

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

OCTOBER 1928—OCTOBER 1930

WITH
Communications
MADE TO THE SOCIETY

VOLUME XXXI

Edited by E. A. B. BARNARD, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.



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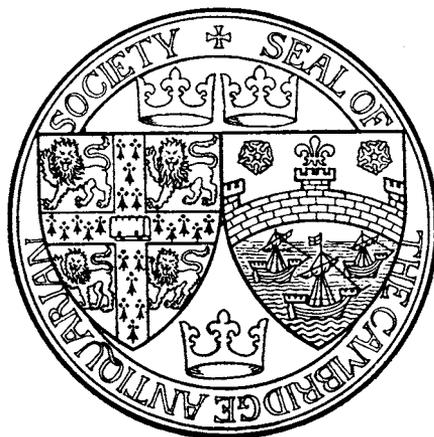
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THE BENEDICTINE NUNNERY OF SWAFFHAM BULBECK.

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

(Read 4 February, 1929.)

The Nunnery of Swaffham Bulbeck is first met with in the year 1199, in an Assize Roll¹. A hundred years later² it is stated that it was founded by an ancestor of the Earl of Oxford. But this family had no connection with the parish in 1199. Soon afterwards, however, an Earl of Oxford married Isabel de Bolebec, the owner of Swaffham Bulbeck. When both were very young, the Earl of Oxford had offered the King 500 marks for the heiress Isabel, as a bride for his son. But both bride and bridegroom died without children, and Isabel's estates passed to her father's sister, also named Isabel de Bolebec. Thereupon the new Earl of Oxford offered the King 200 marks and two palfreys for the hand of Isabel de Bolebec the second, his late sister-in-law's aunt. She, however, offered 450 marks and three palfreys that she might not be compelled to marry, but might be allowed to enjoy her own property and that which she had inherited from her sister, by herself, in her own way. But the man won in the end and Isabel became the mother of the succeeding Earl. There being two Isabels, heiresses to the same fief, about the same time, and both marrying Earls of Oxford, renders confusion easy. But the facts are quite clear³. Isabel's ancestor, Hugh de Bolebec, came over with the Conqueror from the village of Bolebec in Normandy. It is now a small town and the motor bus from Caudebec to Havre passes through it. I mention this because when two charabancs of learned geographers were at Swaffham Bulbeck last summer one of them asked me if Hugh de Bolebec came from Baalbec in Syria.

Now as to the foundation of Swaffham Bulbeck Nunnery, I would suggest that, as Isabel de Bolebec seems to have been

¹ Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, ed. Nasmyth.

² Hundred Rolls, Vol. I, p. 494.

³ Dugdale's *Baronage*, Vol. I, p. 452.

averse to marriage, and had ideas of enjoying her property in her own way, she founded this nunnery before her marriage.

In the Hundred Roll of 1279 there is a detailed account of the nuns' property, which included houses in five different parishes of the town of Cambridge.

The annals of the nunnery are meagre; no register is known to exist, and most of the documents which came to the Crown at the dissolution seem to have perished, so only crumbs from various sources can be collected.

It was the smallest nunnery in the country, consisting of a Prioress and six nuns. At the same period there were eight nuns at Ickleton, ten at St Radegund's, Cambridge, fourteen at Chatteris and forty at Denny. It was a small house, but it had aristocratic inmates. In 1399 the Bishop received the professions as nuns here of Margaret de Lisle, Cecily Brettenham and Cecily Pakenham, all names of distinction¹. One of the nuns in 1379 was named Elena de Ufford, which was the family name of the Earldom of Suffolk, and when the Earl of Suffolk—whose portrait you have all probably seen in the de Lisle chantry in Wimpole church, one of the best survivals of ancient heraldic glass in the county—happened to die very dramatically on entering the House of Lords in 1382, his widow took a vow of chastity and became a nun at Swaffham. The authority given by Hailstone for the statement that she became a nun at Swaffham Bulbeck is Suckling's *Suffolk*, Vol. I, p. 171. But there is nothing about Swaffham Bulbeck there. There is simply a record, from the Ely Register, of her taking a vow of chastity at Campsey Priory.

But although distinguished in a way, the nunnery was poor and was always excused from paying the King's taxes because of its poverty².

The nuns of Swaffham seem to have undertaken few menial tasks, because they had a large number of servants, the brewer, the yardman, the turf-digger, the cellarer and the cook, besides shepherd and bailiff, ploughmen and carters. I think perhaps they did their own weaving, because in one year's account 35 yards of woollen cloth cost them 4*d.* a yard. The raw material cost

¹ Fordham's Register, Canon Crosby's *Abstract of Ely Registers*.

² Crosby, *op. cit.*

nothing, as it came from their own sheep. The fuller charged three shillings, the cost of weaving was only one and sevenpence. So I think they must have done it themselves. The dress allowance or pin-money of the Swaffham nuns was half a mark, or six and eightpence a year¹. The nunnery possessed a sheep run for 200, but it was only about half occupied, so like many modern farmers they were trying to work with insufficient capital.

When Margaret Radcliff was elected Prioress about 1480, she found that her predecessor had run the nunnery into debt to the extent of 25 marks (£16. 13s. 4d.) and as the gross income was only £66, this was a heavy burden. She seems to have met it to some extent by taking in paying guests. During the year 1482 the Prioress had ten paying guests, one man, one woman, five boys and three girls. They were not all there at one time; the longest period anyone was there was 40 weeks. The Lent quarter does not seem to have been popular, and judging from the kitchen bills, the summer quarter was the favourite. With one exception the boarders came from Cambridge. The exception was Richard Potecary, of course a most respectable person; he took the air of Swaffham for 22 weeks. The weekly charge for adults and children was an all-round one of 6d., *i.e.* a penny a day and Sunday free. It is difficult to see how the nuns made much profit, because the kitchen expenses averaged 2½d. per head a week, and this 2½d. does not include what was taken from store, that is, such foods as bacon, bread, salt beef, salt fish and beer. I think they must have lived largely on pork, because at the end of this year they had 50 porkers in their sties.

And their stock did not include the above staple articles alone, for amongst the purchases of this year are some items which might be considered luxuries, such as saffron, cloves and mace, a large quantity of pepper, and a salmon salted. And it is possible that the guests were even supplied with soap, for amongst the purchases are eighteen pounds of that article. The whole of the income derived from paying guests was £6. 6s. 1d. The presence of the two adults at the nunnery shows that these

¹ P.R.O., Min. Accts. 770/3.

entries do not relate to a convent boarding school such as existed in many nunneries.

A detailed account of the receipts and expenditure of the nunnery for the year 1482 exists in a more or less illegible condition. From this we find that 112 qrs. of wheat were produced and 10 calves. The issue of the dovecote was 43 doz. pigeons. I suppose they sold these, because a diet of pork and pigeon would have been trying for the digestion of a 15th century nun, even although consumed with quantities of October ale. For the amount of malt they used for brewing is amazing.

The cost of repairs this year, often a heavy item, was not very large. A new oven was built costing £2, probably a large stick oven, and seven new door locks and keys cost 10½*d.* each. I suppose these were for the chambers of the paying guests. Four doz. candles cost 4*d.* each. These were wax candles for the altar, because dips for ordinary use would have been from their own mutton fat. An interesting item is that of "Sandal Oil 4*d.*" This was for perfume for the Prioress.

An extra expense of this year was due to the election of a new Prioress. For this, those blood-suckers, the Bishop's officials, charged £1. 11*s.* 8*d.*, to which must be added one shilling for the cost of the Prioress, when walking to Bury. Let us hope she did it in company with Walsingham pilgrims.

An unusual occurrence in the history of the nunnery happened on May 26, 1383, when Bishop Arundel held an ordination of priests, and a blessing of nuns in the Priory Church. The Bishop's journey up the Ouse to Swaffham Lode, almost to the door of the church, was an easy one. The blessing of the nuns could not take place in the parish church, so he performed both rites in the nunnery¹.

Just as important, though not always so pleasant for the nuns, was the Visitation of the Bishop or his official, to enquire both into the spiritual and temporal condition of the nunnery. During the early 14th century certain of the nuns had been in the habit of going out into the village, not to call at the Vicarage, because there was no lady there, but there were several manor houses where there were ladies. An end was

¹ Crosby, *op. cit.*

put to this in 1345, when the Visitor forbade the nuns to go outside the nunnery. The Visitor found no other irregularity¹.

One of the clergy, regular or secular, had to enter the nunnery for the purpose of hearing confessions, and, at times, priests lived in the nunnery precincts. The Vicar of the parish would have been the most convenient priest for a confessor, but the nuns were not always on good terms with him, for a Vicar sued them for tithes in 1379, and after long proceedings lost the day².

