

NOTES ON RYE AND ITS INHABITANTS.

EDITED BY

G. SLADE BUTLER, F.S.A.

THE valuable and full History of this Town, published by my friend, Mr. Holloway, in 1847, has still left several matters to be fully noted; and I avail myself of the free access to the wills and public records, to afford our members some hitherto unnoticed details.

That wine was one of the principal imports in the 13th century, we learn from Madox (vol i., p. 568): the men of this town and Winchelsea being fined 10 casks for a contempt and trespass in 1246.

King's Galleys were formerly built and repaired at this Port. In 1252, the Sheriff, William de Micheldovere, spent £20 in repairing these galleys here; and in the next year, the further sum of £39 17s. 1d. in their repair and in keeping them, and for the wages of 84 sailors, during 40 days, in taking them with the King to Gascony;¹ but he waited for 13 years for the repayment.

A *Fair* was granted, in 1290, for three days: on the eve, day, and morrow of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin.² It is now held on 25th August; and the market (now held on Wednesday) was at first held on Friday; and was changed in 1405 to Saturday.³

Additional *Town Walls* were, we know from Camden, built in the reign of Edward III.; and they were commenced year in his time: for we have, in 1336, a murage grant for three years⁴ to the Mayor, Barons, and Commonalty; and another

¹ Lib. roll, 45 Hen. III.

² Pat., 18 Edw. I.

³ Chart., 6-7 Hen. IV.

⁴ Pat., 10 Edw. III.

for five years,⁵ in 1343, which was extended for another five years⁶ in 1348.

Nevertheless, in 1337, fifty-two tenements and one mill were burnt by the French. In 1369 the Mayor, &c., had a licence to enclose their town, "which had been burnt by foreign enemies," with a stone wall, and to fortify and crenelate it;⁷ and in 1372, they were to have for three years the profit of the Bailiwick of the Town and £8 yearly out of the issues of the King's manor of Iden, to aid them in making walls, ditches, gates, and pales, in and round the Town.⁸

In the first year of the new King's reign (1377), the customs were granted to the men of Rye⁹ for five years, in aid of walling and fortifying the Town, and building two vessels, called "Balyngers," of 32 oars each, for its defence. All was, however, useless: for, on 29th June in that year, the Town was "totally burnt by the King's enemies."¹⁰ But the Barons began at once to enclose and re-fortify it with a stone wall, towards which the King allowed them £18 a-year, for two years, out of his farm of the town.¹¹ In 1380 it was again burnt; and four years after (1384) "it being understood that the French were trying to take it, and themselves to keep it and fortify it,"¹² Simon de Bailey, Constable of Dover, John de Cobham, John Devereux, and Edward Dalyngrigge were appointed to see how it could be best and quickest fortified; and it was directed that as many trees as were necessary for its enclosure and fortification should be cut in the woods of Brede and other woods of the Abbot of Fécamp, in this county; and 200 oaks were to be cut in the park of Crowhurst, and taken to this Town, for the same purpose.¹³

The Town escaped on this occasion; but, in 1448, it was a fourth time entered and burnt.

Barons.—In the Nonæ Roll (1342) we have the names of the thirty Freemen, or widows of Freemen, of the Town

⁵ Pat., 17 Edw. III.

⁶ Ib., 22 Edw. III. See Cooper's Winchelsea, for particulars of these attacks.

⁷ Ib., 43 Edw. III.

⁸ Ib., 46 Edw. III.

⁹ Ib., 1 Rich. II.

¹⁰ Ib., 3 Rich. II. Jeake does not give the exact date.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ib., 8 Rich. II.

¹³ Ibid.

at that time, who were on that account free from charge to the subsidies levied on the owners of property in the county.¹⁴ The charter being, that whenever any tenth, fifteenth, or other sum or tax should be granted by Parliament, the barons, their heirs and successors, and the ports and members, and the lands, tenements, and goods and chattels of the barons, their heirs, and successors, and of other residents in the ports, or any of them, whether they were within the liberties of the ports and members, or without, in the counties of Kent and Sussex, should not be taxed.

LA RYE.

Thomas Northward,	John Birche,
John Salerne,	Richard Joce,
Richard Thomas,	Henry Smyth,
John Ambreys,	Elias Loney,
Robert Rolf,	Richard Whyte,
Vincent Hulle,	Martha Kyttey,
William Eliet,	Mathew Parys,
Robert Arnold,	John atte Wode,
Laurence Courboille,	Robert Buchier,
William Thomas,	William Hokere,
Paul Marchaunt,	Nicholas Penlyn,
John Paulyn,	Robert Marchaunt,
John Yevegod,	Stephen Russell,
Ralph Rolf,	John Dyges,
Alice Hogge,	John Buchier.

