

E X T R A C T S
F R O M
F E R R Y K N O L L

ANCIENT RECORDS
FROM
GARDINER'S HISTORY OF DUNWICH

FROM
FERRY KNOLL
BY
CAROL CHRISTIE

WALBERSWICK

THE ELDER CHURCH

The elder church—was thatched and near the Marsh. The following are entries in the Churchwardens' books:—

- 1451 Mending and thacking of the Church Logge, or Redyng and thaking of the Church Logge
1451 For Romescot in Fest-Pashae
1451 For waching of Candel Estome Nytis at Myghelmas to Herri-Terri, Clarke 3. 6.
1451 Paid for skoring of the Church Ga. 8d.
1452 For a kerchief of Sylke 12d.
1452 For Frankencens 2 lb. 8d.
1453 Sexto die Mail, at a Church Ale 13. 4.
— Cherche Ale in Festo omnium Sanctorum 16. 0.
1453 at a Gaderynge on the Sunday next afore the Feste, of the Postel Seynt Barnebe Apostal the 31yer of the King yat now is (Henry VI) 2od.

- 1458 to Jenkyne Joll, Elder, for Gate to Londone 16d.
 — at Southwold for sendyng to my Lord Roos 12d.
 — for making of a Welle 2. 10d.
 1473 Paid to Sour John Wilkinsn for a Book
 klooped a Pye* 2s. †

The windows from the old Church seem to have been taken out and put in the new Church, viz: St. Christopher and St. Wulstan,* also the bells. The old Church was taken down in 1473. The last visible remains of it were done away when Robert Blackmore the elder "plowed" the ground which was the cemetery, in 1728.

In the Church were Altars to St. Nicholas, also to the Three Kings, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They were invoked against "the falling sickness."

"Myrrh, Frankincense and Gold the Eastern Kings

: Devote to Christ as offerings,

For which all those who their names do bear,

The falling sickness never need to fear."

* See book of Common Prayer. The hardness and the number of the rules of the Book called 'The Pye.'

† Gardner's *History of Dureswich* etc.

* The Ploughman Saint.

In 1493 St. Andrew's Church was built higher up and further away from the marsh.

"The Stepil to be made like Tunstall in Norfolk."

There were eight pinnacles or turrets, decorated with as many gilt fanes. On the centre of the roof stood a wooden spire, bearing a Goose.

2 Items. For makyng of the Gos 3. 4. 1467.
 Payde for mendyng of the Goose 1/ 1469.

Also in the Church accounts at the Consecration of the Church, 1493, is this entry:

"Bishop's dinner, wine and horse meat 11. 2d."

Another item is mention of "the Wyndow of Seynt Krysteferys being mended."

There were the Guilds of the B. V. Mary, St. Barbara, St. Andrew, and St. John.

In the Churchyard are buried Father Gaunder, Master Balls, Master Munns, Thomas Kerrich, 1512 (four feet from the East end from the Hally Water Stoppe in the Heyway.)

There were the Masses said for Year's day, week's mind, month's mind, Year's mind.

There were 5 bells, besides the Saints' (Sanctus). The smallest bell is still hanging, with the inscription: "James Edbery, 868" (1468). There was a clock and chimes.

On a beam in the porch is an inscription in gold, which is almost obliterated through age.

"Margerie Palmer gave to the Porche £ 1. 2. 6."

In the Church was a Chapel of our Lady, the Images of the Holy Trinity, the Rood, St. Andrew, St. John Evangelist, St. James, St. Thomas, St. John Baptist, the Virgin Mary, and Mary of Pity: The Altars high and low, St. John and St. Nicholas: The tables of St. George and King Harry, a throne and an organ, also "St. Krystefery's wyndow."

The length of the Church was 124 ft. where of the Chancel was 41 ft.

The width was 60 ft.

The women gave a window.

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1496 "By a Gadering of the Wyyvs in the Towne for a Glas Wyndown 9. 0.

1490 To the Sexteyne for his Rewar for ryngynge of the day Belle 11.

1491 To the Sexteyne, for ryngynge of the Kerfow Belle 3. 4d."

In Edward IV's reign the Bishop came with his Suffragan and Archdeacon.

1493 The Church was hallowed. There is mention also of the bells being consecrated.

1488 To a dynar for Master Hopton 11. 4.

1493 For a Bessume of Pekok's Fethers 4d.

1492 Two Cusshins of Sylke 4.

1498 of Cuthberd Eye, for the Queth Word of Tym Chaumbyr 40s. 0.

