

NOTICES OF THE TOWN AND PARISH

OF

Watton.

COMMUNICATED

BY THOMAS BARTON, ESQ.,

IN

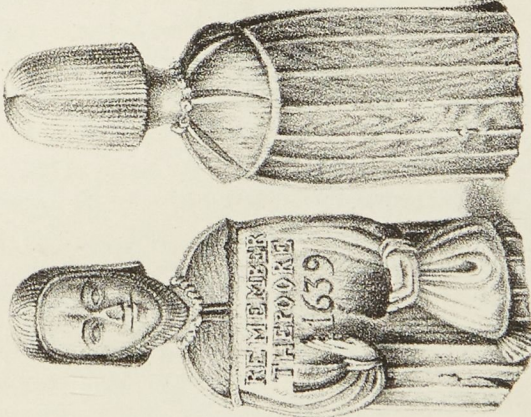
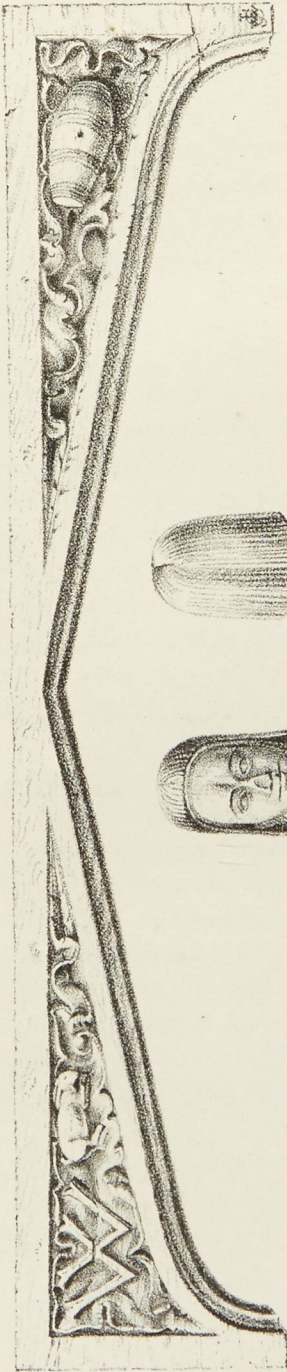
A LETTER TO DAWSON TURNER, ESQ., V. P.

Threxton, June 2, 1851.

MY DEAR SIR,

Having collected a number of memoranda relating to the Parish of Watton, and made sundry extracts from the old Town-book there, which throw some light on the customs of our ancestors, I have hoped they might be considered worthy the attention of the Norfolk Archæological Society; and, well knowing the interest you take in all that concerns their pursuits, I am induced to submit the same through you to their notice.

The town itself cannot indeed boast of any important antiquarian remains; yet still, when we consider the frail nature of parish records, and the little care generally taken of them, it is surely incumbent on us to use our endeavours to preserve the same; and thus, each of us, to do what may be in his power to further the best interests of the Society, as well by recording what we have ourselves gathered, as by stimulating the zeal of others, who may have a more extensive and more fruitful field before them.



POOR BOX IN WATTON CHURCH AND CARVING ON THE MARKET CROSS .

C.T. WINTER, LITH.

It will not be forgotten, that our excellent Honorary Secretary (Rev. R. Hart), at the conclusion of his *Lecture on Norfolk Antiquities*, offered this advice to his hearers—"Read, observe, and sketch;" begging them at the same time to recollect, that "even the meanest of our villages might, in its registers, town-books, old houses, or local traditions, supply a portion of the pabulum upon which the antiquary delights to revel." His advice has been acted upon by some of our members; and I am induced to follow their example, equally desiring to advance our common cause. With that view I have selected Watton; not that it contains any stately monuments, peculiar manorial customs, rich brasses, stained glass, or "ivy-mantled towers;" but because it is the chief town of the hundred of my residence (Wayland), and possesses amongst its muniments a very old Town-book, from which I have made copious extracts, relating particularly to that remarkable custom, "The Drinkyns," at which, in days of yore, the inhabitants of our towns and villages settled their parochial business o'er the well-spread board and flowing cup of barley-bree. It is much to be regretted that these records of the past, whose every page teems with information of interest to the antiquary, should be suffered to decay, and in many cases to be destroyed as waste-paper. Watton has also another claim to our attention; for within its limits is Wayland Wood,* which is said to have been the scene of the well-known ballad of the "Babes in the Wood," a carved representation of which once adorned the walls of a house at a short distance in the adjoining village of Griston; but *that*, like many other illustrations of the age, is gone.