I now proceed to notice some Wills, which have never been printed:—

The first is of ROBERT CROUCHE, of Rye, who left a house for the chantry priest, and a silver standing cup with cover, for the use of the church here, and sums to the churches of Udimore, Peasmarsh, and Pett. Like other dispositions of this period, the testament and will are separate, the testament relating only to the Testator's personal estate, and being in Latin; while the will, comprising the real estate, is in English. Of the personal history of this Robert Crouche, I can learn but little. At the coronation of Richard III., in July 1483, he was one of the Barons for Rye, together with Adam Oxenbridge, the then Mayor of Rye, and Thomas Bayen.¹⁵ This Adam Oxenbridge was brother to

¹⁴ See list of others, ante, p. 66.

¹⁵ Suss. Arch. Coll., vol. xv., p. 182.

Thomas Oxenbridge, Sergeant-at-Law, the eldest brother of Sir Goddard Oxenbridge, of Brede or Forde Place, Kt.¹⁶

Crouche was Mayor of Rye in the years 1491 and 1495.

In Deo nomine, amen. Ego. Robertus Crouche,¹⁷ de Ria, Cicestriensis Diocesi, octavo die Augusti, anno domini millesimo CCCCLXXXVII., compos mentis, condo testamentum meum in hunc modum. In primis, lego animam meam Deo patri et filio et spiritui sancto. Corpus meum sepeliendum ecclesiastica sepultura in porticu australi, ecclesie parochialis de Ria predicta. Item, lego summo altari ibidem pro decimis meis oblitis sex solidos et octo denarios. Item, lego feretro Sancti Ricardi Cicestriensis, quatuor denarios. Item, lego [cuilibet] quatuor feliolorum meorum, videlicet, Roberto Waite, Roberto Symonde, Roberto Yeston, et Babeloni Gethert ad corpus meum sepulture mee cuilibet ipsorum, sex solidos et octo denarios. Item, lego felirole mee Anne Oxynbregge,¹⁸ viginti solidos. Item, Margarete Hayward, xxs. Item, Sibelle Hunt, viginti solidos. Item, fabrice ecclesie parochialis de Ria, vj^{li} xiiij^s iiij^d. Item, lego Ricardo Mersall, xiiij^s iiij^d. Item, lego unam crateram stantem cum cooperterio de argento ecclesie de Ria, pro calice p. . . Item, lego ecclesie de Udemer xx^s. Item, omnia utensilia sive staurum domus mee Margarete, uxori mee. Item, lego . . . Lucas xiiij^s iiij^d. Item, lego uxori mee duas vaccas. Item, lego unam crateram meam argenteam, Laurencio

In the name of God, Amen. I Robert Crouche, of Rye, in the Diocese of Chichester, this eighth day of August, in the year of the Lord 1497, being of sound mind, make my testament in this manner:—First, I leave my soul to God the Father and Son and Holy Ghost, and my body to be buried in the Church Burying place, in the south porch¹⁹ of the Parish Church of Rye aforesaid. Also, I bequeath to the high altar there of the same, for tithes by me forgotten, six shillings and eightpence. Also, I bequeath to the shrine of Saint Richard of Chichester,²⁰ fourpence. Also, I bequeath to each of my four godchildren, namely, Robert Waite,²¹ Robert Symonde, Robert Yeston, and Babelon Gethert, for burying my body, . . . to each of them, six shillings and eightpence. Also, I bequeath to my goddaughter, Anne Oxynbrigge, 20s. Also, to Margaret Hayward, 20s. Also, to Sibella Hunt, 20s. Also, to the fabric of the Parish Church of Rye, £6 13s. 6d. Also, I bequeath to Richard Mersall, 13s. 4d. Also, I bequeath one silver standing-cup and cover to the Church of Rye, for a chalice. Also, I bequeath to the Church of Udemer, 20s. Also, all my utensils or stores in my house to Margaret, my wife. Also, I bequeath to . . . Lucas, 13s. 4d. Also, I bequeath to my wife, two cows

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. viii., p. 231, see pedigree.

¹⁷ Record office, Ministers' Accounts. Sussex, wills, &c. T. G., 16,064.

¹⁸ Suss. Arch. Coll., vol. viii., p. 217.