In 1377 the Vicar of Swaffham Prior was licensed to hear their confessions³, and in 1379 two chaplains were living in the nunnery⁴. In 1388, William de Bottisham, sub-Prior of Anglesey, was licensed to hear their confessions. Until recently, and there may be still, there was a local tradition of an underground passage between the nunnery and Anglesey⁵. Only a water rat could have used it! In 1393, the nuns had licence to choose their own confessor, after which no more licences were necessary. About 1530, a Swaffham lady bequeathed a groat to every priest living in the nunnery, and the Vicar bequeathed a shilling to Sir Christopher, the Priest of the nuns⁶. At this time the feeling between the parish and nunnery was good, because each of these people left legacies to both Prioress and nuns.

To come to the latest days of the nunnery. This was one of the few against which the Visitors of Henry VIII had something bad to say. The Prioress was then Joan Spilman, of whom the Visitors said: "This ladie hath given a benefice, appropriate to the house, of the value of £30 (it was only worth £16. 10s. 0d., but that was near enough for these spies)—to a Friar whom people say she loves well. The said Friar is noted of the common rumour of all the country hereabouts, and also of all the sisters of the house to be nought with the Prioress there⁷."

But the reputation of the nunnery had been clean shortly

¹ Register of Bishop de Lisle, Crosby's *Abstract*.

² See p. 45.

³ Crosby, *op. cit.*

⁴ Clerical Subsidy 23/1.

⁵ Hailstone's *History of Swaffham Bulbeck*.

⁶ See p. 47.

⁷ Sir Henry Ellis, *Original Letters*, Vol. III, p. 118

before this date, because when the nunnery of Higham near Rochester was suppressed for irregularities in 1524, the revenues given to St John's College, Cambridge, and the inmates sent to other nunneries, Agnes Swayne was sent to Swaffham Bulbeck¹.

The end of the nunnery came soon after, and it had nothing to do with the report of the inquisitors. About Feb. 5, 1536, the Prioress voluntarily surrendered her house into the hands of the King. The Prioress and nuns each received a small pension². The gross value was less than £1 a week³. A short time afterwards the whole property was transferred to the Bishop of Ely. The document in English is printed in full in Dugdale's *Monasticon*⁴.

I should have made no reference to the report of the King's Visitors but that, more than 60 years after the suppression of the nunnery, a lawsuit⁵ took place concerning the tithes of this parish, in which the nunnery was once concerned. Some of the witnesses were asked all kinds of strange questions. One of them was this: "What can you say of Dame Jane, or Joan Spilman, late Prioress; where did she live in Swaffham Bulbeck, and for how long after the suppression of nunneries?"

Only one witness answered this question; his name was Robert Manning of Burwell, aged 80. He was born at Swaffham Bulbeck and about 1540 went as a servant to the man who farmed the nunnery site. He said "that he well knew the last prioress, her name was Joan Spilman, but she desired to be called Dame Jane." He heard, and he verily believed, that "she remained in a cave in the ground at the Vicarage, for the most part of one year or thereabouts after the dissolution." On referring to the Vicars of Swaffham Bulbeck, we find that Richard Spencer was Vicar here between 1533-5, and that another Vicar was appointed in 1537, a year after the suppression. Perhaps he was the "friar" whom the nun loved.

With regard to the buildings of the nunnery, all the description

¹ T. Baker, *History of St John's College*, Vol. I, p. 89.

² See p. 42.

³ Gross £46. 10s. 8d., nett £40.

⁴ Vol. IV, p. 457.

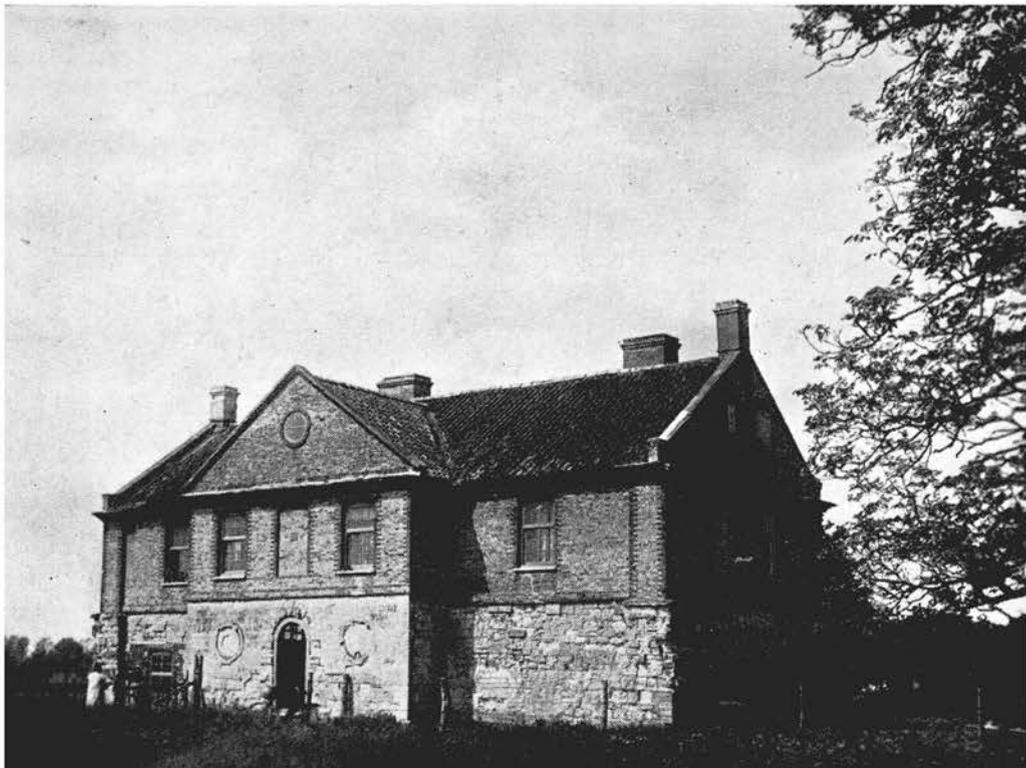
⁵ Cf. pp. 50-3.

we have is that given by Robert Manning in 1601. He said that he remembered the Convent or Mansion House dwelling of the nuns, which, with a dovehouse, two barns, stables and other buildings, were placed within the precincts or walls of the said Priory of ancient time. There was also a large tithe barn, which had quite fallen down. He had apparently no remembrance of the church and cloisters, but he goes on to describe their mill, their fishings, woods and meadows. The nuns had a tithe barn because they were the impropriate rectors of Swaffham Bulbeck.

Manning does not mention the gatehouse, which was a prominent feature of most monasteries, and of course there was a gatehouse here. It stood opposite the road from Commercial End, and was of two storeys. In the upper storey lived the reeve. In 1368 his name was John Sherkk. On the evening of August 15 in that year, he went out into the village to buy a candle, and judging from what happened afterwards, he drank much beer. Returning to his room in the gatous—the word is spelt “gatous” in the record—Swaffham natives still speak of the “gatous,” “duffous,” “cowous,” etc., for gatehouse, dovehouse, cowhouse—in this room he lit the candle, and put it on a shelf above his bed, or perhaps on a beam in the wall. He then started making up his accounts and went to sleep. The lighted candle fell on to the bed, set fire to it, and burnt up the “gatous” with John in it. A Crowner’s quest sat on the remains, and gravely stated that they did not suspect either of the nearest neighbours, who were John Emsden and John Trot on one side of the road, and John Packer and John Wat on the other¹. Swaffham Bulbeck seems to have been peopled by “Johns.” In the following year another tragedy took place at the nunnery. On Lammas Day there was a meeting of peasants in the late evening in the nun’s cowhouse. The Latin word used for the meeting is “Societas,” which was the word used to describe the meetings which preceded the revolt of 1381. The peasants had met with the consent of John Ridesdale, the yardman who slept in the cowshed. The meeting became rowdy, and some of the peasants began to fight amongst themselves. This disturbed the yardman, who had gone to bed. He knew that if the nuns were disturbed

¹ See p. 61.

PLATE I



[Photo by J. H. Bullock

From the South-East.



[Photo by J. Johnson

The Undercroft.

Swaffham Bulbeck Nunnery in 1930.

it would mean trouble for him, so he got up and tried to part the fighters. As a result, he got a wound in the belly from a sharp spit and died therefrom. The cowshed was some distance from the gatehouse, because four different names occur as neighbours¹.

The original Norman church did not last many centuries, because on Nov. 2, 1352, a new conventual church was dedicated by the Bishop². There must have been something wrong about the foundations here, because about forty years later, Jan. 12, 1395-6, the Bishop granted an indulgence to all who should contribute to the repair of church, cloisters, and other buildings of the nunnery³. However, some parts were well and strongly built, because they have withstood the wear and tear and neglect of the last three centuries, and exist in good condition at the present day.