1499 of Cesyly Peggot, for ferme of the Towne Lands for the last yeer 3. 0.

1488 To Will Roper, when he went to the Norre Contre for the King's Viage 6. 8.

1467 For the bryngyn hom of the Belle 3. 8.

1469 Payde for mendynge of the Goose 1. 0.

1499 Payd to a Man of Becclys for skoring of Canstecks and the Lawmpe* 1. 8.

* There is still a piece of land belonging to the Church called "Lampland."

1500. John Almyngham, by will 7 Oct. gave to the Church 20 pounds.

Ten pounds which was to be bouete a Peyr of Orgonys.

1518 William Rysche alias Ferryman a Bequest to the shrine of Our Lady, (buried in the Church Porch.)

1572 Thomas Kerych 6 Jan. bequeth to the making of a new Ele of the North Syd of the Church
I. I. O."

More names. "Isbel Paschelew, Rob. Dolphynby, Jonne Maggs, Anthony Merryman."

Other names still remaining: "Syre John Engelyssch 1463," and later John Wiggs, 1666 and John List 1691.

Two quaint names in an old list: Luck (?) Johnson and Siprian Sallows.

There were lofts over the Vestry and over the porch. In the latter, among the vestments was a "Blew Wusted with a grene," also a vestment of "Wight Fusthoon."

There were censers and candlesticks, both of silver and "Lattin" and dishes wherein the candlesticks stood before the altar.

IN THE CHURCH

1485 Thomasyn Truderig, late Wyef of William Truderig, Esquyer, on of the daughters of William Sidney and Thomasyn Baryngton—which Tomasyn dyed in Anno 1485.

In the present Church are three graves, on the stones of which are these inscriptions:

"Of your Charyte praye for the Sowll of Robt. Hwell which deseed in the yere of our Lord God, Ano 1552, in the Raygn of Kyng Harry the 8th, on whos sowll Jesus have Marcy, Amen." On another: "Of your Charite pray for the Sowle of Thomas Elderton, Maryner, the which Thomas dyssed the Year of our Lord God 1534, on whos Sowl Jesus have Mersye." On another: "Ot your Charyte pray for the Sowle of Robert Hwell, wyche disseed in the Yere off our Lord God. Ano 1536, in the Rayn off Kyng Harry the 8, on whos Sowll Jesus have Mersye."

1499 Payd Tho. Cuttyng for making of the Vyse (staircase unto the Candlebem 1. 18. 10.

— For Steppys on to the Candlebem 4. 8d.

Some church Booke in Elizabethis reign:—
"The Paraphrases" of Erasmus. "Musculos Commonplaces or the Apologies," 23 July

100 FERRYKNOLL

1586. "To be provided before Allhollautide following."

In 1538 Henry VIII gave the Church Property of Blythburgh (including the Tithes of Walberswick Church) to Sir Arthur Hop-ton of Westwood Lodge, hence the poverty of the Livings and desolation of the Churches.

In 1585 the Parish was so poor that they sold the great bell for £26. 8. 9.

In 1633 there were 71 families in the place; next year but 54. Part of the town being burnt. Now come some very sad items in the accounts.

"1633 Pay'd for keeping the Prisoners that
Burnt the town 5. 0.
Pay'd to two men and two horses that
went with the said Prisoners to Ipswich 12. 0.
Pay'd more to sending Vatrane Toby
and Richard Sommers by the Appointment
of the Justices to bury Prisoners 10. 0.
1634 In the town were 156 Communicants."

Then came the Civil War and the Church was desecrated and despoiled.

WALBERSWICK NOTES 101

"1644 Master Dowson came with the Troopers to our Church, about the taking down of Images, and Brasses off stones.

1650 7. March, Paid to John Prety for rashing out the King's Arms in our Church.

1661 The Churchyard wall mended

£6. 10. 0. and £1. 15. 0.

A Petition for lessening the Church, the 3 bells,

Lead and Timber sold for £303. 1. 11d.

Charges and material making new

£291. 8. 9.

Remained to the Town

£ 11 13. 2.

The accounts seen and allowed by me

C. Blois "

One of the signatures or marks is "William W. Crow" one of the names on the oldest tombstone.

1752 A wharf erected at Blackshore.

1752 Only 20 dwelling-houses in Walberswick. 106 souls.

"Here is Remembrance that Harry Poty and Thomas Paschelew, Church Maysters of Walburywicke, have made a Reckenynge of her Accounse to the Parysshe upon

102 FERRYKNOLL

Sonynday next after the 12th day the Yere of Keynge Edwarde the IV. after the Conquest the 3rd Yer
Left in the box, 4 Nobylyys. 20d."

