

## SURREY DOCUMENTS.

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**Ralph Agas in Surrey.**—The document printed below is of interest for two reasons. It shows the famous land-surveyor and plan-drawer, Ralph Agas, preparing to make a survey at Cobham in Surrey, and also throws light on his method of procedure.

It comes from a bundle of exhibits among the records of the Court of Wards, now in the Public Record Office, and appears to have been deposited in that court with other papers and deeds in connection with a minority in the Gavell family in the early part of the seventeenth century. Unfortunately the result of the Court of Survey is not forthcoming.

Agas is stated<sup>1</sup> to have practised as a land-surveyor from about 1560 till his death in 1621. Between those dates the 2nd March fell on a Thursday in nine years—*scil.*, 1564, 1570, 1581, 1587, 1592, 1598, 1609, 1615, and 1620.

S. C. RATCLIFF.

[*Court of Wards, Deeds and Evidences*, 228/42.]

Coveham.      ffor the Baylie there, or such other person as vsuallie warneth the Courte.

I am hereby to geue yow admonishment, & warninge of a Courte Baron, & courte of Surveigh to be houlden for the maner of Coveham uppon thursdaie come seuenight, beyng the seconde daie of Martch, to be kept at eight of the clocke the same daie in the mornynge at the scite of the same maner caled Coveham Courte, whether ye are to bringe your Copies of Court Rolles, Indentures of leases, and other your evidence for your entries into the same ffe & tenures there, & herein it is desired that yow woulde ffaiethfully, carefullie, & Willingly Joine in the perfectinge of the same Surueigh consideringe that your Landes & tenementes were first geuen out of the same maner to the end that yow shoulde, by your knowledge, & presentmentes maintaine, keape, & vphoulde, as well the right of the Lorde, as your oune, in perfect & commendable maner accordinge vnto your auneynt customes, & that yow ought to bringe in a Surveigh at your oune costes & charges by vertue of your tenures when tyme shall require. The Benefite of which Surveigh doeth espetiallie concerne your

<sup>1</sup> D.N.B., *sub nomine*.

selues & posteritie, and herein not to faile as ye will aunswer the contrarie at your perill, And if any person shall make doubt of sheawinge his free deades concerning this maner Let him repaire to Master Surveior in the meane tyme & he shalbe fullie satisfied to his contentment, & clearly vnderstand what appertayneth to his tenure, by the first graunt made by the Lordes there.

RADULPH AGAS

*Superuisor ibidem per assignationem.*

**Sale of Nonsuch.**—One of the original deeds relating to the sale of Nonsuch Palace and Park by Barbara, Duchess of Cleveland, has recently been purchased by Mr. Graves, the Chairman of the Cheam Parish Council, and presented by him to the Council. It now hangs in the "Old Cottage" at Cheam. The deed, which is dated April 13, 1687 and is signed by all the parties—viz., the Duchess of Cleveland and her three sons, the Dukes of Southampton, Grafton, and Northumberland, Lord Grandison and Lord Brouncker of the one part, and Richard Topham and Michael Bibington of the other part, is a deed leading to the uses of a fine, and covers the capital messuage of Nonsuch and the park of 671 acres, and Nonsuch Great Park or Worcester Park of 1,030 acres, and Worcester House.

It is part of an effective conveyance of the lands comprising the capital messuage of Nonsuch and the Parks of 671 and 1,030 acres respectively for certain users; what those were we cannot tell without seeing the indentures of like date referred to in it. There is no doubt it is in the nature of a family settlement, as the Lords Grandison and Brouncker, at the time that Charles II bestowed Nonsuch on Barbara Villiers (Duchess of Cleveland), were appointed trustees of it, hence their being parties to the deed.

J. A. PYWELL.

**East Betchworth.**—The suit mentioned in the note on this manor in Vol. XXXVI, p. 120, appears to have been the fictitious action known as a recovery. Stephen Hervey, the Steward, was also steward of the Manor of Reigate from 1697 to 1706, and was one of the members of Parliament for Reigate Borough from 1698 to 1707, the year of his death. Joanna Hudson was the widow of Edmund Hudson, who died 1694, and is described in the Reigate Court Rolls as "of Betchworth Yeoman." He was a customary tenant of a holding in Reigate Manor known as "le Charte." Bouwicke is a mis-spelling for Bonwicke, an old Surrey family whose pedigree is given in Vol. XIII., *S.A.C.*, p. 112.

WILFRID HOOPER.

**A Seventeenth-Century Document**, of a type which has not often been reproduced, is the subject of the accompanying photograph. In this deed, which is on parchment and dated 2 May, 1638, the rectors, vicars, and curates of fourteen parishes adjacent to the city of London submit to the King's arbitrament the cause then pending concerning the tithes and other rights of their several churches.

The uniformly good condition of all the signets and signatures is remarkable; the hands are in secretary or in italic, and are all very clear. Of the fourteen signets, which are impressed in shellac on pendants of pink ribbon, nine show arms (Parishes of St. Margaret, Westminster; St. Mary Matfellow, Whitechapel; St. Clement Danes; St. George, Southwark; St. Leonard, Shoreditch; St. Saviour, Southwark; St. Martin-in-the-Fields; St. Olave, Southwark, and Lambeth). One, St. Mary, Newington, shows a crest, one, St. Giles-in-the-Fields, has a merchant's mark, and one, St. Thomas in Southwark, a fanciful device. There appears to be no impression on the Savoy signet, while that for St. James, Clerkenwell, shows the initials of the curate, Henry Goodcote. Possibly the letter "n" which shows over each name stood for "nomen," as an indication of where each should sign.

The cause referred to concerned the differences between parsons and citizens as to the proper amount of tithe, since it appears to have been the same case which was the subject of an Order in Council in the following January (see *Cal. S.P. Domestic*, 1638-39, p. 344). It was then stated that, all parties having agreed to submit to His Majesty's award, and the case having been heard, a stay of all suits for increase of tithes until the award was made had been ordered. Later, however, the clergy had complained that "by the long dependence of the said cause, submitted about five years since," they had been deprived of "all opportunity of improvement," and some of their parishioners withdrew tithes formerly paid. The clergy were therefore empowered by this Order to sue either in the ecclesiastical or temporal courts for all tithes meanwhile, and until "His Majesty's more weighty affairs permit him to make a final end in that business."

It should be added that the document is in the Public Record Office under the reference: S.P. Dom. Chas. I, Case E, No. 4.

DOROTHY L. POWELL.

