

CHANCERY LANE:
SIR NICHOLAS BACON'S ESTATE.

BY

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THE document which follows is a transcript of certain proceedings in Chancery for the perpetuation of evidence relating to the boundaries of an estate in Chancery Lane which once belonged to the Sir Nicholas Bacon, keeper of the great seal. This estate lay between Southampton Buildings on the north and Rolls Passage on the south. The arms of Sir Hickman Bacon, twelfth baronet in succession to Sir Nicholas Bacon, may be seen to-day on the west wall of one of the houses in Chancery Lane, viz., on No. 48.

It was the intention of these proceedings to set at rest all doubts concerning the southern boundary of the estate by the perpetuation of the testimony of the men who made the annual perambulation of St. Andrew's, Holborn, and St. Dunstan's in the west, and of other aged inhabitants of these parishes. So far as the boundaries of the two parishes were in dispute the proceedings cannot be said to have been successful, for the evidence of the witnesses goes to show that Rolls Passage (then or soon afterwards known as Tenter Alley or Lane), divided them; whereas Cursitor Street now is, and for many years has been, the line of division.

The evidence taken relates to a small part only of the boundary of St. Andrew's, but it shows that the perambulations of the sixteenth century were not always made as they are to-day. The St. Andrew's procession came down Fetter Lane, which was not a parish boundary, to a post somewhere not far north of Neville's court, and there a psalm

was sung. Next, instead of turning west and tracing the boundary to Chancery Lane, it returned to Holborn, marched along the highway as far as Chancery Lane, and then down the Lane to an old elm tree, which seems to have been opposite the end of Rolls Passage. Here another psalm was sung. Then it returned up the Lane to Lincoln's Inn Gate, entered the Inn and heard the Rector read a lesson in the chapel, and then passed out through a small gate, now no longer existing, at the north end of the garden, and through a saddler's shop into Holborn. Evidently the actual boundary line of the parish was not traced step by step, but was deemed to run on continuously without sudden breaks or bends. The procession was content to note where the boundary crossed important roads, and to impress those places on the memory of the public by singing psalms or reading chapters of the Scriptures.

This method of perambulation has led to much misunderstanding and some false history; for it has often been assumed that the route of the procession was necessarily the parish boundary. It probably accounts for the boundary of St. Andrew's being made to run along Cursitor Street instead of Rolls Passage. There, no doubt, came a day when the procession wished to pass from the post in Fetter Lane as directly as possible to the old elm tree in Chancery Lane, and so avoid the route through Holborn, already described. We may suppose that the most convenient route to take was through Cursitor Street; for even before the date of these proceedings the old lane which ran from the post to the tree had been blocked 'by one Ridgeley of Fleetestrete.'

These proceedings have some bearing on the history of Lincoln's Inn and especially on its ancient claim to extra-parochiality; but lack of space makes any discussion of such a controversial matter impossible in these pages. It may however be noted that an entry¹ in the Black Books shows

¹ Black Books of Lincoln's Inn, i, p. 93.

that the Society of Lincoln's Inn kept their commons in New Inn when their Hall was being rebuilt in 1483. A long series of charters at the Guildhall relating to this New Inn show that it was the Inn afterwards known as the Boreshedde and it is so described in these proceedings.

The greater part of the following has been printed in Mr. E. William's valuable work on *Early Holborn and the Legal Quarter of London*; but Mr. Turner informs me that he made the present transcript many years ago. This transcript is here printed for the general convenience of the members of the Society.—Ed.

AN EXEMPLIFICACION of a bill and aunsweere with certen depositions at the request of the Maior and Cominaltie of the Citie of London Data xii die¹ Iulii anno xvi^o Elizabethhe regine [12 July, 1573].

ELIZABETHA dei gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie regina fidei defensor etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes litere peruenerint salutem INSPEXIMUS quendam billam siue petitionem per Maiorem ciues et comunitatem ciuitatis nostre London querentes predilecto et fideli consiliario nostro Nicholao Bacon militi magni sigilli nostri Anglie custodi in curia nostra Cancellarie versus quosdam Rogerum Tisdale, Thomam Hutton, Thomam Harris, Iohannem Rotheram, et Georgium Smalewoode defendentes ad examinandos testes inperpetuam rei memoriam exhibitam ac in filaciis cancellarie predictae residentem in hec uerba :—

