

REYMES OF OVERSTRAND

By Alwyn Leslie Raimes

IT is the purpose of this article to relate the history of the Reymes family, members of which, for about five hundred years, were lords of the whole or a part of the manor of Overstrand. Before I begin my story, however, it is appropriate to discuss the origin of the name and the history of the parent stock from which the Overstrand family was probably descended. I propose also to give an account of the family of Herdeberg, overlords of Overstrand in the thirteenth century, and connected, both by marriage and by feudal tenure, with the main stem of the Reymes family, providing in that way a connecting link between the Overstrand branch and the parent tree.

I

RAMES IN NORMANDY

ROGER DE RAMES, 1086, HIS FIEF AND DESCENDANTS

Roger de Rames derived his name from the hamlet of Rames,¹ which lies on the western outskirts of the forest of Lillebonne in the heart of Normandy. Sir George Sitwell visited the district in 1924, and writes:

At Rames we find traces of the earliest form of castle construction. Guarded by a fosse is a motte or circular mound of earth, which in the twelfth century will have supported a wooden tower. It is said that there is another mound near by. But the thickets which cover them are so dense in summer with leafage and branches that one can with difficulty obtain more than a glimpse of the fosse.²

The Norman castle of the eleventh century was usually a mound crowned by wooden buildings,³ and it is probable that these earthworks at Rames were the site of Roger's Norman home.⁴ There is no record which tells us whether Roger de Rames fought at Hastings,⁵ but in 1086 he was lord of a fief comprising many manors in Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Middlesex,⁶ awarded to him, presumably, for services rendered to the Norman duke. The barony was probably held by the service of twenty knight's fees.⁷

The early genealogy of the family is obscure, but the descent of the estates is best explained by the assumption that Roger had two sons, William, who inherited the English fief and was dead in 1130/1,⁸ and Roger, who inherited the Norman fief, and held Dedham in Essex as a sub-tenant of his brother.

The English fief was divided in or before 1130/1 between William's two

¹ Round, *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, p. 181.

² Sir G. R. Sitwell, *Tales of my Native Village* (1933).

³ See Bayeux Tapestry.

⁴ I have been informed that the present Château de Rames is simply the surviving wing of a large house, apparently of the seventeenth century.

⁵ A writer in *History* contends that only thirty-two Norman barons can be named with certainty as having fought at Hastings (vol. XXVIII).

⁶ See *Victoria County Histories*.

⁷ Round, *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, p. 400.

⁸ *Pipe Roll*, 31 Henry I.

sons, and their descendants are shown in Pedigree I.¹ The Norman fief passed to the Stutevilles. Roger de Rames had a daughter Adeliz, wife of Edward of Salisbury,² who evidently held Rames *jure uxoris* as he gave 50s. rents in Rames to the Abbey of St. Georges de Boscherville.³ Leonia, daughter of Edward and Adeliz, married Robert de Stuteville,² whose family held the Norman fief for several generations. In 1214/15, Leonia, who was sometimes known as "de Rames" and sometimes as "de Stuteville", held Dedham by the service of one knight, half the service being due to the heir of Richard de Reymes, and the other half to the heir of William de Reymes.¹

Although in the eleventh and early twelfth centuries the Rames family ranked among the greater barons, they were not sufficiently high in rank or distinguished in their careers to excite the interest of the chroniclers. From other records, however, we know that a William de Reimes died when on crusade with Richard I, and that his grandson, while still a youth, forfeited his lands for rebellion against John. Either from love of the church, or from uneasiness about their prospects in the world to come, members of the family gave freely to various monasteries. St. Bartholomew's Priory in Smithfield received Little Stanmore Church from Roger de Rames, Bradfield and Manning-tree Churches from William de Rames, and the chapel of St. Bartholomew at Elstree from Robert de Rames.⁴ To various other monasteries Robert gave the churches of Ardleigh and Little Bricett, and land or tithes in Rayne and Messing.⁵

Early in the twelfth century the family properties, as we have seen, were divided. During the anarchy of Stephen's reign, Earl Hugh Bigod, though probably related to the Rames family,⁶ seized 4½ knight's fees in Suffolk from Roger de Rames, and acquired, ostensibly by gift, 5¼ knight's fees which were part of the fief of Robert de Rames.⁷ Some of the sub-tenants of other sub-infeudated manors withheld their services, and the entries in the Pipe Rolls of the twelfth century are a record of continuous financial difficulty.⁸ As a result, the lords of the two fiefs, by the end of the century, were only nominally barons, and their real status had apparently declined to that of simple knights.

In Norfolk the Roger de Rames of 1086 held land in four villages, and of these properties three were sub-infeudated, only one, Prilleston, as it was called in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, being held in demesne.⁹ It is to this village that the attention of the reader is now drawn. In the time of Edward the Confessor, Prilleston comprised two small manors, one held by the Abbey of St. Edmund and the other by the Abbot of Ely. By 1086 both manors had

¹ For other evidences and references, and for a more detailed account of the Rames fief, see "*The Family of Reymes of Wherstead*" in the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, vol. XXIII.

² "Uxor Roberti de Stuteville est de donacione Domini Regis, et de parentela Edwardi de Salisburia ex parte patris, et ex parte matris est de progenie Rogeri de Reimes" (*Rot. de Dominabus*, 1185 (Pipe Roll Society)).

³ Round, *Calendar of Documents in France*.

⁴ E. A. Webb, *Records of St. Bartholomew's Priory*.

⁵ *Cartulary of the Monastery of St. John of Colchester* (Roxburghe Club) and Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicum*.

⁶ In 1166 a Roger de Reimes held two fees of the old fiefment of Earl Hugh "de maritagio" (*Liber Rubens*), also see below, page 19.

⁷ *Liber Rubens* and *The Book of Fees*.

⁸ In the case of Richard de Reimes the position became so desperate that about 1210 he surrendered to the King manors owing him the service of 12½ knights (*Pipe Roll*, 3 Henry III, Essex).

⁹ Prilleston is now known as Billingford (in the Hundred of Earsham). To avoid confusion with the other Billingford (in the Hundred of Eynsford), I propose in this article to use the old name.

SEALS

(For further particulars see Appendix H.)



(1) RICHARD DE RAIMES, *circa* 1200.
Diameter 2 inches.
Legend—"SIGILL RICARDI DE RAI . . ."



(2) WILLIAM DE REYMES, *circa* 1250.
Diameter 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches.
Legend—"S REYMES"



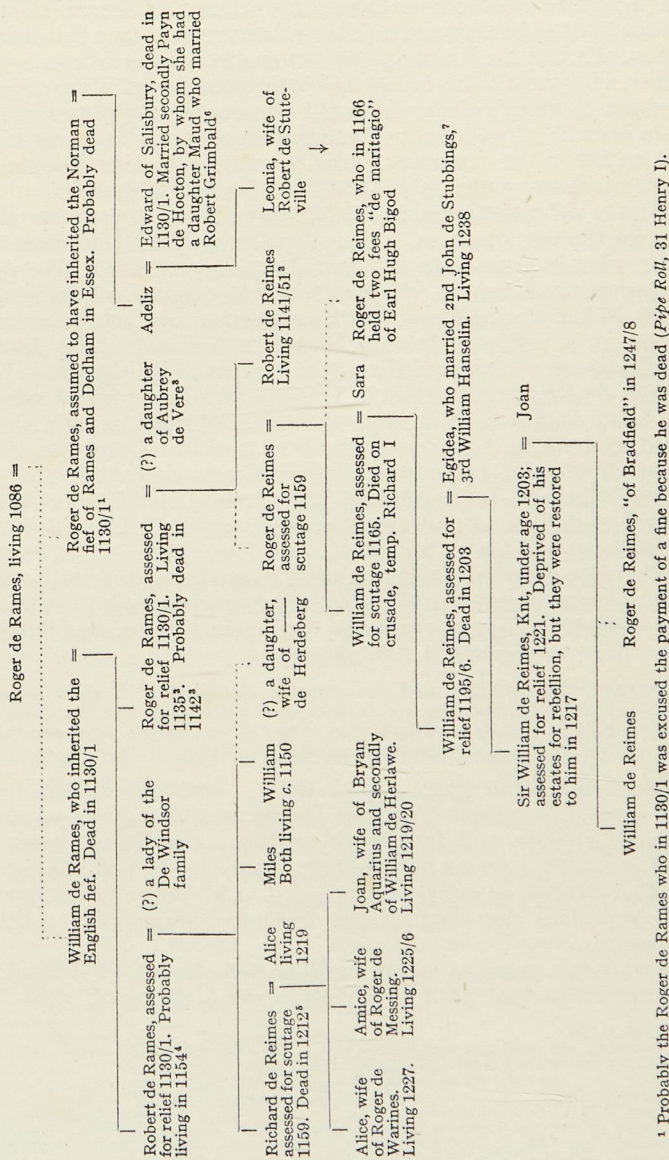
(3) HUGH DE HERDEBERG, 1268/9.
Diameter 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
Legend—"s'hvg . . IS DE HERDEBE . G."



(4) JOHN DE REYMES OF OVERSTRAND, 1359.
Diameter $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
Legend—"s'toIHis DE REYMES."

PEDIGREE 1

THE DESCENDANTS OF ROGER DE RAMES, 1086



¹ Probably the Roger de Rames who in 1130/1 was excused the payment of a fine because he was dead (*Pipe Roll*, 31 Henry I).

² *Red Book of the Exchequer*, I, 353.

³ Round, *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, pp. 181, 390-404.

⁴ *Charitulary of St. John's Abbey, Colchester* (Roxburghe Club), I, 50.

⁵ In a grant by Robert de Rames to Anschiet de Messing, about 1150, the witnesses include "Riccard my son and Miles his brother" (*Corhambury Collection*, Hertford Record Office, V.B. 4).

⁶ *Pipe Roll*, 6 John— "Johannes de Stubbings debet ijijm. pro habenda in uxorem Gila (sic) que fuit uxor Willelmi de Reymes."

⁷ *Pipe Roll*, 6 John— "Johannes de Stubbings debet ijijm. pro habenda in uxorem Gila (sic) que fuit uxor Willelmi de Reymes."

Note. For the other evidences for this pedigree, see the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History*, vol. XXXIII (1937-9)

come into the possession of Roger de Rames, who then held the St. Edmund's manor *in capite* as part of his barony, and the other property as a sub-tenant of the Abbot of Ely. Part of the Rames manor was held of Roger by a sub-tenant named Warenger, who was also his tenant at Tottington and Starston in Norfolk, and at Hedingham in Essex.¹ The whole vill was only five furlongs in length and the same in breadth: if we assume that the Domesday furlong was more or less equivalent to 220 of our statutory yards, we must conclude that the total area in the eleventh century was only about 250 of our modern acres.²

When the Rames fief was divided in 1130/1 some of the manors were allotted to one or other of the two brothers, while others were divided between them. Let us consider what happened to the four Norfolk properties. We do not know what happened to Starston. The descent of Ranthorpe is confusing. In 1166 Geoffrey de Reinstorpe held it of William de Reimes by the service of one knight, and there is no reference to it in Richard's *carta*.³ In 1200, however, we find the William de Reimes of that date claiming the service of half a knight from John de Reinstorp,⁴ while in 1214/15 Earl Roger Bigod is said to hold the fee of half a knight in Ranthorpe of the fees which Richard de Reimes had surrendered to the King.⁵ It seems therefore as if Ranthorpe was divided after 1166. The division of Tottington is more clearly defined as the *cartae* of 1166 show that Warin de Tottington held half a knight of William de Reimes and half a knight of Richard,⁶ and the Pipe Rolls show that in 1214/15 the service due to Richard had been acquired by Earl Roger.⁵

Most of Prilleston, as we have seen, was held in demesne, and this probably explains the lack of reference in the Pipe Rolls and other records to its division or descent. Blomefield, however, comes to the rescue. After describing, not very accurately, the two manors in 1086, he says:

Soon after they were divided, and one moiety continued in Roger's [Roger de Rames] family till 1249, and then Richer de Remes sold it to Roger de Herdebarow or Herleburgh, who by this purchase became lord of the whole; for the other moiety went to the Bigots, and in 1211 was sold by William Bigot to Hugh de Hurleburgh.⁷

Blomefield ignores an earlier fine, and, I think, misinterprets the fine of 1211,⁸ but it is clear that in 1086 Roger de Rames was lord of the whole vill, and that in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the Bigods were overlords of part of the vill.⁹ It seems not unlikely, therefore, that Prilleston, like some of the other Rames manors, was divided, and that one moiety was acquired by the rapacious Earl Hugh Bigod, while the other moiety continued in the Rames family.

I would refer at this point to a certain Robert de Rames to whom, in or before 1166, Earl Hugh had granted an estate at Halvergate, near Great

¹ See *Domesday Book*, V.C.H.

² It is difficult to reconcile this small area with the fact that in the fourteenth century the vill comprised at least two knight's fees. The area of the township in 1831 was 1100 acres.

³ *Liber Rubens*.

⁴ *Pipe Roll*, 3 Henry III, Essex.

⁵ *Cal. Curia Regis Rolls*. See also App. M.

⁶ See Round, *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, p. 401.

⁷ Blomefield, *Norfolk*, V, 319. He gives no reference.

⁸ See below, pp. 20, 21.

⁹ In 1283 Roger Bigod claimed free warren in Prilleston (Blomefield, V, 319-22). In 1306, John de Clinton held one fee in Prilleston of Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk (*Cal. Inquisitions*). In 1346 Walter de Hopton, who succeeded to the Herdeberg manor in Prilleston, held one fee in Prilleston of John de Segrave, which John de Clinton formerly held, and Wynesia de Reushale held one fee in Prilleston of the heir of Robert Tattershall (*Feudal Aids*, III, 496). In 1401 the fees allotted as dower to Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk, included "one knight's fee in Pirliston, held by Ela le Botiller and John de Peyton [Peyto]" (*Cal. Patent Rolls*).

Yarmouth, for the service of two knight's fees,¹ and who may, therefore, be regarded as a possible ancestor of the Overstrand family. This Robert may probably be identified with the "Robertus de Ramis, filius Rogeri de Ramis," who between 1141 and 1151 was the writer of a letter about Ardeleigh Church to Robert de Sigillo, Bishop of London.² Roger de Rames and Earl Hugh Bigod had apparently both married sisters of Earl Aubrey de Vere,³ and the relationship possibly explains this grant of land.

Richard de Reimes died about 1212, leaving three daughters as coheireses.⁴ William de Reimes in 1238 sold his reversionary interest in Little Stanmore, then held by his mother in dower, to St. Bartholomew's Priory, receiving in payment £42, and one curacate of land in Bradfield.⁵ He also sold his manor of Boyton in Finchingfield to the Bassets.⁶ He was apparently succeeded by a Roger de Reymes who is mentioned in several deeds⁷ as a grantor of land in Bradfield and neighbouring villages, and who, in 1247/8, is styled "of Bradfield".⁸ Of the subsequent history of this branch of the family I have no knowledge, except that their tenure of Bradfield had ended by 1306, when the manor was in possession of the heirs of John de Brokesburgh.⁵

And so the old tree died. But saplings grew up around it, and in the thirteenth century several families of the name were established in Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk. In Essex, close to Hedingham, there was a family of small landowners,⁹ to which branch, no doubt, belonged the John Remys who fought at Agincourt in the retinue of his neighbour, the Earl of Oxford.¹⁰ In Suffolk there were families of Reymes at Burstall, Higham and Wherstead,¹¹ the branch at Wherstead migrating to Northumberland about 1294, and flourishing there till the end of the sixteenth century¹². Another branch settled at Overstrand, and its history is the subject of this article.

II

THE HERDEBERG FAMILY

HARBOROUGH, PRILLESTON AND OVERSTRAND

I must now take my readers from Norfolk to Warwickshire, to the village of Harborough Magna or, to give it its eleventh-century spelling, Herdeberge. In the thirteenth century two families bearing the local name were established there, and were, no doubt, originally connected.¹³ By an undated deed,¹⁴

¹ *Liber Rubeus*, I, 396.

² See Round, *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, p. 402. The letter is printed in Newcourt, *Repertorium Ecclesiasticum Parocheale Londinensis*, II, 10.

³ Charter of the Empress Maud to Aubrey de Vere 1142—"Concedo etiam ei et haeredibus suis de cremento Diham [Dedham] que fuit Rogeri de Ramis rectum nepotum ipsius comitis Alberici, videlicet filiorum Rogeri de Ramis. . . ." (Round, *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, p. 181).

⁴ *Book of Fees*, I, 274.

⁵ E. A. Webb, *Records of St. Bartholomew's Priory*.

⁶ *Ancient Deeds*, P.R.O., A. 454, A. 477, A. 488; *Essex Fines*, 24 Henry III, no. 676.

⁷ *Ancient Deeds*, P.R.O., A. 13680, 13706, 13899, 13900.

⁸ *Ancient Deeds*, P.R.O., A. 13899; *Assize Roll*, Essex, 32 Henry III, Roll 232, m. 2.

⁹ *Cotton Ch.* B.M. XXIX, no. 9 [1305] and no. 11 [1321]. *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1363, 1433. *Cal. Curia Regis Roll Mich.* 3 and 4 Henry III. *Cal. Inquisitions*, vol. IV, 35 Edward I.

¹⁰ Nicolas, *Battle of Agincourt*.

¹¹ *Proceedings of Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History*, vol. XXIII.

¹² *History of Northumberland*, vol. X.

¹³ For a possible origin of the Herdeberg family, see App. B.

¹⁴ Charters transcribed into an annotated copy of Dugdale, *Warwickshire*, now in the British Museum (C. 45, K. 2).

probably of about 1230 or 1240,¹ the head of one of these families, Sir Hasculph de Herdeberg, sold his capital messuage in Harborough, with the advowson of the church, to Sir Geoffrey de Langley, subject to the service of half a knight to Sir Stephen de Segrave.² In 1269 the head of the other family, Sir Hugh de Herdeberg, held the fee of half a knight in Harborough of the Hastings family.³ Hasculph de Herdeberg had a daughter, Isabella, who was living in 1257/8,⁴ but I have seen no evidence that he left male descendants. It is, however, with Hugh de Herdeberg's family that we are now concerned, as it was they who acquired an interest in Prilleston and Overstrand.

Let us go back a few generations. In 1166 the barons submitted to the King their declarations or *cartae*, showing how their fiefs had been sub-infeudated, and Richard de Reimes declared that Roger de Herdeberg held the larger part of Messing (Essex) of his fief, adding the words "nescio per quem".⁵ A record of 1210/12, however, states that it was held "in liberum maritagium de dono Roberti de Raimis",⁶ and, in spite of Richard's profession of ignorance, it is probable that either Roger de Herdeberg⁷ or his father had married a daughter of Robert de Reimes, and had been given land in Messing as his wife's dowry. In 1210/12 a Hugh de Herdeberg was not only in possession of the Messing property, but had acquired a further interest in the Reimes fief as the holder in the Essex village of Tolleshunt of the fee of half a knight, which in 1166 had been held by Philip Parage of Richard de Reimes.⁶

It is in 1202 that we first hear of a connexion between the Herdebergs and Prilleston, Hugh de Herdeberg in that year being engaged in a dispute with Robert de Sutton which was terminated by a fine,⁸ as follows:

This is the final concord made in the court of the lord King at Ipswich on the day of St. Peter ad vincula the 4th year of the reign of King John [1 August 1202]. . . .

Between Robert de Sutton and Alice his wife, demandants, . . . and Hugh de Herleberg tenant of the fee of one knight with appurtenances in Prilleston concerning which a recognition of mort d'ancestor was summoned between them in the aforesaid court: to wit, that the aforesaid Robert and Alice remitted and quitclaimed to the aforesaid Hugh and his heirs all the right and claim which they had in the aforesaid fee of one knight for themselves and their heirs for ever.

And for this quitclaim and fine and concord the aforesaid Hugh gave to the aforesaid Robert and Alice 10 silver marks.

Robert de Sutton was an Essex landowner, holding land in Bures and other places, and farming the Hundred of Barstable at a rent of £18 a year. Margery, his daughter and heiress, married William Bigod,⁹ a son of Earl Hugh by Gundred his second wife,¹⁰ and there was again a dispute about the Prilleston estate:

Curia Regis Rolls, 1210.¹¹ William Bigot and Margery his wife . . . seek against Hugh

¹ The date must be before 1241, when Stephen de Segrave died.

² Segrave married a sister of Henry de Hastings, and it is possible that he held the half fee in Harborough *jure uxoris*. This possibility leads me to suggest the theory that there was originally a Hastings fee of one knight, held of that family by the Herdebergs, and subsequently divided between two members of the Herdeberg family.

³ *Cal. Close Rolls*.

⁴ Charters transcribed into an annotated copy of Dugdale, *Warwickshire*, now in the British Museum (C. 45, K. 2).

⁵ *Liber Rubens*, p. 357. There is still a farm-house in Messing known as Harborough Hall.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 504; also see *Book of Fees*, I, 232/3.

⁷ Roger de Herdeberg in 1166 also held half a fee of the old feoffment (before 1135) of Earl Hugh Bigod (*Liber Rubens*, p. 395).

⁸ From a transcript in the P.R.O.

⁹ *Cartae Antiquae* (Pipe Roll Society), new series, vol. XVII.

¹⁰ G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*, IX, 586, note e.

¹¹ *Cal. Curia Regis Rolls*, VI, 38, 78.

de Herberge the fee of half a knight with appurtenances in Prilleston as the right of the said Margery: and Hugh defended his right and demanded an investigation in respect thereof. He has it. A day is fixed on the Vigil of the Apostles Simon & Jude in three weeks [18 November 1210]. . . .

