

THE
History and Antiquities
of
WORCESTERSHIRE.



*The History
and
Antiquities
of
Worcestershire
by
Dr T R Nash
Originally published in 1781*

This transcript is of the section relating to

Kidderminster

and is based on Volume 2 of the 2nd edition
published in 1799

Occasionally, words and phrases in this account are expressed in Saxon script. In the absence of a Saxon font, this transcript uses the 'Luminari' font to indicate the Saxons words or phrases.

An example: Usmerum is depicted in faux Saxon script as: **Usmerum**

The original document makes general use of the old English (ƿ) or the (long s). In this transcription we have replaced the old English (ƿ) with the modern (s). Otherwise the spellings adopted in the original document, and printing errors etc., have not been altered.

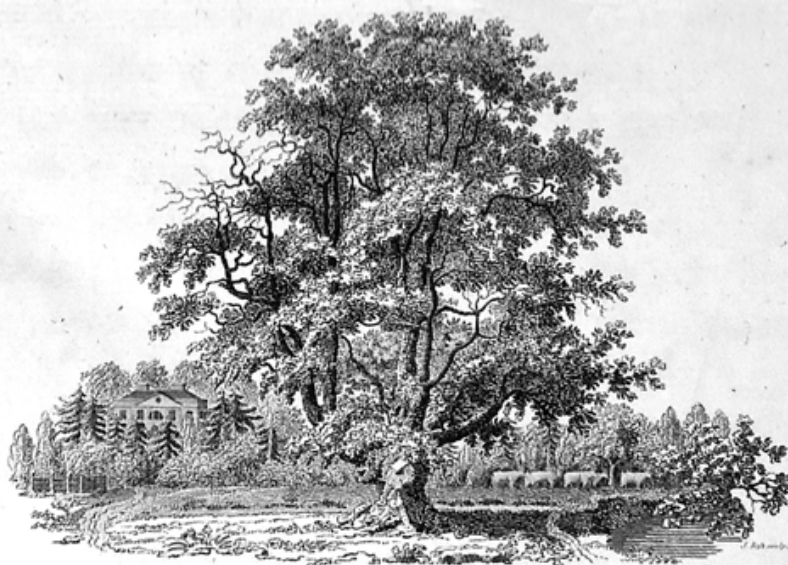
COLLECTIONS
FOR THE
HISTORY
OF
WORCESTERSHIRE.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

SECOND EDITION WITH ADDITIONS.

*Sepulchrorum memoria magis vivorum est consolatio quam defunctorum
utilitas.*

AUGUST. de Civit. Dei.



Bever Elm.

PRINTED FOR JOHN WHITE, HORACE'S HEAD, FLEET-STREET.

M,DCC,XCIX.

KIDDERMINSTER

Written antiently *Chidderminster*, is a populous and flourishing market-town, lower situated in the lower division of Halfshire hundred, and deanry of Kidderminster, bounded on the east by Stone, on the west by the river Severn, dividing it from Bewdley and Arley, on the south by Hartlebury, and on the north by Wolverley.

ETHELBALD king of the South Angles gave to earl Cynebert [*b*] ten cassats of land in the province of the Usmers [*c*], upon both sides the river Stur, having

[*a*] The word Kidderminster means a church standing upon the brow of a hill, and the water running under it; *Kid* signifying in the Old British the brow of an *hill*, *Dwr* water, and *Minster* a church. In carta lacerata, penes J. Broughton, A. M. Ludi Mag. Scholæ Hartlebur.

[*b*] Some have supposed Kidderminster to have been derived from Cynebert's Minster.

[*c*] A letter from Dr. Lyttelton to the rev. Mr. Wise, librarian of the Ratcliff Library at Oxford, proving Sture in Usmerum, to have been Kidderminster. Dated Exeter, April 23, 1756.

SIR,

" The late Dr. Thomas of Worcester, in a letter to me dated the 2d of Febr. 1736-7, writes thus: I have often thought of the province of the Usmers (Provincia Usmerorum), in Heming, Chart, p. 475 and never could guess what it meant; but I find it is a mistaken reading of the original, where it was doubtless written **Sudmerorum**, and should have been wrote **Submerciorum**, the same province with that of Wicciorum. Agreeable hereto, the Doctor desired me to correct his Survey of Worcester Cathedral, wherever the word Usmere occurred, which it does in three or four places. Now had we met with this word only in the above-cited passage of Heming, this conjecture might not have been liable to much objections; but I can by no means agree to it for the following reasons, all which I am desirous to submit to your better judgement.

" First, this division of Mercia into South and North is not to be found in any antient author as I know of; but if it be, I should suspect that Worcestershire must have been esteemed a part of North and not of South Mercia; but you observe Dr. Thomas in his letter makes the province of the Usmers or South Mercians the same with the province of the Wiccii; and in his index to the Survey of Worcester Cathedral, under the word Wiccians, he supposes the province of the Wiccii to be comprized within the counties of Worcester, Gloucester and part of Warwick. In this last particular I believe him right, but then the province of Usmers was certainly not so large as that of the Wiccians, for the church of Worcester appears evidently to have had lands at two different places both named Sture, and both in Wiccia, but the one contradistinguished from the other by the addition of *in Usmerum*.

" Thus in bishop Headoredus's agreement with king Offa (Heming p. 224.) the king was to have from the bishop the monastery of Bath, and in return for this, the king confirmed thirty-eight at Sture, and fourteen manses at Sture in Usmerum to the bishop and church of Worcester. The Sture where the thirty-eight cassats lay, Dr. Thomas places near Codeswell in Gloucestershire (see the index: to the Survey of Worcester under Codeswell, and p. 28. of the same book in his account of the bishops) which, if it really lay there, was as much a part of the province of Wiccia or South Mercia, according to the doctor's own description, as Sture in Usmerum, where the Manses were situate.—But the Dr. would have this esteemed a false reading for Sudmerorum. Now in Heming p. 225. we have the same place wrote in Saxon, viz. **at Sture in Usmerum**, and at p. 226. **at Sture in Usmerum** as occurs in Latin (Hem. p. 474.) *Sture in provincia Usmerorum*, not to mention K. Athelbald's grant, printed in the Monast. tom. I. p. 121. from the original in Cotton's Library, where Sture in Usmerum is thus described; " in Provincia cui ab antiquis nomen inditum est Husmeræ juxta fluvium vocabulo Stur." Are all these to be accounted false readings? this no one surely can suppose? Besides the Saxon word for South Mercia, would I apprehend have been **Sudmercia**, and in Latin, Provincia Australium Mercensium, not Sudmerorum as the doctor would have it.—But it is much easier to disprove his conjecture, than to fix with certainty where Sture in Usmerum lay, and whence it took its name; however, I will venture to offer my opinion.

" Bishop Tanner, in the folio edition of Notitia Monast. at p. 920. (erroneously printed for 620.) supposes Stourbridge, the Sture in Usmerum, which king Athelbald gave Cyneberht, in order to build a monastery, though indeed in a marginal note he expresses some doubt whether it might not



KIDDERMINSTER

KIDDERMINSTER

having Kinver - wood on the north, and Moerheb - wood on the south, the greatest part

possibly have been at Shipston, as situate *in ripa Sture fluminis*, &c. That it was not where Stourbridge now stands is certain, for till the reign of Henry VI. Here was a vill only called Betecote; which was situate both in the parish and manor of Old Swinford, as Stourbridge is at this day, and it assumed the name of Stourbridge from a bridge about that time built over the river Stour there. That it was not Shipston I am also very clear, because in the original grant of Shipston to bishop Mildred (Heming, p.325.) it is described, "Terram triom mansionum jugera continentem, que jacet juxta fluvium que dicitur Stur, ad vadum nomine Scepesuuasce."—If this land had lain in *Provincia Usmerorum*, it would undoubtedly have been so specified. If therefore it was neither Stourbridge nor Shipston, we must seek for it elsewhere, and I think verily we need only go to Kidderminster to find it. Now the latter part of the name *minster* strongly points out a religious house having once flourished here. If Kidder be supposed a corruption of Kynebert or Cyneberht, it would lead one to look for Sture in Usmerum at this place. Dr. Thomas in one of his MS. Collections (penes me) calls Kidderminster *Kynbert Mynstre*, but cites no authority for this appellation: let us see therefore what other evidence there is in support of this conjecture.—In K. Æthelbald's grant of ten cassats (or hides) at Sture in Usmerum (Monast. tom. I. p.121.) these lands are thus described; viz. "Est autem supradictus ager in circuitu, ex utraque parte supranominati fluminis, i.e. Sture.—Habens ex aquilonari plaga silvam quam nominant Cynibre, ex occidentali vero aliam, cui nomen est Moerheb; quarum pars maxima ad prefatum pertinent agrum ad construendutn cœnobium in provincia cui ab antiquis nomen inditum est Husmeræ juxta fluvium vocabulo Stur."

"Now the river Stour passes through Kidderminster town and parish, and is bounded on the north-east by a rivulet called at present Broadwater, which divides Kidderminster and Wolverley, and which I have great reason to think was antiently named Usmere, for the name is still retained, with very little variation, in a pool on the common not far from Broadwater, called Ismere. My reason for suspecting the Broadwater to have been anciently called Usmere is this:— In a register of the dean and chapter of Worcester, who are and have been for many ages lords of Cullecliffe (hodie Cookley), a member of Wolverley, the boundaries are described in Latin, which from the hand-writing I suspect to be full 600 years old, as follows :—

"Limites de Cullecliffe in Wolverley, anno 1066."

"In primis de flumine que vocatur Usmere, ad montem Hesecan, &c. and it concludes—per illam viam usque item ad ripam que vocatur Usmere." By comparing this with the Saxon boundary of Cullecliffe, in Heming, p. 414. it appears to be no other than a translation from the Saxon; but the original Saxon does not occur in the register, nor any reference thereto. It must be owned, that the Saxon leaves us quite in the dark as to Usmere being a river, for it runs thus, *Æpest of usmere on bearecan beoph*; but so old a translation as this in the Worcester register evidently is puts it out of all doubt that Usmere was a river.—We have therefore indisputably a river so called.—We have a large and spacious parish with the river Stour running through the midst of it, and this parish, bounded by the river Usmere or Broadwater.—The church of Worcester have, if I am not greatly mistaken, at this day, both lands and woods within the manor. We find one of the woods in the earliest times called Cynibre or Kynber. When a monastic church was here built, might it not probably assume the name of Kynber Minstre, or from earl Cyneberght be called Cyneberght Mynstre? or if you will allow a more remote derivation, might not Kidder be Kyneberght's Stour, after the earl became possessed of it, and so corrupted into Kiddour? Dourdale or Doverdale in this county, is so called from the river Dour or Stour passing through the midst of it, Dour and Stour being original synonymous Celtic names of Water, as you very well know.—If you perceive any force in these arguments, your opinion will confirm mine. ..

I am, &c.

CH. LYTTTELTON."

The rev. Mr. WISE'S answer to the foregoing letter.

"Good Mr. Dean,

Ellsfield, May 4, 1756.

"You pay me too great a compliment in submitting your judgement to mine, especially in a point of antiquity. I assure you I agree with you for the most part, and remember poor Ballard of Magdalen two or three years since brought me this very quere, and I then told him that the South Mercians were a creature of the doctors own brain, for no one ever heard of such a distinction.—The word is undoubtedly Usmere, and I think easily etymologized. I take it to be a large tract of land (Provincia) a flat soake, or drain to the higher grounds round it, so denominated from a stream that ran through it, called Us or Ouse. This might be a branch of, or the same with the Dor or Stur, for all mean no more than water: the whole tract was therefore so called from the collection of waters in winter-time, which being abated in summer the river might properly be called the river of Usmere by an usual tautology. I am clearly of opinion that Usmere was situated not on ours but on your side of Worcestershire, and that Ismere is a relick and proof of it. And if Dr Thomas had any authority for calling Kidderminster Kynbre Minster, you have certainly hit upon the right place

I am, &c.

FRANCIS WISE."

KIDDERMINSTER

part of which belonged to the said lands [d].

At the time of the conquest, Kidderminster was the king's property: for we read in Domesday, "king William holds in desmesne Chideminstre, with sixteen berewlcks or corn farms: Wenverton, Trimplei, Worcote, Frenesse and another Frenesse, Bristitune, Harburgelei, Fastochesfelde, Gurbehale, Ribeford, and another Ribeford, Sudtone, Aldintone, Metune, Tuelesberge, Sudwale. In these lands, together with the manor, are twenty hides; the manor was all waste. In demesne is one carucate and twenty villans, and thirty borderers with eighteen carucates; there might be twenty carucates more. There are two men servants and four maids, and two mills of sixteen shillings, and two salt-pans worth thirty shillings, and a fishery of one hundred pence. A wood of four lewe. In this manor a bailiff holds the land of one Radchenistre, and has there one carucate and a mill of five ore. To this manor belongs one house in Wich, and one in Worcester paying ten pence. The whole manor paid in king Edward's time fourteen pounds rent, now ten pounds and four shillings by weight. The king appointed the wood of this manor to be in the forest. Of the land of this manor, William has one hide, and the land of one Radchenistre, and has there, one villan and eight borderers, having four carucates and a half; it is worth eleven, shillings. Of the same land Aiulfus has one virgate; there is one carucate and two servants; it is worth two shillings."

It remained with the crown till the reign of Henry II. who gave this manor to Manser his great favourite, who appears to have been such by his being the only witness to many of the charters which this monarch granted to the priory of Worcester, where he

is stiled Manser de Biset *Dapiser*, an honourable office so called from this person's being entitled to carry the king's first dish to table; he assumed the name of Biset from a place of that name near Alveston, in Warwickshire.

That the king gave the manor of Kidderminster to the above-mentioned person is proved in the book of tenures in the exchequer, and in the white book of the bishopric of Worcester. Thus William de Huntingfeld holdeth the town of Kidderminster in ward with the heir of Henry Biset which king Henry gave to Manser de Biset, but by what service is unknown. vid. Reg. Dec. et Cap. Wigorn. vocat. Extenta, &c. fol. 15. b. There was an office held 35 Ed. I. in which John Biset held within the manor of Kidderminster, &c. the moiety of one messuage with a close; the moiety of one watermill, 10 acres of meadow, one hundred and sixty acres of land, and two woods. Some time after this, the name of Biset became extinct in these parts: two daughters being left coheiresses, the manor was divided; one of these daughters, as is reported, being affected with a leprosy, gave her moiety, or share of the manor of Kidderminster, together with the parsonage, to the hospital of Maiden Bradley, being a lazarus-house for women; but the author of the additions to Camden [e] p. 619. ed. 1722, says, "that Maiden Bradley was built by Manserus Bisset in the time of king Stephen, or beginning of the reign of Henry II. and was endowed by him and his son Henry long before the estate was divided among the daughters, for that happened not till the year 1241, so that the tradition of the leprous lady is a vulgar fable." However this may be, the rectory of Kidderminster was appropriated to the lazarus-house of Maiden Bradley [f], 6 Ed. III. A.D. 1335, of which these sisters were till

Extract of another letter from the same, dated Oxford June 12, 1756.

" SIR,

" I own I was too hasty in exploding the word South Mercians, since you tell me Bede mentions Regnum Australium Merciorum; he says it was divided from the North Mercians by the Trent; that the Mercians contained 5000 and the North Mercians 7000 families. Both seem to mean only the inhabitants of Staffordshire, which was the beginning of that kingdom. I leave you to settle the bounds of each, &c.

I am, &c..

FRAN. WISE."

[d] Vid. Hem. Chart, p. 555.

[e] Dr. Hopkins.

[f] What these leprous or lazarus-houses were is uncertain, but they are supposed to have contained persons affected with an infectious distemper brought from the Holy-land, which has been so long extinct, that modern physicians, from their own experience, do not know it; probably it was not common in the reign of Henry VIII. if it had, these houses would hardly have been dissolved with the monasteries and other useless societies. I am informed by an eminent physician, that this disease, is known in Madeira, Guadaloupe, and many parts of the West Indies, but that it is not esteemed infectious.

KIDDERMINSTER

then patronesses. The other sister (or, according to Mr. Habingdon her heir) married Sir *William de Beauchamp*, a younger son of Guy de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, and father of Sir Richard Beauchamp earl of Worcester, from whose daughter and heir *Elizabeth* [g] wife of Edward Nevill lord of Abergavenny, the barons of Abergavenny became proprietors of a moiety of the manor of Kidderminster. For by an inquisition, 15 Hen. VI. *Joan* widow of Sir William Beauchamp died seised of the manor of Kidderminster.

In the book of Aids, 20 Ed. I. Hugh de Cokesey, Nicholas Burnell, and the prior of Maiden Bradley, held lands in Kidderminster, which John, Edward Burnell, and the prior of Maiden Bradley, formerly held.

7 Hen. VI. as by the exchequer record appears, Hugo de Cokesey, the lord of Abergavenny, and prior of Maiden Bradley, held lands in Kidderminster, which Hugh de Cokesey, Nicholas Burnell, and the prior aforesaid, formerly held. By these accounts it seems the lords Beauchamp and Abergavenny derived their title to the manor of Kidderminster from *Nicholas Burnell* and *Edward Burnell*, heirs to Biset. In 6 Rich. II. Sir Nicholas Burnell knt. and Sir Edward Burnell knt. his son, were by an office found to have been seised of the moiety of the manor of Kidderminster, which was afterwards the property of the barons of Abergavenny. The other moiety given to the religious lazaret-house, or hospital of Maiden Bradley, after the suppression of the monasteries, 37 Hen. VIII. was granted by the king to *John Dudley* viscount Lisle, by the name of all that manor of Kidderminster, Oblington, Cumerton, and Hurdecote, and patronage of Kidderminster. This nobleman was afterwards advanced to the dukedom of Northumberland, and being found guilty of

high treason, forfeited his life and estate. In the first year of the reign of queen Mary, his moiety of this manor became the property of the *Blounts* of Kinlet [h], county of Salop, in which family it continued till the death of Sir *Edward Blount* knt. who leaving no issue, it was by special deed conveyed to the *earl of Newport*, and from him by sale to Mr. *Waller* the poet. Part of this estate, with a handsome brick house near Kidderminster church (which was very lately pulled down) consisting of a portion of land, and inappropriate tithes, the poet sold to *Daniel Dobbins* esq; of London, in 1635, as appears by a deed in the possession of John Soley esq. of Samburne. His estate Mr. Waller sold probably to provide himself with money against the troubles which he saw coming on. In the year 1642, he sent a thousand broad pieces to the king at Nottingham, when he set up his standard there. About the year 1643 or 1644, he sold the manor of Hircourt and Commerton, and all other his lands in this parish (excepted in the grant to Dobbins) in order to pay his fine to parliament, on account of what is called Waller's plot. The poet was fined 10,000 l. and is said to have disbursed three times that sum to the leading men, in order to procure their interest in his favour. In the account of his life, prefixed to his works, ed. 1711, he is said to have sold 1000 l. a year, in order to enable him to pay this money.