The names of the ships that took the butter and cheese from the Port of Walberswick 1590:

Thomas

Griffin

Dolphin

Crystofer

May Raydon

1451 None of the present day names in list of mariners, nor in 1602.

1595 There is a list of 45 men of Walberswick, not one of the names in the village at present; "William Gowler" being the nearest to any.

"No fishing before Martinmas or after Lady Day, upon Penalty of 5 Pounds of lawful English money to the King's Use."

1451 There were 13 Barks trading to Iceland, Faroh and the North Seas.

On their own coast 22 Fishing Boats.
1602, 15 Barks.

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NAMES OF SOME PLACES IN WALBERSWICK.

Fish Street, South Street, Jetur's Street, Spark's Lane, Carter's Lane, Bonneck's Lane, Host's Lane, Rogation Way, Mount's Way, Priest-Land Way, Old Church Way, North Gate Way, Street Gate Way.

Church-Well Land, Lampland, Bromeclose, Blackness, Paul's Fen, Sogg's Fen, Costdell-Marsh, Cobdock's Marsh, East Marsh, North Marsh, Thick-Fenn Watering.

THE COMMON LANDS

They comprise 1,400 acres together with the Fens. In 1642 the inhabitants of Walberswick regained them, after 30 years, Sir Robert Brook, Lord of the Manor, having withheld them. But two years after, great troubles arose, in consequence of Thomas Palmer, Sir Robert's great farmer, feeding his sheep on the Uplands and putting them into

East Marsh, breaking down the townsmen's posts and rails and filling up their "dikes." Sir Robert also set up a "boarded house" for men and dogs near Paul's Fen, to drive out any cattle belonging to the men of Walberswick. A terrible fight took place between Sir Robert's keepers and the townsmen of Walberswick, in which four men lost their lives. The marsh from this circumstance was called Bloody Marsh.

Again the Common and Marsh were possessed by Sir Robert Brook. His son succeeded him and there was a trial before Judge Littleton, and eventually Judge Fessant gave judgment in favour of the Lord of the Manor who held it for his lifetime.

Under his widow's tenure, the townsmen again enjoyed their ancient privileges. The old chronicle runs as follows :—

"After the death of Sir Robt. Broke, knight and lord of the Manour of Walberswick, his eldest son sucksed his Rom for a few years—for he dyed a vearly younge Man and yet a very great Troubler, and an oppressor of his poore

Tenautes in Walberswick, in driving of their Cattle soe furre to the Pound, from of there Commons—the poore owners lost them soon after gatt out, both Horse and Cowe Beastes by getting such a Dourge in the beastly myresen Plase of Blyborowe Pound, that some after dyed. Thus envious was he to his poore towne and much more other-ways—as in troubling and sawinge of poore Mene. eleven Johns' weare forward in looking for the towne Rights from Sir Robert Brooke. John Chapman and John Barwicke were the 2 principal. We had Possessions in Paules Fenn neer two Yeaes, with the Upland, and began to fynd some revivings but Sir Robert Seat up a boarded Howse neare Paules Fenn wherein he kept in Men and great Dogges day and Night, to dispossess the poor Inhabitanntes of their Rights of Commonadge, and after him sooe lykewise did his Sonne, Mr John Brooke, emitate him upon the upland commons that weare plowed, in not suffering our poor Gleaners to have quiet Gleanings. But ever since Mr John Brook came to the Livinge he sought opportunity to get a Tryall passe against us, and at last obteyned one through that fowle Way thay went which nayther he nor his Father coud geet beefore. But when Judge Feasant red the Surquit, then through such fowle menes as was used, gatt the day against John Chapman whoe the Esquire su'd for eating up of his 800 acres of Heath.

"One of the 12 witnesses against the townsmen was one Bartholomew Bullen, whose Father had bin Sir Robt. Brooks Bally a long time, and when he dyed, he left a great

Estate to his eldest Sonne Bartholomewe (who married William Buckenham's sister) and swaggered it soone away. And alsoe a Woman who had twelve yeares before witnessed for the Towne, and was one of the witnesses that then came first for the Towne before Judge Littelton. This woman, I say, was drawn to be a witnessse for the Esquire against the Towne."