To the right honorable Sir Nicholas Bacon knight, lorde keeper of the greate seale of England IN MOST humble wise complayninge sheweth unto your good Lordshipp the Maior Cominaltie and Citezens of the Citie of London That wheareas about the fourth yere of the reigne of our late soveraigne lorde kinge Edwarde the sixt the same kinge beinge seased in his demeasne as of fee as in the right of his crowne of Englande of and in one mesuage and tenement commonlie called the Bores Heade and of and in the shoppes cellers sollers gardens and other commodities easementis and hereditamentis whatsoever to the same messuage belonginge or apperteyninge with all and singuler their appurtenances then or late in the tenure or ocupacion of one John Mylles or of his assignes scituate lyinge and beinge in the parish of Sainte Andrewes in Holborne London All and singuler which saide messuage and tenement and other the premisses did come unto the same late kinge Edwarde the sixt by vertue of an acte of Parliament made in the firste yere of his reigne for the dissolucion

¹ From the Additional MS. 25, 590 (fol. 32) at the British Museum. I have been unable to find an enrolment of these proceedings at the Public Record Office. In the text here printed marks of punctuation have been inserted for the convenience of the reader.

of Colledges free chappells and Chauntries and so beinge seased by his letters patentes bearinge date at Westminster the tenth daie of Aprill in the saide fourth yeare of his reigne did in consideracion of certen sommes of money to him well and trulye contented and paid give and graunte amongst other thingis the same mesuage and tenement and all and singuler other the premisses with their appurtenaunces unto the saide Mayor Cominaltie and Citizens and to their successors forever. By force wheareof the same Maior Cominaltie and Citizens weare and yet bene thereof lawfullie seased in their demeasne as of fee and have also ever sythens taken perceaved and quietlie enjoyed the rents yssues and proffitts of the same without any lett or disturbaunce of any personne or persone whatsoever But nowe so it is right honorable lorde that of late one Roger Tisdale, Thomas Hutton, Thomas Harrys, John Rotheram and George Smalwoode beinge tenanntes and occupiers of some parte of the premisses for that they could not obtaine from your said Oratours suche leases and tearmes of yeres of the premisses as they desired have of malice slaundered the title of your saide oratours in reportinge in sundrie places and unto divers persons of good creditt that your saide Oratours had not purchased the same messuage and other the premisses and that if your saide Oratours hadd good assurance of the same yet hadd sundrie lordes next adioyninge to the same susteyned greate wronges by your saide Oratours for your Oratours had exceeded the true boundaries and lymittes of the premisses and that they had encroched divers parcells of grounde upon the saide lordes next adioyninge by reason whereof your saide Oratours are likelie to sustaine greate disherison in the premisses unles your good Lordshipp aide and furtheraunce maie be hadd and obteyned in the lawfull defence of the same MAYE it therefore please your good Lordship, the premisses considered and for that there be sundrie persons of greate age and likelie by course of nature not longe to continewe in liefie that do knowe the true boundaries meetes and lymittis of the premisses and of every parte and parcell thereof and in what parishes they lye in to graunte that the saide aged parsons maie be called by the Queenes Maiesties process unto the high Courte of Chauncery there to depose declare and witness the truth and certentie of and in the premisses to the intent that the saide deposicions maie remaine of recorde *in perpetuam rei memoriam*, And that the like proces maie be awarded againste the saide Roger Tysdall, Thomas Hutton, Thomas Harris, John Rotheram and George Smalwoode to make aunswere to the premisses and your saide Oratours shall dailie praye unto the Almightye for the preservacion of your good Lordshippe in honour longe to endure. (W. Fleetwoode. Powle).

INSPEXIMUS eciam quandam responcionem per prefatos Rogerum Tisdale, Thomam Hutton, Thomas Harris, Iohannem Rotheram et Georgium Smalwoode defendentes eidem bille siue petitioni factam Ac in eisdem filaciis cancellarie nostre predicte remanentem in hec verba:—

The aunswere of Roger Tysdale, Thomas Hutton, Thomas Harris, John Rotheram and George Smalwood to the bill of the Maior and Cominaltie and the Citizens of the Citie of London.

THE SAIDE defendaunts by protestacion not confessing anythinge materiall conteyned in the saide bill of complaint to be true in suche manner and fourme as in the same is expressed and declared for aunswere they and everie of them doue saye that they and everie of them are well pleased and contented that the request made by the saide complaynauntis expressed in the foresaide bill of complaint may be graunted and take suche effecte as they pray and desire And they do praie that foreasmuche as they be poore men and not willinge to spende their tyme in suites of the lawe that after the tyme as suche witnesses as shalbe brought fourth and examined as is required by the saide bill whose deposicions beinge once entred of recorde to remaine *in perpetuam rei memoriam* that then they may be dismissed by the favour of this honorable Courte without any further trouble or vexacion (Fr. Wyndam Griffith).

