

# ON A SERIES OF ROLLS OF THE MANOR OF WISTON.

(Continued from Vol. LIII., p. 182.)

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## I. THE AGRICULTURE OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

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As an introduction to our subject, we give an Extent of the Manor made in 1357 in connection with the Post Mortem Inquisition on Roger de Bavent and the King's gift of the Manor to Peter de Braose.

Inquest<sup>1</sup> held at Wystnoston before Thomas de Hoo Escheator of the King in the County of Sussex on the 10th day of June in the 31st year of the reign of King Edward III. over England and the 16th year over France on oath of John Comsone, John Seman, John Chapman, Robt. Fluor, Thos. Smyth, John Fauconer, John Bochi, John Oxsmyth, John Taillour, Ric. Wildegous, John Climping and John Stondbynorth, Who say upon their oath that the said Roger de Bavent deceased did not hold any lands or tenements of the lord King in capite in demesne or of fee or in service on the day of his death in Sussex because the said Roger on the day before his death demised and alienated to the lord King from (de) all the lands and tenements that were his in the County of Sussex, as they understand, to wit, from the Manors of Wystnoston, Chiltyngton, Hyen and Eryngham and from certain lands and tenements in . . . by Steyning. And they say that the Manor of Wystnoston with Eryngham and Asshurst is worth yearly £20. And they say that the Manor of Chiltyngton is worth yearly £10. And that the Manor of Hyen is worth yearly 20 marks (£13. 6s. 8d.). And they say that a certain John Woderowe, a friar preacher, occupied the said lands and tenements after the death of the said Roger till this day as they understand. And they say that the said Roger died on the 23rd day of April in the 29th year of the reign of King Edward III. And that John de Bavent is son and next heir of said Roger and of the age of 20 years and more. And they say that the Manor of Wystnoston

<sup>1</sup> Inquisitions Post Mortem, File 137-46, on death of Roger de Bavent.

with Eryngam and Ashurst is held of John de Moubray<sup>2</sup> by military service, by what part they know not. And the manors of Hyen and Chiltynton likewise. And so they were held before the said lands and tenements came into the hands of the lord King by grant of said Roger Bavent.

[Another Inquisition—same place, day, and jury.]

Extent of lands and tenements which were of Roger Bavent in the County of Sussex on the day when said Roger by his gift and grant &c. . . . made at Wystnoston on 10 June . . . by oath &c. . . . Who say on their oath that there is a Capital Messuage at Wystnoston which is worth nothing yearly beyond reprise.<sup>3</sup> And there are there 2 gardens, containing 7 acres of land, which are worth yearly for herbage and fruit of garden 14s. And there is one dovehouse which is worth yearly 5s. And there are there 127 acres of arable land and they are worth £3. 3s. 6d. at 6d. per acre. And 7 acres of meadow which are worth yearly 10s. 6d. at 1s. 6d. per acre. And 60 acres of pasture outside the park, and they are worth 20s. at 4d. per acre. And a wood called le Frith whose pasture is worth yearly 1s. 6d. And a certain park called le Strode whose pasture is worth nothing besides the sustenance of game (*sustentationem ferarum bestiarum*), and the pannage of the said park is worth yearly, when it falls (*quando acciderit*), 10s. And there is a certain wood called Solwik containing 85 acres of pasture and it is worth yearly 40s. at 6d. per acre and the pannage of the said wood, when it falls, is worth yearly 5s. Of dropping wood (*silva desidua*) there is nothing because it can only be lopped (*amputari*) once within 10 years and then it is worth 8d. per acre. And there are at le Sevyeres 43 acres of several pasture<sup>4</sup> and they are worth yearly 21s. 6d. at 6d. per acre. And there are at Westsonde 20 acres of several pasture which are worth yearly 6s. 8d. at 4d. per acre. And at said Sevyeres is a wood containing 2 acres of land, the pasture of which is of no value on account of the quantity (*plenitudinem*) of the trees. And there are there 8<sup>5</sup> acres of several pasture in certain places called le Fryth and Butticroft and they are worth yearly 2s. 4d. at 4d. per acre. And there is a several pasture there for 500 of the lord's sheep (*bidentes*) and it is worth 20s., price per head ½d. And there is there rent of free tenants 8s. yearly to be paid at the feasts of Easter and St. John Baptist in equal portions. And there is there the rent of bondmen with the farms of certain tenements, being in the hand of the lord King by default of the tenants, leased to farm, £5. 19s. 7½d. to be paid at the feasts of the Nativity of the Lord, Easter, St. John Baptist and St. Michael in

<sup>2</sup> As lord of Bramber.

<sup>3</sup> After paying necessary outgoings.

<sup>4</sup> This land is under cultivation in the "Reeves' Accounts." If we add these 43 acres to the 127 acres of arable just mentioned, the amount will correspond with that estimated below.

<sup>5</sup> So in MS., but by the value should be 7.

equal portions. And there is there a certain windmill and it is worth yearly 25s. And there are there works of bondmen between St. Michael and the Gule of August which are worth for the same time 23s. 11d. And works of bondmen in Autumn from said Gule of August to St. Michael which are worth for same time 27s. And of Rent at the Nativity 11 hens price per head 1½d. and 10 cocks price per head 1d. And said bondmen owe of rent at Easter 50½ eggs which are worth 2d. And the perquisites of the Court are worth yearly 26s. 8d.

*Ashurst.*—And they say that there is at Asshurst a certain capital messuage which is worth nothing yearly. And there are there 6 acres of meadow which are worth yearly 9s. at 1s. 6d. per acre. And there are there 80 acres of several pasture which are worth yearly 40s.

*Iryngham.*—And there are at Iryngham 90 acres of arable land which are worth yearly 40s. And there are 30½ acres and 1 rood of land of bondmen in the lord's hands which are worth 15s. And there is there rent of 2 bond tenants 11s. 3d. to be paid for at the Nativity of the Lord and the Nativity of St. John Baptist in equal portions. And there is there common pasture for 200 sheep in summer and it is worth yearly beyond reprise.

*Chiltington.*—And they say that there is at Chiltington one capital messuage which is worth nothing yearly. And there are there 300 acres of arable land which are worth [75s.] at 3d. per acre. And there are there 200½ acres of pasture at Sloghters which are worth 42s. And 11<sup>6</sup> acres of several pasture for pasturing cows which are worth yearly 5s. at 4d. per acre. And there are there rents of assize of free tenants and bondmen £6. 3s. 4d. to be paid at feasts of Nativity, Easter, St. John Baptist and St. Michael in equal portions. And works of bondmen of the lord which are worth by estimation yearly 14s. And 3 cocks and 3 hens which are worth yearly 7d. to be paid at the Nativity. And of rent of bondmen at Easter 30 eggs worth 1½d. And a windmill poor and ruinous and it is worth nothing yearly because it is not useable (*occupand*<sup>6</sup>). And perquisites of the court are worth yearly 3s. 4d.

*Heene.*—And they say that there is at Heyn a manor (? house) which is worth nothing beyond reprise. And there are there 144 acres ½ rood of arable land worth yearly £7. 4s. at 12d. per acre. And 8 acres of meadow worth 7s. at 11d. per acre. And 4 acres of pasture worth 16d. at 4d. per acre. And of rents of assize of free tenants and bondmen 48s. 8½d. to be paid at [4 terms] in equal portions. And autumn works of bondmen there are worth yearly with 2s. of Gavelryp<sup>7</sup> 37s. 5½d. And of rent of bondmen at St. Thos. 4 cocks 5 hens which are worth 11½, price of cocks 1d. and hens 1½. And of rent of bondmen at Easter yearly 40 eggs worth 2d. And there is there of rent at Easter 1 lb. of cinnamon (*cimini*) worth 20d. And perquisites of the court are worth yearly 12d.

<sup>6</sup> Should be 15.

<sup>7</sup> Money Commutation for reaping.

*Agricultural Details.*—The farming operations as carried on in the fourteenth century form not the least interesting information to be extracted from these rolls. They are set forth in the yearly return under two different headings:—

1. At the top of the dorse of each roll the reeve gives "The Account of Corn" (*Compotus Bladorum*), the earliest being from Michaelmas, 1345, to the Annunciation, 1346, with others at intervals down to 1375. Commencing with 1376-7, there is a complete sequence to 1386-7 inclusive, eleven consecutive years, and others at intervals to 1401-2.

This department gives the names of the lands, with their acreage and the crops sown in each. Some few of the lands I have been able to locate, viz. :—

Sevyacres or le Sevyeres—a farm district or area of about 40 acres on the north side of Wiston Park, with large old barn, and still known as Seviars.

la Gore—lately a copse, near Guesses Farm, on Chancton Farm, adjoining Seviars.

Stret furlong—now Street field—next Whole Street.

la Hyde—on Abbots Farm, near Guesses.

Chalcroft—about 8 acres, on Fair Oak Farm.

West and Longcumbe—on French Land Farm.

Ladymed—on Brown Hill Farm.

Witherhen—at the west end of Wiston House, now in the Park.

All the above-mentioned farms lie on the north side of Wiston Park and adjoin one another.

It also shows the quantity of seed received and given out by the reeve, from which can be ascertained the yield of the corn harvested and in many cases the current prices of the grain.

2. After the return of the various kinds of seeds received and crops sown during the year, the reeve proceeds to give annually a full "Account of Stock" of every kind received by him from the preceding year, what has been added or parted with, what has died or been killed and what remained for the coming year. In particular, reference will be made to some excellently made returns by a reeve who held office for the three consecutive years from 1369-70 to 1371-2.

The Demesne arable land of the Lord of the Manor was under the management of one of the customary tenants or villains elected by the homage in the manorial court, and exempt from his services during his year of office. He is usually called Reeve, sometimes Bailiff and occasionally Sergeant. He was answerable for the keeping of all the accounts and superintendence of the works on the farm, the cultivation, ploughings, sowings, harvesting and thrashing, and all the numerous labour services which were demanded from the villains as set out in the Custumal, and at least for the payment of the famuli or house servants and of any extra hands hired when necessary. With regard to the requisite labour, it must be remembered that, with the exception of the first roll, all the series comes after the Black Death which deprived the lord of a large amount of the customary labour on which he had relied.

The earliest account, that for 1345-6 for a half-year only, shows 59 acres as sown. This, however, was the autumn sowing only, wheat, rye and mixtil being the only grains sown. It may here be remarked the two latter grains are scarcely mentioned again in the subsequent lists of sowings. In 1356-7 the area sown was 106 acres, and this increased gradually up to 148½ acres in 1383-84.

There was probably, in addition, a proportional acreage of from 30 to 50 acres yearly under fallow, this being specially provided for in the custumal. There is nowhere any record of the acreage mown for hay, which must have been considerable, when the number of various stock to be fed (through the winter) is taken into consideration. The stock list for 1369-70 shows about 90 head of cattle and a flock of 918 sheep. The large number of animals accounted for as "remaining" from one year to another, compared with the few returned as "killed for the lord's larder," must imply a capacity to preserve the great majority of the cattle by stall-feeding through the winter, for it must be remembered at this early date no roots of any sort, such as mangel, swedes or turnips, had been introduced or were cultivated for winter consumption, and both beasts and sheep were

yarded and folded for five or six months. The custumal mentions, as part of the works to be performed by the villains, the making of hay for the Lord in the Lagh medes, Brode mede, Normans mede, &c., and the custom of giving one wether to the customary tenants for scything in the same. But neither in the stock lists nor in the Grange accounts is any stock of hay ever recorded.<sup>8</sup> There is, however, a "Grange of hay" mentioned in the "Extent" of 1357.

1. *Account of crops.*—For the purpose of comparison we propose to consider only the accounts of those 11 years which are consecutive, viz., 1376-7 to 1386-7. The accompanying Table No. 1 gives the names of each land and the crop sown on it, and the acreage sown during this period. Table No. 2 shows the total acreage sown with each sort of grain, the quantity of seed per acre, total seed sown, total yield and the approximate yield per acre and the current prices of grain, taken from the Grange accounts. In connection with Table No. 2, it is of interest to note that Walter of Henley, one of our earliest writers on agriculture and land management, in his treatise written in the thirteenth century, puts the average yield of—

Wheat .. .. .	at 5 fold.	Peas and vetches ..	at 6 fold.
Barley .. .. .	„ 8 „	Oats .. .. .	„ 4 „
Beans .. .. .	„ 6 „		

It will be seen how seldom the yield on the Wiston demesne reached this average! As to the comparison of the amount of grain sown, it may be mentioned that the usual quantities now sown are—

Wheat .. .. .	about 2 bushels per acre.
Barley .. .. .	„ 4 „ „
Beans .. .. .	„ 3 „ „
Peas and vetch .. .. .	„ 3 „ „
Oats .. .. .	„ 4 „ „
And on the Downs sometimes	up to 8 „ „

<sup>8</sup> The cultivation of clovers and other artificial grasses was, of course, unknown.

TABLE No. 2.

Grange Account 1377-78. Produce of sowings. Autumn 1376. Spring 1377.

Crop.	Acreage sown.	Seed per acre.	Total amount seed sown.		Total yield.		Approximate yield per acre.		Remarks.
			Bus.	Sks. Bus.	Sks. Bus.	Sks. Bus.	Sks. Bus.	Sks. Bus.	
Wheat ... ..	69	3	51	3	127	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	of which 20 sacks tail. Price 8d. per bus. head. 5d. per bus. tail.
Barley ... ..	21	5	26	1	96	1	4	2	no more because crop failed.
Beans ... ..	2	6	3		3	2	1	3	
Peas and vetches	16	3	12		31	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2		besides some used in the sheaf.
Oats ... ..	9	5	11	1	29	2	2	$2\frac{3}{4}$	

Grange Account 1378-79. Produce of sowings. Autumn 1377. Spring 1378.

Wheat ... ..	65	3	48	3	109	2	1	3	price per bus. 7d. to 5d.
Barley ... ..	35	5	43	3	141	$\frac{1}{2}$	4		„ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per bus.
Beans ... ..	$2\frac{1}{2}$	6	3	3	10	1	4		„ 5d. „
Peas and vetches	$24\frac{1}{2}$	3	18	$1\frac{1}{2}$	58	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	vetch price 4d. per bus.
Oats ... ..	10	5	12	2	47	1	4	3	

Grange Account 1379-80. Produce of sowings. Autumn 1378. Spring 1379.

Wheat ... ..	62	3	46	2	43	$1\frac{1}{2}$		3	of which 2 sks. tail—wheat destroyed by mildew. Price per bus. tail 4d. to 2d.
Barley ... ..	32	5	40		99	1	3		barley per bus. 5d.
Beans ... ..	4	6	6		14		3	2	beans per bus. 7d.
Peas and vetches	20	3	15		11	1		$2\frac{1}{5}$	12 acres yielded 2 sks. 7 bus. only.
Oats ... ..	17	5	21	1	47	2	2	3	oats per bus. 3d.

TABLE No. 1.

NAMES OF LANDS AND THEIR CROPS, SHOWING NUMBER OF ACRES SOWN.

