8d., and worth 9s. per annum.

"Ffeoda Abbatis de Byldewas." The Jury state that the Abbey, or rather the Abbot of Byldewas, held the grange of Meole (i.e., what is now called Crow Meole) within the Liberties and Hundred of Shrewsbury, of the gift of Roger, once Bishop of Chester, from the first foundation of the Abbey of Byldewas, and that there were in demesne there 5 carucates of arable land of the value of £10 per annum. That there was also one acre of meadow of the value of half a mark per annum, with one water mill and one horse mill, together of the value of £4 per annum; also a park of the size of half an acre of the value of half a mark per annum.

Here I may observe that the term *acre* used above cannot be understood to mean an acre of the present standard measure of land, or it could not then be of the comparative value in money above stated. In this place, the term *acre* has evidently been applied in the mere sense that we now speak of a *piece* of meadow land, without meaning to define the quantity.

William Mytton, Esq., who died in 1513, held Monk-Meole (i.e., Crow Meole), from the Abbey of Buildwas, under a lease for 99 years, dated 21st April, 1507. After the dissolution of that Abbey, the descendants of that gentleman obtained by purchase a grant of the freehold from the Crown, and it continued in the family, until, with all the other family property in and around Shrewsbury, it was dissipated by John Mytton, Esq., who died in 1834.

"Ffeoda Andulphi le Bracy et Heredum Georgii de Cantelowe."

"Meole Brace." The Jury state that the said Andulphus le Bracy and the heirs of George de Cantelow hold the Manor of Meole Brace of Roger de Mortuomari by the service of one knight's fee, that Roger de Mortuomari held the same from the King in capite, but by what right or by what service they were ignorant, and that the manor was divided between the said Andulphus and the said George's heirs as follows:—Andulphus le Bray held in demesne one carucate of land of the value of 40s. per annum, with one mill and a half of the value of 25s. per annum. He had also there (that is, in the ville or township of Meole) 3 acres of wood of the value of 18d. per annum, and "4 villanos" (vileyns, that is, tenants at rack-rent), these held 2 virgates and 1 nook of land at rents amounting to 16s. 11d. per annum.

[p. 3793.]

Pol'yley.—The same Andulphus held one-half of the ville of Pulley, within the Liberties of Shrewsbury, and had there four free tenants (i.e., freeholders paying only a certain fee-farm fixed rent). These were Engelorde de Pulley ("Pulleley"), William son of Richard Morice, Roger Lance, and William son of John Walens.

Roger Lance held 15 acres of land of the said Engelorde de Pulley for 1½d. per annum, which were worth 2s. 6d. per annum.

William son of Richard Morice held 4 acres of the said Engelorde for 2d. per annum.

William son of John Walens held 4 acres of the said Engelorde for 2d. per annum, which were worth 8d. per annum.

The above lands were held by the said Engelarde de Pulley from Ando le Brace for 1 lb. of cinnamon per annum.

William son of John Walens also held half a virgate of land of the said Andulphus for 1d. per annum, which was worth 3s. 10d. per annum, and Roger Lance also held one virgate of land of the same Andulphus for 1d. per annum, which was worth 10s. per annum.

Andulphus de Bracy had also in Pulley 3 villeins who held together a virgate and half of land, at rents amounting to 14s. 6d. per annum.

"Villa de Newbald."—Andulphus de Brace held in demesne in Nobold one virgate of land worth 10s. per annum, and he had two villeins there, each holding half a virgate of land, paying severally 4s. rod. per annum (stated to be the value thereof, the same being by the tenure held at rack-rent).

"Villa de Newton."—The same Andulphus held nothing in demesne here, but he had in Newton 5 villains, holding together three virgates and one nook of land, at rents amounting together to 26s. 8d. The value of land in Meole at this time seems to have been 4s. rod. for each half virgate ( $12\frac{1}{2}$  acres), or about 5d. or 6d. per acre. In this, as in all the cases I have referred to, the names of the several villeins are given. Here four of them are named severally, William, Hugh, Richard, and Philip "de Newton," thus proving how surnames were gradually acquired from the place of their residence by all ranks.

"Ffeoda heredum Georgii de Cantelow."—The Jury state that the heirs of George de Cantelow hold one moiety of the said Manor of Meole,

"Meole Brace" (de Mola), and have there in demesne one carucate of land of the value of 40s. per annum, and half a mill, of the value of 10s. per annum. They have there also 3 acres of wood, of the value of 18d. per annum, and 5 villeins holding 3 virgates of land together, at rents amounting in the whole to 22s. 8d. per annum.

[p. 3794.]

"Polliley."—In Pulley the heirs of George de Cantelow had 5 villeins, who together held 3 virgates and a half of land at rents amounting to 33s. 10d. One of the persons here enumerated as a villein was the same Engelard de Pulley, who is before stated to hold as a freeholder under Andulphus de Bracy, thus proving that the term villein is here only used to describe a tenant at rack-rent, and not a *native* or *slave*, as many have held the term villein to mean in our ancient records. The *native* or *slave* was, no doubt, of that class whom the lord had on his estate, whose habitation, employment, food, and all other necessities were provided by him; in fact, the mere day

labourer of that period, and not a person who held land by paying for it a fixed rent, but whose tenure was not secured by holding it under an agreement for a term of years or for lives. And here, I think, the learned authors of the *History of Shrewsbury* have taken rather an erroneous impression. See *Hist. Shrewsbury*, vol. i., p. 101.

"Newbald."—In the ville or township of Nobold the heirs of George de Cantelowe had 7 villeins, each holding half a virgate of land, and paying for the same respectively 4s. 10d. per annum.

"Newton."—Here the heirs of George de Cantelowe had 4 villeins, who held together 2 virgates and 1 nook of land at rents amounting to 21s. 6d. per annum. The three who held half a virgate each paid severally 4s. 10d. per annum, the fourth, who held half a virgate and a nook of land, paid 7s., thus proving that a "nook" in measurement was a quarter of a "virgate" of land.

The Jury further state that the heirs of George de Cantelowe held one moiety of the Manor of "Meole Bracy" of Roger de Mortimer by the service of half a knight's fee.

Also that there were two virgates of land which William son of Richard Morice held in Pulley of John son of William Pride of Salop, for 10s. per annum, and which John Pride held of John le Poer for 1d. per annum, and which John le Poer held of Roger de Mortimer, the same being worth 20s. per annum.

There was also one Church in Meole of the patronage of Ralph de Mortimer, which the Abbot of Wigmore then held of the gift of the said Ralph, which was worth 24 marks per annum.

[p. 3795.]

Here follow the names of 5 tenants who are stated to hold as free tenants 30 acres and 1 nook of land of Thomas le Halte, for 32½d. per annum, which was worth 7s. per annum. I presume this Thomas le Halte succeeded the Church of St. Mary in the virgate of land held by that establishment in Meole when *Domesday* was compiled, and that these tenants were his lessees of the same.

"The Hospital de Meole" held one acre of land of the said Thomas le Halte, for 2d. per annum. The same Hospital

also held 10 acres, which with the one acre above mentioned are specifically stated to belong to the Church of Meole, for 6s. per annum, which 10 acres were worth 20s. per annum, and as the one acre said also to belong to the church was held under Thomas le Halte, I think, there can be no doubt, he was then the Incumbent of Meole. The lands held by the Ancient Hospital are now (1854) called "The Spittle Dales, *alias* the Spittle Dines," and part of them still form a portion of the Glebe Land.—J.M.

"Edgebaldenh'm." John the son of Roger Pride (see page 3771) held the ville or township of "Edgebaldenh'm" (Edgbold) of Roger Sprenchose for 1d. per annum, and had there six villeins holding together one virgate and 4 nooks of land (of which, two of them called Henry and Richard "de Edgebaldenh'm" held each half a virgate) at rents amounting to 27s. 2d. per annum.

The said Roger Sprenchose held the said ville of Adam Hagar, the said Adam held it of the heirs of George de Cantelowe, for 8s. per annum, and the said heirs of George de Cantelowe held it of Roger de Mortimer as appurtenant to the Manor of Meole.

We have already seen (page 3792) that the Jury declared they were ignorant as to the title by which Roger de Mortimer held the Manor of Meole from the Crown in capite. We find, however, from *Domesday*, that Meole with Cleobury and other places named in King Edward the Confessor's time belonged to Edith, sister of King Harold and wife of King Edward, which places, after her death (for she survived the Norman Invasion eight years), were granted to Ralph de Mortimer, who had previously obtained, in reward for his services to the Conqueror, Wigmore Castle, and a great portion of the other possessions of Edric the Saxon, Earl of Mercia.

The Hospital of Meole above mentioned was probably founded by the Lady Edith, but I am not aware that there is at present any trace of such a foundation having continued at Meole, in any record subsequent to the one I am now quoting. I have, however, ascertained that the lands held from the Church of Meole, by the Hospital as above stated,

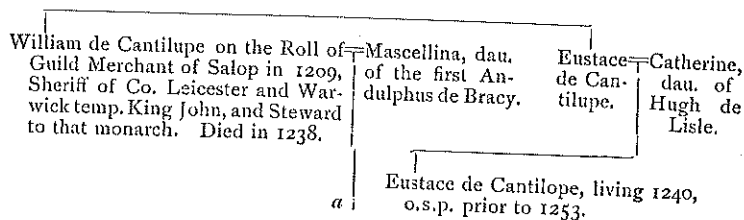


are to this day (1854) known by the names of the "*Spittle* Dales, *alias* the *Spittle* Dines," and that part of them still form a portion of the Glebe Lands.—J.M.

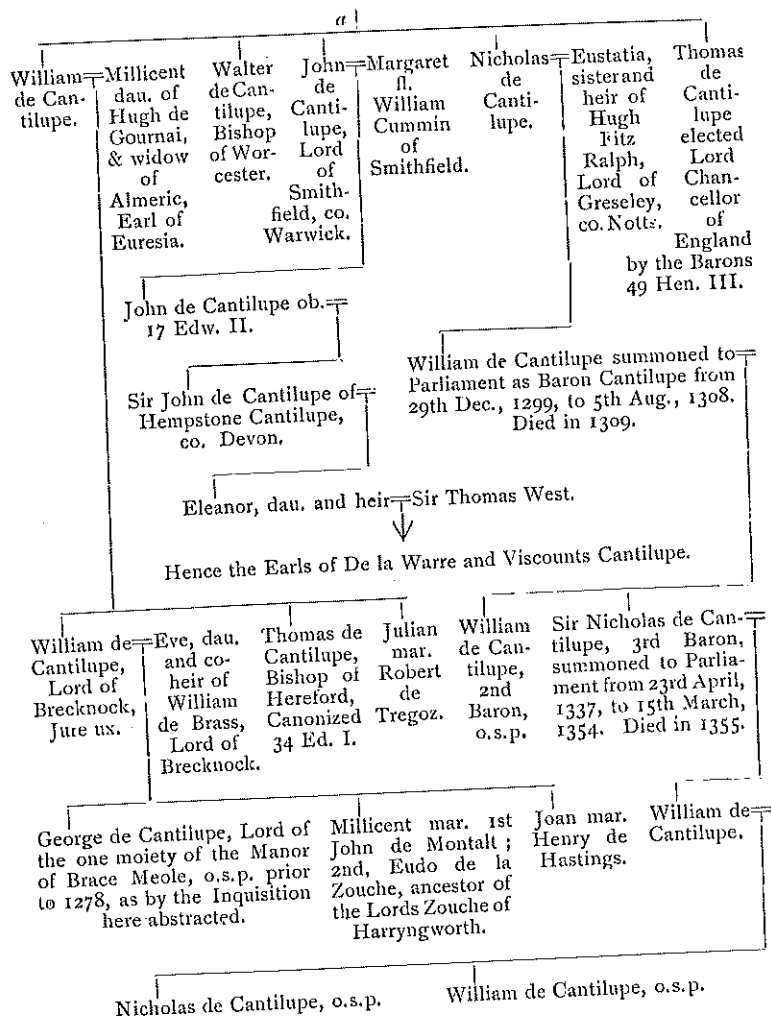
[p. 3796.]

Here I shall be pardoned for observing that none of our antiquaries have pointed out the origin of the family of Cantilupe. "George de Cantelowe," as he is here called, and to whose heirs one moiety of the Manor belonged of Meole Brace in the year 1278, was of a Shropshire family, deriving their surname from the hamlet of Cantilupe, in the parish of Berrington, which adjoins, and a portion of which once formed part of, the Liberties of Shrewsbury, as anciently defined.

William de Cantilupe, the person whom the genealogists state to be the first of this family on record,<sup>1</sup> was by the name of "William de Cantelop" admitted on the Roll of the Guild Merchant of Shrewsbury in 1209, his fine being half a mark. He served the office of Sheriff of the counties of Warwick and Leicester in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th years of King John, and under the patronage of the great house of Mortimer, who granted him a moiety of the Manor of Meole, he rose so much in favour and station as to become Steward and Privy Councillor to King John, and in the subsequent reign, that of Henry the Third, he was in great favour, and acquired immense possessions in the shape of forfeited lands, of which he obtained grants from the Crown. Few families rose so rapidly, as may be seen in the following sketch. Vide *Hist. of Northumberland*, vol. i., p. 62.



<sup>1</sup> Mr. Foss in his work, vol. ii., p. 291, says the father of William de Cantilupe was Walter de Cantilupe, living 12th John, 1215, when the King gave him a dolium of wine (*Rot. Claus.*, i. 49).



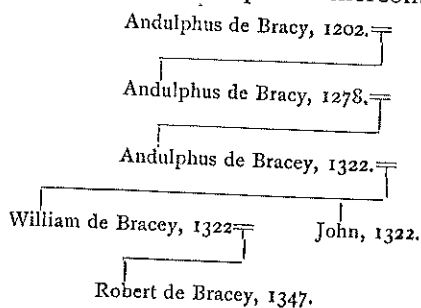
[p. 3797.]

Eudo de la Zouche having married (see last page) Millicent, eldest sister and coheir of George de Cantilupe, in her right held the Manor of Meole Brace in the 2nd of Edward I., 1274, in purparty, and the Manor so held continued in the possession of his descendants until the 16th century, when it was sold by John, Lord Zouche, to

Arthur Mackworth, Esq., then, the lessee thereof, the other moiety, no doubt, previously, fallen into the same line.

The Abbey of Wigmore, which had the Church of Meole Brace of the gift of Ralph, Lord Mortimer, as appears by the preceding Inquisition, retained the same, no doubt, until the general Dissolution of the Monasteries, for in the Valor Ecclesiasticus, as taken in the reign of King Henry the VIII., the tithes of grain and hay in Meole Brace are stated as parcel of the possessions of that establishment.

The family of De Bracey, like that of Cantilupe, stands unaccounted for by our genealogists and antiquaries. I shall, therefore, venture an opinion thereon.



William de Braose, Lord of Gower, whose father, John de Braos, married Margaret, daughter of Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, was, as all our historians agree, one of the Barons who fought under Roger de Mortimer against the Welsh, and on other occasions, in the reign of Henry III., and died in 1290. His relative John, who was nursed among the Welsh retainers of his family in Gower, is known to history by the Welsh name of "*John Tad-Ody*," a distinction hitherto unexplained, but "*Tad-Ody*" is in English nothing but "the father of Ody," which is, in fact, father of Andulph—Ody being the diminutive of *Andulph*. I therefore venture the opinion that *Andulphus de Bracy*, as he is usually called, but in the Shropshire dialect *de Brace*, was the son of Andulphus, for being the father of whom one John *de Braos* derived the appellation of *Tad-Ody*.

It was a question before a Jury at Salop in 1202, whether Andulph, father of Andulph, was seised in fee of the Manor of Meole.

Of the descendants of Andulphus de Bracy, few records have reached us. His father had the grant of a moiety of this manor for his services to the House of Mortimer.

Sir Robert de Bracy is said to have held the moiety of the manor (at least for a time), and married Matilda, daughter of William de *Albo-Monasterio* (*Whitchurch*), County Salop. He died 1310.

It is stated that John Daye of Wrockwardine, married Margaret, the daughter of an "Adolf de Bracy" of Meole Brace, but the date of this is not mentioned.

[p. 3798.]

Ffeoda Prioris de Wenloke. The Jury state that the Prior of Wenlock holds the whole ville of Sutton of St. Milburga as appurtenant to his Priory of Wenlock from a time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, but under what title, they knew not.

That the same Prior had there in demesne 3 carucates of land (i.e., 300 acres of ploughed land), the value whereof was £6 per annum, and 1 acre of meadow worth half a mark per annum, and 1 mill worth 8 marks per annum.

He had also eight villeins there, each holding half a virgate of land, at the respective rents of 5s. per annum each, and there was a small tenement of the value of 12d. per annum.

There was also one church in the patronage of the said Prior, the demesne (glebe) of which was 24 acres, and the said church and glebe land were of the value of 100s. per annum.

The Parish of Sutton is the only part of the Liberties of Shrewsbury which shews on its surface (in the year 1848) features similar to what it presented in the period of the Inquisition. The admeasurement of the parish as above *computed* would be 524 acres, on which there were residing the Bailiff of the Prior and 8 tenants at rack-rent.

The Parish of Sutton now (in 1848) comprises, a small church, a mill and 5 farms, together about 700 acres, and the whole is one property belonging to Lord Berwick. These farms or some of them are enlarged by

having other lands of his lordship attached thereto from his estates in the adjoining parishes.

The answers of the Jury to the first article of enquiry in the Inquisition terminate with the parish of Sutton. There were, however, in the whole, 32 articles of enquiry, to many of which, of course, they returned an answer stating that there was not, within their knowledge, any thing to be said relative thereto. To a few of the enquiries, however, they answered in these terms:—

To the 2nd Article—they answer that the Burgages of Shrewsbury have one fair and one market, of the grant of King John by Charter, and confirmed by Lord Henry, then King.

To the 5th Article—they answer that the Town of Shrewsbury, with the Hundred and Liberties thereof, together with the whole County of Salop, escheated to the King from the Earl Robert, and that the Church of St. Alkmund was included in this escheat, but which the Abbot of Lylleshall then held, but by what title or from what period, the Jury knew not, and the value thereof was 100 marks per annum.

[p. 3799.]

To the 6th Article—they answer that the Church of the Blessed Mary of Salop is a Free Chapel of the Lord the King, of his rightful patronage, and of the value of 60 marks per annum, that it had 1 dean and 9 prebends, all which places were then filled. That the Church of St. Juliana of Salop is a Free Chapel of the Lord the King, of his rightful patronage, and of the value of 15 marks. That the Chapel of St. Michael, in the Castle of Salop, is of the rightful patronage of the King, and of the value of 10 marks.

To the 9th Article—that the Manor of Meole belonged to the scutage of Roger de Mortimer, and was held by one knights fee service, and that the same was held of the said Roger by Andulphus le Bracy and the Heirs of George de Cantelowe, as before stated.

To the 27th Article—that the Burgesses of Salop have a grant in aid for the pavement of their town, of tolls, by

Charter of the Lord King Edward, for 5 years, from the date of the same Charter.

To the 30th Article—that the Friars Preachers of Shrewsbury have obstructed the road from the street of Dogpole towards Severn, at Yrkyslode. And that the Abbot of Byldewas had obstructed the King's highways in his fields of Meole, which led from Shelton towards Coleham.

Yrkyslode was a narrow lane that once led from the top of Dogpole down to Severn, through what is called St. Mary's Friars, but which lane has long ceased to exist. The other road here mentioned exists now, only in part; it was a continuation of the lane which passes from Kingsland Bridge (over Raddle Brook) by Port Hill, thence it went along the boundary of Frankwell township unto its junction with Shelton township, at a short distance beyond the first mile stone on the Westbury-road; a small portion of it still remains, forming an occupation road to fields on the west side of that road leading towards Shelton, and a small portion of that end of the said highway near Shelton may still be seen on the left hand of the road from Shrewsbury to Shelton, just before we come to the field which is near Glendower's Oak.

Such is an abstract of this Inquisition, from which we learn that the Liberties of Shrewsbury in 1278, comprised the town and suburbs (with the exception of the parish of Holy Cross and St. Giles), together with the townships of Hencott, Shelton, and Crow Meole, and the parishes of Meole Brace and Sutton. The parish of Holy Cross and Saint Giles had formed a part of the Liberties in the Saxon era, but after the foundation of the Abbey, Earl Hugh, son of Earl Roger, the founder thereof, had released that parish as appurtenant to the Abbey from all burdens and services imposed upon the town.

The Liberties of the town appear to have thus continued until the Charter of the 11 Henry VII., dated 14th December, 1495, when all the hamlets and places hereafter mentioned were declared to be within the Liberties and jurisdiction of the town of Shrewsbury.

p. 3800.]

s	Eaton Mascott	Berwick Leyborne
s	Betton Strange	Berwick Parva
s	Alkmere	Aldmere (now called
s*	Sutton	Almond Park)
s*	Meole Brace	Newton (in St. Mary's)
s*	Pulley (Foreign & Vetus)	Preston Gobalds
s*	Nobold	Lea and Merrington
s	Welbach	Hardwick (in Middle)
s	Whitley	Broughton
w	Hanwood Magna	Yorton
s	Hanwood Parva	Alderton (in Middle)
	Woodhouse, Woodhall,	Clive
	and Hamlets	Sansaw
w	Horton	Acton Reynald
w	Woodcote	Grinshill
s*	Newton (in Meole Brace)	Hadnal
s*	Edgebold	Smethcote
w*	Monk (or Crow) Meole	Haston
	and Goosehill	Shotton
w*	Shelton and Oxon	Adbright Hussey
w	Onslow	Adbright (Monachorum)
w	Bicton	Harlescote
w	Rossal Magna (Upper)	Astley
w	Rossal Parva (Lower)	Adbright Lee
w	Calcot	Battlefield
w	Preston Montford	Pimley
w	Dinthill	s* Longner-upon-Severn
	Leaton	* Dervald
	Wolascote	* Hencote

Stone Ward marked s.

Welsh Ward marked w.

Those not marked are in the Castle Ward.

(The Old Liberties are marked thus \*).

By Charter of 28 Elizabeth, dated 2nd April, 1586, the Liberties were further extended by the addition of the parish of Holy Cross and St. Giles thereto (which is all in the Stone Ward).

And thus did the Liberties of Shrewsbury continue, until by the Municipal Reform Act passed 9th September, 1835, the jurisdiction of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Shrewsbury was restricted to the Parliamentary boundary of the Borough, as fixed by the Act 2 and 3 William IV., c. 64, passed 11 July, 1832.

HENRY BOREY. See below.

ROGER LE PAUM, i.e., Roger le Palmer. See below.

Neither Henry Borey nor Roger le Palmer are in Mr. Blakeway's list, but as Bailiffs they were witnesses to a Deed now in the possession of the Drapers' Company, by which Alditha, relict of Ralph le Kent, sold a piece of land on Claremont to Alan son of Gamel (de Romaldesham).

JOHN IVON. See page 3775.

JOHN son of ROGER PALMAR. A Deed (among the Evidences of the Drapers' Company) by which Adam son of Roger Pride conveys land on Claremont to Alan son of Gamel is witnessed by (*inter alia*) John the son of Ivon and John the son of Roger Palmar, then Provosts. The name of "John fil' Ivon" does not appear in Messrs. Owen and Blakeway's list, but that he served the office of Provost is unquestionably proved by this Deed.

John son of Roger Palmar is, doubtless, the same person with John le Palmer. See page 3812. His father Roger also served as Provost.

HENRY BORREY. Town Clerk in 1260. See page 3786.

JOHN DE LODELOWE. See page 3818. Neither Henry Borrey nor John de Ludlow, senior, appear in Messrs. Owen and Blakeway's List of Bailiffs, but they certainly served that office, for as Bailiffs they with others witnessed a Deed now in the possession of the Drapers' Company, by which John son of Robert Pride sold a curtilage on Claremont to Alan son of Gamel de Romaldesham.



THE PROVOSTS AND BAILIFFS OF SHREWSBURY. 183

NOTES ON THE FOREGOING ACCOUNT OF THE PROVOSTS.

The small figures in the square parentheses refer to the pages in Mr. Joseph Morris's MSS., to which repeated references are made.

Page 31.—The last seven lines of this page are inserted in the wrong place. They should come before "Peter son of Clement, and Roger son of Reiner," on the same page.

THE LAWS OF BRETEUIL.

Page 164.—"Feoda que tenentur per legem Brittolie in Villa Salopie."

Morris translates this, "Fees which are held according to the law of Bristol, in the town of Salop"; and states that the meaning is, "that the Burgesses held by the same tenure and under the same regulations as the citizens of Bristol held under the charter which had been also granted to them by King John."

The Charter of King John to Shrewsbury is dated 24 February 1204-5, and its last clause but one runs thus:—"Et quod terre et tenementa infra predictum burgum et hundredum tractentur per legem Bretoll', et legem Baroye, et legem Anglescherie, secundum quod terre et tenementa solent tractari per predictas leges." It may be thus translated:—"And that the lands and tenements within the aforesaid borough and hundred shall be treated by the law of Bretollium, and the law of the Barony, and the law of the Englishry, in the manner that lands and tenements are wont to be treated by the aforesaid laws." Now here are three distinct laws by which Shrewsbury was to be governed. What is the "lex Bretollii", the first of these?

Owen and Blakeway, Morris, and many other writers say that Britollium means Bristol; but it is noticeable that, whilst the name Bristol has been written in forty-two ways, in none of them is the letter *s* omitted. And besides, there seems to be very little indeed in John's Charter to Bristol relating to the treatment of lands and tenements, which would make it a precedent for the laws of other towns. (See Owen and Blakeway, I. 88.)

The question of the "Leges Britolli" has been thoroughly investigated by Miss Bateson<sup>(1)</sup>, and she has shown conclusively that many of our English boroughs must look, not to the great

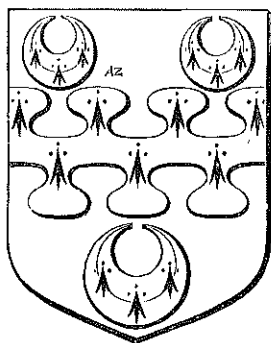
<sup>1</sup> See The English Historical Review for January and April, 1900.

English port of Bristol, but to the obscure little Norman stronghold of Breteuil, as the parent of many of their liberties and privileges. Breteuil, in the department of the Eure, a few miles south-west of Evreux, was anciently Britoligum, the settlement of the Breton. About 1060 William Duke of Normandy built a castle there, and put it in the hands of William Fitz-Osbern his cousin and seneschal. Ultimately Breteuil passed to the Bello-monts, Earl of Leicester, about 1122, by the marriage of Fitz-Osbern's great-granddaughter Amicia to Robert Bossu, 2nd Earl of Leicester. Breteuil was a castle and town of great importance, and its laws and customs were imposed by the Norman Kings and nobles upon a number of English boroughs.

Miss Bateson says it is possible that the existence of the Laws of Breteuil at Shrewsbury may be traced directly to William Fitz-Osbern, who was sent here in 1069 to retake the place when it had been taken by Eadric the Wild. (O. and B., I. 34-35; Ordericus Vitalis, iv. 5); but she thinks that their introduction is more likely to be due to Roger de Montgomery, who was a kinsman of Fitz-Osbern, and who was engaged in constant warfare against the Welsh, and felt the necessity of encouraging his tenants to make fixed settlements in proximity to his castle under the most favoured conditions. The laws of Breteuil (according to Miss Bateson) were probably applicable to the French burgesses of Shrewsbury, who dwelt in Frankvile over the Welsh Bridge, and of whom Domesday records the existence of a colony of forty-three. (xliii francigenæ burgenses.)

Of the law of the Barony, Owen and Blakeway can find no explanation, but conjecture that it was "the law by which freeholders were adjudged in the county court." Miss Bateson suggests that Meole Brace was the barony referred to in John's Charter, and that these laws prevailed at Meole Brace, which at Domesday was in the liberties, and was held directly of the King by Ralph de Mortimer. Nine burgesses in Shrewsbury then belonged to the manor of Meole.

Of the law of the Englishry, Miss Bateson suggests that it prevailed in the original portion of the borough, was "under English as contrasted with Welsh law." Owen and Blakeway think that it was "the law of the English, as contradistinguished from that of the Normans." Eyton (vii. 34), notices a suit in 1292, in which Peter Corbet is stated to have withdrawn certain villis from his *Englecheria* into his *Walcheria*.



ARMS.—Az. a fesse nebulée between three crescents Erm.

# THE SEQUESTRATION PAPERS OF SIR JOHN WELD, SENIOR, AND SIR JOHN WELD, JUNIOR, KNIGHTS, OF WILLEY.

EDITED BY WILLIAM PHILLIPS, F.L.S.

THE assertion that "the records of no county can be considered complete that do not give full details of the heavy exactions demanded by the triumphant party from their defeated opponents,"<sup>1</sup> at the close of the Civil War, does not call for any qualification; but at the same time, it is not possible to deal with every case within the compass of these *Transactions*, seeing that there are no less than ninety sufferers in the Shropshire list. The only course, therefore, is to select a few typical cases in which men of mark and high social standing were the victims. In this category, the two individuals whose composition papers are here produced unquestionably stand.

