

NOTES

ON

THE PARISH AND CHURCH OF WIMBOTSHAM.

COMMUNICATED

BY THE REV. G. H. DASHWOOD, M.A., F.S.A.

AND THE

REV. C. BOUTELL, M.A.

WIMBOTSHAM, in the Hundred of Clackclose, and Deanery of Fincham, is a Rectory commuted at the gross rent-charge of £379, including the glebe; Stowe, with which it is consolidated, being £158 1s. In a MS. *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, of the time of Elizabeth, it is thus set down:—

John	Wimbotesham valor v ^{li} . vj ^s . viij ^d . primitie nulle :
Tompson,	decima x ^s . viij ^d .: Synod, ij ^s .: pcur. xvj ^d .:
R.	patron Radulphus Hare Miles.

The Rectory has been at different times held together with the Vicarage of Stowe Bardolph; but in the year 1769, on the petition of Dr. Thomas Moore, rector and patron,* was regularly consolidated with Stowe.† Dr. Moore died July

* Dr. Moore, grandson of Henry, third Earl of Drogheda, married Elizabeth, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Hare, Bart., in whose right he became patron.

† The parishes of Stowe and Wimbotsham are singularly intermixed. The boundary line between the two is sufficiently distinct and known; but there are divers parcels of insulated land, not merely within the bounds, but in the very heart, and some in the main street, of Wimbotsham, which belong to Stowe, and are known by the name of *Stowe Ward in Wimbotsham*. On these lands there are upwards of five and twenty tenements, the

25th, 1779, aged sixty-three, and was buried in the Cathedral Church of Norwich, where is a monument to him on the north side of the chancel. The Rev. Philip Bell, A.M., was, on the presentation of Mrs. Moore, instituted to the rectory of Wimbotsham and vicarage of Stowe Bardolph, on the 26th of August, 1779. On the death of Mr. Bell, in 1834, the Rev. John Clavering* was instituted, on the presentation of Sir Thos. Hare, Bart.; and he is the present incumbent.

THE CHURCH.

The Church of Wimbotsham, situated at the distance of about a mile and a half to the north-west of Downham Market, and closely adjoining the high-road from Ely to Lynn, comprises a chancel, nave, western tower, and north porch. The entire edifice is constructed of rubble, dressed with ashlar; the material employed being chiefly the rag-stone of the locality. The walls, which are very massive, are apparently those of the original Norman edifice. The roofs have a high pitch, and are thatched with reeds.

EXTERIOR.

The eastern gable of the chancel is pierced by a three-light window, having its head filled with net-tracery: above, is a recess in the wall, now presenting the appearance of a large niche, but which probably was originally a single-light

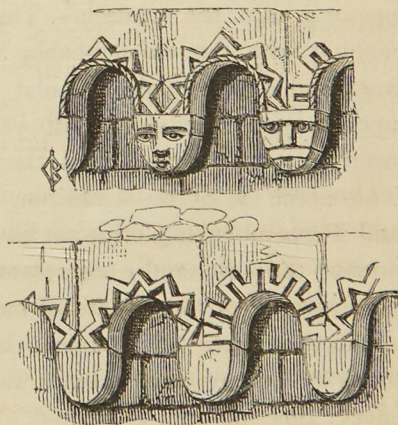
inhabitants of which pay rates to Stowe, and are considered as belonging to it. About the year 1650, the inhabitants of Stowe Ward made complaint that they were forced to keep "watch and ward" for both Wimbotsham and Stowe; and on this occasion it was determined that they were bound to keep the watch for Stowe, and not for Wimbotsham. Stowe Ward is mentioned in old deeds as far back, if I am not mistaken, as the time of Edward III., if not earlier.

* Grandson of Robert, Lord Bishop of Peterborough, and descended, through the Claverings of Tilmouth, co. Durham, from Robert Fitz Roger, Sheriff of Norfolk, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10, Ric. I., and again temp. John.

window. Beneath the east window the masonry is worked in the form of an arch; while above this window, toward the south, are evident remains of the original Norman apse-arch.* Toward the north, the chancel is lighted by a small, single-light, Norman window, placed at a considerable height from the ground: the glazing of this window is now almost flush with the outer face of the wall, but in the original design there does not appear to have been any arrangement for the introduction of glass, the aperture either remaining entirely open or being closed by a shutter.

The south wall of the chancel contains two Early English lancet-windows, of considerable size: both are placed in the western moiety of the chancel; and the more westerly of the two is trefoiled in the head, and is brought down much nearer to the ground than its companion, in which the arch-head is plain.† Above these windows yet remains the original Norman

Corbel-table: this member consists of a series of small semi-circular arches springing from corbel-blocks, which are for the most part worked in the form of shields, while some few of them are rude heads: the arches themselves are encircled with zig-zag, embattled, and cable-twist moldings, rudely



* On opening the ground immediately to the eastward of the present edifice, the foundations of the Norman apse, which once formed the eastern termination of the chancel, were discovered. These foundations describe a semicircle, and appear to have been undisturbed from the time that the apse was destroyed.

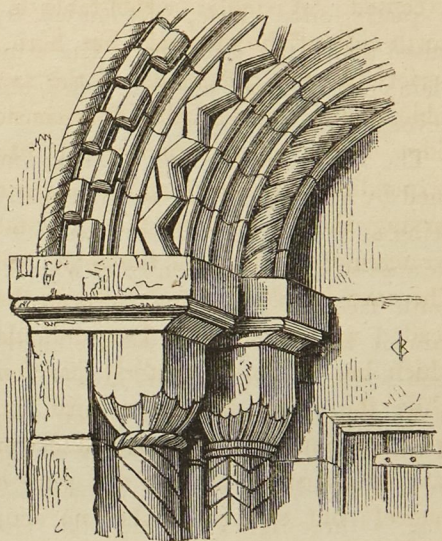
† The lower part of this window was probably separated from the upper,

executed. A similar corbel-table is also preserved on the north side of the chancel; but here are no heads, and less variety in the ornaments of the small arches. The skew-table of the chancel-gable rises considerably higher than the ridge of the present roof, which itself descends below the perpendicular masonry at the angle of the gable, thus preserving the pitch with the skew-table itself. This same arrangement appears in the gable and the roof of the nave. The nave itself is lighted, towards the north, by two square-headed windows of the Perpendicular Gothic period; that which has the more easterly position being of two lights, while the other contains a third light, and is throughout upon a larger scale. Above these windows there appears to have been a corbel-table of the same character as that of the chancel; but of this member no actual remains now exist. Further to the west, a porch of considerable size is set at right angles to the nave, and covers a fine Norman doorway, opening into the Church. The arch of this doorway is molded with the twisted-cable and the double-billet moldings, and a bold, plain, annular roll: it rests on either side upon a cylindrical shaft, with cap and base. The doorway itself is square-headed, and the tympanum above is plain. The porch is of the transition period between Decorated and Perpendicular Gothic: it has a good square-headed window to the east, and a corresponding one to the west: the porch-arch is of two orders of moldings; the sub-arch being a roll with three fillets, upon which, towards the exterior, a series of square and circular roses is worked with a rich effect: this sub-arch is shafted. The porch is supported by angle-buttresses; and a small niche under a label-drip is introduced above the outer arch in the gable.

