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# THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS OF TENTERDEN.

## PART II.

BY A. H. TAYLOR.

THE second record book\* is a well-preserved volume bound in limp parchment having the remains of a metal clasp. On the cover is a faded inscription of which only the date 1642 can be deciphered, and on the back—it has been commenced at each end—"Register of proceedings in the Corporation Courts up to 1762." On the inner cover may be seen, "Bought of John Besouth in pater noster Roe att the Gray hownd. This Booke beeing 8 qrs of Demy paper ffor y<sup>is</sup> is Receued 8<sup>s</sup> and I doe promise to Re pay y<sup>e</sup> mony if itt bee nott approved by yose whome it may concerne.

Jo. Besouth."

It contains the proceedings at the annual Common Hall for 130 years—29th August 1641—1762, and records many interesting phases of civic and municipal life in Tenterden during that period. A selection of extracts illustrating such is here given. The period immediately following the restoration of Charles II. was one of much trouble for the town. There were controversies and heartburnings between Rye and Tenterden as to the annual payment of the composition; the Court Hall was burnt down; and a certain Robert Gibbon harrassed the Corporation with a series of actions on account of the escape of a prisoner from the common gaol. The fire took place on the 19th March 1660-1, and according to Hasted, was caused by some prisoners who were confined in

\* For a booke of Record . . . . . 0 8 0  
for bringinge of the same booke from London . . . 0 0 6

(*Chamberlain's Account*, 1641.)

the room above it. The loss occasioned thereby may be estimated by the following extracts :—

Common Hall, 29 August 1660. At the election of Mayor.

Memorand<sup>m</sup>. Delivered to the p<sup>nt</sup>e Mayor, viz<sup>t</sup> The Chres of H. 7, Edw. 4, and of Q. Elizabeth, the copy of the Chre of King James, and the copy of the Chre of the late King Charles. Ye 2 composicons with Rye and Winchelsea; fower keys of y<sup>e</sup> presse; fower seales of office (whereof one of silver) and three maces of silver (whereof one is guilt); fower keys remaine, one with M<sup>r</sup> Mayor, one with John Plomer Juratt, one with William Aldcroft com<sup>on</sup> clerke, and ye 4<sup>th</sup> with the Chamberlaine, John Adams.

Common Hall, 29 August 1661. All that remained was :—

Delivered to the p<sup>nt</sup>e Mayor, viz<sup>t</sup> The copy of the Chre of the late King Charles, the composicon with Rye, fower seales of office of Mayoralty (whereof one of silver) and three maces of silver (whereof one is guilt).

At an assembly or Common Hall held the 12th April 1661 the matter of a new hall and gaol was debated and recorded :—

Q. Whether the Courthall and prison shalbe built together in one structure, or whether they shalbe built asunder in severall places.

A. That they shalbe built asunder in severall places.

It is now ordred, That it bee referred to M<sup>r</sup> Mayor, p. tempore, Peter Short, William Stretton and Captaine Plum<sup>er</sup>, juratts, Thomas Iggulden, Richard Kyte, William ffurby, Henry Girdler, John Adams, and Stephen Huckstepp, com<sup>on</sup><sup>rs</sup>, or any five or more of them (whereof M<sup>r</sup> Mayor and one of the Juratts to be Two) to consult with such workmen as they shall thinke fitt touching the erection of a Courthall and goale here and to report there sence (*sic*) of the same at the next Com<sup>on</sup> Hall. And it is further ordred that the before named p<sup>rs</sup>ons or any five or more of them (whereof M<sup>r</sup> Mayor and one of the Juratts to bee two) shall and doe advise with counsell learned, what is requisite to bee done conc<sup>'</sup>ninge the Chres of this Towne and Hundred, and to make their report at the next Com<sup>on</sup> Hall.

A fortnight later the Mayor issued a commission to his Sergeant-at-Mace to summon a meeting of all the Jurats (12) and Freemen (50) of the town to meet—in default of a Court Hall—at his “now dwelling house,” when the matter was further debated and a letter drawn up by counsel seeking assistance:—

To Mathew Greenland, S'jeant at the Mace and Minister of the Court of our Lord the King there, greeting: These are to require you forthwith to summon all the Juratts and freemen of the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden aforesaid hereunder named psonally to bee and appeare at the now dwelling house of Richard King Esq., Maior, on Saturday beeing the fourth day of May next ensuing by one of the clock in the afternoone. And hereof neither they nor you are to faile at yo<sup>r</sup> p<sup>r</sup>ill. Dated at Tenterden aforesaid under the seale of office of Maioralty there, the Three and Twentieth day of Aprill anno dñi 1661.

The order then made as to the rebuilding, etc., ends thus:—

And it is hereby further ordred and Decreed that they (as aforesaid) if they shall thinke fitt, shall and may make use of the old Timber of the late Courthall and Goale, and of the p<sup>r</sup>nte Markett Crosse or any part thereof towards the building of the said new Goale to bee erected as aforesaid.

The business of the meeting concluded with the following resolution:—

Item, it is by this house desired That Edward ffinch, esq., counsellor at Law, wilbe pleased forthwith to direct and assist William Aldcroft Comon Clerke here in drawing of a Letter thereby to represent our Late disaster and great Losse in having our Comon Goale and Court Hall together with our Charters and Records (then therein beeing) lately burnt and consumed, the same letter to bee written in such language and to bee directed to such gent. as the said Edward ffinch shall thinke fitt. And it is hereby ordred that the said William Aldcroft shall in the name and by the direcccons of the Mayor, Juratts, and Cōialty of the Towne and hundred of Tenterden aforesaid signe the said Letter as Comon Clerke there,

Additional items of interest on the subject are taken from—

“The Accompt of John Adams, Chamberlaine of the Towne and hundred of Tenterden aforesaid, made and yeilded up the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1661.”