John Weld of Willey, born in 1581, was the son of John Weld of London, by his wife Dorothy, daughter and sole heir of Roger Greswold, and seventh in descent from William

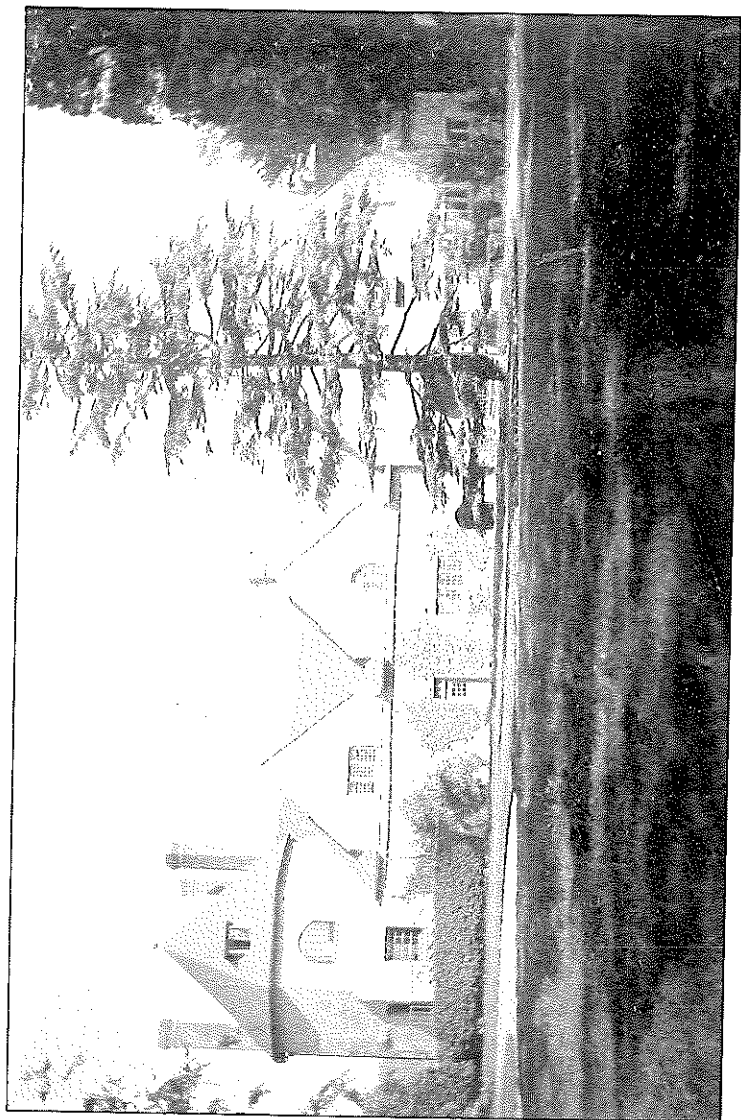
<sup>1</sup> *Transactions*, xii., 2nd s., p. 1.

Weld, Sheriff of London in 1355. His father was the second son of John Weld of Eaton, Cheshire, and brother of Sir Humphrey Weld, Knight, Lord Mayor of London in 1609. John Gwillim, in his *Display of Heraldry* (p. 94), writes thus:—"He beareth Azure, a Fess Nebule, between three Crescents, Ermine, by the name of Weld of Lulworth Castle, in Dorsetshire, Esquire, Governor of his Majesty's Isle and Castle of Portland and Sandsfort; lineally descended from Edrick Sylvaticus, alias Wild (a Saxon of great Renown in in the Reigns of King Harold and William the Conqueror) whose Father Alfrick, was brother to Edrick of Stratton, Duke of Mercia."

John Weld was of the Middle Temple, and at the age of 32 (1613), was appointed Town Clerk of London,<sup>1</sup> the duties of which office he discharged by deputy. It appears to have been the usage in those days to acquire this post by purchase. In his memorandum book, under date 1631, he writes that he held the office "clear to himself," which cost him £1,500. In consideration of this payment, Robert Nicholls (probably his deputy) was to pay him £500 *per annum*. It would appear that, in addition, he shared in certain perquisites arising from the office, varying according to circumstances. In allusion to this transaction, he writes:—"I have gotten very little by it in regard times have been naught, and it hath been managed by my Clerks, and I could never skill to beg of the City, as all other officers of the City hath done." His London residence was in St. Clements-lane, of which he held a lease after he had come to reside in Shropshire.

In June, 1616, he purchased the manor and estate of Willey from Sir Francis Lacon of Kinlet, Knt., and Rowland, his son and heir apparent, for the sum of £7,000. For some reason or other, this conveyance was not satisfactory, so that on the 20th of June, 1617, John Weld and Elizabeth his wife, "at the request of Sir Francis Lacon and Rowland Lacon," conveyed the estate to Sir Francis Newport of High Ercall, Knight. Finally, by indenture of Bargain and Sale, dated 16th May, 1618, and made between Sir Francis Newport of the first part, John Weld of the

<sup>1</sup> *Notes & Queries*, 9th. S., V., May 12, 1900.



WILLEY OLD HALL.



second part, and Sir Francis Lacon of the third part, the estate was conveyed to John Weld in fee simple. The premises thus dealt with consisted of the Manor of Willey, the Park of Willey, all the grounds comprised in the latter, the advowson of the Church of Willey, and all houses, lands, &c., belonging to the Manor.

In the year 1626, John Weld filed a Bill in Chancery against Sir Francis Lacon and Rowland Lacon, for granting leases or otherwise dealing with certain lands which he claimed as part of the Willey Estate, and which he said were included in the conveyance to him. The answer of the defendant to this Bill of Complaint, the Deposition of Witnesses, and other documents connected with this suit are preserved amongst the muniments of Willey.

Immediately he came into possession of this estate, he commenced a series of improvements, which in a few years more than doubled its value. Being endowed with a strong capacity for business, he drained the bogs, constructed fishponds, and made good the roads. He developed the mineral wealth—the clay, iron, stone, and coal; he sunk pits, and built furnaces, and being within a comparatively short distance of the great highway of the River Severn, he disposed of his produce with ease.

Old Willey Hall which existed at the time Mr. Weld purchased the estate, and which he afterwards occupied, stands a short distance east of the church (that is, what remains of it), and is now used as offices and stabling of the New Hall, built by Wyatt in 1821. It abuts upon what was formerly the old high road from Bridgnorth to Broseley. The solid stone masonry, the massive beams, the flooring and panelling of oak, with the mullioned windows, suggest the middle or latter part of the sixteen century, as the date of its erection. Traces of a terraced pleasure garden may be seen on the south and west sides, but the customary dove cote of all manor houses of that period only remains in the name of the spot on which it stood. The proximity of the church to the Hall indicates that it was originally built as a domestic chapel.

On February 25, 1619, he increased his Shropshire property by purchasing the Manor of Marsh from John Slaney, citizen

and merchant tailor of London; he also bought parts of two farms in Posenhall, adjoining Barrow, from his brother-in-law, Humphrey Slaney. These lands received from him the same diligent attention, especially the Marsh, which contained lime, coal, iron-stone, and the celebrated Broseley clay.

The next addition was the Manor of Chelmarsh, purchased in 1628, from Sir Thomas Jervoise, Knt., who had inherited it from his father.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Blakeway, in his *Sheriffs of Shropshire*, states that it was purchased by Sir William Whitmore, but Mr Weld states in a private memorandum book, preserved at Willey Park, "I took this in Mr. William Witmore's name, and Alderman Whitmore's, and my own, in regard I might the better, and for less charge, set out my part there for the advancement of my wife and daughter." He adds, "If I die without a will then I intreat Sir William Whitmore, and Mr. Alderman Whitmore so to dispose of this manor that my daughters may have portions, and my wife's jointure made up at least £500 *per annum*, by sale of it; if they can advise no other way." He had in 1631 already sunk three coalpits there.

Besides the Shropshire estates, he owned lands in Suffolk and Norfolk, purchased by his father, which he valued at £15,000.

Mr. Weld does not appear to have taken any leading part in the public business of the county of his adoption until he was appointed High Sheriff in 1641; or if he did, we have no record of the fact. As circumstances turned out, his selection by the King was a fortunate one. The man he succeeded was Mr. Thomas Niccolls of Boycott, near Pontesbury, who was a determined partizan of the Parliament. Niccolls had been Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1636, was appointed Alderman by the Charter granted to the town by Charles I., and was a man of considerable influence among his fellow townsmen. When the King departed for Worcester, Nicolls, with Humphrey Mackworth, Thomas Hunt, and nine others, were charged with high treason, and

<sup>1</sup> Richard Jerveys, Esq., of Northfield and Weobly Park, co. Worcester, born 1500, was possessed of Chelmarsh, Nether Court, Quat Jerveys, and Quat Malvern, co. Salop, of whom the above Sir Thomas was the grandson. See Burke's *Land Gent.*



were ordered to be apprehended for their disloyalty; but all succeeded in escaping.

Mr. John Weld, on the contrary, was known to be a thoroughly loyal man, one to be safely relied upon to do the King good service. An opportunity was soon afforded him of showing his zeal. A Commission of Array was issued, dated June 22 (1642), and power given therein for "Arraying, Training, Arming, leading and Conducting the Inhabitants of our said County." It included the names of Prince Charles, Thomas Earl of Arundell, John Earl of Bridgewater, Robert Viscount Kilmurry, William Lord Craven, Edward Lord Herbert, and "Our trusty and well beloved the Sheriff." Special care was to be taken that the "Ancient Traynes, and freehould bands" were to be supplied with sufficient and able persons under the conduct of such Captains as are persons of "quality, honour, considerable Estates and Interest in the Country." Much of the work of this Commission necessarily fell on the Sheriff, and we may safely assume he discharged his duties with fidelity.

At the Assizes held August 8th, before Judge Hendon, a letter from the King having been read in open Court, an address was adopted by the Grand Jury in the same words as one sent from Worcestershire, and signed by "divers of the Justices of the Peace, gentlemen and freeholders of the County then present, expressing their loyalty, and declaring confidence in their Sovereign Lord the King's government over them according to our known laws," and pledging themselves to put the county in a posture of Arms for the defence of his Majesty, and the peace of the Kingdom. Heading the list of signatures to this document stood the name of "John Welde, [*sic*] High Sheriff." He also joined the other Commissioners in urging the High Sheriff of Staffordshire to send a similar address to his Majesty. For this, and for pressing the burgesses of Wenlock, near which town his estates lay, to sign the address, as well as for proclaiming the Commission of Array in the county, he was impeached of high treason in the House of Commons on the 17th of September following.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Lords' Journal*, v. 360. Fifth Report Hist. MSS. Com., p. 48.

When Mr. Weld heard the rumour that Mr. Francis Ottley was on the point of receiving a Commission from the King to raise a force of two hundred men he wrote as follows to Mr. Ottley:—

“Noble captaine, I find by concurrent advertisment that it is full time for Shrewsbury, and other parts of this County, to be vigilant. Sr I shall rely uppon your care for the safty of that place; if you suppose you want helpe you shall want none that I am able to afford you. I wish some of my neighbours here abouts were as well minded as you; I resolve to try them. I have already given my best advise to Bridgnorth, and I think they will follow it; and so desireing to hear from you as often as you find occasion, with all our loving respects remembered unto you, I rest,

Your Servant

Wiley, 29 August 1642.

JOHN WELD.”<sup>1</sup>

Unlike many of his contemporaries in Shropshire and Cheshire at this early stage of events, he showed no signs of wavering or compromise in his political views. Neutrality with him was a weakness to be avoided. The security of Bridgnorth received his attention. The orders of the Common Hall of that town contain a minute “concerning the making of a draw-bridge upon the bridge over Severn, and other things for the defence of the said towne, upon a warrant from John Weld, Esq. High Sheriff of this county of Salop in respect of the extreme danger which has now come upon us.” The Common Hall, however, considered it sufficient “to place posts and chains at the two ends of the Low town, viz. at the farther end of the Mill Street, and at the farther end of St. John’s Street, and at other needful places in the said Towne; and also that the Gates of the said Towne shall be repayred, and made strong with chains and otherwise, as shall be convenient for strength and defence of the said Town.”<sup>2</sup>

The coming of the King to Shrewsbury offered another occasion for the High Sheriff to display his loyalty. A royal visit would have been an important event in ordinary times,

<sup>1</sup> Ottley Papers, *Trans.* vi., 2nd s., p. 37.

<sup>2</sup> Bellett’s *Antiq. of Bridgnorth*, p. 131.

as such an honour had not been conferred on the old town for nearly a century and a half; but in the excited condition of the country it was a most extraordinary event. Special preparations were made in the town and along the entire route through Shropshire. All the local forces were mustered, and it is affirmed by a high witness that "His Majesty arrived yester-night [20 Sept]: the High Sheriff Sir John Weild [*sic*] attending him from Wellington with a train of thirty-four liveries. He was received near this town by three fair foot companies of the trained bands and a hundred horse; afterwards by the Mayor, Aldermen, and liveries, all ranked in a very comely manner."

It is stated that Sir John Weld received the honour of knighthood on the 19th of September, which was the day the King arrived in Wellington, and harangued his army. It was a handsome recognition by his Majesty of the manner in which Mr. Weld had worked in his official capacity to prepare for his coming. The appointment to the honourable office of Sheriff had ceased to become profitable to its possessor; according to Fuller, it was held as an injury ten years previous to this date, the emoluments having decreased, and the expenses having augmented.<sup>1</sup>

Many of those about the Court of Charles while in Shrewsbury retained a pleasant recollection of Sir John Weld and his family, particularly Thomas Bushell, Master of His Majesty's Mint, who writing to Sir Francis Ottley, sends his love and service to the High Sheriff; in another letter to the same he writes:—"I hope your goodness will excuse me at your Club of good fellowship for not writing particular letters to all those whom I honour in your parts, in regard to my multiplicity of buseness," and he adds:—present my services to those Vertuous Ladies at Sr John Wildes [*sic*], whom I shall ever honour, and remain the servant of.<sup>2</sup>

Sir John Weld's appointment of High Sheriff cost him the loss of his office of Town Clerk of London, which he had held since April 27, 1613, when he succeeded Seabright. The cause of his removal is said to have been "for failing to

<sup>1</sup> Blakeway's *Sheriffs*, Introduction, p. 5.

<sup>2</sup> *Trans. Shrop. Arch. Soc.* vi., 2nd s., p. 57.

attend the Common Council, a duty which he was rendered incapable of fulfilling owing to his having been appointed at that time high Sheriff of Shropshire."<sup>1</sup> But he became High Sheriff late in the year 1641, and his displacement as Town Clerk was not till 27 October, 1642, when his year of office as sheriff was very near its close. We cannot help thinking that his loyalty to Charles largely contributed to his removal, considering the political feeling prevalent in the City at the time, rather than the reason alleged. Twenty-four years later, 18 Charles II. (June 5, 1666), he presented a petition to the Court of Common Council to be reinstated in office. A Committee to whom the matter was referred reported to the Council that they found it had been by special command of the late King that Weld had been prevented carrying on his duties, and recommending that he should now be restored. The Court, however, seemed loth to reinstate him, and it was not until after the receipt from Secretary Nicholas of a letter and a writ of restitution had been issued that it consented (22 Sept.) to re-admit him to office, and then only by deputy.

At the close of the year 1642, Sir John Weld was succeeded in the office of High Sheriff by Henry Bromley, Esq., of Shrawardine Castle, Salop, and of Holt Castle, Worcestershire, great grandson of Sir Thomas Bromley, Lord Chancellor of England.<sup>2</sup> Sir John shortly after left Shropshire to be present at the the Court of Charles at Oxford. Edward Hyde, afterwards Lord Clarendon, writing from that city to Sir Francis Ottley, says:—"Sir John Wild [*sic*] is safely arrived here, but hath yet given me no account of your desires, so that I known not what to say of them." This was the 9 February, from which time to the following April we are ignorant of his movements, when we find him in Shrewsbury sitting at a Council of War with Lord Capel, the Lieutenant-general, Henry Bromley, High Sheriff, and others.<sup>3</sup> He must have sat by virtue of his being a Commissioner of Array, there being no evidence to show that he held a commission in any regiment at the time

<sup>1</sup> *Notes and Queries*, *ibid.*

<sup>2</sup> Blakeway's *Sheriffs*, p. 121.

<sup>3</sup> *Trans. Shrop. Arch. Soc.* vi., 2nd s., p. 303.

or subsequently. The place of their sitting was the Library of Shrewsbury School.

The great crisis in the career of Sir John was also the most important crisis in the military history of Shropshire, the capture of Shrewsbury by the Parliamentarians. It was the general place of refuge for all the non-combatants, as well as those who held commissions, but had no men to command. Many people deposited their valuables here owing to the insecurity of private houses in the country; hence the number of important persons taken prisoners, and the large amount of plunder seized. Sir John was one of the most important of the prisoners taken. The vexations trouble and delay attending his composition will be best learned by the reader from the papers given below.

The eminently practical turn of mind possessed by Sir John is well brought out in the advice which he left for the guidance of his son in case of his death.

"I advise my son not to be busy in Building, nor in suits in Law, nor in searching for coals, nor in Iron Works, nor in too much hospitality, or expense, &c.; for these will be means to waste his estate. And let him not be led away by Colliers, or miners, or projectors whose fair speech is but to get themselves money: but if he have occasion of the help of any of these let it be done upon good advice.

"Let him never affect to have more ground on his hands for tilling, feeding, pasture, or meadow than is fit for his own use, or for moderate houskeeping; for mice will consume his corn, ill servants will consume his butter, milk, and cheese, ill markets will make him he shall not profit, horses will eat out their bodies before they be fit for use, sheep for want of looking after will die. And keep no idle servants, for they are masters. But provide to have so much corn, so much hay, so much meadow, so much pasture, and so many servants as are requisite for moderate housekeeping.

"Beware of Charwomen, and comers and goers, for they are little better than thieves.

"Be sure you get an honest man to be bayly to oversee your servants, and begin not to live at so high a rate at first, for in so doing I have hurt myself, and had more sorrow than pleasure."

He died November 6th, 1666, aged 85 years, and was buried in a vault under the Chancel of Willey Church. His Lady Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Romney, Knt., Alderman of London, died 7th October, 1668, aged 80 years, and lies in the same vault. They had four sons and four daughters. Three sons and one daughter died in infancy. Rebecca became the wife of Roger Kynaston of Hordley, Salop, Esq.; Mary married James Saltonstall of Barkway, Co. Hertford, Esq.; and Dorothy died unmarried. Of John, the only surviving son, we have now to speak.

Sir John Weld, Junior, was Knighted by Charles I., September 22, 1643. He married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir George Whitmore, Knt., Alderman of London, by whom he had twelve children, seven of whom were sons. Of the place of his birth and education, we have no information.

On the breaking out of the war, he took the same side as his father, and according to his own confession, bore arms in the King's cause; his military service, however, was cut short by his being taken prisoner at the capture of Shrewsbury. It happened thus:—In February, 1644-5, Sir Francis Ottley, the royalist High Sheriff, was at Apley, the seat of Sir William Whitmore, Knt., which stood on or near the site of the present Apley Park, with the Commissioners of Array for the Brimstree Hundred, engaged in raising troops for Prince Maurice. There were present—Sir William Whitmore, his son Sir Thomas, Mr. Glynn, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Owen, and others, fifteen in all, and a garrison of 60 armed men. While thus engaged, Sir John Price, a colonel under Sir William Brereton's command, who had deserted from the royalist cause, surrounded the house with his troops and took the whole of them prisoners. This daring act within a few miles of Bridgnorth naturally created a great sensation. Commanding only a flying column, Colonel Price made no attempt to hold and garrison the house, being contented with his prisoners and plunder. When the news reached Sir Michael Ernley, Governor of Shrewsbury, he at once sent an order

to Sir Lewis Kirk to burn down the house to prevent the enemy occupying it permanently, which came to the ears of Sir John Weld, Junr., then in garrison at Bridgnorth. It will be remembered that his aunt Dorothy had married Sir William Whitmore, Knt., and that his wife was a daughter of Sir George Whitmore, Knt.; Sir Michael Ernley's order naturally caused him deep concern, and he begged Sir Lewis Kirke to delay carrying out the order till he could go to Shrewsbury to obtain a countermand from Ernley. He started immediately on his errand, and arrived on the 21st of February. The same night, a carefully selected force from Wem and other garrisons, was on its way to Shrewsbury, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Rinkinge, guided by some Shrewsbury men. Under cover of the night, it reached the walls at four o'clock, and as the day was breaking, the inhabitants were awaked by the tumult of arms; the enemy having gained an entrance effected the capture with little or no opposition. It was thus the two Welds became prisoners, and are particularly mentioned as having been surprised in their beds.

Beyond what is found in the Composition Papers little remains to be recorded; nor is this remarkable considering the circumstances in which he was placed. He came into possession of his estates late in life, he had a large family to care for, and it became his policy and wisdom to live a quiet and retired life until the heavy clouds which hung over the Commonwealth period dispersed.

We find him in the Commission of the Peace for the Town and Liberties of Wenlock in 1672, and as an illustration of the usages of the time, the following is interesting:—"The examination of Francis Gittins the younger, of the parish of Astley Abbots in the County of Salop taken at Willey the 7th February Anno. Reg. Carli 2d: Angliæ &c. vicessimo quarto, before Sir John Weld Knight, one of his s'd. Mty's Justices of the Peace for the s'd towne and liberties of Wenlock. Being asked what became of the fowling gun which he is suspected to have feloniously taken from the house of Sir William Whitmore of Apley, Baronett, and did properly belong to Sir Thomas Whitmore Knight of the Hon. Order of the Bath, saith that he did not at any time

take any gun from Apley, neither doth he know any person that ever did take any gun from there, and further saith not." Subsequently, the culprit confessed his guilt, but pleaded that "he was set upon to do it by the instigation of Richard Golden the younger of Willey, and John Owen, *alias* Careless of Benthall, and they both promised to meet him at Apley aforesaid to assist this examinant in the taking away the said guns, but neither of them did come according to their promise." He was fined 20s., and his accomplices 10s. each. The examination of the accused is curious in the light of modern procedure, and the imposition of a fine for petty larceny is no less remarkable. No scruples appear to have been felt on the ground that the person from whom the gun was stolen was a near relative of the presiding magistrate.

Sir John Weld, Junior, was elected by the large and important Borough of Wenlock, on February, 1678-9, as its representative in the Parliament, which was dissolved on the 12th of August following. He was not again elected.

On the restoration of Charles II., it is stated, apparently on good authority, that his Majesty conceived the idea of establishing a New Order of Knighthood, to be conferred on a limited number of such as had done good service to the late King, his father, as a reward. The recipients were to be called Knights of the Royal Oak. Sir John Weld, Junior, and his son and heir, George, were placed on the list for this honour with several other Shropshire men. It was found, however, likely to produce so much jealousy and discontent that Charles abandoned his purpose.

Sir John, Jun., died August 4th, 1681, and was buried at Willey Church. His will is dated 28th January, 1677, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 3rd September, 1681.

It is beyond the scope of this brief notice to follow the history of the family to its alliance with the ancient Shropshire family of Forester; but as Lord Forester has kindly allowed me to see the pedigree, a copy of it, with sundry other notes, will be added after the composition Papers. I would express my thanks to the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher for his kind help afforded to me while examining Lord Forester's valuable papers.



AND SIR JOHN WELD, JUNIOR, KNIGHTS, OF WILLEY. 197

COMPOSITION PAPERS.

SIR JOHN WELD, KNT., SENR.

I.

*Petitions that he may compound.*

(S. P. Inter Dom., G. 209, No. 143).

To the hono<sup>ble</sup> the comittee for compounding with  
Delinquents at Goldsmiths-Hall.

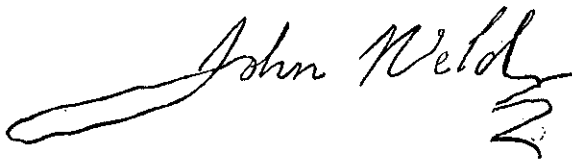
The humble petic<sup>on</sup> of Sr John Weld the elder of Willey  
in the County of Salop.

Sheweth

That yo<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>r</sup> adhered to his Ma<sup>tie</sup> against the forces  
raised by the Parlament for which his Delinquency his  
estate is under Sequestrac<sup>on</sup>.

He humbly praies he may be admitted to a moderate  
Composition for his Delinquency.

And he shall pray &c.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Weld". The signature is written in dark ink and is followed by a long, horizontal flourish that extends to the left.

Recd. 20<sup>th</sup> November 1645

Referred to ye Sub Com<sup>tee</sup>.

Jo. Luch.

II.

*The same prays that he may return to the Country, and be allowed  
to see his papers, that he may prepare his Particular.*

*His prayer granted.*

(G. 129, No. 548).

To the Committee for Composic<sup>ons</sup> sitting att  
Goldsmiths hall,

The humble Petic<sup>on</sup> of Sr John Weld Kn<sup>t</sup>.

Sheweth

That yo<sup>r</sup> Petic<sup>on</sup><sup>r</sup> ever since the Surrender of Shrewsbury  
hath beene in the Parliaments Quarters And soe soone as  
hee heard of an Ordinance for Compounding with Delin-  
quents, hee sent up a Petition (being in Aprill last) to M<sup>r</sup>

Kilvert to this Committee, intending to follow the same himselfe, so soone as he could satisfie himselfe what estate hee had in reversc'on setled upon him, w<sup>ch</sup> hee endeavoured all hee could till he was shortly after imprisoned and kept there in Custody three months, dureing w<sup>ch</sup> tyme hee alsoe sent to M<sup>r</sup> Kilvert another Petic'on to procure an Order from this Committee that hee might have his writeings by which to make up his particular w<sup>ch</sup> could not be obtayned.

That about a moneth since he came to London and hath as much as in him lay laboured to satisfie himselfe of his said estate which he can by no means doe.

Hee therefore humbly prayes that this comittee would giue him some convenient tyme to returne into ye country and an Order to the Committee, to suffer him to peruse such writeings as he shall haue occasion to see. In which he shall make all possible speed hee can, being desirous of nothing more then to shew his readinesse to answer and comply with the rules of the Parliament as well in this as in other things. And he shall pray &c.,

21 Novemb.,

JOHN WELD.

1646.

Lett letters be written according to the prayer of the petition.

### III.

*His Financial statement and plea for mitigation of Fine.*

(S. P. Inter Dom., G. 5, p. 80).

3 April 1649.

S<sup>r</sup> John Wild sen. of Willey in Com. Salop Adhered &c. Excepted by name to compound at third parte of his estate for life per Ann. £504 12<sup>s</sup> ffor 12 yeres per Ann' £70.

There is issueing out of ye Lease per Ann. £14. Out of ye other estate per Ann. £41 16<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> ffine at a third is £1121 18<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. Hee desires a saveing to compound for £4000 as Administrator to ye Lady. And also for £300 in plate not yet discovered nor in his hands ffor which the fine at  $\frac{1}{3}$  is £1433 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> ffor both £2555 5<sup>s</sup>.

IV.

*An Order to restore to him his Papers.*

(p. 83, 5 April 1649).

Whereas Sr John Weld the elder of Willey in the County of Salop Knt. hath Compounded with this Comittee and paid and secured the ffine ymposed on him according to Order, And whereas we are informed by his Evidences, Deeds rent Roles and other writeings remayne in yo<sup>r</sup> hands. These are to order and require you to deliver vnto the said Sr John Weld or such as he shall appoint to receive the same, All such Evidences Deeds, Rent roles Muniments and other writeings whatsoever that concerne him or his Estate now remayning in yo<sup>r</sup> Custody And hereof you are not to fayle.

V.

*He prays that the rent of a house, estopped by the committee, may be paid to him. His prayer granted.*

(G. 129, No. 537).

To the Right hono<sup>ble</sup> the Com<sup>es</sup> for Compounding with Delinquents at Goldsmiths-hall.

The humble Petition of Sr Jehn Weld sen. of Willey in the County of Salopp Knight.

Sheweth

That yo<sup>r</sup> Petitioner hath paid and secured the ffine ymposed on him according to Order of this Comittee, that amongst other thinges he Compounded for a house scituate in St. Clements Lane London wherein he had a Terme of 12 yeares to come, that he paid and secured the ffine before Lady day last yet the Comittee of Cambden house haue given direcc'ons to M<sup>r</sup> Piggott the Tennant not to pay vnto yo<sup>r</sup> Petitioner the halfe yeares rent then due yo<sup>r</sup> Petitioner alwayes receiving the said rent halfe yearly as by the Lease appeareth.

Yo<sup>r</sup> Petitioner humbly prayes yo<sup>r</sup> further Order to the said Comittee at Cambden house for receiving the said halfe yeares rent yo<sup>r</sup> Petitioner haueing perfected his Composition within the halfe yeare that the rent growe due, otherwise he

200 SEQUESTRATION PAPERS OF SIR JOHN WELD, SENIOR,

shall not enjoy the benefitt of the terme of 12 yeares for which he hath Compounded.

And he shall pray &c,

JOHN WELD.

Ordered yt ye Comitee doe forthw<sup>th</sup> gyve their dyrection that he may rec. ye Rent or shew cause to the contrary.

VI.

*Having Paid his fine he petitions to be restored to the possession of his estate. The Committee ordered to give him possession.*

(G. 129, No. 553).

To the hono<sup>ble</sup> the Comissioners for Compounding with Delinquents &c.

The humble petition of S<sup>r</sup> John Weld Knt.

Sheweth

That y<sup>e</sup> petitioner hauing compounded with this honorable [*sic*] for his delinquency and estate and hauing payed his whole fine yet cannot be restored to the possession off his estate confirmed in his particular & compounded for

Y<sup>r</sup> petitioner humbly prayes y<sup>r</sup> honers will please to directe y<sup>r</sup> letters to the Committee off Salop to put y<sup>r</sup> petitioner into the same possession as he was at the time of the sequestration

And he shall pray &c,

Jo: WELD

12 July 1650.

The Committee to put him into possession as he was in at the time of sequestration or to show cause.

VII.

*One item of his income, was allowed to stand over, but being still in litigation, he pleads for further delay.*

(G. 129, No. 549).

To the hono<sup>ble</sup> the Comissioners for Compositions the humble petition of S<sup>r</sup> John Weld the elder of Weilye [*sic*] in the County of Sallop Knt.

Sheweth

That y<sup>r</sup> petitioner hauinge formerly made his composition had in the particular of his estate then giuen in a saving to

compound for the benefitt of certaine administrac'ons in the right of his wife which he was then in sute for when he should assertheine or recouer the same That he hath & is in prosecution off the same but cannot yet assertheine or recouer the same as by the affidauit annexed apeares.

