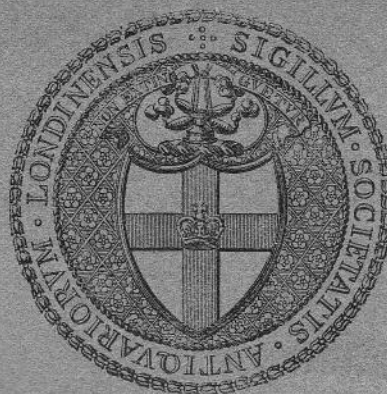


THE CHARTERS
OF THE
MANOR OF ROPLEY, HANTS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES

BY

T. F. KIRBY, ESQ., M.A., F.S.A.,
LOCAL SECRETARY.



PRINTED BY J. B. NICHOLS AND SONS, PARLIAMENT MANSIONS,
VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER.

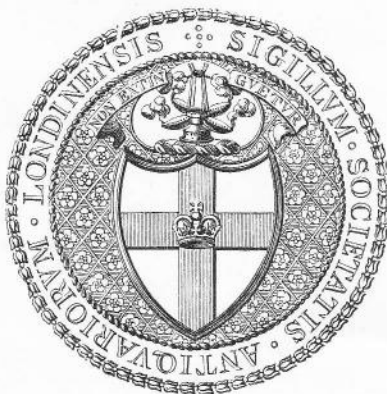
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THE OFFICERS
OF THE ROYAL ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

FROM
ARCHAEOLOGIA,
VOL. LVIII.

VIII.—*The Charters of the Manor of Ropley, Hants.* By T. F. KIRBY, Esq., M.A.,
F.S.A., Local Secretary for Hants.

Read 13th March, 1902.

THE manor of Ropley, like the manor of Meonstoke about which I read a paper in December, 1900,^a is a made up one. A number of ancient free tenements, holden by suit and service of the bishopric manor of Sutton, were purchased and thrown together between the years 1390 and 1476, and became the college manor of Ropley, the copyholders in which held at the will of the college as they had previously held at the will of the free tenants of the bishop, and attended the court of the college steward as they had previously attended the court of the bishop.^b

That the manor of Ropley was early recognised as a customary manor of copyholds for lives cannot be doubted. I have a grant by Roger Gerveys (of whom presently) to John atte Putte and Margery his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, remainder to the grantor's right heirs, of a free tenement at Ropley in the manor of Sutton, reserving 6s. yearly rent, and a heriot and relief on the death of a

^a *Archaeologia*, lvii. 285-294

^b The statute *Quia Emptores* was no obstacle to a manor being made up in this way. According to the second resolution in *Melwich and Luter's Case*, 4 Co. Rep. 26, where a lord of a manor hath several ancient freeholds held of his manor, and grants the inheritance of them all to another, so that by such grant they are severed from the manor; yet the grantee may hold courts for the customary tenants and accept surrenders and make admittances and grants. For every manor consisting of freeholders and copyholders hath in effect two courts: the one a court baron for the freeholders, and in this the suitors, *i.e.* the freeholders, are the judges; and the other is a customary court for the copyholders, and in this the steward or the lord of the manor himself is judge. And though in strictness of law after the grant of all the freeholds from the manor it is no longer a manor, because it wants freeholders, yet the grantee may hold such courts for freeholders as the grantor might have done. And though by his own act he cannot have two manors out of one to consist of demesnes and freeholds, yet he may make a customary manor of copyholds, which is what Wykeham did in this case.

tenant, to the bishop of Winchester for the time being. John atte Putte died without issue by Margery; Gerveys sold his remainder to William of Wykeham; and there is a memorandum on the back of the grant to the atte Puttes that at a court held at Ropley on the 14th April, year not mentioned, Margery the widow surrendered her estate in the presence of John Fromond and others. Now Fromond was steward of the college manors from 1408 till his death in 1420.