	1376-7.	1377-8.	1378-9.	1379-80.	1380-1.	1381-2.	1382-3.	1383-4.	1384-5.	1385-6.	1386-7.
Sevyacres—Sevyeres ...	{ wheat 22 peas and vetch 1a. 3r. }	...	...	{ wheat 12 oats 10 }	{ wheat 23 peas and vetch 10 }	{ wheat 22 peas and vetch 8 }	{ wheat 22 barley 10 peas and vetch 5½ }	{ wheat 22 peas and vetch 14½ }	{ wheat 18 peas and vetch 15 oats 5 }	{ wheat 18 oats 4 }	wheat 22
Sevyeres—E. feld ...	...	{ pt. wheat 17 pt. oats 4 }	{ pt. oats 3a. 3r. }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ W. „ ...	...	peas and vetch 22	wheat 22	peas and vetch 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lynche ferlong* ...	wheat 12	barley 12	wheat 12	...	wheat 12	barley 12	barley 12	wheat 12	barley 12	{ wheat 9 barley 3 }	barley 12
Shorte „ ...	wheat 12	...	wheat 12	barley 12	wheat 12	...	wheat 12	barley 12	wheat 12	...	wheat 12
Stone or Stony ferlong ...	pt. wheat 6	pt. barley 6	...	...	...	...	...	barley 12	pt. wheat 10	wheat 2	...
Strode, Strand or Strond ferlong ...	barley 7	{ peas and vetch 2½ wheat 2 beans 2½ }	wheat 7	barley 7	...	wheat 7	{ wheat 12 barley 3 beans 4 }	wheat 8	barley 7	{ beans 2½ peas and vetch 4½ }	wheat 7
Stret ferlong or Ferlong South of King Street...	...	pt. wheat 6	{ pt. barley 9 beans 3 }	barley 12	{ wheat 20 peas and vetch 4 beans 3 oats 2 }	barley 22	...	wheat 9	...	...	wheat 10
La Hyde ...	wheat 17	barley 17	barley 9	...	...	{ peas and vetch 11 oats 3 }	...	...	wheat 19	barley 19	peas and vetch 8½
N. „ ...	...	...	...	wheat 16	barley 16	barley 5	...	...	...	...	...
S. „ ...	...	...	oats 12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
E. „ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	wheat 16	barley 7	...	...	...
Northdene... ..	barley 4	wheat 4	barley 4	beans 4	barley 4	beans 4	barley 4	beans 4	barley 4	beans 4	wheat 4
Southdene ... ..	barley 10	wheat 10	barley 10	peas and vetch 10	...	...	peas and vetch 10	barley 10	wheat 3	...	barley 12
Levedy, Landaymed, Lefdy, Ladymed ...	{ beans 2 peas and vetch 15 }	oats 4a. 3r.	beans 1	oats 4a. 1r.	...	...	oats 4	...	oats 5	...	...
Chalcroft ... ..	...	oats 1a. 1r.	oats 1a. 1r.	oats 0a. 3r.	oats 1	...	oats 1	...	oats 1	...	...
Solwyke ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	oats 22	oats 19	oats 15	...	...	oats 16
Westecumbe ... ..	...	wheat 9	...	wheat 9	...	wheat 9	...	{ peas and vetch 11½ oats 6½ }	...	barley 8	barley 8
Langecumbe ... ..	...	wheat 7	...	wheat 7	oats 7	{ wheat 3 barley 2 }	barley 2	{ wheat 6 barley 5 }	...	{ wheat 3 oats 3 }	barley 6
Ridencroft, Rudencroft, Redecroft or Rodyng- croft ... ..	...	wheat 10	...	wheat 10	{ barley 8 beans 2 }	wheat 10	...	wheat 9	{ barley 5 beans 4 }	wheat 10	{ beans 6½ peas and vetch 3½ }
Wetherhen or Wytherhen	oats 9	...	wheat 9	barley 9	barley 9	wheat 9	barley 9	...	barley 9	peas and vetch 9	wheat 9

\* For "lynch" vide S.A.C., Vol. XLV., p. 199. "Furlong" was used for an open field.

Grange Account 1380-81. Produce of sowing. Autumn 1379. Spring 1380.

Crop.	Acreage sown.	Seed per acre.		Total amount seed sown.		Total yield.		Approximate yield per acre.		Remarks.
		Bus.	Sks. Bus.	Sks. Bus.	Sks. Bus.	Sks. Bus.	Sks. Bus.			
Wheat ... ..	54	3	40 2	69	1 1	Price of wheat per bus. 10d.				
Barley ... ..	40	5	50	160	4	,, barley ,, 6d.				
Beans ... ..	4	6	6	16	4	,, beans ,, 8d.				
Peas and vetches	15	3	11 1	22 3	1 2	,, peas and vetch per bus. 4d.				
Oats ... ..	15	5	18 3	54 3½	3 2½	,, oats per bus. 3d.				

Grange Account 1381-82. Produce of sowings. Autumn 1380 and Spring 1381.

Wheat ... ..	67	3	50 1	80	1 1½	24 acres in Lynch ferlong and Stroud ferlong failed. Price of wheat per bus. 9d. to 6d.				
Barley ... ..	37	5	46 1	189 1½	5	,, ,, malt per bus. 6d.				
Beans ... ..	5	6	7 2	16 3	3 1	,, barley ,, 4d.				
Peas and vetch...	14	3	10 2	30 ½	2 ¼	,, malt ,, 5d.				
Oats ... ..	17	5	21 1	71	4 ¾	2 acres in Rudecroft failed in part. Price of beans per bus. 6d.				
						,, peas and vetch per bus. 3½d.				

Grange Account 1382-83. Produce of sowings. Autumn 1381. Spring 1382.

Wheat ... ..	60	3	45	111 1½	1 3¼	whereof 2 sks. 2 bus. tail. 20 acres in Westcombe failed. Price of wheat per bus. 8d. to 7½d.				
Barley ... ..	41	5	51 1	169 ½	4 ½	Price of barley per bus. 4½d.				
Beans ... ..	4	5	5	15	3 3	,, beans ,, 5d.				
Peas and vetch...	19	3	14 1	40	2 ½	,, peas and vetch per bus. 3½d.				
Oats ... ..	25	4½	28 ½	113 2	4 2					

Grange Account 1383-84. Produce of sowings. Autumn 1382 and Spring 1383.

Crop.	Acreage sown.	Seed per acre.		Total amount seed sown.		Total yield.		Approximate yield per acre.		Remarks.
		Bus.	Sks.	Bus.	Sks.	Bus.	Sks.	Bus.	Sks.	
Wheat ... ..	62	3	46	2	92	2	1	2	Price of wheat per bus. 7d.	
Barley ... ..	40	5	50		165	$1\frac{1}{2}$	4	$1\frac{1}{2}$	„ barley „ 5d.	
Beans ... ..	4	5	5		10	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	„ beans „ 7d.	
Peas and vetch... ..	$15\frac{1}{2}$	3	11	$2\frac{1}{2}$	6			$1\frac{1}{2}$	failed altogether. Price per bus. 5d.	
Oats ... ..	24	$4\frac{1}{2}$	27		80	$1\frac{1}{2}$	3	$1\frac{1}{3}$		

Grange Account 1384-85. Produce of sowings. Autumn 1383. Spring 1384.

Wheat ... ..	66	3	49	2	<i>illegible</i>				The auditors this year remark on the poor quality of the grain.
									Price of wheat per bus. 7d.
Barley ... ..	41	5	51	1	139	3	3	$1\frac{1}{2}$	tail „ „ 4d.
Beans ... ..	4	5	5		9	$3\frac{1}{2}$	2	2	barley „ „ $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3d.
Peas and vetches	16	3	12		25	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	beans „ „ 6d.
Oats ... ..	$21\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	24	$\frac{3}{4}$	86	3	4	1	peas and vetches per bus. 5d.

Grange Account 1385-86. Produce of sowings. Autumn 1384 and Spring 1385.

Wheat ... ..	62	3	46	2	104	2	1	$2\frac{2}{3}$	whereof 20 sks. tail.
									Price of wheat per bus. 12d. to 8d.
Barley ... ..	42	5	52	2	150	2	3	$2\frac{1}{3}$	tail „ „ 5d.
									whereof 7 sks. 2 bus. tail.
Beans ... ..	4 3	5	5	$3\frac{3}{4}$	10	2	2	$\frac{1}{4}$	Price of barley per bus. 6d.
Peas and vetches	15	3	11	1	34	2	2	1	tail „ „ 3d.
Oats ... ..	11	$4\frac{1}{2}$	12	$1\frac{1}{2}$	40	2	3	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Price of beans „ „ 8d.
									„ peas and vetch per bus. 5d.

Grange Account 1386-87. Produce of sowings. Autumn 1385. Spring 1386.

Crop.	Acreage sown.	Seed per acre.	Total amount seed sown.		Total yield.		Approximate yield per acre.		Remarks.
			Sks.	Bus.	Sks.	Bus.	Sks.	Bus.	
Wheat ... ..	52	Bus. 3	Sks. 39	Bus.	Sks. 130	Bus. 3	Sks. 2	Bus. 2	Price of wheat per bus. 7d. to 6½d. tail " " 5d.
Barley ... ..	40	5	50		149	1½	3	3	Price of barley " " 4½d. tail " " 3d.
Beans ... ..	6½	5	8	½	12	3	2		Price of beans " " 6d.
Peas and vetches	13½	3	10	½	37	1	2	3	" peas and vetch per bus. 3d.
Oats ... ..	7	4½	7	3½	30		4	1	

*Rotation of Crops.*—There appears to have been no recognised rotation of cropping, but wheat was cultivated on the land most suitable for it, and as often as it permitted. Perhaps we may take the rotation followed in Lynche furlong, Stronde furlong, Short furlong, N. and S. Dene, West and Lange Cumbe, Redecroft and Wytherhen as most typical of that generally recognised, and as approaching most nearly to what was called by Walter of Henley the two-field system.

In Sevyeres wheat seems to have been sown every year, but as the district now called Seviars comprises, according to the Extent of 1357, an area of 43 acres (then wholly lying in pasture), it is probable that at the period we are considering only a portion of this area, generally, 18 to 20 acres, was sown with wheat, and the remainder, when not bearing a spring crop of peas and vetches, was lying fallow for the following year.<sup>9</sup> This district is mentioned in the Custumal as the chief place to which the manure arising from the yards and folds was to be carted by the villains to a mixen, to be afterwards spread over the land, and is now some of the stiffest land in the neighbourhood, and therefore best suited to a wheat crop.

From the yield of the various crops and their relation to the yield as averaged by Walter of Henley, we see that the farm was not a very productive undertaking, and had it not been for the enforced works which were unpaid in money, would have been anything but profitable.

2. *Account of Stock* (Comptus Stauri).—These are all much alike. We will take as a typical one that for 1370-71, the second of three years during which the returns were made by Roger Peter, who calls himself in this year "sergeant," in the other two years "bailiff." He acted for Eringham as well as Wiston. This return is specially valuable as defining "bovetti" and "boviculi"

<sup>9</sup> This idea is borne out by the sowings in Sevyeres always being described as "apud," whereas in other lands they are "in" or "super."

as terms descriptive of age, a distinction unrecognised in our dictionaries.

*Stalo*—1 stallion remaining (at the beginning of the year). Died in murrain.<sup>10</sup>

*Equus*<sup>11</sup>—1 horse received from himself (the reeve) at Iryngham still remaining.

*Jument'*—5 mares remaining—2 added from the colts below. Delivered at Iryngham in the month of November, 1. Remain 6.

*Pullan'*—9 colts remaining—4 (2 males) of the issue this year. Whereof in murrain 1 female. Delivered to the lord's stable 1 male. To the bailiff of Boys<sup>12</sup> by precept of the lord 2 males. To John Hamery by precept of the same 1 male. Added to the mares above 2. Remain 6 colts of which 2 females of last years issue and 4 of this year. Of which 2 are males.

*Boves*<sup>13</sup>—19 oxen remaining. 4 from remaining *bovetti* (3 years old) of last year.

Whereof in murrain—nil. To the lord's larder (8) by 1 tally against Ralph Wyse of bulls and cows 1.

Remain 22 oxen of which 1 to the larder.

*Taur'*—2 bulls remaining—1 added from below.

To the lord's larder 2 by tally. Remains 1.

*Vaccæ*—14 cows remaining—1 from remaining *bovet'* of last year. 1 received from the reeve of Findon before calving. 1 for a heriot of John Mot after calving.

Whereof delivered to the lord's larder by tally—1.

Remain 16 (2 to the larder after Mics.).

*Bovett'*—8 *bovet'* from remaining *boviculi* of last year by tally.

Whereof added above to bulls 1. Delivered to the sergeant

<sup>10</sup> All causes of death were described indiscriminately as "murrain." The carcasses were inspected by cadaveratores or carnatores, who reported the cases to the next manor court. If the skin or hide was worthless it was so reported. If not it was sold, or sometimes sent to be tanned.

<sup>11</sup> Horses for the use of the lord.

<sup>12</sup> le Boys—a seat of the De Braoses in Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

<sup>13</sup> These were used for farm purposes—ploughing, &c. Seven names are applied to "bovine" stock—

1. *Vitulus*—calf—under 1 year.

2. *Annales*—yearlings—1 to 2 years.

3. *Boviculi*—two-yearlings—2 to 3 years—both sexes.

4. *Bovetti*—three-yearlings—3 to 4. The female *bovet'* were old enough to have calves.

5. *Vaccæ*—cows. These are often described as "wild," having been allowed "to suckle their calves as long as they liked." Some of them were sent to the lord's "larder" to be killed and salted for winter consumption. Cows' milk appears to have been but little used.

6. *Taurus*—bull.

7. *Boves*—full-grown oxen.

The animals killed are those sent to the lord's larder after Michaelmas, chiefly in November.

- of Hyen (Heene) 2. To the sergeant of Chiltington 2.  
Remain 3 *bovett'*—female.
- Bovicul'*—8 *bovicul'* from remaining yearlings (*annales*) of last year.  
Remain 8 of which 1 female at Fydone.
- Annales*—1 steer (*boviculus*) yearling from a heriot of Agnes wife of John de Lyndefelde—3 yearlings from remaining calves of last year.  
Whereof 1 delivered to the reeve of Washington.  
Remain 3.
- Vitul'*—13 calves of the issue of cows above and no more because 2 were barren this year.  
3 calves issue of *bovett'*.  
Whereof in tithe this year and last 2.  
Delivered to the household by 1 tally 2.  
Remain 12 calves whereof — (*illegible*).
- Multones*—295 wethers remaining.  
Whereof in murrain before shearing 23—after nil. Delivered to the household of the lord by 1 tally after shearing 16. In custom of customers scything Brodemed 1. Expended at 3 autumn boonworks 4. In expense of a ploughing had by request (*prece*) at sowing of wheat 1.  
Remain 250 wethers.
- Hurtard'*—10 rams remaining.  
Remain 10.
- Oves matricēs*—136 ewes remaining.  
Whereof in murrain before shearing 33. Of which 14 before lambing and after shearing. To the lord's larder after shearing 11. Expended at 3 boonworks in autumn 3—besides wethers.  
Remain 89 ewes.
- Agni*—106 lambs issue of ewes and no more because 16 were barren. 4 lambs coming from half the issue of ewes going over the lord's pasture.<sup>14</sup>  
Whereof in murrain before separation 16—after separation and before shearing<sup>15</sup> nil. In tithe 7. In custom to shepherd 1. To lord's household by 1 tally 6 before shearing. To the reeve of Fyndon before shearing 60. Sold over account<sup>16</sup> 20 for 13s. 4d.  
Remain nil.
- Hogast'*—185 hoggets (2 years old) received from the reeve of Fyndon in the month of October.  
185 whereof in murrain before shearing 18.  
Remain 167.
- Porc'*—2 sows received from the reeve of Fyndon without a tally in the month of October.