INSPEXIMUS superinde quosdam articulos siue interrogatoria quedam ex parte predictorum Maioris ciuium et communitatis ciuitatis predicte querencium versus eosdem Rogerum Tisdale, Thomam Hutton, Thomam Harris, Iohannem Rotheram et Georgium Smalwood defendentes in dictam cancellariam nostram exhibita ac inter filaciis (*sic*) ibidem remanentes in hec verba:—

INTERROGATORIES exhibited by the maior and cominaltie of the cittie of London for the examinacion of wites *in perpetuam rei memoriam*.

FIRST whether do you knowe one mesuage and tenement with the gardenis thereunto belonginge scituate in Chauncerye Lane beinge parte and parcell of the possessions belonginge to the maior and cominaltie of the citie of London, yea or noe ?

ITEM whether doe you knowe the meetes lymittis and boundaries of the same mesuage tenement and gardens, and if you do then howe doe you knowe them ?

ITEM whether have you ever harde that the same mesuage or tenement was called by the name of the Bores Heade, yea or noe ?

ITEM What persons have bene tenauntis or farmors of the saide mesuage tenement and gardens within your remembraunce and who weare before as you have harde by your elders ?

ITEM whether hath the procession of the parrish of Sainte Dunstanes in the West of London compassed in the saide mesuage and tenement with the foresaide garden as parte and parcell of the same parrishe, yea or noe ?

ITEM whether hath the procession of the parrishe of of Sainte Androwes in Holburn compassed in the same mesuage and tenement with the foresaide garden as parte and parcell of the same parrishe, yea or noe ?

ITEM whether do you knowe to whome the yerelie rente or rentes of the foresaide mesuage and tenement with the gardens thereunto belonginge weare paide and whome were the landlordes of the same.

INSPEXIMUS super quo quasdam depositiones quorundam testium ad eosdem articulos siue interrogatoria predicta in eandem cancellariam nostram adducta iuratorum et in perpetuam rei memoriam examinerum ac inter recorda examinacionum ibidem residencia in hec uerba:—

Ex parte maioris ciuium et comunitatis ciuitatis London' querencium uersus Rogerum Tisdale, Thomam Hutton, Thomam Harris, Iohannem Rotheram et Georgium Smalwoode defendentes testes in perpetuam rei memoriam examinatos per Henricum Iohnes.

RAUFHE WHITLYN clerke parson of Sainte Androwes in Holborne within the suburbs of the Citie of London of the age of threscore yeres or thereabouts sworne and examined the eleaventh daie of Maye in the sixtenth yere of the reign of our soveraigne ladie Queene Elizabeth by vertue of his othe deposith and saithe to the first, second, thirde and fourth interrogatories that he caun saie nothinge.

To the fifte and sixt interrogatories this deponent saith that he this deponent for the space of theis fiftene yeres and more hath bene parson of the parrishe of St. Androwes in Holborne aforesaid and duringe the same tyme he hath everie yere in the Rogation weeke savinge this last yere made the perambulacion and circuit thereof and saith that the usual perambulacion yerelie of the same parrishe made upon the Tewesadie in the saide Rogation weeke for his tyme hath bene thus:—First from Saint Andros Church on that side of Holbourne and so into Fewter Lane to a post on the left hande over againste the end of an olde [lane] or alley there which of late yeres hath bene stopte upp by one Ridgeley of Fleetestrete as he did here saye which lane sometime ran through the gardens between Fewter Lane and Chauncerye Lane and came out almoste againste Lincolns Inne gate or the olde greate Elme tree there and saithe that at the ende of the saide lane in Fewter Lane he this deponent hath used to saie a gospell a Psalme or some other chapter of the scripture and that beinge done he returned backe againe into Holborne and so

