

FURTHER MEMORIALS OF SEAFORD.

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SINCE the publication of the seventh volume of our Collections, the Public Records have been made more accessible to the researches of antiquaries; and as the last annual meeting of our Society was held in this member of the Cinque Ports, a favourable opportunity was afforded for adding to the notices already published in our seventh volume.

Of the *Roman period*, further traces have been discovered in the pond above what was the head of the æstuary, in the direction of Sutton, where Roman urns were formerly found: the pond is clearly the site of a Roman salt-pan; and Mr. W. H. Black, who has been making a survey of Roman England, has been able to trace the stadia along the coast, viâ Newhaven, to this town. We may also refer our readers to the urn¹ found in 1856 at the Cuckmere.

Etymology.—This has never been settled, and indeed hardly touched upon. The component syllables, *sea* and *ford*, are indeed capable of a very easy explanation; but what can they mean in combination? When the Ouse had its outlet here, it was a large navigable river, and therefore had no “ford” (*vadum*) or safe passage for horsemen and pedestrians. We must therefore look farther for the real meaning of the word. Whether the first syllable, *Sea*, has any relation to the ocean, it would be difficult to determine, although an analogy will presently be brought forward which may be deemed affirmative of such a derivation. As to the second syllable, *ford*, there can be little doubt that it means

¹ Suss. Arch. Coll., vol. ix., p. 368.

a bay, gulf, or æstuary, just as *fiord* in Denmark, and *frith* and *forth* do in Scotland. This word may be allied to the Latin *fretum*. Now "Seaford Bay" is a phrase commonly applied to the little indent of the English Channel, scarcely visible on the map; but anciently the considerable æstuary above referred to was in reality a fair, though perhaps rather diminutive, representative of a Scandinavian *fiord*, or a Scottish *forth*. Wexford and Waterford, in Ireland, must have this origin as to the final syllable; but the most convincing evidence of the truth of our theory is the analogous name of Seaforth, a projection of the sea on the east coast of the island of Lewis in Scotland, to which, "parvis componere magna," the old *fiord* of Seaford must have borne considerable resemblance.

The records of the Corporation furnish us with the following variations in the orthography of this ancient place:

Saffordia.	Seaforde.	Seafforde.	Safford.
Sefford.	Sefordt.	Sefforde.	Seeforde.
Saford.	Seeford.	Seafford.	Seefourde.
Seforde.	Sea-Foord.	Seford.	Seaford. ²
Saforda.			

The true ancient pronunciation is "Sea-ford," with equal *ictus* on each syllable, but modern fashion is fast corrupting it to Séaförd.

Norman and Mediæval Periods.—The Quinzime of the Town was accounted for in 1204, temp. John,³ and that King's visit here, on his way from Canterbury to Winchester, in May, 1216, has been noticed; but whilst here on 23rd May, he signed a free pass for Simon, son of William de Avrenches, and Cecilie his wife, who had sold in that year the adjoining manor of Sutton to Robertsbridge Abbey, for the purpose of raising funds for payment of the ransom required from the father for having been in arms against the King.

During the reign of Henry III., we have many entries, showing that the Town was then of no small importance. The chief owners of property were the De Warrens; and we have an incidental reference to the pilgrimage of William, the sixth Earl, to the shrine of St. James of Compostella.

² Inf. H. Simmons, Esq.

³ Addl. MS., 6344, col. 685.

On 2nd October, 1220, the King directed the Sheriff that he had committed to the care of Robert de Coudray the land of 100 shillings value, with the appurtenances in Seaford, which Warren de Glapin formerly held, to hold himself at the King's service.⁴ On 10th November, 1222, the same land was committed to the charge of Robert de Barevill;⁵ and on 8th Feb., 1223, the Sheriff was commanded to allow Hugh de Acres to enter upon this land, late Robert Coudray's, until William Earl of Warren should return from his journey to St. James.⁶

On 3rd of the same month, the King had directed the Bailiffs that no sectary of wine should be sold for more than 6d., which would be 4d. a pint;⁷ and as the wages of skilled artizans were only 6d. a-day, claret was quite as dear then as it is in our day.

On 8th Feb., 1225, the Bailiffs were directed to allow William de Warren to send away a ship, captured by the men of Lewes, in which were the goods and merchandise of William "Pictavus," to be given up to the King of France. And on 22nd of the same month, to allow one "Sornecam" to go free, which the Prior of Lewes was sending to Cadomum⁸ (Caen) for stone to build his church—William Cuinterel receiving 12d. for his journey as messenger⁹ to this and the other Cinque Ports as far as Hythe. William de Vedom only had 9d. for going to Hastings, Pevensey, Seaford, and Shoreham; and 18d. was allowed to another for going to all the Ports; whilst on 26th August, in the following year, the Bailiffs were specially directed not to allow any one to depart the Port without the King's special authority.¹⁰

A *Hermitage* existed on the Cliff here; and on 10th March, 1372, Peter the Hermit here had his letters of protection for the unusually long period of five years¹¹—the usual licence being for one year only.

⁴ Rot. Lit. Cl., 4 Hen. III., m. 2. He also held land of the King's manor of Ferles.

⁵ *Ib.*, 7 Hen. III., m. 26.

⁶ *Ib.*, m. 18.

⁷ *Ib.*, m. 20, in dorso. The same direction was given to Chichester, Shoreham, Pevensey, Hastings, Winchelsea, and Rye, and 33 towns in other counties.

⁸ *Ib.*, 9 Hen. III., m. 13. This fixes the date of part of the Priory buildings at Lewes.

⁹ *Ib.*, m. 10, and 27.

¹⁰ *Ib.*, 10 Hen. III., m. 7, a like writ was sent to Shoreham and all the Cinque Ports, except Dover.