In these notices of Watton, I have not repeated what is to be found in Blomefield, whose account of this parish, occurring in his second volume, p. 312—319, is by his own hand, and is, consequently, far from unsatisfactory. At the same

* The Sheriff held his court in this wood, but not even tradition points out the spot.

time I have endeavoured to correct him where it appears to me that he has erred; to supply what he has omitted; and to continue the descent of the manors, &c. to the present time; and if I have failed, I can say, with the Rev. Gentleman I first quoted,—“I have done my best.”

I am, dear Sir,

Your faithful Servant,

THOMAS BARTON.

To Dawson Turner, Esq., V. P.

WATTON, Waton, Whatton, Wadetown, or Wadetun—for I find it spelt in all these ways—is said to derive its name from the numerous fords over the water between it and Saham. In fact, it could not be approached from any part between Carbrooke, on the North-east, and Thrextton, on the South-west, without crossing some *rivulet*; and these were most probably, at that period, of greater magnitude than at present. Tradition goes farther still, and reports that there was once a large piece of water here, called the *Mere*;* and although nothing of the kind now exists, the rumour is, in a certain degree, confirmed by allusions to the fact in old deeds relating to the lands lying on the North side of the parish, wherein mention is made—here, of *mere common*; there, of *mere field*, &c. In the last-mentioned was found, a few years since, a fine celt of yellow flint, which is now in my possession.

So fully has Blomefield entered into the history, and descent of the manors in this parish, that I have done no more

* In an Inquisition taken 9th Henry V., on the death of John Lord de Roos, there is an extent of the manor of Watton with the *fishery* there, called *Watton Mere*.

than continue his account of them. The last lord of WATTON HALL MANOR, mentioned in his work, was William Samwell, Esq., who left two daughters, Ann and Mary. Of these, the latter died unmarried in the lifetime of her elder sister, the *first* wife of Captain William Henry Fleming, R.N., High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1736, who, at the time of his death in 1771, was the oldest officer of his rank in the service. His said wife dying in 1728, he, in 1731, married Theophila, only daughter of Peter Wilson, of Plumsted, Esq., by whom he left two children, a son and a daughter. The daughter married the gallant Capt. Farmer, of whom full particulars will be found in Armstrong's *Norfolk*, Vol. IX., p. 107. Sir William Fleming, the son, sold the impropriation and advowson of the vicarage, together with the Wick Farm, in 1775, to Mr. Francis Hicks, of Watton, but kept the manor. Mr. Hicks, a few years afterwards, became a bankrupt; and on the sale of his estates, * the property, purchased by him of Sir William Fleming, passed, in 1782, to Mr. John Raby, of Rainham. Sir William died in London in 1791, without issue; and in 1793 Mr. Raby became also the purchaser of the manor. He died in 1794, leaving Elizabeth his sister and heir; who married, first, Thomas Hicks, of Watton, attorney-at-law, brother to Francis above-named; and, afterwards, Benjamin Barker, Esq., of Carbrooke. In 1795 Mrs. Barker obtained a confirmation of her title from Sir George William Farmer, of Greek Street, Soho Square, London, Bart., the nephew and heir at law of Sir William Fleming. Upon the decease of Mrs. Barker, without issue, in 1813, this manor, together with the impropriation, the patronage of the vicarage, and the Wick Farm, passed, under her Will, to John Raby Hicks, Gent., son of Robert Hicks, of Hindolvestone,

* In the particulars of sale it is stipulated that the tenant of the Wick Farm should give a leg of pork and a barrel of beer on the perambulation of the bounds of the parish.

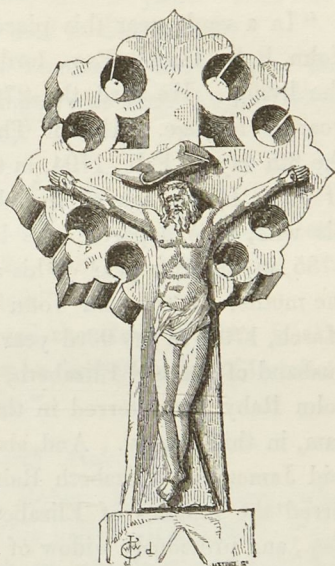
surgeon; and William Henry Hicks, of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, the only surviving son of the said John Raby Hicks, is the present owner.

