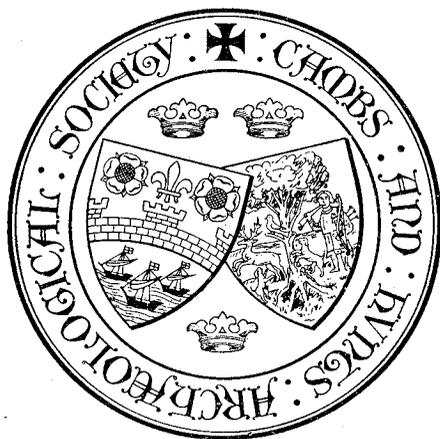


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ENCLOSURES AT ELY, DOWNHAM AND LITTLEPORT.

A.D. 1548.

W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A.

The document printed below is one of the few survivals of a mass of evidence which was collected in the reign of Edward VI. concerning the turning of arable land into enclosed pasture, against which several laws and ordinances had been passed. The danger to the commonwealth of such a movement was that less labour was required for pasture than for arable, that arable land produced various kinds of food, whereas pasture only produced wool, and that when arable land became pasture not only were families thrown out of work, but the houses they had lived in fell down and less food was produced for the community. A very early reference to enclosure in this county is to be found in the Parliament Roll of 1414, where it is stated that at Chesterton near Cambridge no houses were left except perhaps a sheepcote or a barn.¹

The movement first began with the joining of small holdings for the sake of farming on a large scale, but towards the end of the fifteenth century it became very profitable to produce wool, and conversion into pasture rapidly increased.

In 1488 an Act was passed which ordered all enclosed land to be thrown open again, and decayed houses built up, under penalty of forfeiting half the value of the property to the King or other lord. This penalty was continued in later Acts, and it is because of it that the annual value is given in the Ely Inquisition of 1548. Leadam has shown that in the year following the Inquisition of 1517, tenants of the Crown were already being proceeded against for half profits.

The first systematic inquiry into Enclosures was in 1517, when a commission was issued to individuals in each county.

1. E. Lipson, *Economic History*, 1922, Vol. I., p. 126.

The commissioners for Cambridge and Huntingdon were Nicholas West (Bishop of Ely), Sir Giles Alington, Sir Robert Cotton, Sir Robert Drury, Francis Hasilden and John a Wode. Notes of such of the inquisitions taken by them as survive were printed by I. S. Leadam in the Proceedings of the Royal Historical Society. They relate to Cheveley, Childerley, Cottenham, East Hatley, Gamlingay, Longstowe, Shingay, and Steeple Morden. It is conjectured that many notes have perished, because the enclosure at Clopton about 1500 is not referred to.

In 1526 a royal proclamation ordered that all hedges, ditches, or pales round enclosed arable or meadow land were to be done away with within a fortnight of Michaelmas. But this can have had little effect, because by 1548 the condition of the smallholder was worse than ever. Rebellion broke out in many parts of England, that at Norwich headed by Kett is the most notorious. In all these uprisings, enclosures were one of the grievances complained of. In 1548 a "supplication," as it was called, was printed, being really a petition to Protector Somerset. In this it was stated that eighty ploughlands had been decayed on an average in each county since the beginning of Henry the Seventh's time; and that each ploughland, that is, the ordinary holding of a yeoman, supported a man, his wife and four others: thus about twenty thousand people had been thrown out of employment. And this was not the full extent of the evil, for the decayed ploughland had provided food for at least another twenty thousand, and discontent is a sure result of hunger. A modern writer who has made a special study of the period considers that the general effect of the Enclosure movement was a social dislocation almost without parallel in English history.²

Soon after the publication of the "supplication" a further commission to inquire about enclosures was issued. Particulars of this were preserved by Strype and are re-printed by R. H. Tawney and E. Power, *Tudor Economic Documents*, I. 39, as follows:—³

First ye shall enquire what towns, villages and hamlets have been decayed and laid down by enclosures into pastures, sith the fourth year of King Henry VII.

Item. What lands were then in tillage at the time of the said enclosure and what then in pasture.

Item. How many plows, by reason of the said enclosure, be laid down.

Item. How many cottages and dwelling houses be fallen in decay, and the inhabitants departed, by reason of the enclosure.

1. Cambridge Antiquarian Society, Vol. XXXIII., p. 48.

2. A. F. Pollard. *England under Protector Somerset*, 1900, p. 210.

3. These questions must have been similar to those sent out in 1517, because the Essex replies in English printed by Leadam, *Domesday of Enclosures*, I., p. 217, read like answers to the questions here printed.

Item. By whom were the enclosures made, and how long ago; and of what yearly rent and profit they be.

Item. Who hath now the state of inheritance and the profits of the same enclosure: and of whom the lands be holden.

Item. How many parks be made sith the same time.

Item. What arable land was imparked.

Item. How many ploughs, houses and habitations be decayed by reason of the said imparking.

Item. How many parks have been enlarged.

Item. How many ploughs, houses and habitations be decayed by reason of the said imparking.

Item. If any person doth keep above two thousand sheep, besides lambs of one year's age and whether he hath kept the same upon his own land or otherwise, or by fraud and how long hath he kept them.

Item. How many sheep ye think have been necessary for the only expense of such person's household for one year.