¹¹ Pat., 56 Hen., III., m 18

In the subsidy of 23 Edward I. (1296), we have the following names returned¹² for Seaford; and from it we learn who were the *Burgesses* and *Jurats* holding land:—

		s.	d.			s.	d.
Robert de Bernette	- - -	5	9½	Ralph, the Miller	- - -	4	½
William Burdone	- - -	17	½	Gervas, the Fisherman	- - -	3	1½
Robert Koleman	- - -	5	11¼	Alex. Pelipar (Tanner)	- - -	4	2¾
Elia Marescall	- - -	3		Ralph Prenie	- - -	9	2
Robert de Mydelton	- - -	10	1½	John Bosse, senr.	- - -	20	8¼
William Burel	- - -	2	4½	Adam le Noble	- - -	2	5
John Bosse, junr.	- - -	19		William Jacket	- - -	2	
William atte Gardine	- - -	4	¼	Emma, the relict of Seman	- - -	3	¾
Isabell, relict of Richd. Cissor	- - -	2	8¾	William Bykedenn	- - -	3	¾
Margaret de Ely	- - -	21	10	Philip of Chyntyng	- - -	3	8½
John, the Packer	- - -	5	2¼	Geoffry Cuck	- - -	8	5¼

JURATI.

		s.	d.			s.	d.
Thomas Richard	- - -	5	1¾	Henry le Strong	- - -	4	10½
Walter Craneke	- - -	3	4¾	Richard le Non	- - -	6	1¾
Henry Shobregg	- - -	2	5	William Hobey	- - -	5	10
John de Sapy	- - -	3	3¾	Dugon Gebyon	- - -	3	
Robert atte Stigh	- - -	2		Goero Pelipar	- - -	2	10¾
Richard de Burne	- - -	6	6¾	Lawrence Upedyke	- - -	3	1¾

It is worthy of remark that the burgess in this list who is styled Geoffry Cuck, was the very first Member of Parliament returned (in conjunction with Wm. Hobey) for Seaford, A.D. 1298. In the list of representatives he is "writ more large," as *Galfridus Cuckou*. "Emma, the relict of Seman," was doubtless an ancestress of the still-existing race of Simmons, whose name occurs in that form nearly four centuries ago. It is remarkable, that only one local name which can be identified with Seaford occurs in this list—that of Philip of Chyntyng, or Chyngton.

In 1300, a *fair*¹³ for the King was held here, and it is now held on James's day (25th July). Two years after the town was directed to furnish one ship.¹⁴

The reign of Edward II. does not afford us many new materials. We have, however, the Port specially named in 1310, when Simon atte Flete and Boniface de Slyndon were appointed Collectors in this Port as well as Chichester; and

¹² Subs: E. B., 1781. The portion of this roll, so far as it relates to Lewes Rape, has been printed in the 2nd vol. of our Collections.

¹³ Rot. Cl. 28 Edw. I.

¹⁴ Ib., 30 Edw. I.

in all the Ports between this Town and Portsmouth; and Robert Oliver, Richard Serle, and Manser of "Pettesworth," Treasurers¹⁵ of this Port, Shoreham, and Chichester.

In October, 1309, writs were directed to this among 15 towns to prevent any persons of rank or importance from going out of the kingdom during the war with the Scotch.¹⁶

In 1315, the Customs and Freedom of the Town were granted by De Warren to the Abbey of Grestein, which held Wilmington Priory. And in 1324, the Bailiffs were required to provide one ship for the expedition to Aquitaine.¹⁷

In the reign of Edward III, the Town was of more importance; and the Bailiffs were summoned on several occasions to send persons conversant with naval affairs to Westminster, to consult on the best means of protecting this kingdom against the attacks of the French.

Soon after the King's accession, (3rd April, 1327,) a writ was sent to the Bailiffs of this and 58 other Ports, to prevent any Friars from departing the kingdom without licence. And in the subsidy roll of the same year, we have a return of the owners of property separately from the Barons of other Cinque Ports.¹⁸

VILLAT DE SEFORD.

	s.	d.		s.	d.				
*John Portereve	-	-	2	6	Ralph Parstepe	-	-	2	3
John Bounder	-	-	18		*Elia le Mareshall	-	-	2	
*Rich. Urry	-	-	3		Gilbert le Lekner	-	-	5	
John Poke	-	-	18		*Philip, the Baker	-	-	3	6
John le Noble	-	-	2	6	Ralph atte Doune	-	-	2	
Walter Clare	-	-	3	6	Will. Bosse	-	-	6	5
*Henry Crolling	-	-	2	4	*Adam Hebbe	-	-	3	6
Jane la Stronge	-	-	6	9	*Will. Chepman	-	-	12	
John Ockne	-	-	6		*Nich. atte Wyk	-	-	3	9
Simon le Kyng	-	-	9		John Hykeling	-	-	4	6
Margery Colyn	-	-	2						
Collectors; *John atte Doune	-	18			Rich. le Noon	-	-	15	

William Bossee and John atte Doune, two of these contributors, were members of parliament for the town in 1325.

¹⁵ *Ib.*, 4 Edw. II.

¹⁶ Rymer Feed.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ Subs: 1 Edw. III. (1327), E.B. 513.

The names marked * appear again in the return of 1332; but there are in addition:—¹⁹

TOWN OF SEFFORD.

				s.	d.					s.	d.
John de Blachyngton	-	-	-	12		John Deke	-	-	-	2	
Ralph de Parstepe	-	-	-	18		John Woline	-	-	-	2	$\frac{1}{2}$
Adam Noble	-	-	-	23 $\frac{3}{4}$		Nich. Longe	-	-	-	12	
John Marchaunt	-	-	-	11 $\frac{3}{4}$		John Bounde	-	-	-	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Rich. de Lulleham	-	-	-	13 $\frac{3}{4}$		Jane Bosse	-	-	-	9	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Marioca Chaury	-	-	-	3	$\frac{1}{4}$	Jacob Erch	-	-	-	2	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
John, the Tanner	-	-	-	2	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	Rob. Cok	-	-	-	12	
John Bordun	-	-	-	2	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	Will. Cok	-	-	-	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Thom. Burdon	-	-	-	14 $\frac{1}{2}$		John le Kyng	-	-	-	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	
John Dekne	-	-	-	10	4	*John le Portrieve (collector)	-	-	-	16	
Will. Fywe, chepman	-	-	-	19	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Mancel	-	-	-	12	
John le Pek	-	-	-	20 $\frac{1}{4}$							

On 6th Nov., 1336, the demand on the Town was increased to two ships, which were to be sent to join the western fleet at Portsmouth;²⁰ and on 20th June, 1342, they were summoned to join the other ships at Portsmouth, to transport William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, and the troops to Brittany. In 1347, they were required to furnish five ships and eighty mariners.

Evidence of the use of the Port at this time is furnished in the orders of 15th Feb., 1347, to stop all ships in it; of 1st October, 1348, to unload all vessels laden with wood and other goods, and send the ships to join the fleet; of 1352, when they had seized a ship of Spain in the Port, which the Sheriff was directed to confiscate to the King's use;²¹ of 18th Feb., 1361, prohibiting the exportation of any wheat or oats; of 8th Feb., 1367, to prevent all persons (except merchants without arms or military stores) from departing the realm without license;²² and of the 23rd of the same month to prevent any person from exporting worsted goods, sea coal, millstones, or merchandise called *felware* (tanned hides).

