

PROOFS OF AGE OF SUSSEX FAMILIES,  
TEMP. EDW. II. TO EDW. IV.

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THE Inquisitions to prove the full age of Wards have been often referred to as amongst the most interesting of our public records ; few, however, have been printed in any county, and none in Sussex.

The transcripts, which I now edit for our Society, have been most kindly placed at my disposal by a friend, whose birth in and connection with the county, have induced him to make considerable collections towards a better county history ; and my readers will welcome the present contribution.

Not only do these records recover for us several families, whose names even have passed from our ordinary knowledge, but they furnish us with authentic particulars relating to such families as De Bohun and Dalingregge, hitherto undiscovered ; they also add to or confirm our knowledge of the dedications of some of our churches ; and they give us an insight into the social habits of our chief Sussex families from four hundred to five hundred years since.

We find notices of marriage feasts on no small scale ; of the wedding presents ; of the feast at the mother's churching, and of her new gowns from the tailor for that important occasion ; of the use of the bow in the churchyard before butts were established, and of the still popular game of football ; of the pilgrimages to the shrine of St. James of Compostella, and the blessing of the scrip and staff in the village church ; and of disputes made up on the christening day, and enrolled in the Missal of the church.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An instance of these reconciliations is given in connection with the manor of Weycroft, near Axminster, in 1416. The heir, Sir Thos. Brooke having obtained a licence to crenelate the mansion and enclose a park, the widow of Sir Thomas obstructed several public roads and paths,

and their restoration was likely to cause an open rupture with Sir William Bonville and the villagers. Nicholas Wysebeach abbot of Newenham, and five of his neighbours were, however, appointed mediators. They directed all the ways to be thrown open ; and after this had been

The names of the sponsors show how often the priors were selected for that office, though they were unable to control the monks of their own establishments; one monk, straying from Boxgrove, was killed in the Manwode, and another from Sele, on Chanctonbury Hill—affording no very strong evidence of monastic popularity.

We learn also of the enrollments of births and deaths in the Missal and the Great Psalter of the churches; of imprisonments in Guildford Gaol; and citations for the gaol delivery there, and before the King's Bench at Westminster; occasionally the witnesses were present at the baptism, and held a lighted wax candle or torch at the font; sometimes they saw the child taken to the church, or were informed by the chaplain or servants that the ceremony had been performed. Some witnesses recollect the day, because births and deaths happened in their own families, or, what seemed to fix most distinctly the memory, the witness's own marriage, exemplifying our proverbial East Sussex saying, "he has got a wife, and he knows it;" one remembers it from the unwilling marriage of his own mother, with whom her future husband went to law, "and it was adjudged by law that he should have her to wife against her will, and he married her that year;" others remember it from descents, purchases, or grants of land or woods; some because of high winds and the unroofing of houses; or the placing of a new paling round the neighbour's close; or the erection of new houses and stables; others because the godfathers and godmothers put up their horses, or eat and drank at their houses; one man fetches the midwife; another brings the godfathers and godmothers; and a third learns the fact from them: institutions to livings, admittances to religious houses as monks, and apprenticeships, all help the recollection.

Misfortunes (the middle plague amongst them) enter largely into the refreshers of the memory. At Hurstmonceux a rather lawless state of things existed; for, whilst on the baptism of one Fiennes, the child's father, the lord of the place, went to the witness's house, and wished to beat him; the

done, the Knight and the Lady were ordered to ride together to Newenham Abbey, about a mile and a half below Axminster, where they were to exchange a kiss, in

token of peace and friendship, and dine at the abbot's table.—Roberts's *Social History*, p. 463.

same lord distrained for four chickens in arrear from another tenant, and when, twenty-seven years afterwards, the grandchild was baptised, sixty large eels were stolen from the father's nets. One man gave himself the gratification of walking to Bosham, to look at an acquaintance who had hanged himself; another broke his arm by a fall from a load of hay; one more broke his leg against a ladder, "which he shall never forget;" and, worst of all, poor John Stryveling lost his man-servant on the christening-day, taken by the French enemies at Chidham, and carried to Harfleur;—a visit which even, after the lapse of 450 years, our friends on the Sussex coast would not desire to be repeated. Of the sixteen families to which these records relate, not one survives in the male line.

DE BROM.—Proof of the age of JOHN, son and heir of Robert DE BROM, deceased,<sup>1</sup> taken at Hertefeld, on Sunday, in the octaves of Easter (30th April), 11 Edw. II. (1318).

*John*, perpetual vicar of Hertefeld, is voluntarily sworn to give evidence to the jurors:—*Robert de Eweregge, John de Dalingregge,*<sup>2</sup> *William de Dalingregge, Gilbert de Heys, Robert*

<sup>1</sup> Matilda de Brom, the grandmother, was one of four coheireses, and died in 1295, seized of a messuage and curtilage in Hartfield, holden of the honor of the Eagle, then in the King's hands, worth 12*d.* by the year, and 20 acres of arable, and 3 acres of meadow land, and rents of assize, viz., at Christmas, 9½*d.*; at the Purification, 9*d.*; at the Feast of St. John, 8*s.* 4*d.*; and of St. Michael, 4*s.* 4*d.*; all in Hartfield: and one-fourth of the adwoson of Hartfield (worth in the whole 25 marks a year), belonged to her tenement. She also held 11 acres of land at Eastbourne; and Thomas Peverel held of her a knight's fee in Alfriston and Beverington, for which he rendered homage, fealty, scutage, and other foreign services. The whole being held by two knight's fees of the lesser fee of Moreton, doing suit at the King's Courts at Ripe and Dodeleswell, castleward at Pevensey Castle, and paying sheriff's aid and hundred silver; she also held *in capite* of Warren de Insula (De l'Isle), a messuage, and 16½ acres and 7 roods of land, and 2 acres of meadow in Rampton, Kent. Her son and heir, Robert, was then thirty years of age. (*Inq. p. m.*, taken at Lewes, 23rd Feb. on the Morrow of St. Peter, in cathedra (1296), 24 Edw.

I., No. 5.) Her son Robert paid 15 marks for his relief (*Lands. MSS.* 324, 177), and did homage the same year (*Rot. Cl.* No. 11.) He lived for twenty-two years after, and died in 1317, seized of a messuage, and 24 acres of land, and 1 acre of marsh, and 14*s.* rents in Hartfield, holden *in capite* by knight's service of the honor of the Eagle, then in the King's hands, and of the lesser fee of Moreton, and by the service of castleward to Pevensey Castle, and sheriff's aid of 10*d.*, and hundred silver of 5*d.* to Dodeleswell; which 24 acres of land, and 1 of marsh, were worth 6*s.* 3*d.* He also held of Robert de Insula, half a virgate of land in the village of Rampton, Kent, by the service of 20*d.*, and suit of court, which was worth, beyond services, 3*s.* 4*d.*, at 4*d.* an acre. His son and heir, John (whose proof of age I give in the text), was twenty years old at the Feast of St. Benedict, the abbot (12th January), then last past. (*Inq. p. m.*, held at Hartfield, 26th February, 1318, 11th Edw. II., No. 15.) On the *Close Roll* there is an entry of possession having been given to this John.

