

Transactions
OF THE
Cambridgeshire and
Huntingdonshire
Archæological Society.

(FOUNDED A.D. 1900).

VOLUME I. PART II.

[ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1902-1903.]

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Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Clg:

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY

G. H. TYNDALL, THE MINSTER PRESS,

1904.

PRICE (NON-MEMBERS) ONE GUINEA.

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NOTES ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF SHINGAY, CO. CAMBRIDGE.

The wide moat overgrown with grass which surrounds the site of the ancient preceptory of the Knights' Hospitallers at Shingay, and the remains of the avenues of limes and elms which lead up to it from different directions, have served to keep up a tradition of mystery about the spot, when all traces of the building have disappeared.* A few years ago, whilst examining this site, the farmer who hired the meadow, told me that there was supposed to be an underground passage thence to Wendy Church. And a correspondent from this neighbourhood, writing to Lysons in 1807, says, "Shingay great house, supposed to have been the deanery, and formerly a nunnery, was pulled down about twelve years since."† The Master of Shingay "Hospital" was such a powerful man in the county, that we might expect to have had more traditions concerning his preceptory, which as early as 1338 was the fourth wealthiest in England, and when the order was suppressed in 1540, there were rents payable to him from many villages in Cambridgeshire, as well as other places in Beds, Bucks, Essex, Herts, and Hunts.‡ A century later some of

* These avenues are well shown in the maps given with Mr. Shimield's paper, referred to later on. The last account which I have found of any standing remains is in a small 8vo book published in 1827. "*Notes of the Cambridgeshire Churches.*" "Shingay Chapel. Of this there remains but the fragment of a ruin."

† *British Museum, Addit. MS.*, 9413. The correspondent who makes this extraordinary supposition was the Rev. G. Pennington, Vicar of Bassingbourn. But at the same time he supplied Lysons with an excellent account and plan of the site of John of Gaunt's Castle at Bassingbourn.

‡ *Originalia 32 Henry VIII. m. 29.* The preceptory had property in the following places: Sawston, Wendy, Clopton, Croydon, Gilden Morden, Steple Morden, Abington, Litlington, Bassingbourn, Kneesworth, Whaddon, Melreth, Melbourn, Shepreth, Royston, Tadlow, East Hatley, Wimpole, Orwell, Bourn, Longstowe, Cambridge, Dry Drayton, Haslingfield, Horseheath, Barton, Babraham, Borough, Comberton, Chesterton, Caldecote, Dullingham, Eversden, Grantchester, Harston, Shudy Camps, Histon, Impington, Trumpington, Whittlesford, Westley Waterless, Madingley.

these rents were still being paid to the Lord of the Manor of Shingay.* The variety of the dues belonging to the Manor of Shingay seems to have struck John Layer the seventeenth century Cambridgeshire antiquary, "It maye well be called a comandry having tenants and rents in Cambridge towne and in most townes of the country. It is held in capite, it hath many privileges belonging to it which I will not sett downe my labore beinge therein cast as it were into ye sea and will never be requited." Yet it would be interesting to us, to know how the privileges stood in his day.

The confiscation of the property of the Knights Templars at the beginning of the fourteenth century, added much to the power of the order in general, as well as to most individual preceptories, and Shingay was no exception to the rule.† The notes collected together in this paper, refer chiefly to the period before the Order succeeded to the property of the Templars.

The earliest mention of Shingay is in Domesday Book A.D. 1086. There the account of the place is composed of less than 100 words, but it is possible to extract much information therefrom. A Saxon or Dane named Goda, held the manor in the reign of Edward the Confessor, as under-tenant of Algar, Earl of Mercia, the brother-in-law of King Harold. Goda also held land under him in Wendy, Morden, Melbourn and Meldreth. Under Shingay he is called a freeman (*homo*) of the Earl; under Wendy a *commendatus*, *i. e.* a man who voluntarily puts himself under the protection of a superior lord; under Melbourn it is stated that he could sell his land and go away if he liked. Perhaps he was a Danish warrior who had settled down under Earl Algar's protection. The Shingay estate was worth £14, and was assessed at 5 hides for Danegeld, and so paid 10s. to that tax. So much for Anglo-Saxon times. When the par-

* See *Exchequer Bills and Answers.—Cambs Easter, 1655, No. 10. Russell v. Bennett.* The document contains a long schedule of premises.

† See *Camden Society's Publications, O. S. No 65.*

tition of the estates of the Anglo-Saxon nobles took place, this manor with many others in the district, fell to the share of Roger de Montgomery, and he still held it in 1086. It contained 6 carucates or 720 acres of arable land* of which 240 were farmed by the lord of the manor, the remainder being divided among eighteen tenants.† It contained also, sufficient meadow land to feed six plough teams, or 48 oxen; a sheepwalk for 140 sheep, and pannage for 60 swine; a watermill worth ten shillings and rent of meadow two shillings.‡ The estate had decreased 50 per cent. in value since Goda's time, and was now only worth £7, and the Danegeld assessment had also been reduced to eight shillings.§ The population of the village was greater than at present, when it is only 42. For the 18 tenants must have averaged at least four in a family, and there were besides the inhabitants of the manor house.

