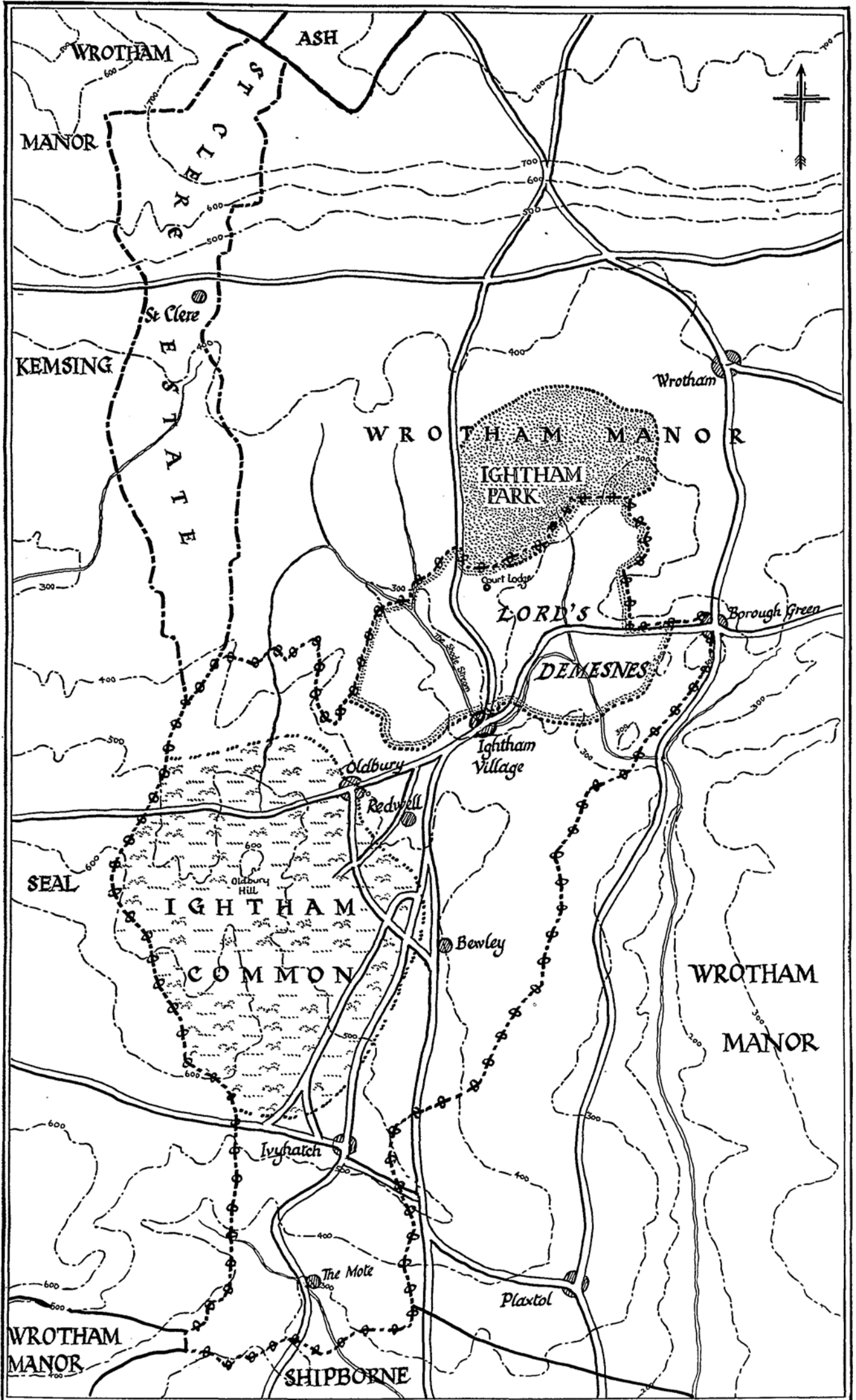




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SKETCH MAP OF IGHTHAM PARISH AND MANOR

Scale — 0 1/4 1/2 1 mile

[Ightham Parish includes St Clare estate — Ightham Manor does not]

Archæologia Cantiana.

THE COURT ROLLS AND OTHER RECORDS OF THE MANOR OF IGHTHAM AS A CONTRIBUTION TO LOCAL HISTORY.

BY SIR EDWARD HARRISON.

(Concluded from Vol. XLVIII, p. 218).

Section (l)—POACHING.

A few cases of rabbit poaching occur in the 1490-1508 group of Court Rolls. None of these cases relates in terms to poaching in Oldbury Hill, although Sir Percival Willoughby wrote in 1605 that, "for conneys Olburye Hill hathe binn allways thought as fitt a place as anye in the countiee."¹

1.5.1492. Thomas Hawke took a litter of rabbits upon the demesne lands of the lord, without licence from the lord and his farmer.

28.10.1492. William Essex, alias William Brownynge, and William Westwell of Ightham, tailor, broke into an enclosure of the lord at Ightham called Hyghfeld and hunted there, and on divers occasions took and carried away the rabbits there, to the value of 2s., against the peace of our Lord the King. Fined 4d. each.

6.1.1492-3. Thomas Chipstede, on 3 February, 1491-2, broke a close of the lord at Ightham and took away one bundell of brushwood oaks to the value of 2d. The said Thomas is a common hunter of rabbits on the land of the lord of the manor, without licence from the lord, his officers, or tenants.

¹ See Vol. XLVIII, pp. 177-8.

1.5.1493. Thomas Chipstede (2s.) and Simon Smyth (12d.), servant of Thomas Tailor, on 24 January, 1492-3, broke the close of the lord of the manor, and assaulted John Hasytherst, and hunted there and took and carried away rabbits.

1.5.1493. John Partrich of Seale, "tabrer", Thomas Hayte, lately of Seale, tailor, and William Digson, with others, broke the close of the lord of the manor at Hevyhach, and with nets and ferrets hunted there and took, killed, and carried away rabbits. Fined 12d. each.

4.3.1500-1. Laurence James of Ightham, Robert Bright, jun., of Stanstede, laborer, and Poket of Stanstede, laborer, on 2 January, 1499-1500, broke into the close of William Stawle at Ightham, and then and there in the night time of the same day hunted Stawle's rabbits and took, slew and carried them away. And Thomas Chipstede was fined 3d. for trespass, and John at Heale for taking away the lord's trees without licence.

The last sentence follows the previous passage without a break, as if all the offences took place when the poaching was done. The notorious Thomas Chipstede and John at Heale were probably not actually caught poaching, though suspected of it, but were fined for such minor offences as could be brought home to them.

In the following case the poachers seem to have set up the defence that they were not taking rabbits on the lord's land [Conyngerd, or Coney Earth] but on the adjoining field Ovyches, which was not part of the lord's demesnes.

4.8.1505. The homage say that the lord and his farmer have been accustomed from old time to have charge of the hedge between Conyngerd and Ovyches, and to take their rabbits feeding in Ovyches. And that William Parker (3d.), John Benet (4d.), William Chipstede (2d.), and John Wulferich, jun. (2d.), and John Wells (2d.) and others took rabbits there, contrary to the said custom.

23.2.1505-6. John Benet, sen., of Wrotham, yoman, William Parker of Wrotham, husbandman, William Chipstede of Wrotham, tyle-maker, on 23 January, 1505-6, and at divers times before and afterwards, took with nets at Ightham and carried away divers rabbits of William Stawley, farmer there, value 20s. Fined 6d. each.

Section (m)—BREAKERS OF THE PEACE.

Cases of breaking the peace are found in considerable numbers in the 1586-1618 group of Court Rolls, most of them consisting of street fights and common assaults of a not very serious nature. It will be noticed that in some of the later entries the value of the instrument with which a blow was struck is commonly stated, suggesting that, on the analogy of deodands, the offending weapon or its value, was forfeited.

27.4.1587. William Petley, William Siggisse, and one George, a servant of the said William Petley, broke the peace of our Lady the Queen near an enclosure, at a holly tree. Fined 6d. each.

27.4.1587. The jury present the wife of William Webb and the wife of Robert Huntick as common brawlers, quarrellers, and disturbers of the peace, against the peace of our Lady the Queen and in bad example of the neighbours. Wherefore, since there are no convenient means of punishing them, they are to be punished at discretion.

The above entry, which has the side note, "The Jury doth revoke *ambo*," may mean that Ightham had no ducking stool for scolds, and that it was therefore, left to the jury to devise a suitable punishment for the offenders. This they failed to do, and got out of the difficulty at the following View by revoking their previous presentment :—

2.10.1587. The jury present that the wives of William Webb and Robert Huntick are not common quarrellers, as was previously represented.

2.10.1587. Walter Gardiner and John Goffe fought together and drew blood. Walter was fined 20d. and John 3s. 4d., because the latter made the attack and gave first occasion [for the fray].

The fight between Gardiner and Goffe arose, no doubt, from Goffe's having rescued his cattle, which Gardiner had taken for distress. For this offence Goffe was fined 3s. 4d. at the Court Baron.¹

2.10.1587. William Staley and George Staley fought together. Fined 20d. each.

¹ See Section (q), post, p. 31.

2.10.1587. Edward Wood assaulted George Staley. Fined 20d.

3.10.1588. William Petley struck John Boroughes upon the head with an iron hammer, and drew blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

3.10.1588. Robert Baldwyn and Robert Bound fought together with their hands. Fined 12d. each.

3.10.1588. William Bennett and John Boroughe fought together. Fined 12d. each.

11.4.1589. Thomas Brissenden assaulted John Borroughe in the village of Itham, and struck him with a stick, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

The said John Borroughe at the same time and place assaulted Thomas Brissenden, and struck him with a stick, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

1.10.1589. Colbe and Edward Lambert, on 28 September, 1589, assaulted each other. Fined 12d. each.

5.10.1591. Henry Peckham, gentleman, on 1 September last, assaulted Haberdijohn at Ightam in Haberdijohn's house, and then and there struck him with his dagger, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

5.10.1591. William Pettley, on 2 September last, assaulted George Hawke and struck him with his fist. Fined 12d.

George Hawke then and there assaulted the said William. Fined 6d.

5.10.1591. George Staley, on 3 September last, assaulted David Siflet and struck him with a stone, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

David Siflett then and there assaulted George. Fined 12d.

5.10.1591. Robert Launder, on 2 September, assaulted Robert Bownd, and struck him, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

Robert Bownde then and there assaulted Robert Launder. Fined 6d.

5.4.1592. Robert Brissenden assaulted Ralph Shelden, servant of Robert Wade, at Ightam, and hit him with a stick, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d. each.

5.4.1592. Nicholas Barret and Samuell Mere assaulted each other. Fined 4d. each.

5.4.1592. John Borow and Thomas Borow assaulted Thomas Stretfild, drawing blood. Fines, John and Thomas Borow, 3s. 4d. each, Thomas Stretfild 4d.

5.4.1592. The said John Borow is "a common quarreller" with his neighbours, and "an alehouse haunter", to the bad example of the inhabitants and his own considerable danger. Fined 12d.

11.10.1592. Walter Gardner, on 12 September last, assaulted John Bound in the highway at Ightam. Fined 12d.

26.4.1593. Francis Greentree and Thomas Peres, on 20 October, 1592, assaulted each other at Itham, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d. each.

5.4.1594. Thomas Castleden, on 2 April last, assaulted in the village of Ightam a certain man living at Gravesend. Fined 12d.

5.4.1594. John Woodland and Walter Willard, on 1 April last, assaulted each other in the village of Ightam. Fined 12d. each.

5.4.1594. John Willard, sen., on the same day assaulted John Woodland within the precincts of this Lete. Fined 12d.

5.4.1594. Richard Johnson of Ightam and James Woodden of Lighe met together unlawfully at Ightam in the night time and conducted themselves impudently towards George Stalie of Ightam, in disturbance of the Queen's lieges there abiding. Fined 12d. each.

5.4.1594. The said George Stalye remained unlawfully in the night time with Richard Johnson and James Wooden. Fined 12d.

17.10.1594. William Waters of Barowe Grene, on 20 July last, assaulted Walter Staley at Ightam and drew blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

17.10.1594. William Fuller, on 20 July last, assaulted Thomas Blatcher at Ightam and struck him, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

17.10.1594. Christopher Romney, on 20 July last, assaulted William Waters at Ightam and struck him, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

24.4.1595. Robert Baldwyn assaulted George Hawkes at Itham and struck him with his fists. Fined 6d.

8.5.1598. Samuel Mare, about 1 November last, assaulted Robert Baldwyn in the public way at Ightam, and Robert Baldwin in defending himself broke the head of Samuel : wherefore Samuel was fined 3s. 4d.

8.5.1598. William Willmott, yoman, on 7 May, 1598, broke the head of Richard Austin with his dagger and drew blood. Fined 5s.—remitted because he is in the service of the lord.

At first sight the remission of Willmott's fine for the reason given looks indefensible, but the entry which follows puts a different complexion on the matter.

8.5.1598. Richard Austin, labourer, attached to himself five other armed persons in the night of Saturday, 6 May, 1598, and they assaulted William Willmott in the mansion house called "Ightam Courtlodg", and with an iron-shod stick which he held in his hands he broke the head of William Willmott, and drew blood, against the peace of our Lady the Queen and to the alarm of her people. Fined 5s.

24.4.1599. Thomas Castleton, on 10 March last, assaulted John Huntick and struck him with a stick, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

24.4.1599. John Ley, on 20 March last, assaulted John Johnson. Fined 3s. 4d.

John Johnson then and there assaulted John Ley and drew blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

24.4.1599. Robert Averill and William, servant of John Wood, gent., on 1 March last, assaulted each other. Fined 12d.

20.10.1600. Robert Averell assaulted ——. Fined 12d.

20.10.1600. Mary, wife of Edward Lambard, and the wife of John Garland assaulted John Johnson, drawing blood. Edward and John [Garland] were fined 20d.

20.10.1600. Edward Tunbridge, on 20 September last, assaulted Robert Baldwin, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

Robert Baldwin then and there assaulted Edward Tunbridge, drawing blood. Fined 20d.

20.10.1600. Stanley assaulted John Willard, drawing blood. Fined 20d.

16.4.1601. Thomas Castleton, on 20 March last, assaulted Alexander Thompson in the highway. Fined 3s. 4d.

At the same Court Castleton was fined 5s. for being a common drunkard.

1.4.1602. Thomas Castleton and Robert Averill, on 10 March last, assaulted George Bownde in the highway at Ightam and drew blood. Fined 3s. 4d. each.

The said George Bownde then and there assaulted the said Thomas and Robert. Fined 12d.

19.4.1604. Thomas Williamson, on 30 December last, assaulted John Emerson, and struck him on the head with his dagger, value 12d., drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

19.4.1604. Robert Warde, on 1 November last, assaulted John Williams and struck him with a stick, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

16.10.1604. Thomas Couchman, on 4 October last, assaulted Richard Mathew in the house of Robert Ward at Igham, and struck him with a stick, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

Richard Mathew on the same day assaulted Thomas Couchman. Fined 6d.

16.10.1604. John Wiborne, on 3 October last, assaulted Richard Mathew. Fined 12d.

16.10.1604. William Bennet, sen., in 1602 assaulted Nicholas Barret and struck him with his dagger, value 6d., drawing blood, in the house of John Willard lately of Igham deceased. Fined 3s. 4d.

16.10.1604. William Glover on 30 September last at Oldburie Hill assaulted Edward Lambard, and drew blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

16.10.1604. Weston Balden on the same day assaulted Edward Lambard in the highway at Oldburie Hill. Fined 6d.

4.10.1605. Robert Palmer of Wrotham assaulted John Baldewyn at Igham and struck him with a stick, value 2d., drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

13.10.1606. Lewys Williams, on 20 August last, assaulted Prudence Martyn, wife of James Martyn, and struck her with a pitchfork, value 3d., drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

22.10.1607. Edward Lambert, on 19 October, assaulted James Butler and drew blood. Fined 2s.

2.10.1615. Richard Stuborne, on 30 December last, assaulted one Simon, gardener to Sir William Selby, and then and there struck him with a hanger, value 12d., drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

William Willard, Stephen Mellis, Peter Mellis, Robert Launder and John Launder then and there took part in the assault and affray, and Price was struck with a certain dagger, value 6d., to the effusion of blood, but by whom the jury are utterly ignorant. William, Stephen, Peter, Robert and John were fined 12d. each.

16.10.1616. Thomas Richardson, about Christmas last, assaulted Reginald Hasden and struck him with a stick of no value, drawing blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

16.10.1616. Reginald Hasden, about 30 November last, assaulted Robert Kipps. Fined 12d.

23.10.1617. Thomas Parvyn, about 24 August last, assaulted Thomas Richardson and drew blood. Fined 3s. 4d.

Thomas Richardson then and there assaulted Thomas Parvyn. Fined 2s. 6d.

Section (n)—PUBLIC DUTIES AND THE PUBLIC WELFARE.

Cases in the Court Rolls falling under these heads vary considerably in character, and the chronological sequence has been interrupted in order to bring similar cases together.

All lads on reaching the age of twelve years had to take the oath of allegiance, or, in earlier language, to be sworn into the Assize. Parents, guardians, employers and others were required to bring to the View for this purpose the youths in their charge. The records of these cases are all in substantially the same form, and only a few examples are given here, beginning with the first recorded case.

28.10.1490. To this Court came John Laneham and William Syflete, aged 12 years and more, and were sworn into the Assize of our Lord the King.

1.5.1507. John Gyles, dwelling with William Pelsowth, and Richard Leechford, dwelling with Richard Weller, have not been sworn to the allegiance of our Lord the King. To be summoned to the next Court to take the oath.

31.5.1556. William Terry was given till the next Court to bring Edward Mowg and Walter Mowg to take the oath of allegiance, under penalty 40d.

4.10.1586. Thomas Syfelett, son of Richard Syfelett, and William Crouchley have dwelt within the precincts of this View of Frank-pledge for the space of one year and more, and are twelve years of age and above, and yet have not hitherto been sworn to the allegiance of our Lady the Queen, wherefore they were sworn here in Court to be faithful, obedient, and loyal subjects.

The Assize of Bread and Ale was designed to ensure that the food and drink of the people should be of good quality and full weight or measure, and that excessive prices should not be charged. It dates from the reign of Henry III, and the first of the existing Court Rolls contains a list of bakers and brewers who were fined for breaking the Assize—or, in effect, made to pay a small fee or licence duty. Similar lists are found till the seventeenth century.

The brewers of the year 1490 include Jane Parker, who brewed once but was excused the usual fine, as a poor person. Isabel Lanem was reported on 28 October, 1490, to have brewed twice and to have sold her ale before the taster had tasted it, contrary to the proclamation in that behalf made.

1.5.1492. The wife of John Pyers (2d.) has brewed for sale without putting out a sign at her door, contrary to the proclamation.

At each View the ale taster for Ightham usually presented the names of several persons who had brewed during the preceding half year. A separate taster for Ivy Hatch¹ often presented only one or two names, sometimes none at all, the explanation being, no doubt, that Ivy Hatch was so small a hamlet that little brewing for sale was done there.

28.10.1494. Hevyhach. John Tanner, taster there, made no presentments, because he said that no one had brewed for sale since his last report.

¹ See page 34.

On the same occasion Robert Giles, the taster for Ightham, had reported that Agnes Hunt (4d.), Isabel Laneham (4d.), Rose Hasilherst (4d.), and Jane Throppe (4d.), had brewed twice, whilst the wife of William Tebold (2d.), the wife of William Pelsoth (2d.), Walter Fuller (2d.), and John Gardyner (2d.) had brewed once.

1.5.1500. Ralph Armstrong, tithing man, presents that Richard [Hawke] (4d.) is a common baker of bread, and sells short weight, and that the wife of Thomas Laneham (2d.) is a baker of bread and sells short weight.

31.5.1556. The wife of Henry Jeffery and William Parker have not exhibited the sign of a brewer. Fined 2d. each, and to remedy it before the next Court.

24.4.1599. Thomas Stretfild (3s. 4d.) is a common ale-house keeper within the precincts of this View, and sells ale in unlawful stone cups, breaking the Assize.

There is one reference in the Court Rolls to the exactions of a miller and one to the misdeeds of a mercer :—

17.4.1588. Robert Launder (6d.) is a miller within this View of Frank-pledge, and has taken excessive payment from the inhabitants.

24.4.1595. William Yonge (2s.) is a mercer, and sells his wares by unlawful weights.

The evils of overcrowding and of bad sanitary conditions were recognized even so long ago as Elizabethan days :—

22.4.1590. David Warren and Christofer Oulton in a certain cottage of theirs situated at Redwell, and Thomas Ware in a certain cottage of his at Itham do each of them allow "two several howsholds" to abide—contrary to the law in that behalf made. But by the grace of the lord of the manor the prescribed penalty was remitted, and they were given till the next Court to remove the inhabitants from the several cottages, under penalty 10s.

16.4.1601. Isabel Gardener, within the last five months, has erected a cottage at Radwell in Ightam and "hath not laid unto it" four acres of land, contrary to law, and John Oliver in like manner has erected a cottage there without land, contrary to law.

Many cottages at Ightham had till recently no water supply other than rain, and the springs which trickle out of the Sandgate beds and fill small, hollowed-out pools, called wells. These were once common in the district and several still remain in use to-day. These public wells, together with the intermittent Shode stream or Busty, were of great importance to the inhabitants, and the authorities were alert to protect them from pollution.

2.10.1587. Widow Beverley has corrupted and contaminated with her geese the common water necessary for the daily use of the inhabitants, to their damage, wherefore she was fined 6d.

17.4.1588. Lancelot Woodden has allowed his geese to disturb, dig in and defile a certain water or spring used for the necessary purposes of life by the inhabitants, called Redwell, to the grave inconvenience of the Queen's subjects. Fined 12d., and ordered to abate the nuisance before the next Court, under penalty 3s. 4d.

11.4.1597. Thomas Stretfild has placed a dead dog in the common water-course called the Bustour,¹ in corruption of the water and to the inconvenience of the Queen's subjects. Fined 4d., and ordered to remove it before 13 April, under penalty 3s. 4d.

16.10.1604. William Chowninge and Richard Mathew allow their geese and ducks to foul the water at Redwell, to the damage of their neighbours. The penalty imposed upon them was that if they continue to offend in this way they are to forfeit 6s. 8d. for each offence.

The inhabitants at large had their own public duties to perform, of which, probably for no other reason than the slow movement of rural life, they had to be reminded from time to time. Neglects in connection with the stocks, the public weights and measures, and the local crow-net were dealt with at the Court.²

¹ Or Bustoum. The reading is doubtful, but the reference is plainly to the stream now called the Busty.

² Captain H. W. Knocker has informed the writer that it is usually found elsewhere that the lord had to repair the stocks, the measures, and the pound. This was true at Ightham only of the pound.

11.4.1589. The common stocks of the village of Itham are broken and defective. It was ordered by the steward that they should be repaired by the inhabitants before Whitsunday next, under the penalty provided in the Statute in that behalf.