The manor of Ropley extends into several parishes east of Winchester. Some of the free tenements comprising it, lying in the parishes of Ropley, Medstead, Bighton, Drayton, Bishop's Sutton, and Winnall, near Winchester, Wykeham bought from a family named Gerveys. Another free tenement in Ropley he purchased of one William de Wandelesworth. All these Wykeham settled on his college in 11 Richard II. And in the year 1399 he demised to the college other lands in the parish of Ropley, also parcel of the manor of Bishop's Sutton, which had come into his hands as lord of the manor, probably by escheat or forfeiture, for a term of one hundred years. These freeholds and leaseholds, together with lands at Ropley North Street, and lands in Hattingley and Medstead which were purchased for the college in 35 Henry VI., and lands called Minchins, in the parish of Wield, purchased for the college in 12 and 15 Edward IV., became the college manor of Ropley. The college stood in the shoes of the former owners of the free tenements which comprised it, and their tenants at will, the actual cultivators of the soil, are represented by the copyholders for lives of the present day.

The fact of one of the free tenements incorporated in the manor being leasehold may be attributed to Wykeham's advanced age. In 1381, when he annexed the bishopric estate of Downton, in Wiltshire, to his college, he obtained the consent of the Crown and the Pope to the alienation, and gave an equivalent to his see. All this took time; but in 1399 he was 75 years of age, and probably despaired of living long enough to carry out a similar exchange.

The lease is recited in the deed of confirmation (No. 131) by the prior and convent of St. Swithun, which I exhibit. It is dated 18th April, 1403, three years and a half after the lease. The ancient rents were reserved, so that the see should be no loser: 38s. 2d. rent of assize, and 40s. 7½d. in lieu of chursetts,^a and all other services and customs at Michaelmas yearly, and the further sum of 1s. 6d. by equal half-yearly payments at the Court of the Manor of Sutton.

The seal is broken, and sewn up with some of the fragments in a silk and woollen pouch.

^a Church scot or church dues.

The description of the property in the lease is "six tofts, three yard lands, eight acres of wood, three half yard lands, fifty-eight acres of land and wood, and two parcels of waste in Ropley."

This lease was also confirmed by an *inspeximus* (No. 131A) under the great seal, tested at Westminster 17th July, 4 Henry IV., "pro quadraginta solidis solutis in hanaperio." The seal is that known as "Willis, G.," made for Edward III. in consequence of the Treaty of Bretigny in 1360, with the name **Edwardus** altered to **Henricus**. It is a perfect specimen, and appended to the patent by purple and red silk cords. It is protected by flaps of thick brown serge.

The lease was renewed 9th January, 20 Henry VII., by bishop Foxe, for a term of 99 years, and the renewal was confirmed by prior Sylksted and the convent of St. Swithun under their capitular seal (No. 131B).

The seal of dignity of bishop Foxe in red wax is also appended; but it is unfortunately broken at each end (Plate XV. fig. 1). It has in the centre, under a double canopy, a seated figure of Our Lady and Child, with the Holy Trinity in the supercanopy above. Under pentises on either side are the standing figures of St. Peter and St. Paul. The sinister of two shields is left in base, bearing the bishop's cognizance, a pelican in her piety. The legend is:

[SIGILL]VM RICARDI  | DEI GRIA EPI WINTON.

Bishop Cooper renewed the lease in 31 Elizabeth for a third term, but to the queen, not to the college (No. 131c)^a in consequence of the restrictions imposed on the leasing powers of bishops by statutes 13 Elizabeth, c. 10, and 18 Elizabeth, c. 12, not disabling them, in the opinion of Crown lawyers of that day, from granting long leases to the Crown, and the queen was moved to assign the lease to the college by the following memorial (No. 131D).^b

Certaine Remembrances to induce her Ma^{tie} the rather to assigne the state of such Lands

^a The lease has appended to it two seals, that of the bishop and that of the chapter. The bishop's seal is a pointed oval one $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long (Plate XV. fig. 2). The device represents Our Lord standing and giving a book inscribed PASCE OVES MEAS to a kneeling figure of St. Peter. Between the figures is a flock of five sheep. Above is a scroll inscribed ITE PREDICATE EVANGELIVM, and over it the Holy Dove descending from a cloud. In base is a large shield encircled by the Garter with the arms of the church of Winchester impaling those of the bishop, *a fess between three pelicans in piety*. The legend is: SIGILLVM THOMÆ COOPERI EPISCO[PI WINTON] 1584. On the back is a small oval counterseal with the bishop's arms, as above, encircled by the Garter (Plate XV. fig. 3).