¹⁹ In the early ages of the Christian Church it was customary to bury persons of rank or of eminent sanctity in the church porch; none being allowed to be buried within the church itself. When the rigour of this rule first began to be relaxed, it was ordered by the canons of King Edgar, that none but good men and religious should be buried in churches, as only worthy of such sepulture.—*Starkey's History of Churches*, p. 263, Audry, who died of the pestilence in 669,

and Chad, who died in 672, with others of reputed sanctity, being anxious to keep near the church, were some of the earliest burials within the church porch. The churchwardens' accounts of Banwell, Somersetshire, contain the following entries: "1521, Recd. Robert Cabzll, for lyying of his wyffe in the porch, 3^s 4^d;" Recd. of Robart Blundon, for lyying of his wyffe in the church, 6^s 8^d."

²⁰ See will of Richard de la Wych, Bishop of Chichester, commonly called Saint Richard, printed at length in Suss. Arch. Coll., vol. i., p. 164.

²¹ See will of this Robert Wayte, post. p. 130.

fstephyn. Item, lego ecclesie de Pesmershe, xiijs^s iiiij^d. Item, lego fratribus de Ria, vjs^s viij^d. Item, lego fabrice ecclesie de Pett, vjs^s viij^d. Item, lego Johanni Cokfelde, clerico parrochie de Ria, xij^d. Item, lego Willielmo Bery, sacristano ibidem, viij^d. Residuum vero bonorum meorum do et lego, Margarete uxori mee, Laurencio Stephyn, et Johanni Gaymer, quos facio executores meos, cum supervisione magistri Willi: Boydecut vicarij de Ria predicta ad fideliter disponendum ligata mea predicta pro salute anime mee et omnium fidelium defunctorum prout melius videbit expedire; et volo quod supervisor meus habeat pro labore suo, xx^s, et dictus Laurencius pro labore suo, xx^s, et dictus Johannes Gaymer pro labore suo, (xx^s?)

Also, I bequeath my one silver cup to Lawrence Stephyn. Also, I bequeath to the Church of Pesmarshe, 13s. 4d. Also, I bequeath to the Brethren of Rye, 6s. 8d. Also, I bequeath to the fabric of the Church of Pett, 6s. 8d. Also, I bequeath to John Cokfelde, Parish Clerk of Rye, 12d. Also, I bequeath to William Bery, Sacristan there, 8d. Moreover, the residue of my goods I give and bequeath to Margaret my wife, Lawrence Stephyn, and, John Gaymer, whom I make my executors with the supervision of Master William Boydecut, Vicar of Rye aforesaid, faithfully to dispose of my bequests for the salvation of my own soul and of all the faithful dead, as to them may seem best. And I will that the supervisor of my will shall have for his trouble, 20s. ; and the said Laurence for his trouble, 20s. ; and the said John Gaymer ²² for his trouble, 20s.

The will follows next:—

This is the last wille of me, Robert Crouche of Rye, made the viijth daye of the monthe of August, the yere of our Lord a MCCCCLXXXVII., to my feoffes for my landys and tenementis in ther handys, beyng:—First, I wille that my wife, Margaret, have my principall house that I dwell in terme of her life, fyndyng the pascall yerely of the Parishe Church of Rye, and also vjs^s viij^d yerely in part of payment to a preste's wages ; and after her disseace [I will] that Laurans Stephyn have my seid principall house to hym and his heirs, fyndyng the said pascall, and payinge vis^s viij^d yerely to the seide prest ; and if so be the seid Laurans dye withoute issue of his bodie lawfully begotyn, that than the saide house to be solde and don for them it cumyth of by the advise and discrecion of myn executors and feoffes, fyndyng the seide pascall, and paying yerely the preste's wages, vjs^s viij^d, as is aforesaid. Also, I wille that my medowes and pastures, that I bought of John Mercer, of Haukeherst, and all my rowe of stables nighe the Stronde, with all ther appurtenaunce, also

a pece of medowe londe, liyng in a lane ledyng from Rie forsaide to Lewsham, forthwith, vjs^s viij^d, to be paied oute of my principall house forsaide, be ordeynyd and disposed for the behest of a prest yerely syngyng for my soule my fader's soule, and moder's, and for all cristen in the chirche of Rie, which prest shalbe chosyn by the vicar and maire of Rie for the tyme beyng, and the more of his bretherne, whan that it fortunyth any tyme to be vacaunte. Also, I wille that Margaret, my seid wife, have my iij howses, that is to say, the house that John Boteler nowe dwelleth, also the house that Bricketts nowe is in, and the house that Sturmeis Love late hadde, terme of here life, and after her disseace the seid howsyng to be solde and doe for them it cumyth of, by the advise of my seide feoffes and executors. Also, I wille that Laurans Stephyn have x acres of mershe land, called Rippes Peace ; also, the seid Laurans to have the . . . londe the lesse and the more ; also, the seid Laurans to have the mershe that I had of Potter, with the Wodelond beneth and the feld

