

Aylsham Local History Society



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AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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FUTURE PROGRAMME

C.U.E.M.B. Lectures. - Dates have now been arranged for the next series. Lecturers are: Ms. Vanessa Morton, Dr. John Pound and Dr. Susanna Wade-Martens. Lectures will be held, as before, at the High School on

7th. October	4th. November,	2nd. December
13th. January	10th. February,	9th. March

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Because the date of the first CUEMB lecture clashes with the date originally chosen for the AGM, it has been decided to change the date of the AGM to 14th. October. The venue for this year's AGM will be the Friendship Club.

MONDAY, 19th. OCTOBER - Lecture by Mrs Field, to be held at the High School, as the start of the exhibition on the Fisher family which the Society is sponsoring as its contribution to the Aylsham Festival.



AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER

Volume 1

Number 8

BLOMEFIELD'S NORFOLK

Sooner or later, every local historian delving into the history of his county of Norfolk, or perhaps just that of his own village, comes up against Blomefield's Norfolk. For many it is the starting point in their research, for others it is their only source of reference.

Historians in most other counties look with envy at this monumental work which covers all the villages of Norfolk in each of the separate Hundreds, and provides the jumping-off point for further research. Because of its importance, practically the whole of this issue of the Journal & Newsletter is devoted to Blomefield's Norfolk. Apart from a few items concerning the affairs of the Society, the rest of the issue contains the whole of the entry relating to Aylsham in Blomefield's history.

In addition, we are fortunate to have an article from Mrs. Anne Williams introducing Blomefield's work, and giving some biographical detail and an assessment of the Aylsham entry.

Francis Blomefield was born at Fersfield, Norfolk on 23rd. July 1705. He was the son of Henry Blomefield, "a gentleman of independent means", and as his four immediate predecessors had all married heiresses, he was fortunate in having the financial resources to pursue his literary interests.

Blomefield was educated at Diss and Thetford Schools, and at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge from which he graduated B.A. in 1727. He entered the ministry as a deacon the same year, and was ordained priest in 1729, being presented to his father's family living of Fersfield. In September 1732 he married Mary Womack, by whom he had three daughters. Mary herself was the daughter of the Rev. Laurence Womack, rector of Caistor, and one of a family of parsons with a long association with Fersfield.

Blomefield's literary and historical interests were apparent from an early age. He began collecting material for his future work when he was only fifteen, and records that between 1720 and 1733 he spent £175 16s on his various travels, making church notes and buying manuscripts. While still at Cambridge he is said to have published a thin volume entitled 'Collectanea Cantabrigiensia', although the only known copy purports to have been printed at Norwich in 1759.

In October 1733 Blomefield began to put forward proposals for his history of Norfolk. He received particular encouragement from Thomas Tanner, who was himself an avid collector of historical documents. (The Tanner collection is now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford). Blomefield must be credited with the discovery of the 'Paston Letters' which have subsequently become

so well known. In 1735, while recovering from a feverish illness, he gained access to the document room of the late Earl of Yarmouth, the head of the Paston family, at Oxnead. It was here that he came across what he described as - "innumerable letters of good consequence in history".

By 1736 Blomefield felt ready to begin work on his history. His decision to print it in his own house proved fraught with difficulties, not least of which was a fire which is said to have destroyed his press and printing office. He evidently published his account of each place separately, as it was finished. The work was extremely well received, and by Christmas 1739 his first folio volume was completed. The second volume, devoted entirely to Norwich, was published over the course of four years, being completed in May 1745. Blomefield was halfway through his third volume when he died of smallpox on 16th. January 1752 at the age of 47. He was buried in the south side of the chancel of Fersfield church.

Successful though his history may have been, and although coming from a family with "independent means", it is evident that Blomefield died with considerable debts outstanding. In his will, dated shortly before his death, he directed that all his personal property be sold towards payment of his debts. The settling of his estate proved too burdensome for his executors; they declined to act and renounced probate, thus leaving the administration of affairs to the two principal creditors. Whether Blomefield's debts were due to the cost of his historical pursuits, or whether they resulted from indulging in his other great love, fox-hunting, remains debatable.

The Rev. Charles Parkin was entrusted with the completion of the history of Norfolk, and when he, too, died, it was finally finished by a "booksellers hack"

in Kings Lynn. Whether Blomefield had original collections for the rest of the county comparable with those that he printed in his lifetime is impossible to say. If he did, they were not used with such skill by his successors. The whole work, consisting of eleven volumes, was republished in London, between 1805 and 1810.

There has been much debate over the source of Blomefield's documentary evidence. He undoubtedly made great use of material collected by other historians and antiquarians, most notably Peter Le Neve, John Kirkpatrick and Thomas Tanner. It is likely that he used Le Neve's collections as the backbone of his history, supplementing it with evidence from the other collections, and then working up each parish as he came to it. The Dictionary of National Biography is somewhat dismissive of Blomefield's achievement, stating that "there is vastly more of Le Neve's work than Blomefield's, and to the former, therefore, should more justly be given the credit of being the county historian of Norfolk". However, it is important not to forget whose inspiration and hard work made that history available to the public. "an enduring monument of hard disinterested work, for it is wholly a labour of love..."

Blomefield's own introduction to the first volume of his history provides a valuable insight into the man and his work. He is disarmingly modest about the aim of the work, which he does "not pretend to call a History of Norfolk, but an Essay only towards it, being very sensible that there may be several things of moment, in almost every parish, that may be impossible for me to know, or come at..." His moral purpose is explicitly stated. He wants to record - "all publick gifts and benefactions that I can meet with, in order to preserve them, as far as can be from devouring time, and to animate others by those

examples, to a worthy emulation of such charitable works amiable to God and man. For the same reason it is, that I shall be very exact in my descriptions of the Churches, Chapels etc., that posterity may know what signal tributes of honour and reverence our ancestors paid to those holy places which they generously built, richly adorned, and prudently set apart for God's worship".

In anticipation of the use that could be made of his History, Blomefield is less modest in his observation that - "History is the light of truth and life of memory ... and if there be nothing more in it, experience teaches that by recording the lives and actions of the good, those that come after them are thereby encouraged to imitate their virtues, for nothing so much incites the mind of man, to an emulation of others, as the report of the noble actions of them that have gone before them. . .".

The entry for Aylsham is to be found in volume 6 of the History, and was therefore not written by Blomefield himself. It is interesting, not only for the information that it contains about Aylsham, but also for the light it throws on the time in which it was written. The whole account reflects the interests and preoccupations of the eighteenth century. It is a legalistic, factual account, adopting a chronological approach, and with a strong emphasis on historical precedent. The prolific detail concerning church monuments, and an index devoted entirely to heraldic arms are good examples of what eighteenth century writers considered important to record. The chief criticism to be made of the History is its own absence of critical judgement. Factual detail is recorded without any attempt to assess its accuracy. It was clearly written for an educated readership, as the Latin inscriptions were not translated; this was a policy decision taken by Blomefield himself.

The features of the town that are thought notable are its manorial history, a list of the incumbents, the Church and the Free School. This must result, in part, from the historical evidence that was available. With the exception of the Paston letters, the compilers of the History would not have had access to the abundance of family correspondence that present day historians use to such advantage. There is very little to inform the reader of the social and economic life of the town, apart from the fact that in the reign of James I "it was chiefly inhabited by knitters", and that it remained "a neat little market town of about 120 families" [p284] One has no clue as to the quality of life led by those families.

By comparison with the history being written in our own time, it offers an interesting difference in perspective. Despite its deficiencies, however, 'Blomefield's Norfolk' remains a valuable source for anyone interested in the history of this county.

[Biographical details are taken from *The Dictionary of National Biography*. The opinions are my own.]

Anne Williams]

A Y L E S H A M.

THIS town in *Domesday Book* is written ELESHAM, that is, the village at the leas or pasture by the water, which exactly answers to its situation; the whole town with its *berewicks* of SCIPEDAN, BRUNDAL, and CRACHEFORT or CRAKEFORD, belonged to GUERT or GUERD, the DANE,^o who was a great owner in this county, and at

^o Terre REGIS quam GODRICUS servat. **ERFINCHAM** Suth. Hund. (Doms. fo. 41, 2.)

