

Notes and Queries.

It has been suggested by several members of the Society that a page or two be devoted to short notes and queries on matters relating to Norfolk history and archæology might be of interest to our readers. The Editorial Secretary will welcome contributions of this description. Answers to queries can be sent either to her (Mrs. Ivo Hood, Sidestrand, Cromer) or direct to the inquirer. Replies of general interest will be printed in the following Part of *Norfolk Archæology*.

NORFOLK ARCHÆOLOGICAL TRUST.

The attention of members is drawn to the formation of the Norfolk Archæological Trust, its object being the acquisition and control by those interested in archæological matters of property in Norfolk and Norwich, "the preservation of which is expedient on historical and antiquarian grounds." The annual subscription is 10s., and life membership is secured by a donation of £10. The Trust has already purchased several acres of "strips" lying in the open fields of West Runton, one of the few Norfolk parishes in which much of the land is still unenclosed. The Council of the Trust asks for the financial support of Norfolk archæologists, and also for their help in supplying information which will "enable it to prevent buildings or objects worthy of preservation, from falling into the hands of the vandal or the speculator." Further particulars can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, B. Cozens-Hardy, Esq., Castle Chambers, Norwich. The Honorary Treasurer is R. F. E. Ferrier, Esq., F.S.A., Hemsby Hall, Norfolk.

GAYTON THORPE ROMAN VILLA.

The report of Mr. Donald Atkinson on his excavations of the Roman Villa at Gayton Thorpe will appear in our next Part. He regrets that owing to pressure of work he has been unable to prepare his paper for this issue.

WORSTEAD CHURCH.

It may be of interest to our members to hear that an excellent short illustrated account of this magnificent Norfolk Church is now in circulation. The proceeds of the sale go to the Church Restoration Fund. Copies at 6d. each (post free 8d.) can be obtained from Lieut.-Col. Besant, Holly Grove, Worstead.

ST. MARGARET OF HOVETON.

The following query is sent by the Rev. W. B. H. Chandler, Seething Rectory, Brooke, Norwich:—

“Is anything further known about a Norfolk Saint, or reputed Saint, Margaret, who was murdered at a place known as *Littlewood*, in Hoveton St. John, A.D. 1170, and whose bones were buried ‘beneath the high altar amongst the relics’ in the Abbey Church of St. Benet at Hulme?”—(*Vide* Taylor, *Index Monasticus*, p. xviii and sub. St. Benet’s.)

Blomefield gives much the same information in vol. xi., p. 42 and p. 53, but the Rev. Richard Hart in his paper on “The Shrines and Pilgrimages of Norfolk” merely mentions St. Margaret of Hoveton, and gives no particulars at all about her.¹ Her name also occurs in a list of shrines on p. 88 of Mr. Walter Rye’s new book, *Some Early Inscriptions in Norfolk*, but again without any comment. Perhaps one of our readers can add some further details of the life and history of St. Margaret of Hoveton.

HEYDON ARMS.

Our Excursion Secretary sends us the following note:—“I was photographing an old porch and arched doorway at Saxlingham. It has on it the Heydon Arms and was built, I suppose, about 1500. I have never seen it ‘noticed’ yet.”

CURIOUS TENURES, with a note on officials in the Manor of Gimingham-Lancaster.

In my *History of an East Anglian Soke* I have drawn attention to the unusual tenure whereby the de Warennes held the Manor and Soke of Gytingham-Lancaster, of the king in free socage and by the service of a “campnolle” or mushroom.² A few months ago I was allowed to examine an old Manor Book belonging to the same Capital Manor. Part of the vill of Sidestrand formed one of its members, and amongst the lists of tenants and rents relating to that place I came across the following rather curious entry:—

“*Tenants in Sydestrond 1574.*

rents 2 ^s 9 ^d	Agnes Swan widdow holdeth one tenem ^t sometimes Christmasses with 19 acres of land Sealond & payeth to y ^e Wickn ^r of Sydestrond 2 ^s 9 ^d for & in consideracon of rent of Assize, comon helpe, moueable rents & other Customes and services rented w th one quarter of rent oates & suite to y ^e Co ^{ts} & Leete & beareth the offices of Wickn ^r hayward & Reeve & doth the services to y ^e said offices belonging & none other workes or services.
freland.	The same Agnes holdeth freely five acres of freland & payeth yearly at the feast of St. John the Baptist her pt of one garland.”

¹ *Norfolk Archaeology*, vol. vi., 278.

² Other well-known and curious tenures of the de Warennes in Norfolk were Methwold, by the service of a barbed arrow, and Thetford, by the service of a rose.

On the next page amongst the "freelands" the entry finds its completion.