ROKELES MANOR.—This manor, in his notice of which, Blomefield has omitted to mention that, in 1467, Roger Holdeness, son of John Holdeness, of Carbrooke, sold it to Richard Roos, Esq., passed in 1741, upon the death of Peter Barker, under the Will of Thomas Scott, to his kinsman, Charles Scott, Gent., son of Edmund Scott, of London, who was son of Edward Scott, of Letton. Charles died in 1744, leaving two sons, Thomas Scott and the Rev. Peter Barker Scott. The former, who succeeded his father, was some time an officer in the Norfolk militia; but, entering into holy orders, became rector of Merton and vicar of Tottington. He died in 1799, leaving several children; of whom Thomas the eldest (also a clergyman) was the last of the family that enjoyed this manor. By his trustees and executors it was sold, in 1811, to Mr. John Lane, of Griston, upon whose death, in 1847, his executors conveyed it to Mr. William Massey, of Watton, attorney-at-law, the present possessor, and the manor-house, with part of the demesne, to the Honorable B. N. O. de Grey, brother to Lord Walsingham, who now resides in it.

THE CHURCH, which was built about the reign of Henry the Second, was dedicated to St. Giles, and afterwards, temp. Henry VI., to St. Mary. We read in Taylor's *Index Monasticus*, that it had three gilds: those of St. Giles, St. Mary, and St. John the Baptist. It was composed of a nave, and North and South aisles, with a North porch, all of which (except the nave) were taken down in 1840, and the aisles extended to a great width,* with a roof of such a pitch as to exclude a view of the clerestory windows. Doubtless this arrangement was made with the intent to augment the number

* 64 feet 6 inches wide, 45 feet long.

of sittings, so as to accommodate an increased and increasing population. Over the entrance of the North porch stood the interesting Crucifix, here figured, which is now removed to a far less appropriate locality on the East end of the church. In its original position it surmounted a niche, designed, most probably, for the patron saint. The tower of the church is round at the bottom. Through this is the principal entrance; but there is also a door at the end of each aisle. Its upper portion is octangular, and its summit ornamented with blank shields, lozenges, &c., in stone. The water-spouts pass from the mouths of huge gurgoyles, grinning horribly as if offended with their work. A wooden spire surmounts the whole. Within are three bells, inscribed as follows:



“ John Brend made me, 1656.”

“ John Brend made me, 1658.”

“ O vřgo vřginũ, ora pro nobis ad dñm.”

The present FONT, which is of a very meagre character, has supplanted a decorated one, which, at a former re-pewing of the church, was ejected to make room, and was sold to the adjoining parish of Ovington, where it remains.

THE CHANCEL, inconveniently small,* contains the following tablets, in addition to those mentioned by Blomefield.

* Interior length, 21 ft. 4 in. ; width, 13 ft. 6 in.

South Side.

"In a vault near this place are deposited the remains of John Raby Hicks, Esq., lord of this manor, and patron of the living. He died the 27th of May, 1794, in the 61st year of his age. Also of Thomas Hicks, Gent., who died the 8th day of Feb., 1794, in the 59th year of his age. Also of John Hicks, son of the above-named Thos. and Elizth. his wife, who departed this life on the 3rd of November, 1785, in the 21st year of his age. Also of Elizabeth Raby, the mother of the said John Raby, who died the 10th of March, 1791, in the 93rd year of her age. James Raby, the husband of the said Elizabeth, and father of the above-named John Raby, lies interred in the church-yard at South Raynham, in this county. And also James, an infant son of the said James and Elizabeth Raby. Beneath the altar are interred the remains of Elizabeth, wife of Benjamin Barker, Esq., and previously widow of Thos. Hicks, Gent.: she died the 24th of July, 1813, aged 75 years."

"In memory of John Raby Hicks, Gent., who died on the 26th November, 1828, aged 26 years. Also of John Raby Hicks, son of the above, who died June 5th, 1831, aged 4 years."

Chancel Floor.

"W. Henry Fleming,* Esq. died 11th May, 1771, aged 82."

South Side of Nave.

"Sacred to the memory of Francis Hicks, who died April 29, 1743, aged 50 years. Also of 5 of his children, who died in their infancy. Also near this place lieth the body of Jane, the wife of the above Francis Hicks, who died 27 Nov., 1781, in the 81st year of her age."

"Sacred to the memory of Thomas Younge, who died Dec. 11th, 1770, aged 43 years. Also Dorothy Younge, his

* Blomefield states, there is a shield of Fleming impaling Samwell on the North wall; but the shield referred to is plain.

widow, who died May 13th, 1804, aged 46 years. And likewise two of their children, who died in their infancy."

