

## A Commission

FROM THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF KING CHARLES I., 28TH FEBRUARY,  
1631, APPOINTING SIR HAMON LE STRANGE OF HUNSTANTON  
COLLECTOR OF FINES ON COMPOSITION FOR KNIGHTHOOD, IN  
THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

COMMUNICATED BY  
HAMON LE STRANGE, ESQ.

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THE following document from the Hunstanton Muniment Room is a Commission from the Privy Council of Charles I., which accompanied a letter under sign manual from that king, directed to Sir Edward Bacon and the rest of the Commissioners for the County of Norfolk, and appointing Hamon Le Strange of Hunstanton Collector of Fines on Composition for Knighthood in the county. The letter of appointment is of no particular interest, so I have not transcribed it; but the commission shows the searching and peremptory manner in which these feudal dues were exacted, shortly before the period when they were swept away by the Long Parliament.

The appended list of sixty-five names shows those gentlemen who pleaded that they were not liable, as not having been seized of £40 per annum at His Majesty's coronation; while three more are marked as having pleaded

other excuses, which had been overruled as dilatory and insufficient.

After o<sup>r</sup> very heartie comendations. This Board hauing taken into consideration how chargeable & troublesome it may be to diuers gentlemen in that Countie of Norff. who haue formerly beene reserved to make their Composicons for knighthood heare, and not w<sup>th</sup> yow his Mat<sup>ies</sup> Com<sup>rs</sup> in the countie. And that they are nowe desirows of the same grace offred there, to y<sup>e</sup> rest whoe haue Compounded already w<sup>th</sup> yow. His Mat<sup>ie</sup> hath beene moued therein & hath beene graciously pleased to give yow power in that Behalfe by his Comission w<sup>ch</sup> wee send yow herew<sup>th</sup>all, soe as notw<sup>th</sup>standing any fformer restraunte yow maie nowe alsoe Compounde w<sup>th</sup> those Gentlemen as likewise w<sup>th</sup> any others that shall repaire unto yow for the same the nobility only excepted according to ye last Instruccions given yow on that Behalfe, w<sup>ch</sup> was not to take lesse then after the rate of thrice and an halfe asmoch as the partie Compounding shalbe in the subsedy, but therein yow are to gouerne y<sup>r</sup> selues according to ye knowledge you shall haue of each mans estate for the benefitt of his Mat<sup>ie</sup> takeing more if yow see cawse; But not lesse of any. And because his Mat<sup>ie</sup> & this Boarde haue ffound good effects by yo<sup>r</sup> fformer paines and carefull endeavors in this service It hath nowe pleased him further to intrust yow w<sup>th</sup> the examinacon of such Pleas as diuers psons haue putt into the Excheq<sup>r</sup> for their seuerall discharge as not being lyable to such fines or Composicons. The names of such persons together w<sup>th</sup> their different cases pleaded are hereinclosed and sent unto yow, wherein by his Mat<sup>ies</sup> speciaall directions yow are to use all good & lawfull meanes as well by the assistance of the High Constables in euery division as by yo<sup>r</sup> owne perticular knowledg to enform yo<sup>r</sup> selues of the True state and liuelyhood of each pson soe pleading. And

so many of them as yow shall finde to bee of Estate answerable to ye vallewes for w<sup>ch</sup> others haue Compounded That yow take them likewise into Composiçõn (if they soe desire) according to ye saide Instrucons. But in case they shall refuse or neglect soe to doe, yow maie let them knowe that upon yo<sup>r</sup> Certificate they must expect to undergoe a legall Tryall in the Court of Excheq<sup>r</sup> upon their said Pleas. And whereas wee alsoe are enformed that there are some who have likewise pleaded to their issues & returned in charge in the Excheq<sup>r</sup> That their ancestors either dyed since his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Coronaçõn or themselues haue since purchased their estates yo<sup>r</sup> extraordinary care wilbe expected to make an exacte returne to this Board of the true state of their cases pticularly, To the ende that w<sup>th</sup> such of them as relyeing on those Pleas shall neglect to make their Composicons w<sup>th</sup> yow such Course maie bee taken as by his Ma<sup>ties</sup> learned Councill shalbe thought fitting. Yo<sup>r</sup> industrious and diligent proceedings herein wilbe right acceptable to his Ma<sup>tie</sup> and much importing his seruice. And therefore hee will expect from yow a speedy and exact Account of yo<sup>r</sup> endeavours. And soe wee bid yow very heartily ffarewell.

ffrom Whitehall the last

of ffbruary, 1631.