22.4.1590. The jury present that there is not within this View a common net called a "crow-nett", according to the form of the Statute. By the grace of the lord of the manor the inhabitants were given till the next Court to provide a suitable net, under penalty 10s.

22.4.1590. The common measures of the village of Itham are out of repair. The inhabitants are to repair them before Midsummer Day, under penalty 20s.

26.4.1593. The inhabitants of the village of Ightam were given till Midsummer Day next, under penalty 20s., to repair sufficiently the measures and stocks of the village.

5.5.1603. The common stocks of the village of Ightam are broken and despoiled. The inhabitants were given till Whitsunday to repair them, under penalty 20s.

25.10.1614. The inhabitants of the village of Ightam were given till the next Court to make good the stocks of the village, under penalty.

16.10.1616. The inhabitants of the View of Frank-pledge were given till Lady Day next, under penalty 20s., to repair the stocks and weights.

23.10.1617. The inhabitants of the village of Ightam have forfeited to the lord of the manor the sum of 20s. for neglecting to buy "waytes" for the necessary use of the ale taster of the manor, as they were required to do, within a fixed time, at the last Court. They have now till the next Court to get them, under a like penalty.

The Act of 33 Henry VIII, the preamble of which recited that archery was "sore decayed" owing to the invention of "slydethrifte or shovegrote" and other games, required all men to practise shooting with the long bow, and prohibited the keeping for gain of common houses, bowling alleys, and other places for unlawful games. The effects of this legislation are seen in the following passages.

4.10.1586. Edward Rootes is a common ale-house keeper, and has made for his private profit "*locum globale vocat*" a bowling

alley", contrary to the law, and divers persons have played bowls there. Fined 3s. 4d., and ordered to destroy the bowling alley and not to restore it, under penalty 10s.

4.10.1586. Henry Allen, borsholder, played bowls once unlawfully, wherefore he was fined 12d. for his bad example.

27.4.1587. Edward Rootes has destroyed the bowling alley, as ordered.

2.10.1587. Sylvester Swann is a common seller of bread and ale, and has allowed Thomas Pearceson, John Borough and Solomon Hasden to play in his alleys at the time of divine prayer, impiously, unlawfully, and irregularly, having no care for the worship of God and not giving due weight to the salutary provisions of the laws in that behalf. Wherefore, it being the first offence, Silvester was fined 6d., and the said Thomas, John and Solomon, unlawful players, were fined 6d. each.

19.4.1604. Richard Chownynge, alias Gregorie, "being a comon alhouse keper *apud* Barrow greene", allows in his house the unlawful game of common dicing. Fined 2s.

Persons of bad reputation and living and houses of bad name were also the subjects of presentments at the Courts.

2.10.1587. John Burghe has received in his house a certain woman stranger of bad name (as the jury think). Ordered that she be removed within a month, under penalty 10s.

17.4.1588. John Bourghe has removed the woman stranger of bad name previously received by him.

11.4.1597. Alexander Adam keeps without licence or other legal authority "a victualing howse", and he has often received and entertained there persons suspected of bad name and conversation, to the alarm of the Queen's subjects; and he keeps in his house unlawful games of dice and painted cards. Fined 3s. 4d., and ordered to reform these things before Whitsunday, under penalty 20s.

11.4.1597. John Willner keeps "a tipling howse" without licence or other lawful authority, and has often received and entertained there persons suspected of evil name and conversation, to the alarm of the Queen's subjects. And he keeps in his house unlawful games of dice and painted cards.

A like order was made as in the preceding case.

16.4.1601. Thomas Castleton is a common drunkard, in prejudice and bad example of his neighbours. Fined 5s.

22.10.1607. Edward Lambert and his wife, since the last Court, have received and entertained in his house at Ightam at unlawful times persons "of lewd lyfe", in disturbance of the inhabitants there and contrary to law. Fined 6s. 8d., and, moreover, it was ordered that if the said Edward offends again in this respect, he is to forfeit 10s. for each such offence.

Section (o)—STRANGERS COME INTO IGHTHAM.

The evils associated with the unrestricted movement of poor persons resulted in such movement being controlled under the old Poor Law, and, after the Restoration, in the law of settlement. Earlier experimental remedies, some of them fruitless, can be traced back to the reign of Henry VII.

In the Court Rolls of 1586-1618 there are many records of strangers being received into houses in Ightham without sureties for their good behaviour having been found. The orders made by the Courts were for sureties to be produced, or, failing security, for the strangers to be removed before the following Court, under penalty. Some representative cases have been reproduced below, but similar entries grow tedious by repetition, and numerous extracts have accordingly been cut down to the bare names of the persons concerned and the amounts of the penalties. The latter are of interest, as the varying amounts must be some index to the extent of the current mischief.

4.10.1586. John Goffe (6s. 8d.), by permission of Robert Gardiner (6s. 8d.) and William Chowning (3s. 4d.), by permission of William Siggis (3s. 4d.), and a certain other stranger by the reception and toleration of Richard Pelstott (3s. 4d.), have come within the precincts of this View of Frank-pledge, and have not found two good and sufficient sureties for their good behaviour: wherefore, by the authority of this Court it was ordered that they should produce their sureties by the next Court, or depart, subject to the penalties set against their names.

27.4.1587. William Weston, gentleman, became surety for John Goffe, a stranger come within this View of Frank-pledge, that he will be of good behaviour towards our Lady the Queen

and all her people, and he [Weston] will answer to the View of Frank-pledge for the fines and ameracements imposed on the said John.

27.4.1587. William Chowning, a stranger, came within this View without finding sureties and was amerced, but at the humble petition of the said William, who is a poor man of good name and fame, he was given till the next Court either to remove or to find sureties, under penalty 12d. The said William was at this Court sworn into the allegiance of our Lady the Queen, he having dwelt within the View of Frank-pledge for a year and a day, being over 30 years of age, and not having previously sworn allegiance.

Chowning removed, but not out of the View, for six months later Thomas Ware was found to have received him into his tenement. On 17 April, 1588, it was reported that Ware had removed Chowning. Whether the latter resented his ejection and showed his resentment we do not know, but a year later he and Ware were both fined for assaulting each other.

11.4.1589. Thomas Ware (12d.) assaulted William Chowning and struck him with his fists. William Chowning (12d.) also assaulted Thomas Ware and struck him with his fists.

Chowning seems to have succeeded in remaining at Ightham, for in 1592 he was himself fined for receiving strangers.

11.10.1592. William Chowning has received into his cottage and taken care of Richard Colvyn and his wife "*ut extraneos, Anglice inmates*", without sureties. To bring sureties or remove them before Lady Day, under penalty 10s.

11.4.1589. Robert Gardiner has received certain strangers into his houses, namely Margaret Warren, Jane Usmer, and Ellen Busbye, who have not found pledges for their good behaviour, but live unlawfully and overburden the common of the lord. To remove them or find sureties, under penalty 6s. 8d.

11.4.1597. Thomas Ware has received into his house called Tebbes, a parcel of customary land, a certain Adam Alexander, an inmate and stranger, without sureties. To be removed before 1 November, under penalty £5.

20.10.1601. William Weston has taken into his cottage Christopher Bud, Finche, widow, and John Curde, as inmates, without sureties. To find sureties or remove them, under penalty 10s.

5.5.1603. William Weston has forfeited 10s. to the lord of the manor because he has not removed from his cottage Christopher Budd, Widow Fynche and John Crud. The bailiff was ordered to levy the penalty to the use of the lord.

1.4.1602. At this View it was ordered by the jury with the assent of the Steward of the Manor that if any inhabitant or tenant of the manor shall have introduced any stranger into the parish of Ightham to dwell there, or shall permit such a person to dwell in his cottages, without sufficient sureties . . . [for] any such strangers so seized there before Midsummer Day next, following upon the notice of this Court, he is to forfeit the sum of £5, of which one half is to go to the lord of the manor and the other half to the use of the poor of the parish.

At the View of Frank Pledge held on 28 October, 1608, the following order was made in English :—

Wee the jurors and Inhabitants of the said parishe of Ightam present at this Courte, doe for the better good of the said parishe and inhabitants thearof, Constitute and ordeine, that every suche person and persons whiche shall at any time henceforthe demise, lett, or sett any tenemt. or cottage within the said parishe of Ightam to any person or persons wch. hathe not been an inhabitant there by the space of one whole yeare last past before the daye of the date of this Courte : Or shall suffer, receave, or take as a resiant within the saide parishe of Ightam any person or persons wch. hathe not been an inhabitant there by the space of one whole yeare next before as aforesaid and doth not first put in securitie in the sume of ten pounds to the Churchwardenis and Overseers of the said parishe for the tyme being to discharge, or save harmelesse the parishioners of the said parishe of the said person or persons, and of his her and their charge then being or likelie after to issue, shall forfeite and lose to the Lorde of this Manor the summe of twentie shillings for everie month that any suche person or persons shalbe so resiant or dwelling in any suche tenmt. or cottage in the saide parishe of Ightam : The one moietie whearof to be to the use of the lorde of the saide Manor, the other moietie to the use of the poore of the said parishe of Ightam.

9.10.1610. John Terrye has received one John Chayrie, a stranger, in his cottage, without sureties for the exoneration of the parish, contrary to the order of 28 October, 1608. Therefore he has forfeited for every month of his reception and retention 20s.

The following is a summary of all the remaining cases mentioned in the Court Rolls :—

Date of Court.	Name of Person receiving a Stranger.	Fine.		Name of Stranger.	Fine.	
		Im-med-iate.	If Stran-ger not removed, and no Sureties. found.		Im-med-iate.	If Stran-ger not removed, and no Sureties. found.
27.4.1587	Thomas Ware	12d.	3s. 4d.	Thomas Walter	6d.	20d.
"	John Lovegrove		3s. 4d.	John Borough		3s. 4d.
"	Edward Thruppe		3s. 4d.	Robert Eglestone		3s. 4d.
5.4.1592	John Lovegrove and Robert Gardner		10s.	Robert Launder		
"	William Walter		10s.	Thomas Stace		
"	William Hadlow		10s.	Johnson		
"	George Chowning, and George Hawke		10s.	John Williams and John Dene		10s.
"				Richard Cohyn		10s.
"				John Curd		10s.
"				Edward Lambert		10s.
26.4.1593	Jane Powell		10s.	Widow Bullinge		
"	John Bownde		10s.	John Curd		
"	William Chowninge		10s.	John Huntwick		
5.10.1593	William Webb	10s.		Agnes Bullinge, Widow		
"				Samuel Mare		3s. 4d.
"				Thomas Baker		3s. 4d.
"				Christopher Budd		3s. 4d.
17.10.1594	John Usmer		10s.	Thomas Baker and Samuel Mare		
"	Robert Gardner		10s.	Christofer Budd		
24.4.1595	William Chittenden		10s.	Richard Lobley, his brother and his wife		
"	Launcelot Woodden		10s.	William Bowes and his wife		

Date of Court.	Name of Person receiving a Stranger.	Fine.		Name of Stranger.	Fine.	
		Im-med-iate.	If Stran-ger not removed, and no Sureties found.		Im-med-iate.	If Stran-ger not removed, and no Sureties found.
11.4.1597	Edward Weston		40s.	George Broome and his wife		
"	Robert Wyborne		£5	Edward West and his wife		
"	Walter Gardner and Isabel Gardner, widow		£5	John Skele		
"	William Webb		£5	Butt and his wife		
"	John Willner		£5	Lee		
8.5.1598	Allchin, clerk		40s.	John Lay and his wife		
"	Thomas Guning		40s.	Edward West		
"	John Skeale		40s.	Jerome Symons		
"	Turner, widow, and Mathew Johnson		40s.	Richard Butcher		
"	Thomas Ware		40s.	Thomas Lowe		
"	Richard Hayward		40s.	Richard Moody		
20.10.1600	Thomas Ware		10s.	John Vickers		
"	John Terry		10s.	Henry Everest		
"	Marten		10s.	Suton		
20.10.1601	Richard Hunter		10s.	Edward Lambert		
"	Stephen, widow		10s.	John Rawlins		
"	Francis Greenetree		10s.	George Bedell		
19.4.1604	William Warren at Charte Bottome		£5	John Hubble		
"	Gabriell Bruer		£5	James Butler		
16.10.1604	John Emerson		10s.			
4.10.1605	John Terry		£5	Henry Martyn		
"	Reginald Haseden		as provided in Statute.	Elizabeth Styles		
"	Jane Hamon		10s.	Andrew Waters		
13.10.1606	do.	10s.	10s.	do.		
28.10.1608	John Terry		20s.	Richard Shoe-bridge		
"	Richard Daye		10s.	George Turner		
"	William Porter		20s.	Taylor		
"	Richard Austen		20s.	George Stephenson		
"	William Porter	30s.		Fathers		
11.12.1611	John Terry	£5		Kertman		

Section (p)—SMALL DEBTS.

The Court Baron acted for a period as a court for the recovery of debts not exceeding 40s., but this function gradually lapsed owing to the dilatory nature of the procedure and the greater effectiveness of the Court of Requests and, in modern times, the County Court. In considering the extent of the jurisdiction of the Court Baron it must not be lost sight of that 40s. in the fifteenth century would be the equivalent of, perhaps, as many pounds to-day. Many of the cases recorded suffer in interest from lack of detail, or of an ending. Figures sometimes fail to add up to the natural total, and entries may be defective or unintelligible in other respects. In spite of all this, in addition to scraps of information about current prices and economic conditions, there is a good deal of human interest in these records.

Cases of debt occur mainly in the 1490-1508 group of Court Rolls, but there are a few brief references to this subject in the 1461-75 group.

28.10.1462. John James complains against Richard Wymbyll for debt. For the next Court.

28.10.1462. Alice Mercer complains against John Smyth for debt. Adjourned till the next Court after the Epiphany.

Alice Mercer, however, dropped the case, for against her name is written, "*Non pros.*"

In a list of fines imposed on 12 June, 1466, Richard Jekyn of Sele is marked as amerced 3d. in a debt case between him and Geoffrey Taylor, and on 20 March, 1474-5, John Hamme was charged 3d. for licence to settle out of Court a similar case between him and William Sawyere, sen.

After 1490 the entries become more informative, but usually include particulars of formal steps (*e.g.* the taking of security for prosecution of a case) and other legal processes which for the sake of brevity have been omitted from the extracts given below.

18.11.1490. John Tryce complains against Walter Fuller for debt. Order made to summon the defendant.

14.2.1490-1. Walter Fuller was summoned to answer John Tryce for debt. [Marked in the margin, "*Non pros.*"]

18.11.1490. Laurence Jamys complains against Thomas Lannem for debt. Adjourned by consent of parties till the next Court, when he failed to appear. Fined 2d.

The defendant also failed to appear on 14 February, 1490-1, and was again fined 2d.

1.5.1491. Laurence Jamys, complainant, and Thomas Lannem, defendant, applied for licence to agree.

A small fee, usually 3d., was charged for permission to settle by agreement a case which had come before the Court.

14.2.1490-1. A day was fixed, namely at the next Court, for the case between Walter Fuller and John Tebold.

28.10.1491. Robert None complains against William Fuller for debt, 13d., namely, for oats bought from him on 14 June. The defendant acknowledged the debt, which was ordered to be levied against the next Court.

28.10.1491. William a Ware complains against John Tebold for debt 8s. He states that the defendant, on 10 February, 1490-1, bought from him an ox for 18s., of which he paid on the day aforesaid, 10s.

Tebold was attached by two heifers to answer the claim, which, however, was settled out of Court.

28.10.1491. Emmotte None complains against William Fuller for debt 20d. She appeared in person and said that the defendant owed that amount for land let to him. The defendant admitted that he owed the money, which he paid in Court, with 4d. for costs and expenses.

8.12.1491. William a Forde complains against Thomas Pelsowth for debt 11s. 4d. The defendant was attached by 13 sheep, value 13s. The plaintiff, by his attorney, William James, stated that on 10 October, 1485, the defendant borrowed from him 4s. He was surety for the defendant to Thomas Levesoth of Gowdeherst for 2s., and the residue, 5s. 4d., was for fresh fish which the plaintiff delivered to the defendant at Ightham.

The defendant asked for leave to imparl with the plaintiff till the next Court and on 25 June, 1492, the parties were allowed to settle out of Court.

6.3.1491-2. Sarah Chipstede, widow, as executrix of the will of William Chipstede, complains against William Tebold for debt 7s. 4d.

Orders were made at eight different Courts to distrain Tebold to answer the claim, and there the case ends. He was probably not worth powder and shot.

24.3.1491-2. Ordered that William Goddyn be distrained to answer Richard Wybarn for debt. He was attached by two oxen, value 20s.

Goddyn also displayed a masterly inactivity, and five further distraint orders were made against him, with no recorded outcome.

The entry from which the following particulars have been taken is partly illegible, and the arithmetic seems to be faulty.

25.6.1492. Laurence James complains against William Fuller, jun., for debt 3s. 2d. The plaintiff states that 2s. is owed to him for a saddle delivered by him to the defendant, and 8d. for [? taking] a horse from Ightham to Flemewell, and 8d. for [? the carriage of something] of the defendant to Yaldyng.

The case seems to have been settled out of court.

In a case mentioned on 5 December, 1493, between John Cuddy and Thomas Maryner, the defendant was attached by one "*ollam eueam*," apparently some kind of earthenware jug.

3.2.1495-6. Thomas Burton complains against John Throppe for debt 19s. 4d., because the defendant, on 20 July, 1495, bought from him four quarters of malt, to be paid for before Christmas last past. The defendant was distrained by two oxen value 20s. He does not appear and is in mercy.

The case was settled out of Court.

The record of the next case is defective, part of a page having been torn away.

21.12.1496. John Frensshe and Richard Frensshe, by their attorney William Stawley, complain against Thomas Fuller for the return of five sheep, value 6s., and also that he owes them 12d. for [? payment for services] for two years from 2 February, 1493-4 to 1495-6. He has neither returned the sheep nor paid the 12d. The defendant asks for time to imparl.

On 1 February, 1496-7, a jury to inquire into the case was named, but the defendant did not appear punctually. Before the Court rose, however, he came in, and stated that he owed nothing and did not detain the plaintiff's property.

1.5.1497. John Forde complains against William Fuller for debt 5s. 5d. He says that the defendant owes him 12d. for one "jaket" bought from him at Ightham, and the remainder of the debt for the carriage of fresh fish from Godehurst to Ightham on various occasions.

After an adjournment, the case was settled out of Court.

An involved case, the point of which seems to be a disputed apportionment of rent, was recorded in 1497.

23.11.1497. John Tryce complains against Henry Hasylderst for the payment of 4s., which he says he owes and detains unjustly. He says that the defendant holds a house and garden, formerly Denis Hunt's, and afterwards the property of John Williams, father of John Williams of Strode, for which house the tenants of John Watts paid a rent of 4d., and which the plaintiff now holds by rent 4d., which 4d. he is bound to pay each year to the lord for the said house.

The defendant denied liability, and the case, after being mentioned at several Courts, was settled by the verdict of a jury on 22 May, 1498. It was found that Hasylderst held certain lands of the lord of the manor, and was bound to pay therefor a rent determinable by the respective acreages of his land and of Tryce's land. The lands were ordered to be measured by the parties before 5 June, 1498, a course which Hasylderst declined to take.

14.12.1497. Robert Brode and Jane his wife, executrix of the will of Walter Fuller, complain against William Fuller, jun., for debt 5s. 4d., in respect that the defendant bought of the said

Jane, on 10 February, 1496-7, a horse for 6s. 8d., of which he paid to her 1s. 4d.

A licence to agree out of Court was granted, but on 23 January, 1497-8, William Fuller was reported to have made default "*de lege sua, viz., se tribus manibus,*" at the suit of Robert Brode, that is, he had failed to carry out his undertaking to produce three witnesses to swear to his veracity.

14.12.1497. John Partrich complains against Thomas Laneham for debt 2s. 4d., for wool bought from him at Ightham. The defendant admitted the debt.

12.6.1499. John Bewgle was attached by [a blank] to answer John Tryce, jun., for debt, and does not appear. Fined 4d.

On 3 July, "John Bewgill" admitted that he owed the plaintiff 3s. 2d. "Therefore," the entry continues, "the custom is that the said John (Tryce) should recover against the said John Bewgill the said debt together with expenses and costs of the Court." The judgement was not satisfied, for on 18 November "John Begull" was again before the Court. The entry is marked "*Non pros.,*" the debt and costs, with a further fine of 3d., having apparently been paid at the last moment.

23.7.1499. Richard Weller complained against John Burdon for debt 3s. 8d. The defendant admitted the debt in Court.

23.7.1499. Hamo Wymbyll was distrained to answer Thomas Hawke for debt, and does not appear.

10.10.1499. John Kyng and Elizabeth his wife complain against Thomas Gardyner, alias Court, for detention of a silver ring called a sygnet, value 2s. 8d. The plaintiff said that on 10 October, 1494, Elizabeth delivered the ring to a certain William Gardyner for safety. And the said William delivered it to the defendant with the intention of re-delivering it to the said Elizabeth when she should ask for it. She had often done so.

On 28 October, 1499, Walter Pelsowth, attorney to the defendant, asked for time to imparl. Three weeks later

the defendant asked to be allowed to wage his law two-handed [to bring two witnesses to his veracity]. On 21 December he was called upon to do so but failed to appear. "Therefore he is in mercy."

The family of Pelsatt (the name, as usual, is variously spelt) were substantial land holders in Ightham for several generations, but included one impecunious member, Thomas Pelsouth, who was sued for debt on several occasions. He first appeared as defendant in a complaint by William a Forde on 8 December, 1491, for a debt of 11s. 4d., the particulars of which are set out above. During the years 1499-1506 this man's name was constantly coming up in debt cases.

18.11.1499. Thomas Pelsouth was ordered to be distrained to answer William Taylor for debt.

4.3.1499-1500. William Taylor of Wynfiled complains against Thomas Pelsowth for debt 4s. 4d.

25.3.1500. Thomas Pelsouth was distrained by a horse, value 10s., to answer William Taylor of Wynfiled for debt 4s. 4d. He does not come. He and his sureties are in mercy as he had previously admitted the debt.

He was similarly reported as distrained by a horse at two Courts in October, 1500.

20.11.1500. Thomas Pelsouth was distrained by a horse, value 10s., to answer William Taylor, sen., for debt, and is in mercy by his sureties, John Swetyng and Laurence James, whom the said Thomas puts in his place. Laurence James acknowledged the debt, 4s. 4d., which he and John Swetyng undertook to pay at the next Court.

1.4.1501. John Swetyng and William Pelsouth appeared at this Court, and became sureties for payment at the next Court, to be held on 1 May next, of 4s. 4d., with 12d. [? for expenses] on behalf of Thomas Pelsouth, to the use of William Taylor.

4.8.1505. John Thropp complains against William Pelsowth and William Fuller for debt 6s. 8d. They were separately distrained by two horses, value 13s. 4d. The plaintiff says that the defendants, on 10 February, 1504-5, became sureties to pay the plaintiff the said 6s. 8d. for Thomas Pelsowth, whenever

thereto required. The debt has often been demanded but has not been paid. William Pelsowth in person admitted liability for 3s. 4d. William Fuller did not appear and was fined 2d.