About the year 1140, or within 50 years of the existence of the Order, the Earl's only daughter Sybil, gave the manor with all its appurtenances to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem||. In a paper on Shingay, read before the *Cambridge Antiquarian Society* on March 3rd 1890, it is stated, apparently on the authority of Camden, that the Manor was given by Sybil to the Knights Templars, and was held by them until the order was suppressed. But this is directly contradicted by the official record, viz., the Charter Roll of 1199, which recites and confirms various gifts to the Hospitallers, amongst which is Sybil's gift of 'Senegia.'¶ This gift refers to the manor only, the rights of the church of Shingay had already been given away. Dugdale in his *Monasticon Vol. II. p. 966*, quoting the

* The parish now contains 754 acres.

† 11 bordarii, 7 cotarii.

‡ "De reddita prate ij sol." An unusual item.

§ The whole of the hundred of Armingford had been similarly reduced 20 per cent.

|| *Monasticon Anglicanum* Vol. vi. p. 835; and *Charter Roll* 1 John.

¶ This matter is again referred to later on.

ecclesiastical historian Orderic Vitalis, states that Earl Roger himself gave the tithes of Shingay to the monastery of St. Evroul in Normandy. The confidence usually placed on the accuracy of this writer has caused this statement to pass unquestioned hitherto. But it must always have seemed curious to anyone who has studied the matter, that no further reference to a connection of St. Evroul with Shingay should have been found. Whereas, on the other hand, the Abbey of St. Martin at Seez in Normandy, constantly appears in records such as ecclesiastical taxation rolls, as having an interest in Shingay. The earliest mention of any connection between Seez and Shingay in any English record is in the taxation roll known as Pope Nicholas's *Valor* 1291, where the following occurs:—

“Portio Abbatis de Sees in ecclesia de Shenegeie } 1 10 0”
 indecimabilis

In Pope Innocent's *Valor* of 1254, there is no mention of Sees under Shingay, although there is in connection with Orwell.* Again in the account of the English possessions of the Order which was sent to the Grand Master in 1338, is this entry,

“Item Abbati de Sees quondam patrono ecclesie de } 20s.”
 Shenegeye, per compositionem ratione prior-
 atus per annum.†

The connection is also mentioned in the *Nona Roll*, (1342) under Wendey *cum* Shenegeie.

The last occurrence I have met with is in a clerical Subsidy Roll of 1452,

“Portio Abbatis de Seyes in Ecclesia de Shenegay } 30s.”
 appropriata domui monialium de Ikelyngton }
 (Not taxed because of the poverty of the nunnery).‡

The occurrence of the nunnery of Ickleton in this connection can be explained by the supposition that when the possessions of the alien priories in England

* See Earl Rogers' Charter given below.
 † *Camden Society's Publications*, O.S. No. 65.
 ‡ *Clerical Subsidy*, 23/68.

were confiscated at the beginning of the fifteenth century, the interest of the Abbey of Seez in Shingay was transferred to the nunnery of Ickleton. In the receiver's accounts of the preceptory for 1523, which are now in the Public Record Office, there is no mention of this payment, although several pensions, such as those to the Vicar of Wendy and Bishop of Ely, for the appropriation of Shingay vicarage, are duly entered.

This connection of Seez with Shingay had led me for some time to believe that Orderic had made a slip, and had written St. Evroul instead of Seez. Then the discovery of the following Charter settled the matter. It is taken from Lechaude d' Anesy's "*Cartolaire de la Basse-Normandie*," a three volume MS., collection of charters and other records relating to the possessions of the religious houses of Normandy in England. These volumes, which were compiled in France in 1836, are now in the Literary Search Room of the Public Record Office. They are of the greatest value in the elucidation of many points of parochial history from the eleventh to the fourteenth Century.

CARTA COM ROGERI.

"In nomine sancte et in-dividue Trinitatis, Notum esse cupimus quod Rogerus de Montgomery, Comes de Scosberienensi tam pro animabus dulcissimi domini sui ducis Normanorum et regis Anglorum Willelmi et regine Matilde quam pro sua et uxoris sue Mabilie omnium antecessorum et successorum suorum comedentibus et laudantibus filiis et filiabusque suis dedit atque perpetualitur in elemosina concessit deo, et Sancto Martino de Sagii et monachis ibidem deo servientibus vel servituris, Fissaburnam et Wath, et Kantonam et quicquid ad eam pertinet in Arintonam* et decimas Senegaie et Orwelle, et Herlingtone, et ecclesiam Hertingis pro quodam fratre Mabilie comtisse qui in predicto monasterio factus est monachus. Robertus vicecomes filius Tetbaldi dedit in obitu suo eidem sancto concedente Rogero et filiis suis Tintonam. Norwanus venator omnium supradictorum consensu dedit eidem sancto decimam omnium terrarum suarum. Eudo filius Huberti dedit predicto Sancto decimam Neisellis. Hec omnia data sunt et ab eis firmiter concessa tempore procellentissimi ducis Normanorum et Regis

* Arrington Co. Cambs.