Yo<sup>r</sup> very loueing ffreinds  
 Tho. Coventry    Riveston    Manchester  
 Dorsett    Kellye    ffra. Cottington.  
 J. Bridgwaters    Guil. London    J. Coke.  
 Wimbleton    ffalkland.  
 Wentworthe.

Norff. The names of all such persons in the said County of as haue put in their pleas ffor the discharge of the duty of Knighthood at the Coronaçõn wherein it is to be noted that all those w<sup>ch</sup> are not quoted what pleas they haue put in are such as haue pleaded not seized of xl<sup>li</sup> per an<sup>n</sup> at his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Coronaçõn and three yeares before and

such as haue pleaded any other pleas that are overuled by the Barons of the Excheq<sup>r</sup> to bee insufficient and dylatory are m<sup>k</sup>ed w<sup>th</sup> ye letter O.

Nichus Bradford de Ciuit Norw<sup>ch</sup>  
 Baskerville Bacon de Hockham, ar.  
 Thomas Baxter de Dunsham, sen., ar.  
 Ricus Burton de Wymondham, gent.  
 Robtus Beales de Cley, gen.  
 Marmaduke Browne de South Wotton, geñ  
 Tho. Bruwell de Bircham, yeoman  
 Tho. Badham de Swaffham, gent.  
 Ricus Buttivant de Blowefeilde  
 Tho. Blowfeild de Sustead  
 Ricus Bond de Binted  
 Willüs Bury de Civ. Norwe., Alderman  
 Johes Boray de eadm, gent.  
 Edward Barkham de Eastwalton, gent.  
 Thomas Blossse de Civit. Norwe., ar.  
 Jacobus Calthorpe de Cockthorpe  
 Edwüs Cale de Edringthorpe  
 Robtus Craske de Civit. Norwic  
 Tho. Carver de eadm  
 Martin Calthorp de Hucklinge, g.  
 Johes Cooper de Reynston, gent.  
 ffrauncis Cardy de Bramerton  
 Johes Corke de Holmeston  
 Henric Crofts de Alesham  
 Ricus Cupus de Norwic  
 Hugo Dixon de Pensthorpe  
 Thomas Drury de Downham  
 Johes Dobbes de Blakeneye  
 Thomas Dixon de Norwch  
 Erasmus Earle de Saule, ar.  
 Robertus ffarthinge de Walpole

Ricus ffreeston de Mendham  
 Gregor Gurkell de Lyn Regs  
 Galfdus Garrett de Scotthowe  
 Carolus Garnishe de Thorpe  
 Leonidus Holmes de Yarmouthe  
 Tho. Hayward de Hockholde  
 Antius Johnson de Norwic  
 Johannes Johnson de Bircham Tofts  
 Edwus Mayes de Norwic  
 Aslake Lange de Pulham  
 Edwdus Nobles de Hiluerston  
 Josephus Norgate de Norwic  
 Tho. Palgraue de Thuxton  
 Matheus Peckouer de Norwic  
 Johes Pell de Darsingham  
 Edwdus Reeue de Norwic  
 Daniel Rushmer de eadm  
 o Jacobus Scambler de Hickling  
 Robtus Stileman de ffeldalling  
 Adam Scambler de Heueningham  
 Johes Steuenson de Yarmouthe  
 Robtus Sigon de Brancaster  
 Tho. Salter de Tottington  
 Donnstany Southwell de Norwic  
 o Tho. Thursbye de Ashwicking  
 Tho. Talbott de Wymondham  
 Willus Wayte de Lyn Regs  
 Robtus Wardell de Terrinton  
 o Tho. Wright de Kirveston  
 Henry Warde de Horsteade  
 Tho. Athowe de Bichamwell  
 W<sup>s</sup> Brooke de C<sup>te</sup> Norwic  
 W<sup>s</sup> Denny C<sup>te</sup> Norwic, miles.  
 Henric Gaye de Wymondham.