Feet of Fines, Norfolk, 1211.¹ This is the final concord in the court of the lord King at Westminster the quinzaine of St. Michael in the 13th year of the reign of King John [13 October 1211]. . . .

Between William Bigot and Margery his wife, demandants, . . . and Hugh de Herleberg, tenant, concerning the fee of half a knight with appurtenances in Prilleston, concerning which a plea was summoned between them in the said court: to wit, that the said William and Margery remitted and quitclaimed for themselves and the heirs of the said Margery to the aforesaid Hugh and his heirs their whole right and claim which they have in the aforesaid fee of half a knight with appurtenances for ever.

And for this quitclaim and fine and concord the aforesaid Hugh gave to the aforesaid William and Margery a dun palfrey of the value of 5 marks.

It is difficult to interpret these records, but the reference to a "recognition of mort d'ancestor", and the small payments of money involved, suggest that the two transactions were not transfers of the property, but more probably settlements of disputes about tenures. It seems clear, however, that before the end of the reign of John, the Herdebergs were established as holders of land in Prilleston.²

Hugh de Herdeberg was succeeded by his son Adam, who in 1214/15³ and 1229/30⁴ held the fee of half a knight in Tolleshunt.

Sir Roger de Herdeberg was apparently the next tenant of the Herdeberg estates.⁵ In 1249, as we have seen, he acquired from Richer de Remes the Remes property in Prilleston, and in 1250 Richer called on him to warrant his tenure of a quarter of a knight's fee in Overstrand and Northrepps. This will be discussed more fully in Section III. In 1246/56 he was a witness to an Essex deed,⁶ and in an undated grant of an annual rent, probably in Messing, to Ymania Baynard, Roger de Hardebergh and his son Hugh, knights, were among the witnesses.⁷

Sir Hugh de Herdeberg was in possession in 1269, as in that year he was named as holding the half fee in Harborough.⁸ A year or two previously he had been in serious trouble in connexion with Simon de Montfort's rebellion. His over-lord, Henry de Hastings, was conspicuous among the King's opponents, and had held out in Kenilworth Castle for more than a year after Simon's death at Evesham. Probably on account of his connexion with the Hastings family, Hugh was accused of complicity and was deprived of his estates. Fortunately he had a powerful friend in Sir Philip Basset, formerly justiciar and a loyalist who had been wounded at Lewes, and who stood high in the King's confidence.⁹ Basset and others testified to Hugh's innocence, and an entry in the Patent Rolls in 1267¹⁰ records the restoration of his property and "the remission of the King's anger and rancour."

¹ P.R.O., C.P. 25 (1), 154/32, no. 497.

² It will be noted that the dispute with Sutton involved one knight's fee, while only the fee of half a knight was contested with William Bigot.

³ *Pipe Rolls*.

⁴ *Book of Fees*, I, 232/3.

⁵ *Pipe Roll*, 14 Henry III, Warwick and Leicester.

⁶ *Ancient Deeds*, P.R.O., A. 514.

⁷ *Gorhambury Collection*, Hertford Record Office, V.B. 19. In the typed calendar the date is given as between 1240 and 1272.

⁸ *Cal. Close Rolls*.

⁹ Powicke, *King Henry III and the Lord Edward*.

¹⁰ *Cal. Patent Rolls*.

Hugh de Herdeberg married Isabel daughter and coheirress of Roger de Craft by Cecily daughter and coheirress of William de Turville, and by this marriage acquired the manor of Weston Turville in Buckinghamshire.¹ His son Roger became a knight, but died in his father's lifetime. He hardly lived long enough to make any impression even on local history, but we catch one glimpse of him in circumstances of some interest. At Wherstead near Ipswich there lived a Sir Roger de Reymes, head of a branch of the family established there since about 1200. In June 1270, being about to set off for the Holy Land with Prince Edward, he had gathered together his friends and neighbours to witness a settlement in favour of his infant sons.² Most of the witnesses were neighbouring landowners—Sir Richard de Gosebec, Sir Robert de Reydon, Thomas de Freston, Roger de Braham and others—but at the head of the list we find Sir Roger de Herdeberghe. He does not appear to have held land in Suffolk,³ and his presence in Wherstead on that summer's day seems to indicate a friendship, and possibly a relationship, between the two families.

In 1284 Roger was dead, and his widow sued her father-in-law for her dower⁴:

This is the final concord made in the court of the lord King at Westminster in the Octave of the Purification of the Blessed Mary in the 12th year of the reign of King Edward son of King Henry [9 February 1284]. . . .

Between Ida who was wife of Roger son of Hugh de Herdebergh, demandant, and Hugh de Herdebergh, defendant, concerning the manor of Prilleston with appurtenances which manor the said Ida claims to be her reasonable dower of the gift of Roger son of the aforesaid Hugh [who made the gift] by the assent and will of the aforesaid Hugh father of the aforesaid Roger whereof a plea was summoned between them in the said court [to wit, that the said Ida] has acknowledged the said manor with its appurtenances to be the right of the said Hugh.

And for this recognition, fine and concord the said Hugh has conceded [to the said Ida and] to Ela and Isabel daughters of the aforesaid Roger and Ida the aforesaid manor and its appurtenances except the advowson of the church of the said vill to have and to hold to the aforesaid Ida Ela and Isabel and the issue of Ela and Isabel of the aforesaid Hugh [and his heirs] rendering £16 sterling a year to the aforesaid Hugh during the life of Ida at the usual four terms and doing to the chief lords of the fee for the said Hugh such services as to the said manor belong. . . .⁵

Sir Hugh de Herdeberg died soon after the settlement of this suit, as in 1285, according to Blomefield, Isabel his widow sued her daughter-in-law, Ida, for her dower in Harborough and Prilleston.⁶

Ela and Isabel grew up and were married, the former to Sir Walter de Hopton and the latter to John de Hulle.⁷ In 1304/5 there were various adjustments of family interests between the two heiresses, with the result that John and Isabel de Hulle secured the manor of Harborough, the manors and advowsons of

¹ See V.C.H., *Buckinghamshire*, II, 367, 368; III, 237; and V.C.H., *Warwickshire*, III, 93. In the account of the Herdeberg family, it is stated that the Hugh who married Isabel de Craft had a son Hugh, who was the father of Roger.

² *Proceedings of Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History*, vol. XXIII.

³ The name of Herdeberg does not appear in Copinger's six volumes of *Suffolk Records*.

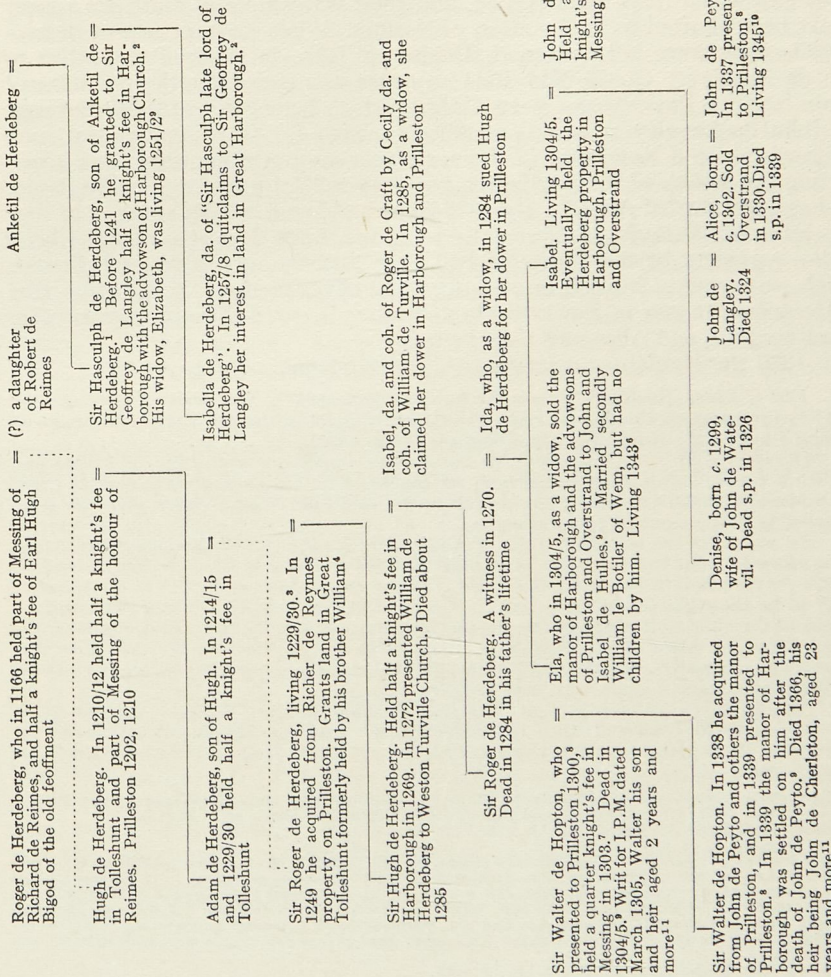
⁴ *Feet of Fines*, Norfolk, P.R.O., C.P. 25 (1), 160/113, no. 278.

⁵ The remainder of the document is partly illegible, but the gist of it is as follows: "If Ida dies during Hugh's lifetime, the manor, excepting the advowson, is to remain to Ela and Isabel and their issue, rendering to Hugh £20 sterling a year. If Hugh dies in the lifetime of Ela and Isabel, they are to be quit of all payments to his heirs for ever, but during their lives to pay £10 sterling to some person whose name cannot be deciphered. If they die without issue, the manor is to revert to Hugh and his heirs."

⁶ Blomefield, *Norfolk*, V, 319. Also see *Cal Close Rolls*, 1286, where there is a record of a claim on behalf of Ela and "Isolda" for their land in Messing.

⁷ *Warwickshire Feet of Fines* (Dugdale Soc.), 1284 to 1345. Also see Lipscombe, *Buckinghamshire*, II, 494.

PEDIGREE 2
HERDEBERG OF WARWICKSHIRE



¹ *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1227.
² Transcripts of Charters added to a copy of Dugdale, *Warwickshire* (1765) in the British Museum (C. 45, K. 2).
³ The date is given in the typed calendar as 'Henry III before 1265'.
⁴ *Gorhambury Collection*, Hertford Record Office, V.D. 1.
⁵ C.E.C., *Feudal Aids*, vol. II.
⁶ *Warwickshire Feines* (Dugdale Soc.).
⁷ *Warwickshire Feines* (Dugdale Soc.).
⁸ *Warwickshire Feines* (Dugdale Soc.).
⁹ *Warwickshire Feines* (Dugdale Soc.).
¹⁰ *Ancient Deeds*, P.R.O., A. 4255.
¹¹ *Cal. of Inquisitions*.
 The remaining evidences will be found in the narrative.

Prilleston and Overstrand,¹ and a moiety of the Herdeberg property in Messing.² John and Isabel were probably both dead in 1316 when Alice, widow of the last Bigod earl of Norfolk, presented to Prilleston Church "*as guardian*,"³ Denise and Alice, the daughters and heirs of John and Isabel, being still children.

Denise was born about 1299 and Alice about 1302.⁴ They were probably very young when their parents died, and their wardship and marriage appear to have been allotted to the Countess of Norfolk. When we next hear of them—in 1323—they were both married, Denise to John de Watevil and Alice to John de Langley.⁵ On 15 May 1324 an order was issued for the partition of certain lands in Paylington (Warwickshire) which belonged to the Herdebergs, and John de Langley is named as Alice's husband. He evidently died soon afterwards as on 8 November of the same year an amending order was issued allotting the moiety of the Paylington property to "John son of John de Peyto, who has now married Alice."⁶ By 1326 Alice had lost her elder sister as in that year John de Watevil transferred to John and Alice de Peyto and the heirs of Alice a moiety of the manor of Prilleston and the advowson of Prilleston Church, reserving to himself an annuity of 21 silver marks.⁶ In the same year the Herdeberg manor in Harborough, and other Warwickshire properties, were settled on John and Alice and their heirs.^{7, 8}

In 1330 the Herdeberg connexion with Overstrand came to an end:

*Feet of Fines, Norfolk.*⁹ This is the final concord made in the court of the lord King at Westminster on the day of Holy Trinity in 15 days in the 4th year of the reign of King Edward the third after the Conquest [June 1330]. . . .

Between Alan son of Geoffrey of Shypedene, appellant, and John de Peyto and Alice his wife, deforciant, concerning six marks of rent with appurtenances in Overstronde and the advowson of the church of the said vill. Whereupon a plea was summoned between them in the said court.

To wit, that the aforesaid John & Alice acknowledge the aforesaid advowson and the aforesaid rent together with *the homage and whole service of Roger de Reymes and his heirs for the whole tenement which he held of the aforesaid John and Alice in the aforesaid vill* to be the right of the said Alan . . . to have and to hold to the said Alan and his heirs of the chief lord of the fee by the services due and accustomed. And moreover the said John and Alice have conceded for themselves and the heirs of the said Alice that they will warrant to the aforesaid Alan and his heirs the aforesaid advowson and rent with appurtenances against all men for ever.

And for this acknowledgement, warranty, fine and concord the said Alan has given to the aforesaid John and Alice 100 silver marks. And this agreement was made, *the aforesaid Roger being present and agreeing to it, and he did fealty to the said Alan in the said court.*

¹ *Warwickshire Feet of Fines* (Dugdale Soc.), 1284 to 1345. Also see Lipscombe, *Buckinghamshire*, II, 494.

² *Feudal Aids*, 1303. Walter de Opton and John de Helles each hold a quarter fee in Messing.

³ Blomefield, *Norfolk*, V, 319.

⁴ *Cal. Inquisitions*, VI, 218.

⁵ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 17 Edward II, and *Cal. Inquisitions*, VI, 218. Dugdale identifies this John de Langley with a Sir John de Langley who had inherited from Geoffrey de Langley a rent-charge derived from Harborough and the advowson of Harborough Church, and whose wife was named Ela. In October 1324 Sir John de Langley settled land in Gloucestershire on himself and Ela his wife, with remainder to Geoffrey their son and Mary his wife (Fine dated Mens. Mich. 18 Edward II and quoted in Dugdale, *Warwickshire*, I, 211 note) and so could hardly be the same person as the John de Langley whose widow Alice, aged about twenty-two, was in November 1324 the wife of John de Peyto.

⁶ *Feet of Fines, Norfolk*, C.P. 25 (1), 164/143, no. 1063.

⁷ *Feet of Fines, Warwick*, C.P. 25 (1), 246/47, no. 26.

⁸ Mr. Rye's manuscript collections (no. 29) in the Norwich Central Library include an abstract of a Norfolk fine, dated 1329/30, by virtue of which John du Lee and William de Langdon (?), no doubt as trustees, conveyed the manor of Overstrand, a moiety of the manor of Prilleston, and the advowsons of Overstrand and Prilleston to John son of John de Peyto and Alice his wife. I have, unfortunately, been unable to trace this document in the Public Record Office.

⁹ *Feet of Fines, Norfolk*, C.P. 25 (1), 164/146, no. 120

Alan son of Geoffrey appeared to be secure in his possession of Overstrand, but a few years later the transaction was challenged on the grounds that John and Alice had no right to sell the property without the King's licence. The King's officers took possession and an inquiry was ordered.¹ The jurors assembled at Norwich on 9 February 1337 and declared on their oath "that the 6 marks of rent with the appurtenances in Overstrand and the advowson of the church of that vill . . . are not held of the lord the King in chief, *but are held of Elizabeth de Burgo*² as of her manor of Clare by the service of one gillyflower for all services". The King's officers accepted the verdict, and a writ to the escheator dated 8 March 1337 ordered him to restore the property to Alan.³

Alice de Peyto died in 1339⁴ when under forty years of age, leaving no children to succeed to her inheritance. Poor lady: we can only see her dimly through the mists of the centuries, but it is clear that her life cannot have been a very happy one. Perhaps it is permissible occasionally to allow imagination to embellish the sparse details of the records, and we can picture Denise and Alice, their parents dead, spending their childhood in one of the grim Bigod castles.⁵ Probably married as a child, Alice was a widow at twenty-two, and within a few months was given or sold to a second husband. Then, a year or two later, Denise died, and she was left without brother or sister. And it must have been a grievous disappointment that she had no child to inherit the Herdeberg estates.

John de Peyto married again,⁶ and became a person of some importance, being appointed in 1340 sheriff of the counties of Warwick and Leicester, and escheator for five counties.⁷ He had sold his Overstrand property, and Blomefield tells us, without giving his evidence, that in 1338 he joined with others in conveying the Prilleston manor to Sir Walter de Hopton,⁸ a son of the Walter de Hopton who married Ela de Herdeberg.⁹

III

OVERSTRAND AND THE REYMES FAMILY

In 1086 Overstrand was held by Berner the Arblastar, a minor tenant-in-chief, who was lord of ten properties in Norfolk, with a total value of about £17 a year. Twenty years previously it had been in the possession of his Saxon predecessor, Eschet, and during the intervening period there had apparently been few changes. In 1086 there were still 5 sokemen, 6 villeins, 18 bordars, and 2 serfs, representing a total population of probably between 120 and 150 men, women, and children. There was still one mill in the vill, and the peasants had the same number of ploughs—three—as in 1066. Berner, however, had

¹ See App. C.

² One of the coheiresses of the great Clare estates and the foundress of Clare College, Cambridge.

³ *Cal. Close Rolls*.

⁴ She was living in February 1339, when a moiety of the manor of Willey was settled on her husband, herself and their heirs (*Warwickshire Fines*, Dugdale Soc.). She was evidently dead in October 1339, when the 1326 settlement of Harborough, etc., was remade so that the property was held by John de Peyto for life, and then went to Sir Walter de Hopton and Joan his wife, Alice not being mentioned (*Warwick Fines*, C.P. 25 (1), 246/53, no. 1).

⁵ See page 24.

⁶ *Cal. Fine Rolls*.

⁷ *Ancient Deeds*, P.R.O., A. 4495 (dated 1344).

⁸ Blomefield, *Norfolk*, V, 319. Sir Walter de Hopton presented to Prilleston Church in 1339.

⁹ For the Hopton and Botiller families, who were connected by marriage, see Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*. Also see *Ancient Deeds*, P.R.O., A. 5566, A. 5569.

evidently ceased to cultivate some of the demesne land, as he only had one plough compared with the two owned by Eschet. The value of the manor in 1086 was 40s. a year, and its dimensions were 7 furlongs in length and 4 in breadth; perhaps, therefore, we may estimate its area as about 300 of our modern acres.¹

In his day Berner was, no doubt, a man of some note in Norfolk, providing the King, we may conjecture, with four or five knights in time of war. Beyond this brief reference in *Domesday Book*, however, we know nothing of him—from whence he came, where he lived, when he died, and to whom his lands descended. He makes this one appearance on the page of history and then vanishes. Of Overstrand we hear nothing further for a century and a half, but by the end of that period it had apparently passed to the great house of Clare, and was held under the Clares by the Herdebergs, with a branch of the Reymes family as sub-tenants of the Herdebergs.

Blomefield states, without giving his authority, that Richer de Rémes, in 1249, sold land in Prilleston which had formerly belonged to the Roger de Rames of 1086. If we accept this statement, we have evidence of a definite connection between the Overstrand family and the parent stock, although the precise nature of that connection cannot now be ascertained. We also do not know when they settled at Overstrand, but they were evidently there at the beginning of the thirteenth century, as in 1207 Hugh de Reimes is named as one of the jurors who failed to appear in a case concerning land at Felbrig,² and in 1210 he was accused with several others of having dispossessed Nicholas de Repps of a tenement in North Repps.³ Both of these villages adjoin Overstrand.

In 1231 we have more definite evidence as in that year there appears the first reference to the dispute that was not finally settled till 1250. In 1231 Adam de Rattlesden and Agnes his wife challenged the tenure by Hugh de Reymes and Alice his mother of a quarter of a knight's fee in Overstrand and Northrepps, and sued them for possession.⁴ The case was not settled. Adam de Rattlesden died. Hugh de Reymes died and was succeeded by Roger de Reymes. Roger died and was succeeded by Richer de Reymes,⁵ and in 1250 Agnes, widow of Adam de Rattlesden, renewed her claim.

The case was tried in January 1250,⁶ and the proceedings were recorded as follows:

Agnes de Rathbeye [Rattlesden⁷] demands the aforesaid 4th part [in Overstrand and Northrepps] against Richer de Reymes. She says that in the time of King Henry, grandfather of the present King, a certain Ralph her ancestor was seised in his lordship, as of fee and right, of the said 4th part. And from the said Ralph the right to that land descended to a certain Roger as his son and heir. And from the said Roger to Ralph as his son and heir. And from the said Ralph to William as his son and heir. From the said William, because he died without direct heirs, it descended to a certain Maud and to the aforesaid Agnes as sisters and heirs. And because the said Maud died without direct heirs, the whole right to the said land descended to the aforesaid Agnes as sister and heir.⁸

¹ App. A.

² *Cal. Curia Regis Rolls*, vol. V.

³ *Cal. Close Rolls*.

⁴ *Assize Roll*, 560, 34 Henry III, m. 20, dorso.

⁵ Agnes's name is spelt Ratlesden in other entries about this case on membranes 5 and 13 of the same roll.

⁶ Blomefield (VIII, 143) assumes that the surname of Agnes's ancestors was Reymes, and Rye (*Norfolk Families* p. 730 note) supports this assumption. It may be so, but I have seen no evidence to support the theory.

⁷ *ibid.*, vol. VI.

⁸ See Pedigree 3.