On its south side also the nave is entered by a Norman doorway, which, like the north door, is spacious and lofty.

to form a "low side window," in connection with the altar. The entire opening is now without any division, and is glazed throughout.

The arch is of two orders, both shafted: the outer shafts are twisted, and the inner are covered with zig-zag work, and are octagonal in their section. The arch-molds are rich specimens of zig-zag, billet, and twisted-cable work; and the door, which is square-headed, and placed beneath a tympanum,—now devoid of any ornament,—re-



tains some good iron-work.* A perpendicular three-light window adjoins this doorway, while further eastward are two other windows of an earlier period, of which, one is a most interesting specimen of the first combination of two lights within a single window-arch; and the other is a single lancet, trefoiled at the head: this last-named lancet is placed very low in the wall, and now is partially closed up.† Above, a modern square window has been opened, apparently with the view of affording additional light to the present pulpit. The two-light window has its lights covered by a continuous drip-stone, delicately molded, and springing externally from twisted corbels: above the lights the masonry is pierced by

* This doorway is figured in Cotman's *Etchings*.

† The portion of this window, which now is closed up, originally formed a "low side window," and served as an adjunct or accessory to the chantry-altar placed at the south-east angle of the nave. That these singular openings were confessionals, appears the most probable of the many theories and conjectures which have been advanced respecting them; though this opinion at present is far from being altogether conclusive. (See the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. IV., pp. 314—326.)

a quatre-foiled circle, surrounded by an undercut molding raised above the wall-face. The window-arch itself is quite plain, consisting of a single order, chamfered, and altogether devoid of drip-stone.*

The tower is very massive, low, and plain: it is strengthened by angle-buttresses set diagonally, those toward the west being of four stages: these buttresses all terminate below the parapet-string, in the centre of which, on the north, west, and south faces of the tower, is a large gargoyle head.† The parapet is quite plain, with a single battlement rising at each angle: there appear, however, to have been pinnacles at the angles, fragments of which are now built into the wall of the churchyard. The belfry contains in each face of the tower a two-light window beneath a label-drip; and, to the west, a three-light Perpendicular Gothic window is placed immediately above the basement; and above this window a very small pointed lancet is now blocked with masonry. A stair-turret abuts upon the tower at its south-eastern angle: this turret rises but little above the crest of the adjoining wall of the nave, and there terminates in a capping, which slopes to the tower-wall.‡

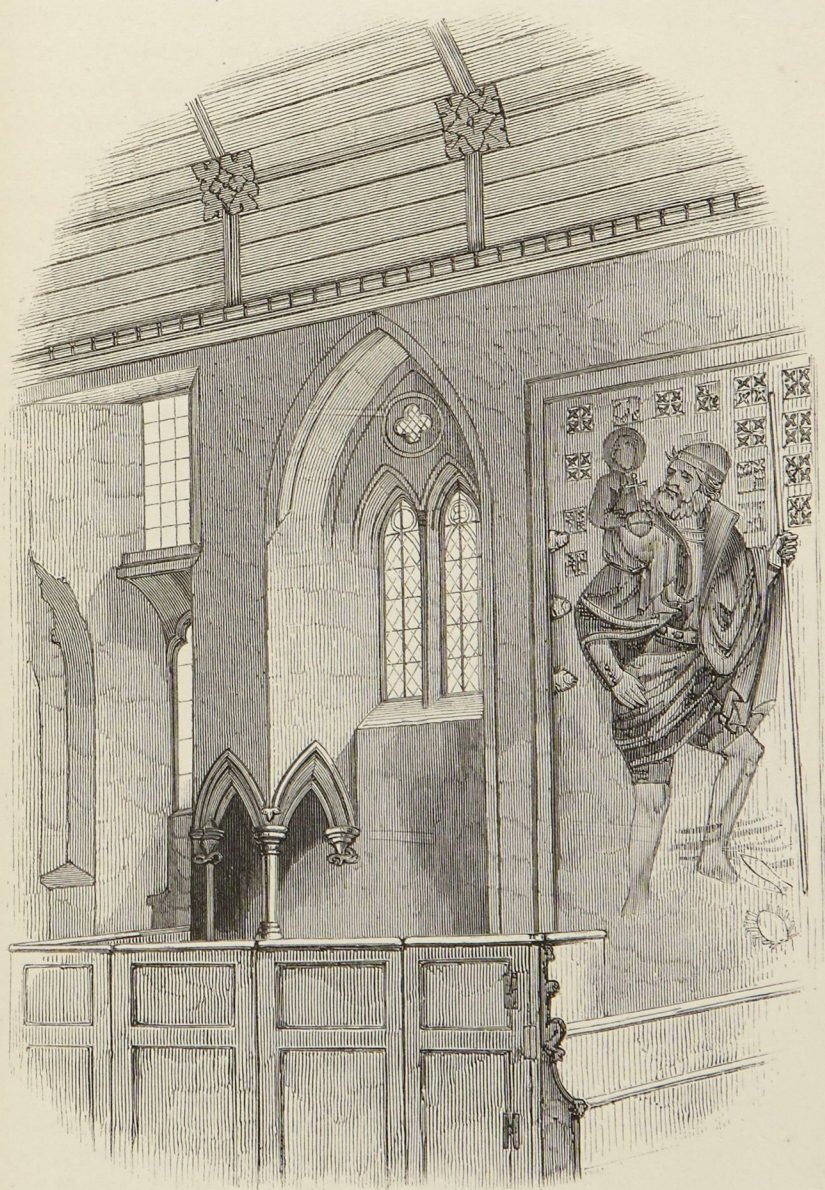
INTERIOR.