Item. If any person hath let any lands to farm, or by copy of court roll, reserving the sheep pasture to himself, or if any person hath taken from his tenants their commons, whereby they be not able to breed and keep their cattle, as in time past.

Item. If any person hath occupied above two houses or tenements of husbandry in one town and how long he hath done so.

Item. Whether such person hath taken the same on farm by indenture or otherwise since Christmas 1535.

Only two other examples of the answers of 1548 are known to me. Notes from the Warwickshire answers are amongst the Dugdale MSS. in the Bodleian, and are printed by Leadam; and Cooper, *Annals of Cambridge*, II., 38-40, prints the answers of the town of Cambridge.

There is one subject which is not touched on in the articles of inquiry, but which is made much of in the document printed here, that is, the shutting up of rights of way; either closing them altogether or charging a rent for keeping them open. The closing of a drove way from Newnham to Little Turbetsy (p. 10) is a good example of the latter. The Mr. Rudston who was put forward by Mr. Goodrich to persuade the tenants to make one yearly and thus render themselves always liable, must have been a specious pleader, or the tenants must have been very simple. Mr. Rudston was working with the Goodrich family in other ways, because he was busy with Henry Goodrich in the surveying and confiscating of furniture of parish churches in 1553. He may have been steward of the manor court. This would account for the suspicion hinted at on page 12, that although he had been often accused in the lord's court for encroachment, his fines had been pardoned.

There is plenty of evidence of the decay of houses in this inquisition. The manor of Ketons, which perhaps stood where Orwell Pit farm now is, was enlosed about 1490 and the manor house became a barn. The Mansion house at the Almoners' Farm had been pulled down and another house on the farm had been burnt and not rebuilt. At Stuntney John Checkette had two houses which he did not want him-

self, he used one to store corn in, the other he let and kept the land belonging to it for himself. At Chettisham three holdings of twenty four acres each had been thrown together and one of the farm houses had been allowed to fall down. Fifty four acres had been enclosed as pasture land and Bishop Nicholas West had made a park of 180 acres called Chettisham Bushes. The Bishop had done this soon after coming to the see, and a short time before he was appointed a commissioner to stop such enclosures. As Chettisham Bushes is shown as woodland in the first ordnance map (1835), the ordinances against enclosure had little result in the Isle of Ely.

Considering that the essence of the agitation against turning arable into pasture was the keeping of sheep, it is interesting to note that at Ely there is little evidence of extensive sheep farming. The enclosed pastures were usually small and probably used for dairy farming. This did not deprive the people of food so much as sheep farming did. The only place where sheep farming had increased was Soham. Here, before enclosure, there was a flock of 500 which belonged to farmer and tenants together. After enclosure the number had risen to 600, but these belonged mostly to the farmer, who had squeezed out the smaller men by high-handed methods. It was a Stuard who had done this. How that family must have been hated by the smaller men of Ely. But the Stuards were not the only aggressive farmers. At Cambridge Mr. Hynde of Madingley drove 700 sheep into Cambridge field and impoverished the common. He could have had little right there at all. (Cooper, *op. cit.*)

p. 16. Symon or Symeon Stuard married the daughter and heiress of Edward Bestenay. Symeon was a brother of the first dean of Ely and great uncle of Oliver Cromwell's mother. The Ely jury represents him as a man of grasping and tyrannous disposition. For example, take his treatment of the commoners of Stuntney (p. 17), where he is said to have made farming so difficult for the tenants that they might be constrained to sell their copyhold to him and put the whole parish in his occupation.

"Prior Wymple" is mentioned on pages 5 and 7. According to the former reference he was prior in 1518, but is unknown to Bentham, who says that John Cottenham, elected prior in 1516, was dead before 1522. This does not preclude Wymple having been prior in 1518, because Cottenham might have died four or five years before 1522.

p. 12. Nicholas Stuard, farming Barton Manor, was another brother of the first dean, and great-grandfather of Oliver Cromwell.

PRESENTMENTS / OF ENCLOSURES ETC / IN THE
RAIGNE OF HEN/RYE THE 8TH.

This title is of a later date than the original, and is written on the outside of the cover. The book consist of twelve paper leaves, stitched in a cover of the same material. Size $8\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

The original is in Clare College Treasury and is kept with the documents relating to St John's Hospital. It has been copied and is printed with the consent of Mr. W. J. Harrison, the bursar, to whom I am indebted for many such kindnesses.

The document is undated, but apart from its general character which fixes the date, there is a statement on p. 19 that an enclosure was made since the limitation of the statute. This may be the statute of 1549-50, if so the answers are a little later than supposed. On p. 6 there it is said that Bishop West (1515-1533), enclosed Chettisham Bushes thirty three years past. This makes 1548 the earliest possible date of the document.

The earliest date mentioned is on p. 13 : 2 Hen : VIJ, 1486, the latest on p. 16 : 2 Edw : VJ. 1548.

The first page is left half blank, as if for a title which was never filled in.

