

WOODBRIDGE, ITS HISTORY AND ANTIQUITY.

BY VINCENT BURROUGH REDSTONE.

The picturesque valley of the Deben has no more charming point of view than the spot where the quiet town of Woodbridge stands upon its right bank. This delightful neighbourhood must have been as attractive to the earliest settlers in Britain, as it is to the modern English householder. The district afforded the early Britons, by the presence of the tidal stream, extensive marshes, heaths, woods and rising ground, abundance of food, and strong protection. In the numerous Haughs—Sutton-haugh, Kingston-haugh, and Bishops-haugh—rising on either side of the river, there remain traces of the first encampments, burial grounds, and homesteads of our ancestors. Doubtless the very name Deben was the word uttered by the savage Gauls who admired the *silvery waters* of the river winding through its pristine glades, over the bones of antediluvian monsters, and beds of fossil remains. The flint axe of the neolithic age, lying a few feet below the surface, has been discovered in the working of coprolite beds. Other names for the Woodbridge river were the Deave* and the Thredling. Its tributaries the Fynn, and the Naverne, bear Celtic names; the latter now passes through glazed pipes for several yards, the former enters the Deben at Martlesham creek.

When the Romans banished the Britons from their marshes, they fixed over the waters a durable causeway of timber that gave the name Udebryge to the Saxon settlement established on the site adjacent to the old Roman Camp of Combretonium.† A Roman brick-kiln in complete working order was discovered at Byng Hall, about

* Dr. Raven's "History of Suffolk," p. 4.

† Woodward "Archæologia," vol. 23, p. 367. Morant, and Dr. Raven.

two miles from Woodbridge, in 1846.* Other towns and hamlets of the name Woodbridge, lie in Wiltshire, Surrey, Somerset, Cambridgeshire, New Jersey, U.S.A., and Canada. They are all situated near streams.

The first mention of Woodbridge as a town occurs in the "History of the Abbey of Ely."† Notice is therein taken of a grant of land lying in Udebryge, Brihtwell, and Melton, by King Edgar to the monastery. Bishop Athelwold further increased the wealth of this religious house by the purchase of more lands. Oswy and Leofleda, natives of Woodbridge, endowed the Abbey, (within the precincts of which their son, afterwards Bishop Ailwin, was educated), with all their worldly possessions. It was at Kingston-haugh that Ailwin for a time concealed the relics of King Edmund the Martyr, when the Danes ravaged East Anglia in the days of Ethelred the Unready.

From the survey of lands recorded in the Domesday Book we learn that the domains of S. Etheldreda were greatly diminished, and the territory formerly held by King Harold was divided among the Norman Knights, Geoffrey de Magnaville, Roger de Rheims, Earl Alan, Roger de Poitou, Roger Bigot, and Robert Malet. The proud Bigots, who were endowed with the lands of the outlaw Malet, appear to have been held in great awe by the simple country folk; from them was begotten the headless horseman of the night who rode, and even now rides, unceasingly within the dark shadows of "Erlebygottes Lane."‡ The church which existed in the town at the time of the Norman conquest was given to Robert Malet, but was afterwards the manorial property of the Bigods and Uffords. The priory, founded by Ernardus Rufus in 1190—1195, was attached to the West end of the church. The date of the foundation of Woodbridge Priory is obtained from a charter § still extant, signed by Geoffrey,

* *Ipswich Journal*. Davy MSS.

† Bentham's "History of Ely Cathedral," p. 73, Gales' *Rerum Ang. Script.*, vol. iii, p. 486.

‡ Court Rolls of Manor of Seckford Hall, and of Bredfield Manor.

§ *Brit. Mus. Add. Ch.*, 4947.

Archdeacon of Suffolk, who died in 1195; William, prior of Butley, 1190—1213; and Roger Capel, who died 1199, with others.