#### Receipts.

|   |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|
| Itm. Left of Iron formerly had for the repaire of the late Comon Goale, 64 <sup>lb</sup> at 1 <sup>d</sup> ob. p <sup>r</sup> lb. . . .                     | 00 | 08 | 00 |
| Itm. Saved when y <sup>e</sup> late Court hall & Prison was on fire in Armour & other old rubbish, Iron, 324 <sup>lb</sup> at 1 <sup>d</sup> pr lb. . . . . | 01 | 10 | 00 |
| Itm. Saved at the same time of spikes, 70 <sup>lb</sup> at 2 <sup>d</sup> pr lb. . . . .  | 00 | 11 | 08 |
| Itm. Saved alsoe at the same time in Lead & drosse, 200 weight at 1 <sup>d</sup> p <sup>r</sup> lb. . . . .   | 00 | 18 | 08 |
| Att y <sup>e</sup> pulling downe of Timber there saved, 190 <sup>lb</sup> of Iron at 1 <sup>d</sup> ob. p <sup>r</sup> lb. . . . .                          | 01 | 03 | 09 |
| Itm. More of spikes then saved, 84 <sup>lb</sup> at 2 <sup>d</sup> p <sup>r</sup> lb. . . . .   | 00 | 14 | 00 |

#### Payments.

|  |    |    |    |
|--|----|----|----|
| ffeb. 7 (166 <sup>2</sup> ). ffor Iron Worke used about the late Comon Goale of this Towne and Hundred, p <sup>r</sup> bill . . . . .  | 08 | 01 | 08 |
| ffor 900 of Bricks used to underpinn y <sup>e</sup> late prison . . . . .  | 00 | 18 | 00 |
| ffeb. 11. To W <sup>m</sup> Goateley for Timber & for worke-<br>manshippe about repairing of the late Comon<br>Goale, p <sup>r</sup> bill . . . . .  | 17 | 02 | 00 |
| To Thomas Page and Edward Stockden for watch-<br>inge the said Goale beeing then open . . . . .  | 00 | 02 | 00 |
| March 19. To 12 men to secure the Timber & Iron<br>about the Court hall beeing then on fire . . . . .  | 00 | 08 | 00 |
| Then for bread, beere & candles for them . . . . .   | 00 | 05 | 06 |
| Then to Stockden & Evernden to watch on Rich.<br>Burdon the first night . . . . .  | 00 | 01 | 00 |
| March 25. Given to M <sup>r</sup> Kilburne* for coming<br>. hither & for p <sup>r</sup> sing our C <sup>h</sup> re & advising M <sup>r</sup> Maior<br>& Juratts what then best to be done (M <sup>r</sup> ffince<br>beeing then very sicke) and for his dinner . . . . . | 01 | 02 | 00 |

\* There is nothing to indicate who this Mr. Kilburne was. It would be interesting to identify him with Richard Kilburne our Kentish Topographer, and it is not unlikely that it was he. He had associations with Tenterden, having been married there by one of the Jurats of the Corporation in 1653, and his abode was at Hawkhurst, some twelve or thirteen miles distant. Perhaps his fame as one learned in old writings led to his being invited to peruse the charter.

|  |    |    |    |
|--|----|----|----|
| July 11. To Thomas Candy for carrying the greatesell ( <i>sic</i> ) to the late Court hall, and Timber to y <sup>e</sup> s <sup>d</sup> bridge at Preston Hill . . . . .     | 00 | 04 | 00 |
| August 29. Paid to Widdow Rampkin for y <sup>e</sup> use of her Parlor at y <sup>e</sup> Angell* for our Court of Guard & for fire and candles p <sup>r</sup> bill . . . . . | 00 | 19 | 00 |
| Paid for sev'all times cleaning of y <sup>e</sup> Gatehouse Chamber (our p <sup>nt</sup> e Court Hall) att M <sup>r</sup> Maior his house . . . . .                          | 00 | 05 | 00 |

This last entry shews that the Mayor, Richard King, allowed the Corporation to use a part of his residence in which to hold their meetings. And there was no doubt a "full house" at that of May 4th, as out of the total number of Jurats and Freemen summoned to attend, not more than three are marked "exc."

The actions brought by Robert Gibbon were against the Corporation and other persons of the Town and Hundred "for suffering the escape of Edward Caister, late of Tenterden, joyner, comitted unto y<sup>e</sup> prison of this Corporacon by y<sup>e</sup> Court of Plees at y<sup>e</sup> suite of y<sup>e</sup> said Gibbon," which escape† led to the following resolutions duly recorded at various Common Halls:—

28 July 1662. Decree that Robert Gibbon's suite shall be defended att y<sup>e</sup> charge of this Corporacon, & that William Aldcroft shalbe sollicitor therein.

15 December 1662. Decree that Robert Gibbon's second suite, & all other p<sup>nt</sup> agt this Corporacon shalbe defended (as before).

19 October 1663. Q. Whether the Corporacon shall give an app'ance in the suite of Robert Gibbon in the Chanc'y Court at Dover. A. That this Corporacon shall forthwith write a letter of thanks unto M<sup>r</sup> Lieutenant of Dover Castle for his civility to this Corporacon at his last being here; and that in retorne of those his

\* Afterwards called the Six Bells, and in 1770 changed to Eight Bells, by which name it is at present known.

† Matthew Greenland, the first Sergeant at Mace, appears to have been actually responsible for the prisoner's escape, for which the Corporation sued him, but it was not till 1668 that his son Joseph Greenland finally paid thirty pounds to the Corporation in settlement of all suits and actions touching the said escape.

civilitys this Corporacon will give order to an Attorney there to give a voluntary app'ance for them in the said Chanc'y Court att the next Court to bee there holden att the suite of the said R. G.