He humbly prayes there hauing not binne any delay on his part in this particular that yr Honners will please to continue his saying as formerly

And he shall pray &c,

JOHN WELD

### VIII.

*A joint petition of Sir John, his wife, and Dame Susan Carew for his allowances, with a provisional order made by commissioners.*

(G. 129, No. 555).

To the Honor<sup>ble</sup> the Com<sup>rs</sup> for Compounding &c.

The humble petition of Sir John Weld the elder of Willey in the County of Salop Knight & Dame Elizabeth his wife & Dame Susan Carew of Walton super Montem in the County of Surrey widdowe daughters & administratrices of the goods & chattells not administred of the Lady Rebecca Romney late of London widdowe deceased.

Sheweth

That whereas Henry Killigrew of Lanrack in the County of Cornwall Esqr & afterward Sir Henry Killigrew of Juts & County aforesaid Knight deceased a delinquent (by one Statute Staple made 6<sup>th</sup> July in the 7<sup>th</sup> yeare of the Raigne of the late King Charles) became bound vnto the said Lady Rebecca Romney in the sume of eight hundred pounds, noe part thereof being yett satisfied; And whereas by an Act of Parliament dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 1650, yo<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>rs</sup> are required to compound for the said delinquents estate (lyable to the said Statute) as the said delinquent should haue done; since w<sup>ch</sup> ffirst day of August, yo<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>rs</sup> hauing sued out execution vppon the said Statute against the said Delinquents estate which is not vnder sequestration.

Yo<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>rs</sup> humbly pray that yo<sup>r</sup> Honors would vouchsafe to admitt yo<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>rs</sup> to a moderate composition for the said

delinquents estate mentioned in the perticuler hereunto annexed & that yo<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>rs</sup> may enioye the said estate till the said Statute & Composition money be fully satisfied according to the effect of the said purchase dated the first of Decemb. 8<sup>o</sup> Caroli He saith he is indebted vpon Specialties £3000.

He craves a Saveing to compound for an Interest he hath in right of his wife in the Administracon of the goods of S<sup>r</sup> Wm Romney, Dame Rebecca Romney Joseph Romney and Ezekiell Romney not yet administered for w<sup>ch</sup> there is a suite now depending before the Judges Delegates, till the suite be determined £4000

And a like saveing to Compound for certaine  
[Note in margin]  
No saving in it debts & Arrears of Rents oweing to him by M<sup>r</sup> Robert Mitchell of London & others till he shall discouer what they be

And a like saveing to Compound for a Chest with Plate & Jewells therein, w<sup>ch</sup> he deliuered to the trust of the said Lady Romney but cannot discouer where they are but desires he may Compound for them when he shall recouer them £300.

D. WATKINS

27 ffebr. 1648

Jo. Readinge

Fine certaine at a sixt £670. But if he receive the doubtfull estate now in suite valued at £4000 then there is to be an addition to the fine of £666 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup> & the whole fine to be £1336 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>.

April the 3<sup>d</sup> 1649 fine now set at a third he being an excepted person is £1121 18<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup> and for his debts when received is £1433 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.

# IX.

*A Further Petition of Sir John, his wife, and Dame Susan Carew. A Copy to be sent to the County Committee.*

(S. P. Inter. Dom., G. 209, No. 139).

St John Weld the elder of Willy in the County of Salop  
Knight.

His delinquency that he adhered vnto and assisted the forces raised against the Parliament. He Peticoned here

the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1645. It appeareth not that he hath taken the Covenant or negative oath.

He Compounds vpon a Particular delivered in vnder his hand By w<sup>ch</sup> he doth submitt to such fine &c. And by which it doth appeare.

That by seuerall Conveyances made by the Compounder vpon ye marriage of Sir John Weld the younger his sonne, he is seised of a ffrank tenem<sup>t</sup> for his life, the Remainder to the said S<sup>r</sup> John the younger, & the heires males of his body (who hath Compounded for the same as a Reuer<sup>c</sup>on in ffee taylor) of and in the Mannor of Willy and Willy Parke & lands & in Posenell in the said County of the yearly value before these troubles £621 12<sup>s</sup>.

That he is seised of a like estate of and in the Mannor of Marsh and Sherlotwood and certaine Quitt rents Coale and Iron stone mynes there in the said County of the yearly value before these troubles £35.

That he is seized of a like estate in certaine Tythes in Borrow Wyke, Posenell Arllascott, Twynney and the ffranchise of Wenlock the yearly value of £20.

That he is seised of a like estate of and in certain Lands tenem<sup>ts</sup> and Quit rents in Chelmarsh and Chelmarsh Netherwood in the sd. County of the yearly value of £16.

That he is seised of a like estate of and in the third part of the Mannor of Broseley and certaine Lands Tenem<sup>ts</sup> & Mynes of Cole and Ironstone there, of the yearly value before these troubles £100.

That he is to hold for his life the Remainder of a tearme for 99 years determinable vpon two lives, a ffarme and Mill called Hubbolds Mill now turned into a forge, of the yearly value (about £20 per Ann. rent reserved therevpon £2).

That he holdeth by Lease for about 12 years to come from Dame Dorothy Constable and others a Messuage in Clements Lane London of the yearly value before these troubles £40.

That he holdeth by Lease for about 12 years from the Company of Skynners London a Messuage in St. Mary Axe of the yearly value of £30.

Out of w<sup>ch</sup> he craves allowance of £4 3<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup> per ann. reserved to the Crowne out of the said Tythes for ever as by consent from the Auditor.

£30 per Ann. to John Slany & his heires out of the Mannor of Willy for w<sup>ch</sup> he produceth the deed dated 25<sup>th</sup> of ffebr. 1619.

£6 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup> to Thomas Harrison for his life out of a ffarme in Willy for w<sup>ch</sup> he produceth an acquittance for one halfe yeare at Mich'as last and the affidaut of Sir John Weld Junior.

£10 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup> per ann. rent reserved upon the said Lease in Clements parish as by the Lease.

£4 per Ann. rent reserved upon the said Lease in St. Mary Axe w<sup>ch</sup> hath bin paid by the Sequestrators in London And is deposed by S<sup>r</sup> John Weld Jun.

xx<sup>s</sup> for a Chiefe rent to ffrancis Langley & his heires for 1000 yeares reserved upon the original Act of Parliament.

And yo<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>rs</sup> shall ever pray &c.

*John Weld*  
*Elizabeth Weld*  
*Susan Oxen*

Jan 7. 51.

The Com<sup>rs</sup> of the County to haue a copy of the pet. & to certifie what they know in the case. Referred to M<sup>r</sup> Reading.

E. W.

R. M.

[Nothing further resulted from this petition; the fine imposed and paid was £1,121 18<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>.—ED.]

SIR JOHN WELD, KNT., JUNIOR.

I.

*Apology and petition of Sir John Junior, and his Fine.*

(G. 129, No. 541).

To the Hono<sup>ble</sup> Com'ittee sitting at Goldsmiths hall  
for Compositions.



AND SIR JOHN WELD, JUNIOR, KNIGHTS, OF WILLEY. 205

The humble Petic'on of Sr John Weld the younger of  
Willey in the County of Salop Knt.

Sheweth

That yo<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>r</sup>, not well app'hending the vnhappy differences  
betweene the King and Parliam<sup>t</sup> in the beginning of these  
vnnaturall warres, did adhere to his Ma<sup>tie</sup>'s partye, and to  
[? did] take armes, for w<sup>ch</sup> delinquency his estate was and  
yet is vnder sequestra<sup>o</sup>'on. But in ffebruary 1644 he came in  
to the Parliament and hath ever since lived peaceably in the  
Parliam<sup>t</sup> Quarters, and he being taken & detayned prisoner  
by the parliament fforces hath vsed all possible meanes to be  
admitted to come up to London, to take the Covenant, and  
prosecute his Composic'on effectually, but could not nor yet  
can gett leave.

Therefore his humble suite is, That this Hono<sup>ble</sup> Com'ittee  
will be pleased (for the reasons aforesaid) to admitt him to  
Compound accordinge to the Order for delinquents com'inge  
into the Parliament before the first of Decemb'r, 1645.

And he shall ever pray &c



II.

*Memorandum of Proceedings.*

Rec<sup>d</sup>, 23 April

1646

4<sup>o</sup> Martii 1646 Refer'd to the  
Sub-Com'ittee.

Sr J. W. 1<sup>d</sup> July.

- 1 the arrears of rent
- 2 Detts stated for all butt  
Mitchell
- 3 the wrytinges in the  
Comittees hands

10 Marcii 1648

To restore ye wryteings

ffine at a Sixt—£125 12 3 "

If he make prooffe  
of ye rents &  
annuityis, then  
to be abated for  
them

£115 19<sup>s</sup>

And there will remain

£1135 13<sup>s</sup>

III.

*Complains that the Salop Committee are cutting down the Timber,  
which is ordered to be stopped.*

(G. 129, No. 545).

To the right hon<sup>ble</sup> Comi<sup>tee</sup> for compoundinge with  
Delinquents at Goldsmiths Hall.

The humble petic<sup>on</sup> of S<sup>r</sup> John Weld the younger Knt.  
Sheweth

That yo<sup>r</sup> Pet<sup>er</sup> is in the Prosecuc<sup>on</sup> of his composition  
heere before this hon<sup>ble</sup> com<sup>tee</sup>—that notwithstandinge the  
Tymber and other great trees planted upon the lands to be  
compounded for, are felling and cuttinge downe by some  
order of the Com<sup>tee</sup> of Sequestrations for the County of  
Salopp, tendinge to the manifest disinherishon of yo<sup>r</sup> Pet<sup>er</sup>.

Wherefore he humbly prayeth that this hon<sup>ble</sup> com<sup>tee</sup> will  
be pleased, to order the stoppinge of cutting or felling any  
more of the said Tymber and Woods as in other the like  
cases this hon<sup>ble</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> hath done, his report being drawn  
ready for passinge his composic<sup>on</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> he shall attend vntill  
this hon<sup>ble</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> shall be pleased to give him a dispatch.

And he shall ever &c.,

JOHN WELD,

27 Mar. 1647.

Ordered accordinge to ye petition.

IV.

*The Declaration upon oath as to certain draw backs for which he  
prays for allowance.*

(G. 209, No. 141).

S<sup>r</sup> John Weld the younger maketh oath that his ffather  
and himselfe were both prisoners in Eccleshall Castle in the  
County of Stafford in June 1645 and that his said ffather  
hath beene a prisoner ever since And that their estates vntill  
this present time are vnder sequestracon.

And he further deposeth that the Annuity of Thirty  
pounds per Ann. for ever to John Slaney and one pound  
a quit rent to ffrancis Langley and sixe pounds thirteene  
shillings ffower pence to Thomas Harrison for life who he

AND SIR JOHN WELD, JUNIOR, KNIGHTS, OF WILLEY. 207

beleeveth is at present living, and fflower pound rent reserved vpon the lease from the company of Skynners in his ffathers particular mentioned, are all in charge vpon the said estates.  
Jurat 24 die ffeb<sup>r</sup> 1648.

WILL'M CHILD.

V.

*A reduction of his Fine to a tenth, on the Certificate of Sir William Brereton.*  
(G. 6, p. 169).

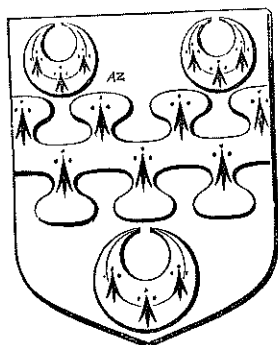
19 July 1649.

S<sup>r</sup> John Weld Jun<sup>r</sup> formerly fyned at a sixt. Desires to be reduced to a tenth Vpon S<sup>r</sup> Wm Breretons certificate; reduced accordingly. The fyne £849.

(G. 7, p. 16).

22 ffebruary 1649 [50].

Ordered that discharges be giuen to Sir John Weld sen<sup>r</sup> & jun<sup>r</sup>.



ARMS.—Az. a fesse nebulée  
between three crescents  
Erm.

# PEDIGREE OF WELD OF WILLEY.

William Weld, Sheriff of London A<sup>o</sup> 28 Edw. III., 15 . Anne, daughter and coheir of Nicholas Whillenhall of Calverley, co. Cheshire.

William Weld of Eatton, in Cheshire. Margaret, dau. of William Bostock of Torperly. Weld of Bucking. Weld of Suffolk.

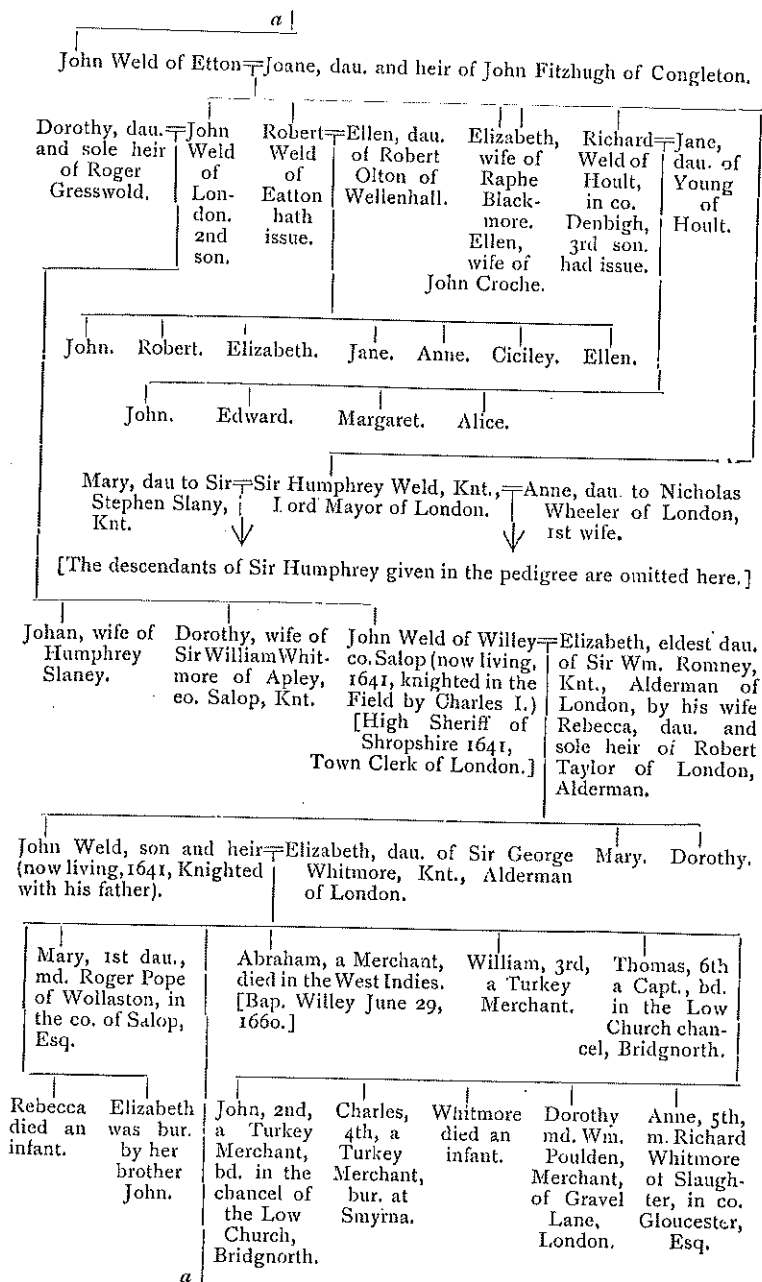
John Weld of Etton, in Cheshire. Ellen, dau. of John Bruen of Torperly. Edward Weld of Rushton. Robert Weld of Wistaston.

John Weld of Eatton, in co. Cheshire. Margared, dau. of Thomas Cotgrave.

John Weld of Etton, in the co. of Cheshire. Elizabeth, dau. and heir of James Button, alias Grant of Terton.

a

208 SEQUESTRATION PAPERS OF SIR JOHN WELD, SENIOR,



AND SIR JOHN WELD, JUNIOR, KNIGHTS, OF WILLEY. 209

a |

<p>George Weld of Willey, Esq., com. Salop, = Mary, youngest dau. of Sir Peter Dept. Lieut. of the Tower of London in Pinder, Bart., of Edenshaw, in the 15th Charles II. the co. of Chester.</p>	
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<p>Sir Thos. Wolryche = Elizabeth, of Dudmaston, in eldest dau. the co. of Salop, living Knt. and Bart. 1753.</p>	<p>George Weld of Willey, in the co. of Salop, Esq., bd. in the vault, at Willey.</p>	<p>Margaret, dau. and heir of Ric. Lugg, Esq. [of St. Paul's, Covent Garden. Mar. lic. 26 July, 1699, she aged about 14, her mother's consent.]</p>
<p>An elder son John died young.</p>		

William, 2nd, an East India Mer- chant, was bd in the vault at Willey.	Thomas, 3rd, a Colonel, now living, 1753.	Charles, 4th, a Counsellor. In the vault at Willey.	Dorothy, now living, 1753, unmarried.	Mary, died an infant.
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George, the eldest, died July, 1722, aged 20.	Elizabeth, dau. and heiress to Geo. Weld of Willey, Esq.	= Brook, son and heir to William Forrester of Dothill, in the county of Salop, Esq.
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George Forrester, son and heir	William, and Brook, died infants.	William.
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This Descent was brought down from George Weld of Willey, who married Mary Pinder (included), to June 23, 1753, by order and at the Expense of Lady Wolryche of Dudmaston, in the County of Salop.

per J. RAVENSHAW.

This Descent with the severall matches and the quartred Coates here set forth hath beene examined and approved by mee.

HEN. ST. GEORGE NORROY,  
King of Armes.

### MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS.

*The Monument of Sir John Weld, Sen., in the Chancel of  
Willey Church.*

In ye Vault

underneath this chancel lyeth / Buried ye body of Sr John  
Weld, ye/ Elder, late of this parish, Knt., and Towne/ Clarke  
of ye Citty of London, He married / Elizabeth, ye Eldest  
Daughter of Sr Will' Rumney / K<sup>t</sup> & Alderman of ye sayd  
Citty, and had Issue / by her 4 sonns and 4 daughters,  
whereof 3 / sonns, and one Daughter, dyed infants. Sr John  
/ Weld ye only sonne now living married Eliza. / ye Eldest  
Daughter of Sr George Whitmore, Kn<sup>t</sup> & / Alderman of the  
sayd Citty of London. Rebecca/ Deceased late wife of  
Roger Kynaston of Hordley / in this County, Esq. Mary ye

210 SEQUESTRATION PAPERS OF SIR JOHN WELD, SENIOR,

Relict of James Saltonstall of Barkway in the County of /  
Hartford, Esq. and Dorothy, not married, / The sayd S<sup>r</sup>  
John Departed this life ye 6<sup>th</sup> day of / November 1666, aged  
85 years. / In ye same vault near to ye sayd S<sup>r</sup> John / lyeth  
alsoe buried ye body of Dame Elizabeth / widow & relict  
of ye sayd S<sup>r</sup> John Weld, ye Elder, she / departed this life  
7<sup>th</sup> of October 1668, aged 80 years.

---

There is no Monument to Sir John Weld, Jun., at Willey.  
His and his Lady's interment here are recorded in the *Parish  
Register*.

1671. Lady Elizabeth ye younger buried May 30<sup>th</sup>

1681. Sir John Weld buried August 4<sup>th</sup>

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On the Monument of George Weld, son of Sir John, Jun.,  
in the Chancel, is the following :—

ÆTERNÆ MEMORIÆ SACRUM.

In a Vault underneath this chancel  
Are interred the Remains of  
George Weld, Esq of Willey in this County  
Deputy Lieutenant of the Tower of London  
In the Reign of King Charles II<sup>nd</sup>.

Also of his Wife

Mary Daughter of Sir Peter Pinder, Bart.

She had five sons and three Daughters  
of whom

John the eldest died an infant

Elizabeth married Sir Thomas Wolryche Bart. of Dudmaston

George married Margaret Daughter of Richard Lug Esq

William was an East India Merchant

Thomas a Lieutenant Colonel

Charles a Barrister at Law

Dorothy died unmarried

And Mary died an Infant.

AND SIR JOHN WELD, JUNIOR, KNIGHTS, OF WILLEY. 211

Likewise also of  
George and Elizabeth  
Issue of the last Mentioned George Weld Esq.  
By Margaret his Wife.

Rog. Eykyn fecit.

George the Son of  
George Weld Esq.  
& Margaret his  
Wife obiit July the  
21<sup>st</sup> 1722. Ætatis  
20.

Mrs Margaret Weld  
Wife of George  
Weld ye 2<sup>d</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>  
obiit Decemb. 26.  
1719. Ætatis 33.

Arms of  
Weld & Lug  
quarterly

George Forester Esq.  
died July 13, 1811. in  
the 76 year of his age

Arms of  
Weld & Lug  
on an escut-  
cheon of pre-  
tence

As a fitting conclusion to the above notes on the Weld family, we quote the following from a MS. from the pen of the late Hon. and Revd. Canon Bridgeman, preserved at Willey<sup>1</sup>:—

GEORGE WELD, of Willey, was Deputy-Lieutenant of the Tower of London in the 15th year of Charles II. He married Mary, youngest daughter of Sir Peter Pinder of Edenshaw, co. Chester, Bart., by whom he had five sons and three daughters, of whom John the eldest died an infant; Elizabeth married Sir Thomas Wolrych of Dudmaston, co. Salop, Bart.; George succeeded his father; William was an East India Merchant, who died in London, 20th January, 1731, and was buried at Willey on the 1st of February following; Thomas, a Lieutenant-Colonel in the army, succeeded to Dudmaston by the bequest of his sister, Elizabeth, and died unmarried in 1774; Charles was a Barrister-at-law; Dorothy died unmarried in May, 1759; and Mary died an infant. Mr. Weld died September 14th, 1701, and was buried at Willey; his wife survived him many years, and died in May, 1738. Of all his numerous family

<sup>1</sup> By the kind permission of the Right Hon. Lord Forester.

it would appear that none left issue that survived beyond the 2nd generation, for the descendants of Anne, daughter of Sir John Weld, the younger, wife of Richard Whitmore, Esq., of Lower Slaughter, claim to be the representatives of the family.

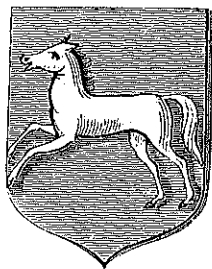
GEORGE WELD, Esq. (the younger), of Willey, was Sheriff of Shropshire for the year 1746. He married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Richard Lug, Esq., by whom he had two children, George, who died July 21st, 1722, aged 20; and an only daughter, Elizabeth, married at Willey on the 4th of May, 1734, to Brooke Forester of Dothill Park, co. Salop, Esq. Mr. Weld died in 1748, aged 74, and was buried at Willey on the 9th of July. He was succeeded at Willey by his only surviving child—

MRS. ELIZABETH FORESTER, who died in 1753, and was buried at Willey on the 28th of March of that year. She had issue four sons, of whom William and Brooke died infants; William, the fourth son, a Colonel in the army, died abroad; and George Forester, the eldest son, succeeded to his mother's estates. He was born at Willey, December 21st, 1735, dying unmarried on the 13th of July, 1811, was buried there on the 29th of that month, having bequeathed Willey, and his other great estates (with an injunction to adopt the arms and name of Weld, which he never himself assumed) to his cousin, Cecil Weld Forester of Rossall, Esq., created a Peer of the realm in 1821, by the title of Lord Forester of Willey Park.

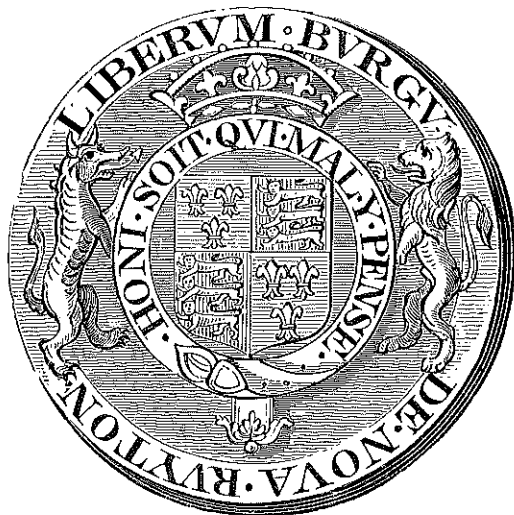
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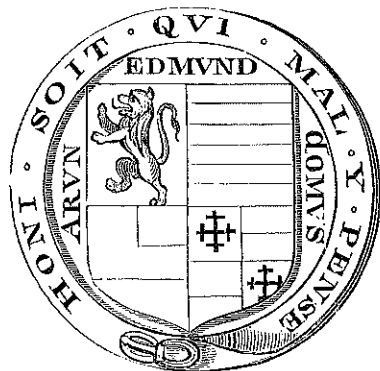




1.—A Seal bearing the badge of the Fitz Alans, Earls of Arundel.



2.—Seal at the end of the Ruyton Borough Mace.



3.—Seal formerly at the other end of the Mace, now lost.

## TOWNSHIP OF NEW RUYTON.

By R. LLOYD KENYON.

WHAT is now called the Township of New Ruyton is co-extensive and identical with what was the Borough of Ruyton. It was not one of the "eleven towns," but was taken out of the original Township of Ruyton and separated from the Manor by its Charter, which gave it Courts of its own, similar to those held for the rest of the Manor, which was thenceforth called the "Patria" or Country Manor of Ruyton. I propose to add to what I have already written about the Borough<sup>1</sup> some personal and local details, gathered chiefly from the Rolls of the Courts held for the Town.

The rents required by the Lord under the Charter seem to have been rather high, and perhaps the neighbourhood was not sufficiently protected from the Welsh; at any rate, nothing more than a country village ever grew up, and the new "town" is never spoken of as being any more a "town" than the original eleven townships of the manor were. All alike are styled Villa in the Court Rolls, the part to which the Charter applied being "Nova Villa de Ruyton," and the rest of the original Township "Vetus Villa de Ruyton." As separate Courts were to be held for the new town under the Charter, its boundaries must have been very soon defined, and they are still well known, though the new town has now no privileges or advantages over the old. It includes the whole of the present village from the National School up to the Churchyard, with the meadows below it, but not the Castle or the Church. The boundary runs along the road from the Church to Little Ness as far as the boundary of the parish, the whole of the parish between that road and Coton being included in the new town. The road therefore, no doubt, existed when the limits of the new town were defined

<sup>1</sup> *Shrop. Arch. Trans.*, 2nd Series, iii. 237-292, for 1891.

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From the northern point of Coton township the boundary of Ruyton new town runs in an irregular line across the Shotatton road to the Grig Hill, and thence to the National School. The new town therefore cuts the old township completely in two, having a part on each side of it.<sup>1</sup>

In 7 Edward III. William le Scrinor (the scrivener, clerk?) of Ruyton, and Agnes his wife, gave to Roger Bogham of Ruyton, and Joan his wife, a burgage and 3 acres of land in the New Vill of Ruyton, and the deed was witnessed by Alexander de Schavinton, then steward, and William the Smith, and William of Byrch, then bailiffs of the new town.<sup>2</sup> These are the earliest officers whose names are recorded.

In 9 Edward III. Roger Bogham gave to Haghmond Abbey a meadow in Ruyton field, between the river of Peverey and Allendeswode, near the Vicar's meadow.<sup>3</sup> In 43 Edward III. all the assembly of the burgesses came into the town Court and showed a charter from the Lord, by which the whole land of Alondeswode was granted to them and their heirs at a rent of 6d. an acre, and because most of the said land had been alienated to various strangers outside the Lordship, to the prejudice of the burgesses, from which strangers the Lord had hitherto had no heriot or profit, except only the said rent, it was granted to the burgesses to have again and hold the lands so alienated according to their charter, and they gave the Lord 40s. for making this inolment. This was witnessed by Sir William de Wolverton, then steward,<sup>3</sup> who had been Rector of Felton, and was now Vicar of Ness.

In 6 Richard II. a jury was sworn in the Town Court to enquire whether Richard Agas or Hugh Patton had the better right to two acres of land in Alondeswode. They found in favour of Patton. A case of deforcement from a tenement there was tried in 11 Henry IV., and in 2 Henry VI. fines amounting to 4s. 10d. were imposed in the Town Court on a number of people for pasturing their cattle in the

<sup>1</sup> See Map with the History of the Manor.

<sup>2</sup> Extract from Sir Edward Smythe's MSS. in MS. book, from Sir T. Phillipps' sale, in Shrewsbury Free Library, numbered on back 11,233.

<sup>3</sup> Blakeway MSS., Shropshire Parochial Notices.

Lady's pasturage in Alendeswode without the leave of her servants. In 27 Elizabeth Thomas Gregg was fined 6d. for encroaching on the "marle pytt in the field called Allens Woode felde"; and Thomas Ward paid relief for all the lands and tenements of which Roger Ward, his father, died seised in the township of Ruyton, called Allans Wood lands, and did fealty to the Lady, and was admitted tenant thereof, saving the rights of all others.

Allans Wood had evidently ceased to be a wood, and contained houses and pasture land, at the very beginning of Henry VI.'s reign. It probably included the Ruyton part of the Cliffe, and the fields between it and Coton side, where the numerous small rectangular fields still existing look as if they had been partitioned by a general scheme among the burgesses, by virtue of the charter above quoted. It was no doubt under this charter that the burgesses claimed a right of common over the Cliffe, to the exclusion of the inhabitants of the Country Manor.

The earliest Court Roll of the new town which we have is of the Tuesday after St. Luke's Day, 27 Edward III. (18 Oct., 1353), and gives us the following list of jurymen, who would all be burgesses: Richard of Mulford, William son of Roger, Stephen of Mulford, William Jenkyns, William of Muridon, John of Wyke, John of Muridon, Adam the Carpenter, John of Leye, Henry the Cartwroth (i.e., Cartwright), William of Byrch, William of Prescott. It will be noticed that many of them are described as of places close to but not in Ruyton, so that, though burgesses, they very probably did not actually live in the borough.