Entering the church through the north porch, immediately to the east of the doorway, within the building, is a small

* The lights in this window may be regarded as two distinct lancet-windows placed in immediate juxtaposition; and the masonry which divides them has rather the appearance of a very narrow strip of wall, than of a mullion properly so called. The quatre-foiled circle above is altogether distinct from the two lancets; a portion of the masonry of the wall intervening between the drip-moldings of the three members: the cusping of this circle is also of the earliest character. In the circle, and in the heads of the two lancet-lights, some of the original glass remains. (See the very valuable treatise on "Windows," in Brandon's *Analysis of Gothic Architecture*, pp. 18—23.)

† These, with the buttresses to the north porch, are the only buttresses attached to the edifice.

‡ The belfry contains three bells.



WIMBOTSHAM CHURCH, NORFOLK.

Interior, looking to the south-east.

cinq-foiled niche. Between the north and south doors now stands the font, a plain octangular block of stone, resting on a shaft of similar form: it is lined with lead, and has a drain. To the westward, a pointed tower-arch of two orders, plainly chamfered, and continuous throughout from the bases, opens into the tower. Here also the turret-stair is reached by a low doorway, of ogee form, placed to the south of the tower-arch.

The walls of the nave are quite plain, with the exception, on the south side, of a beautiful and still perfect Early English piscina, standing immediately below the two-light window, which is best described by the accompanying sketch;* while, to the north, are remains of the rood-stair, and of the archway leading to the rood-loft.† The two-light window presents precisely the same architectural arrangement with its exterior face, and, in common with all the other windows of the Church, has its arch widely splayed. The wall to the south of the chancel-arch was pierced; thus affording a view to the principal altar from the altar originally placed below the opening itself.‡

The chancel-arch is Norman, of two shafted orders on its western face, with plain roll moldings: towards the east this arch is entirely without ornament; the sweep of the arch-head being merely distinguished from the perpendicular lines of the jambs by plain impost-blocks.

To the left of the altar is a niched piscina, with a single quatre-foiled drain: the customary shelf is gone, but the

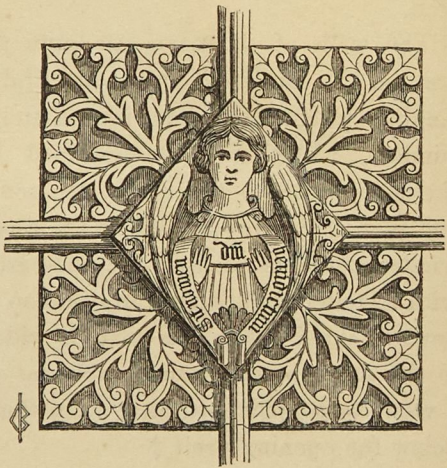
* See view of the Interior of the Church.

† Above the chancel-arch, facing westwards, there appear to have been two small niches, which are now filled up.

‡ A view of the high-altar could also be obtained through this aperture, or squint, from the "low-side window" before mentioned. See an interesting article on "Some Perforations in the Walls of Churches," in the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. III., p. 299. To the examples there specified, may be added a very remarkable specimen of a "Squint," in the noble church of Long Melford, Suffolk.

grooves upon which it rested are distinctly marked in the sides of the niche.

The chancel is now covered by a modern ceiling:* the roof of the nave, however, presents a good specimen of a ceiling with flat wood-work formed into panels. Here seven flat spaces or cants are employed; and the whole surface is divided into square panels by molded fillets, having a rich boss placed at every point of their intersection. These bosses are well carved, and retain much of their original colour and gilding: they comprise a variety of beautiful foliage, so arranged as to form a square, upon which rises a lozenge, carved with other foliage, or with various devices, all carefully

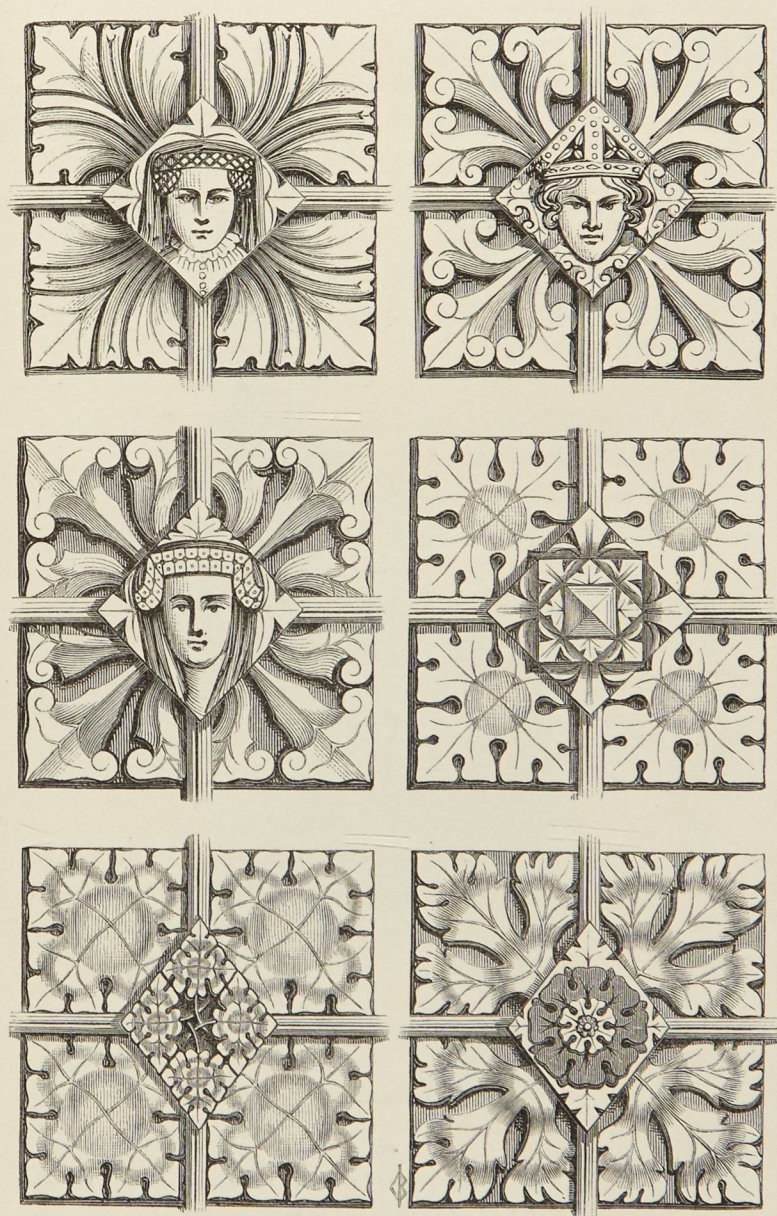


adapted to the lozenge outline of every composition. Amongst these devices may be specified two half figures of angels holding scrolls; the heads of a king, and a bishop or abbot; several other heads, some of them grotesque; two mitres; and three roses, coloured red and white.†

In both chancel and nave there remains a considerable portion of the benching, which was in all probability executed

* Above the present east window are traces of an arch which probably may indicate the sweep of the original ceiling of the chancel. This arch is of a greater span than the remains of the arch visible on the outer face of this east wall: the springing of the latter, were it complete, would coincide with the points in which the semicircular foundations abut upon the east wall; thus imparting, at least, a considerable degree of probability to the conjecture, that this is a portion of the original apse-arch.