ELESHAM, tenuit GUERT. T. R. E. xvi. car. terre, tunc. xx. villani, post et modo xi. tunc et post. lxxxvii. bordarij modo lxx. tunc et post ii. servi, modo iii. tunc vi. car. in dominio, post et modo i. et vi. possunt fieri, xii. acr. prati tunc silva cccc. porci, post et modo ccc. semper ii. mol. semper vii. porci, et vi. oves, et vii. caprae, tunc et post lx. socmanni modo xlv. et habent unam carucatam terre, et dimidium, et xiiii. bord. tunc xxx. car. post et m^o xxiiii. et viiii. acr. prati, silva xii. porc. semper ii. mol. et vi. car.

Huic manerio jacet i. beruita SCIPEDANA i. car. terre et semper iii. villani, tunc iii. bordarij post et m^o ii. semper i. car. in dominio et i. car. hominum, et dimid. acr. prati, silva viii. porc.

Et BRUNDELA jacet huic manerio, xxx. acr. terre, tunc i. car. et ii. acr. prati.

Tunc valuit xii. libr. post xxv. libr.

blanc. m^o xxix. libr. blancas, et xx. sol. de gersuma, et habet ii. leugas in longo, et ii. in lato, et xx. den. de gelto.

Hic i. liber homo v. acr. et valuit xvi. den. hoc tenuit HUNFRIDUS, nepos RANULFI, fratris ILGERI, sed hundred. eam derationavit Regi, et ex hoc dedit vadem, et tamen suus antecessor eam tenuit.

(Fo. 43.) In CRACHEFORT i. liber homo GUERT, i. car. terre, semp. iii. bord. tunc i. car. et dim. m^o i. et ii. acr. prati, modo i. mol. et hoc est in pretio de AILESHAM, et habet iiiii. quaren. et dim. in longo, et iiiii. quar. in lato, et iiiii. den. de gelto.

Terre WILLI. DE WARRENNNA fo. 33. In TATITUNA (Tutington) ii. liberi homines GUERD xvi. acr. semper i. car. et i. acr. prati, et val. xvi. den. secū in AILESHAM T. R. E.

In CRAKEFORDA, tenet TUROLDUS x. acr. quod tenuit liber homo GUERT ad AILESHAM, semper dim. car. et val. iii. sol.

Hos. (sc. xvi. in all, in different

places,) socmannos tenuit HAINFRIDUS de SANCTO OTMARO ad feudum sui antecessoris, et hoc testatur hundred. et DROGO eos calumpniatur, hanc terram

tenuit AINFRIDUS quando foris fecit, et DROGO postea, sed WILLS. DE WARRENNNA ea prius illis habuit et m^o similiter.

AYLESHAM.

that time the manor extended into *TATITUNA* or *Tutington*; it had 6 carucates in demean, and among the several tenants and berwicks, the whole was no less than 18 carucates; the woods here were then large enough to maintain 400 swine, there were 20 *villeins*, 88 *bordars* or tenants, that paid poultry and other provisions, for the lords board or table; two servants in the house, and 60 *socmen* or tenants, that ploughed the lord's land, and held a carucate and half among them; the manor was then worth with its *berwicks*, 12*l. per annum*, and was 2 miles long and as much broad, and paid 20*d.* to the *GELD* or *tax*, towards every 20*s.* raised by the *hundred*; and *Crakeford hamlet* was then four furlongs and an half long, and four furlongs broad, and paid 4*d. gelt* towards every 20*s.* raised in the *hundred*. The whole came to *RALF* Earl of Norfolk, but on his forfeiture, the Conqueror seized it, and *Godric* managed it for him; and when the *survey* was taken by that prince, about the year 1086, it appears that the manor was raised from 12 to 25, and was now worth 29*l.* a year, besides 20*s.* as an *annual fine*: the parts in *Tutington* and *Crakeford* were now separated from the manor, and were first held by *William* Earl Warren, of whom *Humphry*, nephew of *Ralf*, brother of *Ilger*, held them; and after he forfeited them *Drogo* or *Druc* had them, but the King claiming them from him, *Warren* recovered them as his ancient inheritance.

From this time the manor continued in the *Crown*, whole and undivided, till King *RICHARD* the First's time, and he it was that divided it, by giving a part to *BURY abbey*, which was the original of *Sexton's* manor here, and by granting another part off, which was the original of *Bolwick's* manor; so that now there are 4 *manors* in this town, the capital, or *LANCASTER* manor, *RECTORY* and *Vicarage* manor, *Sexton's* and *Bolwick's*; of all which, I shall speak separately.

AYLESHAM, EX PARTE LANCASTRIE, OR LANCASTER'S.

AYLESHAM whole town was in the hands of *Henry II.* and he held it in right of his *Crown*, from the Conqueror, his progenitor; and in 1156 he had assigned it to his brother *William* for life, for his better support and honour, with *Cawston*. In 1199 *Eustace de Nevile* farmed them both of King *John*, till 1215, and then that King directed his writ, to the *sheriff* of *NORFOLK*, to deliver possession of *AYLESHAM* to *Baldwyn de Ayre*; but in 1226, the King give it to *HUBERT DE BURGO* or *BURGH* Earl of *Kent*, and so it became joined to *Cawston* and the hundreds. In 1227, the *tenants* pleaded, that when King *Richard I.* went to the *Holy Land*, he conveyed the manor for a time to *Eustace de Nevile*, who sold many parcels of the *demeans*, to several of the tenants, who were now ordered to produce their *grants*, which several did, and they were all allowed, and those that did not, lost their land; and the same year, *John le*

AYLESHAM.

Grey pleaded, that he held his *manor* of *SHERINGHAM* of this *manor*, by 12*d. per annum* paid at *Lammass day*,¹ and the service of one fee; in 1296 it was in the King's hands, for *Richard Cailly* his *bailiff* distrained *John Holmgey*, for 4*s. 11d.* rent for a place called *Holmecroft*, which was held by the said rent, and the service of being *provost or reeve* of the King's mill, and *MERCATE* of *Aylesham*; and it passed with *CAWSTON* (which see) till about 1330, and then *Queen Isabel*, the King's mother, had it for life, and died seized, and then it continued in the *Crown* till 1371, when it was first made parcel of the *DUTCHY* of *LANCASTER*, by the King's giving it to his son, *JOHN* of *GAUNT Duke* of *LANCASTER*, and the heirs of his body, and from that time it became the *head, or principal town* of that *DUTCHY*,² in this county.

This *JOHN* took his name from the town of *GAUNT*, where he was born, being fourth son to King *Edward III.* and was created *Earl of Richmond* in 1342, the revenues of which *earldom* he then exchanged with the King; this man was King of *Castile and Leons*, Duke of *Guyen, Aquitaine* and *Lancaster*, *Earl of Richmond, Derby, Lincoln*, and *Leycester*, and *high steward* of *ENGLAND*; he had three wives,

1. *BLANCH*, daughter and coheir of *Henry Duke* of *Lancaster*, by whom he had *HENRY*, afterward King of *England*; 3*d* *PHILLIPPA*, wife to *JOHN* King of *PORTUGAL*; 2*d*, *ELIZABETH*, married to *John Holland Duke* of *Excester*.

His second wife was *CONSTANCE*, daughter and one of the coheirs, of *PETER* King of *CASTILE*, by whom he had issue; *CATHERINE*, married to *Henry*, son of *John*, King of *SPAINE*, with the title to the kingdoms of *CASTILE* and *LEONS*.

His third wife was, *KATHERINE*, daughter of *PAIN ROET*, *alias GUIEN*, King of *Armes*, and widow of *Sir Otes Swynford*, *Knt.* by whom he had issue before marriage; first, *JOHN*, surnamed *Beaufort*, *Earl of Somerset* and *Marquis of Dorset*; 2*d*, *HENRY BEAUFORT*, *Bishop of Winchester* and *Cardinal* of *St. Eusebius*, and *Chancellor of England*; 3*d*, *JOANE BEAUFORT*, first married to *Ralf Nevile* 1*st Earl* of *Westmorland*, and after to *Lord Robert Ferrers*.

He died seized of the *DUTCHY* and *manor*, in the 22*d* of *Rich. II.* 1398, being the greatest subject of the *English Crown*; so great, that "as great as *JOHN* of *GAUNT*" then was and still remains, one of our *ENGLISH proverbs*.

At his death *KATERINE* his widow held it for life,³ and at her death,

¹ Henry le Grey held it in 1275.

² AYLESHAM, quod ducatus LANCASTRIÆ apud nos PRÆTORIUM est, says *Spelman* in his *Icenia*, fo. 151.

³ Katherine wife of John Leeches is said to hold it for life, so that I suppose she remarried to Leech.