<sup>2</sup> The manor of Bolebroke, in Hartfield, came to the Dalingrudes by the marriage of this John Dalingrude with Joan, daughter and coheir of Sir Walter de la Lynde

*Atte Hethe, Maurice de Hodleye, John Fabyan, Simon le Bordwryte, Gilbert Geffrey, Laurence Bulfinch, Robert Wildbor, Thomas Atte Parrok, William Atteboure, Robert Atterie, and John de Bosegate.* All say that the said John was twenty-one years old on the Feast of St. Benedict the Abbot (12th January), last past, to wit, 11° Edw. II. ; that he was born at Hertefeld, and baptised in the church there, by the aforesaid John, the vicar. And they all know this well, because the said John, the vicar, was admitted and instituted into his said vicarage by Gilbert de S<sup>to</sup> Leofardo, Bishop of Chichester,<sup>1</sup> on the 6th of the nones of October, 1296, a° 25 Edw. I. And they know it for another reason, namely, because the said Robert de Brom married Joan his wife at Lewes, on Sunday, in the Quinzanes of Easter (8th April), 24 Edw. I. (1296), and brought the said Joan his wife to Hertefeld on the eve of Pentecost (12th May); and on the Feast of Pentecost (13th May), held his marriage feast in his hall of Hertefeld,<sup>2</sup> where all the deponents were, and feasted together with many other relations and friends of the said Robert and Joan.<sup>3</sup>

ST. CLERE.—Proof of the age of JOHN, son and heir of John DE SEINTCLER,<sup>4</sup> deceased; taken at Chichester, on Monday after the Annunciation, 25 Edw. III. (1351). The deponents say that he was born at West Whittering, and baptised in the church of St. Peter<sup>5</sup> there, on Palm Sunday (27th March), 2 Edw. III. (1328). John de Polynfold, Alice, widow of Sir Nicholas Genty,<sup>6</sup> Knt., and William de St. George, were his sponsors.

*Robert de Bromer* recollects the day, because a dispute, which had for a long time existed between him and John de Seintcler, the father, was on that day settled in the church, and inrolled in the Missal.

(see *Suss. Arch. Coll.* IX. 287). William was possibly his brother, and ancestor of Sir Roger, sheriff, to whom and his wife, Alice, John Worthe, cousin and heir of Sir Thos. de Seymore, granted, in 1362, two parts of the manor of Shiffild, with view of frankpledge. "De la Denne." (*Rot. Cl.* 36 Edw. III. m. 17.) In 1374, John Worth, Knt., released to Roger de Dalyn-gregge, all his lands in Fletching, Maresfield, and Horsted Keynes. (*Rot. Claus.* 48 Edw. III. pt. 1, m. 12.)

<sup>1</sup> Bishop, 1288-1305.

<sup>2</sup> The Old Lodge. (?)

<sup>3</sup> *Inq.* 11 Edw. II. No. 56.

<sup>4</sup> The St. Cleres became extinct in the male line on the death of Thos. St. Clere, 6th May, 1435. The Gages are descended from one of the coheireses. (*Inq. p. m.* 15 Edw. IV. No. 26; 17 Hen. VI. No. 56. *Sussex Arch. Coll.* VIII. p. 131.)

<sup>5</sup> This dedication is not noticed in Ecton. It should be St. Peter and St. Paul. See *Dedications*, post.

<sup>6</sup> Sheriff, 1321 and 1327; M. P. for Sussex, 1312-13-15-21.

*Thomas de Wyghstryngge*—because on the following Feast of the Trinity (29th May), Joan Schardelow was married to William Chamberlayn, in West Whittering Church; and he gave the said Joan a silver cup.

*William Stourmy*—because John le Chauney died on the following Sunday (3rd April), and an hundred acres of land in West Whittering descended to him, which he let to John de Seintcler, the father, for twenty-two years, at 60*s.* a year.

*John Atte Wythestone*—because on the following Sunday, his staff and scrip were blessed in West Whittering Church, and he went on a pilgrimage to St. James (of Compostella).<sup>1</sup>

*William Cheyney*—because Walter Hoo, his grandfather, was buried in West Whittering Church on that day, and it is inrolled in the Missal of the church; and he is obliged to distribute 20*s.* a year to the poor.

*William Arnold*—because his brother William was indicted for the death of William Atte Stokk, on the 4th of April, and detained in Guildford Gaol till the gaol delivery,<sup>2</sup> and died on the 4th of September after the delivery; and his death is inrolled in the Missal of the church of West Ichenor.

*Simon Lane*—because his son Ralph was presented by the Bishop of Chichester to the church of Selsey and the presentation came to him in the church of West Whittering on the day of the baptism of the said John, to whom the said Ralph gave a silk girdle which he still has.

*John Atte Strode*—because Robert his brother, was elected prior of Boxgrave, and the deponent was in the priory when the news of the birth came, and he caused his brother to inroll it in the Missal of Boxgrave.

*John Russel*—because his son William was made a monk at Boxgrave on Sunday after Easter (10th April) in that year, and on the eve of Pentecost he went out of the house against the will of the prior and convent, to his friends or elsewhere, and was killed on the Manwode.

*John Neel, John Boby, and John Power*—because they were at that time in the house of Nicholas Gentyll, then sheriff of

<sup>1</sup> This was the favorite pilgrimage in Sussex. Winchelsea was one of the chief places of embarkation. (See Halliwell's *Early Naval Ballads*; Percy Soc. p. 1; Sir H. Ellis's *Original Letters*, 2nd, sec. 1,

p. 110.

<sup>2</sup> The gaol of Guildford was common to the two counties. The assizes for Sussex were held at East Grinstead and Horsham, and sometimes at Chichester.

Sussex, and were bound for William Janyn and Richard Dicker, prisoners in Guildford gaol for felony.<sup>1</sup>

**EARL OF KENT.**—Proof of the age of JOHN, son and heir of Edmund, late EARL OF KENT,<sup>2</sup> deceased; taken at Steyning on the 9th April, 25 Edw. III. (1351). The deponents say that he was twenty-one years old on Thursday after the Feast of St. Ambrose<sup>3</sup> last past (7th April); that he was born at Arundel, (1330), and baptised in the church of St. Bartholomew in the priory of Calceto.<sup>4</sup> Edmund, son of the aforesaid Edmund, Earl of Kent, Joan, his sister, and John de Grensted, prior of the Order of Friars Preachers in Arundel, were his sponsors.

*James de Byne* recollects the day, because a dispute between him and Henry de Gate was settled in the church on that day, and inrolled in the Missal.

*Walter Randekyn*—because Alice his wife was buried on that day in the said church, and the day of her death was inrolled in the calendar of the Missal; and on the anniversary of her death for twenty years he was bound to distribute 6s. 8d. to the poor of the parish of Horsham.

*Robert Seman*—because on the following Sunday, William Seman died, and 100 acres of land in Lancing descended to him, and he let them to Richard Seman, his brother, for twenty years, at 60s. a year.

*Walter le Kayn*—because on the following Sunday his staff and scrip were blessed in the church of St. Bartholomew in the priory of Calceto, and he went on a pilgrimage to St. James.

