

THE RIVER WANDLE IN 1610.

BY

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MALCOLM, cataloguing the forty industrial undertakings which were carried on along the course of the Wandle in 1805, describes the river as the hardest worked of any of its size in the world.¹ The fall of 124 feet which the river suffers in its short course of barely nine miles, from its present chief source at Waddon to where it enters the Thames at Wandsworth, and which renders it ill-adapted for navigable purposes, has almost from its first recorded times been utilised to turn the wheels of mills, and throughout its history the river has conferred an industrial character upon the district which it traverses. As early as the *Domesday* survey there were in existence upon it at least thirteen mills, possibly more, if, as our member Mr. Malden thinks may be the case, some of the mills mentioned in the survey as belonging to not far distant manors where there was no mill-stream, might have been on outlying lands of those manors adjacent to the Wandle.²

The *Domesday* mills were necessarily corn mills, and upon reference to the documents of the year 1610, which are here printed, it will be seen that all the four-and-twenty mills which are enumerated were used for grinding corn. Nevertheless, in the long interval between the two periods, other industries had been introduced on the Wandle. The fulling mills of Wandsworth are mentioned as early as 1376,³ and the brazil mill in the

¹ *Compendium of Modern Husbandry*, I, pp. 6—8.

² *Victoria History of Surrey*, I, 316 *b*, note 7.

³ Riley, *Memorials of London*, p. 401.

same town, which is here mentioned as being in use as a corn-mill, is referred to in the Churchwardens' Accounts of the parish as early as 1571, and must from its name have originally been applied to the grinding of the dye-stuff.¹ During the eighteenth century the river became one of the chief seats in the kingdom of the calico-printing and bleaching industries. Since the middle of the last century these industries have gradually become extinct so far as the Wandle is concerned, but others have taken their place and exist at the present day in great diversity along the river's course.

The precarious nature of the sources of the water supply of the Wandle, necessitating, even in the early years of the seventeenth century, the occasional penning of the waters, is referred to more than once in the following documents. The river is fed from the drainings of the chalk hills of the North Downs, and is formed from two main streams, the principle one of which now has its head at Waddon, whilst the other flows from Carshalton, where it has its head in the ponds which form so picturesque a feature of that town. The two streams unite to form one river at Hackbridge. In earlier times the former of these streams took its rise in Croydon, but within the last century the ponds which once surrounded the church and archiepiscopal palace of that town have been drained, and the streams which issue from them diverted into underground pipes. In addition to these main sources, there is the curious phenomenon of the river Bourne, which appears only at intervals of from five to seven years, and then only for short periods. Rising in Marden Park, in Woldingham, it flows through Caterham to Croydon, over what is usually arable land, and joins the head of the Wandle at Waddon.

The difficulty of maintaining a regular supply of water in the river, sufficient to work the many important mills upon it, explains the strength of the opposition with

¹ *Surrey Archæological Collections*, XVII, p. 168.

which every proposal to divert any considerable portion of this supply for other purposes has always been met. So far as is known, the proposed scheme, to which the documents that are here printed relate, was the first important attempt to draw off a large portion of the water and, as will appear, was very stoutly resisted. But history has always repeated itself in this respect, so far as the Wandle is concerned, and one may recall here the failure of the scheme at the end of the eighteenth century to construct a waterway from London to Portsmouth, of which the river was to form a part. The interests of the owners of the mills and other industrial concerns on the river were too great to render the scheme practicable, and all that eventually resulted from it was the ill-fated little Surrey Iron Railway. In 1849 there appears to have been another attempt to create a water supply from the Wandle, as plans are in existence of the river and of large reservoirs to be fed from it at Wandsworth and on Wimbledon Common, from which the water was to be conveyed to Lambeth and Newington by way of Clapham.¹ These reservoirs were never to be constructed. More successful attempts, however, to tap the main sources of the Wandle for a regular water supply were made by the Croydon Board of Health in the fifties of the last century, although the Board's action led to a lawsuit which was fought out to the House of Lords.² But, as recently as 1906, the proposal of one of the leading railway companies to insert into their Parliamentary Bill of that year a clause permitting it to sink a deep well at Carshalton, from which to pump 2,000,000 gallons of water a-day, had to be abandoned, so great was the united opposition of the numerous associations interested in the river Wandle.

All that is known of the proposed scheme of 1610 appears to be contained in the following proceedings, which resulted upon the commission of *ad quod damnum*, of which a translation is here given. The scheme itself

¹ *Ex inf.* Cecil T. Davis, Esq.

² *Chasemore v. Richards*, 7 H. of L. C. 349.

is set out in this commission. It was that the King's Chaplain, William Heliar, Archdeacon of Barnstaple, should be allowed to take a tenth part of the water of the river between the springs at Croydon and Waddon Mill, and therefrom, by means of underground pipes, supply the city of London with water. The profits of the undertaking were to be applied to the maintenance of the College of Divinity at Chelsea which the King was intending to found, and which, under the name of King James's College at Chelsea, was actually incorporated by charter dated 8 May, 1610.¹

The commissioners nominated included the primate and several of the most distinguished officers and councillors of the kingdom, as well as the leading residents of the county. The signatures, however, of half-a-dozen of the latter only are appended to the return, in addition to those of the jurors. The widespread importance of the proposed scheme, and its feared disastrous effects, are exemplified by the petitions against it which the commissioners annexed to their report. Of these petitions, that of the inhabitants of the whole county of Surrey, including as it did amongst its signatories many of the members of the commission, was addressed to the Lord Chancellor. The remaining three were directed to the commissioners, and consist of those from the yeomen and farmers of East Surrey, the inhabitants of Middlesex, and the inhabitants of Brentford. They show that not only the three Surrey market towns of Croydon, Kingston and Reigate,² would be seriously prejudiced by any interference with the Wandle mills, but also the important market town of Brentford, from which some one hundred and twenty quarters of wheat were at the least taken every week to be ground in these mills.