²² Henry Gaymer, a descendant of the above, was mayor in 1571-88-89.

above. Also, I wille the said Laurans have my shoppes, so that the seid Laurans bilde a newe house sufficient for the seid prest to dwelle in. Also, I wille that the seid Laurans have all my landes that I had of John Kette and of Rogger Holman, liynge at the Brokkys grene,

and also to have Hulles, with th' appurtenaunce. Also, I wille that Margaret, my seide wife, after my disseace, have my Wisshe with the croft thereto perteynyng, term of her life, and after her disseace to remayne to Laurans Stephyn for evermore.

In the Chantry return, temp. Edward VI., John Fuller was the stipendiary priest, and 60 years of age. The emoluments were £6 13s. 4d.; but the premises were all "in olde ruinate houses, and the repaireing of them yerlie wilbe verie chargeable."

I gladly avail myself of the facilities now afforded to literary enquirers, by the Judge of the Chief Court of Probate, to give some interesting notices of the wills of four more townsmen of Rye, in the first years of the reign of Henry VIII., when the Augustine Friars at Rye and the Friars at Winchelsea were still flourishing. They are of earlier date than the two wills mentioned in Mr. Holloway's History of the Town. (p. 481 *et seq.*)

In Dei nomine, amen. Anno domini millesimo quingentesimo decimo, xxvij. die mensis Septembris. Ego, Robertus Bawdewen de Rya,²³ condo testamentum in hunc modum. In primis, lego animam meam Deo omnipotente, Beate Marie Virgini et omnibus Sanctis; corpusque meum sepeliendum in cimiterio ecclesie parochialis de Rya antedicta. Item, lego sumo altari ibidem, iij^s iiij^d. Item, lego reparacionibus ecclesie de Rya predicta, vj^s viij^d. Item, lego fratribus Sancti Augustini apud Riam, iij^s

In the name of God, amen. In the year of our Lord 1510, the 27th day of September, I, Robert Bawdewen of Rye, make my testament, in this manner:—First, I leave my soul to Almighty God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to all Saints; my body to be buried in the Churchyard of the Parish Church of Rye aforesaid. I bequeath to the high altar there, 3^s 4^d. Also, I bequeath, for the repairs of the Church of Rye aforesaid, 6^s 8^d. Also, I bequeath to the Brethren of Saint Augustin at Rye, 3^s 4^d.²⁴ But

²³ He was mayor in 1509.

²⁴ The Chapel of the Friars of St. Augustine is still standing, half way down Conduit Hill, Rye; and in its day must have been a very fine building, being 68 feet long and 26 feet wide. Jeake, in his Charters of the Cinque Ports, p. 106, has the following extract from the record of the town, in 1524:—"A Monastery of the Friars Heremites of St. Augustine's, the Chapel whereof is yet standing, erected anno 16 Hen. VIII., and dissolved by him shortly after with the first dissolution, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, because the revenues were not two hundred pounds per annum, as it had but a short standing; for that it was not elder than the sixteenth year of that King." I gather

from a passage I found in the records of this town, in that year, which was thus: "Eodem anno scilicet quarto die Septembris, erect fuit tegument: fabrica fratrum heremitarum Sancti Augustini infra villam predictam, ex impensis cujusdam Willielmi Marshe, agricolae." Tanner, in his Noticia Monastica, makes no mention of this religious edifice, but in the close roll of Edward II. is the following:—"28 Benedictus Cely et Alii dederunt Priori principali et fratribus heremitar: de ordine Sancti Augustini de la Rye, quendam placeam continentem duas acras terre cum pertinenciis in villa predicta sibi et successoribus suis pro inhabitacione sua in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam, Sussex.

iii^d. Residuum vero omnium bonorum meorum non legatorum do et lego Johanne, uxori mee, quam facio, ordino, et constituo hujus ultime voluntatis mee et testamenti mei, meam executricem, ut ipsa Johanna, uxor mea, disponat pro salute anime mee prout sibi melius videbit expedire. Ac insuper Johannem filium meum ordino facio et nomino hujus mei testamenti co-executorem; presentibus tunc ibidem Johanne Breere gardiano loci fratrum minorum Wynchelsey et Domino Willielmo Carnell²⁵ cum alijs, die et anno supradictis.