Swaffham Bulbeck Nunnery stands 200 yards from the high road, across very uneven ground, as if chalk, or the foundations, had been dug away. But I have not heard of any stone coffins having been found as at Ickleton. A few yards to the right is an ancient church rubble wall, with a column of worked clunch blocks at one end, on which are scratched the ships described by Mr Brindley (p. 76).

The lower portion only of the present building, built of clunch blocks, represents the nunnery. It is a vaulted building of five bays; divided into two aisles by means of four octagonal clunch pillars. The internal measurements are about 54 feet by 21 feet.

The upper brick portion was added by an ancestor of the Parker Hammonds of Pampisford in 1778. Cole says that "he judiciously preserved the old arched buildings and pillars, to form his kitchen and offices, and built a handsome old brick house upon them⁴." To the style of this house I shall refer again.

THE NUNNERY SITE IN 1768.

In a large-scale map of the district about Newmarket by J. Chapman, dated 1768, plans of several of the surrounding

¹ See p. 62.

² Crosby, *op. cit.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Addit. MS. 5804, p. 125.

villages are given, including Swaffham Bulbeck. In this plan two buildings are shown between the present building called the Abbey and the road. One of these is near and parallel to the road, the other is at right angles, and a little nearer to the Abbey on the right.

There is no copy or plan of this map or plan in the University Library, Cambridge, but there is one in the Library of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society and another in the Bodleian. (Gough, *Maps*, 2. 68 B.)

THE NUNNERY IN 1880.

“It is situated in a bleak desolate spot, and is at this moment inhabited by three or four families located in various parts of the buildings. The remains consist of a groined undercroft forming the entire ground floor of the whole running north and south, and is divided by three plain octagonal piers, with plain Early English moulding. The doorways on the east and west sides are Early English. That on the east side contains a piscina and shelf. The masonry is regularly coursed and good. On the north there is some repair of a later date, of beautifully cut flint work, similar to that of Bottisham Church. Various windows, square headed and plain, are blocked up. The hollow underneath the hall probably provided cellars. A modern hole in one corner shows the base of a pier, and the original floor line. Traditions of an underground passage to Anglesey are still rife. The soil is much silted up all round the house. There are large holes in the grass field in front of the building where were until about thirty years ago some fine walnut trees.”

Hailstone, op. cit. p. 76.

LIST OF KNOWN PRIORESSES OF SWAFFHAM BULBECK.

AGNES. 1234-5. Walter Marescall and Annabel his wife gave to Agnes, Prioress of Swaffham, six acres of land and a croft in Swaffham Bulbeck. Agnes was to pay 1s. 6d. a year to them for life, and Walter and Annabel, and their heirs were to be remembered in the prayers of the nunnery¹.

¹ *Feet of Fines*, 19 Hen. III, No. 42.

MATILDA. 1242-3. Matilda, Prioress, received a carucate of land in Ditton Valence from Robert de Valoynes who was to be remembered in their prayers. This is a long document giving field names and particulars about feudal dues¹.

1247-8. The same Prioress appears in a Babraham fine². Also in a final concord of 1252-3, by which Roger Lambert and Isabel his wife gave 4 acres of land in Swaffham Bulbeck to the nunnery³.

1269. Alice, which may be synonymous with⁴

ALICE. 1285-6. There is a fine between her and John, son of William de Kirkby, in Babraham, concerning 7s. rent, etc.⁵

1285-6. In the same year Geoffrey Arsyk of Ashley gave her a rent of a mark in Ashley and Silverly⁶. She was Prioress during the time of Gilbert, Vicar of Swaffham Prior, St Mary⁷.

AGNES DE ELY before 1341 }
ISABEL DE ALBOTSLEE 1341 } See election process of Isabel, p. 41.

EVA WASTONEYS. 1378-9⁸. A person of the same name was Prioress of St Radegund in 1359⁹.

ELIZABETH DE TEVERSHAM. 1397, and June 15, 1404¹⁰.

JOAN CLARE. Resigned after a visitation of the Priory, Sept. 20¹¹.

JOAN SOPHAM. She died in 1481¹².

MARGARET RATCLIFF. 1481¹³.

CHRISTINA. 1503. Christina, Prioress of Swaffham Bulbeck, discharges Tho. Cosyn, clerk, Master of Corpus Christi College, of 25s., for a tenement, late John Rayson's in the parish of St Benedict, who was rector thereof, opposite the Black Bull. Dated "in Domo nostra capitulari," Dec. 6, 9 Hen. VII¹⁴.

JOAN SPILMAN. The last Prioress.

¹ *Feet of Fines*, 27 Hen. III, No. 2.

² *Ibid.* 32 Hen III, No. 3.

³ *Ibid.* 37 Hen. III, No. 28.

⁴ *Ibid.* Suffolk, 53 Hen. III, No. 44.

⁵ *Ibid.* 14 Edw. I, No. 4.

⁶ *Ibid.* No. 37.

⁷ Addit. MS. 5846, pp. 72 (*d*), 142, No. 3.

⁸ *Clerical Subsidy* 23/1, and Addit. MS. 5842, pp. 67-70.

⁹ A. Gray, *Priory of St Radegund*.

¹⁰ Addit. MS. 5804, p. 124 (*d*).

¹¹ *Regr.* Gray, fo. 47.

¹² Hailstone, *op. cit.*

¹³ Public Record Office, Ministers' Accts. 770/3.

¹⁴ Addit. MS. 5804, p. 124 (*d*).

THE POLL TAX LEVIED ON THE NUNNERY IN 1379.

Domina Eva Wastoneys, Prorissa [value] infra £40. [paid]	10s.
Domina Elena de Ufford, moniales.	„ 4d.
Margareta de Foxton.	„ 4d.
Margeria de Rydon.	„ 4d.
Agnes de Swaffham.	„ 4d.
Isabella Lache.	„ 4d.
Elizabetha de Teversham	„ 4d.
	Summa 12s.
Duo capellani in Prioratu de Swaffham	4s.
(Clerical Subsidy 23/1.)	

Lady Eleanor probably belonged to the family of which the Earl of Suffolk was the head. The families to which Margaret, Agnes and Elizabeth belonged might be identified with some little research.

THE NUNNERY SEAL.

No seal of the nunnery is known. But Tanner (*Notitia*) says: "See Charter (under seal of this Priory) of tenement in Norwich in volume of my original charters. Notato 'Hobart' N. 70." I cannot trace the reference. There is no such volume amongst the Tanner MSS in the Bodleian. It may be in the Norwich Registry.

In Additional MS. 5803, fo. 52 *d*, Cole gives a drawing of a seal on a 13th century document between Robert, son of Augustine le Rus, and John, son of Manna le Rus, both of Cambridge, concerning a piece of land opposite St Edmund's Chapel, Cambridge. It mentions the Prioress and nuns of Swaffham, but only to give a warranty against them. Hailstone, however, describes it carefully, as if it were the nunnery seal. This is Cole's description:

"Seal neat, fair and oval, Our Lady in half length crowned, with a Saviour in her arms, and two angels on her sides praying to her, as is also a person in an arch beneath her in a clerical habit, and tonsured, behind whom is a crescent and star, above it, and another star by his uplifted hands, round it is wrote *Salve regina misericordiae*."

ELECTION OF A PRIORESS OF SWAFFHAM, DEC. 17, 1340.

The monastery of Nuns' Swaffham being vacant by the death of the Lady Agnes de Ely, late prioress, and the body of the same having been brought to the church for burial, and licence being asked by the Earl of Oxford to proceed to an election, and granted, which being made in the chapter house of the same monastery by means of scrutiny on the Friday next after the feast of St Edmund Archbishop of Canterbury, December 17th, 1340, by the unanimous consent of all the nuns, who elected Lady Isabella de Albotslee, fellow nun of the same monastery, and presented her to the Bishop; and so they proclaimed it with solemn proclamation on the said day appointed for this as is fitting, in the conventual church of the monastery, and afterwards in the church of Middelton by Ditton, and in the cemetery of the same, and in the rectory of the said church, on the day before the nones of December appointed by the rev. father, and before the said father the tribunal then there sitting to examine into the said election, and see if anyone would oppose it, which no one doing, the same rev. father in the said business of election on examination of the decree and grant of the same, found that election, according to the form of the general council handed down in this matter, not canonically celebrated, but not defective as regards the person; but quashed it from the aforesaid cause under the persuasion of justice in writing. But because he found the Lady Isabella of the age of thirty years and more, a nun devoted to God, and provident and circumspect, begotten in lawful wedlock, of regular life according to the rules of the order of St Benedict, circumspect in spirituals and temporals, and variously commended in other virtuous acts as public report attests, the right of election having devolved upon him for that time he used his authority as ordinary towards the prioress of the same monastery and committed the administration of spirituals and temporals to the same. Whereupon the nuns having sworn canonical obedience, had letters directed to the sub-prioress and convent to obey her, and others to the official of the arch-deacon to install her.