30 November 1663. Decree that Robert Gibbon's third suite & all other agt this Corporacon shalbe defended (as before).

15 January 166 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Decree to indempnifie John Plūmer, gent., George Tilden, gent., and Edw. Croydon, gent., upon y<sup>e</sup> Bond they entred into for this Corp'acon to p'forme y<sup>e</sup> decree that hereafter shalbe made by y<sup>e</sup> Chanc'y Court att Dover in secta Robt. Gibbon, etc.

20 January 166 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Resolved upon y<sup>e</sup> question that M<sup>r</sup> Aldcroft our Sollicito<sup>r</sup> shall the next Hillary Terme retaine S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Wyld, S<sup>j</sup>jeant att Law, to be of counsell for this Corporacon at the tryall of y<sup>e</sup> accon in y<sup>e</sup> Court at ffav'sham, comēced by Robert Gibbon agst this Corporacon.

20 March 166 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Resolved upon y<sup>e</sup> question that William Aldcroft our Sollicitor shalbe forthwith ffurnished with moneys by y<sup>e</sup> Chamberlaine here for y<sup>e</sup> suing out of coppies of y<sup>e</sup> two peculiar charters belonging to this Corporacon, videlt, the Ch<sup>r</sup> of Henry the Sixth, and y<sup>e</sup> Charter of Queene Elizabeth for the better enabling us to make our defence at y<sup>e</sup> tryall of Robert Gibbon his accon against this Corporacon in y<sup>e</sup> Court at ffaversham.

14 August 1668. Resolved upon the question, That this Corporacon of Tenterden shall before they pay the 35<sup>li</sup> lately taxed for costs of suite for Robert Gibbon agt this Maior, Juratts & Cōialtie in the Chancery Court at Dovor, first p'sent their humble addresse or peticon unto his Royall Highness the Duke of York our Lord Warden att the next Court of Shipwey on the first day of September next, to have the illegall & irregular p'ceedings of attachments forth of the said Court of Chancery to attach the Mayor, Juratts and Cōialty by their sev'all bodies w<sup>ch</sup> is contrary to Law (as they are informed by their Councell) referred unto the grave Judgement & consideracon of the Judges att Westm<sup>r</sup> or unto some of them to be debated before them some time y<sup>e</sup> next Michas terme and that such member or members of this Corporacon as shall in the meane time be for that cause attached, arrested, or carryed away prisoner unto Dover Castle, shall have fforty shillings of lawfull money of England a peece forthwith paid into his or their hands by y<sup>e</sup> Chamberlaine of this Corporacon for the time beeing towards defraying his or their respective charges & expenses about his or

their sev'all arrests & imprisonment. And according to the purport of a decree of this Corporacon here made the sixt day of July last past.

All of which may be summed up in the following entry in the MSS. of Mrs. Peel of Heronden :—

A.D. 1673. In this year the Corporation made an address to the Parish for a Voluntary contribution towards the Payment of their Great Debts contracted by Robert Gibbon's suit.

Among the loose records in the office of the Town Clerk are two copies of the charter of Hen. VI., one in English, the other in Latin; the latter bears the endorsement, "*Convenis cum Recordo Gulielmus Ryley, 28 die July 1668. Vera cop. et exāiat p. W<sup>m</sup> Aldcroft, Samuell Woodrove.*"

These are doubtless the result of the efforts put forth according to the order above quoted. Further instances of the Corporation endeavouring to obtain copies of their other charters follow :—

Common Hall, 23 September 1695. Itt is agreed upon and ordred by this house that Thomas Aldcroft, Towne Clerke, shall with all convenient speed sue out and procure the copy of the charter of Kinge Charles the first belonging to this Corporacon, to be exemplified in Parchment under the greate seale of England. And that he the said Thomas Aldcroft shall hereafter from time to time receive of Mr George Wightwicke, y<sup>e</sup> p'sent chamberlaine, such moneys as shalbe necessary to defray the charges in procuring and obtayning the said charter.

27 November 1699. Itt is agreed upon and ordered by this House that Jeoffrey Gilbert, esq., Counsell<sup>r</sup> att Law and Councell for this Towne and Hundred shall forthwith sue out and procure the copye of the charter of Queen Elizabeth (itt being the last that was granted to this Corporacon) to be exemplified in parchment under the Greate Seale. And that the said Jeoffrey Gilbert shall hereafter from time to time receive of Samuel Tilden the p'sent Chamberlaine, such moneys as shalbe necessary to defray the charges in procuring and obtaining the said charter.

The latter was issued in 1700, and consists of twenty foolscap pages bound in an old parchment indenture, on the



cover of which is endorsed, "Charter granted to Tenterden 42 Eliz. Exemplified the 24<sup>th</sup> of ffeb. 12<sup>th</sup> W. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The commencement of the Exemplification reads :—

William the Third, by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc.

To all whom these presents shall come Greeting.

We have viewed in the Roll a certain Charter bearing date the Sixteenth day of August in the Two and fortieth yeare of the Reigne of the late Queene Elizabeth, made and granted to the Mayor, Juratts, and Comons of the Town and Hundred of Tenterden in our Court of Chancery Inrolled and there remaining of Record, etc.

And concludes as follows :—

Witnesse, the Queene at Westminster, the sixteenth day of August in the two and fortieth year of the Reigne of Q. Eliz. By the writt of Privy Seale. We, alsoe, have been induced to exemplifie the tenor of this at the request of George Curteis,\* esquire. In Witnesse whereof we have made our Letters Patent. Witnesse, ourselves, at Westminster the ffour and twentieth day of ffebruary in the Twelfth year of our reigne.

