

THE EARLY ARCHDEACONS OF NORWICH DIOCESE.

BY L. LANDON.

Besides a certain interest in having as far as possible a correct list of the holders of any official positions, the names of archdeacons and periods during which they exercised their functions have some real use in making it possible to assign at any rate approximate dates to undated charters in which they occur as witnesses ; for instance, they make it possible in some cases to distinguish between the acts of the two bishops John who succeeded one the other in the bishoprick of Norwich, which they held between them for fifty years.

The existing lists to be found in Blomefield's "History of Norfolk," Le Neve's "Fasti," or Hamon Le Strange's "Norfolk Official Lists" are incomplete and incorrect.

The "Flores Historiarum" (Rolls Series No. 95, Vol. II, p. 68) records that bishop Everard divided the archdeaconry of Suffolk into two.

As early as the beginning of the twelfth century, in the time of bishop Herbert, there were already three archdeaconries, one of which may have belonged to the county of Suffolk, but it is not till about the year 1137 that an archdeacon of Suffolk is named.

Blomefield ("History of Norfolk," Vol. III, p. 650) relates that "Richard de Beaufoe, sometime arch-

deacon of Norwich, was by bishop Everard, at the request of Arthur, the bishop's brother, made archdeacon of the whole county of Suffolk, the archdeaconry of Sudbury being included in it, till upon this archdeacon's promotion to a bishoprick in France (i.e., in 1135) the bishop divided it into two archdeaconries and gave the greater part or Suffolk archdeaconry to Walkeline his nephew"

This statement presumably is derived from information in the Norwich Cathedral records, but no mention of an archdeaconry of Sudbury by name occurs, unless in those records, till early in the twelfth century when each of the four now existing archdeaconries came into being under the names of Norwich, Norfolk, Suffolk and Sudbury.

The list here compiled shows the existence of a fourth archdeaconry as early as the year 1126-1128, to which the date 1127 is assigned; this is eight years earlier than the year which Blomefield gives for its creation.

In the "Registrum Primum" in the Library of the Dean and chapter of Norwich* (f. 25b.) there is a letter from bishop E. addressed to the official of the archdeaconry of Sudbury touching the immunity of certain manors belonging to Norwich priory from archidiaconal jurisdiction. This is dated "Hoxon' 9 Kal. Feb. pontificatus nostri anno sexto." Everard is the only bishop whose name fits the initial, but this precise form of dating is not found till the time of bishop John de Grey (1200-1214) and the initial E. is certainly an error, probably for J.

*By the kind permission of the late dean Willink I was allowed access to the Cathedral Library but the time at my disposal did not permit me to do more than search the two principal registers.

This list is compiled entirely from original records, all references being given in the notes attached under the respective years.

By the use of these dates and by disposing the names in columns showing which officials were contemporaries, a fairly complete sequence of names has been arrived at.

It is probable that in some cases officials were transferred from one county to the other, for instance there appears to be no place for archdeacon Baldwin in Norfolk as long as William I. and Roger I. occupied those two archdeaconries, whilst in the year 1168 he is called archdeacon of Norwich. It is quite likely that at some time he was transferred to Norfolk, but it would be impossible to take into account hypothetical transfers with so little evidence to go upon.

1070	Herman			
1086	Gunfrid			
1101		Osbert		
[1105]			Alfred	
1107	Gunfrid		Alfred	
[1108]	Walter			
1109	Walter			
[1110]	Walter	Osbert	Richard de Belfou	
1111	Walter			
1115	Walter			
[1118]			Richard	
1123	William I	Roger I	Richard	
1127	William I	Roger I	Richard	William II
1130			Richard	
[1137]	William I		Walkelin	William II (Suff.)
[1139]	William I	Roger I		William II
1140		Roger I (de Fiscano)		
1141	William I		Walkelin	William III fitz Humfrey
1143				Baldwin
1147	William I	Roger I	Walkelin	Baldwin
1148	William I (Norwich)			
[1150]	Ralf	Roger	Walkelin (Suff.)	
[1156]		Roger I	W[alkelin]	
[1157]	Gilbert	Roger I		