From one of the certificates annexed to the return appears the interesting fact, that the whole of the King's composition wheat from thirteen counties, amounting in the year to 3,500 quarters, was ground at the lower

¹ Patent Roll 8 Jas. I, pt. 58, No. 3.

² The commissioners in their report add to these Dorking, as a town whose market would be likely to be impaired by the project.

mills at Wandsworth. Which were the thirteen counties is not stated, but they presumably included the home counties and those immediately adjacent. The term "the King's composition wheat" may require a few words of explanation. It meant that specific quantity of wheat which the Crown, in satisfaction of its ancient prerogative of purveyance, had consented by agreement or composition with each several county, to receive yearly at certain fixed prices, or at a fixed abatement of the ordinary prices current at the time being.¹

Turning to the commissioners' report, we find several points of interest in it other than those which prove the economic value of the river. The brief reference to the trout in the river may remind us that the Wandle was once celebrated as a trout-stream, and that quite within living memory. Even now trout are to be found in the ponds at Carshalton, and in some of the upper

¹ From the Acts of the Privy Council it appears that on 4th December, 1592, letters were directed to be sent to the sheriffs and justices of several counties (including Surrey) requiring them to enter into composition for their several counties "for all such provisions for Her Majesty's house as heretofore have been by commission to Purveyors taken yearly within the same, for the which, as yet, no agreement by composition hath been made." They were to attend the Court upon a stated day "sufficiently furnished with authority to accord and conclude for such a reasonable proportion to be demanded of you by way of composition as in other shires hath been already done, whereby you may be freed of a great part of the provisions heretofore yearly taken, and of all those intolerable abuses by the Purveyors imposed upon the country, which can hardly be avoided until the agreement now required shall be made and performed." The nature of the composition entered into on this occasion is illustrated in the Sessions Roll for 1592-3 of Hertfordshire, wherein are set out "the Articles of Agreement and Composition made between the Privy Council and Sir Henry Cocke and Sir Philip Boteler, knights, for the delivery of certain provisions towards the expenses of the Royal Household out of the county of Hertford." Among these articles that which concerned the delivery of wheat settled that four hundred quarters, at 6s. 8d. the quarter, should be continued according to the old and ancient composition, and that it should be lawful for Her Majesty's purveyors to take yearly within the shire seventy quarters of the best wheat, paying ready money for the same after the rate of the second price that wheat should be sold for that June in the market, or to abate fourpence in a bushel of the best price of the said best wheat. (*Hertford County Records* (ed. W. J. Hardy, F.S.A.), I, pp. 14—16.)

reaches of the river, where due care is taken to keep the water free from pollution. The note of the charge which the Earl of Exeter had bestowed for his pleasure upon the river recalls the former splendours of Wimbledon House and its gardens extending down to the river, whilst the quaint stories of the extravagance with which Sir Francis Carew entertained Queen Elizabeth at Beddington are brought to mind, when we read of the great costs he had "bestowed upon the said River for the delight of our late Sovereigne Lady the Queenes Majestie." It is interesting also to note that he had taken steps to provide Beddington House with a regular water supply from the river.

We may take it that the commissioners' decided condemnation of the proposed waterworks on the Wandle was regarded as conclusive, for nothing further is heard of the scheme. As for Chelsea College, other steps were taken in the same year to provide it with revenue, and an Act of Parliament was passed "for the bringing of freshe Streemes of Water by Engine from Hackney Marsh to the Cittie of London for the benefitt of the Kinges Colledge at Chelsey."¹ This Act empowered the College to make a trench from the River Lea to Chelsea, and make waterworks there. But there could have been little room for such a scheme as this in face of the vastly greater undertaking of the New River Company; and Chelsea College, or "Controversy College," as it was nicknamed, never succeeded in being set upon a sound financial basis. Its site was afterwards used by the Crown for Chelsea Hospital.²

¹ Stat. 7 Jas. I, c. 9.

² For a brief account of Chelsea College, see Wheatley and Cunningham, *London, Past and Present*, s. v. Chelsea.

[PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE ; CHANCERY MISCELLANEA, BUNDLE 7,
FILE 4, No. 19.]

THE COMMISSION, 27 FEBRUARY, 1609-10.

