

## NOTES.

## THE BURGATE HALL CHARTERS.

Among the Redgrave Hall muniments dispersed by Messrs. Sotheby in 1921 were 122 charters, all relating to land in the parish of Burgate or its adjoining parishes, dating from the middle of the 13th century to 1487, in most of which some member of the family of Burgate was directly concerned, or was a witness, and all of them at some time or another reached the deed chest of that family, and represented the title deeds of land which passed from one "Robert Rokewode of Hawstede, son and heir of Robert Rokewode of Lavenham," in 1565. The deed of transfer was at Redgrave Hall. These documents have found a new home in the University Library of Chicago.

A few months ago another tin of Redgrave Hall muniments was placed in my hands to read and classify. It was a selection made in 1869 to exhibit to the Suffolk Institute of Archæology, and therefore having been deposited in the lawyer's office at Bury St. Edmunds, missed the sale at Sotheby's.

In this tin were 19 more Burgate Charters, dating from about 1280 to 1437, and one of this lot is a grant by Sir William de Burgate, Kt., and others, dated in 1408, one year previous to his decease, which having thereon a Burgate seal that I had never before seen, I had the same photographed, and offer it to the Society for reproduction, with a free translation thereof, and a few additional notes, because I remember how that in 1889 Canon Manning, of Diss, told me he had never seen a seal having thereon the Burgate coat of arms. I was able then to show him a small example of such with thereon "Paly of six," and in 1921 I found this same little seal on the will of a Sir William de Burgate, drawn up in Norman French, in the 4th year of Richard II. (1380). This little document is now in Chicago, and I am inclined to think that the two impressions here recorded are unique.

Herewith is a free translation of the charter :

Know all men both at the present time and for the future that we, William Burgate, knight, John Bures, John Rookwode and John Huberd, parson of the Church of Burgate, have conceded and by this our present indented charter do confirm, to John Wethon, Margerie his wife, and Cecilie Wethon one meadow, and one pasture called Cobbysslede, and one pightle called Rawyscroft, also one croft lying near thereto, and one piece of land containing by estima-



tion two acres and a half, lying between land of Robert Pepir on the one side and land of John Wethon on the other side, and one acre of land lying near Rowyscroft, between land of Nicholas Conyers, on the one side, and land of Robert Pepir on the other, also one piece of land called Redying, and half a rod of land called Pynchonysslede, next land of Robert Pepir, and half an acre of land lying in Conchyscroft in the town of Gyslingham; to have and to hold the aforesaid land pightle and pastures with all their appurtenances, to John Wethon, Margery his wife and Cecily, their heirs and assigns, rendering annually to us and my heirs, three "solidos el quatuor denaros" for their souls and for suit of court, at the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, and at Pentecost, in equal portions. In testimony of which to this herewith indented charter we have severally set our seals, and these witness to the same. Richard atte Cherche, Robert Chapman, John Wylikyn, John Bown, John Cryspynge and others. Dated at Gyslingham on the sixth day of the month of October, in the year of the reign of King Henry the fourth, "post cong" the tenth.

The seal of Sir William de Burgate is fairly perfect and has on it the coat of arms "Paly of six," the tinctures of which would be "argent and sable" and it is inscribed "S. Gulielmi Burgate."

The first of the family to seal with a coat of arms was "Peter de Burgate Dns de Burgate" in a grant of land to Sir John de Swyneford and Agnes his daughter in 1311. The coat he uses on his large circular seal was "Three pales." and as canting coats were much used in the 14th century, I presume the pales were for a gate. Thomes Crowe sealed with "Three Crows" in 1280, with this inscription "S. Tome fil Tome Crowe," and in those early days the Rookwoods used for coat armour "Three rooks," not chess rooks.

In 1343 "Ricardus de Burgate" sealed with a large circular seal, bearing this coat, "Paly of six, on a chief three trefoils." He was evidently of a younger branch, and had to add the trefoils for difference. However, I have come across instances of brothers using different coats in the 14th century. I quite think from all the Burgate charters considered together, an accurate pedigree of that family could be drawn out, while that given by historians of the past has been but conjectural.

From the Burgate Hall charters of the 15th century it could be ascertained I think, how many daughters were born to Sir William de Burgate and Aleanore his wife, and what names they bore. Dr. Copinger, in his "Manors of Suffolk," III., 244, says "As a matter of fact, Sir William Burgate left three daughters: Eleanor, married to John Rokewode; Margaret, married to Sir Robert Swynford; and Jane married to Sir Walter Tyrell, knt., though

some pedigrees add a fourth daughter Katherine, married to Robert Stonham, of Stonham Aspal, who died in 1397."

Now in the 2nd year of Henry V. (1414) there is a charter concerning a grant from Sir John Heveningham, Gilbert Debenham and others to "Katine, filie Willmi Burgate, miles, nunc uxi Johis Spenser de com Suff. Armiger" and it concerns a mediety of the manor of Burgate, etc., and mention is made of William, son of John Rokewode and Aleanore his wife daughter of the aforesaid William de Burgate.

Then in 1436 there is a grant from trustees to "Robert Stonham armiger, John Brampton armiger, and Willm. Rokewode armiger "of the manor of Burgate," then I presume, representing three medieties, while in 1437 there is another grant from John Hubert, no doubt the parson of Burgate and a trustee, to "Robert Stonham, son of Katherine, daughter of Sir William de Burgate, knt," and then again in 1436, mention is made in a charter of "the advowson of Burgate of the gift and feoffment of John Tirell and Katherine his wife."

It seems to me as if Katherine de Burgate married 1st Sir John Tyrell, and then Robert Stonham, leaving by him a son, and she was in 1414 the wife of John Spenser, an esquire of Suffolk, and certainly Eleanor was the wife of John Rokewode, whose son was William Rokewode, and the latter was represented in 1565 by Robert Rokewode, who sold the estate to Nicholas Bacon, afterwards Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

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#### BRASS OF JOHN THURSTON AT CAVENHAM.

When members of the Institute visited Cavenham last year a brass which had been lost from the church and recovered, was on view. The brass which is very thin and much mutilated was found nailed to a beam in an old cottage and has now been framed and hung in the church. It is no doubt by a local engraver and is very crude but most interesting; unfortunately it was not possible to obtain a good rubbing. Its size is  $11\frac{1}{2}$ -ins. by  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -in.; across the top are three death's heads with crossed darts above, underneath is the following inscriptions.

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF IOHN THVRS  
TON WHO DYED ONE MICHAEL DAY IN THE  
YERE OF OVR LORD 1698 BEING THE 41  
YER OF HIS AGE.

It is mentioned as lost in "A list of Suffolk Brasses" by the Rev. Edmund Farrer, published in 1903.

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