Anglorum Wilelmi et Matilde Regine, Comes Rogerus, concedente Hugo filio suo, dedit Sancto Martino Sagii ecclesiam Dodelbrie cum omnibus pertinentibus ad eam, et Berlingeliam omnino quietam de omnibus forisfactoris. Testantibus Domino abbate de Gloucestro et Serlon, Bernardo de Novo mercato, Rogero Venator, Fulcone fratre Alcheri, Gisleberto de Condo-vere, Wodeboldo Sacerdote, Herberto Archdiacono, et subscribitur confirmatio. Will'i Regis et signum ejus. Sign' ✠ Rogeri Comitis Scrob. Sign' ✠ Alan Comitis, Sign' ✠ Hugo' Comitis Cestren. Sign' ✠ Walchelini. Sign' ✠ Roberti filii Hamonis. Sign' ✠ Ethon' Senescall. Sign' ✠ Hugonis de Montgomeri. Testibus Hamone Piperell, et Ricardo filio Corbellini, et Constabulario et Roberto filio Corbellini and Ricardo Belhomisio *Liber Albus St. Martin fo. 4.** (In the town library of Seez.)

Here we have it distinctly stated that the tithes of Shingay were given amongst other property by the Earl of Shrewsbury to the monastery of St. Martin at Seez, for his brother-in-law to become a monk there.

There are two other references to this grant in the "Livre blanc." The first is a list without date, headed "De donis Anglie."

"In Anglia dedit Rogerus comes, sancto martino in vicecomitatu Cantabrigie, Mabilia Comtissa concedente, ecclesias de Ernington and Senegaie cum terra sacerdotum and decimas omnes de Orwelle."

Ibid p. 7.

The other is from a list headed "Nomina Villarum in quibus redditus habemus et scripta a quibus personis eosdem redditus percepit et quo modo et quibus rationibus eos possidemus."

"In Episcopatu Elyense apud Arinneton, et Ourvell de duabus partibus decimarum de domibus ville permanum sacerdotis de Arinneton and de Ourevull ad pascham xiiij et ad festum Sancti Michaelis xiiij percipere debemus. De Senegaye per manus hospitalis xx solidos ad ecclesiam de Senegaie ad Pascham "

Ibid p. 87.

There is no note in this Chartulary of the composition between the Hospitallers and the Abbey of Seez, which is

* Since these notes were compiled in 1897, Mr. Round's *Calendar of French Documents* has appeared. He gives an English abstract of this charter, and dates it. [? 1087—1093].

mentioned in the 1338 survey.* The deeds transcribed here do not appear to come down to a later period than the reign of John. But the list of rents from which the last extract is taken, must of course have been drawn up after such composition was effected.

The confusion with regard to the connection of the Hospitallers and Templars with Shingay, arises perhaps from the fact that both Orders had possessions in Wendy. Robert Dengayne, chamberlain of Conan, Earl of Britainy and Richmond, in the early part of the twelfth Century, gave a manor in Wendy to the Hospitallers, and the tithes and advowson of Wendy to the Priory of Ely.† The monastery afterwards exchanged their rights in Wendy with the Templars, for some land in Waterbeach. In 1308, just after the lands and possessions of the Templars had been seized by the King, the corn tithe, &c.—“blada perveniente tam de decimis quam de exitu dominicarum ecclesie sic venditis in grosso”—of Wendy was worth £15 13s. 4d.‡ In the 1338 report, under a list headed “Extenta bonorum quondam templi” is

“Ecclesia de Wendye in proprios usos valet per annum 20 marks.” which is equal to £13 6s. 8. At the same time the Manor of Wendy an ancient possession of the Hospitallers was worth £11 6s. od.§ Soon after the Preceptory was founded, there were Sisters of the Order of St. John, living at Shingay. Sometime between 1180 and 1187, Garner de Naples the Grand Prior of England (and afterwards Grand Master of the Order) placed Sister Amabilia and Sister Amice de Masketon here.|| This was a new departure at the time. When the Sisterhood of the Order was first recognised in England in 1180, after they had been

* See above, ‘Item Abbati de Sees, &c.’

† *Mon. Ang. Vol. 1. p. 4.*

‡ *Land Revenue, Miscellaneous Rolls No. 20. Templars' Lands.*

§ *Camden Society, Publ. O.S. 65.*

|| *Monasticon Anglicanum Vol. 6, p. 837.* Mentioned also in an Italian document printed in the Appendix to Taafé's “*Knights of St. John.*”

driven out of the Holy Land by Saladin it was agreed that they should live only at Buckland in Somersetshire. What the duties of the sisters in England were, is not quite clear. There is no further record of any of them living at Shingay. At this period the Vavassour family were in possession of Malketon, so Sister Amice was probably of that family.