1160	Philip	R[oger] (Norwich)		Baldwin
1161	Philip (Norwich)			
[1163]	William IV	Roger I		Baldwin de Bolonia
[1165]	William IV	Roger I	Walkelin	
1166		Roger I		
1168				Baldwin (Norwich)
[1169]		Steingrin		
[1170]	William IV	Steingrin		
1175		Steingrin		
1178	William IV	Steingrin	Walkelin	
1181	Thomas	Steingrin		
1185			Walkelin	
[1187]	Thomas	Reiner		
1192			Geoffrey I	Roger II
[1194]	Thomas	John	Geoffrey I	Roger II
1195	Thomas	John	Geoffrey I	Roger II
1196		John	Geoffrey I	Roger II
1197	Thomas		Geoffrey I	
1198	Thomas		Geoffrey I	
1199	Thomas	John	Geoffrey I	Roger II
1200	Geoffrey II de Burgh (Norwich)		Geoffrey I	
[1201]		Geoffrey III de Bocland (Norfolk)		
1202	Geoffrey II de Burgh		Geoffrey I (Suff.)	
1205			Geoffrey I (Suff.)	
1206			Geoffrey I (Suff.)	
1208			Geoffrey I	Roger II (Sud.)
1210			Geoffrey I (Suff.)	
1211				Roger II (Suff.)
1212				Roger II
1214	Geoffrey II de Burgh			Roger II

ARCHDEACONS.

NOTES.

A.D. 1070. Herfast was made bishop of Elmham.

During his episcopacy Herman was his archdeacon. See John Battley, "Antiquitates S. Edmundi Burgi," etc., p. 142, where he quotes a work of Herman's. "Hermannus archidiaconus de ultione facta in Arfastum episcopum Estanglie."

A.D. 1084? Bishop Arfast died, having removed the see from Elmham to Thetford, in 1075, it is believed.

A.D. 1085, 25 December. William de Belfou, one of the Conqueror's chaplains, was consecrated bishop of Thetford.

A.D. 1086. Domesday Book, Norfolk, ij, f. 193a.

Archdeacon Gunfrid appears as a tenant of lands in Norfolk.

A.D. 1090? Bishop William died.

A.D. 1091. Herbert de Losenga was consecrated bishop of Thetford, he removed the see to Norwich in 1094.

A.D. 1101. 3 September. Rot. Cott. ij. 21. and Cott. 175. Aug. ij. 103. (Mon. Ang. Vol. IV, p. 15).

Charter of bishop Herbert instituting canons at Norwich in which reference is made to land in Lakenham of archdeacon Osbert.

[c A.D. 1105?] Mon. Ang. vj. p. 174.

Bricett priory, Suffolk. Charter of Ralf fitz Brien, the founder, done by the council of bishop Herbert and of archdeacon Alfred and of his lord William Peverel le machen.

Archdeacon Alfred is one of the witnesses. Ralf fitz Brien, a holder of lands in 1086, is said to have founded the priory near the end of his life.

A.D. 1107. Vitel. F. IV. f. 175. b.

Roger Bigot's foundation charter of Thetford priory to which archdeacon Gunfrid and archdeacon Alfred are witnesses.

Roger Bigot made his charter a few days before his death on 8th of September, 1107.

[A.D. 1108?] Harl. MSS. 2110. f. 118.b.

Charter of bishop Herbert licensing the foundation of the priory of Castleacre, witnessed by bishop Herbert, Walter archdeacon and others.

The first prior of Castleacre occurs before 1107.

This is the first reference to archdeacon Walter and as there are three archdeacons in 1107, Osbert being referred to subsequently to that date, it is difficult to place Walter earlier than 1108, though the licence for the foundation of Castleacre would be expected much earlier seeing that the date usually assigned for the foundation is c. 1088.

