

A Budget from Repton.¹

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REPTON is to me a place which never grows stale, however frequently it is visited. There is a peculiar aroma of bygone times about this little town, mingled with the stir and bustle of a great public school of old foundation, great alike in intellectual and athletic prowess.

Repton—an ancient capital of Mercia, the chosen seat of the first Christian bishopric of the Midlands until St. Chad moved it to Lichfield, the site of an ancient Saxon monastery of much repute, a veritable mausoleum of kings and princes, subsequently the home of a considerable priory of Austin canons, and eventually selected (in the dawn of Elizabethan days) as suitable for the establishing of a great and still growing school, with a noble parish church of Saxon foundation, surrounded by a string of far-reaching chapelries—is indeed a veritable paradise for the antiquary or ecclesiologist.

Revisiting Repton, after a year's absence, in July, 1913, when the school term was just closing amid the glow of winning the Ashburton shield, I felt confident that I should find abundant evidence not only of a twelve months' school progress, but also of an advance in archæological research, due to the long-fostering care of Mr. Vassall, of the Priory, the school bursar, and the more recent interest of the new vicar, a grandson of the great Bishop Selwyn. The Pears Hall has had its

¹ The opening of this paper is chiefly taken (by permission) from a contribution to the *Athenæum* of August 9th, 1913. The details as to the Measham muniments are entirely new.

south windows literally beautified by the best display of modern painted glass it has yet been my lot to see in the way of heraldic blazonry, wherein appear the arms of the founders, benefactors, head-masters, and other worthies, not huddled together in a confused mass, but each achievement occupying a single light, crowned and surrounded by stately mantling. The famed Saxon crypt beneath the chancel of the church has had its dangerous pier most carefully mended near the base with cemented tiling, so that the repair cannot possibly be mistaken for old-time work; a much-needed new oak door of simple and non-imitative construction, with an oak grid for ventilation cut in the centre, had just been placed in the outer doorway; and movable glazed window frames are about to be fixed in the outer openings, which are intended to be removed during the summer. Other projected improvements necessary for the occasional use of the crypt are, perhaps wisely, relinquished or deferred.

Within the church there has been some excellent recent work. On the north side of the chancel a large and finely splayed Early English long-closed lancet window has been opened, and will shortly be plainly glazed. Another built-up lancet of slightly larger proportions on the north side, but just outside the chancel arch and within the structural nave, has received similar treatment. A delightful little lancet, of like date, has also been opened at the west end of the south aisle of the nave. The smooth surface of modern plaster immediately round and above the pointed chancel arch has been stripped off, thereby revealing the interesting fact that the hood-mould of this arch was cut away in the fifteenth century to make room for the adjustment of a great rood-screen and loft. The much elevated rood-loft doorway, probably approached by a wooden stairway from the chantry chapel, has likewise been opened. But the most interesting result of the removal of this modern plaster is to expose more of the Anglo-Saxon masonry, showing a former opening of at least 6 ft. in width, flanked on each side by long-and-short work, which must have opened into an

upper chamber of the tenth-century chancel. The object or use of such an opening is difficult to conjecture. I venture to draw the attention of students of pre-Conquest church architecture to this highly exceptional, if not unique, feature. One other point of distinct interest and of recent discovery with regard to the church of St. Wystan ought also to be very briefly mentioned. The fine west tower and spire are well known to be of late fifteenth-century date, but, during the process of making a damp-gutter on the south side of the tower, some older protruding masonry was discovered in the angle where it joins the west end of the south aisle, with a well-executed sloping plinth. This was left open at the time of my visit, and it seems to me that it yields clear evidence of a previous Early English tower of somewhat smaller dimensions, the existence of which had only hitherto been suspected from the acutely pointed weather-moulding on the inner surface of the east tower wall.

My Repton visit of this year was, however, marked by a much more exceptional incident. Through the courtesy of Miss Measham and of Mr. Vassall, to whom these documents had been temporarily entrusted, I was allowed to examine a large parcel of ancient deeds, nearly one hundred in number, of a remarkable character, contained in a curious circular leather bag, drawn together by inserted leather thongs at the top, and sewn with sinews. I conjecture that the bag is fourteenth-century, and it is of different construction from any I have seen at the Public Record Office or elsewhere.

A yet quainter narrow bag, which was also, I suppose, originally the depository of a few early deeds, is of flexible white leather, 17 in. long and from 4 in. to 5 in. wide. The wider upper end has an inserted leather thong to draw it together, whilst the narrower end is sewn up after a curious fashion. The oddest thing about it is that there are no side seams. No other such bag is known to be extant. On taking it to the proper authorities at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, I was told that it is the body of a whole animal,

probably a rabbit or a hare, that the head had been removed from the upper end, that the tail end was the part sewn up, and the hind leg apertures closed with little tufts. I may add that by some it has been taken to be a small hedging glove, and by others considered a leather stocking! A learned friend suggests that it may have been made to hold a folded document of exceptional value, the pointed end being intended for the preservation of a pendant seal.

My lot has been thrown a good deal, for many a long year, among small and large collections of deeds, charters, and different kinds of evidences and manor-court rolls, but I can safely say that, outside muniment rooms of considerable old families, I have never met with anything like so interesting or full a collection pertaining to a single yeoman family of a little market town or large village. It tells the story of the worthy family of Measham of Repton for upwards of five centuries, from 1275 to 1784. From them the pedigree of Measham might be in the main constructed throughout this period; also the general social life of Repton might be set forth in realistic fashion for a vast number of generations. Members of the Measham family—I have found the name spelt in fifteen variants amongst these documents—are generally termed yeomen, or husbandmen, and occasionally assigned to some specific trade. They were evidently amongst the most respectable and respected of the inhabitants of Repton, and frequently filled the office of constable. As to some of the more interesting or exceptional deeds, I should like to offer a few general reflections. By far the greater part deal directly or indirectly with the Measham family, chiefly as to leases or exchange of messuages or tenements and wills, but occasionally it is difficult to realise how certain outside documents found their way into the larger bag.