1. Item we presente that Robert Hargrafe holdeth a ferm called Bedwelhaye of my lord of Ely by indenture for term of years by the yerely of 100s. of which ferme there was enclosed about the [blank] yere of King Henry, the VIIIth by John Bulweyer about the number of VI score acres whereof ther was [blank] acres arable land and the rest medowe grounde & soo y^t is now which was ever wonte to lye open with the ffields and the inhabitants of Ely had always shak & comon of fedying like as upon the ffields next to y^t that is to saye from harvest till our lady daye in lente.
- p. 2. 2. Item James Slowe in the Raign of Kyng Henry the VIIth. enclosed V acres arable land parcell of Westfenne ferme and converted theme to pastur' holdyng now of the College of Ely.
3. Item the same James S. about the above said tyme tooke in ij other closes parcel of the said ferm containyng ij acres bothe to guedr & converted theym to pastur' holdyng of the College of Ely which wer always wonte to lye open with the felds & the tenants of Ely had ever shak and common in the same from harvest till the annunciation of our Lady.
4. Item Johan Wryght aboute the XXth yer of Kyng Henry the VIII enclosed ij tofts containyng V acres & converted theym to pastur' holding of my lord of Ely by copy of courte Roll and by the rent of xiii^d. which wer ever wonte to lye open with the felds & the tennants of Ely had always shak & common in the same from harvest tyll the annunciation of our Lady.
5. Item William Lane in the raign of Kyng Henry the viijth hath half an acre taken in by [blank] & converted to pastur' holdyng of my lord of Ely by copy of Courte Roll and by the Rent of vd. which was ever wonte to lye open with the felds and the tennants had always comon and shak in the same as above.

6. Item Thomas Crosse in the reign of Kyng Henry the viijth enclosed half an acre grounde & converted yt to pastur¹ holdyng of my Lord of Ely by copy of Courte Roll and by the Rent of 1d ob² which was ever wonte to lye open with the fields and the tenants of Ely had alwayes shak & comon in the same as above.
- p. 3. [The entries go on in the same form and the following entries are mostly given in abstract. Words occurring in the original will be between inverted commas. Certain regular contractions of the document have been made: "copyhold of Ely" stands for "copyhold of my Lord of Ely"; "held of the Colledge" stande for "held of the Colledge of Ely" (i.e. the Dean and Chapter). "Whichever was wont etc.," stands for the last forty-two words of the first item and relates to shack and common. "Shak" or "shack" usually meaning the run of the fields between harvest and seed time].
7. That Thomas Crosse in the same reign enclosed and converted into pasture an acre grounde copyhold of Ely, rent 6s. 8d., in which the tenants had shak and common.
8. That William Symple in the same reign enclosed ij acres copyhold of Ely rent 3d. and converted into pasture, now in tenure of Thomas Sybly, "which was ever wonte etc.,"
9. "That Robert Marche hath an acre land enclosed about 50 yeres past copyhold of Ely rent 8d. and converted into pasture, "which was ever wonte" etc.,
10. That Robert M. hath tenements in Chetesham copyhold of Ely which hath 24 acres arable land pertayning to every one of them; "where of one tenement is utterly decayed, whereby a plowe is layde down & he hath converted all the said lande into one man's tenure" the tenements are held of Ely by 46s. 8d. yearly rent & "were ever wonte etc".
- p. 4. 11. That Robert M. hath 6 acres enclosed in Chetesham by John Shynkwyn about—Hen. viij copy hold "which were ever wonte" etc.,
12. That Robert M. hath 2½ acres in two closes in Chetesham enclosed by William Massy about 17 Hen. viij, & converted to pasture "which was ever wonte etc". All these three parcells of Ely by the said rent of 46' 8'
13. That William Porte hath a close of 1½ acres enclosed by Edmund Porte his father *temp.* H. viij & converted to pasture; copy hold of Ely rent 4s. 10d., "which was ever wonte etc.,"
14. Item. the heyres of Thomas Rydly have a close contayning 3 acres converted to pasture, *temp.* Hen. viij., copyhold of Ely, rent 12d.; "which was ever wonte" etc.,
"And throughoute theis ij closes ought to lye a common carte hie waye which is very necessary to be layde open".
- p. 5. 15. Item the heirs of Thomas Rydley have two closes containing 14 acres enclosed about 10 Hen viij by Prior Wymple, copyhold of Colledge rent 6s. 8d. "which was ever wonte etc.,"
16. Item about 10 Hen: viij Thomas Chypley & Thomas Hadman enclosed "ij litell pyngells² of half an acre, in the field," copyhold of Ely rent 20s. "which were ever wonte" etc.,
17. "Item John Gannok within theis vi yeres enclosed 10 acres arable land holdyng of the Mr. of Saint John's by indenture parcel of the ferm lond".

1. t. or *temp.* is used as a contraction for "in the reign of."