That part of the manor and parish which belonged to lord Abergavenny was purchased by Mr. *Foley*. *Thomas Foley* esquire, of Whitley, now lord Foley, baron of Kidderminster [i], whose family having since purchased Hircourt, and many other estates in the parish, is become the chief lord and sole proprietor of the manor of Kidderminster, and by far the greatest landholder in the parish; though there are still left Francis

[g] Among the Ashmolean MSS. at Oxon. vol. 866. fol. 397. "*Edward Nevill* and *Elizabeth* his wife, daughter of Richard Beauchamp, held the manor of Kidderminster, 17 Hen. VI. *Hugh Burrall* knt. held the same manor, 15 Richard II."

[h] This nobleman was a natural son of one of the principal branches of the Blount family, and inherited his father's estates. MS. Hab.

[i] Sir John Beauchamp of Holt was the only baron of Kidderminster before the Foleys, and said to be the first created by letters patent. This nobleman, who was a great benefactor to the monks and priory of Worcester, was condemned and beheaded in the factious reign of Richard II. being then steward of the king's household. The patent is given in a book, intituled, "Essays on British Antiquities," ascribed to that learned and ingenious writer lord Kaimes, one of the supreme court of judicature in Scotland. "Rex, &c. salutem: sciatis quod pro bono servitio quod dilectus et fidelis miles noster Joannes de Beauchamp de Holt, senescallus hospitii nostri, nobis impendit, ipsum Joannem in unum parium et baronum regni nostri Angliæ præfecimus, volentes quod idem Joannes, et hæredes masculi de corpore suo exeuntes, statum baronis obtineant, ac domini de Beauchamp, et barones de Kidderminster nuncupenter. Dat. 10 Octob. 1387." Vid. Selden's Titles of Honor.

KIDDERMINSTER

Clare esquire, who possesses the mansion, mill, and estate at Caldwell, with Abberley, Mitton and Offmore, which in the time of Ch. 1. belonged to Sir Ralph Clare; Adam Hough esq. of Commerton, possesses Commerton, which was purchased from Waller by his ancestor Adam Hough; John Foliot esq. of Lickhill, proprietor of lands and tithes in Mitton; and John Soley esq. has also a good estate in lands and tithe in this parish: [the estates of Mr. Clare and Mr. Hough were both sold about the year 1777, the former to Mr. Jefferys, the latter, to Mr. Steward.]

I shall here mention an improvement made on an estate in this neighbourhood belonging to lord Foley, under the direction of Mr. Pratt, great grandfather to the present messrs. Pratt of Dunclett. Bell Broughton brook entering the parish of Chadesley, divides into three streams, called Hircourt Course, Dunclett Course, and Bellington Course. These streams water about 300 acres of land, which before were barren, sandy rabbit-warren, not worth 5s. per acre, and are now worth more than thirty, as they yield two waggon loads of hay upon an acre. The hay is good for horses, but will not feed an ox well. This improvement indeed was not made without a considerable expence: lady Yates, and her successors the Throgmortons, have received for the privilege of the water 1800 l. the taking the levels, cutting the courses, and other expences, may be estimated at about 500 l. It was first begun about one hundred years ago [*k*].

Kidderminster hath a weekly market on Thursday, and three fairs in the year; namely, on Ascension (now held nine days after Whitsuntide), the Feast of Corpus Christi, and St. Bartholomew's Day. A toll is levied by the lord of the manor or his lessee the bailiff of Kidderminster, for grain exposed to sale in the market: tenants in ancient demesne are privileged and exempted.

14 May 1660, four persons accused of witchcraft were brought from Kidderminster to Worcester goal, one widow Robinson and her two daughters, and a man. The eldest daughter was accused of saying, that, if they had not been taken, the king should never have come into England, and though he now doth come, yet he shall not live long,

but shall die as ill a death as they; and that they would have made corn like pepper. Many great charges against them, and little proved; they were put to the ducking in the river; they would not sink, but swam aloft. The man had five teats, the mother three and the eldest daughter one. When they went to search the women, none were visible; one advised to lay them on their backs, and keep open their mouths, and they would appear; and so they presently appeared in sight [*l*].

Before this, in the year 1649, four persons were tried at Worcester for this supposed offence, and all executed, two of them confessing their crime; viz. Margaret Landis and Susan Cook; Rebecca West and Rose Holybred died obstinate.

In the year 1716, Mrs. Hicks and her daughter aged 9 years were hanged at Huntingdon for witchcraft, for selling their souls to the devil, tormenting and destroying their neighbours, by making them vomit pins, raising a storm, so that a ship was almost lost, by pulling off her stockings, and making a lather with soap. They were committed by one Justice Wilmot [*m*].

The Statute against Witchcraft was not repealed till the 9th of George II 1736; and even still an unhappy prejudice prevails in many places against unfortunate old women. It is not many years since a poor woman who happened to be very ugly, was almost drowned in the neighbourhood of Worcester, upon a supposition of witchcraft; and had not Mr. Lygon, a gentleman of singular humanity and influence, interfered in her behalf, she would certainly have been drowned, upon a presumption that a witch could not sink.

Mr. Pennant, in his Tour to Scotland, says that the last instance of these frantic executions for witchcraft in the north of Scotland was in the year 1727, as that in the south was in the year 1696, where, among others, a handsome young woman suffered.

Kidderminster is very extensive, divided into two unequal parts by the river Stour, which runs nearly from north to south. The western division contains by estimation 24 square miles, reckoning it at a medium three miles

[*k*] From the information of Mr. Turner, steward to the late lord Foley.

[*l*] From some MSS. sent to me belonging to the Townsends of Elmley.

[*m*] London, printed by Mathews, in Long Acre.

KIDDERMINSTER

broad and eight miles long, from Shutterford to Mitton [n]. The eastern division probably does not exceed six or seven square miles.

The soil of this parish is for the most part dry and light. There is some rich meadow by Stour side, and some bog; from Shutterford to the Severn, the situation is high, the soil a cold clay, and the crops arrive at maturity much later than in the other parts of the parish; the views are uncommonly fine, and pleasing; the scenes from Shutterford, from Mount Pleasant, from Wribbenhall both up and down the Severn, from Stourport, &c. are enchanting beyond expression.

The hamlets on the east side the river Stour, in the parish of Kidderminster, are Broadwaters, Hircott, Wannerton, Blake-down, Heathy Mill, Commerton, Aggborough. On the west side Blackbrook, French, Abberley high and low, Trimpley, Eymore, Halls, Wassall, Hoarestone, Wribbenhall, Sandburn, Blackstone, Lickhill and Mitton upper and lower, and Stourport.

In this parish are several useful chalybeate springs; that at Sandburn is the strongest. There is one at the round hill near Kidderminster, powerful in removing obstructions, and strengthening and assisting digestion.

A well called the Dropping-well, on Burlish common, is celebrated for curing sore eyes of all kinds, and various instances of its successful application, both outwardly and inwardly, are to be met with in this neighbourhood. It seems to have no mineral impregnation, and derives its virtues from being pure water, which according to Boerhaave, and others, is one of the *Remedia maxime universalia*.

The inhabitants of the *foreign* of Kidderminster, so called to distinguish them from the inhabitants of the borough, are vigorous and healthy, and arrive at a good old age. In the town, the complexion and size of the people seems to be hurt by their trade, which is sedentary, and requires confinement. The weavers are generally of a sallow, cachectick complexion: stomachic and pulmonary complaints are frequent among them; inflammatory diseases are not so frequent, or severe

in this place, as in many others. The houses and shops not being sufficiently airy and clean, fevers, for the most part, take a putrid tendency, which prevailed here with much mortality. Such was that in 1604, and in the years 1727, 1728, and 1729. This last very much thinned the people, and terrified the inhabitants. In the year 1750, the malignant sore throat with ulcers, a putrid disease of a specific kind, broke out, and a hundred died of it in the months of October and November only. It has since gradually abated in malignity and frequency. The learned Dr. J. Wall of Worcester published in the Gentleman's Magazine for Nov. 1751, a successful method of treating this disease [o].

Dr. Johnstone of Worcester has written an accurate and very compleat history and description of the symptoms and cure of this disease, which treatise is deservedly held in high esteem among the best judges: he is son to Dr. Johnstone of Kidderminster, a native of Annandale, and representative of an ancient branch of the Johnstones of Johnstone, in that county [p].

In 1773, a very accurate examination was made by Mr. Nicholas Pearsall, junior, and Mr. John Watson, two of the principal tradesmen of the town, of the number of houses and inhabitants in Kidderminster. They found it contained 1180 houses, and 5749 inhabitants, of which 2949 were males, and 2800 females: In the preceeding year 1772, there was not above two untenanted houses in the town; in the following year 30 houses were untenanted; this was owing to a sudden damp on the demand for manufactures, which succeeded the general decay of credit after Fordyce's bankruptcy in 1772. The number of inhabitants then in Kidderminster, A.D. 1772, may fairly be reckoned at rather more than 6000; for in the succeeding year a great number of workmen were dismissed from their looms and left the town and above 100 died of the small-pox.

It is observable, that the number of males exceeds that of females; and in this respect differs from Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, and other places. The increase of inhabi-

[n] Baxter, in his Life, says, Kidderminster was twenty miles round.

[o] The printer of the Magazine has by mistake put the signature W. Wall, instead of J. Wall.

[p] To this learned and ingenious gentleman I am obliged for much curious information.

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KIDDERMINSTER

tants for the last twelve years arose from a considerable addition of male strangers, who found ready employment, and came in great numbers, though the same cause did not bring additional females.

In June 1773, Wribbenhall was found to contain 145 houses, a few of which were empty, owing perhaps to the neighbourhood of Stourport. The number of families was only 138, in which were 308 males, and 311 females, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ to a family.

The dead belonging to this village and the who; parish besides, are buried at Kidderminster, excepting those belonging to Mitton, who bury in their own chapel, and burying-ground belonging to it.

The burials of the foreign are separately marked in the register of late years; and I find, that for the last eleven years, the annual average of the burials belonging to that part of Kidderminster amounts to 21 yearly. Now if we suppose one in 45 only dies yearly, the number of inhabitants of the foreign in Kidderminster amounts to 945, exclusive of those who belong to Mitton chapel.

It is conjectured that Mitton and its inhabitants are nearly equal to Wribbenhall, that is, about 140 houses, and 600 inhabitants of all ages and sexes.

The parish of Kidderminster has had a great and gradual increase of people ever since the Reformation. Manufactures and trade have been the sole causes of this population. The annual average of burials for the town and foreign, from 1540 to 1552 inclusive, amounted to 25, which multiplied by 45 is 1125, or the number of inhabitants in Kidderminster at that time, exclusive of Mitton. It is certain, that all the hamlets now found in the parish then existed, and were probably well peopled. So that the town of Kidderminster could then only be an inconsiderable village, containing perhaps not more than 300 inhabitants.

In bishop Sandy's answer to the privy-council, 5 Eliz. A.D. 1563, Kidderminster contained 250 families, and Mitton Chapel 23.

The average of burials from 1564 to 1585, amounts to 41; from 1598 to 1617, to 49; from 1642 to 1651, to 78; from 1674 to 1697, to 100; from 1721 to 1750, to 128; from 1751 to 1760, to 142; from 1761 to 1773, to 207; including the whole parish except Mitton chapelry.

In this account are included the burials of the foreign, which in the last eleven years, at an average, amount to 21.

Kidderminster register begins A.D. 1540, and breaks off 1553; recommences with the reign of queen Elizabeth, and is continued with some interruptions to the present year. The following particulars are noted in it.

16 August, 1646, the first baptism according to the directory.

"A true and perfect register of christenings, weddings and burials, of all sorts within the town and parish of Kidderminster, in the county of Worcester, from and after the 29th day of September, A.D. 1653, by Edward Clymer, late before chosen and elected registrar by vote of the townsmen and parishioners, at a public meeting upon notice given for the same purpose, and afterwards the said registrar was sworn by Mr. Lawrence Pearsall, then justice of the peace of the said borough, according to act of parliament, of the 24th of August of the same year."

This was a wise regulation, made at a time when many wise regulations were destroyed. For any one that considers the great importance of registers, and the little care taken in keeping them, will think some further regulations necessary at present. See the article Claines.

In the first thirteen years of the register the proportion of marriages to baptisms is as one to four, that is, each marriage on an average produced four children.

In the period from 1741 to 1750 inclusive, the average of marriages every year is 39, and that of baptisms, including Dissenters, 150, that is, *nearly* four to each marriage; the small difference in the falling short of baptisms was probably at this time owing to the number of recruits enlisted here in the course of the war 1741.

The average of burials for the town of Kidderminster, known by deducting the average of the foreign, which is 21 from the total 207 before-mentioned, amounts in the last 13 years to 186, or to above one-30th of 5749, which was found to be the number of the people in the summer 1773, after 100 had died of the small-pox, and more than twice that number had left the town for want of employment: this place then, though often subject to fevers, from the circumstances of its trade and situation, is not to be reckoned on the whole unhealthy:—moderate

town

towns by the calculations of the ingenious Dr. Price, are found to lose annually from $\frac{1}{23}$ d to $\frac{1}{23}$ d to $\frac{1}{28}$ th of the whole number of its inhabitants.

Many towns in England not equal in number of houses and inhabitants to Kidderminster are not so healthy. The town of Northampton, for instance, was found in 1746 to consist of 1083 houses and 5136 inhabitants; the annual medium of burials here for twenty-eight years was 191; the annual medium of baptisms was 155 only. Northampton loses by death a number equal to the number of its inhabitants in 27 years, and Kidderminster only in 30 or 31 years. In Kidderminster moreover the births exceed the burials; in Northampton they fall short very considerably, and though so small a town resembles the larger ones in being what *they* universally are, the *graves* of mankind, in Kidderminster and all other towns a much larger number of children die than in the country.

In Kidderminster I observed there were five inhabitants to a house, which is more than the general proportion; but it is owing to the apprentices taken by the journeymen weavers.

In Wribbenhall the inhabitants were only as $4\frac{1}{2}$ to a house.

Mr. Walpole, in his History of Painting, gives us a mandate of Henry III. dated from Kederminster June 3, 1233, in which he commands the sheriff of Hampshire to cause a wainscotted chamber in his palace of Winchester to be painted with the same figures it had been ornamented with before. He compares this order to that famous one of Mummius, who threatened those who were charged with the carriage of the statues and paintings taken at Corinth, that they should pay for the making of new ones to replace such as should be damaged. I fear Mr. Walpole's allusion, though very ingenious, will not hold true; and that the paintings of the age before Henry III. will not bear comparison with those of Corinth.

Kidderminster claimed various privileges by prescription as a borough, and like Bromsgrove, Dudley, and Pershore, sent members to parliament. 23 Ed. 1. Walter Cardigan and Walter Lightfrod represented the borough.

The following are the deeds in the custody of the corporation.

1. A charter from Henry VIII, dated 1 Feb. 21st year of his reign, reciting, that he had seen an exemplification of a charter of Henry VI. which referred to another charter of Henry II. inspected at the time of the grant, and also to another charter of king Richard II. granting to John and Johanna Beauchamp of Holt, their heirs and assigns, free warren, and all things pertaining to free warren, within his demesne lands of Kidderminster, with exemption to his tenants and the inhabitants of Kidderminster from toll, pontage, and murage, throughout the kingdom. These privileges are de novo granted, ratified, and confirmed, by this charter of Henry VIII.

2. A charter from queen Elizabeth, acknowledging the right of the inhabitants and tenants of Kidderminster to the above-mentioned exemptions and privileges, with a new confirmation of them.

3. The royal charter of Charles I. which incorporates this borough, grants and authorizes the jurisdiction now exercised therein. This charter was granted in the 12th year of that reign, and the preamble sets forth that it was given for the encouragement of the trade and inhabitants of this place, which had of late much flourished by its manufacture in cloth, and was become very populous. It goes on, that this place had long exercised many privileges as a borough, under pretence of prescription only, &c. The government therefore of the borough is thereby vested in a bailiff, justices, and recorder, who are justices of the peace, twelve capital burgesses, and twenty-five common council men; they are enabled to make byelaws for the government of the body corporate of the place, and the trade thereof.

The same charter erects the free grammar school into a corporation to be governed by the bishop of the diocese, the bailiff, and twelve capital burgesses, and to have a common seal. The master and usher are to be chosen by the said governors, and displaced by them.

The free school probably existed and was endowed before this charter. The government and trust of the free-school is now

KIDDERMINSTER

vested in especial trustees who choose their successors. This is done under the authority of a decree of chancery, which took the trust out of the hands of the aldermen and burgesses on account of abuses [q].