(Reg: Montacute, f. 226.)

This translation is copied from Hailstone, who gives as reference Additional MS. 5424, pp. 18–19. It is not clear whether the translation is Cole's or Hailstone's. I have made several attempts to see MS. 5424, but for several months it seems to have been in the binders' hands, and when a few weeks ago I made an urgent request for it on a Saturday afternoon, I was told that the binding room could not be opened at that hour because of contravention of the Shop Hours Act. Canon Crosby gives only a brief note about this election.

GRANT OF A PENSION TO THE PRIORESS.

[The following is a translation of a grant in Augmentation Misc. Books, Vol. 232, fo. 18, p. 1. It is copied from Edward Hailstone's *Swaffham Bulbeck*, p. 72, but it has been compared with the original. The amount of the pension given to a prioress depended on the income of the priory. Thus the Prioress of Ickleton, which was somewhat richer than Swaffham, received a pension of £8. I have found no record of the nuns having received a pension. Joan Spilman's name does not appear in the list of pensioners for 1553 (Exch. Acct. 76/11) so we may conclude that she was dead, or married, before that date. Misc. Book 249 (32 Hen. VIII), Exch. K.R. Misc. Book 31, and Exch. Acct. 75/4, do not contain her name.]

P. 71. 1557. The King to all whom etc. greeting. Since the late priory of Swaffham Bulbeck in our county of Cambridge by the authority of Parliament is now suppressed and dissolved, of which a certain Johanna Spylman at the time of the dissolution and long before was there prioress, we, willing to provide a reasonable and competent pension to the same Johanna, the better to sustain her food and position, know therefore that we in consideration of the premisses of our special grace and from our certain knowledge by the advice and consent of the Chancellor and Council of our Court of Augmentations of the revenues of our Crown have granted and given and by these presents give and grant to the same Johanna a certain annuity or annual pension of £6 13s. 4*d.* sterling, to have and annually to receive the same £6 13s. 4*d.* to the aforesaid Johanna and her assigns

For two mortars (<i>tribulis</i>) bought	...	...	...	...	7d.
A fenne scythe bought	...	...	...	...	12d.
27 warp of.....bought for household at 9d. the warp	...	...	...	...	20s. 3d.
2 warp of Ling	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stockfish	...	...	...	...	5s.
¹ One barrell of white herrings (<i>allec'</i>) bought	...	...	...	...	12s.
One salted Salmon (<i>Salmon' sals</i>)	...	...	...	...	16d.
Two quarters of white salt at 5s. 4d.	...	...	...	...	10s. 8d.
.....of wax bought at 5d. a pound	...	...	...	...	5s. 11½d.
One gallon (<i>lagen'</i>) of oil for a lamp	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
² One gallon of honey (<i>mell'</i>)	...	...	...	...	3d.
³ Two pounds of pepper	...	...	...	...	2s. 4d.
Two ounces (<i>unc'</i>) of Saffron, cloves and mace bought	...	...	...	...	20d.
For one horse	...	...	...	...	6s. 8d.

Extracts from List of Payments.

	£	s.	d.
Seven nuns each 6s. 8d.			
One priest	2	6	8
Bailiff	1	4	0
.....and brewer	1	2	0
John Denys, Carter	1	3	4
..... Fowler, Ploughman	1	0	0
John Schambyr Ploughman	1	0	0
..... Fenman for a quarter's reaping, sedge and digging turf	5	0	
..... Shepherd	1	6	
Keeper of Beasts and pigs	1	6	
Catharine Canone hired (<i>conduct'</i>) to keep the cellar this year	10	0	
⁴ Katerine Rotsone hired to keep the buttery (<i>promptorium</i>)	7	0	
Stipend of Eleanor, keeper of the Kitchen	7	0	
One Maltster	5	0	
For gloves (<i>ceroteces</i>) bought in the autumn for the servants	2	0	
Paid to the Lord Bishop for instalment	20	0	
To Master Robert Burdon for writing the decree of election	5	0	
To Master Hugh for the election	6	8	
For expenses of the Prioress walking (<i>ambuland'</i>) to Bury St Edmunds	1	0	
To the Clerk	1	0	

¹ Hailstone prints this: one barrel of "white garlic."

² "Nelt." Hailstone.

³ "6 pounds." Hailstone.

⁴ Hailstone translates *promptorium* as "infant school."

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Stipend of one glazier for working in the church of the said Priory and in the chancel window of the parish church of Swaffham	3	8

The inventory of Stock and Crop is unreadable in parts, but here are some extracts as to how much corn was used in the nunnery.

- Wheat, used in the house, 26 qrs. 4 bushels.
- Maslin, used in the house, 26 qrs.
- Oats, used in the house, 2 qrs. 4 bushels.
- Barley, made into Malt, 99 qrs.

Malt.

Remaining from last year, 147 quarters.	
Made this year,	99 ”
Total	<u>246</u> ”

The latter was used as follows:

¹ Used in brewing beer for the Nuns and their household 110 quarters.		
Paid to the Shepherd, as part of his wages,	2	”
Paid to the swine-herd,	2	”
Sold,	30	”
Remains in granary,	102	”
Total	<u>246</u>	”

WILLIAM ATTE MEDE OF BARTLOW, VICAR OF SWAFFHAM
BULBECK, SUES THE Prioress FOR TITHES.

The case is given in many words in the register of the Consistory Court in the time of Bishop Arundel. There is a transcript in Cole, Additional MS. 5842, pp. 67-70. It takes three whole pages. Cole copied it verbatim, perhaps because he did not clearly understand it, or rather because he thought there must be more in it than there appeared to be. But there was not, in my opinion. The Vicar claimed all parochial offerings and all tithes except those of corn and hay. He goes into great detail with regard to his small tithes, mentioning even cut and fallen timber. But he brought no witnesses. The Prioress said that all tithes and offerings whatsoever belonged to the nunnery by gift, except the portion set aside for the Vicar. Several

¹ This quantity of malt would make at least 880 barrels of beer of the present alcoholic standard.

witnesses gave evidence for the Prioress. They were Simon Selverle of Swaffham; Isabel Tonewell, Agnes Kyngeston, Simon de Acres, Thomas Bircho; and the ladies Elena Ufford and Isabel atte Lache, nuns. "Having heard and considered the evidence of the said witnesses," says this wordy record, "his worship the judge dismissed the claim of William with costs against him." But not a word does the record say as to what the important evidence was.

The Prioress could also use the ecclesiastical Court. From the same record we learn that in 1378 she caused Robin Dasse to be forbidden church for being behindhand with his rent for seven years.

LIST OF VICARS OF SWAFFHAM BULBECK DURING THE TIME OF THE NUNNERY.

This is Canon Crosby's list in U. L. C. Addit. MS. 6380, with a few additions. The Prioress and convent are patrons throughout.

		AUTHORITY	
15 Mch. 1338-9	John de Wyghtedon	Bishop's Register	
30 June 1349	William son of Richard le clerk of Westwyk, priest	" "	
31 Dec. 1351	Robert de Stonle, priest	" "	
In 1378	William atte mede of Berkelowe was vicar. He sued the convent for tithes and lost	Cole, Addit. MS. 5842, pp. 67-70	
In 1379	Nicholas Yorke was vicar ...	Clerical Subsidy $2\frac{3}{4}$	
20 Apl. 1389	Dominus Nicholas Plumpton, vicar, exchanges with Dominus William Hundene, vicar of West Wratting	Bishop's Register	
4 May 1408	Dominus William Bool, priest ... Dominus William Sterlyng re- signs	" "	
21 Sept. 1431	Dominus John Godyng chaplain resigns	Archdeacon's Book	
19 Mch. 1441-2	Dominus John Wade, priest ...	" "	
2 Dec. 1443	" John Warren	" "	
	" John Fylay, dies	Bishop's Register	
11 Sept. 1493	" John Lovecote, chaplain resigns	" "	
1493	Thomas Robinson dies	Cole	

5 Jan. 1493-4	John Smyth, chaplain. He died 1532. His will <i>infra</i>	Bishop's Register
	Richard Spencer, cleric, resigns in 1535	Visitation Book
8 June 1537	Richard Gaysley presented by the King	Bishop's Register
31 May 1546	Thomas Ruddock, cleric, collated	„ „

WILL OF A VICAR.