Trevor. Grimes.

Extracts of a miscellaneous nature are now quoted :—

#### Style of Court.

The Sessions of the Peace and Goale delivery for his Highnes' the Lord Protector of the Comon Welthe of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging; there holden before Stephen Curteis, esq<sup>re</sup>, Mayor of the said Towne and Hundred of Tenterden . . . Juratts and Justices of the Peace of the said Towne and Hundred, constituted & assigned to hear and determine of divers ffelonies, Trespasses & other offences comitted within y<sup>e</sup> said Towne & Hundred. 18<sup>th</sup> Aprill 1654.

Memorand'.—At this present Sessions came before us viz<sup>t</sup> Thomas Morlen late of Tenterden, cloathier, and acknowledged himselfe to owe and be indebted unto his Highnes' the Lord Protector . . . . . 100<sup>li</sup>

\* George Curteis was Mayor for that year, 29th August 1699—1700.

Sessions, 16 June 1654. Memorand'.—That Katherine Harris of Tenterden aforesaide, widdowe, acknowledged herselfe to owe and be indebted to his Highnes' the Lord Protector . . . 40<sup>11</sup>

### Mayor's day falling on Sunday.

The thirtieth day of August 1658 (beeing the next day ensuing the Lord's Day, which falleth upon the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August instant) in persuance of an Act of Parliament begun at Westminster the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 1656, entitled "An Act for the better Observacon of the Lord's Day" wherein (inter al<sup>a</sup>) is provided, That all elecons . . . shall be . . . done and . . . executed the next day ensuing such Lord's Day . . . The Co<sup>m</sup>ons of the Towne & Hundred of Tenterden doe elect into the office of Maior of the said Towne and Hundred, George Curteis, for this yeare to come who is p<sup>r</sup>nt<sup>e</sup> and in open Court sworne Maior accordingly.

### An unruly Apprentice.

Sessions of the Peace, 19 October 1659. Whereas Thomas Humfrey of Tenterden, taylor, hath nowe sufficiently made appeare unto this Court that Thomas Tilden his apprentice hath of late endeavoured and also put in execucon to poison the said Thomas Humfrey his master and others of his family (w<sup>ch</sup> wicked desigue was by the mercy of God p<sup>r</sup>vented) and thereupon the said Thomas Humfrey hath prayed that he may be freed from and discharged of his said apprentice. Itt is therefore thought fitt and soe ordered by this Court, That the said Thomas Humfrey shall be & is immediately from henceforth discharged of the said Thomas Tilden his apprentice.

### The Corporation Act of 1661.

Common Hall, 4 Feb. 166 $\frac{1}{2}$ . William Aldcroft gent. Towne Clerke of the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden did come before the said Commission and publicly take the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy and the Oath menconed and expressed in the said Act and did alsoe subscribe the declaracon following: I, William Aldcroft, doe declare that I hold that there lyes noe obligacon upon mee or any other p<sup>r</sup>son from the Oath co<sup>m</sup>only called the Solempne League and Covenant. And that the same was in itselfe an

unlawfull oath and imposed upon the subjects of this Realme agt the knowne lawes and liberties of this Kingdome.

W<sup>m</sup> Aldcroft.

Sworne and subscribed before us :

Jo. Heath ; Edw. Finch ; John Trouts.

### The profits of the Fair.

Common Hall, 20 March 166 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Resolved upon y<sup>e</sup> question, That y<sup>e</sup> profits of y<sup>e</sup> next ffaire of Tenterden this p<sup>n</sup>te yeere shall be granted to such p<sup>er</sup>son as (bona fide) shall give y<sup>e</sup> most for it ; wherupon Matthew Greenland, S<sup>r</sup>jeant att the Mace, here now offers to give to this Corporacon for y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>er</sup>fitts of y<sup>e</sup> said next ffaire xxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>, and y<sup>e</sup> same are thereupon granted to him.

The profits appear to have been such that the Corporation were subsequently able to obtain higher offers. Occasionally, however, the weather intervened, when we find entries of the following nature :—

10 June 1678. Itt is now ordered and agreed by this House, That John Johnson (the first Sergeant) in regard of the greate Raine which happened upon our last ffaireday att Tenterden and of his great losse which he thereby sustained shalbe and is hereby abated 10<sup>s</sup> of the xl<sup>s</sup> which he by his Agreement was to pay for the p<sup>er</sup>fitts of the said ffaire. And soe he is to pay for the reasons abovesaid only xxx<sup>s</sup> for the same.

### The care of the Records.

Common Hall, 3 June 1672. It is ordered at this Co<sup>m</sup>on Hall that M<sup>r</sup> Odiarne, M<sup>r</sup> Aldcroft, and M<sup>r</sup> Ward doe on Mondaye next weeke by eight of the clocke in the morning at the Woolpack in Tenterden aforesaid, search out the records of this towne now in sacks in M<sup>r</sup> Ward's custody, and dispose them into good order, which said records and all other papers, books, and proceedings, except such as are in present use and depending in accon, are to bee forthwith deposited into a chest lately bought ffor that purpose and remaineing in the Vestry w<sup>th</sup> three locks and three keys belonging to them, one key whereof is to remaine with the Mayor or his deputy ffor the tyme being, another key with the eldest Juratt, and the third key with the Towne Clerke for the tyme being. And in

case of either of their absence then the key or keys of such p'son as shall be absent to remayne and bee delivered over to the second and third Juratts as occasion offers untill his or their Retorne.