The reverend and learned Mr. Haley in a letter to Dr. Johpstone imagines the cloathing trade to have been very antient in Kidderminster; for in Madox's *Formulare Anglicanum* is a release of a messuage and land in Wich made by one Alured, son of Ketelbern, a fuller of Kidderminster; the deed is without date; but Hugh le Poer, one of the witnesses, ascertains the time of it, as he was under-sheriff in the 8th, 14th, and 19th, years of king Henry III.

Kidderminster has probably been a manufacturing place near two hundred and fifty years. The increase of its population is a fact by which we are enabled to judge of the origin and progress of its trade; I have already said we had but little trade here till about the time of the Reformation. By a statute made the 25th of Henry VIII A.D. 1533, it is enacted, that after the last of September, 1536 no person of what degree or condition soever he or they be, shall make or cause to be made within the said shire of Worcester any manner of woollen clothes, to be sold, except only such persons as shall be dwelling and inhabiting within the city of Worcester, the boroughs and towns of Kidderminster, Evesham, Droitwich, and Bromesgrove, within the said county of Worcester, or in any one of them, upon pain of forfeiture for every such broad cloth so made, contrary to the true meaning of this act, the sum of ten pounds; and it is further enacted that the lords and owners of the messuages, tenements, or cottages, within the said city, boroughs, or towns shall at no time hereafter demise, set or let, any messuage, tenement, or cottage, sufficiently repaired, within the said city, boroughs, or towns, to any person exercising any of the said mysteries or crafts, at any higher rent, imposition, or charge, than was given for the same at any time within twenty years next before the making of this act.

[q] In chancellor Price's *Notitia Dioc.* p 98. are some regulations for the government of this school, made 11 Aug. 13 Ch. I. The schoolmaster not to have any other employment that shall interfere with his attendance on the school; if he has, to be removed.

No leases to be granted without the consent of the bishop of Worcester, or his chancellor, the high bailiff, and three feoffees of the borough, and three of the foreign; the persons above-named shall elect the school-master, and may remove him for misbehavior.

It is curious to observe from this statute how little the true interest of trade was understood at that time, and in what an abject manner real property was incumbered, in order to encourage an infant manufactory. The Tudor family had no objection to humble the landed interest. We may observe by the preamble to this law, that there had been a trade here for a considerable time before the enacting of this statute, and it continued in a low state for many years after.

In Mr. Baxter's time, stuff-weaving was the principal trade, and probably that of the linsey woolsey stuffs. "My people," says he, in his *Life and Times*, "were not rich; there were among them very few beggars, because their common trade of stuff-weaving would find work for them all, men, women, and children, that were able, and there were none of the tradesmen very rich, seeing their trade was poor, that would but find them food and raiment; the magistrates of the town were few of them worth 40l. per annum, and most not half so much; three or four of the richest thriving masters of the trade got but about 500 or 600l. in twenty years, and it may be lost 100l. of it by an ill debtor. The generality of the master workmen lived but little better than their journey-men, but only that they laboured not quite so hard."

23 Charles II. A.D. 1671, an act passed for regulating the manufacture of Kidderminster stuffs, but it is grown obsolete, though not repealed.

In the year 1677, the number of looms in Kidderminster of all sorts were 417; master weavers 157; journeymen 187; apprentices 115. Only one of the masters had seven looms, most of them had two or three.

From the year 1710 worsted stuffs, and stuffs of silk and worsted have, with carpets, become the manufactures of Kidderminster

In 1772, the number of *carpet looms* at work were accurately reckoned, and amounted to 250. In each of these looms, besides one weaver, one draw boy is employed. The number of silk and worsted looms amounted

KIDDERMINSTER

to 1700; each of which employ one weaver. It is computed that 1600 hands in Kidderminster and the neighbouring places are employed as spinners, &c. in the carpet looms only; and that 1400 hands are employed in preparing certain yarns, which are bought in various distant parts of England, for the use of the manufactory of carpets. By a similar computation it is thought the silk and worsted looms in this town, besides the weavers, employ 5200 hands in and near this place, and in the villages round to the distance of fifteen or sixteen miles. Five thousand more hands are employed in preparing the worsted yarn from Gloucestershire, and other more distant counties.

In 1772, the number of master carpet weavers was 11; of silk and worsted weavers 29. At present each master weaver employs nearly 60 looms, one with another, and their condition and stocks have accordingly varied proportionably from those of their predecessors, who in Baxter's time, and for near a century afterwards, were with difficulty twenty years gaining 500 or 600 pounds: whereas now there are some weavers that have gained five or ten times that sum in less than twenty years: and if industry and sobriety, a large stock of engines and utensils, and a number of experienced and skilful hands, with property to employ them, can insure a trade to any place, it is to be presumed as well as hoped, that this place, possessing all these advantages, will long enjoy its flourishing trade, which is of great consequence to many neighbouring places by the number of industrious hands it employs, and by the circulation of cash which it occasions.

I shall conclude this collection of facts with the following essay on the trade of Kidderminster, with which I am favoured by one of the most considerable and intelligent manufacturers of the place, who with much propriety warns his brethren and successors against such abuses of their property as may ruin themselves and their trade.

During great part of the 17th century, Kidderminster was famous for making a sort of goods known by the name of Linsey-woolseys, or Kidderminsters. These were printed linseys in use for hangings of rooms and beds. This manufacture continued till the

latter end of the century, and was succeeded by the cloathing trade. This and several other towns in the neighbourhood manufactured a sort of cloth called Frize, which was chiefly sold to the Dutch. In the beginning of this century this trade very much declined, and was succeeded by the manufacture of a sort of goods called cheneyes and ratteens, still in use for bed furniture. This trade has long been lost here, though still carried on in other parts of the kingdom.

On the decline of the cloathing trade the town was reduced very low for want of business, yet a few employed themselves in making worsted stuffs or stuffs consisting of worsted and silk mixed, called Spanish poplins; the breadth of these was half yard.

About the year 1717, one Mr. Greaves, a tradesman in London, encouraged a manufacture of striped tameys and prunellas, and afterwards of various kinds of figured and flowered stuffs, such as starrets, barley-corns. &c. &c. and the trade made a considerable figure in foreign markets. About the year 1748, some few fell into the making yard-wide silk and worsted stuffs, which they did to very great advantage. The trade is now become very much improved and extended. About the year 1755 was established a manufacture in silk alone, figured and flowered for womens cloaks, but does not flourish much yet.

The invention of quilting worsted in looms for bed-quilts and pettycoats in imitation of Marseilles quilting is to be ascribed to Messrs. Pearsalls, and is executed by those ingenious weavers Freestones; who have likewise invented a loom, or machine, for weaving nets of all kinds.

The carpet trade began here in 1735. At first they made the Scotch or flat carpets without a pile; about the year 1749, the cut carpets after the manner of Wilton were introduced, and this manufacture has flourished very much. Kidderminster carpets are thought to excell particularly in the brilliancy and durableness of the colours; towards which it is affirmed the fitness of the water of Stour for scouring and striking the colour very greatly contributes.

The trade of the town has fluctuated, but it is now, 1777, in a very flourishing state:

which

KIDDERMINSTER

which under Providence it owes to the industry, frugality and simplicity of the manners of its inhabitants [r], and it would not be doing justice to the memory of the reverend and learned Mr. Richard Baxter, if we did not in a great degree attribute this to his labours and example; for he tells us in his own account of his life and times, a book on many accounts interesting, that he was a minster at Kidderminster from 1642 to 1660, that he found the people very ignorant, irreligious, and dissolute, and it is well known that they became in his time, and continued long after, and I hope are at present, remarkable for their decency and piety. Mr. Baxter's great opponent at Kidderminster was Sir Ralph Clare of Caldwell, a man of eminent civility, and strongly attached to monarchy, in the service of which he spent his fortune, being taken prisoner at the battle of Worcester, a warm advocate for episcopacy, and by his great influence at Kidderminster, Bewdley, and many other parts of the country, he kept down the prevailing interest of Baxter, who says of him, that he was the ruler of the vicar of Kidderminster, and all the business there was done by Sir Ralph Clare. At the Restoration he was an old man, and an old courtier, and objected to Mr. Baxter's having the living, or lectureship, or curacy of Kidderminster, either of which he preferred to the bishoprick of Hereford; though lord Clarendon earnestly interceded for him, and offered to engage for a handsome stipend to Mr. Dance, the then vicar, and Sir Ralph's friend, to be paid personally, either by himself or his steward. "One knight, Sir Ralph Clare, who lived "at Kidderminster, did more to hinder my

" greater successes, than a multitude of
 " others could have done, though he was
 " an old man of great courtship and civility,
 " and very temperate as to diet, apparel, and
 " sports, and seldom would swear any
 " louder than by his troth, and shewed me
 " much personal reverence and respect be-
 " yond my desert, and we conversed to-
 " gether with much love and familiarity,
 " yet having no relish of this preciseness
 " and extemporary praying and making so
 " much ado for heaven; his coming but
 " once a day to church on the Lord's day,
 " and his abstaining from the sacrament
 " which he refused to receive, unless I would
 " give it to him kneeling, and not sitting, as
 " if we kept not sufficiently to the old way,
 " did cause a great part of the parish to
 " follow him, and do as he did. And yet
 " civility, and yielding much beyond others
 " of his party, sending his family to be cat-
 " echised and personally instructed, did sway
 " with the worst among us to do the like.
 " Though he was so zealous a royalist he
 " compounded for his estates with the par-
 " liament committee, at the sum of 298l." [s].

The portrait of Sir Ralph here engraved is taken from an excellent picture in the possession of his great-grandson, Francis Clare, esq. of Caldwell, who died March 5, 1777, aged upwards of 86 [t].

Though Kidderminster was not the place of Mr. Baxter's birth, and though he left it before his death, yet this town hath derived distinction from his residence and ministerial labours. Every one knows Mr. Baxter's amazing industry as a divine, and that he wrote both in polemical and practical theology more than any writer of his age. His

[r] Since the accounts above given was written, which represents the state of Kidderminster from a survey accurately taken in 1773, an important change has taken place with respect to the manufacture of stuffs, then the principal trade of the place: the looms, which at that time exceeded seventeen hundred, at present hardly amount to seven hundred. The hands which have been dismissed are enlisted in various bodied of militia and regular regiments, or have gone to seek employment elsewhere.

By the average of funerals for the last five years, and from every other appearance, it is probable the population here is at the least seven hundred less than it was in 1773. The place is overburthened with poor families left by so many industrious hands, and the poor's levy very high. In this sad state of things it is some consolation to find the carpet trade continue undiminished; and that efforts are making to substitute the cotton manufactory to that which has so much decayed. The decay of the Kidderminster trade may certainly in part be imputed to the diminution of general commerce brought on by the unfortunate war which still continues; but also partly owing to a great alteration of fashions within this kingdom, when cotton-stuffs are now (1780) universally preferred to worsted stuffs, and to mixtures of worsted and silk.

[s] In June 1655, were committed to Worcester gaol Sir Ralph Clare, Sir George Wintour, Captain Thomas Savage, Major Wylde, Col. Sandys, and diverse others, and not fully released until major general Berry came to govern the country.

[t] Hist. of his Life and Times, p. 49.

books



Sir Ralph Clare Knight of the Bath

From an Original Picture in the Possession of Francis Clare Esq.



Richard Baxter of Kidderminster

From an Original Picture there preserved.

KIDDERMINSTER

books in all amounted to the number of 145. Dr. Barrow has given this eulogium of his works, that his practical writings were never mended, and his controversial ones seldom refuted. The learned bishop Wilkins said of him, that if he had lived in the primitive times he would have been one of the fathers of the church. Mr. Baxter however in his own review of his life candidly regrets that he misapplied so much of his time in controversial writings.

The character of his mind was in every other respect as extraordinary as his industry, zeal, and piety, firm and disinterested. Mr. Boyle justly said of him, that he feared no man's displeasure, nor hoped for any man's preferment. He did not court the favour of that government which fought to gain itself credit by paying respect to men of Mr. Baxter's character. He avowed his attachment to monarchy, even to Cromwell himself in his highest exaltation, and refused the bishoprick of Hereford from Charles II. whose restoration he had promoted.

Honoured with the esteem of the most learned and best men of that age than which no one has produced a greater number of excellent and great men, having enjoyed the honourable intimacy of Boyle, Williams, Barrow, Tillotson, and judge Hale; and endured with fortitude and patient dignity the brutality of judge Jefferies; after suffering various hardships and persecutions for his non-conformity, during the reigns of the two brothers; he died in peace and universal veneration in 1691. Mr. Granger has given Baxter's character with that liberality and elegance which distinguishes his whole work.

An original picture of Mr. Baxter was in the possession of the late reverend Thomas Doolittle, M.A. till the year 1707; and from that time in the hands of his grandson Samuel Sheafe, of London, 1763.

Mr. Benjamin Fawcett is possessed of an other original portrait of him, an engraving of which is here annexed:

Mr. Richard Serjeant some time assistant to Mr. Baxter, and afterward vicar of Stone,

is mentioned in Mr. Baxter's life as a person of singular merit and extraordinary usefulness. He left by two daughters a numerous posterity.

There is in Kidderminster a Presbyterian meeting-house, which belongs to a very considerable society of Protestant Dissenters.

There are two charity-schools, for the purpose of teaching poor children to read and write, supported by private subscription in a very liberal and attentive manner.

The river Stour [*u*], which rises in the celebrated groves of the Leasows, passes through this town, and divides it so as to leave one third on the West side, and two thirds on the East. It is well known that an attempt was made to render this river navigable under the direction of a public spirited and well meaning projector [*x*] Mr. Yarranton, who was born in a neighbouring parish. This project at that time proved abortive, and the following is poor Yarranton's account of the matter. "It was my projection, says he in his *"England's Improvement*, and I will tell you the reason why it was not finished. "The river Stour and some other rivers "were granted by an act of parliament to "certain persons of honour, and some progress was made in the work, but within "a small while after the act passed it was "let fall again: but it being a brat of my "own, I was not willing it should be abortive, therefore I made offers to perfect it, "having a third part of the inheritance to "me and my heirs for ever, and we came "to an agreement: upon which I fell on, "and made it completely navigable from "Stourbridge to Kidderminster, and carried "down many hundred tons of coal, and laid "out near a thousand pounds; and there it "was obstructed for want of money."

It is not long since some of the boats made use of in Yarranton's navigation were found. Neither tradition nor our projector's account of the matter perfectly satisfy us why this navigation was neglected, since a navigable communication between Stourbridge and

[*u*] The course of this river is about twenty miles, and it has upon it upwards of thirty works: slitting-mills, forges, a wire-mill, corn-mill, and other mills of lesser note.

[*x*] Andrew Yarranton was born in Astley parish in Worcestershire, and encouraged by many gentlemen of this and the neighbouring counties, at whose expence he travelled through Holland, Germany, and many foreign countries, to bring home from thence any thing that might improve our manufactures. He published in two parts *"England's Improvement by Sea and Land, to outdo the Dutch without fighting, and pay debts without money."* The first part was published 1677, and the second in 1698. His favourite schemes were a publick register for lands, making rivers navigable, employing the poor, preventing fires in Loudon, improving the British navy, &c.

KIDDERMINSTER

Kidderminster would now very well support itself. We must therefore conclude, that the numerous iron works and glass-houses upon the Stour and in the neighbourhood of Stourbridge did not then exist A.D. 1666. And as the navigable communication did not extend to any coal-pit, the difference, of carriage was not so much lower than the whole carriage by land as to compensate for the expence incurred by executing the navigation, and keeping it in repair.

The navigable communication which now connects Trent and Severn, and which runs the course of Yarranton's [y] project, is already of general use, and is likely not only to indemnify but to reward the proprietors and undertakers of it for their publick spirit. One cannot however but regret that poor Yarranton was no better supported, and that he should throw away his fortune in the attempt, and be exposed to that ridicule to which all abortive projects expose their undertakers.

The canal since executed under the inspection of Mr. Brindley, and which will remain with encreasing advantages to posterity, cost the proprietors the sum of 105,000 l. Coals are now brought to Kidderminster and other towns of a better quality, and nearly twenty per cent. cheaper than formerly, and carriage of all sorts is now more certain and cheaper.

The bason, &c. at Stourport was begun about 1768, and finished so as to be convenient for boats in 1771.

Barges are hawled by men up the river Severn. Various have been the attempts to introduce horses, but the banks are often so steep, the line way must so often change sides, the small number of barges that go up loaded, together with the damage that would be done to the land-holders, the laying a tax upon a free river, and many other objections, have always hitherto rendered, and I trust always will render, this scheme abortive. However the river was exactly surveyed, and it was found to be from Bewdley bridge to Worcester sixteen miles and fourteen yards; from Worcester to Upton ten miles five furlongs and 92 yards. Total twenty-six miles five furlongs, one hundred and six yards.

On the canal, a single horse drags a boat loaded with twenty-four or twenty five ton of goods; one man or boy directs the horse, and another stands at the helm. This weight by land-carriage would require two horses to each ton, and one man to every two ton, that is at least fifty horses, and twelve men. The proprietors are authorized to demand the rate of three half-pence for each ton, as tonnage for a mile, for all goods navigated on this canal, except lime, manure, &c. for the improvement of land.

The bridge over Severn at Stourport was begun March 1773-4, and made passable in September 1775. It cost about 5000 l. has three arches over the river, and forty-nine upon land to make the approaches. The centre arch is forty-eight feet wide at the wall, and the side ones forty-two each: the two piers between the arches are eight feet each, so that the bridge over the river is in length one hundred and forty-eight feet, and the road over these arches is eighteen feet wide in the clear. The dry arches on each side the above bridge are in length six hundred seventy-two feet, and the road over them twenty-two feet eight inches wide in the clear.

The owners of boats receive at the rate of two-pence half-penny per ton for each mile, for all goods which are not liable to be injured by water: for such goods as are perishable or may be injured by water the present price of carriage is three-pence per ton each mile, out of which the owners of the vessels pay the tonnage due to the proprietors.

