

## THE BROWNES OF WACTON

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AS to the origin of the family we can only speculate. The armorial evidence<sup>1</sup> is meagre and unsatisfactory. Such as it is, it rather points to Tacolneston, and Messrs. Arthur Campling and Percy Millican are of opinion that our Robert Browne II of Wacton whose birth-date cannot be much later than 1535 was one of the seven children—unnamed—mentioned in the will of John Browne at the Stile of Tacolneston, yeoman, dated 10 June, 1553, as being the children of his son, Robert.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Millican, however, points out that whatever the origin of the Wacton family, their connection with Norwich was certainly very close, for all four of the witnesses to the will of Robert Browne II bear distinctly Norwich names and two of his grandsons became freemen of that city. Furthermore, it is almost certain that Edmund Browne, citizen and draper of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, was a brother of Robert Browne II of Wacton. By his will<sup>3</sup> Edmund gave legacies to (*inter alios*) the children of his brothers Robert and Richard, and to his cousin William Browne of Norwich.

The first of the name of whom any record has been found at Wacton is one Robert Browne, whose daughter Francesca was baptized there on 2 May, 1563. From that date down to 1632 there are a score of Browne entries in the Parish Register.<sup>4</sup> These evidently refer to a single family, whose pedigree may be set out as in Appendix I. As to the greater part of that pedigree there can be no question, but the first two lines are somewhat doubtful. My first idea was to start with Robert Browne II, to identify Elizabetha and Francesca with the Frances and Elizabeth named in his will, and to regard Amy as another of his daughters.<sup>5</sup> It will, however, be noticed that there was an interval of twenty years or so between the births of Elizabetha, Francesca and Amia in the 1550s and 1560s, and that of Barbara in 1582. This induced me to redraft the pedigree as in the Appendix. Nevertheless, I am still in two minds about it, for the twenty-year interval would be equally well explained if we say that Robert Browne was born about 1535-40, that Frances, Elizabeth and Amy were the children of a first wife, married in the 1550s, and that Barbara's mother, Mary, was not Robert's first wife, but his second. And that brings me to the second difficulty. In the Register Barbara's mother is called Maria, but the wife buried in 1586 is named Mariona. The two names are so similar that the discrepancy may be a mere clerical error, and if that be so then we

<sup>1</sup> See below.

<sup>2</sup> Proved at Norwich 21 July, 1596. Register Skyppon, 59b.

<sup>3</sup> Amy is not named in the will, but that may merely point to her having died before 1611.

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix III.

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix IV.



must strike out "Mary, 1st wife" and show Barbara as daughter of the woman, whether Marion or Mary, who died in 1586.

No Browne was assessed for lands at Wacton in the 1581-2 Subsidy Roll, but "Robert Browne" was assessed at £6 for goods there.<sup>1</sup> Whether this be Robert I or Robert II, it shows that the family had not yet acquired land in Wacton. In 1593, however, Robert II acquired a house and lands by his marriage to Alice Rayner, and at the time of his death in 1611, he owned other real estate in Wacton and in the nearby parish of Tharston. This is proved by his will and by the Moulton Magna Court Rolls which show that in June 1611 his son and heir Robert III, was admitted (a) to lands inherited from his father, and (b) to other lands surrendered to him by his mother.<sup>2</sup>

Robert II was married at least twice, and possibly three, or even four times. As to the earlier marriage or marriages I can add nothing to what is shown in the pedigree and written above. Only about the last marriage have we precise information. It was solemnized at Wacton on 23 May, 1593, the parties being described in the Register as "Robertus Browen et Alicia Rayner vidua". I have not found Alice's maiden name, nor any record of her first marriage. Her husband, George Rayner, was a Wacton landowner assessed for £3 in the 1581-2 Subsidy Roll; he was buried at Wacton on 26 December, 1592. To him Alice bore at least five children,<sup>3</sup> two of whom, William and Walter, are named in their stepfather's will. Alice survived both husbands and was buried at Wacton on 3 May, 1629; she cannot have been much less than 75, and may well have been older.

Browne himself had died eighteen years before, but there is no record of his burial at Wacton. He made his will on 24 April, 1611, and died soon after, for it was proved on 10 May following.<sup>4</sup> Describing himself as of Wacton, yeoman, he left all his real estate to his son Robert, with the proviso that his widow was to have a life interest in "that house and those lands which she had before our marriage"; these I take to be the lands which she surrendered to her son a few weeks later.<sup>5</sup> Alice Browne was appointed sole executrix, but there is a curious provision that if she refused, William Machett,<sup>6</sup> Minister of Moulton, was "to have all my said goods".

In addition to his son and heir, Robert III, the will names three daughters, Frances, Elizabeth and Barbara, one or all of whom had children then living, and two stepsons, William and Walter Rayner. There is nothing more to say about these, but passing reference may be made to the legacy of twenty shillings to Robert

<sup>1</sup> See *Norfolk Record Society*, Vol. XVII, p. 104.   <sup>2</sup> See Appendix VI (a) and Appendix V, No. 3.

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix II.

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix VI (a).

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix V, No. 3.

<sup>6</sup> It would be interesting to know the motive of that provision. The Machetts may have been a Wacton family for Stephen Machett was assessed at Wacton for the 1581-2 subsidy.



Neave. This must be the Robert Neve whose son Philip was baptized at Wacton on 8 February, 1580.<sup>1</sup>

Robert III, the only child of Robert Browne II and Alice Rayner, was baptized at Wacton on 15 April, 1594. As already indicated he succeeded to the Wacton property on his father's death in 1611, but I have found nothing to show where he was educated or how he occupied himself for the next twenty-odd years. We may, however, assume that during this time he made the acquaintance of Sir William LeNeve, the future Clarenceux King of Arms,<sup>2</sup> who was his near neighbour at Aslacton, and whom he named as supervisor of his will.

It was, no doubt, to Sir William that Browne owed his entry into the College of Arms. He was appointed Rouge Croix Pursuivant at the same time that LeNeve was promoted to Norroy. His appointment was one of the series which followed on the death of Sir William Segar, Garter King of Arms, namely: Garter, Sir John Borough; Norroy, William LeNeve; York Herald, George Owen; Rouge Croix Pursuivant, Robert Browne; and Rouge Rose Pursuivant Extraordinary, Henry Lilly. Browne was appointed by signet in December, 1633<sup>3</sup> and letters patent dated 3 January, 1633-4<sup>4</sup>; he was created next day.<sup>5</sup> The Earl Marshal's warrant for his tabard did not issue until the following July.<sup>6</sup>

The new Rouge Croix shared in a partition of fees on 31 January, 1633-4.<sup>7</sup> He was in waiting at the College in the following April, and thereafter he took his turn pretty regularly until March 1638-9.<sup>8</sup> On 25 April, 1634, he attended the installation of the Earls of Danby and Morton as K.G.s,<sup>9</sup> and on 1 March, 1638, he served at Ightham, Kent, at the funeral of Sir William Selby of the Mote.<sup>10</sup> He seems also to have served at the funeral of Thomas Hearing of Heigham, who died on 21 March, 1636, for the funeral account includes the following: "Item pd. to Mr. Browne ye Harrold at Armes for Norff. for ye Harrolds fee due at ye death of an Esq. or Gent. amongst them in ye office, £3 6s. 0d."<sup>11</sup>

The description "ye Harrold at Armes for Norff." is interesting. Browne's appointment as a pursuivant had no more to do with Norfolk than with any other region, but it may well be that as a Norfolk man he had in practice a special connection with that county.