This Judge Littleton having heard six witnesses, and seen the "aunchant Bookes, which did playnly shoue what cost the Churchwardens had bine out in those Dayes about the Common as in making the Way into Paules Fenn and alsoe in dickyng and drayninge of Paules Fenn." The Judge would have no more and so John Chapman thought six witnesses would do for the fresh trial. These 6 witnesses were worth 60 of those against them. They spoke out boldly to Judge Fessant and told him of the "Previlidge" the Town had in Sir Owen Hopton's days who was "Lord of the Mannor before the Brookes cam to it. They told him that in Sir Owen Hopton's dayes they had none such Dooinge for he was a worthie Gentleman and loved the poore Towne and joyed the Previlidge they had by their common, and Robert Dowrant who was the townes Neathard's Boy in Sir Owen Hopton's dayes have often sayd that Sir Owen himselfe have com donne from his Westwood Lodge to Paules Fenn and had him com up to the Lodge and dryncke, soe that it was otherwise in those days than have been since." But the Judge would not heed these six true witnesses who spoke out so boldly, but

gave heed to the twelve witnesses for the Esquire who had to be helped out by their counsel, and the verdict was given against the town.

"Thus the poore Towne had the overthrowe, in overthrowinge John Chapman.

"Then John Barwicke was areasted because the Esquire declared he had eaten up with his great Beasts his hundred Acres of Heath ground, but John Barwicke was prevented by demoure, soe nothinge done. And yet his divilish Envy began agayn, 1651, for John Barwicke was arested for gooinge our aunchant Bounds. But was agayn prevented by Demoure. Thus this yonge Man and great Troubler ply'd it for his Tyme in bringing of his wicked Actions and Endes to passe as when he, through that fowle way gatt the Tryall passe one his Syd for our Common, that made him then insult over us duringe that small tyme he had after, as in extreemly oppressinge and tearyfyng of his pure Tenannts and soe was like to have bine, but that God prevented him by sudden Death."

many of the Towns' people and by the ship 'Carpenders' who ought not to have hindered, but most furthered this work because they have the Benefyt of most of the Townground to the watter Sydward."

THE BOUNDS OF WALBERSWICK

"From the West of Paul's Fenn, and so up the green Path before the Lodge and so through the Park to Dead-man's Crosse, by the Heap of stones. 1683."

The old Quay stood at the head of Horse Reach, near the old Church, and with what is now Stocks' Lane leading down to it.

1466 "Pay'd to Edmund Wryght, for making of the Keye at the Se Syde 4 marks. 1466."

The Quay at Southwold Harbour was built in 1588.

The Cross stood at a cross-road near S. Andrew's Church in Fish Street.

1470 "Payd for making the Cross 5 Nobilyys and 4od."

In 1671 the inhabitants of Walberswick

THE DECAY OF THE TOWN

THE DECAY OF THE FISHERY. FIRE

"The great Decaye of occupyings of Fys-har-Fare and by Misfortune of Fyar" had reduced the town so that it could not keep its own poor. In 1628 a rate was made in its behalf. "The Myssery and distressed Estat of the pore people" most of them seafaring men. Thirteen parishes were rated in their behalf. In 1642 the trials began over the Common lands.

1752, only 20 houses and 106 souls.

1749, another great fire. If some of the houses had not been tiled, the whole village would have been destroyed.

1665, "Edward Binford indevoud to recover the poore Town dutis, but was hindered by

gave 14/8 for the "Christian Sleeves" in Argire.

One of the boundaries was Deadman's Cross, by the Mere, so called from a suicide's grave. There was an ash tree, with hundreds of marks on it, made by the townsmen when they went their bounds. Also there was a heap of stones where the boys heaved stones according to the old custom.

SHIP BUILDING

1560. 8th Oct. By an inundation of the sea, Walberswick sustained a great loss of timber, etc.

Mention is made in 1591 of a "Shype to be made for an onyst Townsman whose name is Master Robert Beare of Orfford."

1634. William Crispe was the Ship Carpenter.

THE WINDMILL

In the reign of King Henry VIII Sir Arthur Hopton released to the town of Walberswick,

for ever, one acre of ground, to build a wind-mill and a mill-cote thereon, for the help and use of Bartholomew Middleton, Clerk, during his life, and after his decease for the benefit of the Churchwardens of St. Andrew's in that town, they sending annually at Michaelmas one Penny to the said Lord.

SOME LORDS OF THE MANOR

Edward the Confessor held Blithburgh (and Walberswick) for one manor.

Roger Bigot, in William the Conqueror's time.

Henry I gave it to the Bishop of Norwich. Afterwards it was seized by the Crown.

Henry II endowed his mother Maud with it during her lifetime; afterwards the Bishop of Norwich.