The earliest deed, of 1275, and a few others show the gradual growth of surnames, and their emergence into stereotyped forms, regardless of occupation, as the fourteenth century

proceeded. Thus we find at Repton, in a single deed, mention of Nicholas the smith (*faber*) and John the baker (*pistor*), whilst in the same document it is shown that Nicholas' smithy (*fabricernum*) was hard by the common furnace, and that they were bound to use not only the lord's mill, but also his bakery.

It has generally been vaguely supposed that the parish church, only a few yards distant from the priory, was served by one of the canons, but the frequent mention of parochial chaplains in fourteenth-century and later documents seems to preclude this notion. Perhaps the most valuable of the exceptional documents of the fourteenth-century bundle is one of the third year of Pope Gregory XI. (1374), whereby Agnes Bewers, widow, obtains papal sanction to choose her own confessor; the great seal is gone, but the long strings by which it was attached to the parchment remain pendant. In 1378 Roger Meysam, husbandman, was charged with assault and setting fire to a house, and taken before John Bradshaw, justice of the peace, but he had no difficulty in getting bail to appear at Derby at the next quarter sessions; a smith, a wainer (? carrier), and two husbandmen, all of Repton, came forward as sureties for the sum of £20. The older deeds are all in Latin, except a single document dealing with a messuage and a yardland in Repton, in which William de Meysham and Maud, his wife, were concerned; this is in Norman-French, and of the year 1346.

Amidst those of the fifteenth century are several wills. Two of these give information respecting the parish church hitherto unknown, such as the Gild of the Holy Cross. Margery Meysam, by will of 1443, left her body to be buried in the churchyard of St. Wystan, 12d. to the Cross Gild, 12d. to the altar of St. Mary, 4d. to the altar of St. Katherine, and the rest of her goods to her husband Roger. Another lady, by her will of 1498, left her best beast as a mortuary to the church of St. Wystan, according to the custom of the parish; a sheep and a lamb to make an image of the blessed Apostle

St. Thomas, to be put in one of the vacant places over the quire; other bequests to sustaining the lights of the Gild of the Holy Cross and of St. Mary of Pity; a sheep and a iamb to her little daughter, Alice; 8d. to the lord prior of the conventual church, and 4d. to each priest of the said convent. The vesica-shaped priory seal, of which only one other fairly good example is known to be extant, is attached to a deed of 1461, whereby John Wilne, the prior, and the convent, grant a ten years' lease of two closes, at an annual rent of £7 10s.

There are two documents of this century relating to small but interesting religious houses of other counties. One of these, much mutilated, of the year 1440, is addressed by John, minister of the house of St. Robert by Knaresborough, and the Trinitarian friars for the redemption of captives from the pagans, to Henry Clever and Agnes his wife, apparently sanctioning their admission to the fraternity of the order. The other, dated 1484, is from William Sutton, master of Burton Lazars, Leicestershire, and his co-brethren, admitting Robert and Agnes Oldmer to their fraternity, with right of burial in their conventual church; it is endorsed with a full form of absolution, and bears fragments of the large official seal of the house.

Among the sixteenth-century documents is the will of William Measham, in 1556, leaving, amongst other bequests, his body to be buried in the church of "seynt Whystan, kynge and martyr," 4d. to the cathedral church of Lichfield, and 20s. in bread to the poor of Repton and Milton. Richard Measham, by his will of 1596, in addition to considerable family bequests of lands and stock, left 4d. to each of his godchildren and 10s. to the poor of Repton. An indenture of the close of this century shows that Richard Measham held a twenty-one years' lease of land, abutting on the Trent, of Thomas Finderne of Finderne, esquire, at an annual rental of 7s. 2d., together with the customary duties to the lord of a capon, a day's work at harvest or 2d. in money, and the drawing of a load of wood or coal for four miles from Repton.

Under the seventeenth century may be mentioned an indenture of 1651 between Richard Measham and Thomas Hindley, whereby the former grants to the latter, for £42 10s., "sixe Riggs of arrable land," described in detail, and stated to be of Measham's fee simple. The will of another Richard Measham, of 1685, leaves his lands and tenements to his wife for life, together with two of the best cows, and afterwards to his son Richard, together with household goods in detail, including "one seiled bed in the Parlour," and to two of his daughters each £100.

Among the deeds and papers of the eighteenth century the most interesting is the account book of ten leaves, from 1693 to 1730, which would have much pleased my old friend, the late Professor Thorold Rogers. It supplies considerable details as to the farming of yet another Richard Measham. In 1694 he paid:—

For shevinge 5 aker of winter corn	...	...	...	1	0	0
For moinge 6 aker of barley	...	...	...	...	7	0
For shevinge 10 aker of pease	...	...	...	...	11	8

In a later year he bargained with one Bladen at 4s. an "aker" for winter corn, and 1s. 2d. for barley and pease during harvest. The result during August was the garnering of 64½ thraves of corn from eight specified fields or places; the thrave was 24 sheaves.