Rouge Croix survived his appointment less than six years.

<sup>1</sup> Wacton Parish Register: Philippus Neve filius Roberti Neve et Anne ux. Bap. 8 Feb. 1580. These Wacton Neves do not appear in J. A. Carthew's elaborate pedigree (*Norfolk Archaeology*, II, 369), but there can be little doubt that they were related to the Aslacton family.

<sup>2</sup> Appointed Mowbray Herald Extraordinary June 1624, York Herald November 1625, Norroy King of Arms Dec. 1633, and Clarenceux June 1635. Died August 1661. For his pedigree see *Norfolk Archaeology*, II, 369.

<sup>3</sup> Signet books; extract in CGY 897. (For this and other Heralds' College MSS. see Appendix XI.)

<sup>4</sup> Patent Roll, 9 Ch. I, p. 13, n. 14; Rymer XIX, 526; SML, 64, 316.

<sup>5</sup> OWB, j, 1; SML, 64, 316. It is not said by whom the ceremony was performed. Normally it would be by the Earl Marshal, an office which was then in Thomas, Earl of Arundel.

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix VII. <sup>7</sup> SML, 50, 137. <sup>8</sup> OWB, ij, 70 v. to 108 v. <sup>9</sup> SML, 50, 138.

<sup>10</sup> Funeral certificate printed in *Misc. Gen. & Her.*, I, 23.

<sup>11</sup> Herring MSS. (Norwich Central Library), II, 14; ex. inf. Mr. Percy Millican.



Although he was not buried at Wacton a memorandum was made at the back of the Parish Register that he died at Sheffield about 10 October, 1639.<sup>1</sup> He was then only 45 years old. He is probably the "Rob'tus Browne gen'" who was buried at Sheffield on 18 October, 1639.<sup>2</sup> I can find no clue to the reason for his being in Sheffield. Several MSS. in the College of Arms note that he died "in ye latter end of October",<sup>3</sup> but none of them says where he died, an omission which rather suggests that he was not in Sheffield in his official capacity.<sup>4</sup>

His will,<sup>5</sup> made on 10 January, 1632-3, was proved by his widow on 14 March, 1639-40. Describing himself as "of Wackton", he appointed his wife sole executrix, and named as supervisor William LeNeve, to whom reference has already been made. His lands and tenements in Norfolk were left to his wife for life with remainder to their three sons. To his daughters, Katherine, Mary and Martha, he left money legacies. On 26 June, 1661, Mary Browne being dead, letters of administration *de bonis non* were granted to John, the elder surviving son. A few days before, on 13 June, John had been admitted to his share of the family lands, and on 3 October following, William, the youngest son, surrendered his share to him.<sup>6</sup>

Mary Browne's maiden surname has not transpired. She married as her second husband one George Purton, who appears in the Lay Subsidy Roll for 1623-4 in the return for the parish of Holt. They were married between 15 April, 1640 and 10 April, 1656. She died between 18 April and 13 June, 1661, Purton being also dead at the latter date.<sup>7</sup>

All the six children named in Rouge Croix's will are also named in Bluemantle's and were therefore living in September 1643. Of the three sons Robert, the eldest, became Bluemantle Pursuivant and is referred to at some length below. The other two, John and William, seem to have gone into business in Norwich. John was admitted a freeman of that city, as a grocer, apprentice of Reynold Hill, on 20 July, 1652.<sup>8</sup> By the death of his elder brother in 1646 he became heir to both his parents. William, the youngest son, was apprenticed to William Attlesy, baker, and was admitted freeman of Norwich on 3 May, 1656.<sup>8</sup> His wife was named Ann; they seem to have been married at some time between April 1640 and April 1656;<sup>9</sup> whether they had any children I cannot say. My own work being concerned essentially with the heralds, I leave to others the task of completing and continuing the pedigree.

Although, as we have seen, the Brownes still held their Wacton

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix IV.

<sup>2</sup> Sheffield Parish Registers, edited by Drury and Hall; *Hunter Archaeological Soc.*, Vol. III, p. 19.

<sup>3</sup> OWB, ij, 126; Painters' Work Book O.I., title page; SML, 64, 316.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Campling points out that the Earls of Shrewsbury employed at least two Suffolk men on their Yorkshire estates, and suggests that Browne may have gone north on some mission for Lord Shrewsbury.

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix VI (b).

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix V, Nos. 7 and 8.

<sup>7</sup> See Appendix V, No. 7.

<sup>8</sup> Millican: *Register of the Freemen of Norwich, 1548-1713*, pp. 79 and 6.

<sup>9</sup> Appendix V, Nos. 3 and 5.



property in 1661, they do not seem to have resided there after about 1632, and it may well be that they left the village when Robert III became Rouge Croix. The name disappears from the Wacton Register after the baptism of Martha Browne in October 1632, and does not reappear until thirty years later with the baptism on 22 June, 1662, of Susanna, daughter of Francis Browne, a gentleman for whom I can find no place in the Wacton pedigree.

Robert IV, Rouge Croix's eldest son, was born at Wacton and baptized there on 25 February, 1615-6. He was three years at Westminster under Mr. Osbolston, and then went to Cambridge University, being admitted to the scholar's table at Caius College on 23 April, 1636. On 27 March, 1640, a grace was passed to admit him to his degree although absent "*regiis negotiis detentus*", but there is no record of his graduation.<sup>1</sup> The *regia negotia* must have been concerned with his appointment at the Heralds' College.

The vacancy at Rouge Croix which was caused by his father's death in October 1639 was eventually filled by the appointment of William Dugdale, the future Garter, and young Browne succeeded him as Blanch Lyon Pursuivant Extraordinary. Dugdale's patent as Rouge Croix was dated 16 March, 1639-40, and he and the new Blanch Lyon were created on the 18th.<sup>2</sup>

For certain purposes Dugdale's appointment was regarded as running from his predecessor's death, for there is a note in the Waiting Book that: "Mr. Browne died the latter end of Octo: 1639 from w<sup>ch</sup> time Mr. Dugdale is to enter upon partitions".<sup>3</sup>

Blanch Lyon as an extra officer had no right to partition money, but very soon after his appointment Chapter made a special order for him to have a sum of £26 16s. in respect of fees which would have accrued to his father had he "lived but few daies longer".<sup>4</sup>

It is possible that young Browne was employed at the College even before his father's death, for the signature "Robt. Browne" occurs on several documents dated in November and December, 1639, and now preserved in the College.<sup>5</sup> A comparison of these signatures with Blanch Lyon's leaves little doubt but that they are his.

<sup>1</sup> John Venn: *Biographical History of Caius College*, I, 320; *Alumni Cantab.*

<sup>2</sup> OWB, j, 50 v. I have not found where or by whom the two officers were created. Dugdale's Diary (as printed by Hamper), does not start so early, and the relevant passage in his autobiography (ed. Hamper, p. 13), must have been written long after the event when his memory was failing, for, without mentioning Browne, he says that he succeeded Walker at Rouge Croix, whereas Walker was not Rouge Croix, but Rouge Dragon.

<sup>3</sup> OWB, ij, 126.

<sup>4</sup> Appendix VIII. The expression "but few daies longer" is surprising. The fees in question were in respect of the funeral of Henry Grey, Earl of Kent, who died in London on the 21st, and was buried at Fletton, Beds., on 28 November, 1639. Rouge Croix, however, as we have seen, died some seven weeks before that.