Then Margeria de Cressy, whose tenants had to keep Walberswick Bridge in repair. It formed a communication between Walberswick and Bulcamp Heath (or Park), passing over Blythburgh Risen. Mention is made of

it more than 500 years ago, in 1286. Robert Fitz-Roger had customary rights for passage through Blythburgh and Walberswick, which denotes both the bridges then in being. Then was Hugh de Cressy, 1263, and Ermentruda, Relict of Stephen de Cressy.

Robert Fitz-Roger de Cosby, and Robert Mason.

Then the Claverings.

Ralph de Nevil, who married Eufemia, daughter of the afore-mentioned Sir John de Clavering.

Next the Swillingtons—Sir Robert first, and then Sir Roger, who obtained a grant from King Henry IV of Church Marsh, or Lewald's Marsh, to be held by him and for him for ever, rendering yearly for an Acknowledgement one Race of Ginger. Ann, daughter of Sir Roger, married Sir John Hopton; his son, another John, married for his third wife Thomasin, daughter of Lord Barrington, who had a relation buried in Walberswick Church. Their son's name was Robert.

The Brookes came next the Hoptons. Sir Arthur had many children, was M. P. for Dunwich, and House Keeper to Henry VIII at Henham Hall, (late Brandons, belonging to the De La Poles.)

Sir Robert Brooke, Knight and Alderman of London, purchased the manor. He was descended of the ancient Family of Brooke, formerly Lord Cobham.

In Sir Robert's time, and his son John's, many vexatious law suits were depending between them and the People of Walberswick, whereby the latter met with great trouble, and suffered irrecoverable losses.

The Blois family married into the Brookes, and so the manor of Blythburgh and Walberswick remain to this day.

(Sir William Blois married Martha, daughter of Sir Robert and Elizabeth Brooke.)

THE POVERTY IN 1628

“And fforasmutche as ower Town is not now inhabyted wythe so good Ocuypars, as it

hathe bynne in tymes past and as by GOD's
 Grac, herafter it may be; we ar agred, that
 the proper Goodes of anny of the Inhabytants
 of the Towne, shal be ffree from thys Payment
 afforsayd, anny thyng befoorsayd to the con-
 trary notwithstandinge."

"Whereas the Inhabitants of Walberswick in
 the Hundred of Blithing have a long tyme
 made complaint unto us, of the Myssery and
 detressed Estate of the pore People, who are
 so many in Number and so exceeding pore, as
 the said Inhabittants, being most of them
 seafaring Men, and of very mean Estate—
 1628—fourscore. The Number of the Pore
 being such apering unto us, as well by the
 information of the said Inhabittants, as by our
 own Vewe fowerscore Persons and upwards."

DEFINITIONS

Queth Word: seemingly a bequest by word
 of mouth.

Romescot: Peter-pence, an annual tribute of
 one Penny from every family paid to Rome
 on the Feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, August
 1, (Lammas day) granted first by King Offa,
 or Ina.

Rowell or *Ricel*: a Vessel used twice a year
 when a sort of ceremonial imitation of the
 Birth and Burial of our Saviour seems to have
 been celebrated; see Lamedi and Paschal.
 For the Sepulchre.

Trentall—Trigintale:—30 Masses for the
 Dead.

Pour presture : when a Man encroacheth to himself any Thing appertaining to the King, the Lord of the Fee or his neighbours.

Lagan :—Goods lying at the bottom of the sea, lost by shipwreck, belong to the Lord Admiral.

Chimnagium :—a toll for wayfarage through a forest.

Church Ale :—A Treat of Ale to get money towards the repair of the Church.

Dole :—one part of any number of fish divided amongst fishermen.

1. "Rood" . . . road.
2. "Fare" . . . feel.
3. "Stirrins" . . . household duties.
4. "Hod" . . . wooden basket.
5. "Freshers" . . . frogs.
6. "Maw" . . . short for Mawther, a girl.
7. "Stammed" . . . astonished.
8. "Dull" . . . complain, lament.
9. "Scrabbin" . . . hurrying.
10. "Hulver" . . . Holly.
11. "Master" . . . powerful.
12. "Hev" . . . have.
13. "Cankers" . . . Poppies.
14. "The land" . . . that is, arable land.
15. "Midders" . . . meadows.
16. "Paigles" . . . cowslips.
17. "Gay" . . . a picture.
18. "Good tidily" . . . heartily.
19. "Whins" . . . gorse.
20. "Cule" . . . cold or cool.
21. "Mavish" . . . thrush.
22. "Dodman" . . . Suail.