The next fact in connection with Woodbridge history which requires establishing is the date of the grant of Woodbridge market. The historian of Stowmarket,* and the editor of Bacon's Annals of Ipswich, misled by a conception that the Priory was not founded till the end of the 13th century, believed the market was not established before late in the reign of Henry III. Ipswich received its first charter in 1200,† and the burgesses were eager to maintain their newly created rights, when they heard that the monks of Woodbridge sought to establish a market in the town "to be held upon Wednesday in every week." An agreement was signed by which one moiety of the said market with all the customs, tolls, and appurtenances belonging to the said moiety, was granted to the Borough of Ipswich. The signatories on behalf of the Woodbridge monks were, Egidius Rufus, and his son Ernaldus, who was the founder of Woodbridge Priory. Upon the death of Ernaldus in 1227, the manor and market were granted to his son Hugh Rufus.‡ The market having been established during the life-time of Ernaldus, we may take the date 19 Nov. 8 Henry II., § to be 8 Henry III., *i.e.*, the year 1224. The rapid development of the market is seen in the increasing value of the moiety farmed out by the Ipswich Burgesses. It is not known whether the town of Ipswich has in these days any claim over this share of Woodbridge market, or whether the right was lost when Mr. Bailiff Sparrow and the Town Clerk hurriedly despatched John Ward to London "to maintain the liberties of the town," without the necessary documentary evidence, 14th March, 1541. In 1286 Roger Bigod was prescribed to have a fair upon Michaelmas Day, and a market three times a week. The Wednesday market continued as such until 1854, it was

* Hollingsworth's "Stowmarket," p. 69.

† Mrs. Green's "Town Life in the 15th Century," vol. i., p. 223.

‡ Page's "Suffolk," sub. "Brandeston." § Bacon's "Annals of Ipswich."

especially noted for the sale of hemp.* The history of the Priory forms to a great extent the history of the town, and this is doubtless to be found carefully compiled within its Register, which receives a laudatory notice in the preface to the first edition of Stow's Annals. This Register is now lost, only a few meagre extracts, to be read in Weever's "Funeral Monuments," and the following in Stow's Chronicles (p. 133), are in existence.

"When William II. being returned out of Normandy into England, kept his feast of Whitsuntide very royally at Westminster, in the new Hall, which he lately caused there to be builded, the length whereof was 270 foote and 70 foote in bredth: and when he heard men say that the Hall was too big, and too great, he answered and said, This Hall was not big enough by the one halfe, and is but a bed chamber. in comparison to that I mind to make."

Of the names mentioned by Weever, there are two worthy of notice; Sewell de Woodbridge who supplied Edward I. with horses when he set out from Harwich upon an expedition to France; and Muriell Gouncil who erected a magnificent stone cross dedicated to S. Peter. This cross is mentioned in the Court Rolls of the Priory manor as standing until the days of the Commonwealth.

Besides its market Woodbridge had a large carrying industry; vessels laden with corn left the Woodbridge quays for the distant shores of Iceland, in 1440.† In 1417 Sir Robert Willoughby obtained the livery of the Quay and Pool of Woodbridge, which in 1436 were by licence granted to the Priory. In 1528 upon one tide set sail from Woodbridge three ships for Iceland‡ and three for Scotland. A proclamation had been issued 23rd February, 1484, against ships going to Iceland, "to all owners, masters, mariners of the navies of our counties of Norfolk and Suffolk as well fishers as others intending to part into the parties of Iceland . . . [under penalty of loss of ship and goods] . . . if not purveied of wraughters for your

* Ogilby's "Roads," pub. 1672. † Rymer's "Foedera." Henry V., p. 1, 75.

‡ Cal. State Papers, Domes. Series, 1528.

surety in that behalve . . . to gather in havens of Norfolk and Suffolk . . . departe alle together to Hull."* The pirates of the North Sea frequently plundered the English vessels, but it was the Suffolk seamen who in the reign of Edward II. were accused of piracy, and of plundering the ships from Iceland and Denmark.† The study of the carrying trade of Woodbridge is one of great interest. A work upon the maritime enterprise of Suffolk would fill many pages, and not the least exciting part of this history would be the story of John Fox who released the Christian captives from Alexandria, 1577.‡ Limit of space will permit only a small estimate of the great ship-building industry, once the glory of the town.