On Wassal-hill, about half a mile from the banks of the Severn, are the remains of a small station or camp; it lies about four or five miles west of a larger camp on Kinver-edge: about the same distance east of Kinver-edge on Whitchbury-hill there was another. These probably were the posts of Henry IV. when he blocked up Owen Glendwr after the burning of Worcester, 1405. See Monstrelet, c. 5. and Hall's Chron. p. 18, 19.

[See Whitley.]

Dr. Johnstone has in his possession a picture on board of Sir Francis Walsingham, which marks the birth of this great statesman. It was painted 1578, æt. suæ 42.

[y] Yarranton's projeft was to make the river Stour navigable, and joining it with other rivers, make a communication with the Trent. Brindley's project was to cut a canal parallel with the river, and supply with water from thence.

KIDDERMINSTER

The ancient hermitage cut into Blackstone rock, between Stourport and Bewdley, is a curious subterraneous vault, divided into a cell for habitation of the hermit, and a chapel for religious worship. He had a fine view of the Severn, and of the woods which overhung his banks; a situation very fit for one disposed to lead a life sequestered from the ways and busy haunts of men. It is now profanely turned into a cyder-mill and cellar, and belongs to Wilson Aylesbury Roberts, esq. in right of his wife. A view and ground plan of it is engraved in Stukeley's *Itinerarium Curiosum*, I, plate 13 and 14. Since that drawing was taken the course of the river is altered, and it runs more westward leaving Blackstone Rock at a considerable distance. I have therefore annexed another sketch.

CALDWELL.

In the parish of Kidderminster lies the manor of Caldwell (so called perhaps from *calida vallis*, being very descriptive of its situation) which formerly belonged to the *Cokeseys*. Here stood a castle, or large building, which seemed to have been the habitation of some eminent persons, and is supposed to have been the seat of two knights of the name of Cokesey, whose monuments are in the church of Kidderminster. The first account of the Cokeseys in this parish upon record is found in an inquisition 30 Edward III. where *Hugh de Cokesey* held at the day of his death within the manor of Kidderminster one messuage, half a yard-land, ten acres of meadow, with appurtenances, &c. and 15 Edward III. *Dionisia*, widow of *Hugh de Cokesey*, held at the day of her death the manor of Kidderminster, with appurtenances, &c. which she had for the term of her life, and it was found likewise that *Walter de Cokesey* was son and heir of the said *Dionisia*. Another inquisition was soon after found with the same words; but concluding that the reversion of this manor after her death to descend to *Margaret* the wife of *Robert Martyn*, and her heirs. *Walter de Cokesey*, chevalier, 6 Henry IV. died seised of lands named *Partleys* or *Perches*, and left *Walter Cokesey*, his son and heir, who died 4 Henry

VI. seised in his demesne as of fee of one messuage and six acres of land, with appurtenances, called *Perchys*, within the manor of Kidderminster. In the time of king Henry VIII. these lands became the property of the *Russells* of *Strensham*, and *Wintours* of *Hodington*, who were descended from *Walter Hodington* and *Agnes Cassey*, a grand daughter of *Cokesey* who brought to the *Hadingtons* a title to *Cokesey's* large estate, which afterwards was divided between the *Wintours* and the *Russells*. *Caldwell*, part thereof, fell to *Wintour's* share, and was sold by *Mr. George Wintour* of *Hodington*, and afterwards became the inheritance of *Sir Ralph Clare* Knight of the Bath, son and heir of *Sir Francis Clare*, of *Caldwell*, knt.

TRIMPLEY

In the western part of the parish of Kidderminster lise the village of Trimpley, a hamlet of this parish, where was formerly a chapel, of which nothing more remains. Here the lords of *Abergavenny* had antiently great property. The next family in degree, who were possessed of lands here, was the *Attwoods*: for *Laurentius de Bosco* (in English *Attwood*) was of Trimpley, as by a record without date appears. He seems to have been a person of consequence by his seal and arms; a lion rampant over a vanquished dragon couchant. From this family descended as multitudes of evidence witness *Mr. Samuel Attwood*, of *Wolverley*, heir male of that family; from which branch sprung the pious *Sir John Attwood*, knt. so called by bishop *Wakefield*, who founded the chantry of Trimpley, and endowed the same with lands in Kidderminster, *Wolverley* and *Rushoke*, 44 Edward III. The *Attwoods* also possessed *Parke Attwood*, but not for so long a time as they had Trimpley. There was a mansion-house which belonged to the same family at Kidderminster, beyond the bridge over the *Stour*, called *Heathy Place*, which was purchased by them from the *Heathys*.

The prior and chapter of *Worcester*, the Sunday after Michaelmas day 1309, bound themselves in a bond of 110 l. payable to *Sir Richard de Harley*, for the possession of the

park

KIDDERMINSTER

park of Trimpley, payable at three payments, 40 l. at the feast of St. Andrew following, 40 l. fifteen days after Easter, and 30 l. the Michaelmas following [z].

In the utmost Western parts of this parish, and limits of the county, is situated the large wood called Trimpley and Emor [a], containing 160 acres, given to the priory of Worcester by Edward Burnell, of Acton Burnell, in the county of Salop, the 8th of king Edward, and confirmed by him. Though this gentleman is called by the name of Edward Burnell in the king's charter, he had in other deeds the title of Sir Edward Burnell, and lord Burnell. After the dissolution of religious houses these lands were granted to the dean and chapter of Worcester.

MITTON

Lower-Mitton is a village and hamlet, with a chapel situated in and belonging to the parish of Kidderminster. In Domesday Book it is written *Metune*. It is situated near Hertlebury, on the river Stour, which falls into the Severn near this place. In this hamlet *John Cofton*, of Cofton, alias Cofton Hacket, was formerly possessed of lands, which afterwards descended to his heir at law *Lucy* the wife of Alexander de Hodington, 20 Edward III. In this family the estate continued till 7 Henry VI. *John Lench* (who lost his life for his master Henry VI.) was 3 Edward IV. found by an office to be in possession of Mitton, which being forfeited by his attainder, his son *John Lench*, esq. was by king Henry VII. restored to this his paternal estate. Since the above time it became the property of Sir *William Lygon* the younger, who sold to every tenant the inheritance of the estate he occupied, reserving the old rents and services to himself; these with the whole manor, he afterwards sold to *James Clent*, a native of the parish of Hertlebury.

This chapel was consecrated and made a place of burial by John lord bishop of Worcester, 6 Nov. 1625.

5 Eliz. Kidderminster contained 260 families, Mitton chapelry 23 families; now 1600, according to the return made to bishop North, A.D. 1776. Kidderminster borough pays to the land-tax at 4s. in the pound, 342l. 12s. 2d. Kidderminster foreign, ditto, 473l. 12s. 10d. Kidderminster borough paid to the poor in the year 1775, 820l. Kidderminster foreign, ditto, 400l.

KIDDERMINSTER CHURCH

Arms and Monuments

On the 5th of the kalends of November, 1335, the parsonage of Kidderminster was by Simon Montecute, bishop of Worcester, and the chapter, declared to be lawfully appropriated to the religious lazar-house for women at Maiden Bradley, with reservation of a vicarage, and payment of the yearly pension of 1 3s. 4d. to the bishop, and the same sum to the chapter, in consideration of the damage they might sustain by reason of this appropriation, and also with a proviso that the prior and convent of Worcester should from thenceforth be freely discharged of all manner of tithes payable out of their park of Trimpley and Emor.

The vicar is endowed with all the tithes of that part of the parish lying East of Stour; and with the small tithes of the greater division of the parish. An act of inclosure passed in the year 1774, whereby the vicar in lieu of small tithes of this division is allowed about 150 acres on Kidderminster Common sufficient to make a good farm.

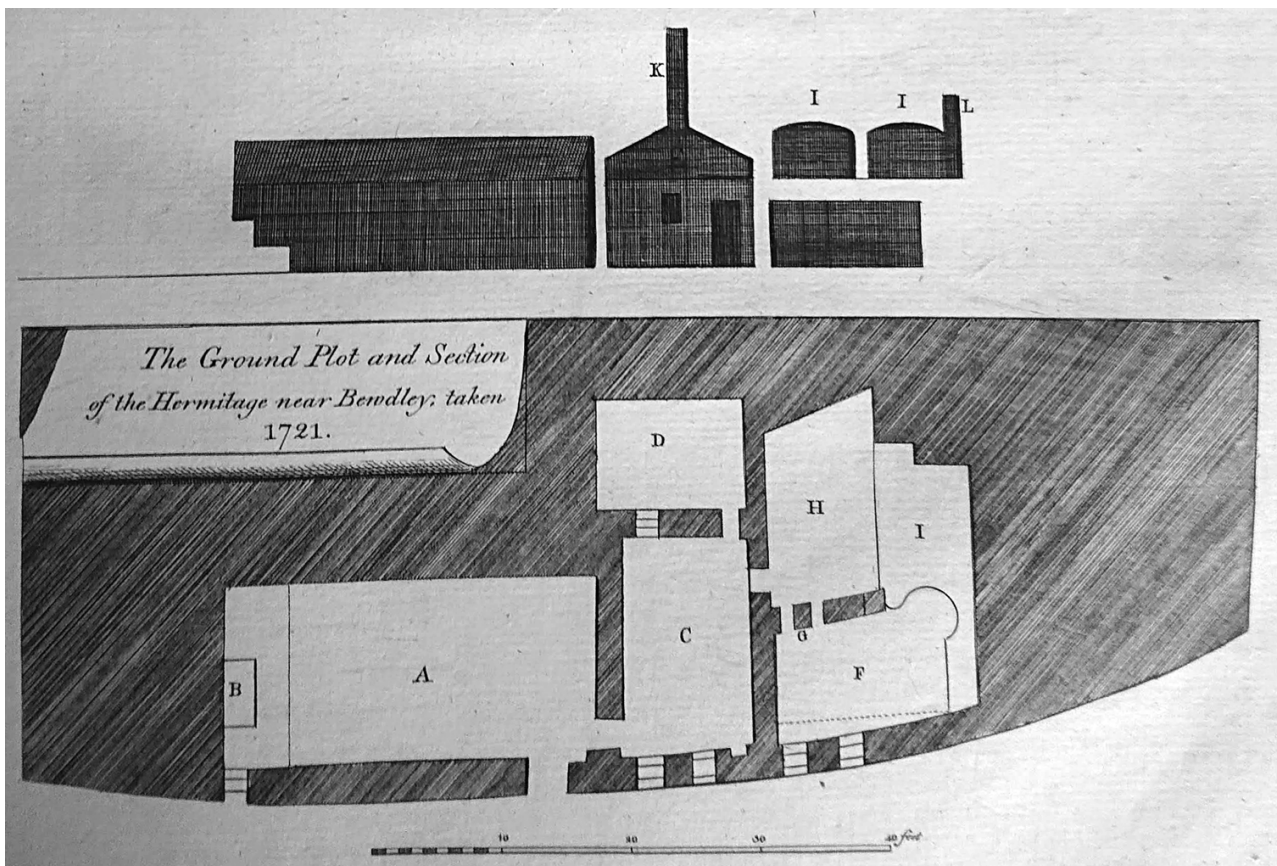
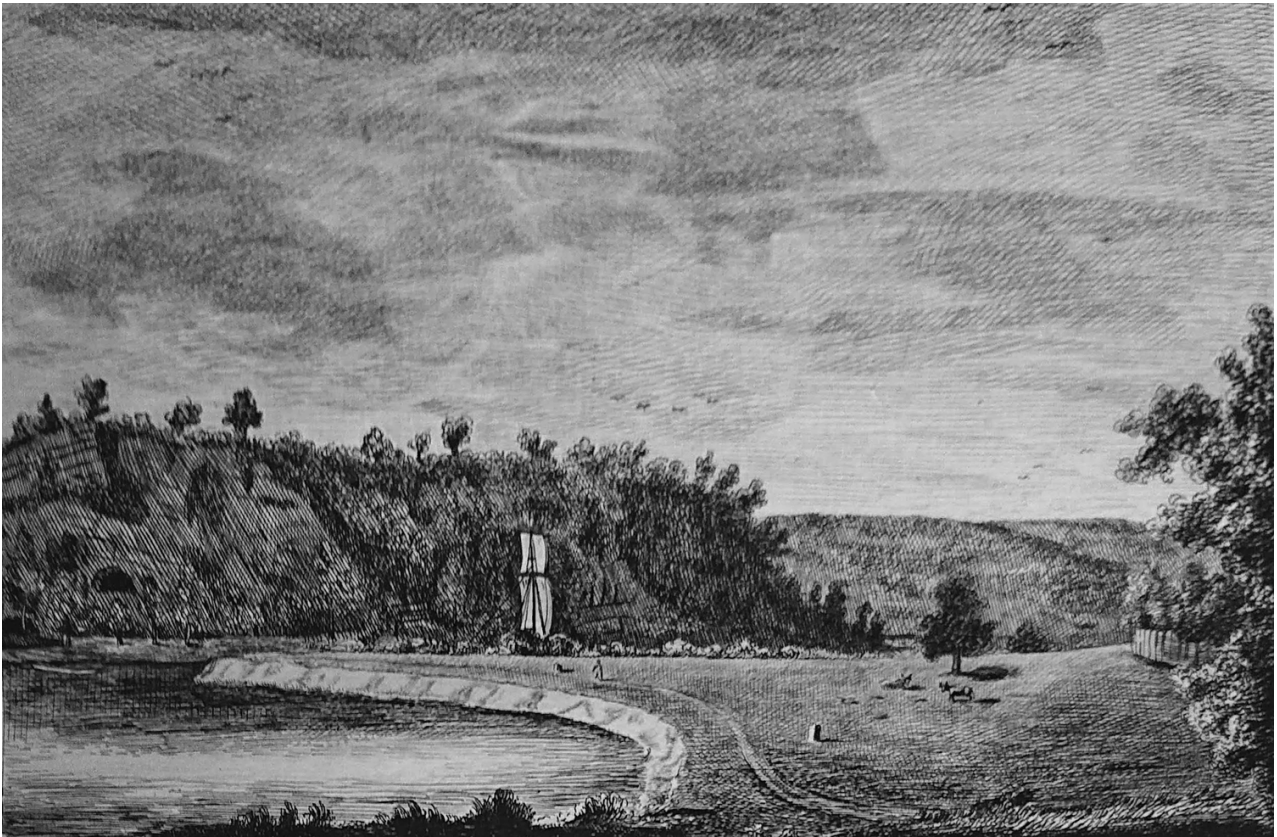
There was in the church-yard of Kidderminster a chantry or chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, to which Hugh de Cokesey presented. A.D. 1349. In Henry VIIIth's original valor of Worcester diocese, a chantry is said to be in Kidderminster church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, value per ann. 6l. 5s.; another at Trimpley, dedicated to the same, value per ann. 6l. 4s. 7d. and also

[z] Lib. Alb. fol. 41. a.

[a] The boundaries of the manor of Eymore as described in the records of the dean and chapter of Worcester are as follows; beginning at Moor Brook, where it runneth into the Severn, dividing Worcestershire and Staffordshire, it extendeth upwards along the same brook to Clent's-Moor, and from thence, excluding the said Clent's-Moor, along a great ditch by the brook side to the top of the said wood, near Portway, from thence along the wood hedge and ditch to the Green-load at Sevrn-side; and so along the bank of the river Severn, to the place where it began. And the keeper's house and lands thereto belonging are adjoining to the wood or park. This, together with Hircot and Burlish woods, are cut down for cordwood, the price about 12s. per cord. In Eymore are some poles.

another

A View of the Hermitage at Blackftone Rock near Bewdley



A. Chapel of the Hermitage. B. the Altar. C. the common Room. D. the Pantry with E. a Chamber over it. F. the Study. G. Shelves for Books. H. an inner Room. I. Closets with Lofts over. K. Belfry or Chimney: L. Chimney.

another chantry in the same church, called St. Catherine's chantry, value per ann. 8l. 11s. 3d. But in another original valor of 26 Henry VIII. signed by bishop Latymer, in the First Fruits Office, the chantry of the Blessed Virgin in Kidderminster church is rated at 7l. per ann. That of St. Katherine's at 6l. 8s. 10d. and Trimpley at 5l. 2s. 8d.

This church is an antient handsome building. In the great East window of the choir was in Mr. Habingdon's time a representation of the founder John Niger de Kidderminster in a kneeling posture, having in his hand the picture of the church, which he makes an offering of to God. In the third North and lowest window of the choir are the arms of Old France; and in the third South and lowest window those of England.

In the middle part of the choir on the ground is a marble slab inlaid with the figure of a lady lying between her two husbands, both in the like armour. At the lady's feet is a little dog; at each of her husband's a lion. Above the figures are the arms here engraved. The inscription in black letter:

" Miles honorificus John Phelip [b] subjacet intus;

Henricus Quintus dilexerat hunc ut amicus;

Consepelitur ei sua sponsa Matildis amata

Waltero Cookesey prius armigero sociata:

Audax et fortis apud Harflew John bene gessit

Et [c] Baro [d] vim mortis patiens migrare recessit

[e] M.C. quater xv Octobris luce secunda

Sit suus, alme Jesu, tibi spiritus hostia munda."