"Beneath rest the remains of Thomas Younge, son of the above Thos. and Dorothy Younge, who died August 30th, 1805, in the 41st year of his age."

North Side of Nave.

"Sacred to the memory of the Revd. Peter Barker Scott, late of Saham, who died April 26, 1811, aged 70 years. He lived respected and died lamented."

"Near this place lieth interred the Rev. William Hicks, some time Vicar of this parish, who died 26th day of October, 1784, in the 43rd year of his age."

Wall of North Aisle.

"Sacred to the memory of Robert Harvey, Esq^r., who departed this life at Watton, (his native place,) Nov. 20th, 1820, aged 70 years. 'Speak ye who best can tell,' his widow * and daughter, † surrounding friends, and neighbours of every class, that he lived in the practice of all Christian virtues, assisting and relieving, forbearing and forgiving. His trust was in God: his hope rested on the atonement offered by his blessed Redeemer."

Against the Wall of South Aisle.

"Here lies interred the body of Mrs. Arabella Tillett, wife of Wm. Tillett, of St. Mary Axe, London, and only daughter of Capt. Nathaniel Perry and Margaret, his wife: she was a tender and indulgent parent to her children, whose virtues they are ambitious to imitate, and was in every circumstance a sincere friend, a careful and loving wife, completed her happiness in this life, and was in her last moments what we may rejoice to be. She departed this life the 9th day of July, 1755, aged 51 years. And, close adjoining, lies the

* She died in 1849, aged 94.

† Married Sir R. J. Harvey, Knt.

body of William Tillett, her husband, who died 9th Nov., 1770, aged 70 years."

*On the Floor of the Church.**

"William Kett, Surgeon, died October 13, 1715, aged 39 years."

"Cath. Frith, obt. 29 May, 1762, ætat. 76."

"Francis Hicks, 1743. Jane Hicks, 1781."

"Sacred to the memory of Peter Barker, gent., who died August 10, 1741, aged 66 years. Also of Mary Edwards, late wife of Edmund Scott, who died Aug. 5, 1744, aged 83 years. Also of Sarah, the wife of John Mackmurdie, who died April 25, 1774, aged 84 years. Elizabeth Scott, relict of Charles Scott, gent., died Oct. 21, 1796, aged 76 years."

"George, son of Francis and Jane Hicks, 1807."

"Here lieth y^e body of Deborah, the wife of Thomas Scott, Gent., who departed this life the 22 of August, 1713. Here also lieth the body of Thomas Scott, Gent., who departed this life June 7, 1729, aged 76. The Rev. Thomas Scott died Dec. 9th, 1799, aged 61 years. Anne, relict of the above Rev. Thomas Scott, died Dec. 28, 1811, aged 67 years. The Rev. Thomas Scott, son of the above Thomas and Anne Scott, died August 16, 1810, aged 43 years."

There was a Poor's Box standing in this church, of a type somewhat remarkable (*see plate*). The top appears to be intended to represent a priest, with a pointed beard, holding in his left hand a bag, in the upper part of which is an orifice to receive the money which passed into the box: beneath, it is of solid oak. On his breast is carved, in relief, "Remember the Poore. 1639."

* Blomefield mentions a stone for Hamond, a hatchment for Tooley, and stained glass with the arms of Thetford Priory; to each of which the return must be, *non est inventus*.

The Registers * begin in 1539, are perfect, and have been exceedingly well kept. The following extracts are among the most deserving to be recorded.

1600. Hugh Turner, clerk and vicar of Watton, and Dorothy Dunn, of Hingham, a widow, were married July 10th.
1608. Hugh Turner, rector de Threxton et vicarius de parochiâ de Watton, obyt 25^{mo} die Feb. A.D. 1608; et sepultus fuit apud Watton, 26^{mo} die ejusdem mensis Februarii.
1625. Edm^d. Turner, clerk, was buried July 5th.
1676. Elizabeth Tooley, the wife of Henry Tooley, vicar of Watton, was buried Nov 1.
1682. M^r. Christopher Hey † was buried July 5th
1691. Nov. 4th. I, John Berry, ‡ came to Watton to reside.
1700. Mary, the daughter of Margaret Lea, baptized Dec. 16. Her husband, Philip Lea, left her two years before, upon whose return she confessed the child was basely born, and *performed penance in this Church*, Feb. 16, 1700. (o. s.)
1702. John Hammond § was buried at *Threxton* June 17.
1720. M^{rs}. Ann Wodehouse, patroness of this living, was buried in the Chancel, August 16th.