That the Port was still here is further evidenced by the

¹⁹ Subs: H. C. H., 9.

²⁰ Rymer Fœd.

²¹ Rot. Orig., 26 Edw. III.

²² Rym. Fœd.

Commission of Sewers in 1357, which was from Fletching to Seaford-juxta-mare.

The occasions on which their advice was sought on naval affairs, and to devise the best means of preventing the descents of the French on the coast, were on 12th Feb., 1341, when they were among the 28 maritime towns so summoned; and again on 15th April, 1344; and on 15th Feb., 1347.²³

Of these *attacks by the French*, we have some further particulars. That they had taken place and seriously injured the Town before 1357, is manifest from the entry on the close-roll that it had been lately, for the most part, burnt down and devastated by the calamities of war; and in 1377, Michael de Newburgh, Prebendary of "Sutton-juxta-Seford," represented that when the French last landed in those parts, they burnt down his Prebendal House at Sutton, and destroyed his goods and corn to the value of £100.²⁴ Nor did the attacks then cease: for on 24th August, 1403, they got as far as Selmeston, and took John Profoot's servant a prisoner to Harfleur;²⁵ and their gallant repulse, in 1545, by Sir Nicholas Pelham has been often commented on.

It was for the greater safety of the Town that, in 1422, a patent was granted for surrounding it with walls and ditches;²⁶ but this was never carried out.

At what time the *Haven* became of less value is matter of doubt. The mouth was fortified in 1587, to resist the Spanish Armada; but even then it must have been little frequented, since on 30th March, 1592, it is called "the decayed haven" in the grant to Tipper and Dawe of the salts and Beau (not bean) land; yet in 1639 lands "near the haven" were surrendered.

We have seen that there was a Portreeve in 1332. Notwithstanding the decay of the haven, a Portreeve Court continued to be holden, and Portreeves were elected in respect of land held by that service.²⁷

²³ This time London sent four persons, and Hull, Lynn, Ipswich, Sandwich, Dover, Winchelsea, Chichester, and Southampton, two each.

²⁴ Rot. Cl., 1 Rich. II.

²⁵ Suss. Arch. Coll., vol. xv., p. 218.

²⁶ Pat., 1 Hen. VI., pt. 1. m. 30 dorso.

²⁷ Ex inf., Henry Simmons, Esq., from Town Records.

1633, } Nov. 4. }	{ Ralph Williams. He did not appear at the next court, and was fined 6s. 8d. }	Message in Begging Street.
1634.	Edmund Payne - - - - -	Message next Crouch Lane.
1635.	Thomas Elficke, Jun. - - - - -	{ A garden enclosed with flint wall, called the Great Garden, adjoining the Court House.
1637.	Henry Scotterell - - - - -	{ Garden and close near Sable's Lott.
1639.	Offington Elphicke - - - - -	Lands near the Haven.
1640.	Thomas Elficke - - - - -	A tenement called Challoners.
1641.	Richard Seaman (Simmons) - - - - -	{ A lodge and piece of land called Prior's Walls.
1642.	Richard Baker.	
1643.	George Newe: he served by his deputy, "Repentance" Hastings, of whose conduct we shall have soon to speak. He continued his services till	
1647,	{ When Edmund Tipton, gent, is named as Bailiff, and not Portreeve.	

Wrecks, &c.—The right of wreck of the sea here had been owned in 1387, by the Earl of Arundel, the Prior of Lewes, and the Duchy of Lancaster,²⁸ and not by the Lord Warden. In or about the time of Elizabeth, his right was asserted, and even then the exact limit of the jurisdiction was not accurately defined. In 1617, a Dutch ship, richly laden with bullion, specie, &c., ran on shore²⁹ at Birling-gap, in the parish of Eastdean, and was claimed by Payne, who held a lease of that manor; and Richard Marsh, writing to Lord Zouch, the Lord Warden, on 3rd May, says that though lately the liberty of the Cinque Ports relative to wrecks had been limited to Beachy Head, it was said anciently to have extended beyond Seaford to Redware, near Newhaven.

The Lord Warden, on 27th August, 1623, appointed John Austen his droit gatherer for the Town and Port: his authority was not acquiesced in; and in Dec., 1624, when a ship of Rotterdam was cast away, Sir William Burton and others, took some of the wines and sold them; and Thos. Fulnetty, who was Lieutenant of the Admiralty of the Cinque Ports, thought that Mr. Elfick should be punished for allowing such things.

Mr. Elfick not only allowed his neighbours to take goods from wrecks, but himself participated in the division.

On the wreck of a wine ship on 23rd Feb., 1622, Thomas

²⁸ Rot. Cl., 10 Rich. II., m. 10.

²⁹ Dom., James, vol. xcii., No. 8.

Fulnetty went to Seaford,³⁰ and seized seven pipes of sack in Mr. Elfick's house, and one other as Richard Elphick's, which he professed to have bought from the ship, and had sold them. Fulnetty also searched other houses, and found two cables and an anchor; but thought the people had concerted with the shiremen to have the goods conveyed up into the country, and the Seaford men would not give their names.

Mr. Hide, a minister of the town, and three of his sons, were suspected of secreting £300 of the money, and Fulnetty the holding of an Admiralty court thereon. He had put a spy upon them to see if anything were conveyed to Newhaven or Lewes.

Michell, his house empty, except 10 pieces of wood.

John French, 8 pipes.

John Bean, 3 casks, 2 loads of wood.

John Jarvis, 3 pieces of shrouds.

Ralph Hide, one pailfull of sack, 1 cask, 7 pieces of timber.

William Oliver, 6 fathoms of cable, 1 piece of the mainstay, 2 casks.

John Tester, 3 casks, 1 load of wood.

Richard Baker, 1 load of wood, 1 cask.

John Horsman, 1 cask, 1 load of wood.

Will Longley, 2 casks, 1 load of planks.

Rich^d Elphick, 10 chests, 2 masts, 1 yard.

Marks Wood, 2 casks, 1 load of wood.

Marks Smith, 2 casks.

Edward Payn, 3 casks.

Edward Brown, 3 pair of stockings.

John Adon 1 cask, load of wood.

"Repentance" Hastings, 1 load, 1 cask, 2 pieces of royals.

Philip Back, one piece of sail.