<sup>5</sup> E.g., Grants 1, 123 and 2, 563 and 576. One of these documents is printed in *Misc. Gen. & Her. N.S.*, IV, 210; it is a certified copy of a Grant of Arms to John Launce of Halesworth. The certificate at the foot, dated 7 November, 1639, only a week or so after Rouge Croix's death, is signed by Wm. LeNeve, Clarenceux, Wm. Dugdale, Blanch-Lyon, Robt. Howard, Robt. Brown, and Geo. Browne. The majority of the numerous old grants of which certified copies were filed at the College in the 1630s and 1640s bear the signature either of Rouge Croix or of his son, and many of them are also signed by George Browne, of whom more anon.



On 23 April, 1640, the Mayor of Taunton petitioned the House of Lords that "Robert Browne" might be ordered to repay certain monies improperly obtained from the petitioner under an order of the Earl Marshal's court.<sup>1</sup> That was only a few weeks after Blanch Lyon's creation and the reference to the Court Martial suggests that he may have been the person in question.

After serving rather more than a year and a half as Blanch Lyon Browne was promoted to be Bluemantle Pursuivant in ordinary by letters patent of 11 November, 1641.<sup>2</sup> He succeeded William Ryley, who had been promoted to Lancaster Herald on the death of Thomas Thompson. He shared in a partition on 13 December, 1641, and he is named as Bluemantle on 2 March, 1642-3 at the last partition entered before the Restoration.<sup>3</sup> Such as they are the entries in the Waiting Book do not suggest that he was a very regular attendant at the College before the outbreak of Civil War, for whereas he was in waiting in June 1642, one or other of his colleagues took his place in February, May and October of that year.<sup>4</sup>

Noble<sup>5</sup> calls him "the loyal Robert Browne" and says that he "was the only pursuivant who remained steady in his duty to his royal master when the sword was drawn". Martin Leake on the other hand says flatly that at the Civil War Bluemantle "went into the service of the Parliament".<sup>6</sup> It is probable that he did follow the King at first, and he is even said to have been made a D.C.L. at Oxford and to have had a warrant for £100 for his services in the King's Army.<sup>7</sup> He cannot, however, have remained long with the Royal Forces for he was back at the College before the middle of 1644. His reply to Ryley's charges<sup>7</sup> suggests that he made his submission to Parliament and had rooms assigned to him in the College early in that year. He was certainly installed there in June when he made the following memorandum in the Waiting Book: "19 June, 1644. Borrowed out of the office the picture of Mr. Thomson C2 old pieces of Darcies painting which remaine in my chamber. Ro. Browne Blewmantle."<sup>8</sup>

Once back at the College, Browne was quite active. Further memoranda by him are dated August 1644, September 1645, and August 1646.<sup>9</sup> In 1644 he and Ryley took the funeral certificate of Sir Frances Popham (died 28 July) of Houndstreet, Somerset,<sup>10</sup> and in 1646 he and Ryley certified the pedigree of Wm. Ayliffe, Esq.<sup>11</sup> He also issued a considerable number of certificates of arms.<sup>12</sup> Ryley complained that these were given without adequate grounds,<sup>13</sup> and in July 1687 Gregory King, then Rouge Dragon and afterwards Lancaster Herald, stigmatized a pedigree signed by him as notoriously false:

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. MSS. Comm.*, 4 Rep. p. 25a, House of Lords Papers.

<sup>2</sup> Pat. 17 Ch. I., p. 1, n. 19; Rymer, XX. 515.

<sup>4</sup> OWB. ij. 116 to 118.

<sup>6</sup> SML. 64, 84.

<sup>9</sup> OWB. j. 29; ij. 119, 120 v. and 125 v.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 1645-7, p. 500.

<sup>3</sup> SML. 50, 150 and 152.

<sup>5</sup> *History of the College of Arms*, 1805, pp. 264, 251.

<sup>7</sup> See below.

<sup>8</sup> OWB. ij. 122 v.

<sup>10</sup> *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic*, 1644, p. 382.

<sup>12</sup> See Appendix IX.

<sup>13</sup> See below.



G.K.—Search for the Descent of Petre a Pedegree being produced signed by Rob. Browne Blewmantle a°. 1644, which makes Thomas the 3<sup>d</sup> son of John the first Lord Petre, to marry a Riddlesden of Kent, and to have a son married to the da<sup>r</sup> of Alleyn of Kent, one of whose sons by the da<sup>r</sup> of Alleyn was the Enquirer; but by the Vis. of Essex 1634 the s<sup>d</sup>. Thomas Petre married a Baskerville and had issue S<sup>r</sup>. Francis Petre of Cranham in Essex Bar<sup>t</sup>. So that y<sup>e</sup> produced Pedegree is notoriously false, notwithstanding it is attested by the then Spanish Ambassador.<sup>1</sup>

At the end of 1645 Bluemantle was involved in a dispute with his fellow-herald, William Ryley, Lancaster. In a petition which was read in the House of Lords on Saturday, 24 January, 1645-6, Ryley, who describes himself as the prime officer of arms and the sole herald attending his place,<sup>2</sup> complained of Browne's "strange abuses and enormities" and prayed that the doors of the Heralds' office might be sealed up. He alleged that Browne had been an actor against Parliament and created D.C.L. at Oxford for his services;<sup>3</sup> had been taken prisoner but had not compounded for his delinquency; had embezzled various office records especially pedigrees of King Charles, the King of France and the Earls of Rutland and Bedford, and sold them to one William Wheeler; had devised coats of arms for persons of inferior condition particularly for one Ambrose Brunskel,<sup>4</sup> a London merchant; had abetted persons in bearing arms in no way due to them;<sup>4</sup> had animated the Company of Painter-Stainers against the petitioner persuading them that the Lords' ordinance would tend to their ruin and persuading others that it would prejudice the Earl Marshal's office; and finally that he had proclaimed the Parliament traitors and had had a warrant for £100 for his services in the King's Army.<sup>5</sup> The Lords at once ordered that the doors of the Heralds' office should be sealed up and that Browne should appear before them on the 29th to answer the charges.<sup>6</sup>

Browne's reply was to the effect that he and others had given information against Ryley of keeping up intelligence with the enemy at Oxford and of holding a dispensation from the King to reside in London and look after the records in the Tower and in the Heralds' office; for these and other delinquencies Ryley was sequestered and his study was "on Thursday last" sealed up by order of the Camden House Committee; since that sequestration Ryley, in recrimination, had brought frivolous and untrue charges against him. For himself Browne claimed that he had served the State in all faithfulness and had in consequence for two years past had a lodging assigned to him

<sup>1</sup> OWB, iv. 42.

<sup>2</sup> Ryley was appointed Lancaster Herald in 1641; he was made Norroy by the Parliament in 1646 and Clarenceux by Cromwell in 1658. He was also Clerk of the Records in the Tower. At the Restoration he had to relinquish the kingship but was allowed to resume his legal place of Lancaster.

<sup>3</sup> There is no mention of this either in Wood's *Athenae Oxon.*, or in Foster's *Alumni Oxon.*

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix IX.

<sup>5</sup> *Hist. MSS. Comm.*, 6th Rep., p. 95b (Calendar of the House of Lords Papers); cf. Lords' Journals, VIII. 122.