And Richer came and called to warrant Roger de Herleberge, who came and denied the right of the said Agnes and the seisin' of the aforesaid Ralph and everything, etc. And this he offers to maintain by the body of his freeman, John of Leicester (Leyc.).

And Agnes said that the aforesaid Roger unjustly denies her right, because she says that Ralph her ancestor was seised of the said land in the time of Henry I [sic] and this she offers to prove by the body of her freeman, Simon son of Hugh.

And it is agreed that there shall be a combat between them, and that the aforesaid John shall give pledges of denial, and the aforesaid Simon of proof. Afterwards the combat was fought between them. And they are agreed. And Roger gave 5 marks for license to agree by the pledges of the said Agnes.

It is apparent that John of Leicester was defeated in the combat, as a few months later Roger de Herdeberg paid Agnes de Rattlesden the considerable sum of 80 silver marks for an acknowledgement that the property belonged to him. This transaction was recorded in a fine in the following terms¹:

This is the final concord made in the court of the lord King at Norwich three weeks of the day of St. Michael the 34th year of the reign of King Henry son of King John [20 October 1250]. . . .

Between Agnes de Rattlesdene, demandant, and Roger de Herleberge, whom Rycher de Reymes called to warrant, and who warranted him of the 4th part of the fee of one knight and appurtenances in Overstronde and Northreppes, and concerning which an armed battle was waged and fought (percussum) between them in the said court: to wit, that the aforesaid Alice remitted and quitclaimed for herself and her heirs to the aforesaid Roger and his heirs the whole right and claim which she had in the aforesaid 4th part of the said fee with its appurtenances for ever. And for this thing, quitclaim, fine and concord, the said Roger has given to the said Agnes eighty silver marks.

And so at last this long-continued suit was settled, and the Reymes family established in the possession of their property in Overstrand and Northrepps.

Until the close of the fourteenth century there is not sufficient material available to make possible the construction of biographies of individual members of the family. I have therefore collected together in this section a number of extracts from records which support or amplify the pedigree.

1285/6. [The jury] find that Hugh de Reymes claims wreck and free warren in Overstrand.² 1305. This is the final concord made in the court of the lord King at Westminster in the Octave of St. Michael in the 33rd year of the reign of King Edward son of King Henry. . .

Between Roger de Reymes and Alice his wife, plaintiffs, and John Warin, parson of the church of Sloye, defendant, concerning a moiety of the manor of Overstrand with appurtenances; in respect of which a plea was summoned between them in the said court. To wit, that the said Roger admits the aforesaid moiety with appurtenances to be the right of the said John, which John had of the gift of the aforesaid Roger, and for this recognition, etc., the said John has given to the aforesaid Roger the aforesaid moiety with appurtenances . . . to have and to hold to the aforesaid Roger and Alice and the heirs of the said Roger of the chief lord of that fee.³

1345. Geoffrey son of Alan presents to Overstrand church Richard of Shippeden on the death of John Reymes.⁴

1355. John son of John Reymes presents to Overstrand church.⁴

¹ *Fees of Fines*, Norfolk, C.P. 25 (1), 157/73, no. 1000.

² *Rye, North Erpingham*, p. 230.

³ *Norfolk Fines*, C.P. 25 (1), 161/121, no. 1002.

⁴ *Rye, North Erpingham*, p. 622. Evidently between 1345 and 1355 the Reymes family had acquired the advowson, which remained in the family till after 1670. Probably at the same time they bought the other moiety of the manor.

1359. Margaret de Honyngge, John de Reymes the elder, and William Lomb of Honyngge, chaplain, quitclaim to "Franconus" de Honyngge his heirs and assigns all their right in 2½ acres of arable land lying in two pieces in the field of Honyngge.¹ (Seal.)
1367. John Raymys, chevaler, Henry vicar of the church of Tunstead, and Franc de Honyng are trustees for John Groos, knight, in a settlement of the manor and church of Sloley.²
1370. Aug. 6th. Letters of protection issued to John Erpingham and John Reymes, knights, about to set out for parts beyond the seas.³
1374. Oct. 25th. Protection for those going across seas with Edmund, Earl of Kent — John de Reymes, knight.⁴
1379. June 24th. Grant by John de Reymes, knight, and others to Agnes widow of Thomas de Felmyngham of the latter's lands in Thurgerton, etc., . . . to hold for her life, with remainder to Thomas, Nicholas and Edmund, sons of the said Thomas and Alice, in tail. (Seal.)⁵
1380. June 20th. Letters of protection to Thomas Gerberge and John Reymes, knights and Robert Farnham, esquire, about to set out for parts beyond the seas.³
1381. May 17th. Letters of protection [as above] to John Raymes, knight.³

In 1381 the rising of the peasants took place, and during the second half of July Norwich was in the hands of the rebels, who sent out raiding parties to collect and burn manorial records. Overstrand Hall was apparently one of the houses raided, and the following extract from the De Banco Rolls probably relates to the action taken by the owner when he returned home from service abroad: 1382. John Reymes, chivaler, by his attorney, against John Grene of Thorpmarket, Walter Souter of the same, Robert Jobell of the same, and Adam Wylyet of Shipden, in a plea of breaking with force and arms into the close and houses of John Reymes at Oustronde and burning deeds, writings, rolls, rentals and other muniments there found, to John's damage of 40 marks . . .⁶

- 1383 (?). Sir John Reymes and Sir Roger Reymes his son deceased in Overstrand.⁷ and ⁸
1383. John son of John de Reymes, knight . . . offered himself . . . against Richer de Depham, citizen of Norwich, and John son of Richer de Depham in a plea that either of them should repay him twenty pounds. . . .⁹
1384. May 4th. Administration of the goods of Sir John Reymes of Overstrand and of Sir Roger Reymes his son, knights, granted to Bartholomew Reymes of the same place.⁷
1386. Saloman Salman, citizen and mercer of London . . . offered himself . . . against Cristiana Remes, John Remes and Thomas Blyclyng, administrators of the goods and chattels which belonged to Roger Remes, esquire, son and heir of John Remes, knight, of County Norfolk, who died intestate, as it is said, in a plea that they should repay him ten pounds and eight shillings. . . .¹⁰
1387. Cristiana, who was wife of John Reymes, knight, . . . offered herself against William Fulsum, chaplain, in a plea that with force and arms he assaulted Alice Dagege, servant of the same Cristiana, at Crowemere, and struck, wounded and ill-treated her, by which the same Cristiana lost the service of her aforesaid servant for a long time, and other enormities, etc., to the damage of the same Cristiana of ten pounds and against the peace. . . .¹¹

¹ B.M. Add. Ch. 14710. John de Reymes's seal is reproduced on Plate I.

² *Close Roll*, 1 Edward IV, m. 16 dorso.

³ *Cat. des Rolles Gascons, Normans et Francois*, T. Carte.

⁴ B.M. Add. Ch. 45468. Also see Add. Ch. 45463, 45464, 45466, 45467. Also note on John de Reymes's seal,

⁴ Rymer, *Foedera*, p. 1012.

⁵ *De Banco Roll*, 487, m. 611, Mich. 6 Rich. II.

App. H.

⁷ *Extracts from Reg. Haydon, Norwich Registry*, transcribed by Norris. It will be observed that the clerk who entered up the register describes Roger as a knight, whereas in 1386 he is described as an esquire (see above). Knighthood in those days was not an honour, but was a status depending mainly on the extent of the family estate: and the size of the Reymes estate makes it unlikely that the son would be a knight during his father's lifetime.

⁸ This entry is undated. On 20 January 1383 Symon Blicling, citizen of Norwich, presented to Overstrand Church, and this probably indicates that John and Roger were then dead.

⁹ *De Banco Roll*, 491, m. 466 verso, Mich. 7 Rich. II.

¹⁰ *De Banco Roll*, 503, m. 460, Mich. 10 Rich. II.

¹¹ *De Banco Roll*, 507, m. 147 verso, Mich. 11 Rich. II.

IV

JOHN REYMES OF OVERSTRAND, 1367-1411

Through the death of his father and elder brother about 1383, John Reymes succeeded to the family property, being then about seventeen years of age. In 1385 he served under Sir Hugh Hastings¹ of Elsing in the invasion of Scotland led by Richard II in person. It was an inglorious campaign, as the Scots retreated without fighting and the English army had to content itself with burning Edinburgh and various villages and monasteries. Among the young nobles in the army was John of Gaunt's son, Henry of Lancaster, Earl of Derby: he was a year older than John Reymes, and it is not unlikely that on that occasion began the connexion with the House of Lancaster which so greatly affected John's career. Another campaign followed, this time with John of Gaunt to prosecute his claim to the throne of Castile, John Reymes again serving with Sir Hugh Hastings.¹ The small army sailed from Plymouth in July 1386², and in October of the same year letters of protection for one year were issued to John "qui in Obsequio Regis in comitiva, carrissimi Patruī Regis, Johannis Regis Castellae et Legionis, Ducis Lancastriae, in partibus Hispaniae moratur".³

Ten years elapse before we hear of John Reymes again, and then, in 1396, he was in England buying, in conjunction with Oliver Groos and John Boys, the manor of Bryans in Felmyngham, and reselling it to Richard de Walsham and others.⁴ In 1398 he was at Erpingham with other Norfolk knights and squires witnessing a settlement of his estates by Sir Thomas Erpingham,⁵ with whom he had served in Spain, and who was already a soldier of great reputation.

During the same year he had to deal at Overstrand with a problem created by the irruption of the sea, which had encroached on the land to such an extent that the church had collapsed, or was about to collapse, into the sea.⁶ He made an application to the King for permission to give half an acre of land on which to build a new church, and in October 1398 an inquisition was held, the jurors certifying that the alienation of the land would not be to the King's injury.⁷ But before further steps could be taken, great events intervened.

In 1398 Henry of Lancaster, now Duke of Hereford, was banished and went to France. In February 1399 John of Gaunt died and King Richard seized his estates, Hereford thereby being deprived of his patrimony. Realizing that his cousin would make an attempt to recover his inheritance, Richard's obvious policy was to remain in England and to strengthen his position in every possible way. But he was guilty of the folly of leaving the country in May 1399 on a punitive expedition against the Irish chiefs. John Reymes accompanied the army, being granted letters of protection for one year "going to Ireland in the company of the King".⁸ The army landed at Waterford, and June was occupied in fruitless marches among the Leinster mountains, the Irish refusing to fight

¹ See page 32 and App. D.

² Sir Hugh Hastings gave evidence in the Scrope and Grosvenor heraldic trial in June 1386 while with the army preparing to embark. He died in Spain, probably in the autumn of 1387, when half of Lancaster's knights are said to have died of a pestilence (Longman, *Political History*, IV, 118).

³ Rymer, *Foedera*, VII, 548.

⁴ B.M. Add. Ch. 14665.

⁵ *Cal Close Rolls*.

⁶ The original manor house and much of the village would probably be near the church, and it is possible that the re-erection of the church was only part of a much larger building operation.

⁷ App. C.

⁸ Rymer, *Foedera*, VIII, 78: also *Cal. Patent Rolls*.

a battle, and adopting harassing tactics with frequent night attacks. Tired, hungry, and dispirited, the army turned towards Dublin, which was reached at the beginning of July.

In the meantime, on 4 July, Henry of Lancaster had landed on the Yorkshire coast with a few followers. Joined by the Percies and Nevilles, his army rapidly increased in strength as he marched southwards. Richard's army landed at Milford Haven towards the end of the month, but dispersed when the King deserted his followers and sought refuge among the castles of North Wales. It was then, probably, that John Reymes joined Lancaster, as even before the end of September Henry had bestowed on him an annuity of £10 for his life.¹ On 30 September the two houses of Parliament accepted Richard's deed of abdication and chose Henry as king in his place. After the coronation lavish rewards were distributed by the new king. The great men received titles and estates, and the knights and squires were rewarded according to their condition. John Reymes was taken into the King's service as one of his esquires with an addition of £20 to his annuity,² and was granted the wardship of the lands of Robert Heath,³ whose heir, Thomas Heath, he married to his daughter Margaret. A year later he was granted three pipes of wine yearly.⁴

John was now able to return to the task of rebuilding Overstrand Church. On 1 October 1399 the licence permitting him to alienate the half-acre of land was issued,⁵ and the building probably began forthwith. Except for the new north aisle, transept and roof, the general appearance of the church in the early years of the fifteenth century was probably much the same as that of the present church as restored in 1914. There is, however, one great difference—the stained glass which once filled the windows has all disappeared. Fortunately Robert Kemp visited the church in the sixteenth century, and it is opportune at this point to quote his description of the glass:⁶

In the chauncell windowe:—

REYMES. Reymes in his coat armour verie faire kneelinge, his belte by his syde his gylte spurres. Sable a chevron inter iij Lyons ramp^t argent.

CALTHORPE AND HASTINGES. Checke or et azur a fesse ermen whiche sydethe or a manche goulis and quarterethe goulis a bend argent. Theirre coate is in the chauncell windowe.

REYMES AND WINTER. Over the pewe on the northe syde of ye church:—sable a chevron into 3 Lyons ramp^t argent which sydethe checke or et sable a fesse argent.

REYMES. Reymes in his coat verie auntiente his timber and creste a plume of fethers oute of a crowne of goulde.

HEATHE AND REYMES. Argent iij gunne stones sydethe sable a chev. inter iij Lyons argent.

FELBRIGGE. Or a Lyon saliant goulis.

LE GROOS. Argent et azur q'terlie on a bend sable 3 m'les or.

FOLIOTT. Goulis a bend argent.

MAUTEBIE. Azur a crosse goulde.

BARNEY. Goulis et azur p't pale a crosse engr' ermen.

WINTER AND HEDERSETT. Checke or et sable a fesse argent sydethe azur a leopard goulde.

¹ *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 3 Henry IV, Pt. 1.

² On 24 November 1399, the payment to be calculated as from 29 September 1399—*Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1 Henry IV, and *Patent Roll*, 3 Henry IV.

³ *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 15 November 1399.

⁴ *ibid.*, 29 October 1400.

⁵ *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1 Henry IV.

⁶ From the transcript in Rye, *North Erpingham*, pp. 5 and 6.

ERPINGHAM. CLOPTON. Arpingham in his coate armore on the southe syde of the churche his timber and creste a plume of fethers argent oute of a crowne goulis.

PELHAM. Johannes Pelham miles fecit fenestra' ib'm. Part azur 3 pellycans argent his creste a peacocke in his colours p'per very faire to beholde.¹

During the first four years of Henry's reign there was constant fighting. Scotland was invaded, and there were four campaigns in Wales, all led by the King in person. In July 1403, there was fought the Battle of Shrewsbury, when Harry Hotspur was defeated and slain. As an esquire in the King's pay, and with experience of campaigning, it may be assumed that John Reymes was with the army on some of these occasions. The only records readily available, however, reveal him as engaged in county business of one sort or another.² In 1402 rumours were prevalent that King Richard was still alive, and there was unrest in many parts of the country. There were disturbances in Norfolk, and John Reymes was one of the Commissioners appointed to restore order. In the same year he was made Constable of the Castle of Norwich "with the wages, fees, and commodities belonging to the same, receiving £20 yearly from the issues from the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk".² In 1403 he was granted a licence to have a portable altar,³ and this may possibly be taken as an indication that he had added a domestic chapel to his manor house.

In 1404 he and his brother-in-law, John Wynter, represented Norfolk as knights of the shire in the parliament which opened at Westminster in January of that year. They were absent from home for seventy-three days, each of them receiving payment at the rate of 4s. for each day.⁴ As Constable of Norwich Castle, John Reymes was responsible for the safe custody of persons there imprisoned, and in 1404 four of his prisoners escaped. He was, however, pardoned for this misdemeanour, and the following appears in the Patent Rolls:

Pardon in consideration of the good service of the King's esquire, John Reymes, constable of the castle of Norwich, of the escapes from his custody and from the gaol of the castle, of Adam Hert, lately dwelling in Weneton, John Preston, taken with booty, Robert Englys alias Fauconer and John Talyour of the county of Chester, lately taken for felony and suspicion of felony, and of the £20 pertaining to the King on that account.⁵

John spent a great part of 1406 in London, being one of the knights of the shire in the parliament that sat from 1 March to 22 December, with vacations at Easter and Midsummer. His companion on this occasion was Sir Edmund Neoun,⁶ who had been with him in the Irish expedition of 1399.⁷ They each received pay for 177 days.⁸ In 1407 he prosecuted one Simon Rawe of Runton, whom he accused of having gone to Roughton and of having mown a stretch of heath that belonged to the Reymes family, and of having taken away the heath that was mown.⁹

In July 1408 John Reymes gave evidence in the famous dispute between Reginald Lord Grey de Ruthyn and Sir Edward Hastings for the right to bear the arms of Hastings.¹⁰ It was an interesting occasion. The depositions were

¹ I have been unable to find any explanation of the insertion of this window by a knight who was presumably a member of the well-known Sussex family.

² See *Cal. Patent Rolls*.

⁴ *Cal. Close Rolls*.

⁶ Noion or Noone, Rye, *Norfolk Families*, p. 605.

⁸ *Cal. Close Rolls*.

¹⁰ College of Arms MS. *Processus in Curia Marescalli*, I, 429-45. See App. D.

³ *Papal Letters*, V, 567.

⁵ *Cal. Patent Rolls*.

⁷ Letters of Protection, see Rymer, *Foedera*, vol. VIII.

⁹ *De Banco Roll*, 586, m. 321 d. Norfolk, Trinity 8 Henry IV.

taken down in the church of North Walsham, and among those who gave their evidence on the same day were Thomas Lord Morley, Sir Thomas Erpyngham, Sir Miles de Stapleton and Sir Symond Felbrygge. The record of John Reymes's evidence, translated, reads as follows:

On the same day [30 July 1408], the year and place aforesaid, by the said commissioners and examiners, in the presence of the said associate, John Reymes Esquire of the County of Norfolk . . . , of the age of xli years. . . . Says that he himself was a soldier with the father of the said Sir Edward . . . in the Scottish expedition made by King Richard who last died, and he there saw the said father of the said Sir Edward bear the said arms, that is to say *dor oue une manche de goules, oue la labelle de troys poyns dargent* in the manner customary for a next heir . . . on banner and coat of arms.

And also said this Esquire that he was a soldier with the said father of the said Sir Edward in the expedition made by the most noble Prince the Duke of Lancaster into Spain, and, says this Esquire, that he believes and truly supposes that the said father of the said Sir Edward bore on banner and coat of arms the said arms of Hastings, that is to say *dor oue une manche de goules sans labelle* during the whole of the said campaign until his death.

And also, says this Esquire, he had heard the said father of the said Sir Edward say several times that if the Earl of Pembroke died without begetting an heir of his body he would be his next heir of the lands and lordship of Hastings, and would obtain by the said arms of Hastings 800 or 900 marks of land a year. . . .

While Constable of the Castle, John Reymes probably spent much of his time in residence at Norwich, and the records of the City Treasurer in 1408/9 throw some light on his social and other activities in the city. One entry in the accounts is a charge of £4. 9s. 0½*d.* "for a supper made for the Justices of Assize, the Sheriff of Norfolk, the Constable of the Castle of Norwich, and other worthies both of the city and the country". In the same year a fee of 20s. was paid to Sir Robert Berney "for having his counsel against the Abbot of Bury and the Constable of the castle of Norwich", and another entry records the payment of 30s. "for a piece of worsted containing 8 ells, given to John Reymes, Constable of the Castle".¹ It was no doubt while he was serving as Constable that John Reymes married his daughter Christian to William "Ampulford" of Norwich, who, one may conjecture, was a relative of the famous William Appleyard, who was Mayor of Norwich in 1403, 1405, and 1406, and whose flint-faced house still stands near St. Andrew's Church.

In April 1409 John Reymes was at his brother-in-law's house at Town Barningham acting as a witness to John Wynter's settlement of his estates.² It was a gathering of unusual interest. Among the company were Sir Thomas Erpingham and Sir Simon Felbrig, both knights of the Garter. Oliver Groos was also there, and all three of them were destined to fight at Agincourt.³ One can picture the scene at the old manor house at Barningham: the Wynter children gazing in wonder as their mother welcomed the famous knights; the bustle in the stables as the horses were groomed and fed; the crowd of servants in the kitchen and the buttery. One can see in imagination the hall when dinner was served, and can almost hear the stories of great campaigns which were told as the wine went round at the lord's table—one may perhaps guess that

¹ Hudson and Tingey, *Records of the City of Norwich*, vol. II.

² *Cal. Close Rolls*.

³ Nicolas, *Battle of Agincourt*. The arms of Wynter, Erpingham, Felbrig and Groos were all among those emblazoned in the windows of Overstrand Church.



COLONEL BULLEN REYMES
[1614-1672]



JOHN REYMES OF NORWICH
[1714-94]



ALICE WIFE OF JOHN REYMES OF NORWICH
[1728-1795]

John Reymes was able to play his part with tales of war in Scotland, Spain, and Ireland.

John Reymes did not fight at Agincourt. In January 1411 there was a second escape of prisoners from Norwich Castle,¹ and on 2 March he died,² being then only about forty-four years of age. He was buried in Overstrand Church under a large stone bearing the effigies of himself and his wife in brass. Only the stone now remains, but Anthony Norris, who visited Overstrand between 1730 and 1733, has left the following description³:

Just out of the Chancel is a large stone with the portraits of a man in armour, and a lady by his side; there have been 4 shields of arms, but the woman's side of the 2nd shield is all that remains. Round the stone on a fillet of brass was the inscription, which is now broken and imperfect; what remains is as follows:—". . . *Reymes quondam armiger domini Regis henrici quarti post conquestum et Margarete quondam uxoris ejusdem Johis obiit scdo die mensis marci anno dni millessimo quadringentesimo. . .*"

John Reymes played a useful part in local affairs in Norfolk. His tombstone has been mutilated and no longer bears his name, but the beautiful little church at Overstrand may be regarded as a memorial of the squire who provided the ground on which it stands, and who, as lord of the manor, was undoubtedly largely concerned with its erection.