On the north side of the choir, under an old arch in the wall lies a knight in armour; under his head his helmet, and thereon a bunch of cinquefoils within a band, upon a

wreath, with mantling, and doubling: and at his feet a lion. On his left hand lies his lady in the dress of that age. At her head are two angels and at her feet a little dog. On the highest part of the arch, which is curiously wrought Argent on a bend Azure 3 cinquefoils, Or. *Cooksey* quartering Azure a lion rampant between 8 crosses crosslets Or. *Brews*: crest a bunch of cinquefoils bound Gules stalked Vert, flowered Or. upon a wreath Argent and Azure mantled Gules doubled Argent, and supported with two otters proper. On the East end of this monument stands an angel holding a shield, *Cookesey* quartering Or 2 bars Gules. *Harmanville*. and Argent a bend Gules within a border chequeè Or countercomponée Or and Azure. At the West end to answer this another angel holds *Cookesey* quartering Gules a fesse countercomponée Or and Sable, between 6 crosses fitchée Argent. *Boteler*. and Argent a bend Sable, with a label of 3 Or and Gules. *St. Pierre*. In a little escutcheon at their heads 5 branches 2. 1. and 2. At their feet Or. a cross Gules. *Burgh earl of Ulster*. On the front of this monument over the figures, *Cookesey* quartering *Brews*. Underneath three escutcheons, the arms worn out. At the West end of the tomb *Cookesey* empaling *Hermanville*. *Cookesey* with an empalement not to be discovered. In the spandrils and fascia the tomb *Cookesey* and *Brews*, single. The inner moulding of the arch is adorned with ten figures of men and women. Above this monument very high on the wall was a lady in a mantle faced with three rows of ermine, on several parts whereof are painted *Cookesey's* arms, kneeling before the Virgin and Child, and praying thus: *pia mater miserere met.*[f]

[b] Sir John Philip is said by Sir William Dugdale in his Baronage, vol. II. p. 213, to have been a valiant soldier under Henry V. in his wars in France; but as appears by his epitaph, he survived the first of that king's military operations there but a very short time, dying ten days after the siege of Harfleur, and it is probable by the flux, which was so fatal to the English during the siege of that place; he was seated at Penyneton in Suffolk, but marrying with the widow of Walter Cookesey, he resided I suppose at Caldwell. From the information of the reverend and learned Mr. Hayley.

[c] Quere whether Sir John Philip was a baron his head is adorned with somewhat like a coronet differing from the head dress of Walter Cookesey, esq.

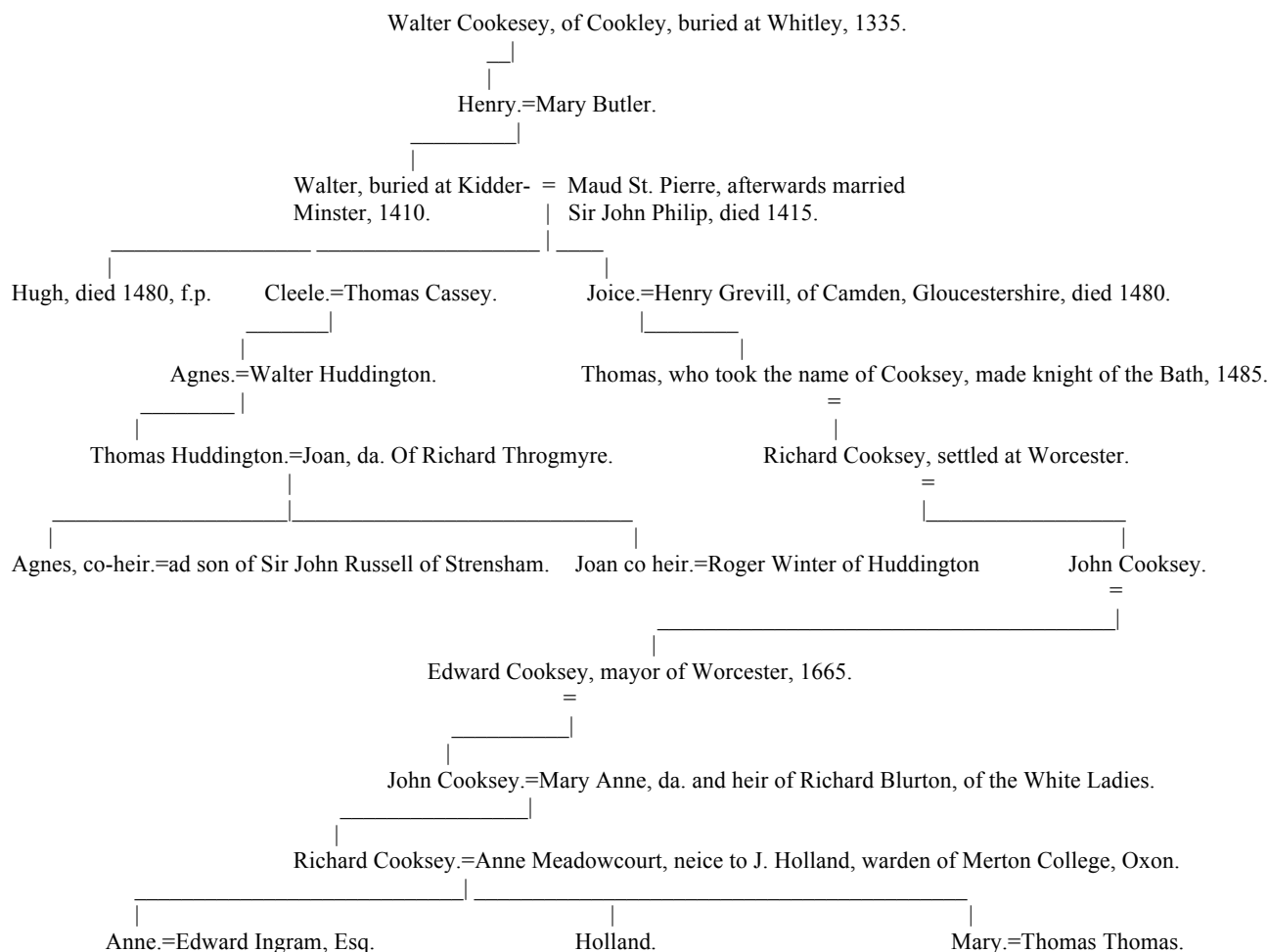
[d] Perhaps *viam*,

[e] October 2, 1415.

[f] These monuments of the Cookseys are described as they were in Mr. Habingdon's time; a few years ago the chancel was repaired, by which pretended, reparation the monuments were scandalously broken and mended according to the ignorance of the mason. They are engraved as they stand at present. Mr. Habington observes, that he had blasoned the arms as they were in his time upon the tomb, and not as they ought to be.

KIDDERMINSTER

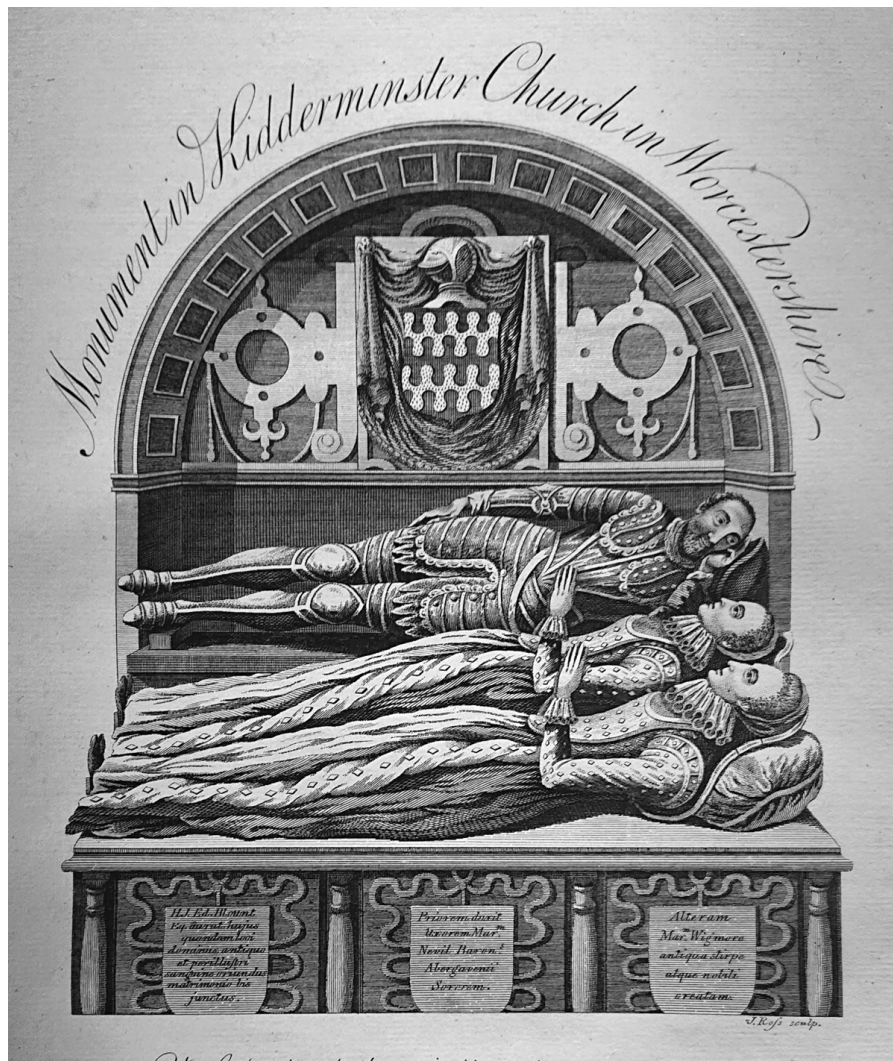
Some Descents of the COKESEYS, taken from the Pedigree of the Russells of Strensham, and Information of H.C. esq.



On an altar tomb on the north side of the choir lies the figure of Mr. Blount, father of Sir Blount, knt. in armour, under his head his helmet, upon a wreath Or and Sable a slipper in pale in the sun proper; a ruff about his neck; by his side a gauntlet, and a lion at his feet. On his left hand his wife in the habit of a widow, with a book in her joined hands; and two sons, two daughters, and a child in

swaddling clothes, standing in scrolls against the back of the arch, with these initial letters of their names, E. B. C. B. M.B. K. B. and G. B. Over them these arms; Quarterly, 1 Barry nebule of 6 Or. and Sable, 2 Argent a lion rampant Gules crowned Or, within a border Sable besantee. 3. Argent three chevrons ingrailed Gules, 4. as the first with a crescent for difference, *Blount*, empaling *Cornwall* of Kinlet, Or a lion

rampant



Vir fuit animi dotibus eximiis acri semper et vivido
Ingenio Prudentia singulari:
Quem privatae Vitae amor a negotiosis honoribus
Ad laudibile Otium pertraxit;
Rei familiaris nec parcus, nec prodigus.
Domus elegans, in suos munificus in pauperes liberalis:
Quem appetebant summi, colebant infimi, a mabant omnes;
Beatam Vitam felici morte conclusit die 13.^o Novem.^o

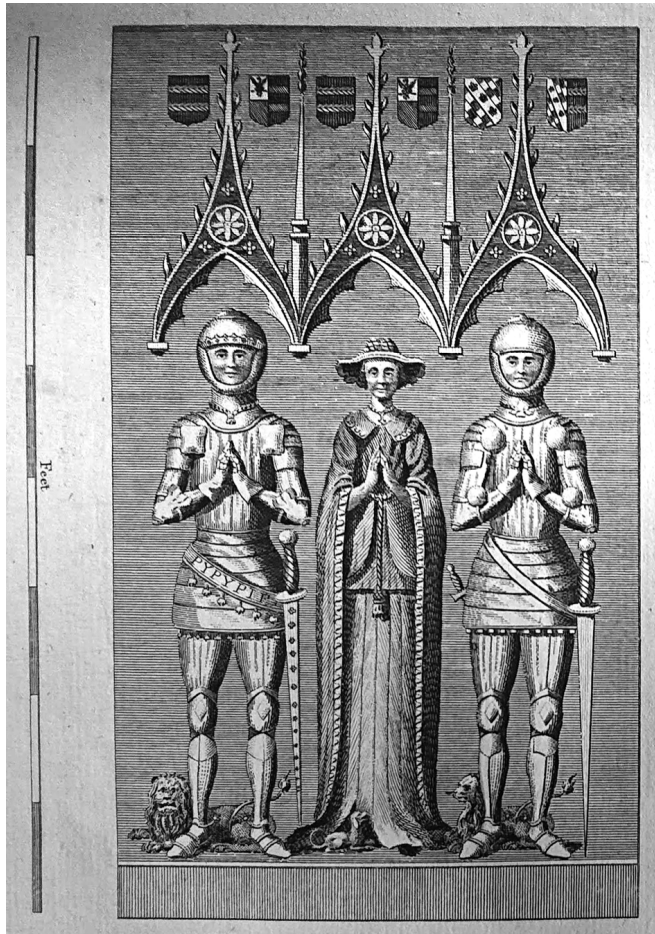
Ætatis 76.

A.D. 1630

R.I.P.

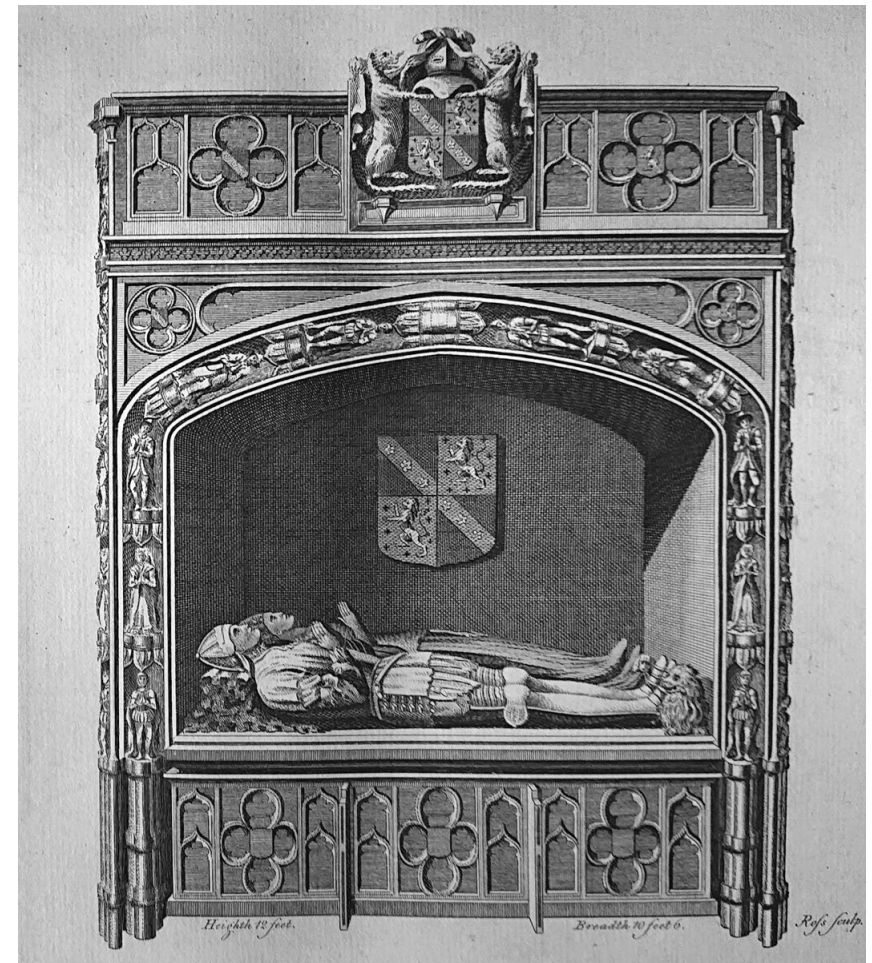


Hic jacent
Thomas Blount Armiger
Et Margaría Uxor ejus:
Qui quídem Thomas obiit
Die 28.^o Novem.^s A.D. M.^oCCCCCLXIX.
Prædicta Margaríta obiit
Die 2.^o Novem.^s A.D. M.^oCCCCCLXXXV.
R.I.P.



Miles honorificus John Philip subiacet intus
 Henricus Quintus dilexerat hunc ut amicus
 Consepelitur et sua sponfa Matildis amata
 Waltero Cookeley prius armgero fociata
 Audax et fortis apud Harfleur John bene gefsit
 Et Baro vim mortis paciens migrare recest
 M.C. quarter xv Octobris luce fecunda
 Sit fuus (alme Iesus) fibi fpiritus hostia munda.

*Monument of Walter de Cookeley his Wife & her second Husband John Philip in
 Kidderminster Church*



Monument of Walter de Cookeley Esq. in Kidderminster Church

rampant Sable crowned Gules. The quartered coat and the impalement single are on the front and side of the tomb. *Waryn* impal *Poney*. About the tomb the inscription engraved.

On the south wall of the choir, under a beautiful arch, lies leaning on his elbow a knight in armour, and on his left hand his two ladies; on the top of the arch stands an angel holding a shield, with Barry nebule of 6 Or and Sable. *Blount*: under the angel's feet, the same coat, with the crest. Between the pillars of the tomb on the right hand Blount impaling Gules on a saltire Argent a rose of the first *Neville*; on the left Blount impaling Sable 3 greyhounds current Argent collared Or. *Wigmore*. At the feet of the ladies are Blount's arms impaling *Neville*. In the first compartment on the side of this tomb quarterly 1. 4. Blount as before. 2. Argent a lion rampant Gules crowned Or, within a border Sable besantee. 3. Or. 3 chevrons Gules (instead of Argent, 3 chevrons ingrailed Gules) as on the father's tomb impaling quarterly. 1. *Neville*. 2. Or. fretty Gules in a quarter per pale Ermine and Gules a ship Sable. 3. cheque Or and Azure. *Warrem*. 4. Or. 3 chevrons Gules. *Clare*. 5. quarterly Argent and Gules fretty Or. a bendlet Sable. *Le Despencer*. 6. Gules a fesse between 6 cross croslets Or. *Beauchamp*. In the second compartment all Blount's coats quartered as before. In the third Blount impaling Wigmore. At the lady's head Blount and Wigmore impaled as the last; the inscription as engraved.