HENRY PLANTAGINET, son and heir of JOHN of GAUNT, inherited it, who being crowned KING by the name of HENRY IV. united the whole inheritance of LANCASTER unto the Crown, since which, the *ducal title of Lancaster* hath been drowned in the *title of the regal dignity*. But in honour of the house of Lancaster, this King instituted the DUTCHY COURT; to the end, the lands belonging to the *dutchy*, might in all following times be distinguished and known from the lands of the Crown.*

It was after granted by the King, to Sir Thomas Erpingham, Knt. for life, and in 1414, King Henry the Vth settled it on his feoffees, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Richard Bishop of Norwich, Walter Hungerford, John Phelip, Knts. Hugh Mortimer, John Woodehouse, John Leventhorp, Esqrs. and others, together with the manors of Wighton, Fakenham, Snetesham, Gimmingham, Tunsted, &c. and the hundreds of north and south Erpingham, Gallowe, and Brothercross; with many others in divers counties. In 1460, it was settled among others on trustees, to fulfil the will of King Henry VI.; and in 1474, Edward IV. settled it on Elizabeth his Queen for life; and from that, to the present time, it hath belonged to the Crown, as parcel of the DUTCHY of Lancaster, of which it is now held, by the Right Hon. JOHN HOBART Earl of Buckinghamshire, the present lord.

This being the *capital manor* of the DUTCHY, the DUTCHY-COURT hath been always held here; and whereas the *privileges* belonging to those *tenants* are large, it will not be amiss to speak of them here.

Upon the erection of the *dutchy court*, by King Henry IV. May 4, in the 3d year of his reign, anno 1401, the CHARTER of the DUTCHY was confirmed by King and parliament, which sets forth, that

EDWARD III. granted for him, and his heirs and successours, to JOHN of GAUNT Duke of Aquitain and Lancaster, and BLANCH his wife, that they and the heirs of their bodies, and all their *tenants* of the lands and fees, which were in the possession of HENRY Earl of LANCASTER, in the sixteenth year of EDWARD III. anno 1341, should be for ever free, from *panage*,⁵ *passage*,⁶ *paage*,⁷ *lastage*,⁸ *stallage*,⁹ *tallage*,¹ *carriage*,² *pesage*,³ *picage*,⁴ and *ferage*,⁵ throughout all England, and other places in the King's dominion; and King RICH. II.

* Baker's Chronicle, fo. 235

⁵ Toll paid for liberty of feeding swine in the lord's woods.

⁶ Toll paid for being ferried over rivers.

⁷ Pavage, toll or contribution paid for repairing and maintaining streets, roads, and causeways.

⁸ Custom in markets and fairs, for things sold by the LAST.

⁹ Toll paid for liberty to set a stall in a fair or market.

¹ Any toll or custom paid, as for driving beasts over bridges, &c. for selling food or cattle in fairs or markets.

² Duty paid for carrying goods over bridges, &c. from one place to another.

³ Toll for weighing wares at a common beam.

⁴ Toll paid in fairs or markets, for picking up or breaking the ground, to set booth or stalls in fairs or markets.

⁵ Custom paid for hunting in a liberty.

granted to the said Duke, all FINES, forfeitures, and amerciaments, of what kind or nature soever, of all his men and tenants in the said lands or fees, and all *estrap* and *wastes*, whatsoever, in the said fees; together with all forfeitures for *murder* and *felony* committed in the said fees, or by *tenants* of the fees in other men's lands; and also all the goods of *felons de se*, and forfeitures to the clerk of the markets, in as ample a manner as the said King had them before this grant; and further, the said King granted the *assize of bread, wine, and beer*, and all *victuals*, to be under a clerk of the markets, appointed by the said Duke, and that the King's clerks of the markets shall not enter the fees, to exercise any jurisdiction there, and that the said Duke should have the chattles of all *fugitives* and *outlaws* in the said fees;

the said Duke was also to have execution by his own officers, of all *writs*, *summons*, *processes*, *extracts* and *precepts*, so that no *sheriff*, *bailiff*, or other officer of the King, was to enter into the *liberty*, or exercise any office or jurisdiction therein, unless in default of due execution, by the proper officers of the *liberty*; the said Duke was also to have *weyf*, and *stray*, *deodands*, and *treasure found* in the *liberty*, &c. and HENRY IV. confirmed the whole, by consent of parliament, and ordained for himself and heirs, that in the whole *dutchy* of LANCASTER, all these *royal franchises*, *privileges*, and *grants* should for ever stand valid and in full force, and be executed by the proper officers of the DUTCHY; and Edward IV. in the first year of his reign, confirmed all the *liberties* to the *tenants* of the DUTCHY; as did many of the succeeding Kings, so that there are now proper officers, as *coroners*, *stewards*, *clerks of the markets*, &c. appointed for the *liberty* of the DUTCHY, in the several counties it extends into.

The *manors* in this town, are fine certain, both for houses and lands, and give a moiety dower, and the lands descend in *gavel kind*.

SEXTON'S MANOR

Had its rise out of the capital manor; it being given by King RICHARD I.⁶ in free alms to the monastery of St. EDMUND at BURY in Suffolk, to find four wax tapers continually burning at St EDMUND'S Shrine in that church, the manor being then 10*l.* a year; this was confirmed by King JOHN, to Sampson, abbot there, and was held formerly under King Richard, before he granted it;⁷ half by William Bardolph, and half by John de Hastings; it appears that in this King's reign, the manor-house here was called ABBOT'S HALL; but the whole being soon after appropriated to the SACRISTAN or SEXTON of that monastery, it took the present name of SEXTON'S; and it is a wonder in our law, as Sir Henry Spelman says,⁸ for one *manor* to be held of another, by the rod, at the will of the lord, and granted by *copy of court-roll*, as the manor of Sexton's is, of the manor of Ailsham; but *military fees* are often so held.

In 1296 it was found, that all the tenants of this manor were obliged to grind at the *abbot's* water-mill; in 1285, the abbot of St. Edmund had *view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, free warren, or liberty of game, and a ducking-stool*, in this manor; which in 1428 was returned to be of 27*l.* value, to the *sacrist* of the monastery annually, but at the Dissolution it was fallen under 20*l. per annum*. By the dissolution of Bury *abbey*, it fell into HENRY the Eighth's hands, who granted it in 1545 to EDWARD WOOD and his heirs, to be held *in capite* of the King's manor of *Ailesham*, by the 40th part of a Knight's fee, and 55*s.* 8*d.* ob. rent; he left it to Robert Wood, his son and heir, at his death in 1547, who was *mayor* of NORWICH in 1578, as you may see at p. 84, and from that time it hath passed as *Braconash*; and Thomas Wood, Esq. of *Braconash* is now lord. As also of

THE MANOR OF BOLEWIK, E.

Which takes its name from Master HENRY DE BOLEWIC, who gave name to it, also to the manor-house called *Botwick-Hall*, and there was a *mill* near it, heretofore called *Bolewic-mill*. it was first granted from the great manor by King JOHN, to HUGH DE BOVES, at a quarter of a fee; passed then to the *Bolewics*, and from them to the WHITWELLS, and in 1261 *Richard de Whitwell* held it; in 1297, *John* father of *William* of *Whitwell*; held this and *Skeyton* in 1389, ROBERT SALLE, Knt. left his manor of *Bolewicke*; to *Frances* his wife, for life, and then to be sold; he lived at *Oxnead*, and was killed by the rebels in *Richard* the Second's time,² and at his wife's death *William de Danby*, called Lord *Latimer*, and *Thomas Trussel*, his executors, sold it. It passed through various families,* and was sold in 1518 by *Agnes Milton*, widow, to *Thomas Aleyn* and his heirs, and in 1537 *Henry Aleyn* sold it, to *Margaret Wimer*, widow; and soon after it came to the Woods.⁴

⁶ Regr. Pinchbeck, fo. 325.

⁷ Regr. Nigr. Vestiarij, fo. 120.
Regr. Sacristæ, fo. 228.

⁸ ICINIA Spelm. fo. 151. 3.

⁹ Mirum hic in jure nostro; manerium
"a manerio, et per virgam teneri, ad volun-
tatem Domini, et per copiam ro-
"tutorum curiæ concedi; manerium sci-

⁹ See vol. iii. p. 107.

¹⁰ 1476, Thomas Abbys lord here.