*Geoffry Fauconer*—because his son William was made a monk at La Sele on the following day of Pentecost (27th May), and on the eve of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (23rd June), he went out of the house of La Sele against the will of the prior and convent, and in going to his friends or elsewhere, was killed on the hill of Changebury (Chanctonbury).

<sup>1</sup> *Inq.* 25 Edw. III. 1st nrs. No. 75.

<sup>2</sup> Edmund of Woodstock, younger son of Edward I., was created Earl of Kent, 28th July, 1321; married Margaret, daughter of John, first Baron, and sister and heir of Thomas, second Baron, Wake; beheaded 1330. Edmund, his eldest son, was restored in blood and honours in 1331, but *ob.* in 1332, *inf. et. & s.p.* His

brother John above named, *ob.* 1352, *s.p.* Courthope's *Hist. Peer.* The estates of Edmund, fourth Earl of Arundel, of the Fitzalans, had been escheated in 1326 and bestowed on the Earl of Kent, but were restored to the Fitzalans in 1331. Tierney's *Arundel*, p. 224.

<sup>3</sup> His feast is 4th April.

<sup>4</sup> See *Suss. Arch. Coll.* XI. p. 89.

*Henry Bourde*—because his brother William was indicted before the coroner for the death of John Lambekyn on the 4th of May, and was kept in Guildford gaol till the delivery on the 14th of October, and he died on the 20th of October, and the day of his death is inrolled in the Missal of the church of St. Nicholas, Guildford.

*Thomas Josep*—because his brother Ralph was presented to the church of Sullington, and the presentation came to him in the church of St. Bartholomew in the priory of Calceto on 7th April, the day on which the said John was baptized.<sup>1</sup>

SHELVESTRODE.—Proof of the age of ROGER, son of John DE SHELVESTRODE,<sup>2</sup> kinsman and heir of Eva de St. John,<sup>3</sup> heiress of William de Roos, of Hamlake, deceased, taken at Petworth, 24th July, 29 Edw. III. (1355). The deponents say that he was born at Lotegareshale (Lurgeshali), on the day of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (24th June), 8 Edw. III. (1334), and baptised in the church of St. Lawrence<sup>4</sup> there. Thomas de Camoys (of Broadwater), Roger de Loxleye, and Eva, widow of Edmund de St. John,<sup>5</sup> were his sponsors.<sup>6</sup>

*William Jakeman* recollects the day, because John Jakeman, his father, gave him forty acres of land at La Sparre, in the parish of Wisborough; and the deed is dated on that day.

*William de Croftes*—because on the next day he married Katherine his wife.

*William de Wephurst*—because he had a son John born at Lotegareshale on the day before.

*Robert Atte Lee*—because on the day of the apostles Peter and Paul following (29th June), Alice his wife died, and he caused the day to be noted in the great Psalter in Lotegareshale church.

*William Atte Hull* and *John Atte Mull*—because a great

<sup>1</sup> *Inq.* 25, Edw. III. 1st nrs. No. 76.

<sup>2</sup> In 1364, this Roger, son of John de Shelvestrode, Knt., released all his lands in Hampton, to Richard, Earl of Arundel. *Rot. Claus.* 38 Edw. III. m.15.

<sup>3</sup> At this time the St. John's owned Halnaker. There is an *Inq. p.m.* on her, 28 Edw. III., when she held Barlavinton with Beaugenet.

<sup>4</sup> This dedication is not in Ecton.

<sup>5</sup> He died *s.p.* 1348. His two sisters, Isabel and Margaret, succeeded him as coheiresses.

<sup>6</sup> The manor of Shelvestrode is in East Grinstead, and in 1411 lands and tenements there worth £5 a year were sold by John Aske. *Suss. Arch. Coll.* X. 137. In 1541 John Aske proposed to exchange this, Deane, Verdley, and Bestonour, for Abbey Lands. *Inv. Augm. Office.*

dispute between them was settled, and inrolled in the Missal of Lotegareshale church.

*John de Fysely* and *Walter Shobeham*—for the same reason.

*Roger Fullere, John Crochon, William Vincent, and Richard Bokhagh*—because they were cited to appear before the Justices of the Bench at Westminster in a cause concerning the Manor of Stopham.<sup>1</sup>

BOVET.—Proof of the age of WILLIAM BOVET, brother and neir of Nigel Bovet,<sup>2</sup> deceased, son of William Bovet, deceased, taken at Steyning on the morrow of the Annunciation (26th March) 32 Edw. III. (1358). The deponents say that the said William was born at Woppingthorn, on Thursday, the Feast of the Annunciation (25th March), 10 Edw. III. (1336), and baptised on the same day in the church of St. Andrew, Steyning. Robert Gervays, William Atte Welle, and Elizabeth de Wodemannecote were his sponsors.

*Stephen Wolgar* recollects the day, because William his son was born and baptised on that day.

*John Piper*—because he married Joan, daughter of William de Lychepole, at Steyning, on the following Monday.

<sup>1</sup> *Inq.* 29 Edw. III., 1st nrs. No. 67.

<sup>2</sup> The Bovets (not Bonet, as printed by Mr. Cartwright) were long holders of Wappingthorne. In 1209 (11 John) Robert Bovet paid 30 marks for his land on his proof of age; and in 1291 (20 Edw. I.) Hamond Bovet and Matilda his wife paid 5 marks (*Lansd. MSS.* 324, fs. 135-168). This Hamond Bovet was returned in 1278 as holding a knight's fee, and so distrained on for knighthood; in 1287 he was one of the Conservators of the Peace, and in 1294 Assessor and Collector in the county of the 10th granted by parliament. In the next year he was M.P. for Sussex. In 1296 he was inrolled as a knight for the defence of the sea-coast, and in 1297 he was summoned under the general writ to persons holding lands or rents of £20 annual value, to perform military service in person, and to appear at the military council held at Rochester, and in the same year to perform military service against the Scots; and likewise as Assessor and Collector in Sussex of the 9th granted by parliament for the confirmation of the charters. John and Richard Bovet were mancaptors in 1295 for Robert de Beauchamp as Bur-

gess at the first election for Shoreham; and in 1298 John was again mancaptor for another Shoreham Burgess, Roger le Wak'. Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs*. As Robert Bovet is returned in 1298 (26 Edw. I.) as the owner of a knight's fee and a half in Wappingthorne, holden of the honor of Arundel (*MSS. Soc. of Ant.* No. 130) Hamond probably died in his service against the Scots. William Bovet, father of Nigel and William, mentioned in the Inquisition, was doubtless the son of Robert.

In 23 Edw. III., 1349 (*Rot. Orig.* No. 43), Roger Daker, the King's escheator in Sussex, was directed to take possession of lands at Chynting, near Scaford, held of the King *in capite* by the service of providing two parts of one "hobelarii" for 40 days in the King's wars in Wales, and lands in Combes, Notham, Amyngton, and the town of St. Botho, a messuage and two virgates of land in Steyning, and a messuage and 220 acres in Sele on the death of William Bovet. His widow Margaret died seized in 1351, seven years before the taking of the Inquisition now printed.