In this same year John de Penynton took a lease of the fishery of the new town for a year for 20s. This would be the fishery at Ruyton Weir, which was where the footbridge across the Perry next below the School now is, and was the only weir within the new town. It existed till 1777, but was partly removed in pursuance of the Act of that year, and entirely removed in pursuance of that of 1861 for straightening the river and draining the meadows. The present footbridge was erected when the weir was removed.

In 28 Edward III. the Vicar of Ruyton and a number of other persons were fined 6d. each for injuring their neighbours.

by not mending their hedges, for which a penalty of 12d. had been enacted (i.e., by the burgesses in their Court), of which half was to go to the Lord.

In the 30th year Roger Madyns took 3 acres of land in Ruyton for 12d. a year; and Richard Cranbard was attached at the suit of the Lord and committed to the custody of the bailiff till the next Court. He was very likely a labourer arrested under the Statute of Labourers.

A Court of Labourers of the new town was held on the same day as that for the Country, viz., Thursday after the Purification (2 Feb.), 1357. The names have been given and commented on in the History of the Manor.

In 49 Edward III. an election of bailiffs is recorded, but the names are torn off the roll. The burgesses did fealty to the new Earl in the same way and at the same time as the tenants of the Country Manor.

In the 51st year the total of the Steward's receipts on behalf of the Lord from the Court of the town of Ruyton is entered as 11s. 7d., while those from the Court of the Country Manor for the same year were £6 5s. 6d., besides much more from sales of wood, &c. The town was, therefore, very insignificant.

In 2 Richard II. William de Muridon broke the Lord's cross, placed by the town's bailiff on the corn field of John de Muridon, and was fined 3d.; and Eva of Coton broke one, which had been put up by John of Coton, sub-bailiff there. Roger Gilians, a butcher, was fined in this year for taking more profit than was lawful, and in the 6th year Jen. Mayne and Roger Julians, butchers, were fined 6d. each for selling meat dearer than it used to be. A few months later the same two and John Bageley, another butcher, committed the same offence.

In 13 Richard II. Thomas the mercer was presented for selling ale by false measure, and John Patric and John Bageley, butchers, for breaking assise, i.e., selling meat dearer than the price fixed. The same butchers were twice presented for the same offence in the 17th year. The Charter of 1308 gives the town expressly the right of fixing the price of bread and ale, and impliedly probably that of fixing the price of all provisions, as it refers to the Charter

of Shrewsbury, which expressly gives this right. The right was to be exercised by a "merchant guild" of the burgesses, and not in the town court, which would account for there being no entry on the Court Rolls of any resolution fixing prices.

In this and the next year we get a record of three transfers of land. Isabel, widow of Jenkyn Mayn, took 3 acres in the new Vill of Ruyton, formerly held by one Madyns; Robert the tailor, and Alice his wife, grant to John Avenel and Beatrice his wife, in fee, a burgage and 5 acres, which they had of the gift of Richard of Rednal, and the grantees pay 12d. to the Lord; and Thomas Bochynder pays him 6d. to have an inquisition to set out the boundaries of his messuage, which he has acquired from William Muridon. Richard of Rednal was the Vicar of the Parish at this time.

In 17 Richard II. Agnes Stevenot raised hue and cry against a man who retaliated by raising it against her; but the case was tried, and she was found to be in the right, so he was fined 6d. for having the hue and cry properly raised against him, and 8d. for raising it improperly against her.

In 4 Hen. IV. Ralph, Abbot of Haghmond, recovered a debt of 6s. 11½d. from William Chalens in the Town Court, and John, Vicar of Ruyton, brought an action for trespass against John Howels.

In 11 Henry IV. Thomas, Vicar of Ruyton, was fined 8d. for breaking the Lord's pound and taking out his animals impounded there without leave of the bailiff. Several cases of deforcement were tried, i.e., of taking unlawful possession of burgages belonging to other people.

In 14 Henry IV. and afterwards several persons of the name of Wicherley appear as tenants in the town. John Wicherley was Vicar at this time. The total receipts of the Town Court for this year were 6s. 7d. Ten Courts were held, the first on 12 Oct., 14 Henry IV., the last 24 Aug., 1 Henry V. (1413).

In 5 Henry V. John ap Madoc ap Hoell being fined in the Country Court for bringing in ale from outside and selling it, came and said he was a burges of the town of Ruyton, and

ought to be tried in the Town Court. In the same year Doera, concubine of Hoell Sinwer, was convicted of an assault against Jankyn Stevynat and injuring him to the value of 6d. Jenkyn ap David took two burgages in the town, with the land adjoining, previously held by Hoge kyn Ade cote.

In this year we get another list of the town jurymen, who on 14 Oct., 5 Henry V., were John de Muridon, Richard Parker, Roger Deichter, Roger Ade cote, Henry Harpe, John Twiford, William Symynton, Nicholas Marshall, John Bickley, William Taillour, John Gamell, John of Ruyton.

There were several conveyances in 2 Henry VI. of a "noke" of land, una nocata terræ, in the town; and Roger Mayn took two burgages.

In 6 Henry VI. a number of "labourers of the liberty of the town" were fined from 2d. to 6d. each for turning out their cattle to graze in autumn time contrary to an ordinance made by the town assembly. The ordinance would be for the protection of the common land of the township—Allendeswode and any other there may have been—and to give time to fence off any part of it which might be sown with wheat. In this year Richard Porten and Alfonse his wife took one mediety of a burgage and agreed to build a new house on it in the course of the year. Others took a whole burgage, and others several burgages on the same condition.

There are no Rolls of the Town Court between the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward VI.

In 3 Edward VI. the freeholders of the town present on the jury were Thomas Kenaston, Humfrey Warde, John Bede, George Meryden, John Shelvocke, Richard Meryden, Roger Meryden, John ap Hoell, and Richard Warde, junior; and at another Court Henry Foteman. They are mentioned on the Roll as "the twelve," though only 8 or 9 in number. They elected Thomas Kenaston and George Meryden bailiffs for the year. George Meryden and John Bede gave the Lord 6d. to have a jury to ascertain the metes and bounds of a certain "butte" at Holygreve. Several people were fined 6d. for breaking hedges; the townsmen of Atton were fined 12d. for having inclosed a parcel of the Lord's common called Okeley, and those of Little Ness were fined 2s. for



having inclosed Clementsycche Lane. Neither of the places enclosed is mentioned elsewhere, nor is Holygreve. They must all have been within the boundaries of Ruyton new town.

At the Court of 24 April, 4 Edward VI., the jury enacted two penalties of 6s. 8d. each, one against any tenant who should keep or tie any cattle in the corn field, and another against anyone who should keep more cattle than the land would support. The corn field would mean that part of the common land of the burgesses which was at the time sown with wheat.

"To the same Court came John ap Hoell and acknowledged that he had let a tenement with its appurtenances in the said town to John Cristofer and Anne his wife and their assigns for a term of 21 years."

The total receipts of the Courts of this year were 8s. 6d.

In 27 Elizabeth Richard Dyos was presented for having most unjustly incroached on a "parcel of the place of the town" to the injury of his neighbours, and Richard Harper for the same. The "place of the town" was probably the market place, where the cross now stands.

On 6 Oct., 22 Elizabeth, the jurors for the town were Thomas Kynaston and Thomas Lloyd, gentlemen, Thomas Kynaston, Jr., William Meriden, Henry Footeman, and Roger Warde. On 8 Oct., 26 Elizabeth they were Thomas Kynaston, Thomas Lloyd, and Arthur Kynaston, gentlemen, Richard Meryden, Senr., Henry Footeman, Edward Footeman, William Meryden, Francis Powell, and John Meryden.

The Kynaston family are first mentioned in connection with Ruyton on the Court Rolls of 6 Henry VII. which show Humphrey Kynaston as having lately acquired land in Haughton, and David Kynaston as having done the same in Sutton and Teddesmere. Humphrey may have been of Stokes, he is not likely to have been "Wild Humphrey" of Middle, who was outlawed in this year. David may have been the illegitimate son of William, son of Griffin Kynaston, from which William the Kynastons of Ruyton were descended. Neither Humphrey nor David was their direct ancestor. Humphrey was fined in 1 Henry VIII. because he owed suit and service to the Ruyton Country

Court and had made default, and was sued there the next year by one Thomas Harper. William Kynaston, a juror in 1 Henry VIII., may have been David's son.<sup>1</sup> Richard Kynaston, grandson of William, son of Griffin, is the first described as of Ruyton in the Herald's Visitation, and the first who is commemorated on the tablet in Ruyton Church. It was he who presented to the Borough the existing mace, a representation of the two ends of which accompanies this article. He died in 1541.

His son Thomas was bailiff and foreman of the jury in 3 Edward VI., and foreman of the jury again in 22 and 26 Elizabeth. He is believed to have built Ruyton Hall, in the roof of which is a heavy oak beam, with some deep carving of vine leaves and grapes on it, supporting the initials T. K., with the date 1574, and under the cross of the T the lesser initials E. K., for his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Lee of Langley. In the pedigree of this family he is mentioned as Thomas Kynaston of Coton, so he very probably lived there before he built Ruyton Hall. The beam was probably originally in the front of the house, but has been hidden by subsequent alterations.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Kynaston seems to have been dead in 1605, for the list of freeholders in Ruyton in that year mentions only Sir George Yonge, Richard Kinaston, and Thomas Gittins. The Herald's Visitation of 1623 tells us that he left three sons, Richard, the eldest, of Ruyton; Arthur, of Shrewsbury; and Thomas, of Cruched Friars, London, one of the Yeomen of the Guard to James I.; and that Thomas, the younger, had a son and heir, Richard. Arthur and Thomas were jurymen in the Town Court in 22 and 26 Elizabeth. Thomas bought land from Sir G. Yonge in 8 James I., and the Sheriff's account<sup>3</sup> of 12 James I. mentions Richard Kinnaston, gent., as holding 30 acres of land, 20 of meadow, 30 of pasture, in Ruyton and elsewhere, on which there was a rent due to the Crown of 30s., and Thomas Kinnaston, gent.,

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<sup>1</sup> Herald's Visitation

<sup>2</sup> Ellesmere R D. Parish Paper, August, 1876.

<sup>3</sup> See Extracts from Hardwick Deeds, in MS Book from Sir T. Phillips' Sale in Shrewsbury Free Library, labelled on back 11.233.

as holding 2 cottages and some land in Ruyton, alias Rynton, West Felton, Haughton, Wykye, Erston, and Teddesmere, on which there was a Crown rent of 20s. Richard and Arthur seem to have left no children, so that the property came to Richard, son of the Yeoman of the Guard; he had a son, Thomas, who died in 1663, and is mentioned as a "malignant" in a letter written by Edward Lloyd of Llanforda in 1660,<sup>1</sup> but was not prominent enough to be fined for his loyalty, as were the more important branches of his family at Oteley and Hordley. Thomas left a son Richard, who was perhaps succeeded by Thomas, who died in 1678. Thomas' only child Jane married William Kinaston of Lee. Jane died in 1721 and William in 1723, aged 92,<sup>2</sup> and they were probably the parents of the "William son of William Kynaston, gentleman," who is recorded in books of St. John's College, Cambridge, as having been "born in Ruyton, Co. Salop, educated under Mr. Lloyd [Master of Shrewsbury School], aged 17, admitted Pensioner 16 June, 1699." He was appointed a Master in Chancery by Lord Chancellor Macclesfield in 1721. In 1724 it was ascertained that there were great deficiencies in the money which ought to be under the control of the Court; the Masters were called to account, and on 20 June, 1724-5 Master Kynaston was ordered to deposit within a week £26,908 11s. 3½d. He could not do this, but assigned a debt due to him of over £20,000, conveyed all his estate as security for the money, and accounted for over £7,500 as being in the hands of other people. Of this £1,575 had got into Lord Macclesfield's own hands, and was paid into Court by him. As the result of the inquiry Lord Macclesfield had to resign, and Mr. Kynaston retained his office till his death, 24th June, 1748-9. He was Recorder of Shrewsbury from 1733 till his death, and M.P. for the Borough from 1741 till his death. He is said to have built the stables at Ruyton Hall,<sup>3</sup> and to have gone in the village by the disrespectful name of Heavy Bill. There is a tablet to him in the Church.

<sup>1</sup> *Shrop. Arch. Trans* for 1888, p. 407, and for 1889, p. 82 n.

<sup>2</sup> Memorial Tablet in Ruyton Church.

<sup>3</sup> Ellesmere R.D. Parish Paper for August, 1876.

It would appear from the inscriptions in the Church that Ruyton Hall passed from William Kynaston to his youngest daughter Margaret, who married a cousin, Edward Kynaston, that Edward died in 1792 and Margaret in 1806. Their two daughters and co-heiresses, Margaret and Anne, lived together at Ruyton Hall, and were the last Kynastons to occupy it. Neither ever married. Anne died in 1838 and Margaret in 1845. One of the hatchments now in the Church was put up in their honour. The property passed on their death to Miss Middleton, and then to a cousin, the Rev. W. Holland of Cold Norton Rectory, Essex, who owned it in 1861 and 1867. On his death in 1867, or very early in 1868, it passed to Mr. James Deacon Jones, then of Maismore Square, Old Kent Road.

After the death of Miss Anne Kynaston Ruyton Hall was let to Mr. W. W. E. Wynne, whose two sons Mr. W. R. M. Wynne, now of Peniarth, and Mr. Owen S. Wynne, were born there in 1840 and 1842. Afterwards it was occupied by Mrs. and Miss Hunt of Boreatton.

In 1698 to 1701 the jurors of the Town Court presented several persons "because not being a burgess of the said town he used and exercised the art and mystery of such and such a trade contrary to the custom of the said town." The trades so exercised unlawfully were those of Bootmaker, Dyer, Grocer, Butcher, Tailor. The fines were from 5s. to 10s. each, but as the same person was presented and fined at several different Courts, the punishment evidently was not very effectual; several of the persons presented are, however, afterwards recorded to have been elected and sworn burgesses. Thomas Crumpe was presented and fined 6d. because on 1 Aug., 10 William III. and continuously thenceforth for two months then following at the said town he unlawfully used and exercised the art or mystery of an Ironmonger, where the said Thomas never was educated in the said mystery as an Apprentice for the space of 7 years contrary to the form of the Statute."<sup>1</sup> It will be noticed that the amount of the fines imposed shows that it was thought much

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<sup>1</sup> 5 Eliz., c. 4, s. 31.

more important to protect the burgesses against competition than to protect the public against incompetent workmen.

John Hordley was fined 3d. for having enclosed for himself "about the tole dishfull seedness" on the Lord's waste there, that is to say, he had enclosed from the Lord's waste, no doubt on the Cliffe, so much land as could be sown with the seed contained in the miller's toll dish. Millers received as their pay for grinding a 20th or 24th part of the corn brought to them, and measured it in a toll dish kept for the purpose.<sup>1</sup> Small quantities of land were frequently estimated in this way by the quantity of seed required for sowing them; as for instance in the terrier printed in my account of Felton Church. There were several persons presented for the same offence in the Country Court. Adam Cheshire was fined 2s. for by force and arms rescuing two calves out of the possession of William Hood, who was taking them to the Pound for trespass. Several persons were fined for not attending the Court, though they owed suit and service; and the town was fined 2s. for not repairing the Pound. These were the only presentments made in the Town Court in William III.'s reign during the time for which we have the rolls. The foremen of the jury were Thomas Gittins, Sen., four times, Thomas Crumpe, William Hood, Thomas Gittins, Junior. Bailiffs were elected every October. They were, in 1698, Thomas Gittins, Jun., and William Basnett; in 1699, William Hood and Samuel Edge; in 1700, Edward Jones and Francis Winsor; and in 1701, Thomas Chettoe and William Tomkies. The Afferers were, on 17 Oct., 1698, 22 April, 1700, and 12 Oct., 1700, Thomas Gittins, Senior, for the Lord, and Thomas Crumpe for the Town; and on 13 Oct., 1701, Thomas Gittins, Jun., for the Lord, and William Hood for the Town. On 18 June, 1748, cattle disease being then prevalent in the county, Quarter Sessions ordered that no cattle should be taken from Little Ness to Ruyton fair, so that cattle were at this date still habitually sent to Ruyton fair, held on the 5th July.

The Borough Courts evidently died for want of anything to do during the 18th century, for in 1834, the Municipal

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<sup>1</sup> *Century Dictionary*, Toll Dish.

Commissioners reported that there was no record or trace of the holding of any such Court.

The end of the borough mace now missing was lost in the second quarter of the 19th century. A drunken pitcherman named Charlie Belyle kicked in the doors of the Admiral Benbow and Powis Arms Inns because drink was refused to him, and was proceeding to the Talbot, when the Sergeant-at-Mace was sent for, who came as usual, with the mace, and used it on the back of Charlie's neck with such force that the silver top came off into the stream of water, which, it being a very wet night, was running down the side of the road. Charlie was put in the stocks for two hours, and then into the lockup, and next morning was taken handcuffed to the Hon. T. Kenyon at Pradoc, and made to pay for the damage done at the public; but though careful search was immediately made for the top of the mace, it was never found.<sup>1</sup> Probably it was stolen, and quite possibly it may still turn up in some museum as a seal of the Earl of Arundel.

In 1834 the Municipal Commissioners reported that there were three public houses and one beer house in Ruyton, which is the same number as there are now in 1901. In the Report on Licensed Houses made to Quarter Sessions in 1891 the Talbot and Powis Arms are said to be supposed to have been licensed for over a century, the Admiral Benbow over 50 years, and the Bridge Inn Beerhouse since 1840. The Talbot and Powis Arms only are within the "New Town." A Talbot or greyhound is the supporter of the arms of the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury, but their title is their only connection with this neighbourhood. The Powis Arms was formerly the Craven Arms, named after the Earls of Craven, who were Lords of the Manor, and changing its name when the property passed to the Earl of Powis.

A gallows is said to have stood on the wooded mound opposite the "Burgage," just beyond the Cross, on the right of the road going to Shotatton. Mr. James Cooper says he has found a quantity of bones there, and that Dr. Broughton confirmed his opinion that they were human.

<sup>1</sup> This and many other anecdotes are given on the authority of Mr. James Cooper. He was born about 1817, was schoolmaster at Ruyton, and passed most of his life here. His mother lived here all her life, and died at 95, and talked to him a great deal about Ruyton antiquities.

The Court House of the Manor formerly stood where Miss Dickin's shop now is. It was taken down while James Cooper's mother was a girl, and the furniture removed to the room over the market place, and thenceforth the Courts were held there. There were some very old chests in the room. This last mentioned room with the lockup under it was bought from the Lord of the Manor in 1854, and pulled down by Mr. Comberbatch, who conveyed the site in 1873 to the Rev. F. P. Wilkinson. The Village Cross was erected on it in 1881, and has been handed over by Mr. Wilkinson's family to the care of the Parish Council.

On 22 April, 1808, an oak tree growing about 100 yards due south of Ruyton Hall was sold for 145 guineas to a Mr. Hazeldine of Shrewsbury, in addition to which £40 was obtained for its bark. It is said that three men could just touch hands round it at the butt, and the trunk ran up 60 to 70 feet. An altar table and altar rails for the Church were made out of its limbs, and the hall table in Ruyton Hall was also made out of it. Two fine oaks now in the "Burgage" were grown from its acorns, planted a few years before the tree was felled.<sup>1</sup>

Archdeacon Blakeway writing about this time<sup>2</sup> says "the Village of Ruyton is well paved, and has a greater air of neatness about it than usually belongs to our Shropshire villages."

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<sup>1</sup> *Sun* newspaper 16 May, 1808; Parish Paper for Ellesmere Rural Deanery, June, 1876.

<sup>2</sup> MS. in Bodleian.

## TOWNSHIP OF OLD RUYTON.

This is so much of the original Township of Ruyton as was not included in the "new town," and therefore continued to form one of the eleven townships of the Country Manor. It was divided into two parts by the new town, of which the one part included the Castle and the Church, and everything between them and the Platt Bridge; the other included the Grig Hill, the Lodge Farm, and Ruyton Park, and appears to be identical with what was formerly known as Ruyton Park.

Ruyton Park was probably made by John le Strange I. for the use of the occupiers of the Castle. It is first mentioned about 1195, when John le Strange II. obtained from Hugh Abbot of Shrewsbury the grant of a corner of the Abbot's wood of Birch, extending from the place where le Strange's park fence came down to the waters of Peveree, to the end of le Strange's meadow on the side of Plettebrug Mill, to enlarge le Strange's Park. Le Strange gave the Abbot in exchange some land in the township of Newton, in Middle parish, and undertook to send him a doe yearly.<sup>1</sup> The corner thus added to the Park was, no doubt, the corner containing 32a. or. 24p., which lies within the bend of the river Perry opposite the Castle, and is now included within the parish, though not within the Manor of Ruyton, the boundaries of the latter, but not those of the former, having been already fixed at the time when the exchange was effected. Le Strange's Park fence, therefore, came down to the water of Peveree where the parish boundary crosses the river at Dunning Wood. The wood of Birch has left its name to Birch Farm or Birch Park, between the old and new houses of Boreatton. The Park gave their names to Ruyton Park, Ruyton Lodge, Lawn Farm, Park House, Park Cottages, all of which are marked on the Ordnance Map of 1833, and the hedge from Blackberry Hill to Park House, which is the boundary of the township, is also traditionally said to have been the Park boundary. Two fields the other side of this hedge, in Wikey township, nos. 281 and 438 on the Ordnance Map, 211 and 212 on the Tithe Map, are called Park field, but probably only because they adjoined the park,

<sup>1</sup> Eyton x. 113.



not because they were ever included in it. The rent of a doe shows that the Park was a deer park in 1195. In 1376 (50 Edw. III.), Thomas of Ondeslowe, John of Thurnedal, Sir William of Lopinton, William Strete, Roger son of Thomas of Weston, Thomas Huse of Balderton, Symkyn the greengrocer ("oleror") of Salop, Madoc of Kynaston, and Sir William Ellesmere were indicted for having for 4 years past feloniously broken the Lord's park of Ruyton and the Hem, and taken his wild beasts. Thomas of Ondeslowe and William Strete afterwards came and paid 6s. 8d. each for their trespass. The two called Sir ("Dominus") were perhaps priests. The park is spoken of as the "new park" as late as 2 Richard II.

The Lord's receipts from the park were an important part of the whole income from the manor, and are constantly entered in the Court Rolls. The pannage of the park, i.e., the payment for pigs allowed to feed there, was £4 5s. 10d., £4 7s. 9d., £3 18s. 4d., £1 4s. 9d. respectively, in the 27th, 28th, 38th, and 49th years of Edward III. Besides this there were receipts for "attachiament," i.e., for brushwood, broken branches, &c.;<sup>1</sup> for agistment, i.e., for cattle turned in to graze, and for sales of timber. The "attachiaments" in the park paid for at one of the Courts of the 38th year were "for deadwood in the milnemor, 6d.; for the same in Phelipus Plouden, 9d.; for a hedge ("sep.") in milnemor, 9d.; for the same, 12d." The Milnemor would be the moor or low ground adjoining Ruyton Mill, which was within the park. In the 31st year there were two payments of 40d. each for its pasturage. Phelipus Plowden does not occur again. In the 49th year timber was sold for £2 2s. 10d., and in the 50th year, underwood for £1 3s. 6d. The receipts of the 51st year have been set out in full in the history of the Manor.

Under Richard II. pannage became less important, producing in his 2nd 6th, 7th, and 14th years respectively £1 19s. 10d., 2s. 4d., 7s. 9d., and 7s. In 4 Henry IV. it produced 13s. 11½d., and in 14 Henry IV. £1 4s. 4d.; but

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<sup>1</sup> Ducange.

after this no more than a few shillings is ever entered under this head.

Wood blown down in Ruyton Park was sold in 2 Richard II. for £15 19s. 2d. There must have been a great storm to account for this. In the 7th, 14th, and 17th years wood was sold for £1 2s. 11d., £4 14s. 10d., and £4 7s. 8d. respectively. In the 18th year a fine was imposed for cutting down a tree wrongfully. After this no important sales of timber are recorded. In 22 Henry VIII. wood was sold for 33s. Underwood was sold from time to time, but never for much more than £1. Underwood and timber together produced £1 11s. 2d. in 5 Henry VI. Old fence posts were sold in 7 Richard II. for £1 16s. 8d., and there are some subsequent sales for a few shillings. The only trees specified as being sold are alders and lentisk trees. These latter (*pistacia lentiscus*, or mastick tree) are mentioned by Evelyn as very beautiful evergreens, but requiring shelter. Several individuals of these were sold. The price of one in 50 Edward III. was 6d.

Agistments brought in 42s. in 28 Edward III., but that is the only entry in this reign of any substantial sum under this head; they became a more regular source of income under Richard II., producing in his 2nd, 6th, 14th, and 17th years £1 8s. 8d., £1 6s. 10d., £2 18s., £1 10s. 6d., after deducting the tithe paid thereon. The heading appears in most years, but the amounts seem to diminish; in 14 Henry IV. it is 16s., 1 Henry V. 10s. 7d., 5 Henry VI. £1 12s. 2½d.; the animals paid for this year include fowls, horses, pigs, and cows.

In the next year also there are many similar payments. Occasionally a small payment for a pig or cow is entered under the head of attachiament instead of agistment. Enclosures for fowls ("volatilica") were frequently let in the park. Henry the Harper of Ruyton took one in 14 Henry IV. for his life at 8d. a year, but in 5 Henry VI. a good many were let for 4d. each, and the same was paid for grazing for a horse. In 4 Henry IV. some corn was sold from the Park for 13s. 4d., but this is the only entry of this kind, and it was probably exceptional to grow corn there.

In 14 Richard II. a receipt is entered of 3s. 5d. for cattle in Parkmede at 1d. per head. This comes next after the

receipts from Ruyton Park, and Parkmede was perhaps meadow land belonging to the Park.

In 11 Henry IV. the jury, of their own knowledge and without complaint from any township, fined John Barbour and Margaret his wife 6d. for having "inclosed for themselves a high road (una via alta) which leads near the palings of the Lord's Park of Ruyton towards a place called the Launde, to the serious injury of their neighbours, who pastured their animals there. "Launde" is equivalent to Lawn, and meant, not trimly kept garden ground, but an open glade among woods;<sup>1</sup> the road inclosed may therefore have been part of that which leads from Wikey to Ruyton past the Lawn Farm, and crosses the boundary of Ruyton township where the Lord's Park palings would have been. It would be in respect of the same road that the grand jury at the April Quarter Sessions 1800 presented the Parish of Ruyton for non-repair of the road between Ruyton-xi-Towns and Wykey.

In 6 Henry VI. David Barker and many others paid 2d. to 4d. "de Wormetake pc. ibm. hoc anno." These payments are entered immediately after others in respect of Ruyton Park. "Wormetake" is said to mean an annual township payment," and occurs in the accounts of the Manor of Clun in connection with reliefs and amobyr.<sup>2</sup> This is the only mention of it at Ruyton. Among the "Ministers' Accounts" in the Record Office (bundle 967, n. 24) is one of "Sale of lentisks and boughs in Ruyton Park by the Lord's ministers there" from Michaelmas 6 Henry VI. to Michaelmas 7 Henry VI., the total receipts being 25s. 5½d. Probably it was originally attached to the Court Rolls.

In 22 Elizabeth three women were fined 2d. each for cutting and carrying away birches from Ruyton Park, and a man for cutting twigs there, "called in English wyndynges." Probably they were for making hurdles; and next year there were several fines for cutting "rushes, elders, sticks, and hazels," holly, withies, little oaks, and pulling down branches

<sup>1</sup> Percy's *Reliques*, Glossary, vol. i.; *Century Dictionary*.

<sup>2</sup> *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1888, p. 257.

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out of the trees, and breaking hedges here. One fine is for cutting down there a certain holly, called in English "holly Wypples." Again, in 27 Elizabeth a great many persons were fined for cutting in the Park hazel twigs, thorns, alders, heath, damsons, and especially birches. They were mere underwood, no doubt, for one man cut down 20 birches, and a woman cut the same number, and they were only fined 2s. and 20d. respectively.

On 27 May, 4 James I., proclamation was made in Court that no one must cut any woods or underwoods in Ruyton Park, or carry off any logs from there, under a penalty of 6d. for each offence.

Ruyton Mill was within the Park. It was, probably, built by John le Strange I., who before 1172 gave his Mill of Middle and the sites of all his mills, including Ruyton,<sup>1</sup> to Haghmond Abbey, which had been founded by his patron, William fitz Alan. This gift was repeated and amplified by his son John le Strange II., 1203—1210, who added to it the suit of the whole manor to the mill, i.e., compelled all tenants of the manor to have their corn ground there. The Canons were to have free right to dig turf and earth anywhere round the mill for use in the mill or its dam, and le Strange's foresters were to supply them with timber from his woods whenever it was required for repairing or rebuilding the mill. And he granted that no other mill should be erected in the manor except for the use and as the property of the Canons of Haghmond. William fitz Alan, the superior Lord of the Manor, sanctioned this grant by witnessing it. The 3rd or 4th John le Strange addressed letters patent<sup>2</sup> "to all his bailiffs of Knokin and of Ruton" confirming all the gifts made by his ancestors "to our venerable father and beloved friends the Abbot and Convent of Haghmond," wishing them to hold them peacefully and without disturbance, "especially in our absence." He therefore orders the bailiffs not to interfere with their enjoyment of them, and in particular to allow them to take soil for mending Ruyton mill dam whenever it is required, and to help and advise them in all matters.

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<sup>1</sup> Eyton x. 113.

<sup>2</sup> Copied in the Blakeway MSS.