[*Translation.*]

JAMES by the grace of God King of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the Faith, etc. To THE RIGHT REVEREND father in Christ Richard Archbishop of Canterbury Primate of all England and Metropolitan And to his (*sic*) trusty and well-beloved cousins and councillors Charles Earl of Nottingham High Admiral of England and Thomas Earl of Exeter And also to our (*sic*) trusty and well-beloved William Lord Effingham And also to the reverend father in Christ Thomas Bishop of Winchester And to his trusty and well-beloved councillors Sir John Herbert knight Secretary for the Latin tongue Sir Julius Cesar knight Chancellor of our Exchequer and Sir Thomas Parry knight Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster And also to his trusty and well-beloved Sir Francis Carew knight Sir George More knight Sir Oliver Leigh knight Sir Edmund Bowyer knight Sir Nicholas Saunders knight Sir Thomas Gardyner knight Sir Thomas Grymes knight Sir Henry Mountague knight Sir William Mynne knight Sir William Gresham knight Sir Thomas Gresham knight Sir Thomas Muschampe knight Sir George Paule knight and Sir Francis Clerke knight And also to his well-beloved Antony Benn esquire and John Warner esquire Greeting KNOW YE that we have assigned you or any three or more of you to inquire by the oath of good and lawful men of the County of Surrey by whom the truth of the matter shall be able to be known whether it be to the damage or prejudice of us or of any if we grant to William Heliar our domestic chaplain and Archdeacon of Barnstaple in the County of Devon that he take the tenth part of the river and course of water beginning and arising from the springs in Croydon in the County of Surrey aforesaid and from thence flowing to the corn-mill called in English Waddon Mill in Croydon aforesaid and lead or cause it to be led in channels or underground pipes into our City of London Which same tenth part of the river and course of water aforesaid and the profit thereof accruing shall be converted for ever to the maintenance of a certain Provost and Fellows and of their successors in a certain College to be erected founded and established by us in Chelsea in the County of Middlesex Or not And if it be to the damage or prejudice of us or others or to the harm of anyone Then to what damage and what harm of us or of others and of whom and how and in what manner And therefore we command you or any three or more of you that at certain days and places which you shall provide for

this purpose you make inquisition thereof in form aforesaid And you send it distinctly and openly made to us in our Chancery under the seals of you or of any three or more of you distinctly and openly without delay together with this writ WE HAVE COMMANDED also our Sheriff of the County of Surrey aforesaid that he cause to come before you at certain days and places which you shall make known to him as many and such good and lawful men of his bailiwick by whom it shall be able to be known and inquired IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent WITNESS me myself at Westminster the 27th day of February in the year of our reign of England France and Ireland the seventh and of Scotland the fourth-third.

JAMES.

[Endorsed] By the Lord Chancellor of England.

James.

“A wrytt of ad quod damnum for Will'm Heliar.” The execution of this commission appears in certain schedules annexed to this commission.

Edd. [Bo]wyar. Tho. Gresham. Tho. Muschamp. Nich. [Sa]under.

THE PETITION OF THE INHABITANTS OF SURREY TO THE
LORD CHANCELLOR.

To y^e right honorable y^e Lo : Ellesmere, Lo. Chauncellor of England.

Most humblie sheweth unto yo^r good Lo^p thinhabitantes of Surrey whose names are hereunder written y^t whereas divers persons within y^e Citie of London & y^e liberties thereof doe intend to convey to y^e said Citie about y^e third parte of y^e smale brooke arising at Croydon in y^e said Countie, pretending it onelie for y^e publicke good & benefit of y^e said Citie & thinhabitantes thereof, whereas in truth, it is meerelie for their owne private lucre & gayne, by raising an yerelie revennue through the sale of y^e said water ; yt may please yo^r good Lo^p to understand y^t if this their purpose be effected, it will prove exceeding prejudiciall & hurtfull to his Ma^{tes} subjectes wthin y^e said Countie & to y^e Citie it selfe & be y^e cause of all theis ensuing inconveniences.

1. Whereas y^e whole streame now contayneth not water sufficient to maintaine 24 milles erected upon y^t currant wthout y^e daillie pennyng of y^e water 6 howers in 24 & in sommer 8 howers, if y^e third parte of y^e water be taken away, they must then of necessitie pen longer and consequentlie worke lesse.

2. There are ten houtholdes or families maintained by theis milles in w^{ch} are about 50 men servantes besides y^e masters, wives, children, maide servantes & horses, towardes y^e maintenance of w^{ch} families, y^e reparacion of their milles & paym^{tes} of their rentes y^e farmers of y^e said milles doe raise weekelie out of them about 101^{li} w^{ch} in ye whole yere amounteth to 5252^{li}. Yf then y^e third parte of y^e water be taken from them, y^e third parte of their worke must decay & soe consequentlie y^e third parte of their mainenance arising in y^e yere to 1750^{li} 13^s 4^d, by reason whereof y^e millers cannot be able to pay their rentes, repaire their milles, nor maintaine their families.

3. The owners of those milles throughe y^e decay of their worke must to their losse abate their rentes w^{ch} now yerelie arise out of their freeholdes & inheritances.

4. Thinhabitantes adjoyning contayning 40 parishes, w^{ch} now are furnished wth theis milles, cannot be served according to their necessities as now they are, if y^e water & consequentlie y^e worke of those milles be abated.

5. There are about 60 mealmen or badgers y^t maintaine their families by y^e labor of those milles, if y^e third parte of y^e water & worke of those milles be decayed, then must theis mealmen utter lesse, and consequentlie gaine lesse towardes y^e mainenance of their families, to their great impoverishing, having noe other meanes.

6. Likewise there are many bakers dwelling wthin y^e citie & conf[ines] thereof, whoe grinde their corne at those milles, raising thereby a great parte of their mainenance, whereof to their hinderance they must sustaine a great abatem^t, if y^e worke of those milles throughe want of water decay.