<sup>14</sup> In Solewyk and other places foreign ewes were admitted to pasture at lambing time on condition of leaving half the lambs behind.

<sup>15</sup> Note the custom then prevailing of shearing lambs.

<sup>16</sup> *Super compotum*, i.e., after the account was inscribed.

19 pigs (of which 1 a boar) received from the bailiff of le Boys by 1 tally.

Whereof to the lord's larder by 1 tally against Ralph Wyse 19 (of which 1 boar).

Remain 2 sows.

*Porcell'*—34 little pigs issue of sows above.

Whereof in murrain 4. Given in tithes 3. To the lord's household by tally 3. To William Waryn reeve of Fyndon 24. Remain nil.

*Auce'*—3 geese remaining of which 1 a gander (*anser*) 2 geese (*mariole*). 18 geese received of same charged with 14 of issue.

Whereof to the lord's household by 1 tally 18. Sold over account 14 for 4s. 8d.

Remain 3. 1 gander 2 geese.<sup>18</sup>

*Gall' et Gallin'*—42 cocks and hens of rent at Nativity of the Lord. 3 hens received of himself as bailiff of Iryngham.

Whereof in default of rent of divers holdings in the lord's hand 25. To the lord's household by tally 16. Also from Iryngham without a tally 3.

Sold over account 1 for 2d.

Remain nil.

*Ova*—110 eggs of rent at Easter.

Whereof allowed for divers holdings in the lord's hands 65.

To the lord's household without tally 45.

Remain nil.

*Pulcin'*—6 chickens of a fine as in Court Roll.

Remain 6.

*Cisera*—1 cask of cider received from the issue of the garden this year. To the lord's household with 3 qrs. coming from Hyen and 3 from Chiltington.

Remains nil.

*Lana grossa*—151 fleeces of big wool received at shearing this year. 78 fleeces coming from Iryngham with the tithes this year.

Whereof in tithes 63. In custom to the shepherd of the wethers 2. Sold, as within,<sup>19</sup> 164. (They were sold for £8.)

Remain nil.

Lambs wool nil this year.

*Cor*—Hide of 1 stallion—died of murrain.

Delivered to the bleacher for half.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>17</sup> The stock of geese varied extremely. Once there were 91; many times only three or four. A large number were bought. Ducks are seldom mentioned.

<sup>18</sup> It was a standing order to the reeve that he should account for 14 geese "of issue," and have remaining in stock at least "1 gander and 2 geese." These birds are called by the word "auce" for both genders. The word for a gander is written generally exactly like "auc," but is sometimes written in full "ancer," or even "anser." The word for the female bird is invariably "mariol'," which is not found in the dictionaries.

<sup>19</sup> As entered on the front or inside of the roll.

<sup>20</sup> The bleachers (*dealbatores*) to whom this hide was sent were the whitetawers, who prepared light skins with alum instead of tanning them with bark. They kept half the hide for their labour.

*Pelles et Pelett'*—75 woofels with 35 pelett' of dead and killed as above and sold as within.

Remain nil.

*Pelles Agnorum*—16 lambs skins received of murrain as above.

Whereof in tithe 1. sold as within 15.

Remain nil.

Issue of the dove house. Nil this year because expended in lord's household.

6 barbed arrows. (A quit-rent from one of the freeholders.)

Remain 12 (for 2 years).

*The Herdwick* (Vol. LIII., p. 152).—The name points to this as being of early English origin, and as but little reference is made to it in old documents, it was probably at the time which we are considering, 300 years after the Norman Conquest, falling into disuse. It occurs in *Domesday* as a settlement of herdsmen, either shepherds or cowherds on the hills, and apart from the villages, whether temporarily or continuously does not appear.<sup>21</sup> As described in the Wiston Custumal, it had a much more definite purpose both in the working of the manor and as an important matter of economy for the lord's household—its object being to supply butter and cheese for his winter consumption. In our later documents mention is made of the letting of the milking of the sheep, which rather confirms the idea that the De Braoses did not make much use of Wiston as a residence till late in the fourteenth century. We know they owned a place in Buckinghamshire, Le Boys in Amersham (see Vol. LIII., p. 147), as there are records continuously of provisions being conveyed there from Wiston. The only mention in our documents of the milking or produce of cows is the occasional statement "of the milking of cows this year—nil." They appear to have been kept mainly for the purpose of raising young stock.

In the Wiston Custumal the herdwick was a temporary gathering or collection of ewes only, but in the Burton Chartulary we find it referring to the right of the Abbot to hold a herdwick of cows or vaccary.

The herdwicks at Wiston were two in number, each consisting of 200 ewes. Certain villains were told off

<sup>21</sup> Vide *The Old English Manor*, by Andrews, pp. 223 and 224.

to attend to these, and whilst carrying out their duties there they were exempt from their accustomed works on the land, their whole time being spent in the folds and the work connected with them; no doubt they even slept with their flocks, as Walter of Henley says "shepherds ought to do."

The herdwick attendants were answerable that the correct number of ewes was supplied for its formation, and if there were not enough belonging to the Lord of the Manor they had to provide them, and were paid for them in the resulting cheese. The lord had to provide salt, milking butter and cheese making appliances, and was to be supplied with two dishes of fresh butter weekly, and a cheese a day from 1st April to 14th June. Ten cheeses went for tithe, one by agreement to the dairy woman and many were sold, in one case 87 for 26s. 9d. at prices varying from 2d. to 5d. each. It is probable the herdwicks were situated in some sheltered coombe on the side of the hill, where the sheep had easy access to the pasture on the downs as well as to cultivated lands, as it was stipulated there should be a grattan (stubble field) in which the sheep could run.

Owing, no doubt, to the scarcity of obligatory labour and the consequent farming out of everything that could be so dealt with, the supply of the dairy in our rolls is either leased, or conducted entirely in connection with the lord's household.

*Flax.*—The same cause will account for the absence of any mention of the onerous works in the preparation of flax enjoined on the tenants as described in Vol. LIII., p. 151, and elsewhere. Whether used for hempen cord or rough linen, it was cheaper to buy than to pay for the labour. An excellent account of the various processes of separating the seed, soaking the stems in water tanks, drying and otherwise preparing is given in *Encyclopædia Britannica* (Ninth Edition) under "Flax." The Scottish cotters till recent times were doing just such works in their own cottages as the Wiston tenants did in the days of the Old Custumal.

## II. MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

BY THE REV. WILLIAM HUDSON, F.S.A.

*The Family of De Bavent.*—Further investigation into the history of Roger de Bavent tends to throw a not very favourable light on the cause of his grant of his property to King Edward III. in 1344. Instead of being an arrangement between himself and Peter de Braose, there is good reason for thinking it was forced on Roger as a means of escape from bankruptcy. Adam de Bavent, who had obtained the Wiston property through Alice, daughter and heiress of William de Wystneston, in the time of Henry III., had a son, also named Adam, who married Alice, daughter of Peter de Escudamore, owner of the Manors of Norton and Fifield, in Wiltshire. He died in 1293, when these manors, with Wiston, passed into the hands of his widow,<sup>1</sup> their son Roger being a minor born in 1287. Alesia de Bavent pays the subsidy on various Sussex properties in 1296.<sup>2</sup> We may observe, in passing, that if Roger was reckoned as attaining his majority at the age of 16 in 1303 that would give a reason for the compilation of a Rental and Custumal, and exactly correspond with the date conjecturally assigned to the Old Custumal of Wiston in our last volume. Roger was summoned as a Baron to Parliament from 1313 to 1334, and paid the subsidies in 1327 and 1332.<sup>3</sup> By his wife Letha, whose family name is unknown, he had a son Roger, who is said to have succeeded his father about 10 Edward III. (1336). He had a wife, Hawise, whose family, like that of his mother, has not been discovered.

Roger II.,<sup>3a</sup> on his accession to his ancestral estate, may possibly have found it already depreciated. Such seems

<sup>1</sup> Hoare, *Wiltshire*, p. 119.

<sup>2</sup> Sussex Record Society, Vol. X., p. 56.

<sup>3</sup> S.R.S., Vol. X., pp. 155, 270.

<sup>3a</sup> This Roger was great-grandson of the first Adam de Bavent, not grandson, as stated in Vol. LIII., p. 145.

to have been the case with Wiston and Chiltington, on the evidence of the Subsidy Rolls. For Wiston,<sup>4</sup> in 1296, Alesia de Bavent paid on an assessment of £13. 8s. 9d. In 1327 Roger I. paid on £7. 0s. 5d., and in 1332 on £9. 7s. 6d. For Chiltington<sup>5</sup> the assessment dropped from £12. 3s. 10d., under Alesia in 1296, to £3. 9s. 2d. in 1327, and £4. 5s. 7d. in 1332, under Roger I. On the other hand, the assessments of Eringham<sup>6</sup> varied only from £5. 9s. 6d. to £5. 7s. 6d. and £6. 15s. Those at Cocking,<sup>7</sup> another possession of the Bavents, were £12, £14 and £15.

However this may be, within seven years we find Roger II. in great financial difficulties. On 23rd February, 1343, in return for a loan of £60, he demises to Sir R. de Burtone, Canon of Chichester, for seven years, his Manor of Hacchesham (Hatcham in Camberwell) and his house in London, in Bassingshaw Street.<sup>8</sup> On 8th March, for money lent, he demises to two London merchants his Manor of Sherborn, in Kent, with rents in Malling and Rochester.<sup>9</sup> On 9th May he grants the Manor of Poling to the Earl of Arundel.<sup>10</sup> On 1st July, 1344, as already stated, he granted to the King all his lands in England and Wales (except Chiltington and Sloghtre).<sup>11</sup> Our earliest Reeve's Account Roll for Wiston runs from Michaelmas, 1345, to Lady Day, 1346. Some extracts given in Vol. LIII., p. 180, seem to show Roger in possession of this and other manors, with a certain William de Keynes acting as his steward. An order, however, entered on the Close Roll on 5th May, 1345, puts a different aspect on this matter. The King orders William de Keynes, keeper of the lands which belonged to Roger de Bavent, in the King's hands by Roger's grant, to deliver to Roger all issue of the lands, *in aid of his maintenance*, of the King's gift till further order.

<sup>4</sup> S.R.S., Vol. X., pp. 56, 155, 270.

<sup>8</sup> Close Roll, 17 Ed. III., part ii., m. 24d.

<sup>5</sup> S.R.S., Vol. X., pp. 54, 158, 272.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, m. 29d.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X., pp. 58, 163, 278.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, m. 18d.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 99, 116, 240.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, m. 22d.

The very large amount of Roger's indebtedness appears from an enrolment on the Close Roll on 20th November, 1349. The King writes to his Justices and recalls the fact of Roger's grant of July 1344, and his re-grant of the lands to Roger, with reversion to himself. He then states that he has heard that certain persons, scheming to defraud him of that reversion, had caused letters obligatory according to the form of law merchant for £5,000 to be issued on that day (? 1st July, 1344) in Roger's name, and were suing to the Justices for execution of the writs. He orders them to stay execution. In 1351 we find that the Manors of Hacchesham in Surrey, Wytneston (with its members of Iryngham and Ashurst) and Heene in Sussex, together with Sherbourn in Kent, and Fyfhide in Wilts, had been demised by Roger to William de Thorpe, who also owned Chancton. Now they are seized by the King for some forfeiture of William's, and they are to be delivered to R. de Hadham, escheator of the King's Chamber, to which purpose he has reserved them. What became of Roger's maintenance is not stated.

Meanwhile his relations with his wife were not altogether satisfactory. Before 12th August, 1344, the Manor of Norton Skydenor, with some others, had been granted by Roger to the Bishop of Ely and the Parson of Ringwode during the life of Hawisia.<sup>12</sup> In the confused dealings with Roger's property all through this period Norton was withdrawn from this use, and on 13th March, 1345, W. de Keynes is ordered to restore it to these two persons, to whom the King had granted it, to hold for the maintenance of Hawise, "so that she may bear herself better towards her husband in future." The same disturbance arose again, apparently from W. de Keynes including it in the lands whose issues were to go to Roger's maintenance. He was ordered, on July 15th, 1346, to leave it for Hawise, this time to the trusteeship of the Archbishop of Canterbury and others. At Roger's death Hawise and her son John retained possession at least of the

<sup>12</sup> Close Roll, 18 Ed. III., part ii., m. 19d.

Manor of Norton, for on 8th July, 1357, she grants to William de Fyfhide 40s. to be received of her Manor of Norton, and John, son and heir of Roger and Hawise, confirms the grant and binds himself to pay it for his life.

The above account of Roger II.'s troubles ignores the grant of the Manor of Whiteford in Devon, by Peter de Braose, to the King on the day after Roger's grant of all his lands. It was this coincidence which suggested the theory of an arrangement between the two families. The two grants are, indeed, mentioned together in an enrolment of 29th October, 1344, as though parts of one transaction. But in the face of the above evidence that explanation can hardly stand. Roger had really nothing to exchange. Being probably connected with the Court, it is reasonable to suppose he put himself and his estates into the hands of the King, with whom they would be safe from creditors, and from whom he might be fairly assured of a maintenance. Peter, who was in the King's household, would doubtless covet the portions which lay in his family county of Sussex, and may have offered Whiteford to the King to conciliate his favour in granting his wish. Such transactions are not quite according to our modern ideas of strict honesty, but in those days they would be all in the way of business.

Roger died on 23rd April, 1355. On the day before his death he (so to speak) made his will.<sup>13</sup> He made a final grant of all his lands to the King, who thereupon entered into unconditional possession of them, and perhaps was not in too great a hurry to take any further step. The Post Mortem Inquisitions respecting the property following on Roger's death were not held till 10th June, 1357. On 1st November, 1357, the King granted the Sussex portion to Peter de Braose.<sup>14</sup> The terms of the grant need a little illustration. In 1355 (the exact date is not known) the King had founded at Dartford, in Kent, a house of Nuns. They were of the Order of St. Augustine, but were sometimes styled Dominican, and were at this time under the charge of a

<sup>13</sup> Inq. post mortem. File 137-46.

<sup>14</sup> Pat. Roll, 31 Ed. III.