25.9.1505. William Fuller was distrained by two horses to answer John Thropp for debt and does not appear.

28.10.1505. William Fuller appeared and admitted that he owed John Throp 3s. 4d., which he is in mercy to pay for Thomas Pelsowth. Order for recovery made.

28.10.1505. Reginald Guerhard complains against Thomas Pelsowth for debt 2s. 4d., which the defendant admitted in Court. He was given time till the Epiphany.

23.2.1505-6. At this Court Reginald Guerhard appeared against Thomas Pelsowth for debt 2s. 4d., and asked for judgement because Thomas admitted the debt at the preceding Court. And upon this, John Pyers paid the plaintiff 2s. 4d., and the defendant remains in mercy.

We now go back a few years to pick up cases in which Thomas Pelsowth was not involved.

18.11.1499. William Burdon was ordered to be distrained to answer Richard Weller.

6.2.1499-1500. Richard Miller complained against Thomas Laneham for debt 6s. 8d. He said that on 20 June, 1499, the defendant bought from him one quarter of corn for 6s. 8d., to be paid for before 1 August. The debt had not been paid.

16.4.1500. William Hobyll complained against William Pelsouth, Henry Hasyherst, and John Throp for debt.

The defendants were twice distrained to answer the claim, but did not appear.

28.10.1500. John Godewyn complains against Hamo Wymbyll for debt 2s. He says that the defendant bought from him, on 1 October, wares called "an old stapill" for the said 2s., which was to be paid by 13 October. The defendant says that he owes nothing.

The case was referred to a jury, but, after several adjournments, it was settled out of Court.

12.6.1504. William Fuller was summoned to answer William James for debt 9s. The plaintiff says that on 14 October, 1498,

the defendant borrowed from the plaintiff's wife 3s. 4d., and 2s. for the rent of one "sydelove" in the year 1500-1, of which he repaid in fresh fish 4d. And he owes for ploughing a piece of land belonging to him 2s. 8d., and for ploughing with his own plough for $2\frac{1}{2}$ days, 20d. And for making two doles of syder, 4d.

The defendant admitted that he owed 2d. but no more. Case to go to a jury.

The claim of 9s. becomes intelligible only if it was the defendant who made the cider. An account would then read as follows :—

<i>Dr.</i>	<i>William Fuller.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
Borrowed of Mrs. James	3s. 4d.	For fresh fish .. 4d.
Owing for rent of "sydelove" ..	2s. 0d.	For making "syder" .. 4d.
Owing for ploughing ..	2s. 8d.	Balance due to William James 9s. 0d.
" " " ..	1s. 8d.	
Total ..	9s. 8d.	Total .. <u>9s. 8d.</u>

12.6.1504. Distrain William Pelsowth, Thomas Laneham and John Pyers to answer William James for debt, 3s. 4d.

Licence to settle out of Court was granted.

12.6.1504. John Lemage appears at the suit of Rose Hasilherst, widow, and says that he became surety for Richard Boleyn, smyth. The said Richard admitted that he owed the plaintiff for 400 pounds of iron, value [a blank].

The case was remitted by consent to four arbitrators but was not so settled, for on 31 July, 1504, three members of a jury named for the case were fined for non-attendance, and the defendant also failed to come. The record is marked, however, "No fine, because he is infirm," and the case was discontinued on 19 September.

The Rector of Ightham appeared as defendant in a case in this year, 1504 :—

31.7.1504. William Snyder, Rector of the ecclesiastical parish of Ightham, was attached to answer Edith Hobyll, widow,

for debt. He appeared, and asked to be excused answering till the next Court. He named Robert Christofer as his attorney.

And William Pelsowth was attached by a horse, and is in mercy by his pledge. He appeared, and said to Edith Hobyll, widow, that he owed her nothing.

19.9.1504. To this Court came William Snyderale, clerk, and said to Edith Hobyll, widow, that he became surety for William Wymbyll for 20s., arrears of the farm of the mill of Berstede [Basted], and that William Pelsouth, the other defendant, made a like admission. The said Edith, by Robert Christofer, attorney, agreed to allow William Snyderale and William Pelsouth time to pay the said 20s., namely 10s. by Christmas, and the remaining 10s. by the following Easter.

4.8.1505. Thomas Aleyn and Alice his wife complain against John Throp for debt 8s. He was distrained by a cow, value 8s. The plaintiff says that on 2 April, 1505, the defendant agreed to pay him the said 8s. The defendant denies that he did so.

The case was sent to a jury but was settled out of Court.

28.10.1505. Stephen Bryggs complains against John Hardell for debt 9d. Hardell was distrained by a horse, value 4s. 4d.

25.11.1505. To this Court came John Hardell, by Thomas Partrich his attorney, at the suit of Stephen Bryggs, and admitted that the defendant owed the plaintiff 9d. for 4 bushels of oats, which he undertook to pay before the next Court.

Richard Weller and his hunting dogs have been mentioned in cases of trespass.¹ We now meet with his name in a case about the detention of a colt, which dragged its weary way through seven Courts.

28.10.1505. Thomas Partrich complains of Richard Weller for debt, 3s. 4d., for one colt, and 12d. for its keep, bargained between them. The defendant was attached by a mare, value 10s. He admitted the debt of 12d., but as for the colt he said that he owed nothing because he did not take it into his custody.

28.10.1505. Richard Weller has till the next Court to answer Thomas Partrich for detaining a colt, value 3s. 4d., because he says that he never took it into his custody. And afterwards at the next Court he says that he does not detain the said colt.

¹ See Vol. XLVIII, pp. 214-15.

25.11.1505. Richard Weller was required to answer Thomas Partrich for detaining a colt. He was distrained by a dun-coloured mare, value 10s., and is in mercy by his pledge to the bailiff and does not appear.

18.12.1505. Richard Weller appeared at the suit of Thomas Partrich for detaining a colt. He says that he does not detain it.

The case was sent to a jury. On 21 January, 1505-6, the jury were named and given time to inquire into the matter. On 23 February two defaulting jurors were fined, and the plaintiff asked for the dispute to be put to the arbitration of John Tryce, Richard Hawke, John Kyng, and John Nele. The case, however, was disposed of by two other arbitrators.

16.3.1505-6. Thomas Partrich and Richard Weller: By consent of the parties the matter was placed in the arbitration of John Pers and William Pelsowth, who found that Thomas Partrich should have for detention of the colt, 8d., and for expenses of the Court, 6d., apart from the 12d. which was admitted at an earlier Court to be due.

1.5.1506. Richard Weller came to this Court and offered to Thomas Partrich 12d. truly owed to him, and 8d. for detention of the colt. And so there remains for withdrawal of the plea 4d.

28.10.1506. Robert None complains against John Brode for debt 13s. 4d., for the farm of 20 sheep called ewes for two years past.

22.12.1506. John Hardell was distrained by two cows to answer William Stawley for debt. The defendant admitted that he owed the plaintiff 2s. for the farm of one cow for the year ended Whitsunday last. He was given till the next Court to pay, failing which the amount was ordered to be levied. And he was to deliver the said cow, which he had to farm, to the plaintiff before the same day.

24.5.1507. William Stawley complains of John Hardell for debt 2s.

8.2.1506-7. John Clerke, gent., and Lucy his wife, complain of Hamo Wymbyll for debt, 20d.

1.2.1507-8. At this Court an order was given to the bailiff to levy the goods and chattels of Hamo Wymbyll for 19d., the principal debt, and 6d. for expenses and costs of the Court, to the use of John Clerke, gent.

16.12.1507. To this Court came John at Fen, jun., plaintiff against William Fuller, defendant, for debt 21s., and by assent of the plaintiff the defendant has till the next Court to pay the amount.

11.4.1508. William Fuller was required to answer John at Fen, jun., for debt. He was condemned in default of doing so, and, on this, he agreed with the plaintiff and found sureties, namely William Pelsowth and John Throp, and did not appear. He is in mercy.

1.2.1507-8. William Parker complains of John Brode for debt 7s. The defendant was distrained by his chattels, upon which he appeared as required, and admitted that he owed the debt, 7s. The plaintiff is to recover the debt and costs.

The name of Richard Weller occurs once more, in the last case relating to debt which is found in the Court Rolls.

11.4.1508. Ralph Armstrong complains of Richard Weller for debt 4s. He says that the defendant, on 20 February, 1499-1500, bought two oxen for 28s., of which he paid 24s. The balance, though often applied for, has not been paid. And the plaintiff says that the defendant owes him 40d. for ploughing 4 acres of land in a field called Webysfeld on 10 January, 1499-1500. The defendant states that he owes nothing.

The case was ordered to be sent to a jury of twelve, upon which the parties put it to the arbitration of William Sawyer, William Pelsowth, John Swetyng and Thomas Laneham, whose decision is not on record.

Section (g)—MISCELLANEOUS ENTRIES IN THE COURT ROLLS.

A few passages are brought together in this section which do not fall readily into place elsewhere.

A complaint of deceit—the only example in the Court Rolls—was made in 1505 :—

28.10.1505. William Stawley complains of John Tryce for deceit.

18.12.1505. Ordered to distrain John Tryce, sen., to answer William Stawley for deceit. Laurence James has the prosecution.

The case was sent to two arbitrators but the outcome is not on record.

8.2.1506-7. The goods of Thomas Miller, servant of Laurence James, namely, 1 white russet tunic, worth 8d.; 1 little sack holding half a quarter, worth 4d.; 1 hatchet, worth 2d.; 1 "sarra", worth 4d.; 2 augers, worth 5d., and 1 small auger, worth 1½d.; 1 drawing knyfe, worth 3d.; 1 hammer, worth 2½d. (in the hands of J. Pyers), and two "vedomes", worth 1d.; 1 "*lodicum veterum, voc'* an old blankert", worth 2d.; 1 "*vanga voc'* a spade", worth 5d. And so they were valued by the tenants to the use of the said Laurence. Sum total, 3s. 2d.

The relations between the hundred court at Wrotham and the Ightham View of Frank-pledge are the subject of Section (d) of this paper. They were sometimes strained, and in the following case the Ightham court imposed a fine on the constables of Wrotham. It may be doubted whether this fine was ever collected.

3.10.1588. The constables of the hundred of Wrotham did not remind the borsholder of this View of Frank-pledge to place a watch, as by ancient custom they ought to have done, by reason of which the borsholder of this View did not place a watch of our Lady the Queen at Ightham, as he ought to have done. Therefore each of them was fined 5s.

A few cases of contempt of court are on record, the most important being that of William Pelsott, a man of substance and respectability. We may suspect that he and his neighbours found irksome the duty of attending the courts, as tending to delay farming operations and other business, and that his protest arose in that way. He assumed the part of "village Hampden," but without success. Indeed, the half-yearly View of Frank-pledge was so universal and well-established that any informed person would have advised him that he had no case.

17.4.1588. William Pelsott, a tenant and resident of this manor, has denied openly here in Court that the lord of the manor ought to hold a Court Leet of our Lady the Queen oftener than once a year, at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel; and because he would not assess the fines of the inhabitants making default at this Court, when elected as *affeerer of the Court*, saying that it was against his conscience, both in contempt of the Court

of our Lady the Queen and in bad example of stubbornness, he was fined by the steward 10s.

It is worth noting that although Pelsott's contention was technically bad, his case may have had some common-sense foundation and a body of public opinion behind it, for it is surely significant that less than a score of years after this time the courts in fact ceased to be held oftener than once a year.

23.10.1617. George Hawkes made contempt in open Court, and used certain scandalous words against the steward of the manor and the jurors of the Court. Fined 6s. 8d.

26.10.1618. Henry Allen, borsholder, duly attended the View, but made in open Court contempt in the execution of his office. Fined 3s. 4d.

A case of misconduct towards an officer of the View occurred in 1699, when the fine originally imposed was reduced by one-half by the assessors.

11.10.1699. John Page of Ightham, blacksmith, misconducted himself towards the constable in the execution of his office, by saying injurious and scandalous words of him. He was therefore amerced 6s. 8d., which fine was assessed by the afferers at this Court at 3s. 4d.

Rescues from impounding and distress are the subject of two or three presentments.

2.10.1587. Walter Gardiner took certain cattle for distress, and John Goffe by force and arms made a riotous assault on the said Walter, he being in the peace of God and our Lady the Queen, and rescued the said cattle, and snatched them from the custody of the said Walter, against the peace of our Lady the Queen. Fined for the rescue, 3s. 4d.

The assault was separately dealt with, at the View, where Goffe was fined 3s. 4d. and Gardiner 20d., Goffe having caused the disturbance.¹

On 17 April, 1588, Richard Corneford was fined 8d. for rescuing cattle from Robert Baldwin, but part of the entry is obscure.

¹ See p. 3.

26.4.1593. William Selbye, esquire, would lately have impounded [a blank, ? cattle] of a certain William Balcombe for trespass made against him the said William Selbie. William Balcombe by his wife took the [? cattle] so impounded out of the pound and escaped, without the licence or consent of the said William Selbie or by form of law. Fined 3s. 4d.

1.4.1602. Andrew Homewood of Seale has unjustly and unlawfully moved certain posts and rails from the lands of Henry Selyard, clerk, in Bromyfield, in the occupation of Thomas Gunnynge and lying to the lands of William Bruer called Cooks, to the south.

Section (r)—LOCAL OFFICERS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

The principal officer mentioned in the Court Rolls is the steward of the lord of the manor, who presided over the courts and acted generally on behalf of the lord, whose interests he had to guard. The steward or his clerk also kept the records of the proceedings at the courts. The first steward to be mentioned by name is John Addams, who signed a list of fines imposed at a court held on 14 April, 1586.

The reeve is mentioned only once, in the earliest Court Roll that has come down to us, that of 25 October, 1425, where the election of two persons to that office is mentioned. The reeve was a land-holding tenant, chosen in rotation, whose primary duty was to join the plough of the manor tenants for work on the lord's land.

The tithing man, or borsholder, attended the Views of Frank-pledge, and, during the time covered by these records, presented the names of persons who had baked bread or brewed ale for sale during the preceding half-year, and had broken the Assize of Bread and Ale. At the View held in the autumn a tithing man for the succeeding year, from Michaelmas to Michaelmas, was chosen. The office, which in early times was an essential part of the system of joint security—frank-pledge—became of less importance as conditions changed. The name tithingman (*decennarius*) occurs in the earliest Court Roll. The first mention of borsholder in the Ightham Court Rolls occurs in 1463 :—

28.10.1463. "*Et eligerunt in offic' borseld' Johes. Gastelyn (jur') et Relfe Hadlo.*"

The word *decennarius*, however, continued to appear from time to time, and is found as late as 1557.

The method of choosing a borsholder is shown in the following extract.

3.10.1588. The jurors have nominated Robert Baldwin and Theophilus Hadlow, in order that one of them, at the election of the steward, should execute the office of borsholder for the coming year, and Robert Baldwin was chosen by the steward and sworn in.

On 1 May, 1491, John Furmonger, the tithing man, failed to appear to do his office at the View, and was marked for a fine. He was not in fact amerced, for he came late. The words "*non venit*" have been struck out and replaced by "*ven.*"—he comes. John Cowper, ten years later, was less fortunate—he had to pay a substantial fine:—

1.5.1501. And because John Cowper, alias John Bayle, the tithing man, was required to perform his office this day and did not appear, he was amerced 6s. 8d.

The three following extracts require to be considered together. Percival Willoughby, who succeeded Thomas Willoughby as lord of the manor, held his first court in April, 1597, and apparently found many indications of slackness. He was about to sell the manor, but the profits from dues and fines were low, and the saleable value of his seigniorial rights was likely to be correspondingly depressed. Steps to tighten the administration of the manor were accordingly taken at the October courts.

10.10.1597. William Selby, esquire, Richard Wilkinson, gent., Christopher Pelset, gent., James Fox, George Cowper, Ralph Crafte, Richard Syfelett, William Webb, William Waters, Edward Lambert, William Hadlowe, Stephen Mills, Thomas Polhill, gent., John Bownde, Cuthberd Fethergill are residents within this View of Frank-pledge and owe suit at this Court, and have made default, but they are pardoned because they were not sufficiently summoned to the Court.

The neglect was primarily that of the borsholder, who was next dealt with.

10.10.1597. John Tirry, borsholder, officer of this Court, was fined 40s. for not giving a sufficient note in writing of the names of the inhabitants of this View of Frank-pledge.

Similar circumstances were disclosed at the Court Baron held on the same day.

10.10.1597. The homage present that very many tenants of this manor, both free and customary, who owe suit at this Court have made default this day, but because they were not sufficiently summoned by the bailiff of the manor their defaults were remitted.

What happened to the bailiff is not recorded. Defaulters were fined as usual at the 1598 courts, and, on 2 December, 1598, the manor was transferred to Sir John Roper.

In 1606, for the first time, a newly-chosen borsholder was recorded as being sworn in by a justice of the peace.

13.10.1606. The jury at this View nominated to the office of borsholder of Ightam for the coming year John Bauldwyn and Richard Daye, of whom John Bauldwyn was chosen by the steward. And he was sent to the nearest justice of the peace to take the oath.

The reason given for Robert Olyver's failure to attend a View, although conclusive, is a little unexpected:—

4.10.1609. Officers there [i.e. at the Court]: Robert Olyver, borsholder there, did not appear as required, because he had previously died.

Of ale tasters there were anciently two, one for Ightham and the other for Ivy Hatch. This seems to indicate that Ivy Hatch was a small local centre of population in early times, although the distance of Ivy Hatch and the Mote from the greater centre in Ightham village may have led primarily to the second appointment. A taster for Ivy Hatch does not appear in the records after the gap in the Court Rolls between 1508 and 1553.

As explained above, the jury nominated two persons to the office of borsholder, of whom the steward chose one.

They put forward only one name for the office of ale taster, their nominee being taken without question.

3.10.1588. Stephen Milles was elected to the office of taster of bread and ale for the coming year, and was sworn to the execution of his office.

13.10.1606. The jury elected Thomas Richardson to the office of ale taster, who was sworn in Court.

The only other officer who needs to be mentioned is the bailiff, whose functions included distrainments and the collection of the fines and dues payable to the lord of the manor. After each Court an extract or list of all sums falling to be collected, as determined at the Court, was prepared in English by the steward, and by him transmitted to the bailiff, with a written order to distrain for the amounts due. The following is an example of such a list :—

14.4.1586. *Manerium de Ightham*. The extrete of the defaults, ameracements and other profitts coming and falling to the Lord of the Manor at his Court holden upon the 14th day of Aprill in the 28th yere of the reigne of our Sovereigne Ladie Elizabeth by the grace of god Quene of England, Fraunce and Ireland.

for not doing sute at the Court	{	Reignold Hawke	·	·	4d.
		Christofer Outen	·	·	4d.
		Nicholas Myller	·	·	4d.
		Thomas Ware	·	·	4d.
		Willm. Warren	·	·	2d.
for breaking the peace within the view of	{	William Bennett	·	·	20d.
		Reignold Tresse	·	·	20d.
frankplege for spoiling, breaking downe and carrying away the Lord's wood	{	William Fuller	·	·	20d.
		Robte. Gardener	·	·	3s. 4d.
		John Warren for his wife	·	·	3s. 4d.
		Rafe Cupper for his wife	·	·	3s. 4d.
		Richard Steven for his wife	·	·	3s. 4d.
	{	John Brongger for his boy	·	·	3s. 4d.

Willm. Pelsott for Relief and herriott upon
Monday in Whitsun week next coming, by coven-
aunt and agremt. between the lord and him · · · £3 6s. 8d.

Sum of the Extrete of this Courte · · · £4 9s. 10d.

To the Baylife of the Manor of Ightham, greeting. These are to will that you doe distreyne those above written by their lands, goods and cattalls until they satisfy yowe of those severall somes sett upon their names. And this faile you not to doe upon the perill shall fall hereof. Geven the day and yere above written.

By me John Addams
Steward there.

Section (s)—MANOR BUSINESS.

The formal records of alienations of land, deaths of tenants of the manor, and other proceedings at the Court Baron contain a good deal of local history, but their interest is, in general, too narrow to call for reproduction on a large scale, and accordingly the extracts given below may be taken as typical of many similar passages. The Ightham manorial incidents were those commonly obtaining, and may be summarized as fealty, suit of Court, quit rent, heriot and relief.

1.5.1494. Henry Hasilherst was summoned to appear here this day to pay his relief and do fealty for a messuage with lands adjoining at Ightham Crosse, and did not come. Therefore he is in mercy.

To this entry a note has been appended, "He did fealty last year." In taking an oath of fealty the tenant undertook to be faithful to the lord and to perform the services due from him.

Attendances at the Courts Baron, and the performance there of customary duties, such as serving on the homage—the tribunal which heard and determined matters arising in that Court—or assessing the fines to be imposed, was required of all tenants of the manor and was known as common suit of Court. The proceedings usually opened with the calling of the Suit Roll by the bailiff, a record being made of tenants doing suit, sending by others excuses for non-attendance, or making default in attendance. The duty to attend the courts was burdensome, and it was common for the lord of

the manor to accept, in many cases, a composition payment freeing a tenant from liability to do suit for a period of one year. In the following list of such remissions the common fine of 4d. has been increased to 6d. for "gentlemen."

28.10.1490. To this Court came the tenants of the lands of James Pekham, esquire (6d.), the tenants of Chaltons (6d.), Walter Sextayn (4d.), John Chown (4d.) and others for land lately John Brightrede's, the tenants of the land of Thomas Pelsouth (4d.), namely William Jamys and Reginald Reve, the same Reginald for his own lands (4d.), Geoffrey Hadlo (4d.), William Fuller (4d.), Laurence Partrich (4d.), the tenants of the land of John Pyers (4d.), namely, John Fenn and Alice his wife, daughter of John Preston, Robert Chapman (4d.), the tenants of the land of John Moote (4d.), Richard Barton (4d.), the tenants of land lately William Godewyn's, namely, John Preston, William Fuller and John Lymage, the tenants of land called Moresole and Russe (4d.), Sibyl Wildbore (4d.) for the land of John Sawyer and John Benet: tenants¹ of this Court who owe suit every three weeks. And they gave respectively to the lord a fine for their suits remitted until the feast of St. Michael, as above.

The annual quit rent, originally a substantial charge, became with the lapse of time a trifling burden, owing to the altered value of money. A relief of one-fourth of the quit rent accrued on the death of a tenant or on alienation of his land in his lifetime, and was payable by the incoming freeholder. A heriot of the best living beast became due on the death of a tenant, and fell to be satisfied from his estate. It was often compounded for by a money payment. If there was no living animal a "dead heriot" of 3s. 6d. or 3s. 4d.² was payable. There is an obscure reference in 1588 to a heriot being due on alienation, and 200 years later it seems to have been usual for a time to claim such heriots as well as

¹ The word tenant, as used in these extracts, had a wider meaning than to-day, a tenant of the manor being a freeholder.