And now we find an instance of that alacrity in wrecking, which subjected our coast to the satire of Congreve, and that quiet ignoring of the Sabbath, should a ship happen to be on shore, which may have originated the tale of "Parson Darby's Hole," and the clerical request from the pulpit that the minister and congregation might all start fair!

An examination of John Baker took place on 22nd May, 1633, before Dr. Thomas Rivers, as to a ship cast away, or found on shore at Seaford, on a Sunday in January then last. Baker having heard thereof at almost sunset, put his sheep in fold, and went down to the ship; but found the country already come in. It was dark. He had out of a room in the hinder-part of the ship a scarlet or red cloak, lined with stuff like velvet, of the same colour; also, a pair of knee-tops

³⁰ Dom., vol. cxxvii., No. 138.

of cloth, lined with red taffeta; one silk garter; a piece of cloth lined with black taffeta, and fringed with black silk, about a yard square; and one glove, wrought with silver;— all which he carried to his own home; but when he heard the goods were enquired for, he went to Mr. Hudson's, a fortnight after the wreck, and gave them to a Frenchman, who claimed them, and received 6s. for his pains.³¹

John Chambers was examined at the same time. The ship was driven on shore about 12 o'clock; and he went up into her about sunset, finding there 100 men, and among them John Hide, W. Hide, T. Foster, Hugh Berholme, and W. Gates, all of Seaford; and they were taking the mainsail from the yard. He took from a countryman, who had it under his arm, a black velvet doublet, all slashed down the back and sleeves, and a fine shirt with three falling bands, with picked lace wrapped in it. He gave the doublet up at Mr. Hudson's before any Commission came down, and the shirt and bands afterwards; and had 3s. from a Frenchman for his pains. He saw John Warren, apprentice to Thomas Smith, bring in to Mr. Hudson's a black cloak and a doublet and breeches, which came out of the ship.

John Tailor seems to have been the only man who tried to preserve order. He asked what they did on board, and struck several of them; and went so far as to strike Mr. Chowne,³² a Justice of the Peace's son, for offering to come into the ship.

The Port of Shoreham has been noted for the escape of Charles II. Seaford has the honour of having given equal facility to some of the great Commonwealth leaders. Richard Cromwell had been carried over to Dieppe from Newhaven; and General Ludlow had followed, viâ Lewes, in the ship of a merchant of that town.³³ They were, in 1662, followed by Cromwell's "Dark Lantern," the late Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Oliver St. John, and his son, who were conveyed away by Thomas Husbands.³⁴ St. John, his son, and five others, were in Sussex; and he is stated to

³¹ Dom., vol. ccxxxix., Nos. 25 and 26.

³² Complaints were made against young Mr. Chowne, for his activity on some subsequent occasions of wrecks.

³³ Memoirs, p. 398. The Colonel's

narrow escape is quoted by Mr. Blaauw in *Suss. Arch. Coll.*, vol. v., p. 100.

³⁴ The time and place of Oliver St. John's death have not been ascertained. He is supposed to have died abroad.

have embarked for Havre-de-Grace; having a Jersey Frenchman with him to assist him in the language, and pretending to go because of a debt. Thomas Husbands (who is described by Samuel Stone of Lullington, and Mary, wife of Moses Downer of Alfriston, as an ancient grey man) was uncle of Thomas Read, of Charlston in Westdean, and went with three gentlemen and two servants, October 25th, to the house of Moses Downer, innholder, of Alfriston: (one was believed to be Col. Ludlow; the other was no doubt Oliver St. John). They then went to Mr. Thomas Read's, October 27th, under pretence of securing one of the party from arrest for debt, though one of them, called Mr. Bennett, went to divine service on the Sabbath at Westdean. On Nov. 5th, three of the persons—one being an ancient man, with black hair, full faced, full bodied; another of a pretty tall stature, and weakly countenance, with flaxen hair; and the third, a French servant,³⁵—were received at Seaford on board the "Adventure,"³⁶ by Richard Lemon, of BRIGHTHELMSTONE, the master, and his servants, Roger Broad and Peregrine Stapley, and by them conveyed on board a French fishing vessel—the master and men receiving £14 for their trouble.

Modern History.—What the descent of the chief property in the Town has been since the De Warrens, is not quite clear. In 1403, it is valued at £73, as part of Sir John Pelham's estate. In 1467, Elizabeth, the Queen Consort of Edward IV., had it for her life; and in 1477, it was settled on the Duke of York. In 1503, it was in the partition of the lands of the Earl of Surrey and the Marquis of Berkeley; and in 1601, it was among the Duchess of Norfolk's possessions.³⁷ William Parker, Lord Monteaule, had a grant of it; and on 16th Dec., 1606, James I., at the request of Lord Monteaule, granted to Sir George Ryvers and Thomas Bridges, *inter alia*, the Borough of Seaford, part of the possessions of the Duchy of Lancaster,³⁸ which had been demised to John

³⁵ Examinations sent by the Earl of Northumberland to Mr. Sec. Bennet, on Nov. 22, 1662: Dom., vol. lxxiii., No. 56. The name of this small Sussex hamlet of Charleston, like its neighbour Wilmington, has become very famous in North America.

³⁶ She had been brought out of New-haven to lay off Seaford.

³⁷ The rents were taken by William Snelling and William Gratwick. The full rents of the manor were £2 2s.; the bailiff, jurats, and commonalty holding 2a., called St. Leonard's Hospital, and paying for it 3s. 4d. Addl. MS., 5705, fol. 224.

³⁸ Rot. Pat., 4 James.

BILLES AND SKULLS.

William Copper,	bill & scull.	John Presse,	bill & scull.
Hugh Lane,	bill & scull.	Thomas Mersall,	bill & scull.
Richard Seaman,	bill & scull.	Richard Back,	bill & scull.
Hugh Barkshire,	bill & scull.	Thomas Horsman,	bill & scull.
John Jarvise,	bill & scull.	Thomas Oekenden	bill & scull.
Henry Scotterell,	bill & scull.	Frances Cheeseman,	bill & scull.—13
Phillip Back,	bill & scull.	Total	- - 15

We have five great Peeeces, well mounted. Our powder, shott, and match for store, is provided. Every musket hath 2 pownd of powder, 2 pownd of shot and match, as was comanded.

THOMAS ELFICK.

(*In dorso*) 1619, Seaford Muster Roll.