### Mayor refusing to serve.

Common Hall, 22 Sept. 1710. Whereas Reginald Mantell, gent., one of the Juratts of this Town and Hundred of Tenterden, was on the nine and twentieth day of August last past duely Elected and unanimously chosen Mayor of this Town and Hundred for the year then next ensuing. And havinge been legally summoned to take his oath of Mayor according to the Decrees founded on the Letters Patent to this Corporacon granted; Hath nevertheless refused and doth still refuse to take the same whereby he hath forfeited the sum of fforty pounds. It is therefore at this assembly ordained and decreed, That the p'sent Chamberlaine with such other officers as in such case is usuall doe forthwith make distress on the goods and chattels of the said Reginald Mantell for the leavying of the said fforfeiture of fforty pounds according to the former decrees and ordinances in this Corporacon in that behalfe made and ordained. And that the said Chamberlain and all others concerned in such distress be saved harmless and kept indempnified by the Mayor, Juratts and Cōialtie of this Town and Hundred for the Time being.

Ent. and read in open Comon Hall.

### An Address to Queen Anne.

Common Hall, 13 July 1712. Isaac Cloake, Mayor. Ordered at this Assembly (Nemine Contradicente) That the Draught of the Address to her p'sent Majesty lately sent by John Brewer, esq., p'sent Steward to this Corporation and since engrossed and now produced and read to this Assembly, be forthwith transmitted to the said John Brewer with the Comon Seale of this Corporacon annexed. In order for him to p'sent the same to her Majesty as he shall think fitting.

I have not been able to find out whether Queen Anne conferred any special benefit on the town, or what she did to merit this address from Tenterden. John Brewer was one of the representatives of Romney in Parliament and a Baron from the Cinque Ports at the coronation of the Queen in

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1702; we may therefore hope that he found a fitting opportunity of presenting this address of loyalty from the Weald of Kent.

### Law Officers for the Town and Hundred.

Common Hall, 29 August 1641. The Maior, Jurats, and Cōialtie doe nōiate and chuse for Councell of this Towne and Hundred for this yere to come Sr Edw. Henden, Kt., one of his Mat<sup>ies</sup> barons of the Exchequer, and have granted him for his fee xl<sup>s</sup>. Item, it is likewise ordred and granted that the Maior shall have xl<sup>s</sup> this yere to reteyne councell to assiste and advise him in the Towne's affaires over and above his ordinary fee of 4<sup>li</sup>; and alsoe his fee of 4<sup>li</sup> for this yere to come.

Sir Edward Henden, Kt., Baron of the Exchequer 1639,  
1641-42-43

Thomas Twisden, esq., S'geant at law . . . 1644—1659

John Naylor, esq., Councillor at law . . . 1660—1667

Edward ffynch, esq., Maior's Councill . . . 1672

Thomas Brewer, esq., Councillor at law . . . 1677—1689

John Brewer, esq. . . do. . . 1690—1691

Robert Gymbon, esq. . . do. . . 1692—1698

Jeoffrey Gilbert, esq. . . do. . . 1699—1707

John Brewer, esq. . . do. . . 1708—1723

. . . . .  
Edward Jeremiah Curteis, Recorder . . . 1796

. . . . .  
David Pollock, Recorder . . . 1836—1846

Sir William B. Riddell, Bart., Recorder . . . 1846—1859

Francis Russell . . . do. . . 1859—1891

Henry H. S. Croft . . . do. . . 1891—

### The Town Clerks.

Richard Homan . . . c. 1558 Thomas Baker 1652, d. 1654

Thomas Hodge . . . d. 1566 William Aldcroft 1654—1668

James Godfrey . . . d. 1590 Stephen Odiarne 1669—1672

Humphrey Wightwick . . . William Aldcroft (again)

. . . c. 1598—c. 1612 1673—1678

John Baker . . . c. 1615, d. 1635 Thomas Aldcroft 1678—1702

John Baker (son) 1635, d. 1652 Robert Cruttall 1702—1703

|                    |           |                       |           |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Adam Fowle         | 1703—1733 | William Waterman      | 1824—1834 |
| William De L'Angle | 1734—1745 | William Hope Waterman | 1835      |
| William Fisher     | 1745—1751 | Joseph Munn           | 1836—1865 |
| Edward Finch       | 1752—1759 | William Glover Mace   |           |
| William Finch      | 1760—1794 |                       | 1866—1890 |
| Edward Witts       | 1795—1823 | Joseph Munn Mace      | 1890—     |

A few detached documents which are generally placed in the oldest record book may be noticed.

(1) One is an original warrant removing William Stretton, jurat, and Robert Tigh, freeman, from their office as such, under the following title :—

Towne of } Att a Sessions held the xxviiij day of August  
Tenterden. } in the yeare of our Lord 1662, in the Towne of  
Tenterden, in the County of Kent. Before us Comm<sup>rs</sup> appointed  
by his sacred Ma<sup>tie</sup> for the s<sup>d</sup> County by vertue of a Commission  
under the great Seale of Engl'd in pursuance of an Act of Parliam<sup>t</sup>  
intituled, an Act for the well-governing and regulating of Cor-  
poracons :

Appended are the signatures of seven commissioners :  
Tho. Peyton, Edward Hales, John Tufton, Jo. Heath, Edw.  
Finch, Thomas Herlackenden and John Trowts, with impres-  
sions of their seals in red wax.

(2) Copy of a warrant dated at Whitehall, 14 December  
1695, for the arrest of Thomas Burwash of Brookland in  
Kent on suspicion of high treason. An endorsement at the  
foot shews that he was arrested at Tenterden : “ June the 29,  
1696, Rec<sup>d</sup> then the Body of Thomas Burwash of M<sup>r</sup> Alex-  
ander Thomson. By mee W<sup>m</sup> Sutton.” Alexander Thomson  
was the first Sergeant-at-Mace and Wm. Sutton one of the  
messengers of His Majesty's chamber.