² The dead heriots mentioned in the older Court Rolls were always 3s. 6d. In 1698 a dead heriot of 3s. 4d. was recorded, and the smaller amount was claimed in several later cases. There is a single reference to a dead heriot of 6s. 6d., in 1612. This may be a mistake for 3s. 6d., but the larger sum, which occurs in the text, has been repeated in the margin.

heriots on death. The descent of land was, in general, governed by the custom of gavelkind.¹

A record of alienations and deaths was essential to the collection of the manor dues, and if the Court Rolls were complete it should be possible to trace the devolution of land from owner to owner continuously to modern times. The gaps in the rolls make such a course impracticable, and add to the difficulties of identifying particular properties, which in the older records were often described vaguely.

The following extracts relate to owners of the Mote and the devolution of the Mote estate. One of these owners, Richard Hawt (or Haute) was implicated in a plot to purloin the person of the young king, Edward V, in 1483, to prevent his coming into contact with Richard of Gloucester (Richard III). He was beheaded at Pontefract on 25 June, 1483. Richard Hawt, presumably his son, succeeded to the estate, but took part in Buckingham's rebellion in the autumn of the same year. The Mote was confiscated, but was granted to James Haute, no doubt a relative, for "good service against the rebels". Richard Hawt was pardoned in 1485.² The passages below suggest that the estate may have been vested in trustees in order to avoid anticipated forfeiture, and the order of 21 September, 1497, seems to imply that if Richard Hawt (the son) lost the estate by confiscation he had regained it by that date.

28.10.1494. The homage have ascertained that all the lands which lately were Richard Hawt's within this lordship have been alienated, but to whom they are ignorant.

They were given time to inquire into the matter. The facts were difficult to ascertain, for a year later the homage were given till the next Court after Christmas, 1495, to report.

¹ There were considerable exceptions. The lord's demesnes and manor waste, and freeholds which could be shown to have been enclosed off the waste, as well as the manor of the Mote (and the manor of St. Clere) were held by knight service, and so were not subject to the custom of gavelkind. See, generally, Elton's *Tenures of Kent*, 1867, London, Parker & Co.

² See "Ightham Mote." Notes by Aymer Vallance. *Arch. Cant.*, XLV, p. 116.

The matter was again adjourned on 24 February, 1495-6, and a report was not made till December, 1496.

21.12.1496. Richard Haute, esquire, by Walter Sextayn alienated all the lands and tenements which he had within this lordship to Sir William Haute, John Pelsouth and others, and the same John Pelsouth alienated all the said lands and tenements—to whom is not stated.

On 21 September, 1497, an order was made to distrain Richard Hawght, esquire, for relief and fealty for all his lands within the lordship. On 28 October, 1505, the tenants of William Hawt paid the customary fine for suits respited in respect of Chaltons—a farm lying some two miles north of the Mote, but owned at certain times by the owners of the Mote. Delareus Hawt was mentioned in the same Court Roll as holding Rolfs Wode [Rose Wood], a piece of copyhold land near Ivy Hatch, and in 1507 this land (then called Rolf's Grove) was stated to be held by Edward Hawt.

In the time of Queen Elizabeth the Mote was owned by the Allen family, and the deaths of Sir Christopher Allen and his wife were duly recorded.

4.10.1586. Sir Christopher Allen has died seised of certain lands and tenements held of the lord of this manor, and advantage accrued to the lord thereby, but the homage are at present ignorant as to this. They were given till the next Court to consider the matter.

27.4.1587. Sir Christopher Allen [was] lately a tenant of certain lands held of this manor, but what the lands were and at what rent held the jury are ignorant. There accrued to the lord an ox, seized as heriot, and a relief of one fourth part of the rent.

27.4.1587. The lady Audry Allen, wife of Sir Christopher Allen, deceased, has died since the last Court. She held certain lands of this manor. A heriot of a white cow was seized. Charles Allen is the heir of the said Sir Christopher Allen.

A few years after the death of his father, Charles Allen sold both the Mote and Chaltons, the former to William Selby. The Mote estate remained in the Selby family for about

300 years, until it was sold to the present owner, Sir Thomas C. Colyer-Fergusson, Bart., in 1889.

11.10.1592. Charles Allen, esquire, who lately held of the lord of this manor a messuage called Chaltons and divers parcels of land belonging thereto, called Upper Deane, Middle Deane, Lower Deane, Red Conye Brooke, Boots Holme alias Burcham, Stonye Crofte, Broade Seare, Webb, Holmefeld, Barne Crofte, Holmeland, Woodgate, Parsons Broome and ten acres in Wisfeld, and other lands appertaining to the said messuage; likewise the tenement of the Mote and other lands thereto belonging formerly called Pollards, Pollards Brooks and Crepham, Wetherchocke, Parsonsland, Dynes, Brownes and divers other lands appertaining to the said Mote, lying in Ightam, by fealty, rent 25s. 8d., suit of Court, relief and heriot, when they accrue, has by deed dated 30 June, 1591, alienated the said messuage called Chaltons, with the said lands belonging thereto, to Humfrey Berwicke, esquire. And by the same deed he alienated the other premises, the tenement of the Mote and [the lands] belonging to William Selby, esquire. A relief of 6s. 5d. accrued, namely, one fourth part of the rent, according to the custom of the manor. Humfrey Berwicke, present in Court, did fealty for Chaltons and William Selby also did fealty for the remaining premises.

7.10.1612. Sir William Selby, sen., who lately held of the lord of this manor the messuage . . . of the Mote and divers lands thereto belonging, has died since the last Court. Sir William Selby, jun., should enjoy the premises, by virtue of the last will of the said William, senior.

The following extracts, which relate to various properties, illustrate further the procedure at the Court Baron.

28.10.1491. Reginald Pekham and William Michell have alienated to John Ivot and John Tryce divers parcels of land lately John Sawyer's. Whereupon there accrued to the lord for a relief as appears above. [Nothing above.] And [the purchasers] being present in Court did fealty. They have till the next Court to pay the relief.

28.10.1491. Reginald Pekham and William Michell alienated to John Piers and others a messuage and appurtenances containing 1 rood and 8 dayworks¹.

¹ i.e. 1 rood and 32 perches; see page 45.

An alienation to trustees for the purposes of a family settlement occurs in the records of 1492 :—

25.6.1492. John Preston, being in full possession, alienated his own lands and tenements within the lordship to William Pelsouth and John Tryce. The said William and John alienated the said lands and tenements to John Preston for the whole term of his life, and thereafter to John Fenne and Alice, his wife, daughter of the said John Preston, and the lawful heirs of their bodies for ever, and, for default of such heirs, with remainder to the heirs and assigns of the said Alice for ever.

28.10.1492. To this Court came John Fenne and Alice his wife, daughter of John Preston, and paid a double relief for all those lands and tenements which John Preston lately alienated, as appears in the rolls of the preceding Court.

In the margin is noted, "Relief 6d. paid in Court." The double relief was payable because there was a double alienation.

24.11.1495. John Gardyner was solely seised of and in all his lands and tenements within the lordship, and died a tenant of the lord. Whereupon there accrued to the lord a relief, namely 1d., but nothing for heriot because he said that he did not owe suit. To be inquired into. Isabel and Alice are his daughters and heirs, and are under full age.

17.7.1497. John Hasylyherst was seised in fee of and in a messuage with appurtenances in Ightham, and died so seised. Whereupon there accrued a heriot, by the custom of the manor, 3s. 6d., because he had no beast.

27.4.1587. David Syfelett, a tenant of this manor, has alienated to John Syfelett part of a house with a yard¹ of land and one daywarck², who [John] was admitted tenant and did fealty, and was given till the next Court to bring his evidence [of title] and to pay relief.

11.4.1597. John Turner, who held of the lord of the manor a messuage and orchard, has died, whereupon there accrued to the lord for heriot a red cow, value 46s. 8d., which was seized, and sold to the wife of the said John Turner : to whom Bridget Willoughby, wife of the lord of the manor, by her special grace

¹ Or rod, *virga*.

² See page 45.

forgave 10s., upon which there was paid to the lord for heriot 36s. 8d. The sons of the said John Turner are his next heirs by the custom of gavelkind.

On the division of land subject to a single quit rent, the rent had to be apportioned by the homage, and such apportionments were recorded from time to time.

1.5.1506. Inquest of tenants to apportion the rent of land formerly Robert Reve's, between John Reve and Richard Wellar.

The names follow of fourteen jurors, who are to be summoned to the next Court.

3.11.1506. Inquest of the tenants to apportion rent between John Reve, of the one part, and Richard Weller, of the other part, of whom John Ivot, John Pyers, John Tryce, John Sexteyn, John Throp and Laurence James appear, and say that John Reve ought to pay rent per annum for his lands 3s. 4½d., suit of Court, heriot and relief. And Robert Shildmell ought to pay per annum for his house in Ightham and a piece of land called the Goore, which was formerly Robert Reve's, 20d., suit of Court, heriot and relief.

Cases of arbitration by agreement of parties were not uncommon. A general reference to arbitrators is found in the following example.

28.10.1506. To this Court came William Parker, farmer, William Lambe in right of his wife, formerly wife of Walter Sextayn, concerning his lands, on the one side, and William Sawley,¹ farmer of the lord of this Court, and they place all and every matter of controversy, trespass, and debate between them, before the present day had and noted, in the arbitration of John Chown, sen., Thomas Baker, Robert Turke and Richard Dodge, indifferently chosen to arbitrate on the above matters, and that before next Easter.

The rolls of the Hundred Courts were known colloquially as the Ragman Rolls, a name that originated in the appearance of certain documents which were sent up to Westminster in 1274. These documents contained the answers to an investigation which had been ordered by King Edward I,

¹ Probably a mistake for Stawley.

and, the dangling seals of all the jurors who gave the answers being attached to the rolls, their untidy appearance gave rise to the nickname, Ragman, which term was afterwards applied to hundred rolls generally. There is a single reference to "the Ragman" in the Ightham Court Rolls.

22 (or 29).11.1494. At this Court appeared John Ivot, William James, John Swetyng, sen., and Robert Chapman, and did suit. And they say that the tenants of the land Hasylmans (2d.), the tenants of the land of John Throp (2d.), James Pekham, esquire (2d.), John Piers (2d.), and William Pelsowth (2d.), have made default of suit. It was ordered to distrain them to the next Court. And all others have done their suit, as appears in the Ragman this year.

The subjects of Title to Land and Copyholds have been dealt with in separate sections, which follow.

The records of the proceedings at the Courts end with the names of two or more affeerers—persons appointed to assess the amount of the fines, or "ameracements" imposed by the homage at the Court Baron, or by the steward at the Court Leet or View of Frank-pledge.

Section (t)—TITLE TO LAND.

Evidence of title to freehold land was produced at the Court Baron as occasion required, and disputes between claimants to copyholds might be determined at that court. In the absence of rival claimants, the object of the steward in getting on the rolls such entries as those given below was (*a*) to ascertain the identity and extent of the lands in respect of which he claimed the lord's dues, or (*b*) to discover whether any landholder really had no title, and, if so, to claim an escheat for the lord. The absence of reliable maps in early times must have been a constant source of difficulty to the steward, who had to collect the lord's dues, often without knowing the holdings.

2.7.1491. At this Court John Preston and John Tryce were given till the next Court to produce their document of title regarding lands lately Walter Sextayn's. And John Ivot and

the said John Preston have till the next Court to produce their grant of lands lately William Sawyer's.

12.12.1492. To this Court came William James and Jane his wife, daughter and one of the heirs of Thomas Berme, and produced a certain deed sealed with green wax made by William a Wolford for Ralph at Hall and Agnes his wife, concerning three acres of their land called Bromteye and four dayworks of woodland lying at a place called Marleput, adjoining the said land on the west.

28.5.1493. Inquiry to be made respecting the alienation by John Chown to Laurence Partriche of certain lands called Russe, &c.

28.10.1494. The homage say that William James ought to have a certain way on the far side of the land of William Fuller to his pasture, for carrying and returning, as he was wont to have from old time.

1.3.1506-7. John Throp was ordered to be distrained to appear at the next Court to show how he holds a piece of land called Courtfeld.

4.10.1586. By the authority of this Court it was ordered that every member of the homage and every other free and customary tenant of this manor making default at this Court should bring to the next Court and deliver to the steward a brief terrier in writing of all messuages, houses, stables, barns, lands, tenements, with all and singular their appurtenances within the manor of Ightham, held of this manor, with the rents, customs and services to the lord of the manor and his heirs of right accustomed, with their names, qualities and bounds, and this under penalty 10s. for each free and customary tenant.

11.10.1592. At this Court time was given for the Court to ascertain, through the jurors, upon inspection of the last will of Robert Miller, lately a tenant of the manor, that the said Robert by his last will left all his lands held of this manor to William Miller, his younger son, who is nine years old, and now in the custody of Nicholas Heathe, alias Brooker, who married the widow of Robert Miller.

24.4.1599. The jury were given till the next Court to inquire whether John Lovegrove, lately a tenant of this manor, died without any heir, and afterwards to certify to the Court.

20.10.1600. At this Court, at the instance of the jury, a time was named for anyone who as next heir of John Lovegrove could claim a tenement and garden containing half an acre of land in Trice Lane, to come to the next Court, or else the premises should be seized into the hands of the lord as escheat.

Section (u)—CUSTOMARY TENURE OR COPYHOLDS.

The number of references in the Court Rolls to copyhold tenure is not large, and it seems likely that customary holdings were never very numerous in Ightham Manor. Permissions to enclose, and hold by copy of Court Roll, portions of the common may account for most, perhaps all, of such holdings, which, as far as the indications go, were of no great size.

The first extant reference to copyhold tenure occurs in 1491-2. It relates to land called Patches (obviously from the copyholder's name), one of a little group of customary holdings which lay together on the hill-top east of Redwell at Woodgate (now Copthall). Patches remained copyhold land till modern times.

6.3.1491-2. To this Court came William Pacche and surrendered into the hands of the lord a house and garden and certain lands adjoining at Wodegate, containing $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres, to the use of Robert None and his assigns, lying to the highway leading from Ightham to Tunbrigge towards the east, to the land of Reginald Reve towards the north, to the land of John Preston called Adams, west, and to the common of the lord of Ightham to the south, to have to him and his assigns at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor. The aforesaid Robert, present in Court, was admitted to the said land and did fealty. He gave to the lord for admittance as appears above (3d.).

The following case evidently refers to the taking into a garden of a small piece of the adjoining common or manor waste. A daywork was sometimes 4 rods or perches, that is, one fortieth of an acre.

1.5.1492. Robert Gardyner took from the lord one daywerke of land lying next to his house on the east and south, to

have to him and his heirs at the will of the lord according to the custom of the manor, paying therefor to the lord 3d. per annum for all services. And he gives to the lord as a fine for such his estate, as appears above.

The More [Moor] mentioned in the next extract lies under the eastern slopes of Oldbury Hill. Morewell spring could still be seen, in the road now called Spring Lane, so recently as 1934, but has recently been destroyed by building operations.

27.12.1503. To this Court came John Wymbyll, sen., payle-maker, and took from the lord of this Court by the rod a parcel of land containing $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres at the More, lying there to the highway leading between Oldebury and Hevyhacche to the north and east, to the spring there called Morewell to the south, and Oldebury Hill to the west, to have to him and his assigns at the will of the lord according to the custom of the manor, rendering therefor annually to the lord and his heirs 6d. for all services, &c. And he gave to the lord a fine for his admittance as appears above, and being present in Court, took the oath of fealty to the lord.

In 1505 we find, first a short list of copyhold lands, and, secondly, an order to all copyholders to show their titles. Some of these entries probably arose from copyholders on the rolls having died or gone away, without anyone having come in to be admitted. The steward was concerned to obtain payment of fines on admittance, and also his own fees, or escheats for the lord.

28.10.1505. Thomas Sawyer holds by copy at the will of the lord : summon to show [title].

28.10.1505. Robert None holds one messuage with certain lands by rent 6d.

28.10.1505. John Throp holds by copy certain lands, by rent 2d.

28.10.1505. William Goodewyn for certain lands by copy.

28.10.1505. And a parcel of land in Rolfs Wode by copy. And Delareus Hawt holds [it] as he says. But by what [title] the jury [are ignorant].

25.11.1505. It was ordered to distrain all the tenants who hold by copy at the will of the lord to show how and by what title they hold, &c.

There was a similar order six months later.

1.5.1506. Thomas Sawyer was ordered to be distrained to appear at the Court to show how he holds certain lands by copy of Court Roll. And all other persons who hold by copy.

Tebbs, a name which has survived,¹ was a piece of copyhold land lying on the eastern margin of the common, about half-way between Ightham village and Ivy Hatch.

5.10.1556. William Terry has died seised of a parcel of land called Tebbis, held by copy, containing ten acres of land. John Terry is his elder son, and will have the land by the custom of the manor. He pays a fine of 13s. 4d., and rent per annum 3s. 4d.

30.3.1558. John Hawke surrendered in Court into the hands of the lord a messuage called Paches, a garden and a parcel of land held by copy of Court Roll, to the use of Robert Gardener, according to the custom of the manor. Rent 5d. per annum.

The procedure followed in order to obtain admittance to copyhold lands as successor to a tenant who has died is illustrated by the following extract.

7.10.1612. Reginald Hawkes held at the time of his death, of the lord of this manor, by copy of Court Roll, one customary messuage and one garden with two parcels of land containing three acres. No heriot accrued because he had no live animal at the time of his death.

Margaret and Jane Hawkes, as sisters and co-heirs of the said Reginald, ought to enjoy the premises. Upon which a first proclamation was made for anyone claiming the premises as next heir of Reginald. Whereupon Margaret Hawkes and Jane Hawkes, sisters and co-heirs of Reginald, appeared and prayed to be separately admitted to the premises, namely, Margaret to the one half of the premises and Jane to the other. Upon which, in the sitting Court, the lord by his steward, with the consent of the said Margaret and Jane, granted to them seisin of the premises

¹ The old farm-house called Tebbs was, some years ago, altered and re-christened Oaklands, but the present owner has re-vivified the old name by calling the property Tebbs Copyhold.

by the rod, to have and to hold one half of the said messuage, garden and three acres of land, with the appurtenances, to Margaret and her heirs, and the other half of the same premises to Jane and her heirs at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor, by rent per annum 10d., suit of Court, heriot, and relief, when they fall due. And they paid to the lord a fine of £5 for such their separate estates and admittance to the premises so had, and separately did fealty to the lord in Court, and were admitted tenants in the form aforesaid.

Two years later Margaret, a married woman, gave up her share of the premises to her sister Jane.

27.6.1614. To this Court came William Gibson and Margaret his wife, one of the sisters and co-heirs of Reginald Hawkes, deceased, and the said Margaret, in open Court, after separate and secret¹ examination by the steward, surrendered into the hands of the lord by the acceptance of the steward of the manor, all her one half share or part of one customary messuage, one garden, and two parcels of land containing three acres, with the intention that the lord should deign to re-grant the premises to Jane Hawkes, sister of the said Margaret, and her heirs, at the will of the lord according to the custom of the manor. Upon which Jane appeared in Court and sought admittance to the premises according to the intention of the surrender. At whose request the lord by his steward granted to the said Jane seisin of the premises by the rod, to have to her and her heirs at the will of the lord according to the custom of the manor, by rent 9d. [and other incidents]. The said Jane gave to the lord a fine of 40s. for such her estate, and for admittance so had, and so was admitted tenant and did fealty in Court.

Patches and Tebbs, two of the copyholds mentioned above, came in the fulness of time into the possession of Thomas Ware, who left his holdings, and went into Ireland, never to return. After three proclamations in accordance with custom, his property reverted to the lord of the manor. The story is told in picturesque fashion in the following extracts :—

2.10.1615. Lastly, the jurors upon their oath present in the following words in English, namely, that Thomas Weare

¹ Secret, in order to preclude unfair pressure by her husband.

being a coppieholder of this manner, did in Lent was twelvemoneth willinglie goe into Ireland, but whether he bee dead or a live wee know not. And therefore daye is given to him to bee att the nexte Court yf hee bee then livinge uppon payne of forfeitinge his coppieholde.

16.10.1616. At this Court the first proclamation was made that if Thomas Weare, one of the customary tenants of this manor, or anyone else in his place or name, wished to claim out of the hands of the lord of the manor a customary tenement and one acre of land called Patches, lying near the customary lands of the heirs of Richard Hayward, let him appear and be heard. And no one comes.

There was a first proclamation in similar terms concerning the customary tenement and ten acres of land called Tebbs.

A year later the second proclamation of both properties were made, without result, and on 26 October, 1618, the third and last proclamations, all ending with the same sad, ringing phrase, "And no one comes." And so Patches and Tebbs were forfeited to the lord of the manor.

It may be noted here that copyhold tenure was abolished by the Law of Property Act, 1922, as from 1 January, 1926, provision being made for the extinguishment of the lord's dues and the steward's fees, normally by a capital payment.

Section (v)—PERSONAL NAMES OCCURRING IN THE RECORDS.

At the foot of a page of the Court Roll relating to a View of Frank-pledge held on 1 May, 1507, someone has written, "*No'i'a inh'itanc'm infra visum patet in dorso*"—the names of persons residing within the View appear on the back. Who would not turn over the page in haste, eager to read on the other side an authentic list of the inhabitants of Ightham in the reign of King Henry VII?—to find there, alas, only a blank page.

Although there is no such list, either for 1507 or for any other old-time year, the names occurring in the Court Rolls and other records, when grouped over a short period,

approximate, however imperfectly, to something of the kind. Such a list usually includes some names that do not belong to Ightham, and also omits the names of many residents. Further, a list drawn up from a group of Court Rolls cannot be directed to a single point of time, while the names to be found in any one roll are too few to be of any use as a list of inhabitants.

In spite of these and other defects, it is worth while to collect the names from each group of Court Rolls, for they at least bring us nearer to contemporary directories than we can get by any other available route.

The lists which follow cover six groups of rolls, namely 1425-6, 1461-75, 1490-1508, 1553-74, 1586-1618, and 1697-1707. No list has been prepared for 1708-86, for (a) the period is too long to be used as the basis of a single list, (b) owing to the discontinuance of the Views, after 1707, it would in any case be very defective, and (c) better lists could be compiled from other sources, e.g., rate-books.

Occupations and local offices have been given, where shown, but an attempt to mark all freeholders and copyholders was found to be impracticable. The brewers might equally well have been called ale-house keepers. Several bakers are described in the original rolls as bakers of both white and black bread. A clerk means, usually, a clerk in holy orders. Persons coming from other places to settle in Ightham (e.g., John Withers of London, hosyer) are often described, long afterwards, as of the place whence they came. Old spellings of names have been reproduced as far as possible, but it was impracticable to give all the variants that are to be found in the records. *Armiger* has been translated as esquire, *generosus* as gentleman.

In attempting to estimate how nearly the lists approach complete lists of heads of families (together with some others) we are faced with the question of the population of the manor at the significant times. To this question no answer can be given, we can only work backwards from the census of 1801, when the population of the parish of Ightham numbered 709.