John Smith, Vicar of Swaffham Bulbeck, 13 Feb. 1532. Body to be buried in the chancel there joyning to the sepulchre of Master Wm. Pecke, vz. my feet against the head of the same, and a marble stone to be laid over my body, with the picture of a similitude of a bachelor of law. To every priest at my burial 8*d.* To the clerks that be men, to each 4*d.* and clerks being children to each 2*d.*, and the same at my 30th day. To each of the 4 orders of Friers in Cambrigge 10*s.* to sing a Trentall. I will that an honest priest shall sing satisfactory at St Kateryns altar in Swaffham Bulbeck for my soul for 3 years and to have for his stipend 8 marks per annum. I will that an other able priest do sing in the church of Selby in Yorkshire at the altar of the Holy Trinity for my soul, to be written on a table standing on the same altar for three years, and his stipend 7 marks, or more if need be. To the church of Swaffham a cope and a vestment of one sute of the price of 20*li.* both. To the Prioress of Swaffham 2*s.*, and to every nun 12*d.* and to Sir Christopher their priest 12*d.* To Joan my sister, my tenement called Clyff's for life, and then to be sold to Edmund Mordaunt¹ gentyelman if he be contented at a reasonable price, and to have it 20*s.* cheaper than any other, and the money to maintain a yearly obit for my soul in Swaffham as long as it lasts. To Harry Righten my sister's son my close called Goodalls, 10 marks, 3 mares, 2 geldings and a colt. To Thomas and John Righten 40*s.* each. To Stephen Fulwell the younger a goblet of silver, 2 silver spoons of the best sorts, and all my books. To Alys Fulwell a silver salt and 2 silver spoons. To Margaret Fulwell a silver pese and 2 silver spoons. To each godchild, 12*d.* To

¹ Edmund Mordaunt was Lord of the Manor of Burgh-hall.

Master Cotton's child 3s. 4d. To Joan my sister a maser of silver, 2 silver spoons, half my wheat and malt, a cow, 13 marks, and half my household stuff. Residue to Robert Fulwell, and Agnes his wife, my executors. Thomas Rudstone of Swaffham gent. supervisor, who is to have 40s. for his labour. Witnesses, Thomas Rudstone, gent. John Hasyll, John Rolfe, Richard Birde. Proved 22 Feb. 1532¹.

Master John Smith's effigy in brass in the habit of a bachelor of law had disappeared before the time of John Layer (died 1640), because he does not mention it in his list of monuments in the church², but Cole in 1743 saw in the middle of the chancel a stone which had the figure of a priest and an inscription, but the brasses lost³.

J. and J. A. Venn give⁴ John Smith B.C.L. 1503-4 and add, "Perhaps rector of Bilborough, Notts, 1502-28. First Master of Nottingham School, 1518-32. Died before Aug. 20, 1538," and add a reference to the Victoria County History of Nottinghamshire. But no evidence is given to show whence this John Smith came. Perhaps two men are referred to in the entry. It is rather curious, however, that the Cambridgeshire vicar should have come from a town to the north of Nottingham.

Robert Fulwell lived at Linton in the old 14th-century house still existing, and known as "Chandlers." He died in 1535 leaving to his wife Agnes, "all the household stuffe that came from my uncle Master John Smith late Vicar of Swaffham Bulbeck." His will mentions his children Stephen, Margaret, Alice and Joan⁵.

THE GLANVILLES OF SWAFFHAM BULBECK.

1345. Apl. 3. Licence to dominus Hugh de Glanville clerk for an oratory in his house at Swaffham Bulbeck.

1347 Sept. 3. do. to Hugh de Glanville, priest.

(Reg : Montacute.)

¹ Vol. I. fo. 171 A. 6. Addit. MS. 5861, p. 225.

² *Monumental Inscriptions in Cambridgeshire*, p. 239.

³ *Ibid.* p. 160.

⁴ In *Alumni Cantabrigienses*.

⁵ *Consistory Court*, Vol. L. fo. 111.

On the strength of the above extracts Canon Crosby has put down Hugh de Glanville as a vicar of Swaffham Bulbeck. But he was a more important person than that. He first appears in connection with the village as a witness to a deed in 1316 (Addit. MS. 5813, p. 146). But in the *Feudal Aids and Inquisitions post Mortem*, no connection can be traced. In 1332 he began to make purchases in Swaffham. In that year he bought a house, mill, arable land, meadow and rent, adding to it later¹. In 1346 a cart containing a pipe of wine belonging to him, on its way from London to Swaffham, killed a boy at Melbourn. For deodand purposes the wine was valued at 20s. It was probably a fifty gallon pipe of Bordeaux wine, judging by the price. It was this pipe of wine travelling by road from London, which made me curious about Glanville, for the wine could have come more cheaply by water almost to his door at Swaffham. By a little research it was found that Hugh de Glanville, King's clerk, was treasurer for Queen Philippa and commissioner for her lands in Yorkshire. So the wine was coming by road at the Queen's expense. Hugh died in 1358, in debt to the King for more than £2600. The sheriff was ordered to seize his land in this county. He returned that it was only worth £20 a year.

W. U. Glanville Richards, *Records of the Anglo-Norman house of Glanville*, says that Hugh was the younger son of Nicholas de Glanville, a younger son of Gilbert de Glanville, Earl of Suffolk (whom the *Historic Peerage* knows not). He says that Hugh was for some time a monk at St Peter's, Gloucester, and went to Berkeley Keep and claimed the body of King Edward II. He was made rector of Keyingham in Yorkshire, and when that rectory was appropriated to the monastery of Melsa, he received a pension of 80 marks which was to be paid him at Cambridge. Mr Richards must have confused two different men here.

Besides the William de Glanville on the subsidy roll, Hailstone mentions Isabel, John and Roger le Glanville as occurring in the court rolls of the Honor of Clare for Swaffham, 1342-1369.

¹ The name Glanville was still attached to this property in 1522, when William Mordant, besides his manor of Michell Hall, died seised of a tenement called Glanville. Inq. P.M., 13 Hen. VIII, No. 21.

For further particulars see *History Teachers' Miscellany*, Vol. 3, p. 108, "Hugh de Glanville's pipe of wine."

SWAFFHAM BULBECK EXCHEQUER SUITS.

Amongst the Exchequer depositions by commission are two series of documents about Swaffham Bulbeck, notes from which are here given. Further information might be obtained if the cases were followed up through Exchequer Bills and Answers, Exchequer Proceedings and Exchequer Decrees.

Suit 1. 44-45 Elizabeth. Michaelmas, No. 7. Commission 13 June. Interrogatories and Depositions, 20 Sept. at Cambridge.

Martin Folkes, farmer of the scite and demesne lands of the late priory of Swaffham Bulbeck, against Blase Carrel of London, Merchant, Arthur Jarvis of London, gentleman, farmer of the Rectory and parsonage of Swaffham Bulbeck, and Edward Smythe, clerk, Vicar of the Parish church of Swaffham Bulbeck.

Subject. Scite and demesnes of the late Priory of Swaffham Bulbeck and the Rectory and Parsonage of Swaffham Bulbeck. Tithes.

There are thirty-nine questions altogether, but they were not all put to each witness. Several witnesses stated their inability to answer the questions, many of which were about the family affairs of the lessors. Parts of questions which relate to the nunnery are as follows :

No. 2. "Do you know the scite, capital messuage, mansion and dwelling house of the late dissolved nunnery of Swaffham Bulbeck, and whether there were placed within the precincts of the said Prior of ancient tyme, one dovehouse, two barns, stables and certain other buildings, with orchards and gardens, which were in the occupation of Joan Spilman, late prioress at and before the dissolution and which are now in the tenure of Martin Folkes?"

No. 3. "Was there placed within the precincts a tythe barn (now decayed and clene fallen down) wherein were laid at the time of the dissolution of the said priory long time before and many years since, all the tythe corn growing within the parish

of Swaffham Bulbeck, the corn growing upon the demesne lands of the priory excepted?"

No. 4. "Whether do you know or have credibly heard that there was one house with a croft adjoining called the convent house, one water mill, one meadow called mill meadow, one pightel of meadow called Salters," etc.

Nos. 5 and 6 are about a fishery in the Cam called "Nun's fishing" where it began and ended, and about a building called "a fisher's cote on the Bank."

No. 8. "Whether do you know one Rainwald Hancock, bailiff of the said priorie or nunnerie who did gather or receive all the rents due to the said priorie at or before the dissolution, to the use of the prioress and convent, and after the dissolution then to the use of our late sovreign Lord King Henry the Eighth?"

From the rest of the questions we gather that the succeeding bailiffs were Thomas Rudstone, Richard Drurie, John Drurie, William Padgett, Anthony Grayne.

No. 9. "Whether do you know the last Prioress at the dissolution of the nunnery—if you knew her what was her Christian name and surname, and whether she was called Dame Jane or Dame Joan Spilman, and what can you say touching her abode in Swaffham Bulbeck after the dissolution of the nunnerie?"

No. 10. "Was she seized of the site and $308\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, 20 of meadow and 17 of pasture being the demesne of Swaffham Bulbeck, grazing for 300 sheep on the common, a certain wood called Nunswood in Ditton Valence and the parsonage of Swaffham Bulbeck?"

No. 12. "Was Thomas Wren gent. the first tenant after the dissolution?"