2. Pyngell or pigittle, a small field.

18. Item the same Gannok hath enclosed 5 acres which he holdeth of Mr. Holland tenant to the College, 3 acres by the rent of 6s. & 2 acres residue he holdeth of William Sylvertop of the College, rent, 3s. "which was ever wonte etc."
19. Item John Fowler of Chetesham hath an acre & a half enclosed by John Shynkwyn about 12 H. viij, freehold of Ely, rent 8s. "which was ever wonte etc."
- p. 6. 20. "Item my Lord of Ely hath in his tenure a feld called Chettesham busshes contaying by estimacion ix score acres enclosed by Busshop West¹ about xxxij yerres past wherein the tenants of Ely & Chetesham were ever wonte to have common fedying till Candlemasse & that it laye ever open till busshop West enclosed yt."
21. "Item there laye a common droft waye to the said busshes whereby the tenants were accustomed to make theyr carriage & to dryef theyr cattall from Marshall Fenne to Redmor, which hath ben denyed us sythens the felde was enclosed"
22. Item Nicholas Massy in the raign of Kyng Henry the viij toke a pyece of Roper's lane.
23. "Item James Slowe in the raign of Henry the viij toke in a parcell of ground out of the comon by copy of Courte Roll of my Lorde of Ely, yerely rent 2d, now in the tenur^r of Richard Dilly which is thought necessary to be layde open for yt is very noysom to the inhabitants & to all strangers resortyng thider with droft of cattall & others"
24. Item Sampson Colson temp. K. H. viij took a parcel of ground out of the common, copy hold, rent 4d, which is thought necessary to be laid open.
25. Item the Dean & Prebendaries have enclosed a parcel of ground called the "Greate Bele" containing 60 acres, in the reign of K. H. viij, holding of the College of Ely, which was ever wonte to lye open, & the township of Ely had alwayes common in the same till our Lady day in Lente. And between that & the litell Bele there lieth a high waye of 40 foot brode where upon the tenants of Ely where accustomed to stake their horses and to drive their cattle to Alderford Fen.
26. Item the manor of Ketons holden by indenture of the College of Ely, by rent of 32s. is decayed & Prior Wymple converted two closes cont. 14 acres, that were arable from the said manor, to pastur called Orwell Pylk closes. And the mansion house is made a barn. And in one John Andrewes tyme that is to saye about the 5th year Hen 7; there was an honest house & kept a plowe, with the liberty of a fold well maintained. Which closes be in the hands of the heyres of Thomas Rydley.
27. "Item the ferm of the Almory² barnes belongyng to the College of Ely now in the tenure of William Sylvertop hath ben & is decayed & lyke further to decaye for lack of a mansion house, whereby the tillage is like to decay, there are C acres longyng to yt, yt holdeth of the College of Ely by indenture for terme of yerres, & by the rent of 5 marks, there wer two tenents upon the same, that is to say the mansion house & and an old tenantrye. The mansion house Cotes somtymes Almosner there pulled down & the tenantrye was brent"³
- p. 8. 28. Newbarnes ferme. "In the raign of King Henry the vij Richard Baker fermor there kept 5 plowes & an honest house for the which ferme he paid 18li and had Chettisham Busshes with the same".

1. Nicholas West, Bishop 1515-1533.

2. Almouer's.

3. Brent is an obsolete form of burnt.

29. Item about 15 H. viij William Hardynge fermer there enclosed arable land called the West Close of 10 acres, & converted to pasture, part of Newbarnes holding of Ely.
30. Item about 28 Hen. viij Mr. Goderyk enclosed a parcel of Newbarnes arable ground containing 70 acres in 3 closes & converted to pasture.
31. Item about 30 Hen. viij the same enclosed 6 acres arable called the Safron ground & converted to pasture. Parcel of Newbarnes, held at Ely.
32. Item the same time Mr. Goderyk enclosed 7 acres of arable called "Sprynge close" & converted to pasture, parcell of Newbarnes. "All which ground laye ever open as the felds doo, and the township of Ely had always shak & common in the same. It is therefore thought necessary all the said closures to be disclosed & lye open as they did".
33. Item the said Mr. G., kepte 4 plowes upon the ferm before he enclosed, & now Rob. March farmer keepeth but 2 plowes, & so there are 2 laid down.
- p. 9. 34. Item Mr. Goderyk hath a close lying between the bell holte & the springe close containing an acre taken in in the reign of Hen. vij, held of College, rent 2s. "Old men say it did ever lie open to the fields".
35. Item [blank] Laurance hath a close of two acres buttyng upon the west of Mr. Goderyk, copyhold of Ely, rent 20d. Now in tenure of Mr. Doctor Lyeson. It was wont to lie open etc.
36. Item there is a highway buttyng upon Chetisham highway through the west close of Newbarnes & so over the south easte by Newbarnes & from there to Waterdean common which was denied us by Mr. John Godryk.¹
37. Item there is another highway lying from Newenham townstead to Newbarnes close & thence to Redmore & out the same way. There is another way to Blacwynsiard & so to the Drofe way denied us by Wm. Hardynge.
38. "Item there is a cart way between John Tomlyn's close and the saffon ground buttyng upon the drofe way on the east denied us by Mr. John Godenyk." It was enclosed about 30 Hen. viij.
- p. 10. 39. "Item there is a drofe way goyng oute of Newnham through the pytts which is common leadyng to litell Tyrbesy & from thence to Waterden denyed us by Mr John Goderyk aboute 30 Hen. viij, onlesse we wolde paye hym a yerely rent of xiiij^s, which we wold not nor did graunte unto soo that he said he wolde attempt the law agaynest us. In advoyding whereof we oft desyred his favour therein. & to have the said waye peasibly which he ever denyed us except we wolde paye him yerely xiiij^s. Which no man can by knowledge of himself nor by heresaye of olde men remember nor knowe that any such somme was payde in any manes tyme befor. This matier thus hangyng Mr Rudston came to us wyllyng & movyng us to accomplish the said Mr Goodryk request in paying the said rent ones, and yf we so did he said he wolde paye y^t of his own purse. And by meanes of the said Mr Rudston his persuassion we payde Mr Goderyk request & thus ever sythens hath ben required of us vjs viij^d.
40. "Item ther lyeth a waye from Brodebak by Tyrbesy hedge to Rossell for the watryng of our common heard & now it is denyed us by Mr. Thomas Goderyk.