upp to Chauncerye Lane and downe the same alonge by the Earle of Southamptons wall unto the foresaide lanes ende over against the said olde elme tree standinge in the streete there and there used to reede an other gospell and then backe againe into Lincolns Inne and in the chappell there saide an other gospell as in parcell also of the said Sainte Andrews parrishe and then through the saide Inne and so home againe. And further he saith that he hathe harde one Mr. Moreton Esquier saye and one Clement Rice a man of threescore and fiteene yeres of age borne in Holborne within the same parrishe and continuinge there all his liefe tyme saye also that they knewe a lane commonlie used from Chauncerye to Fewter Lane which lane they saide did encompass the saide gardens and devided sainte Androwes parrishe from Sainte Dunstans in Fleetestrete and he thinketh the same to be trewe for he saith that aboute six or seaven yeres passed one Mr. Hunt deceased who was one of the Queenes servauntes a man of good substance and credit and dwelling manie yeres in Holborne in the saide parrishe of Sainte Androwes goinge with others in the procession or perambulation with this deponent in the saide parrishe in the Rogation weeke they chaunced to meete the procession then of Sainte Dunstans parrishe goinge along by the endes of the said gardens at whiche tyme the saide Mr. Hunt knowinge that they made their perambulation further then the lymittes of their owne parishe rebuked them for comynge so farre sayinge unto them as this Deponent now remembreth theis woordes—Masters, you doe usurpe upon our parrishe in comynge so farre, for it is our parrishe to yonder Lane, pointinge with his finger to the lane over againste the foresaide Elme tree and blamed muche their auncientes for so doinge so as their curate and his companie returned backe againe. And saithe further that he hathe tith of the greate garden whiche is estemed an acre and a halfe that sometymes was severall gardens nowe or late in the tenure of one Mr. Lichefeilde after the rent of foure poundes by yere Whiche greate garden he saith lyeth and adioyneth next to the fore-remembred gardens affrontinge Lyncolns Inne nowe the right honorable the L. Keepers of the greate Seale of Englande on the East and reacheth fourth to an olde tenter yarde on the backeside of the foure newe houses sometyme builded by one Mr. Taverner in Chauncerye Lane on the southe abuttinge to the foresaide olde lane that went from Chauncery Lane sometyme to Fewter Lane. But for the tythe of the same gardens againste Lyncolns Inne he saith that they have never paide him anye since he was parson of Sainte Androwes for that as he thinketh the same gardens beinge sometyme one entire plott hathe bene devided into severall smale parcells and porcions for gardens lesse then one halfe acre and therefore not titheable

by the statute in that case provided. To the last interrogatorye this Deponent saith that he came (*sic*) not certenlie depose whose landes they are or to whom they doe paie their rentes, but this Deponent saith that he thinketh they doe belonge to the Citie of London and further he cannot saye to this matter.

CUTHBERT PROCTOR of the foresaide parrishe of Sainte Androwes in Holborne draper by his companie but an hosier by his occupacion of the age of fiftie yeres or thereaboutis sworne and examined the tenth daie of Maie in the yere aforesaide by vertue of his othe deposeth and saith this to be his whole knowledge of the matters in the interrogatorie to him ministred that he knoweth certen howses standinge foreanempst the olde Elm tree partlie againste Lincolns Inne on the East side of Chauncerie Lane there, but whose they are or what grounde or gardens belonge to the same or what rente they paie or what lymittes or boundes they be of or who be nowe or heretofore have bene tenauntes thereof or by what name or names they are called this Deponent is ignoraunte. But he saith that true it is he is well remembered that within this eightene yeres sundrie tymes he with others of the saide Sainte Androwes parishe have in the Rogacion or Gangeweeke gone aboute with the procession in the parambulation of the circuite of the same parrishe and doth well remember that there was redd one gospell or chapter in the same procession at a poast in Fewter Lane over againste the foresaide howses in Chauncerie Lane aforesaide and then backe againe upp Holbourne, and so into the same Chauncerie Lane downe to Lyncolnes Inne and at the foresaide Elme tree there another gospell or chapter was redd and so returned backe into Lyncolnes Inne and there saide an other gospell in the Chappell there and so through the walkes there into Holbourne againe and further then this muche this Deponent cannot depose in this matter.

CRISTOFER HARRISON of the parrishe of Sante Androwes in Holbourne aforesaide cutler of the age of three score and tenne yeres and upwardes sworne and examined the fifteenth daie of Maie in the yere aforesaide by vertue of his othe deposit and saith to the firste seacounde and third interrogatories that doth know the howses and tenementes partlie at theupper end of Chauncerie Lane on the east side over againste the Elme tree there and so hath done by the space of fiftye yeres or ther aboutes and saith that he dothe knowe the grounde or gardens that lye within the mudd wall over against Lincolns Inn. And knew it also when it was but one peece without any devision and wheether it belongith to the Citie of London or not he cannot tell but he thinketh verelie it doth and saith that as for the lymittes and boundes of the