"Hic jacet Edwardus Blount, eques auratus, hujus quondam loci dominus, antiquo et perillustri sanguine oriundus, matrimonio bis junctus: priorem duxit uxorem Mariam Neville baronis Abergavenii sororem; alteram Mariam Wigmore, antiquo stirpe atque nobili creatam. Vir fuit dotibus animi eximiis, acri semper et vivido ingenio, prudentia singulari, quem privatae vitae amor a negotiosis honoribus ad laudabile otium pertraxit; rei familiaris nec parvus nec prodigus, domi elegans, in suos munificus, in pauperes liberalis: quem appetebant summi, colebant infimi, amabant omnes. Beatam vitam felici morte conclusit die

13^o Novembris, ann. Dom. 1630, ætatis 76. R.I.P. [g]."

These four monuments are here engraved in three plates.

There was also in the choir a tomb of alabaster, but to whom it belonged is unknown, the portraiture and inscription being worn out in Mr. Habingdon's time, and the whole since gone. The arms without colours were engraved on a piece of lead fixed to the monument on the ground quarterly. 1. On a cross 5 mullets of 6 points; 2. a fesse between 3 crescents; 3. a cross between 4 mullets of 5 points within roundles; 4. a cross florette between 4 crescents impaling 3 towers, in chief a mullet of 5 points pierced; and on the sinister of all these on a fesse between 6 cinquefoils 3 cross croslets. Among these 4 last coats was a crown Or.

In the highest north window of the body of the church were these words. "Orate pro animabus Johannes Holdelis" the rest broke. In the second and third north window, Gules a chevron between 3 escallops Argent. In the fourth north window was a man armed kneeling, bearing Argent on a bend Azure between two cotises dancettee Gules 3 cinquefoils Or. Behind him his wife bearing on her mantle the same arms. In the second pane a man armed and praying, and on his arms Argent on a bend Azure 3 cinquefoils Or, and behind him his wife kneeling, with her husband's coat on her mantle. In the third pane a man in like sort armed and kneeling, with the same arms, without cotises, and his wife's mantle as the former. The subscription in all these panes, "Orate pro animabus Walteri Cooksey et Matildis uxoris ejus, et pro animabus domini Walteri Cookesey et dominæ Isabellæ, et pro animabus. . . . Cookesey et Dionifiæ. In the first pane is the first coat with cotises dauncettee Gules; and the same impaling Gules a fesse countercomponée Argent and Sable between six crosses formée Or. In the next pane the same coat without cotises, and the same coat impaling Argent a bend Sable with a label of

[g] This monument has been very much damaged by the masons; the description is taken from Habington's MS. and the engraving from its present appearance.

KIDDERMINSTER

3 Gules. In the third pane Argent on a bend Azure 3 cinquefoils Or. *Cooksey* single and impaling Or, 2 bars Gules. Below this in the first of these panes, a woman praying and on her mantle Or a saltire ingrailed Sable. In the next pane a man armed praying; and on his armour quarterly Gules and Argent, on the Gules quarter an eagle displayed Or. and in a like manner two eagles in the 2d and 3d quarters. In the third pane a lady praying with the same arms on her mantle, and underwritten, these words. "Et Matildis uxoris ejus. And in the bottom of the same window Or a saltire ingrailed Sable supported by two angels, and these words written over the same, *Yes ben Bolowrt armes*, In the third pane quarterly Gules and Argent, in the first quarter only an eagle displayed Or impaling, Or, 2 bars Gules, supported by angels. Of the three Cokesseys it is remarked, that only Sir Walter Cokesey had gilded spurs.

In the north-wall on a raised tomb under an arch lies a knight in armour, leaning on his elbow, his legs crossed, with a lion at his feet. On his armour 3 cinquefoils on a bend between two cotises dancettee, which shews he was a Cokesey.

In the south wall, and highest part of that aisle lies under an arch supported by stone pillars, adorned with figures and escutcheons, a lady wearing a gown and mantle, her chin muffled with lawn, a lion at her feet, but no arms. She is commonly called lady Beauchamp.

In the west window was Richard Pullein and his wife, who were benefactors.

At the east end of this church is a handsome chapel, now changed to a school, built by Simon Ryse, a great benefactor: the arms on the north side of this place are conjectured to be those of the merchant adventurers, and three ears of corn or rye alluding to the name of the founder.

In the middle part of the body of the church was a figure on a brass plate with this epitaph.

"Of your charity pray for the souls of Thomas Rise and Margery his wife, and their childrens souls, the which Thomas deceased ultimo die Decembris an. Do. 1494."

In the chancel.

"Hodie mihi,		Cras tibi
Here lieth the body of		Also here lieth
John Far, who departed		the body of Frances
This life Dec. 26, ann.		his wife, who departed
Dom.		this life Dec. 27,
aged 46		aged 46.
		1694.

Under the inscription are these verses:

Reader, if matchless instances of love,
Or wonders that surprize, can pity move
Lend here an ear, lend here a sigh or groan,
Lend here thy strongest passion to bemoan
The hardest fate, severest destiny;
Neither accepts of life if one must die
Scarce had the sun return'd since one was dead
But with more haste than his the other fled;
Thus far their love, their life, their death, was
even,
In love they liv'd on earth, in peace in heaven."

On an alabaster monument, fixed to the east wall of the chancel these arms; Argent on a fesse between 2, chevrons Gules 3 mullets of the field.

"M.S. Henrici Toye Bridgman, gen. qui honesta stirpe oriundus præclaram indolem feliciter expolivit, nee minus aliis vixit quam sibi: legis peritiam fumma probitate, pari modestia, singulari pacis studio, ceteris demum bonis artibus ornavit; prudens, integer, pius suis, charus, amicis jucundus, omnibus semper benevolus facilisque, post vitæ spatium cum laude merita peractum senio confectus morbo simul correptus (eheu) paralytico placide... agebat animam: Vir, si quis alius, desiderabilis obiit die 7 Novemb. ann. Do. 1713."

On flat stones:

"Simon Wood, died 7 May 1725, aged 59; Ellen Wood his wife, 9 Jan. 1721, aged 67."

"John Farr, died December 26, 1694, and Frances his wife, Dec. 27, 1694."

"Here lieth the body of William Toye, gent. he died 28 Jauuary, 1728, ætatis suæ 40." Arms. *Toye* imp. ten roundels; on a chief a lion passant.

"Mrs. Frances Toye, obiit 26 Aprilis 1706, ætatis fuæ 63"

"Henricus Toye, gen. obiit 7 Novembris ætatis fuæ 78."

KIDDERMINSTER

"H. S.E. Johannes Reynolds, generosus, qui mortalitati valedixit 7 die Septembris, an. salutis 1710, ætatis 51. Hic defessi quiescunt." Arms, 3 cocks: imp. a leg between two pears.

"Here lie the body of Mary the wife of Joseph Cox, gen. who died 13 April, 1727, aged 52 years.

Joseph Cox; he was bred an attorney, and practiced near forty years in this borough. A man so dexterous in business, and withal so faithful to his clients, that the late lord high chancellor Talbot (who was himself the best lawyer, and most discerning person of his age) in a publick manner from the bench declared him to be, both for ability and integrity, an honour to his profession.

He was born 28 Feb. 1677. He died March 1737.

"Here lieth the body of Mrs. Hester Jefferys, who died Jan. 8, 1722; aged 66 years."

"Here lieth the body of Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of Mr. James Spilsbury, who died April 27, A.D. 1710. Arms; a bend ingrailed cotized a mullet in sinister chief.

"Here was laid the body of Caple Hanbury, esq. may it rest as he lived and died in peace in the 79th year of his age, 14th Jan. 1704.

With length of days he met his fate pre-
par'd;

No murmur, not a groan or sigh was heard;
That peace that dwelt within his honest
breast

Had smooth'd his passage to eternal rest."
On a bend, a star.

"Kalendis Maii, 1676.

Febre obiit Simon Degge filius unicus ex conjugatis Sim. Degge Equ. et consiliario insigni, et Alicia uxore verè Christiana: florentissimus juvenis, probitatis et humanitatis intimæ, morum a seculo alienorum, maturis misericordiæ et pietatis officiis maturum exitum prævenit conjugii brevis; cui tamen succrescunt duo filii, quorum alter præmortuo patre in lucem editus negata pietatis felicissima materia"

Below the communion rails:

"Here lieth the body of William, the son of Thomas Cox, late rector of Market Orton, in the county of Rutland, who died 4th day of May, 1715, aged 51.

"Hic situs est sub spe resurrectionis Adamus Hough generosus: obiit vicesimo sexto die Aprilis, ann. dom. 1681, ætatis suæ 78."

"Here lieth the body of Mrs. Elizabeth the the wife of Adam Hough, gent. who died 20th of June 1731, aged 54; and Adam, the son of Adam Hough, and Elizabeth his wife, who died the 9th day of February, 1731, aged 18."

"Edvardus filius Joannis et Elizabethæ Cotton, obiit. 18 die Septembris, ann. dom. 1688."

In the church:

"William Brittol, 14 March, 1711, aged 79. Sarah, his wife, 25 May, 1703, aged 75."

Here lieth the body of Mr. Thomas Crane, of Haberley, in this parish; he departed this life the first day of Nov. 1728, aged 48."

"Here lieth the body of Thomas the son of Edward Burton, minister of Shrawley, who died Nov. 20, 1689, aged two years."

North isle:

"John Penn, late of Trimpley in this parish: he died 31 March, 1729, aged 25 years: alao his son James, aged six months."

On a brass plate:

"Here lieth the body of Dorothy, the wife of William Waldren, minister, who died Aug. 26, 1662. Also of Elizabeth, their daughter; who died June the 18th, in the year above.

South isle:

Three chevrons, crest a buck's head cabost.

"The memory of the just shall be blessed.

Here lieth the body of the hon. Sir Ralph Clare, eldest son unto Sir Francis Clare, in this county, servant unto prince Henry, knight of the Bath at the coronation of king Charles the first, whom he attended through all his glorious fortunes. Servant to king Charles the second, both in his banishment and return; who being zealous in his loyalty to his prince, exemplary in his charity to the distressed, and of known integrity unto all men, full of days and fame, departed this life in the fourscore and fourth year of his age, and on the 21st of April, 1670."

Railed in by the tomb of lady Beauchamp, on a monument fixed to the south wall, of the school:

"H.S.E. Reverendus Joannes Best; Scholæ Kederminsteriensis per 30 plus annos

KIDDERMINSTER

archididasculus, ad seros usque posteros mortuus licet, vivendi recte magister futurus; vir antiquæ fidei, et pietatis simplicis; mores ne ipsa unquam incusavit calumpnia: Doctrina sibi soli semper visa est parvula: Charitatis vix plures audivere famam quam senserunt fructum; hanc autem singularem sibi laudem potuit vindicare, nisi in eo omnia essent singularia quod spretis mollioris vitæ otio, utilioris questu, difficilem docendi provinciam quam juvenis nactus est non deseruit senex; obiit 7 die Augusti, A.D. 1729, ætatis suæ 59."

In the same vault were buried a son and a daughter of the Rev. Mr. John Best, Edward and Mary; Edward died Dec. 15, 1722; Mary died Oct. 19, 1730, aged 13 years.

John, his eldest son, was buried in St. Edward's chapel, in the university of Cambridge, April 13, 1726, aged 18 years.

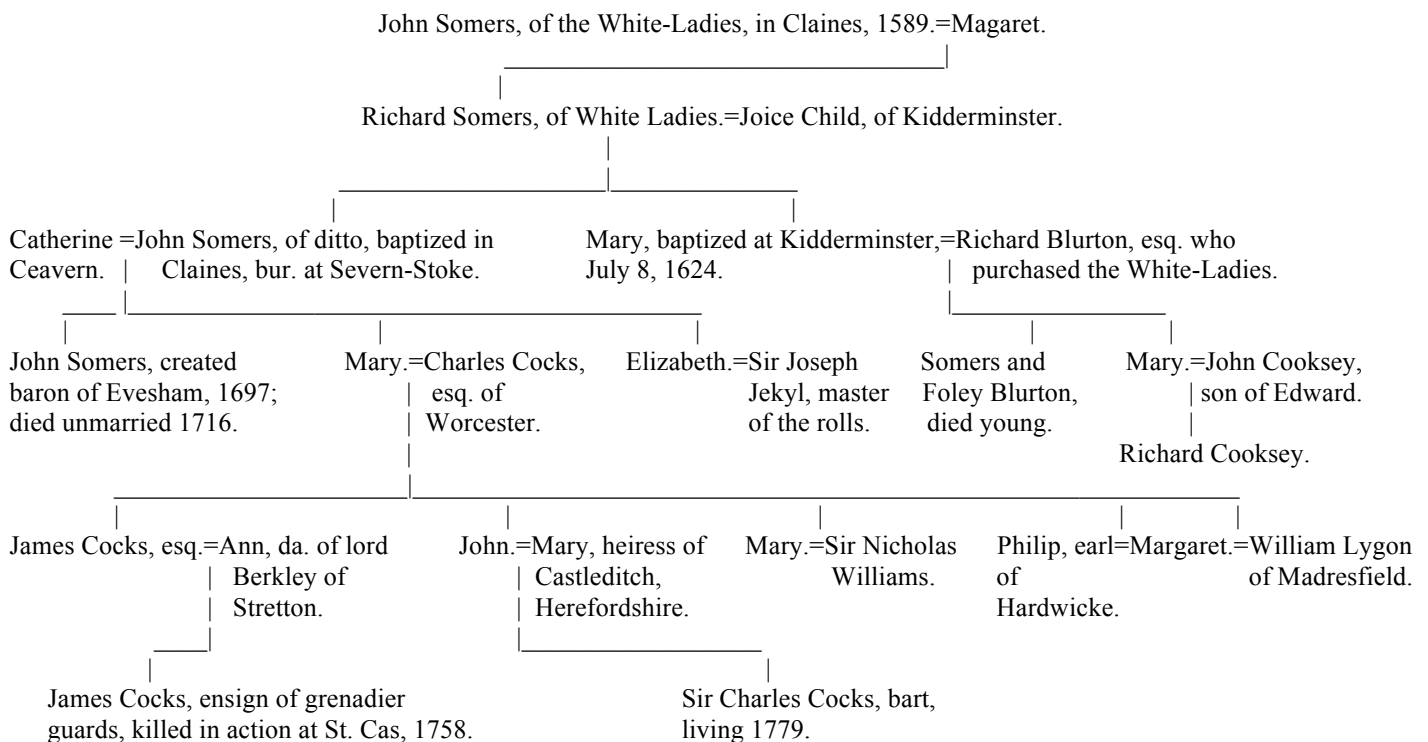
In the church-yard on a monument enclosed with iron rails:

"Here lie the remains of Mr. William Greaves, citizen and weaver of London whose generous endeavours for the benefit of the trade of this place procured him esteem while living and his death sincerely lamented. He was a dutiful son, a loving husband, a sincere friend, a loyal subject, and a good Christian. He departed this life the 28th of July, 1725, in the 53^d year of his age. Mrs. Elizabeth Greaves, his mother, September 17, 1729, aged 89."

"Mr. John Spilsbury, on eminent dissenting minister, died Jan. 30, 1727, aged 60."

"Mr. Matthew Bradshaw, his son in law, and successor; died 4 Nov. 1742, aged 42."

One cross remains in the church-yard, near which was a monument now in ruins, and without any inscription, where tradition says, the grandfather of the great lord Somers was buried. Here follows some account of his family.



The

KIDDERMINSTER

The name of John lord SOMERS, which reflects so much honour on this county that gave him birth, opens to a provincial historian such a field for panegyric as would require a volume to itself. Whether we consider him a scholar, a statesman, a patriot, or a protector of genius in others, he demands the highest admiration and applause. The annals of Great Britain, and the grateful pen of Addison, sufficiently celebrate his character. As the historian of Worcestershire, I shall only remark, that he made no addition to his paternal estate in this county of about 300l. a year, further than the purchase of the manor of Wadberrow, and a mortgage on Stoulton, though *his* favour joined to the prudence and parsimony of his successors, laid the foundation of large possessions in this and adjoining counties of Hereford and Gloucester. It is also worthy notice, that never any family exhibited more signal and similar instances of truly eminent abilities and real worth being produced from the golden mediocrity of fortune, the *avitus apto cum lare fundus*, than this of John lord Somers, and that of this relation and successor in office, in the next age, Philip earl of Hardwicke; both of whom in the same line of life possessed accomplishments and intrinsic greatness far superior to any of their contemporaries.

It may not be improper to correct an error in Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*, 2d edit. vol. II. col. 960. where Mr. Somers is said to have been a gentleman commoner of Trinity College. He entered a Commoner there in 1675, and in the year

following gave them 5l. towards embellishing the chapel, and some years after 100l. as appears by Bursar's books. If he was born [*h*] (as is generally supposed, and mentioned by Mr. Valentine Green, in his *History of Worcester*, p. 218. though I cannot find it in any register) in the year 1650, he was 24 years old when he entered college, which being so much later in life than is common, seems to countenance the idea, that he was intended to follow his father's profession, or would have contented himself with the succession to his fortune; but that happily for his country, his very promising parts attracted the notice of Sir Francis Winnington [*i*] when solicitor general, who took him under his patronage, and put him into this track of education [*k*]. This also accounts for his making such a figure in practice at the bar so soon after his quitting college in the year 1682. By a parity of good fortune (and indeed their lives throughout were amazingly parallel) Mr. Philip Yorke, when clerk to the industrious Salkeld, attracted the notice of Sir Thomas Parker, afterwards earl of Macclesfield, by whose recommendation and patronage he was made solicitor general before he arrived at the age of thirty.

IN MITTON CHAPEL.

On the top of a monument fixed to the east wall of the chancel, Vert a chevron counterchanged Or and Gules between three Soles nayant Argent, impaling Gules a bend Argent.

[*h*] Lord Somers is said by tradition to have been born in a house adjoining to the east side of the cathedral, and very near St. Michael's church.

[*i*] In the *Biographia Britannica* Sir Francis Winnington is said to have been a servitor of Trinity College; but I believe he never was in so low a rank, being of a considerable family in Cheshire.