¹¹ HENRY ALEYN clerk, died in 1554,
and held in soccage of ROBERT WOOD,
Esq. as of his manor of SEXTONS, 1

"licet de SEXTONS de manerio AILES-
"HAM. Loquor in forensi dialecto;
"sed qui nescierit, ipsa feoda militaria
"tenta olim fuisse, et per virgam, et ad
"voluntatem Domini, legat, si placeat,
"quæ de feodis in nostro Archæologo
"disseruimus."

message called Pergeons alias Coldham
hall, liberty of faldage, and divers lands
and wood thereto belonging.

¹² Dugd. Mon. Angl. vol. i. fo. 317,
18.

N n

THE VICARAGE MANOR

Doth now, and always did from the *appropriation* of the church, belong to the VICAR, it being then settled on the *vicars* for ever: before that time it belonged to the *rectory*; the advowson of which was appendant to the manor, till WILLIAM RUFUS, lord here, gave to the abbey of St. *Martin* at BATTLE in *Sussex*, which was founded by the CONQUEROR, the church of EILESHAM, with the chapels of *Stivecae*, (*Stifecay*, or *Stukecay*,) with two parts of its tithes, and *Shipeden* with two parts of its tithes, and *Brundele* in like manner, and *Banningham* in like manner, and the *mediety* of the church of *Ingworth*, and all the fee or manor that BRITHRIC the *parson* of AILESHAM held, namely this manor, and the land of one *socman* in AYLESHAM, added to this manor;² and *Ailesham* RECTORY afterwards became (the *Bishop's* consent being obtained) *appropriated* to BATTLE abbey, which had about two 3d parts of the *great-tithes*, and the VICAR had all the *small-tithes* of the whole town, and the *great-tithes* of about a 3d part of the town, the site of the *rectory-house*, and the whole MANOR thereto belonging, settled on him and his successors, all which the *vicars* have enjoyed to this day; and further, the *Bishop* on settling the *appropriation*, reserved to himself the *nomination* of all the VICARS, and accordingly the *Bishops* always *nominated* to the ABBOTS, who presented on their *nomination*, to the

Dissolution; but for some time past, the DEAN and chapter of CANTERBURY have *presented* to the VICARAGE without such *nomination* from the *Bishop* of *Norwich*. In 1285, ROBERT then *vicar* of *Ailesham*, had the *assize* of *bread* and *beer* of all the *tenants* of his MANOR, and all other *liberties* belonging to a *manor*.¹ The VICARAGE being then valued at 28 marks. It now stands in the KING's Books by the name of AILESHAM *vicarage*, and is valued at 17l. 19s. 7d. and pays *first fruits*, and 1l. 15s. 11d. *ob. yearly tenths*, and is consequently incapable of *augmentation*; the *Peter-pence* were 19d. the *visitatorial procurations* are 4s. 6d. *synodals* 2s. 8d. ARCHDEACON's *procurations* 7s. 7d. *ob.* In 1367, King EDWARD III. granted license for the *vicar*, to enlarge the site of the *rectory*, which was then, as now, the *vicarage-house*, which joins to the south side of the churchyard, and the present edifice is a handsome new brick building, erected wholly by Mr. *Jonathan Wrench*, late *vicar* there, father of the present *vicar*; the *Terrier* hath 5 acres of *glebe*.

The appropriate *rectory* was valued at 70 marks, and being granted by Henry VIII. after the Dissolution, to the dean and chapter of *Canterbury*, and confirmed by Queen *Elizabeth*, it is now held by lease of that church, and the chancel here is repaired, part by the *appropriator*, and part by the *vicar*.

RECTORS.

Brithtric, in the time of the *Conqueror*.

John de Hastings was instituted in the time of *John of Oxford* Bishop of *Norwich*, being presented by *BATTLE* abbey.

1213, *William Reoinges*. King *JOHN*, patron of this turn, they paid xl. yearly to the abbey, for the two third parts of the *tithes*. (*Tanner's Notitia*, fo. 551.)

VICARS OF AILESHAM.

1225, Bishop *PANDULF* consented to the *appropriation*, and collated *RODFRID* his nephew to the *vicarage*; (see vol. iii. p. 482;) for on the settlement of the *VICARAGE*, the *Bishop* reserved the *NOMINATION* of the *vicars* to the *see*, and accordingly the following *vicars* were nominated by the *Bishops*, and presented by the *abbots* of *BATTLE*.

1285, *Robert*.

1312, *Richer of Aylesham*, who was educated at *St. Peter's College* in *Cambridge*, to which he was a benefactor, and gave a house to that college. (*Pits*, p. 47.)

1325, Master *John de Burnham*, who in

1328, changed it for *Hopton*, with *Adam de Tirington*.

1335, *Robert de Rollesby*, vicar.

1335, Master *Robert de Hesclarton*, priest, doctor of *physick*, a noted practitioner in those days; he exchanged for *Eccles* in

1340, with *John de Lenn*, (Vol. i. p. 409.)

1349, *John de Thorney*, alias *de Dickleburgh*.

1371, Master *Thomas Gylmyn*; he was put in by the *POPE's* provision.

1398, *John Bromley*, res. in exchange for *Blundeston*, with *NICHOLAS STOKES*, who in

1418, resigned it for *Burgh St. Margaret*, to Master *Thomas Fringe* of *Great Walsingham*, who in

1429, changed it for *Bradwell*, with *Tho. Booth*, who exchanged it in

1444, with *Ralf Kemp*, for *East Bradenham*; on *Kemp's* death, in

1451, *Edmund Keche* had it, and resigned it in exchange for *Belton*, in

³ "An^o 33 HEN. 8. (p. 8.) conces. " *Depham*, rect. et advoc. vicar. de
" per Regem, decano et capitulo Can. " *Depham*, ac rector. et advoc. vicarie de
" tuariensi, manerium de *Decpham* alias " *AYLESHAM*," 23 Maij.

⁴ See vol. iii. p. 274, &c. *Fox*, fo. 2036, 2099.

⁵ See vol. iii p. 656.

⁶ See vol. iii. p. 543.

1452, to THOMAS Lord Bishop of DROMER in *Ireland*, who exchanged it in

1461, for *Marsham*, with Master NICHOLAS STANTON, LL. B. In

1484, *Henry Falke*, doctor in the *decrees*, official to the archdeacon of *Norfolk*, (see vol. iii. p. 660) had it, and resigned in

1489, to *Christopher Litton*, who was presented by JOHN Abbot of *Battle*, at the Bishop of *NORWICH*'s nomination, as was in

1490, Master HENRY TYLSON, bachelor in the *decrees*, on *Litton*'s resignation; he is buried under a stone in the middle of the chancel, with his effigies on it, and two labels of brass:

In Manus tuas Domine commendo Spiritum meum, Redemisti me, Deus veritatis.

Reposita est hec Spes mea in Sinu meo: Credo quod Redemptor meus vivit, et in nobilissimo die de terra Surrecturus sum, et Oculis meis videbo Deum Salvatorem meum,

Orate pro anima Magistri Thome Tylson, in decretis Baccalari, ac etiam quondam istius Ecclesie Vicarii, cuius anime misereatur omnipotens Deus.

He was succeeded by Master WILLIAM BULLEYN, who resigned; and in

1542, *Richard Redman*, clerk, who had a grant of the next turn of the nomination, from RICHARD NIX Bishop of *Norwich*, gave it to Master JOHN BURY, that vile persecutor, whose name ought to be branded to posterity, for an evil doer;⁴ he was commissary to the Bishop,⁵ and by that power, did abundance of mischief: being a proper instrument for such a man as Bishop NIX was:⁶ he resigned in

1547, to Master *Thomas Whitby*, S. T. B. but in

1554, The QUEEN presented *John Bury* again, he being then LL. B. and he held it by union with *Marsham*. In

1574, *Lancelot Thexton* had it, and resigned: and in

1581, The Bishop presented *William Burton* in full right.

1582, The Queen presented *William Burton*.

1584, *Moses Fowler*, S. T. B. by lapse; he was succeeded by

JOHN FURMARIE, S. T. B. who was presented by *Alice Norgate*, widow, by a lease from the late abbot and convent of *BATTLE*. He is buried in the chancel under a stone, having two brass plates thus inscribed:⁷

JOHN FURMARY Bachelor of *Divinitie*, in the Universitie of CAMBRIDGE, Archdeacon of *Stowe*, Prebend of WALTON in the Church of LINCOLNE, and Vicar of the Parish Church of AYLSHAM, a learned Devine, a painful Preacher, a loving Husband, a kinde Father, and a charitable Neighbor, and now a blessed Citizen in Heaven, dyed the 4th of *August* -----

MARGERY FURMARY sole Wife and Widowe to JOHN FURMATY paynefull in hir Laboure, provident for her Charge, faithfull to hir Friends, and mercifull to her Enemies, now resteth in the Lord, She dyed the 28th Day of *October* 1622, in the 74th Yeare of her Age, not thro' the distemperature of a diseased Body, but thro' the Violence of a murderous Hand, and hereby lieth buried.