No. 31. "Do you know that at the time and long before the dissolution there was paid out of the parsonage of Swaffham Bulbeck one quarter of wheat and one quarter of barley to the Vicars of Swaffham Bulbeck and also 10/- to the poor?"

No. 33. "Have Edward Smith, Wm. Williams, W. Fletcher, W. Hutchinson, W. Ruddock or Mr Gaysley or any other vicar recovered any tithe of wool, lamb, saffron, pigs, geese or other small tithes?"

The depositions were taken before Drs. Humphrey Tyndall and John Cowell, Christopher Barde Esq., and Thomas Webb gent. and cover several large sheets of parchment. They do not contain much about the Priory.

Extracts. Richard Cook of Swaffham Priory, aged 60 years, said that payments ought to issue out of the rectory to the Vicar and to the poor.

Robert Manning of Burwell, aged 80 years. To Nos. 2, 3, and 4. He well knew the buildings, tithe barns etc., as about 60 years ago he was servant to the farmer, one Barnard, for 16 years. He well knew the convent house, and mill etc. He also knew the fishing holt which at the time of the dissolution was in the tenure of one Cooper. He well knew the last prioress of the Priory at the time of the dissolution, that her Christian name was Joane, but she desired to be called Dame Jane, and that she remained in a cave in the ground at the Vicaridge for the most part by the space of one year or thereabouts after the dissolution. The said Joan Spillman did own and enjoy the demesne aforesaid, for hospitality and good housekeeping in the said priorie, free from the yielding or payment of any manner of tithes whatsoever.

Other people who deposed were: William Carve of Swaffham Bulbeck, yeoman, aged 60. Robert Collinson of Swaffham Bulbeck, yeoman, aged 60. Hellen Cooke, wife of Richard Cooke, aged 68, Dorothey Betraper, wife of John Betraper of Reache, aged 80. None of these said anything about the Prioress.

The above interrogatories and depositions were on the part of the plaintiff. There is another set of each, administered and taken on behalf of the defendant. These give little information about the priory. One question was "Do you know the late priory or nunnery of Swaffham Bulbeck, or have you heard of what order they were?" No one answered this. An answer of general interest is this:

Robert Turner of Trinity Hall, B.C.L., aged 48, said that on May 31st, 1600, he went with Edward Smith and Martin Folkes into Mr Warren's house in Cambridge, to drink a cup of wine and witness a composition between them, by which Folkes paid Smith £10 yearly, not of right for tithes, but of his benevolence.

Suit 2. 20 Chas. II. Easter, No. 25. Commission 12 Feb. Interrogatories and Depositions, 25 March, Cambridge. Thomas Woolsey, clerk, against Sir Thomas Willys, Bart. Wm. Cook, Wm. Marrett and Wm. Rolfe.

Subject. Vicarage and parish of Swaffham Bulbeck. Tithes.

These documents are in good condition. The proceedings are voluminous, but on a cursory inspection nothing was noticed about the nunnery. There is much about a cottage and meadows by the "river of Grant¹."

SOME EARLY SWAFFHAM BULBECK WILLS.

The following abstracts of early Swaffham Bulbeck wills have not been printed before. There are several other wills in Cole's volume 60, but they do not mention the nunnery. The registers at Peterborough have not been searched. The fragment of a will register in the Archdeacon's office, Cambridge, contains no Swaffham entries.

Will of Richard Vale of Swaffhambulbecke made 12 June 1494.

He wished to be buried in the cemetery of the church of St Mary near his parents. To the high altar for tithes forgotten 4s., 40s. to the fabric of the church, 26s. 8d. to a priest to say mass in the church of Swaffhambulbecke for a year, property to his son on condition he observed his father's anniversary in the church aforesaid for his whole life and that he caused the vicar there to pray for his soul. (P.C.C. Vox No. 17.)

*Will of John Tever citizen and salter of London,
made 26 Oct. 1495.*

He left 20s. to the works of the body of the church of Swaffham Bulbeck where he was born and christened. All his messuages lands &c. in the same place to Nicholas Hughson gentleman in

¹ The printed Calendars of Exchequer Depositions by Commission were not in existence when Hailstone wrote his history. But he, or someone searching for him, had found a reference to the first suit amongst the enrolments of exchequer pleas.

fee simple on condition that he paid rent to the testator's widow. (P.C.C. Vox 29.)

Will of Thomas Fyncham of Cambridge made 13 Jan. 1517.

Left 20s. a year for life to dame Alice Wood nun of the Priory of Soffeham. (P.C.C. Aylofffe 5.)

Will of Nicholas Hughson of Swaffham Bulbeck gentleman, made 29 Oct. 1512.

He wished to be buried in the parish church in the tomb of Joan his wife there, if he should die in Swaffham Bulbeck. 5 marks for tithes forgotten to the parish church there. 40s. to the repair of the same church. Every priest attending his burial to have 6*d.* and every clerk 2*d.* and "no pryde pompe nor no grete cost bee made upon my persone at my obsequies but onely upon poor people." 40s. to be distributed amongst the householders of Swaffham Bulbeck, 30s. amongst those of Swaffham Prior and 30s. amongst those of Bottessam. To every high altar of every parish in the 14 hundreds of Cambridgeshire except the Isle, Cambridge town, and Wisbech country, 12*d.* to pray for him and have a dirge and mass for his soul and other souls. A yearly stipend of 8 marks for 4 years to a priest to say mass for his soul and the souls of his relatives &c. at St Katherine's altar in Swaffham Bulbeck church. 20s. to the Prior and Convent of Anglesey, 20s. to the Prioress and Convent of Swaffham Bulbeck, 20s. to the Prior of Barnwell, 20s. to the Abbess and Convent of Denny. (P.C.C. Fettiplace 20.)

[Nicholas Hughson married Joan Hammond, heiress of the manor of Momplers in Swaffham. See their epitaph in *Monumental Inscriptions*, pp. 160-1, 239.]

Thomas Bentley of Swaffham Bulbeck, 4 May, 1526.

To be buried at Waterbeach. To Sir John Depyng, vicar of Waterbeach 6/8 to pray for me. To the nunes of Swafham to pray for me 4^d each. To sister Margaret Yngnon 3^s 4^d. etc. Executor his brother William Bentley. Proved 9 May, 1523. (Addit. MS. 5861, p. 172.)

Will of John Brocket made 16 Feb. 1524.

He left to the vicar of Swaffham Bulbecke church 6s. 8d. To the Prior of Angilsey 6s. 8d. To the Nunnery of Deynne 13s. 4d. (P.C.C. Porch 9.)

[John Brocket married Dorothy, daughter of Nicholas Hughson.]

Joan Deyns of Swaffham Bulbeck, widow, 27 April 1530.

Body to churchyard near my husband Robert Deyns. To every Priest and Nun within the house of Nuns there 4^d. To an honest Priest 26^s 8^d to sing for my soule and my husbands 4 times a year, 5 masses of the 5 wounds of our Lord yearly till it be spent. To an honest Priest 3^s 4^d to syng for the souls of John Northen & Alys his wife at Christmas and Easter. I will have a Mass & Dirige by note at my burial days & without note at my 7th & 30th days. To my son John Fareberne of Ely 26^s 8^d. To John Ripley, a salting trough, & that he pays 7^{li} which he owes me for a house he bought of me. Residue to Lawrence Foster of Bottisham gentilman to dispose for my husband's soul. Witnesses, M^r John Smith, vicar, etc. Proved 11 Nov. 1531. (Vol. I, Cons. Court Ely, fo. 163 A. Addit. MS. 5861, p. 221.)

THE TAXPAYERS OF SWAFFHAM BULBECK DURING THE
TIME OF THE NUNNERY.

1. *The subsidy rolls of 1318 and 1327*¹.

These are taxes on personal property only, and not on all personal property. Thus the horse, the armour, and the jewels of a knight were not taxed, nor were the spades, ploughs or harrows of the husband. Nor were the goods of the poor taxed at all. The limit of poverty seems to have been 5s. in 1318 and 9s. in 1327. So these rolls cannot be relied upon to estimate exactly the number of people in, or the wealth of, a particular village. The amounts given in the following lists are those which were actually paid, and represent in 1318 a twelfth, in 1327 a twentieth, of taxable personal property. The assessment

¹ The best modern account of Subsidy Rolls is by Prof. J. F. Willard, in *Surrey Record Society*, No. xvii.

had been made at the Michaelmas previous, when the barns were full, by men whose names are at the bottom of the 1318 list. The transcriber has not distinguished the taxers in the 1327 list.

Lay Subsidy 81/7 from which the first list is taken is imperfect. The names are in two columns, but of the skin containing the hundred of Stane, large portions of the left hand column are rotted away, including the names of villages. The Prioress is the first name on the list; I conclude that she paid the 8s. because the names of the other landowners come later in the list. The heading of this subsidy is also missing, and in the official list at the Public Record Office the probable date is given as 1332. But internal evidence shows that the earlier date is correct.