^b In one or two other cases about that time the college was not so fortunate, the renewed lease being assigned to a courtier. It may be suspected that the college owed its success in this case to the little value of the property.

as the late Bisshop^a demised unto her Ma^{tie} with hope it would please her Highnes to assigne the same to the colledg of Winchester.

The most parte of the land was purchased by William Wickham o^r fownder from the Tenautes that held it to them and their heirs of the Bisshoprick for fyne certaine: and by reason he died before he could make recompense to the Bisshoprick for the same, he did not convey over to the colledg the ffee simple thereof, but made us an estate by Lease for fowerskore and nyetene yeres (*sic*); which Bisshop Foxe renewed for as many. And so bath the Land remaind in the colledg use ever synce the first foundaçon.

The land is not much, and rated at the uttermost valew for the Bisshop, and yeldeth to the Bisshoprick farre greater coñoditie than when it was held by copiehold of inheritance, as at first it was.

Many states have ben graunted of that Land to divers of o^r Tenautes for Lyves and yeres not yet determind; so as yf their graunts should now be frustrated, a number of poore men should be utterlie undone, and the Colledg in danger to suffer great losse for not performing the graunts made unto their Tenautes.

The Land called the Parke is a small piece of barren ground, so sower and weate, that it yeldeth nothing but birche, woode and heath, and the rest besides the Park is not seaven score acres of as drie and stonie ground as any is in Hampshire, everie where so intermingled with the Landes of the Colledg, that they can hardlie be held by divers Tenautes without contynual trespassing one and other, besides making more fenses than the Land is worth.

For these respects o^r humble Petiçon is, it might please her Ma^{tie} to be as gracious to o^r howse as other her Progenitors have ben before; the Colledg having pced none other graunt from the Bisshop, but such as have ben usually made unto them ever synce their first foundaçon.

On the 1st August, 1649, the bishoprick manor of Sutton, including the reversion to this leasehold, was sold by Sir John Wollaston, knt., and others "the Commissioners trusted by severall ordinances of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament with the lands and possessions of the late archbishops and bishops for the sale thereof" to Sir John Evelyn, Bart., and he by deed dated 21st September, 1652, sold back the reversion to Chalkhill, Terry, and May, three fellows of the college, for the sum of £50.

In December, 1851, the college assigned the lease, which had been renewed by bishop Sumner for three lives in 1814, to the copyhold tenant, and he enfranchised the property. The six tofts, etc. comprised in the lease were found on that occasion to amount to one hundred and ninety-five acres, which were held by eight copies of Court roll.

To return to the family of Gerveys. Members of it held free tenements in the manor of Sutton in the time of Henry III. I exhibit No. 4, a grant by Henry

^a Bishop Cooper died in 1594.

Woodlock, bishop of Winchester from 1305 to 1317, to William Gerveis (*sic*) and Cristina his wife, their heirs and assigns, of her first husband's^a tenement in Ropley, rendering a chief rent of 13s. 4d. per annum, doing suit and service at the bishop's court, and giving 3s. to every new bishop *pro recognitione*, "knowledge money" it is called in other documents, and the same sum to the king on every avoidance of the see. The best cart-horse was seizable as a heriot on the death of either of the grantees, or of any one of their heirs. I set out these reservations as a fair example of the terms on which free tenements in the bishopric manor were held.

The deed has no date. The witnesses, Richard de Tystede,^b William de Overtone, Thomas de Lemyngtone,^c Nicholas de Ichene,^d John de Tycheborne,^e John de Thuddene,^f and Hugh de Selerugge,^g were mostly local people, and were probably free tenants doing suit and service at the Court at which the grant was made.