The lists speak for themselves, but attention may be drawn to a few special features. Aliases, no doubt, point often to illegitimacy. The names Chillman and Chilmald are perhaps the same, and, possibly, Tilman also. Alexander Cordell, whose name appears first in 1712, is mentioned soon afterwards as Cordellee, Coeur de Lion, and Cordelees. Variants of a name do not always carry the same initial letters, for example, Ivot, Yvotte and Gyvot, Hooley, Huley, Hewley, Wholy and Woolley, Hewhill, Huell, Yeowell and Yule, and there are other puzzles for searchers after particular names.

*Names occurring in the Records, 1425-6.*¹

Thomas Baker, Thomas Baldewyn, Thomas Barbour, Richard Bealde, Henry Beneyt, Richard Beneyt, William Beryme, reve, John Berton, John Best, John at Bore, ale taster, John Boteler, John Chapman, John Danyell, John de Dene, Jane Dyker, brewer, Walter Fuller, William Furmager, Ellen Fyssh, brewer, Robert Fyssh, James Godewyn, Richard Gylmyn, reve, John Hadlo, Isabel Hamond, brewer, Gunter Hasebard, Isabel Hogges, baker and brewer, William at Hoke, Denis Hunt, brewer, Isabel Ivot, brewer, Laurence Ivot, Jane James, John Kene, ale taster, John Kyng, Thomas Kyng, John at Merssh, Peter Morejohn, Margery Mote, brewer, William Mote, Richard Mydendale, Thomas Parker, Reginald Pekham, Agnes Pelsolte, brewer, Alice Pelsolte, brewer, John Pelsolte, poulterer, John Pelsolte, senior, Alice Pertrych, brewer, Richard Pertrych, John Pope, John Reve, Robert Reve, Walter Rogger, Denis Sawyer, brewer, Margery Shode, brewer, Richard Shode, Simon Shode, Thomas Shode, John Smyth, tithing man, John Stalye, John Watte, Peter Wylkyn, William Wynker.

Names occurring in the Records, 1461-75.

Thomas Baker, John Baldewyn, John Benet, Richard Benet, Thomas Berme, Richard Bertyn, Thomas atte Borne, Silvester Brode, brewer, Jane Browne, brewer, Jane Bryghred, brewer, John Bryghtred, tithing man, Richard Carter, John Castelayn,

¹ The pages containing these lists of names are additional to the normal volume, the cost of publication having been borne privately.

John Chapman, Robert Chapman, John Chowne, Richard Dogge, ale taster, Henry Droper, John Droper, baker and brewer, Margaret Droper, brewer, John Fuller, William Fuller, tithing man, Ellen Fysher, Robert Fysher, John Gastelyn, tithing man, John Godewyn, William Godewyn, Richard Gylmyn, Geoffrey Hadlo, John Hadlow, Relfe Hadlo, borsholder, John Hamme, Gunter Hasberd, William Hoke, Alice Horne, brewer, Isabel Yvotte, brewer, John Ivot, Laurence Gyvot, John Jamys, brewer, Laurence Jamys, brewer, William Jamys, Richard Jekyn of Sele, William Kegyll, John Kene, Stephen Knyght, Alice Lymage, brewer, Alice Mercer, brewer, John Mercer, Thomas Mercer, brewer, William Mercere, John att Mersh, Philip Mordens (surname doubtful), John Moote, William Mote, Alice Nemmage, brewer, John Nemmage, William Pach, ale taster, Margaret Partrych, brewer, Richard Partrych, James Pekham, John Pelsholt, brewer, Thomas Pelsholt, William Pelsholt, brewer, John Preston, Reginald Reve, Robert Reve, William Rowherde of Northflete, John Sawers, William Sawers, Margaret Sawyere, brewer, Robert Sayers, John Sextayn, Walter Sextayn, John Smyth, Thomas Smyth, Cecily Swetyng, brewer, Jane Swetyng, brewer, John Swetyng, tithing man, ale taster and brewer, Thomas Swetyng, ale taster, William Swetyng, Geoffrey Taylor, John Thrope, Margery Thrope, brewer, John Tryce, Thomas Tryce, tithing man and ale taster, Margery Walkelyn, brewer, John atte Waters, John atte Welle, Alice Wellett, brewer, Alice Wymbyll, brewer, Richard Wymbyll, William Wymbyll.

Names occurring in the Records, 1490-1508.

Alice Aleyn, Thomas Aleyn, Edith Alonem, brewer, John Alonem, Adam Althorn, Walter Ambylson, Jane Armstrong, Ralph Armstrong, tithing man, Thomas Baker, alias at Heth, John Barlo, John Barton, brewer, Richard Barton, John Bayly, alias Cowper, tithing man and brewer, John Benet of Wrotham, yeoman, Thomas Berme, Thomas Best of Chart, John Bewgle, Richard Boleyn, smith, John Bore, Agnes Bownde, Jane Bownde, brewer, John Bownde, William Bownde, Stephen a Brig, brewer, Robert Bright of Stanstede, labourer, John Brightrede, Harry Brode, Jane Brode, John Brode, brewer, Peter Brode, Robert Brode, tithing man, Thomas

Brompton, William Brownyng, alias Essex, Jane Burdon, brewer, John Burdon, brewer, William Burdon, William Burgoyne, esquire, Thomas Burton, Thomas Butte, James Byrche, William Byrch, John Carpenter, John Castelyn, Jane Chapman, Robert Chapman, Thomas Chapman, William Chapman, John a Children, Sarah Chipstede, Thomas Chipstede, William Chipstede of Wrotham, tylemaker, John Chown, Robert Christofer, John Clerke, Lucy Clerke, Robert Clerk of Seele, Thomas Coke, William Colyer, William Coteman, smith, Thomas Court alias Gardynner, John Cowper, alias Bayly, tithing man and brewer, Thomas Cowper, John Crystmas, John Cuddy, Alexander Culpeper, esquire, John Degull, Thomas Dene, William Digson, Richard Dodge, John Douke, brewer, William Essex alias Brownyng, Henry Fane, gent., Thomas a Fen, Alice Fenne, John Fenne, Ellen Fischer, John a Forde, brewer, Thomas a Ford, William a Ford, James Foster, brewer, John Frensshe, Richard Frensshe, Richard Frist, Robert Fuller, Thomas Fuller, tithing man, Walter Fuller, tithing man and brewer, William Fuller, tithing man and brewer, John Furmonger, tithing man and brewer, Alice Gardynner, Isabel Gardynner, John Gardiner, brewer, Robert Gardynner, Thomas Gardynner, William Gardynner, Henry Garrerd, John Godewyn, tithing man, William Godewyn, Reginald Guerhard, John Gyles, Robert Gyles, ale taster and brewer, John Gylmyn, Thomas Hacche, Geoffrey Hadlo, Henry Hadlow, John Hadlowe, brewer, Richard Hadlow, Walter Hadlow, John Hale, Agnes at Hall, Ralph at Hall, Hamond, brewer, John Hardell, ale taster and brewer, Henry Hasilherst, brewer, John Hasyherst, Rose Hasilherst, baker and brewer, William Hastelyn, Jane Hawke, baker, Richard Hawke, tithing man and baker, Thomas Hawke, Delareus Hawt, Edward Hawt, Richard Hawt, Sir William Haute, Thomas Hayte, lately of Seele, taillour, John at Heale, Thomas at Heth, alias Baker, Edith Hobyll, William Hobyll of Chapell in Wrotham, Agnes Hunt, baker and brewer, Denis Hunt, ploughman, Isabel Hunt, brewer, John Hunt, tithing man and brewer, Richard Ifeld, John Ivote, Alice James, Henry James, brewer, Jane James, John James, Laurence Jamys, brewer, Robert James, Walter James, William James, Elizabeth Kyng, John Kyng of Wrotham, William Lambe, Isabel Laneham, brewer, John Laneham, Thomas Laneham, baker and brewer, William Laneham, Richard Leechford, Thomas Levesoth of Gowdeherst,

John Lewes, John Lymage, Robert Lynsey, clerk, Thomas Madeys, clerk, John Martin, gent., Thomas Maryner, brewer, William Mercer, Alice Meryman, Geoffrey Meryman, Katherine Meryman, William Meryman, William Michell, Richard Miller, Thomas Miller, John a More, Godyn Mote, brewer, John Moote, brewer, John Mountford, William Mountford, John Moyer, Richard Mymines, John Neale, brewer, Gilbert Newman, Thomas Nisell, Emmotte None, John None, Robert None, ale taster, William Northfelde, William Paoche, Jane Parker, brewer, Margaret Parker, William Parker of Wrotham, husbandman, Henry Partrich, John Partrich of Scele, "tabrer", Laurence Partriche, brewer, Thomas Partrich, John Pekerell, tithing man, John Pekham, Reginald Pekham, John Pelsouth, repier,¹ Thomas Pelsouth, ale taster and brewer, Walter Pelsouth, William Pelsouth, brewer, Poket of Stanstede, labourer, Richard Pollie, John Preston, John Pyers, brewer, Margaret Pyers, brewer, William Rele, Jane Reve, John Reve, Reginald Reve, Robert Reve, Jane Reynar, John Reynar, Thomas Roff, John Ruggesby, paylemaker, John Salmon, Richard Saund, brewer, Richard, servant and "berebruer" to Pekham, Henry Sawyer, John Sawyer, Thomas Sawyer, tithing man and brewer, William Sawyer, John Sextayn, Laurence Sextayn, ale taster, Walter Sextayn, Thomas Sherywyn, Robert Shildmell, Peter Skynner, John Smyth, Simon Smyth, Thomas Smyth of Falke, William Snyderdale, clerk, Thomas Sparys, William Stawley, John Stephyn, Alice Swetyng, brewer, John Swetyng, tithing man, William Swetyng, John Syflete, William Syflete, tithing man, Thomas Taillor, William Taillor, alias Westewell, John Tanner, ale taster, Richard Tanner, ale taster and brewer, Thomas Tanner, William Tanner, Agnes Tebold, brewer, John Tebold, William Tebold, brewer, William Terry at Hothes in Wrotham, Jane Thrope, brewer, John Throppe, tithing man, baker and brewer, Margery Throp, brewer, Richard Thropp, baker, John Tryce, tithing man and brewer, Thomas Tryce, John Turke, miller, Robert Turke, Thomas Undercombe, brewer, Henry Upton, William a Ware, John at Water, brewer, John Watts, Margaret Weller, baker and brewer, Richard Weller, tithing man, baker and brewer, William Weller, John Wells, Henry West, John West, William Westewell, alias Taillor, Sibyll Wildbore, John Williams of Strode, John a Wode, William a

¹ See Section (w), under the head FISHE STREATE.

Wolford, William, servant of Richard Weller, Worme, servant of William Forde, John Wulferich, Richard Wybarn, Hamo Wymbyll, tithing man and brewer, Henry Wymbyll, John Wymbyll, tithing man, brewer, and payle maker, William Wymbyll.

Names occurring in the Records, 1553-74.

Richard Adduson, Sir Christofer Aleyn, John Applebe, clerk, vicar of Wrotham, Alice Baker, John Baker, Thomas Baker, Baker alias Hardyng, Agnes Bauldewyn, baker and brewer, Nicholas Baldewyn, borsholder, William Bauldewyn, baker and brewer, Barret, John Benet, John Bletcher, William Bletcher, John Bounde, Robert Bounde, William Bounde, tithing man, John Bourman, Richard Brandfeld, Richard Bresyndeyn, Margaret Brode, baker and brewer, Nicholas Brode, Dr. Broke, parson of Itham, Richard Bromfeild, borsholder, John Bronnger, John Brown, Robert Byng of Wrotham, John Caryll, Richard Chapman, Henry Charleton of Sutton, Richard Cheisman, Nicholas Chown, Richard Chowning, Thomas Cogger, Elizabeth Colyn, John Colyn, Hugh Cornfurthe of East Mallinge, yeoman, Reginald Cotman, William Cotman, John Crongger, Robert Dakine, William Dawlton, William Denman, husbandman, John Dodge of Wrotham, John Downe, John Dyrkyn, Alexander Dyrlyng, John Evatts, Nicholas Fitzherbert, John Fuller, borsholder, Robert Gardener, borsholder, Stephen Gardyner, John Garland, Richard Giles of Wrotham, husbandman, Sir Godfrey, curat of Itham, John Goodewyn, Richard Gough, Lady Anne Grey, Richard Greygory, Hugh Hach, John Hach, Henry Haddon, husbandman, Henry Hadlow, ale taster, Laurence Hadlow, Thomas Hadlow, William Hadlow, borsholder, Thomas Haeselden, John Hamond, Hardyng, alias Baker, Thomas Harman, Crystofer Harryes, Nicholas Hastlyn, John Hawke, Margery Hawke, Richard Hawke, Thomas Hawke, borsholder, William Herde, parson of Itham, Christopher Hilles, alias Morgan, of Stansted, clerk, Morgan Hilles of Wrotham, labourer, Thomas Hills, John Hooper, John Ivot, Agnes Jeffrey, baker and brewer, Ann Jeffrey, George Jeffrey, baker and brewer, Henry Jeffery, borsholder, baker and brewer, William Jeffery, baker and brewer, Ked Jesop, Agnes Kattis, Edward Kattis, Margaret Kattis, William Kettell, Henry Knowles, Jane Knowles, John Lennarde, esquire, Edward Lusted,

Nicholas Lye, Edward Lymsey, Walter Miller of Wrotham, husbandman, William Miller of Wrotham, husbandman, Christopher Morgan, alias Hilles, George Moulton, esquire, Edward Mowg, Walter Mowg, John Olyver, Silvester Page, John Paine, Agnes Parker, brewer, Robert Parker, William Parker, baker and brewer, James Pekham, Reginald Peckham, Reginald Pelsatt, William Pelsoit, yeoman, William Perrie, Henry Pers, Thomas Pole, Reginald Poull, John Pulle, William Pullenger, Henry Rede, John Rede, Henry Reve, James Rygnall, ale taster, John Seycresse of Wrotham, husbandman, Barnaby Shawe, William Shaw, Thomas Skynner, Walter Skynner, Robert Smyth, Widow Smyth, Edward Sone, Beatrice Stale, Richard Staley, borsholder, Sir William Staneger, John Stapull, Thomas Stephyn, John Storyer, Jane Swanne, Stephen Swan, William Swan, ale taster, Francis Sydney, John Syffleyt, tithing man, Richard Syffleit, tithing man, William Syffleyt, John Talbot of Newington, gent., John Tebold, Agnes Terry, Edward Terry, John Terry, Richard Terry, Robert Tyrry, William Terry, Florence Thrope, baker and brewer, Richard Throp, baker and brewer, Thomas Turner, Walter Tydman, Walter Tye, William Underdown, John Warren, William Warren, John Watts, William Webbe, miller, Thomas Welle, John West, Thomas West, William West, Arthur Weston, William Weston, John Whytfeld, Robert Wiseman, Adrian Wodyn, John Wood, John Wreyght, Alice Wybarne, William Wybarne, Robert Wyllughbye, Thomas Willoughby.

Names occurring in the Records, 1586-1618.

Alexander Adam, John Addams, steward of the manor, Amye Alchin, George Alchin of Watringburie, John Alchin, clerk, William Aldridge, borsholder and ale taster, Adam Alexander, labourer, Abigall Allen, Lady Audrey Allen, Charles Allen, esquire, Sir Christopher Allen, Henry Allen, borsholder, Robert Allen, Stephen Allen, Thomas Allen, Robert Ashdowne, George Askew, Richard Astoll, parson of Itham, George Augur, Richard Austin, labourer, Robert Averill, Awcock of Chart, William Bacon, Arthur Baker, Edward Baker, Thomas Baker, Ann Baldwyn, baker and brewer, Arthur Baldwyn, Henry Balden, James Baldyn, John Balden, borsholder, Nicholas Balden, Reginald Balden, Richard Bawlden, Robert Balden, borsholder,

Saunder Badyne, Weston Balden, William Baldwyn, baker and brewer, George Barminge, William Baron, Benjamin Barr, Richard Barre, Benedict Barret, Benjamin Barrett, Nicholas Barret, borsholder, Richard Barret, Robert Barret, William Barrham, Richard Barton, William Bawcomb, George Bedell, Thomas Bee, James Beecher, John Bennet, ale taster and husbandman, Reginald Bennet, William Bennett, Humphrey Berwicke, esquire, Widow Beverley, Thomas Blatcher, William Blatcher of Shipborne, Thomas Bodell, William Boes, Richard Boghurst, Robert Bollen, John Borman, John Borneman, John Borough, Thomas Borow, Robert Boughton of Seale, sayer, Alice Bound, Elizabeth Bound, George Bownde of Wrotham, husbandman, Jane Bounde, John Bounde, ironsmith, yeoman, Margaret Bounde, Margery Bounde, Richard Bounde, Robert Bounde, taylor, yeoman, Thomas Bownde, of Yawling, husbandman, William Bound, yeoman, John Bramfield, husbandman, William Brampton, Brancon, Richard Branfeld, James Bright, Thomas Brite, Robert Brissenden, Thomas Brissenden, Nicholas Broad, Peter Broade, Richard Broade, John Brock, Thomas Brock, John Bronger, Nicholas Brooker, alias Heathe, George Broome, Thomas Browne, Gabriel Bruer, of London, armorer, William Bruer, Christopher Budd, Agnes Bullinge, William Burd, Caleb Burdocke, Richard Burrell, Robert Burrell, Jane Burrowes, John Burrowes, labourer, Ellen Busbye, John Bysbye, Richard Butcher, James Butler, Butt, Martin Carier, Thomas Caselton, borsholder, Robert Chapman, John Chayrie, Edward Cheesman of Watringburie, William Chittenden, Sir George Chowne, Thomas Chowne, esquire, George Chowning, Richard Chowning, alias Gregorie, brewer, William Chowninge, ale taster, George Claggate, James Claggatt, ale taster, John Claggatt, Francis Clerk, gent., Jane Clerke, William Clerk of London, gent., William Cockerell, Colbe, Richard Collen, Henry Collyer, George Cooper, borsholder and ale taster, James Cooper, Robert Cooper, James Cop, Roger Cope, Thomas Corke, ale taster, John Cornford, husbandman, Richard Cornford, Christopher Cotes, James Cotman, Jane Cotman, John Cottman, James Cottmars, Thomas Couchman, Ralph Craft, William Craffe, James Crippes, Thomas Crippes of Hartley, William Crippes, borsholder, yeoman, Robert Crofte, William Crouchley, Agnes Curde, Edward Curde, Jane Crudd, John Crudde, ale taster, Rafe Cupper, Sir Maximilian Dalyson,

Robert Dalison, William Dalison, gent., Richard Day, borsholder and ale taster, John Delman, John Dene, labourer, John Denman, Alexander Derkyng, William Donne, John Drayner, William Durrant, borsholder, John Egles, Robert Eglestone, John Ellis, Thomas Ellys, Henry Emerson, John Emerson, of London, Dunstan Emery, Richard Enge, ale taster, Edward Engeham, gent., Henry Everest, James de Eyles, Henry Farbrace, clerk, Fathers, Cuthbert Fethergill, John Fynch, Widow Finche, Nicholas Flower, William Flower, William Flower, borsholder, George Fookes, Thomas Forer, Henry Foster, Agnes Foxe, James Fox, borsholder, John Fox, Agnes Frenche, Ann French, Henry French, Robert Frenche of Seale, William Frenche, William Fuller, Isabel Gardiner, Jane Gardiner, Robert Gardiner, ale taster, Walter Gardiner, Widow Gardner, Agnes Garland, John Garland, Robert Garland, George Gastrell, gent., George, servant of William Petley, Margaret Gibson, William Gibson, Bartholomew Glover, William Glover, Peter Goddin, John Goffe, Dorothy Goodhew, John Goodhew, Richard Goodhew, borsholder, Dorothy Goodwyn, John Goodwin, John Goslyng, William Gosselyn, Thomas Gouldsmith, Robert Gransden, ale taster, John Gravesden, John Greenehead, Robert Greenewell, Greenshaw, Francis Greentree, farmer, Robert Greentree, Alice Grigorie, brewer, George Gregory, Richard Gregorie alias Chowning, Thomas Gynning, borsholder and ale taster, John Haberdijohn, John Hacknam, John Hackwood, Agnes Hadlowe, John Hadlow, Theophilus Hadlow, borsholder, Thomas Hadlowe, weaver, Walter Hadlow, William Hadlow, borsholder, plowright, weaver, Jane Hamon of Frindsbury, John Hammond, George Hanger, gent., of St. Dunstan in the East, Henry Hannam, Daniel Harris, William Harris, John Hasden, Reginald Haseden, Solomon Hasden, William Hasden, Nicholas Haslyn, George Hastelyn, Ciaily Hache, Hugh Hache, William Hache of Netlested, Alice Hawkes, Ann Hawke, Elizabeth Hawke, George Hawkes, ale taster, Henry Hauke, of Shorne, taylor, James Hawkes, Jane Hawkes, Margaret Hawkes, Reginald Hawke, Richard Hawke, Thomas Hawke, Widow Hawke, William Hawkes, Thomas Hayman, borsholder, John Hayne, Alice Hayward, Elizabeth Hayward, Jane Hayward, Richard Hayward of Chiddingstone, Nicholas Heathe alias Brooker, Thomas Hickman, Walter Hickman, Richard Hills, Lucy Hodsall, Robert

Hodsall, gent., Thomas Hodsall, gent., James Holmden, Andrew Homewood of Seale, Robert Homewood, Robert Hooke of Seale, William Horley, John Howell, esquire, William Hubberd of Stoke, clerk, John Huble, Mark Huble, Henry Hunt, John Hunt, Robert Hunt, William Hunt, Richard Hunter, John Huntwick, Richard Huntick, Robert Huntick, Charles Hutchinson of Wrotham, clerk, Francis Inman, clerk, Percival Ive, John Ivill, Richard Ivell, John James, gent., William James, esquire, Miles Jenyns, Jane Johnson, John Johnson, Mathew Johnson, ale taster, Richard Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Johnson, Thomas Kenward, Kertman, Thomas King, Robert Kipps, William Kirkman, James Kirkyn, William Knighte, John Knowler, Henry Knowles, Thomas Kyrck, ale taster, Sybil Kyrwin, Edward Lambert, ale taster, Mary Lambard, Nicholas Larken, George Lashe, of Chedingstone, yeoman, John Launder, Robert Launder, miller, labourer, Richard Lawrence, John Lay, Elizabeth Ledger, William Ledger, Lee, William Linsdale, John Livermore, potter, Richard Lobley, Loder, John Lovegrove, Thomas Lowe, Lowes, Samuel Lyn, Thomas Lynne, ironsmith, Henry Makepeace, Jesper Mann, Samuel Mare, Richard Marshall, Marten, Henry Martyn, James Martyn, borsholder, John Martyn, Prudence Martyn, Thomas Martyn, William Master, Thomas Masters, Richard Mathew, Robert Medcroft, James Midleton, James Miller, Nicholas Miller, gent., of Wrotham, Richard Miller, of Wrotham, yeoman, Robert Miller, Stephen Miller, William Miller, Margery Milesse, Stephen Millis, ale taster, shoemaker, William Millis, Peter Myllis, Thomas Mody, Richard Moody, Samuel Moore, Thomas Moore, John Moteley, Richard Motley, George Moulton, esquire, Robert Moulton, esquire, Edward Mugg, Nicholas Mugge, Thomas Mugg, Walter Mugge, ale taster, William Mugg, John Muncaster, Thomas Nissel, Bartholomew Oliver, John Oliver, Robert Oliver, borsholder, Christopher Owten, Richard Page, John Palmer, of London, grocer, Robert Palmer, of Wrotham, Thomas Parvyn, John Peerson, Richard Peierson, Thomas Pearceson, Henry Peckham, gent., James Peckham, esquire, Reginald Peckham, gent., Carwin Pelsett, Christopher Pelsott, gent., Elizabeth Pelsett, Nicholas Pelsett, Reginald Pelsett, alias Tompson, ale taster, Richard Pelsott, William Pelsott, clerk, Thomas Pennet, Henry Perin, William Petley, Abraham Piers, Henry Piers, John Peirse, Thomas Peres,