[*k*] The duke of Shrewsbury writing to lord Somers, May 8, 1695, with the warrant to be a baron, tells him, that he had orders to say every thing he could imagine to persuade him to accept of a title; "by your objections you may give me leave to tell you, that you are as partial and unreasonable " with too much modesty, as some are with too much ambition."

Lord Sunderland, in his letter to king William, says, "lord Somers is the life, the soul, the spirit, of his " party, and can answer for it."

Qu. whether the duke of Shrewsbury (to whom his father and himself were stewards in Worcestershire) did not introduce him to politics?

The MSS. of this eminent statesman and lawyer filled above 60 vols. in 4to. which were destroyed by fire at: Lincoln's-Inn, 1752, in the chambers of the late Mr. Charles Yorke. A number of scarce tracts had been re-printed from his collection in sixteen volumes, in 4to. at different times.

Some remains, "*Immitis ignis reliquæ*," were published by lord Hardwicke in 1778, in a quarto volumes, entitled, "*State Papers, from 1501 to 1726*."

Lord Hardwicke says, the *Treatise on grand jurors*, the just and modest vindication of the last parliament of Charles II. and the famous last Speech of king William, were in lord Somers's hand-writing.

"On

KIDDERMINSTER

"On the west side of the chancel lieth interred, the honourable Anne Soley wife of John Soley of Lickhill; who was the eldest daughter of the right honourable Thomas lord Foliot, and departed this life the 28th day of April, 1696, aged 40 years.

"Also near to the south side of this chancel lieth interred the body of Humphrey Soley, second son of the said John Soley, and Eliza. his wife, who departed this life the 27th day of Febr. 1700, aged 5 months.

On a small stone:

"Arthur Lugg, obiit 31 July, 1726, ætat. 55."

On a flat stone in the body of the chapel:

"Underneath the end of this stone lieth interred the body of Elizabeth Chislete, widow, who departed this life. 16th day of December, 1707, in a good old age."

Below at the bottom:

"Underneath this end of this stone lieth interred the body of Walter Walsh, gent, who departed this life the 3^d day of December, 1708, aged 62 years."

On another stone:

Three cups with 3 boars heads couped, impaling a bird.

"Here lieth the body of John Bowles gent, who departed this life at Lickhill, November 24, in the year of our Lord 1709, in the 71st year of his age, Turkey merchant, citizen of London."

On another:

"Here lieth the body of William Hewson citizen and merchant of London, who departed this life the 12th of October, 1712, aged 89 years. And of Ellin his wife, who departed this life the 20th day of December 1713, aged 83 years."

On the wall:

"This chapel, with the yard, was, consecrated and made a burial-ground by the rev. Father in God John lord bishop of Wigorn, Novemb. 6, 1625, by the means of John Yarrenton and John Wilks, church-wardens, with the inhabitants of Lykhill."

PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	REGISTERS.
Prior de Mayden Bradley, Sarum dioc. Et ejusdem loci fo- rores et fratres.	Johannes de Ulbeton, non. Martii, 1280. Robertus de Blake, 11 id. Febr. 1305. Johannes de Careselle, pbr. 8 kal. Jul. 1312. Johannes de la Donne, 1340. Thomas Payn, 1362. Johannes Brugge [I], 13 Maii, 1399. Thomas Malle, pbr. 13 Nov. 1402 [m]. Will'us Baker, cap. 2 Aug. 1420. Will'us Mountford, cap. 15 Jun. 1431. Edwardus Caldecote, cap. 25 Maii, 1463. Johannes Newman, LL. Bac. 21 Apr. 1485. Ricardus Jenyns, 28 Jun. Prior de Maiden Bradley, 1515. Will'us Pykenham, ult. Jan. 1520. Will'us Tomyns, pbr. 12 Julii, 1535.	Giff. f. 114. b Geynsb. f. 38. a Reyn. f. 54. a. Wolst. v. 1. f. 21. Barnet, f. 21. b. Tidm. f. 38. a. Cliff. f. 20. a. Morg. v. 2. f. 15. a. Pult. f. 91. a. Carp. V. 1. f. 180. a. Alkok, f. 148. S. Gygl. f. 144. a. Jeron. f. 1. b. Ib. f. 74. b.
Rex.		
Michael Betonson de Kidderminster ye- man, ex concess. prior. et conv. de Mayden Bradele ante dissolutionem facta.	Johannes Harley, cler. ult. Sept. 1550.	Heath, f. 15. a.
Rex.	Alexander Creke, cler. 20 Apr. 1553.	Ib. f. 18. b.

[I] Mem. 5 id. Jun. A.D. 1315. Walter bishop of Worcester consecrated the altar of the church of Kidderminster, and received for his procuration eight marks in money.

[m] 4 April, 1401. This church was again appropriated to the convent of Maiden Bradley

KIDDERMINSTER

PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	REGISTERS.
Thomas Blount, arm.	Thomas Willoughby, A.M. 28 Mart. 1561. Radulphus Smith, 1587. Johannes Columbine, A.M. 12 Sept. 1589. Johannes Odell, cl. 1625.	Sandys, R. 31. f. 34. a. R. 32. Freak, f. 62. b. Ib. f. 66. a. Ib. f. 117.
Edwardus Blunt, miles.	Georgius Dance, cl. [n]. 11 Dec. 1627.	R. 33. f. 2. b.
Thomas Foley. arm.	{ Ricardus White, S.T.B. 18 Oct. 1677. { Johannes Howard, cl. A.M. 9 Aug. 1701.	R. 34. Fleetw, f. 24. b. Ib. Lloyd, f. 77. b.
Thomas d'nus Foley.	[Gulielmus le Hunt, cl. S.T.B. 6 Aug. 1729. [Robert Job Charlton, 12 Junii, 1746. [Thomas Wickins, M.A. 22 July, 1776.	R. 35. Hough. f. 14. a. Ib. 67.
Capella de Myton.		
	Timotheus Kirk, Oct. 2, 1663.	Lib. Subse. f. 28. b.
	Edvardus Thomas, 2 Sept. 1699.	Ib. f. 49. b.
	Johannes Browne, 19 Junii, 1671.	Ib. f. 54. b.
	Nathaniel Williams, A.B. 6 Oct. 1692.	3 Lib. Subse. f. 50. b.
	Jonathan Cotton, A.M. 10 Dec. 1694.	3 Lib. Subse. f. 66. b
Cantaria capelle beate Marie de Kydreminstre.		
Dn's Joh. Byset miles d'us de Kydre. una cum communitate totius burgi.	Robertus de Ryppel, pbr. 2 id. Julii, 1305. Will'us Bacoun [o], pbr. 4 Martii, 1347. { Johannes Symondes de Grafton, pbr. 22 Nov. { 1349. { Johannes de Feckenham, 13 Oct. 1350.	Geynesb. f. 30. a. Wolst. v. 1. v. 116. a. Reg. sed. vac. f. 125. b. Brian. f. 1. a.
Hugo de Cokesey.	Philippus Belenger, pbr. 14 Dec. 1358. Henricus de Penne, pbr. 1 Apr. 1365.	Ib. f. 25. b. Wittelsey, f. 6. b.
Dionisia de Cokesey.	[Joh. Hankys, pbr. 5. Jan. 1391. [Johannes Pottare, 10 Jan, 1395.	Wakf. f. 88. b. Tidm. f. 2. b.
Maculinus Delamare	Will'us Malpas, cap. 12 Maii, 1400. Brianus Ricardes, pbr. Julii, 1403.	Ib. f. 50. a. Clif. f. 60. b.
Will'us de Bellocampo, mil.	{ Will'us Snagge, 15 Apr. 1420. { Joh. Westbury, 23 Aug. 1422. { Robertus Scrivener, cler. 4 Maii, 1424.	Morg. v. 1. f. 10. b. Ib. v. 2. Ib. f. 27. a.
Anna d'na de Bergavenny.	Will'us Hille, cap. Sept. 1435.	Bourch. f. 8. a.
Epus jure devoluto.	Thomas Gilbert, cap. 3 Jun. 1446.	Carp. f. 36. b.
D'na Jocosa Beauchamp for. et Her. Hug. Cokesey, mil.] Joh. Lawzer, cap. 5 Apr. 1468.] Thomas Strynger, cap. 21 Apr. 1469.	Ib. f. 221. b. Ib. f. 239. b.
Jocosa Beauchamp, vidua. Joh. Grevil, mil.	Will'us Wakeman, cap. 29 Martii, 1473. Johannes Notynham, cap. 30 Dec. 1479.	Carp. v. 2. f. 37. a. Alkok, f. 61. b.

[n] He was sequestred, and Mr. Baxter succeeded him; but, upon the return of the king, Mr. Dance was reinstated. See Calamy's Abidgment of Baxter's Life, p. 21.

[o] He took an oath of obedience to the vicar of Kidderminster.

VOL. II

Q

PATRONS.

KIDDERMINSTER

PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	REGISTERS.
Joh. Mortymer, mil. }		
Thomas Jenyns, }		
balliv. Will'us Col-	Nicholas Wright, cap. 27 Junii, 1499.	S. Gygl. f. 5. b.
sell, et alii digniores }		
parochiani eccl'e de }		
Kydermyster. }		
Edvardus Grevil, mil.]		
consang. et heres]		
Joh. Grevil, mil. fil.]	Rogerus Charouse, 26 Maii, 1515.	Ib. f. 138. b.
et her. Jocose Beau-		
champ,]		
Rex.	Will'us Tomyns, cl. 6 Jun. 1542.	Bell. f. 30. a.

[p] Cantaria assumptionis beate Marie virg. in capella de Trympley infra parochiam de Kyderminstre.

D'ns Joh. Atwode, {	Will'us Padmor, cap. 10 Febr. 1381.	Wakf. f. 29. b.
mil. {	Will'us Pebmore, 7 Febr. 1385.	Ib. f. 43. a.
Joh. Atwode, arm.	Will'us Pranke, cap. 3 Aug. 1450.	Carp. v. 1. f. 84. a.
Walterus Skull, mil. [Will'us Lincroft, 18 Dec. 1456.	Ib. f. 140. a.
	Ricardus Barbour, cap. 31 Martii, 1467.	Ib. f. 210. a.
Joh. Atwode de Wol-	Jacobus Pyry, cap. 20 Apr. 1501.	S. Gygl. f. 14. b.
verley, arm. }		
Rex ratione minoris]		
etatis Francisci]	Will'us Churchley, cl. 12 Julii, 1543.	Bell. f. 34. b.
Inglefeld.]		

[p] This chauntry was founded and endowed about the year 1381.

APPEN-

APPENDIX

Reg. 32. f. 117.

Consecratio cimiterii capelle de Mitton infra
parochiam de Kidderminster,

UNIVERSIS et singulis Christi fidelibus has presentes litteras inspecturis vel auditoris, Johannes, permissione divina Wygorn. episcopus, salutem, gratiam, et benedictionem. Ad universitatis vestre notitiam deducimus et deduci volumus, quod capella de Mitton infra parochiam de Kidderminster nostre Wigorn. diocesis habet omnia jura parochialia ibidem (sepultura mortuorum duntaxat excepta) que ad cimiterium et ecclesiam de Kidderminster predicta retroactis temporibus ab antiqua consuetudine, et per tempus cujus contrarii memoria hominum non existit, pertinuit, ut dicitur, et pertinent in presenti: quodque inhabitantes ville et hamelette sive capellarie de Mitton predicta corpora mortuorum fuorum ab hac luce ibidem migrantium ad presatum cimiterium ecclesiæ parochialis de Kidderminster predicta afferre et asportare solebant, ut ibidem ecclesiastice traderentur sepulture, in eorum non modicum laborem et inquietudinem, tam propter distantiam inter dictam capellam de Mitton et ecclesiam de Kydderminster predictam et cimiterium ejusdem, que ab invicem distant per spatium trium milliarium et ultra, quam etiam ob montium juga, convallium difficultates, et tempore hiemali vias lutas et lubricas, et crebras aquarum inundationes, tempore autem verno et estivali ob fervorem caloris solis, ac alia nonnulla discrimina; et precipue tempore alicujus mortalitatis seu pestilentie, cum contingent, quibus inhabitantes de Mitton predict. corpora mortuorum suorum et aliorum ibidem ab hac luce migrantium, ad precipitatum cimiterium ecclesie de Kidderminster predictæ afferre et asportare ibique inhumare impediuntur: eo quod ad dictum cimiterium eisdem inhabitantibus de Mitton predicta semper tutus non datur accessus; sepeque contigit ut premissorum pretextu corpora ibidem migrantium ultra tempus debitum, in magnum horrorem intuentium ac humani generis scandalum, diutius maneant insepulta. Quapropter inter magistrum Johannem Odell, clericum, vicarium ecclesie parochialis de Kidderminster predicta, et Johannem Yarrington, et Johannem Wilkes, gardianos modernos, sive oeconomos capelle de Mitton predictæ, et Johannem Grove et Humfridum Grove de eadem generosos, et ceteros omnes et singulos inhabitantium ejusdem ville sive capellarie, concordatum unanimi eorum consensu et assensu compositum est, quod quedam parcella terre capellam predictam circumjacentis nunc vulgariter vocate the Church-yard, in modum cimiterii parata auctoritate nostra ordinaria, pro libera sepultura decedentium infra villam sive capellariam de Mitton predicta et limites ejusdem consecraretur: quodque dictus Johannes Odell vicarius de Kidderminster predicta, et successors sui vicarii ibidem pro tempore existentes, habeant et recipient imperpetuum, pro sepultura et nomine sepulture cujuslibet cadaveris seu corporis persone communicantis, ibidem

decedentis, et in dicto cimiterio capellarie de Mitton sepulte sex denarios, et non communicantis quatuor denarios: et pro sepultura cujuslibet cadaveris seu corporis demortui ibidem et in capella de Mitton predicta sepulti sex solidos et octo denarios: et in choro seu cancello dicte capelle sepulti decem solidos; preter reparationem terre et pavimenti dicte capelle, quam executores et administratores bonorum dictorum decedentium et ibidem sepultorum suis sumptibus reparabunt. Nec non subserviens in ecclesia de Kidderminster predicta (Anglice the parish clarke) qui pro tempore fuerit, summam 11 d. pro quolibet cadavere seu corpore sepulto in capella vel cimiterio de Mitton predicta habeat etiam recipiat; salvis semper et reservatis inhabitantibus de Mitton predicta libertate et po-testate inhumandi et sepeliendi cadavera seu corpora demortua in ecclesia de Kidderminster predicta, et cimiterio ejusdem quotiens et quando eis sic videbitur expediens, et prout retroactis temporibus consueverunt: salvis predicto vicario qui pro tempore fuerit, et ejus subservienti predicto, solitis salariis nomine sepulture ibidem debitis, et per alios parochianos ibidem solvi consuetis. Nos, Johannes Wigorn. episcopus antedictus, tot et tantos labores inhabitantium predictorum sublevare, et periculis predictis, que ab antiquo contigerunt et in presenti imminet, ac in futurum de verisimili contingere poterint, quantum in nobis est et jura ecclesiastica patiuntur, obviare et circumspecte providere summopere volentes et cupientes; ac insuper considerantes quod unicuique ecclesie sive capelle locus commodus sive cimiterium idoneum assignari debeat, in quo demortua parochianorum corpora aliorumque ibidem decedentium sepeliri atque inhumari possunt; ad petitionem et humilem supplicationem tam prefati Johannis Odell clerici, vicarii moderni ecclesie parochialis de Kidderminstre predictæ, quam Johannis Yarrington et Johannis Wilkes, gardianorum modernorum de Mitton predicta, Johannis Grove et Humfridi Grove, et ceterorum omnium et singulorum inhabitantium dicte sive ville capellarie de Mitton predicta; compositionem et concordiam inter eos, ut premittitur, factas, quantum in nobis est, et regni statuta patiuntur, auctoritate nostra ordinaria pro nobis et successoribus nostris approbamus, ratificamus, et confirmamus, ac imperpetuum inviolabiliter observari ordinamus et statuimus; et capellam de Mitton predictam ac predictam parcellam terre eandem circumjacentis, nunc vocate the Church-yard, pro sepultura predicta, ad specialem petitionem partium predictarum, consecramus et canonice ordinamus. Volumus etiam, statuimus, ordinamus, et decernimus, quod predicti inhabitantes ville sive capellarie de Mitton predicta corpora mortuorum ibidem decedentium in antedicta capella de Mitton et in predicta parcella terre eandem capellam circumjacente, nunc vulgariter nuncupate the Church-yard, in modum cimiterii parata et per nos consecrata et ordinata; que quidem loca pro libera sepultura decedentium infra villam sive capellariam de Mitton predicta quoad inhabitantes ibidem, parochianos, et alios ibidem de-

decedentium imperpetuum assignamus; libere et licite sepeliri faciant er procurent in futurum imperpetuum, justa et secundum jura consuetudines et statuta hujus ineliti regni Anglie in ea parte hactenus laudabiliter cum humanitatis officio usitata, observata, et edita. Et hanc nostram ordinationem et nostrum in hac parte decretum volumus inviolabiter propter causas predictas observari imperpetuum, juribus nostris episcopalibus et archidiaconalibus, ac ecclesienstre cathedralis Wigorn. dignitate et honore, et quorumlibet aliorum jure, in omnibus semper salvis. In quorum omnium et singulorum fidem et testimonium sigillum nostrum episcopale presentibus apponi fecimus. Data apud castrum nostrum de Hartlebury decimo tertio die Novembris, anno regni domini nostril Caroli, Dei gratia, Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ regis, fidei defensoris, primo, anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo vicesimo quinto, et nostre translationis anno nono.

Lib. alb. f. 293.