The bishop's seal of dignity in dark green wax is appended by a parchment strip. It is a pointed oval, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, with the bishop in mass vestments standing under a canopy, with on either side of him the heads of St. Peter and St. Paul in sunk sexfoiled panels. Under St. Peter is the letter .h. and under St. Paul the ordinal II. Legend:

FRAT' : HERRICVS : DI : GRA | WINTONIENSIS EPVS.

The counter seal is also a pointed oval $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches long (Plate XV. fig. 4). The device is a three storied panel or niche with (i) at the top, a half-length figure of Our Lady and Child, over (ii) half-length figures of St. Peter and St. Paul, with (iii) two similar half-length figures of bishops below, probably St. Swithun and St. Birinus. In base is bishop Henry kneeling in prayer. The legend is:

SIT : XPO : GRATVS : HERRICI : PORTIFICATVS.

On the Sunday^h next after the Purification, 11 Edward II., this William Gerveys and wife settled one of their free tenements. They granted it (No. 15)

^a Thomas de Manecrofte, whose surname is perpetuated in Great and Little Mancroft fields in the parish of Ropley.

^b East and West Tisted are neighbouring parishes.

^c Lymington, a farm in adjoining parish of Medstead.

^d Itchen Stoke and Itchen Abbas are neighbouring parishes.

^e Titchborne is an adjoining parish.

^f Thedden, a place in the north of Alton.

^g Soldridge, a farm in parish of Medstead.

^h Deeds were often sealed on Sundays at that period, I suppose because witnesses were easy to get after morning mass.

to one Robert le Butillier,^a and he regranted it to the settlers for their joint lives and the life of the survivor without impeachment of waste (*ita quod boscum in dictis tenementis existentem licite prosternere, vendere et assartare, vel assartata arrentare possint pro voluntate suâ*), remainder to William their son and the heirs of his body, remainder to Roger his brother and the heirs of his body, remainder to John his brother and the heirs of his body, remainder to the right heirs of William Gerveys.

Fourteen years later, in Michaelmas Term, 5 Edward III., a fine was levied to the above uses, with the addition of a remainder to a daughter named Isabel, who must have come into the world after the settlement.

William, the eldest son, having died without issue, Gerveys in 7 Edward III. granted another free tenement of his in Bighton, Alresford, and Winnall to his eldest surviving son Roger. The grant (No. 19) is dated at Bighton on the Sunday next after St. John Baptist's Day, 7 Edward III.

In 42 Edward III. Roger's eldest son and heir in tail, Andrew Gerveys, sold his life interest in the entailed estate and his reversion to other estates then held by his younger brother William, parson of Bentworth,^b and by his stepmother Joan for their respective lives to William of Wykeham for a life annuity of £20.

I exhibit the deed of sale (No. 78). The seal is an antique gem, with the encircling legend *Sigillum Andree Gerveys*.

I also exhibit Wykeham's letter of attorney to receive seisin (No. 80). It is dated at Farnham, 18th December, 42 Edward III. The seal is a fair example of his *secretum* in brown wax.

In the following year Wykeham bought up Gerveys's annuity for a hundred marks. I exhibit the release (No. 80) as an example of fine bold writing. It is dated at Lambeth, 14th February, 43 Edward III. The attesting witnesses are Robert de Thorp^c and John Knyvet,^d justices; David de Wollore,^e clerk; Roger de Kirketone,^f Edmund de Chelrewe, and Robert Beleknep, the king's serjeants.

^a A chief rent of £25 a year was reserved, in order to insure Butillier's regranting the premises.

^b He died in 1372, as his successor, Nicholas Danvers, was instituted 17th December in that year on the presentation of Sir William Melton, lord of the manor of Bentworth.—Wykeham, *Register*, i. 45.

^c C. J. Common Pleas, 27th June, 1376, succeeded Wykeham as Chancellor 26th March, 1371; died 29th June, 1372.

^d Justice of Common Pleas, 30th September, 1361; C. J. King's Bench, 29th October, 1365; Chancellor, 30th June, 1372, to 11th January, 1376-7.