There is also in Miss Measham's possession an interesting old constable's account book. This Constable's Book of Repton extends from 1651 to 1679. It consists of upwards of one hundred folios of paper, in a parchment cover, measuring 15 in. by 6 in. There are various curious and interesting entries. From 1583 to 1635 the constables' accounts are kept in the same cover with the churchwardens' accounts, and are in the hands of the parish authorities.¹

¹ See Vol. I. of the *Derbyshire Arch. Journal* (1879), pp. 27-41, where there is a paper by the present writer on "The Registers and Churchwardens' and Constables' Accounts of Repton." As to Constables' Accounts in general, see Dr. Cox's *Churchwardens' Accounts* (1913), pp. 323-343.

It is not necessary to here give explanatory notes of any of the few entries cited below.

MILITARY.

1651.	Given to a Companie of soldiers that was sick ...	1	0
1652.	To two solders		6
„	To a solder by the 3 barrow of Milton ...		6
„	To a solder that had a pas from the generall ...		6
„	To a solder with a pass		6
„	To a solder with a pass		2
1653.	When the solders came into the toune ...	1	0
„	To too solders with a pas		6
„	To too solders with a pas that went hom ...		6
1657.	To Mary Truelove for meate and drinke and lodging for Two souldiers 2 daies and 2 nights ...	6	6
„	To a poore souldier which had beene prisoner under the Spaniard		6
1659.	Spent upon the souldiers three dayes and three nights which came for thir three months pay ...	1	11 0
„	Octob 30. Given to the muster master and for prest money		3 9
„	Spent of the souldiers and myself day and night	10	0
„	To Francis Pratt for one suite of Armer ...	12	0
„	For dressing the suite of Armer	3	8

STOCKS AND PINFOLD.

1652.	For mending the stockes and the pinfould ...		6
„	For mending the pinfould at Repton and Milton ...	2	4
1653.	To Godfre Linton for mending the pinfould ...	2	6
1657.	To Thomas Shaw for Ironworke at pinfould ...		6
„	For a rale top at pinfould and puting in ...		4
„	For wood to mend the Little Bridge and pinfould...	2	8
„	And for workmanship	2	8
„	Spent about that worke		2
„	For mending the stockes and the pinfould gatte ...		6
„	For mending the stockes		4
1660.	For repairing of Milton pinfould		4

GYPSIES.

1651.	Given to a Companie of gepses	1	0
1652.	To a companie of gepses		8

INQUESTS.

1657.	Spent at Willington when the crownors sat their on the drowned man	1	0 0
„	For myselfe going to Ingleby and to Willington when the crowner sat their	2	0
„	Paid when the coroner satt concerning William Weate	1	1 4

THE RESTORATION.

1660. Spent at the rejoycing when the King's proclamation was proclaimed for ringing, bonfires and watchmen	2 6
Spent goeing to Derby to pay in the money that bought the coulours, drums and trumpetts ...	1 0

The following is a list of the parish constables for the period covered by this book :—

1651. John Weate.	1666. Thomas Truelove.
1652. Gilbert Weate.	1667. William Bull.
1653. Thomas Weate.	1668. John Stone.
1654. Robert Bull.	1669. William Bishop.
1655. Gilbert Wickson.	1670. (Accounts missing.)
1656. Thomas Heardly.	1671. John Weate.
1657. Richard Weate.	1672. John Massam.
1658. John Pratt.	1673. Richard Measham.
1659. Thomas Garner.	1674. John Cantrell.
1660. Gilbert Bull.	1675. Samuel Allen.
1661. Richard Pratt.	1676. „ „
1662. Richard Hunt.	1677. „ „
1663. John Barton.	1678. „ „
1664. Gilbert Carter.	1679. „ „
1665. John Renald.	

With regard to the Measham family and this book, the name sometimes occurs when they were not holding the office of constable. Thus in 1661 is entered :—

Paid to John Messam for his wages £1 0 0

Probably several of the parish constables were unable to write or keep accounts, and a literary deputy, such as John Messam, was engaged and paid to do that work.

The long lists of specific assessments or levies which occur at the end of the volume give full details of names and payments. They begin in 1651, in which year there were no fewer than four levies by lands and three levies by goods. The different methods of assessment and their purport have been discussed by me elsewhere, and are not here repeated. The sums paid in to the constables' demands varied from 4d. to over £5. Those assessed in Repton proper averaged about a hundred, and those of Milton a score. The levies of 1652 are headed by Mr. Thacker with £5 17s. od. against his

name, and this is followed, by way of contrast, by an entry of 3d. against "Mr. Ullock." William Ullock, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, was headmaster of Repton School from 1642 to 1667.

Miss A. Maud Measham, of Brook Farm, Repton, the present owner of these interesting and valuable deeds, is the daughter of the Rev. Richard Measham, Rector of Bellingham, who died in 1897. He gained a classical scholarship at Repton School, and was a foundation scholar of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He sold his lands at Repton—the very same property mentioned in these deeds—and, after taking holy orders, first served as curate at Tywardreath, Cornwall. He was a man of considerable mark and distinction.

The following pages supply English abstracts of the bundle of deeds kindly submitted to me by Miss Measham:—

William, son of Richard de Fornewarke, of Tickenhall, grants to Robert, son of John de Snipston, and Alice his wife, a toft and a yardland in Repton, rendering due rights and customs to the chief lord. Witnesses: Thomas de Melton, William de Appelby, William Dallinge, Henry the Tanner, Simon de Ingleby, and others. No date, but *c.* 1275.
(Seal gone.)

William de Hondesaker grants to John Baker (*pistor*), of Repton, and Edith his wife, one plot, with the buildings standing thereon, in the town of Repton, together with the adjoining smithy (*fabricernum*) which Nicholas the smith (*faber*) sometime held, near to the common furnace (*furnum*), at an annual rent of 2s. 4d., subject to his court rights and the rights of mill and bakery (*pistrinem*). Witnesses: William Pychard, Henry the Tanner of Repton, Geoffrey le Clavers of the same, Simon de Ingleby, and others. Wednesday after the feast of St. John at the Latin Gate, 1275. Given at Hondesaker

(Seal gone.)