same howses and gardens or what the name of the same tenementes be or have bene he cannot depose for he never delt that waye otherwise then they weare in his sight goinge and comynge from Chauncerie Lane in or out of Holbourne. To the fourth interrogatorye this deponent saith that he coulde never tell certenlie who have bene tenauntes and farmers of the same tenementes and gardens. But he saith that he remembreth when one Capper dwelled there and kept a vittelinge house which was a good space before the goinge to Bulleyn and synce that tyme there hath bene divers that have dwelled there whome this deponent did not remember neither knewe. To the fift and sixt interrogatories this deponent saith that he dooth well remember the procession of Sainte Androwes parrishe have in the Rogacion weeke and yet use to make their parambulacion thus: first Sainte Androwes parrishe have gone with their procession into Fetter Lane on the lefte hande out of Holbourne to a poast there whiche as he and many do thinke looketh right over all those gardens towards Lincolns Inne over againste the foresaide Elme tree and there was there a Gospell saide and so returninge into Holborne againe on the other side of the waie they went upp towards Chauncerye Lane and so downe the same on booth sides thereof till they came to the foresaide old Elme tree where they saide a Gospell or other chapter and from thence into Lincolns Inne and there in the chappel saide an other Gospell and so through the Hall there unto *their walkes and at the upper end of the same walkes into a doore* and so into Holbourne againe through a sadlers house and then homewardes. And further saith that he doth remember there was a certen smale lane at the ende of the saide tenementes againste the saide olde elme tree leading into Fetter Lane aforesaide that haith bene before nowe a waie or passage through or by the groundes to Fetter Lane aforesaide for he this deponent as he is nowe remembered hath gone and come that waye in his tyme. But he saith that he hath ever bene perswaded the saide premisses to be within the lymitts of Sainte Androwes parrishe and not in Sainte Dunstans parrish and so he thinketh all his neighbours will affirme no lesse. To the laste interrogatorie this deponent saith that he is ignorant and further he canne not depose in this matter.

RAUFFE WORTHE of Westm. late of the parrishe of Sainte Androwes in Holbourne in the suburbs of the cittie of London tailer of the age of three score two yeares or thereabouts sworne and examined the twelveth daie of Maye in the yere of the reigne of our sovereigne ladie aforesaide by vertue of his othe deposeth and saith to the first seaconde, thirde and fourth interrogatories and to all the matters in them conteyned he canne saye noe more but this that he has knowne

the howses or tenementes standing in the upper ende of Chauncerye Lane on the east side foreanest the olde elme tree there by the space of theis fortye yeres or thereabouts and saith that he hath also knowne the grounde or gardens that lye between the same howses and the L. of Southamptons house by the like space but whose possessions it ever was or yet is he saith he cannot tell neither dothe he certenlye knowe the meetes lymittes or boundes of the same houses and gardens nor by what name or signe the same houses have ever bene called nor yet who certenlie have bene the tenautes or farmers of the same howses and grounde savinge one Yelfe but longe before his tyme he saith he knewe when the saide gardens was one entire plott of grounde unsevered and lay as a laystall but who was then was farmer or tenaunt thereof this deponent knowith not and afterwarde they weare severed into gardens which as he taketh it is aboute thirtie yeres synce.

To the fifth and sixt interrogatories this deponent saith that he dwelleth within the parrishe of Sainte Androwes in Holborne by the space of fortie yeres at the leaste duringe all which tyme beinge booth prentise jorneyman and married he most commonlie used to goe aboute with the procession of the saide parrishe of Sainte Androwes in the perambulacion thereof in the Rogacion or gange weeke and that upon the Tewesdaie in the same Rogacon weeke the saide procession went into Fetter Lane and there at a poast at the end of a mudd wall on the lefte hande comynge out of Holborne which semed almost to be foreanest the foresaide olde Elme tree in Chauncerie Lane aforesaide there was commonlie used a Gospell or another chapter to be redd and then returned backe into Holborne and went to Chauncerye Lane aforesaide and so downe the same Lane to Lincolns Inne gate to the foresaide olde Elme tree on booth sides of the waie and there another Gospell or another chappter was redd and so backe againe into Lincolnes Inne and there in the Chappell saide a Gospell and so through the walkes of Lincolnes Inne into Holborne againe and saith that he remembreth the procession of Saint Androwes parrishe and the procession of Saint Dunstans parrishe chaunced once to meete together in the saide Chauncerye Lane well nigh the earle of Southamptons garden gate on that side at which tyme one Mr. Hunt and others of the parrishe of Sainte Androwes saide to them of Sainte Dunstans that they came further by a greate deale into the precincte of their parrishe then they ought or shoulde have done with other woordes concerninge the lymittes of the saide parrishes and so caused the procession of Sainte Dunstanes to returne soner than they woulde for he saith that the lymittes of Sainte Androwes parrishe in that Lane weare ever

thought and taken to extend to the said olde Elme tree over against an olde Lane comynge out of Fetter Lane into Chauncerie Lane as it weare an olde alley devidinge as to him semed the parrishes of Sainte Androwes and Sainte Dunstanes. To the last interrogatorie this deponent saith that he is utterlie ingoraunte nor further canne saie in this matter.

