

II.—ST. ELGY'S CHANTRY IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH,  
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

By A. M. OLIVER.

[Read on 28 November, 1917].

The following translation of the pre-reformation will of Richard Pykering has been handed to me by Mr. Richard Welford with a request that I should annotate it for publication by the Society. Mr. Welford cannot remember the source from which he obtained the document :

In the name of God, Amen. I Richard Pykering burgess of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, being of sound memory and confiding in almighty God as on Monday next before the feast of St. Dunstan the Archbishop, 1340, make my will in this manner :

Imprimis I comend my soul to Almighty God the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the Saints and my body to be buried in the church of All Saints, Newcastle.

I give to the fabrick of the same church x<sup>s</sup> ; to the altar of the same church for tithes not paid x<sup>s</sup> ; to the altar of the blessed Mary in the same church for the commendation of my soul on the Lord's day x<sup>s</sup>

To Sir Henry de Cauldbek priest of St. Andrews church xl<sup>d</sup>.

To Robert, clerk, of the same church xij<sup>d</sup>

To the altar of the blessed Nicholas for unpaid tithes ij<sup>s</sup>

To the fabrick of the blessed John in the same town ij<sup>s</sup> .

To the fabrick of St. Andrew in the same town ij<sup>s</sup> ; to the brethren of the said church vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

To the friars minor of the same town vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

To the brethren of the order of St. Augustine in the same town vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

To the brethren of the order of Mount Carmel in the same town ij<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup> .

To the fabrick of Tyne Bridge xl<sup>s</sup>

To the altar of the blessed Mary of Gateshead for unpaid tithes and oblations xl<sup>d</sup>

To the fabrick of the bridge called Mirkyle-brigg xij<sup>s</sup>

To the poor of the hospital of the blessed Mary in Westgate ij<sup>s</sup>

To the lepers dwelling near the Moor ij<sup>s</sup>

To Isabel daughter of my daughter Alice, towards her marriage, 10 marks.

To Christiana daughter of Nicholas Tenant, towards her marriage xl<sup>s</sup>

To Sir John de Byker, priest vj<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>

I give in wax to burn about my body on the day of my burial xl<sup>d</sup>

To the priest of All Saints' church at my burial xl<sup>d</sup>

To the clerk singing for my soul and watching of my body vj<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>

To be distributed among the poor on the day of my burial 10 marks.

To Thomas, son of William de Pykering, my uncle xv<sup>s</sup>; Adam, my servant vj<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>; John son of John de Crank, v<sup>s</sup>; John called Hudde, 'Capellanus' j<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>; Emma wife of Gilbert de Tikill v<sup>s</sup>; Lucy, daughter of Emma, daughter of the said Gilbert, v<sup>s</sup>; Alice sister of the said Lucy, v<sup>s</sup>.

To the said Isabel, daughter of my daughter, a tenement in Gateshead, extending from the King's highway to a place called Akwellgate, between land of Hugh de Hedley held of me in fee and a tenement which Gilbert de Bradley held of me in Akwellgate, to hold to her for ever.

To Christiana, my wife, the messuage in which I now live as the same is situate in a place leading from the Cale Cross to All Saints church, between land formerly of Thomas Thorald on the one side and land of John Crag on the other. To the same Christiana an annual rent of xxvij<sup>s</sup> out of a shop which John the baker holds of me, an annual rent of xv<sup>s</sup> out of a tenement opposite St. Nicholas church which Lawrence the Saddler holds of me in fee, and an annual rent of x<sup>s</sup> out of a certain booth in a place called the Skin Market (pelliforis) which master John Schepeheved holds of me for life.

I desire that my wife shall cause prayers to be said for my soul by a deserving priest, and for the soul of the said Christiana and for all the faithful departed in the church of All Saints in the town of Newcastle. And I will that after the decease of Christiana my wife all

the aforesaid lands tenements and rents with their appurtenances shall remain to the said John Hudde and his successors, priests, to pray for my soul, and the soul of Christiana my wife, and all the faithful departed, in the church aforesaid, for ever.

I will that after the decease of the said John Hudde an honest and deserving priest be elected to the chantry from five or six of the more discreet and lawful men of All Saints parish, to celebrate in the same church as aforesaid, for all the souls aforesaid.

I appoint my wife Christiana and the said Sir John Hudde and John Wamyll, executors.

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my seal, and for better security have caused the Common seal of the town of Newcastle aforesaid to be affixed, together with the seal of the officiality of the Lord Bishop of Durham, and the seal of the said John Hudde.

Dated at Newcastle on Friday after the feast of St. Martin A.D.,<sup>1</sup> in the presence of Henry de Cauldebek priest of All Saints church, John Biker, priest, Gilbert Haukin chief bailiff of the said town, and Alexander Haukin.

Proved in All Saints church, 3 Kal June (May 30), 1344.

