

HOUSE OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS— DUNWICH.

BY V. B. REDSTONE.

The religious and military order of Knights Templars was founded in 1118 by some of the French crusaders for the purpose of protecting pilgrims to the Holy Land. Their house was built on the site of Solomon's Temple, whence they were called Knights of the Temple. They were bound by a vow of poverty, celibacy and obedience. Donations of considerable amount poured into their coffers. They became the richest order in the world.

Expelled from Jerusalem they dispersed themselves over the different countries of Europe, and greatly increased their wealth and importance. The Order was suppressed first in France, and afterwards by Edward II. in England, 1312.

Little has been written of the Temples erected by this order in Suffolk. In the most recent account of Religious Houses in this county^(a) mention is made only of the Temple of Dunwich. From the public records of the suppression of the Order it is seen that besides the House at Dunwich, there were Temples at Togrind, near Cavendish, and at Icklingham. The existence of that at Icklingham is still preserved by the name of Temple Bridge. The site of this house was of sufficient importance to form, as late as 1689, "the parish of Saint Maries seat of one gentleman."^(b)

(a) Victoria County History. Suffolk Vol. ii., p. 120.

(b) Adams, Index of Parishes in England and Wales, pub. 1689, 3. 185.

A Simon de Heyfford is mentioned as Warden of the Temple of Togrind, 10th November, 1312, and of the Temple of Gislyngham (? Icklingham).^(c)

The Temple at Dunwich, the site of which is now a hidden mound, rising within the enclosed grounds of Captain Miles Barne, was the most important of the houses of the Knights Templars in Suffolk. At the inquisition made upon the suppression of the house^(d) a charter, dated 1185, was shown granting to the Knights Templars of Dunwich, as the gift of the King, a messuage and windmill in the tenure of John de Cove.

The following information is taken from the earlier of two rentals^(e) giving a full account of the wealth and furniture of the Dunwich Temple at the time when it was seized by the King, 10 Mar. 1 Edw.ii. The roll is headed:—

The Chapel of Dunwich with the hamlet of Dingle. The accounts of Thomas de Omero, Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Rents. 33s. 5d. from Dunwich; 6s. 9d. from the part of Westleton belonging to Dingle; 71s. 9d. oblations, small tithes, etc.; 8s. 0d. for 2 qrs. of malt sold; £4 0s. 6d. for 2 horses, 1 ox, 4 pigs, 1 last of herrings, 20 cheeses, 1 piece of wax, 1 old cart, 1 hussia^(f) (an ecclesiastical tunic reaching to the ankles).

Wages and payments. The Carter 1½d. a day. The Warden of the place, 10 Jan.—29 Sept., 37 wks. 3 dys., 28s. 0d. at 9d. a week. To Richard Osmunde, chaplain, for his diet such as he was wont to enjoy

(c) Ministers' Accts., 5-6, Edw. II., Bund. 1006, No. 30, P.R.O.

(d) Misc. Knights Templars, Bund. 18, m. 3. P.R.O.

(e) 10 Mar.—29 Sep., 1308, P.R.O.

(f) Hussia or housia, originally housse, c.f. housing, a covering for a horse; or does the word refer to a wine-barrel? See J. H. Round's "The King's Serjeants," p. 177, pub: 1911.

at the board of the Brethren in the Temple when dwelling there before the King seized the land, 10 Mar. 1 Edw. ii—29 Sept., 199 days, the first and last inclusive, at 3d. a day; to the chaplain who celebrated in the said chapel, 11 Jan.—29 Sept. 263 days, 43s. 8d. at 2d. a day; and his clerk celebrating in the same chapel, 6s. 3d. at 2d. a week.

Goods. 1 gold cup 20s.; 1 mazer 5s. 4d.; 3 feet of silver cups $\frac{1}{2}$ mark; 35 gold florins value £4 7s. 6d. price of a florin 2s. 6d.; 7 gold rings 7s.; 2 gold clasps 5s.; 17 clasps of silver 15s.; money found in 4 pouches £111 14s. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. which Robert de Suffield,^(g) parson of Brampton Church says he was able to take care of; 1 pair of plates 2s.; 1 pair 'mustelers'^(h) 3s.; 1 shilling in silver 12d.; 1 mattress 6d.; 4 score and 19 lambs 49s. 6d.; 1 great chest and 1 small chest with 8 'bulle' and 1 pix with King's protection not valued; 1 pair of organs 12d.; 4 vestments whole 29s. 8d.; 1 cross plated with silver, 18d.; 1 chalice of gold 16s.; 1 old chalice 3s.; 1 new missal for use, 12d., 1 'portiforium' 1 mark, 1 gradal 18d.; 2 'legenda' 3s.; 2 'antiphonarium' new, 12d.; 1 small chest with relics of saints, and another small chest with other relics, 1 pix with Eucharist (*sic*); 1 piece of wax, 12d.; 2 last and 1000 herrings £4 4s. Timber 1 mark; Norman stone from the quarry 1 mark; 2 old carts, with apparatus for 3 horses, 10s.; 20 cheeses, 2s. 6d.; 1 crossbow, 8d.; 1 'pelin' and 1 basin, 20d.; 2 jars, 1 plate, 1 posnet, 7s.; 1 lead and other utensils for brewing, 1 tub, 10 boards, 10d.; 1 small pig, 10d.; 1 quarter of an ox 12d.