The earliest Preceptor of whom I can find any mention by name is "Frater Nicholas de Wrotham magister hospitalis de Schenegeye," who "flourished" before 1260. He is referred to in some legal proceedings concerning land in Melbourn.* Of the earlier preceptors of Shingay, few were more active than William de St. Leonard's, who figures largely in legal proceedings during the reign of Edward the First. It was during this reign that the rights of privileges claimed by manorial lords were investigated. The Hospitallers had had all their rights in Shingay set forth in royal charters from time to time, and yet when the justices were at Cambridge on the 17th of Edward I, the jury of the Hundred of Armingford presented that "The Prior of St. John claims to have view of frankpledge and assize of bread and beer in Shenegeye, by what warrant is unknown to us." Whereupon he was ordered to appear before the justices and show his warrant if he had any.† Some years before, when the earliest hundred rolls were being compiled (1275), it was presented that in the time of Phillip de Stanton,‡ the farm of the Hundred of Armingford used to be worth four marks, but was then only worth twenty shillings, which diminution was on account of the liberties of Gloucester, of Britain, and of the Hospitallers, which had appropriated many services and holdings. And further the jury said that the Hospitallers and Templars used to answer for their transgressions in the County Court or elsewhere, but that now they held that they need not answer except "coram

* *Assize Roll 82—m. 12.*

† *P.R.O. Assize Roll 96 m 51 (in dorso).*

‡ He was Sheriff 1245—8.

rege," or before his chief justices, for which they alleged that they had the Royal Charter.* The case was argued at Cambridge before the justices in Eyre, Hillary term 27 Edward I. (1298⁸). Brother William de St. Leonards, Master of the Hospital of Shingay appeared as the Grand Prior's deputy. He exhibited a charter of Henry III., in which that King confirmed all the privileges granted by his father, viz., View of frankpledge, and all that appertains thereto, the power of putting all stray animals in a pound, of using the cucking stool for scolds, of levying toll on all their tenants, and of seizing the goods of fugitives and condemned criminals found on their lands. The charter also allowed them to go free of any necessity to do suit at the Hundred Courts, or to pay King's taxes, or to allow the King's groom to seize fodder on their estate.† This was deemed sufficient warrant, and the Prior's claims were allowed in Snailwell and Chippenham as well as in Schengeye.‡

* Rotuli Hundredorum Vol. 1, p. 50—1.

† The two following extracts illustrate the privilege concerning the good of fugitives in the year 1271, 1. Alan le Locksmit placed himself in the church of Sheneghere, and acknowledged himself to be a thief, and abjured the realm before the Coroner. His chattels were worth three shillings, concerning which the Prior of the Hospital of Jerusalem will answer. He was not in a tithing since he was a stranger. And twelve (coroner's) jurymen concealed those chattels. Therefore they are fined. 2. Rose, widow of Alan de Condray, who is dead, appealed in the County (Court) William son of Walter de Sheneghey, of the death of Alan her husband, and appealed William atte Slo of Schengeye, Phillip le Paumer, William Shoemaker, William Carter, Alan de Soicerbrie, and others of the same place, and Luke-at-the-Gate of Schengeye for aiding and abetting. And she did not now appear, nor followed her appeal. Therefore her capital pledges for her appearance are fined. And they do not appear. And it is testified by the rolls of the Coroner that (the appeal) was followed against William son of Walter, until he was outlawed in the county. And now comes he himself, and proffers a charter of our Lord King, which testifies that the King at the instance of Stephen de Fullburn pardons him for the death of the said Alan, and the outlawry promulgated against him, and hence grants firm peace to him, &c. But his chattels are confiscated on account of his flight, value 25s., concerning which the Master of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem will answer. The other men are declared not guilty of aiding and abetting. *Assize Roll 85 m 8 (d) 56 Henry III.*

‡ *Assize Roll*, 96. Printed in the "*Placita de quo warranto.*" The privileges were not confined to these three villages, as will be seen from the following extract from the earliest Cambridgeshire Assize Roll, (1260). "William Wulmare hanged himself with a noose (*laqueo*) in his house at Shepreth. His daughter Agnes found him. Judgment felo de se. His chattels were worth 23s. 8d., of which the Master of Schengeye hospital will give an account." *Assize Roll 82 m 38.*

Brother William had only lately had occasion to take advantage of the privilege of being free of stallage. For in Easter term 1296, Adam le Bray, keeper of the King's horses at Hertford, came before the barons of the Exchequer, and complained that William de St. Leonards, Master of Schenegeye, had caused Hugh le Blund his servant to be assaulted when he was sent to Schenegeye to get oats for the King's horses, and moreover had caused him to be publicly excommunicated by Thomas the vicar of Schenegeye, and other clerks, for seizing oats there, when he was so doing for the use of the King. The verdict was for the defendants. But no doubt Master Adam's servant had been treated rather roughly at Shingay. But as he had been exceeding his duty he had no remedy at law.* Three years afterwards we find Brother William himself overstepping the bounds of custom. He summoned Thomas Deschalers of Whaddon and others, for feeding off the growing corn belonging to his Order at Kneesworth. Deschalers in reply stated that the custom of that town was, that every fourth year the arable land should lie fallow and unsown, and over this fallow, Thomas and his ancestors had been accustomed to have free pasture, but Brother William had caused land to be sown which ought to be fallow, and it was this land which had been fed off.† In 1298 he brought an action against John Fresel of Stanton for a balance of seventy-seven marks, due to him of a sum of eighty six marks, at which price the said John had bought the corn on the manors of Arrington and Wendy.‡ In 1305 we find him violently seizing the corn on the Abbot of Greston's estate in Sawston for his tithe as Rector of the church there, and the jury before whom the case was tried upheld his action.§ In 1302 he gave three quarters of wheat to the Gild of our Lady at Cambridge, and in addition