1318.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
[The Prioress of Swaffham]	8	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	. . . . . de Burton	7	$\frac{3}{4}$
.		18 $\frac{1}{4}$	. . . . . Freman	12	
.		16 $\frac{1}{4}$	[John] de Veer	10	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
.		23 $\frac{3}{4}$	Thomas de Massingham	21	$\frac{1}{2}$
.		15 $\frac{1}{2}$	. . . de Madingle	13	$\frac{1}{2}$
. . cerel		6	. . . Strong	13	$\frac{1}{4}$
. . eman		18 $\frac{1}{2}$	William le Parker	10	
.			Peter Fynecok	6	$\frac{1}{2}$
.			William Blouch	15	$\frac{1}{2}$
. . her	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Everard de Carlton	16	
. . ched		7			
Robert Lamb		18 $\frac{3}{4}$	Michael de Rouketon	9	$\frac{1}{2}$
Peter Mariot		14	William Carpenter	13	$\frac{1}{4}$
Nicholas Davye		9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Thomas de Burgh	7	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Osbert de Warbelton		18 $\frac{3}{4}$	. . . Sybern	21	$\frac{3}{4}$
Five names illegible.					
Alice Prat		8 $\frac{3}{4}$	Agnes Chamberlyn	6	
William Wendit		21	William son of Hugo	21	$\frac{3}{4}$
William de Bradeleye	2	0	The same William for the		
			fold course	3	^s
Richard de Haddington		22	Thomas le Countour	12	^d
John de Gaselee		9	Walter de Haverhill	9	$\frac{1}{2}$
Peter Wolward		21	Alan Sepere	9	
Adam Robad		18 $\frac{1}{4}$	Sarra att Gerr	12	
Sarra Sorel	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	William Sutor	10	$\frac{3}{4}$

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
John Kebelot		9 $\frac{1}{4}$	Bartholomew de Denaston		18
Henry de Southewode	2	3	William Bissop		17 $\frac{3}{4}$
Geoffrey Dobat	2	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	Richard Brestere		6
Alice de Wychefeld		9 $\frac{3}{4}$	Nicholas Dobbe		9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Henry Poppe		12	Abbot of Wardon	8	0
William de Kai	8	0	Richard Cocus	6	0
William Sebar		13			

John Brai	}	Taxatores.
John Davyd		
Roger Clement		

The total given in Roll is £6. 9 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Tax of a Twentieth 1327 Swaffham Bolbek.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>d.</i>
John de Schardelowe	18	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	William de Wygthe	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sir Thomas de Burgh	12	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	William le Glanville	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Prioress of Swaffham	16	2	Walter Leveret	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
John de Stowe	12	9	Walter de Maddigle	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
John son of Margaret	12	9	John Davy	7
Thomas Seman	2	0	John Kebelote	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
William Gayslee	2	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	John Golde	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
Roger Clement	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	William the Parker	16 $\frac{3}{4}$
John le Bray		14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Geoffrey Prat	7
John Sorel		8	William le fis Hugh	8
Hugh Broun		6		

Total £4. 13s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$.

East Anglian, Vol. x, p. 385-6.

Although as already stated accurate deductions on several points are not possible, still certain deductions can be made which are interesting if fallacious. In the first place the value of taxable property had gone up between 1318 and 1327, and whilst the number of taxable people was smaller, the average individual wealth had increased from 1s. 11d. to 4s. 5d. Between the two taxes there had been plague and famine, and the population may have been actually diminished. It looks almost as if the death of tenants without heirs had increased the taxable property of the lords of manors, for the value of the nuns' property had become doubled. Then with regard to the names in the lists. John de Schardelowe in 1327 held the manor of John de Veer. Thomas de Burgh held under the

Earl of Richmond. His chief seal was at Borough Green. He was an ancestor of the Ingoldsthorpes and Huddlestons. The Abbot of Warden in Bedfordshire who appears as a large owner in 1318 is not mentioned here in the Hundred Roll, but in the valuation of religious property by Pope Nicholas in 1291 he is said to have temporals in Nuns' Swaffham to the value of £9. 4s. 0d. Probably John de Stowe, or the son of Margaret, represents the Abbot in the 1327 roll. It may seem strange that some of the tenants had more taxable property than the lords, as in 1318. William le Kai is rated higher than Thomas de Burgh. Such cases are frequent in these rolls. It may be due to the exemptions which could be claimed by the lords. The ups and downs of farming in the 14th century are shown in the Sorel family. Sarah's valuation of £3, in 1318, had come down to 13s. 4d. when John Sorel was assessed in 1327. The name Dobat in 1318 is reminiscent of the Dobedes and Dobitos, who were sporting farmers in these parts from the 16th to the 19th century.

2. THE SUBSIDY ROLLS OF 1523 AND 1542.

As is well known to those who have used these records, there are few subsidy rolls between the year 1333 and the reign of Henry VIII which give the names of the people assessed, partly because for the greater part of that period the Exchequer was concerned only with amounts paid by parishes, not with the sums individuals paid. The Exchequer fixed a sum which was to be paid by the parish, the inhabitants raised it, but sent in no list of names. Towards the end of the 15th century, taxes were again levied directly on the inhabitants, and not on the whole village, and lists begin to appear again in the Public Record Office. But until the year 1523, they are not abundant, although some are to be found amongst the records of boroughs, as at Cambridge. The records of the tax levied under the Subsidy Act, 14 and 15 Hen. VIII c. 16, are plentiful. In this the method of assessment was entirely altered from the method of 1327. The assessment was now made as follows: one shilling in the pound was charged on land; sixpence in the pound on personal property from £2 up to £20; fourpence for personal

property of £2, or for wages of £1. The tax was to be paid yearly for four years, and the rate varied after the second year; the list below was the first payment. The act sets forth in quaint Tudor English many particulars about collection, for instance, what kinds of foreign coins could be taken; dukkettes, crowns, Crusadoes, Caroluses and Philips. Foreigners, of whom there were plenty in Cambridge town, had to pay a double tax, and from them the strange coins would come.

LAY SUBSIDY, E. 179/81/163, 1523. SWAFFHAM BULBECK.

John Gylberde	in goodes assessed at	£24	paid	24s.
¹ Mesteres Dorothay Brokett	„ „	£20	„	20s.
Robert Graye	„ „	£20	„	20s.
Robert Curtes	„ „	20 marks	„	6s. 8d.
William Curtes	„ „	£10	„	5s.
William Paxman	„ „	£10	„	5s.
William Gylberde	„ „	£7	„	3s. 6d.
Thomas Wrenne	„ „	£6	„	3s.
Richard Hancocke	„ „	£5	„	2s. 6d.
John Grene	„ „	£5	„	2s. 6d.

Assessed at goods £4, paid 2s. each.

William Gylle senior,	Thomas Deynes,	Richard Pache,
Richard Vyrdon,	William Bently.	

Assessed at goods £3, paid 1s. 6d.

John Rowsse,	Robert Curtes senior,	William Gyell,
William Grene,	Robert Wheygth,	George Norman,
	Richard Crestien,	
	4 marks.	

Assessed at goods 40s. Paid 12d. each.

Richard Bell,	John Hancock,	Robert Bentley,
John Ripley,	William Richmonde,	...hellie Greye,
William Frebreye,	John Peacocke.	

Assessed at goods 20s. Paid 4d. each.

John Ramsey,	John Bowles,	Henry Hasell,
John Bentley,	John Vyrdon,	Wicherd Lane,
William Deye,	John Browne,	Thomas Bentley,
Austen Glover,	Richerd Richmond,	William Wrenn,
Thomas Harwell,	Thomas Drawswerde,	William Coffyn
William Barmys,	William Pache,	Herry Reyton,
Jamys Hurr.		

¹ Daughter of Nicholas Hughson.

Assessed at 20s. a year wages, and paying 4*d.* each.

Robert Johnson,	William Smith,	William Bawde,
John Curtes,	John Rowsse the Younre,	John Pytte,
William Tredgold,	Hew Gylberd.	

Summa £6 10s. 6*d.*

LAY SUBSIDY, E. 179/82/177, 1542.

SWAFFHAM BULBECK.

Thomas Rudstone gentleman for his lands	5 marks
Edward Mannock for his goods	10 shillings
William Paxman " "	10 "
John Paxman " "	10 "
Reginald Hancock " "	10 "
Thomas Adamson " "	10 "
William Grene " "	10 "

Summa £5 16s. 8*d.*

The rate in this tax was one shilling in the pound on land, and sixpence in the pound on goods. *Statutes of the Realm* 32 Hen. VIII, c. 50.

Here the tax is falling on much fewer people, although the total is little less. Thomas Rudstone was lord of the manor of Burgh-hall.

TWO CORONERS' INQUESTS.