Piers, Thomas Piersie, borsholder, William Pinden, George Pyrrott, Gregory Pirrott, Robert Polhill, Thomas Polhill, gent., John Porter, William Porter, Jane Powell, William Powell, Bartholomew Preston, Price, John Raulins, Thomas Richardson, borsholder, and ale taster, John Richers, esquire, Widow Richers, Riches, Robert, servant of Richard Butcher, John Roafe, borsholder, Ralph Rolphe, Richard Rolphe, Sarah Rolphe, of Seale, Thomas Roafe, borsholder, Thomas Rogers, Christopher Romney, Edward Rootes, brewer, John Rootes, William Rootes, Cristofer Rooper, esquire, Sir John Roper, John Rosse, ale taster, Thomas Rosse, Rutland, John Rygnold, William Saunders, borsholder and ale taster, George Sawyer, John Saxton, Richard Sayer, Sir William Selbye, Henry Seyliard, rector of Ightham, Nicholas Selyard, William Seyliard, gent., Barnaby Shaw, George Shaw, alias Stephenson, alias Simpson, Richard Shawe, alias Stephenson, Ralph Shelden, John Sheppard, John de Sherewood, Henry Shoebridge, Richard Shoebridge, borsholder, Nicholas Siggis, borsholder and ale taster, Richard Syggysse, William Syggis, Simon, gardener to Sir William Selby, George Simons, Edward Simpson, George Simpson, alias Shaw, alias Stephenson, John Skele, labourer, Valentine Skinner, Henry Smithe, Edward Smyth, of Seale, labourer, John Smythe, Thomas Smyth, Smythe of Charte, Richard Solvin, Isaac Somer, John Somner, John Spratt, clerk, Robert Stace, Thomas Stace, George Staley, Richard Staley, Walter Staley, William Staley, Stanley, John Stapleton, John Stedall, gent., John Stephen, Matthew Stephen, Widow Stephen, Richard Stephenson, alias Shawe, Richard Steven, George Stevenson, alias Shaw, alias Simpson, William Stevenson, Edward Stile, Stile, Laurence Stone, Thomas Stone, Edward Stopefield, John Storer, Reginald Storer, Edward Storer, John Storyer, Thomas Stretfeild, borsholder, bailiff, and brewer, Richard Stuborne, Elizabeth Styles, Vane Sumers, Sutton, Henry Swanne, Stephen Swan, Silvester Swanne, baker and brewer, Henry Swayneland, Daniel Syfelett, David Syfelett, John Syfelett, Richard Syflett, ale taster, Thomas Syfelett, borsholder, Gilbert Symons, Jerome Symons, John Taylor, ale taster, Taylor, Thomas Tebold, of Seale, gent., Grizel Tenitus, Henry Tenitus, gent., James Terry, John Terry, borsholder, Reginald Terry, Robert Terry, Thomas Terry, William Tirrye, Alexander Thompson, Mathew Thomson, Richard Thomson,

borsholder, Henry Thorouggood, John Thorowgood, Edward Thrupp, John Thrupp, Thomas Thrupp, William Thrupp, John Tompson, Reginald Tompson, alias Pelsaut, ale taster, Edward Tonbridge, William Toothe, Reignold Tresse, Anthony Turner, George Turner, John Turner, clerk, Thomas Turner, Widow Turner, Prudence Tyler, William Tyler, clerk, Reginald Underdowne, Chaney's Usmer, Jane Usmer, John Usmer, John Vaughan, Mary Vaughan, Sir Thomas Vavisour, John Vickers, Robert Wade, Mathew Waklyn, William Walderne, William Waler, Widow Walkelyn, John Walter, Thomas Walter, William Walter, of London, John Ward, Robert Warde, borsholder, Thomas Ward, William Warde, John Ware, Thomas Ware, David Warren, John Warren, Margaret Warren, Richard Warren, Robert Warren, William Warren of Chartre, Andrew Waters, William Waters, Thomas Watts, William Weare, William Webb, Giles Welfare, Richard Wellet of London, taylor, Griffin Wells, Edward West, John West, Richard West, William West, Agnes Weston, Edward Weston, James Weston, gent., Mary Weston, Peter Weston, gent., William Weston, gent., John Wiborne, Robert Wiborne, of Wrotham, Alice Wilkins, Richard Wilkinson, gent., of Frenesburie, Alice Willarde, brewer, John Willard, baker and brewer, Walter Willard, William Willard, William, servant of John Wood, John Williams, Lewys Williams, William Williams, Thomas Williamson, John Willmott, William Willmott, yoman, Helen Willner, brewer, Henry Willner, John Willner, brewer, Bridget Willughby, Edward Willughbie, gent., Mary Willoughbie, Percival Willoughbie, esquire, Thomas Willughbye, esquire, Lawrence Winter, John Withers, of London, hosyer, Edward Wood, Sir John Wood, Thomas Wood, William Wood, George Wooddee, George Woodden, James Woodden of Lige, Lancelot Woodden, William Woodden, John Woodgate, John Woodland, Jane Woodye, Thomas Woodydy, borsholder, Richard Younge, Thomas Yonge, William Yonge, mercer.

Names occurring in the Records, 1697-1707.

Amherst Adgoe, Richard Adgoe, Thomas Adgoe, Henry Alchin, borsholder, Nicholas Archer, William Archer, John Atree, Humphry Baldwyn, Robert Baldwyn, Thomas Baldwyn, William Baldwyn, borsholder, Christopher, Lord Barnard,

Thomas Bassett, Edward Bates, Elizabeth Bates, Henry Beale, William Benge, Charles Blackwell, Mary Blackwell, Thomas Blackwell, Blackwell, Thomas Brigden, Thomas Bright, James Buck, John Buck, Thomas Burges, John Burton, John Burtonshaw, William Carter, Edward Chambers, Thomas Chapman, Chapman, Nicholas Childe, Thomas Childe, Luke Chilmaid, Stephen Chilmaid, Stephen Chillman, John Church, Jonas Cish, Richard Clampard, Sarah Cleeve, Cleeve, Thomas Colgate, John Collins, William Crofte, Thomas Dalison, esquire, Robert Dorman, John Drainer, Richard Durling, John Edmeads, Robert Edmeads, Thomas Edmeads, Samuel Eldridge, Nicholas Fenn, Thomas Fenne, Anne Fenner, Thomas Fenner, John Fox, borsholder, Ann French, Roger Groves, John Groves, John Hall, clerk, Thomas Halley, William Halley, John Harper, James Hart, clerk, Rowland Hartnupp, Thomas Hartnupp, Hugh Hatch, Elizabeth Hawkins, Anne Higford, Hannah Higford, James Higford, clerk, Jane Higford, Sarah Hickford, Thomas Hinge, ale taster, John Hodden, Henry Hodsoil, of Shepebourne, Jane Hodsoil, John Hodsoil, borsholder, Maundy Hodsoil, Maxfeild Hodsoil, William Hodsoil, of Wrotham, clothier, Walter Holk, Henry Honey, Thomas Honey, John Hooker, Walter How, William How, Elizabeth Hubbard, William Hubbard, John Huell, Humphrey Hulley, William Ilon, Richard Ireland, of Gravesend, ironmonger, Ireland, William James, esquire, Clement Jones, John Knell, John Lemm, Edmund Lock, Edward Locke, George Luck, Henry Maddox, gent., Thomas Maddox, gent., James Marshall, yeoman, Nicholas Martin, William Maynard, Francklyn Miller, esquire, Mary Morris, Thomas Morris, tithing man (1701), and borsholder, Valentine Nicholas, John Page, borsholder, blacksmith, Reginald Peckham, esquire, Alexander Peene, William Peene, Thomas Pennell, Thomas Penner, John Peridoe, George Petley, Thomas Puckle, gent., Steward of the manor, John Randolph, John Richardson, Richard Rogers, William Rogers, tithing man (1703), borsholder, Jane Scarmar, William Selby, esquire, Henry Selyard, John Selyard, William Shipley, Richard Shoobridge, yeoman, Thomas Shoebridge, Sir Charles Sydley, Bart., Sir John Sidley, Bart., Thomas Skinner, Thomas Smith, Stephen Somers, Ann Stephens, John Stephens, Richard Stephens, William Stephens, Thomas Stone, borsholder, Widow Stone, William Styles, William Symonds, Thomas Taylor,

William Taylor, Robert Thompson, borsholder, Thomas Thompson, borsholder, Luke Tilman, borsholder, Stephen Tilman, Nicholas Trice, Christopher Vane, esquire, John Vaughan, Elizabeth Waghorne, John Waghorne, Nicholas Wakerell, John Wallis, Thomas Walter, Robert Webb, Thomas Wheeler, James Wingate, Sir William Withers, Hugh Wood, John Wood, of Rotherfield, William Wood, George Wray, John Younge.

Section (w)—NOTES ON PLACE NAMES OCCURRING IN THE RECORDS.

The records contain an abundance of field and other place names, all of which are given in the following list. In dealing with them the eight hamlets of Ightham have been placed first, and the remaining names follow in alphabetical order. "S" stands for situation. A personal name put in brackets after a place name is intended as a pointer to a likely derivation but usually no more. Gaps in the records may account for the absence of similar pointers in many other cases. Explanations of names have been suggested where there is some evidence to support them, but bare conjectures have been avoided. A few Wrotham field names occur, for one reason or another, in the Ightham records.

A map showing the sites of all the places named in the records that can be identified would have been of considerable interest, but its publication is impracticable owing to the large scale that would be necessary.

Philipott derives the name Ightham from the eight hamlets of St. Clere, Oldbury, Ightham [village], Borough Green, Redwell, Bewley, Ivy Hatch, and the Mote. This derivation is looked on coldly by modern archaeologists, and other suggestions have been made, but the question remains open, as none of the conjectures has any substantial evidence to support it.

The Eight Hamlets.

ST. CLERE: s., at the northern end of Ightham parish and outside the manor. The name occurs in the Court Rolls only

once, namely in 1616, as Sinckcleers, where it preserves in the final "s" a trace of its earlier name, Aldham St. Cleres. Isolda, one of the three daughters of Sir Thomas de Aldham, inherited a share of the Aldham estate on the death of her father without male issue. She had married John St. Clere, and her portion of the estate became known as Aldham St. Cleres.

OLDBURY: s., $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Ightham village. The hamlet bears the name of the early iron age hill fort which encloses the summit of Oldbury Hill. The names Oldbury and Oldbury Hill occur in the records nearly a hundred times, the first mention being in 1503. Variants—Oldebury, Oldburie, Ouldebury, Oldberry, Oldborough, Oldburrough, Oldburrow, and some others. Oldbury is found as early as 1590, Oldborough has not been met with before 1712.

IGHTHAM: s., (village) more or less in the central part of the parish. The word is variously spelt: [Ehteam (*Textus Roffensis*, c. 1115)]; Ightham (1408); Eghtham (1425); Eytham (1438); Eyghtham (1461); Eygham (1462); Eygtham (1463-4); Ightham (1491); Ightam and Itham (1555); Ithame (1564); Itam (1566); Iteham (1570). In a single document of 1570 eight different spellings are found.

The hamlet is called the "*vill de Ightham*" in a Court Roll of 1499; the towne of Iteham (1570) and the burghes of Eightham (1570) also occur. References to Ightham Street are numerous, usually in the sense of the village street, but occasionally with the meaning Ightham Street hamlet, i.e. an area including the village and its immediate surroundings.

BOROUGH GREEN: s., 1 mile north-east of Ightham village. Only the west end of this hamlet is within the manor of Ightham, the remainder being in Wrotham. Variants—Barrow (1587); Barowe (1594); Borrow (1598); Borrough (1697); Burow (1713); and others.

The name is commonly referred to a small mound, now built over, which lay a few yards south of the (modern) church. Benjamin Harrison examined this mound when it was cut through, and found only a natural hillock with a capping of undisturbed river gravel. There was also a field on Borough Green farm called Barrow Field (1625), but its situation is uncertain.

REDWELL: s., $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south-west of Ightham village. The name is generally associated with the colour of a local spring.

The spelling Redwell is usual but Readwell is also found. The name first occurs in the records in 1588.

BEWLEY : s., 1 mile south of Ightham village. The derivation from *beau lieu*, a name given to the locality, perhaps, by a Norman settler who was impressed by the great view which it commands, is generally accepted. Variants—Beawle (1495); Bewlew (1592); Beawliw (1607); and also Bewlie, Beawley, Bewlay, Bewlye, and others.

IVY HATCH : s., nearly 2 miles south of Ightham village. Local tradition connects the name with Ivo de Haut, an early owner of the neighbouring estate of the Mote. This explanation is unsatisfying. The spelling at different times may in this instance afford a clue to a more likely derivation. In the Court Rolls from 1425 till 1588 it is always Hevyhacche, Hevyhach, Hevyehatche, or a similar variant. Ive hache and Ivyhatche (both probably pronounced with an initial e-sound) appear in 1589, and thereafter the initial I is common. The hamlet stood on the northern edge of the Weald forest, and hatch may safely be taken in its usual sense of gate. If Hevy is related to Saxon *heafod*, head, the name means high-gate, which admirably described the situation of the place.

THE MOTE : s., 2½ miles south of Ightham village, in the Weald below Ivy Hatch. The name is commonly referred to Saxon *mot*, a moot or assembly, rather than to the moat which surrounds the Mote house. Mote occurs in the Court Rolls as a personal name in 1425; as a place name it appears in 1570, together with Moote. Moat occurs for the first time in 1710.

Alphabetical List of Place Names.

The following alphabetical list includes all the Ightham place names, and a few others, which have been found in the records.

ABLOTTs : s., unknown. "Certain parcels of land called Skreks and Ablotts" (1506).

THE ACRE (1591) : s., at Borough Green. Possibly the same as Brown acre. The word evidently has its old meaning, field or land, as The Acre has an area of 3 acres.

ADAMES (1461) : s., near Redwell. Variant—Adams (1491).

ALDULFS : s., unknown. Occurs only in "William Godyng of Aldulfs" (1492).

ASHEWELL (1618) : s., a roadside spring by the highway between the Mote and Ivy Hatch, at a point where a footpath comes in from Ivy Hatch Plain. The name Ashewell is not now used, but the water is still surrounded by ash trees.

BALDWINS (1697) (Owned by William Baldwyn¹) : s., a house in Ightham village.

THE BANK (1741) : a name still in general use to describe the rising ground on the south side of Ightham village street, on which stands a row of ancient cottages.

BARNE CROFTE (1701) : s., at Oldbury. A barn stood on the site within living memory.

BARNE CROFTE (1592) : s., on Chaltons (now the Warren) farm.

BARR FIELD (1777) : s., at Oldbury.

BARROW FIELD (1625) : s., at Borough Green, *q.v.*

BASTED MILL : s., on the Shode stream, 1 mile south-east of Ightham village, and outside the manor of Ightham. The "mill of Berstede" is mentioned in a record of a case of debt in 1504. See also Busty, *post*.

BAY SHAW : s., on the Shode stream, west of Ightham church. There was a water mill at Ightham, which tradition placed at Bay Shaw, where the remains of a mill dam can still be traced. The name occurs on an undated map.

THE BEACON (1618) : s., on the summit of Beacon (or Raspit) Hill, north-west of Ivy Hatch. It was one of a chain of ancient signalling beacons—see Vol. XLVIII, p. 195.

BEACON HILL (1710) : see The Beacon.

BEAR FIELD : s., at Oldbury. Variants—Berefeild (1556) ; Barecroft (1743) ; Barefield (Tithe map). There is no evidence to connect the name with bear, the animal.

¹ Personal names, such as this, given in these notes, though inserted as pointers to likely derivations of place names, are not to be taken to imply that it was necessarily the particular individual mentioned from whom a place took its name.

BELLOWS LANE (1501) : s., adjoins Conyerd and Courtmede, and is probably identical with a footpath crossing those fields and running from near Ightham village to Borough Green.

HENRY BENEYTS (1556) (Henry Beneyt, 1425) : s., at Oldbury.

BERDS (1601) : s., uncertain, probably the same as Birds Hill.

BEWLEY : one of the eight hamlets, see page 65.

BEWLEY CROFTE (1598) : s., at Bewley.

BEWLEY FARM (1749) : s., at Bewley.

BEWLEY GREENE (1597) : s., at Bewley, possibly in front of the old house belonging to Bewley Farm, which lies well back from the road. There is no still existing green at Bewley.

BEWLEY PLAYNE (1555) : s., at Bewley.

BEWLEYS (1764) : s., at Bewley.

BIRCHAMS : s., a field on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm. The name occurs in a Court Roll of 1592 as "Boots Home alias Burcham" and "Botsholme alias Burcham", and in 1705 as Birchhams.

BIRDS HILL (1705) : s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm. Probably the same as Berds.

BORNE CROFT : s., at Oldbury. Variants—Bournefeldys (1425) ; Bornefeld (1500) ; Barnefeild (1553) ; Borne Crofte, Upper Borne Crofte *alias* Northe Borne Croft, Myddell Borne Crofte, Sowthborne Crofte (1564). A field, once several small fields, at Oldbury, which were claimed both by Ightham and by Wrotham parishes but were allotted to Wrotham by a legal decision¹. There is no bourne in the locality and the modern name, Barn Field, probably explains the old name also.

BOROUGH GREEN : one of the eight hamlets, see page 64.

.BOROUGH GREEN FIELD : s., west of Borough Green.

UPPER BOSSES and LOWER BOSSES (1618) : s., fields south-west of Ivy Hatch.

¹ Bing *v.* Hooper, see Section (x), post, p. 83.

BOUNDÉS LONG CROFTE, BOUNDÉS SQUARE CROFTE (1637) (John Bownde, 1497) : s., fields adjoining Mill Lane, on its south side. Boundés Long Crofte is now called Long Field.

BOUNDS TENEMENT (1594) (owned by William Bounde) : s., probably the same as the farm known at different times as Trices, Hatches, and Trice Well.

BRAKINS (1705) : s., a field on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm.

BRAMBLIE FIELD (1638) : s., uncertain, probably north of Oldbury Hill, and perhaps in Wrotham parish.

BREGLOND (1494) : s., unknown.

BROADE SEARE (1592) : s., a field on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm. Variants—Broad Seers, Broad Sare, Brodsere.

BROCKS (1705) : s., a field on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm. An entry of 1592, recording the sale of Chaltons, includes in the parcels of land sold "Red Conye Brooke". The reference of 1705, "one piece of land called Redd Conies, one piece of land called Brocks or Six Acres", makes it plain that "Red Conye Brooke" was not a single field. There is no brook near the land and "Brooke" should probably read "Brocke".

BROMTYE (1492) : s., uncertain, probably north-west of Oldbury Hill. Variants—Bromtyes, Brontyes, Bruntyes, Bronty, Brontye. The name occurs about a dozen times between 1492 and 1507, but not later. The 1492 reference is, "three acres of land called Bromteye and four daywarcs of woods at a place called Marlput." The identification of Brontye depends on Marlput being the same as a field and wood now called Clay Pits.

BROOMS : Variants—Broom, Broomes, Bromeyfelde, Bromefeild. There are several fields bearing this name in one of its forms. One such field is situated north-east of Oldbury Hill. The earliest reference is Bromefeild (1556). The shrub, broom, is common in the district, and probably accounts for the name.

BROWNACRE (1506) : s., a field at Borough Green, adjoining Conyerd on the east. Probably the same as The Acre.

BROWNES (1497) : s., on the Mote estate. "Divers parcels of land called Personeslonds, and Dynes, and Brownes."

BUDS PLAINE (1602) : s., south-west of the Mote, and outside the manor.

THE BULL (1598): s., adjoining Ightham village. The first reference, 1598, is "a messuage called the Bull and ten acres of land." A record of 1739 describes the property as "near adjoining to the George inn." The land called the Bull is now occupied with a house and general shop situated within a few yards of the George and Dragon inn. This shop, on the authority of Benjamin Harrison, stands on the site of "a fine old place, now pulled down". It may be conjectured that the "fine old place" once bore the sign of a bull.

BURNFIELD (1497): s., unknown.

BUSTY: the stream, also called the Shode, which flows through Ightham village. Symonson's map, 1596, gives Shod. The Court Rolls give Bustie (1573); Bustour¹ (1597); "the east side of the water-course or Burstowe" (1698). The stream, often dry, is from time to time a rushing torrent, hence, perhaps, the name, a burster or bustler. The word Basted, a hamlet which lies on the Busty, may have the same root. There is also a Busty at Borough Green, and Captain H. W. Knocker has informed the writer that the word Busty and its variants were also in common use in Westerham manor.

BUTFIELD (1625): s., a large field north of Ightham village. Variants—Butt Field, Butts Field. The name points to use for archery.

CARRIERS LAND (1638) (Martin Carier, 1590): s., unknown.

CARVER'S FIELD (1566): s., "one parcel of launde called Carvers felde lying upon Longestrete Lane."

CASTELL (1497): s., unknown. There is also a reference of 1586 to "Castell lands". There is no castle in Ightham.

CHALTONS (1490): s., south-east of Ightham village. The name occurs about fifty times in the Court Rolls. It refers to a farm now called the Warren.

CHARLTONS GREEN (1705) :	} s., on Chaltons farm. The names occur in connection with an apportionment of the quit rent of Chaltons.
LITTLE CHARLTONS (1705) :	
LOWER CHARLTONS (1705) :	

CHARTE (1504): s., in and near the valley now called Styants Bottom, which lies west of Oldbury Hill, adjoining Seal Chart. This west end of the manor includes part of the common, but the

¹ Or Bustoum.

common as a whole is never called a chart. It seems to be association with the adjoining Seal Chart that gave a corner of Ightham manor the name Charte.

CHARTE BOTTOME (1604): s., the valley now called Styants Bottom.

CHARTE HILL (1593): s., at Charte.

CHEQUERS INN (1764): s., in Ightham village.

CHURCH FIELD (1504): s., north and west of Ightham church.

CHURCH FURZE FIELD: s., west of Ightham church. Part of this field has been taken into the churchyard.

CHURCH GREEN (1726): s., a strip of manor waste adjoining the churchyard.