Friar Preacher called John de Woderowe. On 25th October, 1356,<sup>15</sup> an order had been given to the King's Escheator in Norfolk to deliver to Friar John de Woderowe, warden of the house of Nuns at Dertford, the King's Manor of Brandiston in Norfolk, which he had by gift of Roger de Bavent, to dispose of the same to the use of the Nuns. In the Inquisition on Roger's death, held on 10th June, 1357, it is reported that "John de Woderowe, Friar Preacher, had occupied the (Wiston) lands since the death of the said Roger." If this statement is to be taken strictly, it follows that from the very time of Roger's death the King had destined the estate, or part of it, to the support of his newly-founded Nunnery. It would almost seem as though, having the desire to found the Nunnery, the falling in of Roger's estate enabled him to fulfil his purpose. At all events he made that use of it. Having presumably promised it to Peter de Braose, he did not, as he might otherwise have done, give the estate to the Nunnery. He set a price of 1,000 marks (£666. 13s. 4d.) upon it, and required Peter to pay 850 marks to the Nuns, the King (?) keeping the remaining 150 for himself.<sup>15a</sup>

So the manor passed from the De Bavent family in untoward circumstances. It is pleasant to record that a small charge of 2d. on the manor, established by Roger or his father, to be paid yearly to the Fraternity of the Knights of St. John at Poling, for the souls of himself and his ancestors, was duly paid by the family which succeeded to the inheritance of the donor.

*The Manor under the de Braose Family.*—We might expect a good deal of information about the time of the coming of Peter de Braose into the manor under the King's grant of 1st November, 1357. There is extant an Account Roll running from St. Leonard (6th November), 1356, to Michaelmas, 1357, another from that date to Michaelmas, 1358, and another similarly to Michaelmas, 1359. There is also a Roll including the proceedings at

<sup>15</sup> Close Roll.

<sup>15a</sup> The record says Peter is to keep the 150 marks for himself.

four Courts, on 5th October and 23rd November, 1357, and on 1st June and 9th November, 1358. The result of an investigation, if disappointing in some ways, is most interesting in others. In the "wheat" account of the first of these rolls the Reeve accounts for two bushels of wheat received "from Brother Walter proctor (or agent) of the house of Dertford." These bushels would be the result of the harvest of 1356. This agrees with the statement about the Warden of that Nunnery being in charge of the lands for the King. In the same account 257½ works of customers are said to have been rendered in "thrashing and winnowing the lord King's corn." Reference is also made to the Inquisitions held here on 10th June, 1357.

In baked bread for expenses of the Steward and the Escheator of the lord king and others being there in the month of June, by order of Richard Cambray (steward), 4 bs.

In provender (oats) of horses of John atte Tye subescheator of the lord king being there in the month of June, 2 bushels.

The Court Roll supplies the information that for a whole year after the King had granted away the manor he retained control of the Court, for all the four Courts are styled "Court of the lord King." The Reeves, however, account for the issues as part of the manorial income. The entries of the Courts in the Reeves' Account Rolls are worthy of notice. "Perquisites are accounted for of a Court held on Th: before St. Katherine, 30 E. III." (24th November, 1356). No more Courts are mentioned that year. The next Reeve (Michaelmas, 1357, to Michaelmas, 1358) mentions three with their perquisites. These are the first three called "Courts of the lord King." The fourth is recorded by the following Reeve, as will be seen.

Yet it is plain that even before he received the actual grant from the King the new lord had been busily engaged in taking possession. Before the close of the Reeve's year at Michaelmas, 1357, he had recorded £2. 10s. 7d. spent "at the lord's comings," and the next Reeve speaks of "ale bought for the lord's expenses in the month of September in the 31st year" (1357). And

beyond these bare statements there is abundant evidence of setting the place in order in the way of repairs and re-stocking. Here is the account before Michaelmas, 1357, of the "Cost of Buildings" during that year:—

Paid to a mason making 1 buttress (*botes*) on the north of the manor (? house) and mending defects of south chamber and over the gate (*porta*) in part payment 31s. Paid to John Tournour carpenter and his mates mending divers buildings on the manor by agreement made through Richard Cambray steward, in part payment, 45s. In 1½ sextaries (c. 1 quart) of lime bought 3s. In purchase of 1 house at Horsham with stone,<sup>16</sup> 66s. 9d. In taking down (*deponend'*) the said stones from the said house 3s. 4d. In expenses of divers men carrying the said stones to Wystnoston, 3s. 6d. And paid for taking down the stones from the south chamber and over the gate (*porta*) in full 15d. Paid for digging stone at Chiltington and Nhutbourne by order of Richard Cambray steward 5s. 6d. Given to the same by order &c. 2d. In divers bolts (*clav'*) bought for expenses of houses there by order &c., 9s. In 1000 shingles (*cendulis*) bought, 6s. In stipend of a roofer (*coopertoris*) with his boy roofing over the corn-grange for 3 days 12d. In gathering sticks (*virgis*) for the same 2½d. In sea sand bought 3s. 4d. In stipend of 1 man mending the great gate (*porta*) on the west of the manor for 2 days, 6d. In spikyngnail for the same 5d. In stipend of 1 man mending the pigsty for 3 days, 9d. Given to carpenters lifting (*levanc'*) timber of the bakehouse 3d. by order of the steward. In planknails (*planchnail*) for the same 3d. Paid for cutting down an oak for timber 4s. 5½d. In stipend of John Mot cutting (*sindent'*) pales and rails (*palis' et railles*) for 4 days 12d. Total £9. 6s. 8d.

Of the house at Horsham and its roofing-stone we read further:—

Timber of 1 house sold at Horsham 16s. 8d.

Under "Wheat":—

In expenses of various men carrying 12 wain loads of stone from Horsham to Wystnoston by boonwork (*de prece*), 1½ bushels of wheat.

The introduction and increase of stock was also very large. It is partly accounted for this year, partly in the following year. There were bought this year 1 horse, 23 oxen, 2 sows, 9 pigs. There were introduced from Whiteford (the Devonshire Manor which Peter de Braose parted with in 1344, but seems to have recovered) 2 mares, 3 male colts, 12 oxen, 1 cow, 1 young bull and 1 yearling. Besides these animals 15 qrs. of barley were

<sup>16</sup> The well-known Horsham tiles used for roofing.

bought for seed and 13 qrs. 3 bus. 3 pecks for payment of household servants. Of vetch  $5\frac{1}{2}$  bus. and of oats 3 qrs. 5 bus. were bought for seed. We may add an outlay of "£3. 7s. 9d. for 12 casks for putting cider in," a good investment, for the next year the "Issues of the Manor" included "12 casks of cider, price of cask 13s. 4d., £8."

Altogether the expenses this year were over £40 and the receipts under £31. The latter would have been little more than £11 but for a remarkable sale of oaks in the park of Solewyk and in Ashurst. The Rector of Wiston and Ralph Bochy were the salesmen, and many of the clergy of the neighbourhood came to the sale, the Vicar of Fyndon, the Rectors of Buncton and Lancing, the Vicars of Ashurst and of Vipond, and the Rector of Bramber. The sale realised £14. 9s. 11d. from Solewyk and £5. 4s. 10d. from Ashurst, in all £19. 14s. 9d.<sup>17</sup>

The following year, as reported in the Reeve's Account from Michaelmas, 1357, to Michaelmas, 1358, things were set on a much better footing. The receipts amounted to £44. 9s.  $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. and the expenses to £42. 12s. 10d. Again a large amount was spent on buildings, £12. 18s. 11d.

In certain agreements of John Tournour, carpenter, and others for repairing buildings within the manor, cutting and shaping (or shaving, *scapulant*) timber, and making shingles and roofing over the hall and chamber, in gross by view of the Steward and Richard Bassett, by 2 tallies, £6. 9s. 9d. And paid to William Wilham for divers bolts (*clavis*) bought from him by the Steward, 63s. 7d., as appears by the tally. And paid to the same for planchnail and s[ton]nail<sup>18</sup> bought for the bakehouse, 5s. by tally. And paid to John stonemason for making walls there, in gross in part payment, 10s. In 2,000 dore nail bought, 5s. And paid to John Cademan roofing over the south chamber and over the gate, in part payment, 15s., by tally. In 1 sextary (*cestre*) 4 bs: of lime bought for the bakehouse, 2s. 3d. In collecting moss<sup>19</sup> (*moes coll'*) for the south chamber and for the gate, 6d. In 76 ridge tiles (*crestes*) bought, 4s. 5d. In a lock bought for the west gate of the garden,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. In a lock bought for the door of the nurse's chamber,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. In a key for the lock of the door of the wine chamber, 2d. In

<sup>17</sup> In Solewyk 97 oaks were sold averaging 3s. each, the highest price for one being 10s. At Ashurst the prices were much lower, averaging 1s. 8d. for 63 trees. Compare the price of oaks from Ashburnham Forest Woods c. Ed. II. (*S.A.C.*, Vol. XVII., p. 116.) The names of the clergy are not given.

<sup>18</sup> There is here a hole in the parchment.

<sup>19</sup> Perhaps as bedding for the tiles.

a key for the door (*ostia*) next to the east gate (*porta*), 2d. In laying 54 lbs. of lead over the gutter between the hall and the chamber, in gross 4s. In tin ("Tyn") bought for the same, 6d. In stipend of 1 man mending defects over the hall, viz., with lead in the gutters, by Richard atte Ok, chaplain, 12d. In stipend of John Mot shaping shingles and roofing over hall and oriel and (? mending) gutter next the south chamber and mending over the Westgatehous for 31 days, 7s. 8d., and there are owing to him 3s. for 16 days. In 1 lock with a key bought for the door of the south grange, 3d. In hooks and rides<sup>20</sup> (*gumphis et vertivellis*) for the wicket of the western gate (*pro Wigate porti [sic] occid'*), 9d. In stipend of 1 man daubing the defects of the walls and louvre (*femerell'*) of the Westgatehous in needful places for 2 days, 5d., and of his servant, 2d. In stipend of 1 roofer roofing over the Westgatehous for 1 day, 3d. In stipend of 1 roofer roofing the Puthouse (pit or well house) for 3 days, over the house (? room)<sup>21</sup> of the nurse for 2 days, over the house next the west gate on the south side for 2 days, 2s. 4d., at 4d. a day. In stipend of 1 roofer with his boy roofing over the east grange for 6 days, over the hay grange for 1 day, over the cowshed (*bovariam*) for 1 day and over the south chamber for 2 days, 3s. 4d. In stipend of 1 roofer with his boy roofing over the hay grange at Iryngham for 1 day and over cowshed for 4 days, 20d. Total, £12. 18s. 11d.

No grains were bought this year for seed. Several animals were introduced from "Boys,"<sup>22</sup> the lord's manor in Chiltern, referred to last year. One working horse (*affrus*) came from there, 2 mares, 1 female colt, 1 bull, 1 cow, 2 "boveti,"<sup>23</sup> 1 calf, 68 lambs and 5 peacocks. The purchases included 48 ewes bought by Sir Richard, the lord's chaplain, before shearing, and 14 by the lord after shearing, 189 lambs bought by Sir Richard and 25 geese.

This account brings us to Michaelmas, 1358. On Friday after St. Leonard (9th November) was held the last Court, styled "King's Court." The Reeve, who had entered office at Michaelmas, records the perquisites of five Courts in his year, and the first is held on Saturday after St. Leonard. This is the very next day to the last "King's" Court. The perquisites were £2. 16s. 10d., a

<sup>20</sup> Gumphus (Fr. gond) is the hook or pin driven into a gate post or door jamb. Vertivellus is the iron band or bar fastened on the gate or door and terminating in a ring, by which they are hung on to the hook and swing. The band is called a "ride" in Sussex. See Halliwell's *Dictionary* and Parish's *Dictionary of Sussex Dialect*.

<sup>21</sup> "Domus" is used for a room as well as a house.

<sup>22</sup> Vol. LIII., p. 147.

<sup>23</sup> See *ante*, p. 141.

very large sum. They must include £1. 17s. 10d. from the Court of the previous day. We have no account of the Saturday's Court, but it seems reasonable to suppose it was the first Court of Peter de Braose, who was thus finally established in Wiston Manor.

From the above details of the amounts spent on repairs of buildings, an expert in early domestic architecture might fairly reconstruct the "Hall" and its surroundings at Wiston in the middle of the fourteenth century. Considering that nothing is said about new buildings, and that the estate, as we have seen reason to suspect, had been greatly let down for some long period, we must carry back the buildings to quite the beginning of the fourteenth century. If so the "Hall" must have been a prominent example of its kind. Besides the ordinary hall and private chamber facing the south, kitchen, bake-house and other conveniences, there were several granges, an enclosed garden, and one great gate with a "house" over it. There was also a dove-house constantly mentioned.<sup>24</sup> The nurse for whom a chamber was provided must, I think, be a person named Juliana Whiteford, evidently from the Devonshire manor of that name. She is several times mentioned as receiving regular allowances without any work recorded. In the Roll for 1356-7:—

Paid to Juliana Whiteford by order of the lord for 43 weeks from Sunday next before St. Nicholas (2 Dec. 1356) to the feast of St. Michael, taking  $\frac{1}{2}$  bs. per week, 2 qrs.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  bs. (wheat).

In the following year she received, by order of the Steward, 4s. 4d. (1d. per week), being no doubt fed "ad mensam domini." The year after she receives nothing, but we read:—

In wages of the averman going to Geldeford<sup>25</sup> with the lord's nurse, 4d.

The future Sir John de Brewes was probably born, but could only have been quite young at this time, for he lived till 1426. Still, if the "nurse" had charge of a

<sup>24</sup> See "Extent" above, p. 131.

<sup>25</sup> Probably to Bramley. See *post*, p. 161.

child he would surely be mentioned. She was, perhaps, a foster-mother of Sir Peter.

*The Death of Lady Joan de Brewes.*—It is curious that so little should be known of Sir Peter de Brewes, to whom I will now give the spelling adopted in our Rolls and by the family in general at this time. Genealogists have not decided who was his father, or whence he came to Wiston. Nor has the date of his death been known, nor that of his wife. The two last items of information are approximately settled by these Rolls. Her name was Joan, and she was granddaughter of Lady Ada de Sandford, and was either a Weedon or a Maltravers.<sup>26</sup> Even their children seem to have escaped notice. Sir John, the successor, and his sister Beatrix, who married Sir Hugh Shirley, are well known. In these Rolls the names of three more appear. Lady Joan, with her husband, enjoyed the possession of Wiston about 12 years, and no doubt came there sometimes. At the time of her death she was at Le Boys. In the Bailiff's year, which ended at Michaelmas, 1370, we find:—

In wages of the bailiff for 2 weeks at the time when the lord was about the burial of the lady, 2s.

The "Foreign Expenses" for this year contain much of interest besides this particular matter:—

Paid to Will: Skypard and Will: atte Purie avermanni going to le Boys for doing the lord's business in the month of December twice, 20d. For expenses of men going with 1 cart carrying 4 pigs and 25 lambs of stock<sup>27</sup> for the sepulture of the lady, by 1 tally against Nich: Bush, 10s. In 100 lydnail bought for a new cross, 4d. In shoeing a mare going to Northfolk<sup>28</sup> in the month of Feb: 4d. In 1 halter bought for the same, 1d. Paid to Walter and Will: atte Purie sen:, avermanni, going to la [sic] Boys for the lord's business in the month of January, 10d. Paid to the same carrying lambs' wool to London and for fetching salt fish and herrings there to Wystneston for the lord's household 5 times, 2s. 6d. Paid to John Skypard

<sup>26</sup> See Elwes and Robinson's *Pedigree of Braose of Wiston*. Also Pat. Roll., 20 Ed. III.