<sup>6</sup> Lords' Journals, VIII. 122b.



in the College. He therefore prayed that the charges might be soon heard and his own innocence and Ryley's malice made manifest; in the meantime he asked that he might have access to the Office of Arms as formerly.<sup>1</sup> That reply is undated; presumably, it was put in on or before 29 January. On that date the Lords adjourned the case until 2 February, but there is no further reference to it in their Journals unless such be hidden in an order made on 24 March, 1645-6 "That the Herald's Office door shall be opened again".<sup>2</sup>

On 3 September, 1646, at a Court of the Parliamentary Commissioners exercising the heraldic functions of Constable and Marshal, Browne and his fellow-pursuivants, John Beauchamp and William Crowne, Portcullis and Rouge Dragon respectively, petitioned to be made heralds. The petitions were referred to the three Kings of Arms, who with George Owen, York Herald, were to report as to their qualifications.<sup>3</sup> Whatever may have been done for Beauchamp and Crowne, Browne did not obtain the coveted heraldship, for six weeks later he was dead. At their next meeting, on 13 October, the Commissioners appointed John Watson to supply Bluemantle's place at the funeral of Lord Essex on the 22nd. The minutes explain that Browne was sick, "iam gravi aegritudine laborantis"<sup>4</sup> but it is likely that he was already dead. A memorandum at the back of the Wacton Register says that he died about the 13th,<sup>5</sup> and the Registers of S. Benet's, Paul's Wharf, the heralds' parish church, record his burial there on the 14th.<sup>6</sup> He was only 30 years old.

Bluemantle's will<sup>7</sup> was proved in London on 7 January, 1646-7, by his widow and executrix. Like his father he described himself as of Wacton. The original will was made on 18 September, 1643, and mentions his mother Mary, both his brothers, and all three sisters. This was, however, annulled by a codicil dated 1 October, 1645, which constituted "Mary my wife sole executrix, bequeathing unto her my revercon". This "revercon" must refer to the lands which were eventually to have come to him under his father's will, but there is nothing in the Moulton Court Rolls to show that his widow was ever admitted to any lands at Wacton. The alteration of his will points to his having married between 18 September, 1643, and 1 October, 1645, but I have not found where, nor have I found Mrs. Browne's maiden name. Clearly there were no children.<sup>8</sup>

Rouge Croix does not seem to have left any MSS., heraldic or other, but Bluemantle left one which was printed, in whole or in part, in 1718, and again in 1719, as an annex to:

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. MSS. Comm.*, l.c.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of the Court, copy in SML. 3, 191. (See Appendix X.)

<sup>3</sup> SML. 3, 192; Appendix X.

<sup>4</sup> SML. 3, 192; Appendix X.

<sup>5</sup> The Register (edited by Harl. Soc., Vol. IV, p. 34) describes him as "Mr. Robert Browne Herald".

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix VI (c).

<sup>7</sup> An infant "Robert son of Robert Browne" was baptized at S. Benet's, Paul's Wharf, on 25th and buried there on 27 May, 1646. So far as the dates go this might be Bluemantle's child, but in that case one would expect to find the father distinguished either as "Mr." or by his office; cf. the description of Bluemantle himself in a previous footnote.

<sup>8</sup> Lords' Journals, VIII. 223b.

<sup>9</sup> See Appendix IV.



An Historical and Critical Essay on the True Rise of Nobility, Political and Civil, from the first Ages of the World, thro' the Jewish, Grecian, Roman Commonwealths, etc., down to this Present Time. To which is annexed, The Order of Precedency, with other curious Things, chiefly extracted from a valuable Manuscript writ by an Herald. With a Compleat Index to the Whole. Conamur Tenues Grandia,—Hor. London: printed for C. Rivington, at the Bible and Crown, St. Paul's Churchyard, 1718. 8vo, 179 pages.

Moule says that the "valuable Manuscript" is signed "Ro. Brown, Bluemantle, one of the 4 pursuivants of Arms".<sup>1</sup>

So far as I have yet found the only mention of arms borne by a Browne of Wacton is in Martin-Leake's collections where *Vert, a bend or* is attributed to Rouge Croix.<sup>2</sup> This seems moreover to be the only place where that particular coat is attributed to the name of Browne. On the other hand its reverse, *Or, a bend vert* was recorded at the 1664 Visitation of Norfolk both for Myles Brown of Coston (a cadet of Tacolneston) and for John Browne of Tacleston [*sic*].<sup>3</sup> It is given, with or without a buck passant for crest, for Browne of Tacolneston and Coston in various subsequent volumes;<sup>4</sup> and it appears, without tinctures, on several monuments at Tacolneston.<sup>5</sup> If Leake is correct the inversion of the tinctures must be deliberate, to difference the Wacton coat from that borne by the Tacolneston and Coston families. Leake, however, gives no authority for his version, and I am tempted to think that his reversal of the colours was a mere slip—if that be so, then the use of these arms by Rouge Croix would support Mr. Campling's suggestion that the Brownes of Wacton were cadets of Tacolneston.

So much for the Brownes of Wacton. It remains to consider whether there was not another Browne, contemporary with Bluemantle, at or connected with the Heralds' College. Noble, in his history of the Heralds, entirely omits Bluemantle's father, the Robert Browne who was Rouge Croix in the 1630s, but in revenge he gives Bluemantle a son whom he lists as Rouge Croix during the Usurpation making him succeed Everard Exton in that place: "Robert Browne, Gent.—son of the loyal Robert Browne, Gent., Bluemantle. It is uncertain whether he resigned, or was deprived of this office at the Restoration; probably the latter."<sup>6</sup> As it stands this is absurd. In the first place even if Bluemantle had a son, he would not have been old enough to be an Officer of Arms before the

<sup>1</sup> Moule: *Bibliotheca Heraldica*, 299, 300.

<sup>2</sup> SML. 49, 186 and 64, 316.

<sup>3</sup> ID. 20, ✕ fo. 2. Cf. *Norfolk Record Society*, Vol. IV, and *Harl. Soc.*, Vol. 85, pp. 36 and 37, and Pl. II; on p. 36 the field for Browne of Coston is misblazoned *argent*; it should be *or*, as for Browne of Tacolneston on p. 37; the same trick serves for both men.

<sup>4</sup> E.g., Joseph Bokenham's *Norfolk Armory*, c. 1710, fo. 10 (the original MS. is now in the library of the College of Arms, and a copy made by Sir John Fenn in 1765 is in the Norwich Public Library); Benjamin Mackerell's *Norfolk Armory*, c. 1723, II. 118 (MS. penes Mr. H. L. Bradfer-Lawrence, F.S.A.); Robert Blake-Humfrey's *Blazonry of Norfolk Arms*, c. 1850 (MS. penes Mr. Percy Millican); Blomefield's *Norfolk*, Vol. V, p. 168; and Samuel Kent's *Banner Displayed*, I. 55. (Kent calls his book an abridged Guillim but the coat is not in either the 1660 or the 1724 edition of Guillim).

<sup>5</sup> Farrer: *Church Heraldry of Norfolk*, I. 204.

<sup>6</sup> *Hist. Coll. Arm.*, p. 204.