John le Strange IV., when he gave to Shrewsbury Abbey his mill of Platte, covenanted "that he would not offer or permit any one else to offer, any obstacle to the Monks, in respect of the Abbot of Haghmon's Mill which was situated in his Park of Ruton." John le Strange V. confirmed the gifts of his predecessors to Haughmond Abbey by a deed<sup>1</sup> executed at Knockin, and dated 13 Dec., 1298, in which those gifts are enumerated.

In 1342 the Abbot seems to have been presented at the Manor Court of Ruyton for setting up a hedge there, for at a General Court held at Ruyton 16 Edward III. he appeared by John de Smethecote, one of his Canons (afterwards Abbot), and produced a Charter of Sir John le Strange, which was allowed by Sir John de Burghton, the steward, and the Abbot was acquitted accordingly. In 4 Richard II., 1380, the Abbot and Convent leased their Mill of Ruyton to John Ythel and his son Roger for life, for "18 great quarters of hard wheat," and the repairs of the Mill. On March 20, 1461, they leased it to Roger Muridon, Margaret his wife, and John their son, for their lives, for 40s. a year and repairs.<sup>2</sup> After the dissolution of the Abbey, the King's ministers accounted in 1541-2 for £2 as the rent of a mill, no doubt this same Ruyton Mill, belonging to the late Abbey at Ruyton. It continued to exist until it was removed in pursuance of a private Act passed in 1777, for straightening the Perry and inclosing the waste lands on the Baschurch side of it. In 1678 and in 1685 there were collections in Wem Church for one Phips, a miller of Ruyton, for loss by fire.<sup>3</sup> There is nothing further to show which mill he held.

The Lord had a Park keeper, and some of them are mentioned on the Court Rolls. In 50 Edward III. the Earl of Arundel gave to William son of William the Parkere, and to Sibill his wife a messuage and half virgate of land in the old vill of Ruyton, in exchange for some property in Coton. William was, very likely, the keeper of Ruyton Park. William Parker who committed an assault and brewed ale unlawfully in 17 Richard II. may have been the same person. Richard

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<sup>1</sup> Copied in Eyton x. 373.

<sup>2</sup> Blakeway MSS.

<sup>3</sup> *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1898, p. 218.

Twiford was park keeper in 11 Henry IV., and probably also in 1 Henry VI., in which year one Guttun ap David ap Griffith of Powys came into the Park, seized and bound there one John Coope, and then immediately came to the gate of the Park and committed a breach of the peace with force and arms against Richard Twiford, to which Jankyn of Knockin was accessory, helping the said Guttin. Perhaps it was in consequence of this assault that next year Richard Porter had the place of park-keeper.

Ruyton Park continued to be the property of the Lords of the Manor, until in 1788 the 6th Lord Craven sold "the messuage and land called Ryton Park," then in the occupation of Richard Hall under a lease which was to expire in 1789, containing 206 acres, together with the Rectorial tithes of Wikey and of a great part of Ruyton township, to George Walford of Wem. Shortly before this, Lord Craven had sold the Lodge Farm, and the messuage and lands near the Park gate, containing 685 acres, together with the Rectorial tithes thereon, to John Henshaw of Wem, gentleman, uncle of George Walford.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Walford sold part of the Ruyton tithes to Mr. Hunt of Boreatton in 1792, and sold the Ruyton Park House and some land to Mr. Samuel Bickerton of Sandford, who in the early part of the 19th century rebuilt the house,<sup>2</sup> but some time after 1837 parted with it to Mr. Hunt of Boreatton. The present owner of Boreatton sold it to his cousin, the Rev. T. H. Hunt, eldest son of the Rev. T. Hunt, Rector of Felton; and he in 1889 built the present house. He died in July, 1896, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Capt. Cecil Hunt, the present owner. Mr. George Walford's descendant, Mr. John Henshaw Nickson Walford, is the present owner of the Lodge Farm with the greater part of what was once Ruyton Park, and built Ruyton Towers in 1870.

We now turn to the other part of the township of Old Ruyton, that which is on the further side of the new town. It is much smaller in area than the old Ruyton park, but includes the Castle, the Church, and the Vicarage, and was no doubt the more thickly populated part of the township.

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<sup>1</sup> Abstracts of Conveyances at Pradoc.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. James Cooper remembers his building it.

The Castle was, as we have seen, almost certainly built in the reign of King Stephen, before 1148, before or at the same time as the Church, which was an appendage to it. It was destroyed by the Welsh in 1212, and perhaps not rebuilt till the Earl of Arundel bought it in 1302. It must have been defensible in 1313, when the service of half a Knight's fee due to the Earl from half of the Manor of Great Withiford was returnable at Ruyton Castle,<sup>1</sup> and it was kept in repair in 1357, 31 Edward III., when Thomas Barding was presented in the Country Manor Court "for that he was not obedient to go to the work of the Castle as he was required by the bailiff, as he acknowledges. He put himself on the mercy of the Lord, and is fined 12d." But the last mention of the Castle on the Court Rolls is in 38 Edward III., A.D. 1364, when Adam of the Were (probably the keeper of one of the weirs on the Perry) "took from the Lord one messuage in the old vill of Ruyton which before lay empty and is situate under the castle for a rent of 12d. a year and the customs formerly rendered, and he gives 6d. for entry." Probably the castle fell into ruins soon after this, and fifty years later its materials may have been used for repairing the Church.<sup>2</sup> There are said<sup>3</sup> to be traces of a paved causeway running down under the Western walls of the Castle to the Brownhill well under the rock. The Churchyard seems to have been given to Haghmond Abbey together with the advowson of the Church, in 1272, at a time when the Castle was in ruins; but, of course, it did not then include the Castle grounds. In that year John le Strange IV. "for his soul's health and all his ancestors heirs and friends grants to God and St Mary and St John of Haghmon, &c., an acre of land in Ruiton of his demesne, lying near the King's highway [itineri regis] towards White Minster and reaching in length from the house of William son of John le Mazun, to the grantor's meadow; together with the advowson of the Church of Ruton. Witnesses, Sirs Odo de Hodnet, John Fitz Hugh, John de Ercalewe Knights, Richard de Drayton, Hamo le Botiler, and others." And by "letters

<sup>1</sup> Eyton ix. 315.

<sup>2</sup> See under Ruyton Church.

<sup>3</sup> By Mr. James Cooper.

patent" dated from Haghmond the day after Palm Sunday, 1272 (13 April) he appoints his beloved Roger de Eyton his attorney, to deliver seisin of these grants to the Canons or their attorney.<sup>1</sup> The grant was confirmed by his son between 1276 and 1284, witnesses, Sir Robert Corbet, John Fitz Hugh, John de Ercalue, John de Lee, Knights; Hamo le Botiler, William Banastre, and Thomas Dod of Hadenhale. The King's highway was probably then where it is now, and White Minster was the name used for Oswestry. It seems likely that the "acre" given with the advowson was the churchyard, which, including the Church, but excluding the Castle grounds, which were only added in 1877, is measured in the Ordnance Survey 1 acre and 27 perches. It adjoins the meadow which must have belonged to the Lord of the Castle, and does not adjoin the river, which would have been mentioned in the Deed if it had formed one of the boundaries of the land conveyed. It also is "near the King's highway," and therefore fully answers to the description in the grant. An "acre" was not at that time an accurate measure of quantity, nor was it even at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It was rather a plot of land held by a single owner, and roughly of the size to be ploughed in one day.<sup>2</sup>

The history of the Church has been already given, but a few particulars about the Clergy may be here added, chiefly from the Court Rolls, which tell us nearly all we know about the Chaplains, or Priests of the Chantry of Our Lady in Ruyton Church. In 6 Edward III., 1332, we learn that Thomas son of Richard the Chaplain was convicted of poaching at Ruyton, but we are not told where his father was Chaplain. A Chaplain was necessarily a Priest, but for a priest to have a son, though illegal, was quite common. This was the year of the admission of the first Vicar of Ruyton, William de Tykelwardyn. He may have been connected with Thomas de Teculwardin, whose name occurs in a list of the Masons' Guild in Shrewsbury of the reign of Henry III.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Blakeway MSS., in Bodleian.

<sup>2</sup> Maitland, p. 373, &c.

<sup>3</sup> Hist. MSS. Commission, Report on MSS. of Shrewsbury Corporation, 1899.



In 29 Edward III. John Julyans, Chaplain, brought an action of debt, but did not prosecute it, against William de Preston, Archdeacon of Salop, in the Town Court. The same year, 1355, William (de Tykelwardyn), Vicar of Ruyton, gave a bond with sureties to the Abbot of Haghmond to pay him 60s., half at the feast of Nichomedes, half at that of St. John the Baptist. This was, no doubt, for the great tithes of the township of Ruyton. Next year the Vicar was plaintiff in an action, and in 1357 the Roll of Labourers tells us that he kept a servant called Weyan.

In 49 Edward III., 1375, John of Kynaston succeeded in an action against Richard of Rednal, the then Vicar, for unlawfully withholding from him 21 lbs. of corn. This Vicar appears to have been Chaplain at Felton in 1357. In 1376 and in 1378 he was plaintiff in an action, and in 1382 he relieved, i.e., proved his title to one messuage and half a noke of land in Old Ruyton, which Jenkin Hoell formerly held, and he paid nothing for relief. This would be private property, not belonging to the Vicarage. A noke was not a definite measure, but a nook or patch of land. In the same year Hugh Gamell and Eleanor his wife took from the Lord all those lands and tenements which Richard Hobbes held in the old vill of Ruyton and paid 12d. to the Lord. They were probably related to the John Gamul who became Vicar of Ruyton about twelve years later.

In 13 Richard II. Vicar Richard of Rednal was plaintiff in an action against Roger son of John, and in another against John Palmer, chaplain; and some time before this he had given a burgage and 5 acres in New Ruyton to Robert the Tailor and Alice his wife, who were presumably, therefore, related to him. In 17 Richard II. he was defendant in an action for debt by Thomas of Rednal.

In 4 Henry IV. John Vicar of Ruyton brought an action for trespass against John Howells, and in the same year there is the following edifying entry on the Rolls of the Court of the Country Manor :—

“ William Newport, Archdeacon of the Deanery of Salop, was appointed to appear this day to an indictment presented by the Jury of the Great Court, for that he having notice that William Wiken and John Muridon, chaplains, tenants

of the Lord of this lordship of Ruyton, within the jurisdiction of his said office, were continuing in a life of fornication, caused them by summons to appear before him in the Lord's aforesaid Lordship, and the same Archdeacon through lust of money and by feigning excuses that he had caused the said priests to appear before him out of the sight of the people for the correction of their souls, and treating secretly with them for his worldly advantage, and by his threats, he extortionately compelled the said tenants of the said Lord to pay him diverse heavy intolerable fines, permitting them ultimately to go on in their accustomed life of fornication, and for the sake of the fines utterly omitting the due execution of his office; through which fines extortionately taken by the said Archdeacon as aforesaid the said tenants are made incapable of paying their rents and other dues to the Lord, to the grave injury and loss of the Lord, as more fully appears in the first General Court of last year. A day is fixed for him to answer to the Lord at the next Court.

John Badley, Summoner of the said Deanery, is also indicted for consenting with the Archdeacon to the extortion, and summoning them to appear."

Of the two incriminated chaplains William Wiken was probably chaplain at Felton, and John Muridon of Ruyton, where others of the same name lived. Thus in 6 Edward III. William de Meredon is mentioned as a tenant at Atton; and in 2 Richard II. William de Muridon was fined 2d. for breaking the Lord's cross placed by the Ruyton town's bailiff on the cornfield of Sir John de Muridon, a tenant of the manor; and in 14 Richard II. Thomas Bochynder paid 6d. to have an inquisition to set out the bounds of the messuage which he had acquired from William Muridon in Ruyton new Vill. There were still Merydens, freeholders in Ruyton, in Edward VI.'s time, and tenants of the Thornes', in Shotatton, in the time of Elizabeth. The Chaplain, John Muridon, had an action brought against him by Roger of the Wood, in the Town Court in 5 Henry V., and himself brought an action against Jankin Johell of Hordeley in the same Court in 2 Henry VI., so that he retained his office a long time in spite of the charges of immorality against him.

In 5 Henry V. Richard Yonge, chaplain, brought an action against Jankin Macpherson, and as he brought it in the Town Court it would seem likely that he was chaplain at Ruyton at the same time with Muridon, but as the Vicar was resident it is not probable there were two chaplains, so Yonge may have held a chaplaincy elsewhere.

In the reigns of the three Henries the name of Wicherley often occurs on the Court Rolls, showing that the two vicars of that name, like so many others of the clergy, were connected by family with the parish. In 2 Henry IV. Vicar Thomas Wicherley was fined 6d. for assaulting on the high road one Thamlus Funleton, and 8d. for breaking the pound at Ruyton and taking out his cattle against the will of the bailiff. In the same year he brought an action, but did not proceed with it, against Richard Heyne, vicar of Baschurch. In 14 Henry IV. he had himself become Vicar of Baschurch, and been succeeded at Ruyton by John Wicherley, and we find the two made co-trustees of some property in Haughton.

In 5 Henry V. John Wicherley was assaulted on the high road by Edward and Richard, sons of William Tailliour, who were fined for it 8d. and 12d. respectively, and in 2 Henry VI. the same vicar himself assaulted Roger Adcote on the high road.

In 6 Henry VII. (1490) the Vicar of Ruyton and William Dyckyn were presented for leaving gaps ("dores") unclosed on their respective private lands; John Lloit, chaplain (whether of Ruyton or Felton is not stated), was plaintiff and defendant in some actions; and Richard, vicar of Ruyton, brought an action of debt on 18 Nov. This proves that William Sulby, instituted in 1480, had vacated the living by 1490. In 1 Henry VIII. there was an action between "Richard, vicar of Riton, chaplain," and David Edmunds; and as the vicar is called also chaplain we may infer that he had got himself appointed to serve the Chantry of St. Mary, and thus added its endowment to that of the vicarage. "Richard, vicar of Ruyton, priest," was plaintiff in two actions the next year, 1510, and may have been the Richard Gittins who was vicar in 1535, and who, as we have seen other reasons to believe, held the

chaplaincy also. A Richard Gittins who brought an action for trespass in the Town Court against Adam Ferryngton on 12 June, 1550, was probably a layman. The name of Gittens occurs on the rolls throughout the reign of Elizabeth, and seems never to have disappeared from Ruyton, where it is represented still. In a survey of the township made in 1784, in possession of the vicar, Mr. John Gittins occurs as owner of 180 acres, and Mr. William Gittins of 78; John Gittins was also tenant of the glebe land.

Dyos, the name of a Vicar under Edward VI., occurs on the Rolls throughout the reign of Elizabeth, and remains in Shropshire, though not in Ruyton.

John Shelvock, clerk, was party to proceedings in the Ruyton Court in June and November, 1584, and was fined in April, 1586, for not putting up a gate on the Brown Hill field. He may have been Vicar or Curate of the parish, but is not so described.

William Griffiths, Vicar of Ruyton, whom the Register shows to have been buried there on Jan. 2nd, 1720, had held the living at least since 1679, for there is a curious bond in the Parish Chest dated 22 Aug., 1679, in which Christian Woodsine recites that he is come to dwell in the Parish of Ruiton with two small children, and binds himself under a penalty of £40 with two sureties, to William Griffiths, Clerk, and two others (the Churchwardens) to indemnify the parish against all expense and damage caused by their coming to live there. A similar bond was given by George Browne in 1683.

The tithes of Ruyton Township, including Old and New Ruyton, were commuted in 1839, the great tithes, which belonged to various people, at £105, the Vicar's small tithes at £94.

There are among the Parish Papers at the Vicarage Terriers dated 1836, 1841, 1845, 1849, 1853, 1857, and 1884, which give details of the property belonging to the Vicarage, and of the Communion Plate. They describe the Parsonage as having been built under "Gilbert's Act," between 1823 and 1841, and state that the Land Tax on the Glebe has been redeemed by the Bounty Board. The Parsonage was

enlarged in 1864, with money borrowed, as before, from Queen Anne's Bounty Board.

From the Church and Vicarage we proceed to other parts of the Township.

A Plat Bridge, and a Plat Bridge Mill existed in 1195, when they are mentioned in the grant of part of Birch Wood by the Abbot of Shrewsbury to John le Strange II.; but they seem to have been, not where the present Plat Bridge and old Mill now are, but in the meadows on the Ruyton side of the river, opposite the piece of land so granted; probably where the old right of way crossed the river near the present footbridge. "Plat" is said to mean a small bridge in Cheshire, and in parts of Shropshire two piers on each side of a narrow watercourse, with slabs of stone on the top, such as would carry cattle or a loaded cart, are called a "Plat."<sup>1</sup> Such a bridge would be more suitable as a footway to a mill than to carry, as the bridge now called Plat Bridge has to do, the King's highway from Baschurch to Oswestry.

In 1269 John le Strange IV. on succeeding to the property<sup>2</sup> "grants to the monks of Shrewsbury for the health of his soul and that of his wife, &c., his mill of Platte, which is situated against his land of Reutun opposite the mill of the said monks; and all the suit at the said mill of the men of his manors of Rutun, Middle, Nesse, Hopton, and Kinton; and free access to the said mill through all his lands; so that neither he nor his heirs shall make any Mill, or any obstacle which shall hurt their Mills, from the Mill of Hagemon Abbey which is in his park of Ruton to the Mill of the said Abbey which is without the town of Adeccote. He also grants to them timber out of his wood by view of his forester to repair their mill, and turbary on his land near the water of Peverey to amend their dam; likewise permission to remove their said Mill from the place where it now stands to another place towards the Stanriwere; and that all persons who shall come with their corn to the said Mill may cleanse their

<sup>1</sup> Halliwell's *Dict. of Archaic and Provincial Words*. Note in *Shrewsbury Chronicle* of 1 July, 1898.

<sup>2</sup> I have copied this grant from the Blakeway MS., No. 3, Shropshire Parochial Notices, in the Bodleian Library, which is fuller than Eyton. The Deed itself was in the Salop Chartulary, No. 18.

meal upon his land of Rutun. In return the monks have unanimously granted to him and his heirs that they shall have in the Abbey Church a monk daily to celebrate for the souls of him his ancestors and successors, on whose decease another fit person willing to take their habit and support the life and rule of St. Benedict shall be substituted in his room, and so from time to time on the death of each such monk." Witnessed by Robert Corbett, John de Lee, Robert de Stoke, John de Prestcote, Ralph Heit, and many others.

The Plat Mill thus given to Shrewsbury Abbey stood "against the land of Reuton opposite the Mill previously belonging to the Abbey," and was therefore on the Baschurch side of the Perry, and not in the Manor of Ruyton, so that its erection and this grant did not infringe the agreement of John le Strange II. that no mill should be erected in *Ruyton Manor* except for Haghmond Abbey; and with respect to the suit of the inhabitants of the manor to the mill, all that John IV. gave was "their suit at the Plat Mill,"<sup>1</sup> i.e., such suit as they were in the habit of giving to that Mill, which would be presumably none, as John II. had bound them to have all their corn ground at Ruyton Mill. The Plat Mill evidently stood in the piece of ground on the other side the river, which John II. had got by exchange from Shrewsbury Abbey to enlarge his park, and must have been built after that exchange, and therefore between 1195 and 1269; and the mill of the monks, to which it was opposite, and to which it had probably been intended to be a rival, must have been that Plat Bridge Mill which we have seen was already in existence in 1195, and was not included in the exchange. John IV. expressly allows the Monks to remove the mill he gave them towards the Stanriwere, no doubt a weir in the river Perry, near the present Plat Bridge, and probably the two Plat Mills were soon amalgamated into one when the Abbey became owner of them both, and were placed where the old Plat Mill now is, carrying their name with them, and giving it to the bridge adjoining. Between Ruyton Mill and Adcote there were already the two Plat Mills, Milford Mill,

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<sup>1</sup> Eyton says he gave "all suit of his men thereto, as far as he had or could have the suit of his men in his Manors of Ruton," &c.

and Bent Mill, the two latter belonging to Haghmond Abbey. Le Strange owned only the Ruyton part of the river, and was already bound not to erect a mill in Ruyton except for Haghmond; so his present agreement not to erect one at all in this part of the river was not much of a concession on his part. Henceforth the Plat Mill was entirely in Baschurch, not in Ruyton.

The Minister's accounts of 1541-2 mentions "ferm of a mill £1" among the property of the late Abbey of Shrewsbury in Baschurch. This would no doubt be the Plat Mill, the only mill the Abbey owned in Baschurch. It became part of the Boreatton property. Its rent was only half that of Ruyton Mill, but it survived that mill, although as early as 1768 it seems to have been thought to be a nuisance, for at the April Quarter Sessions of that year several people were indicted for a riot at Ruyton, and destroying a mill dam, the property of Thomas Hunt, Esq. The mill, however, continued in use until its wear across the river was removed in pursuance of the Baggymoor Drainage Act, 1861. Its rent at that time was a little less than £70 a year.<sup>1</sup>

The present Plat Bridge was built by Telford, 1787-90, and is said<sup>2</sup> to have superseded a former wooden one a little higher up the stream.

A fulling mill is mentioned in the Court Roll of 2 Richard II., which tells us that "John son of Roger the Walker of Fyttes came to the Country Court and took from the Lord the fulling mill of Ruyton (*molendinum fullaticum*) with the suit of the Lord's tenants to be done at the said fulling mill, together with one stream of water belonging to the mill. The rent is entered together with sale of wood, &c., the whole coming to 24s. 8d. This is the only mention of the fulling mill, which must have been in the Country Manor, and which from its name, and from its being dealt with in the Country Court, one would suppose was in the township of Old Ruyton.

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<sup>1</sup> As stated by Mr. Hunt's agent during negotiations before the Act was passed.

<sup>2</sup> By Mr. James Cooper; and see the Register for 1799, quoted in my history of the Church.

The New Mill is mentioned in the Church Terrier of 1736. The valuation of the parish in 1784 shows that it then belonged to Mr. Edward Kynaston of Ruyton Hall, and to the Ruyton Hall property it still belongs.

The Holy Ghost Weir, mentioned in 31 Edward III. was probably in the Perry in Old Ruyton, because in 27 Edward III. the people of this township presented Isabel Mayhew for an assault with blood-letting on Richard Holigost, who therefore presumably belonged to the township, and whose name is an almost certain proof that he was the keeper of the weir.

The "field of Ruyton" is mentioned in the first Court Roll of 1332, translated in my account of the manor. It was the open space, such as every township possessed, of arable or pasture land let out in allotments to or used in common by the householders of the township. It probably included the Brown Hill and the land still called the Fields, at the back of the Vicarage and of Birch Coppice, to which a lane leads from the village opposite the Church, and another from near the Plat Bridge. Part of it may have been called the Poole field, for on 13 October 27 Elizabeth (1585) the township presented four persons for not making their hedges sufficient round the field called the Poole field; and four others, including Richard Kynaston, gentleman, were presented for the same offence on 27 May 4 James I.

In 28 Elizabeth the township presented Thomas Kynaston and David Dyos for breaking the bounds between their own lands and the lands of the same Thomas Kynaston in the field called the Brown field, and William Perauck for encroaching on a common road leading from the Platt Bridge called the browne hyll. All three were fined 12d. Several people were also fined 6d. for not erecting a gate on the brown hill field, or for not making a sufficient hedge round it.

In 22 Elizabeth John Bede was presented in the Country Court for digging in a common or waste of the Lord called the Clyve, and fined 6d. The Clyve, or Cliffe Hill, so far as it is in Ruyton at all, is wholly within New Ruyton, and the inhabitants of the town claimed a right of common there to the exclusion of the inhabitants of Old Ruyton; but this



presentment in the Country Court seems to show that in Queen Elizabeth's time the Country Manor also claimed an interest in the Cliffe. Again, at every Court from 1698 to 1701 the men of Old Ruyton presented those of Little Ness for having inclosed a lane called "Slanage Lane," and driven ("compulerunt Anglice Staffe driven") animals on to the Lord's waste there, called the Cliffe, where they had no right to pasture. And in 1698 they presented five persons for incroaching, and inclosing there about "the tole dishfull seednes."

In 50 Edward III. Richard son of Hugh was fined 2s. for breaking the Lord's pinfold. The pinfold or pound stood till quite lately just where the lane from the Castle turns sharply to the left towards the Birch Coppice. It was therefore only just outside the limits of the new town. Thomas Davies was fined 6d. for not doing some work on it, and Hugh Straunge, alias Roë, was fined 12d. for breaking it in 27 Elizabeth. All these fines were imposed at the instance of the men of Old Ruyton. In 1700 they presented that the pound there was out of repair through default of the inhabitants of New Ruyton, and the latter were fined 2s. 6d. But in both the Courts of 1701 Old Ruyton was fined 6d. for the same want of repair. Evidently the pound served for both townships, and was repairable by both.

In 4 James I. Roger Beddowe died. He held a messuage and lands in this township at a rent of 1s. 6d. per an., and other services, and by his death a cow became due to the Lord as a heriot. David Beddowe was his brother and heir, and did fealty and paid relief, and was admitted to the tenements.

The Admiral Benbow Public House, and the Bridge Inn Beerhouse are within this part of Old Ruyton. The former takes its name from one Edward Benbow, who kept it at least as early as 1825, when the Court Leet dinner was held there; the latter is, no doubt, identical with the beer shop a quarter of a mile from the town, which according to the Report of the Municipal Commissioners in 1834 "is said to do very little business, and hitherto not to have done any harm."

There are said<sup>1</sup> to be traces of glass works in Ruyton at

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<sup>1</sup> By Mr. James Cooper.

the bottom of the road leading from what is now the Independent Chapel; tanpits in the gardens of the cottages opposite Miss Dickin's shop; and shafts for copper mining near the National School, on both sides of and under the road to Blackberry Hill, showing that all these industries were at one time carried on here. Blackberry Hill itself was thickly covered with blackberries about 70 years ago.

We have seen in the history of the Manor that the legal liability to maintain the poor was imposed upon parishes in 1572, and that overseers were first appointed under an Act of 1597. Although they were officers of the parish, not of any one township, the following particulars may be not out of place here:—

There is in the Ruyton Parish Chest an original appointment of overseers in 1761, which gives such details of their duties that it is worth quoting in full.

“Salop to wit. By virtue of the Statute made in the 43rd year of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth for the Relief of the Poor we whose names are subscribed H.M.'s Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, One whereof is of the Quorum Do appoint you Richard Wilkinson and William Probert being substantial householders of the Parish of Ruyton in the same County to be Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the year ensuing, who together with the Churchwardens of the said Parish are from time to time to take care and provide for the Poor and to set to work all the Poor within your Parish (as well married as unmarried), that are able to work and have no means to maintain themselves nor use no ordinary and daily Trade of Life to get their living by. And also for placing out as Apprentices all such Children within your said Parish as are fit to be put forth, whose Parents are not able to keep or maintain them. And also for the raising of a convenient stock of Flax, Hemp, Wool, Thread, Iron, and other necessary Ware and Stuff in your said Parish for that purpose. And also for the providing of necessary Relief for all such Poor within your said Parish as are Lane, Old, Blind, Impotent, and unable to work, wherein If you be found negligent, or shall fail to meet once a Month to confer together for the Purpose aforesaid, then you are to

forfeit 20s. a piece for every Month that you shall be found remiss or careless therein. And therefore see that you fail not in the Premises at your Peril. Dated the 16th day of April in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth, and in the year of our Lord 1701."

The Signatures of the Justices are torn off.

The Ruyton Overseers accounts are not extant earlier than 1817; and as the Parish had been united to the Incorporation of Oswestry in 1791, these accounts are practically nothing but a rate book, all the money for the poor being handed over to the Incorporation and expended by them.

In 1817 the rateable values of the townships were:—Ruyton (including Old and New, which are not distinguished in the Rate Books), £528 14s. 1d.; Cotton, £57 1s 11d.; Shotatton, £217 18s. 7d.; Shelvock, £113 13s. 7d.; Eardiston, £291 13s. 4d.; Wikey, £238 6s. 9d., making a total of £1,447 8s. 3d. A new assessment was made in 1831, but it did not greatly differ from the old. In 1834 the Municipal Commissioners reported that able-bodied labourers could procure employment in agriculture in this neighbourhood at all seasons without much difficulty, at weekly wages of about 9s.; that poor rates were collected quarterly, and amounted generally to 4s. in the £, on an assessment estimated at about one-fifth of the rack rent; that the total amount applied to the relief of the poor for the year ending Easter, 1833, from the Parish of Ruyton was £292 12s., and that it had not varied for 12 years. In 1837 the Vestry resolved that rates should be levied in future on the full value of the rental, and that for this purpose the overseers should treble the sums on which the rates had hitherto been levied. The true rateable value in that year, according to the County Rate Basis, was £5,648, less than four times the amount of the old assessment. The Commissioners estimate that the gross rental was five times the old assessment was, therefore, perhaps not far wrong.

By the Act of 1894 the civil functions of Vestries and Churchwardens were transferred to Parish Councils. The number of Parish Councillors for Ruyton Parish was fixed

by the County Council at eleven, and as there were many candidates a poll took place, and the following were elected to compose the first Parish Council for this Parish :—Messrs. J. H. N. Walford (who was appointed Chairman), William Jones, David Morgan, John Carter, W. R. Howell, J. W. Whale, J. B. Timmis, Joseph Glover, Richard Brown, G. J. England, Charles Stokes.