<sup>27</sup> In Stock Account on dorse: "Lambs. Delivered at Missyngden on day of sepulture of the lady, 25." "Pigs. Delivered at Boys, 4."

<sup>28</sup> The Brewes held several manors in Norfolk, especially Stinton in Salle and Heydon (Blomefield, *History Norfolk*, Vol. VI., p. 242). Sir J. Brewes, of Heydon, had his Manor Rolls burned in the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 (Powell, *East Anglian Rising in 1381*, p. 31).

averman going to le Boys once and to London 5 times, 3s. 4d. Paid to Will: Skypard, averman, going to London 5 times, 2s. 6d. Paid to John Lyndefeld going to le Boys once and to London twice, 22d. Paid for dorenail, shyngelnail, stonnail bought for repair of houses and for a new cross by 1 tally against Will: Nhyterd carpenter, by order of Sir John the parson, 5s. 6d. In stipend of 2 men cutting wood for the lord's household for 2 days, 2s. at 4d. per day each. In expenses of servants going to Haselwode for fetching 2 casks of cider there for the lord's household, 6d. Paid to Sir Hugh Snow, as in geese and other victuals bought for the lord's household, by 1 tally against the same, 9s. 11½d. Paid for mending the window of the hall with iron<sup>29</sup> and for shoes for the lord's boy (*garcione*), by order of the lord, by 1 tally against the said Hugh, 6s. 4d. Paid for 1½ bus. of white salt for the lord's household, by order of the lord, 1s. 6d. Paid for carriage of one tomb (*tumbe*) from Shoreham to Wystnoston, 12d. Paid for lime bought for the same, 12d. Paid to Robert Boghton mowing in the garden in the month of July, 6d. Paid to 2 men cutting wood in the park of Solwyk for the household for 1 day, 8d. Paid for fish called Cokles bought for the lord's household, 10d. Paid to Will: Skypard, John Skypard and Walter atte Purie avermanni going to London for the lord's business in the month of August, 18d. Paid to the clerk of St. Antoni<sup>30</sup> 4d. by order of the lord. Paid to Will: Skypard daubing the inner-wall (*parietem*) of the kitchen and helping a mason in the church about a certain tomb and doing other necessary things 14 days, 14d. To a carpenter splitting 50 laths for trailing the vines (*pro vineis trailiandis*), 8d.

In the account of stock is:—

1 Yearling delivered to Sir Hugh Snow by legacy of the lady (*ex legatu domine*).

In the next year (1370-1) amongst the "Foreign Expenses" men are paid for carrying victuals to le Boys "propter obitum domine." This can hardly refer to the actual death of the lady. It must be her "obit" or anniversary commemoration. The next account contains no notice, but in the year 1373-4 a very lengthy "Foreign Expenses" includes several curious details on the subject, besides other things:—

Paid to Walter atte Purie, John atte Purie and John Lyndfelde avermanni carrying victuals with the lord to le Boys in the month of October, 2s. 6d., each 10d. To John atte Stephenes and Will: Skypard avermanni carrying fresh game (or venison *ferinam friscam*) and 1 barrel full of verjuice (*vertuys*) to le Boys the same month 20d. Paid to John atte Purie avermanni carrying 3 dozen ( $\frac{xij}{ij}$ ) cheeses

<sup>29</sup> Or mending the ironwork (*ferrament*).

<sup>30</sup> There was a chapel of St. Anthony at Cokeham in Sompting, which was subordinate to the manor of Wiston.

to (*juxta*) Windsor for making a present to the lord king in the month of November 10d. And in wages of Janyn going to le Boys on account of the obit of the lady, by order of Sir John the Rector, 2s. Paid to Walt: atte Purye, John atte Purye, John Lyndfelde, and Will: Skypard avermanni going to le Boys for carrying the lord's victuals after the feast of the Epiphany 3s. 4d., 10d. each. And in wages of Walt: atte Forde, harrowman, going with the same for carrying victuals, by order of Sir John the Rector 10d. And in a gift of the lord to the light of St. Nicholas<sup>81</sup> 6d. And paid for a peal rung (*classico pulsato*) at Stenyng on account of the obit of the lady 4d. In wages and stipend of 1 boy going to the plough and wain for 3 weeks while one Palmer was at Northfolk with Ralph Wyse, 18d. And in 2,300 Shyngelnail bought and delivered to Nitthere for roofing the chamber of Friar William<sup>82</sup> 4s. 7½d. And in 1,000 stonnail bought for the same 21d. And paid for bolts bought for a new cross by Sir John the Rector 2s. 6d. And in 100 dorenail and planchnail bought for same 8d. And paid to Walt: atte Purye avermann' carrying fresh venison to le Boys about the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary 10d. And paid to John atte Stefanen carrying 6 geese for (*per*) 2 weeks before Lent (*carniprivium*)<sup>83</sup> there 10d. And paid to the same carrying dossers and bankers<sup>84</sup> for the hall to le Boys on the vigil of Palm Sunday 10d. And paid to John Lyndfelde carrying there fish against the first week of Lent<sup>85</sup> 10d. And paid to Will: Skypard carrying figs and raisins (*raysones*) there for mid-Lent 10d. And paid to John atte Stefanen carrying half a carcase of ox-meat and a saucer (*sals'*)<sup>86</sup> of 24 doves after the feast of St. George (23 April),<sup>87</sup> 10d. And paid to Will: Skypard carrying fish cooked and fresh (*coct' ac rec'*) at the same time 10d. And paid to John atte Purye carrying 60 doves there 10d. And paid to Will: Skypard carrying 24 capons there 10d. And in stipend of 1 cooper binding 1 cask and 1 pipe for putting cider in in the month of October for 3 days 4½d. and table. And in 26 hoops bought for the same 6d. And in stipend of the same binding vessels against the Nativity for putting meat in and pickling it (*soussiand'*) for 2 days, 3d. and table. And in stipend of the same making hoops and binding barrels against Easter for four days 6d. and table. And in stipend of 1 man daubing the walls of the chamber of John Seyntwayn<sup>88</sup> for 4 days 4d. besides the help of Richard Skypard. In bolts bought for the same ½d. And in 4 lbs. of candle bought, of which 2 in time of account, 10d. And in wages of Janyn going to le Boys with 2 avermanni with white (*alb'*) capons on Good

<sup>81</sup> In Wiston Church (*S.A.C.*, Vol. XII., p. 111).

<sup>82</sup> I cannot find anything about this Friar or Brother.

<sup>83</sup> This word has several meanings. See Du Cange. It is difficult to fix one here. It was generally, but not always, Shrove Tuesday (*S.A.C.*, Vol. VIII., p. 165, Vol. XXVI., p. 255).

<sup>84</sup> Hangings and cushions.

<sup>85</sup> Here "Quadragesima."

<sup>86</sup> ? Salsarium, a sort of pie.

<sup>87</sup> This year (1370), Easter Tuesday.

<sup>88</sup> Or Saint Owen, of Clapham.

Friday (*die parasceves*)<sup>39</sup> 12d. . . . And paid to John Chesman making (*fac'*) the dairy for the lord's household from Hokkeday to Michaelmas, by order of the lord 6s. 8d. And in stipend of 1 man helping in milking of ewes for 6 weeks, 15d. at 2½d. per week. And in wages of Nich: Bussh parker for a year at 1d. per day, 30s. 4d. And paid to Richard Calwe carpenter for his stipend for a year, as in farm of land charged above in money<sup>40</sup> 6s. by order of the lord. And paid to Sir Hugo Snow by the hand of William atte Ree<sup>41</sup> farmer of Ashurst, by order of the same 40s. And 1 qr. 4 bus. of white salt, received from wood sold above, and delivered to the household in summer 6s. And paid for ale bought for the lord's household by 1 tally against John Kirtlyngton, 16s. besides 9d. in advantage (*avantagio*)<sup>42</sup> viz. on 20 gallons 1 gallon. And in amercements pardoned by the lord to Richard Prat (6d.) and Ralph Skypard (2s.), as appears by roll of court 2s. 6d. And paid to Ralph the smith of Esshyngton for treatment of damage received by a mare (*pro medicamento jumenti unde deteriorat'* *fruit*) coming from Norfolk 40d. Total £23. 9s. 7d.

The above extract, besides the commemoration of Lady Joan's obit, gives us a curious insight into the management of the affairs of a man of sufficient position to keep going two or more distant households. The "avermanni," or as I have there called them "pack-horse men," have been noticed in Vol. LIII., p. 198. To what is there said only a little need be added. The journeys here recorded are to le Boys, which cannot be short of 70 miles from Wiston. For this the invariable payment is 10d. (To London, say 50 miles, it was 6d.) As stated in our last volume, the first day's work was done for nothing, as part of their customary service. Beyond that a day's pay was 6d. A journey to London, therefore, is counted for two days, and one to le Boys as under three.<sup>43</sup> The Wiston bailiff no doubt paid them on their return, and presumably for their journey home. The bailiff at le Boys may have paid them on arrival there. It is strange that we never find any payment of similar messengers coming from le Boys or London,

<sup>39</sup> Day of Preparation.

<sup>40</sup> The rent of his holding, now returned, or allowed.

<sup>41</sup> He had a 10 years' lease of the 80 acres of demesne land at Ashurst. This was the 5th year. The extent of 1357 (*ante*, p. 132) shows that this was not the land of Wm. Ismonger as suggested in Vol. LIII., p. 165.

<sup>42</sup> A surplus given in to cover shortage, or here a discount allowed on payment. The usual price was 1½ per gallon. 128 gallons with 6 thrown in would be 16s., the 9d. for the extra 6 not being charged.

<sup>43</sup> See *post*, p. 163, 5 days to London and back.

while the Wiston men are frequently said to have gone to fetch (*querend'*) goods from both those places. There might be no customary tenants in London, but one would have expected some at le Boys. At this time there were five "avermanni" at Wiston. Their names and payments are entered in a marginal memorandum. From the list of "Farms" in this account we find that four of them held one ferling of land at a farm or fixed rent. This should mean without services, but this particular service must have been reserved for the lord. The fifth, John atte Stefenes, held a virgate, but paid no rent, "because he held it on the ancient service." As many as six or seven "avermanni" are sometimes employed in one year.

*Death of Sir Peter and Entry of Sir John de Brewes.*  
—The only notice we have in the Rolls of the death of Sir Peter de Brewes is in the Account from Michaelmas, 1378, to Michaelmas, 1379. There we read "In money paid to the lord. . . For offerings made on the day of the anniversary of his father, 5d." The bailiff took the money out of the funds in his hands and made the offering in the name of Sir John. This was an advance on Sir Roger de Bavent's annual 2d. for the souls of himself and his ancestors. Yet this 5d. entered as accounted for to the lord for this special purpose is one of five entries of moneys paid to the lord, ranging from 7s. 1d. to £5. 17s. 7d., in all £13. 16s. 1d. Our forefathers were not sentimental<sup>44</sup> in these matters, though magnificent enough in the way of monuments. It is only fair to say there is abundant evidence that Sir John was very generous towards his relations, friends and tenants.

No definite date is attached to this entry. If the "anniversary" means strictly the first commemoration, Sir Peter's death must be placed between Michaelmas, 1377, and Michaelmas, 1378, only a few months perhaps after that of his patron, King Edward III., on 21st June, 1377. His son was, it seems, prepared for his father's

<sup>44</sup> This is the second entry. The first is "Paid to the lord for 16 pigs sold, 40s."

death, for in the year ending Michaelmas, 1377, we read among the "Farms":—

Of 5s. from John atte Pyrie for land formerly Cobage, nil, because it is in the lord's hand through default of a tenant and the pasture was fed down by the horses of John de Brewes and others of the family (*de familia*).

In the following year, ending Michaelmas, 1378, occur some more definite indications:—

Expenses of Steward. In expenses of steward for court held on the last day of March together with the expenses of John de Brewes 3s. 8d. without tally.

We can hardly doubt that this Court was held by Sir John as lord, and that his father had died before that time. In the "Foreign Expenses":—

And in expenses of John de Brewes coming to Wystnoston in the month of April and staying for — weeks, 9s. 10½d.

The following entries under this head are of interest:—

In expenses of 4 servants with 2 wains returning from Bromlyghe<sup>45</sup> to Wystnoston at the time when the lord went to le Boys 12d. . . . Paid to Robert Boghton by letter of the lord 3s. 4d. And in stipend of the same cutting vines as well in the herbaray as in the garden 4d. . . . And in expenses of Sir John Rector of Fyndon, Robert Palmer and others being over the auditing of the account of the lord's ministers in the month of Nov:<sup>46</sup> (1377) by 1 tally, 3s. 7d. And in expenses of the same another time for dealing with various petitions (*pro petitionibus tractandis*) 20d., without a tally. And in expenses of the same for taking a view against the Nativity, 18d., without a tally."

Under the title of "Foreign Expenses" the next year occurs a notice of "Repairing la Tabour<sup>47</sup> over the hall."

In a Court Roll of 25th October, 1378, we may discover Sir John settling himself in the Manor by granting new admissions in more definite terms of "seven acre" holdings, as mentioned in Vol. LIII., p. 171.

Very shortly after Sir John's establishment at Wiston we find reference to members of his family, hitherto unknown. In the Roll ending Michaelmas, 1380, among "Foreign Expenses," is entered:—

And in bread, ale and other victuals bought for the expenses of Richard and Thomas, the lord's brothers, by 1 tally against Sir John Rector of Fyndone, 23d.

<sup>45</sup> Bramley, near Guildford, a manor of the de Braoses of Chesworth.

<sup>46</sup> This would indicate that Sir John entered on the manor between Michaelmas and November, 1377.

<sup>47</sup> "Taboure, timpanum." Prompt: Parv: Perhaps a gong, or bell.

The next year they are reckoned as members of the household, for whom the customary church offerings are made by the bailiff on the usual economical scale:—

In offerings of Richard and Thomas de Brewes at the Nativity 4d.<sup>48</sup>

We may pick up by the way a piece of information which just precedes this:—

In 16 gallons of ale bought for the lord's household 2s. at 1½ per gallon. And in 17 gallons of cider bought for the said household 17d. at 1d. per gallon.

And another:—

In 19 qrs. of lime for the repair of the stone walls of John Faukon's (? Faukoner's), 19s.

Again the next year (1381-2) we come across the lord's brothers:—

And in necessaries bought for Richard and Thomas the lord's brothers, as in money paid to them, 12d.