* My thanks are due to the Rev. P. B. Jeckell, for the free use of them for this purpose.

† He was a mercer here, and built the Clock-house. He was also the only person who is known to have issued a coin in Watton. This, one of the small copper Tradesmen's Tokens of the seventeenth century, is described in Ewing's *Norfolk Lists*, p. 193.

‡ Mr. Berry was vicar of Watton and rector of Threxton in 1698, and entered several marriages and burials which took place in *Threxton* in the Register-book of *Watton*; which, on one occasion, led to serious inconvenience.

§ A branch of the family of Hamond of Westacre. (See *Burke's Landed Gentry*.) Ten years subsequently, in 1712, it is evident that the small-pox made great ravages in this parish; as, out of thirty-two persons buried that year, twenty-one died of that disease.

1726. Aug^t. 16. Hannah Jarvise, who died of the small-pox at Griston, was buried in this Church: she was buried in linen, and 50^s. paid to the parish.*
 Frances Hamond buried at *Threxton* Sep. 18th.
1727. Charlotte, daughter of Messenger Monsey † and Ann, his wife, baptized Sep. 7th.
1728. M^{rs}. Ann Fleming, the wife of William Henry Fleming, patroness of this living when single, (a good lady), was buried May 1st.
1729. June 10th, Thomas Scott, Gentleman, an honest, just, good, charitable man, a great benefactor both to y^e church and poor, to y^e great loss and inexpressible lamentation, particularly of the minister of the parish and all the inhabitants, was buried.
1730. Mr. John Berry, vicar almost 40 years, was buried Sep. 28.
1741. Aged 66, Peter Barker, Gent., whose unaffected piety, courteous disposition, and extreme charity had justly rendered him the delight of all. (Small-pox.) ‡
1778. The Rev. Thomas Pigge, vicar of this parish, was buried Sep. 9.
1799. Dec. 14, Tho^s. Scott, clerk, lord of one of the manors, rector of Merton and vicar of Tottington, died, aged 61.

* By the 30th Charles II. c. 3, there is a penalty of £5. for burying any person in linen (except such as die of the plague): one quarter to the Crown, one quarter to the informer, and *half to the parish*.

† This was the well-known eccentric Dr. Monsey, physician to Chelsea Hospital; of whom see more in the *Gent. Mag.*, 1788, p. 1183; the *Annual Register* for 1788, p. 225; and the *Transactions of the Bury Archaeological Institute*, p. 45: but no mention is made by any of the above that he resided here. The present most highly respected Robert Monsey Rolfe, Lord Cranworth, is his descendant.

‡ Small-pox was still very prevalent in the parish at this time.

The Terriers are dated 1633, 1636, 1706, 1709, 1716, 1725, 1729, 1735, 1740, 1747, 1753, 1760, 1763, 1770, 1777, 1784, 1791, 1794, 1801, 1806, 1813, 1820, 1827, 1834, and 1845.

The Terrier of 1725 records that, "An house upon the Common * was built by contribution, for y^e reception of any that shall be infected wth any dangerous distemper."

In 1729 is this: "One Pulpit-cloth and Cushion of purple, wth a good fringe; the former finely embroidered wth silver, and y^e letters I. H. S, and y^e date of y^e year, given by good M^r. Scott, w^{ch} cost him eight guineas."

Bishop Jewell's Works, folio, occurs in the Terrier for 1747.

In Terrier 1753, it is stated, there were paid to the vicar, according to "immemorial custom," mortuaries of 10s., or 6s. 8d., or 3s. 4d., according to the value of the effects of the deceased.

In Terrier 1777: Number of houses in the streets, 76; ditto in the hamlets, 26†—102.

The following are the Vicars since the time of Blomefield.

- 1779. William Hicks.
- 1785. John Fairfax Franklin.
- 1791. William D'Oyly.
- 1803. Fairfax Franklin.
- 1838. Peter Blomefield Jeckell.

* This house was sold by the parish under an order of the Poor Law Commissioners.

† The present number of houses in the streets is 154; in the hamlets, 138; total, 292. The population in 1801 was 693; 1811, 794; 1821, 894; 1831, 1027; 1841, 1188; 1851, 1353.

EXTRACTS FROM THE TOWN-BOOK.

