

Notes and Queries.

NOTES.

A NEW BRASS AT WOOD DALLING.

This new brass was discovered buried beneath the south aisle near the external wall, during the recent alterations there.

The brass is pre-Reformation and may be dated at A.D. 1500 (approx.).

It is a small inscription— $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins., somewhat worn, but is easily deciphered and reads as follows:—

Orate p̄ eia R̄ic̄ Russell
An̄? eie p̄nc̄et̄ deus̄ auiē

The brass is now relaid in a small purbeck marble slab in the same aisle, and is protected, as are all the other thirteen brasses, by a moveable sheet of lead.

The incumbent, the Rev. G. Rayleigh Vicars, tells me he has no records of this family having lived in the parish at previous times. The only other brasses in Norfolk commemorating Russells are:—

(a) Marginal inscription to Katherine *née* Russell, 1604, at Burnham Thorpe.

(b) Inscription to John Russell, 1507, at Scarning.

In each case the spelling favours two "I's," whereas the new brass has only one.

Mr. Vicars is to be congratulated on the way he protects all the brasses under his care.

RONALD H. CLARK.

THE ST. CHRISTOPHER WALL-PAINTING IN GREAT ELLINGHAM CHURCH.

In *Norfolk Archaeology*, vol. xxii, part iii. (1926), was published an interesting description of Great Ellingham church by Mr. E. J. Tench. There is described and illustrated a fragment of wall-painting of which the author doubted the meaning. The suggestion (p. 347) that the main figure represents St. Christopher is certainly correct. The scene is a scene from his life. St. Christopher, before his conversion, was in the service of a king. Finding that the king feared the Devil, St. Christopher determined to serve this evidently greater king. The next portion of the story is illustrated in this painting, and may be told in the words of Caxton's version of the *Golden Legend*. St. Christopher entered the Devil's Service, and "as they went to gydre by a comyn waye, they fonde there a crosse erecte and stondyng, and anon as the denyll sawe the crosse he was aferd and fledde, and left the right waye, and brought Christofer aboute by a sharpe deserte. And after whan they were passyd the crosse he brought hym to the hye way that they had lefte." St. Christopher asks the Devil the reason for this; the Devil at first refuses to tell him, but finally admits that the sign of the cross terrifies him, whereupon St. Christopher says, "Thenne he is gretter and more myghtier than thou, whan thou art aferd of his signe, and I see wel that I haue laboured in vayn, whan I haue not founden the grettest lord in the world. And I wil serue the no lenger, goo thy waye thenne, for I wyl goo seche Jhesu Christe."

Thus the figure on the right is not a horse, but the Devil "going his way."

Scenes from the life of St. Christopher occur in a wall-painting at Fritton (Norfolk). Here, too, St. Christopher stands by the way-side cross. There is a kneeling figure also, but it probably represents not the Devil, but the Hermit who afterwards told St. Christopher about Jesus Christ, and how he must serve Him.

REV. CHRISTOPHER WOODFORDE.

A ROMAN CAUSEWAY.

In 1889, the late Mr. E. M. Beloe read a paper before the Cambridge Antiquarian Society on the "Great Fen Road and its Path to the Sea," in which he demonstrated the existence of the Roman causeway across the Fens from March to Denver, or thereabouts.

On the modern ordnance survey, the position of this Roman causeway is shewn running through Birchfield Farm to the west bank of the old Bedford river. There is no indication that its site or position was located beyond the latter-mentioned point.

On Sunday, the 6th December, 1931, on the invitation of Major Fowler, of Ely, I accompanied him and Mr. T. C. Lethbridge, of

Cambridge, on to the White Hall Farm, Salter's Lode, near Denver sluice, to inspect a section which Major Fowler had exposed in the field on this farm immediately south of the main farmhouse and buildings. The section in question shewed quite clearly the Roman causeway, and its general line across this field towards the sock dyke alongside the western bank of the new Bedford River or Hundred Foot Drain, to the north-east of the spot excavated by Major Fowler. It is quite clear that the causeway on the silt, turns on a fairly sharp curve to avoid the lower land immediately to the east of it in the same field. Along the whole course of this roadway, across the field in question, the land is covered with fine gravel, which successive ploughings have brought up to the surface.