Referring once more to the Priory, it may be noticed that its inmates were keen observers of the signs of the times. When the commission which sat in Woodbridge, 1529, found Wolsey guilty of breaking the Act of Premunire, Prior Thomas Cook, well versed in canonical law, sought a speedy resignation of his office, and received a pension from the Priory funds which he enjoyed whilst he held the livings of Melton and Bawdsey.§ At the visitation held by the Bishop of Norwich in 1532, complaint was made that although barns and store-houses were empty, and the door of the Convent Church was in decay yet—
"Dicitur quod domus nimium oneratur cum pensione Magistri Coke nuper ibidem."

In the former visitation, 1514, complaining to the Bishop, "Mag. Thomas Cooke dicit quod prior non exigit pecuniam pro certis terris sed omittit videlicet 4^d in una villa, et 8^d et 12d in alia villa, in prejudicem domus ad summam 3 or 4 £.

Item quod Dom : Willelmus Furton habit capacitatem et non est beneficiatus sed est firmarius priori de Butley."

The convent became bankrupt, the priory was in ruins, when its lands and estate were given up to the king

* Letters of Richard III. and Henry VII., vol. ii., p. 287.

† Coram Rege. Edward II., An. xi, An. xv. ‡ Hakluyt's "Voyages."

§ Cal. State Papers, Domes. Series, 1529.

who granted them to Sir Antony Wingfield for a term of twenty-one years. Great harmony appears to have existed between the clergy and townsmen under monkish rule. Upon only one occasion does there appear to have been anything like a disturbance. The prior and convent imposed a tax upon the tenants of Robert de Ufford for the repair of the belfry. After many days of contention an amicable settlement of the dispute was made before the Justices in Eyre, 1286.* Whilst the neighbouring villages of Hasketon, Ufford and Boyton, laid complaints of the corrupt practices of Robert de Aviaus, and his clerk Reginald de Martlesham,† and accusations were made against Walter de Butley and others for carrying wool to parts ‡ beyond the sea against the royal command, the people of Woodbridge were leading a quiet life under the protection of the Church. When the enraged followers of Jack Straw, incited to further acts of violence at Ipswich, murdered Walter Fraunceys, one of the King's tax collectors, and marched upon Sunday, June 16th, 1381, to plunder and ransack his house at Melton, and to destroy the manorial dwelling of Judge Staverton at Rendlesham, § they proceeded without any rioting through Woodbridge; the convent escaped molestation. Sunday was the day for riots. It was upon the Lord's day that Richard Flour, with his sons Edward and Hugh at the head of a mob from Ipswich, armed with swords, slings, and arrows, marched into Coddendam to attack John de Ponte, 8 Ed. II. ||

Suffolk was long famous for the stout timber of its magnificent oaks, ¶ and Woodbridge situated upon a creek and near the forest district afforded a good centre for ship-building. The increase of its commerce had caused the erection of new Quays and larger Docks, and the formation of new Thorofares. To avoid the hills and fens on which the town was developing itself a street was formed, which, after the lapse of nearly four centuries, still bears its

* Brit. Mus., Harl. Char., 45, A 50. † "Feet of Fines," Edward I., 1286.

‡ Coram Rege Rolls, Edward II. § Powell's "Rising in East Anglia," 1381.

|| Coram Rege Rolls, Edward II., 1335. ¶ Evelyn's "Sylva."

original name of New Street, all the other streets of the town have several times been re-named. Within New Street is erected the Old Weighing-machine. The Sessions hall was removed from Melton to Woodbridge about this period by Thomas Seckford, then lord of the manor of Woodbridge Priory (1564—1587). Many ships for the navy as well as for the mercantile marine were built at these docks under the supervision of Peter Pett,* one of the Lords of the Admiralty and chief constructor in the royal dockyard of Deptford, under Cromwell and Charles II. A quotation from the Diary of John Rous, 1628, will show the activity which prevailed in the Deben docks, and the high rank to which the Woodbridgeshipwrights had attained. The Calendar of State Papers, Domēs. Series (1626—1660), contains much information upon this subject.