Vixisti Pater Ærumnas Pietate secutus
 ARSENI intentata Manus tibi tertia nuper
 BARBORITANA Lues finxit velut ARRIUS olim,
 At Mater viduam fudit cum Sanguine vitam.
 Intrabat Scelus iste Domos, et Stamina sacra
 Rumpibat, cadit illa cruentæ Præda Rapinæ:
 His ego progenitus quo post hæc Fata superstes
 De stirpe excisa, solus relicta propago;
 Cuncta regis DEUS, O faxis Mihi nec mea Morte
 Vita unquam careat. careat nec Mors mea Vita,
 Inquæ tuos simul Amplexus, Vultusque Parentum
 Seu Vitæ Ærumnis tenendam, seu Morte cruenta.
 Vovit DEO, dicavitque PARENTIBUS,
 JOHANNES FURMARY F.

In 1610, *John Hunt* occurs vicar, and in 1634, *John Philips*.

1699, died Mr. *Nathaniel Gill*, vicar of *Aylesham*, and rector of *Burgh* by *Aylesham*, he was ejected from both in the Rebellion, and lost a temporal estate of 60*l. per annum*, had a wife and 4 children, and being a great loyalist, was of course a great sufferer in those times. (*Walker*, p. 253, 259.) After GILL,

Mr. *Robert Fawcet* had it.

Mr. *Jonathan Wrench*, who built the vicarage-house, was brother to Sir *Benjamin Wrench*, M. D. of *Norwich*,^a he is buried here, but some time before his death, resigned to

The Rev. Mr. JONATHAN WRENCH, his son, the present vicar,

⁷ The last is now loose in the church chest.

^a He published, *A short View of the principal Duties of the Christian Religion*,

Lond. 1700, duodecimo, price 3*d.* or 20*s.* per hundred, dedicated to the parishioners of *Aylesham*.

WRENCH's arms at vol. iv. p. 446.

who holds it with *Moulton-Magna*, and was presented by the *dean* and *chapter* of *CANTERBURY*.

The *CHURCH* is dedicated to *St. MICHAEL the Archangel*, and had *GILDS* in it, held to the *honour* of *St. Michael*, *St. Peter*, *St. Margaret*, *St. John Baptist*, and *All-Saints*; this noble pile was built by *JOHN of GAUNT Duke of LANCASTER*, and is a regular building having a *nave*, two *isles*, two *transepts*, a *chancel*, and two *isles* thereto adjoining; a square *tower*, *chimes*, *clock* and *ten bells*, with a small *broach* or *spire* on the top; there is an old *chancel-house* at the end of the *chancel*; the porch is covered with *lead*, as is the whole building; the south *transept chapel* is dedicated to the *Virgin Mary*, and was fitted up new in 1489, at the expense of *Thomas Aleyn*, senior, of *Lyng*, and other *benefactors*; on the south window there remains a neat painting of the *Salutation*; this window was made all new of *stone* and *glass* in 1516, at the cost of *Jone* wife of *Robert Bell*, citizen of *Norwich*. In 1471, *Katherine*, widow of *Robert Purdy*, was buried by her husband, and gave legacies to the lamps burning before the high altar, to the light before the *holy rood*, to the light burning before the image of the blessed *Virgin* in her *chapel*, to the *fraternity* of *St. MICHAEL the Archangel* in the church, to *Nicholas* her son, a *chantry priest* here, and to the light maintained by the money collected at the *plowlode* of *Hundegate*. The north *transept* was called *St. PETER's chapel*, and that *saint's GILD* was kept in it, as appears from the will of *William Praty*, who was buried in it in 1490; the south *chancel isle* was *St. Thomas's chapel*.

The following inscriptions may be read on several brass plates in this church:

Orate pro animabus Richardi Howard, nuper Civis et Aliceromitis Civitatis Norwici, et Cecelie uxoris eius, qui obiit xiiii die Januarii Anno Domini M^occcc^olxxxix.

Orate pro anima Alicie Howard, que obiit vii^o die Mensis Julii Anno Domini M^occcc^olxxxii cuius anime propicietur Deus, Amen.

Orate pro anima Margarete Howard, nuper uxoris Ricardi Howard, ac quondam uxoris Edwardi Cutler, Maioris Civitatis Norwici, que obiit xx die Decembris An^o Dni^o M^occcc^olxxxiii^o cuius anime propicietur Deus.

This *RICHARD HOWARD* was *sheriff* of *NORWICH* in 1488, he built the church-porch here, and *R. H.* remains carved on the roof, and this over the door:

• *MAYOR* in 1470.

Orate pro animabus Ricardi Howard, Alicie Margarette et
Cecelie uxorum eius, qui obiit, &c.

On his gravestone, himself and wife *Cecily* are represented in their
winding sheets.

On the front of the porch, are the arms of *England* and *France*
quartered, *St. George's* cross, and a cross floré, and there are also two
shields with a saltier on each.

Orate pro anima Johannis Howard, qui obiit ultimo die Au-
gusti Anno Domini M^o A^ob cuius anime propicietur Deus.

Orate pro anima Ricardi Howard Junioris, qui obiit xli^o die
Octobris, An^o Dni' M^occclxxiii. cuius anime propicietur Deus.

Orate pro anima Margarete Herby, nuper uxoris Ricardi Herby,
cuius anime propicietur Deus Amen.

Hic iacent Robertus Farman, et Katerina uxoris eiusdem, quorum
animabus propicietur Deus Amen.

Orate s s s s s Frengh, fratris Thome Frengh, quondam Vicarii
huius Ecclesie, s s s s s

Orate pro s s s s s Johannis Hamond s s s s s M^occclxxxv
s s s s s s s s s

Orate pro animabus Roberti Newman, et Marione uxoris sue,
quorum animabus propicietur Deus Amen.

We worldy greatnes that passeth here me bpe
Pray for my Soule with Charitie, I pou pray
For I Robert Orwell departed, here I lye
And Marion my Wyffe under thes Stones in Clay,
As we be now, so pe be, another Day
Schall lye as lowe, consumed wite dredsfull Deth,
In nomine Ihesu s s s s s s s s s so no nay,
Quia ad te omnis Caro veniet s s s s s

Hic iacent Robertus Portelond quondam Maior Civitatis Nor-
wici, et Margareta uxoris eius, quorum animabus propicietur
Deus Amen. (He was mayor in 1477.)

Orate pro anima Thome Wymer, quondam de Aplesham
Worsted Weaver, qui cum multis bonis suis propriis istam Eccle-
siam in Vita sua, et post Mortem charitative ornabit, qui obiit
iii^o die Junii An^o Christi, M^oA^obii cuius anime propicietur
Deus.

He is represented in his winding sheet; the adorning of the church here mentioned, still appears; the screens being beautifully painted with *saints, martyrs, and confessors*, as was the roof; the remaining inscription shows us, that this work was done in 1507, at the charge of this *Thomas Wymer, Joan and Agnes* his wives, *John Jannys*, and others, whose names are now lost.

Orate pro animabus Thome Wymer, Johanne et Agnetis ux-
orum eius, qui hanc partem ***** Johannis Jannys *****
huius Operis deaurari fecerunt, qui obiit Ann. Dni'
M.CCCCC VII^o.

Hic iacent Johannes Jannys, et Agnes uxor eius, qui quidem
Johannes obiit octavo die Mensis Martii An^o Dni' M^occcc^{ix}.
quorum animabus propicietur Deus Amen.

This *John* and *Agnes* were father and mother to *ROBERT JANNIS*,
grocer, sheriff in 1509, and *MAYOR of Norwich* in 1517, and 1524;
who out of affection to the place of his birth, founded a *FREE-SCHOOL*
here, and endowed it with 10*l. per annum*, clear, paid from the city of
Norwich, as at p. 397, vol. iv.

He lies buried in *St. George's church at Colgate in Norwich*; (see
vol. iv. fo. 467;) his picture is in the *Guildhall*, (see vol. iv. p. 229,) to which he was a great benefactor, and I have one of the same kind and age in my own possession.

Of *Bishop JEGGON's* life and monument in this chancel, you may see a full account in my second volume, fo. 401, [vol. iii. p. 563,] to which I refer you.