7. Yf y^e mealmen & bakers shall want a third parte of their accustomed proporcion of y^e grayne they now utter throughe y^e benefitt of those milles, then it followeth y^t they will buy & make provision of a farre lesse proportion of corne than now they doe to y^e apparent decay of y^e markettes, to y^e undoing of y^e farmers y^t occupie tillage, to y^e great losse to everie mans inheritance y^t lett land in those partes of y^e countie, and to y^e great impaying of his Ma^{tes} subsidies, and hinderance of other services throughe y^e decay of thabilitie in thinhabitantes to performe y^e same.

8. Theis milles now serve y^e Kinges Ma^{tie}, y^e Princes Highnes & y^e Citie of London, but if they want a third parte of y^e water, then must they faile to grinde soe much provision therein as will amount to a third parte of y^t w^{ch} hetherto they have performed.

9. Yf it hapen at any time (as often it doth) y^e Thames to be frozen, whereby y^e western barges cannot passe & bring such

store of corne as usuallie they doe, if y^e worke of those milles decay, y^e Citie shall want a third parte of such meale as then is dailie brought to London, out of y^e said Countie of Surrey throughe y^e benefit of those milles y^t grinde in all frostes, y^e river being still open and never frozen.

In tender consideracion whereof, wee humblie beseeche yo^r Lo^p, out of yo^r gracious regard of soe generall a mischeife to thinhabitantes of those partes of y^e Countie, to be pleased to grant unto us yo^r honorable favor for y^e staying of y^e further proceeding herein, w^{ch} is now intended either by a graunt from his Ma^{tie}, or by act of Parlem^t. And wee shalbe bound dailie to pray to God for y^e long continuance of yo^r Lo^p in all increase of happinesse & honor.

[Signed]

Francys Carew

George More

Nich. Saunder

Ollipher Leighe

Tho. Muschamp

William Gardynere

N. Throckmorton

John Hawarde

Fran. Drake

Thomas Hoskins

John Lisney

Walter Frisbey

Thomas Bray

Richard × Curtis

his marke

Edd. Bowyer

Tho : Grymes

Fran. Clerke

N. Lusser

John Warn

Wi. Widnell

alias Wignall

John × Smithe

his marke

William Morland

John God

Jaspar Oakley

William Lambart

Henry Tyler

Daniell Lamberte

marke

Hugh × Juderyes

William Crenshaw

Edward Arnold

Tho : Gresham

Edward Fraunceys

Laurence Stoughton

Bostok Fuller

Mathew Oxenbearth

George Austen

W^m White

John Walter

John Lyfe

marke

William × Hills

Robeart Kytehin

Rychard Blackett

John Bushe

John Blackett

Georg. Humfrey

Richard Wood.

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[Endorsed] R. 18 January 1609.

Lo. Ch.

Certif. touching the water
stream in Surrey.

THE PETITION OF THE YEOMEN AND FARMERS OF EAST SURREY
TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

To y^e right reverende Father in God y^e Lord
Archbishopp of Canterburie his grace Primate
and Metropolitane of England : to y^e right
honorable the Earle of Nottingham Lo: Highe
Admirall of England, Thomas Earle of
Exceter and to y^e rest of his Ma^{tes} Commissioners.

Moste humblie sheweth unto yo^r good Lo^{pps}, yo^r poor sup-
plicants y^e yeomen & farmers dwelling in y^e Este partes of y^e
Countie of Surrey that whereas it is intended by some to convey
to London a parte of y^e river of Croydon, to raise thereby a
private gaine & benefitt : yt may please yo^r good Lo^{pps} to under-
stand, y^t if this their purpose be brought to passe, it will turne to
all o^r exceeding great losse & hinderance, for whereas a great
number of mealmen, badgers, bakers & brewers doe grinde y^e
corne y^t they buy of us in y^e markettes at Croydon Kingston
& Rigate at those milles y^t are erected upon y^e streame comming
from Croydon aforesaid, and imploy it afterwarde for y^e use &
service of his Ma^{tie}, y^e Prince & Citie of London, y^e worke of y^e
said milles decaying throughe y^e decrease of water, y^e said meal-
men, badgers, bakers & brewers cannot have their usuall propor-
tion of graine ground there, by reason whereof, not being able to
utter soe muche as heretofore they have done, they will not buy y^t
quantitie of corne of us y^t now they doe, to y^e great impoverishing
of us, o^r wives & children, y^e cheifest meanes by w^{ch} wee raise y^e
maintenaunce of o^r families, & abilities to pay o^r rentes & performe
y^e services of y^e King & cuntrie, proceeding cheiflie from y^e bene-
fite wee take by y^e sale of o^r corne unto those said persons. Soe
y^t hereby wee shalbe driven either to keepe o^r corne upon o^r
handes, or ells to sell it at farre lower rates then wee can live by,
to o^r utter undoinge ; besides (if it may please yo^r good Lo^{pps}) as
y^e water now is, wee are many times compelled to leave o^r corne
at y^e milles 2 or 3 dayes, they not being able throughe want of
water to grinde it sooner, w^{ch} stay of o^r corne there must be
much longer, if any water be taken away, to y^e great want in
y^e meane time of o^r necessarie sustenance. In consideracion
whereof wee moste humblie beseeche yo^r good Lo^{pps} & y^e rest
of y^e right honorable & right worshipfull commissioners to be
pleased to weighe & consider o^r estate wth yo^r accustomed gracious
care & love to y^e cuntrie, y^t this proceeding herein may be stayed
& these inconveniences prevented, and y^t wee may enjoye y^t bene-
fitt w^{ch} God & nature throughe y^e scituation of y^e place hath
bestowed upon us, in recompence of those many services w^{ch} wee
of necessitie are subject unto, throughe y^e neerenes of o^r dwellings

to y^e court & citie more then y^e rest of y^e Countie, for w^{ch} wee shalbe bounde to pray to God for y^e long contynuanee of yo^r Hono^{rs} & Worships in all health & prosperitie.