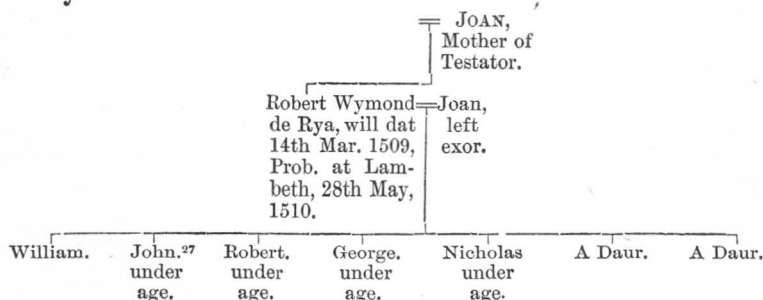
the residue of all my goods not given, I give and bequeath to Joan, my wife, whom I make, ordain, and constitute of this my last will and testament my executrix; that she, my wife, Joan, may dispose of it for the salvation of my soul as to her shall seem best and most expedient. And, moreover, I ordain, make, and appoint my son John co-executor of this my testament. These being then present there, John Breere, warden of the house of the Friars minor of Winchelsea,²⁶ and Sir William Carnell, with others, the day and yeara foresaid.

The will is as follows:—

This is the last will of me, the saide ROBERT BAWDEYVEN, made the day and yere ut supra. First, I will that my wif have my house that I dwell yn, and the house that Bymbell dwelleth yn, to sell and to doo with hit as hit shall please hir; and I will that my feoffes shall deliver a

estate (*sic*) to Thomas Barden and to William Masee, to the behoff of my wif, Johane, and to see my will perfourmed with the wittnes ut supra in testamento. Proved on the 7th day of March, 1510, by Joan, the relict, and John Bawdewen.

The will of ROBERT WYMOND, who was three times Mayor, in the years 1503-4-7, gives the following notice of his family:—



He desires to be buried in the Parish Church of St. Mary of Rye, near the Burial-place of Joan, his mother. He mentions his lands and tenements in Rye, also a tenement in the Myddestreete, which his son William is to have habitation in, paying to "my wife 13^s 4^d annually." He bequeaths to the high altar of Rye Church, 3^s 4^d; to the shrine of St. Richard of Chichester, ij^d; for expenses on the day of his burial, 20^s; for his trental,²⁸ 20^s; and for his anniversary, 20^s.

²⁵ He was a priest, and also executor of the will of John Bewley, 1517.

²⁶ The Franciscans of Winchelsea are mentioned in Dugdale and Leland. See also Cooper's Winchelsea.

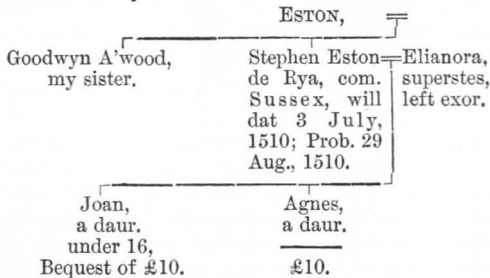
²⁷ Mayor in 1525 and 28.

²⁸ From the French, trentle; an office for the dead in the Church of Rome.

There is a bequest to Margery, daur. of John Goodgrome, of Bekle, xx^d; and he appoints Geo. Mercer²⁹ co-executor: with his wife.

He leaves to Tho. Baker a cow; to his relict, Joan, a cow and two calves and his best cloak (togam); to John,³⁰ "my son, my tunicam of damaske, called a *jacket*;" to John Giles, "my gold ring, called a signet;" and the residue is left to his relict.

The ESTONS were landowners at Ninfield, in the time of Edward II., if not earlier; STEPHEN ESTON does not, in his will, forget the connection, and gives us these particulars of his own family:—

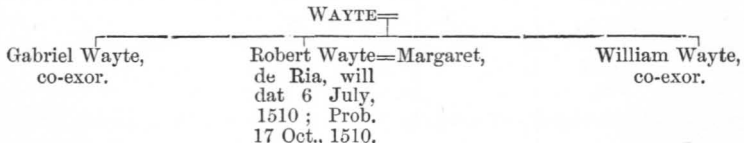


He directs his body to be buried in the Cemetery of the Parish Church by his father there.

He bequeaths to the high altars of Newgolford, (Ninfield), 3^s 4^d; of Bexill, 3^s 4^d; and of Hoo, 3^s 4^d; and to the shrine of St. Richard, viij^d; and also directs a priest to celebrate Divine service in the Church of Rye for the repose of his soul and that of his relatives (parentum); to Helen A'Wood he leaves 20^s; to the reparation of the Church of Rye, 6^s 8^d; and to Noviciis juxta Newynden, 40^s.