Corporation.—The exact position of this Town in early days, as a member of the Port of Hastings, has not been accurately defined. The subsidy rolls of the Edwards show that the inhabitants were assessed separately from the Cinque Ports. It was, however, the only member which ever had the privilege of returning Members to Parliament; and hence perhaps it sits as chief of the members in each Guestling, for the members do not form part of the Brotherhood. The matrix of the obverse of the Town Seal is of the latter part of the 12th or beginning of the 13th century. But after the Town received a charter of incorporation in 1544, a new reverse, in copper, with a ship, seems to have been substituted for the former reverse: it is evidently an erroneous copy of the early matrix. The Town was incorporated to enable it better to resist attacks from the French; and though thus favoured by the King, the inhabitants were not very forward in contributing towards the benevolence raised in the same year. Five only did so:—

John Okenden,	. . . . .	£4 0 0	Thomas Gratwicke,	. . . . .	£0 20 0
Thomas Seman (Simmons),	. . . . .	4 0 0	Thos. Sprote (serving Priest	. . . . .	0 4 2
Thomas French,	. . . . .	0 20 0	there),	. . . . .

We have already seen that the Town was called upon to furnish ships of its own; but when it was joined with other ports, it was usually billeted with one ship and a-half, and the usual payment of £9 19s. 9d. was thus distributed:—

For the Borrowe of Seaford,	. . . . .	£4 19 9
For the Borrowe of Sutton,	. . . . .	2 10 0
For the Borrowe of Chintinge,	. . . . .	2 10 0

That the disputes with Hastings were serious and of long duration, is certain. At length they were referred to Henry Apsley, Esq.; and in the year 1604, the composition⁴⁴ with Hastings, was arranged by a deed, dated 29th June, made between William Bysshop, Mayor, and the Jurats and Commonalty of Hastings, and Henry Smyth, Bailiff of the Town of Seaford—a member of Hastings and of the liberty of that Cinque Port, and the Jurats and Commonalty of that town. This deed recites that for avoiding all former and future controversies, contentions, and ambiguities, as well about former compositions, contributions, and payments upon any cause payable by Seaford to Hastings, as for avoiding the like as to future compositions, &c., thereafter payable, and for a perpetual concord and agreement in that behalf to continue between the towns by the mediation of the Right Worshipful Henry Apsley, Esq., it was agreed that Seaford should annually, on the Feast of the Annunciation, pay, in the house of the Mayor of Hastings, an annuity, annual pension, and payment of 20s.; and also to the Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty of Hastings, 2s. 6d. for every 20s. which they should pay towards any sum decreed to be made by way of composition at any Brotherhood of the Cinque Ports; and likewise, 10s. at every Parliament and Session of Parliament towards the fees of the Barons of Hastings returned to such Parliament;⁴⁵ and 30s. toward the charges of such Barons as should be returned by Hastings to every Coronation;⁴⁶ and furthermore, pay for their part or portions at every assembly called a Gestling, where they were bound to personal appearance and attendance, in such sort and after such rate as their predecessors had been used and accustomed to do, and they should be charged and ordered to do; and towards the charges of every Shepway court, and of every Lord Warden's court, and every gift which should be agreed to be given to such Lord Warden and to his Lieutenant and Officers, as they had been accustomed; and for renewing, enlarging, and confirmation of all

⁴⁴ From the part having the corporate seal of Seaford, in the corporation chest at Hastings. Henry Apsley was of Ticehurst, and brother of Sir Allen Apsley, Lieut. of the Tower of London.

⁴⁵ In 1640 the right of Seaford to have its own representatives was restored.

⁴⁶ In 1603 Seaford paid a share of the Coronation expenses of Hastings: see *Suss. Arch. Coll.*, vol. xv., p. 190.

general charters of the Cinque Ports, such sum as they should be charged at any Gestling or other warrantable assembly; and also bear and pay all payments agreed to be paid by the Cinque Ports and members at any Brotherhood or Gestling, by way of shipping and transportation of the King's army, and navy of the Cinque Ports; and lastly, all charges or payments for any suit of their own, or any act, or wrong proceeding, or happening by their own default, or their own private or particular charter, customs, cause, or privileges. In consideration of which, Hastings discharged Seaford from the yearly service of the Barons at Great Yarmouth, and the charges for same, and from all other charges, payments, and exactions whatsoever, for the maintenance of the general charters and privileges of the Ports, and of Parliaments and Coronations.

From this time the two Towns were in all other respects free from each other; and the Lords Warden dealt with each separately. Thus, on 18th September, 1615, Lord Zouch directed his warrant to the Bailiff for the time being, and to the Minister of Seaford, together with Thomas Elphick, William Levette, Edward Gratwicke, Samuel Hide, Humfry Rowe, and William Wakefield, Jurats: constituting them Commissioners for the Passage there, to examine all persons wishing to depart from England⁴⁷ other than merchants—the authorized ports for departure being only Dover, Rye, and Sandwich. And again, on 25th February, 1633, the Mayor and Jurats of Hastings informed the Earl of Suffolk, Lord Warden, that by his command, on behalf the bearer, De La Martinays, they had directed their warrant for the appearance of the Bailiff and others of Seaford; but that the Bailiff returned a dilatory excuse, which indeed the writers expected, as the Bailiff was the chiefest delinquent, and Seaford was in no way subject to the jurisdiction of Hastings.⁴⁸

It is well to record a copy of the certificate of freedom, which details all the privileges, long obsolete, of the Barons:

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE to whom these Presents shall come. We the Bailiff, Jurats, and Commons of the town of Seaford, in the County of Sussex, a member of the Town and Port of

Hastings, in the same County, one of the Cinque Ports, send greeting, in our Lord God everlasting. Whereas, our Sovereign Lord, the King's Majesty that now is, and his noble progenitors, Kings

⁴⁷ Dom., vol. lxxxi., No. 107.