Seals missing.

At the beginning of his will Pykering declares that it is made 'as on Monday next before the feast of Saint Dunstan the Archbishop (15 May) 1340,' but at the end it is dated 'Friday after the feast of Saint Martin A.D.' the year, if given in the original being omitted in the translation.

One of the witnesses Gilbert Haukin is styled chief bailiff, and it is somewhat difficult to understand the use of the title by him. The title of chief bailiff was first used to designate the chief magistrate of the town in 1293 or 1294 when the town was restored to the burgesses<sup>2</sup> after having been taken into the king's hands in 1292<sup>3</sup> during the *Quo Warranto* proceedings in which the right of the burgesses to elect a mayor was called into question.

<sup>1</sup> *Sic* in the translation.

<sup>2</sup> *Pipe Roll*, no. 139; *Memoranda Roll*, Exchequer K.R. no. 67, m. 31.

<sup>3</sup> *Pipe Roll*, no. 138; *Assize Roll*, no. 650, m. 71.

The alteration of the title of mayor to that of chief bailiff was without doubt a direct result of the litigation with the crown, though the fact has not hitherto been recognised, and local historians have erroneously assigned some chief bailiffs to years anterior to 1293<sup>4</sup>.

The use of the new title was continued for some years, but there was a gradual reversion to the use of the title of mayor, and after about the year 1325 the use of the term chief bailiff becomes very rare.

It is improbable that Haukin called himself chief bailiff merely to indicate that he was the senior among the four bailiffs, and no analagous instance of the use of the term in that sense can be cited, though he stands first among the bailiffs elected under John de Denton as mayor for the year beginning Michaelmas Monday, 1340,<sup>5</sup> and is the first named of the commissioners appointed in 1341 after the dual election of mayor in that year.<sup>6</sup>

By the 12th of November 1341, however, the burgesses had in obedience to the mandate of the king, elected Robert de Shilvington mayor together with four bailiffs of whom Haukin was not one,<sup>7</sup> and the date of the execution of the will must therefore be assigned to the Friday after Martinmas, 17 Nov., 1340 when Haukin, either owing to dissensions regarding the mayoralty or to Denton's absence from the town, was exercising the functions of the mayor under the title of chief bailiff.

The chief point of interest in the will, and to the testator no doubt the most important, is the provision made for the maintenance of his chantry in All Saints church for the celebration of masses for the souls of himself and his wife. Prior to making

<sup>4</sup>Brand, *History of Newcastle*, II, pp. 395n., 397; *Adamson MS.* printed in Welford's *History*, pp. 418, 420.

<sup>5</sup>*Liber Cartarum* belonging to Newcastle Corporation, no. 137.

<sup>6</sup>*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1340-43 p. 327.

<sup>7</sup>*Hodgson's MSS.*, vol. z, p. 486.

his will he had petitioned for a licence in mortmain for the endowment of the chantry, and in obedience to a writ dated 6 April, 1340 an inquisition was taken on 6 May, 1340 before Walran de Lumley, mayor and escheator of the town, in which the jurors found that it would not be to the prejudice of the king, if he granted licence to Richard de Pykering and Christiana his wife to grant seven marks of rent in Newcastle to a priest to celebrate masses daily for the souls of Richard and Christiana.<sup>8</sup> The licence was duly granted on 15 July in the same year.<sup>9</sup>

Pykering had two daughters, Alice and Isolda, who each had issue one daughter, namely, Isabella who married John de Stowe, and Katerina who married Elias del Clay.

In 1369 Pykering's two granddaughters and their husbands obtained licence to alienate a messuage and shop in Newcastle, apparently in augmentation of the chantry, to a priest in All Saints for their own good estate and souls and the souls of Richard and Christiana de Pykering.<sup>10</sup>

In the following year John de Stowe, shortly before his death<sup>11</sup> obtained licence to alienate two cottages to William Browne, priest of the chantry of Saint Eligius in the church of All Saints for the good estate of John and Thomas de Horton and for the soul of Richard de Selby.<sup>12</sup> This is the first time that the name of the chantry appears in the records.

In the year 1388 there were proceedings in the court of Common Bench which give some information about the chantry. The action was brought by Isabella de Stowe against Thomas Witte and Agnes his wife (daughter of Elias and Katerina del Clay and a great grand-daughter of Pykering) and Roland de Kendale,

<sup>8</sup> *Chancery Inquisitions ad q. d.*, file 255, no. 17.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1340-43, p. 8.

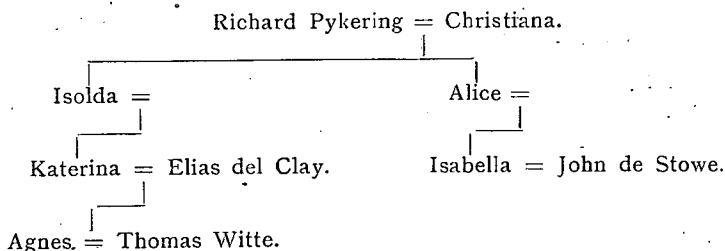
<sup>10</sup> *Chancery Inq. ad q. d.*, file 370, no. 15; *Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1367-70, p. 258.