Alongside this roadway, Major Fowler told us, he had found many sherds of Roman and Romano-British pottery, Samian and Castor ware, together with large quantities of slip ware and "mediæval" pottery. On searching over the field we discovered the surface is literally chequered in places with numerous fragments of pottery of all kinds, chiefly second century, mostly at distances of about 50 yards from the site of the roadway in question. Also fragments of Roman bricks, roofing tiles, and hypocaust tiles occur, shewing quite clearly that the field in question, through which the Roman or Romano-British causeway runs, is the site of a settlement.

H. L. BRADFER-LAWRENCE.

NORWICH CITY ARCHIVES.

The Muniment Room at Norwich Castle Museum, which contains the City Archives, has been placed under the administration of the Public Libraries Committee, without abrogating the authority of the Town Clerk as legal custodian; and "Rules and Regulations to be observed upon the Inspection of Records and Documents" have been issued. These rules state that the Muniment Room is open daily on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.15 to 4 p.m., and that other times may be arranged by the City Librarian to suit the convenience of ticket-holders. Persons who desire to use the Muniment Room must obtain admission tickets from the City Librarian (Mr. Geo. A. Stephen, F.L.A., Central Public Library, Norwich). The Archive Assistant in charge is Miss Mary Grace, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.

The City Archives are extensive and most valuable to students of local history and archæology. The documents relating to the government and administration of the City include Leet Rolls, Assembly Books, 1434—1835, Mayor's Court Books, 1440—1835, Chamberlain's Accounts, 1384—1835, Freeman's Roll, By-laws and Rules for Trades and Merchandise, Coroner's Inquests, Pleas, the Guild of St. George, 1421—1718, Quarter Sessions Books, etc. There are also

many documents relating to charitable trusts. The few remaining copies of the "Revised Catalogue of Records of the City of Norwich," compiled by the late Rev. William Hudson, M.A., F.S.A., and Mr. J. C. Tingey, M.A., F.S.A., have been reduced in price to 2s. 6d. (postage 6d. extra).

PORTABLE ALTAR AT SALTHOUSE CHURCH.

The survival of portable altar stones is, at least in this country, much less common than is that of the ordinary full-sized mensæ. The example in question is incorporated in the lower step of the font on its southern side, a position it has evidently occupied for a very considerable time. It consists of a practically square slab of a yellowish stone, measuring at most $9\frac{1}{4}$ ins. by $9\frac{1}{2}$ ins. and 3 ins. in thickness. The upper surface is smooth and shows no sign of any tooling, but retains a set of five consecration crosses, of which the central member is imperfect. These crosses, which have the customary distribution, are somewhat less than 1 in. in diameter and not very deeply incised, the design being that of the "cross patée." The under surface is, of course, not available for examination. Of the edges those now to the north, east, and west are not accessible, but the latter two can be made out to be vertical and even. The southern edge is flat-chamfered on the under side, but since its section matches so closely that of the nose of the step elsewhere, it must be regarded as a very doubtfully original feature. Under present conditions no indications of the previous existence of a frame are to be seen, though some such may possibly yet remain on the concealed portions.

CONRAD LODDIGES.

CAMPING.

A short paper on the old East Anglian game of Camping appears on pages 88—92 of this volume. Since its publication I have come across a few additional references to the game.

Thomas Tusser, who was born in Essex, and spent considerable periods of his life in Norfolk and Suffolk, wrote in his *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry*:

In meadow or pasture (to grow the more fine)
 Let campers be camping in any of thine;
 Which if ye do suffer, when low is the spring,
 You gain to yourself a commodious thing.

This verse appeared for the first time in the edition of *Five Points of Good Husbandry* published in 1580, the year of Tusser's death, under the section entitled "December's Husbandry." I quote it in the modernised spelling of a recent reprint. Tusser had evidently found out from personal experience that the stamping and trampling of the game improved the quality of the grass.