* *Exchequer of Pleas, Plea Roll No. 21, m 63.*

† *De Banco Roll, Hillary 28 Edward I., m 77 (d).—Addit. M.S. 21570 p. 104.*

‡ *Assize Roll 96 m 9 (d).*

§ *Abbrevatio Placitorum p. 258.*

promised to contribute another quarter every year. For which gifts he was made a member of the gild.*

But although the powers of the Prior acting through the Master of Shingay were very large, yet the secular arm of the County Court and hundred still had some jurisdiction there. For instance in 1260, Martin Vicar of Shenegeye was fined for not appearing before the justices in Eyre at Cambridge on the first day,† and in 1272 Simon de Estwyk (probably vicar) of Shingay, was fined for a similar offence.‡ The important business relating to highways and bridges was not under the Master's control, for in 1260 we find this presentment.

“Concerning purprestures (the jury of the hundred of Armingford) says that Luke de Gardino of Abington contracted (*artavit*) the King's highway in Shenegeye which leads to Morden, twenty perches in length, and four feet in breadth in one place, and three feet in another.” He was fined and ordered to amend under further penalties.§

And amongst the presentments of the jury for the same hundred in 1272 is this.

“Concerning bridges, the jury say that the vills of Shenegheye and Abinton used to repair the bridge of Bassingbourn and Shenegeye in common; over which bridge the men of the country were accustomed to pass with horses and carts every day of the year; and now the town of Bassingbourn has broken down that bridge and will not permit the aforesaid vills to repair it.||”

The people of Bassingbourn seem to have boycotted the inhabitants of Abington and Shingay. Perhaps the breaking down of the bridge had some connection with feuds between the respective partizans of the King and Barons, for party feeling, with the powerful families of Argentine and Bassingbourn ranged on opposite sides, ran high in this neighbourhood.¶

* *Additional M.S.* 5810. † *Assize Roll* 82 m. 26 d. ‡ *Assize Roll* 85 m. 9.
§ *Assize Roll* 82 m. 26 d. || *Assize Roll* 85 m. 9.

¶ But it is a somewhat remarkable fact that the possessors of Shingay seem to have taken no part whatever in this war, although it was far otherwise a century later, when the peasants rose in revolt. The only mention of Shingay that I have met with in connection with the Barons' War, is the name of Simon de Ripa of Seneg on the list of jurymen who had to report on the robberies and illegal seizures in this hundred. *Assize Roll* 83 m. 35.

The preceptor seems to have been amenable to the courts of other liberties, for in 1322, we find the 'Magr de Scheng' fined 5s. for default in the court leet of the Honor of Gloucester in Gilden Morden,* and in 1376, he was fined 2d. in the same Court, because he did not repair a ditch in Coppelstrate in seasonable time.†

The privileges enjoyed by the Hospitallers on their lands seem to have caused them to make a distinct boundary to their jurisdiction. The situation of one of these boundaries is preserved for us in the name 'Shingay Gate Farm.' On the Ordnance Map a spot on the road from Shingay to Guilden Morden, but in Steeple Morden parish, is marked 'Shingay Gate.' The earliest mention of this hitherto met with, is in an undated deed of the 13th century, in which Hugh son of Adam, Dean of Senegeye, grants to Baldric son of Reginald le Moyne of Litlington, an acre of land in 'Sevene furlongs,' near the land of William Felowe of Senegeye on one side, and the land of Nicholas de Turri on the other; and abutting one headland on the land of Laurance Prat, the other on the land of Luke-at-Shingay-gate (*Luce ad januam de Seneg.*)‡ Before parishes were enclosed, it was probably no unusual thing to have gates across the road. Even in my father's time there have been gates at Malton across the road leading from Meldreth to Orwell. But the persistence of the name in the case of Shingay tends to show that it had some special significance here. And a very probable explanation can be found. The Honour of Bologne, the privileges of which were almost as extensive as those of the Hospitallers, included in its possessions the Court Leet of the parish of Steeple Morden, so that on this road the two liberties would touch. And Shingay gate marked the boundary line, just as Temple

* *P.R.O. Court Roll* 155/64. † *Court Roll* 215/25.

‡ *Additional Charter* 25930. This land was in Steeple Morden. Another parcel of land in the same grant is described as abutting on 'Ashwell Strete.' For another mention of Luke att Gate, see page 12 note.

Bar once divided the liberties of the cities of London and Westminster.