(3) Copy of an order in Council dated 2 July 1696, con-  
cerning the “ silver coines of this Kingdome,” addressed to  
the Mayors and Juratts of the Cinque Ports, including  
Tenterden.

(4) A warrant bearing the signatures of Tho. Roberts  
and Robert Gybbon, 6 June 1691, addressed “ To the Bors-  
holders and Officers for the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden,

and to every of them," concerning the watch of twelve men upon the sea coast at Denge Marsh \* supplied by the seven Hundreds.

(5) Mandate bearing the signature of John Mantell, Mayor, addressed:—

To John Wood sen. the Second S'jeant att Mace of the Towne  
and Hundred of Tenterden aforesaid.

fforasmuch as the p'sons hereunder named are by myselfe and y<sup>e</sup> most part of the Juratts of this Towne and hundred and residinge within y<sup>e</sup> same, thought fitt to be ffreemen of this Towne & Hundred; These are therefore to will and require you forthwith to give y<sup>e</sup> said p'sons hereunder named, notice that I doe request them and every of them p'sonally come & appeare before me & my Brethren y<sup>e</sup> Juratts at the next Court of Pleas for this Towne & Hundred to be holden, then & there to be made ffreemen of the said Towne and hundred according to a decree in that behalfe made and provided. Given under my hand this sixteenth day of July. In y<sup>e</sup> yeare of our Lord 1694.

To . . . . { John Holman, gent., 23.  
                  { Thomas Short, gent., 23.  
                  { Thomas Hunt, 22.

You are to write downe y<sup>e</sup> day of notice you give to every of y<sup>e</sup> above named p'sons & that soe you may be able to make oath thereof upon Occaſion.

It may be mentioned that the chest referred to above as having been provided in 1672 for the safe keeping of the records still exists, and stands in the church beneath the tower. Some weeks ago the writer was (for the first time) enabled to open it and view the contents. He was told beforehand that it would take months to arrange and catalogue all the papers therein, and as he had barely a week at his disposal, it became necessary to make the most of his limited time. A brief survey shewed that there are twenty-four volumes of Churchwardens' and Overseers' accounts,

\* An entry in the Chamberlain's Account for 1639 reads: "Itm to James Hawes, Constable of Blackborne hundred towards the watche at Dongem'she at 3<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> the weeke boeing 31 weekes ended the seaventh of August, . . . 5 14 2."

etc., numerous packages of Corporation records, a bundle of parchments\* shewing distinct traces of having been injured by fire; loose papers and documents by the dozen.

Two bundles of papers were examined: one was found to consist entirely of rolls of the Chamberlains' accounts of the seventeenth century; the other is a very varied collection, and includes the following:—

A true and p'fect Rolle containing the names of the trained Band of the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden as they were Mustred before Robert Austen, Esq., Capitaine there, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 1667.

This gives the names of eighty-seven persons who bore arms—either muskets or pikes—and by whom they were furnished. Seven sheets fastened with string contain:—

An Accompt of the severall and respective firehearthes in the severall Boroughs with the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden as they were taken upon the view of the severall Borsholders of the respective Boroughs within the said Towne and Hundred. And by them delivered unto me upon their respective Oaths and under their respective hands (in pursuance of the late Act of Parliam<sup>t</sup> in that behalfe made) for the halfe yeare ending att Lady Day 1664.

Each sheet has two columns, “the persons chargeable by y<sup>e</sup> said Act” and “the persons not chargeable, being exempted by reason of their poverty and are not worth five pounds.” There were 574 hearths chargeable, and 230 excused. A single sheet† contains the opinion of Thomas Twisden, sergeant-at-law, on the seniority of the Jurats for the next Mayoral election; undated, but of the year 1661. A set of four sheets contains a copy of:

An Accompt of the names and of the yearely Rents of the Lands of fforegners lying within the Towne and hundred of Tenterden, made and yeilded up to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Governour of Dover Castle in pursuance of a Letter from him to that purpose sent, by us whose names are hereunto subscribed.

\* Fixing the annual rate of wages; each signed by the Mayor. The earliest is dated 1618.

† See p. 111.



Among the names of the non-resident landlords, or foreigners, are Nicholas, Earle of Thanett or the Countesse dowager, Tho. Lord Culpepper, Sir Edward Hales, S<sup>r</sup> Robert Austen, S<sup>r</sup> John Maynard, S<sup>r</sup> Edward Maisters, Lady Lawrence, etc. It is endorsed "Returne made to Dover Castle of forregne<sup>rs</sup> Lands lying in Tenterden to bee charged with armes," but is not, however, dated.

The differences between the two towns as to the yearly contribution of four pounds paid by Tenterden to Rye reached an acute stage in 1655, according to the following resolution passed at the Court Hall 6th August in that year:—

Itt beinge putt to the Vote whether y<sup>e</sup> Chamblaine of Tenterden shall pay the yearely Composicon of 4<sup>li</sup> to Rye w<sup>ch</sup> wilbe due att Mich<sup>as</sup> next. Itt was then voted unanimously That it shall not be paid till further consideracon & order be had therein.

By a further order adopted on the 3rd January following it was resolved to save harmless any such inhabitant or resident of the town who might be "attached" should Rye proceed to award process of withernam. Various meetings were held in attempting to settle the controversy, and in 1661 the Mayor of Rye addressed the following letter (which remains in this collection of papers) to the Mayor of Tenterden, which from its friendly tone deserves to have succeeded in its object:—

To y<sup>e</sup> Right Wor<sup>ll</sup> Richard King, Esq., Maior of y<sup>e</sup> Towne and Hundred of Tenterden, p<sup>nte</sup> these.