In a very scarce book of verse written largely about Norfolk people and Norfolk topics, by a certain Matthew Stevenson, there is an amusing piece of raillery directed at a party of campers whose hearts failed them at the last moment. The book containing this performance is entitled "Poems: or, a Miscellany of Sonnets, Satyrs, Drollery, Panegyricks, Elegies, &c., at the Instance and Request of Several Friends, Times, and Occasions, Composed; and now, at their Command, Collected and Committed to the Press by the Author, M. Stevenson." It is often known more briefly as *The Norfolk Drollery*, and was published in 1673. This is the poem in question:

*Vpon a Camp should have been plaid, neer the black house by
KIRBY for a Crown a piece, and was not.*

This morning when we came to see the Camp,
Some had the Crotchets got, & some the cramp.
Where are the pledges of this hot contest?
I doubt in earnest you were but in jest.
Ye talk of Crowns, to heighten your renowns,
And meet like Princes, that contend for Crowns.
But you did talk, and I as much dare swear,
Of Crowns, when you in the *Crown-Office* were.
Ale makes a bargain, and claps hasty hand to't,
And when they cannot stand, they swear to stand to't.
'Tis well designs are over-night forborn,
The Evening is too valiant for the morn;
Bodies are then too narrow for their souls:
Foxes are best at burroughs, not at Goals.

Yet sav'd your credit I presume, and cost,
Where there is nothing laid, there's nothing lost.
Lancashire Law, no lawful bargain makes,
Ye rob'd the hedges, if ye left your stakes;
Or, if indeed you left your stakes in pawn;
Go get your Spades, & ditch where they are drawn.
'Tis reason you your Horses necks should force
Into the Collar, since you draw out yours.

Well, thou that brok'st the match, thou best deservest,
For legs and arms are in request in harvest;
Had you been maim'd, ye might have curst your tiple,
A Harvest Lady does abhor a Cripple.
But yet that none did Coat or Doublet doff,
At the black house, ye came but blewly off.
Ropes that wou'd meet the ground can't draw ye to't,
And yet a hair of the same dog would do't.

They rendezvous, and run away like men,
Wou'd Mr. *Haiset* were alive agen.

I have come across many more instances of Camp Closes, Camping Fields, Camping Grounds, &c. (*cf.*, *Norfolk Archaeology*, vol. xi., p. 149). Every large village or group of small villages must have had a piece of ground devoted to the game. It appears that it was played as far afield as Littleport and Ely.



JOHN DE ERLHAM'S SEAL.

The Rev. Henry Rogers, of Coltishall Hall, has told me of an interesting variation of the game, as described to him many years ago by an old tenant at Lyng. Mr. Rogers writes: "The lads of two adjoining villages met on the dividing line of the two villages. The objective of the game was to get the ball by any means—force, speed or stratagem—into the porch of the Church of the opponents' village. The game seems to have gone on the whole day."

R. W. KETTON-CREMER.

NORFOLK DOCUMENTS AT GUILDFORD.

The following three Norfolk documents are preserved in the Guildford Muniment Room, Surrey, and are available for study by any properly qualified person by arrangement with the Hon. Archivist, Mr. J. S. Purvis, M.A., F.S.A. (1) Lease, Browne to Foke, lands in Thrifford, 1634 (Bax. 8); (2) Lease, Wiles to Brookhouth, lands in Weerham, 1676 (Surr. 91); (3) Fine, Gent et al. v. Creake et al., lands in Happisburgh, 1706 (Bax. 25).

QUERIES.

WHO WAS JOHN DE ERLHAM?

In the early years of the reign of the third Edward, John, son of Thomas de Erlham (Herlham), de Helgehton (variously written Helghetū: Helweton: Helgheton) seals with the coat of arms:—barry of twelve, 3 lions rampant. The legend round the seal is

“✠ SEHEL (?) DE WODEBURG.”

The initial letter of the Christian name is very indistinct on all nine examples of the seal. It may be a C or E, possibly J.

Who was John de Erlham, and why did he seal with the arms of Wodeburg, which are “barry of 12, argent and azure, three lions rampant, gules:”?

The de Erlhams were fairly prominent in Norfolk in the middle ages and held lands at Hellington, near Norwich, and Helloughton, near Fakenham, among other places. The charters in question would appear to relate to the latter place. Several references to the family will be found in Blomefield's *History of Norfolk*: and it is sufficient to mention here that Henry de Erlham was a bailiff of Norwich in 1254 (iii., p. 59), and Ralf, s. of Thomas de Erlham, was town clerk there in 1307 (iii., p. 7d). A Simon de Erlham was Dean of Norwich in 1371 (iv., p. 64).