The paper on Shingay, already referred to, by the Rev. W. H. Shimield, was chiefly written from the Rev. W. Cole's notes, with the addition of a valuable account of the present condition of the preceptory site, and an interesting map of the parts. The documentary history of the place he left almost entirely alone, so a few remarks on this subject may be acceptable here. The chief sources for the history of any preceptory, are, as a rule, the Chartularies of the Order. But unfortunately, with regard to Shingay, no special chartulary, such as that referring to Ashley, Silverley and Chippenham* has been preserved. And the general registers of the Order in the British Museum do not begin until the end of the fifteenth century. These are three in number, viz., *Lansdowne MSS.*, 200, *Cottonian MSS.*, *Claudius E vi.*, and *Cottonian MSS.*, *Otho C ix.* They cover the period 1492—1526, and contain many notices of Shingay. The beginning of the fifteenth century is very meagre in notices, but in the preceding century there are the valuable survey of Philip de Thame in 1338, and the records of the Villein insurrection of 1381, which raged fiercely round this place.†

In *A Description of Leicestershire* by William Burton 1622 (p. 85), is an extract from a manuscript which would tell us much about Shingay if it were now in existence. The MS., was lent to Burton by Mr. Thomas Allen of Gloucester Hall, Oxford, and was afterwards in the custody of Mr. Fowler of St. Thomas, near Stafford. It gave a detailed valuation of the English estates of the Order of St. John, and the extract which Burton prints concerning the preceptory of Dingley shows how rich in detail the account is. Fortunately for our interest Burton gives in full the heading of the document which was as follow :—

* *East Anglian Vol vi.*, p. 102 etc. † *Cottonian MSS.*, *Nero C ix.*

“Anno domini 1371, 12th Junii venerabilis and religiosus vir dominus frater Raymundus Berengarius magnus preceptor sacre domus Hospitalis S. Johis Jerus' et locum tenens reverendissimi domini patris Rogeri de Dinibus sacre domus ejusdem hospitalis magistri dignissimi et ejus honorabilis conventus ac visitator generalis in partibus anglie et Hibernie et ceteres partibus cis marinis applicuit regnum Anglie et civitatem London, in quo regno Anglie et Prioratum viz in domo de Shengey priorato Anglie predicto in assembleia tenta et celebrata ibidem jussu et mandato prenominati Prioris et Preceptoris magni locum tenentis et visitatoris in eodem anno in festo SS Simonis et Jude 28 die Octobri per eundem domum magistri locum tenentem et visitatorem de et cum consiliis et assensu venerabilis Johis Paveley prioris Hospitalis S. Johis Jerus' in Anglia, fratris Johis de Dampford preceptor de Shengeye,”

(and other preceptors).

The situation of Shingay near the Great North Road had something to do with the Chapter being held there. It may be as well to state that I am indebted to Cole's MSS., for the reference to Burton. Cole seems to have carefully read through all county histories which were published in his day, and noted all references to Cambridgeshire places.

The assize rolls and other legal proceedings, give much information, as is seen from the account of William de St. Leonards. For the earliest periods there will soon be available a work of monumental character. This is the *Cartolaire Generale des Hospitalieres* of J. Delaville le Roulx. Of this two* huge volumes have already been published. When completed it will give all the documents relating to the Order up to the year 1300. From the introduction to the first volume it seems that there is a great deal of material in the archives at Malta, referring to the English 'language' of Hospitaliers. For instance Series I vol. 15, contains bulls referring to England and other countries, Vol. 54 contains 'Comptes de receveur de prieure d' Angleterre 1519—1536. Series V consists of 318 volumes of 'Bulles de Chancellerie' dating from 1346 to 1798. These contain

* This was first written in 1897. At least one other volume has been published since, and probably the work has been completed.

the appointment of preceptors and other dignitaries. Series XIV Class VI consists of six volumes referring to English affairs alone 1338—1540. But Valetta is a long way off, even for an enthusiastic antiquary.

W. M. PALMER.

A LIST OF THE PRECEPTORS OF SHINGAY.

The following list is incomplete and most of the names are accidental finds. The registers at Malta would probably yield a complete list from the fourteenth century.

Before 1260. "Nicholas de Wrotham magister hospitalis de Schenegeye." *Assize Roll* 82 m. 12(d).

About 1280, there was a preceptor named Walter. He was afterwards grand prior of England.

MSS., Cotton, Nero vi.

1296—1305. William de St. Leonard's. *Exchequer of Pleas, Plea Roll* No. 21, m. 63 (*Pasch* 25 Edward 1). *Abbrevatio Placitorum* p. 258.

1338. Nicholas Basset. *Camden Society. O.S.*

1371. John de Dampford. *Burton's—Leicestershire.*

1378. "William Thweyt lately master of Shenegeye." *Gaol Delivery Roll* 168 m. 9(d).

1381. "John Cavendish, prior of Hospital of Shengey." *Assize Roll* 103 m. 7.

1422. Thomas de Skipworth, preceptor of Beverley and Shingay. *Porter, Knights of Malta.*

1427—1452. John Ergham, Ergum, or Argum. He was preceptor of Shengay, Hardwick, Duxworth and Temple Malbrouk. *MS., Rawlinson B 278 p. 161. Patent Roll* 21 Henry vi, part 1, m. 22. *Additional MSS., 5827, p. 178.*

Thomas Docwra, who became Grand Prior of England in 1501, was supposed by Cole to have been preceptor here first. He had relations

living in the district and his arms were to be seen in the windows of Shingay Chapel in Cole's time. He was preceptor of Dymore in 1492. If he ever was preceptor here it must have been before the following.