⁴⁸ Ib., vol. cexxxii., No. 103.

and Queens of England, by their charters and confirmations, have granted that we should be quit of all Tolls and Customs—that is to say, of all Lastage, Tollage, Passage, Riveage, Appensage, Murage, Stallage, Peisage, Piccage, Terrage, Groundage, Bomage, Anchorage, Boyage, Flottage, and Scott, and Guild, Hidage, Scutage; and for all our selling, buying, and rebuying through all his lands, with power of Sock and Sack, Tholl and Them; and that we should be wreck-free, wit-free, and love-cope-free; and that we be quit and exonerated for ever from Shires and Hundreds, and also from all summons before any Justices itinerant, from any plaints and pleas whatsoever, and in whatsoever county they shall be; and that we should have our Findalls in sea and land; and that we should be quit of our goods and merchandizes like as his freemen; and that we should have our honour in courts, and our liberties in all his lands wheresoever we come; and that we should not be impleaded in any court but where we were wont (that is to say), in the court called Shepeway. And further, his said Majesty, and his predecessors by his charters, do forbid all persons whatsoever, wrongfully to molest or disturb us, or our merchandize, under the pain of forfeiting ten pounds. And have also granted that we be not put on juries at assizes by reason of our foreign tenures against our consents; and that we may be quit of the duties on wines of our own adventure, called prisage (to wit), one ton of wine before the mast, and another after the mast; also have granted to us and our heirs that no man shall be partner with us against our wills, of our lawfull goods and merchandizes which shall happen to us within his realm of Ireland; and, finally, that we shall have and enjoy all our liberties, charters, and

free customs as amply and honourably as any of our predecessors at any time had, and enjoyed them in the reigns of Edward the Confessor, William the First and Second, Henry, John, Richard, Henry, Edward the First, Second, and Third, and other Kings and Queens of England, the King's Majesty that now is, his most noble predecessors, as their charters and confirmations do testifye and declare. AND FORASMUCH as it is our duty to bear witness of the truth, therefore, we do certifie you and every of you by these presents, that Thomas Simmons, junr., is our com-baron and fellow freeman, and that all our liberties, quittances, and customs by our charters and confirmations, to us granted and confirmed, he ought to have and enjoy, for which thing by the tenor of these Presents, we desire all you, and pray that when the said Thomas Simmons, the bearer of these Presents among you, with his goods, cattell, or merchandizes whatsoever they be, shall come, that you do take and admit him to be one of us, faithfully and gently, not hurting him, his goods, or his cattel, nor suffer him to have any injury, hurt, violence, let, or loss, contrary to the tenor of the charters to us aforesaid granted, so that our liberties may stand inviolated, and that under the pain in the said charters contained, and as we thankfully in like case shall do for you. In witness whereof these our letters patents, sealed with our town seal, we have done to be exemplified. Dated at our Town Hall, at Seaford aforesaid, this 29th day of September, in the 28th year of the reign of our Sovereign George the Third, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth; and in the year of our Lord 1788.

(Bailliff's seal.)

Property, &c., of the Town.—The Gun Garden was let in 1662 for 6s. 8d. a-year. On 6th April, 1685, Simon Snell, gent., was presented for erecting a wall, called “The Crouch

Wall," on the common ground of the Corporation; and in 1691 and 1693, Richard Chowne was presented for the same offence.

In 1687, three years' rent of the manor, (£6 14s.) was paid by the Portreeve to Frances, Countess Dowager of Dorset; and in 1720, the Bailiff paid £2 5s. 7d. rents of assize of the Portreeve to Lionel Cranfield, Duke of Dorset.⁴⁹

The original feoffment of the 30a., called The Salts and Beau Lands, and of 2a. upon the Down, lately belonging to the Church,⁵⁰ and dated 30th May, 1592, has been printed. Mr. John Rowe, the elder, was the survivor of the feoffees. There have been new feoffments, dated respectively 18th Aug., 1641, 1st May, 1675, 27th Sept., 1708, 7th Oct., 1735, and 2nd Jan., 1822.

The Town Records⁵¹ have many entries relating to the use of the Common. Thus in March 1642, Mr. Saxby, the Minister, was to have the going of his cow during the summer, as well as the widow of Richard Benson. William Hollebond was to have the same in consideration of "keeping a young child for the town;" and John Tosson, till his apprentice should be 24 years of age. In 1650, the freemen who kept kine there were to pay 20s. towards the six freemen who had none. But the keeping of sheep was, in 1684, declared to be contrary to custom. Geese were prohibited in 1714, and horses in 1725.

In these records, we have also presentments for keeping Lent, and observing Fast and Fish days (1663); for not coming to church for three weeks (1684); for allowing hogs to go about without ringing (1714); and of butchers for selling meat on Sundays (1718).

Some *Old Wills* of townsmen are worthy of a note:—

1544.—STEPHEN TOWNLEY, of Seford, bequeaths his soul "to God Almyghty, to our Blessed Lady St Mary, and to all the holy company of Hevyn, and his body to be buried in the Churchyard of the p'ishe of St. Leon^d of Sefford." To the high alter there, for his tythes negligently forgotten, iiii^d To Richard, his son, £8; and to his four daughters at

⁴⁹ Addl. MS., 5682.

⁵⁰ In 1722 the two acres of church

land were let to Henry Bean for 10s. a year.

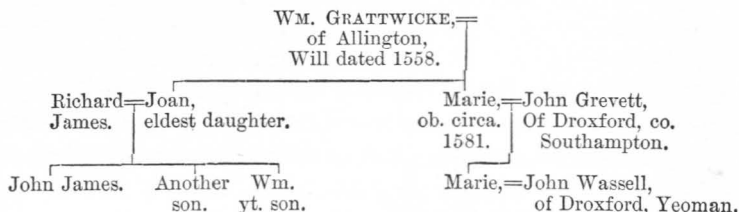
⁵¹ Ex inf. Hen. Simmons, Esq.

marriage, xl^s John Seman, his executor. Thos. Sprott, curate, and other witnesses.

1541.—WILLIAM BEST, of Seford, bequeathed his soul as above, and his body to be buried in the Churchyard of St. Leonard. Small bequests to his child. Thos. Farley, curate of Seaford; and John Ockenden, baylye, &c.; Jno. Ockenden and John Seman, his overseers.

1552.—THOMAS EVER, of Seford, gives to Isbell, his servant, “a plater or pewter dyshe, a sawcer, a candle stycke, a little brasse potte, a sow pygge wenyd, and half a seame of barleye.” There are other small legacies; and his wife, Jone, is appointed residuary legatee: “Batillmewe Elfycke” being named as overseer of the will to dispose of his affairs “for the helth of my sowle, and all crysten sowles.”

Feuds in the Town.—From the time of Elizabeth till the beginning of the present century, the town was remarkable for the personal hostility of many of its inhabitants. The chief opponents of the Corporation, in the 16th and 17th centuries, were the GRATWICKS, one branch of whom seems to have come into the town from East Allington. In some proceedings in Chancery, instituted on 9th Nov., 1599, by John James, of St. Magnus, London, grocer, against Thomas Elficke⁵² and John Wassell, it appears that William Gratwick, in 1556, owned two acres of land in Seaford, and 16 acres in Sutton, known as Pope's Lands; and by his will, dated May, 1558, devised them to the child with which his wife was then pregnant, with remainder to his eldest daughter, Joan, with remainder to his son, Roger Gratwick, and his heirs. The child was Mary, who married John Wassell, and died in 1581; and Elphick, in his answer, said that (according to ancient custom of the liberties of Seaford) the property was descendable to the youngest male issue, and, in default thereof, to the youngest issue female.