“The Earl of Warwick (Lieutenant of Essex) is to have a new ship built whose timber with the workmanship (iron excepted) must cost twenty-two hundred pounds; it must be fleetier, drawing less water than ordinary, and is to be made at Woodbridge.”†

This was the year in which a fight between the Ipswich train-band under Sir William Withypoll, and the Woodbridge soldiers under Lieutenant Wright, took place upon Martlesham bridge. The lieutenant and his ensign were slain. Two years previous the militia had been guilty of acts of insubordination at the muster of arms on the Market Hill, “men absolutely and contemptuously refused to serve in arms.”‡ This act was only a forerunner of the many acts of defiance which preceded the Great Rebellion. Woodbridge refused to pay ship-money, and the leading inhabitant, John Hodges, captained a body of Suffolk horse which assisted in the siege of Colchester.

Upon the return of monarchical rule the activity of the docks gradually decreased, probably owing to the Royal displeasure falling upon the head of Peter Pett, which led to his dismissal from office. The town was found a con-

* Cal. State Papers, Domes. Series; Pepys' Diary, Autobiography of Pineas Pett. Add. MS. 6271. Note especially ff. 101, 102. † Camden Soc. Series, pub. 1856.

‡ Cal. State Papers, Domes. Series, 1626; Rous' Diary; Parish Registers.

venient place for the imprisonment of one hundred and forty-one Dutch seamen, captured in the fight off the Suffolk coast, November, 1665. The Dutch sailors, who mainly formed the crew of the "Prince Maurice," were placed in the custody of John Margets.

The present Woodbridge school was founded in 1662 by Dorothy Seckford and the leading inhabitants. The first school was founded by John Annott, of Lowestoft, who died in 1577, aged ninety years. The grant was lost to the town in law proceedings in 1606; it cost the town of Lowestoft in 1591 nearly £120 to defend its rights to the school founded under the same will.* A steam saw-mill now occupies the site of the old school, and a neat sketch of the old ornamental timber work which adorns the entrance to the mill is to be seen in Barrett's "Illustrated Tour in the Eastern Counties." The Town Common leased in 1660 to Edmund Munday for the disputed term of 999 years was bequeathed to the town by John Dodd, 1476. The Plague found many victims here. A contemporary writer states, "*The sickness is very sad at Norwich and Woodbridge, there died last week at Norwich sixty-three of the plague, eighty-seven in the whole, at Woodbridge forty, 13 July, 1666.*"† The Earl of Oxford had removed his troop of horse from Newmarket to Woodbridge to escape the plague 28th June, 1666. Bearman's Hill, now Mill Hill, is traditionally stated to have been the place where the victims of this scourge were buried.

Woodbridge has frequently been selected as the station for the quartering of horse soldiers.

1768, July 5th. *The House of Industry lately erected at Melton has of late been much threatened to be pulled down or otherwise destroyed. The writer requests that the several parties of Dragoons now quartered at Woodbridge may have orders from the Secretary at War to assist the civil magistrates in suppressing any riots.*

Rev. Thomas Carthew to Lord Weymouth.‡

* Churchwardens' "Accounts, 1607," Suckling's "Suffolk," vol. ii., p. 113.

† Letter of S. Davis to Pangelly. MSS. of the House of Lords.

‡ Cal. State Papers, Domes. Series, 1768.

It was in 1804 that the Barracks were built at Woodbridge, which were able to contain, Cavalry—Officers and Men, 724; Horses, 720; Infantry—Officers and Men, 4165: number of soldiers' wives and children, Males, 199—Females, 459. The burial ground belonging to the Barracks was consecrated September 13th, 1808.

Much wealth and industry was brought to Woodbridge as well as to other important towns on the Anglian coast by the colliers plying between Newcastle and London. When the "hoastmen" decided to lay up their ships a great coal famine pervaded London, and the "strike" came to an end when the City agreed to allow free and just trade and to pay seventeen shillings a chaldron. The decline of the coal trade caused the passing of the Act of 1 James II. to encourage the building of ships in England.* "Strikes" and "boycotting" appear to injure commerce. When there was a great demand for Suffolk cheese in the London market, "Daniel Herne a Woodbridge warehouseman refused to export cheese for Domville of London, as by so doing he would be shut out by all other cheese-mongers," 1698.† Defoe mentions the export of corn and butter, stating that "the port for shipping off of Suffolk butter is chiefly Woodbridge, which for that reason is full of corn factors and butter factors, some of whom are (1722) very considerable merchants."‡ A great blow was given to trade when the Lords of the Admiralty decided to exclude Suffolk cheese from use in the Navy for the space of three years on account of its inferior quality.§

Should this half-told tale of the history of our quaint old town induce any reader to collect information concerning the life-story of the past ages of the district in which he resides, the writer will consider that his labours of research have not been in vain.