[Signed]

Henry Ownsted	The marke of	Danyell × Frankes
The marke of	Thomas × Belson	marke
Robert × Gardener	The marke of	Richard Tegges
The marke of	Mathew × Goldwell	× marke
John × Haswell	Daniell Lamberte	Robrart Kytchin
The marke of	Andrew Lambert	Thomas Crosse
Thomas × Francke	George Hill	The marke of
William Blake	The marke of	Richard × Selbie
John Blackett	Avery × Puplett	Roger Marshall
Thomas Losden	John Lambert	The marke of
The marke of	The marke of	William × Wrenche
Nicholas × Moore	Robert × Bloke	Gyles Hono ^r (?)
. ke of	Robert Knaresbrough	The marke of
Thomas × Mathew	The marke of	Thomas × Woodman
Thomas Greene	Nicholas × Crenshaw	The marke of
Tho. Rogers	John × Turner	William × Wrenche
John Lambert	his marke	jun ^r
The marke of	John Lambert	Robert Mitchelles
George × Frithe	George Richbell	× marke
Thomas Wood	John Carbyes	John Sanders
The marke of	× marke	John Gouldsmyth
Tho: × Delver	Robert Cooke	The marke of
The marke of	Frauncis Wilkin	Thomas × Saunder.
Rob't × Bentley	Rafe Lucas	

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[Endorsed] East Surrey's Petition.

THE PETITION OF THE INHABITANTS OF MIDDLESEX TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

To y^e right honorable y^e Lords & others Commissioners concerninge y^e River from Croydon to London.

Most humbly sheweth y^e Inhabitanes of Midd' whose names are hereunder written; Whereas wee are given to understand

¹ (*sic*) But 47 signatures only are now apparent.

by divers of y^e Inhabitan^tes of Surrey y^t certayne persons doe endeavour to convey a part of y^e small Brooke, arising att Croydon, in y^e sayd Countye towards y^e Cittye of London, upon w^{ch} curran^t there are 24 Milles erected, wherein is grownd great store of corne, w^{ch} serveth y^e provision of y^e Cittye, as also very commodious for y^e ventinge of great store of grayne from this County of Midd', towards y^e sayd Cittye and Milles; by reason of y^e river of Thames lyinge so conveniently for y^e conveyinge thereof from y^e Markett Towne of Braynford y^e principall Markett on y^e west side of London; there beinge no other Milles betweene Braynford and London nor any currant where upon to erecte any by reasoun whereof there is every Markett daye above sixe score quarters of wheat sould and so convenyntly conveyed thereunto; yf therefore there should be faylinge in y^e aforesayd Milles, y^e principall Markett of this County of Midd' must of necessitie decaye, y^e farmer^s of y^e west part of this County contayninge xx parishes shall not bee able, in any convenient manner to sell their corne or paye their rentes, whereby the Inherytors of the aforesayd londes shalbee greatly prejudiced, his Mat^{es} subsidies also impayred, besydes the henderaunce of other services, thorough the decaye of the abilitee in the Inhabitan^tes to parforme the same.

In tender consideracion whereof, wee humbly beseech a due regarde maye bee had hereof; as unto yo^r wisdomes shall seeme convenient, for y^e staye of any further proceedinge herein, in regarde of so generall a mischief to y^e Inhabitan^tes of those partes of y^e Countye; whereby wee shalbee dayely bound to praye to God for yo^r prosperous happineses.

Gedeon Awnsham
James Hawley
Michael Thordich
William Cole
Peter Thornton
Thophilus Ryth
High Constabl.
Tho. Lawrence
High Constable
Roger Partridge
High Constable

Jhon Lered
Thomas Duell
Jhon Arundell
Henry Vincent
John Rychardsoun
Anthony Ashton
John Wilkense
Tho : Henbery
William Browne.

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[Endorsed]

The enhabitants of Middlesexe.

THE PETITION OF THE INHABITANTS OF BRENTFORD TO THE
COMMISSIONERS.

To y^e right honorable the Lords and others Commissioners concerninge
y^e River from Croydon to London.

Moste humbly sheweth y^e inhabitants of Braynford in y^e County of Midd' Whereas wee are given to understand by divers mealmen and others y^e inhabitantes of Surrey y^t it is intended by certayne persouns to draw awaye some part of y^e river y^t runeth from Croydon towards y^e Cittie of London where uppon are bult 24 Milles to which Milles is convayed by meanes of y^e river of Thames and by horse backe sixe score quarters of wheat, w^{ch} quantety at y^e leaste is bought weekly in Braynford Markett and for y^e same there is now att those Milles sufficient grindinge: yf therefore by deminishinge y^e water the aforesayd Milles should decaye beinge none other betweene Braynford and London nor any streame that way to erect Milles uppon it would enforce moste of the Mealemen both of Midd' and Surrey almoste all the farmers of above xx parishes adjoyninge to Braynford and many others to follow more remote Markettes to the inconvenienc and great discommoditye both of the buyers and sellers: By meanes whereof not only the Markett of Braynford which is now one of the cheefeste in our County, and in very good measure furnisheth divers honorable persouns and many others of great worthe with convenient provissions, muste of of (*sic*) necessety decay; but of the inhabitantes also of the sayd Towne haveinge none other meanes to maynetayne their families but namly trades nor any other Markett within seaven miles of them in this County but one onely daye in the weeke att their owne Towne wherein to utter their commodityes, many would bee much impoverished and the greatest parte utterly undone.