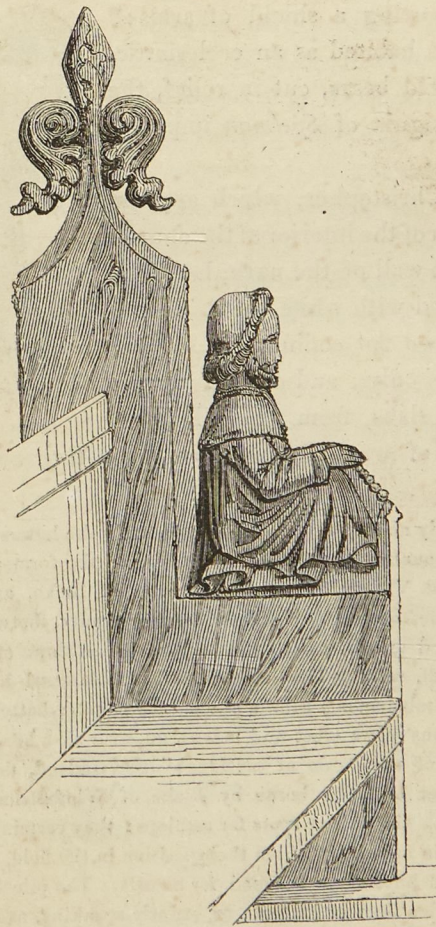
† See plate of bosses.



WIMBOTSHAM CHURCH NORFOLK,

Six Oak Bosses on the Roof of the Nave.

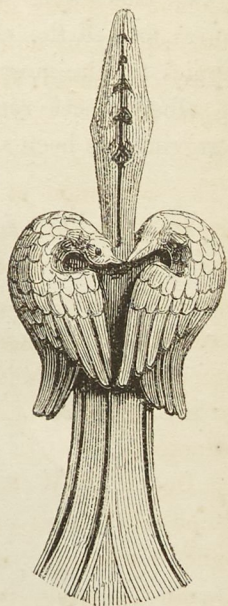
at the same time with the ceiling of the nave: various figures formed the elbow-pieces of these benches, and their poppies for the most part consisted of foliage: some few of the elbow-pieces remain, from one of which the annexed engraving has been sketched.*



* Among the other elbow-pieces which remain in a tolerable state of preservation are, a muzzled bear, a cockatrice, (?) a chained antelope, and two lions.

The two birds forming the poppie-head is a device of singular elegance. One other poppie-head also demands to be especially noticed: it now is situated on the south side of the chancel, and consists of the upper part of a human figure supporting a shield of arms: * the figure is habited as an ecclesiastic, and the shield bears, cut in relief, the armorial insignia of *Spelman* impaling *Blake*.

The St. Christopher, which appears in the sketch of the interior of the church on the south wall of the nave, has been again covered with white-wash. In the porch are two flat coffin-slabs, sloping on one side only; and in the church itself, three slabs, from which legends and shields of arms in brass have been torn away, together



* Immediately above this shield are apparently the letters P. B. and C. S. the latter surmounting the coat of Spelman, and the former that of Blake. Blomefield (Vol. VII., p. 518) gives the arms of Blake, as borne on this shield, "Ermine, on a pile indented *sable*, bezanty, between two lions' gambes erect and erased, *gules*, and an orle of escalops of the second, a bendlet over all, *vert*." This coat is thus emblazoned by Edmonson,— "Blake, (of Wimbotsham,) Erm. a pile battely counter-battely, sa. bezantée, between two lions' paws erect and erased, gu. over all a bend, *vert*." Here is no mention of the "orle of escalops;" nor, indeed, does this charge elsewhere appear as being borne by Blake of Wimbotsham. Blomefield probably mistook the ermine spots for escalops: they certainly do somewhat resemble them in form; but, from their position in the field, it is impossible that they should have been designed for an orle. The pile here appears to be indented rather than embattled; or, strictly speaking, as here given, the pile is partly indented and partly engrailed. The "bend" may possibly be figured as a "bendlet," in consequence of the multiplicity of charges accumulated upon the field. The arms of Spelman are, *sable*, platée, between two flaunches, *argent*. In this shield the flaunches are diapered, the diaper being cut in high relief.

with one perfectly plain slab, constitute the only sepulchral stones worthy of note.

The church of Wimbotsham is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary.

The advowson of the Church, in the time of Hen. III., was in John de Ingolvesthorp, and appears afterwards to have passed with the manor of Ingoldesthorp in Wimbotsham. This manor extended into Downham, Roxham, Fordham, Dereham, and Bexwell. In the reign of Hen. III., Roger de Welle held it, as appears from an ancient Roll in the muniment-room at Stowe,* from which the following is extracted.

|| Roger^o de Welle tenet manū suū de Winebodesham cū libe ten^o villanis suis ⁊ cotar^o ad illā manū p^ontinentibz de comit^o Warenn p^o s^ovič q^oarte ptis uni^o scuti ⁊ com^o de dñō r^o in capite, p^o quale s^ovičū nescim^o. Et h^ot in eod^o manūo unū meš ⁊ unā carucatā terr^o arabit ⁊ xiiij acras p^oti in dñico unū molend^o ad vent^o libum taur^o ⁊ verrē eid^o manūo p^otiñ ⁊ facit sectā ad cur^o de Castelacr^o de lbz septis in tres septias. Et capit amciañta pistoz ⁊ braciatorū ⁊ hoc sine waranto ut credim^o. Et clamat h^ore warenū p^o cartā dñi r^o.

|| Jo^ohs Kyng tenet unū meš ⁊ viij acras terr^o arabit d^oi acram p^oti in villenag^o de eod^o Ro^ogo p^o s^ovič xxij^d. ob. p^o añ^o ⁊ dat quol^o anno unā gallinā ⁊ dat scutag^o ⁊ h^o ad voluntatē dñi ⁊ Ro^og tenet de comit^o ⁊ com^o de dñō r^o.

|| Wydo de Ingolsthorp tenet ij meš ⁊ ij acras d^oi ⁊ unā rodā t^ore arabit libe de Ro^ogo de Well p^o s^ovič xxij^d. p^o annū ⁊ dat ad scutag^o j^d. ⁊ Ro^og tenet de comit^o ⁊ com^o de dñō r^o p^o q^od nescim^o. &c. †

* A survey by jury, of the lands and tenants in Wimbotsham, undated; but, from internal evidence, to be attributed to the early part of Henry the Third's reign. Parkin mentions a carucate of land here conveyed to Roger de Frevil, 13 Hen. III., the same no doubt with the above Roger de Welle.