His relict and Tho. Byrchett³¹ are left co-executors; and the witnesses are Tho. Gray, curate there, John Barber, et Robert Eston, cum alijs.

The next is the will of ROBERT WAYTE;³² and the relations named are:—



He desires his body to be buried in the Church of St. Mary of Rye; and leaves to the high altar, 3^s 4^d; and to the reparation of the Church windows, v. He mentions his mother, Margaret Gaymer, deceased; and provides an obit in the Par. Ch. of Rye for her. He also mentions Richard Edward of Rye. He also refers to property in Rye, and Hethe, co. Kent, and lands called Wekes, in par. of Pleyden and St. Mary's marsh.

²⁹ Mayor in 1514.

³⁰ Mayor in 1525 and 1528.

³¹ Mayor in the years 1538—1544—1551.

³² Stephen Wayte was mayor in 1483.

He makes a bequest of all the goods in "opella mea" and $\frac{1}{2}$ the moveables in the "house in which I dwell, voc. implementa;" and particularly mentions 1 silver salt-cellar, 1 cup, 2 murros (cups of mulberry wood), 6 silver spoons, and 1 silver goblet, 2 zonas (belts), gilt: one of a green colour, the other red; and bequeaths to Alice Wayte 6 silver spoons and 1 brazen pot.

The suppression of Religious Houses caused some of the ejected to be dissatisfied, and to raise disturbances. Rye, being a main highway to the Continent, was one of the places affected; and we have a notice of the fact in the following letter of the Mayor and Jurats to Thomas Cromwell, the Secretary of State, about the year 1538:—³³

Our duety unto yor Mastership, remembred: Pleaseth yow, to be advertysed that we the xvij day of thys present moneth of Octobre, receyved yor Mastership letters, dated at Stepneth, the vij day of the seyd moneth, by the handes of Thomas Bartlemew, wherein yor Mastership hath wrytten that we shuld put in safe keypyng one freer and one prest: for that they shuld have spoken as well certeyn cedycyus and heynous wordes ayenst the Kynges Highnes as ayenst the Quene's Grace; wherein yf yt leke yow to be advertysed, that about the ijd day of the seyd moneth of October, we wer ascerteyned partly of the seyd prest mysbehaviour and evell demenour; wherappon we called the seyd prest before us and his accusers, whome we examyned and sent ther examynacions to or Lord Wardeyn, with the said prest and his accusers, which yf he though[t] expedyent further myght have examyned them. After that or seyd Lord Warden had examyned hym, he comaunded us in the Kynges behalf to put the seyd prest in sure and safe keypyng till his Lordship had advertised the Kynges Highnesse in that behalf, or his Most Honorable Councell, whose comaudment we accomplyshed, wher as yet the seyd prest remayneth the knowlege of the Kynges most graciuss pleasure. And as concernyng the freer: ymmediatly upon the syght of yor letters, we attach his body, and upon notyce therof yeven to or Lord Wardeyn, our seyd Lord Wardeyn comaunded his body before hym, wher he remayneth till such tyme as dyvers persones whom Thomas Bartlemew hath named to be wytnesse ayenst hym be retorned from Yarnemoth, wher they be as yett on fysshing and other ther affayres: at whose retorne we be comaunded to bring them unto his Lordship to be examyned, whome we dubt not will ascerteyn you the truth in everi thing in that behalf. Gladly we wuld, according unto our duty, have answered your seyd letters before this tyme, but the berer of them hath so slakly used hymself in the delyveri of them that we culd not before this tyme answer the contentes thereof, wherin we dubt not yor Mastership in that behalf have us excused wherin we shalbe moch bounden unto yow as knoweth God, who ever preserve yow.

Wrytten at Rye the xxiiij day of Octobre, by your own the
MAYRE AND JURATS THER.
(Addressed) To the Right Wurshipfull Master Cromwell,
at London.

The documents in the Record Office, which were till recently in the State Paper Office, furnish us with particulars

³³ Chapter House Hist. Documents, 1277.

of the Seamen in the Town in the reign of James I., and lists of the Trained Band and Victuallers in the early part of the reign of Charles I.

A note of the BONDS taken at Rye³⁴ of the Mariners, 1616:—

Henry Dann, Mr. of the	Tho. Prettye	Gedeon Dowse
Ellen of Rye	Pharo Seely	John Scott
Phillipp Mayler	William Mackman	Robt. Mackman
. . Cockman	Robt. Duffoot	Robt. Godley
Richard Smyth	John Page	. . Fisher
John Skereton	John Barnes	Thomas Alexander
Badon Parkes	John Harris	
Edmond Harris	Stephen Harris	

There is a return of the TRAINED BANDS of Rye, 1625, with the Arms in the Six Wards³⁵ into which the Town was divided:—it shows the poverty of some of the inhabitants.