1. The brother of Thomas Goodrich, Bishop of Ely, 1533-1554.

41. "Item ther lyeth a comon rounde aboute the est & North syde of New barnes pastur which hath been kepte from us by the fermors ther eatyng the same with theyr shepe, soo that we have no fedyng for our cattall upon the same.
- p. 11. 42. "In the Raign of Kyng Henry the vijth the stuard of londs havynge the ferm of Barton in his hands enclosed a pyece of ground now called the Tylekyln close which is devyded into ij closes. Also he enclosed an other pyece of grounde called the "Gravell Pytte" close" & converted to pasture. Oute of which Gravell Pytt the township of Ely had always Gravell freely to amend the hyeways, & now it is denyed us by Nicolas Stuard fermor thereof, upon which ferme he keepeth iij plowes havynge about 206 acres arable. And in pasture 154 acres 3 rood and 32 acres enclosed. He holdeth of my Lord of Ely by indenture, at a yerely rent of xx marks. All which grounds were wont to lie open etc."
- Hyeways 43. "Item there lyeth a mere¹ from the hye waye that gothe to Brame & y^t gothe down to Caldwell Fen, over which waye y^t hath ever ben accustomed five horses to goo necked to guedr & now it is denyed us by Nicholas Stuard."
44. Item there lieth a common by Barton farm pasture adjoining Caldwell fen east, which Nicholas Stuard hath & doth deny us; & he hath also "ayred"² a parcel of the same common & feedeth it with sheepe, so that the town hath no profit thereon, to the great impoverishment of the inhabitants of the town of Ely.
- p. 12. 45. "It. there lieth a highway from Ely to Streatham ward whereupon Barton Farm butteth which highway hath been in divers places encroached upon by Nicholas Stuard. For which he hath been divers times amerced in the lord's court, but it is thought his fine has ben pardoned & soo no redress is had"
- Turbesye } 46. Item there is a common drift way & a carte way through
Ferm } greate Turbesye which was never denyed us till now of late by
William Smyth farmer thereof.³
47. Item the farmer claimeth 2 "laks"⁴ which have been alwayes common to the township of Ely.
- Brame } 48. Item there lyeth a drofe way by Thetford Close leading to
Ferm } Hall Fen, which is common to Ely. It hath been longe fenced from us by John Colpott farmer there.
49. Item Mr John Wrenne sometime farmer of Brame took in a close of severall acres temp. K. Henry viij, & converted it to pasture "which was always wont etc."
50. Item the second year of King Hen vij, there was a common horseway from Lyles lane to the field through a close now in the tenure of John Toke.
- p. 13. 51. Item John Ruste 30 Hen. viij, toke in a common lane at the north ende of Palmer's house, held of Ely by copy, & rent 2d.
52. Item there is a ditch called Sedgewyke which was ever common & now taken in by Christopher Cotes holden of the College.
53. Item Mr Cotes sometime Almoner of Ely took in a lane or vacant ground in the reign of K. Henry viij, by copy of Ely, rent 2d, now in the tenure of John Cocke.

1. A balk or road serving as a boundary.
2. "ayred" means "ploughed".
3. See Major Fowler's Note at end.
4. Lakes or streams.

54. Item Mr Walpole of Burwell his house now in the tenure of Mr Rudston is decayed by reason of letting his lond containing 40 acres from it; held of Ely, rent 5^s 11^d.
55. Item Mr Feldyng's house is decayed by reason he has let his land from it, containing 60 acres; held of Ely, rent 6^s 4^d.
56. Item Lancelot Rydley in the reign of Hen viij took a garden plott behind the Belle out of the waste, copyhold of Ely rent 2^d, now the heir of Thomas Rydley.
57. Item Henry Walton hath another garden joyning to the same out of the waste—copy hold of Ely, rent 6^d.
- p. 14 Item John Thorold hath a plot of ground on his backside taken out of the waste
 These three parcells afresaide taken out of the waste we think noyeth no common wealth; and if they were laid out & made places for dunghills, it would be danger for casualty of fine being so near houses.¹
 "Item ther lyeth awaye oute of Potters lane through Mr Goodryk's close into Caldwell ferme old men say y^t was a common drofe waye to dryef theyr catall through to the said fermes".
59. Item Thomas Hodylow hath set his house about (blank) fote upon the common ground.
60. Item William Stoneham hath 3 banks set with willowes which is common; & he hath sette a hurdell in the stream which is hurtful to the common river.
- p. 15. 61. Stontenaye } Edmund Humfrey farmer there 4 Hen viij
 Ferme } kept 2 plowes having in tillage 110 acres & of pasture 30 acres; after whom Edward Bestenay of Soham gentleman being farmer there in 18 Hen viij used tillage, & the 21st year he enclosed & laid to pasture 65 acres whereof there were 40 "ayred": also 27 acres laid to pasture not closed & thus there was no house kept; plows laid down & the ferme fell in decay with great ruin of houses. Also the said Edward enclosed one common highway whereby the tenants of Stonteneye made all their carriage of their stuff out of a fen called Bury Fen. Also there is another highway in the field lying from the crosse to the little causey, taken in these two years by Symon Stuard. Also in the time of tillage their was kept in sheep of the farmers' & tenants 500, but sithence the time of the enclosures the farm kept 600 & the tenants few or none. And the farm now remayneth to Edward Stuard which he holdeth by gift for term of years of Simon Stuard his father. The rent of the farm is £7.
62. Item William Dunche hath a close taken in by John Wesnam in the 27 Hen viij, of three roods, holden of Symon Stuard, copyhold.
63. Also the said William in 2 Edw. vi enclosed 1½ acres, holden of Simon Stuard for 11^d "which was ever wont etc."
- p. 16. 64. Item the said W^m hath reserved to himself the lande & meadow of two of them hath been thus kept these 40 years & one for three years which he holdeth of Simon Stuard, copyhold, rent 3^s 4^d. which was ever wont etc".
65. Item the same W^m keepeth another tenement in his hands & maketh it a dayry, holden of same rent 5^s.