The following list of Overseers for Ruyton Parish is inserted in the middle of the Vestry Book, p. 89 :—

- 1804, Messrs. Gittins and Cooper.
- 1805, „ Walford and Richard Edwards.
- 1806, „ Harris and Cooke.
- 1807, „ Pugh and Davies.
- 1808, „ Wall and Basnett.
- 1809, „ Comberbach and Duckett.
- 1810, „ Broughall and Sides.
- 1811, „ Suckley and Menlove.
- 1812, „ Alexander and Basnett.
- 1813, Mrs. Whitehall and Mr. Jones.
- 1814, Mrs. Jones and Mr. Davies.
- 1815, Messrs. Minton and John Jones.
- 1816, „ Broughall and Humphreys.
- 1817, „ Oswell and Sides.
- 1818, „ Morris and Purser.
- 1819, „ Wildblood and Glover.
- 1820, „ Humphreys and Thomas.
- 1821, Mr. Wall and Mrs. Edwards, Eardiston.
- 1822, Messrs. Basnett and Comberbach.
- 1823, „ Large and Sides.
- 1824, „ Bickerton and Pugh.
- 1825, „ Richards and Wm. Alexander.
- 1826, T. B. Oswell and Mr. Benbow.
- 1827, R. B. Oswell and Mr. Davies.
- 1828, W. B. Oswell and Mr. Preece.
- 1829, Messrs. Minton and Cureton.
- 1830, „ Lester and Maddocks.
- 1831, „ Jn. Morris and Timothy Sides.
- 1832, „ Rd. Griffiths and Thos. Wilkinson.
- 1833, „ Harman and Vaughan.
- 1834, „ Jn. Comberbach and Thos. Hall.

- 1835, Messrs. Jn. Glover and Joseph Humphreys.
- 1836, " Thos. Thomas and Saml. Briscoe.
- 1837, " Saml. Bickerton and Jn. Edwards.
- 1838, " Robt. Comberbach and Wall.
- 1839, " Richd. Corden and Thos. Morris.
- 1840, " John Brown and Jos. Bickerton.
- 1841, " John Thomas and John Basnett.
- 1842, " Edward Tomlinson and T. Wilkinson.
- 1843, " Henry Wood and T. B. Oswell.
- 1844, " Thos. Maddocks and R. B. Oswell.
- 1845, " Robt. Lee and R. B. Oswell.
- 1846, " Richd. Griffiths and Thos. Williams.
- 1847, " Saml. Harman and W. B. Oswell.
- 1848, " J. Comberbach and John Morris.
- 1849, " Joseph Humphreys and John Humphreys.
- 1850, " Thos. Thomas and Thos. Timmis, Senr.
- 1851, " Robert Wall and Thos. Corden.
- 1852, " Wm. Vaughan and Saml. Bickerton.
- 1853, " Richd. Poole and Robt. Timmis.
- 1854, " Robt. Topham and Thos. Maddocks.
- 1855, " Richd. Brown and Robt. Gruer.
- 1856, " Thos. Roden Comberbach and Wm. Parry.
- 1857, " J. Basnett and Joseph Benbow.
- 1858, " Robert Lee and Thos. Minton.
- 1859, " J. S. Comberbach and Saml. Whitfield.
- 1860, " J. Humphreys and Robt. Morris.
- 1861, " Thos. Corden and Thos. Basnett Oswell.
- 1862, " Richd. Griffiths and Richd. Oakley.
- 1863, " Thos. Plimley and Jas. Foden.
- 1864, " W. Oswell and Chas. Stokes.
- 1865, " R. Brown and Arthur Williams.
- 1866, " Thos. Jones and Saml. Bickerton.
- 1867, " Henry Hiles and Thos. Rogers.
- 1868, " Chas. Stokes and Thos. R. Minton.
- 1869, " Wm. Vaughan and Thos. Thomas.
- 1870, " J. Humphreys and R. Morris.
- 1871, " R. B. Oswell and Henry Jones.
- 1872, " Richard Oakley and Thos. Davies.
- 1873, " William Oswell and Rd. Everal.
- 1874, " Arthur Williams and P. Peacock.

## TOWNSHIP OF COTON.

This is a common name, and may mean either the cote-tun, the inclosure round a single small house, or the same as cotten, the plural of cote.<sup>1</sup> There is no indication of its existence as early as Domesday, when its area no doubt formed part of the Manor of Ruyton, but it must have become a distinct township before the Manor of the XI Towns was formed, about 1155. It is mentioned in the earliest Court Rolls. In 29 Edward III. 10s. was paid for the tithes to the Abbot of Haughmond, and the same again next year. In 50 Edward III. the Earl of Arundel gave to William the Parker and Sibill his wife a messuage and half virgate in the old Vill of Ruyton in exchange for their messuages, hall, and half virgate of land, with their rights, in the Vill of Coton in the Lordship of Ruyton, which used to pay to the Lord 6d. per an. for all services. The buildings were very likely pulled down, for at the Court of 8 Oct. 6 Richard II., 1382, it is entered that Coton presented "nothing, because there are no resident tenants there." The following April the entry is that the township "came by five and presented nothing." Probably the five held land there, but lived in an adjoining township. In 2 Richard II. Eva of Coton pleaded guilty to having broken a boundary mark put up by John of Coton, the sub-bailiff there. In 14 Henry IV. John, son of William of Coton, entered into the Lord's protection and paid him 4d., and in 5 Henry VI. Thomas Carte of Coton, by his attorneys Richard Parker and David Barker sued the Abbey of Haghmond for debt, and as the Abbey did not appear Richard Burnell the Abbot, Roger Loton a Canon, and the Canons of the place, were attached by their goods and chattels to the value of 10 marks. This entry is repeated 4 times, and each time that they do not appear they are fined a sum which is increased each time from 3d. to 20d. After the 4th default a day is fixed for the trial. The result is not mentioned, but if they still refused to

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<sup>1</sup> Eyton ix., 180, 358.

appear no doubt the 10 marks would be levied from their goods and chattels if they had any in the manor.

Coton seems to have been occupied by the Kynastons from the reign of Henry VIII. until they built Ruyton Hall in 1574, but to have been owned by the successive Lords of the manor, and it was perhaps sold by Lord Craven about 1777. In the Survey of 1784 the whole township is entered as owned by "Proctor and others." It was occupied by William Probert from 1774 to 1782, and by Samuel Probert 1783 to 1803. He was succeeded in 1805 by Joshua Cooke. In 1847 and for long afterwards it was owned and occupied by Mr. Thomas Thomas, but it passed to Mr. R. R. Minton, and is still owned, and until quite lately was occupied by members of his family.

Mr. James Cooper, who was born in Ruyton about 1818, and lived most of his life here, and was schoolmaster, says that Coton was formerly the residence of the Corbet family, and that many fearful tales used to be told of a man who went by the name of old Corbet, seen walking there without a head, and of noises and other annoyances. Servants were so frightened that they gave up their places. He himself remembers that there was one room which was kept locked up, and that some of the men got in by stealth, and found the walls stained with blood. He also remembers that when the men were pulling down a portion of the building they came upon a coffin with a silver plate on it buried outside the building, close to the foundation. There was an inscription on the plate, but it was illegible, and believed to be Welsh. Corbet's ghost had been laid shortly before his time.<sup>1</sup> Corbet's room is the attic at the south corner of the house looking towards the pool, and is still considered to be haunted, and is avoided by the tenants of the house, and people coming to the house from Ruyton still prefer to get away before dusk, because of the ghosts. A holly bush at the further end of the pool is seen on fire at nights. A lady in white rides up the road to the house. Noises "as of churns rolling about" are said to be heard in the house.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See "Ruyton Church."

<sup>2</sup> All this was told me by the tenants in 1893.

I have found no trace of any Corbets having ever owned Coton. Corbet Kynaston owned Shelvock and a great deal of property in this neighbourhood 1707 to 1740, and may possibly have occupied Coton at some time. He was a bachelor, certainly very extravagant, and perhaps very wild, and the Coton traditions may be connected with him or with one of his Corbet relations.<sup>1</sup>

There are four quaint carved wooden heads on the corbels under the roof of the house facing the pool. One, at least, is of a woman, two are bearded men.

In 1847 the great tithes belonged to Mr. John Edwards, and were commuted for £40; the small tithes, belonging to the Vicar, for £10 15s. At that time, of the 233 acres in the township, 211 were arable, and 22 meadow or pasture. Of the fields on the Tithe Map herewith, No. 4 was called Malthouse field, 16 Dovehouse Meadow, 19 Mart Leasow, and 26 Mill house field.

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<sup>1</sup> See my history of Shelvock, *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1894.



## A LIST OF SHROPSHIRE WILLS AT SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, FROM 1641 TO 1660.

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THE wills of Shropshire testators are to be found at Lichfield, Hereford, St, Asaph, Shrewsbury, Ludlow, and Somerset House, London. But for the Commonwealth period, they are not to be found in the local Registries, but at Somerset House only. By an ordinance of the Commonwealth Parliament in 1653, judges were appointed for the probate of wills and granting administrations in every county and city of England and Wales, but, though the probate was granted in various places, they were registered only in London. Consequently for wills proved during the Commonwealth, search must be made amongst the calendars preserved at Somerset House.

The following is a list of the Wills of Shropshire testators, extracted from the calendars at Somerset House, for the Commonwealth period, but it has been thought well to commence it in 1641, so as to include the whole time of the Civil War, as well as the Commonwealth.

The Register Books of Wills are known by certain names, as Evelyn, Cambell, Crane, Rivers, &c.,—often the name of the testator whose will occurs first in the volume, and not by numbers or dates. The number occurring after the name marks the folio of the volume in which the will is recorded; but this "folio" is not a single leaf, but usually a quire of eight membranes, the first of which is labelled with the numeral. So that, if a searcher wants to find the will of Thomas Aldwell, which was proved in the year 1641, he would simply write on his ticket "Evelyn 103", and he would readily find the will at that folio of the Register Book "Evelyn".

1641. EVELYN.			Pugh, William	116
Aldwell, Thomas	103		Peirs, Robert	117
Acton, Walter	72		Perry, Roger	125
Ap Matthew, ap Evan	70		Rogerson, Rev. William	4
Blakeway, William	19		Rees, Richard	74
Berrington, Thomas	102		Salter, George	102
Browne, Thomas	103		Speake, William	102
Coakley, Thomas	40		Vernon, Mary	91
Cropp, John	43		Ward, Arthur	92
Cley, John	116		Wilding, Philip	127
Doney, John	10		1643. CRANE.	
Donne, William	118		Charleton, Francis, Esq.	31
Evan, Philip	83		Cotes, John	O.W.
Gough, John	52		Coney, Thomas	O.W.
Harris, John	28		Fox, Somerset	O.W.
Haines, John	40		Hawkins, Robert	26
Harley, Thomas (Chetton)	57		Jones, Thomas	22
Higgins, George	57		Wingfield, Thomas	6
Houlbrook, George	130		Warberton, William	O.W.
Lewis, Thomas	71		1644. RIVERS.	
Marvin, Mary	100		Chapman, Robert	O.W.
Prosser, Thomas	34		Hotchkis, Richard	O.W.
Phillips, Walter	34		Kinaston, Bridget	O.W.
Punter, Francis	101		Parson, William	O.W.
Reighnolds, Thomas Adm.			Poole, Richard	O.W.
Sotherne, Richard	20		1645. RIVERS.	
Shenton, Randal	67		Awden, Charles	O.W.
Tynes, Edward	76		Brooke, Roger	O.W.
1642. CAMBELL.			Challenor, Katherine	42
Browne, Rowland	13		Dovey, Francis	O.W.
Bennett, Thomas	39		Griffiths, Andrew	136
Cook, Jonathan	61		Gardiner, William	141
Haynes, William	60		Hanson, William	30
Holland, William	94		Harris, Sir Paul	72
Lloyd, Rev. Thomas	91		Hayward, Thomas	95
Nettles, Elizabeth	112		Lewis, Michael	O.W.
Parry, David	46		Longmore, Gerrard	49
			Lewis, Michael	119

Lewis, Alice	49	Potter, Henry	93
Pavyer, John	27	Peers, Richard	121
Payne, Walter	94	Roe, David	157
Roberts, Francis	82	Sandford, Arthur	126
Troyler, Griffith	O.W.	Studley, John	126
Thomas, Mary	77	Smith, Jane	184
Vaughan, Mary	84	Tristram, Richard	64
1646. TWISSE.		Taylor, Robert	72
Barker, Andrew	51	Thomas, Mary	86
Bate, Elizabeth	111	Tomlyns, Roger	144
Bradford, George	151	Taylor, William	113
Barkeley, Thomas, Esq.	163	Vicars, Richard	156
Cole, Adam	30	Wood, Thomas	77
Collett, Thomas	103	Whitfield, Robert	117
Clemson, Richard	113	Woley, Richard	112
Davies, Evan	32	1647. FINES.	
Dickin, Margaret	89	Auden, Charles	113
Downes, Thomas	103	Amyes, Robert	105
Downes, Richard	139	Ap Hugh, Richard	164
Daniel, Richard	104	Barker, Thomas	55
David, Richard ap	139	Barber, Roger	46
Davies, Joyce	166	Brooke, John	112
Francis, Margaret	82	Brownbill, William	130
Forinson, Thomas	54	Corbett, Owen	41
Griffies, William	51	Cole, Joan	116
Groome, William	57	Coles, John	227
Gittins, Richard	118	Davies, Katherine	98
Herring, Rev. Julius	29	Downe, Roger	210
Holland, George	41	Ellison, Elizabeth	80
Hanmer, Roger	125	Ellis, John	179
Hunt, Thomas	110	Fox, Edward	99
Jeffereys, John	51	Flownes, William	62
Justice, Roger	125	Greaves, Richard	71
Justice, John	112	Griffiths, John	97
Moore, Charles	88	Griffiths, John	232
Mayden, Eleanor	156	Gwyllam, Eleanor	251
Marigold, Thomas	155	Holloway, Thomas	5
Offley, John	76	Husband, William	17

Husband, William	46	Cupper, Margarie	173
Hard, Ann	98	Davies, John	72
James, Richard	251	Dovey, Eleanor	101
Jefferies, Katherine	155	Dauckey, Richard	111
Langmer, Humphrey	223	Darkin, Francis	122
More, Richard, Esq.	58	Edwards, Richard	28
Medlicott, Mary	50	Elton, Joan	Adm.
Ottley, Thomas, Esq.	101	Evans, John	"
Porter, Thomas	27	Evan, Richard	"
Palmer, Sir Richard	41	Evan, Meredith	"
Powell, Edward	149	Granger, Mary	39
Smith, George	27	Graumlt, Jane	Adm.
Sheane, John	99	Griffiths, Jane	"
Stanworth, Robert	134	Griffiths, Edward	72
Stockton, Sarah	214	Gattacre, Thomas	109
Thynne, Richard	14	Harwell, Thomas	Adm.
Thorne, Robert	14	Hunt, Thomas	40
Trevor, John	166	Homes, John	44
Whittingham, Sir Roger	10	Haynes, Thomas	62
Walker, John	27	Hughes, Robert	65
1648. ESSEX.		Haumer, George	Adm.
Owen, ap John	76	Haycox, Thomas	109
Peter, ap Ries	189	Harding, John	Adm.
Brayne, Thomas	Adm.	Holbrook, Edward	"
Burton, Edward	Adm.	Hayley, Jane	"
Betton, George	37	Hand, Thomas	187
Boylston, Richard	71	Jones, Sarah	43
Bullock, Arthur	72	James, Richard	124
Bebb, May	Adm.	Jennings, John	189
Bennett, William	Adm.	Jorden, William	Adm.
Culwick, John	Adm.	Jones, William	"
Crudington, Cicily	40	Knight, Thomas	88
Crake, Richard	Adm.	Lutley, Joan	Adm.
Crook, Richard	Adm.	Langley, Edward	"
Cox, Thomas	128	Lloyd, John	180
Croft, Elizabeth	138	Millichapp, Mathew	3
Crompton, Fulke	139	Middleton, John	Adm.
Chettwood, Jone	185	Meredith, Richard	"

LONDON, FROM 1641 TO 1660.

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Manning, Abraham	146	Blakeway, Roger	119
Mason als Speake, Mary	182	Bowdler, Samuel	153
Mathews, William	181	Beeth, John	162
Meredith, Alice	189	Clifton, John	172
Oldbury. als Westwood		Dawes, John	49
	Adm.	Daker, William	71
Oakley, Mary	166	Dawley, Thomas	172
Owen, Alice	Adm.	Dun, Daniel	Adm.
Payne, Beatrice	49	Ellams, Richard	20
Parry, Elizabeth	72	Evans, John	162
Parton, William	164	Edwards, John	168
Preene, Elizabeth	Adm.	Fisher, Thomas	Adm.
Rowley, John	„	Gwilt, Richard	„
Savage, Robert	„	Gough, Edward	166
Sinor, William	„	Gough, Thomas	118
Sherry, Richard	„	Humfries, Henry	Adm.
Steventon, William	65	Holder als Goodwin,	
Smith, Ann	85	Eleanor	„
Sellers, Thomas	Adm.	Hall, Henry	„
Stevens, Margaret	127	Hamond, Thomas	„
Studley, Peter	133	Howells, Vincent	„
Stury, Carew	Adm.	Heath, Thomas	94
Tench, Ann	159	Hugh, Elizabeth ap	Adm.
Vaughan, John	8	Howells, William	145
Wright, Thomas	Adm.	Jones, Thomas	Adm.
Wartham, Richard	„	Jones als. Mathews,	
Williams, Richard	„	Alice	„
Wilks, Richard	94	James, John	„
Young, William	Adm.	Kiffin, Richard	51
1649. FAIRFAX.		Kenrick, Mary	Adm.
Ankers, John	87	Kynaston, Sir Francis	„
Ap Roberts, Elizabeth	141	Leighton, Catherine	14
Ap Howel, John	160	Lello, Lewis	Adm.
Barkley, Joan	Adm.	Littleton, Joan	„
Bowdler, William	75	Langley, George	„
Brooke, Francis	Adm.	Moore, Joan	„
Banbury, Edward	75	Moyle, Edward	„
Barkley, Philip	Adm.	Meredith, Richard	„

256 SHROPSHIRE WILLS AT SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.

Madestard, William	Adm.	Palmer, Francis	Adm.
Nicholls, Thomas	148	Phillips, Thomas	153
Newton, William	159	Pitt, William	153
Norgrave, John	159	Pitt, Joyce	191
Overton, Thomas	Adm.	Rogers, Ursula	Adm.
Orton, Edmund	„	Richards, Thomas	107
Oteley, Francis	„	Russell, William	140
Parton, Ann	20	Roberts, Evan	Adm.
Price, John	13	Savage, Andrew	„
Price, Richard	61	Scott, Thomas	65
Pargiter, Richard	61	Streete, Edward	155
Pountney, William		Smith, John	155
	57 Adm.	Tanner, John	30
Pountney, William	55 „	Thomas, Barkley ap	81
Preece, Robert	82	Teese, Edward	149
Pontesbury, Thomas, Esq.		Thomas, Francis	156
	102	Waters, John	Adm.
Porter, Sara	125	Wood, Samuel	105
Penson, John	132	Wall, Henry	71 Adm.
Pile, Robert	Adm.	Waring, John	109

(To be continued).

## INSTITUTIONS OF SHROPSHIRE INCUMBENTS.

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THE following documents were extracted from the originals in the Public Record Office, by Mr. W. Boyd, for the Society. They are the Certificates of the Bishops, addressed to the Barons of the Exchequer, certifying the induction of the Clergy to benefices, with a view to the First Fruits going to the Crown. The First Fruits are the profits, after a vacancy, of every benefice for the first year. At the Reformation, Henry VIII. ordered these to be paid to the King, and a Court of First Fruits was erected, by Statute 32 Hen. VIII., cap. 45, where the Bishops' Certificates of the Institutions of Incumbents to ecclesiastical benefices were entered. In Mary's reign, this Court was dissolved, and First Fruits abolished; but they were revived by Statute 1 Elizabeth, cap. 4, and put under the Survey of the Exchequer. The Office was finally abolished by Statute 1 Victoria, cap. 20, and the collection of the revenue was entrusted to the Governors and Treasurer of Queen Anne's Bounty.

Besides these Certificates of Bishops, there are in the Public Record Office the Libri Compositionum, or entries of the compositions for First Fruits, to be paid by the Incumbents on Induction; and the Libri Institutionum, or abstracts of the Bishops' Certificates, which give the same information tabulated in columns containing the parish, incumbent, county, deanery, date of induction, and patron.

W.G.D.F.

### FIRST FRUITS. BISHOPS' CERTIFICATES.

COVENTRY AND LICHFIELD.

[Nothing in FILE I.]

FILE 2. Oct. 1560—Oct. 1564.

COUNTY SALOP. 5 Elizabeth. [1563.]

On 26th March 5 Elizabeth [1563] Thomas Ryder, clerk, was admitted to the Church of Hodnet, in the aforesaid county.

On 6th April, in the year aforesaid, Thurstan Tyllston, clerk, was admitted to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Moorton Corbet, in the aforesaid county.

On 29th April, in the year aforesaid, William Normecote, was admitted to the parish church of Smethecote, in the county aforesaid.

On 10th June, in the year aforesaid, Ralph Shawe, clerk, was admitted to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Wroxeter, in the county aforesaid.

On 1st June, in the year aforesaid, John Wynne, otherwise Mathwe, clerk, was admitted to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Ellesmere, in the county aforesaid.

On 14th July, in the year aforesaid, Richard Foster, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Myddell, in the county aforesaid.

On 18th October, in the year aforesaid, John Powell, was admitted to the perpetual vicarage of Nestraunge, in the county aforesaid.

On 20th October, in the year aforesaid, Richard Sutton, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Pycheford, in the county aforesaid.

FILE 3. Jan. 1564—Jan. 1574.

Co. Salop. 14 Elizabeth.

On 14th April, 14 Elizabeth [1572], George Barrett, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of the parish church of Sutton Maddock, in the county aforesaid.

On 5th August, 1572, John Constantyne, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Felton, in the same county.

On 30th December, 1572, Roland Thasker, clerk, was admitted to the church of Pychford, in the county aforesaid.

Co. Salop. 13 Elizabeth [1571.]

On 28th July, 13 Elizabeth [1571], Robert Podmore, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Ruyton.



On 15th October, 1571, Hugh Hotchkis, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of the parish church of Leighton.

Co. Salop. 12 Elizabeth.

On 10th January, 13 Elizabeth [1571], James Nitzens, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Whitchurch, in the county aforesaid.

11 Elizabeth [1569.]

On 16th August, 11 Elizabeth [1569], John Mullarte, clerk, was admitted to the church of Acton Burnell.

On 26th November, 12 Elizabeth [1569], Thomas Fletcher, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Condovery.

Co. SALOP. 10 Elizabeth. [1568.]

On 21st February, 10 Elizabeth, [1568], Thomas Wyllton, clerk, was admitted to the church of Myddell.

9 Elizabeth. [1567.]

On 5th March, 9 Elizabeth, [1567], Thomas Clement, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Sheinton.

On 8th April, 1567, Rubin Styenton, clerk, was admitted to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Sutton Maddock.

FILE 4. Jan. 1572-1578.

15 Elizabeth. [1573].

On 10th March, 15 Elizabeth, [1573], Richard Phillipps, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Smethcote.

On 19th May, 1573, Richard Forster, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Buryton otherwise Berrington.

On 4th September, 1573, James Allen, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Petton.

16 Elizabeth. [1574.]

On 23rd April, 16 Elizabeth, 1574, George Crane, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of the parish church of Roddington.

On 18th September, 1574, John Drury, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of the parish church of Baschurch.

On 20th September, 1574, Roger Lowe, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of the parish church of Waters Upton.

## FILE 4. 18 Elizabeth.

On 2nd June, 18 Elizabeth, 1576, Roger Harper otherwise Henson, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Wrockerdyn.

On 10th September, 1576, William Morris, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Sheinton.

## 20 Elizabeth. [1577.]

On 5th June, 1577, Lewis (Ludivicus) Tailor, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Froddesley.

On 6th December, 1577, Peter Tankye, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Baschurche.

On 12th April, 1578, Robert Willton, clerk, was admitted to the parish church of Fyttes.

## FILE 5. Jan. 1578—1585.

On 10th February, 1580, William Deacon, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of Hodnett.

On 16th March, 1580, Roland Harries, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of the parish church of Stepleton.

On 17th March, 1580, Henry Cunde, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Monford.

## 23 Elizabeth. [1581.]

On 19th March, 1581, John Jurdayn, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Wellington.

## FILE 5. 25 Elizabeth. [1583.]

On 27th April, 1583, Lewis Taylor, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of Moreton Corbett.

## FILE 6. April 1585—1590.

On 7th May, 27 Elizabeth, [1585], Thomas Mawdesley, professor of theology, was admitted to the rectory of Whitt-churche.

## 29 Elizabeth. [1586.]

On 20th November, 1586, Thomas Helin, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Nestrangle.

On 20th September, 1587, Robert Fareley, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Atcham otherwise Attingham.

30 Elizabeth. [1588.]

On 10th June, 30 Elizabeth, [1588], Philip Leighe, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Ellsmere.

On 14th September, 1588, Thomas Bent, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of Harley.

31 Elizabeth. [1589.]

On 4th August, 31 Elizabeth, [1589], Michael Massey, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of Berington.

On 26th September, 1589, John Shelvocke, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of Smethcotte.

32 Elizabeth. [1589.]

On 10th December, 1589, James Brookes, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of Whitchurche.

FILE 7. April 1590—October 1595.

On 11th April, 32 Elizabeth, [1590], Julius Watson, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Wrockerdine.

On 20th February, 33 Elizabeth, [1591], Richard Harries, bachelor of theology, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of Upton Magna.

On 2nd April, 32 Elizabeth, [1590], George Tatnall, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of Heighfeild. [Ightfelde?]

On 18th June, 1591, Thomas Ashe, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Rockerdyne.

On 10th July, 1591, George Wood was admitted to the vicarage of Ercall.

On 18th February, 1595, Lawrence Lee, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of Upton Magna.

[On last membrane of File 7 the said Lawrence Lee, bachelor of theology, is said to have been admitted to Upton Magna on February 8th, 1594.]

On 12th October, 1595, Roger Steventon, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Wellington.

FILE 8. October 1595—October 1600.

On 18th July, 1596, Ralph Kynnaston, clerk, was admitted and instituted to the rectory of Midle.

[On another membrane the said Ralph Kinaston is described as Master of Arts].

On 29th June, 1598, Humphrey Leech, clerk, master in arts, was admitted to the vicarage of St. Alkmondes.

On 23rd December, 1598, Humphrey Kynaston, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Ellsemeare.

On 27th March, 1599, Edmund Bennet, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Holy Cross, Shrewsbury.

On 22nd July, 1599, Richard Woley, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Leighton.

On 10th February, 1599, Roger Tydde, clerk, was admitted to the rectory of Pitchford.

#### FILE 9. October 1600—October 1605.

On 31st July, 1601, John Morgan, clerk, was admitted to the vicarage of Prees.

On 12th July, 1602, Gideon Hancockes was admitted to the rectory of Fytz.

### LIBER INSTITUTIONUM.

#### COM' SALOP'.

#### SALOP DEC'.

[BENEFICE AND VALUE.]	[PATRON AND DATE OF INDUCTION.]	[INCUMBENT.]
Cound Rectory, 33 <sup>li</sup> 0 0	Edward Pitt, esquire, 6th June, 1648.	James Cressett.
Actyngham Vicarage, otherwise Atcham, 11 <sup>li</sup> 6 8	Catherine Burton, widow, and Edward Burton, esquire, patrons of the same Vicarage, 3rd October, 1622	Roger Barber.
Middle Rectory, 12 <sup>li</sup> 7 2	9th April, 1630.	Thomas More.
Smethcote Rectory, 4 <sup>l</sup> 9 0		

[BENEFICE AND VALUE.]	[PATRON AND DATE OF INDUCTION.]	[INCUMBENT]
Loppington Vicarage, 6 <sup>li</sup> 12 1	The King. 27th April, 1640	George Buchanames.
Fitz Rectory, 5 <sup>li</sup> 5 8	The King. 20th May, 1616	Thomas Clerke.
Froddeley Rectory, 4 <sup>li</sup> 14 0	Thomas Screvin, esquire. Thomas Baker. 10th September, 1623. Thomas Screvin, esquire. Thomas Fisher. 3rd December, 1633.	
Shaynton Rectory, 6 <sup>li</sup> 9 1	William Philipps, patron. William Peake. 27th November, 1621. William Phillipps, patron. 1st March, 1647.	George Cudworth.
Basturche Vicarage, 10 <sup>li</sup> 16 0	The King. 11th September, 1648.	Edward Lawrence.
Petton Rectory, 3 <sup>li</sup> 4 1	The King. 21st March, 1616.	Thomas Downes.
Monsford Vicarage, 4 <sup>li</sup> 18 6	Henry Bromley, esquire. Francis Browne 11th May, 1632. Henry Bromley, esquire. Thomas Unton. 29th March, 1639.	
Stepulton Rectory, 6 <sup>li</sup> 7 4	Thomas Stanley, gentle- Roger Barbor. man, by reason of a certain grant made to him by Lord John, Earl of Bridgewater. 20th May, 1625.	
Condover Vicarage, 4 <sup>li</sup> 14 0	Sir Roger Owen, Knight, Jonas Chaloner. 16th October, 1615. Sir William Owen, Knight, 12th May, 1640	Ralph Morhall.
Hodnett Rectory, 26 <sup>li</sup> 0 8	Sir Robert Vernon, Knight, 21st October, 1615. Sir Robert Vernon, Knight, 3rd October, 1634.	Richard Sankye. John Arneway.