LANDGATE WARDE.

Jervine Coxe	Thomas Hackwood
William Smeede	Nicolas Mutiner
Thomas Harman, bill and scull, non-resident	William Kent
Richard Binge	John Knight
Thomas Bede, a dry pike, f.	Thomas Plowman
John Simson	Thomas Standen, a pike, f.
Robert Balker, b. and scull, ³⁶ extreme poore	Mathew Douglas, a dry pike, f., taken security
Henry Smith	Thomas Baters, b. and scull, within ten days
Godfrey Smith	Thomas Philpe, b. and scull, very poore
Edward Hopkins	Henry Coker

STRANGATE WARDE.

Nicholas Pedman, b. and scull	Stephen Underdowne
James Bell, b. and scull	John Owen, a d pike, f., within ten days
Thomas Castle, b. and scull, lamentable poore	John Nooneton, b. and scull, very poore
John Joyner, b. and scull, very poore	James Chalke
Edward Philpotts, b. and scull, extreme poore	Michaell Pebody, a d pike, f.
Phillip Craste, a dry pike, f.	William Fletcher

³⁴ Domestic, James I., 1616, vol. lxxxviii., p. 109.

³⁵ Ibid., Charles, 1625, 14, No. 47.

³⁶ The letter "B" means a bill, scull

was a headpiece or helmet, "D" a dry pike, and "F" means furnished or complete.

THE MIDDLE STREETE WARDE.

John Whitte, b. and scull	Edward Layneham, b. and scull
William Turnor, a dry pike, f., within four days	John Layneham, b. and scull, within eight days
James Huysche, b. and scull	Gedeon Dowse
William Field, b. and scull, hath not to buy bread	

THE MARKETTE WARDE.

Francis Daniell, a dry pike, f.	John Harry
Robert Wotton, b. and scull	Thomas Rymes, a dry pike, f.

BADDINGS WARDE.

John Culler, b. and scull, f.	Stephen Phillippes, b. and scull, within ten days
John Dorser, b. and scull, within ten days	Edward Peterson, b. and scull, lament- able poore
Robert Batten	Henry Smith
Richard Bois	Thomas Moone, b. and scull

WATCHBELL WARDE.

John Hownesell ³⁷	Joseph Bennette
Anthony Hills, b. and scull	Robert Chaud
Richard Yonge, a halbert, f.	Richard Brownings
Thomas Anderson	Hugh Buckland, b. and scull, in eight dayes
Nicholas Albone	John Starkenbury, b. and scull
Thomas Winter	John Howse
Thomas Fawtley	John Beecher
William Skippin	

Rye has long been famous for the number of its Public-houses. A note of the BONDS³⁸ taken at Rye of the Victuallers, 1626:—

John Cressy, mariner	Richard Rowcriff, yeoman, elder
Stephen Ovingham, mariner	Bridget Griffen, widow
Joane Scott, widow	Rowland Christmas, inholder
. . . Wyahre, widow	Clara Lever, widow
Richard Maxfield, taylor	Thomas Reemes, mason
Samson Drew, beer brewer	John Pendlebury, innholder
Thomas Coley, taylor	Henry Godsmark, flesher
John Kempe, ropemaker	Elizabeth Armstrong, widow
Clement Church, Camber	Elizabeth Miles, widow
Elizabeth Harrison, widow	Thomas Bromley, shomaker
John Isaacs, taylor	Robert Page
Richard Chaunter, weaver	

There were only two Inholders; the other houses were

³⁷ See Inscriptions in Rye Church—Hounsell family—Suss. Arch. Coll., vol. xiii., p. 281.

³⁸ Domestic, Charles, 1626, 44, No. 50.

kept by persons in business, one of whom was a *weaver*. In many parishes, in the Eastern part of the County, there was one person carrying on this trade.³⁹

Harbour.—Between 1558 and 1576, there were several proposals laid before the Council for the repair of this then “decayed Harbour.” One plan, in 1570, was proposed by Adryan Skedam at an expense of £3,000; and another, in 1574, by De Trente, an Italian.