CLAGGATTES (1605) (James Claggate, 1586): s., unknown.

Co (1586): occurs in a rental of 1586. Thomas Ware, who occupied copyhold land near Copthall, is given as the holder of Co. Possibly the scribe who prepared the rental began to write Copthall or copyhold, but forgot to finish the word.

COCKLEBRIDGE FIELD (1625) (William Cockerell, 1586): s., adjoining the highway, by a crossing over a stream, about half way between Ightham village and Borough Green. For a conjectural linking of the personal name Cockerell with Cockle bridge, Dockrell bridge, and Dark hill, see Vol. XLVIII, p. 194.

COHILDS (1495): s., uncertain, probably near Stonestapps, which lies near Ightham village on the south side of the road leading to Borough Green. Cohilds is named in an alienation which also includes Stonestapps.

COLBRANDS (1507): s., unknown.

CONYERD (1501): s., a field lying east of the Shode stream, between Ightham village and Borough Green. Variants—Conyngerd (1505); Great Coney Earth (1637). A sandy field which was long a haunt of "conies". A poaching case of 1505 refers to the rabbits in Conyngerd and an adjoining field, Ovyches.

COOKS (Thomas Coke, 1493): s., immediately west of Ightham village, now a wheelwright's premises and forge. Variants—Coks (1493); Cookes (1633).

COPTHALL (1710): s., east of the hamlet of Redwell, on a hilltop, but derivation from copp, head, is not suggested, nor is a hall known to have existed. Variants (not in the Court

Rolls)—Cophold (Tithe book, 1770); Cophall (Highways book, 1783); Cophall Field (Tithe map). The land concerned is described many times in manor rentals as copyhold land, and there were other parcels of such land adjoining. This little group of holdings may have been known as the copyholds, and Copthall and Cophall may be merely a corruption of copyhold.

COTKINS (1505): s., adjoining Long Street Lane. Variant—Codkins (1589).

COURT LODGE: the hall of the lord of the manor, where the Courts were, no doubt, originally held. "The capital message or Court Lodge of Itham" (1595); "*In domo mansionali vocat'* Ightam Court lodg" (1598).

COURT MEAD: s., south-east of the Court Lodge. Variants—Courtmede (1501); Courtfeld (1506).

CREPHAM (1592): s., on the Mote estate.

CROWN POINT (1780): s., about 1½ miles west of Ightham village on the road leading to Sevenoaks. The locality took its name from Crown Point in Canada (which it is said to resemble closely), the scene of a victory won by Sir Jeffery Amherst over the French in 1759. See also Vol. XLVIII, p. 211.

CUNNEY FIELD: s., near the Court Lodge. Variants—Conyfield (1625). Probably, like Conyerd, the field owes its name to the rabbits.

THE DEANS: s., a field on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm. Variants—Upper Deane, Middle Deane, Lower Deane (1592); Deanes (1705). A valley crosses the farm, and, no doubt, accounts for the name, Dean.

DOLEDENE¹ (1598): s., unknown, possibly in Wrotham parish.

DOLEFELDE¹ (1618): s., near Ivy Hatch.

DOUBLE DANCE: s., a field lying south of Mill Lane². Variants—Dowble Dawnce (1553); Duble Dawnces (1554); Dowble Dawnces (1556).

DOWLES¹ (1739): s., near Ivy Hatch.

¹ Dole or dowl has several meanings, which are usually associated with dividing, or sharing out. An unploughed space left in tilling a field was called a dole, as also was a part of a field in which several persons had a share.

² Double Dance was wrongly called an Oldbury field name at *Arch. Cant.*, XLV, p. 160. It is about half a mile from Oldbury and is nearer to Ightham village.

DURRANTS CROFTE (1650) (William Durrant, 1602): s., a field at Borough Green. Probably the same as Potkyns.

DYNES (1497): s., on the Mote estate. See Brownes.

FELOWYSLOND (1425): s., on the south side of Mill Lane. Variants—Felowes lond (1504); Feloweslands (1507); Fallowesland (1595); "fallow land" (1673). The last variant occurs in a lease and is probably an error made by an engrossing clerk. This land was described in 1595 as on the south side of a highway leading from Ightham to Rochester. Mill Lane runs, more or less, in the direction of Rochester, but it is surprising to find that it was on the normal route to that place, even in early times.

FEN FIELD: s., 1 mile north of Ightham village, near Fen Pond. Variant—Fenne Field (1661). The flat, watery district round Fen Pond sufficiently accounts for the word fen.

FERNHILL: s., a steep slope which rises on the south side of Ightham village street. Variants—Farnehill (1497); Ferne Hill (1698).

FIGN HILL: s., on the northern slopes of Oldbury Hill. The name is found on a map kept with the manor records. Variant—Fane Hill.

FISHERS (1505) (Ellen Fysshier, 1425): s., unknown.

FISHE STREATE (1589): s., about 100 yards south of Ightham village street, on the west side of the Ightham-Tonbridge road. A Court Roll of 1499 mentions John Pelsouth, repier, that is, a carrier of fish by pack-horse from the coast to London and elsewhere. Fishe Streate lies on a route between London and the coast, and may have been associated with a repier's business.

FRANKFIELD (1767): s., near Crown Point, in Seal parish, but abutting on the manor of Ightham.

FULLERS (1554) (William Fuller, 1461): s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm.

FULLERS CROFTE (1616) (Robert Fuller, 1493): s., near Rose Wood.

FURZE FIELD WOOD: s., on Oldbury Hill.

GALLOWES FIELD: s., on Oldbury Hill. Also called Gibbet Field, and, earlier, probably High Field. A gallows was put

up near this field shortly after 1700 for the execution of a murderer.¹

GARNERS (1720) (John Gardiner, 1492) : s., land adjoining Long Street Lane. Variants—Gardners (1721); Gardeners (1743).

GEORGE AND DRAGON INN (1697) : s., in Ightham village. The inn bears the date 1515. The Manor Courts were held at this inn from 1697 onwards and perhaps earlier.

GEORGIES (1722) : s., at Ivy Hatch. Variant—Georges.

GODCROFT (1500) : s., a field lying $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Ightham village, adjoining Redegrove. Now called Seven Acres. Derivation from good croft is unlikely, the soil is too sandy. As regards the significance of the area of this field, see Vol. XLVIII, p. 196.

THE GORE (1503) : s., uncertain, but somewhere "in the village of Ightham". Variant—The Goore (1505). There is also a reference of 1564 to "The Goore", lying somewhere near Oldbury. A triangular piece of land was called a gore.

THE GRANDS : s., north-west of Oldbury Hill, in Wrotham parish. Variants—Great Graunge and Little Graunge (1638-9); Grange (1805).

GRAYES BURIE FIELD (1638) : s., uncertain, probably north of Oldbury Hill, in Wrotham parish.

THE GROVE (1566) : s., on the north-east slope of Oldbury Hill. Variant—Groove. A number of pieces of woodland lying on and near this hill are called groves, e.g. Patch Grove, Walgrove, Redegrove. In other parts of the manor such small woods are called shaws.

HASILMANS : s., a field lying north-west of Ightham rectory. Variants—The Hasyll (1425), which, however, cannot be certainly identified with Hasilmans; Hasylmans (1491); Hasylmannys (1494).

HATCHES (1710) (William Hatch, 1586) : s., east of Ightham village, and now called Trice Well. Variant—Hatchers (1749).

HATTERS : s., south of Ightham village, opposite Prestons. Variants—Hatterys (1461); Hattors (1777); and Hatton (probably a mistake) in late rentals.

¹ See *Ightham : the Story of a Kentish Village*, at page 66, F. J. Bennett, 1907.

THE HELDE (1462) : s., unknown. The name does not occur after 1497.

HEMINGS DEAN (1556) : s., a valley running east from the foot of Oldbury Hill. Variants—Hemyngsdeyn (1650) ; Hemming Dean (1741).

HERRING FIELD : s., north-west of Ightham village, now part of a piece of woodland called Heron Shaw. Herring is probably a corruption of heron, but both names are comparatively modern, the old name of this land being Redegrove.

HIGH CROSS (1602) : s., cross-roads east of Ivy Hatch.

HIGH FIELD : s., on a prominent ridge east of Ightham village. Variants—Hyghfeld (1492) ; Hyfeld (1506).

HIGH FIELD : s., on Oldbury Hill, probably an older name for Gallows Field.

HIGHFIELD WOOD (1600) : s., east of Ightham village on the hanger of the Shode gorge.

HIGHE GROVE (1590) : s., uncertain, probably one of the groves on Oldbury Hill.

HOLMELAND (1592) : s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm.

HOME CLOSE : s., at Oldbury.

HOME CROFT (1501) : s., east of Ightham village, adjoining High Field on its west side.

HOME FIELD (1625) : s., south of the Court Lodge.

HOME FIELD : s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm. Variant—Holmefeild (1592).

IGHTHAM : one of the eight hamlets, see page 64.

IGHTHAM CHURCH : s., north of the village. Often mentioned in describing the situation of land, e.g. "lying to the highway leading between Ightam church and Heavy Hatche" (1592).

IGHTHAM COMMON (1553) : s., on the west side of the manor. See Section (j), Vol. XLVIII, p. 204.

IGHTHAM CROSS (1492) : s., uncertain, probably the cross-roads by the Cob-tree inn, west of Ightham village.

IGHTHAM PARK (1657) : s., north of the Court Lodge, all but a small portion lying in Wrotham parish. Ightham Park

was also, and more accurately, called the West Park of Wrotham manor, to which it belonged. It was disparked before Lambarde wrote his *Perambulation of Kent* (1570).

ISLES : s., on the north side of Mill Lane, partly in Wrotham parish. Variants—Hyles (1698) ; Hiles.

IVES (1500) : s., a field on the north-east side of Oldbury Hill, in Wrotham parish. Variant—Hives.

IVY HATCH : one of the eight hamlets, see page 65.

KILN FIELD : s., (a) west of the Court Lodge ; (b) on the northern slope of Oldbury Hill. There are several fields of this name.

KINGS (1633) (John Kyng, 1425) : the same as Hatters.

LEFT HAND MEADOW : s., south-west of the Court Lodge.

LITTLE CROFT (1705) : s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm.

LITTLE FIELD : s., north of Oldbury Hill.

LITTLE MEAD : s., near Long Street Lane. Variant—The Meade (1588).

LONGCROFT (1640) : the same land as Boundes Long Crofte. Variant—Longfield.

LONGDYENES (1499) : s., unknown. Variants—Longdynys (1505) ; Longdyns (1506) ; Longdynes (1507). Not mentioned after 1507.

LONG STREET, OR LONG STREET LANE : s., an old lane running south from Ightham Cross (Cob-tree inn) towards Redwell hamlet. Variants—Longstrete (1497) ; Longstrete Lane (1566) ; Longstead Lane (current).

LORDS CROFT (1598) : s., near Ightham village, adjoining the Ightham-Tonbridge road. It seems to have been an isolated parcel of land belonging to the lord of the manor, hence its name.

HENRY MADDOX'S TENEMENT (1777) (Henry Maddox, 1697) : s., at Oldbury. The same property as Roundabout Field.

MARLPUT (1492) : s., uncertain, perhaps the same as Clay Pits, on the north-west of Oldbury Hill.

MARTINS (1741) (Nicholas Martin, 1697) : the same as Hatters.

MERYMANS (1506) (Geoffrey Meryman, 1500) : s., near Rose Wood.

MIDDLEFEILD (1591) : s., unknown, possibly near Mill Lane.

MIDDLEFEILD (1673) : s., west of Oldbury Hill, at Chart Bottom.

MILLERS (1685) (Nicholas Myller, 1586) : s., unknown.

MILL LANE : s., a lane running from the Ightham-Tonbridge road, near Ightham village, towards Basted mill. Variants—Mellane (1438) ; Millane (1590) ; Millende Lane (1614), probably intended for " the end of Mill Lane " ; Myll Lane (1698) ; Millhouse Lane (1782). This lane is also called Basted Lane.

MILL LANE CROFT : s., adjoining Mill Lane. Variants—Millande Crofte (1598) ; Millane Crofte (1675).

THE MORE (1503) : s., east of Oldbury Hill.

THE MOORS : s., near Rose Wood. Variants—The More (1461) ; The Mores (1503). See Moresoles.

MORESOLLES : s., near Rose Wood. The Moors, Moresoles, and Rose Wood, which lie close together, cannot be definitely separated from one another. There are wide variants—Moresole (1490) ; Mossels (1588) ; Moresoles (1592) ; Musols (1598) ; Mossalls (1603) ; Mugsolles (1612) ; Morzells (1618). The locality was boggy till about 1857, when it was drained, and the word may mean moor ponds. Moors-holes, the holes in the moors, by reference to the pits of unknown age in and near Rose Wood, of which there are about sixty, deserves mention as a conjecture.

MOREWELL (1503) : s., a spring beside a lane running south from Oldbury hamlet. It was on the edge of the moorland below Oldbury Hill, and was plainly the moor well.

MOREWELL LANE (1797) : s., the lane (now called Spring Lane) mentioned under Morewell.

THE MOTE : one of the eight hamlets, see page 65.

MOTE FIELD (1661) : s., near the Court Lodge, on its northern side, in Ightham Park. The name may be confidently associated with a moated mound which is within the grounds of the manor house.

MUDDLES : s., near the Harrow inn, Redwell. Variants—Modele (1438); Modles (1593); Modleis (1593); Mudlers (1601); Moulders (1609); Mudles (1739); Muddles (1764). Hawkes Mudlers (1618) is, no doubt, the same property, as Mudlers was alienated by Reginald Hawkes in 1611.

NEWGATE (1719) : s., at Chart Bottom. "A tenement at Chart called Newgate House" (1767). The house has been demolished and the site is occupied by modern cottages.

NEWGATE FIELD (1673) : s., at Chart Bottom, adjoining Newgate House. The same land as Middlefeild.

THE NEW HOUSE (1712) : s., "a messuage called the New House on the east side of Ightham town". This house is now known as Dunsdale.

LITTLE NORTHFIELD (1638) : s., north of Oldbury Hill.

OAK FIELD (1661) : s., west of the Court Lodge.

OLDBERRY (1767) : s., a house at Oldbury, now known as Oldbury House.

OLDBURY : one of the eight hamlets, see page 64.

OLDBURY HILL FARM (1721) : s., near Oldbury hamlet.

OLDBURY HILL (1503) : s., the summit of the hill is about 1 mile south-west of Ightham village. See the particulars given under Oldbury (hamlet), page 64.

OLDBURY STREET (1503) : s., in the hamlet of Oldbury.

OLDBURY WOOD (1777) : s., the southern part of Oldbury Hill and the surrounding slopes. Variants—Great Oldberry Wood and Little Oldberry Wood, the latter being the woodland lying along Chart Bottom.

OLD FENNS LANE (1739) : s., north-west of Ightham village. Also known, at different periods, as Chapel Lane (modern), Gardener's Lane and Redgrove Lane. Thomas Fenn owned adjoining land in 1739. Thomas a Fen, 1497, may have taken his name from the fenny land near Fen Pond. Thomas Fenn, 1739, perhaps a descendant, passed the name on to the lane next to his property, where there are no fens.

OLD ORCHARD (1616) : s., on Trice Well farm.

OVYCHES (1505) : s., south of Borough Green, adjoining Conyerd. Variants—Oviges (1604); Ovidges or Ovags (1700).

PARKERS (1556) (Thomas Parker, 1425): s., at Oldbury.

THE PARSONAGE (1634): s., south-west of Ightham village; now the Rectory.

PARSONAGE LANE (1634): s., south-west of Ightham village. Variant—Parsons Lane (1741). Now called Rectory Lane.

PARSONS: s., two fields called Lower Parsons and Upper Parsons lying on the north side of the Ightham-Oldbury lane.

PARSONS BROOMS: s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm. Variants—Parsons Broome (1592); Parsham Bromes (1673); Parkhams Brooms (1675).

PATCHES (William Pach, 1461): s., about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Ightham village at Cophthall or Woodsgate Plain. Variant—Paches (1558).

PATCH GROVE (1624): s., woodland north of Oldbury Hill, in Wrotham parish. Variant—Patts Grove.

PECKHAM'S BROOME (1701): s., at Ivy Hatch.

PERSONESLONDS (1497): s., on the Mote estate. Variants—Personeslond (1499); Parsonsland (1592). See Brownes.

PETHAM (1588): s., between Ightham village and Redwell. Variants—The Pettham field (1720); The Petthams (1721); Great Pithams Field, Little Pithams (1797); Great Petham, Little Petham (1839).

PHEASANT FIELD (1661): s., near the Court Lodge.

THE PLASIO (1500): s., in Conyerd. Possibly not a place name. The only reference is "Henry Hasytherst broke down thorns and underwood of the lord called the Plasio in the Conyerd". The reading, Plasio, is doubtful, the original being almost illegible.

PLOUGH INN: s., at Ivy Hatch. Variant—Plow (1741).

POLLARDS (1592):
 POLLARDS BROOKS (1592): } s., on the Mote estate.

POTKYNS (1612): s., at Borough Green. Bought by William Durrant in 1608, and probably the same as Durrants Crofte.

PRESTONS (1590) (John Preston, 1461): s., south of Ightham village.

PRESTONS ORCHARD (1698): s., east of the Shode stream.

RAUDONS HOOKE : s., near the east side of Oldbury Hill.
Variant—Randons Hooke (1625).

RED CONIES : s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm.
Variants—Red Conye Brooke (1592) [but for Brooke, see Brocks] ;
Red Conies (1705).

REDEGROVE (1495) : s., woodland lying $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north-west
of Ightham village. Now called Heron Shaw. The soil is dry,
and association with reeds is unlikely.

REDEGROVE CROFT (1625) : s., near Redegrove.

REDEGROVE LANE (1625) : s., a lane or path leading from
Ightham Cross (the Cob-tree inn) towards Redegrove. Also
known by other names—see Old Fenns Lane.

REDWELL : one of the eight hamlets, see page 64.

THE REEDE (1657) : s., east of the Court Lodge, but precise
situation not known. The vicinity is watery, and reed is a likely
derivation.

REYNOLDS HOOKE (1566) : s., probably east of Oldbury
Hill. Variant—Reinolds Hooke.

ROSE WOOD : s., about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile south-west of Ightham
village, and $\frac{1}{3}$ mile north of Ivy Hatch. Variants—Russe (1490) ;
Rus (1491) ; Rolfs Wode (1505) ; Rolfs Grove (1507) ; Rowys
Wood (1554) ; Rowles Wood (1593) ; Rows Wood (1710) ; Rose
Wood (1797). The early references couple "Russe" with
"Moresole", e.g. "Lands called Moresole and Russe" (1490).

Rose Wood lies below Raspit Hill, and the similarity of
"rus" and "ras" suggests a common root. The name Rose
Wood is now commonly applied only to a few acres of woodland,
older references cover a more extensive area. See also More-
soles, and Section (i)—Ightham Sand, Vol. XLVIII, at p. 203.

ROUNABOUT FIELD (1767) : s., at Oldbury. Formerly
called Henry Maddox's tenement. A house once stood on this
field. Roundabout Field was a playground about 1820, and
perhaps much earlier, but there is no evidence of use for games,
etc., before the house was built. The suggestion that the site
may have been used for "ancient assemblies", made at *Arch.
Cant.* XLV, 160, therefore lacks confirmation.

ST. CLERE : one of the eight hamlets, see page 63.

SANDEFIELD (1638) : } s., uncertain, probably north of Old-
 SATSOLLS (1638) : } bury Hill, in Wrotham parish.

SCATTIS LANE (1493) : s., the road leading from Ivy Hatch to the Mote.

SELYARD MILLERS (1697) (Henry Selliard, 1634 ; Richard Myller, 1586) : s., unknown.

SEVEN WENTS (1586) : s., about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile south-west of Ightham village, under the south point of Oldbury Hill. Seven ways meet here, and are numbered on the plan printed at *Arch. Cant.* XLV, 144. Nos. 5 and 2 represent the turnpike road running from Ightham towards Sevenoaks, which was not made till about 1750. The appearance of the name, Seven Wents, in 1586, implies either that the turnpike followed the course of an earlier road, or that two other old roads converged on this point. There are traces of old, disused tracks at Seven Wents, and although the former alternative cannot be definitely rejected, the latter seems the likelier explanation.

SHODS (1495) (Simon Shode, 1425) : s., unknown. Shods may be derived from the personal name, which itself may have been given to a family living by the Shode stream.

SIX ACRES (1705) : another name for Brocks.

SKREKS (1506) : s., unknown. See Ablotts.

SLIPP (1657) : s., north-east of the Court Lodge, possibly in Wrotham parish.

SPREAD EAGLE (1710) : s., an alehouse, now two cottages, standing on The Bank in Ightham village. The house ceased to be an alehouse before 1805.

STANFELD (1705) : s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm.

STANGATE (1604) :
 STANGATE BRIDGE (c. 1750) : } s., south of Borough Green,
 STANGATE CROSSE (1590) : } and outside the manor of
 Ightham.

STONEACRE (1496) : s., uncertain, but adjoins Wythfeld. Possibly the same as Stone Acres.

STONEACRE (1566) : s., at Oldbury.

STONE ACRES (1657) : s., east of the Court Lodge.

STONE CROFTS: s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm. Variant—Stonye Crofte (1592).

STONE FEILD (1591): s., on Trice Well farm. Variants—Stonye field (1594); Stony feild (1616). The references may not all relate to the same land.

STONEHILL (1506): s., uncertain, probably near Ightham church.

STONE STEPS: s., a field lying east of Ightham village, at a point where a footpath (Bellows Lane) leaves the road and, after crossing the Shode stream, runs towards Borough Green. Variant—Stonestapps (1495). The name plainly indicates that the stream was once crossed by stepping stones.

STONY STEPPS (1698): s., in Ightham village, probably near Trice Well.

STYBYS ASSHE (1557): s., unknown.

THE SWERE (1507): s., unknown.

SYNS (1554): s., unknown.

TEBBS: s., once a farm, lying east of the Ightham village-Ivy Hatch road. Variants—Tebbis (1556); Tebbes (1586); Tebbs (1616); Tebs (1710).

THONG LANE: s., a road running south from Borough Green towards Plaxtol. Variant—Tong Lane (1650).

TIRKES (1586) (John Turke, 1500): s., unknown.

THE TOLL: s., a strip of woodland lying north-west of Oldbury Hill, once known as Walgrove.

TOWN HOUSE (1710): s., in Ightham village, adjoining the George and Dragon inn. Town House seems to have been Town farm house, i.e. the house belonging to the town (village) farm.

TRELAWNEYS: s., at Borough Green. Variants—Trelawnys (1710); Trellawnays (1713). Freelawneys also occurs in manor rentals, but this form may be due to a copyist's error.

TRICE LANE (1593): s., a lane leading from Ightham village to Trice Well.

TRICE WELL, also TRICES (Thomas Tryce, 1438) : s., east of Ightham village. Variants—Tricewell (1592); Trices (1616); Thrice Well (1650); Trysses (1713); Tryces (1717). Trice Well is, strictly, a spring on the farm called Trices, but the former name has also been appropriated by the farm. This farm was also known for a period as Hatches, and probably as Bounds Tenement.