Confirmatio cantarie in capella de Trympley.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos presentes litere pervenerint, Frater Walterus, prior ecclesie cathedralis Wygorn. et ejusdem loci capitulum, salutem in omnium salvatore. Literas reverendi in Christo patris, et domini domini Henrici, Dei gratia Wygorn. episcopi, inspeximus, tenorem qui sequitur continentes. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quorum notitiam pervenerit hec scriptura, Henricus permissione divina Wygorniensis episcopus salutem in eo quem peperit uterus virginalis. Inter preclara divine laudis obsequie id de precipuis arbitramur, ut sanctam Dei ecclesiam novo semper fetu et nova studeamus prole in ministris divinis, quatinus nobis est possibile, fecundare; ut multiplicatis in domo Domini ministris et intercessoribus immaculatis et assiduis, piis eorum sacrificiis cum debita reverentia recensitis alma mater ecclesia, Deo rectore et duce, multiplici meritum semine fructum in ejus membris centessimum premiorum in die retributionis extreme valeat germinare: quodque pastoralis officii sollicitudo nos admonet et inducit ut circa statum ecclesiasticarum personarum eo vigilemus attentius, quo de ipsorum regimine in ultimo examinationis judicio districtius obligamur. Sane frequens assidua devotio dilecti filii domini Johannis Attewode militis, nostre diocesis, nobis exhibita continebat, quod ipse unum mesuagium et unam virgatam terre, quatuor acras prati et quatuor acras bosci in Trympley infra manerium de Kydermynster, nec non quadraginta solidatas argenti annui redditus exeuntes de uno messuagio et duabus virgatis terre in feodo de Rushoke, quas et quod Johannes de Loudon tenet fibi et heredibus suis de corpore suo legitime procreates, cum pertinentiis suis, pro sustentatione et supportatione cujusdam cantarie et presbyteri perpetuo celebraturi in cappella de Trympeley, infra parochiam ecclesie parochialis de Kydermynster, nostre diocesis, situata et ab olim inibi constructa per ipsum dominum Johannem Attwode militem, faciendi licentia domini nostri regis et consensu etiam omnium aliorum preoptentis in hac parte, per suas cartas dederit et assignaverit, prout in literis regis et in cartis ejusdem domini johannis inde confectis plenius continetur, quas diligenter inspicere et examinari fecimus; quarum quidem literatum regiarum super hujusmodi licentii et cartarum ipsius Johannis hannis

militis tenor sequitur sub hac forma. Edwardus, Dei gratia rex Anglie et Francie, et Dominus Hibernie, omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint salutem. Sciatis quod cum nuper de gratia nostra speciali concesserimus et licentiam dederimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris dilecto et fideli nostro Johanni Attewode chevalere, quod ipse terras et tenementa et redditus, cum pertinentiis ad valorem quadraginta solidorum per annum, que de nobis no tenentur, dare posset et assignare cuidam capellano divina in capella de Trymple singulis diebus juxta ordinationem predicti Johannis, celebraturo; habendas et tenendas sibi et successoribus suis capellanis divina in dicta capella in forma predicta celebraturis in perpetuum: et eidem capellano quod ipse terras et tenementa et redditus cum pertinentiis, usque ad valorem predictum, a prefato Johanne recipere posset et tenere sibi et successoribus suis divina in capella predicta juxta ordinationem predictam celebraturis imperpetuum, similiter licentiam dedimus specialem, statuto de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuum non ponendis edito non obstante, prout in literis nostris patentibus inde confectis plenius continetur. Nos volentes concessionem nostram predictam effectui debito mancipari concessimus et licentiam dedimus, pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quantum in nobis est, eidem Johanni quod ipse unum mesuagium, duas virgatas terre, quatuor acras prati, et quatuor acras bosci, cum pertinentiis in Trympley le lee, que de nobis non tenentur; que valeant per annum in omnibus exitibus, juxta verum valorem eorumdem, ultra servitia inde debita, XXVIs. VIIIId. sicut per inquisitionem inde per dilectum nobis Leonem de Perton, nuper escaetorem nostrum in comitatu Wyg. demandato nostro factam et in cancellaria nostra reornatam est compertum: dare posset et assignare prefato capellano, habend. et tenend. sibi et successoribus suis capellanis divina singulis diebus in capella predicta juxta ordinationem predicti Johannis celebraturis, in plenam satisfactionem XLs. terrarum tenementorum et reddituum predictorum imperpetuum: et eidem capellano quod ipse mesuagium, terras, pratum et boscum predictum, cum pertinentiis, a prefato Johanne recipere possit et tenere sibi et successoribus suis imperpetuum, sicut predictum est tenore presentium, similiter licentiam dedimus specialem, statuto predicto non obstante: nolentes quod predictus Johannes, vel heredes sui, aut prefatus capellanus, seu successores sui, ratione statuti predicti per nos, vel heredes nostros, seu ministros quoscumque inde occasionentur in aliquo seu graventur: salvis tamen capitalibus dominis feodi illius servitiis inde debitis et consuetis. In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste meipso apud Westm. vto die mensis Octobris, anno regni nostri Anglie XLIIIto. regni vero nostri Francie XXXmo.

Edwardus, Dei gratia, rex Anglie et Francie, et dominus Hibernie, omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint salutem. Sciatis quod de nostra gratia speciali concessimus et licentiam dedimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quantum innobis est, dilecto et fideli nostro Johanni Attewode militi, quod ipse XL solidatas redditus, cum pertinentiis, exeuntes de uno messuagio et duabus virgatis terre in Rushoke, in comitatu Wyg. que de nobis non tenentur, in capite, ut dicitur, dare possit cuidam capellano divina singulis diebus in capella de Trympley in eodem comitatu celebraturo. Habend. et tenend. eidem capellano et successoribus suis,

capel-

capellanis divina singulis diebus in capelle predicta celebraturis in auxilium sustentationis sue in perpetuum; et eidem capellano quod ipse redditum predictum cum pertinentiis a prefato Johanne recipere possit, et tenere eidem capellano et successoribus suis capellanis divina singulis diebus in capella predicta celebraturis, in auxilium sustentationis sue, sicut predictum est, in perpetuum tenore presentium similiter licentium dedimus speciale: statuto de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuum non ponendis edito non obstante. Nolentes quod predictus Johannes vel heredes sui, aut prefatus capellanus seu successores sui, ratione statuti predicti per nos vel heredes aut ministros nostros quoscumque occasionentur, molestentur in aliquo, seu graventur. Salvis tamen dominis feodi illius servitiis inde debitis et consuets. In cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste meipso apud Westm. tertio die Novembris, anno regni nostri Anglie XLV, regni vero nostri Francie XXXII.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes Attwode, miles, dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Willielmo de Peedmor capellano capelle beate Marie de Trympley, in puram et perpetuam elemosinam, unum messuagium et unam virgatam terre, quatuor acras prati, et quatuor acras bosci in Trympley, infra manerium de Kyderminstre. Dedi etiam et concessi predicto Willielmo unum messuagium et unam virgatam terre cum redditibus et reversionibus apud La Lee infra manerium de Wolvardeley habend. et tenend. omnes predictas terras et tenementa, redditus, prata, boscos, cum omnibus reversionibus et singulis suis pertinentiis, predicto Willielmo capellano, et successoribus suis in capella de Trympley antedicta divina celebrantibus et in perpetuum celebraturis, in puram et perpetuam elemosinam libere in perpetuum faciendo servitia inde debita. Et ego vero predictus Johannes et heredes mei omnes predictas terras et tenementa, cum pratis, boscis, redditibus, reversionibus, et omnibus singulis suis pertinentiis, predicto Willielmo et successoribus suis in forma predicta contra omnes gentes warrantizabimus in perpetuum. In cuius rei testimonium huic carte sigillum meum apposui: hiis testibus Willielmo Tracy, Leone de Perton, Edm. Brugge, Thoma de Hult, Johanne atte Pyte, et aliis. Data apud Wolvardeley, die Veneris proximo post festum Sti. Marci Evangeliste, anno regni regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu XLIII.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes atte Wode, miles, dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Willielmo de Pedmore capellano capelle beate Marie de Trympley, in puram et perpetuam elemosinam, XL solidos argenti annui redditus exeuntes de uno messuagio et duabus virgatis terre in feodo de Rusholte, quas et quod Johannes de London tenet sibi et heredibus de corpore suo legitime procreatis, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis; habend. et tenend. predictos XL solidos annui redditus predicto Willielmo capellano, et successoribus suis in capella de Trympeley divina celebraturis, in puram et perpetuam elemosinam, libere in perpetuum. In cuius rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillum meum apposui; hiis testibus, Waltero de Cokesey, Edm. de Brugge, Rogero Corbet, Johanne Sturmy, et Johanne Smith, et multis aliis. Data apud Wolverly, die dominica proxime post festum Sti. Ambrosii, anno regni regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu XLV. Voluitque et ordinavit idem Johannes

Vol. II.

Attwode, miles, quod dictus capellanus perpetuus et successores sui, qui pro tempore fuerint, in dicta capella de Trimpley in perpetuum celebraturi, ad dictam cantariam perpetuam presentari debent per dictum dominum Johannem Attwode, et per heredes et successores suos episcopos Wygorn. loci diocesano, seu priori Wygorn. sede vacante, per ipsum institui in eadem, ac per loci archidiaconum in corporalem possessionem ejusdem cantarie induci. Et si dictus Johannes presentare omiserit, vel heredes sui omiserint, per XI dies a tempore vacationis hujusmodi, cantarie, voluit quod episcopus Wygorn. qui pro tempore fuerit, vel prior Wygorn. sede vacante, ipsam cantariam uni capellano idoneo, tanquam jure devoluto, conserat ea vice; salvis sibi et heredibus suis, cum dicta cantaria iterum vacare contigerit, jure et privilegio presentandi ad supradictam juxta modum et formam prenotata. Qui quidem capellanus in institutione hujus juret, tactis sacrosanctis Dei evangeliis, quod personaliter et continue in cantaria sua residebit, et officium divinum tam in missis quam in aliis officiis juxta exigentiam ordinationis dicte cantarie, que hic exprimitur debite adimplebit. Quod si etiam idem capellanus in residentia et celebratione vel alio officio defecerit aut cesserit, quod absit, continuo per quindecim menses, nisi forte justa causa et rationabilis fuerit absentandi vel cessandi, auctoritate ordinarii approbanda vel reprobanda; vel si mercimonia, tabernas, aut aliqua ludibria seu illicita spectacula exerceat incorrigibiliter per tres menses; ex tunc ad quos spectat presentatio vel collatio presentient vel conserant omni modo sine mora. Idem capellanus in domo in cæmeterio dicte capelle manebit, clericum ad juvandum ipsum in celebratione misse suis sumptibus et expensis habebit; luminaque, panem, et vinum inveniet et sustinebit. Omnes vero libros calices, vestimenta, sacerdotalia, et alia ornamenta dictis obsequiis necessaria et honesta, invenienda et sustentanda, dictamque capellam tam in coepturis quam in fenestris et aliis partibus ejusdem congrue et honeste, nec non domos dicti capellani, quandocunque casu fortuito deterioventur, sufficienter reparandas, reficiendas, et sustinendas ad dictum Johannem Attwode et successores suos pertinebit: et ipsi predicta onera suis sumptibus et expensis, quociens et quando opus fuerit, agnoscere et subire teneantur in perpetuum. Dicitque cotidie idem capellanus placebo et dirige ac commendationem animarum de usu Sarum, pro animabus dicti domini Johannis et domine Lucie uxoris sue, sourumque patrum et matrum, ac specialiter pro annua Henrici episcopi Wygorn. ordinationis hujus confirmatoris; nec non pro animabus parentum et benefactorum predecessorum et successorum dicti Johannis, et omnium fidelium defunctorum. Quod idem capellanus qui pro tempore fuerit ab usurpatione oblationum in dicta capella factarum alioque jure parochiali ad dictam ecclesiam de Kyderminster seu vicario in eadem spectante quoquo modo abstinebit, nec ea capiet ad commodum et usus suos. Voluit insuper dictus Johannes quod episcopus loci diocesanus, in suis visitationibus, et aliis temporibus cum voluerit, de premissis omnibus inquirat, et si quos defectis invenerit in premissis deficientia puniat condecenter, causamque amoveat, si quantitas delicti hoc exigerit: quodque ulterius super cantariam predictam ordinare, ac etiam ipsa omnia supradicta, quatinus ad nos attinet, approbare et confirmare nostra auctoritate ordinaria dignemur. Super hiis igitur nos Henricus episcopus supradictus plenius in-

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formari volentes dilecto silio archidiacono nostro Wygorn. officiali nostras literas dedimus in mandaris, ut idem officialis, vocatis vocandis, accedens ad dictam capellam, et tam ipsam quam predictam domum habitationis predicti capellani visui supponens, inquireret diligenter in cetera, loco per ipsum ad hoc elegendo, per viros fide dignos juratos inquirendorum notiam versimiliter obtinentes; si religiosi viri prior et conventus de Mayden Bradeley, quibus dicta ecclesia de Kyddeminster pertinent, et infra cujus parochiam dicta capella dinoscitur esse scita, in qua dicta cantaria est ordinate; nec non si vicarius de Kyderminster et alii quorum interest in hac parte, huic cantarie faciende suum prebeant assensum et consensum; et si cui vel quibus prejudicium aliquod ex cantaria et assignatione predictis provenire valeat, si petitis hujusmodi forsitan annuerimus. Cumque postmodum de iisdem nobis literis dicti officialis in hac parte certificari sufficienter constet, et ad plenum causas sufficientes subesse habende ordinande et fundande hujus cantarie, ut premittitur; quodque dicti religiosi viri prior et conventus de Mayden Bradeley dictam ecclesiam de Kyderminster, in proprios usus optinentes, nec non perpetuus vicarius ecclesie de Kydermystre, ipsi cantarie ut premittitur faciende ordinande et fundande suum prestiterunt et prestant consensum et assensum, ac etiam tenementorum et terrarum ac redditus et proventum predictorum donationi et assignationi, ad sustentationem dicte cantarie dominus rex Anglie predictus specialem licentiam et alii domini feodorum predictorum consensum suum prebuerunt et prebent; nec non quod nullum ex cantaria et assignatione predictis poterit prejudicium generari, capellenus dicte cantarie, qui pro tempore fuerit, in ejus admissione de indemnitate ecclesie de Kyerminstre et vicarii ejusdem per juramentum ipsius capellani ad sancta Dei evangelia caveat competenter: et dominis capitalibus terrarum, tenementorum, et messuagii predicti fiant pro ipsis servicia consueta: nos Henricus permissione divina Wygorn. episcopus, ponderatis ponderandis circa premissa ut convenit, ac omnibus superscriptis diligenter examinatis; dictique domini Johannis Atwode militis devotionem laudabilem, quam ad divina cultus augmentum, animarumque salutem tendere cernimus, in domino commendantes; omnia et singular premissa vera et notoria fuisse et esse pronuntiamus et declaramus, et in ea parte sententialiter diffinimus; cantariumque predictam fecundam formam, modum, vim, et seriem, et effectum, cartarum et literatum, nec non ordinationis predictae, auctoritate nostra pontificali perpetuum ordinamus, donationemque et assignationem terrarum tenementorum redditus et proventuum, ac omnia alia in prescriptis cartis, literis, et ordinatione comprehensa, quatinus juste et canonice processerunt; salvo jure in omnibus

predictae ecclesie de Kyderminster, et vicarii ejusdem ecclesie, et quorumcunque omnium aliorum quorum interest vel interesse poterit in hac parte, quorum juribus in aliquo prejudicari non intendimus, salvisque capitalibus dominis feodi predicti serviis debitis et consuetis; quantum in nobis est auctoritate nostra pontificali et ordinariis approbamus, et ea confirmamus tenore presentium perpetuo et fideliter observanda; salvis etiam in omnibus nostre Wygorn. ecclesie nec non prioris et capituli ejusdem, dignitate et juribus confuetis ac statutis. In quorum testimonium atque fidem hac literas nostras patentes ad perpetuam rei memoriam sigili nostril appensione nostrique notarii subscripi signo et subscriptione fecimus communiri. Data Hartlebure decimo die mensis Feb. anno Domini MCCCXXI, et nostre consecrationis anno septimo.

Nos igitur prior et capitulum supradicti dictas concessionem ordinationem, donationem, et assignationem, ac omnia alia in eisdem literis contenta, prout rite et canonice sieri dinoscuntur, et in nullis prejudicium redundant, rata habentes et grata, ipsa quantum in nobis est, et ad nos attinet, approbamus, ratificamus, et confirmamus, jure, consuetudine, et dignitate ecclesie nostre cathedralis Wygorn. nec non redditibus, consuetudinibus, juribus, et serviis, de messuagiis terriis et pratis infra manerium de Wolvardeleye, de quibus dicta cantaria fundatur, et dotatur, ut de eis in ordinatione suprascripta plenior sit mentio, nobis et ecclesie nostre debitis et consuetis, et quorumcumque omnium aliorum quorum interest, in omnibus semper salvis. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum commune presentibus est appensum, Data in domo nostra capitulari Wygorn. die Veneris in festo translationis Sti. Benedicti abbatis, anno Domini MCCCmo octogesimo secundo.

Et ego, Ricardus Thurban clericus, Hereforden. diocesis publicus apostolica auctoritate notarius, premissorum prioris et capituli Wygorn. confirmationi et eorundem sigilli communis appensioni, omnibusque aliis et singulis, que et dum sic, ut premittitur, per supradictos priorem et capitulum agebantur et fiebant in domo capitulari Wygorn. predictae capitulariter congregatos una cum Waltero Child, et Rogero Coles, Wyg. diocesis, testibus ad premissa vocatis specialiter et rogatis, sub anno ab incarnatione domini secundum cursum et computationem ecclesie Anglicane Millesimo CCCmo octogesimo secundo, indictione quinta pontificatus sanctissimi in Christo patris et domini nostri domini Urbani divina providentia pape Vti anno quarto, translationis Sti Benedicti abbatis; in dicta domo capitulari presens interfui, eaque omnia et singula sic fieri vidi et audivi, meorumque signi et nominis solitorum impressione signavi in testimonium omnium premissorum.

KINTON,