*Thurstan Vesk*—because William Bovet the father granted him a rent of twenty shillings for life out of his lands at Woppingthorn, and the deed was dated at Steyning on the following Monday.

*William Atle Lowe*—because William his father died at Steyning on the following Sunday, and the day of his death is written in the Missal of Steyning church.

*William Batte*—because Richard his son was made a monk in the priory of Sele on the day on which Joan, the mother of the said William Bovet, was purified in Steyning church.

*John de Aylesham*—because a quarrel between him and William Bovet the father was made up on that day.

*John Weston* and *William Ede*—because on the sixth day after, they went on a pilgrimage to St. James.

*Adam Poyntel*—because within a month afterwards, he married Joan, daughter of William de Penbrugg.

*Walter Smyth* and *Robert Roberd*—because they had been to the gaol delivery at Guildford, and on their return from thence they dined with William Bovet the father, on the day on which Joan the mother was purified.<sup>1</sup>

*John Benett*—because within a fortnight his son Robert was presented to the vicarage of Steyning.<sup>2</sup>

FIFHIDE.—Proof of the age of WILLIAM, son and heir of William DE FIFHIDE, deceased,<sup>3</sup> taken at Crawley, 19th June, 37, Edw. III. (1363). The deponents say that he was born at Shirmanbury, and baptised in the church of St. Giles

<sup>1</sup> The feasts at purifications of women in England were famous. This is an earlier instance than that quoted by Sir H. Ellis in his ed. of Brand's *Antiquities* II. p. 77, note.

<sup>2</sup> *Inq.* 32, Edw. III. 1st nrs. No. 57.

<sup>3</sup> William de Fifhide, the father, obtained Shermanbury and other large estates in Sussex on the division of the property of Sir Hugh de Bucy. This William died 18th May, 1361 (35 Edw. III.) leaving his son and heir William, then eighteen years of age and upwards (Exemplification of *Inq. p.m.*, taken at Basingstoke 2nd June, and at Lewes 17th June, 1361, Pat. 6 Rich. II. pt. 1 m. 5). The son Sir William did not live long; he died *s.p.* 24th January, 1387, seized of considerable property in Hants, and in

Sussex of the manors and patronage of the churches of Kingston next Shoreham, and Shermanbury; of the castle of Bramber; of the park and close of Knappe; of the manors of Wodemancote and of Berkhamme in Fletching, and pasture in Ashdowne, holden of the honor of the Eagle; of land at Talcourthays, and of a messuage called La Fanne, and 40 acres of land in Aldrington. His heiress was his cousin Johanna, *æt.* 36, the wife of John Sondes, and the daughter of Agnes, sister of William Fifhide the father (*Inq. p.m.* taken at Horsham, 18 May, 10 Rich. II. No. 7); and on 20th May, 1390 (Pat. 13, Rich. II. m. 4), John Sondes and Johanna his wife had an exemplification of the *Inq. p.m.* and a respite of their fealty, and direction for the livery of seizin.

there on the day of St. Barnabas (11th June), 16 Edw. III. (1342). Nicholas, the prior of Shoreham, William de Lange-ton, and Sibilla Perpount<sup>1</sup> were his sponsors.

*John de Clothale* recollects the day, because William de Langeton gave him a carucate of land in Kingston, by deed dated on that day.

*John Wolgar*—because in that year he married Catherine his wife.

*Richard Atte Wode*—because he had a daughter Joan born at Shirmanbury the day before.

*Henry Lacy*—because Alice his wife died on that day, and the day of her death is inrolled in the great Psalter in Shirmanbury church.

*William Istrugge* and *Richard Okyndenne*—because a great quarrel between them was made up on that day.

*Simon Atte Feld* and *William Okyndenne*—because on the first Sunday in Lent in that year (24th Feb.) they went on a pilgrimage to St. James.

*Peter Atte Lee*, *Richard Atte More*, *John Gratewyk*, and *William Petyknolle*—because they were cited to appear before the Justices of the Bench at Westminster.<sup>2</sup>

DE L'ISLE.—Proof of the age of JOHN,<sup>3</sup> son and heir of JOHN DE INSULA, of Gatcombe, deceased, taken at Midhurst, on the morrow of St. Leonard (7th November) 37 Edw. III. (1363). The deponents say that he was born at Le Coudrey, in the parish of Easeburn, and baptised in the church of St. Mary<sup>4</sup> there, on the day of St. Leonard (6th Nov.), twenty-one years ago. Edward, son of John Le Bohun,<sup>5</sup> Richard Lexman, and Cecilia, wife of Sir John Le Bohun Knt.,<sup>6</sup> were his sponsors.

<sup>1</sup> Daughter of Sir Simon de Pierpoint, and afterwards married to Sir Edmund de Ufford. See *Suss. Arch. Coll.* XI. p. 87.

<sup>2</sup> *Inq.* 37 Edw. III. 1st nrs. No. 100.

<sup>3</sup> This John de l'Isle only lived till 43 Edw. III. (1369), and dying *s.p.*, his sisters Elizabeth and Eva became his co-heiresses. Elizabeth married John Bramshott; from her the present Lord de l'Isle and the Gorings of Burton are descended. Eva married Sir John Burford. *Harl. MSS.* 1562, f. 32 b, 53 b, 73 b.

<sup>4</sup> Ecton is in error in giving the dedication to St. Margaret.

<sup>5</sup> Edward de Bohun is not named by Dugdale in his *Bar. I.*, nor by Dallaway, *Suss.* p. 282.

<sup>6</sup> John de Bohun was summoned to parliament 1363-6, and *ob.* 1367. By his first wife, Isabella, he had two daughters, Joan and Eva. *Rot. Claus.* 42 Edw. III. Cecilia, daughter and heir of Sir John Filioll, of Essex, Knt., was his second wife. His daughter Joan was mother of the child, being the wife of John de l'Isle (or de Insula), of Gatecombe, Isle of Wight. *Dugd. Bar. I.* 187.

*William de Hurst* recollects the day, because Sir John de Bohun on the following Sunday purchased a rent of 10s. in Midhurst, of William Musard.

*John Elkham*—because his brother, William Elkham, on that day married Agnes Atte Mersh, and the marriage is inrolled in the Missal of Chithurst church.

*John Brokere*—because a great quarrel between John de Insula the father and Richard Brokere, was made up on the following Sunday, and is inrolled in the Missal at Easeburn.

*John de Cotes*—because on that day he went on a pilgrimage to St. James.

*Henry Exton*—because Joan his wife died on that day, and the day of her death is inrolled in the Psalter at Midhurst.

*John Stamer*—because he had a daughter Agnes born at Easeburn the day before.

*John Wyot, John Cholwyn, Robert Fauconer, Robert Atte Rode, William Aukesfeld, and Richard de Holhurst*—because they were cited to appear before the Justices of the Bench at Westminster.<sup>1</sup>

LILLEBONE.—Proof of the age of JOHN LILLEBONE, son of John Lillebone, deceased,<sup>2</sup> taken at Crawley, 7th December, 37 Edw. III. (1363.) The deponents say that he was born at Shirmanbury, and baptised in the church of St. Giles there on the day of St. Roman the Bishop (23rd October), 15 Edw. III. (1341.) Richard de Redemelde, parson of the church of Kingston near Shoreham, John Atte Hide, and Sibilla de Perpond, were his sponsors.