- 1481—1502. According to Porter, "*Knights of Malta*," Thomas Green was preceptor of Shingay in 1481 and died in 1502. He certainly was preceptor in the 16th year of Henry VII. for he is so called in a court roll of that date. *MS. Rawlinson B. 278, p. 161.*
- 1504, September 5, died Robert Dalison, *quondam* preceptor of Shingay and *nuper* preceptor of Halston and Templecombe, and was buried at Shingay. His tombstone with inscription to that effect was in existence in 1684. *Additional MSS., 5810 p. 121 (b).* In the Chartulary, (*Lansdowne MSS., 200*), from 1492 to 1499 he holds the two latter preceptories.
1507. Thomas Sheffield, preceptor of Beverley and Shingay, was present at a Chapter held at Clerkenwell 30th March, 1507. *MSS., Cotton Claudius B. vi.* He was a diplomatist as well as a warrior and his name occurs in the State papers of the period. He was still preceptor in 1524, for which year there exists an elaborate account of the possessions and expenses of the preceptory.
1534. Sir Edward Hill, preceptor, paid responsions for Shingay. *Calendar of State papers.*
- 1536, April 25. Sir Thomas Dingley appointed preceptor on the death of Edward Hylles. *Cal. State papers.*
- 1536, October 23. Dingley was deprived, having obtained the appointment unfairly. Sir Ambrose Cave was appointed. *Cal. State papers.* On the suppression of the order in 1451, Cave received a pension of 100 marks.

THE TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
VOL. I.

1910

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

1910

Transactions
OF THE
Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire
Archæological Society.

(FOUNDED A.D. 1900).

VOLUME I.

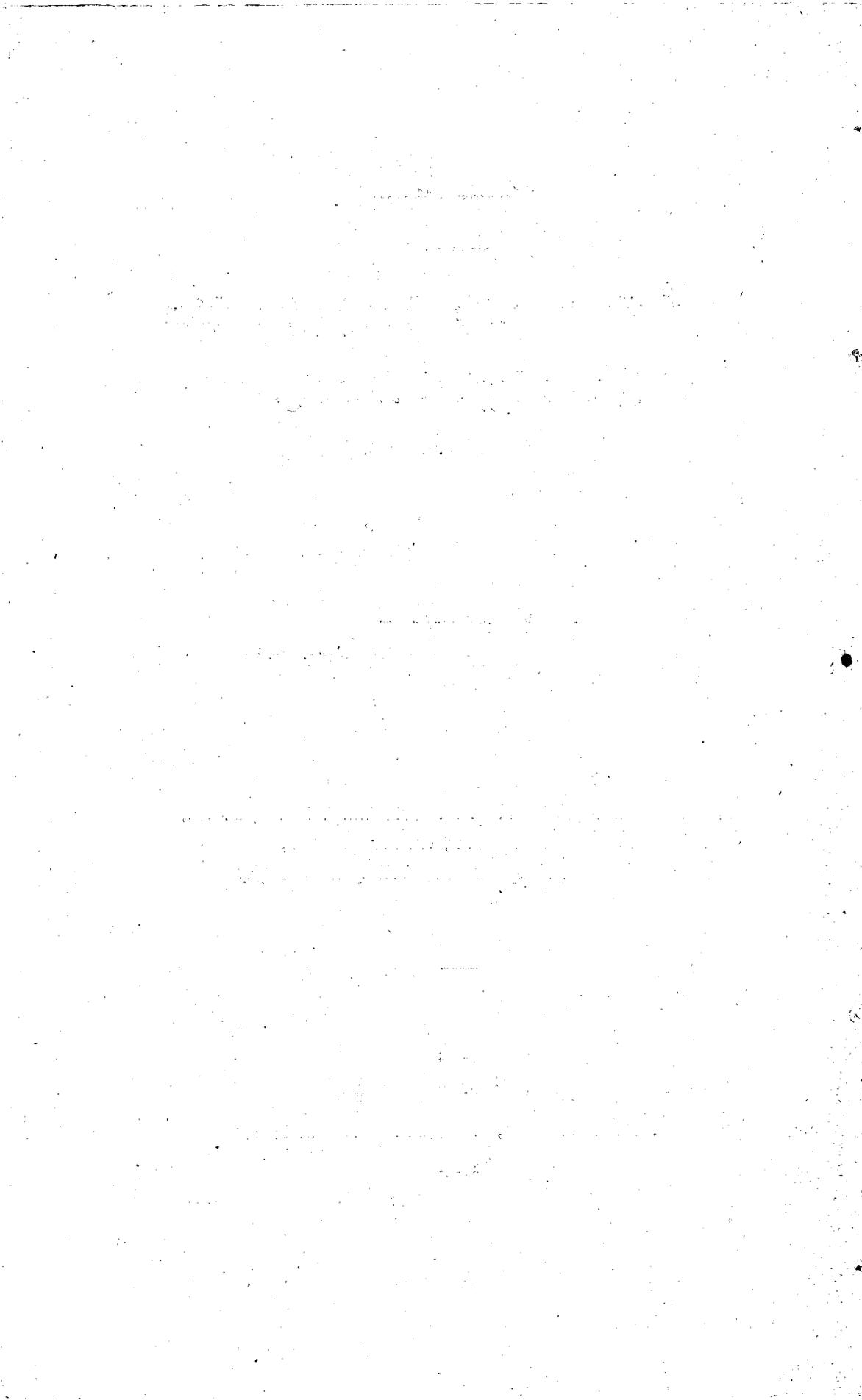
[ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1900-1901, 1902-1903.]