<sup>11</sup> He was dead by 1374; *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1374-77, pp. 107, 110.

<sup>12</sup> *Chancery Inq. ad q. d.*, file 373, no. 18; *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, p. 457.

priest, the plaintiff claiming the right to present a suitable person to the chantry of Saint Eligius in All Saints church.

The following shows the relationship between the parties :—



The plaintiff alleged that Richard Pykering and Christiana his wife were seised of the advowson of the chantry in the time of Edward III and gave the same to John Hudde ; the descent of the purparties of their two daughters is traced, and plaintiff says that as nearest heir of Alice the elder daughter of Pykering she asked Thomas Witte and Agnes that they should consent to confer the chantry on one William Stamford, that Thomas and Agnes refused and that she thereupon appointed the said William ; and that the defendants impeded her from carrying the appointment into effect. The defendants reply that Isolda was the elder daughter of Pykering.<sup>13</sup> The result of the action is not given, but apparently Isabella de Stowe was not successful as Roland de Kendale, one of the defendants, on 28 March, 1389, obtained a ratification from the king of his estate as warden of the chantry.<sup>14</sup> In 1504 John Esyngton, surviving executor of John Ward, late of Newcastle, merchant, executed his will, made by way of an indenture tripartite, in which he provided for the disposal of Ward's, lands and tenements in Newcastle in the maintenance of

<sup>13</sup> *De Banco Roll*, no. 513, m. 110 ; *Year Books 2 Ric. II* (published by the Ames Foundation) p. 195.

<sup>14</sup> *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1388-92, p. 22.

a priest to sing divine service in the church of Allhallows at the altar of Saint Eloy for the souls of John Ward and Margaret his wife.<sup>15</sup> This constituted the foundation of the chantry of Saint John the Baptist in All Saints. Brand, misled by a statement of the commissioners appointed in 1546 for the survey of colleges and chantries treats the two chantries of St. John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist as one,<sup>16</sup> but the chantry of St. John the Evangelist had been founded a century before.<sup>17</sup>

From the survey of colleges and chantries made in 1548 it appears that William Brown was then incumbent of the chantry, a man of 44 years, of honest conversation and qualities, meanly learned, and having no other living. The clear yearly value of the chantry was 3*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*. The ornaments were one vest of blue damask, one of white fustian and one of red sea, three copperas cases, four altar cloths, two cruets, one mass book and three little candlesticks.<sup>18</sup>

Little is known as to the endowments of the chantry. It owned a house lying to the north of the cemetery of All Saints, next to a house called 'le Dorter,'<sup>19</sup> and from a note in the *Liber Cartarum* we learn on the authority of 'old Lawrence Acton,' that the chantry had an interest in a solar and a dwellinghouse (*domus habitacionis*) in Allhallowgate.<sup>20</sup> In 1493 a house in Burton chare in Newcastle belonged to the chantry.<sup>21</sup>

Among the chantry rents, now known as the Noel fee farm rents two at least of the St. Elgy rents can be traced; 1*l.* on land in Allhallowbank and 10*s.* on land in Silver Street.<sup>22</sup> The first

<sup>15</sup> Brand, 1, p. 640.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 1, p. 366.

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1401-05, p. 166; *Durham Cursitor's Records, Chancery Enrolments*

<sup>17</sup> Skirlaw, m. 33.

<sup>18</sup> 22 *Sur. Soc. publ.*, pp. lxxxii, xc.

<sup>19</sup> Rental in *Liber Cartarum*.

<sup>20</sup> *Liber Cartarum*, no. 99.

<sup>21</sup> Surtees's *Durham* (Hill's ed., Gateshead section), p. 143.

<sup>22</sup> *Close Roll*, 24 Car. II, pt. 36, no. 20.

of these was probably charged on part of the land numbered 116 in All Saints parish in Oliver's map of Newcastle.<sup>23</sup>

LIST OF CHANTRY PRIESTS OF ST. ELGY.

1340 John Hudde.	1396 John Ayre. <sup>25</sup>
1370 William Broune.	— John Lethom. <sup>25</sup>
1388 Roland de Kendale.	1501 William Bone ?
1396 William de Wales. <sup>24</sup>	1548 William Browne.

<sup>23</sup> From information supplied by the solicitors to the present owners of the Noel rents.

<sup>24</sup> *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1391-96, p. 656.

<sup>25</sup> Rental in *Liber Cartarum*.



✠ SIGILLVM : COMMVITATIS : BVRGHII DE APPILBI

From a Cast in the possession of the Society.