William de Hondesaker, son and heir of Sir William de Hondesaker, confirms to William de Meysam and Edith his wife, one plot of land, with its buildings, in the town of Repton, lying between the land of William Moris on the one side, and the land of William in le Hurne on the other side, at a rental of 2s. 6d., to be paid quarterly, Same witnesses as the last, with others. Sunday after the feast of St. Vincent the Martyr, 1305.

(Seal gone.)

Indenture between Richard Valet and Joan his wife, and William de Meysham and Maud his wife, of the first part, and William Arnald, parson of the church of Nafferton (E. R. Yorks.), of the second part, as to a messuage and a yardland in Repton. 1346.

In Norman-French, damaged.

(Two small seals in white wax.)

Letters of administration of the goods of William de Meysham, deceased, granted to certain unnamed relatives, who appeared before the bishop's official in the church of Melborne on the 5th of the kalends of May, 1334.

(Part of small seal bearing a mitre.)

William Walle, of Repton, grants to William Meysham, of the same, an acre of his arable land in the field of Repton above le Corbrode, between the land of Alice Ingleby and that of William Pavey, and another half-acre above Cokhay, between the land of William Pavey and Simon le Webber. Witnesses: Dom. John Percy (chaplain), William le Masson, Henry Sele, and others. 1342.

(Seal gone.)

Hugo le Barker, of Repton, grants and confirms to John Percy, of the same, a messuage and a yardland in Repton, near the . . ., between the tenements of Michael Otewere and Richard le Cok, and also two cottages with two acres of land in the same town, one of them between the tenements of William Meysham and William de Otewell, and the other near the tenement of William the baker on the east side, at an annual rent of 8s. and two appearances at his court of Repton, and also 2s. 6d. to lord William de Hondesaker, with two appearances at his court in lieu of all services. Witnesses: Ralph de Meltone, John de Tykenhale, William le Mason, and others. Sunday in the feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist, 1349.

(Seal gone.)

On the 15th of the kalends of February, 1350, the bishop's commissary sat in the parish church of Repton for issuing letters of administration to certain executors.

(Damaged. Seal missing.)

John de Repton, executor of lord John de Segno; letters of administration granted at Repton by the officials, 1355.

(In bad condition. Half of small red seal.)

William Arnald, parson of the church of Nafferton (E. R. Yorks.), grants to Richard Vallet, of Repton, and Joan his wife, and also to William de Meysham and Matilda his wife, one messuage and one yardland in Repton, which Warin de Meygnill lately held after the death of Matilda de Appulby his wife; to be held in chief of his fee for the period of 1989 years. Witnesses: William de Irlonde de Herteshorne,

Ralph, son of John Fraunceys of Osmaston, John Abel de Tykenal, John de Melton, Richard Sulny de Neuton, Hugo Skynner of Repton, John Wareyn of the same, William de Bretteby of the same, and others. 1356.

(Seal gone.)

Elias de Egginton grants to his daughter Joan, formerly the wife of William de Meysham, of Repton, half part of a messuage in Repton, lying between the land of Adam le Wryght and William in le Hyrne; also three acres of arable land he has of the concession of the said William de Meysham, of which half an acre lies in the field towards Newton, between the lands of Richard Valet and William Whytman, and another half acre between the lands of Richard Valet and Henry Daniel; also half an acre towards the Hay between the lands of the prior of Repton and John de Berd, and half an acre in the same field between the lands of Nicholas Nike and Henry Daniel, and half an acre in the marsshe between the lands of Nicholas Nike and Michael Otewar, and half an acre in the same field between the lands of Nicholas Nike and Michael Otewar. Witnesses: John Roberosen, William Cartwayte, Hugo Skynner, and others. 1355. Given at Egginton.

(Seal gone.)

Thomas de Gyldeston and Adam Seale, chaplains of Newton Solney, grant to Thomas Bolt, of Repton, and Isabel his wife, all their tenements and arable lands in the town and fields of Repton and Willington-holme, of the gift and enfeoffment of the said Isabel, rendering all services to the chief lords. Witnesses: Thomas de Melton, John de Tykenall, Hugo Skinner, and others. 1369.

(Two seals, one gone; the other, quite small, gives Virgin and Child and a kneeling figure.)

Isabel Sanctney grants to Thomas de Gyldeston and Adam Seale, chaplains of Newton Solney, her tenements and lands in the town and fields of Repton and Willington-holme. Date and witnesses same as the last.

(Seal fairly perfect, small and apparently heraldic.)

John de Tyknale grants to William de Melton, chaplain, and John Coke, of Repton, chaplain, a messuage and yardland in Repton, at a peppercorn rent and doing due service to their chief lords. Witnesses: John Abel, Hugo Skynner, William del Hay, and others. 1374.

(Small seal, nearly perfect.)

Leave to Agnes Bower, widow, to choose her Confessor, Pope Gregory XI. 2 kalends of November, 1374.

The King to the Sheriff of Derby, bailiffs, constables, etc., to the effect that Robert Clava, husbandman; Thomas Coke, husbandman; Robert Wales, the smith; and William Hathersage, wainer (carrier),

all of Repton, were bail for the appearance at the next quarter sessions at Derby of Roger Meysam, husbandman, of Derby, under a penalty of £20, charged with bodily assault on Laurence Gardyner and setting fire to his houses. John Bradshaw, justice of the peace, 29th July, 1378.

(Seal missing.)