EDITED BY THE REV. C. H. EVELYN WHITE, F.S.A.,
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(Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Society.)

Clg :

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY
G. H. TYNDALL, THE MINSTER PRESS,

1904.



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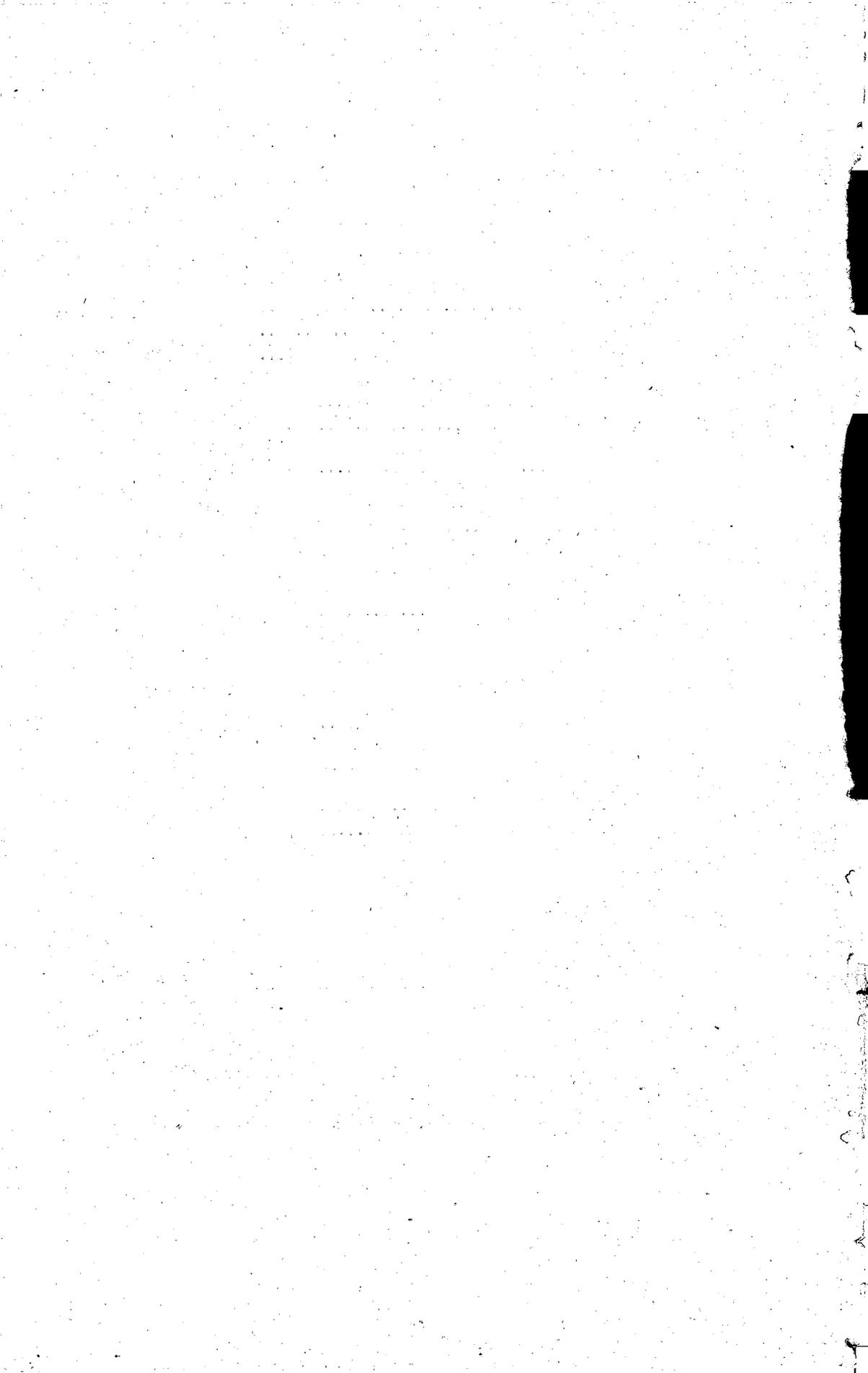
[The *History of the Church and Parish of Rampton, Cambs.*, referred to in this Volume, is unavoidably held over for the first part of Vol. II., which it is hoped will be issued to the 1904 Subscribers within the next six months. It will also contain the accounts of the meetings held in 1902, and papers relating thereto, &c., with numerous illustrations, most of which have been specially prepared and are already printed.—Ed.]

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