† The services of the different tenants of this manor, to the number of forty-five, bond and free, are recorded in similar terms.

On the same Roll, the Church Property is thus entered :

|| Johs de Yngolsthorp est pt^onus ecc^{ie} de Wynebodesh^am, ad q^am ecc^{iam} ptinet xxx acre terr^o arabit t ij acre p^ati q^s psona ejusd^e ec^e tenet.

|| Ceci^t fit Emme tenet unā acr^am t unā rodā terr^o arabit libe de ecc^{ia} de Wynebodesh p švič ij^d. ob. p annū.

|| Alex^t de Newenh^am tenet unā dī acr^am terre arabit libe de ead^e ecc^{ia} p švič uni^o ob. p annū

|| Gocelin^o le Ray ttiā ptē uni^o meš t ij acr^s unā rod t dī terr^o arabit in villenag^o de ead^e ecc^{ia} p švic x^d. p annū t metet p unū dič t dī.

|| Lenore tenet unū meš t ij rod terr^o arabit in villenag^o de ead^e ecc^{ia} p švič x^d. p annū t metet p iij dies in autūpno.

|| Wi^t Soloman t Ida Berca^o tenēt unū cotag^o in villenag^o de ead^e ec^{ca} p švič iij^d. ob. p annū t metet p iij dies in autūpno.

|| Ro^t Berca^o tenet iij acr^s t^{re} arabit in villenag^o de ead^e ec^{ca} p švic iij^d. p annū t metet p unū dič t dī in autūpno.

The manor passed from Roger de Welle to the Ingoldesthorps (whose name it has retained) in Henry the Third's reign, when Thomas de Ingoldesthorp held the fourth part of a fee of the Earl of Warren. (*Test. de Nevill*, p. 287.) It was afterwards held by Isabella, his widow, and by John de Ingoldesthorp, as mentioned by Parkin.

In 24 Edw. I. and 19 Edw. II. Thomas de Ingoldesthorp held his court there: he died 1 Edw. III. In 3 Edw. III. Beatrix, his widow, held her court there, and continued till 27 Edw. III., when Dñs Roger, parson of the church of Reynham, John, parson of the church of Mylham, and William, parson of the church of Clenchwarton, held their first court "post mortem Beatrixis."

Sir William de Ingaldesthorp, grandson and heir of Beatrix, succeeded: he died 46 Edw. III. (*Inquis' post mort'*.) One of the Court Rolls of 37 Edw. III. is, however, headed,

"Prima Curia Dñæ Eleanoræ de Ingaldesthorp;" and various successive courts were held in the names of Richard Walkfare and his associates, Edmund Noon and his associates. The Lady Eleanor was wife of Sir William; and these courts were probably held in his absence from the country.

In 7 Ric. II. we find, "Prima Cur⁹ Thom⁹ de Middil-ton;" and the name of Eleanor, as Lady of the Manor, occurs again at different times as late as 17 Ric. II. Sir John de Ingaldesthorp, son and heir of Sir William and the Lady Eleanor, held his first court in 7 Hen. V. He died the following year: his will is dated A. D. 1419. (*Test. Vestusta*, p. 202.) He was succeeded by his son Thomas, who died A. D. 1422, leaving Edmund his son and heir. Edmund marrying Joan, daughter of Sir John Tiptoft, by Joyce, daughter and coheir of Edward Lord Powys, left a daughter and heir, through whom this manor eventually came to the family of Huddleston.* In 9 Hen. VIII. John Huddilston, Esq., held his court here. It was afterwards in the Townshend family. In 6 Edw. VI. we have, "Cur⁹ Prima Petri Sentyell armⁱ et Katerinæ ux⁹ suæ nup ux⁹ Ricardi Townshend arm⁹ defuncti." And in 4 and 5 Phil. and Mary, "Prima cur⁹ Xtopheri Heydon, Fermar⁹ Dñi Regis et Reginæ durante minore ætate Rici Townshend arm⁹." In the 16 Elizabeth it was sold by Roger Townshend of East Rainham to Sir Nicholas Hare, Kt., who held his first court in that year.

A Compotus of Richard West, præpositus of Sir Thomas

* In Enfield church, Middlesex, the very fine monumental brass of Joyce, Lady Tiptoft, is yet preserved: in the legend which forms a part of this memorial, the lady is spoken of as "Jocosa, quondam filia et una hered. Caroli dni Powes, ac eciam filia et una hered. honorabilissime dne Marie, &c." The word "Caroli" here has reference to Edward *Charlton*, Lord Powis, who married Eleanor widow of Roger Mortimer, Earl of Marche. Lady Tiptoft died A. D. 1446. Sir Edmund Inglethorpe died A. D. 1456; and his widow subsequently married Thomas, son of John Lord Grey of Ruthyn. (See Gough's *Sepulchral Monuments*, Vol. II., p. 136.)

de Ingaldesthorp in his manor of Wynebotesham, 29 Edw. I., is thus summed up:—

“Sm^a toſ recepit cū ar^r compⁱ pcedentⁱ xliiiij^{li}. xvij^s. xj^d.

Sm^a toſ expenſ cū libatⁱ xxviiij^{li}. xvij^s. ix^d. ob.

Et sic debentur Dño p dēm compⁱ xvij^{li}. j^d. ob.”

Abbot of Ramsey's Manor.—In the survey before referred to, the rights of the Abbot are thus set down:—

Abbs de Rameſ tenet mañium suū de Wynebosh^am cū. libⁱ ten villanis suis ⁊ cotar^o ad illud mañium ptiñ, hundm̄ dī de Clak^o ⁊ forū de Dunh^am cū tumbereſt z collistri^o de Dño r^o in capite p qđ ſviciū nescimⁱ. Et hit in eod mañio unū meſ ix^{xx}. acr^o terr^o arabit ix acr^s p^ati pistar^o ij gurgitū libum taurū ⁊ verrē, Warenū, Goala ⁊ ptiñ eid mañio p Cartā Dñi Regis. Et tenet p^lm namii vetiti* in eod hundr^o ⁊ capit passagiū apud Dunh^am ⁊ Fordh^am sine waranto ut credimⁱ et capit amciañ pistoz ⁊ braciatorū ⁊ p^uprestura^z ⁊ oīm alioz quæ ad letā ptiñet ⁊ clamat hre infangenethef wayf stray ⁊ wræcū ripæ ⁊ capit de redditu assiso leta^z de eod hundr^o p annū ij m^ar. j^d. ⁊ capit de eod hundr^o ad aux^m viç ⁊ p^opōiti p annū vj m^ar.