At this time the Town suffered from the encroachments of the sea; and the Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty, having, in 1626, made an application to the Duke of Buckingham for a patent for a general collection, for the repair of the Port and Harbour, obtained it in 1627. In its collection, however, in Lincolnshire, Mr. Luxford, a merchant, who had been deputed by the Justices of the Peace for Sussex to make it there, was very roughly handled by Mr. Hearne, a Lincolnshire Justice, who caused him to be whipped as a wandering rogue, though he showed both his letters patent and his deputation. Proceedings were instituted in the Star chamber by the Attorney-General against Hearne (in 1628-9) for this offence; and the defendant was committed, and fined £200 to the King, and directed to pay £50 damages to Mr. Luxford.⁴⁰

HOSPITAL OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW OF RYE.

Of this Hospital, of which little has been known, I am able to give some details. It was situate close to the town, though in the parish of Playden, and was under the care of the Abbot of Fécamp. At first it was for lepers, and then for the poor; both brothers and sisters being, according to the 59th article of the Customal, admissible with the assent of the mayor and commonalty. Its impoverished state, in 1379, was found on an inquisition,⁴¹ in the return to which the Jurors say that “Robert de Burton, pretending that he is Master of the Hospital (in the King’s patronage, the temporalities of the Abbey of Fécamp being in the King’s hands

³⁹ See ante, p. 63.

⁴⁰ Ex. inf., Mr. S. Evershed.

⁴¹ Inq., 3 Rich. II., No. 108.

by reason of the war), hath felled and sold 75 large oaks, worth £20, at Brookland, parcel of the Hospital; that when he received possession of the Hospital, he found wheat and other corn there in the granges and fields, to the value of £10, for the support of the poor of the Hospital, which he wasted, and sold for his own use, and gave nothing of it to the poor of the Hospital; but permitted, and still does permit, them to beg daily in the streets of Rye. And when he came to the Hospital, he found the land belonging to it—at Playden and Brookland—well sown, and the hedges well kept up; but now they lye waste and open, without any inclosure, to the loss of the Hospital of £20. He also took and carried away the muniments, and bulls, and indulgences of the Hospital, which were worth 40s. a-year in oblations for support of its poor. The brazen vessels of the poor were taken for distress, to the value of 26s. 8d., for rent in arrear, in the time of the said Robert: so that the poor have no vessels in which they can prepare their dinners; and thus the said Robert has made waste, sale, destruction, and dilapidation of the Hospital and its goods, to the final destruction of it, if a remedy be not very soon applied.”

Mr. Holloway in his “Antiquarian Rambles through Rye,” has marked the spot where the Hospital stood. It was on the north of the path now known as Deadman’s Lane, leading from Mountfield to Dodeswell, since called Queen Elizabeth’s well; and at the south-east corner of a meadow belonging to Stanes Brocket Brocket, Esq., on the west side of Rye Hill.

After the dissolution of the Hospital, the site was granted in 1542 to Andrew, Lord Windsor.

The nomination of the chaplain, who was called the WARDEN, was in the mayor and commonalty: his name in time of peace was to be sent to the Abbot of Fécamp, and in time of war to the Lord Chancellor, by one of whom he was to be presented to the Bishop of Chichester, to be by him instituted.

The following is a list of the WARDENS, so far as I have been able to ascertain them with the dates, from the Patent Rolls:—

DATE.	KING'S REIGN.	NAME.	
1343	17 Edw. III.	Hugh Pippard	{ It is called the Hospital of Lepers
1378	2 Rich. II.	Robert de Burton
1390	14 "	John Waldeby
1391	15 "	Robert Long	d. of John Waldeby
1392	16 "	Robert Repyngdon	d. of R. Long
"	"	Thomas de la Chambre	res. R. Repyngdon
1396	20 " pt. 1.	John Sharpe ⁴²
1397	21 "	Thomas Brigge
1399	23 "	John Hoton	{ On Nomination of the Mayor and Barons
1400	1 Hen. IV.	Re-appointed
		{ John Deye, Chaplain at the Altar of St. Mary, in the Chapel of St. Catherine, in St. Paul's Cathedral, London }	
1401	2 "		exch. with J. Hoton
"	"	John Bedford	{ On Nomination of Mayor and Barons
1405	6 "	John Preston	The same
1406	7 "	John Elmeton	res. of J. Preston
1413	1 Hen. V.	Nicholas Colnet	{ On Nomination of Mayor and Barons
1420	8 "	Thomas Chase	13th December
1442	20 Hen. VI.	John Faukes
.....	William Tracy
1478	18 Edw. IV.	{ John More, Clerk of the King's Closet }	d. W. Tracy

⁴² Two pieces of land in Playden, called Sharpe's, containing four acres more or less, holden of the Manor of

Playden, by the yearly rent of 11d. heriot, &c., relief now forms part of the Horton Green Farm.