V

THE FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CENTURIES

In this section I have again to deal with a period in which there is little information about individual members of the family. The heads of the family did not meddle with state affairs, but stayed at home, managed their estate, and probably farmed some of their land. In Tudor times nearly half the manor had been converted to pasture,⁴ and Francis Reymes was a sheep-farmer on a large scale, owning about a thousand sheep.⁵ Most of them probably had large families, the extent of which, at any rate in the earlier generations, is not revealed in the Visitation pedigrees. The William Reymes, for example, who lived in Edward IV's time, had sixteen children,⁶ but the pedigree made by William Harvey in 1563 only gives him four sons and one daughter. Even in those days the wife of the Robert Reymes who died in 1508 was conspicuous, as she gave Robert three children, and then proceeded to have nineteen by her second husband, Richard Calthorpe.⁷

Two or three of the marriages during this period are interesting. Oliver Reymes of the time of Henry VIII married Rose Knyvett, a grand-daughter of the Lord Berners who is famous as the translator of Froissart's *Chronicle*. Anne Hastings, who married Robert Reymes (1508), was a descendant of the

¹ *Cal. Patent Rolls*. In February 1412, John's executors—William Frere, clerk, Clement Hereward, Robert Madson, clerk, and Thomas Stodhagh—received a pardon for the escape of prisoners. Madson, who was Rector of Overstrand, was dead in 1422, and it appears as if Sir Thomas Erpingham had replaced him as executor, as in that year a new rector was presented by Erpingham, Hereward and Stodhagh.

² See the inscription formerly on his brass (above). His successor as Constable was appointed 8 March 1411 (*Cal. Patent Rolls*).

³ Norris, *Funeral Monuments*, vol. I (Norwich Central Library). The description is followed by a sketch which shows that the coat of arms then remaining was that of Wynter. Robert Kemp, in the sixteenth century, recorded the inscription as "*Joh'es Reymes armiger et Margareta filia Will'm Winter sepulti fuer' in anno sexti Henrici quarti*" (Rye, *North Erpingham*).

⁴ See Fine of 1547, App. M.

⁵ M.I. Brampton Church, see App. F.

⁶ See his will, App. J.

⁷ M.I. Antingham Church, see App. F.

Sir Hugh Hastings under whom John Reymes served in Scotland and Spain in Richard II's reign. William Reymes, who died in 1606, married Mary Payne, whose mother was a Bullen and cousin to Queen Elizabeth.

During the sixteenth century we begin to hear more of the younger sons. They had no aversion to "going into trade". John Reymes, for example, the brother of the Robert Reymes who married Anne Hastings, was a tailor in London, and his occupation did not debar his son from marrying the heiress of a Kentish squire.¹ Barney Reymes, who was born in 1588, settled in Holland as a merchant,² and his son Charles was even more adventurous, as he went to the West Indies and was apparently engaged, on occasion, in the slave trade.³ Francis Reymes, Barney's brother, probably derived satisfaction from being described in his uncle's will as "haberdasher to the Duke of Buckingham".⁴ Clement Reymes in 1621 was apprenticed to "a skynner" in London.⁵

There are occasional references to members of the family in the De Banco Rolls, from which the following extracts have been taken:

1432. Norwich. William Ampilford, citizen of Norwich, . . . offered himself . . . against Roger Reymes of Ouerstrond in co. Norfolk, gentleman, in a plea that he should repay him five marks and eleven shillings.⁶
1439. Norwich. Simon Walsoken . . . offered himself . . . against Hugh Reymys of Oustrond in county Norfolk, gentleman, in a plea that he should repay him 65/-. And against Roger Reymes of Oustrond, esquire, that he should repay him 63/10. . . .⁷
1451. Norfolk. Richard Ippewell of Crowemere, shipman, was attached to answer Roger Reymes in a plea that, with John Rugge of Overstronde, husbandman, John Dorelette of Crowemere, shipman, William Maggys of Crowemere, yeoman, William Knyght of the same, yeoman, Nicholas Andrewes of the same, spicer, and Simon Turpyn of the same, shipman, they with force and arms broke into his close at Overstronde and took 200 conies, worth 50/-, of his goods and chattels to his damage, &c.
- The said Roger, by his attorney Robert Brampton, complains that Richard and the others on Wednesday before the feast of St. Agnes the Virgin, the 29th year of the present King [January 1451], with swords, staves and knives, broke into his close as aforesaid and took the said conies, one boat, two barrels of beer, and 200 "clapholds",⁸ to his damage of £20.⁹
1451. Norfolk. Roger Reymes, by his attorney, against William atte Wode of Sidestrond, yeoman, and John Seman of same, yeoman, in a plea that they with force and arms did mischief to the said Roger to the value of 40/- at Sidestrond. To be distrained.¹⁰
1467. Norwich. William Reymes, Simon Gunore and Hugh Reymes, executors of the will of Roger Reymes, esquire, by their attorney, against John Ferrour, late of Gressenhale, Co. Norfolk, yeoman, in a plea of debt.¹¹
1467. Norfolk. William Reymes, by his attorney, against William Starlyng of Northreppes, husbandman, in a plea of assault on John Dunne, servant of the said William Reymes at Overstrond, and he so wounded and ill-treated him that for a long time the said William Reymes was deprived of his services.¹²

¹ See Pedigree 5.

² See Pedigree 10.

³ Thurloe, *State Papers*, III, 754. Also see V. L. Oliver, *Notes on the Ward Family* (Soc. of Genealogists). Later he was colonel in command of the troops in the island of St. Christopher, but came under criticism on the grounds that, when face to face with the French, he showed reluctance to take his men into action (*Cal. State Papers, Colonial Series, America and West Indies*, 1661-8).

⁴ Will of Clement Reymes 1627/8, App. J.

⁵ See Pedigree 7.

⁶ *De Banco Roll*, 687, m. 248 verso, Mich. 11, Henry VI.

⁷ *De Banco Roll*, 713, m. 388, Easter, 17 Henry VI.

⁸ This word is given in English, and, according to the *Oxford Dictionary*, it means boards cut to make into casks.

⁹ *De Banco Roll*, 761, m. 237, Easter, 29 Henry VI.

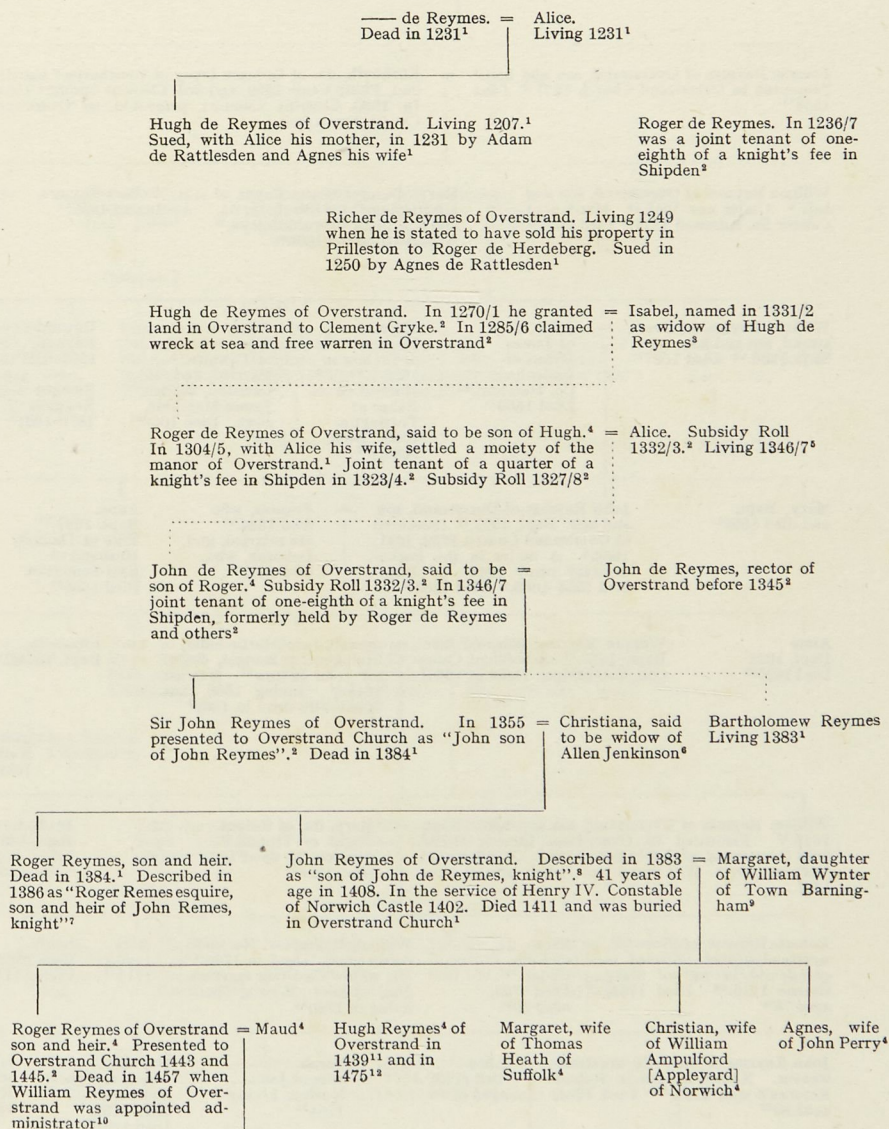
¹⁰ *ibid.*, m. 235.

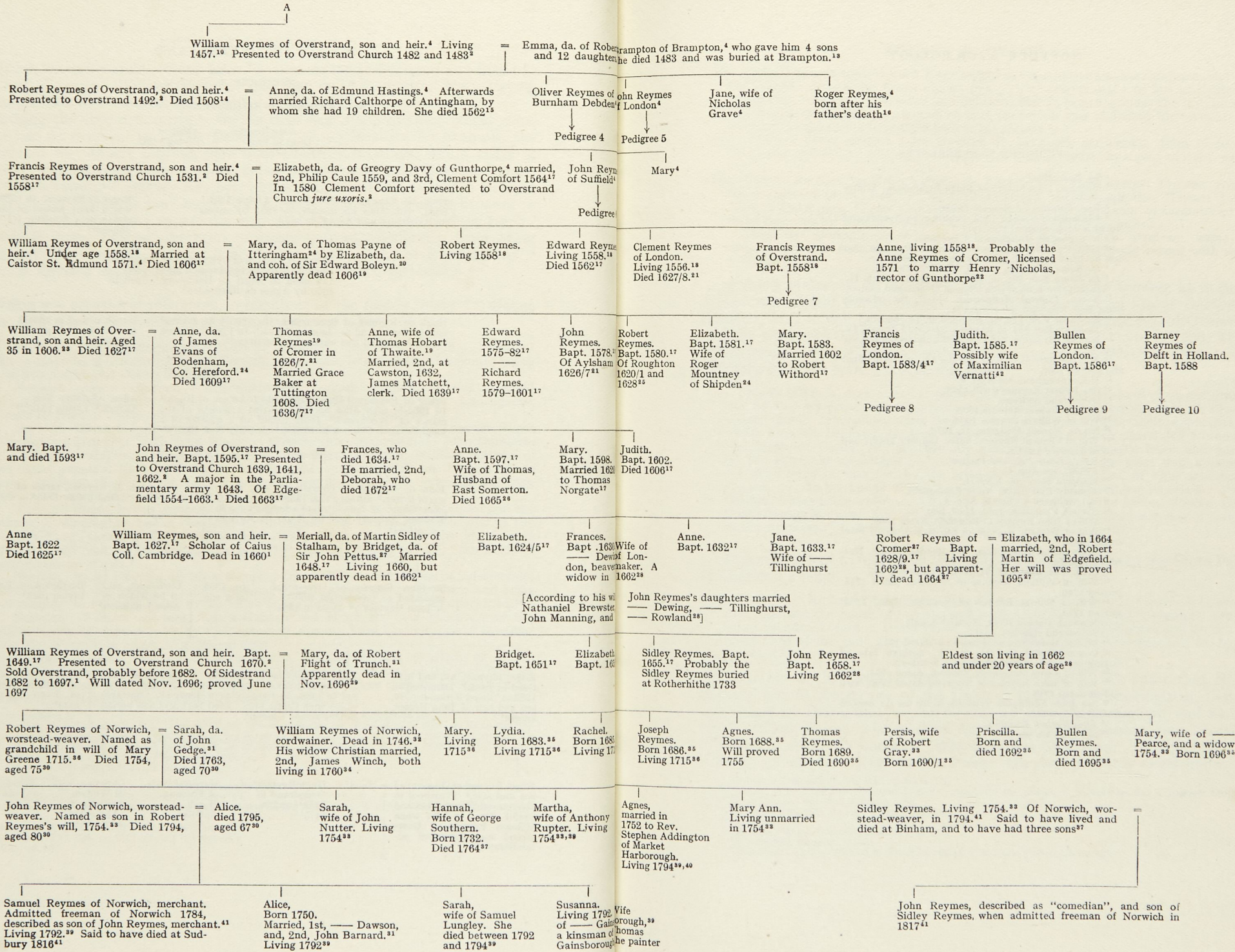
¹¹ *De Banco Roll*, 825, m. 200, Mich. 7 Edward IV.

¹² *ibid.*, m. 281.

PEDIGREE 3

REYMES OF OVERSTRAND





PEDIGREE 3—REFERENCES

- ¹ See Narrative.
- ² Materials for a history of North Erpingham. Walter Rye.
- ³ Rye, *Calendar of Norwich Deeds*.
- ⁴ *Visitation of Norfolk*, 1563, published by Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society.
- ⁵ Rye, *Norfolk Antiquarian Miscellany*.
- ⁶ 1563 *Visitation*. In Norris, *Norfolk Pedigrees*, her first husband's name is given as Anthony Jeckerson.
- ⁷ *De Banco Roll*, 503, m. 460, Mich. 10 Rich. II.
- ⁸ *De Banco Roll*, 491, m. 466 verso, Mich. 7 Rich. II.
- ⁹ Inscription formerly on brass in Overstrand Church.
- ¹⁰ Norris, *Funeral Monuments*, vol. I, the reference being Reg. Brosyard, f.b.a. para b.1.
- ¹¹ *De Banco Roll*, 713, m. 388, Easter, 17 Hen. IV.
- ¹² *De Banco Roll*, 854, m. 92 verso, Easter, 15 Edward IV.
- ¹³ *Norfolk Visitation*, 1563. M.I. Brampton Church, see App. F.
- ¹⁴ M.I. formerly at Overstrand, see App. F. Will dated and proved 1508.
- ¹⁵ M.I. Antingham, see App. F.
- ¹⁶ See Robert Reymes's will 1508.
- ¹⁷ Overstrand registers.
- ¹⁸ Will of Francis Reymes 1558.
- ¹⁹ Will of William Reymes 1606.
- ²⁰ Norris, *Norfolk Pedigrees*, II, 1013.
- ²¹ Will of Clement Reymes, dated January 1626/7 and proved January 1627/8.
- ²² Rye, *Cromer Past and Present*.
- ²³ *I.P.M.*, see App. C.
- ²⁴ Harleian Soc., vol. XXXII.
- ²⁵ Subsidy Rolls; Rye, *North Erpingham*.
- ²⁶ M.I. Winterton Church, App. F.
- ²⁷ *Norfolk Visitation*, 1664, Harl. Soc.
- ²⁸ Will of John Reymes of Edgefield, dated 1662.
- ²⁹ Will of William Reymes of Sidestrand, dated November 1696.
- ³⁰ Monumental Inscription, Old Meeting House, Norwich (App. F).
- ³¹ Crisp, *Fragmenta*, II, 51 (Soc. of Genealogists).
- ³² Will of William Reymes of Norwich, dated 1744, proved 1746.
- ³³ Will of Robert Reymes of Norwich, dated 1754, proved 1754.
- ³⁴ Norwich Docket Book, Norwich Castle.
- ³⁵ Sidestrand registers.
- ³⁶ Will of Mary Greene of Norwich, dated 1715.
- ³⁷ Communicated by Mr. H. W. Sothern late of Orpington, a descendant of Hannah Southern.
- ³⁸ Will of Agnes Reymes of Norwich, dated 1754.
- ³⁹ Will of John Reymes of Norwich, dated 1792, with codicil dated 1794.
- ⁴⁰ See John Addington Symonds in his *On the English Family of Symonds*.
- ⁴¹ Rye, *Norfolk Families*.
- ⁴² See page 40, note 1.

1484. John Thrower against John Engilbryght of Crympelysham, husbandman, and Richard Reymes of the same, husbandman, in a plea of assault made on him at Estderham, where they wounded, ill-treated and detained him in prison against the law, and took and carried away 40/- of his money, and they took and abducted his servant, John Herman, so that for a long time he lost his service.¹
1484. William Gloys against John Reymes of Oxstrond, gentleman, John Noryche of Crowmer and Henry Shepherd of Snyterlee, husbandmen, in a plea of debt, each of 40/-.²
1486. Robert Reymes, by Robert Henryson his attorney, seeks against Thomas, abbot of the monastery of St. Benedict of Hulme, Henry Heydon, esquire, Thomas Jenney, Thomas Brampton, Simon Gunnore and John Holler, the manor of Ouerstrond with appurtenances by writ of the lord King by form of gift in descent &c.
And the aforesaid Abbot &c., by John Bysshop their attorney, came, and they sought that they might have an inspection of the aforesaid manor with appurtenances. . . .³

A deed preserved in the British Museum is of some interest as it throws a faint ray of light on the descent of the property of Alan son of Geoffrey of Shipden, who, it will be remembered, acquired the overlordship of Overstrand and the advowson of the church from John and Alice de Peyto in 1330. It also brings into my story a member of the Reymes family, who is otherwise unknown. The following is a translation of this deed:⁴

Know [all men] present and to come that I, Simon Gunnore, have given and granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed, to Hugh Reymes, clerk, all the messuages, lands, tenements, rents and services in Shipden with their appurtenances, which formerly belonged to Alan son of Geoffrey, and which descended to me after the death of Cecily, my mother, by right of inheritance. To have and to hold all the aforesaid messuages, . . . to the aforesaid Hugh, his heirs and assigns, of the chief lords of that fee, by the services due therefore, and of right accustomed, forever. . . . In testimony of which thing I have appended my seal to this my present charter. These being witnesses—Richard Arnalde, esquire, John James, William Bonde, Bartholomew Multone, Richard Hemnyng and others. Dated the tenth day of January, in the sixth year of the reign of King Edward the fourth. [1467.]

It is convenient to include in this section two extracts from the State Papers of Charles I's reign.

1626. Feb. 7th. Richard Wainwright, John Griffin and John Gray to Secretary Conway—Had searched the house of one Payne by virtue of Lord Conway's warrant, and had found therein Wilford, a Jesuit priest going by the names of Reames and Peters. He being lame of the gout, the Duchess of Buckingham's usher became bail for his appearance.⁵

The interest of this brief extract lies in its mystery. We know that Bullen Reymes was in the service of the Duke or Duchess of Buckingham, that his wife was Mary Petre, that his mother was a Payne of Itteringham, and that his uncle William Payne, who married Anne Reymes of Aylsham, was, according to Norris, a mercer in London.⁶ Who then was this priest? Was his real name Wilford,⁷ or was he a Reymes or a Petre? We shall probably never know.

¹ *De Banco Roll*, 890, m. 69, Mich. 2 Rich. III.

² *ibid.*, m. 201. This John Reymes does not appear in the pedigree; possibly he was a younger brother of the William Reymes who was living in 1483.

³ *De Banco Roll*, 879, m. 120, Trinity, 1 Henry VII.

⁴ *Stowe Ch.*, 205.

⁵ *Cal State Papers, Domestic*, Charles I, I, 249.

⁶ *Rye, Norfolk Families*, p. 631.

⁷ There was a Father Wilford in Rome in 1637/8 (*Cal. State Papers, Domestic*).

The second extract relates to a schoolboy who was in trouble in the difficult days shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War.

1640. June 17th. Examination of Berney Reymes, junior, whose father, a merchant, lives in Gracechurch street, London. He says he is a scholar to Alexander Calendrin who keeps a school in Leather Seller's Hall, and before that in Abchurch Lane. He says that the book now showed him is not his book, but that it is in the hand-writing of his uncle Maximilian Vernatti, who dwells now in Lincolnshire about the drained lands. He has had divers scholar's books in print from his uncle, but never any in manuscript. Being demanded his opinion of the first question in the book, he says he holds that no pretext of religion can be a lawful cause for subjects to take arms against their Prince.¹

VI

COLONEL BULLEN REYMES, 1614-72

To attempt to follow the careers of all the younger sons would make this article unreasonably long, and I have therefore contented myself, except in one case, with including in the appendix pedigrees of the collateral branches. The exception is Bullen Reymes of Waddon in Dorset, who was involved in the troubles of the Great Rebellion, and of whose private papers a large collection has been preserved.

Bullen Reymes was born in 1614,² and was a son of the Bullen Reymes who was born at Overstrand in 1586, and was in the service of the Duke of Buckingham,³ and, after the Duke's assassination in 1628, of the Duchess. Bullen the younger, when seventeen years of age, was sent to Paris in the train of the English ambassador, and then spent three or four years in Italy. In 1635 he bought the manor of West Chelborough in Dorset from his cousin, William Coker, and in 1640 he married another cousin, Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Gerard of Trent in Somerset,⁴ a connexion which brought him an estate at West Waddon, near Portisham, which was valued in 1655 at £140 a year.