^e Perhaps of kin to a man of the same name who was Master of the Rolls in 1346; died 1370.

^f Justice of Common Pleas in 46 Edward III.; died *circa* 1385.

The seal is perfect, circular oval, in red wax, identical with that appended to No. 78.

I exhibit Gerveys's acquittance for the hundred marks. It is dated at London on Thursday after St. Valentine's Day, 43 Edward III. The seal is the same as before.

It must have been, I presume, as a further consideration for this release that Wykeham inserted the name of Andrew Gerveys in the list of benefactors for whom, by Rubric XXIX. of his Statutes for Winchester College, masses were to be said daily in the college chapel.

William, the parson of Bentworth, died in 1372, as we have seen; and in 1376, when the stepmother was dead also, Wykeham conveyed the premises to feoffees of his own by deed dated at Farnham, 12th July, 49 Edward III.

The bishop's *secretum* appended to this deed is nearly perfect.

Sixteen years later, by deed dated 8th June, 15 Richard II., Wykeham made over his purchase to the warden and scholars of his college at Winchester by the description of "two messuages, a toft, three carucates of land, two acres of meadow, thirty acres of pasture, sixty acres of wood, ten pounds rent, and a rent of one pound of cummin, with the appurtenances, in Ropley, Sutton, Bighton, Drayton, Winnall and Medstead." The *secretum*, in red wax, though perfect, is a poor impression.

The warden and scholars' letter of attorney to receive seisin has the same date, and has appended to it a perfect example of their common seal in red wax (Plate XV. fig. 5).

When Wykeham bought the property he bought the live and dead stock as well; and this he now made over to the college by indenture dated on Sunday, the day of St. Simon and Jude, 21 Richard II., testifying that one Henry Knyghth on that day delivered to Augustin Welde, serjeant of Ropley, the live and dead stock on the farm, viz.: 7 horses, 2 of them unfit for work (*debiles*), 17 oxen, 2 bulls, 24 cows, 8 heifers, 8 calves, 3 sows: also 409 tegs (*multones*), 10 rams, 273 ewes, 178 lambs, 8 hoggetts, 4 geese, 24 capons, 1 cock, 6 hens, an iron fastened cart *cum toto apparatu*, viz. 6 collars, 5 pairs of traces, a cart saddle, 2 cartropes, and a new cart-ladder, a dung cart and some harness, viz. 6 headstalls, whereof 3 were of leather, 3 threshing sledges (*tribula*), a shovel, a "dung pyke," 5 ploughs, 2 ploughshares, 2 iron coulter, 3 iron "solropes," a winnowing fan, a sieve, 3 ryderones (rudders or screens), a prong, an oak table top with 2 pair of trestles, a "tabel dormond,"^a 3 forms, a 4 gallon brass pot, an old brass posnet,

^a A table dormant is a stationary piece of furniture as distinguished from one made of boards laid on trestles. See Chaucer, Gen. Prologue to C. P., 353.

2 vats made out of hogsheads, 2 keves,^a 3 hogsheads of cider and 60 gallons more, 3 cheese vats, 3 pails, 5 cheese boards, a new "salting trow,"^b a wooden "tonnel," a tub, an "opstander,"^c an iron hooped bucket, a well rope, a "knedying trow," a "molding borde," 8 harrows (*herciæ*), 4 hay racks (*reckys*^d), 8 sheep racks, 6 "holryng reckys," 6 gallons of tar to dress sheep, 5 quarters of lime, 3 col-hurdels, a 12 gallon tub.

In 50 Edward III. Roger Gerveys released his interest under the entail to Wykeham by deed (No. 94) dated at Bishop's Sutton. I exhibit it for the sake of his seal, which is a small traceried one with a shield charged with *two chevrons*, impaling *fretty and a quarter*.