*Roger de Brodebregge* recollects the day, because Agnes his wife died on the following Sunday, and the day of her death is inrolled in the Missal of Slinfold church.

*Walter Randekyn* of Horsham—because on the following Sunday he married Amicia Atte Feld of Warnham, at Shirmanbury.

*William Granfeld*—because a great quarrel between him and John Lillebone the father, was made up on that day.

*John Clympyngge*—because on that day he went on a pilgrimage to St. James.

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 37, Edw. III. 1st nrs. No. 98.

his wife, daughter of Lord de Morley, and died *s.p.* *Addl. MSS.* No. 5700, p. 92.

<sup>2</sup> John the son married Joan, third daughter of Henry Tregoz, and Johanna

*John Jay*—because he had a daughter named Alice, born at Shirmanbury the day before.

*Henry Atte Brok, William Wilcons, Walter Atte Worth, and Thomas Eworth*—because at that time they were cited to appear before the Justices of the Bench at Westminster.

*William Taverner, William Poyntyf, and William Atte Watere*—because on the Monday previous they were cited to be at the gaol delivery at Guildford.<sup>1</sup>

POYNINGS.—Proof of the age of THOMAS DE PONYNGES, chivaler, son and heir of Michael DE PONYNGES, chivaler, deceased, taken at Crawley on Monday after the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist (29th April),<sup>2</sup> 44 Edw. III. (1370). The deponents say that he was born at Slagham, 19th April, 23 Edw. III. (1349), and baptised in the church of St. Mary there.<sup>3</sup>

*Walter Parkin* recollects the day, because he had a son John born within a quarter of a year.

*John Northcote*—because he had a son John born on the feast of St. Lawrence (14th Nov.) in the second year after.

*John Atte Watere*—because William Atte Watere, his father, purchased a messuage and sixty acres of land in Cokefeld on the feast of St. Michael following.

*John Brantrugge*—because Milicent his wife died within a month after.

*John Holveye*—because he had a son John born the same week, and died directly.

*Walter Atte Leghe*—because Felicia his mother died on Whitsun Eve (30th May) following.

*Thomas Thorndown*—because Walter Creille, his mother's second husband, died within ten days.

*Walter Smyth*—because William, his eldest son, was born within three days after.

*William Boxle*—because at Michaelmas before the birth he went into the service of Michael, the father of the said Thomas, as bailiff at Ponynges.

*Simon Atte Nasche*—because Adam his father died within

<sup>1</sup> *Inq.* 37 Edw. III. 1st nrs. No 97.

<sup>2</sup> His feast is 25th April.

<sup>3</sup> Michael accompanied Edw. III. in his wars in Flanders and France, and died 16th May, 1369. His wife was Joane, widow of Sir John de Molyngs, Knt. Tho-

mas the son was in the expedition into Flanders, 47 Edward III.; he married Blanch de Moubray, and *ob. s.p.* 49 Edw. III. (1375) *Dugd. Bar.* II. 135. (see note 3, p. 36.)

eight days, and lands and tenements in Portslade fell to him by his father's death.

*John Berlyngg*—because his brother Robert, who was seized of land in fee in Tudelee in Kent, died, and he was sent for to come into Kent to participate in the inheritance with another brother, William,<sup>1</sup> according to the manner of Kent.<sup>2</sup>

DE L'ISLE.—Proof of the age of WILLIAM, son of Walter DEL ISLE, deceased, taken at Newbrigge (Billingshurst), 19th Feb. 46 Edw. III. (1372.) The deponents say, that he was twenty-one years old on the Feast of St. Peter ad Vincula (1st Aug.) last; that he was born at Pulborough,<sup>3</sup> and baptised in the church there. John de Kent, then prior of Hardham,<sup>4</sup> William Newbrigge, and Margaret Camoys,<sup>5</sup> were his sponsors.

*John Throle* recollects the day, because he married Justina his wife in that year.

*Richard Pyjon*—because he married Joan his wife in that year.

*Thomas Gylmyn*—because he had a son William born that year.

*Richard Atte Melle*—because one Richard Pyjon went to law with Joan, the mother of the deponent, and it was adjudged by law that he should have her to wife against her will, and he married her in that year.<sup>6</sup>

*William Atte Hulle, Richard Atte Wardrobe, and John Farnfold*—because the Countess of Ormond, then wife of the Lord Thomas de Daggeworth,<sup>7</sup> came to England in that year, and on the day on which the said William was born, she came to the said Thomas de Daggeworth's manor, called Le Wacherye, and the deponents were in her company.

*Hugh Lunday and John Atte Wode*—because the said Hugh married Celestria his wife in that year; and the said John

<sup>1</sup> Gavelkind.

<sup>2</sup> *Inq.* 44 Edw. III. 1st nrs. No. 86.

<sup>3</sup> Walter de l'Isle obtained a grant of free warren in his manor of Pulborough, and a fair for three days at Newbridge, 7 Edw. I. (1279). This William of Pulborough was dead in 1384, leaving a widow Margaret. *Rot. Claus.* 8 Rich. II.

<sup>4</sup> This is an additional name to the list. *Suss. Arch. Coll.* XI. p. 111.

<sup>5</sup> Daughter and coheir of Peter Rosselyn, and wife of Thomas, Lord Camoys, of Broadwater.

<sup>6</sup> She must have been legally betrothed. Her fate was, however, rather harder than that of modern widows.

<sup>7</sup> Sir Thomas Dagworth, for his distinguished military services in Brittany, was summoned to parliament, 1347-8. He went with his wife Alianore to Brittany, and was slain there by the treachery of the French, 1359. *Dugd. Bar.* II. p. 148. His wife was daughter of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Essex, and widow of James, Earl of Ormond. She died 1363. *Coll. Top. et Gen.* VIII. p. 68.

was at the feast of the said Hugh and Celestria at Pulborough.

*John Bakere, Richard Somere and Andrew Shapere*—because the said Richard purchased a messuage and garden at Billingshurst in that year, of William Newebrigge, the godfather of the said William, and got possession on the day of the birth aforesaid.<sup>1</sup>

**WORTHE.**—Proof of the age of JOHN, son and heir of William DE WORTHE, deceased, taken at Lewes, on Friday in Easter week, 51 Edw. III. (1377). The deponents say that he was born at a place called Worthe,<sup>2</sup> in Little Horsted, and baptised in Little Horsted church. John Haukhurst, John Worthe,<sup>3</sup> and Ibota Hypworthe, sister of the rector of Isefeld, were his sponsors.

*John Haukerst* recollects the day, because he was godfather.

*William Scharp*—because he had a son John born three weeks before.

*Henry Asselote*—because he was at that time a thrasher of corn in the grange of William Worthe, the father.

*John Scharp*—because he fetched Matilda Swaneslotte to perform the office of “mideswyf.”

*John Hayward*—because he was then a servant of Richard, late rector of Fletching.

*William Styward*—because he married Julia his wife at the Feast of St. Peter ad Vincula (1st Aug.) before.