Restoration. In the second place Exton was not Rouge Croix but Rouge Dragon.<sup>1</sup>

Nevertheless, although Noble has erred in those two respects, there are indications that two men named Browne, George Browne to wit and Robert Brown of Crosscomb, in Somerset, were connected with the Heralds' College about the time when Robert Browne of Wacton was Bluemantle. Nor is it altogether impossible that one of them was Rouge Croix. That title was vacated by Dugdale on his promotion to Chester Herald in 1644, but the next known holder, Henry Dethick, does not appear as an officer of arms until September 1658, in connection with Cromwell's lying-in-state. It is therefore possible (I dare not say probable) that one of the Brownes was intruded as Rouge Croix at some time between October 1646 and September 1658.<sup>2</sup> Of these two men George Browne has been named already as having signed in 1639 a certified copy of a grant of arms and he signed many other such documents in the years 1638 to 1642.<sup>3</sup> His signature also occurs in the Waiting Book in June 1642, when Bluemantle was in waiting and took two search fees. In the margin of the Waiting Book these are each marked "Bl", and after them comes this note: "Payd unto Mr. Philipot<sup>4</sup> the two fees above said being ten shillings. Vth Junii 1642, by me Geo. Browne."<sup>5</sup> I have found no other reference to this man. He was probably a painter or clerk employed by one of the heralds.

Of Robert Brown of Crosscomb I have found no mention in the College, but his name occurs both in the records of the Committee for the Advance of Money, 1642-56,<sup>6</sup> and in those of the Committee for Compounding, 1643-60.<sup>7</sup> He was assessed by the former committee at £100. On 20 November, 1645, he compounded for delinquency in serving as a captain of foot in the royal forces. He then pleaded that he was overawed by the potency of the enemy and that he voluntarily submitted after half a year's service and took the Solemn League and Covenant. In July 1646 his fine was fixed at £160. He appeared again before the Committee for Compounding in the latter part of 1648 and on 1 January, 1648-9 his fine was reduced to £82 10s. In the records of the Committee for the Advance of Money he is described as "*of the Heralds' Office and of Crosscomb*", and at first blush it might be thought that this is no other than Bluemantle, especially as the pleas which he advanced in November 1645 accord so well with Bluemantle's story. It will, however, be noticed that this Browne then pleaded that he had already com-

<sup>1</sup> He was appointed at some time before Oliver Cromwell's death in September, 1658, William Crowne, his predecessor, having emigrated to Nova Scotia in the summer of 1657. The appointment was confirmed by Richard Cromwell by patent dated 25 February, 1658-9 (Patent Roll in P.R.O., E.403-2523, p. 198).

<sup>2</sup> Rouge Croix was not one of the Officers of Arms who attended Lord Essex's funeral on 22 October, 1646, and there is no Browne among those named by Prestwich (*Respublica*, p. 189), in connection with Cromwell's lying-in-state.

<sup>3</sup> See Grants 1 and 2, *passim*.

<sup>4</sup> John Philipot, Somerset Herald, Treasurer of the College.

<sup>5</sup> OWB. ij. 117 v.

<sup>6</sup> *Calendar*, II. 681.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 972.



pounded, whereas Ryley alleged two months later that Bluemantle had not done so.<sup>1</sup>

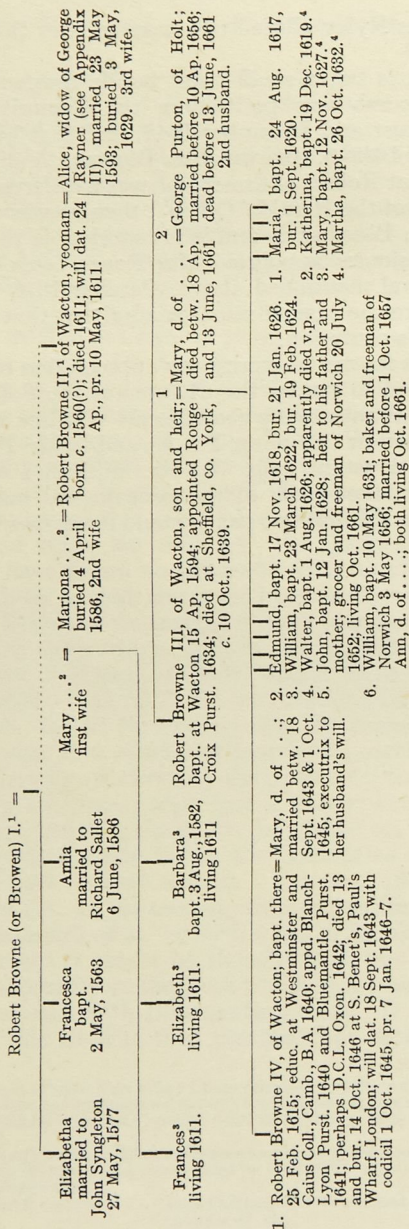
This, however, is but a small point beside the fact that Robert Brown of Crosscomb was petitioning the Committee for Compounding in August and December 1648, and that his fine was reduced in January 1648-9. Inasmuch as Bluemantle died in October 1646 it is clear that Robert of Crosscomb was a different person, and, if he really was "of the Heralds' Office", then he was working there side by side with Bluemantle and it is conceivable that the Parliamentary Commissioners appointed him Rouge Croix at some time during the interval mentioned above, October 1646 to September 1658—if that were the case, it must be admitted that there is some excuse for Noble's confusion.

It only remains for me to express my appreciation of the facilities so kindly accorded to me by the Chapter of the College of Arms, and to tender my thanks to my good friends Windsor and Richmond Heralds, to Mr. Arthur Campling, F.S.A., and to Mr. Percy Millican, F.S.A., for their constant help. To Mr. Millican I am indeed indebted for almost the whole of the genealogical material in this paper; but for him the first two pages would never have been written.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 103.



APPENDIX I  
BROWNE OF WACTON



<sup>1</sup> On the possibility that Robert I and II were one and the same, born c. 1535-40, see the text above.

<sup>2</sup> Mary and Marion are perhaps one and the same, see the text above.

<sup>3</sup> These three daughters are named in their father's will (Appendix VI (a)); one or all had issue living at that time.

<sup>4</sup> Named in the will of Robert IV, 18 Sept. 1645.

N.B.—All baptismal, marriage and burial dates (except the burial of Robert IV) are from the Wacton Parish Register, see Appendix IV.

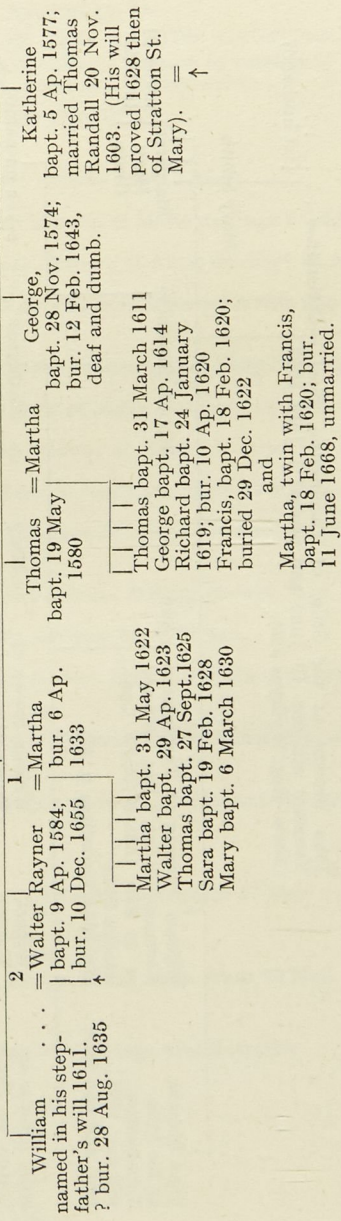


APPENDIX II

RAYNER OF WACTON

(*Pedigree compiled from entries in the Parish Register of Wacton; communicated by Mr. Percy Millican*)

George Rayner, buried 28 Dec. 1592 = Alice, d. . . . = Robert Browne, of Wacton, widower.  
 first husband. buried 3 May 1629 | second husband. See Appendix I.