⁵² Proc. in Chancery, temp. Eliz., I., i., bundle 2, No. 50.

Thomas Elphick was the purchaser of the property for £160. This was a different family from the Gratwicks of Tortington, who came from Ulverston. After the death of Sir William, who was buried at Tortington in 1613, his widow, Margaret, and her second son, Edward, complained⁵³ (1st Dec., 1619) to the Lord Warden, Lord Zouch, of the over-proportion of rates laid upon them and others of Seaford by Thomas Elfick, the Bailiff, who is stated to wish to save himself at their expense. The reply of the Bailiff and Jurats was that the extent of the Gratwick property was better known than it had been, and they were only charged with their proper proportion. No dues, however, could be got from them without much trouble. When the Chamberlain went to levy a distress, he was assaulted by other sons, Roger, Thomas, and others. These were fined for a riot; and Thomas, refusing to pay, assaulted the sergeant; and whilst that officer was lying ill, Thomas was imprisoned. He offered only poor men for security. At length George Copper became one of his bail; and in turn, he was kept in custody at the suit of Thomas Elfick and Mr. Page for goods sold; and Samuel Hide, the then (1621) Bailiff, added that the Gratwicks, resident in London, had got up the petition, and much troubled the town. Both parties then went into the Chancery Court at Dover, and subsequently appealed to Lord Zouch to interpose: Edward Gratwick (17th June, 1621) asserting that he had lived quietly whilst at amity with Elficke, but having been chosen Jurat, and been appealed to by the poor to procure the restoration of certain common lands, detained by Elfick from them, his endeavours for redress had excited the malice of that gentleman, and led to the exorbitant rates being levied.

On 27th April, 1775, as the Jurats went to the Town-Hall to hold the Quarter Sessions, a number of men, led by Robert Jones,⁵⁴ of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, London, and Thos. Woolgar, forced the Senior Jurat out of the chair—Thos. Washer, the Bailiff, having died—and prevented the election of a successor. The rioters then proceeded to a pretended election of Bailiff and officers, and removed the chest containing the town muniments.

³ Domestic, 1619–20–21.

⁵⁴ Brief in Town chest

On 29th Sept., 1789, was another riot, at the Court of Assembly; then held for the election of Bailiff:—"Drums were beating, colours flying, and a mob assembled in a body at the steps of the Court-House, preventing the entrance of the Magistrates and Freemen. They seized the entrance before the Freemen arrived. Sir Godfrey Webster, Mr. Cook, sen., and Rev. Thos. Evans (vicar), were with the mob, and behaved with much impetuosity, and pushed and shoved about. Mr. Cook climbed up outside the rails, and cried out with many others, with much violence: '*Down with them. Pull down the rails, my boys. Don't let them come up!*' Mr. Evans challenged Captain Bate, and held up his fist against the Constable. Sir Godfrey Webster called out to the mob, and said he would go up, for he was a Freeman. He was prevented by the Constable, who desired the Magistrates might go up first. It was with the greatest difficulty Mr. Gouldsmith and Mr. Chambers (Jurats) could get up, after they had been several times forcibly expelled by the mob. The Sergeant being unable to get up to do the business, cried out to the Magistrates to adjourn the Court," &c.

In July, 1796, the *Sussex Advertiser* notices a warm pugilistic encounter in a gravel-pit between Mr. T. Harben, a magistrate in the interest of the Duke of Richmond, and two clergymen (Evans and Geere), who were partizans of the Pelhams.

From the MSS. of W. H. Freeland, Esq., we are able to give a more perfect list of the Vicars.

SEAFORD VICARS.

DATE OF ADMISSION.	INCUMBENTS.	HOW VACANT.	PATRONS.
...	William Phyllypp	...	...
1402. June 2	John Aston	res. William Phyllypp	{The Dean and Chapter of Chichester.
1405. Nov. 14	William Pynson	res. John Aston	The same.
...	Ralph Gaunstede	...	...
1439. Feb. 19	William Danyell	{res. ⁵⁵ Ralph Gaunstede }	The same.
1478.	Roger Hoofe	...	...
1502. Dec. 15	Jacob Ball, cap.	...	{Thomas Edwards, Prebendary of Sefford.
1523. April 25	William Draper	...	The Bishop.
1524. March 26	John Clarke	res. William Draper	...

⁵⁵ Gaunstede exchanged with Danyell for All Saints', Lewes.

SUTTON VICARS (JUXTA SEAFORD).

DATE OF ADMISSION.	INCUMBENTS.	HOW VACANT.	PATRONS.
... ..	John Forebench	... ..	... ..
1401. Dec. 6	John Effard	res. ⁵⁶ Jn. Forebench	{ Robert Gilbert, Prebendary of Sutton.
1402. Aug. 28	John Bynbrok	{ res. ⁵⁷ John Effard { (now called { 'Everard') }	The same.
... ..	John Penbrigge	... ..	... ..
1406. June 8	Thomas Betoigne	John Penbrigge	{ William Petteworth, Prebendary of Sutton.
1407. Sept. 1	John Crokebet	... ..	The same.
1408. Sept. 24	Ralph Gronel	... ..	The same.
1412. May 14	Richard Wynesby	{ res. ⁵⁸ Ralph Gronel { (now called Grene)	The same.
1439. July 9	Richard Vowle	... ..	The same.
1478.	Richard Downton	... ..	... ..
1481. July 4	{ Richard Late { in Leg. Licenciata }	d. Rich. Downton	{ George Dawne, Prebendary.
In Bishop Sherborne's time the church was desolate, and it was then annexed to Seaford.			
SUTTON WITH SEAFORD.			
1534. July 7	{ Thomas Garett (or) { Gerrard }	... ..	The Bishop.
1553.	Sir Robert Hall	... ..	... ..
... ..	— Austin	... ..	... ..
1575. (?)	Robert Hide	... ..	... ..
... ..	Charles Hutchenson	... ..	... ..
1638.	Thomas Barlow, M.A.	... ..	... ..
1642. (?)	{ John Saxby (called) { Minister }	... ..	... ..
1664. Nov. 18	Richard Castell	... ..	... ..
1668. Feb. 11	John Terry	... ..	... ..
1679. May 3	William Snatt	... ..	... ..
1682. April 5	Robert Nowell, A.M.	... ..	... ..
1690. July 31	Robert Carr, Cl.	... ..	Henry Edes, s.t.p.
1696. Oct. 11	Charles Hallywell	d. Robert Carr	{ Hen. Hallywell, Prebendary of Sutton.
1707. March 1	Thomas Knight, A.M.	d. Chas. Hallywell	{ James Barker, Prebendary of Sutton.
1728. Oct. 22	John Penfold, A.B.	d. Thos. Knight	{ Wm. Sherwin, Prebendary of Seaford.
1733. July 14	Thomas Hurdis, A.M.	cess. John Penfold	{ James Barker, Jun., Prebendary of Sutton.
1773. Jan. 27	Jonathan Morgan	cess. Thos. Hurdis	The Bishop (by lapse).
1777. April 22	Thomas Evans, A.B.	{ cess. Jonathan { Morgan }	{ Drake Hollingbery, A.M., Prebendary of Seaford.
1816. March 20	Wm. Henry Clark, A.B.	d. Thomas Evans	{ Geo. Marwood, Prebendary of Sutton.
1817. June 2	{ Chas. Edw. Hutch- { inson, A.M. }	res. W. H. Clark	{ John Lettice, D.D., Prebendary of Seaford.
1824. Jan. 28	James Carnegie, A.M.	{ cess. C. E. Hutch- { inson }	{ Geo. Marwood, Prebendary of Sutton.
1864. March 14	Wm. Henry Meade Buck	d. James Carnegie	The Queen.