"freland. Thomas Playford holdeth one tenem^t wth certeine lands free sometymes Ponyards & 11 acres w^{ch} payeth *his pt of a garland* with Agnes Swann & payeth of the other rent amongst his Coppinghold rents."

It would be interesting to hear of other lands charged with the provision of garlands for the Midsummer Day revels.

In the same list of tenants and lands I noticed a holding of one acre and a half called "the holy bread land," doubtless charged in pre-Reformation days with the supply of the "pain bénit," or possibly with the provision of the wafers for the Mass itself.

The obligation of a tenement "to bear the office" of wickner, hayward and reeve is illustrated in the case of Agnes Swan's holding. The duties attached to the first two of these offices are fully described on another page of the same Manor Book.

—
Wickn^r
Office
—

"There is a wickne^r Chosen eu^ry yeare in eu^ry towne through y^e Soken & during his yeare his duty is to warne y^e Courte & Leete for y^e towne where he is chosen wickn^r & to warne y^e Tennants upon warneing given to him by y^e Hayward to doe their workes And alsoe his duty is to sowe the Lands y^t the townes ploughes doe ploughe where he is Wickner & to gather upp all the rents of y^t Towne Rentall & alsoe to gather the profitts of the Estreats to him directed frō the Stewards of the Courts & Leete and to pay over the same to the Reeve and to the hayward, Notwithstanding by a Decree out of y^e hono^{ble} Court of y^e Dutchy Chamber he is now to reckon with y^e ffarm^r in the end of the yeare.

[Hayward]

There is a hayward yearly to be chosen by the Tenants and during his yeare his duty is either by himself or by his sufficient Deputy for to warne in the ten^ts to doe their workes And the said hayward or his Deputy shall surveigh or oversee the said ten^ts in doeing of their workes upon the Demeasne lands of the said Manno^r of Gyvingham And alsoe shall execute all proces directed to him by the Steward of the Court And alsoe to gather upp all out rents and any money for haymowing and to pay over y^e same to y^e Queenes Ma^{ty} and others to whom it is due And alsoe to returne Juryes betwixt pty and pty in Gyvingham Courts and Leetes And alsoe to returne the Quest att large & in the said Courtes & Leetes, And to make Dryft for Wayfe and Stray And alsoe to gather upp the money groweing upon Estreats to him directed from the said Steward And alsoe when any bondman or bondwoman dept

[departs] this world he taketh the Inventory of all his or her goods & Chattells and certify to the C^{rt} of Gyvingham of the same in w^{ch} Cort it hath beene accustomed to recorde the whole will & Testam^t of the bondmen & bondwomen of blood or if they dye intestate the Court of Gyvingham by y^e Steward then granteth the adm'stracon [administration] of all there goods and Chattells of all . . . soe dyeing intestate.

“for ye wickn^r as well as y^e hayward. And further the said wickn^{ers} office is to distreyne within the towne where he is wickn^r And the hayward throughout the said Soken & for the Queene at large in all places wthout the Soken as wthin.”

A further note upon the office of the hayward defines his duties with regard to Strays. He is to retain them, but without working them, and to certify to the next Court what Strays are in his charge. “At the end of y^e yeare y^e same shall be prized [valued] by the Tenñts [tenants] w^{ch} are to be chosen by the Steward . . . Another hayward to have the Strayes when they shall be soe prized paying the price the same shall be prized att.”

In conclusion, it is noted “that noe Tennant of whatsoever degree haueing temporall possions wthin the s^d mann^r is to be exempted from doing his service (either by himself or some other sufficient pson) charged upon his tenure.”

The duties of the Steward are also described, and amongst other things he is only to “demand and take reasonable ffees.” He is further to “haue consideracon & be sparing for the keeping of his three weeke Co^{rts} according to the time & season of the yeare as in hay time harvest & the hardnes of the winter for calling & adiourning the said Co^{rts} at Convenient Houres . . . And that the tenñts shall haue Convenient time of adiourn^t for ther going to Dynners or repasts.”

May I end my note with a query? In the course of their researches have other members of our Society come across the title of *Wickner* (or *Wigner*)? It was unknown to the officials at the Record Office when I was working there a few years ago. In the Court Rolls and other records relating to Gimingham, wickners occur frequently, and I have noted that there were wickners in the adjoining North Norfolk Manor of Paston. The office survives to the present day, although the duties of the modern wickners of the several parishes within the Soke of Gimingham are limited to the periodical collection and payment of certain small rents and fines due to the lord of the manor, and usually received on his behalf by no less a person than our own Excursion Secretary, acting as his Deputy Steward!

CHRISTOBEL M. HOOD.