These two documents are printed to enable the reader to check the use which the author makes of such material, and also because too few of the many like documents relating to Cambridgeshire have been printed.

m 3*d.*

Coroners' Roll 21.

Swaffham Bolbeck.

Accedit in Swaffham Bolbek die Lune proximo post festum Sancti Petri ad Vincula Anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu xliij quod Johannes Ridesdale inventus fuit mortuus, Et super hoc Thomas Torel coronator domini Regis die mercurii proximo sequente accessit ibidem & habuit visum corporis dicti Johannis & diligenter inquisivit de morte ipsius per quatuor villatas propinquos scilicet Bodlesham Stowe Queye cum Swaffham Priour & per villam de Swaffham Bolbek & per xii juratores¹ videlicet Petrum de Teversham Alanum Wolleman Johannem Norman Johannem Belte Johannem Pache Johannem Prates Thomam Brewes Johannem Kebelt Johannem Hendekyn

¹ Actually there are thirteen jurors named.

Robertum Dasse Johannem Deynsmur Robertum Hamond Radulphum Clincham Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predicto die Lune fuit quedam Societas ad Moniales de Swaffham in boveria ibidem & duo ex eis simul pugnauerunt & predictus Johannes Ridesdale tunc in lecto suo in dicta boveria existens surgebat volens eos seperasse quidem Johannes Wrich unus eorum pugnantum tenebat quemdem cutellum vocatur broche sub brachio suo & predictus Johannes Ridesdale cucurrit super dicto cutello vocatur Broche precii vjd & sic seipsum vulneravit in ventrem unde per infortunium habuit mortem sine aliqua procuratione vel malicia precognitata.

Et sunt quatuor vicini propinquoeres videlicet Vicini.

Alexander Cate plegii eiusdem Johannes Rous et Alanus West.

Lucas Cherlyng plegii Johannes Wiot & Willelmus Mot.

Willelmus Haverhill plegii eiusdem Johannes North & Rogerus atte Hull.

Johannes Horsford plegii eiusdem Jonannes West & Johannes Bole.

[In Margin] Infortunium.

m 5d.

Swaffham Bolbek.

Accedit in villa de Swaffham Bolbek die veneris proximo post festum Assumpcionis beate Marie Anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu xlij de quod Johannes Sherkk inventus fuit mortuus. Et Johanna Trumpour[?] primo invenit eum plegii eiusdem Johanne Johannes Slaughter & Johannes Prat. Et super hoc Thomas Torel Coronator domini Regis accessit ibidem die Sabbati proximo sequente & habuit visum corporis dicti Johannis et diligenter inquisit de morte dicti Johannis per quatuor villatas propinquoeres videlicet Swaffham Priour Bodkesham Wilburham Magna & Wilburgham Parva et villata de Swaffham Bolbek & per xij juratores videlicet Johannem Belte Adam Maynard Johannem Rande Ricardum Smyth Johannem Hendekyn Johannem filium Rosie Willelmum Herlewynne Johannem Kelogh Thomam Brews Johannem Maddyngle Johannem Hughsonne & Johannem Bleyne Qui dicunt super sacramentum quod predictus Johannes predicto die veneris fuit serviens Monialium de Swaffham... et ivit in villam de Swaffham

Bolbek ad querendum unam candelam illu...in eodem domo predictarum monialium vocatur Gatous ivit ad lectum et posuit candelam super...suum super pariete & dormivit et cecidit Candela & per infortunium ardebat...& predictam domum cum igne inde surgentem. Et nichil habuit preter lectus qui ardebat...

Et sunt quatuor propinquoires vicini vicini

Johannes Trot plegii Reginaldus Der et Johannes Henne.

Johannes Pach plegii eiusdem Johannes Torvor[?] & Johannes Trap.

Johannes Emson plegii Johannes Coupere & Johannes Melner.

Johannes Wat plegii Adam Jay & Thoma Ideyn.

[In margin] Infortunium.

The Hundred Roll.

The account of the nunnery in the Hundred Roll is not altogether clear, but the following points seem to be certain.

The Prioress held the rectory of Swaffham Bulbeck, of the gift of the ancestors of the Earl of Oxford, in free, pure and perpetual alms. She also held in free alms four score acres of land although acquired of geldable fee. Her portion of the Sheriff's aid was paid by Roger de Walsham, the Earl of Oxford's tenant. She also held a third of a yard land of Geoffrey atte Ford, a tenant of Walsham, and half a yard land in demesne of the Richmond Manor. She had land in several other parishes in the county, including Swaffham Prior; the most in any parish was at Toft, sixty acres. Her rents in Cambridge town are given separately. The Prioress held a view of frankpledge, but was subject to the court leet of the Honor of Clare, where she paid three shillings as her share of the common fine. There are many court rolls of this leet in the Public Record Office, and from them Hailstone gives some extracts.

It is when we come to the tenants' names that the record seems wanting. A list of the free tenants is given, but no customary tenants, which is an impossible condition for a medieval manor, and an examination of the original record leads one to suppose that one or more membranes have been lost.

HAILSTONE'S HISTORY OF SWAFFHAM BULBECK.

Amongst the notices of works in the press given at the end of the C.A.S. Communications and in lists of publications for some years previous to 1891 occurs this: *History of Swaffham Bulbeck*, by Edward Hailstone Esq. He is the author to whom we owe the *History of Bottisham* amongst the Society's publications. But after the year 1891 the *History of Swaffham Bulbeck* disappears from all lists. At various times during the last twenty years I enquired from secretaries and treasurers as to what had happened to this work, without getting any information. In the early part of 1928, when preparing these notes on the nunnery, it occurred to me that the minute-books of the Council of the C.A.S. might tell me something. And I was successful in finding the following references to this matter.

"1889, February 4th.

Mr J. W. Clark undertook to edit Mr Edward Hailstone's *History of Swaffham Bulbeck*, when he had finished certain work which he had in hand."

"1892 October, 31st.

The President read letters from Mr Clay & Mr J. W. Clark concerning the printer's bill for the *History of Swaffham Bulbeck*, & it was unanimously agreed to accept Mr Clay's offer¹."

"1893, May 5.

Mr Hailstone's *History of Swaffham Bulbeck*. The type has been distributed & it was thought desirable to see if a 'pull' could not be found & placed in the Library."

These are all the entries that can be found. The letters of Messrs Clay and Clark have not been preserved, although there are several bound volumes of letters for that period, so the exact reasons for abandoning the publication cannot be stated.

There are two copies of the work in the Clark Collection (University Library), in galley form, being proofs with corrections. There are seventy galleys measuring 11 by 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, that is, enough for about 150 pages of the octavo publications of the Society. The work is divided into two parts, the first part relating to the church and village, the second to the nunnery.

¹ This I submit is an unsatisfactory minute. What was Mr Clay's offer?

The first part contains ten chapters. I. Population, nomenclature, orthography. II. The church; inventories, monuments. III. Vicars, curates, parish officers, feasts, camping close. IV. Parish registers, charities, wills. V. Early families and charters. VI. Manors; families of Bolebec and De Vere. VII. Manors; families of Burgh and Ingoldsthorp. VIII. Manors; families of Momplers, Hammond, Hughson, Hildersham. IX. Family of Cage. X. Families of Rudstone, Grange, Gyll, Rant and Parker. The second part contains information from many sources. A translation of the bailiff's account for 22 Edw. IV is given, which in places is not very accurate. There is also a complete translation of the first Augmentation Office ministers' account, made in the year 1536, giving a complete account of the possessions of the nunnery, but very little about the monastic buildings.

At the end of the letterpress are fifteen tabular pedigrees of families already mentioned. There is also a long chronological account of the De Vere family in the handwriting of Mr Jenkinson, late University Librarian, and some of the pedigrees show marks of his revision. Amongst other papers, there is a letter dated Paris, May 28, 1885, from Edward Hailstone to F. J. H. Jenkinson, Trinity College, enclosing a note about the Bacchus or Backhouse family, for "the revision of my history of Swaffham Bulbeck, which you have been good enough to undertake for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society."

After some time spent in studying these proof-sheets, the writer of this note has come to the conclusion that there is much in them which is worth reprinting, if revised and added to according to the more recent methods of research.

These notes are the answer to a request made to me by Mr Brindley for some information about the nunnery. They do not pretend to be exhaustive.

The parish contains several other objects of interest to the antiquary. The parish church has excellent ironwork on the north door, which is usually kept locked, probably because of the valuable chest there. Cf. Lady Walston, "Swaffham Bulbeck Chest" (with six illustrations), *The Collector*, July, 1930.

Is it possible that this chest was once in the nunnery? The last prioress may have brought her personal belongings in it when she took up her abode in the vicarage garden after the dissolution. At the opposite end of the village from the nunnery is the fine manor house of Burgh-hall, of an unusual type, where the upper storeys of the wings have been connected by a passage above the entrance hall.

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