⁵⁶ In exchange for Goryng.

⁵⁷ In exchange for Excleit.

⁵⁸ In exchange for the Vic. of Adyngton, Winton Diocese.

The *Hospital of St. James* for Lepers had a separate Priest and Chaplain; and in 1389, William Crosseby, who was Parson there, exchanged his benefice with William Haker, Vicar of the Church of Aliston (Alciston), with the Chapelry of Lullington.⁵⁹

CHINTING

Was returned in the Hundred of Flexborough in the subsidies of the Edwards; and was then a place of some population, although before 1275 the manor had been granted to Michelham Priory, and in 1314, 4a. of land were granted to that Priory.⁶⁰ To the subsidy of 1327, there were returned⁶¹ as holders of land:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
*Nigel de Cumbes - - -	7	8	*Simon la Boux - - -	6	2
*Simon Burdon - - -	6	7	Walter Fustom - - -		18
Rich. Oysel - - -	20	$\frac{1}{4}$	Will. le Palmar - - -	2	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Regina Burgeis - - -	20		*Christiana atte Stighele - - -	18	$\frac{1}{2}$
Walter Bakere - - -	2	1	*Will. atte Lote - - -	2	$\frac{1}{2}$
Will. Loteman - - -	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$	*Rich. le White - - -	18	$\frac{1}{2}$
*John Colin - - -	2	4	*Walter Goringe - - -	21	
*John Goldewyne ⁶² - - -	2	2	John de Slycheton - - -	2	4
Robert, the Tanner - - -	2	4	*Simon Oysel - - -	18	
*Nich ^s Wodeman - - -	22		Robert Bolfyn - - -	23	
*Robt. atte Lote - - -	2	6			

In the subsidy of 1332, the names marked * again occur, with these in addition⁶³:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
John de Nicheconne - - -	2	$\frac{3}{4}$	Jacob Erch - - -	2	
Agnes Wolfyn - - -	16		Will. Loteman - - -	2	8
Rich. Wolfyn - - -	13	$\frac{1}{2}$	Will. le Reve - - -	8	
Will. Reynald - - -	23	$\frac{3}{4}$	Agnes, the Baker - - -	18	

It was about this period that the attempt was made to found here "Poynings Town;" and in 1349, lands were held here by William Bovet, in capite, by the service of providing two parts of one Hobelarii for 40 days in Wales;⁶⁴ and were probably the same lands which Thomas Therel held, in 1279, by a like service.

⁵⁹ Pat., 13 Rich. II.

⁶⁰ Inq., ad quod damnum, 8 Edw. II., No. 52, and 10 Edw. II., No. 149.

⁶¹ Subs., E. B., 513.

⁶² These are early notices of the families.

⁶³ Subs., H. C. H., 9.

⁶⁴ Rot. Orig., 23 Edw. III., No. 43.

On the dissolution of Michelham Priory, this manor and their land here were granted to Sir Anthony Browne, who, on 15th March, 1541, proposed to exchange them with the King for lands in Kent.

For the subsidy of 1590, the return was that four persons⁶⁵ had been assessed in respect of lands here, and within the precincts of the liberty of Seaford, viz. :—

			£	s.	d.				s.	d.
Thomas Elphecke	-	-	3	6	8	William Sedger	-	-	-	20
Henry Smyth	-	-	53	4		Edmund Duppa	-	-	-	10

SUTTON

Also made a separate return to the early subsidies. In 1327, there were 18 landowners, who paid :—

			s.	d.				s.	d.
*John de Sutton	-	-	7	3	*Nich. le Salt	-	-	-	3
Rich. atte Wyke	-	-	-	12	Simon Fridai	-	-	-	2 3
Robt. atte Wyke	-	-	2	6	John Palmer	-	-	-	14
Thom. Suche	-	-	2	1	John Hendiman	-	-	-	3
Thom. Geffrai	-	-	-	20½	*Will. le Thunder	-	-	-	2 2
*Elia Mareschal	-	-	-	12	Rich. Betrich	-	-	-	2 4
Thom. Evorard	-	-	2	½	John Botcher	-	-	-	3
*John Bregge	-	-	-	12	*Walter Hendman	-	-	-	2 1
Will., the Carter	-	-	2	3	Nich. le Thunder	-	-	-	2 4

Six of these * were again returned in 1332, with two others :—

			s.	d.				s.	d.
Robert Whetebrede	-	-	2	1¾	Gilbert de Wygetone	-	-	5	1¾

Upon the dissolution of Robertsbridge Abbey, this manor was granted to Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex,⁶⁶ and was rated as among his late possessions on 13th May, 1557. It was afterwards granted to Sir William Sydney, under whom it was rented by Thomas Elphicke, who is returned to the subsidy of 1590 at 50s. in respect of it,⁶⁷ but as being within the Liberty of Seaford.

⁶⁵ Subs., J. P. R., 5669, m. 7-

⁶⁶ Harl. MS., 606, fol. 59.

⁶⁷ Subs., J. P. R., 5669, m. 5.