Right Wor<sup>ll</sup>. After p<sup>rsentm<sup>t</sup></sup> of hearty thankes for yo<sup>r</sup> late courteous entertainm<sup>t</sup> at Tenterden, these may acquaint you that according to the result of o<sup>r</sup> treaty with you yesterday I did report our proceedings & propound yo<sup>r</sup> desires to o<sup>r</sup> Assembly who being cordially affected to use their utmost endeavours for the conservation of that ancient brotherly amity that hath many yeares beene maintained & inviolably kept betweene this Corporacon and yours, are willing (considering your late great losse\*) (though necessitated for money themselves) to concede to yo<sup>r</sup> request, vizt., freely to

\* A reference to the burning of the Court Hall.

remitt you sixteen pounds of the arrears of yo<sup>r</sup> Composition money that will be due at Michaelmas next. Provided you accept it as a free gratuity & not as a matter of debt. And that for avoiding all future differences & animosities touching the p<sup>r</sup>misses such decree as was discoursed of by us for the explanacon of the gen<sup>l</sup> words in the composicon may be confirmed by yo<sup>r</sup> Assembly & exemplified to us when yo<sup>r</sup> remaining twelve pounds at Michaelmas next shall be paid. And so with the generall respects of this Corporacon to yo<sup>r</sup> Worship, & the rest of their brethren combarons incorporated with you remaineth

Yo'r assured Lo : friend

Rye.

Ma : Thomas,

24<sup>th</sup> August 1661.

Maio.

The "courteous entertainment" above mentioned cost the Corporation £2 17s. 0d., and, together with fees for Counsel, amounted to more than a year's composition money. The result may have been considered satisfactory, as it secured a remission of four years' arrears. In the Chamberlains' Account for 1661 are the following items:—

22<sup>o</sup> August instant. Spent in entertaininge of M<sup>r</sup>  
Maiof of Rye, M<sup>r</sup> Gott, & M<sup>r</sup> ffinch, counello<sup>rs</sup>  
att law, & other members of Rye & Tenterden  
in further debating y<sup>e</sup> matters in difference be-  
tweene Rye & Tenterden, p<sup>r</sup>using our Composicon  
according to a Decree to y<sup>t</sup> purpose made.  
p<sup>r</sup> bill . . . . . 2    17    0

Then given to M<sup>r</sup> ffinch for his fee as Councell with  
M<sup>r</sup> Gott to p<sup>r</sup>use our Composicon & his advice  
thereupon as was agreed at our last meeting  
at Rye . . . . . 1    10    0

Curteis, esq., Mayor. Suit to be defended. Edward Finch and the present Town Clerk, William Finch, to be joint solicitors.

29 August 1764. Suit in Chancery *re* payment of £4 a year in lieu of finding ships and men. Charters and writings to be looked into by our solicitors.

There is also a proclamation from "James, Duke of Yorke and Albany, Lord High Admirall of England and Ireland, Constable of the Castle of Dover, Lord Warden, Chancello<sup>r</sup> and Admirall of the Cinque Ports," addressed to the Mayors, Bailiffs and Jurats of Hastings, Hythe, Rye and Winchelsea, Folkestone, Lydd, Tenterden, Pevensey and Seaford, which deals solely with taking the musters and enrolling soldiers. Dated at Dover Castle 1st September, 14 Car. II., 1662.

A small collection of licensing papers shew that at least three of the present hotels in Tenterden bore the same name in 1697.

Finally, but not least, there is an interesting series of the Proceedings at the Cinque Ports Guestlings ranging from 1598 to 1639, in which are numerous references to Tenterden; but this paper being already of some length, they may perhaps form the nucleus of a subsequent article. There is, however, another record which deserves to be mentioned here, but as I have not seen it—no doubt through it being temporarily mislaid—I must content myself with giving an account of it from the report\* of the late H. T. Riley, Esq., who saw it in 1876. In this case, however, the reader will be the gainer. Mr. Riley thus described it:—

"A record book in good condition with quarto leaves of paper in limp parchment, the contents of which extend from 30 Hen. VIII. to the 34th of the same reign, 1538—43. It gives the name of the bailiff elected each year on the Decolation of St. John the Baptist, 29th August; of the six jurats nominated by him and the six jurats nominated by the commons, the names also of the common clerk and common mace-bearer as annually elected, and the names of

\* Royal Commission on Hist. MSS., 6th Report, p. 570 (1877).

the taxors of the Scot yearly levied for the use of the town. Its contents otherwise are almost wholly records of common recoveries of property situated in or near the town, with recitals of the tedious formalities connected therewith. The sole interest attending it is centred in some few of the names mentioned as parties to the recoveries respectively entered. In one case John Deryng, gent., is deforciant, described as son and heir of Nicholas Deryng and Alice his wife, daughter and coheir of William Betnam deceased; the property conveyed being situate in the 'Denne of Lytyll Harnden' in the parish, vill and hundred of Tenterden. In February 1539 Thomas Cruunwell, Kt., Lord Cromwell, is complainant and John Dudley, Kt., and Joan his wife, daughter and heir of Edward Guldeford, Kt., and John Guldeford, esq., son and heir of George Guldeford, esq., and Barbara his wife, deforciant. Thomas Lord Cromwell, and John Dudley afterwards Duke of Northumberland, two of the parties, ended their lives on the block. The property conveyed was the manor of Howseney, Kentyshyld and Petlesden, with rents among other things of six cocks and a hundred hens in Tenterden, Ebbeney and other places named. This property is immediately afterwards conveyed by Lord Cromwell to Richard Williams 'otherwise called Richard Cromwell' Esquire, and others. Thomas Culpeper the elder, esquire, is complainant in another recovery. The book is in excellent condition and finely written throughout."