Walter has succeeded Gunfrid (or Alfred).

A.D. 1109. Letters of bishop Herbert, Goulburn and Symonds, 1878. Vol. I, p. 227.

Letter xxxj. Addressed to Roger bishop of Salisbury, consecrated in 1107.

“Send back to me I entreat you with all speed Walter my archdeacon for he is so essential to me in the synod which I purpose holding in the second week after Easter.”

The editors note that episcopal synods for disciplinary purposes were usually held in the middle of May and November. The second Sunday after Easter fell on the 9th May in 1109, which perhaps is the year.

[c. A.D. 1110]. Galba E. ij.

Charter of Ralf fitz Godric to the abbey of S. Benet of Holme in the time of abbot Richer (1101-1126) witnessed by bishop Herbert, Nicholas de Bealfou, Osbert and Walter archdeacons of Norwich. 1107-1119.

This is the only reference to Nicholas de Belfou and probably is a copyist's error for Richard de Belfou; he has succeeded Alfred (or Gunfrid).

A.D. 1111. Galba E. ij f. 54.

Notification by Henry I. to bishop Herbert of the grant to Robert fitz Walter of the lands of More and Filby to which Walter archdeacon of Norwich and Ralf fitz Godric are witnesses.

Date assigned by Dr. Farrer in his Itinerary of Henry I., July. 1111. (1108 and 1116 are possible years also).

A.D. 1115. Chronicle of Abingdon. Roll Series. Vol. II, p. 62.

Notification by Henry I. to bishop Herbert and the sheriffs of Essex and Suffolk of the confirmation to the abbey of Abingdon and abbot Faritius, of the church of Edwardstone to which Walter archdeacon is a witness. This could be Walter archdeacon of Oxford but is more probably the archdeacon of Norwich in which diocese the church of Edwardstone lies.

[c. A.D. 1118 ?] Ancient Deed A. 5005.

Charter of Ralf archbishop of Canterbury to which Richard archdeacon of Norwich is a witness. 1114—1122.

A.D. 1119, 22 July. Herbert de Losenga died.

A.D. 1121, 12 June. Everard was consecrated bishop of Norwich.

A.D. 1123: Topham charter 3.

Grant of land by bishop Everard to Robert Cook, witnessed by prior Ingulf and all the convent of Holy Trinity, Richard archdeacon, William archdeacon, Roger archdeacon, masters William, William fitz Humfrey, etc.

Prior Ingulf was succeeded by prior William Turbe not later than 1124. (1121—1124.)

A.D. 1127. Galba E ii. f. 55.

Charter of Conrad abbot of S. Benet of Holme (1126—1128); three witnesses are Roger archdeacon, William archdeacon, William archdeacon.

As Richard de Belfou is still archdeacon there are four archdeacons from this date at latest. The second William is probably master William of the preceding charter. He cannot be William fitz Humfrey who is not archdeacon when he witnesses a charter of abbot Conrad's successor, abbot William. (See A.D. 1131).

A.D. 1130. Cal. Pat. Rolls. A.D. 1337. p. 476.

Inspeximus of a charter of Henry I addressed to the bishop of Norwich, to Richard archdeacon and to Richard Basset and Aubrey de Vere [Sheriffs] in favour of the monks of Ipswich. (Dated by Dr. Farrer 1130 or 1133).

Richard probably was archdeacon of Suffolk as this charter relates to a Suffolk priory. This bears out Blomefield's statement referred to in the introduction.

[c. A.D. 1131]. Galba E ii, f. 55b.

Charter of William abbot of S. Benet's of Holme (1128-1133) to John fitz Guy dapifer of the bishop of Norwich, granting to him the land of Martham, which his father Guy held of the abbey; among the witnesses are Everard the bishop, William fitz Humfrey and Walkelin, the bishop's clerks. Both these clerks became archdeacons.