In 1643 Bullen was holding a Court appointment as a Gentleman of the King's Privy Chamber and was in attendance on the King at Oxford. On the outbreak of the Civil War, he was sent to join the Royalist army in the west country. Prince Maurice gave him a commission as captain in charge of 100 foot, but in October of the same year he was a colonel. In 1644 he took part in the siege of Lyme Regis,⁵ distinguishing himself by capturing, in command of between 400 and 500 horse and foot, an outlying post at Stidcombe House. The siege was raised in June 1644.⁶ Reymes's career as a soldier ended in April

¹ *Cal State Papers, Domestic*, Charles I, XVI, 315. Berney Reymes was evidently a son of the Barney Reymes who was a merchant in Holland, but who in 1642 was living in London (see Pedigree 10). He may probably be identified with "Barnes Reymes", who graduated as M.A. at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in 1646, being described as "incorporated from Leyden" (*Cambridge Matriculations and Degrees*, 1544-1659). Barney Reymes, senior, refers in his will (see App. J) to his nephew, Nathaniel Reymes Vernatti, which suggests that Maximilian Vernatti had married his sister. For an account of the Vernatti family see *The Herald and Genealogist*, Pt. XXVI, p. 149.

² Except where specific references are given, the statements in this section are from information given me by Miss E. M. Troyte-Bullock, formerly of Zeals House, Wiltshire, whose family possesses the Reymes papers, or have been extracted from articles on Bullen Reymes in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, vols. IV and V.

³ Will of Clement Reymes 1627/8, App. J.

⁴ Thomasin, sister of the Mary Petre who married Bullen Reymes the elder, married Robert Coker of Map-powder (1563-1624), and was mother of William Coker (1598-1656), whose grand-daughter, Anne Coker, was wife of the third Bullen Reymes (1648-95). Anne, daughter of Robert Coker (1563-1624) by his second wife, married Thomas Gerard of Trent.

⁵ George Pley, Bullen Reymes's brother-in-law, was one of the Roundhead leaders in the town.

⁶ A. R. Bayley, *The Civil War in Dorset*, 1642-60.

1646, as he was then in Exeter when the city surrendered to Fairfax. In the same month he received a pass to go to London to compound for his estates, and among his papers there is a draft of a petition that he had drawn up:

Humbly sheweth

That yr petitioner being a sworne servant to his maty in the place of gent. of his prive chamber and being warned to wayte on him at Oxford, did so, till his Majty commande him into the West with the Marqs of Harford, where according to his former profession of a souldier he toke up armes, and there continued till within this yeare and halfe, at which time yor petitioner reformed himselfe, and ever since remayned quietly In Exeter, but in all this time was never violent in the prosecuting the person of any man, or did ever take the goods of any man directly or indirectly to the vallew of a farding. May it therefore please yor honours to admitt him to compownd.

About 1650 Bullen Reymes was associated with Captain William Ellesdon of Lyme Regis in the arrangements for the escape to France of Sir John Berkeley, his old commander in the siege of Exeter,¹ and this may have been the reason for his imprisonment in that year in Taunton Castle.²

In 1651 Prince Charles, after his defeat at Worcester, spent nearly three weeks in hiding at Trent in the house of Colonel Francis Wyndham, who was Reymes's brother-in-law.³ Captain Ellesdon undertook to make arrangements for a ship to take the prince to France, but the plan went wrong, and the prince, with Wyndham and Lord Wilmot, had to spend a night in the inn at Broad Windsor. Wilmot posed as Bullen Reymes, and, in a letter to Lord Clarendon, Ellesdon relates that "the hostess . . . came immediately to welcome Colonel Reymes, whom she said she very well knew at Exeter . . . and how she caressed Lord Wilmot instead of him, I leave your lordship to be better informed from his majestie himself, that to this day hath not forgot it".⁴

After the Restoration, Reymes's fortunes improved. In 1662 he became Member of Parliament for Melcombe Regis, and in the same year he was Vice-Admiral of Dorset. In 1664 he was a Commissioner for the care of sailors wounded or taken ill in the King's service, at a salary of £300 a year. In 1667 he received another Court appointment as Surveyor of the Great Wardrobe, the salary attached to the post being also £300 a year.

Colonel Reymes died in 1672 and was buried at Portisham. His will,⁵ a long and interesting document, reveals him as a man of strong religious views. He was also a person of some culture, leaving behind him a fine library of books, comprising Spanish, Dutch, Italian, French, German, as well as English literature.⁶ In 1667 he was elected a member of the Royal Society. There is a reference to him in *Pepys' Diary* in January 1668:

I to the King's playhouse, to fetch my wife, and there saw the best part of The Maiden Queen, which, the more I see, the more I love. . . . Found my wife and Deb., and saw many fine ladies, and sat by Colonel Reames, who understands and loves a play as well as I, and I love him for it.

¹ A. R. Bayley, *The Civil War in Dorset, 1642-60*, p. 361.

² The order for his release was dated 16 October 1650.

³ Francis Wyndham married Ann Gerard, a sister of Bullen's wife, Elizabeth.

⁴ See Alan Fea, *The Flight of the King and After Worcester Fight*.

⁵ Printed *in extenso* in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, VIII, 276.

⁶ See Sotheby's Sale Catalogue, 1925. Part of the library was given in 1761 to St. John's College, Cambridge, and in 1925 about fifty of the remaining books were sold at Sotheby's for about £4,000.

Colonel Reymes was succeeded by his son Bullen, who married his cousin Ann Coker of Mappowder.¹ He died in 1695 without children, and most of his property eventually went to his widow's second husband, Harry Chafyn of Zeals in Wiltshire. The West Chelborough property, however, was inherited by his nephew Reymes Pley, probably under a settlement.

VII

JOHN REYMES OF OVERSTRAND (1595-1663); WILLIAM REYMES OF SIDESTRAND (1649-97); NORWICH

We now return to Overstrand to follow the fortunes of John Reymes, who succeeded to the family property in 1627 and held it for thirty-six years. His mother had died when he was fourteen years of age, and when his father died in 1627 he was aged thirty-two, being a married man with a baby daughter. In 1630 we see the first sign of financial troubles as he then mortgaged the manor and advowson for £300, advanced by his uncle, Robert Reymes of Roughton, and Edward Pightlyn.² In 1634 he suffered a grievous domestic affliction in the death of his wife, leaving him with six children, the eldest nine years of age, and the youngest only a year old. He married a second wife, and it is possible that the transfer in about 1642 of his son William from a day-school at Cromer to a school at Norwich,³ gives us the approximate date when he went to live at Edgefield, a village about twelve miles from Overstrand.

The Civil War broke out in the autumn of 1642 and John Reymes became an active supporter of the cause of the Parliament. He raised a troop of horse, and was given the rank of major, but I do not know whether he took part in any actual fighting. From 1643 onward he served on numerous committees for the assessment and collection of taxes imposed by Parliament.⁴

The greater part of the population of Norfolk was on the side of the Parliament, and the minority of gentry and clergy who supported the King had in many cases to endure bitter persecution. A Dr. Reeve, rector of Colby and Aldborough, was ejected in August 1643 for dissuading his parishioners from rebellion, and John Reymes was given the task of arresting him. He apparently performed this duty with great harshness, but some allowance should be made for bias on the part of the narrator. At any rate, Dr. Reeve's son gave the following account of his father's usage:

One Major Raims, his neighbour, having raised a troop of horse for the parliament, got a warrant from the committee of sequestration at Norwich to take away Dr. Reeve's cattle and to bring him prisoner to Norwich jayl; which he executed with all the rigour he could, searching in the bed, where his wife had layn-in but three days, for the Doctor; and when the women rebuked him for his barbarity, telling him he acted more like a beast than a man, he drew his sword and stabbed it through the bed in several places, pretending to stab the Doctor if hid in the bed; after that he caused all his troopers to pull the bridles off their horses, and whip them round the garden, to tread all under

¹ See page 40, note 4.

² See App. M. I think that the fine should be interpreted as representing a mortgage transaction and not a sale. It will be observed that Reymes is associated as mortgagor with Robert Waterson and Thomasine his wife—possibly there had been a previous mortgage in favour of the Watersons and the purpose of the 1630 transaction was to repay the money.

³ See page 43, note 2.

⁴ *Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum, 1642-60.*

foot; after that he break open the barn-door and turned all the horses to the sacks of corn to fill their bellies. Some days after, he came with another warrant and brake open the doors with a plough-share, being denied possession, and turned Mrs. Reeve and six children into the street (probably not above a week after lying-in) and brought carts and carried away the library and all the household goods and sold them for what he pleased and gave no account to the committee.¹

William Reymes, John's elder son, was now fourteen years of age, and had for four years been attending a school at Cromer. He was next sent for a year to a school at Norwich, and then for two years he was a pupil at North Walsham, presumably at the Grammar School founded by Sir William Paston forty years previously. He then went to Cambridge, being admitted as a scholar to Gonville and Caius College in the Easter term of 1645.² On 20 September 1648, he was married in Overstrand Church to Meriell Sidley, having just passed his twenty-first birthday.³ The Sidleys were Parliamentarians, but Meriell's mother was a member of the well-known Royalist family of Pettus: it is possible, therefore, that the marriage was not entirely pleasing to William's puritan father. William's children were baptized in Overstrand Church, and he was probably living in the Hall,⁴ his father having transferred to him part of the estate.⁵

Meanwhile John Reymes continued his service on various committees, and in 1650 was appointed one of the commissioners to meet and sit at the castle of Norwich as a High Court of Justice, with power of hanging or beheading, to try persons accused of being concerned in "the late insurrection and rebellion . . . within the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk and places adjacent".⁶ In 1654 he was a commissioner for ejecting "scandalous, ignorant and insufficient ministers and schoolmasters".⁶ In the same year the sheriff's accounts show that he was a magistrate,⁷ and from then onwards his name appears at intervals in the Edgefield Church registers as the justice certifying civil marriages.

In or about the year 1656, William Reymes was involved in a law-suit about his wife's marriage portion. The original agreement was made at Stalham in September 1648 between William Reymes and John Sidley, Meriell's brother. The marriage portion was fixed at £600, of which £300 was to be paid on request after the death of Meriell's father, Martin Sidley, and the remaining £300 within a year of Martin's death. Martin Sidley died at Stalham in March 1652, and William Reymes immediately gave the required notice. In August 1655, however, the money had not been paid, and William thereupon sought the aid of the courts to obtain it.⁸ William was at this time evidently in some financial difficulty, as in 1656 and 1657 we find him raising money by mortgaging his property.⁹

¹ Blomefield, VI, 423, quoting Walker, *Sufferings of the Clergy*, Pt. II, p. 345.

² *Admissions to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge*: "Reymes, Wm; son of John Reymes, gent. 'militum praefectus'. Born at Overstrand, Norfolk. Schools—Cromer four years, Norwich one year and North Walsham two years. Aged 16. Admitted scholar 25 March 1645. Surety Mr. Phillips."

³ His baptism is recorded both in the Overstrand and the Sidestrand registers, in the former on 20 September 1648, and in the latter on 4 October 1648.

⁴ John was living at Edgefield in 1654, and had probably settled there some years previously. Overstrand Hall, however, was still inhabited, as a deed of 1649 stipulates that a sum of £116 due to John Reymes, Esq., and Robert Reymes, gent., should be paid "at the Reymes mansion in Overstrand." C. M. Hoare, *History of an East Anglian Soke*.

⁵ See Fines of 1656 and 1657, App. M.

⁶ *Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum*, 1642-60.

⁷ Norris, *Funeral Monuments*, vol. I, App.

⁸ Bodleian Library, Le Neve's *Norfolk Collections*, IV, 76. William Reymes claimed that his loss was £1,600.

⁹ App. M.

John Reymes was now sixty years of age, and the remainder of his life was saddened by bereavement and by fears for the future of his family. His daughter Frances lost her husband, and then, the crowning blow, his son William, on whom his hopes were centred, died, leaving a widow and young family. To these domestic afflictions was added anxiety about his personal position, as Charles II had returned in May 1660, and the triumphant Royalists could hardly be expected to refrain from seeking vengeance against those who had been uppermost so long.

Pasted into one of Le Neve's volumes (IV, 74) in the Bodleian Library is a letter that John Reymes wrote in this time of trouble. Nearly three hundred years old, it is worn and difficult to decipher, but sufficient of it can be read to enable one to feel the sadness and anxiety in the heart of the old man who wrote it. It is addressed "To the highly honoured and his much . . . friend Edward Pepes Esq^r" and bears a small wafer seal with the Reymes arms and crest. It reads as follows:

Honoured Sir,

I hope you will pardon my boldness in presuming on you . . . slender acquaintance, having only seen you at my house . . . my good friend Mrs. Bond lived with me: Sir my sute is that . . . for me all the lawful favours you can concerning the . . . My case stands thus: In the long parliament's time I w[as] a Justis of the peace for Norfolk: agaynst my will . . . being . . . after, before I would take my oath. In so much as I did incur [the] displeasure of a parliament man for not being conformable. Since . . . I was put out of the commission of the peace. Now Sir I do [not] conceive that the honour of an esquire died with the place. I speak it not, but that I would be as forward as an other if I had it. For since I saw you I have tasted of a greatdle [sic] affliction: first my eldest son who is dead hath almost undone me having sould part of the estate and mortgaged it together and at last left his wife and five children to my car which lyes sore upon my hart. The Lord in mercie sanctifies my affliction unto me. And good Sir befrind me in what you can, in speaking to the rest of the Commissioners to show me all the favours they can. Thus with my humble servis remembered unto you and wherein I may ever perform the parte of a reall sarvant I shall ever subscribe

Your servant to command

J. Reymes.

Edgfield the 27
of September 1660.

Worse was to come, as within the next year or two Meriall Reymes died,¹ and John Reymes had to accept direct responsibility for the rearing and education of his grandchildren. But the end was near. In September 1662 he made his will, providing for his wife and children, leaving the reversion of his estate to his grandson, William Reymes, and begging his wife "to be good to my poor young boys, that are my grand-children, Sidley and John Reymes".² He died on 27 March 1663, and was probably buried at Overstrand, although the register records his death but not his burial.

Although John Reymes named his son, Robert, as executor, he entrusted the guardianship of his grandson, William, to his son-in-law, John Manning, who was an Independent minister at Peasenhall in Suffolk.³ To the Manning influence is probably due the fact that the family became, or remained, Non-Conformists.

¹ This is deduced from the wording of John's will.

² App. J.

³ Grant of augmentation in 1656 to John Manning, minister of Sibton and Peasenhall (Copinger, *Suffolk Records*, IV, 442). License in 1672 to William and John Manning, Congregational, for their houses at Peasenhall (*ibid.*, IV, 294).

The family affairs at this period were evidently most involved, and the precise arrangements cannot be ascertained. We know that part of the estate had been sold and the remainder mortgaged, and in the Subsidy Roll of 1663/4¹ the assessment of £4 is equally divided between ". . . Reymes, Relict of John Reymes dec^d" and "John Manning, clerke, gardian for William Reymes, gent., infant." It was no doubt realized by this time that the days of the family at Overstrand were numbered, but no definite action was possible while William was under age and while his grandfather's widow was living. Rebecca Reymes died, however, in October 1672, and William then came into possession of the advowson and of that part of the estate that had been retained by his grandfather. He immediately raised a further mortgage for £160,² and then, probably before 1682, he sold the whole estate.

In 1682 William Reymes, in conjunction with William Newman, bought for £210 a property described as "the site of the manor of Sidestrand, with appurtenances, and of 3 messuages, 3 gardens, 3 orchards, 60 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, and 10 acres of furze and heath, with appurtenances, in Sydestrand, Trymingham, Causton and Sharrington".³ He was already a married man with one or two children when he settled at Sidestrand. We may assume that he was now able to live within his income and to support his wife and children, and we may hope that their new home was the scene of a happy family life. But though the sun shone, the storm was not far away, and within a few years this unfortunate family was afflicted by further troubles. In July 1696 Mary Reymes gave birth to a daughter, who was given her own name when baptized in Sidestrand Church a few days later. But between then and the following November the mother, alas, was dead,⁴ and, as if that were not enough, the father sickened of some disease, and died in the following spring.⁵ The death of the parents was a terrible calamity, as by this time there were eight or nine children, and the problem which faced their relations and friends was made more difficult by a shortage of money. We know nothing of what was done. William died — and then for nearly twenty years there is silence; a gap in the family chronicle which cannot be filled.

But there came a resurrection. In 1714 the eldest son, Robert, now a young married man living at Norwich, appears in the *Norfolk Poll Book*, recorded as having a vote on account of property at Old Buckenham. The following year we meet the whole family again, as they are mentioned, name by name, as legatees in the will of their grandmother, Mary Greene of Norwich.⁶ We know little about Mary Greene, but it is pleasing to conjecture that when the parents died the grandmother came to the help of the stricken children, and made a home for them in her house at Norwich.

For four generations misfortune had followed the Overstrand family, one or both parents dying while the children were still young. But in the history

¹ Rye, *North Erpingham*. In 1596/7, 1620/1 and 1628, the Reymes assessment in Overstrand was also £4 (*ibid.*).

² See App. M.

³ With warranty by the deforciant to the plaintiffs and to the heirs of William Reymes, see C. M. Hoare, *Records of a Norfolk Village*.

⁴ I have seen no record of Mary's death, but it is apparent from William's will, dated 28 November 1696, that he was then a widower.

⁵ William's will was first proved in London, and then, in June 1697, at Norwich. The burials of William and Mary are not recorded in the Sidestrand registers: possibly they were buried at Overstrand, but this cannot be ascertained as no burials are recorded in the Overstrand registers between 1672 and 1712.

⁶ App. J.

of families neither good fortune nor ill fortune continue indefinitely, and the parents of the next two generations all lived to old age, as can be seen on their tombstones near the door of the Old Meeting House at Norwich. The heads of the family appear to have been well established as worstead weavers.¹ They occupied a position of respectability, and the descendants of Alice and Susanna, daughters of John and Alice Reymes, were sufficiently proud of their ancestry to adopt Reymes as a christian name in their families.²

I do not know whether the family is still represented in the male line, but Sidley Reymes, who was living at Norwich in 1794, is said to have had three sons,³ and possibly Samuel Reymes, who died at Sudbury in 1816, left sons to succeed him. Apart from that, however, the pedigrees show the birth of many male children of whom nothing more is known, and it is probable that in some English village or in one of our great towns, perhaps in America or in a British Dominion, there are persons bearing the name, who are the lineal representatives in the male line of the Reymes family of Overstrand.

APPENDIX A

DOMESDAY BOOK: BILLINGFORD (EARSHAM HALF-HUNDRED)⁴

The Lands of Roger de Ramis. In Plestuna [Pirleston] he also holds 24 acres of land, but they are in St. Edmund's manor (aula). And (there are) 12 freemen of St. Edmund, who could neither give nor sell their land without the leave of the saint, and of Stigand who had soke and sac in Ersham [Earsham]. The men have 60 acres, and 2 bordars. Then and afterwards (they had) 2 ploughs, now 1½. Then and afterwards it was worth 10 shillings, now 5.

There also Roger holds 40 acres of land besides, which St. Edmund held T.R.E. (as) witness the hundred. Now Warenger holds it, but the hundred knows not how.

Land of St. Etheldreda. In P[ri]lestuna [Pirleston] a freeman held 1 ploughland under St. Etheldreda T.R.E. Now Roger de Rames [de Ramis] holds it of the abbot. Then as now 5 bordars and 1 serf. Then and afterwards 2 ploughs on the demesne, now 3. Then as now half a plough belonging to the men. Wood(land) for 16 swine, 8 acres of meadow. Then and afterwards it was worth 20 shillings, now 10. It is 5 furlongs in length and 5 in breadth, and (renders) 4 pence of geld. Several hold there.

Lands of Bishop Stigand which W[illiam] de Noiers keeps in the King's hand. In Prelestuna [Pirleston] Warengar retained as part of the fee of Roger de Ramis, in Redenhalla [Redenhall] and in Dentuna [Denton] 2 freemen of Stigand's with the soke (of) 23 acres of land. Then as now half a plough and half an acre of meadow. (This) is valued with the others.

DOMESDAY BOOK: OVERSTRAND⁵

Lands of Berner the Arblaster. In Othestranda [Overstrand] Eschet held (an estate rated) at 2 ploughlands T.R.E. Then as now (there were) 6 villeins and 18 bordars, and 2 serfs. Then 2 ploughs on the demesne, afterwards and now 1, and 2 ploughs belonging to

¹ They apparently lived in the parish of St. Clements, as in 1734/5 Robert Reymes voted in that parish, and his daughter Hannah on her marriage in 1754 was described as "of St. Clements" (see below, note 3).

² Alice married — Dawson, and had a son John Reymes Dawson and a grandson Reymes Dawson (Crisp's *Fragmenta*, II, 51 (Soc. of Genealogists)). Susanna married — Gainsborough, and their daughter married William Hurrell of Sudbury, whose son and grandson were both given Reymes as their Christian names (information given me in 1932 by Miss Emily L. Hurrell of Ryde, a daughter of Reymes Hurrell of Brunton Hall, Sudbury).

³ Communicated by Mr. H. W. Sothorn, of Orpington, a descendant of Hannah Reymes and George Southern.

⁴ V.C.H. Norfolk.