* Gardner's "Dunwich," p. 165. † MSS. of House of Lords, 1692—1695, p. 108.

‡ Defoe's "Tour in the Eastern Counties." § *Ipswich Journal*, June 30th, 1759.

THE RECTORS AND CURATES OF WOODBRIDGE.

There exists a doubt in the minds of many who are interested in the history of the town of Woodbridge, whether the Incumbent of the Parish Church should be designated Rector, or Perpetual Curate. It is certain that when the Priory estate became the property of a layman, the Parish Priest was called the "Curate," but the Monk from the Priory who served the Parish Church before the Dissolution of the Monasteries was also called the "Curate of the Parish" (*v. Bishop of Norwich's Visitation 26 June, 1532*). The Priory buildings when erected circa 1190 were added to the Church which was standing at the time of the Domesday Book-Survey, and the advowson of the Priory was held by the lord of the manor to whom the manorial Church belonged. This circumstance caused the Convent to levy a tax upon the tenants of Robert de Ufford, for the repair of the Belfry, 1286 (*Harl. Ch. 45, A. 50*). The present Church was not erected before the 15th Century, for in the various documents wherein the advowson of the Priory is mentioned (*I.P.M. Robert de Ufford, 19 Ed. II. ; P.F. John Brewse, 7^{mo} Richard II.*) no allusion is made to the Church. The Prior was Rector of the Parish, and this title fell upon Sir Antony Wingfield, and Sir John Wingfield, who became the owners of the Priory buildings, and with them of the old Parish Church which was pulled down in 1541 to enlarge the Churchyard. The new owners of the Priory estates appointed the "Curate" as the Priors had previously done. Dorothy Seckford by her will, dated 1672, conferred the Great tithes upon the then Curate, Edmund Brome, for a term of sixty years, after which they were to be the property of three trustees. The tithes have subsequently been the property of the officiating Priest, who, being responsible for such repairs, and holding such claims as fall upon a Rector, has consequently assumed the title.

NAMES OF PRIORS AND "CURATES."

Date of Inst.	Name.	Patron.
1267	PRIOR AMBROSE.	
1277	" RALPH. 1	Sir Robert de Ufford, Lord Chief Justice Ireland,
1285	" THOMAS. 2	" [d. 1317.
1305	" HENRY DE ECCLES.	"
1326	" JOHN DE ATHLINGTON.	Sir Robert de Ufford, E. of Suffolk,
1342	" JOHN DE BRUNDISH. 3	" [d. 1370.
1345	" WILLIAM BAST.	"
1349	" JOHN HADLEY. 4	"
	" WILLIAM DE HOLTON.	"
	" HENRY DE BROM.	"
1372	" THOMAS DE TROSTON.	Sir William de Ufford, d. 1382.
1394	" WILLIAM DE MELTON. 5	John Brewse.
1432	" THOMAS PARHAM.	"
1447	" NICHOLAS FOSTER.	Ella Brewse, relict of Sir Robert,
1467	" THOMAS PAKKARD. 6	Sir Thomas Brewse, d. 1482. [d. 1456
1493	" THOMAS HEWE, alias HADLEY. 7	Sir William Hansard.
1507	" AUGUSTIN RIVERS. 8	"
1509	" RICHARD BULLE. 9	"
1515	" ROBERT CODDE. 10	"
	" THOMAS COOKE, B.C.L. 11	"
1530	" HENRY BASSINGBOURNE. 12	"
1532	CURATE THOMAS PENDERLEY. 13	"
1536	" JAMES FAYERTHWAIT. 14	Sir Antony Wingfield.
	" THOMAS BULLE.	Sir John Wingfield.
	" THOMAS COMERS.	Lady Dorothy Wingfield.
	" RAFFE TAPPEN.	"
	" ROBERT WRIGHT.	"
	" THOMAS YOUNGS.	"
1582	" JOHN TOFT, alias TOFTS. 15	Thomas Seckford, d. 1587.
1591	" WILLIAM ATKINSON. 16	Charles Seckford, d. 1592.
1592	" JOHN HUET.	Sir Thomas Seckford, d. 1610.
1596	" JOHN GODFREY.	"
1605	" JOSIAH HUNT.	"
1611	" THOMAS FLETCHER. 17	Trustees for " Thomas Seckford,
1611	" THOMAS CROMPTON.	" [d. 1624
1622	" ANTONY WHITE.	"
1626	" ROBERT CADE. 18	Henry Seckford, of Clerkenwell, d. 1638.
1666	RECTOR EDMUND BROME, M.A. 19	Dorothy Seckford, wife of Henry,
1719	" JOHN BLYTH, M.A. 20	Edward North. [d. 1672.
1736	" JOHN CLARKE, M.A.	Thomas Carthew.
1779	" THOMAS CARTHEW, M.A., F.S.A., J.P. 21	Thomas Carthew.
1791	" THOMAS CARTHEW, M.A.	{ Francis Brook, Wm. Kirby, Peter Maber and Thos. Glover, Ewen Trustees.