*Giles Holyndale*—because he was then keeper of a piece of land at Holeforde in the parish of Isefeld.

*Robert Thunder*—because he was then staying with Richard Thunder, vicar of the church of Fremfeld.

*Robert Piers*—because he went for the god-fathers and god-mother.

*John Atte Hothe*—because he put a new paling round the close of Robert Catch

<sup>1</sup> *Inq.* 46 Edw. III. 1st nrs. No. 87.

<sup>2</sup> There is still a manor of Worthe in Little Horsted. William de Worthe died seized of rents in Henherst, and a messuage and 200 acres of land and 40s. rents in Little Horsted. *Inq. p.m.* 51 Edw. III. *App.* No. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Sir John Worthe was, as we have seen

(see note 2, p. 25), cousin and heir of Sir Thos. de Seymore, of Sheffield in Fletching. He married Blanch, widow of Thomas de Poynings, and died seized of the manor of Nuthalle, in Wrantham, and of Wakeley holden of the honor of Lewes. *Inq. p.m.* 1 Rich. II. No. 114. *Dug. Bar.* II. 134.

*Thomas Hykeman*—because he married Joan Dalehamme.

*William Taillour*—because he had a daughter Joan four years old at the time.<sup>1</sup>

ATTE MORE.—Proof of the age of John, son and heir of Thomas ATTE MORE, deceased,<sup>2</sup> taken at Chichester, 3rd April, 51 Edw. III. (1377.) The deponents say that he was born at Chalvercroft, in the parish of Pageham, and baptised in the chapel of Berghstede, which is a chapel of Pageham church, and dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. John Atte Setene, Thomas Ryby, and Elizabeth, widow of Henry Fitz Roger, were his sponsors.

*Ralph Lette* recollects the day, because he had a son William born at the same time.

*John Taillour*—because he was married within a fortnight.

*Ralph Highwode*—because he received from Thomas his father three acres of land to rent.

*Robert Scot*—because at the time of the middle pestilence, now sixteen years ago (1361),<sup>3</sup> the said John was eight years old.

*John Bourere*—because his sister married John Kene about that time.

*Thomas Londaie*—because he built his house about that time.

*Robert Londiays* and *John Atte Napecrofte*—for the same reason.

*Stephen Juldewine*, *William Bussh*, and *William Goldfynch*—because William, son of Stephen Juldewyne, was then seven years old, and now he is thirty.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Inq.* 51 Edw. III. 1st nrs. No. 40.

<sup>2</sup> Walter Atte More was appointed 11th Rich. II. comptroller of the customs at Chichester, and on the coast between Winchester and Portsmouth. *Rot. Pat.* The family owned Scotham and Sperland; the latter had belonged to the Tauk's (*Rot. Claus.* 4 Hen. V., m. 16). Thomas Atte More died 1375, seized of the manor, of Howlam, Halnakede and lands in Sperland, Eldbury, and Chalvercroft, Sussex. (*Inq. p.m.* 49 Edw. III. No. 1, m. 1.)

<sup>3</sup> 35 Edw. III. "In this yeare also was a great death of people (namelie of men, for women were not so much subject thereto). This was called the second mortalitie, because it was the second that fell in this king's daies." *Holinshed*, vol. ii.

p. 676, ed. 1807, 4to. The first was in 1349, and is thus noticed in Capgrave's *Chron.* p. 213: "In the xxiii. yere was the grate pestilens of puple. First it began in the north cuntre, than in the south; and so forth thow oute the reme. After this pestilens followed a moreyne of bestis, which had never be seyn. For, as it was supposed, there left not in England the ten part of the puple. Then cesed lordes rentis, prestes tithes. Because there were so fewe tylmen the erde lay untilled. So mech misery was in the lond, that the prosperite which was before was never recured." The pestilence raged at Seaford between these two periods. See *Suss. Arch. Col.* VII. p. 83.

<sup>4</sup> *Inq.* 51 Edw. III. 1st nrs. No. 42.

FIENNES.—Proof of the age of WILLIAM, brother and heir of John, son and heir of WILLIAM DE FYENLES, deceased,<sup>1</sup> taken at Worthing, on Monday, the Feast of St. Nicholas (6th December), 2 Ric. II. (1378). The deponents say, that he was born at Hurstmonceaux, on the Feast of St. Peter ad Vincula (1st August), 31 Edw. III. (1357), and baptised in the church of All Saints there; Richard le Hurst, William de Megeham, and Agnes Hengeshull, were his sponsors.

*Thomas Peplesham*<sup>2</sup> knows the day well, because the birth of the said William is written in the Missal of the parish church.

*Robert Megeham*—because he did his homage on that day to the lord of Hurstmonceux.

*John Longford*, of Catsfield—because his son Simon was born on that day.

*Henry Maveysyn*—because in that year his sister Alice married John Pegg.

*William Eston*—because his father died in that year.

*John Parker*, of Hoo—because in that year he built a new house, in which he still dwells.

*John Atte Beche*—because in that year he was distrained on for his service of four chickens in arrear to the manor of Hurstmonceux.

*William Atte Berge*—because in that year he did fealty to the lord of Hurstmonceux.

*William Wylyng*—because in that year Giles Parker stuck an arrow through his leg, in the churchyard of Hurstmonceaux.<sup>3</sup>

*Walter Troymory*—because in that year William de Fienles, then lord of Hurstmonceaux, came to the house of the said Walter, and wished to beat him.

*Alan Peyvele*—because in that year he bought a wood, called "Lytelwood," of Simon de Peplesham.

<sup>1</sup> William died 1361, having married Joan, daughter and heiress of Geoffrey, Lord Say. Their eldest son, John, died on 24th March, 1375, *inf. æt.* (See *Suss. Arch. Coll.* IV. p. 147.)

<sup>2</sup> The property of the Peplesham's, afterwards came to the Fiennes by marriage.

<sup>3</sup> The churchyards were not uncom-

monly used for the practice of archery; Edward III. had enjoined the use of the long bow, in two precepts to the sheriffs of counties, 1st June, 1363, and 12 June, 1365. (*Notes and Queries*, 2 ser. xi. p. 121); and in Richard II. d.'s time an act was passed to compel all servants to shoot with it on Sundays and holidays.

*Richard Cote*—because William Stenacre, his father-in-law, died in that year, and made him his executor.<sup>1</sup>

CHANGETON.—Proof of the age of WILLIAM CHANGETON, brother and heir of Thomas Changeton,<sup>2</sup> taken at Ifield, on Saturday after the Feast of St. Martin<sup>3</sup> (14th Nov.), 7 Rich. II. (1383). The deponents say, that he was born and baptised at Ifield, on Friday before the Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle<sup>4</sup> (14th Sept), 32 Edw. III. (1358); John Raynold, William Atte Watere, and Joan Yonge, were his sponsors.

*John Jay* recollects the day, because he bought a message in Crawley, of Richard Yonge.

*William Atte Lynde*—because his son Richard was born on that day.

*John Jondrey*—because he began his pilgrimage to St. James on that day.

*John Attewelle*—because he married Agnes Atte Lynde on that day.