John de Lichfeld and Joan his wife release to William de Meysham a messuage and yardland in Repton, after the death of Matilda de Appulby, of Repton. 1381.

(One seal gone; the other a small one in white wax of a bust in a frame—? a gem.)

Agnes Loly, relict of William Loly, of Repton, releases to William de Meysham a messuage and a yardland in the town and in the fields of Repton. 1382.

(One seal gone; the other the same bust as in the last, but half missing.)

Matilda Kloct, of Repton, grants to Richard, parochial chaplain of Repton, and to Hugo Skynner, of the same, one plot, with buildings standing thereon, in Repton, lying between the lands of William Persy and Walter Bange. Witnesses: Simon Fraunceys, Ralph de Milton, Nicholas Nicks, and others. 1385.

(Seal gone.)

William de Meysham, of Repton, grants to Ralph de Hartshorn, of Repton, chaplain, all his lands and tenements in the town and fields of Repton, of the gift and fee of William de Nafferton and Richard Valet. Witnesses: Hugo de Ingleby, William Percy, William Boteler, and others. 1396.

(Small circular red seal, distinct.)

Receipt of John Burton, of Newton, exchequer clerk, for 23s. 4d. received from Henry, son of William Meysham, of Repton, paid to a justice of the peace at Derby. Sealed with the seal of his office (*sigillum officii mei*). 1399.

(Half of a small circular black seal remains.)

Richard, parochial chaplain of Repton, grants to William Nykes a plot, with buildings thereon, in Repton, of the gift and feoffment of Matilda Alcote. Witnesses: Simon Fraunceys, Ralph Melton, Richard Nykes, and others. 1402.

(Seal gone.)

Richard Whetman, of Willington, quit claim to Henry de Meysham and Ralph del Hay, of Repton. 1433.

(Only three lines, seal gone.)

John Marreys receives 38s. 4d. from William Bulle and Roger de Meysham, executors of the will of Henry de Meysham.

(Small round seal in red wax.)

John Thurwaston, chaplain, quit claims to Richard Peynton, chaplain, and John de . . . chaplain, a messuage and yardland in Repton.

1416.

(Half of seal left.)

John Bolte, of Repton, grants to Richard Periton and John Woderofe, chaplains, a moiety of a messuage and a half yardland in Repton, lying between messuages of the Prior and John Bisshopp. Witnesses: Robert Danbey, John Bisship, and others. 1417.

(Round red seal in good condition: pair of scales.)

Roger de Meisham, of Repton, grants to Agnes, relict of John del Stuble, of Repton, a moiety of a messuage in Repton, between messuages of the Prior and of John Bysshop, by rendering annually 12d. at the four terms. Witnesses: Richard Brown, Hugo Ingleby, and others.

1422.

(Seal damaged: heater-shaped shield, 4 piles in chief.)

John Bisshop, of Repton, grants to Nicholas Percy, of the same, an acre of land and of meadow in Willington, which lies in le Holme, between the lands of the Prior of Repton and of Alan Dawson. Witnesses: Richard Brown, Alan Dawson, and others. 1429.

(Seal missing.)

Richard Peyntour and John Woderofe, chaplains, grant to John Cartwright, of Foremark, all the lands, tenements, etc., which they hold in Repton of the gift and feoffment of John Coke, of Repton. Witnesses: Richard Brown, Hugo Ingleby, William Nyk, and others. 1419.

(Two broken seals.)

John Cartwright of Foremark, grants to Roger Measham, of Repton, a messuage and half a yardland in Repton, of the gift of John Bolt, senior. Witnesses: Richard Brown, Alan Dawson, John Byshop, and others. 1421.

(Small round seal, initials "L. B.")

Thomas Coke, of London, and John, son of John Willington, of Repton, grant to Roger Meysham, of Repton, a messuage and half a yardland in Repton. Witnesses: Ralph Brown, Robert Dabben, and others. 1436.

(One seal missing; the other a *fleur de lis*.)

Roger Meysham, husbandman, of Repton, grants, after his death, to William his son and Helen his wife, one messuage, one cottage, and one yardland in Repton. Witnesses: Roger Hunt, William Perse, John Draper, and others. 1445.

(Damaged red seal.)

Will of Margery Meysam. 4th May, 1443. Proved at Lichfield 14th July, 1444. Leaves her body to be buried in the churchyard of St. Wystan, 12d. to the cross, 12d. to the altar of St. Mary, 4d. to the altar of St. Katherine; "and the rest of my goods to my husband Roger, whom I appoint my executor."

John, minister of the house of St. Robert by Knaresborough, and of the friars of the Holy Trinity for the redemption of captives from the pagans, to Henry Claver and Agnes his wife, apparently sanctioning their admission to the fraternity of the Order. 1440.

(Much mutilated.)

William Dawes and Katherine, his wife, grant to John Barker, of Bredon, one plot of land in Bredon, which extends from Haselwell towards the pool (*stagnum*) of Bredon. No witnesses. 1452.

(One seal gone, the other an initial between two sprigs.)

Indenture between John Wilne, prior, and the convent of Repton, and Robert and Katherine Diabbne, of Ingleby, whereby the priory grants to the latter a ten years' lease of two closes at Potlockholme at £7 10s. a year. 1461.

(The Priory seal, a rare one, somewhat mutilated, is attached.)

Indenture (imperfect) between Edmund Turbar, of Repton, and Richard his son, whereby a tenement is granted for life to the latter at a rental of 13s. 4d. 1482.

(Damaged.)

Robert Baker and Katherine his wife grant quit claim of all that Thomas Percy holds in Repton. 1488.

(Small red seal.)