Date of Inst.	Name.	Patron.
1831	RECTOR THOMAS WILLIAM SALMON, M.A. 22	Thos. Wm. Salmon.
1839	" HENRY HARDINGE, B.A. 23	"
1841	" THOMAS SHINTON BOMFORD, M.A.	Molyneux Betham.
1844	" THOMAS WILLIAM MELLER, M.A. 24	Thos. Wm. Meller.
1870	" ROLLA CHARLES MEADOWS ROUSE, M.A., J.P., R.D. 25	Rolla Rouse (Major)
1887	" SYDNEY BENJAMIN FIELD, R.D., 26	E. Field Esq.
1893	" WALTER WILLIAM JONES, M.A. 27	C. H. Maxted.
1896	" TOM HOUSECROFT, M.A., R.D. 28	"

1. Mentioned in grant of Brandeston Rectory by Sir Thomas Weyland, 1277. (*Page's Suffolk*, p. 81, *Tanner's Monasticon*, s.v.)

2. Signed agreement concerning repair of Belfry. (*Harl. ch. 45, A 50, Brit. Mus.*)

3. Sir Edmund Brundish was Chaplain to the E. of Norfolk, his brass still exists in Brundish Church. (*Green's Framlingham*, p. 25.)

4. The omission of the years of institution 1349—1372, is ably accounted for by Dr. Jessopp in his paper upon the scourge of the Black Death in East Anglia.

5. One of the names in the Woodbridge Priory Register, a work mentioned in the preface to Stow's Annals, and by Weaver in his Monumental Remains.

6. Mentioned in the will (Ips. Reg.) of John Kemp, 1448, as "Parish Priest," and in the wills of Robert Pakkard, his father (his mother was Katherine), and of his uncle Thomas Pakkard, 1472. The Pakkards were originally of Rougham and Witesham.

7. Roger le Hewe, Parson of the Church of Newbourne, "pro priore et conventu de Wodebrugge."

Newbourne	} 58 ac. terr.	<i>Inq. Post. Mortem</i> , 6 Ed. III.
Waldringfield		
Woodbridge		

8. For his appointment 11 Dec., 1509, upon the suicide of Robert Brommer of Butley Abbey as Prior, see *Cal. State Papers, Domes. Series*; for the manner in which he performed his duties see *Vis. of Richard Bishop of Norwich, 1514, Camden Soc. Pub., Ed. by Dr. A. Jessopp*.

9. Isabel Fleet, by will 1509, bequeathed to Richard Bulle, "Prior," her chair.

10. Mentioned as "Master Prior" in the wills of Anne Award, and Richard Bayman, 1518. Sir Robert Goodale is mentioned in the will of Philip Forth, 1528, as "Parish Priest and Curate of the town of Woodbridge."

11. Resigned in 1530, was pensioned, see *Visitation for 1532*; Rector of Melton. He held the living of Bawdsey, 1532 (*v. Arch. Suff. Ind. Book*), and officiated at the magnificent funeral ceremonies of Thomas Howard, E. of Norfolk, 1524. (*Martin's Thetford*, p. 122.)

