

XIV.—RECORDS OF THE BAKERS AND BREWERS OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE AT THE BLACK GATE.

BY ELIZABETH M. HALCROW.

From time immemorial baking and brewing have been carried on in Newcastle. The earliest surviving charter in the City Archives by which, in 1342, Edward III confirmed articles agreed upon in full guild of the town of Newcastle held at the hospital of St. Mary the Virgin in Westgate, ordered "The assizes of bread and beer to be held according to law. The master bakers, and not their servants, to suffer the penalties ordained by statute. Measures, ells and weights to be proved twice a year, or at least once." An inquisition taken the 4th of January, 1446, placed on record that the town of Newcastle had a monopoly of all common baking and brewing for sale within the port of Tyne. And the first surviving ordinary of the Bakers and Brewers, dated 4th January, 1446, stated that they "have been time out of mind an ancient Company Incorporated by ye name of ye Fellowship of Bakers and Brewers and alsoe are and by ye time aforesaid hath beene one of ye Twelve principall occupations of the said Towne; And they haveing casually lost their Anntient Ordinary by which they were so incorporated", received another from the Mayor, Aldermen and Sheriff of Newcastle.

This ordinary regulated the affairs and proceedings of the Company. Four wardens were to be elected annually at a meeting on the 23rd of November or, if it fell on a Sunday, the day after. Every brother who failed to attend a meeting was to be fined 3s. 4d. and to pay 6d. if he arrived late. Every meeting brother was to behave decently and quietly

on pain of a fine of 2s. The fine was also 2s. if he reviled another brother and 20s. if he struck him. Swearing at a meeting was punished with a fine of 12d. Apprentices were to serve a term of seven years. No brother was to take more than two at any one time and the first was to complete six years of his apprenticeship before the second could be accepted. Any "un-trading" brother who took an apprentice was liable to a fine of £5 and the fine for turning over an apprentice to a new master without the consent of the Wardens and Twelve was £6. If any brother died the Company would find new masters for his apprentices. An apprentice who begot a child or children during his apprenticeship was liable to a fine of £5 for each offence. An apprentice absent from his master's service for ten days forfeited 1s. a day and if he stayed away longer was to be fined at the Fellowship's discretion. Every brother was to attend church when a brother or sister was buried on pain of 3s. 4d. No person not free of the Company was to exercise the trade of baker and brewer in Newcastle and if any brother exercised his trade outside the liberty of Newcastle to the prejudice of the Company he was to be disfranchised.

A copy of this ordinary is preserved in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne together with three of the books of the Company of Bakers and Brewers. The first of these records enrolments of apprentices from 1578 to 1814.

The second book gives accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the stewards of the Company of Bakers and Brewers from 23rd November, 1637, to 1696. It begins with an undated list of Bakers and Brewers, probably belonging to c. 1637 as the stewards who presented the first account appear in it. At the reverse end of the volume an order of the 12th April, 1706, on the taking of apprentices has been entered up¹ and in the pages which follow a few names of bakers and brewers admitted to their freedom are set down

¹ See Appendix.

and accounts of arrears owing to the Company from brethren for fines, arrears of cess, etc.

Receipts in the accounts come from cess, enrolling or turning over apprentices to a new master, admissions to freedom of the Company, and fines for being absent from or late for meetings and for other misdemeanours. For example, the first account for 1637 mentions the following offences:

Item of John Potts for giving unbrotherly words to Raiph Righ	2s.
Item of Richard Waughan for unbrotherly words to Gawine Forster	2s.
Item of Edward Coosyn for keeping his hatt on when an order was read & when he spoke to a steward	1s.
Item of Leonard Olliver for the like	6d.

And the account for 1640-1 records that George Dobson was fined £1 "for revealing the secrets of the Company". A fine for begetting children appears in the list of payments made by Wm. Smith in 1647-8.

Item of Wm. Smith for his free money	£1 13s. 4d.
Item for his x s. cesse	10s. 0d.
Item for begetting of two children	£10 0s. 0d.

Receipts from other companies of Newcastle also appear in the accounts from 1673 onwards.

Disbursements include payments for wine, beer, sack, tobacco, music, freemen's dinners, bread, coals, candles, paper, repair and maintenance of the meeting house, locks and keys, serving subpoenas and other legal processes, coals, rent of the storehouse and meeting house, funeral expenses such as 5s. for William Dod's coffin in 1637 or 5s. 8d. for a coffin for Wm. Curry in 1687-9, clerk's wages, fees of the sheriff, sheriff's bailiff and serjeants, allowances to the sick, poor or old and parchments used for enrolments of apprentices. A series of entries in the 1644-5 account arose out of disputes about brewing with the people of Gateshead and King's Lynn.