1560.*

		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>For the</i> } It. Payd for appellys		—	x
<i>Drynkin. †</i> } It. for v skore whyte herryngs and iiij		ij	iiij
	It. for iij pounds an a half of raysenes	—	v
	It. a penny worthe of anny seadys	—	j
	It. a pynt of hony	—	v
	It. ij pynts of boter	—	vij
	It. an ounce of pepper	—	iiij
	It. payd to Aldenn's wife for a dosen bred	—	xij
	It. payd to Francis' wife for a dosen cakys	—	xij
	It. gevyn to porefolkes	—	vj
	It. my wife did bake at the drynkyn iij boshells		
	of white and iij boshells of 1**		
	of whete	v	—
	Payd for pulling down of the holy water stoppes	—	iiij
	It. payd at Thetfor for a boke of artekles	—	iiij
	It. payd at Thetfor for puttyng the verdyct	—	j ^{ob}
	It. payd y ^e clark for wryghtyng y ^e verdyct	—	vj
	It. payd v of ower costs at Thetfor at y ^e vysytacon	ij	iiij
	—— the men one day for y ^e stonegatherers	—	ij

1561.

The charges y^t is layd owt by Wylliam Tyndell after y^e second day of November tyll hallowmas next:—

* What remains of the book before this period is so torn that nothing can be distinctly made out.

† For full particulars of these "holomes or soulmas Drynkyns," see Brand's *Popular Antiquities*, Vol. I., pp. 300—312. They appear from these extracts to have taken place at various periods of the year, and to have been a sort of "Pic-Nic," depending upon contributions of various articles. Collections were made at them, and, after all payments, the surplus carried to the parish account (see the entries in 1565 and 1566.)

	s.	d.
Fyrst at y ^e plowlet,* a boshell and a half of malt	-	xxij j ^{ob}
It. a fyrkyn of bere	-	xv
It. bred corn a boshell, and a half of messylve	ij	-
For y ^e drynkyn, a comb of malt	iiij	-
It. for half a barelle of beare	ij	vj
It. payd to Browster for mending y ^e bardrych of y ^e bells †	-	vj
It. payd to John Egmeare for a day's worke at y ^e pyssell bryg, meat and wages	-	viiij
It. payd for mendyng of Rokell's bryg	-	viiij

1565.

Receyved of y ^e plowlet, all costs and chargys deducted	vij	iiij
Receyved y ^e last day of March at y ^e drynkyn, all chargys borne	xiiij	vj
Gathered the sollowmes, ‡ all chargys	vij	x

1566. §

Mr. John Catson have in hys hands, besyd y^e Churchwardens, the some of x^s. to be payd at Hollowmas next; and hys sewrty for the same is Hugh Bowgyon, and he is to gyve for the same a boshell of malt at the drynkyn.

Mr. John Rade, clark, have in hys hand	vj	viiij
Receyved of y ^e drynkyn on Wissin Monday, all charges discharged	xiiij	x

* See Brand's *Popular Antiquities*.

† Bardrych or Baldrick was a strap of leather fastened on the outer rim of the bell-wheel, which had not a groove for the rope to run in, as now.

‡ Soulmass or All Souls' night; when it appears to have been the custom to make a gathering towards the relief of the poor for the following year.

§ *Surveyors of the Highways* are mentioned this year.

|| He was the vicar.

1567.

The charges Harry Barns and Robard Bratt have been at
thys yere, beyng Churchwardens in the yere of our
Lord God 1567, for y^e Townshyp of Watton.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Fyrst, Payd to Wyllym Wyseman for liij ^{lb} of leade, being in a shete, y ^e some of	iiij	-
Payd to y ^e plomers, y ^e viij daye of November, for sowd' and v dayes work, y ^e some of	xxvij	-
Payd to John Catson for a hundred leade nayls	-	xij
Payd to Robard Alden for v fagots	-	iiij
Payd for vi ^{xx} and four bricks for mendyng the Church	-	viij
Payd for a seame of lyme*	-	xx
A daye and a half of a masen and hys server, in laying the bricks and whytinge y ^e place wheare the awter stood, w ^t meat and wages	ij	vj
Payd to the glaser for setting in of too quarrells in y ^e window on y ^e south side	-	iiij
Payd for drafts of y ^e boke in y ^e chapetelle cort and our denners	-	xiiij
Payd for my dener, Robart Bratt	-	vj
Payd for a carpet for y ^e communion bord	iiij	-
Totalis sumā laid out by Henry Barns	xx	-
Payd to y ^e said Robart Bratt at y ^e vysytacion at Thetfor, in July	vij	iiij
Payd for half a whyte lether hyde †	-	xv

1568.

Receyved of y ^e churchwardens at the plowlet	ij	viij
Payd for candell stekys	iiij	viij
2 Nov. Receyved of the churchwardens at the Plowlet	vj	viij

* Eight bushels.