12. See *Cal. State Papers, Dom. Series*, 12th Oct., 1534, for account of resignation; also *Rymer's Fœdera. vol. xix. p. 508*.

13. Mentioned in *Vis.*, 1532, as "Curate of Woodbridge;" in will of Joan Clark, 1542, as "Parish Priest," to be recipient of her best feather pillow (Sir John Selby was to receive her other best pillow). In Parish Registers (1545—1620) occur the following entries:—

1540. Thomas Penderley, Priest, buried 31st day of May.

1548. Philymon, daughter of Thomas Bulle, Mynister of the Church, was christened 26th day of August.

1549. Thomas Bulle, Mynister, was buried 30th day of January.

1560. Thomas Comers, Curate of Woodbridge, and Alles Eythe were married 13th day of August.

1572. Raffe Tappen, clerke, was buried 18th day of June.

14. Mentioned in the will of Agnes Parker, 1536, as "Curate" of Woodbridge.

15. John Toft signs as "Minister," the declaration that the present register (1545—1620) was a true copy of the old one, "orderly written out word for word," 1582. In the Composition Books the name of John Toft occurs.—

Newbourne Cap. Ecc.	} John Tofte—Clericus 18 No. 27 Elizabeth
Martlesham Rectory	
Martlesham Rectory	John Toftes—Clericus 14 June 39 Elizabeth

In the Churchwardens' Books 1592—1687.

"1603. Mr. Taughte two loads of cubits wanting tenth faggot which Mr. North had for his tithes.
Stolen two loads of billet, blocks and cubit."

16. William Atkinson signs registers for 1591 as "Minister." The following year, 1592. John Huet, Minister, and Barbary Mason were married 28 June.

17. Sir Robert Heath and others *v.* Antony Cage. "Persons to appear to give evidence on oath at the house of John Smith, 'The Crowne,' Woodbridge, 26 Sep., 1633, at 8 p.m. Edmund Burwell, gent; *W. Fletcher, Clerk*; Thomas Compton, Clerk; Robert Cade, clerk, and twenty others "Signed by Nicholas Bacon, and Henry North."

Parish Register.—

William the son of Thomas Fletcher, Minister, and Margaret, bap. 19 July, 1614.

18. "Mr. Robert Cade, Minister, and Catharine Folkes were married the 16th day of November, 1623."

Catharine Cade wife of Robert Cade, Minister, was buried 16th January, 1655.

Robert Cade, Minister of the town was buried 2nd August, 1666.

Dynnington—Robert Cade, 30 July, 1633.

Dynnington—Robert Cade, 21 November, 1634.

Bishop's Institution Books.

Browne, in his "History of Nonconformity" upon the authority of Calamy states that Robert Cade, and Frederick Woodall were ejected from their livings at Woodbridge in 1662. Cade remained in his cure until his death in 1665, and Woodall the founder of the Congregational sect in Woodbridge, came from Yarmouth, 1645, and occupied the Pulpit in the Parish Church, as an Independent Preacher, 1645—1651. Cade was for that period sequestered from his living under the order of the Earl of Manchester. For early career of Frederick Woodall, as founder of Quay Church, see petition of fourteen of his Congregation forwarded to Cromwell 10th July, 1656. (*Cal. State Papers, Domes. Series.*)

F. Woodall was Rector of Brome 1614—1649. *v. Institution Books.*

19. Edmund Brome was instituted to the living of Southrepps, Norfolk, 14 January, 1647, from which living he was ejected in 1662. His son Edmund, the Woodbridge Incumbent, born at Clerkenwell in 1642, was admitted at St. John's Coll., Cambridge, in 1658, and graduated there a few months before his father's ejection. After holding a Curacy at Clerkenwell for a short time, he became Master of Woodbridge School, 1665, and the following year was appointed "Curate" of Woodbridge. He was also Rector of Great and Little Bealings. He was twice married, his first wife, Anna, died in 1678, by his second wife he had no less than 14 children. John Brome, his eldest son by his second marriage, was Rector of Bromeswell 23 Sept., 1708, and Curate of Hollesley. His son Edmund entered St. John's Coll., Cambridge, 1686, was 10th Wrangler in 1689, and proceeded M.A. 1692, B.D. 1701. He was elected Fellow in 1691, and President in 1714. The Rector of Woodbridge resided with the family of Alan Warwell at the Abbey. He died April, 1719, and his widow in 1724. For interesting facts concerning his ministration see *Edmund Bohun's Diary*, 1677, and for his experience as a ghost-seer, Glanvill's "*Sadducismus triumphatus*," pub. 1726, p. 355.