I exhibit in this connection an indenture (No. 193) testifying that on the 12th of November, 6 Henry IV., Simon Membury, who was Wykeham's treasurer at Wolvesey, delivered to Master John Morys, warden of the new College of St. Mary in the Soke of Winchester, three hampers (*cophini*) containing twenty-seven evidences of title to the lands purchased of Roger Gerveys. Some of these evidences are on the table before us.

Membury's seal is a small one in red wax, bearing what may be a counting board flanked by his initials *s m*.

After Wykeham's death this Roger Gerveys went about saying that the release was executed by him under duress. Hence the next instrument (No. 104), which is a solemn declaration to the contrary expressed to be made by John de Campeden, archdeacon of Surrey, Thomas Warenner,^e and John Ketene, precentor of St. Mary's, Southampton, and confirmed by Sir Thomas Skelton and Sir Walter Sandes, knts., John Skillyng and Richard Wallop, justices of the peace, Edward Condray, the High Sheriff, Nicholas Breye, William Overtone, and John Fromond, in the presence of John Letcombe, abbot of Hyde, and Gilbert Foster, mayor of Winchester; but in point of fact executed by John de Campeden only. It bears date at Winchester on the Monday after St. Luke, 6 Henry IV.

The parchment tags remain for nine seals, each inscribed with the name of the declarant, but only the first has had a seal affixed to it (Plate XV. fig. 6). It is a pointed oval in form, and represents St. Andrew holding his cross and a book,

^a Fr. Cuve.

^b "Trow" is Hampshire for "trough."

^c Perhaps a stillion or cask stand.

^d The open wooden framework or grating over a manger.

^e Sir Thomas Warenner, knt., who was High Sheriff of Hants in 1394. He married Joan, a granddaughter of Agnes, Wykeham's aunt, and had two sons, Thomas and Reginald, who were scholars of Winchester College in 1394.

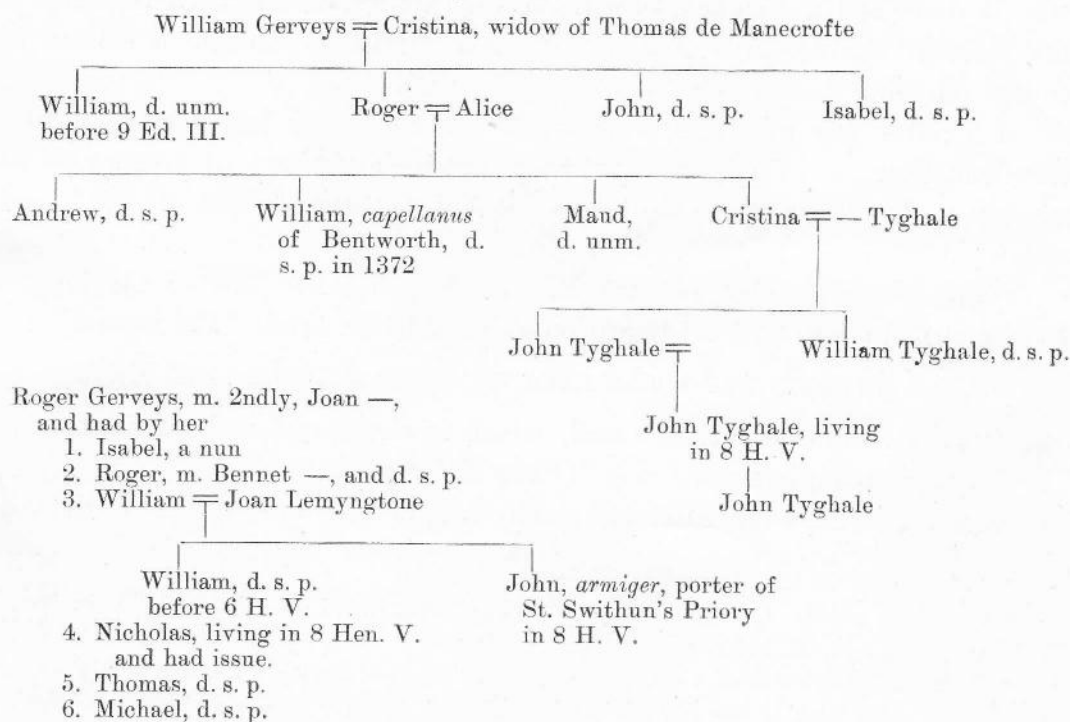
standing within an elaborate niche. This is supported by masonry pierced by a round-headed arch, under which kneels John de Campeden. The legend is :

Sigillū : iohis : de : camp[eden..] archidiaconi : sur'.