In tender consideration whereof wee humbly beseech a due regarde maye be had hereof as unto yo^r wisdomes shall seeme convenient for y^e staye of any further proceedinge herein in regarde of so generall a mischeife to y^e said Towne and trades men thereof, whereby wee shalbe dayely bounde to praye for yo^r prosperous happineses.

Roger Lewis, Minister of
Westbrainford

Edward Sharp
John Rychardsoun
Walter Woodbridge
Martyn Ravenor
Henric Martine

xv Henry Tunstall

Edwarde Thornton
Richard x Woodbridge
Will'm x Redferne
Jhon Lered
Foulk Middleton
Thom^{as} x Gisbee
Robert Wardyn
Edwarde Hanburye.

[*Endorsed*]

The enhabitants of Brainford petition.

THE WANDSWORTH MILLS.

The Loar Mile.

To my knowledge wee doe receave from the two markettes some xl \tilde{q} aweeke, from Kingstone about xxiiij \tilde{q} and from Braynford some xvj \tilde{q} : Of w^{ch} quantity from Braynford it is all whit wheate, And from Kingston some v \tilde{q} of red and the reste white.

Thomas x Brownes marke.

The Brassell Milles.

To my knowledge I doe receave from the two markettes some lx \tilde{q} aweeke, from Kingston about xxxv \tilde{q} and from Braynford some xxv \tilde{q} : Of w^{ch} quantity from Braynford all whit wheat, And from Kingston some x \tilde{q} of red and the rest whit.

William Bucke.

The Midle Mile.

To my knowledg I doe receave from the markettes some l \tilde{q} aweeke from Kingston, whereof red some x \tilde{q} . From Braynford about xxx \tilde{q} all white. The whole some from both iiij^{xx} \tilde{q} .

William Crenshaw.

The Upper Mile.

To my knowledge I doe receave from the twoe markettes some c \tilde{q} aweeke, from Kingstone about lx \tilde{q} . And from Braynford aboute xl \tilde{q} . Out of w^{ch} quantity from Braynford all whit wheat, and from Kingstone some xx \tilde{q} of red the rest whit.

Widdow x Hamons marke.

[Endorsed]

Mr. Frauncis.....de Wansworthe.

THE MEALMEN OF WANDSWORTH.

The names of all the mealemen dwelling wthin the parishe of Wandsworth wth their chardge of children and familie, and what quantitie of corne each of them doth weekelie grinde.

Nicholas Farrall hath in familie a wyffe and a child and grindeth weekly six quarters.

Widdow Brane hath in familie a man & a myd & two children and gryndeth weekelie fiteene quarters of corne.

Thomas Tomas hath in familie his wyffe his maide & three children and gryndeth weekly tenne quarters.

Roger Ludloe hath in familie his wyffe & two children and gryndeth weekelie six quarters.

Peter Johnson hath in familie his wyffe, his mayde & two children and gryndeth weekelie three quarters.

Christopher West hath in familie his wyffe & six children and gryndeth weekelie six quarters.

John Skynner hath in familie his wyffe and himselffe, and gryndeth six quarters weekelie.

Robert Vincent and his wyffe grynd six quarters weeklie.

Nicholas Streetelie, his wyffe & one child, gryndeth weekly six quarters.

William Blagg, his wyffe & two children, gryndeth weekly three quarters.

Thomas Phillippes, his wyffe, a maid, & one child, gryndeth weekelie six quarters.

Thomas Fort, his wyffe, a boy & a girle, gryndeth wekely eight quarters.

Thomas Earle, his wyffe a mayd & one child, gryndeth weekelie twelve quarters.

Richard Tharpe, his wyffe, a mayd, & six children, grindeth weekelie fiteene quarters.

There are also a great many of Bakers, Chaundlers, and Mealemen both in the Citie of London & elsewhere whoe have their corne ground at Wandsworth, and in a greater quantitie than all the parties above rehearsed doe grind.

The marke of Tho : Earle jurat' ×
 The marke of Tho : × Forte jurat'
 Richard Tharp jur'.

THE MEALMEN OF TOOTING BEC.

In the parishe of Tootingbeck.

Edmond Hyndrig grindeth per le weeke five q^{rt}^{rs} and kepeth 4 persons & 2 horses.

Thomas Hyndrig grindeth per le weeke foure q^{rt}^{rs} and kepeth 1 person & 1 horse.

John Hooke grindeth per le weeke xj q^{rt}^{rs} and kepet 9 persons & iij horse.

The marke × of John Whock [? Hooke].

THE MEALMEN OF MITCHAM.

Rob't Saunders of Micheam at the Upp^r Mill of Wansworth grindeth weekly 10 quart^{rs} in house himselfe his wife two children three servantes / one horse.

John Bonden of the same at the same mill grindeth weekly twelve quart^{rs} in his (*sic*) persons 9 (?) / one horse.

Tho : Collins of the same 8 qu^aters¹ at Wansworth weekly six quart^{rs} (*sic*) in his house persons foure / horse one.

The Child of the same at Martin weekly five quart^{rs} persons five / two horse.

Ralph Listney of the same weekly at Wansworth seaven quart^{rs} persons five.