20. John Blyth was appointed to the Rectory of Broxholme, Lincolnshire, in 1714.

21. The Carthews, an ancient Cornish family, have occupied the judicial seat with eminence, *Fosbrook's Judges*, and have served their country both by sea and land. *Suckling's Suffolk, vol. ii.* There are many mural tablets and hatchments belonging to the family in the Parish Church.

(a) To the memory of | Thomas Carthew, Clerk, | no less respectable as | a divine | and magistrate | than amiable as a husband | and father. | He departed this life January 4th 1791, | Aged 59.

(b) Sacred | to the memory of | the Reverend Thomas Carthew, | forty years minister of this parish | who was born in the year 1764 | and closed a life of piety towards God | and usefulness to man | on the 8th day of September 1831. | He was a son of Thomas Carthew, Clerk, | by Elizabeth Morden his first wife | By his side are interred the remains of | Ann his beloved wife daughter of | Isaac Boggis Esq. of Colchester in Essex. |

22. Rev. T. W. Salmon, M.A., died near Great Yarmouth, 16 July, 1848.

23. During the Incumbency of the Rev. H. Hardinge (afterwards Rector of Theberton) the present Rectory, then a farm-bailiff's house, was selected for the residence of the Rector. The Rev. T. S. Bomford was a feeble old man when appointed to the living; he required the services of two men to assist him in and out of his prayer-desk. He was selected to the sacred office on account of his age, so that the advowson might realize a high market value. The bill announcing its sale ran thus,—

Revenues of Perpetual Curacy, 1842. Advowson put up for sale by the Rev. T. W. Salmon.

	£	s.	d.
Tithes commuted for rent-charge	329	4	0
Farm at Foxhall, eight-years lease	59	0	0
Old Garrison burial ground	1	5	0
Salary as Chaplain to Almshouses	50	0	0
Rent-charge from Great Bealings		13	4
Average surplice fees, and Easter offerings	109	1	8
Estimated value of Parsonage and Premises	60	0	0
	609	4	0
Deduct Interest and Capital of £1,200 borrowed under the Act to purchase House which will cease altogether in thirty years	80	0	0
<i>Outgoings.</i>			
Land tax for living	5	4	0
Land Tax for farm	2	8	0
Synodals		9	10
Poor rates and other Assessments	55	0	0
	63	16	10

The sum realized by the sale was £5,000.

The residence of Thomas Penderley, the first Minister of Woodbridge, is thus recorded:—

1547. John and Isabella Purvey, late relict of William Haughfen delivered to the use of John Went a cottage and garden situated near the Cross by the Fishpond alongside the Pinfolde. Former occupier, Thomas Penderley, Clericus, 5s. Court Rolls of Manor of Woodbridge, late Priory.

24. The Rev. Meller resigned the living on account of ill-health. He was an able linguist. He died suddenly at Grundisburgh, and lies buried in that part of Woodbridge Cemetery which was the old Garrison burial ground.

In memory of | Thomas William Meller, M.A. | rector of this parish | where for 26 years he laboured most diligently | in his more immediate duties | and also aided in completing 20 versions | of the Holy Scriptures in foreign languages | always abounding in the work of the Lord | till suddenly called to depart | and be with Christ | which is far better. | He entered into his rest | January 27th 1871, Aged 62.

25. Rev. R. C. M. Rouse, M.A., now Rector of Rayleigh, Essex.

26. Rev. S. B. Field holds the benefice of Patcham, near Brighton.

27. Rev. W. W. Jones, M.A., died November 7th, 1895.

28. Rev. T. Housecroft, M.A., previously Vicar of Wickham Market.



SECKFORD HALL, NEAR WOODBRIDGE.