Near the *BISHOP's*, is a small mural monument with the arms of

JEGGON, impaling *sab. a chevron* between four *de-lises arg.*

Here lies interr'd *JOHN JEGON, Esq*; second sonne to that Reverend Father in God, *John Jegon* Doctor in Divinity, and some time *Bishop* of this Diocese, he was not of many Years, yet his modest Carriage and Behaviour equall'd him with the Antientest, he was much addicted to the Enquiry of Learning and the Arts, for which cause, he betook himself to the *University*, from whence after some continuance, he passed to the *Junes of Court*; but desirous still of more, then here colud be attain'd to; like *ELIAS*, that he might the better mount unto Heaven, there to contemplate on the perfection of his Creator, he laies aside his Mantle, which is here locked up in the common Wardrobe the Earth. 'till at the last Day he shall come to put it on againe, he dyed the 14th of *September* 1631, being af Age 19 Years and a half, in whose Memory his sad Mother, caused this Inscription to be made.

See here's noe PYRAMIS, here is no costly Peece,
 That boasts of MEMPHIS, or all skilfull GREECE,
 He wrongs thy better Part, mistakes thy worth,
 That thinks carv'd Statues, can set Thee forth,
 False Mettals need the Artist's Help, to add
 Ought to the purer Gold, would shewe him madd,
 And stately Structures, in vain on Thee were spent,
 Thou to thyself, art the best Monument.

The FONT is neatly carved; on it are the *emblems* of the four *Evangelists*, the instruments of the *passion*, a *crucifix*, the arms of JOHN of GAUNT Duke of LANCASTER, Lord MORLEY, BOURCHIER, St. GEORGE, and a cross floré.

The following inscriptions are to be seen here:

WARKHOUSE impaling DOUGHTY.

Sub hoc Marmore jacet Sepulta ANNA WARKHOUSE, ROBERTI DOUGHTY, Armigeri, Filia natù maxima, et Johannis Warkhouse Generosi Uxor amantissima, quæ obiit 29^o die Januarij Anno Domini 1671.

Henry Norgate, Gent. died 7 January 1611, Nicholas Norgate Clerk, Son of Thomas Norgate late of Aylesham, Gent. died 16 October 1675.

NORGATE, *gul.* two gauntlets in saltier *or.*
 CREST on a coronet, a wolf passant.

LAWES, *or.* on a chief *azure*, three stars of the first; these arms were afterwards assumed by RIPPINGALL, but were in reality the arms of Lawes of Aylesham, grand-father to Mr. Rippingall's wife.

D. S. Sub hoc, Sepulta jacet HANNA uxor amantissima HENRICI RIPPINGALL, Gen' quæ obiit 12m^o Septemb' A. D. 1701.

Elizabeth wife of Joseph Elden of Aylesham, ob. March 12, 1724. Æt. 52. Joseph Elden, Nov. 22, 1726, Æt. 63. Thomas Coulson, July 1. 1726. 66. Martha his Wife, Sept. 8, 1727. Æt. 76. Anne, Daughter of Thomas Wilde, Gent. and Mary his Wife 1656.

Elizabeth Riseborow, 1698. Mary Springall her Daughter 1728, Æt. 83. Samuel Soame Senior Gent. 1726, 74. Elizabeth Wife of Thomas Soame, 1727. 24. Elizabeth Daughter of Samuel & Mary Soame, 1724. 34. Samuel Soame their Son, 1724, 35.

Elizabeth Wife of Simon Olyet, 1694. Prudence their Daughter 1694. Bridget Wife of Simon Olyet 1714, 53. Simon Olyet. Thomas and William, Sons of Thomas Gournay 16 - - -

The CREST and arms of JERMY, with a crescent.

M. S. Sub hoc Marmore Sepultus jacet GULIELMUS, JOHANNIS JERMY de *Bayfield* Armigeri, Filius natū secundus, Cœlebs, obiit 17^o die Martij A. D. 1709. Annoque Æt. 28.

JERMY impaling FULLER, *arg.* three bars and a canton *gul.*

M. S. Sub hoc Marmore contumulatæ sunt, MARIA SAMUELIS FULLER de *Magnâ Jernemuthâ* Armigeri, Filia JOHANNIS JERMY Junioris verò de *Bayfield* Armigeri, Uxor, et MARIA, eorum proles unica, quarum illa, nata Martij 31, 1681. denata est Aprilis 3, 1712. Hæc vero nata est Nov' 8 denata Feb' 14, 1707.

JERMY, impaling STARKEY.

M. S. Sub hoc Marmore sepulta jacet MARIA, GULIELMI STARKEY de *Pulham* Clerici, Filia, JOHANNIS JERMY Junioris, verò de *Bayfield* Armigeri, Uxor, natam Oct. 8. 1690. mortuam Aug. 17 1714, memorat hæc Tabella, brevi et ipsa interitura.

JERMY impales CHARE, *arg.* three pickaxes *sab.*

M. S. JVNÆ Filia unica et Hæredis JOHANNIS CHARE, de WANDSWORTH in Comitatu *Surriæ* Armigeri, et JOHANNIS JERMY de *Bayfield*, in Comitatu *Norfolciæ* Armigeri, Uxoris, quæ obiit 2d^o die Octobris, A. D. 1734, et Ætatis suæ 85.

JERMY and CREST impaling CHARE.

Hic requiescunt Ossa et Cineres, JOHANNIS JERMY de *Bayfield*, in Comitatu *Norfolciæ* Armigeri; Oriundi ex JOHANNIS JERMY Milite, ex MARGARETA uxore ejus, unâ Filiarum et

Cohæredum ROGERI BIGOT Comitis *Norfolciæ*, et Comitis *Marschalli* ANGLIÆ, Tempore EDWARDI Secundi Regis *Angliæ*. Qui quidem JOHANNES JERMY de *Bayfield*, nupsit JANÆ Filia JOHANNIS CHARE de *Wandsworth* in Comitatu *Surriæ* Armigeri, cum quâ in connubio Annos 58 feliciter Vitam agebat, et ex quâ, hic juxta positâ, suscepit Liberos, JOHANNEM, ALICIAM et GULIELMUM, de quibus GULIELMUS Parentum ad Latera jacet, JOHANNES et ALICIA Superstitibus, obiit 18 die Decem' An^o Dni' 1735. Aetatem agens 83^o.

Hic jacet MARIA JERMY, data ex JOHANNIS et MARIA uxore ejus, Filiâ BENJAMINI WRENCH Militis 20 Dec. 1722, denata vero 6 Sept. 1723,

On the north side in the churchyard is an altar tomb enclosed in an iron pallisade, having the **CREST** and arms of **SCOT**, a boar cooped with an arrow pierced in at the upper part of the head, and out of the mouth, *proper*.

ARG. on a fess *sab.* three boars heads cooped *or.*

EXUVIÆ FRANCISCI SCOTT Armigeri, jacent hîc repositæ, **FRANCISCI SCOTT** de *Camberwell* in Agro *Surriensi* Armigeri, et **LUCIÆ** uxoris ejus, Filij natû maximi, Stirpe inclytâ et per antiquâ Prognati, hujusce oppidi Incolæ, Comitatusque *Irenarchæ*: Pauca ergò meminisse *Illo* digna sat erit: Munia Magistratûs cauti vigilanter confecit, *Leges* atque *Jura* municipalia omnibus indiscriminatim administravit, *Fraudem* inhibens omnimodam, parùm **ABHORRENS FAMAM**, pro nihilo **POMPAM** habens, *Ostentationem* omnem neglectum et vaniloquiam præterijt, utpote, qui **SE** non animo efferens, **HONOREM** ullum haud quæreret, **OPERAM** maluit totam **REIP.** offerre suam, e *Rebus* humanis ad plures migravit, Die Decemb' 12 Annoque Salutis 1740, Ætatis 69^o.

This **FRANCIS SCOTT**, Esq. married **KATHERINE**, Daughter and heir of *John Thompson* of *Burgh* by *Aylesham*, but had no issue; he was son of *Francis Scott*, Esq. of *Camberwell*, by *Lucy* only daughter and heir of *Peter Vancourt*, merchant in *London*; who was 2d son to **SIR PETER SCOTT** of *Camberwell* in *Surry*, Knt. by *Elizabeth* daughter of *Edmund Kiderminster* of *Langley* in *Bucks*, Esq. *Sir Peter* being son of *Acton Scott*, and *Anne Edmunds* his wife; *Sir Peter* died about 1622, and *Acton Scott* was living in 1596,

This **FRANCIS** left only one brother, **JAMES SCOTT** of *London*, Gent. who is now living.