Will'm Hargrave of the same at Wansworth weekly six quart^{rs} in his house persons foure.

The marke x of John Bonden.

[*The paper on which the foregoing is written has been cut at the top and foot, the remains of handwriting showing at both ends.*]

MEALMAN AT MERTON.

Georg Roper of Marton grindeth there weekly nine q^{rt}rs per le weeke or thereabouts And hath in his house seaven persones and fower horse.
George Rooper.

THE MEALMEN OF TOOTING GRAVENEY.

A true noate of all the mealemen within the parishe of Tootinge Graveney, what quantatie of wheate and rye they doe grinde weekelye and what charge they have in their howsehold.

Maye xxiiij 1610.

Christopher Campion hath daylie in his howse tenn persons at	}	x
his charge		
the quantatie of his grinding ix quarters.		
William Hunt hath in his howse iiij persons at his charge	...	iiij
the quantatie of his grindinge ix quarters.		
Thomas Chisewick hath in his howse iiij persons at his charge	...	iiij
the quantatie of his grindinge v quarters.		
Richard Browne hath in his howse iiij persons at his charge	...	iiij
the quantatie of his grindinge x quarters.		

¹ The words "8 qu^aters" have been interlineated.

ERRATUM.

Page 186, line 9, *For* The Child *read* Tho : Child

Thomas Smyth has in his howse ij persons at his charge...	...	ij
the quantatie of his grindinge iiij quarters.		
George Streat hath in his howse iij persons at his charge	...	iiij
the quantatie of his grindinge vij quarters.		
William Gillgrist hath in his howse iiij persons at his charge	...	iiij
the quantatie of his grindinge vj quarters.		
William Loveday hath in his howse vj persons at his charge	..	vj
the quantatie of his grindinge viij quarters.		
Katherin Cox widdo hath in her howse at her charge	...	iiij
the quantatie of her grindinge v quarters.		

The marke of Xp'ofer × Campion—jurat'.

THE MEALMEN OF WIMBLETON.

Wimbleton.

A note by an estimate of the quantite of corne that the mealemen of Wymbleton doe weekly convert into meale, by sayle, wth ther charge of ther owne famyles.

viz : William Athewe uttereth in meale in London	} ix quarters
markettes weekly per estimat'	
and hayth in charge of famyle dependinge of his laboure, himselfe, his wyfe and fower chyldren	
Item Raphe Barns uttereth in meale weekly	} vij quarters
by estimation	
and hayth famyle in charge dependinge of his laboure—viij persons	
Item John Christmas uttereth in meale weekly	} iiij quarters
by estimation	
and hayth famyle in charge dependinge of his laboure—ix persons, unde vj chyldren	
Item Richard Francis uttereth in meale weekly	} v quarters
by estimation	
and hayth in famyle dependinge upon his owne laboure, a wyfe, iij children and a servant	
Item Richard Turner uttereth in meale weekly	} iiij quarters
by estimation	
and hayth in famyle dependinge upon his labour his wyfe, ij chyldren and one servant	

Examynat' by us	{	Lancelot Theekston
	{	W ^m × Athew : jurat'
	{	Raphe × Barns—jurat'
	{	John Christmas
	{	Richard Frauncis
	{	Richard × Turner.

BOATMEN OF WANDSWORTH.

A note of the names of certayne poore men wth their wyves and children, inhabitauntes of the towne of Wandsworth whoe have all their mayntenance and liveing by working in Wandsworth mill boates, besydes a great number of millers, loaders, and wayghers, whom we leave unnamed.

Thomas Barrowdall his wyffe and three children.
 John White his wyffe & two children.
 Richard Banister his wyffe & three children.
 Thomas Lane his wyffe & fower children.
 Christopher Willson his wyffe & three children.
 Christopher Phillpott his wyffe & one child.
 John Box his wyffe & five children.
 Michaell Furloe his wyffe & three children.
 Richard Deane his wyffe & three children.
 John Bedford his wyffe & one child.
 Henry Ozifer his wyffe & fower children.
 Robert Addames his wyffe & two children.
 Robert Carter his wyffe & one child.

There are also inhabiting in the towne of Wandsworth many poore haglers whoe by the helpe & meanes of the said mill botes have their wares conveyed to the Citie of London, wthout w^{ch} boates they could not have their goodes carried for the provision of the Citie, wthout a great deale were chardge unto them.

The marke of Tho : × Forte.

The marke of Tho. × Yearle.

Richard Tharp.

THE KING'S COMPOSITION WHEAT GROUND AT WANDSWORTH.

The whole yeares provision of his Maties Composition Wheate w ^{ch} is payed by the xiiij ^{en} sheires in composition being brought into his Highnes garneres and ground at the lower mills at Wandsworth is	} mmmv ^c q'

Per me Richard Langley garnetor'.