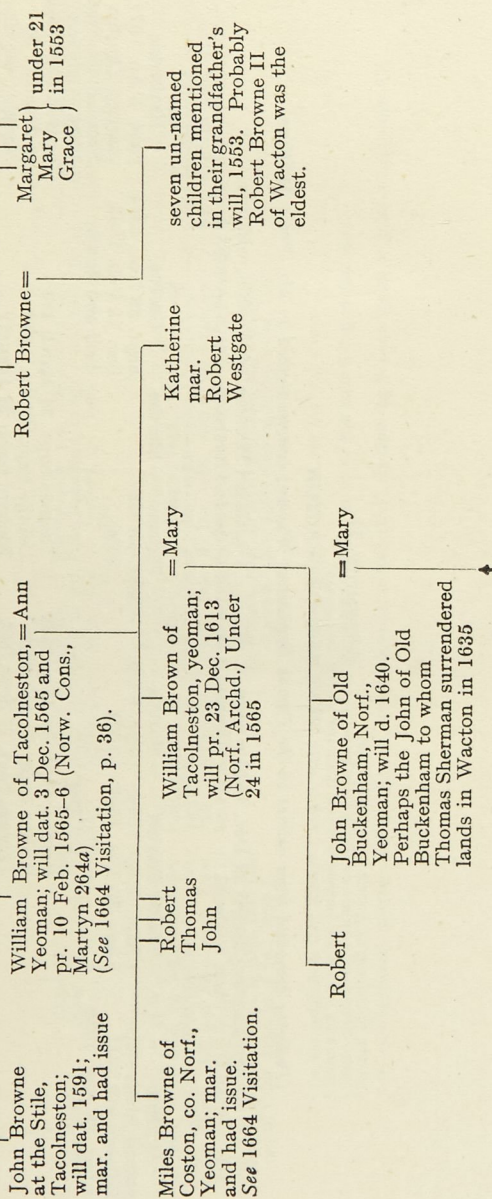
## APPENDIX III

## BROWN OF TACOLNESTON, NORFOLK

[*Pedigree compiled by Mr. A. Campling, extending in some respects the pedigrees of Browne of Tacolneston in "East Anglian Pedigrees" (Norfolk Record Society, Vol. XIII and Harleian Society, Vol. XCI), and in "Visitation of Norfolk, 1664" (ibid. Vols. IV and LXXXV respectively).*]

John Browne at the Stile, of Tacolneston, Norf., = Christian = . . . . .  
Yeoman; will dat. 10 June and proved 1 July 1553  
(Norw. Reg. Wylkyns 52b).  
(1st husband)

Mary Smith





APPENDIX IV  
 EXTRACTS FROM THE WACTON REGISTER  
*(Communicated by Mr. Percy Millican by courtesy of  
 Mr. W. J. Maybank, churchwarden)*

## (a) BROWNE

## BAPTISMS

- 1563—  
 Francesca Browne filia Robert Browne bapt. 2 Maii.  
 1582—  
 Barbara Browen filia Roberti Browen et Marie ux. bap. 3 Aug.  
 1594—  
 Robertus Browen filius Roberti Browen et Alicie ux. bapt 15 Apr.  
 1615—  
 Robte Browen the sonne of Robte Browen & Mary his wife was baptised the  
 25 of February.  
 1617—  
 Maria Browne filia Robt. Browne et Marie ux. suae bap. 24 Aug.  
 1618—  
 Edmundus Browne filius Roberti et Marie ux. bapt. 17 Nov.  
 1619—  
 Katherina Browne filia Robti Browne et Marie ux. bapt. 19 Dec.  
 1622—  
 Willelmus Browne filius Roberti & Marie ux. bapt. 23 March.  
 1626—  
 Walter Browen the sonne of Robert Browen and Mary his wife was bapt.  
 1 Aug.  
 1627—  
 Mary Browne the dr. of Robert Browne & Mary his wife bapt. 12 Nov.  
 1628—  
 John Browne the son of Robt. & Mary bapt. 12 Jan.  
 1631—  
 Willyam Browne the sonn of Robert Brown and Mary his wife was bapt.  
 10 May.  
 1632—  
 Martha Browne the daughter of Robert Browne & Mary his wife was bapt.  
 26 Oct.  
 1662—  
 Susanna ye daughter of Francis Browne & Susanna his wife was bapt.  
 22 June.

## MARRIAGES

- 1577—  
 Johes Syngleton et Elizabetha Browen nupt. erant 27 Maii.  
 1586—  
 Richus Sallet et Amia Browen. 6 June.  
 1593—  
 Robertus Browen et Alicia Rayner vidua nupt. erant 23 Maii.

## BURIALS

- 1586—  
 Mariona Browen uxor Roberti Browen sep. erat 4 Aprilis.  
 1620—  
 Maria Browne sep. 1 Sep.  
 1624—  
 William Browen buried 19 Feb.  
 1626—  
 Edmund Browen buried 21 Jan.  
 1629—  
 Alice Browne was buried 3 May.



NORFOLK ARCHÆOLOGY  
NOTES AT THE END OF REGISTER

ANNO DOMINI 1639

Robert Browne gent Pursuivant at Armes (commonly called in the Hearaulds Office Rouge Croix) departed out of this Worlde at Sheafeilde in the month of October about the 10th daye anno predicto.

OCTOBER ANNO DOMINI 1646

Robert Browne gent sonne of the abovenamed Robert deceased at London comonly called in the Hearaulds Office Blew-Mantle about the 13th daye.

(b) *RAYNER*

(*selected items*)

**BAPTISMS**

1574—

Georgius Rayner filius Georgii Rayner et Alicee ux. bapt. 28 Nov.

1577—

Katherina Rayner filia Georgii Rayner et Alicee ux. bapt. 5 Aprilis.

1580—

Thomas Rayner filius Georgii Rayner et Alicee ux. bapt. 19 Maii.

1584—

Walterus Rayner filius Georgii Rayner et Alicee ux. bapt. 9 Apr.

**MARRIAGE**

1603—

Thomas Randall & Katherine Rayner were married the XX of Nov.

(*N.B.*—For the Browne-Rayner marriage *see* under Browne).

**BURIALS**

1592—

Georgius Rayner senior sep. fuit 26 Dec.

1623—

Thomas Rayner sep. 25 June.

1635—

William Rayner buried 28 Aug.

1643—

George Reyner was buryed the twelwe daye of February the yeare aforesaid beinge deafe & Dumbe.

1655—

Walter Reyner buried 10 Dec.

(*Note.*—The Register commences in 1560 and appears to be complete.)

APPENDIX V

COURT ROLLS OF MOULTON MAGNA, 1635-1666

(*Extracts communicated by Mr. A. Campling, F.S.A.*)

1. At Court 29 Oct. 1635, Thomas Sherman gent. surrendered to the use of John Browne of Old Buckenham, yeoman.

2. At Court 28 April 1636, Thomas Sherman gent. surrendered land in Wacton to Walter Rayner [*cf.* No. 4 below—Richard Browne of Stanton All Saints, Suff. (d. Ap. 1637) married on 18 May 1592 Elizabeth d. of Robert Rayner of Stanton (*Norf. Rec. Soc.* 13. 28)].