1. This seems to mean that if these parcels remained part of the waste they could not have been used for dunghills, or they would have been presented as nuisances, but that dunghills on private ground could not be prevented.

66. Item John Chekette 2 Edw. vj enclosed two acres of arable & converted to pasture, copyhold of Simon, rent 9^s 7^d. "which were ever wont etc."
67. Item that Chekette hath laid from tillage three acres parcel of 11 acres which he hath laid to pasture enclosed these 20 years, copyhold of Stuard rent 7^s 1^d.
68. Item that Chekette hath 2 tenements the one he layeth his corn in & useth as a barn, which hath been so used these 20 years, the other tenement he letteth & reserveth the land over to himself: copyhold of Stuard, rent 4^s 1^d.
69. Item there is a mere which hath been always common to carry & recarry from one man's land to another's, the which the said John Chekette hath denyed these two years.
70. Item there is appertaining to the manor of Stontney 18 acres of arable converted to pasture, & because they lie in the open fields joyning to the common fen & not ayred, the said Simon to the intent he may pasture them & all the comon adjoining with his sheep, will suffer never a tenant to keep any sheep upon the common of Stonteney but only his own, & this is done only to worry the tenants so that they shall be constrained to sell their copyholds that he may have the whole township in his own occupying.
- p. 17 Thorney } 71. Item Richard Canam farmer there in 18 Hen. viij
Ferme } kept one ox plowe having in tillage about 80 acres & the residue he kept in pasture where upon he kept an honest house. Also in the 18 Hen. viij entered into the said farm John Cray of Wychford who used no tillage but suffered the houses to decay & fall down & carried away the timber & turned it to a dayry & now it is in the tenure of William Cray of Ely who likewise keepeth it a dayry house & holdeth of the Kings Majesty by lease paying £11 yearly & so there is a plough laid down.
- p. 17 Northney } 72. Item William Maye farmer at Northney ferme
Ferme } in the 22 Hen vij kept a plowe havyn 20 acres in tillage the rest was kepte in pasture where upon he kepte an honest house, after whom came Robert Colley about the 2 Hen viij which used no tillage nor kepte no house but turned a dayry & now John Croplaye of Ely farmer there holdeth it by lease of the Cathedral Church of Ely by the yerely rent of 106^s. 8^d. & useth it likewise as a dayry house.
75. "Item the farmers of Thorney and Northney do overlay the tenants of Stontenye in shak tyme having without their inclosures neither arable nor pasture & the tenants of Stontenay have no shak with them Also John Croplaye farmer of Northnaye taketh in "jeest" cattle in his pasture & feedath his own cattle upon the tenants severall "
- p. 18 Downham. 74. Item about 30 years past in the reign of King Henry viij. Thomas Meggs gentleman enclosed 60 acres arable & meadow & above in Otturbushe field holden of Ely & now in tenure of Robert Meggs gent & Mr Doctor Lyeson, which arable land the tenants of Downham always had for 8^d an acre & it is now converted to pasture "and it was ever wonte etc"