SYMON WILLIAMS of Chauncery Lane within the parrishe of Sainte Dunstanes in Fleete Streete London, tailour of the age of fiftie foure yeres or thereabouts sworne and examined the fiftenth daie of Maie in the sixtenth yere of the reigne of our soveraigne ladie Queene Elizabeth by vertue of his othe deposith and saith to the first, seaconde, thirde and fourth interrogatories and to all the matters in them conteyned this deponent canne saie no more but this that he dothe knowe the howses or tenementes with the gardens thereunto belonginge sett and beinge in Chauncery Lane at the upper ende thereof againste the olde elme tree and Lyncolnes Inne on the east side, but he saithe that he cannot certenlie tell to whome the same have or doe belonge but as he hath herde saye they did longe to the Citie of London and nowe doth understande that they do apperteine to the right honorable S^r Nicholas Bacon knight, lorde keeper of the greate seale of England and saith that he doth well remember aboute fortye yeres past when he was a boye dwellinge with one Mr. Brooke who kepte the taverne of the Kinges Heade at the same Chauncery Lanes ende and towards Fleet Streete and used to fetche whome wyne pottes abroade the saide tenementes or howses was as he remembreth but one mesuage or tenement and one Richarde Gregorie otherwise called Richarde Grigge an Irishe man dwelled in the same who hadd the same house with the whole grounde and gardens thereunto belonginge in his owne occupacion and saith that at that tyme the saide Gregorie or Grigge used to digge gravell, claye or sande out of the said grounde and afterwards put it to a laistall for dunge and so filled upp and made even the same grounde againe but as for the lymittes and boundes of the same tenementes, gardens and grounde or by what name or signe the same was called he knowith not but about that tyme he doth verye well remember that the late lorde Crumwell who was beheaded was Mr. of the Rolles and further saithe that We knewe no tenaunte of the premisses before the saide Gregorie or Grigge, but he saith that synce the said Grigges tyme there have bene divers and sundrie tenauntes of the saide tenementes as one Haines a Sheareman deceased one Russheborowe sometymes steward of Lincolnes Inne, one Slowe a vitteler, one Martyn a skynner and a vitteller and at this present, one Tisdale whoe is tenaunte of the whole as this deponent is informed and saith that

one Metcalfe and William Yelfe hadd the greate grounde belonging to the saide tenementes of the Chamber of London by lease who as he hathe herde saie did first devide the same into several plottes and gardens and did lett them out to one Roger Parkins, Thomas Foxe, Boobie a barbour, Ebden and latelie to Mr. Wardde, one of the two examinours of the Chauncerye.

To the fifte and sixt interrogatories this deponent saith that he knoweth and well remembreth above the aforesaide tyme when he was a boye that he has borne a banner in the procession tyme of Rogacion or gange weeke before the Ascenscion daie with the parrishe of Sainte Dunstanes in Fleete Streete aforesaide through a pissinge lane within Temple Barre on the right hande and so over the feilde streight to Lincolnes Inne wheare they went through the hall and so through Lincolnes Inn gate over against the saide gardens and so downe Chauncerye Lane homewardes to Sainte Dunstanes Church and saith that he never knew any other compassing in of the saide tenementes and gardens but in this forme and manner and saith also that he remembreth the procession of Sainte Dunstanes and the procession of Sainte Androwes parrishe in Holbourne have met together at Lincolnes Inne the one coming inn and the other goinge out and for any thinge that ever this deponent knewe or sawe the procession of Saint Androwes came no further downe into Chauncerye Lane then to an olde elme tree there and whether the lymittes of the saide parrishe of Saint Androwes extend so farre or no this deponent saithe he cannot tell.

To the laste interrogatorie this deponent saith that he doth not knowe to whome the yerelie rent or rentes of the said houses, tenementes and gardens weare paide till of late yeres that the Chamber of London did receive the same neither did he knowe whoe weare landlordes of the premisses till then and more this deponent saith that he cannot saie in this matter.

JOHN BYRCHE dwellinge in Chauncerye Lane within the parrishe of Sainte Dunstanes in Fleete Streete London, marchuantetailor of the age of threescore yeres or thereaboutes sworne and examined the daie and yere aforesaide by vertue of his othe deposit and saith to the first, seaconde and thirde interrogatories that he hath knowne the howses or tenements sett and beinge in Chauncerye Lane on the east side over against the olde elme tree and Lincolns Inne there by the space of theis fortye yeres more and for the same space he hath knowne also the grounde or gardens that have bene sett and lett with the same over againste the saide Lincolns Inne within the mud wall there and saith that for any thinge that ever he hathe herdd the premisses did belonge to the Chamber of London and sathe that in

those daies as he remembreth the said tenementes weare then either but one or two houses and commonlie called by the name of the Bores Heade but who dwelled therein or had the occupacon of the saide grounde or gardens this deponent doth not nowe remember but he dooth verye well call to mynde that soone after one Gregorie or Grigge did dwell there and as he thinketh he was a gardener and as towching the boundes and limittes of the same tenementes and gardens he cannot depose but he saith that he remembreth when the said gardens weare all one plott undevided and was as he thinketh in the said Grigges time.