THE FINDING OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

WEE FINDE that there are upon the River which arriseth at Croydon and goeth from thence to Waddon and soe to Wansworth w^{ch} is aboute seaven miles from the head of the said River untill it runne into the Thames seated and builde xxij^{tie} milles¹ very commodious and serviceable aswell for the service of his Ma^{tes} Housholde as allso for the Cittie of London and the counties of Surr' and Midd's Noweforsomuch as it hath been proved unto us aswell by the oathes of all the millers of the said milles as also by their certificath under their handes w^{ch} is heereunto annexed That for want of water the said millers are constrained to surcease from grynding and to penne the water some five houres, some sixe houres, some eight houres, some tenne houres, and some twelve houres in foure and twenty houres By reason of w^{ch} long penning of the said water, the said millers doe surrounde the meadowes above their milles and breake the banckes thereof to the greate hurte of the owners of the said meadowes And it hath ben likewise proved unto us that divers poore men dwelling about twoe or three miles from Beddington, Waddon, and Carshalton, whereas there be sixe milles upon the said River, at sundry tymes w^{thin} one or twoe yeares last past, having brought upon their neckes a bushell of corne to the said milles have gone from mill to mill of the said syxe milles and could not have their said corne grounde for want of water And forsomuch as it hath ben proved unto us by the oathes of divers persons of good credit that in the tyme of drought, the chief springes feeding the said River leading to Waddon Mill have been so dried up that the Trowtes therein being have dyed, for want of fresh water. And that the mayne springes arrising att Carshalton and runnyng into the said River in tyme of like drought have ben so weake, that the Inhabbitantes were forced to make ditches to keepe the said water for the only watering of their cattell, which said springes arising at Croydon and Carshalton be the chieffest meanes for the feeding of the said mayne River and driving the said milles And likewise forsomuch as it hath ben by oath proved unto us, that if any parte of the said water be taken away, there being allreadie a great want of water, the said milles cannot goe and grinde in such measure & manner as nowe they doe notwthstanding their long penning the following water being taken awaye at the hed or topp of the said River WEE therefore finde that if a tenth parte of the said River runnyng from Croydon to Waddon mill be taken away & carried to London That then it wilbe a very greate damage to o^r most gracious Sovereigne Lord the Kinges Ma^{tie} in respect of his milles w^{ch} are in number sixe and of the best seated [in the] said River and of his Ma^{tes} Tenauntes occupiers &

¹ *Sic.* The number of mills is given as twenty-four in the petitions.

fermours of the same milles To the damage of his Matie in regard of his Highnes contract & covenante wth his tenauntes and fermours of the said milles, as appeareth by his Ma^{tes} Lettres Pattentes to w^{ch} wee humbly referre o^rselves To the damage of his Excellent Matie in regard of his pleas^{re} s . . . d. river To the greate damage of the Sea of Canterbury and the Tenauntes of the twoe milles called Waddon Milles [To the damage] of the Right Honorable the Earle of Excetour in regard of the charge w^{ch} he hath bestowed for his pleasure upon the said River To the greate damage of S^r Francis [Carew]e knight and his Tenauntes in respect of twoe milles w^{ch} he hath upon the said River To the damage of the said S^r Frauncis Carew in respect of a force w^{ch} he hath upon the said River, w^{ch} conveyeth the water into his house To the damage of the said S^r Frauncis Carew in regard of the greate costes bestowed upon the said River for the delight of our late Sovereigne Lady the Queenes Majestie and continued for the pleasure and delight of the K[inges] most Matie To the greate damage of Margaret Woodd widowe and her tenaunte Richard Wood who holdeth foure milles upon the said River greate dom Smyth Esquier and his Tenaunte who hold three milles upon the said River To the greate damage of Bryan Lynger and Thomas H his Tenaunt milles upon the said River To the greate damage of Thomas Jones Esquier and Margaret Hammond his tenaunte who holde t[woe?] upon the sa To the greate damage of Edward Frauncis Esquier who holdeth twoe milles upon the said River To the very greate damage Midd's as appeareth by a petition delivered unto us under the handes of many Justices of Peace and Gentlemen of the said Sheire of Surr' and by twoe other petitions of the Inhab Surr' and Midd' to us delyvered & by oath proved unto us and hereunto annexed To the greate damage of foure chieff marktett townes in Surr' viz^t Kingston, Croydon, Rygate and Darking as hath ben proved unto us To the greate damage of the marktett towne of Brainford in Midd' as appeareth by their petition heereunto annexed and by oth proved unto us To the very greate damage of a greate number of poore Mealemen, Loaders, and Watermen that maintayne themselves, their wives, children and servantes by the said River haveing noe other meanes to live as appeareth by their certificath heereunto annexed & by oath proved unto us To the greate damage of the Cittie of London, w^{ch} cannot be so conveniently served wth meale at any tyme, as by the said milles, and especially in the tyme of greate froste this River never freezeth And in tyme of dearth the greatest store of corne being at London, theis milles have ben then most serviceable to the said Cittie AND lastly wee finde that if the said water be carryed away either in pipes or channelles to the said Cittie That then it wilbe a greate damage to the Cuntry of Surr' in generall and to every private person thereof through whose groundes the said pipes and channelles shalbe convayed ALL WHICH damages for the reasons before recited wee deeme so inestimable that wee cannot sett downe the true and certen value thereof In Witnes whereof aswell the said Juro^{rs} as wee the Commissioners have hereunto sett o^r

handes & seals the xxvjth day of November 1610 Anno Regni Regis
Jacobi Anglie etc. octavo.

Rowland Trapps
Peter Scott
David Bynd
Nicholas Knight
Gabiell Carr
Nicholas Best
Ric. Woodman
Tho : Anton
Thomas Killik
William Lambart

Francys Carew
Edd. Bowyer
Nich. Saunders

Jo. Ho
Signum × Willi C . . styr
Robt. Morgan
William Dallende
Robert Casingherst
Jaspar O
Jas. Dring
Signum × Witli Stedman

William Gresham
Tho. Gresham
Tho. Muschamp.