The ends of the seal are unfortunately broken away.

We hear no more of Roger Gerveys and his grievance, but in 5 Henry V. John Gerveys, who was porter at St. Swithun's priory, and apparently heir in tail of the settlor, brought his action^a against Warden Thurbern to recover possession of the settled estates. The defendant pleaded a lease (No. 110), which, in anticipation no doubt of John Gervays' claim, he had granted in 1 Henry V. with the consent of the fellows and scholars, of the manor of Ropley, and the possessions of the college in the parishes of Ropley, Bishop's Sutton, New Alresford, Drayton, Bighton, Medstead, and Winnall to Sir Thomas Wykeham, knt.; John Forest, clerk; John Wykeham, rector of Maplederham^b; John Wykeham, rector of Crondall; John Bouke,^c clerk; John Fromond, Richard Wallop, Henry Keswyk, and Robert Tychefeld for their lives and the life of the longest liver of them, at a peppercorn rent.

^a The following pedigree is amongst the pleadings in this action :



^b A tithing in the parish of Buriton, near Petersfield.

^c Warden of New College 1403-1429.

The seal of the college at the foot of this lease is in excellent preservation.

Issue was joined on the question whether the warden was or was not in possession of the lands in question on the 20th April, 6 Henry V., the date of the writ; and a special jury was summoned in the quindene of Trinity to try it, *xij tam milites quam alios liberos et legitimos homines de visu de Suttone et Roppelegh, quorum quilibet habeat centum solidatas terræ tenementorum vel redditus per annum ad minus.*

These are the names of the panel :

William Brokes.	William Tystede.
William Overtone.	John Hamptone.
Nicholas Beynton. ^a	John Upham.
Richard Tystede.	Edward atte Rych.
John Kyrkeby.	John atte Peke.
Lucas Ponynges. ^b	John Benet of Hursley. ^c
Walter Haywode.	John Goolde.
John Harryes.	John Baloue.
Thomas Wayte.	John Sylvere.

At this stage the action was compromised at the desire of Cardinal Beaufort, who is described as *fundator et patronus dicti collegii* in the deed of compromise, the plaintiff binding himself by a statute merchant to execute a release to the college on being paid £20.

I exhibit the statute merchant (No. 118), which has appended to it an excellent example of the seal provided for recognisances of debtors at Southampton under the statute of Acton Burnell *de Mercatoribus* of 1283 and the *statutum mercatorum* of 1285.

This seal is circular, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch in diameter, with the bust of the king rising from a walled town, with a leopard on either side the head. The legend is :

S' EDWARDI REG ANGLÆ PRCOGRICONIB DEBITOR APVD SVTH.

On the back is the clerk's seal, which is circular, 1 inch in diameter, with the device of a single masted ship^d (Plate XV. fig. 7).

Mr. W. H. St. John Hope has kindly supplied the descriptions of the seals.

^a Name preserved in "Boyne Wood," South Medstead.

^b Grandson of Sir Luke de Ponynges, whose will, dated 5th June, 1376, is entered in Wykeham's Register, iii. 143A.

^c Thus distinguished from a contemporary, John Benet of Botley, a relation of Wykeham.

^d I may refer here to our late Fellow, Mr. Charles Spencer Perceval's communications on the subject of these seals generally in *Proceedings*, 2d. S. vii. 107, and x. 253, and to Mr. W. H. St. John Hope's notes, *ib.* xv. 61.



1.



3.



2.



5.



4.



7.



6.

C. F. Kell & Son, Photo-Print.

SEALS FROM CHARTERS OF THE MANOR OF ROPLEY, HANTS.

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