† Most likely for the Baldricks.

1571. *

The Lands of the townshipe of Watton letinne in the yer of
or Lord A° Dni 1571, to the men followyng :

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Itm. James Hansard j acre for iiij yere, y ^e yere .	ij	viiij
Itm. Bryon Bowgyn j acer iiij yere, y ^e yere .	ij	viiij
Itm. Robert Alden for one acre for iiij yere, y ^e yere	ij	viiij
Itm. Rycharde Skarlle for j acre for iiij yere, y ^e yere	ij	-
Itm. George Franke for j acre for iiij yere, y ^e yere	ij	viiij
Itm. Thoms Howst for j acre for iiij yere, y ^e yere .	ij	viiij
Itm. Henrie Larnar for j acre for iiij yere, y ^e yere	ij	-
Itm. Ihon Weston for ij acrs for iiij yere, y ^e yere .	iiij	-
Itm. Anthony Dorrant for j di. acre	-	xij

1579.

Chosen and apoynted by the inabytance of the towne of
Watton sixe men for laying the towne for noyfull vermẽ and
fowles. †

Henry Turner.	James Hansard.	Robert Breett.
Nycolas Cock.	Christoper Hey.	Henry Firket.

Out of these sixe men ii chose for dystributing and paying
for such noyful fowles and vermẽ as ar taken wⁱn the bounds
of Watton; these men chosen by the forsayd sixe men,

Robert Breett, Henry Firkett.

1585.

Remaying in the towne 1 greate spete ‡ which George
Frank borrowe at his marriage.

* In 1575 these lands were let for £1. 7s. 4d., which was an increase of
5s.; in 1602 the rent was £1. 16s. 8d. The entries are similar, and I have
not given them here.

† This entry frequently occurs.

‡ This spit in all probability was kept at the house where the Drinkings
were held; as was the case at Shipdham, where are entries of spits, pots,
trenchers, &c. &c.

1587.

George Haywood is apoynted to look to the bells for one hole yere : he shall have for his laboure ii^s.

1589.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Itm. to Nycolas Kock for twenty molls heds	—	xx
Itm. to Rychard Edhouse for xxix dussen sparrows heds	—	—
Itm. to Thomas Smythe for xxviiij cadows heds	—	—

1592.

Nov. 17. Bought of Thos. Skeen the great belle* wheel, and he is to make it new agayn if it break wⁱⁿ fyve yeres after, at his own coste and charge : for it he is payd v^s.

1597.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
April 17 th . There is alowd to Johan Betts this day for a sword skabberd, and a daggerd, and a payr of hanger †	vii	viiij
Alowd more to him for other things	—	—
For a prysoner, carrying Rychard * * * *	—	xviiij
As much to Thos. Lynckon for there own chargys oÛr nyght	—	xiiij

1603.

Delyvered by Xtofer Hey, the Towne armer, unto Humfry Mosse and James Brat, one corstlyt, one pick, a sword, two

* Not any of the bells have wheels now.

† *Hanger*, the loop or strap appended to the girdle in which the dagger or small sword usually hung.

“Men’s swords in *hangers* hang fast by their side,
Their sturops hang as when they used to ride.”

Taylor’s *Works*, 1630.

daggers, a girdell w^t a heade pece, j calyver, sword, one dagger, one girdell, one heade pece w^t a cote, and all things to it belonging.

1605.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Delivered into the hands of John Crosshill . . .	v	vij
More received of James Bratt in pt of the old pillory by William Crosshill	-	vj
	Su \bar{m} a	vj j

1621.

To receive of Thomas Brett for takyn up the palments of the Church to bury his wife, 6^{s.} 8^{d.}.*

Mr. John Howard paid to the Churchwardens for the breaking up the Church for to bury his wife's mother, Mrs. Nuce, 6^{s.} 8^{d.}; and it was put into the poore man's box, and given to the poore.

1637.

"This yeare John Olley of Watton gave unto the Church three yards of broad black cloth for a hearse cloth.

"To do good and to distribute forget not; for with such sacrifices God is pleased. 13 *Heb.*, ver. 16."

1639.

"This yeare Mr. William Foster, vicar of Watton, gave the greene plush cushion for the pulpit."

1643.

There is given by Mr. Richard Turner, late deceased, 4 acres of land to the Towne of Watton for the use of the poor; and Mr. George Laws is to paye 26 shillings a year, 13^{s.} every half year, for the term of 21 years; and, after the term

* It was and is the custom to pay the Churchwardens 6^{s.} 8^{d.} for any person buried in the church.

is ended, it is at the disposing of the Churchwardens for the use of the poor, as aforesaid, to be dealt out in bread, 6^d. every week, to the poorest sort of people.*

1659.