Item given unto Mr. Crumwell for takeing speciall notice of Forraigne brewers	6s. 6d.
Item paid for seising of Lyn beire and Gate- side beare att severall times and to Porters and Laborers and expences about the same	£3 4s. 6d.
Item paid unto John Tailor for watching the Gateside Brewers	12s. 0d.

Further references to Lynn beer being seized appear in the accounts for 1646-7 and 1647-8 while in 1665-6 it cost 2s. 6d. to arrest the master of a ship and ale from Stockton, 8d. the following year to arrest Stockton ale and 5s. under this head in 1670-1. An entry for the year 1647-8 records the payment of £5 to John Hunter, student of St. John's College, Cambridge, towards his maintenance. Another in 1662-3 states that 3s. 4d. was spent when some letters were sent to the Burgesses of Parliament and in 1683-4 the Company again had dealings with Sir William Blackett, Member of Parliament, and Alderman Davison—"For drawing a petition to Sir Wm. Blackett and Mr. Alderman Davison about ye companies affaires 11s. 7d." A present was also sent to them that year at a cost of £3 11s. In 1690-91 the Company spent £1 6s. 8d. "about the businesse of preventing ye Act for restraineing of Brewers from making their own mault (*sic*)".

The third book, entitled "Cess Book 1750", was begun 27th January, 1672, and runs to 1755. It covers receipts from the monthly cess, free money, fees for enrolments of apprentices, admissions to the freedom of the company and fines for such offences as underselling strong beer, 11th March, 1699, or unbrotherly words or swearing at meetings—see, for example, the account for 1699-1700—and disclosing the secrets of the Company, mentioned in an entry of the 12th April, 1700. From 1703 disbursements are also entered up. Most of these entries consist of a bare record that a certain sum was paid to a named individual, but occasionally the purpose of the expenditure is mentioned—for example, drawing the order against Quakers and Papists in 1703 and

serving two subpoenas and going down to Shields the same year. From 1750 the form of the accounts changes and they become a bare record of receipts from cess.

Accounts have also been entered up at the reverse end of this book, covering the period 1673-1711. These are complementary to the entries at the front of the book and cover receipts from cess, entering or turning over apprentices, coming late to or being absent from meetings or burials, admissions to the freedom of the Company and fines—for example, 11th July, 1684, "Received of Andrew Young tenne poundes for takeing ann Apprentice his former Apprentice not haveing served six yeares contrary to ann order in ye Company of Bakers & Brewers". These accounts also include expenditure such as payments to named individuals or to the poor, purchases of paper, candles, coals and cloaks, repairing the meeting house and other heads mentioned in the entries at the front of this Cess Book.

The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne has no later records of the Company of Bakers and Brewers, though it was still in existence, with a membership of eight, when Eneas Mackenzie published *A Descriptive and historical account of Newcastle, including Gateshead* in 1827.

APPENDIX

Book of Disbursements (Reverse end)

Aprill 12th 1706

Att a meeting of the Stewards & twelve att the House of Lewis Rewcastle in Newcastle.

Whereas by long experience we have found that the takeing of many Apprentices by this Company hath multiplyed the number thereof soe high that the Major part of the said Societye are soe greiveously impoverished that they are not able long to subsist Wee the Stewards and twelve of Bakers and Brewers of Newcastle upon Tine, for the preventing and remidieting (*sic*) whereof Wee doe order that noe Brother or Bretheren of this Society shall for and dureing

the space of ten yeares next Ensueing the date of this order take bound any Apprentice or Apprentices by Indenture or otherwise upon the penalty of twenty pounds lawfull English money for every such Apprentice soe to be taken contrary to this order to be paid to the Stewards of the said Company for the time being to the use of the said Society without any parts of the said sume of Twenty pounds to be abated, deducted or returned back. And we do further order that all person or persons that shall thereafter be admitted to his or their Freedome in this Company shall not within Ten yeares next after their takeing their Freedome take any Apprentice or apprentices to serve as a Baker and Brewer upon the like penalty of twenty pounds like lawfull English money for every such Apprentice or Apprentices soe to be taken as aforesaid contrary to the true Intent and meaneing hereof to be paid to the Stewards of the said Company for the time being for the use of the said society without any manner of Deduction or abatement And because this order will be to the disadvantage of the Clark of the Company touching and concerning the makeing of Apprentices Indentures, Entring and inrolling Apprentices and Freemen: We doe hereby order that Forty shillings per Annum shall be added to the Clarks sallary for the time being dureing the continuance of this order.

Twelve

Will. Lamb Stewards Jona. Jeffreyson

 Lewis Rewcastle

Geo. Colvill Thomas sign' Dining Chris Rutier

Geo. Bulman Rob. Carruthers Tho. Matland

Tho. Goston Lionell Dixon