[BENEFICE AND VALUE.]	[PATRON AND DATE OF INDUCTION.]	[INCUMBENT.]
Leyghton Vicarage, 7 <sup>li</sup> 12 6		
Harley Rectory, 5 <sup>li</sup> 12 1	Sir Richard Newport, Knight, 15th July, 1633.	Richard Wicksted.
Ellesmere Vicarage, 17 <sup>li</sup> 18 0	John, Earl of Bridg- water, 20th March, 1629.	Thomas Moore.
Rockceter Vicarage, 11 <sup>li</sup> 8 0	8th August, 1609.	Francis Garbett
Berrynton Rectory, 10 <sup>li</sup> 12 0	Humphrey Lee, esquire. 9th January, 1618.	Samuel Greaves.
Arcoll Magna Vicarage, 17 <sup>li</sup> 6 8	13th August, 1591.	George Wood.
Rockwardine Vicarage, 7 <sup>li</sup> 8 6	The King. 15th January, 1616. The King. 28th April, 1634.	Charles Dackworth. James Smith.
Ryton Vicarage, 5 <sup>li</sup> 18 0	Thomas Corbett, esquire, Henry Miller. and Edward Corbett, esquire, 6th December, 1636.	
Moreton Corbett Rectory, 5 <sup>li</sup> 3 6	Sir Andrew Corbett, Knight, 24th May, 1623.	Richard Taylor.
Nessestrange Vicarage, 9 <sup>li</sup> 0 0	The King. 26th July, 1647.	Richard Payne.
Whitchurch Rectory, 44 <sup>li</sup> 9 8	Thomas, Lord Ellesmere, Chancellor of England. 1st December, 1614. Alice, Countess of Derby, 4th April, 1631.	John Rawlinson. Thomas Fowler.

[BENEFICE AND VALUE].	[PATRON AND DATE OF INDUCTION.]	[INCUMBENT.]
Staunton Vicarage, 5 <sup>li</sup> 10 10	Sir Vincent Corbett, Knight, 2nd November, 1620.	Samuel Deacon.
	Sir Andrew Corbett, Knight, 14th October, 1636.	Roland Nevett.
Prees Vicarage, 10 <sup>li</sup> 0 0	The Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, 29th May, 1635.	Nathaniel Royley.
Pichford Rectory, 6 <sup>li</sup> 5 4		
Rodington Rectory, 6 <sup>li</sup> 13 4		
Acton Burnell Rectory, 6 <sup>li</sup> 9 11	Humphrey Lee, esquire, 12th March, 1615.	Thomas Whitney.
Shabury Vicarage, 7 <sup>li</sup> 1 4	ratione Advocationis 3rd January, 1620.	Richard Woods.
Ightfeild Rectory, 7 <sup>li</sup> 14 8	John Weever and Thomas Pixley, this time patrons. 19th May, 1619.	Thomas Colley.
	Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surrey. 7th December, 1634.	John Arneway.
Hospital of St John the Baptist, in Shrewsbury. 4 <sup>li</sup> 10 4		
Free Chapel in Esembrigge, 1 <sup>li</sup> 6 8		
Wellington Vicarage, 9 <sup>li</sup> 5 0	Philip Eyton, esquire, 1st January, 1620.	Francis Wright.

[BENEFICE AND VALUE.]	[PATRON AND DATE OF INDUCTION.]	[INCUMBENT.]
Felton Rectory, 20 <sup>li</sup> 12 4	William Cockaine, gen- tleman. 13th June, 1628.	Samuel Holdersam.
St Allmonds Vicarage, 6 <sup>li</sup> 0 0	The King. 4th May, 1640.	James Logan.
Holy Cross, Shrewsbury, Vicarage, 8 <sup>li</sup> 0 0	Walter Barker, esquire. Samuel Fisher. 21st July, 1635.	
Upton Magna Rectory, 12 <sup>li</sup> 0 0		Francis Wood.
Sutton Maddock Vicarage, 5 <sup>li</sup> 0 0	24th February, 1617.	
Cheswardine Vicarage, 5 <sup>li</sup> 6 8	Humphrey Lee, esquire. 5th February, 1616.	Thomas Wellens.

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FRANCIS THROGMORTON, A PRISONER IN  
SHREWSBURY, ANO. 1597-8.

By WILLIAM PHILLIPS, F.L.S.

The following remarkable letters copied some years ago from the originals in the Shrewsbury Borough Records, with the view of printing them in these *Transactions*, have been held over till some reliable information could be obtained of their author, and having searched such sources as were within my reach without success, I have determined to give them the publicity these pages afford.

That Francis Throgmorton, the author, then lying in one of the town prisons, amid the filth and vice which characterised them in those days, was not an ordinary vulgar uneducated man; and that he had been in some way employed in the Queen's service, may be gathered from his own words. He speaks of "My Lady Throgmorton my half sister, her Majesty's delight, and my Lady Scidmore, my cousin-german by the Mother, her Majesty's bedfellow, came unto me to visit me in the Mareshalsey when I was there a prisoner and had by strange accident lost my lands." He claims to have "lived sufficiently to the favour" of his most gracious Queen, esteem of her Court, content and pleasure of sundry honourable, great personages of this land, and to the solace of three several kings—her Majesty's dear friends and allies." He further claims to have done "her Majesty great service in great causes this last summer in Scotland," and "to have matters of such serious import and such great weight for my Queen to be accomplished, as that not without her unspeakable prejudice they may be pretermitted." With such family connexions and career some contemporary references to him might reasonably have been expected to exist, but I have fail to find any.

The mention of Lady Throgmorton as his half sister should form a clue to his identification. The lady alluded to was, possibly, Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Nicholas Throgmorton, by Anne, daughter of Sir Nicholas Carew, Knt., who was one of Queen Elizabeth's maids of honour, and became the wife of Sir Walter Raligh. As her father was only once married, Francis Throgmorton could not have been her half brother. According to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, she had but two brothers, Arthur the eldest son and Nicholas. His claim to be cousin-germin to Lady Scudamore, another of the Queen's household, should also be an aid to the discovery of his relationship.

As a means of tracing him I sent an enquiry to *Notes and Queries*, which elicited several suggestions both in private letters and in the pages of that most valuable source of information. Some of these may be quoted. Mr. A. Hall, writes:—"There was a victim of this name attainted in 1583-4; to all appearance he was a son of the notorious recusant Sir George by his wife named Katherine Vaux. In this case the Lady Throgmorton whom he calls 'half sister' would be Anne Carew, wife of his brother, Sir Nicholas of Paulerspury; and the 'lady Scidmore' might have been Anne Throgmorton of Corse, who married Sir James Scudamore, a noted person mentioned by Spenser, and father to the first viscount, so a distant cousin to Francis Throgmorton. This seems plausible; but there were two others so named then living. The one so specified would be uncle to Elizabeth, wife of Sir Walter Raleigh, but never called 'Lady Throgmorton,' nor a maid of honour to the Queen."<sup>1</sup>

The Francis to whom Mr. Hall refers, who was executed at Tyburn, 10th July, 1584, for his complicity, real or suspected, in the conspiracy to land a foreign force in England, was the son of Sir John Throgmorton, Chief Justice of Chester, by his wife Margaret, daughter of Robert Pulman. This Sir John was recorder of Shrewsbury, 1569—1574, and therefore his son Francis might have been

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<sup>1</sup> *Notes and Queries*, 9th Series, p. 216. Mr. R. Fitz James Sawyer, in a private letter, also suggested this Francis, son of Sir John Throckmorton.

associated with this town, but certainly could not have been the prisoner of 1598-9.

Mr. C. Wickliffe Throckmorton of New York, writes,<sup>1</sup> "Francis Throgmorton was probably a son of Anthony Throckmorton, who was the second son of S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Throckmorton, of Coss Court and Tortworth, Gloucestershire, Knt., and his wife Margaret, daughter and heir of Thomas Whittington, Esq., lord of Upton, Gloucestershire. Sir Thomas's eldest son was Sir Thomas Throckmorton of Coss Court, Tortworth, and Turley, Glouc.; High Sheriff of Gloucestershire 30 and 43 Queen Elizabeth; died 1607. He married first Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Berkeley, of Stoke, Knt.; and secondly a daughter of Sir Edward Rogers. Issue by first wife: 1. Sir Wm Throckmorton, created baronet 1611. 2. Elizabeth, married, February 1611, Sir Thomas Dale, sometime Governor of Virginea. Lady Dale died 1640, leaving no issue; an extract from her will is given in Brown's *Genesis of the United States*. She gave to Mrs. Dorothea Throgmorton her lands in Charles Hundred, Virginea, and to the son of Richard Hanby her lands in Shirley Hundred. One half her estate in England and Virginea, after payment of her debts and legacies, she gave to the children of her brother, Sir William Throgmorton, Knt. and Baronet, deceased. She gave her nephew John, the Lord Viscount Scudamore a ring, valued at sixty pounds sterling. 3. Mary, married first Sir Thomas Baskerville, general of the English Army in Picardy; he died in 1597; secondly, Sir James Scudamore, Knighted for valour at the siege of Calais, M.P. for Herefordshire, 1, James I. Their son John Scudamore, of Holme Lacy, Herefordshire, created baronet 1620, M.P. co. Hereford 1620, and 21. James I.; created Baron of Dromore and Viscount Scudamore of Sligo by letters patent 2 July, 1628; ambassador to France. I am at a loss to account for 'my Lady Throgmorton, my half sister.' As I do not know the name of Francis Throgmorton's mother, it seems probable that Anthony Throckmorton was her second husband, and that her daughter by her first husband was the second wife of Sir Thomas Throckmorton of Coss Court."

<sup>1</sup> *Notes and Queries*, 9th Series, vii., p. 374.

Another Francis Throckmorton who lived about this time was the son and heir of Michael Throgmorton of Coughton Court, co. Warwick, who was a younger brother of Sir George Throckmorton of the same place, Knt., Michael "lived many years in Italy, in good and great reputation, with bountiful hospitality, entertayning most of the noble men and gentlemen of England that had occasion to come that way." He returned to England in the beginning of the reign of Queen Mary, and received of her gift the Manors of Honelley, Blackwell, Packhurst, Winderton, Ullenhall, and others. He died in Italy, and was buried in St. Martin's Church, Mantua. Francis, the son, married Judith, daughter of Richard Tracey of Stanway, co. Gloucester, Esq., by Barbara Lucy of Charlcot, co. Warwick, sister of Sir Paul Tracey, Bart., and had by her six children, Francis, Michael, and Judith, who died without issue, and there were living at the time of his death John, Michael, and Judith. He was born in Mantua, and probably educated there, but afterwards resided in England, where he died in 1617, and was buried in the Chapel of Ullenhall, co. Warwick, where is, or was a monument to his memory, from which the above facts are gathered.<sup>1</sup>

The links connecting either of these men with the Shrewsbury prisoner appear still to be lacking, but I am none the less obliged to those correspondents who have kindly sought to help me.

Although the letters are without dates on the face of them, the years in which they were written can be satisfactorily determined. The first is addressed "to the Right Worshipfull Thomas Burnell, esquire, senior Bailiffe of the Towne of Shrewsbury." This gentlemen was known to his contemporaries as "Mr Bailiff Burnell," a member of the distinguished family of that name seated at Acton Burnell. He was the son of Foulke Burnell of Baschurch, was admitted free of the Drapers' Company in 1560-1, and stood so high in the estimation of his fellow burgesses that he was chosen three times Bailiff, viz., 1571, 1590, and 1597. It

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<sup>1</sup> *Visitation of Warwickshire.*

was in the last of these years that he was senior Bailiff, his fellow Bailiff being Mr Richard Cherwell. The date of his appointment was the Sunday after the first of September. The second clue to the date is the mention of "Good Mr Bright, the Preacher," who was appointed to the Curacy of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, the 24 January, 1597-8.

Of the cause of Francis Throgmorton's imprisonment I am ignorant. There is an allusion in the second letter to an offence he had committed, in these words:—"Lastly, I beseech your worships to certify Mr. Perch that for recompence of hate [<sup>?</sup> eight] sinister motions passed against him I bow the knees of my very soul unto him to crave forgiveness, and shall be for ever unto him in satisfaction faithful humble and obedient." John Perch was senior Bailiff, chosen to succeed Mr. Burnell 1598, in September. If, therefore, Throgmorton's offence against John Perch was while he was in office, this third letter must have been written between September, 1598, and September, 1599, showing that he had been in prison a considerable time. This Bailiff enjoyed the esteem of his townsmen to as high a degree as his predecessor. He was entrusted with a commission from the Corporation in 1583 to proceed to Chester to consult with Mr. Justice Bromley, Sir George Calveley, and Mr. Goodman as touching the procuring of Dr. Bulkeley to become "Public Preacher" of Shrewsbury. In the following year he was sent to London by the same body to obtain a new Charter for the town. But while we are not without instances in our municipal history of persons being sent to prison for insolent language to the Bailiffs and other high officials, we can hardly assign so long an imprisonment as Francis Throgmorton appears to have suffered to such an offence. It is much more likely to have been a political or religious cause that led to his incarceration, and probably the latter. "From the defeat of the Armada," says Lingard, "till the death of the Queen, during the lapse of fourteen years, the Catholics groaned under the pressure of incessant persecution. Sixty-one clergymen, forty-seven laymen, and two gentlewomen, suffered capital punishment for some or other of the spiritual felonies and treasons which had been lately created. Generally the court dispensed with the

examination of witnesses: by artful and ensnaring questions an avowal was drawn from the prisoner, that he had been reconciled, or had harboured a priest, or had been ordained beyond the sea, or that he admitted the ecclesiastical supremacy of the Pope, or rejected that of the Queen. Any one of these crimes were [*sic*] sufficient to consign him to the scaffold."<sup>1</sup> Another authority tells us that at every rumour of invasion suspected recusants were seized and confined at their own charges in the jail of the county.

The vivid picture Francis Throgmorton draws in these letters of the wretched and offensive surroundings of prison life is in no degree exaggerated. We have ample evidence of this in the Shrewsbury town records amongst the numerous petitions of prisoners to the Bailiffs, complaining of the moral and physical filth by which they were encompassed. This state of things continued down to the humane reformation inaugurated by the philanthropist Howard. The three gates of the town were used as prisons; the Welsh gate, on the east end of the Welsh bridge; the Stone Gate on the bridge which preceded the present English Bridge; and the Castle Gate, in the street now known by that name. I am unable to say in which of these the prisoner was confined.

No. I.

*Francis Throgmorton to Thomas Burnell,  
Bailiff of Shrewsbury.*

Sir,

I pray your worshipp have me in remembrance for the pap', sand, inke, named, and in truthe when I have that to expresse my minde in, yf I want all other things, my minde & memorie will be wantinge thorough the want of them; for I am so famished that my head is waxen gizzie, in so muche as some times I am straunglie p'plexed; yf ev<sup>r</sup> memorie were needfull yt is in [such] causes needfull. Fire also will be wanting. I [am] ashamed that necessitie causeth me to

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<sup>1</sup> Lingard's *History*, vol. vi., p. 525.

speake this in the service of hir M<sup>tie</sup>, but ther is noe remedie.

I betake yo<sup>r</sup> w<sup>r</sup>ship to gods most holie Armes

y<sup>r</sup> w<sup>r</sup>ships most devote & humble

ffraunces Throgmorton.

Sir,—I hope yo<sup>r</sup> w<sup>r</sup>ship will take a  
course that what is supplied unto  
me presentlie for greatest considerations  
may be resupplied by the Countreys, & in some  
small weight by the Towne

*the end triethe all thinges.*

To the Right W<sup>r</sup>shipfull Thomas  
Burnell, esquire, senior Bailiffe of  
the Towne of Shrewsburie.

[2630 B.R.]

No. II.

*The most humble Petition of ffraunces Throgmorton.*

To the	}	the Bailiffes Aldermen & Counsaile	of the right Honorable Incorporation of the Towne of Shrewsburie.
Right			
Worship			
full			

In most humble and Lamentable wise beseechethe y<sup>r</sup> Right  
Worshipfull favoures y<sup>r</sup> most wofullie distressed prisonner in  
the gate ffraunces Throgmorton the true cliente of this  
worlides faire resplendeur & most blacke & detestable abasure  
that yt will please you in the Course of y<sup>r</sup> greate mercies so  
to dispose of him as that he may be detained in suche manner  
of restraint as shall not forthw<sup>th</sup> subvert & overthrowe his  
life. As Right worshipfull he humblie acknowledgethe that  
his defaulte & misdemeanour against you is exceedinge great  
for w<sup>ch</sup> w<sup>th</sup> the knees of his heart bended, & distilling teares  
aboundant, he most humblie & entierlie craveth remission, &  
mercie: but he hopeth he hathe not so greivouslie offended  
wherbye he should meritt deathe & so cruell a death as w<sup>th</sup>  
hunger & colde to perishe amongst theeves in filthe and  
ordure. Alas most sweet gentlemen thos base stercorareus  
people w<sup>th</sup> whose felowshipp mine is coupled are of a rurall,  
harshe, & robust, nature able to endure the miseries of the  
place, but mercifull gentlemen to true it is that I am of a

contrarie kind, so that at this time the very abisme of abrasure, these wretches of the world: are happier than I in that they can sustaine that, a thousande part wherof I am not able to beare. as also in that no torment of conscience approchethe them nor any inward temptation as yt is accustomed in those w<sup>ch</sup> knuw not god, wheras my minde is more fraught w<sup>th</sup> horroure & anguishe for then is my most calamitable bodye in so muche as were yt not for the memorie of the anguishe of my Lord Jhesus upon the crosse wherin he cried my god my god whye hast thou forsaken me. assuredlie I by Dread lest that thorough Desperation I should forsake god and make a present Divorce of my soule thorough violence wch I see to be readie at hand thorough cold hunger nakednes stinche and all desolation. Oh most Deere Mr Bailiffes upon the most sincere & cordiall submission of my most sorrowfull & carefullie p'plexed soule I beseeche y<sup>r</sup> good w<sup>r</sup>ships to consider that this Incorporation of Sherroesburye and in especiall the heads of the regiment therof are placed in the theatre of this lande & in the veiwe of the chariote triumphall of this Imperiall crowne, so that no act therof can be but blazed thorough infinite expatiations, and therefore y<sup>f</sup> y<sup>r</sup> mercifull & worshipfull hearts had intelligence howe my Ladye Throgmorton my half sister her M<sup>ties</sup> delight, and my Ladie Scidmore my cosin germaine by the mother: hir M<sup>ties</sup> bedfellowe came unto me to visitt me in the Mares-halseye when I was there prisonner and had by straunge accident lost my lands, in Disguised attire sittinge by my syde when I was in habitt & maintience of a gentleman, and in what manner they wept & soried to see my Distressed ruine, & restrained Distresse, Doubtles y<sup>t</sup> would have mooved you unto pittie & commiseration; but alas Noble gentlemen when they w<sup>th</sup> many others of my ffrends shall understand that I am thorough imprisonment hunger cold nakednes stinche & all maner of miserie starved to deathe amongst commune theeves in the commune Jaile of Shrewesburie Doubtles the laments of those Newes whiche wilbe made woulde moove the stones of the deseart & the Tigres in the wildernes; ah unhappie worme of the world that I am in these Imprisonments my humble letters sealed w<sup>th</sup> characters of millions of Loyauall affections have obtained to kisse &



reallye to rebaise the sacred and annointed hands of my most Dread soveraigne, but nowe is their noe refuge for my compositions life pleadant & most lamentable, but onelie y<sup>r</sup> mercies nor any engine left to compose thoroughe my most manifould Distractions mentall.

And yet is there one breathe of comfort left, in as much as I knowe that youe are true professors of the holie Gospell & imitatours unfained to your whole power of Christ Jhesus, wherfore seings my recheles [reckless] tonge hath wrought immensible trespasse against your worshipfull p<sup>r</sup>sons, yet I say I hope y<sup>t</sup> will please you<sup>r</sup> in the sweet regarde of y<sup>r</sup> honnorable hearts to behould me in the same mercie, wherw<sup>th</sup>e Jhesus Christ behouldeth all mankinde. But y<sup>f</sup> y<sup>t</sup> in no sort maye please you of me to have mercie, this Dothe the more animate me to finall Resolution in that I know I have lived sufficientlie to the favoures of my most gracious Queen esteeme of hir Court, content & pleasure of sundrie honnorable & greate p<sup>r</sup>sonages of this land, and to the solace of three severall kinges hir M<sup>ties</sup> Deere ffreinds & allies. but most submissivelie I entreat Right w<sup>ship</sup>full & Christian gentlemen Reserve me not to my selfe, but to my Friends, my Queene, the benefitt of hir Crowne and countreye; and heerin I do give you to understande that as I Did hir M<sup>tie</sup> greate service in greate causes this last summer in Scotland, so have I matters of suche serious import & such great weyght for my Queen to be accomplished as that not w<sup>th</sup>out hir unspeakeable preiudice they may be pretermitted; & heerof I am constrained for the saugarde of my lyfe thorough famishment & cold & miseries inestimable to be a blab. [chatterer]. Lastlie I beseeche yo<sup>r</sup> w<sup>ships</sup> to certifie Mr Pearche that for recompence of hate [? eight] sinister motions passed against him, I bowe the knees of my verie soule unto him to crave forgiveness, and shalbe for ev<sup>r</sup> unto him in satisfaction faithfull humble & obedient. and I am verilie p<sup>r</sup>swaded that seings all the losses & greifes w<sup>ch</sup> god in these late yeeres hathe sent me nor the merciles sea, could not sufficientlie manage & instructe me, y<sup>t</sup> was the ordinance of the eternall god, to cause me thorough your hands to knowe my selfe. I beseech you by all thinges that ev<sup>r</sup> were Deere unto you & by the blessed bloude of the worldes

redeemer that y<sup>t</sup> will please you to let me speake w<sup>th</sup> good Mr Bright the preacher, and to save my lyfe w<sup>ch</sup> in this miserie hangethe in the ballance & so to give me cause to kiss the sweet hands of y<sup>r</sup> amiable courtezies most cordiallie amongst my ffriends & in all places for ev<sup>r</sup> & to honour sincerelie y<sup>r</sup> incorporation, y<sup>r</sup> owne p'sons for ev<sup>r</sup>. & most heartilie to praye (as in Dutie I am allreadie bounde) for the preservation encrease & continuance of all prosperitie for your Towne your selves your children & posteritie for ev<sup>r</sup>.

as y<sup>r</sup> penitent humble faithfull & obedient  
suppliant & servant

ffraunces Throgmorton.

No. III.

*To the Right worshipfull Mr Bailiffes Aldermen & Counsaile  
of the Right Honorable incorporation of Shrewesburie.*

In most humble & lamentable wise beseecheth yo<sup>r</sup> Right Worshipfull considerations yo<sup>r</sup> most miserable prisonner & the most wofullie & tragically excruciate poore gentleman, all things considered, in these times, that yt will please you in the eyes of yo<sup>r</sup> pittifull benevolence, to behoulde the grones of the spiritt, the dilaniations of the soule, the tempestuous troubles of the memorie, the tranquille & obedient submissions of the will, the serene cristalline copious floudlike teares of the underetandinge, the bloudie drops issuinge from the heart, and the heavie most boistrous exagitations of minde & bodye of the haples Throgmorton, with some wherof he restles daye & night contendeth to quenche the fervour of yo<sup>r</sup> Justlie conceived anger, w<sup>th</sup> others to enkindle the flame of yo<sup>r</sup> ev<sup>r</sup> bright shininge courtezies & w<sup>th</sup> all of them to extinguishe abrase & disingrave, the deformed so latelie past impression issuinge from the great imbecillitie, of his manifould & direfull Destructions. the most learned HOMERE saith, Right worshipfull, that the anger of greate p'sonages is very great, and that although y<sup>t</sup> may be covered & vailed ov<sup>r</sup> for a season yet so extreme is

the force therof, that yt will afterwarde upon everie light occasion reflowrishe & reflate & foulder up like the Mount of Etna. W<sup>ch</sup> doubtles is most true, but I take yt to be verified in great things against great things, for there is matter inoughe ministred for the force of furie to worke upon. as we know that ffurie of God is greater against hell, then against the earthe, for the one is pettie & infirme the other immensable & obstinate, & the veritie heerof also appeerethe in the charge given to his onelie sonne, who when he was sent from the bosome of his Father had not commission to breake a bruised reede or to quenche burninge flaxe for so should he have plaide the part of a base minded mushrome, sente but to breake in sunder the bonds of captivitie, the gates of hell and the chaines of death & to quenche the flames acherontiall & infernall w<sup>ch</sup> otherwise had consumed & burnt not onelie the worldes but also the soules of all humaines for all eternitie: & this was the true part of a celestiall & sup'angelicall champion. for what glorie were yt for a Giaunt to kill a gnatt, or what Honour hathe yt ev<sup>r</sup> been from the beginninge of the worlde for any conquerour, to destroye an humble submitte suppliant & selfsurrendringe adversarie. w<sup>ch</sup> yf yt hathe been so since the beginninge of the worlde in the course of commune reason, aswell in Paganisme as in Papisme, howe oughte yt then to be Right worshipfull in the dayes of the glorious evangelicall resplendeur wheras is left unto us as our conductour the Powre of our lord Jhesus w<sup>ch</sup> surmountethe reason, surmountethe the understandinge, surmountethe all Sineresis humain yea and all the Powers Hierarchicall, wherein is no digredience, difference, or disceptaunce, no Disglutination denodation or distermination of causes but all unite in a sempiternall & ev<sup>r</sup> blisful harmonie & melodie, in which Christian Regiment yt is p'emptorilie concluded, that w<sup>th</sup>out remission francklie & graciouslie graunted, nev<sup>r</sup> any remission by nc means may be obtained. Y<sup>t</sup> is recorded in auncient historie, sweet gentlemen, well garnished & polished stones of Christ his temple, that the Troian Duke Æneas, upon the subversion of his citie, beinge licensed by the Greeke to carry out for his behoofe what one pretious thinge soev<sup>r</sup> he desired, tooke his ould Father Anchises upon

his backe & delivered him from the garde of his enemie w<sup>ch</sup> the Greekes p<sup>c</sup>ceivinge & well likinge gave him his choise of the second, Then Æneas tooke his wife Creusa by the hand, deliveringe her from her captivitie, whose pietie the Greekes admiringe delivered him full & plenarie power over whatsoever he possessed before. You will saye what of all this? marie shall yt please you this I inferre, everie faithfull Christian man, althoughe he be not w<sup>th</sup>out blemishe, (for who Durst abyde to have his faultes written in his foreheade) is your ffather your Mother, your wife, your brother, your sister, your uncle, your cosin and your aunte, & not to you onlie but he is in the selfe same aliaunce w<sup>th</sup> your kinge the sonne of god possessour of heaven & earthe, for all prioritie & posterioritie of bloude, all lineal & collaterall discents are reduced to one periede in Holie Church, in the communion of saints, w<sup>ch</sup> Church I call the mother of all things, & ἡ ἀμόρτια<sup>1</sup> I call the Queene Regent of all things: so that I conclude, that seeinges not Troye is besieged by the Greekes but the bloude of a Christian (and w<sup>th</sup>out arrogation be yt spoken) the bloude of an accomplished gentleman is beseiged by hunger & cold by close imprisonment, by stinche [stench] by horroure, by felloweshipp of commune theeves by nakednes, weaknes, temptations internall & all manner of wretchednes, I doe not say deere gentlemen, Doe as Æneas Did. Carie youre ffather out upon yo<sup>r</sup> backe, but I saye yf so yt please you let your ffather your Mother your brother y<sup>r</sup> sister goe out of the Doores & save his lyfe or els yf Omission be equivalent to the act of admission, you be one Daye founde in the eyes of heaven not guiltles of the bloude of yo<sup>r</sup> most penitentiall & misticall aliaunce. And yf that bloud w<sup>ch</sup> was redeemed by the bloude of the sonne of God be muche more pretious then heaven & earth, save it sweet gentlemen, & be mercifull to the humble sorrowes therof not for my sake but for your owne HOUNOURS sake, for seinges the Towne of Shrewsburie is famous, throughout all this lande, the greater

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<sup>1</sup> From the context it appears probable that the writer means not so much *concord* or *unity*—its proper signification—as *sympathy*.

is my[amisse, the swifter shall your Pegasus of sacred Fame,  
 in all places mount & flye. And seeings that the sayinge is  
 ev<sup>r</sup> true Κραινότερος νοος λεπτε μετις<sup>2</sup> that is the most sharpe &  
 pregnant mindes have allwaies—in their youthe—the weakest  
 counsailes. by reason that Themis Queene of all inferiour  
 powers of the soule is oftentimes in such p'sonages  
 thoroughe greate tempestuous assurgers of hote bloude  
 Driven to throwe the raignes upon the necke so that  
 the corporall organs are tossed up and downe like  
 a shipp in the waves w'tout a Palinure untill that Queene  
 Themis hath recovered hir pristine state & seige.  
 Therefore god forfende that those w<sup>ch</sup> are in time to come  
 to be the cheifest pillars of the Church and commune  
 welthe should for a little temerarious verbalitie, notwith-  
 standinge their fidele & most obedient submission, be  
 silenced & sepulchred, in such a place of horroure as this is, in  
 all extremes w<sup>th</sup>out remorse or pittie. Sweet gentlemen  
 mirrhours of all civil Magestracie, & roriferous mercye,  
 penitentiall & obedient submission pearcethe the hearts of  
 the Possessours of the most affraunchised regnes & frankest  
 Empires of the worlde & of all royalized p'sonages god  
 forfend but y<sup>t</sup> should also take up harbour & reposaite w<sup>th</sup>in  
 y<sup>r</sup> worshipful breasts, fairie sages of Shrewsburie, and in  
 especiall you too Right worshipful Bailiffes whose bliss I  
 shall ev<sup>r</sup> pray for folowe the example of the good  
 Philosopher you have youre birde flying into his owne  
 countreye to Xenocrates save the sparowe from the p'suing  
 Kite, so shall emblazon y<sup>r</sup> w'shipful Fame in manie Hon-  
 norable places. & ev<sup>r</sup> most Devoutlie to praye unto the most  
 highe god, (as in Dute he shalbe allways bounde) that you  
 & yours may live in the felde & sleepe in the bed of  
 HOUNNOR eternallie.

& so in all meeke & penitent obeisaunce takinge my leave

<sup>2</sup> The writer is referring to a line in Homer's *Iliad* (Book 23, line 590), Κραινότερος μὲν γὰρ τε νοὸς λεπτή δέ τε μῆτις; that is, "while his (a young man's) intelligence is brisker, his judgment is slight."—[I am indebted for this and the preceding note to the kindness of the Head Master of Shrewsbury School.—ED.]