*William Rokenham*—because he built a house at Ifield in that year, in which he still dwells.

*John Bossh*—because on that day he was distrained on by Thomas Elyot, bailiff of Andrew Peverel,<sup>5</sup> for the manor of Ifield, for his service in arrear to the said Andrew.

*Adam Tannere*—because on that day he began to hold an house, and went to live in the parish of Ifield.

*John Brightham*—because his father Simon died on that day.

*Richard Wetherall*—because on that day he became apprentice to William Morris, of Lewes.

*John Atte Lane*—because Richard, his brother, took Holy Orders in that year.

*John Atte Hoseland* and *John Tony*—because Henry Atte Forde died on that day, and left them his executors.<sup>6</sup>

TREGOZ.—Proof of the age of EDWARD, son of Robert

<sup>1</sup> *Inq.* 2 Rich. II. No. 139.

<sup>2</sup> Thos. Changeton died seized of Westefeld, in the parish of Ifield, and 80 acres of land held of the Castle of Bramber. (*Inq. p. m.* 7 Rich. II. No. 25.)

<sup>3</sup> This feast is 11th November.

<sup>4</sup> This feast is 21st September.

<sup>5</sup> Sir John de Ifield died 1317, Lord of

Ifield. Andrew Peverel married Katherine, widow of Henry Hussey, patron of Dureford Abbey. The Peverels held lands *temp.* Edw. I. in Boscham, Sompting, Ewhurst (West) Blachington, &c. Andrew Peverel was M. P. for Sussex 1351-53-56-61-66, and 73.

<sup>6</sup> *Inq.* 7 Rich. II. No. 178.

TREGOYS,<sup>1</sup> Knt., deceased, son of Joan, widow of Edward Saint John,<sup>2</sup> deceased, taken at Brambre, 16th May, 22 Ric. II. (1399). The deponents say, that he was twenty-one years old on the Feast of St. George (23rd April) last past.

*John Holne* recollects the day, because he married Katherine, his wife, on the Monday after.

*Nicholas Wylcombe*—because on that day he undertook a journey to Calais, and heard mass in West Grinsted Church, at the same hour that the said Edward was baptised in that church.

*John Clothale*—because he met John Hemery carrying the child to be baptised.

*James Byne*—because on that day he buried his eldest son, John.

*Stephen, William, and Simon Epsle, and James Lucy*—because, while they were sitting together in Shipley church, that is, in the next parish, near the village of West Grinsted, in which church of West Grinsted the said Edward was baptised, one John Edyng came to them, and told them that the said Edward was baptised.

<sup>1</sup> In 33 Edw. I. (1305), Henry de Tregoz had free warren in Wiggonholt, and was M. P. for Sussex 1313. In 1320 and 1341, his eldest son Thomas de Tregoz was M. P. for Sussex; and in 1331 (5 Edw. III.), had free warren in Goring, Preston, Hamme, Bargham, Stoughton, Perham, Greatham, Waldrington, and Dodesham.

<sup>2</sup> This Johanna was daughter of Lord de Morley. (See *Add. MSS.* 5700, p. 92, where the descent of Tregoz is given.) Her first husband was Henry Tregoz, son of Thomas Tregoz, who married a Poynnings. Inquisitions on her death, which took place on Saturday after the Feast of St. Edmund the Bishop (1386), were taken at Arundel, on 29th Nov. 10, Rich. II. (1386), and at Chichester. (*Inq. p. m.* No. 36.) She died seized of the manors of Goring (with its members Haydon and Dodesham), Preston, Bargham, Hamme, two parts of Scopelham, Lynche, Wyldebruge, Bercombe, and Almodington; of £4 rents in Walderton; of lands in Perham; lands called Wynters, in Codham; a messuage, lands, and fishery in Gret-ham; a messuage and land called Marchales, in Slynefold and Rugwicke; and of land in Yaberton, in Sussex; and of a

messuage in Southwark, Surrey. She died without any male heir by St. John, her second husband; and under the settlement his estates were divided between Thomas Tregoz and John Arundell, both of whom were then twenty-two years of age. Her other estates went to her grandson Edward Tregoz (son of Robert), then eight years of age. This is the person whose proof of age I now print. He married Alice, daughter of Lord de St. John, by whom he had one son, Edward, who died *s. p.*, and a daughter, who died young. (*Add. MSS.* 5700, p. 92.) He must have lived only till he was twenty-three years of age, for in 2 Hen. IV. (1400-1401), his cousin John Tregoz and others, constituted William Asheburn their attorney, to deliver to Alice, widow of this Edward Tregoz, the manors of Preston, Bargham, Perham and Breause, with the patronage of the Church of Wiggonholt, which belonged to the said Edward, and immediately afterward she released those manors, and also Goring, Dodesham, Walderton, Greatham, Cobham, and Marchalles, in Sussex, Buggeve in Kent, and all the lands of Edward in Southwark, to John Tregoz, (*Rot. Claus.* 2 Hen. IV. m. 16, 55.)

*John Hemery*—because he carried the said Edward to church.

*Peter Flower*—because he held a lighted wax candle at the font.

*Walter de Burgh*—because Thomas, his son, was born on the next Tuesday.

*John Graunt*—because Stephen Palfreyman, servant of the said Robert Tregoy, came to Lancing, to the house of the said John Graunt, and told him that the said Edward had been baptised in West Grinsted Church.<sup>1</sup>

FIENNES.—Proof of age of ROGER, son of William, son of William and Joan Fienles, aunt of Elizabeth, who was the wife of William Heron, deceased, taken at Lewes, on the Feast of St. Peter in cathedra (22 February), 8 Hen. IV. (1407). The deponents say, that the said Roger was born at Hurstmonceaux, and baptised in the church there, on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14th September),<sup>2</sup> 8 Rich. II. (1384).

*Thomas Atte Berghe* recollects the day, because he went with Joan his mother to hear mass in the church.

*Thomas Pulle*—because Walter Lamberd, the late rector of Hurstmonceaux, was inducted and instituted on the following Feast of St. Michael.

*Stephen Snelgere*—because he built a stable at Hurstmonceaux, in the same month, for the horses of William Fienles.

*William Smyth*—because Robert Mostarder (who married the deponent's mother), in the same month, plundered the nets of the said William Fienles, in the marshes, of about sixty large eels.

*Thomas Hoggeman*—because, on the following Feast of St. Michael, he took a tenement of William Fienles, for seven years, at a rent of twenty shillings.

*Thomas Petyjon*—because, on Monday after the following Feast of St. Dionisius, he married Alice, daughter of John King, of Crouhurst, at Warbilton, near Hurstmonceaux.

<sup>1</sup> *Inq.* 22 Rich. II. No. 125.

<sup>2</sup> William Fiennes married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of William de Batsford (whose wife Margery was the heiress of Simon de Peplsham); he was sheriff in 1399, *Pat.* 23 Rich. II., and died 1405.

A short notice of this *Inquisition* is among the *Le Neve MSS.*, *Lansd.* 324. This Roger Fiennes served at Agincourt, with seven men at arms and twenty-four archers. *Hunter's Agincourt*, p. 35.