The county **BRIDEWELL** stands near the *market-place*, and hath on it this following inscription cut in wood:

GOD. PRESERVE. OUR. SUPREM. HED. KYNG.
HENRY. THEIGHT.

PRAY. FOR. THE. GOOD. PROSPERYTE. AND.
ASSTATE. OF. ROBERD. MARSHAM. AND. IONE. HIS.
WYFE. THE. WICHE. THIS. HOWSE. THEY. CAWSID.
TO. BE. MADE. TO. THE. HONOR. OF. THE. TOWNE.
BE. THIR. QWYCK. LYVES. FINES. 1543

The **FREE-SCHOOL** stands not far from the churchyard; it was first founded by **ROBERT JANNYS**, mayor of *Norwich* in 1517, and endowed with ten pounds a year, paid by the treasurer of the great hospital at *Norwich*, of which the mayor, &c. of the city are governors, it being due quarterly, and the manor of *Pakenhams* in *Shropham* is tied for it, (see vol. iv. p. 397,) and Archbishop **PARKER** founded two scholarships in *Corpus Christi*, commonly called *Bennet College*, in

Cambridge, and appropriated them to *this* and WINDHAM school (see vol. iii p. 310, 11, 12, 15, 16,) one of the *scholars* must be *born* in AYLESHAM, but it is sufficient for the other to be *educated* at the *free-school* there, and he must be sent up to the college by the *nomination* of the *mayor* and *court* of NORWICH: the other to be admitted by the college without any such *nomination*. I am informed also, that the *schoolmaster* receives an annuity of 10*l.* out of the *watermill* at AYLESHAM, which originally belonged to the *manor*; and in 1370 was granted by King *Edward III.* to Sir *Robert Knolles*, and *Constance* his wife, but fell to Queen *Elizabeth*, in 1562, by the attainder of *John Withe*.¹

In 1585, there was a great dispute about the *nomination* of the *schoolmaster*, before *Edmund* Bishop of *Norwich*; the *officers* and *townsmen* of AILESHAM having chosen *ROBERT SUTTON*, A. M. *schoolmaster*, and the *vicar*, with the consent of the *Bishop*, and *John Suckling*, Esq. *mayor* of *Norwich*, Sir *William Heydon*, Knt. &c. *WILLIAM DANSON*, who was admitted accordingly.

The Rev. Mr. RAY, rector of *Ornedo* and *Booton*, is the present *schoolmaster*:

Among the *SCHOOLS* in *Norfolk*, certified to Queen *Elizabeth* in 1562, is this,

"A *grammar school* in AILESHAM, being an incorporation of the "city of *NORWICH*, erected by *JANNYS* late citizen and alderman, "now departed, stipend of the *master*, ten pound."

In 1417, *NICHOLAS STONE*, *chaplain*, gave legacies to the lights of *Corpus Christi*, the *holy rood*, and the *Virgin Mary*.

In 1443, Sir *Alan Elgold* was a priest here.

In 1479, *John Northawe* was buried in the church porch, and gave a black velvet altar cloth, and founded a wax candle, to burn a whole year before the image of the *Virgin Mary*, at the east end of the chancel, and lights before *St. John Baptist*, and *St. Peter's* images, and a legacy to *St. MARGARET's gild*, and 23*s.* 4*d.* to *John Green* his *chaplain*, to go the next *jubilee* year to *St. James* at *Compostella*, and there pray for his soul.

1505, *Robert Schilling* was *chaplain* and parish priest under the *vicar*.

1506, *JOHN BOLLER*, priest, was buried in *St. Thomas's* chapel in this church, by his father, and ordered 30 marble stones, of the length and breadth of those covering his father's, to cover his grave with. He gave to the church a pair of *organs*, and willed that they should serve both the quire, and *Lady mass*, and that they should be set in the same key, with the *great organs* in the church, and the principal

¹ John Withe of Aylesham was ex-ker's Statutes, temp. Edw. 6; fo. 129. cepted in the King's pardon. See Bar.

pipe to be five quarters of a yard long, of good metal and sweet harmony, and shall stand on that side the choir next our *Lady's chapel*, to serve both;² he gave legacies to the GILDS of our *Lady*, and *St. John*, at his altar in the *chapel* at the east.

In the *White Register* of BURY abbey, folio 27, are divers deeds of benefactions to that monastery in this town, by which it appears, that *Henry* son of *Agnes de Ingworth*, gave them a tenement here, *Richard* his brother did the same, *William* son of *Henry de Ingworth* gave 7 acres, and *Margery* his sister 4d. per annum rent, and *Alice* her sister the same, *HUGH*, dean of *INGWORTH* deanery, was a benefactor, and so was *William le Mey*, and *Robert* son of *Robert de Aylesham*.

An agreement was made between *WILLIAM DE HOO*, sacrist of *St. Edmund's* monastery, and so lord of *Sexton's* manor, and *Agnes* relict of *William* son of *Bartholomew*, by which she released 4s. 6d. annual rent to the monastery.

RICHARD I. confirmed to *GOD* and *St. EDMUND*, and Abbot *Sampson*, and the monks at *BURY*, and their successors, 10l. rent in the SOKE of *AYLESHAM*,³ viz. 5l. rent and demeans, which *William Bardolph* held; and other 5l. paid by *John Hastings*, *JOHN* the chaplain of *Aylesham*, *HUGH* the dean of *Ingworth*, *Peter de Calthorp*, and 26 tenants more, to find a good and sufficient light always burning at the shrine, before the body of the blessed martyr *St. EDMUND*.

In 1512, *William Rushburgh* gave a fodir of lead of 4l. value, towards covering the cloister of *BINHAM* abbey, and founded a priest to sing in *Aylesham* church, for his soul, and the souls of *Sir John Windham*, and *Sir Roger Townshend*, Knts. and of his father and mother; and another priest in the church of *St. Alban*, to sing for his own, and *Sir Henry Rushburgh* soules, and gave legacies to *Sir William Rushburgh* of *St. Albans*, and for a stone over his mother's grave in *St. Michael's* churchyard there, he gave *COLDHAM HALL* in *Aylesham* to *Cecily* his wife, paying 10l. per annum to *John Swan*, alderman of *Norwich*; *Sir Thomas Windham*, Knt. and *Roger Townshend*, Esq. were supervisors.

1518, *John Rushburgh*, buried in the church by his father, leaving *Helen* his wife, 3 sons and a daughter.

² There is an organ lately fixed up in the church.

³ This was *SEXTON's* manor, *John* Bishop of *Norwich*, *Roger le Bigot* Earl of *Norfolk*, *William de Warren*, *Walter Fitz-Robert*, &c. were witnesses, dated an^o primo regni 1189, and in the Register, at bottom of this charter, are these words:

"Is erat tenor carte nostre in primo

"sigillo nostro, sed quia aliquando perditum fuit, et dum capti fuimus in *Almannia* in aliena potestate, constitutum, mutatum est. Inovationis autem, hij sunt testes. *Johannes Comes Morritonie*, frater noster (afterwards King *JOHN*) *Rob. Fitz-walter*, &c. Dat. apud *Rupen*. Andel. Jul. viij. An^o Reg. IX^o. (1197.)

1572 ROBERT BAXTER of *Aylsham*, by will dated 2d of *April*, ordered his body to be buried here, and gave many charitable legacies to *Stukey*, *Wighton* and *Little Walsingham*, of which under those places.

This TOWN, in the time of *Edward* the 2d and 3d, was the chief town in the county for the *linen manufacture*; in old records, nothing more common than the *Ailesham webs*, the *fine cloth* of *AILESHAM*, the *Ailesham linens*, &c. but about the time of *Hen. VIII.* I find it much decreased, and the *woollen manufacture* had got the

upper hand; and about *James* the First's, time it was chiefly inhabited by *knitters*, even men, women, and children, are said to be employed at that work, which is now decayed every where, the modern invention of *weaving* of stockings, breeches, waistcoats, and gloves, having almost demolished it.

It is a neat little market town, of about 120 families; the situation of it is on the river *BURE*,* in the most agreeable and pleasant part of *Norfolk*, and it is much frequented in the summer season, by reason of the *SPAW*, which is a spring about half a mile distant from the town, the water of which tasting very strong of the mineral, is esteemed of great service in *asthmas*; it is purgative, and is said to be of the *vitriolick* kind; and being touched with *galls*, or an oaken leaf, turns very black immediately.

In *James* the First's time, this place is said to be governed by a *bailiff*.