To the fourth interogatorie this deponent saith that he dooth not remember who was tenaunte to the premisses before the saide Grigge neither certenlie who after him but till of late for this deponent was not in London by the space of fourtene yeres after. And suche as have bene tenauntes since of the same premisses synce he came home which is about 8 yeres passed were theis that is to saie one Thomas Spencer, one Martyn and now one Tisdale.

To the fifte and sixt interogatories this deponent saith that he cannot tell in what manner or fourme or by what meares or markes the saide tenementes or groundes hathe bene incompassé by the procession of the parrishe of Saint Dunstanes aforesaide for he never sawe the same procession goe at any tyme nearer the same then upon the highe streete comynge out of Lincolns Inn down Chauncerye Lane. And so he remembreth he hath seene the procession of Sainte Androwes parrishe in Holbourne meate with the procession of Sainte Dunstanes parrishe at the same Lincolnes Inne but no further for any thinge that ever he hathe seen in his tyme. To the last interogatorye this deponent saithe that he never knewe other but that the tenauntes of the saide premisses did paie their rent to the Chamber of London and that the Maior and Cominalty of the saide citie of London weare Landlordes of the same and further cannot depose as thus remembered to this interogatorie nor more doth saie in this matter.

ELIZABETH MARVEN wief of Roger Marven in Chauncerye Lane within the parrishe of Sainte Dunstanes in Flete Streete of the age of threescore yeres and upwardes sworne and examined the daie and yere aforesaide by vertue of her othe depositth and saithe to the first, seconde and thirde interogatories that she doth knowe and so hath done theis thirtie yeres or thereabouts the mesuage howses and tenementes with the gardens adioyninge and belonginge to the same in Chauncerye Lane on the east side of the same Lane over against the olde elme tree that standith and growith in the streete there nigh the Lincolnes Inne and saith that the saide gardens or grounde lye within the mud wall foreanest Lyncolnes Inne aforesaide and saith

that to her remembraunce the premisses either did or doe belonge to the Citie of London for shee saith that her late husbände William Yelfe deceased helde some part thereof before he married this deponent of one Roger Metcalfe who hadd the whole premisses in his occupacon by lease as she thinketh of the chamber of London in whose tyme the saide gardens weare all in one plott of grounde and stooode as a leastall till he the saide Metcalfe did devide the same into smaule gardens as nowe they be or verie latelie weare And further she saith that after the saide Metcaulfe one Smarte the late swordebearer of London helde all the same tenementes howses and gardens by lease of the Chamber of London whose interest of the same her saide husbände Yelfe afterwarde bought of him. As for the lymittes and boundaries of the premisses she this deponent doth not knowe the same neither did she ever heare to her remembraunce that the saide mesuage howses and tenements weare called by the name of the Bores Heade or by any certen name by signe or otherwise till of late daies that some have saide it was so called and at that tyme one Grigge a gardener had the same in occupacon as it was reported but it was before this deponent came to dwell in that quarter.

To the fourth interrogatorie this deponent saith that the first whome she knewe tenauntes and farmers of the premisses weare the saide Metcaulfe then the saide Smarte the swordebearer then this deponents husbände and divers other perticuler tenauntes of parcells of the same as one Smalwoode one Martyn a certen preest and others some deade and some alive and saith that her said late husbände while he was tenaunte of the premisses paide yerelie to the rent gatherer of the saide chamber of London called Mr. Wheether the rent of seaventene pounds sixe shillinges eight pence by the yere.

To the fift and sixt interrogatories this deponent saith that duringe the tyme of her remembraunce she never sawe other compassinge in of the saide howses and tenementes and of the saide grounde and gardens with the procession in the gangweeke of Sainte Dunstanes parrishe aforesaide then this, that is to saie the procession went through a litle lane harde within Temple Barre on the right hande from Saint Dunstanes Churche and so streight through the feilde of the backe side of the Bell to Lyncolnes Inne and so went through the same unto the high streete of Chauncerye Lane to Sainte Dunstanes Churche againe goinge no waie side longe by but right on homewardes. But wheether the saide gardens or grounde paie any tythes or not shee dooth not knowe but she saith her husbände never paide anye; Marrie! she saith shee doth remember the person of Sainte Androwes once or twise demaunded of her saide husbände tithe for the saide gardens but he made him alwaies aunswere that if

he the saide person woulde shewe her husbände any olde president that they hadd paied tithes before he woulde paie the same or els not. And further saith that she doth not well remember howe lowe the procession of Sainte Androwes in Holbourne hath come into Chauncerie Lane but she saith that she remembreth that it has sometymes met the procession of Sainte Dunstanes in Fleete streete at Lyncolns Inne but aboute what place there she hath forgotten.