These notices might lead to the idea that these two were young boys living with their brother at his expense. But their mother had died in 1369-70, and in 1382-3, where we come to an unusual set of expenses connected with some voyage over the sea, which is not further explained, we find from the details entered that Richard, the elder, is taking the chief place in the household:—

In stipend of Will: Couperre binding and repairing 3 casks and 1 pipe for the sea voyage (*viagio maris*) for 4 days, at the lord's table, 8d., at 2d. per day. And in 19 hoops bought for binding the said casks 9d. And in 15 hoops bought for binding the pipe 4d. And in 26 hoops bought for the casks 10d. And in ale bought for expenses of the household in the time of carriage of the victuals to the sea 4s. 6d., with 13d. paid for 13 gallons of ale sent to the sea. And in all expenses incurred at Pende<sup>49</sup> for entering the lord's victuals there and drawing them out to the ship (*navem*) together with 3 boats (*batellis*) hired for the same besides 5s. paid by the reeve of Iryngham 12s. 4d., as appears by particulars examined on the view of account. And in gift (*rewardo*) made to divers tenants of the lord for making hay into cords (*pro feno in cord' fac'*) for the voyage beyond the sea by order of Richard Brewes and the steward, 5s. 8d. And in wages paid to Alexander Kendale and 2 boys (*garcionibus*) of the lord for watching (*custod'*) the said victuals within the ship at Pende, nothing here because (paid) by the reeve of Hyen. . . . And in bread and

<sup>48</sup> The usual offering made for the "famuli" was 1d. each.

<sup>49</sup> Formerly situated by the mouth of the Adur (*Ships of Shoreham*, by H. Cheal, jun., pp. 7, 8, 28, 29).

ale bought for the expenses of Thomas de Brewes after the feast of Holy Trinity, by 1 tally, 6s. And for divers victuals bought for the expenses of the lord, of Richard Brewes and Thomas his brother after the feast of Easter by 1 tally 7s. 8d. . . . And in ale bought for expenses of the lord in the months of August and September by 1 tally against John Vyel, 16s. 4d. . . .

On dorse of same roll:—

Pigs. Also on the day of the anniversary of the deceased lord, delivered to the lord's household, 4. Cocks and Hens. Delivered to the lord's household in the month of Feb. (1383), 10.

In 1383-4:—

Paid to Nich: Bussh for his wages at Chiltyngton, being in arrear, by warrant of Thomas de Brewes, 15s. 2d. And in expenses of Richard Brewes staying there in the month of November, by 1 tally, 5s. 2d.

In 1384-5:—

In bread, ale and chickens bought for expenses of Thomas the lord's brother and Simon Fust and Nich: Bussh being over the shearing this year, 8½d.

Other items in this account:—

Paid to the lord's coffer for agistment of sheep, by hand of Nich: Bussh, 6s. 8d., by view of the hermit<sup>50</sup> (*eremite*), without tally. Payments of servants. In payment of Matthew Buddyng by alms (*elemosina*) of the lord in the absence of the household for 11 weeks, 2 bush. 3 pecks, taking 1 peck per week, this first year, the hermit being witness. Mares. By gift of the lord to Matthew Buddyng, 1 stray before foaling.

In 1385-6:—

In expenses of a herald (*heraud*) of the Earl of Nottingham on the morrow of St. Michael in the 9th year (1385), as in fish bought, 8d. In expenses of 1 servant (*servient*) of Thomas Brewes for carrying victuals to London in the month of April for Philippa<sup>51</sup> the lord's sister, 8d. Paid to the summoner of Storgheton<sup>52</sup> for his various expenses coming hither for receiving (*percipiend'*) the tithes of Buddington to the use of the King, the hermit being witness. And in expenses of Walter atte Pyrie avermann' for leading<sup>52a</sup> victuals to the lord's sister in London in the month of May coming and returning for 5 days 2s.

<sup>50</sup> I cannot say who this hermit was.

<sup>51</sup> Erroneously given in Vol. LIII., p. 147, as Johanna.

<sup>52</sup> The tithes of Buddington, which was in Wiston parish, had been given in 1220 by John de Braose, of Bramber, "out of his demesne lands there," to Sele Priory (*S.A.C.*, Vol. X., p. 114). The King, for some reason, now claimed them, and had ordered the Dean of Storrington, in whose deanery Buddington lay, to collect them for him.

<sup>52a</sup> Provincially used for "carrying;" hence in Latin "ducend'."

In final balance at foot:—

An obligation for 40s. from Thomas Huget (accountant) to the lord is “in keeping of the hermit.”

In 1396-7, and again in the year 1398-9, mention is made of a holding (the same in both cases) having been granted by Peter de Brewes, “late lord of this manor.” This is the sole mention of his name throughout these Rolls. In the first of these two years a “mare before foaling” is given by the lord to Richard Brewes, his brother.

In 1398-9 come some important references to a new relation of the lord, George de Brewes:—

Cows. In gift of the lord to George Brewes, before calving, 1. Wethers. Delivered to the household of the lord held at Cheseworth at end of this account after shearing, 11. Ewes. Delivered to the household of the lord at WYSTNESTON (and Chesseworth<sup>53</sup>), after shearing 34. Also after shearing to (*versus*) Chesseworth, 12.

Again in 1400-1:—

Necessary expenses. To ale bought for expenses of George Brewes while the lord was in the parts of Wales, 6d. . . In 4 gallons of ale bought against the coming of the lord from the parts of Wales, 6d. Paid to John Lyndfeld for 1 average (carrying) with divers victuals of the lord to Chilterne 6d.

In 1401-2:—

Mares. In gift of the lord to George the lord's kinsman (*consanguineo*), 1. In gift of the lord to Richard Camoys, 1.

In 1398-9 are some entries relating to the lord's boys (*pueri*):—

Calves. In gift of the lord to his 2 boys (*duobus pueris suis*), 2. Lambs. In gift of the lord to Agnes Marchal 1, to Agnes Praton 2, to 2 boys of the lord 4, to Richard and William, the lord's boys 2.

Although these entries are certainly curious, we can hardly, without further evidence, think these “*pueri*” were the lord's sons,<sup>54</sup> especially as in the last entry the two named seem to be distinguished from the two unnamed. Yet they are treated with special favour, as something more than merely “*garciones*.”

<sup>53</sup> Added later above the line.

<sup>54</sup> A monument in Wiston Church is supposed to commemorate one son.

The conclusions to be derived from the above notices of Sir John de Brewes' family are several:—

First: Beside his known sister Beatrix, who married Sir Hugh Shirley, he had two brothers, Richard and Thomas, and a sister, Philippa. Beatrix was born in 1366, being 60 years old when her brother, Sir John, died in 1426, so the absence of her name is just as accidental as the single notice of her sister. But the two brothers for some few years are closely connected with Sir John's affairs, and, at least occasionally, acted as prominent members of his household. Secondly, as the inheritance after Sir John's death without a living child passed through his sister Beatrix, we must suppose that the two brothers predeceased Sir John. They drop out of the Rolls in 1385-6, though there are four more Rolls in the next five years where we might equally expect to find them mentioned. When in 1398-9 the lord begins making frequent gifts to George de Brewes and numerous other persons, his two brothers are never named. Thirdly, this George, whom he calls his "kinsman," must be the George who came into the ownership of Chesworth Manor, by Horsham, through the failure of nearer heirs, as related in *S.A.C.*, Vol. VIII., pp. 98-100. In 1395 Thomas de Brewes,<sup>55</sup> then owner of Chesworth and Sedgwick, died and his heirs, two young children, followed him almost immediately. The manors went eventually to George, who was owner in 1412 (*S.A.C.*, Vol. X., p. 140). Mr. Durrant Cooper (*S.A.C.*, Vol. VIII., p. 102) makes him a grandson of Peter de Braose, who died *c.* 1312. Elwes and Robinson, under Bramber, make him the great-grandson. The latter, under Wiston, make Sir John's father Peter (doubtfully) son of the above Peter, and Sir John therefore his grandson. It would appear, by good evidence,<sup>56</sup> that George was really Peter's grandson, so if Sir John was also his

<sup>55</sup> Of this Thomas and Margaret, his wife, we have mention in a Paper Schedule attached to a Court Roll of 15 Rich. II. It is headed "Buddington," "Wheat. Delivered to servants of the Lord Thomas de Brewes, chivall', 7 qrs. whereof 1 of gift." "Beans. In gift to Lady Margar' de Brewes, 1 qr." (1391).

<sup>56</sup> See Wrottesley's *Pedigrees from Plea Rolls*, p. 230, who does not give the details of intrusion, &c., here quoted.

grandson, Sir John and Sir George were second cousins. Thomas, who died in 1395, immediately before his death put these manors in the hands of three feoffees, who (presumably after the death of the two children) granted the manors to his wife Margaret for her life. The first of these feoffees was Richard Brewes, probably Sir John's brother. The third was John Kyrtyngton. Under these circumstances the conduct of these two shortly after seems rather strange. We are told in a plea brought in 1402-3<sup>57</sup> that, immediately on the death of Thomas, George entered as kinsman and heir of Thomas, being son of John, brother of Thomas, the father of Thomas just deceased. What happened then is not plain. After a while Margaret married William Burcestre, and, as the pleading states, they were seised of Chesworth until John de Brewes, George Brewes, Richard Brewes, John Kyrtyngton and several others, with force and arms, came and wrongfully disseised them of the manor. The date of this intrusion is not given, but it seems to explain the entries in the Roll of 1399 (quoted above) about Sir John's "household being held at Chesworth." The defence advanced was that when Thomas appointed the feoffees he was *non compos mentis* through infirmities preceding his death. The plea from which these details are taken was brought by William Burcestre and Margaret. The jury decided that Thomas was quite of sound mind and the intruders had to pay heavy damages.

Sir John de Brewes, when he died in 1426, must have been an old (perhaps a very old) man. His parents, Sir Peter and his wife Joan, were already married at the time of the grant of Whiteford to the King on 1st July, 1344, 82 years before Sir John's death, who was their eldest son. After the end of the fourteenth century we learn very little about him from the Rolls. The chief piece of information is that, as was becoming a common custom among estate owners, he placed his manor in the hands of Feoffees or Trustees.

Wyston—First Court held there in the time of John Warnecamp, Thomas Restewold, John Pagenham, Peter Wilcombe, John Chesham

<sup>57</sup> Coram Rege Roll, 4 H. IV., m. 29.

and William Apseele feoffees of the manor of Wiston by John Brewes Knight on Monday the vigil of St. Barnabas Apostle in the 10th year of the reign of King Henry the 4th after the Conquest (10 June 1409).

John Goryng, John Umbervyle and William Clerk, freeholders, did fealty. And furthermore, order was given to the reeve to distrain all the other freeholders of the said manor to do fealty to the said feoffees.

All the bond tenants and all the tenants according to the custom of the manor did fealty to the said feoffees.

Sir John lived 17 years after this action, dying on 3rd December, 1426, having held the manor very little short of 50 years. He was buried at Wiston, where his monumental brass is reckoned one of the most eminent of its class. A contemporary Roll, with its date torn off, contains the following notices:—

For carriage of stone for a tomb in the church 8d. Foreign expenses (apparently under Chilington). And in expenses for a certain stone carried from London to Wystnoston for the tomb of John Brewys knight, 20s. And making 800 tiles (*cindul'*) there, 2s. And for custom of the said stone at the bridge of London 12d. Total £1. 4s. 0d.

On Sir John's death without living heirs his widow Margaret succeeded him for her lifetime. Her first Court (the record of which survives) was held on 25th February, 1427, as mentioned in Vol. LIII., p. 148. At this time a Revised Rental was compiled to take the place of the Old Rental and Custumal printed last year. It is, of course, a very different document to the other. Only in the case of three tenants out of 34 are any services mentioned. One has to do a little mowing and reaping, another 1 boonwork, another 2 boonworks. The total amount of rents, including those of tenements to £10. 15s. 7d. Two freeholders, "John Stevenes, for Wodemaneslond, £1," and "Richard Farnfold, for Baventyslond, £2. 8s. 0d.," with some other small sums, raise it to £14. 9s. 5d. In 1449 Lady Margaret died, after marrying a second husband of the name of Wykham.

*The Sherley Family.*—There are no records surviving between the Revised Rental with the Court Roll from

1427-1430 and another Court Roll running from 1461 to 1467, with a fragment of 1473. During the interval the manor had passed into the hands of the heirs of Beatrix, Sir John Brewes' sister and wife of Sir Hugh Shirley. I have found nothing about the circumstances of this period to add to what was stated in Vol. LIII., pp. 148-9.

We pass on to the next surviving set of documents, a complete series of Accounts of Collectors of Rents from 1484 to 1500. They deal only with rents, and are sadly deficient in the various interesting details of the fourteenth century Reeves' Accounts. During the whole of them Ralph Sherley was lord.

The first is—

Account of Robert Calowe Collector of Rents from the feast of St. Michael in the 2nd year of King Richard III. (1484) to the same feast in the 6th year of King Henry VIIIth (1490) for 6 whole years.

We observe that the Collector has the family name of the typical customary tenant in Wiston in the Old Custumal. The Manor of Wiston, "occupied by Ralph Shirley," is valued at £10. The demesne lands at Heene are leased to John Child (a member of one of the old villain families there) for £4. 13s. The Manor of Iryngtham is leased to Thomas Bellingham<sup>58</sup> for £3. 6s. 8d. The Rents of Assize of the Tenants were (as in the Revised Rental), for Wiston £14. 9s. 5d., for Heene £7. 0s. 10d. With a few other items the yearly income of the manor (apart from the Wiston demesne lands) was about £34. 13s. 6d. Robert Calowe continues as collector during the whole 16 years, and the series ends with a quaint illustration of the relation between him and the lord. After all balancing of items,

He owes £6. 9s. 4d. Of which the lord pardons £1. 9s. 4d. on condition that the said Robert Calowe pays 100s. in the next 2 years half-yearly.

Sir Ralph, after a long tenure of more than 40 years, died in 1509, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Richard Sherley. During his tenancy there are surviving three

<sup>58</sup> Of Lyminster, father of Joan, Sir Ralph's wife.

Court Rolls for 1517, 1519 and 1525, and a series bound in a parchment cover extending from October, 1527, to January, 1538. They contain no personal references to the lord or his family.

Sir Richard, dying in 1540, was followed by his son William, of whose tenancy there are no surviving records. He died in 1551, leaving an infant son Thomas, only nine years of age.

In 1555 (perhaps when Thomas was allowed to enter on the estate) occurs the last of the records here dealt with, a new Rental of Wiston and Chiltington. It is a long Paper Roll. The Wiston tenants are divided into three classes, "Freeholders, Copy Holders and Farmours." The portion containing the Freeholders is a mere fragment, so decayed that only a word here and there is legible. The Copy Holders are the holders of the old bond or customary holdings. This part of the Rental is very interesting. There are 13 tenants who, as the return stands, pay the total sum of £3. 17s. 9d. per quarter. But it appears that one who pays 2s. 3d. is only paying a portion of his rent, which is stated to be 5s. Eight others also pay 5s. quarterly, and another 5s. 6d. One other pays 10s., as if holding two lots. There remain two, one of whom pays 11s. 8d. and the other 8s. 4d., or between them four more sums of 5s. quarterly, one holding  $2\frac{1}{3}$  lots, the other  $1\frac{2}{3}$ . Excluding the odd 6d., we can hardly doubt that we have here 16 holdings in the common fields paying a rent of 20s. each yearly. That they were not separate plots seems proved by the equality of the rents. If a holding consisted (as formerly) of seven acres, this would give a rent of nearly 3s. per acre. None of the old names appear in this list. Some of the tenants hold land also as "Farmers."