75. Item the said Thomas Meggs enclosed about the same time 3 acres "at the Condyte" & converted to pasture, now Thomas Creyke "and it was ever wont etc"
76. Item Thomas Crown temp. Hen viij enclosed one acre & more in Otturbush field, copyhold of Ely rent 2^s. "which was ever wont etc"
77. Item John Bell 34 years past enclosed an acre & more holden by copy of Ely rent 2^s, which was ever wont etc"
78. Item Thomas Burton within these 52 years enclosed 2 acres in Langland holden by copy of Ely, rent 2^s, now Thomas Goderyk,¹ gentleman, "which was ever wonte etc"
- p. 19. 79. Item John Jacobsince the limitation of the statute² enclosed an acre and more in Otturbush field & converted to pasture, copyhold of Ely rent 2^s. "which was ever wonte etc"
80. Item Thomas Meggs gent hath decayed a cottage & it is now a close holden of Ely by copy rent 12^d, converted to pasture. It has been decayed more than 30 years. "It was ever wonte etc"
82. Item Thomas Saint Anbyre "Squyer" hath let the farm lands holden of my lord of Ely by indenture to the inhabitants of Downham & refused the Shepe pasture & let it to ferm to Robert Meggs & he hath let it to Mr John Cotton & Mr Hodelston
83. Item Gilbert Kenworthy hath one tenement & a cottage which tent. is not sufficient for an honest man to dwell upon & he dwelleth upon the Cottage & refuseth the lond of the tent. to the mayntenance of his house.
84. Item Gilbert hath another Cottage that 30 years past was inhabited & now it is made a barne.
85. Item the common way through Downham Hythe unto the Brodewold in Byall fen is stopped by George Austayn these 30 years.
86. Item the common way from the Brodewolde' to West Fen is stopped by Agnes Saint Albyn & Doctor Lyeson these 30 years.
- p. 20. 87. Item Robert Meggs gent. hath cast a dyche at Hawkeleys' Wood end which is partly upon the common ground & is very noisome.
88. Item there was a close containing an acre or more copyhold taken in these 16 years, now in tenure of Thomas Goderyk & "was ever wonte etc"
89. Item Gilbert Kenworthay within these 8 years took in three roods copyhold "which was ever wonte etc"
90. Item Thomas Meggs gent enclosed a parcel of copyhold these 8 years (area not given).
- p. 21 Littleporte.
91. Item John Mower 33 years past enclosed 4 acres arable & converted to pasture parcel of the farm lands now Mr Hopkins gent. holden of Ely by indenture "which were ever wonte"
92. Item about 20 years past Mr Waike enclosed 5 acres of parcel said farm, holden of Ely by indenture "which were ever wont etc"
93. Item Mr Hopkyns 5 years past enclosed into pasture 4 acres arable parcel of said farm, "which were ever wonte"
94. Item Mr Hopkins hath enclosed 3 acres arable lying at the Mill Hill, held of Ely by indenture. "which was ever wonte"

1. Nephew of the Bishop.
2. 3 & 4 Edw. vi (1549-50).

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95. Item Thomas Awmon about 28 years past enclosed 5 rods of arable to pasture copyhold of Ely, rent 8^d. "which was ever wonte etc"
96. That Robert Coke about 12 years past enclosed 7 rods belonging to Ely to pasture, copyhold rent 14^d. "which was ever wonte etc"
- p. 22. 97. Item Thomas Sadde about 16 years past enclosed 5 rods of arable copyhold of Ely, rent 10^d, all the above seven pieces. "ever were wonte etc"
98. Item John Cooles about 4 years passed enclosed 1½ acres lying in the middle of the field, of Ely copyhold, rent 12^d. & it is greatly to the annoyance of the whole township of Littleport.
99. Item Christophe Bryggs' vicar of Littleport about 4 years past enclosed 3 acres of arable, copyhold of Ely, rent 2^s. 8^d.
100. Item John Harris about 20 years past enclosed an acre parcel of parsonage glebe land, which ever was wont"
101. Item Thomas Harris about 26 years past enclosed an acre, holden by indenture of St. Johns of Ely, rent 6^d. "which was ever wont"
- p. 23. 102. Item the same about 26 years past enclosed an acre, copy of Ely, rent 8^d. these four pieces were ever wonte"
103. Mr Hopkins hath enclosed a piece of ground containing ½ an acre which was a common drove way & converted it to a pond-yarde to the great annoyance of the whole township.

The total amount of enclosures to meadow seems to be as follows :	{	Ely	329	acres
		Stuntney	112	"
		Downham	68	"
		Littleport	38	"
			<hr/>	
			547 acres	

Many of the names of places occurring in the document are still known.

1548	<i>Ordnance Map. 1835 & 1914-5.</i>
Bedwell Laye	Bedwell Lay Farm
Great Beale	Bealds Farm
Alderford Fen	Alderforth
Orwell Pytte close	Orwell Pit Farm
Almory Barnes	Emery Barns
Rossell	Roswell
Brame	Braham Farm
Coldwell Fen	Caudle Fen
Thorney Farm	Thorney Hall
Northney Farm	Northea Farm

The following names occur at both dates unaltered :
Redmore, Newnham, Hall Fen.

The following names do not occur on maps now:—Roper's Lane, Blackwynsca, Broadbank, Lyles' Lane, Sedgwyke Ditch Potter's Lane, Great & Little Tyrbesy & Tyrbesy Hedges. It is strange that the name Tyrbesy or Turbutsea which was held in sacred affection in the middle ages because here the body of Queen Etheldreda's sister, Withburga, landed, does not occur in the 1835 Ordnance Map, nor in any map since.

Sacrist's Rolls of Ely Vol. II., p. 6. In this entry under 1292 "Paid for expenses on the feast of St. Withburga the Virgin at Tydbreye, with the brethren and burgesses, 17s. 6d.", which amount represents as many pounds of our money. Evidently the anniversary of the landing of the body of St. Withburga at Turbutsea was kept up with substantial enjoyment.

Notes on some of the houses & farms mentioned in the document follow.