Stock. 1 lamb received from a certain stranger as an oblation.

(g) Not mentioned by Suckling in list of Brampton rectors, Vol. II., p. 188.

(h) Wine jars.

For more than four years the Temple of Dunwich remained in the King's hands. It will be interesting to compare the above valuation with the returns to the Exchequer by the Warden of the Temple, 10 Nov. 5 Ed. II. (1311).⁽ⁱ⁾

Rents. 33s. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. from houses in Dunwich. 21s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. from houses in Dingle and district.

Oblations. £4 16s. 4d. at the chapel in wax, pence and other offerings.

Herrings. 4s. 2d. for 1000 white herring sold at 5d. a 100, received from diverse families.

Garden and arable land at Dunwich.

Herbage. Meadow in Dunwich 18d., 24s. 4d. from 24 acres of land and 20 acres of marsh in Dingle, and 10d. from a marsh in Westleton.

Market. Leet of Northales 12d. Lete of Dunwich, 9d.

EXPENSES.

Rents. To the King's bailiff in Dunwich, 16s. 8d.; to Angustine de la Faleyse for a house in Westleton 4s. 7d.

Warden of the Temple. For recovering the Temple chapel with reeds, 2s. 6d.

Houses. Repairs 8d.

Tithes. Collecting tithes by cart in Dingle, 3s.; shoes for men, 2s.

Chaplain. 1 chaplain for a whole year's service, 66s. 8d., and to a clerk in the same chapel, 8s. 4d., viz., 2d. each week.

(i) Ministers' Accounts, 5-6 Edw. II., Bundle 1006, No. 30 P.R.O.

Wages. Richard Osmond, chaplain, 29 Sept—26 June, on which day he died, for 269 days, 67s. 4d., taking daily 3d. by the King's writ; for his robe at Christmas, 20s. which he had been accustomed to receive from the Brethren.

CONTENTS OF THE CHAPEL.

Goods, etc. 1 iron 'careas' 5s., 1 table, 2 planks, 2s.; 1 chest for towels, 12d.; 1 pair of organs, 12d.; 3 vestments, 40s.; 1 new chalice 26s. 8d.; 1 broken chalice, 6s. 8d.; 1 missal, 20s.; 1 portiphorium 26s. 8d.; 1 gradal, 5s.; 1 'troparium,'^(k) 2s.; 2 legends 13s. 4d.; 1 new missal for use, 2s.; 1 new antiphonarium for use, 5s.; 2 small books, 3s.; 1 cross covered with silver, 3s. 4d.; 1 feretrum $\frac{1}{2}$ mark, 1 feretrum for relics of no value and for the relics in the said feretrum, value unknown; received from the former Warden, John de Medefield.

After the Wardenship of Simon de Heyfford,^(l) the office was given in 1313 to John de Eggemere, who as Warden was ordered by the crown to pay to the Bishop of Norwich the arrears of wages due to Robert de Spaunton, and John Coffyn, Templars assigned to the Bishop to put in certain monasteries to do penance, to wit 4d. a day for each. These two men were probably recent Brethren of the Dunwich Temple. Later, the Dunwich property was transferred to the Knights Hospitallers, and the site was known as the Hospital.

When Dunwich was fermed for the King, 1425—1436, entries were made in the town rental^(m) of the annual payment of 11s. 6d. by the Master of the Temple for lands and houses held in the town. In

(k) A book containing ecclesiastical chants, or tropes.

(l) Close Roll, 7 Edw. II., m. 15.

(m) Rentals and Surveys, P.R.O., 5-16 Hen. VI., Roll 886.

many pre-Reformation wills bequests are mentioned as given to the Temple of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dunwich.⁽ⁿ⁾

Weever, writing in 1631,^(o) describes the chapel as having been a fine building with a vaulted nave and lead-covered aisles. It stood in Middlegate Street, about 55 rods from All Saints' Church. After the dissolution of religious houses under Henry VIII., the Temple and its lands were held by the crown, and granted in 1562 to Thomas Andrews.

(n) Will of Margaret Meltun of Dunwich, 1463, Ips. Probate Office.

(o) Weever, Funeral Monuments, 719.

GENERAL INDEX TO VOL. XIV.

Indexes have been already supplied to the "Calendar of Exchequer Depositions" (Part I., pp. 51-56), and to the "Pedigrees," and the "Church Notes," and the "Armory" in the Blois M.S.S. (Part II. pp. 158-167; 173-177; 184-226). The following Index is an Index to all other contents of Volume XIV., except that the names of fields in the "Bailiffs Roll of the Manor of Lawshall" have not been included.

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