At the conclusion of the Roll the following presentments are made:—

|| Dicūt Jur^o de Wynebodesh^am qđ Wiſſs Bardolf capit injuste pissag^o in regali aq^a libtas cui^o aquæ ptiñet solūmodo Abbi Rameſ p cartas regū Anglⁱ ⁊ capit illd pissag^o de hōibz de Dunh^am, Winebodesh^am ⁊ Stowe vidz de quovis hōie ducēte unā q^arentenā turba^z vj^d. ⁊ dī q^arentenā iij^d. ⁊ ad plus, plus, ⁊ ad minⁱ min^o ⁊ hoc a tempe Gwerræ ⁊ sine waranto.

|| Dicūt ī qđ idm Wiſſs facit attachⁱ in regali aq^a vidz a

* *Namium vetitum*, the taking of another person's cattle unjustly, and removing them to an unlawful place, on the pretence of damage done by them; when the owner may demand satisfaction for the injury, which is called *placitum de namio vetito*.

Stapelwere usq; ad Dunhale hytth quæ attach ptinēt dco Abbi per cartas regū Angl eid cōcessas ⁊ hoc a tempe gwerræ ⁊ sine waranto.

|| Dicūt qđ Nichus de Riptoñ p^a ecclē de Dunh^m fecit p^upresturā in cōi de Wynebodesh^m, Dunh^m ⁊ Stowe faciēdo in eā unā foveā latitudne fovæ xij pedū ⁊ longit^u foveæ jv rodaꝝ ⁊ hoc ad maximū nocuñtū pđcāꝝ villaꝝ ⁊ hoc p unū dimid annū ⁊ plus.

The Abbot of Ramsey's manor was, in 36 Hen. VIII., granted by letters patent to Robert Myller, gentleman, and Ellen, his wife, with the advowson of Downham and the market and tolls there. By Myller it was alienated to John Walpole, Esq., who held his first court there on the Wednesday next before Easter, in the 1st of Queen Mary.

In 4 Elizabeth, the executors of John Walpole held their first court; William Walpole, son and heir of John, being a minor. In 16 Eliz., Wm. Walpole sold it to Francis Gawdy, Esq., Elizabeth his wife, and Elizabeth their daughter. Passing, by marriage, as mentioned by Parkin, through Sir W. Hatton and Sir Robert Rich, it was in the 9th Jas. I., purchased by Sir Ralph Hare, for the sum of £2,600.

Tonwell or Tunwell Manor.—In 1 Ric. II., I find John de Tunwelle holding lands in Wimbotsham. In 7 Ric. II. Robert de Mushill conveys to John de Tunwelle 20 acres of land in Wimbotsham and Stowe. In 22 Ric. II. he occurs as Lord of this Manor. In 9 Hen. IV. he grants it to Nicholas, his son. In 8 Hen. V., Emma, *wife** of Nicholas, held her first court here. Nicholas and Emma his wife occur in a deed dated 11 Hen. VI., by which Henry Barton and others release to them four messuages and 264 acres of land

* A second instance of a Court being held in the name of the wife during the life of the husband; which shows the necessity of being guarded, in taking for granted the death of the husband from the name of the wife heading a single court-roll.

in Wimbotsham, &c. In another, dated 18 Hen. VI., Emma occurs as the widow of Nicholas. The manor afterwards passed to the Blakes. Peter Blake, gentleman, held his first court 9 Edw. IV. Jasper Blake held his first court 17 Hen. VIII. Beatrice, widow of Peter Blake (son of Jasper), held her first court 14 Eliz. In 17 Eliz., Margaret, widow of Richard Badgeroft (and mother of Beatrix Blake), and Thomas their son, held their first court. In 30 Eliz., the site of the Manor of Tunwells was settled in jointure, on the contemplated marriage of Jasper Blake with Anne, daughter of Thomas Amyas, of Depham, gentleman. In 18 Jac. I., Jasper Blake and Frances his wife sold the manor to Roger Pratt, gentleman, who in 1654 sold it to Sir Ralph Hare, for the sum of £2,667. In the Hare family it has, with the other manors, to this time continued.

Roger Pratt was the third son of Gregory Pratt of Ryston, to which property he, Gregory, succeeded by the will of his uncle William, of Ryston.

The Pratts were, however, originally of Wimbotsham, and descended from Richard Pratt, of whom I find mention first made in a deed dated 23 Hen. VII., by which Robert Bathcom conveys a piece of land in Stowe to Richard Pratt and Geoffry Pratt.

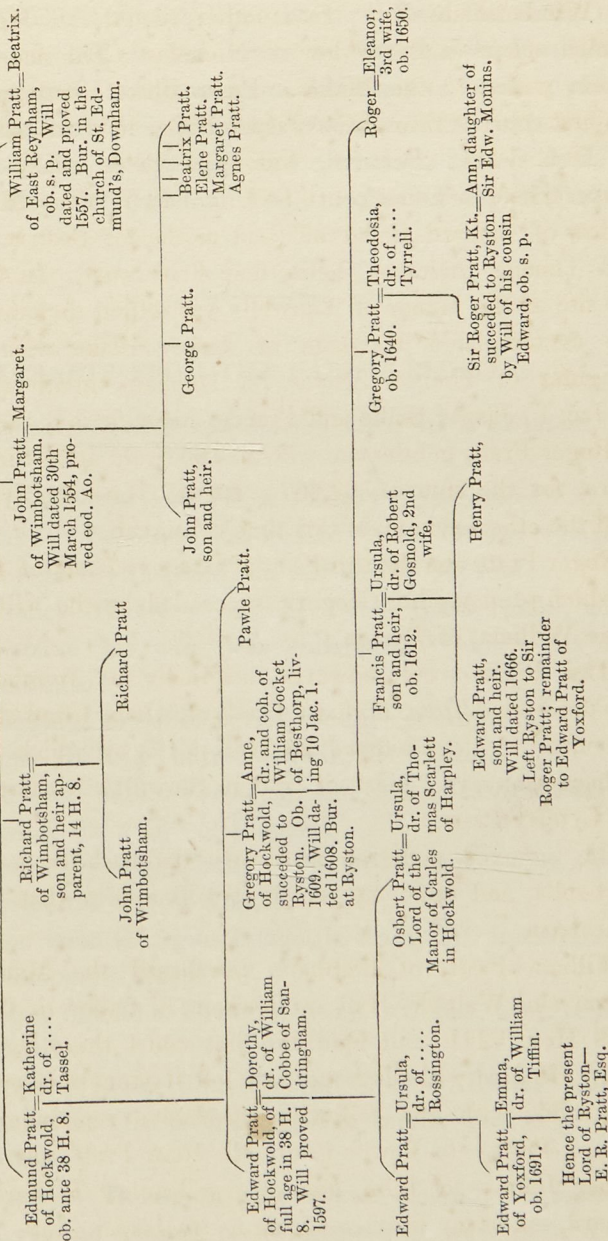
The annexed pedigree is clearly deduced from deeds, court-rolls, and wills, by which it will appear that Parkin is incorrect.