3. At Court 15 April 1640 it was presented that Robert Browne gent. died since last Court [25 Oct. 1638]. Now comes Mary his widow with his will



proved at London 14 March 1639 and seeks admission to land which the said Robert Browne took up after the death of his father at Court 17 June 1611, and to land which the said Robert had by surrender of Alice Browne his mother at said Court 17 June 1611.

4. At Court 30 Oct. 1651 Robert Rayner of Wacton, linen-weaver, surrendered 11 June last land in Wacton to use of John Browne of Norwich. (*cf.* No. 2 above.)

5. At Court 10 April 1656 George Purton gent. and Mary his wife sometime wife of Robert Browne gent. surrendered land which Mary took by the name of Mary Browne of the will of Robert Browne deceased at Court 15 April 1640 for her life with remainder to William Browne son of said Mary and Ann his wife.

Now comes said Mary and William and seeks admission, &c.

Whereas at Court 15 April 1640 it was presented that Robert Browne gent. died since last Court and had at Court 13 Feb. 1633-4 surrendered to the use of his will.

Now comes William Browne son of the said Robert and brings his will dated 10 Jany. 1632 under seal of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in these words "I Robert Browne of Wackton co. Norf. &c. To Mary my wife lands, remainder to William Browne my son &c." Said William desires admission after the death of said Mary to land in Wacton taken up by said Robert 17 June 1611 of the surrender of Alice Browne his mother.

6. At Court 1 Oct. 1657 come William Browne of the city of Norwich, baker, and Ann his wife, tenants in reversion after the death of Mary now the wife of George Purton gent., and surrender lands to the intent that the lord should regrant to the said William and Ann and to one John Browne of Norwich grocer.

7. At Court 13 June 1661. Presented that George Purton jure uxoris late wife of Robert Browne is dead.

Whereas at Court 5 April 1640 it was presented that Robert Browne gent. died since last Court and that Mary Browne was his relict. Now it is presented that said Mary died since last Court [18 April 1661] and that John Browne is her son and heir and of full age who comes and seeks admission to land which Robert Browne took upon the death of his father at Court 17 June 1611.

8. At Court 3 Oct. 1661 William Browne surrendered to the use of John Browne his brother who seeks admission to land which William and Ann his wife took up after the death of Mary mother of said William late wife of George Purton gent. as at Court 10 April 1656.

(*Note.*—Lay Subsidy Roll 153-579, P.R.O., 21 Jac., 1623-4. Hundred of Holt, Norf., Holt parish. George Purton gent. Hundred of Depwade, Norf., Wacton parish: Robert Browne).

## APPENDIX VI

### ABSTRACTS OF WILLS

#### (a) ROBERT BROWNE II

Consistory Court, Norwich.

Robert Browne, yeoman, 1611.

Styward 55/56. of Wacton, Norfolk.

In the name . . . , sick . . . , but whole . . . , my soul . . . , my bodye where the Lord will.

I give my howses and all my lands lying in Wacton and Tharston, or elsewhere to Robert Browne, my son . . .

Yett that Alice my wife shall have that howse and those lands which she had before our maryage . . . upon condition . . .

Then Robert to enjoy all . . .



If Robert chance to die before 21, then the lands to be sold by my Executors . . . the money to be divided between my three daughters Frances, Elizabeth and Barbara.

To every of my daughters' children 10s. a peece presently after my decease.  
To William Rayner & Walter Rayner, children of my wife before our maryage, 40s. a peece.

To Robert Neave 20s.

To the poor of Wacton 10s.

To Alice my wife all my goods, Chattells, excepting the money in my house, and the whole furniture in my parlour, all which I give to Robert my son.

My wife Alice to be sole Executrix and she to pay my debts . . .

If she refuse, then Mr. William Matchett, minister of Moulton, to have all my said goods.

Will made 24 April 1611.

Witnesses: Edward Breviter, Ralphe Shert, Aquila Cruso,<sup>1</sup> Stephen Andrews.

Proved at Norwich, 10 May 1611.

(b) ROBERT BROWNE III

P.C.C. 31 Coventry.

Of Wackton, co. Norfolk.

10 January, 1632.

I give unto Mary my wife all my lands and tenements in co. Norfolk for life, towards payment of debts and maintenance and education of my children.

I make her sole executrix.

She to pay to Robert my son towards his maintenance in learning in the schools or in the University £10 yearly until 20 years of age and then £15 yearly as long as she live.

After her death to him and to his heirs my house wherein I dwell and lands adjoining free and copy and closes called Hobbawoods and Wallis the Carr and Wynlesure Close or the Bushy Close, paying unto Katherin my daughter £40.

To John my son and his heirs tenement wherein Christover Taylor dwelleth and lands adjoining 12 acres 1 rood, Close called Willow Meere, paying unto Mary my daughter £20.

To said son John £15 yearly when 21 years.

To William my son and his heirs my close called Reeves Close and pictells called the Chappell pictells, acre land in field called Stony Hills.

Mary my wife to have my Close called Oxfeild towards payment of debts and bringing up my children.

Mary my wife shall pay unto Martha my daughter £20 when 21.

Mr. William Le Neave Esq. Supervisor. [No witness].

Proved at London 14 March 1639.

Executrix named.

26 June 1661. Commission issued to John Browne natural and lawful son and legatee in Will of Robert Browne dec<sup>d</sup>. to administer goods &c. of said dec<sup>d</sup>. not fully administered by Mary Brown alias Purton now dead Relict and Executrix.

(c) ROBERT BROWNE IV

P.C.C. 3 Fines.

Of Wacton, co. Norfolk, gent.

18 September 1643.

I bequeath unto John Browne my brother all my messuages lands and tenements to him and his heirs upon special trust notwithstanding that he pay out of rents unto Katherine my sister £40 after decease of Mary my mother

<sup>1</sup> Son of John Cruso, inhabitant of Norwich, then aged 17, a student of Caius Coll. Camb. (where Robert Browne IV was afterwards), and eventually an eminent divine.



and unto Mary my sister £40 upon decease of Mary my mother and to Martha my sister £30 upon decease of Mary my mother, and to William my brother £5 yearly until £30 be paid.

I give unto Mr. John Rayners my friend and cousin £5 for ring.

To poor of Wacton £3.

Residue of my goods Cattells and Chattells to said John my brother whom I make sole Executor.

Ro. Browne Blewmantle.

Witnesses: Tho. Shereman. John Rayner.

1 October 1645.

I now declare this will to be void. I constitute Mary my wife sole Executrix bequeathing unto her my revercon.

Rob<sup>t</sup>. Browne Blewmantle.

Proved at London 7 January 1646.

Executrix Mary Browne relict.

## APPENDIX VII

Earl Marshal's warrant for tabard for Robert Browne, Rouge Croix. (Heralds IV. 31).

My very good lord

These bee to signifye unto your Lordshipp That it is his Maiestys pleasure That forthwith you cause to be provided for Sir William le Neve Norroy King of Armes a coate of his Maiesties Armes imbrothered in such manner as hath bene accustomed and likewise for Mr. Robert Browne one of his Maiesties pursuivants of Armes in Ordinary one other coate of his Maiesties Armes imbrothered with satten uppon damaske enriched with gould thrid furnished and made upp to be ready for their present use. And soe I reeste.