*Nicholas Hereward*—because he had a daughter, named Philippa, who was born and baptised in Hurstmonceaux church, on the following Feast of St. Katherine (25th Nov.)

*Robert Mot*—because William Mot, his father, in the same month, built a messuage at Hurstmonceaux, and during the building there was much talk about the birth of the said Roger.

*John Bokholte*—because he had a daughter, named Agnes, born and baptised at Dalington, in the next week.

*John Atte Welle*—because he was at Pevensey, with Roger Newente, constable of the castle, when a servant of William Fienles came and asked the said Roger to be godfather.

*John Alchorne*—because when the mother of the said Roger went to church to be purified, he was sent to Hurstmonceaux with a doe, by Sir John Fal. . . .<sup>1</sup>

*William Mersham*—because at that time he was living with William Taylour, tailor, of Mayfield,<sup>2</sup> and was sent to Hurstmonceaux with the gowns and apparel of the lady Elizabeth, mother of the said Roger,<sup>3</sup> against her purification.<sup>4</sup>

TAUK.—Proof of the age of ROBERT, son and heir of Thomas TAUK, taken at Chudham, on Saturday after the Feast of St. Lucy the Virgin, 4 Hen. VI. (1425).<sup>5</sup> The deponents say, that he was born and baptised at Chudham, on the Feast of St. Tecla the Virgin (23rd Sept.), 5 Hen. IV. (1404); Robert Pulborowe, clerk, William Nevill, and Juliana Hackett, were his sponsors.

*Richard Janyyn* recollects the day, because his son Robert was buried at Chudham on that day.

*John Tolyte*—because his son Richard, on the Feast of

<sup>1</sup> The name is not legible, but it was Sir John Falseley who had married Elizabeth, sister and heiress of Jeffrey Say, of Hamsey; she was afterwards the wife of William Heron, as mentioned in the *Inquisition*. Falseley helped Prior John to repel the attack of the French in 1377. Capgrave, in his *Chronicle*, p. 233, tells us that, in 1377, the French took the Isle of Wight (except the castle), and received 500 marks from the people, not to burn their houses. "In the same yere they loded in Southsex, fast by a town cleped Rotyngdene; and ageyn hem went the Prior of Lewes; and there was he

take, and with him to knytes, Sir Jon. Fallisle and Sir Thomas Cheyne, and a swyere Jon. Brocas;" the last named squire is not named in Grafton and other chronicles. In 9th Hen. VI. 1430-1 (*Rot. Cl.* pt.1) Arnald Brocas bought the manor of Bradebrugge, in Sussex, of John Covert.

<sup>2</sup> Mayfield was then a thriving town.

<sup>3</sup> It was customary for the mother to have a new gown to be churched in.

<sup>4</sup> This is another instance of a purification feast. (*Inq.* 8 Hen. IV. No. 88.)

<sup>5</sup> This feast is 13th Dec. For pedigree of Tauk, see *Harl. MSS.* 1562, f. 42.

St. Michael, in that year, married Joan, daughter of William Morys, in Chudham church.

*John Budde*—because he was present at the baptism, and held a lighted torch.

*John Coupere*—because his first-born son, Henry, was baptised at Chudham on that day.

*John Stryveling*—because his servant, John Mannyng, was taken by the French enemies at Chudham on that day, and carried to Harflu.<sup>1</sup>

*Thomas Hygon*—because he and Joan, his wife, were at Chudham when the mother of the said Robert was purified after his birth, namely, on the Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude (28th October).

*Richard Hynon*—because his house at Chudham was burnt on that day.

*John Coumbes*—because directly after the baptism he was playing at foot-ball<sup>2</sup> with some companions, and broke his left leg.

*William Spertere*—because Joan, his mother, died on that day, and divers lands and tenements in Chudham descended to him.

*John Steer*—because at Bosham, near Chudham, one John Hunt hanged himself, and he went to Bosham to see him hanging; and on his return met a woman carrying the said Robert to Chudham church to be baptised.

*Robert Seman*—because his son William, who had been ordained some time before, on that day celebrated his first mass in Chudham church.

*Richard Marchall*—because on that day he was driving a cart, loaded with hay, from the meadow of Northborne to the Grange of the manor, and was standing on the hay, and he fell to the ground, and broke his left arm.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In 1403, the Frenchmen went to the Isle of Wight, and demanded tribute for the sustenance of Queen Isabella. The Isle of Wight men answered that King Richard was dead and Queen Isabel peaceably sent home, wherefore they would not pay. If they came for to fight, they should be welcome, and they should give them leave to enter the land, and rest there three days before the battle. The Frenchmen heard this answer, and sailed from that country.

The Bretons, under the Lord of Castel, burnt Plymouth, in 1403, and on 15th April, attacked Dartmouth, but were repulsed, and the leader, the Lord of Castel, slain. (*Capgrave*, pp. 284-5.) The notice in the text is of another visit to the Sussex coast in the following year.

<sup>2</sup> This is an early notice of a game still very popular at our public schools.

<sup>3</sup> *Inq.* 4 Hen. VI. No. 42.

MICHELGROVE.—Proof of the age of ELIZABETH, daughter and heir of John MICHELGROVE,<sup>1</sup> taken at Steyning, 29th March, 15 Edw. IV. (1475).

*John Wolff* deposes that the said Elizabeth is upwards of fourteen years old, for she was born at Ernle, on March 28th, 39 Hen. VI. (1461);<sup>2</sup> and that Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Taweke, Esq., one of her godmothers, told him she had been at her baptism at Ernle on that day.

*John Remys* deposes that she is fourteen years old, because on the day abovesaid he met John Ernle, her godfather, going to Ernle church to her baptism.

*John Hunt* recollects the day, because he rode with Joan Ernle, the other godmother, to Ernle church on that day to the baptism.

*John Broker*—because the godfather and godmothers, and many other persons, came into his house on that day, directly after the baptism of the said Elizabeth, to eat and to drink, and they told him of it.

*Richard Millward*—because on that day John Ernle, the godfather, met him and told him of the baptism.

*John Ederuhe*—because the horses of John Ernle, the godfather, stood at his house on that day, and after the baptism he told him he was the godfather.

*William Atte Lee*—because he was in Ernle church on that day to hear mass.

*Richard French*—because in going to the church to see the baptism, he fell with his right leg against a ladder, in the parish of Ernle, and broke his leg, which he shall never forget.

*William Clement*—because the day was very windy, and part of his house was unroofed by the wind.

*Nicholas Shepherd, John Mansell, and John Grey*—because on that day they met a woman named Isabella Tryse, who was the midwife at the birth of the said Elizabeth, and she told them of her birth and baptism.

*Robert Comber and John Duke*—because they met Thomas Elyot, the chaplain of Ernle, who told them he had baptised the said Elizabeth, in Ernle church on that day.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The writ was sued out by Sir John Shelley, whom she had already, though so young, married. She *ob.* 30th June, 1518, and was buried at Clapham.

<sup>2</sup> The writ was dated 8th Nov. 1474,

and the inquisition was held the day after she was fourteen; her husband lost no time therefore in acquiring her or her estate.

<sup>3</sup> *Inq.* 15 Edw. IV. No. 66.