The "Farmours" are holders of separate lands at various rents. Two of them are leasing lands of Freeholders whose heirs were under age and the lord's wards.<sup>59</sup> Besides these, there were 17 others paying about £30 per year between them.

<sup>59</sup> One appears to be Freehold No. 1, the other is No. 6. *Post*, pp. 171, 172.

The annual income for Wiston comes to about £40.

In Chiltington one Freeholder, Richard Farnfold, pays 1s. quarterly; 4 Farmers pay £4. 3s. 6d.; and 10 Copy Holders pay £2. 14s. 11d. Total, £6. 18s. 5d. quarterly, or about £28 yearly. The list of Copy Holders is curiously arranged. All the surnames are set in column below each other, but each alternate Christian name is followed in the column by a blank where the next Christian name ought to be. The rents are too various to lend themselves to any such classification as those in Wiston.

With this Roll I must necessarily relinquish the historical basis on which I have been compiling the foregoing extracts, gathering out information about the successive lords of the manor, and adding by the way such matters of general interest as fell in at the same time. The date of cessation has a certain appropriateness. The youth whose entry on the manor we have just noticed, when he grew to be Sir Thomas Shirley, removed the old manor house in which all his predecessors had been content to dwell and replaced it with a much more magnificent structure, of which portions still remain incorporated in the present building. Our mediæval story may fitly end with the old house, which was its chief centre of action.

*The Court Rolls.*—Our principal source of information on local matters has hitherto been the Reeve's or Bailiff's annual Account Roll. But there are other Rolls which, though not so generally interesting, contain much material illustrative of the life of the period. These are the Rolls of the Manor Court. This was held in the lord's hall. As usual, the Court Baron dealing with land tenure and the Customary Court dealing with the affairs of the Customers or Villains, were merged in one. The Lord of Wiston had never claimed View of Frankpledge, which developed into the Leet (or Police) Court. So there is no mention of that Court. Offences against the Assize of Bread or Ale, or serious breaches of the Common Law of the Land, were taken before the Sheriff in his tourn, or at a later

time before the Justices of the Peace. The Manor Court was held three or four times a year, and presided over by the Steward. The decisions were all made by the "Homage," which practically consisted of the Freeholders and Customary Tenants. Punishments for minor assaults, trespass, debt, &c., were money fines, assessed by two of their number appointed by the Homage.

*The Ancient Freeholders.*—Almost invariably the first business of the Court was to order (for perhaps the twentieth time) a distraint to be levied on the lands of somebody not there, who obstinately refused to do something he ought to do. These offenders were the successors of the Old Freeholders, of whom a brief notice was given in Vol. LIII., p. 166. Their obligations to the lord of the manor must date back to a very early time. Their lands were, no doubt, subinfeudations, or portions granted away in the twelfth or early thirteenth centuries, on condition that the holder relieved the lord of portions of his obligations to the King or his superior lord, in this case the Lord of the Rape of Bramber. As they were men of some position, it may be useful to gather up some of the notices of their successors in the later Rolls. They will be referred to under the numbers given to them in the Old Custumal in Vol. LIII., pp. 149 and 150.

1. *Robert Lucas.* In Launcyng. Half knight's fee. Sheriff's Aid, 10d. In 1357 Will: Lucas is deceased. His wife Matilda has married John Comsone. Will: Lucas son and heir of Will: and Matilda is 16 (Inq. p.m. 31 E. III. File 137-44). In 1392 (Court on Vigil of St. Barnabas 15 R. II.) William atte Hulle is distrained for default of suit of court. In 1409 (Monday aft: St. Luke 10 H. IV.) William atte Hulle, who held of the lord certain lands in Launcyng which contain half a knight's fee, is dead. A horse and harness are claimed as heriot. In Revised Rental (1427) "John Gorynge for Sheriff's Aid, 10d." In 1466, "Land late John Goring's in Comsone's Fee." [This seems to be the same as Holding No. 9, "John de la Compe." Nos. 1, 2, 9 seem mixed together after this.] In 1526 "Will: Stronge for lands in Launcyng, John Myll alias Cooke for lands in Little Bradewater and in Launcyng formerly Comsynge lately Peter Veske." In 1527 Will: Stronge is dead. In 1530 (23 H. VIII.) Roger Myll alias Cooke is dead. Heriot, horse and harness. Held land in Little Bradewater and lands in Launcyng form: Robert Lucas by  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee. He has issue (no name) aged about 12 years. Heir and lands to be seized.

2. *Ralph Vesk.* Holding in Little Bradewater, similar to last. Half knight's fee. Sheriff's Aid 10d. The family of Vesk (or le Eveske) continued a long time. "Master R. le Vesk," 1358. "Master John le Vesk," 1376. "Late of John Vesk," 1409. "Ralph Vesk" pays Sheriff's Aid 10d., in Revised Rental, 1427. "Late of Ralph Vesk," 1461. "Peter Veske," 1483. "Exōrs of Peter Vesk" (Collector's Account), 1484-1490. "Respite granted to Accountant for the Relief charged upon John Myll alias Cooke and Joan his wife daughter of John Veske son and heir of Ralph Veske. £5" (*ibm.*). See No. 1.

3. Nothing known.

4. *Will: Ismongere.* 1 Mess: and 8 Fields at Ashurst, rent 4s. "Land called Ismongere in hand of lord by reason of minority of heir. Leased to John Michel, 5s." (Account Roll), 1370. "The heir is of full age" (Do.) 1371-2 "Thos. Hungerford, knight owes homage &c. for land form: of Wm. Ismongere," 1392. "Tenant of land called Cappardye, now Ralph Henry, 4s." (Revised Rental, Freeholders), 1427. "John Levett for land called Caperden in default," 1517. "John Levett gent for lands called Capardy late Thos: Grene form: Ismonger," 1527. "John Levett, who held &c. . . . for rent of 4s and 1 red rose, is dead. Heriot, 1 ox. Has son and heir," 1532. "John Slutter for the rent of the Carpardy during nonage of my (Thomas Sherley) Warde being in my possession for one half-year's rent, 20s." (New Rental), 1555.

5. *Fee of Hudegrove.* Nothing more known.

6. *Robert de Wystnoston.* Rent 6d. viz. Fulford. [The last two words have been added to the original.] Two distinct holdings, (a) at Cokeham<sup>60</sup> in Sompting held under Manor of Heene. Thos. Folford *ob. c.* 1337, Rob: his son *ob. c.* 1350, Rob: his son aged 16 in 1357. (Inq. p.m. 31 E. III. File 136, 17.) "Of Rob: Coppedene for certain lands late Fulford in Cokham 26s. 8d. yearly. Allowance of rent of land late Rob: de Wystnoston in Cokham at farm as above, yearly 6d." (Reeve's Account 1396-7.) "Tenant of land form: Fulford's is dead without heirs. Reverts to lord. Rob: Coppedene, principal tenant. Six others hold portions (Court 16 July 1393). (b) In Itchingfield. Order to distrain tenants John Clerk and ōrs on lands form of Thos: Fulford in Hechingfeld for fealty &c. (29 Nov: 1369). Heirs of tenement Fulford to be distrained for fealty, John Clerk and Will: Bost. Tenants also for arrears of rent for 20 years—John Wygar and ōrs (July 1376). "Heirs of tent Fulford, afterwards Wygehar finally Bashrye (mem: on Roll of July 1377). "J. Bassh who held 100 acres in Chedingfeld<sup>60a</sup> is dead. Heir unknown (12 Sep. 1466). "Tenants of lands called Basshes in Dechingfeld (Fraternity of Horsham written above)" (21 Oct: 1527). "Feoffees of Fraternity

<sup>60</sup> This holding, as well as Nos. 1 and 2, and perhaps 9, is no doubt included in the excepted tenements in a Fine between Wm. de Wystnoston and Adam de Bavent, 56 H. III. (S.R.S., Vol. VII., page 82. See also pp. 105, 106.)

<sup>60a</sup> An error for Dechingfeld. For this and other spellings of Itchingfield see Mr. Godman's comments in *S.A.C.*, Vol. XLI., p. 105.

of Horsham for land called Basshes" (14 Oct: 1530). See *S.A.C.*, Vol. IX., pp. 151 and 152 (payment of ancient rent of 6d. to Lord of Wiston by Fraternity).

7 and 8. Nothing known.

9. *John de la Compe*. Rent 1d. ? where. "Will: Compsone who held certain lands freely by military service and 1d. rent &c. is dead. Heriot, horse and harness. Process stayed because Richard Farnfold does suit" (25 Feb: 1427). "Tenant atte Compe formerly [duplicate has "now"] Will: Comsone, 1d." (Revised Rental, Freeholders, 1427).

"*John Faukener*. 6 Barbed Arrows" (Revised Rental, Freeholders, 1427). These arrows are always from the first accounted for by the Reeves, but under no name. "Thos: Benet for land called Faukener's in Fyndon" (Court 21 Oct. 1527).

*Disputes and Wager of Law.*—A considerable item of business, and one of the chief sources of profit arising from the Court, was the presentment of and fines for trespasses by cattle on the lord's pasture or cultivated fields. Another item, especially in the earlier Rolls, is the settlement of disputes among the tenants. The manorial, or (as we may call it) the little village, Court exercised its jurisdiction with much the same forms as the higher Courts of the realm. Plaints were made, the accused denied the charge, orders were given when and how the issue was to be decided, and finally decisions were announced, all by the neighbours of the litigant parties. At the time of the earliest Court Roll there were some very militant tenants in constant evidence. At a Court held on 23rd November, 1357:—

Richard Sexteyn sen: offers himself against John Skypard and Isabella his wife on a plea of trespass. And he complains and says that on certain days and places the said John and Isabella with their pigs ate down 2 acres of peas of the said Richard. And that the said John and Isabella received beans and oatmeal and did other damage to the said Richard in beating Alice his wife against the peace to the damage of 20s. Afterwards come the said John and Isabella his wife and say that they are not guilty as is charged upon them and thereon they will wage their law. And he (John) has a day for his law with a 4th hand at the next court.

John Skypard and Isabella his wife complain against Richard Sexteyn and Alice his wife . . . that Alice wife of the said Richard on a certain day and place beat and wounded the wife of the said John to the damage of the said John and Isabella of 20s. Afterwards comes the said Richard and acknowledges the trespass and prays for

taxation by the homage. And it is taxed at 40d. And order is made to levy from Ric: Sexteyn the aforesaid 40d. to the use of the said John and Isabella which they have recovered. And the said Richard remains in the lord's mercy [for a false claim]. (In margin), Fine 1d.

At the next Court, held on 1st June, 1358:—

John Skypard and Isabella his wife have waged their law against Ric: Sexteyn on a plea of trespass and failed in their law. Therefore it is decided that Richard shall recover damage which is taxed by decision of the Court at 3s. (In margin), Failure of law. Fine 2d.

At this same Court further proceedings took place between these two. Richard complained that John had wickedly maligned him in the Sheriff's tourn. By assent of the parties an enquiry was held. The jury affirmed the complaint. Richard's damage was taxed at 10d., and for his false claim John was fined 2d. Then John complained that Richard had kept back from him 6s. 8d. he had recovered at the last Court. On examination it was found that the correct sum was 40d., as to which Richard stated that by agreement with John he had given him a form of acquittance to satisfy him in due time. John is adjudged in the wrong and has to pay 2d. for wrongful complaint.

The above neighbourly dealings were, doubtless, exceptional, but their record is illustrative of the matter-of-fact way in which the little agricultural communities in former days managed their affairs. The most valuable incident is the "wager of law." This meant substantiating an assertion by a man's own oath, supported by the sworn belief in its sincerity willingly given by an authoritatively fixed number of "oath-helpers," or, as usually called, compurgators. John was told to come "with a 4<sup>th</sup> hand," that is himself with three others. He failed. Either he could not persuade three to come, or, if they came, one or more would not stand the test. John would have to make his oath. Then one by one the others would be called to swear to their belief in the sincerity of John's oath. If only one hesitated John would be found guilty. This system of defence, originated as a valued substitute for the old judicial combat, was getting out of favour. Our latest

authority<sup>61</sup> on these matters says: "The concentration of justice at Westminster did much to debase the wager of law by giving employment for a race of professional swearers." The writers add, "In the village Courts, on the other hand, it would not be easy for a man of bad repute to produce helpers; his neighbours would be afraid or ashamed to back his negations." This opinion is confirmed by the Wiston Rolls, which more often than not record a failure to succeed in this mode of defence. Nevertheless, it held its ground, for so late as 1st July, 1411, two men charged with letting their dogs kill a mare claim this privilege and are ordered to come six-handed (*se sexta manu*). The result is not recorded.

*The Homage and Land Tenure.*—Though the lord granted and received surrenders of manorial lands, the transactions were always done in Court in the presence of the homage, who had a sort of general responsibility over everything. Sometimes they reported the unfitness of a tenant:—

(The lord's homage) say on their oath that John Skypard is poor, weak and lame because he had an injury in his left foot whereby he could not hold his land or do for the lord the rents or services pertaining to his bondland. Afterwards comes the said John and surrenders into the lord's hand the aforesaid land and gives to the lord for heriot<sup>62</sup> 1 pig which is valued by the homage at 18d. (21st October 1357).

Or they certify the fitness of tenants:—

(The homage) present that John Emme and Henry Calwe bondsmen of the lord are sufficient to hold of the lord and do the services of 2 tenements being in the lord's hand for default of tenants &c. Order is made that they should be at the next court (1st June, 1358).

Or they elect a tenant, who is bound to undertake the office,<sup>63</sup> or they assign a vacant holding to all the tenants in common:—

John Smyth is elected by the whole homage to the half-ferling formerly of Thos: atte Purye: to hold according to the custom of the manor and do rent and services due thereon. And the said John was sworn. One ferling of land called Cobage in the lord's hand is

<sup>61</sup> Pollock and Maitland Hist. of English Law (2nd Ed.), II. 636.

<sup>62</sup> A duty payable to the lord by the successor.

<sup>63</sup> See *V.C.H. Sussex*, Vol. II., p. 180.

assigned to all the tenants, doing therefor rents and services due thereon &c. (3rd November, 1376).

*Surrender of Customary Holdings on Condition of Provision for Life.*  
—To this court comes Florencia Syna and surrenders . . . 1 house and 3 acres of land, form: of Walter Hally, to the use of Philip de Goule . . . Heriot, 1 little pig, price 12d. . . . Afterwards comes Philip and takes (the house and land) to the term of his life and that of Alice his wife according to the custom of the manor. He does fealty. Gives for entry 3s. 4d. Further it is agreed between themselves that Philip and Alice his wife shall sustain Florence to the term of her life as well in sickness as in health and also shall give to the said Florence yearly for the term of her life one corset for her wardrobe (*unum corset pro vestura*) (18th May, 1370).

Juliana Smith surrenders a cottage formerly of John Smyth to the use of John Smyth her son. No heriot. To hold &c. Fine for entry 2s. Juliana is to live (*morare*) in the cottage for the whole term of her life (2nd October, 1370).

The Homage present the death of John Sydlok who held a tenement and 1 ferling of land form: Holbrok according to custom &c. Heriot 1 ox, price 15s. Afterwards comes Margaret his widow and takes (house and land) as her bench<sup>64</sup> to the term of her life, according &c. To keep all in fit state and she gives the lord for fine as well for entry as for license of agreement 20s. And she makes oath (27th February, 1377).