A brief notice of the Maces and Seals belonging to the Corporation will bring this article to a conclusion. There are three maces, one of which, the largest, is silver gilt. It is cup shaped, three inches in diameter, and bears the Royal arms and C. R.; also a Cinque Ports ship, beneath which is the name "Tenterden"; and a Rose and Thistle, each surmounted by a crown; there are also engraved two dates, 1549 and 1660. The second, a silver mace, is much smaller and less elaborate. It has the arms and C. R. as the larger one, and the cup is divided into four compartments shewing

a ship, also Rose, Thistle and Harp, and bears this inscription: "One of y<sup>e</sup> maces of office of y<sup>e</sup> towne and hundred of Tenterden, 1660." The third is a small silver pocket mace,\* and has engraven at the top the Royal arms and at the bottom a ship.

The seals number four; the largest, the Common Seal, is a handsome one. On one side, the obverse, is a large vessel having one mast with sail on which is the Ports' arms, and a flag displaying St. George's cross. The inscription reads: "Sigillum comūne ville et hundrede de Tenterden." On the reverse is a figure of St. Mildred (to whom the church is dedicated) with a coronet on her head, a book in one hand and a staff in the other, standing under a rich canopy. At the base are the words "S'c'a Mildreda," and around the verge an inscription in Latin which has been thus rendered in English: "Pray for us blessed Mildred that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ." There are two seals of office for the Mayor; the largest is of silver and shews a large vessel having four masts with sails. From the main mast flies a flag bearing St. George's cross, and from the third, one displaying St. Andrew's cross. The inscription reads: "S: officii maioratus vil: et hund: de Tenterden." The next is a smaller one of brass, and has a ship with sail set and bearing a coat of arms. Round the verge is this: "Sigillū officii maior ville hundrede de Tenterden." Another brass seal is no doubt the oldest, being the seal of the Bailiff. It represents a ship and arms almost similar to the last, but the engraver made a sad muddle of the inscription, which, as he rendered it, reads thus: "Sigilly ofhar Bvllnv ville † hundrede de Tenterden;" this was no doubt intended for "Sigillum officii ballivi ville et hundred de Tenterden." A fuller and more detailed account of the seals may be seen in Boy's *History of Sandwich*, pp. 822-3; they are also referred to in an article on "Civic Maces" by George Lambert, F.S.A., which appeared in the *Antiquary*

\* Itm, for two newe maces w<sup>th</sup> the armes of the State, the one a very small pockett mace weighing 15 oz. 3<sup>d</sup> weight . . . 7 7 6.

(*Chamberlain's Account*, 1652.)



TENTERDEN SEALS: 1. Bailiff's Seal. 2 and 3. Mayor's Seals.

for 1880, pt. i., 66, and in "English Municipal Heraldry" by W. H. St. John Hope in the *Archæological Journal* for 1896, vol. 54, p. 179. The latter account is of interest, and is quoted here because it supplies an expert account of the heraldry:—

"On the reverse of the Tenterden seal, which dates from the charter of 1449, is a shield in base where the arms of the Corporations are usually placed, bearing on a bend between four lions' heads erased, three estoiles of eight points. These are the arms of Thomas Petlesden, who was the first bailiff under the new charter. Despite their obviously personal character, it is curious to find that their position in the place of the corporate arms should have led to their subsequent use as the arms of the town; at any rate they are displayed as such on the sail of the ship which forms the device of the seventeenth-century mayoralty seal. On the seal of 1449 the ship has on the sail the arms of the Cinque Ports, of which Tenterden was a dependency."

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P. 105. This "single sheet" has reference to a curious incident. John Plummer and Anthony Bodle were each chosen Jurats on the same day, 29th August 1656. Plummer was first elected, but being absent through sickness, did not take the oath till the 15th September following. Bodle was then elected, and being present was "sworne accordingly." A few years later, when their turn came to fill the Mayoral chair, a question of seniority appears to have arisen, and was referred to counsel for his opinion; which was, that Plummer being first elected Jurat should be Mayor first, to which office he was accordingly chosen 29th August 1661. Bodle in the normal course should have served the year following, but on the 28th August 1662—the day before he was to have been chosen Mayor—he was with three others (see *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XXXII., p. 299) displaced from the Corporation for refusing to take an oath declaring the Solemn League and Covenant to be void. He never served as Mayor of Tenterden, whereas John Plummer occupied the chair six

times, dying during his term of office in 1680, in which year Mr. Bodle also died.

In the first portion of this article (see *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XXXII., p. 295) I gave the name of Edward Boys as having re-written the list of the earlier Bailiffs in 1632. I was led to do this through finding the following entry in the Churchwardens' Accounts: "Payd Edward Boyce for writing the booke . . . 0 3 0," but have since found numerous papers in the same writing as the list shewing that E. B. was Edward Bradshaw, who was one of the Sergeants-at-Mace 1639—1652. He was a man of ability and intelligence and was employed in the Town Clerk's office in writing accounts, including the Chamberlain's Account for the year 1652, which the Town Clerk endorsed "Written fairely and formally by M<sup>r</sup> Edw: Bradshawe." The credit of having preserved the civic roll of Tenterden is therefore due to Edward Bradshaw.

I desire to express my acknowledgement of the courtesy of the Town Clerk, J. Munn Mace, Esq., who has on more than one occasion favoured me with opportunities of seeing the records; and latterly, during his absence on active service (being Lieut.-Col. commanding the 5th Buffs in Mesopotamia), his brother, H. B. Mace, Esq., the Deputy Town Clerk, has continued the like courtesy. I am also much indebted to the Vicar, Churchwardens and Vestry Clerk for their kindness in permitting me to inspect the contents of the old chest standing in the church.