William Bothe, justice of the peace, to the sheriff, bailiffs, and constables of the county of Derby, to the effect that Roger Measham, of Repton, is bound over to appear at the next quarter sessions. May 9th, 1489.

William Sutton, Master of Burton Lazars, and his co-brethren admit to their fraternity, with right of burial in their church, Robert Oldwer and Agnes his wife. Given in their Chapter House, 10th August, 1484. Endorsed with full form of absolution.

(Small remains of the large official seal of the House; has been another small seal, probably the seal of the Master.)

Will of Thomas Wynfeld, of Thurleston. To be buried in the churchyard of the church of St. Mary, at Elvaston. His mortuary to be paid to that church, according to custom. Three pounds of wax to be burnt round his body at the time of his burial. To the church of Aston 12d. To John Wynfeld two ewes. To his son Robert a red tunic. To

Helion and Ralph, his sons, all his goods not otherwise willed. Joan his wife and Robert Clericus his brother to be executors. 1st May, 1493. Proved 6th May.

(Seal missing.)

Will of Alice Hynts, former wife of Thomas Hynts. Her soul to the omnipotent God, the Blessed Mary and all the Saints, and her body to be buried in the churchyard of St. Wystan, of Repton. In the name of a mortuary her best beast, according to the custom of that parish. A sheep and a lamb to make an image of the Blessed Thomas the Apostle, to be placed in one of the vacant places over the quire (*super chorum*) of the said church. To sustaining the light of the gild of the Holy Cross. To the light of St. Mary of Pity. A sheep and a lamb to my little daughter Alice. To the lord prior of the conventual church 8d. To each priest of the same convent 4d. 22nd February, 1498.

Thomas Percy, of Repton, son and heir of William Percy, deceased, grants to John Vernay, of Repton, dyer, two cottages, between the former tenement of Henry Baker on the west and the town brook on the east in length, and in breadth between the wall of the abbey (*sic*) of Repton on the north, and the king's highway on the south. Witnesses: Thomas Peyte, Roger Measham, William Weyte, all of Repton, and others. 1510.

(Rough red seal.)

Will of William Measham. "My body to be buried in church of sent Whyston Kynge and mart." To the cathedral church in Lichfield 4d. To his children, Roger, William, Joan and Margery, to each £6 13s. 4d. To the poor of Repton and Milton 20s. in bread. To his son Ralph all lands in the town and fields of Repton which he had by his wife. Various smaller bequests. 1st August, 1556.

Henry Cantrell, of Repton, tanner (*coriarius*), and John Marburie, yeoman, in consideration of £8 13s. 4d., assign to Henry, John, and Roger Measham a tenement or cottage in Repton, with garden and orchard adjoining, in the occupation of Robert Osborne, in the place vulgarly called "the longe strete." 1567.

(Seals gone.)

Bond to carry out the last-named covenant. 1567.

Bond to carry out the covenant between William Byshoppe, of Milton, and Roger Measham, of Repton, husbandman, to pay £20 to William Wilne, gentleman, and Reginald Ragge, of Newton in Melborne parish, next Whitsuntide. 1568.

Indenture between John Bull, of Repton, husbandman, and Richard Measham, whereby R. M. grants a close by Newton brook to J. B. for eighteen years for the sum of £12, and also covenants to pay one penny yearly to J. B. for the tithe charged on the same. 1583.

William Wakley, of Brethby Mill, sets to farm to William Rawston, of Repton, weaver, a cottage house and tenement in Repton of three bays, standing "in the Hye strete over against the hie stone wall commonly called in tymes past ye Abbey wall, and next adjoynynge to ye house of John Radforth, with the back syde and appurtenances" for twenty-one years at a yearly rent of 5s. W. W. also engages to find W. R. great timber necessary for the repair of the house during that period. 1569.

(Both seals missing.)

Will of Roger Measham, of King's Newton, in the parish of Melbourne, leaves to his daughter Ellen the house and its appurtenances which he lately purchased at Repton. In default of issue he leaves the house to William Croberrowe, of King's Newton. Also to his daughter Ellen all his leasehold lands in Repton. To his brother William his best coat and a pair of "drye bootes." To Richard Measham, son of my brother Richard, one ewe sheep. To William Measham, son of the said Richard, one ewe sheep. To Emily Croberrowe two ewe sheep. The rest of his goods, movable and unmovable, to his wife Agnes and his son-in-law William Croberrowe, his executors. Ralph Potter, parish clerk, and Robert Greene, vicar, witnesses. 1569.

(A paper draft.)

Will of Richard Measham, of Repton, yeoman. His body to be buried in the parish church of Repton. Leaves one-third of his property to his wife Margery, and two-thirds to his son Richard, except what he has hitherto given by deed of gift to his son William. To the two children of William Measham, each a sheep and a lamb. To the daughter of Richard Measham a sheep and a lamb. To Richard, his son, his best wain but one, with ploughs, coulter, harrows, yokes, and other ironware, the best yoke of bullocks but one, and one mare. To his son William the house wherein he dwells and the leasehold close at Newton brook. All other leaseholds to his wife Margery. To each godchild 4d. To the poor of Repton 10s. To his sister Margery 5s. To John Osborne 4d. Any residue to be divided between his wife and his son William, who are appointed his executors. 1536.

(Seal missing.)

John Hunt, of Repton, husbandman, grants to William Measham half an acre of meadow in a place called Newton Brook. Witnesses: John Francis, junior, John Measham, James Hunt, and others. 1540.

(Small red seal, with initials.)