#### Various leases:—

Nicholas Smith comes and takes from the lord 1 message and land with charge (*cum honore ? onere*) of the buildings. To hold for the term of 7 years. Rendering therefor yearly 5s. in two payments (9th November, 1358).

William Puriere takes from the lord 2 fields of land called le Sondes. To hold for the term of 20 years, according &c. Rendering 8s. in two payments and 3 capons at the Nativity. Fine for admission 12 chickens (18th October, 1378).

The homage again present that the kitchen of the tenement Syveys is totally decayed by default of John Taylor of Steyning and that it was worth at time of the lease 10s. And the whole homage gave bail to make the said kitchen by the Nativity for the said John as fit as it was at time of lease under penalty of 10s. (7th November, 1409).

John Shypp, who held a message with 1 virgate of land form: of John Stevens sen: at rent of 6s. 8d., has left. It is granted to Will: Puryer to term of his life according &c. . . . without rent for 3 years, he to repair the tenement &c. within 2½ years and then render the ancient services (25th February, 1427).

William Brigger showed a copy by which John Brygger took a tenement called Webbes, to hold to himself, Christiana his wife and

<sup>64</sup> The technical name for the share of her husband's estate to which a widow was entitled.

William and George his sons in succession according &c. Fine 40d. (28th October, 1517).

Joan Skynner daughter of Will: Swan surrendered a ten<sup>t</sup> and 1 virgate called Michelborne in Chiltington, late of Will: Swan her father, who was wont to render yearly 20s., under condition that the lord should be willing to regrant them to herself, John and Richard Skynner her sons. Heriot 1 cow price 10s. The lord regranting them . . . to term of their lives and the longest liver of them according &c. Rendering yearly 26s. 8d., suit of court and other services; so for increase of rent 6s. 8d. They give the lord for having such estate 66s. 8d. (half then, half at Michaelmas). Joan did fealty. Further Joan prays license of the lord to "lease at farm parcell of her tenure to some good and sufficient tenant from the feast of St. Michael last past before the date of these presents to end and term of 7 years." [This license to sublet is general at this time.] License granted. Fine for license 6s. 8d. (12th October, 1531).

At this court Richard Sherley knight lord of this manor granted and leased to farm to Richard Hill a parcel of land called South Slougher in Billyngeshurst lately occupied by John Hill who rendered yearly £4. To hold to himself and heirs and executors from the feast of St. Michael last past to the term of 25 years, rendering yearly £5 at the 4 terms of the year and paying to the capital lord an increment yearly of 20s. as appears by an indenture thereon made (12th October, 1531).

Chiltington. Thos: Mose who held according &c. 1 virgate form: of John Dobyer called Underlees and 1 virgate called Lallinglond and 1 ferling called Milksoppes is dead. Heriot 3 oxen price 20s. each. [After proclamation] comes Will: Holond who espoused Emma relict of Thos: Mose and claims all as Emma's to term of her life. Has a day at next court. As to tenement and virgate formerly Dobyers comes Richard Mose son of said John and claims tenement and lands to be his as younger son (*filius jun'*) and next heir of John Mose. [Is this a case of "Borough English?"] And because he shows no copy he has a day at next court" (21st January, 1538).

*Customs of Common Pasture.*—Wystnoston. The Homage with William Peryer aged 60 say that among the tenants a custom has been held for their common, that each tenant according to the rate of his land should enter the common pasture for sheep from the feast of St. Martin in Hyeme (11 Nov:) to the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary next following (2 Feb.). And there belongs to every tenant having 1 virgate of land (the right of) 26 sheep and so according to the rate of the land which he holds whether more or less. And that their arable land shall be several to them from the Purification to the feast of St. Peter in Cathedra (22 Feb:). And the lord shall not interfere between them. And after the said feast of Purification each tenant is wont to pasture upon his own proper soil and to keep it towards that of others (*custodire versus alterium*). And they beg to have this custom" (12th September, 1466).

Hene. Ordered by assent of the steward and consent of the tenants that every tenant shall keep on the common field (*in communi campo*)

over every acre there not more than 3 sheep and he that holds 5 acres there shall keep not more than 2 oxen (*averia bovina*) and 1 horse (*aver' equin'*) and whoever does contrary shall incur the penalty of forfeit and 3s. 4d. as often &c. And that every tenant shall remove his swine (yearly) outside the common fields (*campos*) before the feast of St. Luke (18 Oct. :) on pain of 3s. 4d. Nor shall any tenant enter the common fields with his swine till the whole autumn is finished on like pain of 3s. 4d.

At this court was ordered by mandate of the lord and consent of the tenants that the common pasture called le Hamme and le Grene by the feast of the Nativity next ensuing, by the disposition of Robert Davy and John Hyde of Somptyng, should be divided each of these pastures into 2 parts, viz. one half thereof for the pasturage of cattle as well of the farmer of the demesne lands of this manor as of the lord's tenants of this manor, the other half of the same for the use (*utilitatem*) of the farmer and tenants of the Master of the house of the Almoner of Arundell of the Westcourt, and that under pain of each of them of forfeit of their customary tenure.

Inquisition taken [no names] by examination made of the tenants what and how many cattle they claim to have at pasturage in le Hamme and le Grene Who say that Thomas at Adams for the farm of the demesne lands in le Hamme shall pasture up to (*ad*) 16 cows and for his customary tenure called Waggs up to 2 cows and for said customary tenure in le Grene to 2 horses. John Robb for his customary tenure in le Hamme to 3 cows and upon le Grene to 3 lambs. Margaret Stamer in le Hamme to 3 cows and upon le Grene to 3 horses; Thos: Saunder for 2 cust: tenures, upon le Hamme to 2 cows and upon le Grene 1 horse; Thos: Saunder in le Estgate, in le Hamme 2 cows, in le Grene 1 horse. Henry Chalk for 2 cust: tenures, in le Hamme 2 cows and "boviculi," in le Grene 2 horses; John Robb jun: in le Hamme 1 cow, in le Grene none; John Emery in le Hamme 2 cows, on le Grene 2 horses; John Saunder in le Hamme 2 cows, in le Grene 1 horse; John Whityngton in le Hamme 2 cows, on le Grene 2 horses (11th November, 1535).

*Leave to Enclose Land.*—Will: Stevenes who held one mess: and 1 virgate called Calewes at 6s. 8d. (and other lands) is dead. Lands granted to Roger atte Lowe for term of 30 years, rendering ancient rent and services (25th February, 1427).

Roger atte Lowe gives 12d. for leave to enclose 8 acres lying in a field called Bywesteton on the west side of a certain spring (*fons*) under la lynch, being parcell of a virgate called Calewes late of Will: Stevenes, during his tenancy of the land, as more clearly shown in a certain copy given to Roger (? 1428).

*Parcelling out Plots of Tenants' Lands in the Common Fields.*—Hene. At this court the tenants of this manor took a day before (*citra*) the Commemoration of Souls (2nd Nov. :) to measure the lands of each tenant in the common fields of Hene and to interpose metes and bounds between every furlongate (*sic*). Penalty 3s. 4d. (14th October, 1530).

*Principals or Mortuaries* (see *S.A.C.*, Vol. V., p. 254).—The Homage present that John Capel who held 1 fering of land form: of Ralph Mot lately of Rob: Gust is dead wherefrom falls to the lord of heriot 1 "bovet" price 12s. which remains for the lord's stock. And that no one sues for said land. It remains in lord's hand. Also they present that the said John Capel had in his custody 1 leaden caldron (*plumbum*) price 5s., 1 brass pot price 20d., 1 coulter, 1 ploughshare price 20d. "of principal" which it is ordered to levy to the use of the lord. The said tenement is ruinous and devastated to the lord's damage taxed by the homage at 40s. which is ordered to be levied to the lord's use (18th May, 1370).

The homage present that Margaret Sydlok who held 1 virgate of bond land is dead. Heriot 1 mare price 4s. The tenement remains in the lord's hand and is defective to the lord's damage. And there is arrested in the name of "principal" 1 brass pot containing three gallons, 4 brass pans (*patell'*) — qrs. of wheat in sheaf, 2 pigs of the age of  $\frac{1}{2}$  year, 1 empty cask (*dol'*), 1 hand mill, 2 bills, 1 felingire,<sup>65</sup> 3 geese (*auce*) of which 1 a gander (*anc'*) and 1 (? 2) geese (*mariol'*),  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of wheat, 1 capon and 6 hens, 5 chests, 1 iron shovell (*tribul*),<sup>65</sup> 1 hearth fork (*furc' focal'*) and 1 iron mendel<sup>65</sup> of the said Margaret. Of which were taken away (*elong'*) by John Prat 2 pigs, by Matilda Prat, Will: Prat jun., Agnes atte Lowe and Lucy her daughter 1 brass pot containing 3 gallons, 1 brass pan containing 5 gallons, 2 brass pans each containing 2 gallons, 1 little pan containing 1 pottle<sup>66</sup> (*potel*), 1 chest containing 2 bushels and 1 felingire, concerning which discussion is to be held with the lord's council (25th April, 1393).

*Tracing out two "Villain" Families in the Sixteenth Century.*—The homage present that John Saunder son of John Saunder a bondman of the lord lives at Estbourne and has 3 sons. To be enquired into. Joan daughter of Thomas Saunder a bondman of the lord, is now married to Richard Swyft of Launcyng a free man. To be discussed with the lord. And Isabella another daughter of Thomas is married to John Chapman of Worthyng, a free man. And Margery another daughter of Thomas is married to Reginald Eston of Launcyng a free man. And Mariona a daughter of the said Thomas lives at Worthyng, it is not known with whom. Enquiry &c. And Alice a daughter of the said Thomas lives at Sodemptyng (Sompting) with Thomas Wassher.

John Child son of John Child sen: a bondman of the lord lives at Westham with the brewer of ale (*bras' servic'*) to the lord Earl of Arundel without chevage. Roger Child lives outside the lordship but where is not known. Enquiry &c.

Thomas Saunder, a bondman of the lord has issue John and Robert his sons who live within the lordship. John Saunder son of Richard Saunder has issue Thomas, John and Edward sons, and daughters Margaret and Joan who (*qui*) live with their father. Ame sister of

<sup>65</sup> Prompt: Parv: (*tribula*); Wright - Wülcker Vocab. (*tribulum*). I cannot find "felingire" or "mendel."

<sup>66</sup> A measure containing two quarts.

Thomas Saunder son of John Saunder sen: lives with her father (17th April, 1529).

Both these families belonged to Heen. A John le Child was the typical Customary tenant there in the Old Custumal 200 years before (*S.A.C.*, Vol. LIII., p. 162). At a later Court the enquiry is repeated:—

Hene. John Saunder son of Richard Saunder bondman of the lord (lives at Estbourne)<sup>67</sup> has issue Thomas, John, Edward and Richard and three daughters, Margaret, Agnes (dead), and Alice. Joan daughter of Thomas Saunder bondman &c. is married to Richard Swift of Launcyng a freeman without licence. (Paid 6d. for fine.) John Saunder son of John Saunder lives in the Isle of Thanet at Margate (*in insula Thennt apud Morget*) and has issue unknown.

Henry Child, bondman of the lord, lives at Cokefeld without chevage and has issue unknown. To enquire by next court. Roger Child, bondman &c. lives at le Milkhouse<sup>68</sup> in the County of Kent and it is unknown whether he has issue. To enquire. Thomas Child bondman &c. lives at Wyston with the lord and has issue Richard his son who lives at Cokham and a daughter.

Thomas Gyles, a bondman &c. lives at Selmeston without chevage and has issue Thomas his son who lives with Edward Bray knight.

Mariona daughter of Thomas Saunder lives at Somptyng with John Hyde. Ame sister of Thomas Saunder is married to a certain William Chicche and made redemption with the lord. (She paid 6s.)

John Child son of Thomas Child lives at Kyngeston near Arundell with John Capden and has issue unknown. John Child son of John Child lives at Seale with the Prior there. Alice sister of the said John Child jun: lives at Sompting, with whom is not known.

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#### RECTORS AND CHAPLAINS OF WISTON.

Various clergy are frequently mentioned in the Rolls, chiefly in connection with the management of the estate. They were set to check the returns of produce, to “view” or audit accounts, to authorise purchases or payments. In short, they gave their clerky knowledge to the use of the lord and his steward in the same way as their “superior” brethren were doing for the King and the State. Whether they received a reasonable commission on their services is not recorded.

<sup>67</sup> Struck out. It is the wrong John.

<sup>68</sup> Now Milkhouse Street in Cranbrook.

*Rectors of Wiston.*—It is curious that in the 50 years during which clergy are mentioned (1356-1408) only one name of a Rector occurs, but it can hardly be the same person throughout.

*Sir John*, “Rector of Wystnoston,” occurs in 1357 and from 1369 to 1374.

*Sir John Wymbervyle or Umbervyle*<sup>69</sup> is mentioned from 1374 to 1408. From 1374 to 1379 he is “Rector of the Church of Bungeton.” In 1380 he is not described. In 1384 he is “the Rector,” and in 1388, 1392 and 1408 he is “Rector of Wystnoston.”

*Chaplains of the Chantry of Wiston.*—These were the lord’s chaplains, and received the rent of the lord’s land at Ashurst, 40s., raised in 1378 to 46s. 8d.

*Sir Robert*, “the lord’s chaplain,” 1356.

*Sir Richard atte Ok*, “the lord’s chaplain,” 1357; “chaplain of the chantry of Wystnoston,” 1357 to 1359; Ric: Carpenter “chaplain,” 1357; Sir Richard “Rector of Bungeton,” 1357 (Court Roll).

*Sir Hugh Snow*, 1369; 1373 receives rent of Ashurst.

*Sir John Umbervyle*, “Rector of the Church of Bungeton.”

The Chapelry of Buncton, now united to Ashington, is situated in the parish of Wiston. At the date of our Rolls it was evidently (at least sometimes) held together with the Chantry of Wiston. Sir John held Buncton from 1374 to 1379, and received the rent of Ashurst. In the last year it is specified as paid to him “for the Chantry of Wiston.” He was then in London, and perhaps remained there or at Le Boys with the Brewes family till he returned to Wiston in 1384 as Rector.

*Sir Roger atte Cote*, “chaplain of the chantry,” received the rent of Ashurst in 1381. Up to 1386 the payments are recorded to “the chaplain,” but without name.

<sup>69</sup> In Hennessy’s Chichester Diocese Clergy Lists he is given (Supplement, p. 182) as Rector in 1379, but perhaps he was then chaplain, as was probably Sir Richard atte Oke given as Rector in 1335 (p. 163). The three following names there given are not found in the Rolls.

In Bishop Robert Rede's Register, recently edited by Prebendary Deedes for the Sussex Record Society, are the names of three more Chantry Chaplains of this period:—

*William Preston*, 1398; *John Cosyn*, 1399; *Thomas Benet* (on death of Will: Preston), 1410.

There are also some Rectors of Buncton, who are not the same as the Chantry Chaplains.

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