It is improbable the matrix of the seal was being used by the attorney or clerk who wrote the charters, because they are of varying dates—4, 5, 6 Edward III. (1330—1333)—and handwriting.

The witnesses are also grouped differently, although individuals appear in as many as seven out of the nine charters, as appears below:—

Charter A. (4 Edw. III.).

- ¹ 1. Johē de Aula de Helghe-ton
2. Simone Payn de eađ
3. Johē Atte Mor
4. Johē Le Faukener
5. Simone de Lyngwode
6. Willō Atte Grene
7. Johē fil Beatrice

Charter B. (5 Edw. III.).

1. (A 1)
2. (A 2)
3. (A 3)
4. (A 6)
5. Radō Berry de eađ

Charter C. (5 Edw. III.).

1. Rođo le Bretonn
2. Johne le Pynkeney
3. Radō de Sengham
4. Johne de Houton
5. (A 3)
6. Rođo Payn
7. (A 5)
8. Johne Toly
9. Willō Atte Chirche
10. (A 6)
11. Radō de Stollm̄
12. (B 5)
13. Hugone Spyk

Charter D. (5 Edw. III.).

1. (A 1)
2. (A 2)
3. (A 3)
4. (A 5)
5. (B 5)
6. (A 6)
7. (C 13) (Spyc)
8. (A 4)

Charter E. (5 Edw. III.).

1. (A 2)
2. (A 5)

3. (A 4)
4. (B 5)
5. (C 13)
6. do. repeated
7. Radō de Byntre

Charter F. (6 Edw. III.).

- 1.
- 2.
3. Johē Lossebone
4. (A 2)
5. Willō le Pou'r de Reynham Magna
6. Johē le Pou'r

Charter G. (6 Edw. III.).

1. (C 3)
2. (A 2)
3. Thom̄ fit Rođi Atte Touneshende
4. (C 13)
5. (B 5) (Berri)
6. (F 5)
7. Willō Gerner

Charter H. (6 Edw. III.).

1. (C 1) (le Bretun)
2. (F 3) (Luchebon)
3. (C 3)
4. Thom̄ fit Rogi ad capud ville (G 3)
5. John de Prat
6. (A 2)
7. Willmō ad eccām
- 8.

Charter J. (6 Edw. III.).

1. (C 1)
2. (F 5)
3. (A 5)
4. (A 4)
5. (A 6)
6. (A 3)
7. (C 11)

It will be observed that four of the witnesses to the first charter also witness the last.

The subscribing witness No. 3 to Charter G, "Thom̄ fit Rođi Atte Touneshende," is interesting as providing new evidence of the beginnings of the great family (still flourishing) at Raynham.

¹ These numerals indicate the number and order of the witnesses.

This carries Mr. James Durham's monograph on the family back some 66 years earlier than the first Townshend he establishes at Raynham in 1398—John Townshend.¹ Witness No. 4 to Charter H is obviously a variant of G 3.

Of the de Wodeburgs I can find no trace in Norfolk; neither can I offer any explanation of John de Erlham's use of their seal. They were a contemporary knightly family established at Woodborough in Nottinghamshire. The Rev. Charles Moor, D.D., F.S.A., who is doing the knights of Edward I. for the Harleian Society, kindly furnishes the following references to this family:—

WODEBURG.

Sr Ralph de, Kt. Arg. 6 barrulets ar. Over all 3 lions rampant gu. (Charles. St. George.) The same, but the lion crowned Or. (Dering).