William Pratt, of Rainham, purchased the Manors of Ryston and Walpole Hall in Roxham, of Gillor or Gylour, in 19 Hen. VIII., and held his first court there the same year. He died without issue, and left Ryston to Gregory of Hockwold, with the following successive remainders: to Edward Pratt,—to Pawle Pratt,—to John Pratt, son of my brother John,—to John, son of my brother Richard,—to Richard, son of my brother Richard,—to Jasper Pratt.

From an old survey of lands, "late Richard Pratt's," made

Richard Pratt = Cecilia * * *

of Wimbotsham,
Gent. ob. 23 H. 8.



37 Hen. VIII., it appears that Richard Pratt the elder, of Wimbotsham, had in the towns of Stowe, Wimbotsham, Watlington, and Downham, about 350 acres of land. These lands, at the time the survey was made, were the property of Christopher Conyngsby, Esq., and afterwards passed by sale to John Hare, of London, Esq., brother of Sir Nicholas Hare, Kt.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH REGISTER.

The Register commences with the year 1562, 4th of Elizabeth.

- 4 Eliz. Tho. Cosyne and Johan Plett, y^e daughter of James Plett of Stradsett, was married by Sir George Longe, vicar of Stowbardolff, the last day of September.
- 6 Eliz. Francis Blake, y^e son of Peter Blake, gent., and Beatrice his wife, was christened y^e xixth day of December.
1570. Margaret Bexwell, buried the xijth of Auguste.
 — Peter Blake, g^l. buried eo^d die, (24th October.)
1571. Richard Killingworthe, g^l. and M^{rs}. Beatrice Blake, married the xvijth of January.
1574. John Tryndle, Clarke, pson of Wymbotesham, was buried the xijth of August.
1575. Hoc anno Georgius Longe, in artibz M^r, institutiōem huius ecclie accep^t.
 — Grace filia Tho. Drury et Anne, ux⁹ suæ, bapt. primo Martii.
1577. Thom^{as} Longe filius Georgii, cl^{ici} et Rector⁹ huius ecclie, et Graciæ ux⁹ ejusdem sepult. fuit xvij^o die februar⁹.
1589. Suzanna Thompson, y^e daughter of John Thompson, clerk, and psonne of Wymbotesham, was baptised y^e ixth daie of November.

1592. Jasp Blake, sonne of Jasp Blake, g^d. baptised y^e xxvijth of September.
 — William Fincham and Alce Forster married.
1594. Elsabeth Thompson, daughter of John Thompson, clerk, buried y^e second of April.
 — Bettris Blake, daughter of Jasp Blake, bapt^d vijth of October.
1597. Anne Blake, daugh^t of Jasp Blake, g^d. bapt^d xxijth of October.
 — Bettris Killingworth, wid. and gent^l. buried y^e xxxjth of May.
 — Anne Blake,* wief of Jasp Blake, g^d. buried y^e iij of January.
1598. John Thompson, the sonne of John Thompson, clrk., baptised the 25 of December.
 — Susanna Thompson, the daughter of John Thompson, clrk., buried the 3 of October.
1599. Anne, the daughter of John Thompson, clrk., buried y^e 25 of December.
 — Alce Thompson, y^e wif of John Thompson, clrk., buried y^e 3 of January.
1601. Alce, the wif of Willyam Fyncham, buried the 18 of September.
1606. Mr. John Thompson, pson of Wymbotsham, was buried the xjth of May.
1611. Helena Raye sepelitur octavo die Januarii.
1614. Jasper Blake, gen^losus, sepelitur vicesimo quinto die Martii, Ao. 1614.
 (Ao. 1616, Thomas Willis, Rector.)
1625. Gregorie, the son of Roger Prat and Ellen his wife, was baptized the xijth day of April.
 — George Willis, the elder, was buried the xxixth day of November.

* She was the daughter of Thomas Amyas, gent.

1626. Roger, the sonne of Roger Prat, esq^r. and Ellen his wif, was baptised the 30th daie of March.
1627. Elizabeth, the daughter of Roger Prat and Ellanor his wif, was baptised the 29th daie of November.
1628. John, the sonne of Roger Pratt and Ellanor his wif, was baptised the 12th daie of December.
1630. Ellenor, the daughter of Rog^r Pratt, esq^r. and Ellenor his wif, was baptised the viijth daie of September.
1634. Gilbert,* the sonne of Roger Prat, esq^r., was buried the ixth daie of June.
1636. Mary, the daughter of Roger Pratt, esq^r. and Eleanor his wife, was baptised the 29th day of March.
1643. James Bradley, clar^o, and M^{rs} Ann Pratt, were married June 17th.
1646. Mathew Steede, gnt., and M^{rs} Ann Pratt, married Feb. 4th.
1648. John Laccocke† was buried the twentieth daye of June.

* By a former wife, probably.

† On a subsequent page is the following :

*"A Coppie of a gift or Legacy of
John Laccocke of Wimbotsham to
the poore of this p'ish, & for a funerall
annual Sermon on the day of
his burial for Twentie years.*

"Item, I doe appoint M^r Castleton, the Minister of Hillington in the County aforesd, to preach my funerall sermon; and for his paines I bequeath him the sume of tenne shillings: and further, I desire that the sd M^r Castleton, if hee please, should preach a sermon upon y^e same day that my funerall sermon shall happen to bee, unles it bee the Sabbeth daye, for the space of Twentie yeares to come, in the p'ishe church of Wimbotsham aforesd; for w^{ch} paines I give him the sume of tenne shillings for every sermon. And, in case the sd M^r Castleton shall refuse soe to doe, I leave the choice of some other to the discretion of my supvisor. And, further, I give and bequeath unto soe many of the poore of the p'ish of Wimbotsham aforesd as shal come to hear the sd sermon during the terme aforesd, the sume of tenne

1650. Eleanor Pratt, gent., was buried the 5th day of November.

— Mr. Thomas Willis, cler., was buried y^e fourth day of Februarie.