D & C. Lease Book, Vol. I. p. 51.

3 May 1565. Lease to William Smythe of Ely of all that Manor of Turbutsey now called a Dayare, & all buildings, that is dayhouse, Kyching, the Chappell, the little Kilnhouse, & one other house near the gate in the great close, one willowholte called Farthing holte & the enclosed sheepecote—for 61 years at £2. 13. 4. a year in cash, & £2. 13. 4. to be delivered in sweet butter & clean & good milk every week, at the price of penny a pound of butter & penny a gallon of milk, & a calf at Easter or 5s.

D & C. Lease Bk. I. fo. 138b, 139b.

Almery [or Amery] Barnes. 1584. Lease of Amery Barnes to John Silvertop the elder of Ely, yeoman, & Robert his brother. John to have the great barn with a stable, and one hempyard behind the stable, with a yard before the great barn door to the south & one half the land, for four lives, himself & three sons, at a rent of 53s. 4d. Robert to have the less barn, with one hempyard on the south, & half the land for his own and two other lives, at 13s. 4d. rent.

D & C. Lease Bk. I. fo. 42.

1536. Lease of Amery Barn to William Silvertop for 60 years, at rent of 66s. 8d.

Dean & Chapter, Lease Book I. fo. 42, 42d.

Manor of Kettons. Leased to Robert Orten of Ely for 40 years in 1523, at 32s. In 1546 he relet part of it to John Gannok. In 1564, it was leased to Ralph Hollonde of Ely, gent & Joan his wife for 60 years at 26s. 8d. a year.

D & C. Lease Bk. I. fo. 10.

Northney. 19 June 1558. Lease to John Cropley of Ely, of the grange of Northney, for 21 years at £5. 6. 8. rent. To keep the "deyhouse", 50 ft. long, 16 ft. broad, & another house called "Slepyn" in repair. Stock delivered of lessee which was to be redelivered on termination of lease, 22 cows, 1 bull, value £8. 6. 8.

Amongst the Exchequer Proceedings in the Public Record Office are some which may bear on the subject of this paper, the references are as follows

- (1) "Exchequer Depositions by commission, 33 Elizab. Easter No. 4", Interrogatories & very full answers taken at Ely in Feb. 1591. Wm. Steward of Ely plaintiff; Thomas Jarvis & others defendants, concerning enclosures of lands belonging to Barton

- farm & a common called Caudle Fen & other enclosures. Customs of common in Ely, meets & bounds of the fen.
- (2) "Exch. Dep. by com. 33 & 34 Elizab. Mich. Nov. 25" & 46". Interrogatories & answers, June & October 1591, Parties. & subject as in No 1.
- (3) "Exchequer Depositions by com. 41 Elizab. Trinity No. 11". Interrogatories & answers at Ely, June 1599. Thomas Styward son of William & grandson of Nicholas, plaintiff; Thomas Jarvis & others defendants. Concerning title to Barton Farm, whether Newbarns, Bedwelhay, & Chetisham Bushes are parcel of the farm.

Major Gordon Fowler has sent me the following notes on Turbutsea.

There is some information about Turbutsea in:—
Fowler, "Fenland Waterways, Past and Present," Part II, C.A.S. Proc., vol. 34, p. 25.

I consider that the sixteenth century Drove Way (No. 39), followed the present course of the highway from Ely past the cemetery and along the Common to the present Thistle Corner where there are disused brick pits and the remains of old brick buildings, which I take to be Little Turbutsea. From there it is marked by the disused drove which skirts Waterden Fen and passes to the site of the Old Cross Keys Inn, where it is broken by a channel of the Ouse, cut in 1830. One picks it up again at Clayway on the opposite bank. From there it passes to Padual engine, where it is broken by the channel of the river Lark cut in 1830. It starts again immediately opposite that engine and, in the form of a disused drove, passes to the west bank of the pre-1830 course of the Ouse, where there appears to be the remains of an ancient quay which I have long wished to excavate.

This drove, which has ancient stone and wooden pile reinforcements in places, must have been of some importance before the cuts made in 1830, because goods unloaded at the old quay I mention and taken by cart or pack horse to Ely would probably reach there sooner than if the barges had to go on the extra $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Turbutsea quay (still to be seen on the site of the Great Ouse Catchment Board Depot) negotiating on their way the shallow waters over "The Hards" (mentioned in "Fenland Waterways, Past and Present", Part II, C.A.S., vol. 34, p. 22).

Turbutsea manor house, granary or chapel stood at the end of the peninsula of Kimmeridge clay on which the Ely beet factory was built in 1925. Turbutsea farm house was destroyed to make room for the factory. I never saw it, as I arrived later, but observers tell me that the house was built of old bricks and founded on

large roughly dressed blocks of stone like one sees in the Cathedral masonry and in the older buildings of Ely.

I think the mediæval approach to the Turbutsea quay and buildings further on was from Ely, via Springhead Lane, which marks an ancient parish boundary and the continuation of that boundary line via a pathway or drove which the factory settling ponds have almost obliterated. (See 6 inch map).

Just north of my cottage at the Factory I am told that the remains of a tile baking furnace were exposed when the settling pond banks were being made. I have since seen some of the tiles and they appear to me to be no older than Tudor or Jacobean.