Indenture between Thomas Finderne, of Finderne, Esquire, and Richard Measham, whereby R. M. pays T. F. £4 as a fine for the twenty-one years' lease of a Meane abutting on the Trent in the lordship of Repton, at a rental of 7s. 2d., a bene in the time of harvest and 2d. in money, a capon, and drawing a load of coal or wood four miles from Repton. Witnesses: Roger Hunt, John Measham, and Robert Clinch.

(Small round seal, with initials T. F.)

Indenture between Richard Measam, yeoman, and Gilbert Wandell, husbandman, whereby R. M. demises to G. W., for £19 10s., the cottage now occupied by William Moore, with the barne and fold yard and six acres of arable land, at a yearly rent of 8s., and one capon at Christmas, and one day's work at harvest, for the term of twenty-one years. 1633.

(Seal missing.)

Indenture between Richard Measham, yeoman, and Mary his wife, and Richard Waite, yeoman, whereby R. M. grants to R. W., for £124, a certain freehold croft of pasture and 4 acres of tillage land. 1640.

("Richard Waite, his mark." Seal missing.)

Indenture between Richard Mesam, yeoman, and Hastings Hill, labourer, whereby R. M. grants to H. H., for £29, "fore Riggs of arable land . . . in West Feild . . . upon a furlong called greenhill furlong," etc. 1650.

("Hastings Hill, his marke." Seal missing.)

Indenture between Richard Mesam and Mary his wife, and Thomas Hindley, yeoman, whereby R. M. grants to T. H., for £42 10s., "Sixe Riggs of arrable land" (described in detail and of R. M.'s fee simple). 1650.

(Somewhat damaged. Signed by T. H., but seal missing.)

Goods and chattells, movable and unmovable, of Richard Mesam, of Repton, deceased, viewed and appraised 29th December, 1651:—

"Apparell and money in his purse	3	6	8
One table, one frame and formes, one Low board in the house, one Livery coboard, one press, one great cofer, one Lesser coffer and one sealed bed in the parlour	4	0	0
One chaire, two stoales, two ould Loomes with two peales, one dresser in the kittchin with all benches and tressells, three barrells, with all other woden ware in the house, kittchin and buttre	1	0	0
Three pairs of ould bedsteds	0	2	6
One brasse pan, one brasse pott, two ould kettells, twelve pewter dishes, one Flaggon, with all saltes, sawcers, candlestickes, with the rest of pewter and brasse	3	0	0
One hand Iron, one fire shoovell, tonges, two spits, two paire of cubbords, with the rest of the iron ware in the house and the kittchin and one friing pan	1	0	0
All the napparie ware as sheets, napkins, pillow beeres, tableclothes	1	10	0
Five coverlids, three blanketts, one feather bed with boulders and pillowes	2	0	0
Three kine, one heaffer, one earling calfe	10	0	0
Fore rickes of corne in the feild	4	0	0

Two ould weans, two ould harrows with other husbandry ware	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	IO	O
Wood in the yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	O	O
Two little piggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	O	O
Pultrey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	O	2	O
Total sum	...								£33	II	2 ³

Final agreement between James Gilbert and Henry Gilbert and Joan his wife, whereby the former, for £50, grants the latter 4 acres of meadow in Repton. 1656.

Articles between Thomas Lockington, yeoman, and Richard Measam, concerning the division of all the houses, buildings, lands, meadows, pastures, closes, and their appurtenances, belonging to one farm in the occupation of T. L. 1656.

Power of attorney granted by Godfrey Ward, clerk, of Barton-under-Needwood, to John Smalley, of Formarke, gentleman, to act for him with regard to certain indentures with Richard Measham. 1669.

Bond of Godfrey Ward to John Smalley, as to his indenture with Richard Measham. 1660.

Bond of John Gilbert, yeoman, to duly execute his covenant with Richard Measham, 1670.

Bond of Henry Gilbert, yeoman, to duly execute his covenant with Thomas Sault. 1671.

Indenture between Thomas Salt, yeoman, and Richard Moore, of Woodseate, Ashby, husbandman, whereby T. S. grants to R. M. for twelve years, 4 acres of meadow abutting on Ferry Acre, east and west of the Trent. 1674.

(Large clumsy red seal of T. S.)

Bond of David Jackson, maltster, of Derby, to duly execute his covenant with Francis and Richard Gough as to a message in Aston. 1675.

(Round red seal with a bird.)

Bond of Samuel Measham, mason, to duly execute his covenant with Richard Measham. 1676.

(On paper.)

Will of William Colishaw, of Aston-on-Trent, husbandman. To son William, £40 and "one year of old Hilley"; daughter Elizabeth, £40; daughter Ellen Frierson's three children, 20s.; daughter Mary Fisher's four children, 20s.; son-in-law Thomas Cook's four children, 20s.; to Samuel Colishaw, 5s.; to Joseph Colishaw, 5s.; to Elizabeth Brooks

and Ann Brooks, either of them, 12d. "All the rest of my goods, cattell and chatels" to son Robert, his executor. 1680.

(On paper; "William Collishaw, his seale and marke." Small red seal.)

Indenture between Joseph Beighton, husbandman of Tickenhall, and Ellen his wife (daughter and co-heir of Henry Gilbert) and Sarah Gilbert, another daughter and co-heir, and John Gilbert, widow of Henry, on the one part, and Thomas Salt on the other part, confirming the grant of the Ferry Acre, Repton, to T. S. 1681.

(Portions of four seals.)

Indenture between Thomas Salt, of the first part, and May Webster, widow, of Hartshorne, of the second part, and Samuel her son, of the third part, whereby £100 is assigned by Samuel as his mother's marriage portion on her marriage with Thomas Salt, and covenant entered into with regard to Ferry Acre. 1685.

(Remains of five seals.)