To the last interrogatorie this deponent saith that she canne saie no more than she hath before saide to the fourthe interrogatorie nor further canne depose in this matter.

THOMAS WHELER citezen and draper of London of the age of fiftie eight yeres and upwardes sworne and examined the eight and twentieth daie of June in the yere aforesaide by vertue of his othe deposith and saith to the first interrogatorie that he doth verye well knowe the howses or tenementes that doe belonge to the Citie of London at the upper end of Chauncery Lane over againste the olde elme tree and Lyncolns Inn there on the easte side and knowith also the gardens and grounde adjoyninge to the same within the mudwall and otherwise there belonginge to the saide howses.

To the seaconde interrogatorie this deponent saith that he dooth not nowe certenlie remember the lymittes and boundes of the same howses and grounde but he saithe that he dooth well remember there was a measure and lymitacion made within this twoe or three yeres of all the same and sett downe in writinge a coppie wheareof was delivered to the right honorable Sir Nicholas Bacon, knight nowe L. Keeper of the greate seale of Englande as he thinketh.

To the thirde interrogatorie this deponent saith that he cannot depose.

To the fourth interrogatorie this deponent saith that for the tyme of his knowledge of the said houses and grounde one Roger Metcaulfe a skinner hadd all the premisses in lease of the graunte of the Lorde Maior and Cominaltie of London and after his yeares weare expired Mr. Smarte late swordbearer of London and Alice his wief joyntlie hadd a lease of the premisses for the tearme of one and twentie yeres whereof he supposith there be to come foure or five yeres albeit he saith the maior and cominaltie hath cleared the same and yet for the yeres that weare to come paith the said Alice a certen rent and further saith that by the accomptes of the rentes due to the said citie he findith amongst other of their tenauntes that one John Furlonge was a tenaunte and farmer to them of the saide premisses by the name of one house and garden in the two and twentieth yere of the reigne of kinge Henrye the seaventh and after him there

appeareth by the saide accomptes that one John Goodwyn was farmer and tenaunte of the same premisses to the saide Citie of London in the fifteenth yere of the reigne of kinge Henrie the eight and saieth further that he dooth knowe that the saide citie of London hath had the peaceable possession of the same premisses and hath had and receaved the rent thereof by the space of theis fourescore and sixtene yeres and saieth that for theis twentie yeares and more this deponent as renter generall of the Chamber of the saide Citie hath receaved and had to the use of the same the yerelie rent of the same premisses.

To the fift and sixt interrogatories this deponent saith that he cannot certenlie depose.

To the last interrogatorie this deponent saith that he canne saie noe more then he hath before saide nor more dothe saye in this matter by me Thomas Weeler.

Nos autem tenores bille siue petitionis responsionis articulorum siue interrogatoriorum et seperalium deposicionum predictarum ad requisicionem prefatorum maioris ciuium et communitatis predictam duximus exemplificandum per presentes. In cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipsa apud Gorbamburie duodecimo die Iulii anno regni nostri sextodecimo.

Examinatur Io. Cordell.

The exact location of the old elm tree mentioned by most of the witnesses is uncertain. The rector of St. Andrew's, Holborn, states in his evidence that it stood in the street; but he first speaks as though the tree was quite close to the gate of Lincoln's Inn, and then of going *back again* from the tree to the Inn. Other witnesses also speak of the return from the tree to the Inn. On the whole it seems probable that it stood nearly opposite the end of Rolls Passage.

Several of the witnesses are curiously indefinite about dates. Thus Cristofer Harrison refers to the occupation of premises 'as a good space before the going to Bulleyn,' by which he probably meant the siege of Boulogne in 1544; and Symon Williams says with reference to the occupation of other premises that 'about that tyme he doth verye well remember that the late lorde Crumwell who was beheaded was Mr. of the Rolles.'

The mention of the passage from the garden of Lincoln's Inn into Holborn, and the exercise by the Rector of St. Andrew's of a right to read a lesson in the old chapel should be noticed. The course, however, of the perambulation inside Lincoln's Inn has been described in greater detail by Edward Griffiths in his *Cases of supposed exemption from Poor rates*, published in 1831.