I thrice humblie upon the knees of my heart bended Do  
kisse the hands of your most worshipfull Courtezies.

As youre most humble submissee  
sorrowfull & obedient suppliant  
& servant

*Francis Throgmorton.*

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## MISCELLANEA.

[Under this heading the Editors will be pleased to insert notes and short articles relative to recent discoveries in the County, or other matters of archæological or historical interest. Communications are invited, and should be addressed to the Editors, c/o Mr. F. Goyne, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.]

## VI.

## THE FIRE AT SHIFNAL AND THE EARL OF SHREWSBURY, ANNO 1591.

The Right Hon. Gilbert Talbot, seventh Earl of Shrewsbury, was born November 20, 1552, educated at Padua, and succeeded to the title and estates, November 18, 1590. He stood high in the estimation of Queen Elizabeth, and was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary (with the Garter) to Henry IV., King of France, September 6, 1596. He was a joint Commissioner to expel Jesuits, Seminary and other Priests, December 5, 1603. He died May 8, 1616. The year following his succession to the Earldom, a calamitous fire occurred at Shifnal, doing a large amount of damage to the Church and village, which led to his writing the following letter appealing for help to the Justices of the Peace of Shropshire. A Brief was granted by the Queen, Nov. 4, 1592, from which we learn that "32 houses with their goods and household stuffe were consumed, and the Parish Church together with the Chancell and steeple with six Bells in the same utterly consumed and molten." (See *Transactions*, Vol. I., p. 449.)

"After my very hartie comendacons: I am sure that it is not unknown unto you all in what sorte it hath pleased god lately to lay his hand of punishment by Fire upon the Towne and Church of Shuffnall even almost to the utter consuming of them both, and for as much as I am Lord there and very greatly affected to the place, as likewise a Justice of peace amongst you within that countie and thereby caryinge (as no doubt but yee all doe) a x'tian like comyseracon to a neighbour town so afflicted I can do no less then most hartely and very earnestly desyer yee all that yee will in yer sev'all allotments throughout the whole shire use all the best p'seations and means that you can to induce ech township and well disposed p'sons to yeld there benevolences and charitable contribucons towards the Releif and repaire of that distressed Towne and that in such Reasonable measure of bountye from that shire as it shall not need to crave the helpes or be byholding to any other neighbour shires wherby yee shall (no doubt) p'forme a work of xri'an neighbourhood and pieti to make

that Towne for ever bounden unto yee, And for my owne p'te I will acknowledg the same yor helps and goodwills by all the best thankfulness that shall ly in my power. And so doe byd yee Right Hartely well to fare at Sheffield Lodge<sup>1</sup> the vij<sup>th</sup> of August 1591.

Yo<sup>r</sup> assured Lovinge Frend

"if it shall please you to yeld yo<sup>r</sup> favourable consents herein yt may please you also to consider wether it be not requisit for us all

*Gill: Shroffsmore*

to graunte a Lycens to those poore inhabitaunce to gather the benevolence of such as shalbe disposed to so charitable a work within twos shires,

To my verye Lovinge freindes the Justices of the peace w'thin the Countye of Salopp and to all and every of them there resident."

WILLIAM PHILLIPS, F.L.S.

## VII.

### WHERE WAS FETHANLEAG?

Since my contribution under the above title appeared in the last Part of the *Transactions* (p. 147, &c.), a member of our Society, Mr. Charles Marston, has called my attention to the fact that one of the Hundreds of Staffordshire is that of Cuddlestone or Cuttlestone. It stretches, roughly speaking, from the Shropshire border at Sheriffhales to Lichfield, being intersected by the Watling Street, along which, I suppose Ceawlin and Cutha to have led their army against the Mercian power. Fotherley is just outside its boundaries. I have also noticed that Eyton (Vol. VII. p. 286) mentions among the grants of William Fitzalan to Haughmond a portion of land called Cuttleston, which was a member of Sheriffhales. I have at present been unable to identify this land, and am not therefore sure whether it was actually situated in the neighbourhood of Sheriffhales or not. It is, however, as it seems to me, a striking confirmation of my theory that there should be two names of places on the route from Uriconium to Fotherley, which appear to embody the name of Cutha. Cutha, we are told by the chronicler, fell in the Battle of Fethanleag. Is it possible that his death did not actually take place in the encounter, but that in the retreat which followed he succumbed to his wounds somewhere on the way back to the Shropshire border, at a spot which became known as Cutha's-ton, Cuttleston or Cuddleston?

THOMAS AUDEN, F.S.A.

<sup>1</sup> Where the Earl had then a residence now destroyed.—Rev. J. Brook.



## VIII.

## SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS OF LICHFIELD.

On page 32 of vol. ix. of the Second Series of these *Transactions*, mention was made of Robert Wellyn, Bishop of Achaden, who was instituted to the Rectory of Waters Upton on Jan. 31, 1477, and resigned that cure in 1483. Achaden is certainly Achonry, in Ireland, and this prelate held ordinations in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield in 1490 and 1491, being authorized thereto by John Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury. John Hales, who was consecrated Bishop of Lichfield in S. Clement's Chapel at Coventry, on Nov. 25, 1459, died Dec. 30, 1490, and as Wellyn ordained on Dec. 18, *sede vacante*, Hales must have vacated the see shortly before his death. Hales' successor, William Smith, was not consecrated Bishop of Lichfield until Feb. 3, 1492-3. and he commissioned another Bishop of Achonry to act as his suffragan. This was Thomas Fort or Ford, who ordained at Lichfield as late as 1496, was Rector of Edgmond in 1494, and in 1500 received a Bull to enable him to hold three benefices with his see. Fort having become suffragan of Lincoln, Thomas Weell, who had already been suffragan of London, was commissioned in the Lichfield diocese in 1496. Weell was also "*Episcopus Pavidensis*." Other Bishops of Pavada figure in the late Bishop Stubbs' *Registrum Sacrum Anglicanum* about this time, and the learned compiler says that Pavada was in the province of Constantinople. Where was it exactly?

GILBERT H. F. VANE, F.S.A.

## IX.

## DISCOVERY OF A LEADEN BULLA AT HAUGHMOND ABBEY.

A leaden Bulla of Pope Urban VI. (1378 to 1389) was dug up at Haughmond Abbey in May 1900, and is now in the possession of the Rev. A. H. Mawson, Vicar of Uffington. On the Obverse is the legend—

. U R B  
ANUS  
. PP. VI

The stops are eagles' heads erased. Below the legend are two eagles displayed, taken from the Arms of the Prignano family (an eagle displayed), to which family this Pope belonged. On the Reverse are the heads of St. Paul and St. Peter, the two patron saints, enclosed in pearled nimbi or irregular compartments, and over the heads S' PA S' PE. Between the heads is a cross pattée on a long foot, set on a semi-circular stem. The borders are beaded. This Bulla is in an exceedingly good state of

preservation. There is an illustration of one very similar in the British Museum Catalogue of Seals, Vol. VI., Plate VII., No. 21889. Various Bullæ of the same Pope are described at pages 286-7 of the same volume.

W. G. D. FLETCHER, F.S.A.

## X.

### A NOTE ON MORRIS'S PROVOSTS AND BAILIFFS OF SHREWSBURY.

At page 19 of the present volume it is stated that "Gatepole wall was that part of the town walls at the bottom of Dogpole, and near the top of the Wyle." This is confirmed by Owen and Blake-way, who say (vol. I., page 124) "Gatepol is conjectured to have been on the Wyle-cop, below Dogpole." But Phillips (page 143), speaking of the town gates, or posterns, says "one of the gates above mentioned, on Clarimond Hill, was often called Gatepoll, from poll, an old word for the summit, that being the highest part of the Walls." Unless there were two "Gatepolls", this seems to have been the real situation, for in 38 Edward III. William de Birton granted to the Austin Friars eight acres of land, lying together without the walls near their close, between Gatepol and the Severn. (O and B., vol. ii., p. 454.)

The Pride family is supposed (page 15) "to have resided in an old stone mansion on the north-west side of Pride Hill, near the Butter Cross, part of the remains of which are still to be seen there." The Editors add (page 32) "This old masonry still remains," but they do not explain its situation,<sup>1</sup> and seem to refer to the fortification on the Seventy Steps. Possibly the precincts extended to this "shut," but in the opinion of the late Rev. W. A. Leighton, the house itself occupied the site of the present No. 25, Pride Hill. In the first edition of his *Guide*, 1836, he says that "Some idea of its former splendour may be collected from the ornamented plaster ceilings which yet remain in several of the rooms." In later editions he speaks of it as "now new-fronted, modernised, partially rebuilt, and divided."

R. E. DAVIES.

## XI.

### DEDICATIONS TO CELTIC SAINTS.

Miss Burne, in the interesting chapter on the history of Shropshire, which concludes her book on the Folk-Lore of the county, comments on the absence of any dedications in Shropshire to Celtic Saints. She mentions St. Owen's Well at Wenlock

<sup>1</sup> Opposite the present Post Office.—Ed.

as the sole instance of such a dedication. Sir Thomas Botelar, however, who was once abbot of Shrewsbury, and after the dissolution of that house, vicar of Much Wenlock, in his interesting Register,<sup>1</sup> gives two other dedications. one certainly, and the other probably, Celtic. In 1547, he mentions that a wedding took place without his licence in the "Chapel of St. Sampson at Chresteseche," (Cressage) and in 1555, he speaks of a marriage taking place in the "Chapel of St. Brice at Benthall." In the "Calendar of the Anglican Church," published in 1851 by Parker, St. Brice is identified with St. Britius who succeeded St. Martin as Bishop of Tours. If this is so, the dedication is possibly owing to the influence of the French monks from La Charité sur Loire, on which the Cluniac priory of Wenlock was dependent. If, however, St. Brice be the same as St. Briec (Breoc), we have trace of a Celtic saint. St. Breoc was a Welshman, born in Cardiganshire, who after much wandering died in the odour of sanctity in Brittany.

It is hard to say why Sir Thomas Botelar regarded a licence from himself, as Vicar of Wenlock, necessary in the case of Cressage, which is a chapelry of Cound, and not of Wenlock. Mr. Eyton (*Antiquities of Shropshire*, vol. vi., p. 308) considered that the Domesday account of Cressage shows that for some reason it was a privileged place, and he was of opinion that these privileges may have been granted in early times to it as a Christian settlement and preaching place. The writer of the article on St. Sampson in the "Dictionary of Christian Biography," vol. iv., p. 582, considers that according to the most authentic tradition, the saint was a Welshman, born in Glamorganshire in the 5th century, and educated under St. Iltud at Llantwit Major. He is said to have been ordained deacon and priest by St. Dubricius, and for three years and a half have been abbot of St. Piro's monastery at or near Llantwit. Afterwards he went to live in a "desert near the Severn," and was consecrated bishop, but according to common Celtic custom, without a specific see. His later years were spent in Brittany, where he died at Dôl, according to generally received tradition, though some Welsh traditions bring him back to die at Llantwit. The writer gives reasons for considering the legends that make St. Sampson, Archbishop of York, or 25th Archbishop of Menevia, as fabrications of the 12th century, and regards Samson, Bishop of Dôl in 557, as a different person from St. Sampson, the Welsh Saint, whom he places earlier.

Can it be that Cressage was the "desert near the Severn," where St. Sampson lived and taught, and that it was he who preached Christianity under the Christ's oak, and that, for the sake of the faith he taught, the following generations regarded the spot with reverence and respect?

<sup>1</sup> Shropshire Arch. Trans. 1st Series, Vol. VI., pp. 93-132.

There is much to be said for this theory, but at the same time the dedication to the Saint of Dôl may be a later one introduced from the valley of the Loire, for the church of Dôl was subject to Tours, though the Breton bishop and his clergy were constantly struggling for freedom from its rule. There are said to be two churches in Cornwall dedicated to St. Sampson, one (Cricklade) in Wiltshire, and one in the city of York, while that of Milton Abbas, in Dorsetshire, bears the name of St. Mary and St. Sampson. ("Calendar of the Anglican Church," p. 283.)

H. M. AUDEN.

## XII.

### THE DEMOLITION OF FITZ TUMULUS.

On the north side of Fitz Churchyard stands what remains of an ancient tumulus which while I write, is being destroyed for the purpose of using the gravel to cover the playground of the Parish School. I roughly estimate the diameter of the base to be 100 feet, and the height about 10 to 15 feet. Inroads are being made both on the east and west sides, and its total destruction will soon be accomplished. A workman engaged upon it informed me that it was clearly artificial, as the different parts of the soil varied in character, and that he had observed fragments of charcoal in layers. He also said that he had seen some bones, but Dr. Parry told me he believed these were near the surface, and had no connection with ancient cremation. I noticed on the east side that at about five feet from the ground were distinct lines of burnt earth in which were small fragments of charcoal. The workman, in reply to my enquiry, said that he had seen no fragments of pottery. The following particulars of this tumulus are taken from Thomas Wright's work on *Uriconium*, p. 43:—"A tumulus, in Shropshire, closely resembling that at St. Weonards, has been accidentally cut partly away so as to admit of its examination. It is situated in the village of Fitz, about five miles to the north-east of Shrewsbury, on the ground of R. Middleton, Esq., and one side of it was taken away in order to enlarge the farmyard, to which it was adjoining, and not far from the church. On a visit to Fitz, in 1860, with my friend, Mr. Henry T. Wace, of Shrewsbury, I was informed by Mr. Middleton that towards the middle some ashes and burnt bones were found, although the centre had not been reached. When I saw it the surface of the cutting was sufficiently fresh to exhibit the shades of different coloured earth, used in the filling in, which showed that the mound had been constructed in exactly the same manner as that at St. Weonards, namely, that a circular embankment had first been made, and that the mound had been filled in from the circumference of the circle, and not, as the common notion of building sepulchral mounds supposes, filled out from the centre. This tumulus was a hundred feet in diameter at the base,

and forty-eight at the top, and about eleven feet high. It stands on an eminence commanding a fine view of the surrounding country." This account is supplemented by a foot-note, as follows:—"I have since received from Mr. Middleton the following account of the appearances which presented themselves in the process of cutting away the side of this tumulus: 'About fifteen years ago, while cutting it evenly through to the base to enlarge the yard in which it stands, at about eight feet from the centre, we came upon a curious pile of pebble stones, placed much as bricks are in an arch, in which form they were erected, and under them (so far as my memory serves me) a little space, and then a quantity of fine gravel or sand, and under that a large quantity of ashes containing burnt bones. This fortunately happened to be just in the face of the perpendicular we were cutting, or it would not have been seen, and I have little doubt but that another similar was found about the same distance from the centre in another place, but as what appeared to be the top of it was broken in with pickaxes, we found it hard to decide, as large quantities of ashes were dispersed more or less in layers all over it near the base or primitive soil.'"

On reading the above extracts it becomes obvious that a valuable opportunity was lost of obtaining a more accurate knowledge of the true nature of this tumulus through the want of some competent and experienced antiquary to overlook the work. Is it not time that a complete list of such remains in this county should be made, and a watchful eye kept upon them lest any of them share a similar fate to that at Fitz?

WILLIAM PHILLIPS, F.L.S.

### XIII.

#### CHANCERY IN EDSTASTON CHAPEL.

Since penning the note on this subject (which appears on page 151 of the present volume), I have obtained a copy of the late Rev. J. B. Blakeway's MS. additions to Garbet's *History of Wem*. These additions are preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and show that amongst the very numerous documents bearing on the history of Wem which the learned author consulted, were the Harleian MS. No. 433, to which I referred, and "A. fol. 60. in scacc. Salop." Blakeway agrees with the idea which underlay my note, viz., that Richard III. founded the chantry at Edstaston, and that on account of the apprehension of the Duke of Buckingham in the neighbouring hamlet of Lacon; though whether Richard's motive was gratitude to Heaven for the capture of his rebellious subject, or whether he was actuated by "compunctious visitings" for the execution of one to whom he had been signally indebted, cannot, of course, be determined. The extract from the book A. (amongst

the Shrewsbury Borough Records) does not appear to be in Blake-way's handwriting, and is full of inaccuracies. It shows, however, that Richard was at Nottingham "die Sabbati proximo ante festum exaltacionis sancte crucis anno regni secundo," and that he founded the chantry on account of his special devotion to the Virgin Mary, "pro salubri statu nostro ac (pro animabus?) consortis nostre Anne, Regine Anglie . . . et omnium aliorum benefactorum eiusdem capelle, necnon pro animabus nostris cum ab hac luce migraverimus, et specialiter pro anima nobilissimi quondam principis recolende memorie Ricardi ducis Eboracensis patris nostri," etc. For the support of the chantry priest Richard assigned "octo marcas sterlingorum habendas et annuatim recipiendas eidem capellano perpetuo de firma sive feodi firma ac aliis proficuis et revencionibus crescentibus ville nostre Salop per manus ballivorum et burgensium dicte ville."

The figure in the East window of Edstaston Chapel when Garbet wrote (sc. 1740-1753), viz., that of "a noble person in a rich robe, sitting on a chair, with a table before him, and a white rose upon it," no doubt represented Richard, Duke of York.

Shakespeare puts the following allusion to the treachery of Banister into the mouth of Buckingham's son, when the latter was condemned to follow his father to the scaffold :—

"My noble father, Henry of Buckingham,  
Who first raised head against usurping Richard,  
Flying for succour to his servant Banister,  
Being distress'd, was by that wretch betray'd,  
And without trial fell : God's peace be with him."

Henry VIII., Act. ii., Sc. i.

GILBERT H. F. VANE, F.S.A.

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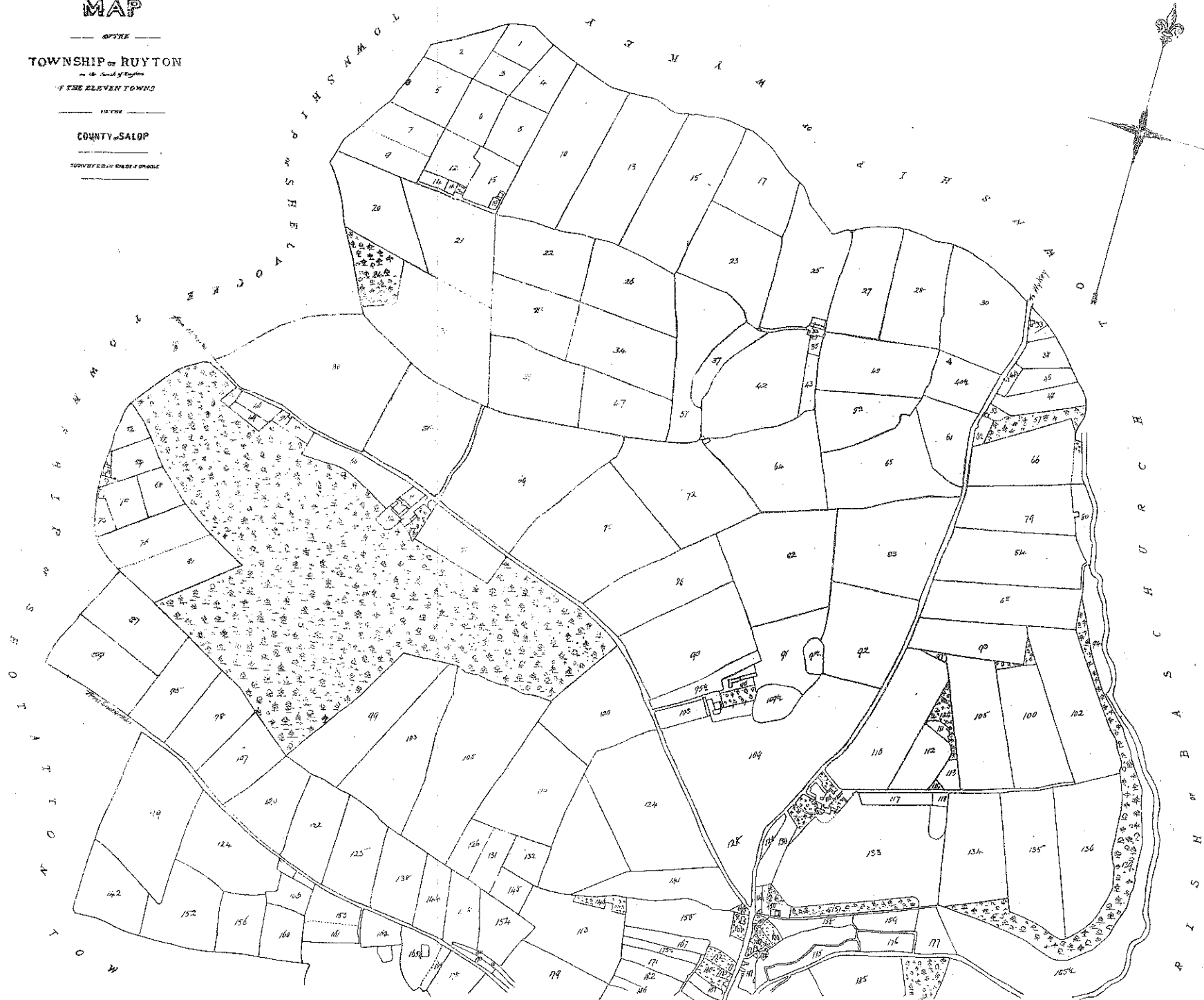


# MAP

OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF RUYTON  
in the County of England  
OF THE ELEVEN TOWNS

COUNTY OF SALOP

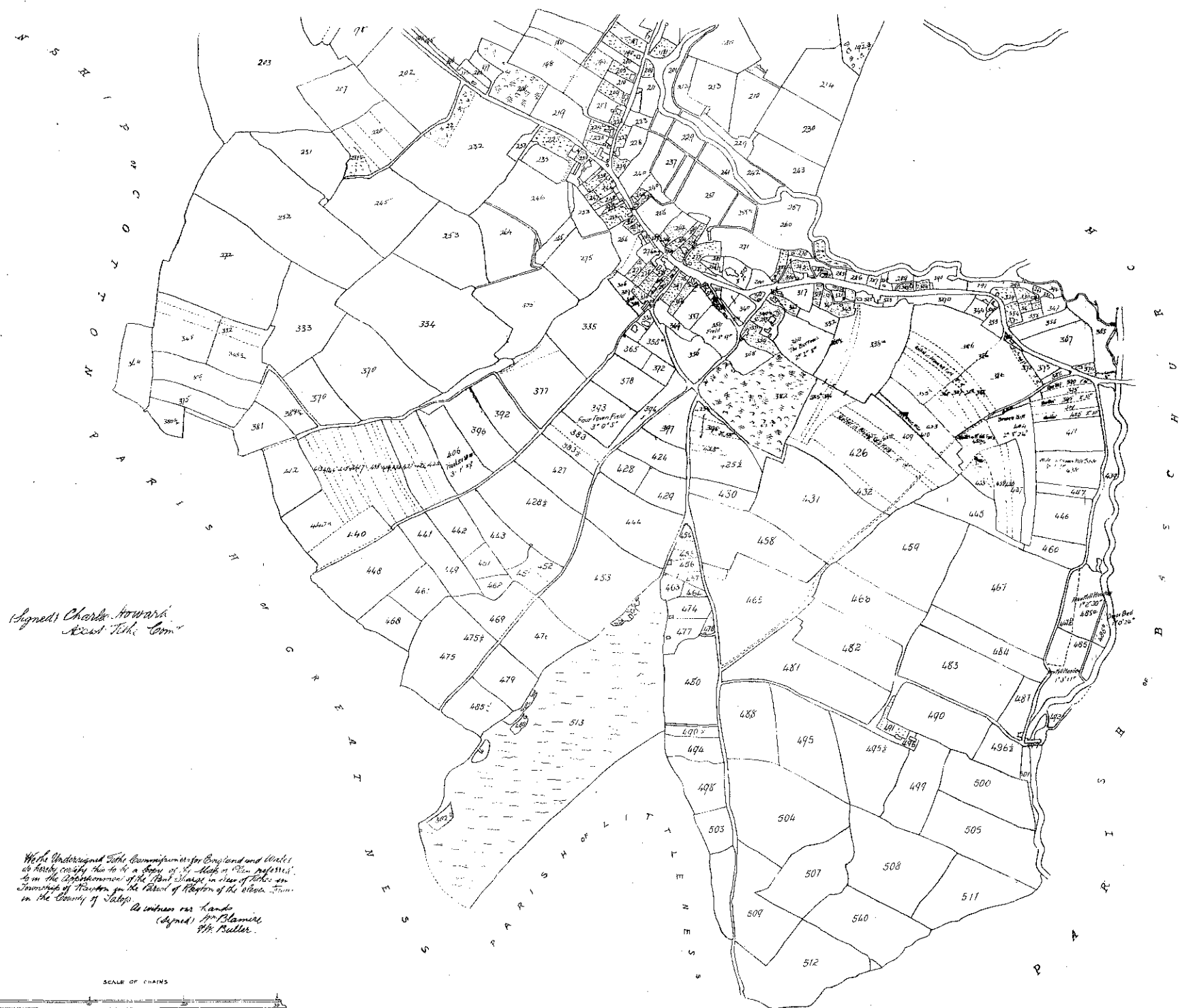
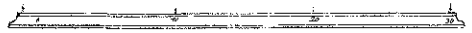
TOWNSHIP OF RUYTON



(Signed) Charles Howard  
Deputy Tithe Commr

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do hereby certify that this is a copy of the Map as the same  
is in the possession of the Tithe Commr in view of the  
Injunction of the Court in the Matter of the Tithe Commr  
in the County of Salop.  
Witness our hands  
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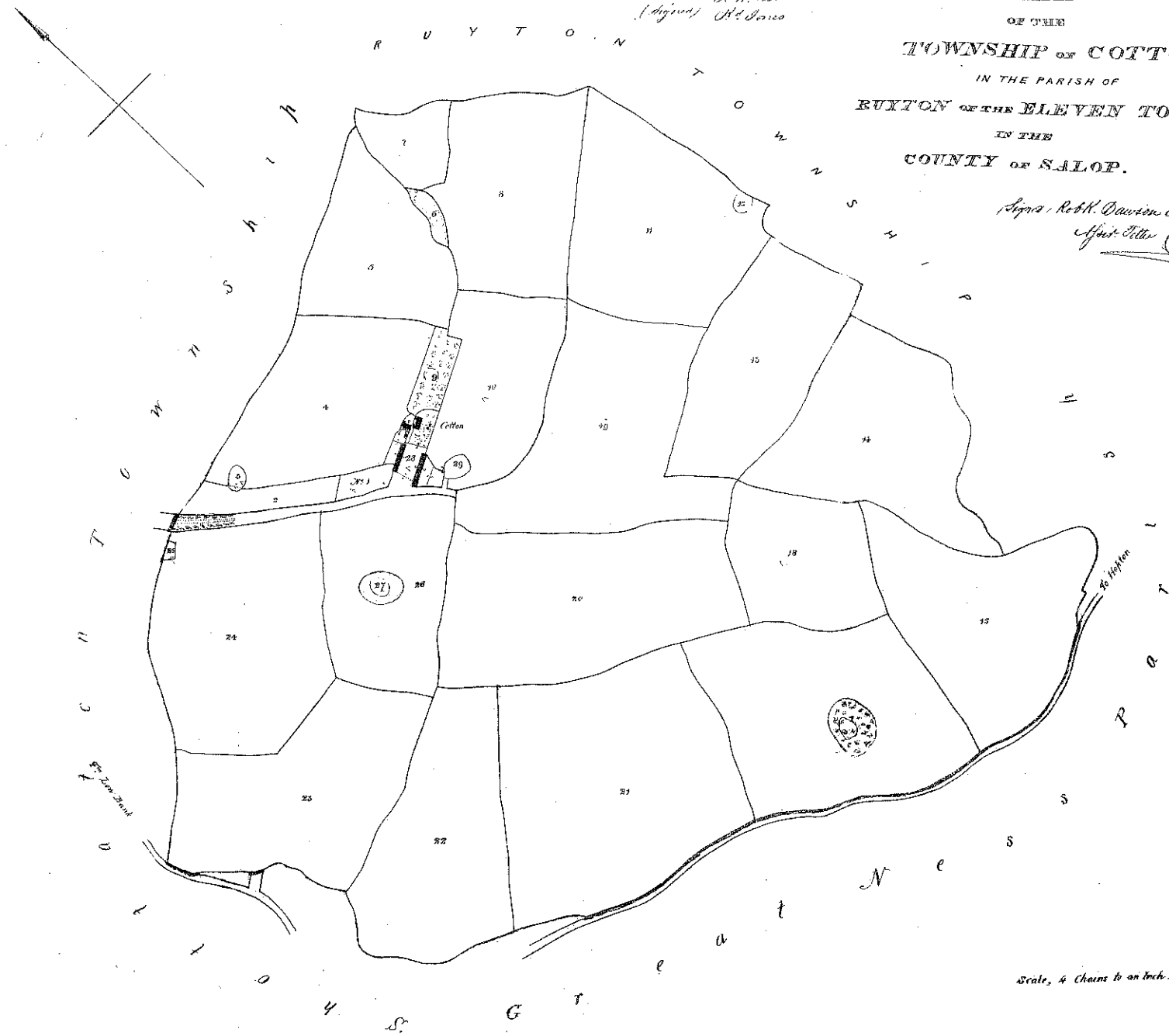


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 Title of Act in the Township of Cotton in the Parish  
 of Ruyton of the Eleven Towns in the County of Salop  
 As Witness our Hands*

*J. H. Wheller  
 (Signed) H. J. Jones*

**PLAN**  
**OF THE**  
**TOWNSHIP OF COTTON**  
 IN THE PARISH OF  
**RUXTON OF THE ELEVEN TOWNS**  
 IN THE  
**COUNTY OF SALOP.**

*Signed: Robt. K. Dawson Esq. R. E.  
 Agent Cotton Comm.*



Scale, 4 Chains to an Inch.