Ralph de W. seized the manor of *Sr Gerard de Rodis*, val. 100 m., at Clifton, Notts, to *Sr Edward*. (Inq. Mich. 1265.) Grant to him Wiverton Manor, Notts, which Henry de Bek, K's enemy, held for life of inheritance of his sometime wife Alice, 24 June, 1266. Protection 4 years, going on crusade to Holy Land, 10 Jy, 1270. (P.R.) Assessor, &c. of subsidy, Notts & Derb. 24 Oct. (P.W.), Com^a in Leic. 6 Nov. 1275, & 1276. (P.R.) *Sr Ralph de W.* witnesses deed of Isabella la Ercedekne 13 May, 1276, is attorney of Gerard de Rodes 10 May (C.R.), has suit re lands at Syreston, Stoke, Balderton, Newark, & Eyleston, Notts, 21 Jy, 1276 & has Protection, going to Wales for K. 24 Jan. (P.R.), being a Kt. serving for Humphry, E. of Hereford, 1 Jy, 1277. (P.W.) Com^a re taking his goods by night at Stoke by Newark 28 Ap. 1277. (P.R.) He mainperns Rob. de Balliolo, May, 1278. (C.R.) Hugh de Rodingseles is fined 40 m. for taking 2 stags, of which one in the garden of Ralph de W. near Sherwood Forest. Ralph is surety to Ralph Sampson for his 40 m. fine for taking a stag & buck in that forest, Nov. 1281. (F.R.) The heir of Ralph de W. is overlord at Glapton, Northants, 28 Jan. 1287. (Inq.)

Sr William de, Kt. Barry of 14 arg. & sa. 3 lions rampant gu. (St. George.) Protection 4 years, going on crusade to Holy Land, 10 Jy, 1270. (P.R.) He is a Kt. serving for Walter de Huntercombe 1 Jy, 1277. (P.W.) Wm. fil Simon de W., imprisoned at Nottingham for forest trespass, is bailed, 14 Nov. 1290. (C.R.)

These two, being contemporary, and having practically the same arms, may have been brothers, both connected with Notts. I have no further information about them, and their Inquisitiones do not seem to have been preserved. More might probably be found in other rolls than those searched.

A member of the family held lands in Suffolk, *temp.* Hen. III. or Edw. I.:—"Brettenham. Edmund de Wodeburg had gallows

¹ *The Townshends of Raynham*, by James Durham, F.S.A., p. 2.

and assize of bread and beer in." H.R. ii., 199. (Copingier, *Suffolk Records and MSS.*, vol. i., p. 299).

As to the heraldry displayed on the seal, the Rev. E. E. Dorling, F.S.A., writes:—

I find the following varieties of the coat of Woodburgh, with the Christian names John, Rauf, and Thomas de W. for some of them, but not a single one with simply three lions, *i.e.*, with a plain coloured field:—

- (a) Barry of 6 argent and azure three lions gules.
- (b) Barry of 6 argent and *sable* three lions gules.
- (c) Barry of 10 argent and azure three lions gules, *crowned* or (also with the name spelt Wodebith).
- (d) Barry of 12 argent and azure three lions gules (but here the name is spelt Woodbourne, ? in error).
- (e) Barry of 14 argent and *sable* three lions gules.
- (f) Barry unnumbered argent and azure three lions gules.
- (g) Argent six bars azure and over all three lions gules.
- (h) Argent seven bars azure and over all three lions gules.

The first point to be observed is that in each case the field is barry or burelly or with bars, and I think you may take it for granted that the number of horizontal divisions of the field does not matter at this early date.

Next I should be inclined to eliminate *b* and *e*, in which the alternate bars are sable, and believe either that the painter made a mistake in putting sable, or that he used so dark a blue that it has turned black. In other words, I consider that we must take the colours of the field as white and blue.

And lastly, I think we may leave out of account the coat *c* (which crowns the lions).

All of which leads to the conclusion that the true coat of Woodburgh is Barry (the number of bars being immaterial) argent and azure three lions gules. Can you detect any trace of barryness in your seal impressions?

Perhaps the barry white and blue of the field may suggest a Valence connection, because Valence's topmost bar is argent, and the Valence field is barry unnumbered. But I should not look for a Grey connection, because, although Grey's field is also barry white and blue, it is always barry of *six*, whereas Wodeburgh's is most often burelly.

The seal, as here illustrated, displays barry of twelve, somewhat indistinctly.

I am indebted to Mr. H. S. Kingsford, M.A., Assistant Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries, for much help in deciphering the legend round the seal, and for locating the provenance of the de Wodeburgs.

H. L. BRADFER-LAWRENCE.