1654. William Benn, gentleman, and Susan Sparrowe, the daughter of Robert Sparrowe, of Watlington in this county, clerke, were, with the consent of the said Robert Sparrowe, maryed by Gregory Gawsell, of Watlington aforesaid, Esq., Justice of the Peace, on the Sixe and twentieth day of January, in the presence of Mr. Edmund Hudson, Alderman of Lynne, and John Wastell of the same town, and Robert Reade of Watlington aforesd; the Bannes of such marriage havinge beene before the solemnization thereof

shillings, to be equally divided amongst them upon every sermon daye. And, further, my will and my meaning is, that for the true pformance of this charitable worke, the aforesaid Diana, my wife, for the term of her life, and also John Lampson and Margaret his wife, and likewise Elizabeth Lampson, the daughter, or any of them in whose hands the sd two houses shall happen to bee for the space of twenty yeares next after my death, that they or any of them shall paye out of the sd two houses the sume of twentie shillings upon the same day that shall happen for the pformance of the same gifts for the Minister and the Poore as is before specified, according to my true intent and meaninge herein."

After the year 1653, on a spare page, is this :

"Thomas Tailor of Runcton made his will the twoe and twentie daie of Maij, Anno Dni. 1621; and he gave to the poore of Downham, Wimbotsham, Stow, Watlington, Fincham, Shouldham, Stradset, Wormgay, Tottenhill, & Outwell, & to everie of them, the sume of Tenn pownds, to be paid unto the churchwardens for the time then being, w^{thin} three yeares next after his decease to the use of the poore.

"This Legacie of Thomas Taylor was paid by Henry Doleman, executo^r of the last Will and Testam^t of the aforementioned Thomas Tailor."

On the opposite page, is a memorandum, that, upon the 1st January, 1653, John Benn, M.A. and Incumbent of Wimbotsham, was sworn in as "*Parishe Register*," before Gregory Gawsell, J.P. John Benn is not noticed by Parkin in the list of Rectors; but he succeeded Willis, A. D. 1650.

published in the parish church of Wimbotsham three several Lord's days, viz. January 8th, the 15th, and the 22th.*

1656. Mr. John Ben, sometime Rector of this parish, was buried at Watlington, about November 1656. From March y^e seaventh, 1656, untill May 1658, the Register was wholly neglected, and then, and not before, it came to the hands of me,

Tho^s. Stephens,

the present Incumbent.

1659. Mr. Rob^t. Cremer, of Cambridge, was married to M^{rs}. Anne Bell, the fift day of Januarye, 1659.

August 5, 1660. Collected in Wimbotsham towards the reliefe of y^e inhabitants of Fakenham w^{ch} suffred by fire, foure shillings and seven pence.

Th. Stephens, Rector, *ibid*.

Th. Wiffen, }
Ismaell Reeve, } Churchwardens.

January the 6th, 1660. Collected att Wymbotsham towards the reliefe of the inhabitants of Little Melton in Norff., sustained by fire, Two shillings and five pence.

Th. Stephens, Minister, *ibid*.

Tho. Wiffin, }
Ismael Reeve, } Churchwardens and
 } Overseers.

1674. Waters Drury, Rector de Wimbotsham. †

1678. M^{rs}. Elizabeth Grey, widow, was buried October y^e 25th.

1708. Joseph Cooper of Linne, and Elizabeth Fuller ‡ of Stow-Bardolph, were married March the 8th.

* In the years 1654, 55, and 56, there were nine of these civil contracts solemnized before Gregory Gawsell, Esq., Thomas Sheriffe, Esq., William Life, Esq., and Thomas Drury, Esq., Justices of the Peace.

† He so signs, and not *Walter*, as given by Parkin.

‡ Elizabeth Fuller, daughter and coheiress of Robert Fuller of Ipswich: she died 16th Nov. 1714, and was buried in St. Nicholas Chapel, Lynn. Joseph Cooper, of Lynn, was born at Burford in Oxfordshire; being son

1772. *Baptism.* Clement, son of S^r. Clement Trafford and Isabel Bouillon, Jan^r. 23.
 1777. *Burial.* John Howlet (aged 103 years) March 15th.
 1745. *Marriage.* Rev^d. Love Shipley, Clerk, and Penelope Clarges, Apr. 23.

Burials.

1794. Elizabeth, the wife of James Cape (in the chancel) Dec. 17th.
 1803. William Money, Gentⁿ. in the chancel, Nov^r. 29th.
 1813. Elizabeth Bell, wife of Philip Bell, Clerk, Rector, and only daug^r. of the late John Collison, merch^t. of Thornham, aged 50, Augst. 5th.
 1834. Philip Bell, clerk, 55 years Rector of this parish and Vicar of Stow Bardolph, died May 3^d, aged 83: bur^d. May 9th.
 1840. Lucy Elizabeth Allen, 2^d daug^r. of the Rev^d. P. Bell, and wife of the Rev^d. W. M. Allen, ob. April 9th, æt. 51: bur^d. Ap^l. 16.
 1846. Algerina Bell, eld. daug^r. of the late Rev^d. Philip Bell, æt. 58 years, Dec^r. 2^d.

of Joseph Cooper, by his wife, Hester Paget, of Chipping Norton, co. Oxon. An old pedigree makes Joseph Cooper to be the seventh in descent from William Cooper and Cicely his wife, to whom the Priory of Thurgarton in Nottinghamshire was granted, 30 Hen. VIII.; which William is stated to be the descendant of William, a second son of William, fourth Lord Bardolph, of Wormegay, who, in consequence of being born at Coopar in Fifeshire, and having honours there granted to him, did, on the attainder of his elder brother, Thomas Lord Bardolph, assume the name, de Cooper. Of this William, second son of William Lord Bardolph, I find no mention in Dugdale, or in Banks; nor have I met with any authority for the statement. The arms attributed to Joseph Cooper in the pedigree, are, Az., on a chevron arg. between three cinquefoils or, two lions combatant, sa.: on an escutcheon of pretence, arg., three bars and a canton gules, for *Fuller*. He married, secondly, Mary, daughter of Stephen Allen of Darsingham.