Further indenture between Thomas Salt and Robert Heathcote and John Browne (as trustees) with regard to Ferry Acre. 1685.

(Clumsy read seal of T. S.)

Will of Richard Measham. To Ann his wife the third of all his lands and tenements for life and two of the best cows. The residue of lands and tenements to Richard Measham, his son, together with the table, frame, forms and cupboards in the house, one livery cupboard, one press, one great coffer, one lesser coffer, and one ceiled bed in the parlour, and Mault Mill. To his daughter Mary, £100. To his daughter Elizabeth, £100. Also bequests to his nephew Thomas Measham. 20th March, 1685.

(A draft on four sheets of paper.)

Receipts of chief rents from Richard Measham due to Sir John Harpur for 1684-1687. Signed by John Haywood: 9s. 6d. each half-year.

Letters of administration of the will of Robert Cowlyshaw, of Aston, granted to the executors, William and Mary Cowlyshaw. 1687.

(Two documents.)

Receipts of Harpur's chief rents from Richard Measham. 1687-1701. (Imperfect.)

Inventory of household goods of William Crownell, deceased. 7th May, 1705:—"Six pewter dishes, one Bras pot, 3 Betels, one pint flagon, one pewter candlestock, 2 cobords and one disbord. Parlor, one table. Two bedsteds and 3 blankets, three sheets, one good pare of sheets and a pillabere, one other littel tabell, chamber, one chest, one cofer, one boke, and peece of cloth."

Henry Raines, Doctor of Laws, and Bishop's Commissary, authorises Richard Measham to administer the estate of his father, Richard Measham, lately deceased, who died intestate. 9th October, 1716.

(Stamped seal of Vicar-General of Lichfield.)

Indenture between Edmund Challoner, of Marston Woodhouses, yeoman, and Richard Measham, brother of Elizabeth now wife of Edmund Challoner, as to lease of a tenement at Draycott, Staffs., etc., in marriage settlement. 1737.

(Signature of E. C. and small seal of a heart pierced with two arrows.)

Mention is also made of three cow-gates in the Marsh, and lands in Newton Close Gates, Cockey field, Ridgeway field, Milton field, Robbin Cross, Oldfield, and Broomhill. 1705.

(From paper folios.)

Lawyer's bill endorsed "The Charges of the Recovery and Inrollment." H. Gregson. The entries are in legal Latin, except 10s. "for Ingrossing the Deed and Skins," and 3s. 10d. for the "parchment and duty," and 10s. 6d. for "Writt and Warrant W. Charleton." The total amount was £11 13s. 9d., and it was receipted on 16th March, 1704.

Indenture between Richard Measham the elder, Anne his wife, and their son Richard Measham the younger, on the one part, and Mary Cowlishaw, of Aston-on-Trent, widow, and Sarah her daughter, of the second part, and William Cowlishaw, of the third part, concerning the marriage of R. M. the younger and S. C. Sarah Cowlishaw's portion is £7 per annum in lands and £60 in money. R. M. the elder settles on his son all his houses, outhouses, stables, barns, orchards, gardens, meadows, pastures, closes, trees, woods, common, etc., lying in Repton, specifying the Nether House, the Leys, Notlow Hedges, a close at Overbrook, four beast gates in Repton Marsh and Haskey Field, a rood at Marsholme, two lands at Greenhill, two lands at Churchway, two lands at Quarry Side, one land at Fullfish, one land up the Hill, one land at Waterthoroyl, five Ridges or lands at the top of the Hill, ten lands in Goodfield, and nine lands in Heyfield.

Account book of Richard Measham (ten quarto leaves of paper) from 1693 to 1730. The following are illustrative extracts:—

1693.	4 strick of pease	...	...	gs. 8d.		
1694.	For shevinge 5 aker of winter corn	...	...		1	0
„	For moinge 6 aker of barley	...	...		7	0
„	Shevinge 10 aker of pease	...	...		11	8
1697.	August ye 11 bargined wt Bladen at 4s. an aker winter corn,					
	1s. 2d. barley and pease.					

					Thraves.
1697.	August ye 14 at Neather brook	...	...	...	5
"	ye 19 at Leawood Slade	...	...	...	11
"	ye 21 at Greenhill	...	...	...	11
"	" at Newton Brook	...	...	...	15
"	ye 23 at Clif	...	...	...	2 and a half
"	" at Greenhill	...	...	...	7 and a half
"	ye 24 at Wheathill	...	...	...	7 and a half
"	ye 28 at Quanhill	...	...	...	5
Sum					64 and a half

1725. Harvest charges:—

					Tythe
					s. d.
August 13th begun at Whitell Nowl	...	...	...	...	15 0 5
1 land at Ouldfeld side	...	...	...	...	12 0 3
1 land at Broaches	...	...	...	...	13 0 5
1 Pick	...	...	...	...	2 0 7
1 land at Sitch, Thos. Foster	...	...	...	...	9 0 0

Indenture between Elizabeth Bostock, of Stanton-near-the-Bridge, widow, and John Bostock, her son, and Richard Measham, of Repton, yeoman, showing that E. and J. B., for diverse good considerations, sold half an old Beast Gate in the common pasture of Repton at a peppercorn rent. 1733.

(Seals and marks of Elizabeth and John Bostock.)

Indenture between George Measham, of Repton, yeoman, and Samuel Measham, his son, of the one part, and Benjamin Mather, of Macclesfield, Cheshire, hardwareman, binding Samuel Measham an apprentice to B. M. to learn the art and business of a hardwareman about the making and manufacturing of candles, for seven years, to be provided with clothes, washing, meat, drink, and lodging. 1784.

(Three signatures and three impressions of the same seal.)