Put out the Bells keeping, and to keepe out the doggs of the church, *and to awake all sleepers wch sleape in divine service*, to old William Mayes, for one whole yeare insueng, 10^s. p ann.; 2^s. 6^d. to be payd every quarter by the Churchwardens.

Collections.

	£.	s.	d.
1660. Burning at Little Melton	0	10	4
1666. Jan. 15. Relief of poor of London by fyre	2	13	0
1671. May 28. Towards the Ransumeing of My- chell & Peter Kys	0	7	1
1677. May 9. Fire at Brancaster	0	15	6
For the 10 th Royal ayd. † and then overplus which is put into the poor man's box.	0	7	6
1679. Oct. 2. Brief for Horseford St. Faiths	0	6	4½
1680. Oct. 1 st . Towards the redemption of poor prisoners in Algiers, Sally, and other places in Africa	3	7	0½
1683. Feb. 15. Sufferers of North Elmham	0	10	8½

Besides these, which occur in the *Town-book*, there are 382 entered in the *Register-book* between the years 1740 and 1778,

* Nine poor widows are still allowed 1^d. each every week, which is denominated "widows' bread." *Terrier* for 1845. For distribution of other charities in this parish, see *Ch. Com. Rpt.*, p. 58, *Norf.*

† It does not inform us what amount was raised for the royal aid—that of the overplus only is given.

on the greater number of which nothing was collected. I have only extracted the following, which relate to our own county.

	£.	s.	d.
1740. June 1. Wymondham, petition	1	12	6
Dec. 2. St. Mary Magdalene (hailstorm)	0	13	3½
1756. Sep. 16. Fincham fire	0	12	6
1768. June 19. Cromer Church	0	3	3

It is very remarkable that, looking to the minuteness with which every trivial event appears to be entered in the Parish-book, no mention should be made of the fire in this town on Saturday, the 25th of April, 1674,* which did considerable damage: traces of it may now be seen when any of the old houses in the market-place are undergoing repair. The only notice I can find of it is in the Record-room at Norwich, where is a list of the parishes of the city, with their contributions, amounting to £143. 13s. 9½d.; in addition to which it seems the members of the Corporation subscribed £25. 5s.

Soon after the fire, was erected a building, known as the Clock-house, in which was placed a clock, and a bell, called the *ting-tang*,† most probably for the purpose of arousing the inhabitants in case of a similar disaster: it was built by Mr. Christopher Hey, and sold by him to the town April 12, 1680. The account of this transaction is set forth at some length in the Town-book before mentioned.

In the Market was formerly a Cross supported by eight pillars, between two of which, on the South side, were placed the stocks, and immediately over these a rebus of the town's

* Blomefield states it 1673, which is an error. The following entry occurs in the Court-book of Watton Hall Manor, at the end of the proceedings at a Court held die Veneris, 24 April, 1674:—"Subsequente die oppidum violento igne torruit."

† It is now rung to give notice of service and parish meetings.

name carved in oak—"a hare* and a tun." This is now to be seen over the clock, where, exposed to the full influence of the weather, it is to be feared that, in a few years, it will decay and be entirely lost. A figure of it is here given, on the same plate with the peculiar Poor-box in the Church. The Cross was taken down in 1820, and replaced by a pyramidal shaft of stone, yelected "The Obelisk," marked with the distances to the neighbouring market-towns.

Of the charitable institutions at Watton, GOFFE'S ALMS-HOUSES, which are fully described by Blomefield, were rebuilt in 1820 by R. Harvey, Esq., of Watton.

STEVENS' ALMS-HOUSES were built by Edward Stevens, of Watton, Gentleman, who in 1840 conveyed them to trustees, to be used and occupied by four poor married men and their wives, of the age of sixty years, who must be of the communion of the Church of England, and have resided in Watton not less than thirty years immediately preceding their election as inmates.

There is a NATIONAL SCHOOL, supported by voluntary contributions; and the late Mrs. Harvey gave, in her lifetime, a piece of land of about three acres to the boys of the schools in this parish under fifteen years of age, to be used as a play-ground.

* As is said by Blomefield, a hare is sometimes called "Wat." So in the following distich:

"Thus once concluded, out the teazers run,
All in full cry and speed, 'till *Wat's* undone."

Fletcher's *Epigr.*, p. 139.