⁵ V.C.H. Norfolk.

the men, (and) 1 mill. Wood (land) for 3 swine. Then (there was) 1 rouncey, now 2. Then 2 beasts, now 6. Then 4 (swine), now 5 swine. Now 19 sheep, then 15. (There are) 3 goats. And (there are) 5 sokemen with 32 acres of land, and 1 acre of meadow. And the King has the soke. Then as now (they had) 1 plough. It was then worth 40 shillings, and (is) still. And it is 7 furlongs in length, and 4 in breadth, and (renders) 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ^d of geld.

APPENDIX B

THE ORIGIN OF THE HERDEBERG FAMILY

There are indications of a connexion between the Herdeberg family and the important Derbyshire family of Musard.

According to the Duchess of Cleveland in *The Battle Abbey Roll*, Hasculph de Musard was domiciled in Derbyshire, had a son Richard who held the barony of Staveley, a grandson Ralph de Musard who held 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ fees temp. Henry II, and a great grandson Ralph de Musard who was Sheriff of Gloucester 1215/16 to 1224/5. This last Ralph was succeeded by another Ralph who died 1264/5.

The connexion of the Herdebergs with this family is suggested by the following:

- (1) Sir Hacvil de Herdeberge witnesses, temp. Henry III, a grant of land in Staveley by Ralph Musard (B.M. Harl. Ch. 86, H. 49).
- (2) In 1257/8 Sir Ralph Musard witnesses a grant by Isabella daughter of Sir Hasculph de Herdeberg (see Pedigree 2).
- (3) In 1274 Geoffrey de Langley is said to hold his Harborough estate of Asculph *Musard*, whereas his son Walter de Langley in 1280 was said to hold it of Hasculph *de Herteberg* (*Calendar of Inquisitions*).

APPENDIX C

INQUISITION IN 1337 ABOUT THE SALE OF OVERSTRAND¹

(*Chancery Miscellaneous Inquisitions*, C/145/131/18)

Writ to the King's escheator. Edward by God's grace King of England, Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitaine to his faithful William Trussel his escheator this side Trent, greeting. Whereas we lately wishing to be certified upon the cause of taking 6 marks of rent with the appurtenances in Overstronde and the advowson of the church of that vill, which were Alan's son of Geoffrey of Shupedene by you into our hands commanded you that upon that cause under your seal you render us distinct and several certificates as to the alienation by John de Peyto, who held of us in chief the manor of Hertberwe in county Warwick by knight service, to the said Alan of the said 6 marks and advowson which were parcel of the said manor without obtaining our license there for, and the taking into our hand, being still in our hand. And now on the part of the same Alan giving us to know that the said rent and advowson are held of Elizabeth de Burgo as of the manor of Clare and not of us in chief as aforesaid, and we being supplicated to remove our hand from the said rent and advowson, We command you that by the oath of honest and lawful men of your bailiwick by whom the truth shall be better known, you shall diligently enquire whether the said rent and advowson are held of us in chief as is aforesaid or of the said Elizabeth as of her manor of Clare, and if held by us by what service and how and in what manner, and if of the said Elizabeth, then by what service and how and in what manner, and what the church is worth by the year according to the true value of the same. And the inquisition thereof distinctly and separately made, under your seal and the seals of them thus made, to be sent without delay to us and this writ. Witness myself at the Tower of London 15th day of January in the 10th year of our reign [1337].

Inquisition. Inquisition taken at Norwich in county Norfolk before the King's Escheator this side Trent 9th day of February in the 11th year of the reign of King Edward the third

¹ For this translation, and for copies or translations of many of the records quoted in this article, I am indebted to Miss Drucker of 118A Alexandra Road, N.W.8.

from the Conquest [1337] according to the tenor of the writ of the King to this inquisition attached, by the oath of John le Lost, Philip de Gaunnull, Robert de Moun . . . John le Fiz, Thomas son of Alice, William Aleyn, Thomas le Draper, John Hegge, Ralph Fraunceys, William Walour, Gervase le Smeth and Peter de Braunford, who say on their oath that the 6 marks of rent with the appurtenances in Overstronde and the advowson of the church of that vill, wherof is mention in the writ to this inquisition attached, are not held of the lord the King in chief but are held of Elizabeth de Burgo as of her manor of Clare by the service of one gillyflower for all services; And that neither the said Alan nor others who held the said rent and advowson from time immemorial or any parcel of the same held of the lord the King or any of his progenitors in chief but of the Earl of Gloucester as of the manor of Clare aforesaid as is aforesaid. And that the said church is worth yearly according to the true value of the same 10 marks.

In testimony whereof the said jurors to this inquisition have affixed their seals. Given the day, place and year aforesaid.

INQUISITION 1398. LAND FOR THE REBUILDING OF OVERSTRAND CHURCH

(*Inquis. ad quod damnum*, 21 Rich. II. Writ dated April 28th [1398])

Inquisition taken at St. Faythe's [sic] in the county of Norfolk on the Sunday in the fast of the faithful virgins in the 22nd year of the reign of King Richard II [October 1398] . .

[The jurors] declare on oath that it will not be to the loss or prejudice of the King nor of anyone else if the King wish to grant to John Rayms leave to give and assign half an acre of land with its appurtenances in Overstronde to Robert, parson of the church in Overstrond to be had and held by him and his successors, parsons in the said church, for a cemetery for the burial of the dead, and for the said church to be transferred and there to be built and constructed anew. And they declare that the said half-acre of land is held of Roger Hertlarggs as of his manor of Hertlarggs, by what service they do not at present know. And that it is worth yearly in all about two pence. And who and how many are the mean tenants of the said land between the King and the said John Rayms from the lordship of Roger Hartlarggs they do not know. And they declare that the lands and tenements remaining to the said John beyond the said gift and assignment in the said county are worth twenty pounds a year all together. . . .

INQUISITION POST MORTEM, WILLIAM REYMES, 1607

(*Chancery I.P.M.*, C/142/298/14)

Norfolk. Inquisition taken at Cawston, Co. Norfolk, 20th August 5 James [1607] to enquire after the death of William Reymes, gent. deceased. The jurors [named] say on oath that William Reymes, long before his death, was seised in his demesne, as of fee, of the manor of Overstrond alias Oxstrond, Co. Norfolk, and on 22nd November 1606 made his last will, bequeathing to his son and heir William Reymes the said manor of Oxstronde and all thereunto belonging, which will was shown to the jurors. On the death of the said William the father, William the son entered into the said manor, which is held of the King, as of his Hundred of North Arpingham, parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, in socage, by fealty and rent of 5/- a year, and is worth yearly beyond reprises £5.

He held no other lands &c. of the King or any other. He died 23rd November last past [1606] and the said William Reymes, his son and next heir at the time of his father's death, was aged 35 years.

APPENDIX D

THE GREY AND HASTINGS CONTROVERSY

(College of Arms MS.—*Processus in Curia Marescalli*, I, 429-45)

Deponents in the case of Grey v. Hastings before Master Robert Walsyngham, Master William Leche and Richard Vaus, commissioners and examiners, and Master Johan Loveleche, associate, in the church of North Walsham in the County of Norfolk, 30 July

1408—Robert Fysshlake of Elsing, Co. Norfolk, Thomas Lord Morley, Sir Thomas Erpyng-
ham, knight, Sir Miles de Stapleton, knight of Co. Norfolk, Sir Symond Felbrygge, knight,
Johan Reymes, Esquire, of Co. Norfolk.

Deposition of John Reymes:

Mesme le iour, lan & lieu avantditz, par les ditz Commissaires & examinoures en
presence dudit associe, Johan Reymes Escuier del Countee de Northfolk, nient lettres, de
franche condition, del age de xli ans come il dist Requis & diligemment examine, de &
surtoutz lesmatieres sur queux son contest preexamine feust demande & requis dist soi tant
savoir, qe luy mesmes feust soudeour oue le pier dudit Monsr. Edward [Hastings] ore partie
defendant en la viage Descoce, fait par le Roy Richard qi darrein morust; et illeoques vist
ledit pier dudit Monsr. Edward porter les ditz armes: Cest assavoir dor oue une manche de
goules, oue la labelle de troys poynts dargent en maniere comme appartient al proschein
heir, come il dist, en baner, et cote darmes. Et aussi dist cest Escuier, qil feust soudeour
oue ledit pier dudit Monsr. Edward, en la viage fait par le tres noble Prynce le Duc de
Lancastre en Espagne, et dist cest Escuier, qil creit et suppose verriement, qe ledit pier
dudit Monsr. Edward portast en baner et cote darmes les ditz armes de Hastynge; Cest
assavoir dor, oue une manche de goules sans labelle par tout la dit viage jeusques a sa mort.
Et dist outre cest Escuier, qil adoie ledit pier dudit Monsr. Edward diverses foitz dire, qe
si le Count de Penbrok morrust sans heir de son corps engendre qil serroit son proschein
heir des terres & seigneurie de Hastynge, & recouereit par les ditz armes des Hastynge
VIII^e ou IX^e marc de terre par an. Item requis cest Escuier, et diligemment examine
de etsur les gñaulx. Interogatories, dist cest Escuier, qil nest daffinite, consanguinite, ne
alliance, ne serieant, lowes, nenformez, ne subornez comment il ad deposez. Plus nautrement
a touts & chescuns matieres et Interogatories, ne a nulle parcette dicelles ne sceit cest
lesmoigne, dire ne deposer au present come il dist, non obstant qe sur touts et chescuns
matieres et Interogatories avantditz il feust bien et diligemment examinez.

APPENDIX E

MISCELLANEA GENEALOGICA

- 1292/3. John de Reymes, freeman of Lynn (by purchase).¹
1300. Walter de Reymes instituted rector of Horstead.²
1313/45. Alexander de Reymes, rector of Higham-Potter after 1313 and before 1345.²
1425. John Reymis, priest, of the diocese of Norwich is permitted to have a portable
altar.³
1435. John Reymes, incumbent of Billockly.⁴
1543. Alice Raims married William Harris—Burlingham St. Andrew's.
1563/4. Edmund, Thomas, Elizabeth and Frances Reymes named in the will of Roger
Helsdome of North Walsham.⁵
1567. Francis Reymes of Walsham named in the will of Jane Waller of South Repps.⁵
1586. William Arnold of Booton, gent., refers in his will to his cousin William Reymes of
Overstrand.⁶
16th century. Agnes daughter of John Blofield of Cromer (who died 1558) married —
Reymes.⁷
1607. Nicholas Reymes and Thomas Blofield, gents., convey the manor of Calthorp in
Wickmere to Robert Godfrey, Esq.^{re} and Robert Underwood, gent. The manor is
stated to have come to the Reymeses and Blofields from the Dorward family, who
obtained it by marriage with the heiress of the Harsicks.⁸
1617. Thomas Reymes, gent., presented to Narford church for this turn.⁸
1636. Will of Joseph Norgate of Norwich, gent., who married Margaret daughter of —
Reymes of Norwich, niece to William Reymes of Overstrand, Esq.⁹
- ¹ *Cal. of Freemen of Lynn.*
² *Cal. of Entries in Papal Registers*, VII, 434.
³ Norris MSS.
⁴ Norris, *Funeral Monuments*, vol. I, Appendix.
⁵ *East Anglian Pedigrees*, Harl. Soc., vol. XCI.
⁶ Blomefield, *Norfolk*.
⁷ Norris MSS. *East and West Flegg*, I, 239.
⁸ Norris MSS. *East and West Flegg*, I, 295.

1643. Mahaleel Reames living at Norwich.¹
 17th century. Elizabeth widow of Francis Hartstonge of South Repps married —
 Reymes. She was a daughter of Sir Thomas Standish of Bruff, Co. Limerick, who was
 a member of the Privy Council of Munster, and died 1635.²
 1648. Thomas Reymes married Elizabeth Hemming—Marsham.

APPENDIX F

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS AND HERALDRY

- Overstrand. Matrix of the brasses of John and Margaret Reymes (see above, page 33).
 On the wall of the tower there is inserted part of a small mural tablet which reads
 “. . . [H]eare lyeth the bodye of [M]ary Raymys the daugh[ter] of William Reymes
 [the] yonger who decesid iii daye of November Dñi 1593.”
 Norris states that on the north side of the brass of John Reymes there was a brass
 bearing the inscription: “Hic jacet Robert's Reymes q' obiit xxii^o die mensis Julii a^o
 dñi m^o quingentesimo viii^o.”³
- Winterton. Brass tablet to Thomas Husband, who died 1676, and Ann his wife, daughter
 of William Reymes of Overstrand.⁴
- Antingham. Brass to Richard Calthorpe and Anne his wife, widow of Robert Reymes of
 Overstrand.⁵
 (The figure of Anne is missing. There is an illustration of this brass in Cotman,
Norfolk Brasses.)
- Suffield. Kemp states “John Reymes of Suffield, gent., buried here in 1553”.⁶
 In the churchyard there is a stone to James son of Thomas and Mary Reymes, who
 died 5 April 1826.⁷
- Brampton. According to Blomefield⁸ there was a brass in the chancel with the arms of
 Reymes impaling Brampton, and “with four sons and twelve daughters on their
 stone”. He gives the inscription as “Orate pro anima Emme Reymes, nuper uxoris
 Willielmi Reymes, armigeri, et filie Roberti Brampton de Brampton, armigeri, qui
 obiit decimo die mensis Septembris, Anno dni mccccxxxiii, cujus anime proprietur
 Deus” (only the inscription now remains).
- Norwich, Old Meeting House.
 (1) To the memory of Robert Reymes who departed this life March 5th 1754, aged 75
 years. Agnes a sister died August 1755. Also Sarah his wife departed this life
 March 25th 1763, aged 70 years.
 (2) John Reymes died 13th August 1794, aged 80 years. Also Alice his wife died 12th
 April 1795, aged 67 years.
- Barking Church, Essex. A stone in the floor of the north aisle with the arms of Stevens
 impaling Reymes, and the inscription: “Here lyeth the Body of Paul Stevens, Gent.,
 who departed this life about y^e 26 day of Oct. 1675 in y^e 80 year of his age, and also
 y^e body of Judeth his wife, who departed this life upon y^e 21 day of Aprill 1697 aged
 77 years, who was the Daughter of Bullen Reymes Esq^r.”

I give the following references to heraldry recorded by Kemp and others, though all
 the painted glass has now gone:

Overstrand—see above, page 30.

Winter Barningham. “In the howse of Mr. Winter, viz. the parler” the coats include
 “Winter sydeth the daughter of Reymes of Ov'strond”.⁹

Little Melton. In the window of a chapel on the north side of the church—arms of Reymes.¹⁰

¹ *Norfolk Archæology*, XVIII, 151.

² *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, edited by A. W. Hughes Clarke, II (5th series), 119.

³ Norris, *Funeral Monuments* (1730-3), vol. I.

⁴ Farrer, *Norfolk Monumental Brasses*.

⁵ *Norfolk Visitation*, 1583, II, 459. Also see Rye, *North Erpingham*, p. 249.

⁶ Kemp, *Norfolk Collections*, Harl. MS. 901.

⁷ Rye, *North Erpingham*.

⁸ Blomefield, *Norfolk*, VI, 434.

⁹ Robert Kemp 1575, see Rye, *North Erpingham*.

¹⁰ Norris, *Funeral Monuments*, vol. I.

- Stiffkey Church. Arms of Reymes.¹
 Sheringham Church. Rookwood impaling Reymes.¹
 Suffield Church. Herward impaling Reymes.²
 Norwich Cathedral. A shield with the arms of Reymes is said to be on a frame of a panel painting.³
 Norwich, St. Mary's Church. On the roof, Rookwood impaling Reymes.⁴
 Thwaite Hall. Hobart impaling Reymes.⁴

APPENDIX G

THE REYMES ARMS AND CREST

The seal of John de Reymes 1359 (see Pl. I) bears a chevron between three lions rampant. In Kemp's description of the glass in Overstrand Church in the sixteenth century,⁵ the arms are given as "sable a chevron inter 3 Lyons ramp^t argent," and the crest as "a plume of fethers oute of a crowne of goulde." In the *Visitations of Norfolk*, 1563, 1589 and 1613, published by the Harleian Society, the arms are "Sable a chevron ermine between three lions rampant argent", and the crest is "out of a ducal coronet or a double plume of ostrich-feathers, three and three, purple".

The derivation of the Reymes arms is unknown. The arms of a family were frequently a variation of the coat borne by an overlord or some allied family, and one naturally envisages the possibility in this case of a derivation from the Herdeberg arms. The seal of a Roger de Herdeberg, temp. Henry III, bears a chief and a chevron (see App. H, note A), but the seal of a Hugh de Herdeberg 1268/9 is non-armorial with a rampant lion as a device (see Pl. I). In the thirteenth century families frequently placed on their seals a device which, then or later, was one of the charges on their shield of arms. The well-known Northumbrian family of Heron, for example, bore three herons as their coat of arms, but in the thirteenth century members of the family used a single heron as a device on their seals (see Raine, *North Durham*). It seems possible therefore that the arms of Hugh de Herdeberg included one or more rampant lions, and may be those from which the Reymes arms originated.

APPENDIX H

NOTES ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS

Plate I. Seals

No. 1. *Richard de Raimés*

This seal is attached to a grant (n.d.) by Richard de Raimés of land in Messing to Roger son of Ansethil de Messing.⁶ The photograph is from a cast made at the Public Record Office with the kind permission of the Secretary and the Essex County Archivist.

No. 2. *William de Reimes*

This seal is attached to a grant (n.d.) by Sir William de Reimes of land in Boyton in Finchingfield to Sir Philip Basset.⁷ The animal is either a deer or a hound, probably the former, and occurs on several Reymes seals. The photograph is from a cast made at the Public Record Office.

No. 3. *Hugh de Herdeberg.*

Attached to a quitclaim (1268/9) from Hugh de Herdeburwe to the Abbey of Bythlesden of land in Helmeden [Helmdon], Northamptonshire.⁸ (See Note A below.)

No. 4. *John de Reymes of Overstrand*

Attached to a grant in 1359 by Margaret de Honyngge, John de Reymes the elder and William Lomb of Honyngge, chaplain.⁹ (See Note B below.)

¹ Kemp, *Norfolk Collections*, Harl. MS. 901.

² Farrer, *Church Heraldry of Norfolk*. Also see *Proceedings of the Archaeological Institute*, Norwich 1847, p. 198.

³ Norris, *Funeral Monuments*, vol. I.

⁴ *Gorhambury Collection*, Hertford Record Office (V.B.9), loaned to the Essex Record Office, Chelmsford.

⁵ *Ancient Deeds*, P.R.O., A. 6821.

⁶ B.M. Add. Ch. 14710. See above, p. 28.

⁷ Blomefield, *Norfolk*.

⁸ See above, p. 30.

⁹ B.M. *Harleian Ch.* 86, C. 46.

Note A. A seal of Roger de Herdebergh is attached to a deed by which he grants land in Great Tolleshunt, the date being given in the typed calendar as "Henry III, before 1265".¹ The seal is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and bears a triangular shield with straight sides. The arms on the shield are a chief and a chevron, the point of the latter touching the chief. There is no sign of any charges. The legend is almost entirely worn away, the only letters remaining being "SIGI" and a final "E".

Note B. The seal of Sir John de Reymes 1379 is similar to No. 4 above, but the two uppermost lions face one another. The legend is "SIGILL . . . EIMES".²

Plate II. Portrait of Bullen Reymes

From the painting at Zeals House, Wiltshire. I am greatly indebted to Miss E. M. Troyte-Bullock for the photograph from which the plate has been made.

Plate III. Portraits of John and Alice Reymes

These portraits, with several portraits of members of the Gainsborough family of Sudbury, descended to Reymes Hurrell of Brundon Hall, Sudbury (see above, p. 46, note 2), and were sold at Christie's 22 February 1929. In Christie's sale-catalogue the name of the painter of the Reymes portraits is given as Joseph Higmore, and they are described as follows:

"Lot 33. Portrait of John Reymes, Esq., maternal grandfather of Maria Gainsborough, in grey coat, white vest embroidered with gold braid, white stock, his hat under his left arm; and Portrait of his wife, Alice, in white satin dress, white lace frills, with blue scarf and white lace cap".

The two portraits were sold for 140 guineas.

APPENDIX I

MR. RYE AND THE REYMES PEDIGREE

Mr. Walter Rye's great reputation as a genealogist makes it desirable that I should correct various mis-statements in his *Norfolk Families*, pp. 729-32.

(1) There is no connexion between the place-name Rayne and the surname Rames or Reymes (see Round in *Essex Arch. Society's Transactions*, XV, 272, and Powicke in *King Henry III and the Lord Edward*, p. 571).

(2) It was the sons of a Roger de Rames and not the sons of William de Rames who were "said to be nephews of Earl Aubrey de Vere (see above, p. 19, note 3; also cf. Round, *Geoffrey de Mandeville*).

(3) I have seen no evidence that the Reymeses were sub-tenants of the Warennes in 1139, or that the latter family held land in Overstrand.

(4) Mr. Rye refers to a family of Rhaimes or Reymes at Newton in Cambridgeshire as being said to be a branch of the Overstrand family. The rector, Canon Covey-Crump, was good enough to send me the entries in the registers. These entries extend from 1736 to 1834 and are numerous. In one place the name is spelt Reames; in six places the spelling is Reams; otherwise the spelling is Ream.

(5) Referring to William Reymes of Sidestrand (1696) Mr. Rye says: "In the *Norfolk and Norwich visitation*, p. 293, his issue are marked with the wavy line of illegitimacy." There is no justification for this suggestion. In three places in the Reymes pedigree in the work referred to, the editor uses a wavy line to denote uncertainty, and he himself says about William Reymes: "It would appear that he married and has issue several children, as below." Moreover, in the Sidestrand registers Mary is named twelve times as William's wife and the mother of his children.