Yo<sup>r</sup> lordps very affectionat freind

Arundell & Surrey.

Arundell house

8th July 1634.

To my very good Lord the  
Earle of Denbigh Master  
of his Ma<sup>ties</sup>. great Wardrobe.

## APPENDIX VIII

Order of Chapter for payment of fees to Blanch Lyon Pursuivant (L3.58).

The copy of an acquittance given to S<sup>r</sup>. John Borough Garter uppon delivering of the mony w<sup>ch</sup> was Deposited in his hands for the turne of Rougecroix uppon the funerall of the Earle of Kent, unto M<sup>r</sup>. Robert Browne sonne of Robert late rouge croix.

S<sup>r</sup>. John Borough we request you to pay unto this bearer M<sup>r</sup>. Rob<sup>t</sup>. Browne (the sonne of Rob<sup>t</sup>. Browne late Rougecroix) that mony, w<sup>ch</sup>. rests deposited in yo<sup>r</sup> hands for the funerall of the right Honorable the Earle of Kent late deceased, w<sup>ch</sup> mony was ordered by the Company to be paid unto him for the use of his mother and himselfe in regard of his fathers tourne who if he had lived but few daies longer had bene there served in his right course.

Dated at the Office  
of Armes the 26  
of March 1640.

Signed by thes	{	Wm. Le Neve Clarencieux.
		Geo: Owen York.
		Tho: Thompson Lancaster.
		Ed: Walker Chester.

Received in the offic of Armes of S<sup>r</sup>. John Borough Garter the somme of twentie six pounds sixteene shillings w<sup>ch</sup> with five pound more paid by the



said S<sup>r</sup>. John Boroughs unto Richmond Herald for serving at the funerall of the Earle of Kent maketh up the somme of thirtie one pounds sixteene shillings, w<sup>ch</sup> was ordered by the company to be paid to me for the reasons above expressed I say re: by me

Signed by Rb<sup>t</sup>. Browne Blanchlion

In the presence of  
Tho: Thompson  
Lancaster.

#### APPENDIX IX

Certificates of Arms issued by Robert Browne, Bluemantle. (Extracted from "Grantees of Arms", compiled by Joseph Foster—*Harl. Soc.* Vol. 66—and "Grants and Certificates of Arms", compiled by A. J. Jewers—*Genealogist N.S.*, Vols. 13 *sqq.*.)

Adler, Thomas, of Harvard Stoke (by Browne?).  
Barnes, Gabriel, of Henley, co. Ox., by Crowne and Browne.  
Bennett, George, of Wilby, co. Leic.  
Bodell or Boydell.  
Brunskell, Ambrose, of London, 1645 (*cf. Misc. Gen. & Her.* 5s. iij. 32).  
Cheslin, Alderman of London, by Ryley and Browne.  
Cooke, Anthony, of Yoxford, co. Suff.  
Cooke, John, of S. Normington, co. Derby.  
Digby, John, of Coggeshall, co. Essex.  
Foote, Tho<sup>s</sup>, citizen and alderman of London, by Ryley and Browne, 1646.  
Fox, of Stradbroke, co. Suff., by Crowne and Browne.  
Fox, Simon or Simeon, of co. Suff.  
Franck, Thos. of London.  
Hall, John, of co. Linc.  
Hunt, Thos., of Shrewsbury.  
Lee.  
Rainbowe, Edward, S.T.P., of Magdalen Col., Camb.  
Rhodes, of Derbyshire.  
Ridout; Reyden or Ryden alias Rydout, of co. Somerset.  
Skinner, John, of Stone, co. Cornwall.

#### APPENDIX X

##### MINUTES OF THE COURT MARTIAL

Bluemantle's petition for promotion and Watson's appointment as his deputy.

(SML. 3. 191-192).

Jovis 3<sup>o</sup> Sept. 1646 . . .

Quibus die horis et loco venerabilis vir Johannes Exton<sup>1</sup> legum Doctor Advocatus hujus Curiae ex parte prosequutorum ad Arma scilicet Johannis Beauchamp Willelmi Crowne et Roberti Browne petijt quatenus prae-nobiles et honorandi Comissarij dicti prosequutores in loca feccialium Armorum iam vacantia eligere dignarentur unde Domini habita deliberacone decreverunt prosequutores ad Arma per Edwardum Bysshe Armigerum Ceterosque Reges Armorum electos et Georgium Owen Armigerum feccialem Eboracensem examinandos fore dictisque Edward Bysse et Regibus Armorum electis et Owen Assignarunt ad Certificandum huic Curiae an dicti Johannes Beauchamp Willelmus Crowne et Robertus Browne pro eorum Doctrina vita et Conversatione necnon in ijs quae ad feccialem spectant gerendis dexteritate

<sup>1</sup> Son-in-law of Ralph Brooke, York Herald, and father of the Everard Exton mentioned on p. 105.



ad loca et officia Feccialium Armorum munere merito erigi debent et hujusmodi Certificatorio introductu Domini Comissarij assignarunt ad audiendum eorum voluntatem super peticone Doctoris Exton.

Martis 13<sup>o</sup> die Mensis Octobris 1646 . . .

Quibus die horis et loco praenobiles et honorandi Comissarij supranominati me Johannem Watson<sup>1</sup> in supplendum locum Roberti Browne alias dictum Blewmantle jam gravi aegritudine laborantis tempore Solemnizaonis pompae Funebri Illustrissimi et praenobilis Domini Roberti Comitissae Essexiae nuper defuncti Constituerunt . . .

## APPENDIX XI

## SOURCES

The material for this paper has been drawn almost entirely from MS. sources, those in the College of Arms having been supplemented by extracts from Parish Registers, Subsidy and Court Rolls and other original documents. The few printed sources of which use has been made are sufficiently identified in the footnotes.

The following are the principal College of Arms MSS. which have been used :

CGY. 897: Collections of Sir Charles Young, Garter 1842-69.

Chapter Books: see L3 and SML. 51.

1D20. ✠ Arms recorded at the 1664 Visitation of Norfolk.

Grants 1 & 2. Copies of early grants of arms issued before the regular series of grant books was started.

Heralds—Collections of Sir Edward Walker, Garter 1645-77.

L3. Vol. I of the original Chapter Books.

OA. Collections of John Anstis, Garter 1718-44, on Officers of Arms.

OWB. Old Waiting Book and Expense Book; see j. 5-22, 29 and 49-50; ij. 70-126; and iv. 42. This volume comprises four sections each with

separate pagination.

Painters' Work Book O.I.; see title-page.

Partition Books—records of the division of fees &c. among the Officers of Arms—see SML. 50.

SML. 3. Collections about the Earl Marshal's Court; see pp. 191-3.

SML. 49. Miscellaneous notes about heralds; see pp. 180, 181, 192.

SML. 50. Abstract of the Partition Books; see pp. 137-52.

SML. 51. Abstract of the Chapter Books; see p. 22.

SML. 64. Memoirs of the Heralds; see pp. 80, 84, 85, 314*b* and 316.

These last five MSS. are part of the Collections of Stephen Martin-Leake, Garter 1754-73.

<sup>1</sup> He was Registrar of the Court and on 22 October, the Court appointed him Bluemantle for life. His wife was a cousin of Henry Dethick (see p. 106), and also of Mrs. Everard Exton.