TRUNCHMUDLE (1610) : s., uncertain, perhaps near Muddles. Trunchmudle and Hawkes Mudlers may represent the parts of a divided Muddles, but definite evidence is lacking.

USSHERS (1556) : s., unknown.

WALDERS (1556) : s., at Oldbury. Now called Old Bury Hall.

WALGROVE (1631) : s., woodland lying north-west of Oldbury Hill, now called The Toll. The prehistoric earthworks which enclose Oldbury hill fort run through Walgrove, which, plainly, is the wall-wood.

WALLEHACCH (1500) : s., the north-east gateway of Oldbury hill fort. See Vol. XLVIII, p. 191.

WATERFIELD (1631) : s., a field on the north side of Oldbury Hill. Possibly the same as Water Place.

WATERFIELD SPRING (1631) : s., north-west of Oldbury Hill. The name occurs in a lease of "Walgrove, Waterfield, Waterfield Spring and Brooms, and all woods and underwoods . . . which shall renew and grow upon the springs which are within Walgrove, and all the woods which . . . shall renew and grow upon the land called Waterfield Spring". Waterfield Spring, therefore, is land bearing springing wood, the word Spring having no reference to water.

WATERFLASH : s., in the centre of Oldbury hill fort. Variant—Water Plashett (1598). The name means water splash or plash, see Vol. XLVIII, p. 195.

LOWER WATER PLACE :	} s., two fields on the north side of Oldbury Hill. Possibly the same as Waterfield.
UPPER WATER PLACE :	

WEBBS : s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm. Variants—Webysfeld (1508); Webb (1592); Webbs (1705).

WEBBS MEADE (1661) : s., west of the Court Lodge.

WEBBS SHAW (1705) : s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm.

WEIKE and WEIKE FARM (1657) : s., east of the Court Lodge. Probably the same as a farm now called Cricketts.

WELL FIELD (1588) : s., at Petham. A spring, of which there are several in the locality, no doubt accounts for the name.

WEST CROWCHE (1466) : s., unknown, but within Ightham Manor and therefore not to be associated with the hamlet of Crouch, 2 miles south-east of Ightham.

WETHER CHOCKE (1592) : s., on the Mote estate.

WISEFIELD : s., on Chaltons, now the Warren, farm. Variant—Wisfeild (1592).

WILLYAMSLAND (1500) : s., near Rose Wood.

WODEGATE (1491) : s., between Ightham village and Ivy Hatch, including the area now called Copthall. Wodegate was, no doubt, the wood gate. It lay on the eastern border of the common.

WOODSGATE PLAIN (1712) : the same as Wodegate.

WYBURNES (1764) (Richard Wybarn, 1491) : s., near Redwell. Variant—Wybornes (1767).

WYTHFELD (1496) : s., uncertain, probably north-east of Ightham village.

Section (x)—BING v. HOOPER, AN ELIZABETHAN TITHE CASE.

A deep indentation in the northern boundary of Ightham parish¹ brings the Wrotham border to the door of an old farm-house at Oldbury, and takes into Wrotham the farm buildings which lie immediately behind the house. This indentation consists of a field, now called Barn Field, which was formerly three small fields known as the Borne Crofts. The tithe of Middle Borne Croft was claimed by the tithe owners of both parishes, Ightham and Wrotham, and about the years 1564-6 there was litigation to determine the parish in which the field lay. The judgement seems to have gone

¹ *I.e.* the parish as it existed before 1934, when certain changes were made.

in favour of Wrotham, but we are here concerned less with the result of the case than with some of the statements made by witnesses whose written depositions have been preserved.

Robert Bing, or Byng, the plaintiff, was the lord of the manor and tithe owner of Wrotham; John Hooper, the defendant, was a rector of Ightham. Thomas Willoughby, lord of the manor of Ightham, and William Herde, also a rector of Ightham, were also cited in the case. The dispute was one of long standing.

The depositions include statements by eleven witnesses for Ightham and ten for Wrotham. The tenor of the evidence of the Ightham witnesses is all to the effect that the field was known to them to lie in Ightham parish, while the Wrotham witnesses all testified to the contrary. There is much repetition in the evidence, and the extracts reproduced below are confined to passages in which witnesses have strayed a little from the tedious, common path.

The tithe was taken in kind. The Rev. John Hooper stated that "in the right of the . . . parsonage of Itham in the laste harvest tyme this respondent did perceve and take a coppe and a half of wheate for the tythe." He also "belevethe that the coppe and a halfe . . . was worthe 6s. and no more."

William Pelsatt "hard one John Syfflett say at a lord's courte holden in Itham paryshe . . . that he and William Syfflett his father dyd carrie tythe corne out of the same grownde cauled Borne Crofte, alias Myddle Borne Crofte, unto the parsonage barne in Itham, to the use of Sir William Staneger, the farmer of the parsonage of Itham under Master Dr. Broke, parson of the parsonage of Itham." "And . . . in the fyrste or second yeare of the reigne of owr Sovereigne ladie Queene Elizabeth the deponent went with certayne olde men of the paryshe of Itham in the rogacion weke unto the same grownde . . . wheare he did heare Henrie Hadlowe, being a man of the adge of 76 years, and John Syfflett, beinge a man of the adge of 60 years, say that the same grownde . . . was lyinge within the paryshe of Itham."

Stephen Swanne said that "he himselfe . . . did fetche tythe haye oute of a little medowe nighe unto the same Borne Crofte . . . and brought the same haye unto the parsonage barne of Ithame." And that "the same grownde cauled Borne Crofte . . . is nearer unto the paryshe church of Itham then the same grownde wheare he dyd fetche the same tythe haye . . . of his certayne sight and knowledge."

William Weston stated that "at a leven years paste he . . . toke to farme the parsonage of Itham and all the tythes." In the first year of his farm Borne Crofte was sown with "wheate" of which he took the tithes. In the second year the field was sown with "ots," and, "in the harvest tyme that yeare this deponent beinge then at London when the ots were felled . . . Mr. Binge caused his servaunte to fetche awaye the tythe of the same ots and to conveye them unto the parsonage barne of Wrotham."

He continued in language highly reminiscent of a chapter of the English Bible of 1611. "And the next daye followynge this deponent came unto one William Tyrrie, beinge a man of the adge of 60 years and uppwards, beinge a paryshioner, and lyinge on his deathe bed sicke of a sickness, of the whiche he deceased, and declared unto the said Tyrrie that the sayde Master Binge had caused his servaunte to fetche awaie the tythe ots oute of the sayde Borne Crofte . . . to whom the sayde William Tyrrie made aunswere agayne and said, I am the more sorrie and you have the more wronge. And addinge sayde, for that I am gods prysoner and lyke to go no more uppon the yearthe, I praye you beare witnessse what I shall saye. Sixty years have I knowne this same paryshe and in thirty years in the same tyme I did carrie quietlie nine times the tythe corne of the same grownde unto the parsonage barne of Itham. And I never knew or hard that ever the tythe of the same grownde was carried unto Wrotham but when Mr. Pecham had the parsonage of Wrotham and Itham, bothe at one tyme to farme, and then he might carrye the same whither he wolde : being then preasent and hearinge the same William Tyrrie so report and saye (as he hathe before

deposed) this deponent, Marie his wife, one Sir Godfrey, then curate of Itham, John Syfflett and William Perrie."

Richard Stalie, husbandman, said that "at a 7 or 8 years paste when certaine of the paryshioners of Itham and the curat of the same paryshe went in deambulacion in the rogacion weke, this deponent went with them and dyd see them compasse in the same grownde . . . as grownde lyinge within the . . . paryshe of Itham."

John Talbott related how, when farmer of the parsonage of Ightham, he noted the coppes of wheat on one occasion, and perceived that "there was one coppe dewe for the tythe." He intended to go for this coppe within a day or two, but one, Henry Charlton, farmer of the parsonage of Wrotham, forestalled him, and carried the tithe wheat to Wrotham. Upon this, Talbott "went unto the sayde parsonage of Wrotham to speake with Henrie Charlton . . . and when he came there the sayde Charlton was not at home. Notwithstandinge, this deponent declared unto the sayde Charlton's wife that her husband had done this deponent wronge in takinge away the sayde copp of wheate. . . . The sayde Charleton's wife makinge aunswere agayne sayde, yf he (meaning her husband) have done you anie wronge he will make you recompence for the same." He afterwards received "in recompence of the same at sonderie tymes . . . halfe a quarter of wheate and other grayne whearwithall" he "toke himselfe satisfied for the tythe of the same wheate."

In a second deposition Stephen Swanne tried to create prejudice against several Wrotham witnesses. "Reginalde Pelsatt is tenant to . . . Mr. Binge . . . and verye familiar with him, as moste parte of the reste of his witnesses are." "John Paine, Morgan Hills and Beatrix Stale are pore folks having litle or nothinge to lyve upon." He had heard Beatrix Stale confess that "she knewe 3 closes . . . named Bourne Croftes, but knewe not within what parishe they lay."

Richard Thrupp said that about five or six years ago Morgan Hills took upon himself "to directe and guyde . . . Mr. Binge and others, parishioners of Wrotham, in

there perambulation over . . . landes lyinge in the parishe of Itham . . . to note and shewe them . . . the bounds . . . very affectionately. And that . . . Mr. Willoughby had him . . . in sewte and was allowed 4 marks against him for costs and damages, and by reason hereof . . . Morgan is enemy as moche as in him lieth . . . to . . . Mr. Willoughby, and no indifferent witness."

William Staley stated that he was present with one Henry Geffrey, and by his "commaundemente" went to plough in Borne Crofte which was then in the occupation of John Bennett. "At what tyme . . . a mare of the said Henry Jeffres which this deponent had browght thither to ploughe, did, beinge lett furth of her harnesse from ploughe, fole a colte, for the fall whereof . . . Henry Geffrey did paie to the said John Bennett, then beinge a gatherer of the tithes for Itham parsonage . . . one penny at Easter followinge."

John Applebe, vicar of Wrotham, said that "aboute the thirde yere of King Edwarde the sixte" he was "vicar of Wrotham, and there continued vicar . . . until he was deprived thereof in Quene Marie's tyme for mariage." "Aboute the seconde yere of the Quenes ma^{ties} reigne that nowe is" he was "restored to the said vicaredge of Wrotham."

William Miller tried to restore the reputation of the Wrotham witnesses who had been attacked. He said that John Payne, Morgan Hills, Reynolde Pelsatt, Bettres Staley, Henry Charleton, John Bennett, Thomas Hills and Thomas Powle were "persons of honest fame, name, credit and conversation . . . well able to lyve of themselves . . . and that by there trewe labor and travaill they gett and have competent and suffitient to maintayne and kepe there wives and familie. . . ." Reynolde Pelsatt, he said, "is a freholder of the lorde of Wrotham . . . and for his just dealing in matters was chosen this last yere one of the sesters for the subseddie dewe to the quenes ma^{ties} in the parishe of Wrotham."

It may be mentioned, in conclusion, that the field which was the subject of this litigation, while it is still in the ecclesiastical parish of Wrotham, was transferred to the parish of Ightham for civil purposes on 1 April, 1934.

Section (y)—THE STALEYS AND THEIR ACRE.

A few yards south of the church at Borough Green, a footpath (Bellows Lane) runs westwards towards Ightham village. For a short distance this path forms the northern boundary of a piece of land some three acres in extent, which was once known as the Acre, and was owned by Richard Staley.

Staley had had a chequered career. About the year 1546 he and a companion, Richard Thrupp—one of the witnesses in the case of *Bing v. Hooper*¹—were “accused and detected for stealing of certain shepe of the Lady Grayes, and one Nicholas Hastelyn and others . . . and that thereupon they were sent to Bullen² as laborers, and there continued a certain space.”³ After their return to England Thrupp confessed that, apart from the crime for which they had been transported, he and Richard Staley had stolen from one John Dodge, “at several tymes forty hennes and capons and two fat weathers. . . . The said Mr. Dodge, heringe his confessione, said that for those matters, because they were past longe before, he would forgive him and his cumpanye so that he and they were not hereafter taken with the like. . . .”³

After this incident had been closed Staley settled down at Borough Green as a husbandman, and died, in 1589, a freeholder of the Manor of Ightham, leaving two sons, Walter and George, his co-heirs by the custom of gavelkind.

Walter and George Staley, a year after succeeding to their joint inheritance, partitioned their land, the Acre being

¹ Section (x), *ante*, p. 83.

² Boulogne, at that time an English possession.

³ From the evidence given in the case of *Bing v. Hooper*, Section (x) *ante*, p. 83.

taken in severalty by Walter. His brother George need not concern us further.

Walter Staley sold the Acre to "one William Staley of Barrow Greene," probably a relation, but soon repented of his bargain, for within a year or two he filed a Bill of Complaint to the Lord Chancellor praying for relief. It is to the particulars given in this Bill and to the "Aunswers of William Staley" that we owe our knowledge of the case. In weighing the statements made, it is to be borne in mind that the Bill would be prepared in a lawyer's office at a time when the art of creating prejudice by blackening an opponent's actions and character was commonly practised.

Walter Staley stated that, having become sole proprietor of the Acre, he had "divers earnest suiters unto him to have purchased the sayd land: and might have had a good and Rounde some, that is to say, forty pounds or above . . . for the inheritance thereof." But he "thought it not good to be rashe in the sale thereof, hopeinge to have gotten fivfty pounds or more." But William Staley, "well knoweing the ritchenesse of the sayd land, and that it would yeeild a good vawle for the Quantety thereof, beinge a very conninge, wylye, deceitfull person of smaule ability and lesse credit, devisinge and inventynge how he might by all allurements and enticements compase and decevie." Walter dealt with him "with many faire and large protestes first himself and then by the meanes of his wyfe, a woman of fairer words than condicions and a mete instrument to compasse sutche a matche."

As the outcome, it was agreed that Walter should sell the land to William, and that William should pay £20 for it, and should also find and allow Walter "meete and convenient meat, drinke and lodgeinge dureinge his naturall life." "In affecting whereof," Walter alleged, "William Staley suffered noe time to be lost withall post haste caused a deed of feoffment to be drawne, and never left" Walter "until he had sealed and delivered the same as his said act and deede, and in the night time the same was executed."

William did not pay the £20 at once, but gave Walter 40s. down and created in his favour a rent-charge of 20s. for a term of eighteen years. Walter received "no assurance for his meate, drinke and lodginge" but yet "toke his meate, drinke and lodginge at the house of the sayd William Staley accordinge to the said aggrement."

So far, so good. But William, "haveinge gotten the sayd parcell of land . . . in sutche subtill and deceitfull manner and forme . . . did alsoe shortely after grow weary of" Walter's company, and did utterly deny him "to take any more meat or drinke in his house or to take his lodginge there, saying that he was a combersome guest and troblesome unto him, protesting that he never promised . . . any sutche thinge." Walter admitted that he "hath noe wittnesse . . . deed, or writinge to prove the sayd promise and therefore is utterly voyd of all remedy in the course of the common lawes of this Realme." He therefore petitioned the Lord Chancellor for equitable relief.

William's answers to the Bill tell a rather different story. According to him, Walter "divers and sundrie tymes did move" him to buy the land, which he "often tymes refused to doe. But yet at laste . . ., by reason of the great impportunytie" of Walter, he "yeilded thereunto," and agreed to pay for the land forty shillings down and twenty shillings a year thereafter. He denied that he promised "to fynde and allow unto the complaynaunte meete and convenient meate, drinke and lodginge during the naturall life of the . . . complaynaunte . . . for the said lande is not in his conscience worthe above fiftene shillings by the yere to be letten."

We have no record of the result of this case, but Walter seems to have failed to prove his allegations, and it is difficult to see how he could win. As to the equities of the claim, Walter is not likely to have been more than three score years old at the time of his father's death; and board and lodging for the rest of his life in addition to a payment of £20 (equal, to many times that amount, nowadays) seems far too high a price for three acres of land in a purely rural district.

William Staley was certainly not dispossessed, for in a Court Roll of 1606 it is recorded that

William Staley, who lately held of the lord of this manor a piece of land called the Acre . . . has died since the last Court. . . . Walter Staley is his son and next heir, and is eighteen years of age and more.

The last words of the entry on the Court Roll tell us that young Walter was born a little too soon to have been named after old Walter, following upon a reconciliation. So a happy ending is denied to us.

Section (2)—REVIEW.

An attempt has been made in this paper to extract from the records of the Manor of Ightham everything that, in a broad sense, tells us something about the history of the parish—its changing topography, local government, economic conditions, and the lives of its people. The paper is not, in itself, a history of the place; it is a mass of historical material. Owing to its length there has been little space for comment, beyond what was necessary to explain extracts in the light of a knowledge of the locality. In this final section more latitude has been taken, in order to bring out a few points that deserve further notice.

A village, or a group of hamlets such as Ightham, may be thought of as having grown slowly but more or less continuously round its original centres. This is not true without qualification. We find, for example, in the Court Rolls that have been preserved, a good many references to houses standing on land which is now uncovered, both near the hamlets and in more remote parts of the parish; and there must be many more such references in records that have been lost. The total disappearance of all traces of many ancient buildings must often be due to their having had no below-ground foundations, a well-known feature of many old houses.

The records reveal some of the topographical features of the district three or four centuries ago. The woodland of

Oldbury Hill seems to have changed very little during that time, except by the introduction of the pine tree. The slopes are no longer worked for "walkers earth," but the hill is still as "fitt a place as anye" for conies.¹ The "highway leading between Eyghtham and Sevenoke"² remains as a track, and the wall of the hill fort, though levelled in part, still stands up boldly at Wallehacch.²

The village of Ightham no doubt dates back to Saxon times, the early dwellings having been replaced more than once. Considerable rebuilding seems to have been done in the sixteenth century, when a group of houses was put up round the triangular space which is the centre of the old village. Of these the George and Dragon inn (1515), Skynner's house (1555)³ and Town House (1587) remain, while two others, probably of the same type, have been destroyed almost within living memory. There are other old houses and cottages, on the little rise leading to Tryce Lane and on the neighbouring Bank, and it requires no great effort of the imagination to picture the village as it looked in Elizabethan days.

Between Town House and its opposite neighbour, Skynner's house, was the exit from the village which led to the church, with its ford across the stream for animals and a wooden bridge, often sadly out of repair, for foot passengers. On the other side of Skynner's house a second exit, Busty Lane, followed the bank of the stream in the direction of Borough Green. The open space in front of the houses was a small green, a patch of manor waste, where the village fair was held and where, in all likelihood the stocks were placed. This little green was probably the scene of many of the fights recorded in the Court Rolls,⁴ especially about the time when the ale-houses closed.

From Sections (*i*) and (*j*) we may glean a little, though less than we would wish, about the rights of the commoners of the manor, which included the digging of sand, the use of the common pasture near Ivy Hatch for sheep and cattle,

¹ Vol. XLVIII, p. 178.

³ Vol. XLVIII, p. 192.

² Vol. XLVIII, p. 190.

⁴ Section (*m*), *ante*, p. 3.

and the beating of the forest trees for mast. We learn, too, of many unauthorised acts in relation to the common—tree cutting, hedge breaking and wood stealing: offences for which fines (which could not always be collected) proved insufficient deterrents, and which had to be punished with the stocks.

The Ightham virgate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, which seems fairly established by the evidence,¹ is of more than local interest, and it would be interesting to hear whether this unit is known elsewhere.

Reference has been made² to the forfeiture of the weapon with which a blow was struck, or its value, in cases of assault. The only evidence of such a practice is the record of the value of the offending instrument, which seems to have no purpose unless that of forfeiture. The analogy of the deodand comes to mind, but a deodand was an instrument which caused death, and a similar forfeiture in cases of simple assault seems to be a novelty. Here again it would be interesting to learn what was done in other manors.

There is a single instance in the Court Rolls of the fining of the constables for failure to place a watch at Ightham, namely, at a Court held on 3 October, 1588.³ The date raises the question whether special notice may not have been taken of the neglect owing to the fears roused by the Spanish Armada, which sailed for this country towards the end of July, 1588. Kent was in a danger zone, and the Ightham beacon was a link in one of the chains of national defence,⁴ so we should expect the authorities to be alert at such a time and not lightly to pass over any neglect of a public duty.

Several references to the sale of fish will be found in extracts which are included in this paper, the place name Fish Streate⁵ (situate just outside the village on the way to Tonbridge) occurs, and John Pelsouth, an inhabitant of Ightham, is described as a repier,⁶ or rypier (perhaps from Rye) a carrier of fish from the coast to London by rapid

¹ Vol. XLVIII, p. 196.

⁴ Vol. XLVIII, p. 195.

² Page 3.

⁵ Page 72.

³ Page 30.

⁶ Page 54.

pack-horse transit. Ightham lies on a route between Rye and the Metropolis, and a good deal of the fish traffic may have passed through the village.

Little biographies—of a kind—of many Ightham people can be made up from entries in the Court Rolls. The subjects would generally be undistinguished persons whose lives were unexciting; but the particulars given do at least tell us something that we want to know, namely, how the good folk of Ightham lived several hundred years ago. There are well over 300 entries relating to the Pelsatt family alone, spread over several generations, but their reproduction would fill many pages, and a shorter “biography” of Richard Wellar, may serve to illustrate what may be found in the Court Rolls. The particulars that we have in this case cover only eleven years, 1497-1508, owing to a long break in the records after the latter year.

We first meet with Richard Wellar in 1497-8, as one of several purchasers of a house and garden. In 1499 he sued John (or William) Burdon for a debt of 3s. 8d. He served on juries in 1500, 1504, 1505 and 1506, and was fined once for non-attendance. His wife brewed ale for sale (1504 and 1508) within the area of the taster for Ightham, and also baked bread for sale (1507). He was tithing man in 1505-6.

Wellar was a man of substance who held Chaltons (a large farm), had a servant, William, and probably another servant, Richard Leechford. His possessions included two basins of fine brass, a dun-coloured mare, two oxen, and some notorious hunting dogs. In 1505 he was a joint purchaser of a house and land called Hasylmans, lying near Ightham rectory.

Wellar's dogs killed two of Stephen Bryggs's pigs, and some of Bryggs's pigs destroyed two acres of Wellar's oats. They went to law about it and Wellar had to pay 17d. for the pigs. His dogs also killed a sow belonging to John Lymage, and altogether they must have been a terror to the neighbourhood.

Wellar also appeared in court to answer a claim for the detention of a colt, which he denied, but for which, after the

case had come up seven times, he was ordered to pay 8d. He was fined 4d. in 1507 for digging, without authority, a sand pit at Wodegate (which adjoins Chaltons). John Ivot sued him in the same year, but for what is not stated. Finally, in 1508 he was sued by Ralph Armstrong for the unpaid balance of the price of two oxen, and for 40d. for the ploughing of four acres of land in Webysfeld (one of the Chaltons fields).

There are many individual extracts, printed in these pages, about which something might be said, but they must be left to speak for themselves, for everything must come to an end, even this long paper.