¹ *Gorhambury Collection*, Hertford Record Office, V.D.1.

² See above, p. 28.

APPENDIX J

ABSTRACTS OF WILLS

Raffe Reymes, May 7th 1501. To be buried in the church-yard of St. Andrew, North Burlingham. Names his sons, Henry, John and William, who are to be executors.

Proved at Acle, Jan. 7th 1501/2.

Robert Reymes of Overstrand, esquire, July 19th 1508.*

To be buried in the church of St. Martin there; his brothers Oliver and John; his sister Jane Grave and her daughters; cousin Thomas Breton; Elizabeth Arnold; To Ann his wife he gave or confirmed her jointure in his manor of Overstrond and the advowson of the church, to bring up his son Francis to 21 years of age & then he to have the said manor, but in case he died under age without issue then she was to have the said manor for life; and whereas his wife Ann was then with child he gave all his purchased lands in Bradfeld to his said wife to bring up the said child, and if it be a man child then he gave the said lands to it, but if it be a woman child then he would the said lands to go with his manor aforesaid and gave half the value of the said lands to such child for her marriage, and made the said Ann his wife, Thomas Cressener, esquire, and Geoffrey Knight, D.D., executors.

Proved at Norwich, Oct. 18th 1508.

John Reymes of Suffield, gentleman, May 14th 1551.*

To be buried in the church or churchyard of Suffelde and gave all his goods, cattle, corn &c to Margaret his wife, to Robert his son at 21. He gave £18 which was in the hands of his [the testator's] brother Martin Calthorpe. To his brother Francis Reymes 26/8. A Symonds is a witness.

Proved at Norwich, June 5th 1553.

John Reames "cytyzyn and marchaunt taylor of London".

June 1547. Mentions his wife Joane and his son Stephyn Reames. Bequests to the monastery of St. Bartholomew, to the poor of Aldermanbury, and to the prisoners in the prisons of Ludgate. Gives to his son Stephen "my standing cuppe of sylver gylded"; to his wife "the right Tytle interest and terme of yeares which I have of and in the house that I nowe dwell in in Aldermanburye aforesaid, she to do therewith her will and pleasure". To his son Stephen he gives "my hole interest ryght tytle and terme of yeares which I have in the parsonage of Aldermanburye aforesaid by reason of a lease thereof to me made out of the court of Augmentation, so that my said sonne fulfill all covenants I am bound to perform in the same lease". Gives his wife "all my messuages and tenements with their appurtenances in Aldermanburye aforesaid which I late purchased of the King's Majesty" for the term of her life with remainder to Stephen and his heirs. Executrix—"Johan" his wife.

Proved at London, June 1548.

Johan Reames of Cranebrooke, Kent, widdowe, April 1557.

To be buried in the churchyard of Cranbrook near her father and mother. Mentions the poor of Aldermanbury, her nephew John Baker, Elizabeth Reames "my sonnes daughter and my god-daughter", and Cicile Reames daughter of her son Stephen, both girls being unmarried. John Reames his son. Residue to her son Stephen's children—Cicile not to have a share if the children are two in number or more.

Proved at London, January 1560.

Francis Raymes of Overstrand, gent. Sept. 5th 1558.

To be buried in the church of St. Martin, Overstrand. For forgotten tithes 2/-. and for the repairing of the church 20/-. To the poor 40/-. To "Elizabeth my beloved", to enjoy her jointure of the manor of Overstrand. The manor to go to William his eldest son when 18. William also to have 100 wethers and 100 ewes on condition he pays Robert Raymes "my son" 40/- yearly. To Edward his son 100 wethers and 50 ewes.¹ Half of his stock of sheep to his executors for the support and education of his children until they are 18 when

* This will and others marked with an asterisk are transcribed from the Norris MSS.

¹ A transcript made by Norris reads: "... To Edward and Clement his sons legacies of sheep, ewes, etc."

the sheep are to be delivered to them. To Ann his daughter 40 marks on her marriage. To the child his wife is with, he leaves 100 ewes at 18 or marriage. To his son William his silver salt and, after his wife's death, a bedstead etc. To his son Robert his doublet of satin etc. To his daughter Ann his old gown. "To Agnes my girl £10 in money to be levied on my lease at Sculpton on her marriage. To Margaret her sister 40/- at her marriage". To his mother Mrs. Calthorpe "my great hoop of gold". To his sister Jermy "my ring of gold with the seal of a woman". To his wife his implements, household stuff etc. His brother Bartram Calthorpe to be sole executor and to have "my coat of velvet".

Proved at Norwich, Feb. 8th 1558/9.

Robert Reymes of Aylesham, gentleman, Aug. 9th, 1572¹.

To be buried in the church of Suffield, near his father. Mentions his wife Alice, and 5 daughters, Anne, Ela, Katherine, Alice and Margaret, all under age.

Proved at Norwich, Nov. 17th 1572.

Rosa Reymes, widow. Sept. 15th 1585¹

Mentions her deceased mother Jane Knevett, her nephew, Sir Thomas Knevett, Knt, and her god-daughter Martha Scarlett.

Proved at Norwich, March 27th 1588.

Francis Raymes, the elder, of Overstrand, gent. Feb. 18th 1604/5.

To Sarah his wife his houses, gardens etc., and to his son Clement after her death. £5 to each of his two daughters, Audrey and Frances, when they are 16: in the meantime Sarah his wife is to have the interest towards the payment for the pasturing of two cows for the children's maintainance. Names his brother William Raymes executor and "I humbly entreat him to be a loving and kind uncle to my little children and to advise my wife etc."

Proved at Norwich, May 14th 1605.

Margaret Key of North Repps. April 17th 1605.

Describes herself as "the unprofitable servant of God". To her daughter Sarah Raimes late wife of Francis Raimes she leaves £9, her best petticoat, a pillow and a brass pot. To Clement Raimes son of Sarah Raimes 20/-. To William Raimes the elder, who is named supervisor, she leaves 5/-. Residue to Clement Rice. Anne Raimes is a witness.

Proved at Norwich, May 20th 1605.

William Reymes of Oxstrand, gent. Nov. 22nd 1606.¹

Gave to William Reymes his son his manor of Oxtrand with all the messuages, lands, tenements &c to the same belonging in Oxtronde, Sidistronde, Northrepps, Southrepps, Cromer and elsewhere in Norfolk to him and his heirs for ever. Also he gave to his said son in like manner all his copyhold lands holden of the manor of Gimingham called Colmans with the appurtenances and all other his copyhold lands in the said towns upon condition to pay £40 each to four of the testator's sons, viz—Francis, Bullen, Barney and John. Also he gave to Thomas his (i.e. the testator's) son £30, to Robert his son £20, to Anne his daughter, the wife of Thomas Hobart, esquire, £20 to make up the full payment of £100; to Audrey and Frances, the daughters of his brother Francis Reymes £8 each at sixteen years of age²; to John, Anne and Mary the children of his (i.e. the testator's) son William 40/- each at sixteen years of age, to John and Anne the children of Thomas Hobart esquire, 40/- each at sixteen years of age, and made his son William Reymes executor and residuary legatee.

Proved at Norwich, April 10th 1607.

John Paine of King's Lynn, gent. Oct. 12th 1610.³

Mentions his brothers Christopher and Edmund, and many other relations. To my loving nephew Mr. William Reymes £20 in one year and a half. To John his son and my god-son £10 at 21. To Robert Reymes my nephew and his wife £10 in two years. To my

¹ This will, and others similarly marked, are copied from the abstracts printed in Volume I of the *Visitation of Norfolk*, 1563.

² In spite of the appeal in Francis Reymes's will 1604/5, William ignores Clement, Francis's child by his second wife.

³ Son of Thomas Payne of Itteringham and brother-in-law of William Reymes who died 1606 (*Norfolk Visitations*, Harl. Soc., vol. XXXII).

nephew John Reymes 40/- which I lent him and £3/6/8 in two years. To my nephews Thomas Reymes, Francis Reymes, Bullyn Reymes and Barney Reymes 5 marks each in two years. To my niece the widow Wytherd £6/13/4 in one year. To my kind and well-beloved niece — Hubberd £6/13/4 in two years.

Clement Reymes of London, Gentleman. Jan. 29th 1627/28.

Mentions John Reymes of Overstrand; nephew Robert Reymes of Powton [Roughton]; nephew Thomas Reymes of Cromer; nephew John Reymes of Aylsham; nephew "Bullen Reymes, servant to the Duke of Buckingham and to every one of his children"; nephew Barney Reymes; to his niece Reymes, wife of Francis Reymes of London, gentleman, "all his household stuff at Endfield House"¹; his god-son Clement Reymes son of Francis Reymes his brother, late deceased, "which he bound apprentice in London": Clement Reymes's two sisters; niece Mountney; niece Barker (?); niece Colby of Cawston; sister Dennis of Cromer and her daughter; nephew Comfort son of William (?) Comfort late deceased; the poor of Cromer; nephew Francis Cooper; Margaret Johnson of Aylsham, widow; John Parke of Aylsham; residue of his estate to be divided among the children of Francis Reymes and Bullen Reymes, both of London, gentlemen. Executor—Francis Reymes of London, gentleman and now "haberdasher to the Duke of Buckingham".

Proved in London, January 1628/29 by Francis Reymes.

Thomas Reymes of Cromer, gent. Jan. 28th 1630/31.

To Grace his wife and her heirs all his lands &c in Cromer and Overstrand. To all his brothers and sisters, his nephew John Reymes, niece Colbie, niece Husband, niece Norgate, niece and god-daughter Elizabeth Reymes, to each of them ten shillings to buy them a ring. Grace his wife to be executrix. Witnesses—William Gooden, Edmund Dennis.

Proved at Cromer, March 20th 1636/37.

Anne Reymes of Yarmouth. †

Mentions her three daughters, Joan Daynes, Gillian Beales and Alice Hart.

Proved at Norwich, 1635.

*Grace Reymes of Cromer, otherwise Shibden, widow.*² Aug. 29th 1657.

Nuncupative will—her kinswoman Cicely Pettus of Cromer, singlewoman, executrix. Witnesses—William Fleming, Robert Payne, Robert Dyx.

Proved Jan. 13th 1657/8.

Barney Reymes, merchant adventurer of England, dwelling at Dordrecht in Holland. Jan. 13th 1668 at Dordrecht.

To Susanna daughter of his son-in-law Ralph Bresiey a jewel coffer which had belonged to his wife; also 100 Carolus gilders; to his nephew Nathaniell Reymes Vernatti 300 Carolus gilders; he forgives a debt of £50 from William Reymes son of his brother Bullen Reymes; to Barney Sikes, son of his son-in-law John Sikes 100 Carolus gilders; to Ralph Bresiey "and my daughter Adriana Bresiey his present wife" 400 Carolus gilders; to Ralph Bresiey 600 Carolus gilders in satisfaction for a debt of that amount due to Ralph from his son John Reymes; gives his bed and its furnishings to his daughter Sarah Castelleaux; gives 3000 Carolus gilders to his son Charles Reymes in consideration of amounts he [i.e. Barney] had expended on the marriages of Charles's sisters. The residue to be divided in equal shares among his son Charles Reymes and his three daughters, wives of Ralph Bresiey, John Sikes and "Mons. Castelleaux". Ralph Bresiey sole executor.

Proved in London, July 28th 1668.

John Reymes of Edgefield, esquire. Sept. 28th 1662.

Body to be buried in the church of Overstrand; refers to his manor, lands &c.—his wife to have her jointure for her life out of the copyhold and freehold estate—after her decease to his grandson William Reymes and his heirs, except some lands which he bestows upon his younger children.

Refers to his son-in-law Nathaniel Brewster and to his son-in-law Dewing of London, beavermaker; "I paid him £20 before his death, and my poor daughter his wife to have the £80." To his daughter Tillinghurst £10 a year, and at her death £50 among her children. To his grandson William Reymes, 28 acres in the occupation of Thomas Elding and

¹ This seems to indicate that Clement Reymes held a post in the royal establishment at Enfield House.

² William Brigg, *Genealogical Abstracts of Wills, Prerogative Court of Canterbury.*

5½ acres "upon condition he pay by his guardian or trustees what I gave to my two daughters Frances Dewing and Jane Tillinghurst". "To my son Robert Reymes his eldest son £50 at 20 years old; my grandson to pay to my daughter Rowland £30 out of the land I gave him, when he is 21, being part of the £100 my son Dewing hath of mine."

"My well-beloved son-in-law Mr. John Maning of Peasehall, Suffolk, to have the ordering of my account, as I am guardian of William Reymes my grandson, he to pay my daughter Tillinghurst £30, my son Brewster £10, and to my two grandchildren Sidley and John Reymes £5 each. To my son Manning £5."

To his wife all his household stuff for a chamber, one mare and two cows. "I hope she will be good to my poor young boys that are my grandchildren, Sidley and John Reymes." Leaves all his books to his grandson William Reymes, "my son Manning and my wife to care for them" till William is of age. He leaves to William Reymes his silver tankard and spoons; also his gold ring with seal of arms, etc. His velvet bed and bedstead, etc., to be sold. Leaves £30 to his son Brewster, and 10/- to the twenty poorest people in Cromer. Residue to his executor, his son Robert Reymes.

Proved at Norwich, May 30th 1663.

Colonel Bullen Reymes of Waddon, Dorset. Oct. 29th 1672.

... "I Bullen Reymes of Reymes Woddon, in the County of Dorset, Esq^{re}; Being in good health of Boddy, and of Perfitt Memory. . . . Considering the uncertenty of man's life, and the many severall ways to sudden death, Espetially remembering my father dyed of an Apoplexy, and my selfe not free from the apprehention of the like death, Have thought fitt to make my will". . . .

He desires his body to be buried near his wife in Portisham church. Bequests to his son Reymes, his son Pley, his daughter Pley, his daughter Mary, and his grand-children; his sister Wheately, his niece Sissell; his brother William Reymes, his wife and son; his brother and sister Chapman and Cousin Sarbrough his son; his brother Stevens and his wife; his brother and sister Windham,¹ his sister Hyde,¹ his brother and sister Winter¹; his cousin Robert Coker, his cousin William Coker, Sir Henry Coker; his cousin Charles Bruen, his cousin Thomas Hussy, his god-son Hugh Windham. Other bequests, including a mourning ring of 10/- to Captain William Ellesdon.²

Gives his daughter Mary Reymes for her portion £1000 as he gave to her sister Pley "Onely with this difference (in regard of her weakness, and Infirmety) That it shall not be payd her, until she have a joynter in a good and legall Estate, settled on her, adequot to her Portion, of aboute one hundred pounds by the yeare, That so, she be not hereafter in want, nor chargeable to her relations, but may live in som reputation according to her quallety, For my feare is, unles my Executor be very Carefull, Her Portion may prove her undoing, and she be made a Praye to som unworthy person, that will regard her no longer than her Portion lasts, and then slight her, and lay her aside; . . . meanwhile, and untill she be married, and have a child as aforesaid; my will is, That she be payd an anuety of eight and forty pounds pr annum, quarterly". . . .

Proved at Canterbury, Feb. 5th 1672/3.

Note. This abstract is from a copy of the will printed in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, VIII, 276. The will is of great length and unusual interest. Part of it has evidently been omitted, as an abstract in Brown *Somerset Wills*, 4th series, p. 372, mentions his godson Reymes Pley, his sister Constance Pley, and his son Bullen Reymes, who is named as executor, and to whom the residue of the estate is devised.

William Reymes of Sidestrand, gent. Nov. 28th, 1696.

His body to be committed "to the earth to God who gave it, at the discretion of my executors". He devises to Joseph Flight of the City of London, his brother, and to Thomas Harwood of Trunch, gentleman, all his messuages, lands and tenements in Sidestrand or Trimmingham, or in any other place in the Kingdom of England, to be sold within four years next after his decease, or sooner; all the money raised to be applied for the use of, bringing up, or as a portion for his several children. Also gives his household stuff, plate, etc., to the aforesaid Joseph Flight and Thomas Harwood.

Proved at Norwich, June 12th 1697.

¹ Daughters and coheirresses, with Bullen Reymes's wife, of Thomas Gerard of Trent.

² See above, p. 41.

Note. This will was first proved in London by Joseph Flight, who died soon after, and Thomas Harwood was advised to prove it in the Archdeaconry Court of Norwich.

Mary Greene of Norwich, widow. † Oct. 3rd 1715.

Names her grandchild Robert Reymes; her grandchildren Sarah Reymes, the wife of Robert Reymes, aforesaid, Joseph Reymes, Rachel Reymes, Lydia Reymes, Agnes Reymes, Piercy [elsewhere in will spelt Peires], Anne and Mary Reymes. Mentions the Flights as relations; also her cousin Mary wife of Mr. Peter Fynch, minister of the gospel. Her son Timothy Greene, executor.

Proved at Norwich, Nov. 22nd 1716.

William Reymes of Norwich, cordwainer. † May 3rd 1744.

Names his wife Christian; Robert Reymes, worsted weaver; John Reymes of Norwich, worsted weaver; Samuel Williamson of Great Ellingham, wool comber.

Proved at Norwich, Oct. 10th 1746.

Robert Reymes of Norwich, worsted weaver. † Feb. 16th 1754.

Names his wife Sarah, his two sons John and Sidley Reymes; daughter Sarah, wife of John Nutter; daughter Hannah Reymes; daughter, wife of Anthony Rupter; daughter Agnes, wife of Stephen Addington; daughter Mary Ann Reymes; his three sisters, Agnes Reymes, Mary Pearce, widow, and Persis the wife of Robert Gray.

Proved at Norwich, March 15th 1754.

Agnes Reymes of Norwich, spinster. † March 15th 1754.

Names her sister Persis, wife of Robert Gray; her sister Mary Pearce, widow; her nieces Sarah wife of John Nutter; Hannah, wife of — Southern; Martha, wife of Anthony Rupter; Agnes, wife of — Addington, clerk; Mary Reymes, and Martha, wife of — Watson; her nephews John and Samuel Williamson; her nephews Francis and Henry Beeting; her niece Hannah Colsey, and her two daughters Anne and Agnes, when sixteen; sister-in-law, Sarah Reymes, widow; her two nephews, John Reymes and Sidley Reymes, executors.

Proved at Norwich, Aug. 13th 1755.

John Reymes of Norwich, gentleman. † April 2nd 1792.

Names his wife Alice; his son Samuel Reymes; his daughters, Alice Barnard, Susanna Gainsborough, Sarah Lungley.

Codicil, dated Jan. 28th 1794.

Names his son-in-law Samuel Lungley, his wife Sarah having died; his sister Agnes Addington; his brother-in-law Samuel Collett; his nephews and nieces, John Nutter, Alice Jackson, George Sotheron, Jane Sotheron, Sarah Dobson, Mary Anne Hayton and Mary Rupter; to his brother Sidley Reymes, he leaves two shillings and sixpence per week.

Proved at Norwich, August 19th 1794.

APPENDIX K

EXTRACTS FROM OVERSTRAND REGISTERS¹

Baptisms.

- 1558. Dec. 8th. Francis son of Francis Reymes, gent.
- 1562. Oct. 1st. Faith da. of Phillip Caule, gent.
- 1565. Dec. —. William son of Clement Comforte.
- 1575. June 24th. Edward son of William Reymes, gent.
- 1578. May 13th. John son of William Reymes, gent.
- 1579. July 12th. Richard son of William Reymes, gent.
- 1580. Sept. 12th. Robert son of William Reymes, gent.
- 1581/2. March 13th. Elizabeth da. of William Reymes, gent and Mary his wife.
- 1583. April —. Mary da. of William Reymes, gent. and Mary his wife.
- 1583/4. March 2nd. Francis son of William Reymes, gent. and Mary his wife.
- 1585. July 4th. Judeth da. of William Reymes, gent. and Mary his wife.

¹ The registers begin in 1558.

1586. Sept. 12th. Bullen son of William Reymes, gent. and Mary his wife.
 1588. June 3rd. Barney son of William Reymes, gent. and Mary his wife.
 1593. Aug. 30th. Mary da. of William Reymes, gent. and Anne his wife.
 1595. Sept. 28th. John son of William Reymes, gent. and Anne his wife.
 1595/6. Jan. 26th. William son of William Bullen and Margaret his wife.
 1597. July 22nd. Anne da. of William Reymes and Anne his wife.
 1597/8. Jan. 26th. John son of Thomas Hobert, gent. and Anne his wife.
 1598. Nov. 3rd. Marie da. of William Reymes, gent. and Anne his wife.
 1600. Dec. 20th. Francis da. of Francis Reymes, gent.
 1602. April 20th. Judith da. of William Reymes, gent. and Anne his wife.
 1604. Nov. 1st. Clemente son of Francis Reymes, gent. and Sarah his wife.
 1621. July 27th. William son of Thomas Norgate and Mary his wife.
 1622. April 4th. Anne da. of John Reymes, gent. and Frances his wife.
 1624/5. Elizabeth da. of John Reymes, gent. and Frances his wife.
 Born Jan. 23rd and baptised the last day of the 3rd month.
 1627. Sept. 20th. William son of John Reymes, gent. and Frances his wife.
 1628/9. Jan. 10th. Robert son of John Reymes, gent. and Frances his wife.
 1630/1. March 14th. Frances da. of John Reymes, gent. and Frances his wife.
 1632. April 22nd. Anne da. of John Reymes, gent. and Frances his wife.
 1633. April 9th. Jane da. of John Reymes, gent. and Frances his wife.
1649. William son of William Reymes, gent. and Murriall his wife.
 Born Aug. 10th and baptised Aug. 30th.
 1651. Nov. 19th. Bridgett da. of William Reymes, gent. and Murriell his wife.
 1652. May 27th. Elizabeth da. of William Reymes, gent. and Murriall his wife.
 1655. May 5th. Sidley son of William Reymes, gent. and Murriall his wife.
 1658. John son of William Reymes and Murriall his wife.
 Born June 23rd and baptised July 25th.