The market was on *Saturday*, but by authority altered to *Tuesday*, and there were then two *FAIRS* allowed, the first of which is held on the 12th of *March*, and the second on the second *Tuesday* in *September*. The *FINE* certain of the *manor* is 2½d. an *acre*. It paid formerly to every *TENTH* 11*l.* besides 2*l.* 10*s.* paid by the *religious* for their revenues; the *BRIDGE* over the *BURE* is repared by the *county*.

It is valued in the *King's Tax* at 1427*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* and pays 30*s.* to every 300*l.* levy of the *county RATE*.

THOMAS HUDSON, *glover*, of *AYLESHAM*, an honest laborious man, having a wife and three children, bore a good will to the *Gospel*, and having learned to read of *Anthony* and *Thomas Norgate*, greatly profited in spiritual knowledge, about the time that *Queen MARY* came to the throne; when *God's* service being forced to gave place to *Popish* errors and superstition, he fled into *Suffolk*, and stayed there a long time, but his wife and children being troubled at his absence, he returned and concealed himself about half a year, till *Com-*

* The upper part of this river is called name to *THIRNING*, a village at the head of it, by the name of *THRYN*, which gives

missary BERRY, vicar of the town, suspecting him to be at home, went to his wife and threatened to burn her, if she would not discover where her husband was; which when *Hudson* knew, he grew more bold and zealous, spent his time in prayer, singing psalms, and godly exhortations with his neighbours; and going now publickly about, he was taken by the constables, at the information of one *Crouch*, and carried to the vicar, who examined him what the *Sacrament* was? he said, *worms meat; my belief is in CHRIST crucified.* Again he asked him, whether he belived the *MASS*, to put away sin? he replied, *no! GOD forbid, it is a patched up monster.* At this *Berry* fumed, and said he would write to the Bishop his good lord, who, he trusted, would handle him according to his deserts: *oh! Sir, said Hudson, there is no lord but GOD;* which angered him again: however he asked him, whether he would recant or no? to which *Hudson* replied, *God forbid, I had rather die many deaths than do so.* Upon which *Berry* seeing all persuasions vain, sent him bound to the Bishop, like a thief; who kept him in prison a month, which time he spent in praying and reading; and on the 19th of *May*, 1558, he was burnt at *NORWICH*, with two other martyrs in the same fire, as you may see in vol. iii. p. 274.

See more of this in *Fox's Martyrs*, fo. 2036.

There are many families of note that have inhabited this town, as *The HOLLS* or *HOLLEYS*, for whom see vol. iv. p. 507.

BARKER of *Aylesham* had a grant of

Gul. a chevron or, between three lioncels rampant arg.

I find by some notes taken in this church some years since, that the following inscriptions are now lost:

Orate pro anima Roberti Bakyn, et Margarete uxoris eius.

Orate pro animabus Johis' de Bedford, et uxoris

From the Parish Register.

DOROTHEA JEGGON, Filia Johannis Jeggon Episcopi Norvicensis, at DOROTHEÆ uxoris ejus Bapt' 27 Mart. 1616.

Francis Son of Sir Charles Cornwaleis, Knt. bapt' 6 March 1619.

Katherine, 1628. Anne, 1631, Sarah, 1632, 3 Daughters of John Neve, Gent. and Elizabeth his Wife.

William Son of William and Frances Doughty, 1646. Thomas Doughty, Gent. buried 1612. Anne Wife of Robert Doughty buried, 1614.

JOHANNES, JEGON Norvicensis Episcopus, Sepultus 18 Mart' 1617.

Hamond Son of Hamond and Lucy Claxton, buried 1694, this family was of Booton, and owned the Estate here, late Mr. Elden's, and now Mrs. *Harbord's*.

Robert Son of Robert and Francis Jermy, buried 1697. and William Lawes Schoolmaster here.

Thomas Doughty 1660. Mrs. Anne Doughty, 1671. Robert Doughty, Esq; 1679, and many more of this Family, and of the JERMYS, &c.

The VICAR's Manor hath about 90 tenants, and he receives the *great tithes* of that part called STONGATE.

In 1306, *Eustace de Kimberley* was vicar here. 1312, *Richer of Aylesham* resigned *North Elmham* for this. 1429, *Thomas Boof* or *Booth*, vicar. 1547, *Thomas Wilby*, and not *Whitby*, was vicar. JOHN HUNT, S. T. B. was presented by King *James I.*; and in 1614, 11 August, *John Hunt*, S. T. B. was instituted again, at the presentation of the dean and chapter of CANTERBURY. "*ad corroborandum titulum, et in majorem cautelam.*" *Thomas Paske*, S. T. P. succeeded *Hunt*, and at his death, in 1634, *John Phillips*; succeeded in 1663 by *Nathaniel Gill*; and he in 1668 by *Robert Fawcett*; and he in 1700 by *Mr. Wrench*. Here was a GILD of *St. Mary*.

Of houses in *Aylesham* given to NORWICH city, by *John Vaughan*, see vol. iii. p. 411.

LOGO

As our cover illustration reveals, we at last have an official Logo. Congratulations to Ivan Morris whose winning design was selected to be the official symbol of the Aylsham Local History Society. From now on it will be incorporated into all the Society's official publications and notepaper, starting with this issue of the Newsletter.

Thanks go to all those other members who submitted excellent designs, making the final selection difficult to reach. Ivan has won for himself a year's free membership of the Society.

DOMESDAY BOOK

The Society agreed to purchase a copy of the Norfolk volume of the Domesday Book, and to present it to the Aylsham High School library.

The two volume edition, suitably inscribed, is now in the library stock and a letter of thanks from the headmaster is reproduced opposite.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

The editor has rashly agreed to try to produce an issue of the Newsletter to appear in time for Christmas, and to make the contents as full as possible of seasonal flavour. Without your help, he will never manage it. PLEASE - I need your contributions. It is not too soon to start thinking now of stories, puzzles, jokes, illustrations - anything!

AYLSHAM SURVEY

Latest reports on the Aylsham survey - one of the earliest projects undertaken by members - confirm that it is still hopeful that the survey will see the light of day and appear in print. There is a strong possibility that it will be published commercially by Poppyland Press.

AYLSHAM HIGH SCHOOL

SIR WILLIAM'S LANE, AYLSHAM, NORWICH NR11 6AN

TELEPHONE AYLSHAM (0203) 733270



HEADMASTER ANTHONY REGAN B.A

4th June 1987

Mrs. J. Nolan,
The Belt Lodge,
Sir Williams Lane,
Aylsham.

Dear *Jane,*

We have now received the Norfolk Domesday Book, Parts 1 and 2. Mrs. J. Harcombe has put the necessary wording: Aylsham Local History Society, May 1987, on the labels supplied by you. The books will now be entered into our Library (although I would dearly like to take them home!). I am absolutely delighted with them. They make fascinating reading and will be a great acquisition to our Library. Would you be so kind as to convey once more my gratitude to the Society for its kind and thoughtful generosity.

Yours sincerely,

Tony

A. Regan
Headmaster

WOLTERTON HALL

On Wednesday 22nd. July sixteen members and friends enjoyed a visit to Wolterton Hall. It was a grey, drizzly day; no encouragement to visit the gardens, but as we were intent on seeing the inside of the Hall, the weather hardly mattered. The visit had been arranged by our Chairman, Canon Vyse, and we were conducted through the state rooms by Lady Walpole.

Starting in the Marble Hall, we passed through the Dining Room, the Venetian Room, the Blue drawing Room, the Saloon and the Boudoir, each with their memorials of the Walpole family, ranging from Horatio, the statesman, to Henry, who died for his faith and became St. Henry Walpole.

Lady Walpole explained anything that needed explaining, and answered all questions, and we were allowed ample time to absorb at our leisure the sights before us. An excellent visit.

CAN YOU HELP?

Our secretary has received a request for help to trace details of a family history. The request comes from - Mr. Arthur Ellis, 143 St. Fagan's Rd., Fairwater, Cardiff. [Tel; Cardiff 565642] His mother was Lilian Margaret Vincent, who was brought up in Aylsham, and was born about 1897. Lilian was a dress-maker, working in Sheringham and cycled over from Aylsham to work. She married Alfred Charles Ellis, from Chepstow, probably in Cardiff, and spent all her married life there until her death in 1955 or 1956

Lilian was one of four sisters - the others being Blanche, Alice and Barbara. Barbara married and also went to live in Wales, But what happened to Blanche and Alice? Are they still alive, or did they have descendants who perhaps still live locally?