Note. The register of baptisms was badly kept between 1671 and 1701. There are four entries for the years 1671-5, one entry for 1684, and no further entries until 1701.

Marriages.

- 1559/60. Feb. 20th. Phillip Caule, gent. and Elizabeth Reymes.
 1564. April 24th. Clement Comforte and Elizabeth Caule.
 1595. Oct. 27th. Francis Reymes, gent. and Agnes Harrison.
 1596. Sept. 23rd. Thomas Hobert, gent. and Anne Reymes.
 1602/3. Jan. —. Robert Withord and Marie Reymes.
 1603. Nov. —(?). Francis Reymes, gent. and Sarah Key.
 1620. May 8th. Thomas Norgate, gent. and Mary Reymes.
 1639. Aug. 14th. Mr. Francis Rowland and Mrs. Ann Barney.
 1648. Sept. 20th. William Reymes and Murriall his wife.
Note. There are no entries in the register of marriages between 1648 and 1664, and none between 1672 and 1716.

Burials

1558. Sept. 8th. Francis Reymes, gent.
 1561/2. Feb. 30th. Phillip Caule, gent.
 1562. July 20th. Edward son of Francis Reymes, gent. and Elizabeth his wife.
 1582. May 13th. Edward son of William Reymes and Mary his wife.
 1588. June 11th. Mary wife of William Reymes, gent.
 1593. Nov. 5th. Mary, da. of William Reymes, gent. and Anne his wife.
 1601/2. Feb. 1st. Richard son of William Reymes, gent. and Marie his wife.
 1603. Sept. 22nd. Agnes wife of Francis Reymes, gent.
 1604/5. Jan. 28th. William son of Francis Reymes, gent. and Agnes his wife.
 Feb. 25th. Francis Reymes, gent.
 1606. June 17th. Judith da. of William Reymes.
 Nov. 24th. William Reymes, gent.

1609. July 7th. Anne wife of William Reymes, gent.
 1625. April 21st. Anne da. of John Reymes, gent. and Frances his wife.
 1627. June 13th. William Reymes, gent.
 1634. April 4th. Frances wife of John Reymes, gent.
 1636/7. Feb. 23rd. Thomas Reymes, gent.
 1638. April 28th. James Matchett, gent.
 1639. Nov. 11th. Ann Matchett, gentlewoman.
 1647. July 3rd. Mary, da. of Francis Reymes.
 1663. "John Reymes Esq^r dyed 27th March 1663".
 1672. Deborah Reymes the wife of John Reymes Esq^r died 19 October and buried 22 October.

There are no more entries in the register of burials until 1712.

APPENDIX L

EXTRACTS FROM SIDESTRAND REGISTERS¹*Baptisms.*

1627. Willm the sonne of John Reymes gent and Francis his wyfe—October 4th.
 1628. Anne daughter of Thomas Norgate and Mary his wyfe—June 16th.
 1684. Lydia daughter of Wm Reymes and Mary his wife, born October 30th 1683 : baptised March 27th 1684.
 1685(?). Rachell daughter of Wm Reymes and Mary his wife, born February 23rd 1684 [probably 1685] : baptised March 27th.
 1686. Joseph son of William Reymes and Mary his wife, born August 24th 1686 : baptised August 27th 1686.
 1688. Agnes daughter of William Reymes and Mary his wife, born March 30th 1688 : baptised April 2nd 1688.
 1689. Thomas son of Wm Reymes and Mary his wife, born May 29th 1689 : baptised Oct. 23rd 1689.
 1690. Persis daughter of Willm Reymes and Mary his wife, born Jan. 13th 1690 : bapt. March 9th.
 1692. Priscilla daughter of Wm Reymes and Mary his wife, born April 13th 1692 : bapt. June 13th 1692.
 1695. Bullen son of William Reymes and Mary his wife, born May 14th 1695 : bapt. May 21st 1695.
 1696. Mary daughter of William Reymes and Mary his wife, born July 20th 1696 : bapt. July 27th 1696.

Burials.

1690. Thomas son of William Raymes and Mary his wife, buried April 7th 1690.
 1692. Priscilla daughter of William Reymes and Mary his wife, buried November 19th 1692.
 1695. Bullen son of William Reymes and Mary his wife, buried July 3rd 1695.

APPENDIX M

FEET OF FINES²

Norfolk, 2 John, 153/14, No. 33

Final agreement made at Westminster fifteen days after the feast of All Saints, 2 John [1200]. Between William de Raimes, plaintiff, and John de Reinestorp, tenant, concerning the service of half a knight's fee, which the same William was demanding against the aforesaid John for a free tenement which he held in Reinestorp. The aforesaid William

¹ Extracted from the transcripts in C. M. Hoare, *Records of a Norfolk Village*. (The reader is reminded that during this period the calendar year ended 24 March: for example, 9 March 1690 would now be styled 9 March 1691).

² Excluding fines quoted in the narrative.

remises and quitclaims to the aforesaid John & his heirs all his right and claim in the aforesaid service of half a knight's fee from himself and his heirs for ever; saving the lordship which remains to the said William and his heirs. For this fine and agreement the aforesaid John gave the aforesaid William 100 shillings sterling.

Norfolk, C.P. 25(2), 61/478

Final agreement . . . at Westminster in the octaves of Michaelmas, 1 Edward VI [1547]. . . . Between John Davy, clerk, plaintiff, and Francis Reymes, gent. and Gregory Davye, gent., deforciant, concerning the manor of Overstronde . . . and the advowson of Overstronde church, 200 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 300 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, 40/- rent, and the liberty of one fold . . . in Overstrond, Systron, Shepden, Northrepps, Southrepps & Roughton. . . .

Francis and Gregory acknowledge the same to be the right of John as that which he has of their gift, and remit and quitclaim the same from themselves & their heirs to John & his heirs for ever. For which acknowledgement, etc., John grants to Gregory the said manor, etc. . . . to have & to hold to Gregory for the term of one month, and after that time the manor, etc., wholly to remain to Francis & Elizabeth his wife, daughter of the said Gregory, and the heirs of Francis by the body of the said Elizabeth. . . .

Norfolk C.P. 25(2), 462, Trinity, 6 Charles I

Final agreement . . . at Westminster, in the octaves of Trinity, 6 Charles I [1630]. . . . Between Robert Reymes, gent. & Edward Pightlyn, gent., plaintiffs, and John Reymes, Esq, Robert Waterson & Thomasine his wife, deforciant, concerning the manor of Overstrond with the appurtenances, and of one messuage, one dovehouse, 3 gardens, one orchard, 180 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 250 acres of furze & heath, and 40/- rent with the appurtenances in Overstrond, Northrepps & Cromer, as well as the advowson of Overstrond church. . . . John, Robert Waterson & Thomasine acknowledge the same to be the right of Robert Reymes as that which Robert & Edward have of their gift and that which they remitted & quitclaimed for themselves and the heirs of John to the said Robert Reymes & Edward & the heirs of Robert for ever. . . . For which grant, etc, Robert Reymes and Edward give John, Robert Waterman & Thomasine £300 sterling.

Norfolk, C.P. 25(2), 579, Mich. 1656, Pt. I

Final agreement . . . at Westminster in the morrow of All Souls, 1656, . . . Between Riches Browne & William Doughty, gents, plaintiffs, and William Reymes, gent. & Meriall his wife, deforciant, concerning one messuage, 3 barns, 2 stables, one dovehouse, 2 gardens, 2 orchards, 80 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 220 acres of pasture, with the appurtenances in Overstrand, Northrepps & Cromer¹ . . . William Reymes & Meriall have acknowledged the said tenements to be the right of Riches as those which the said Riches & William Doughty have of the gift of the said William Reymes & Meriall, and those they have remitted and quitclaimed . . . to the said Riches & William Doughty & the heirs of Riches for ever. . . . For which acknowledgement etc, Riches & William Doughty have given William Reymes & Meriall £300 sterling.

Norfolk, C.P. 25(2), 580, Trinity 1657

Final agreement . . . at Westminster in the [quinzaine] of Trinity 1657. . . . Between James Ward, the elder, gent. and James Ward, the younger, gent., plaintiffs, and William Reymes, gent. and Meriall, his wife, deforciant, concerning one messuage, 3 barns, 2 stables, dovehouse, 2 gardens, 2 orchards, 80 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 220 acres of pasture, with the appurtenances in Overstrand, Northrepps and Cromer, . . . William Reymes & Meriall have acknowledged the premises to be the right of James Ward the elder, as those which the said James & James have of their gift & those they have remitted and quitclaimed . . . to James & James, and the heirs of James the elder for ever. . . . For which acknowledgement, etc, James & James have given William & Meriall £200 [sic] sterling.

¹ It will be noted that the advowson is not included, and that there is no reference, as in the two previous fines, to the manor of Overstrand.

Norfolk, C.P. 25(2), 698, Mich. 24 Charles II

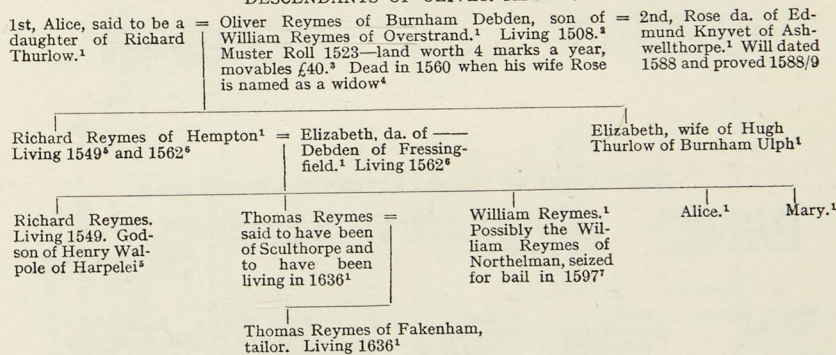
Final agreement . . . at Westminster, in the morrow of St. Martin, 24 Charles II [November 1672]. . . . Between William Hamby, gent. & Thomas Bell, gent., plaintiffs, and William Reymes, gent., deforciant, concerning the manor of Overstrond with the appurtenances, and of 100 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 45 acres of pasture with the appurtenances in Overstrond alias Oxstrond, North Repps & Cromer, as well as the advowson of Overstrond church, . . . William Reymes acknowledges the said manor, etc, to be the right of William Hamby as that which he and Thomas had of his, William Reymes's, gift, and which he remitted and quitclaimed . . . to William Hamby & Thomas, and the heirs of the said William for ever. . . . For which acknowledgement, etc, William Hamby & Thomas have given William Reymes £160 sterling.

APPENDIX N

PEDIGREES OF COLLATERAL BRANCHES OF THE REYMES FAMILY

PEDIGREE 4

DESCENDANTS OF OLIVER REYMES



¹ *Norfolk Visitation*, 1563 (Norfolk and Norwich Arch. Society).

² *Norfolk Records Society*, vol. I.

³ Will of Henry Walpole 1549 (see *Norfolk Visitation*, 1563).

⁴ Will of Robert Kyrkebie, parson of Horningtoft 1562 (Norris, *Funeral Monuments*, vol. I, App.).

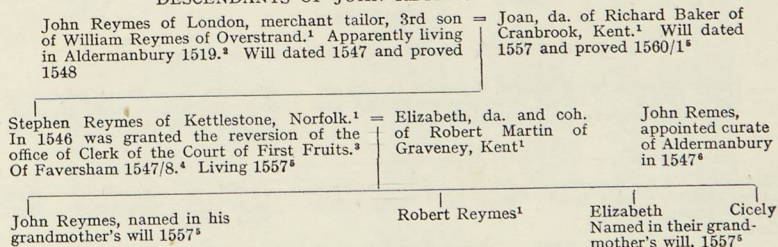
⁵ *Acts of Privy Council*, new series, XXVII, 21.

⁶ Will of Robert Reymes 1508.

⁷ Will of Jane Knyvett 1560.

PEDIGREE 5

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN REYMES OF LONDON



Note. Cicely, daughter of — Reames of County Kent is said to have married Humphrey Burnaby and to have had a son William, aged 13 in 1619, and a daughter Susanna, aged 14 in 1619 (*Visitation of Warwickshire*, 1619).

¹ *Visitation of Norfolk*, 1563.

² *Ancient Deeds*, P.R.O., C. 7534.

³ *Letters and Papers, Henry VIII*.

⁴ Hasted, *Kent*, III, 18.

⁵ Will of Joan Reymes, see App. J.

⁶ Hennessy, *Novum Repertorium Ecclesiasticum Parochiale Londinense*.

PEDIGREE 6

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN REYMES OF SUFFIELD

John Rymes of Suffield, son of Robert Rymes of Overstrand.¹ Will dated 1551 and proved 1553² = Margaret, da. of Robert Greene.¹ According to Norris, John Rymes's wife was Margaret, da. of John Calthorpe of Cockthorpe and widow of — Symonds²

Robert Rymes of Aylsham. Under age 1551.³ Will dated and proved 1572⁴ = Alice, da. of John Atwood of Debenham, Suffolk¹

Anne. Under age 1572.⁴ Married 1st, George Gowly of Sloley, and, 2nd, William Payne of London, son of Thomas Payne of Itteringham⁵

Katherine. Under age 1572.⁴ Married Matthew Pratt of Tittleshall, whose will was proved 1619⁶

Ella
Alice
Margaret
All under age 1572⁴

¹ *Visitation of Norfolk*, 1563.

² Will of John Rymes, App. J.

³ *Norfolk Visitations*, Harl. Soc., XXXII, 217.

⁴ Norris's Collections, *Hundred of Happing*.

⁵ Will of Robert Rymes, App. J.

⁶ *Visitation of Norfolk*, 1664, Harl. Soc.

PEDIGREE 7

DESCENDANTS OF FRANCIS REYMES OF OVERSTRAND

1st, Agnes Harrison. Married 1595. Died Sept. 1603¹ = Francis Rymes of Overstrand, son of Francis Rymes who died 1558. Bapt. 1558 and died Feb. 1604/5¹ = 2nd, Sarah, da. of Margaret Key of North Repps. Married Nov. (?) 1603¹

William Rymes. Died 1604¹

Awdry. Living 1606² and 1627/8³

Frances. Bapt. 1600.¹ Living 1627/8³

Clement Rymes. Bapt. 1604.¹ Apprenticed in 1621 to Bartram Thomson, of London, skinner.⁴ Living 1627/8³

¹ Overstrand registers.

² Will of William Rymes 1606, see App. J.

³ Will of Clement Rymes 1627/8, see App. J.

⁴ Skinners' Hall, Apprenticeship register.

PEDIGREE 8

DESCENDANTS OF FRANCIS REYMES OF LONDON

Francis Rymes, of William Rymes of Overstrand. Bapt. 1583/4.¹ Of St. Martin-in-the-Fields,² and "Haberdasher to the Duke of Buckingham"³ = Elizabeth, da. of George Smethy of East Bradenham and Norwich. Married at Shipden 1611.⁴ Died 1631²

Elizabeth. Living 1626.⁵ Married Humphrey Croft 1631²

Clementia. Bapt. 1618⁶

Frances. Bapt. 1619²

George Rymes. Bapt. 1620/1²

Judith. Bapt. 1623. Died 1625/6²

Eleanor. Bapt. 1624²

Mary. Bapt. 1626/7²

1624. Edward "Rymes" married Elizabeth Redborne.²
1627/8. Edward Rymes "vir" buried.²
1635. Elizabeth Rymes, buried.²

¹ Overstrand registers.

² Will of Clement Rymes 1627/8. See App. E.

³ St. Martin-in-the-Fields registers.

⁴ *East Anglian Pedigrees*, Harl. Soc. vol. XCI.

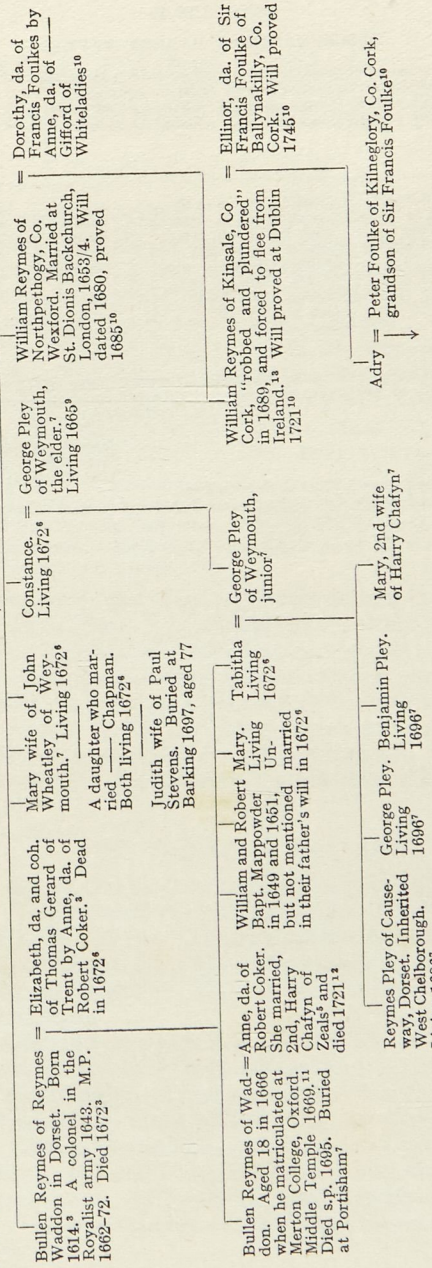
⁵ "To Elizabeth Rymes, daughter of Francis Rymes of London, Gent., £10 at age of eighteen years."
Will of Thomas Hobart of Thwaite printed in *Norfolk Visitation*, 1563, II, 139.

⁶ The parents are not named in this entry in the St. Martin-in-the-Fields registers.

PEDIGREE 9

DESCENDANTS OF BULLEN REYMES

Bullen Reymes son of William Reymes of Overstrand, Bap. 1586.¹ In 1627/8 = Mary, da. of William Petre of Petershams, Devon,² and a servant of the Duke of Buckingham,³ and, later, of the Duchess of Buckingham.³ sister-in-law of Robert Coker of Mappowder, Dorset.⁴ Of St. Martin-in-the-Fields 1642. Died 1651,⁵ being described as of Hartford, She died 1662 and was buried at West Chelborough.⁶ Sussex.

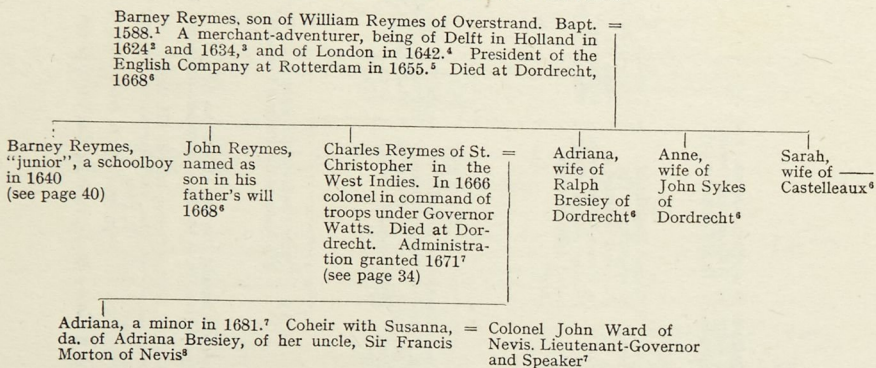


¹ Overstrand registers.
² Communicated by Miss E. M. Troyte-Bullock, formerly of Zeals House, Wiltshire, her information being derived from the Reymes papers at Zeals. Also see *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, vols. IV and V.
³ Brown, *Somerset Wills*, V, 295.
⁴ Will of Bullen Reymes 1672, see App. I.
⁵ M.I. Barking Church, Essex, see App. F.
⁶ College of Arms, Betham, *Genealogical Abstracts of Irish Wills*, and *Courthorpe's Collection, Stemmatia Misc.*, vol. II. Also see *Index to Irish Wills*, Vicars. Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*, 1500-1714.
⁷ Hutchin, *Dorset*, I, 566. Also M.I. Frier Waddon Church, Dorset.
⁸ Will of Clement Reymes 1627/8, see App. J.
⁹ Hutchin, *Hist. of Dorset*, 3rd ed., III, 723.
¹⁰ *Som. and Dorset Notes and Queries*, vol. IV and V.
¹¹ *Cal. State Papers*, IV, 548.
¹² *Cal. Treasury Books*, 1680-92, IX, Pt. I, p. 228.

NORFOLK ARCHÆOLOGY

PEDIGREE 10

DESCENDANTS OF BARNEY REYMES

¹ Overstrand registers.² *Hist. MSS. Com. Earl Cowper's MSS.*, II, 69.³ Thurloe, *State Papers*, III, 754.⁴ V. L. Oliver, *Notes on the Ward Family* (Soc. of Genealogists).⁵ Will of Sir Francis Morton of London, formerly of Nevis dated and proved 1679 (*Smith MSS.*, Soc. of Genealogists).⁶ *Herald and Genealogist*, V, 149.⁷ *Close Roll*, 18 Charles I, Pt. 8, no. 5.⁸ Will of Barney Reymes, 1668, see App. J.