A.D. 1135. Richard de Belfou was made Bishop of Avranches.

Perhaps Walkelin was made archdeacon this year.

c. A.D. 1137. L.F.C. Charter xij. 2.

Charter of bishop Everard to Robert de Humbresfeld, witnessed by William (I) archdeacon, Walkelin archdeacon and William (II) archdeacon of Suffolk.

This is the earliest mention of an archdeaconry of Suffolk. (1135-1145).

c.A.D. 1137. Hist. MSS. Comm. Lothian MSS. at Blickling. 1905.

Charter of bishop Everard in favour of his officer Philip to which William prior of Norwich, William (I) "and the other William" (II), Walkerele (Walkelin) and Roger archdeacons are witnesses. (1135-1145).

c. A.D. 1139. D. & C. Norwich, Register V. f. 7.

Charter of bishop Everard making provision for the building and maintenance of the cathedral.

"Done in the chapter of Holy Trinity before me and the whole convent, in the presence of the arch-

deacons of our church, William (I), "the other William" (II) and Roger and of many others."

"I, Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury primate of all England subscribed and with apostolic authority I denounce etc." A.D. 1139-1145.

The archbishop is not mentioned as being present at the chapter and his sanction must have been obtained later.

A.D. 1140? Galba. E. II. f. 31.

Charter of King Stephen at Norwich in favour of the abbey of S. Benet of Holme.

Among the witnesses are, bishop Everard, Alexander bishop of Lincoln, Athelof bishop of Carlisle, Roger de Fiscano archdeacon, John fitz Robert sheriff, Richard fitz Urse.

Stephen was at Norwich in 1136 and 1140.

As there was at this time in the diocese an archdeacon Roger he may be Roger de Fiscano. Against this, however, there is recorded in Register A. (f. 344) of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury a charter of King Stephen which has as witness R. de Fisc' archiepiscopo Rothom: seemingly an error for archidiacono.

[c. A.D. 1141]. Cotton Charter ii. 21. No. 9.

Charter of bishop Everard specifying the lands and possessions to be dedicated to the service of the monks of Norwich priory. The witnesses include William (I) archdeacon, Walkelin archdeacon, William fitz Humfrey archdeacon, Gaulenus prior of Eye, Savarin prior of Horsford.

A.D. 1143. Hist. of Thomas of Canterbury, Rolls Series, III, p. 15.

Thomas Becket entered the household of archbishop Theobald through two brothers "Bolonienses" Baldwin archdeacon and Eustace.

This appears to be Baldwin archdeacon of Suffolk or Norwich. Thomas Becket was in the household of archbishop Theobald in 1143.

A.D. 1145. Bishop Everard resigned and died the following year at the abbey of Fontenay, France.

A.D. 1146. William Turbe, prior of Holy Trinity, Norwich, was consecrated bishop of Norwich.

A.D. 1147. Cott. MS. App. xxi. f. 46.

Notification by William bishop of Norwich of a covenant made between the priory of Stoke Clare and two of its tenants, dated 1147, witnessed by William archdeacon and Baldwin archdeacon.

1147. Harl. MS. 2110. f. 4.

Charter of William earl Warren (III) (d. 1148) in favour of Castleacre priory.

Witnessed by William bishop of Norwich Roger archdeacon, William archdeacon.

A.D. 1147. Galba E. ij. f. 58. S. Benet of Holme.

Charter of Hugh abbot of Holme, witnessed by bishop William, William archdeacon, Walkelin archdeacon.

Hugh abbot of S. Benet's was transferred to Chertsey abbey in 1148.

For this year 1147 the four archdeacons are : William, Roger, Baldwin and Walkelin.

A.D. 1148. Harley Charter. 47. H. 45.

Renewal by William bishop of Norwich of a covenant made by John de Querceto (Chesney) to the canons of Rudham (Coxford priory) dated S. Dunstan's day on the eve of the Ascension (19 May), 1148.

William archdeacon of Norwich is the first witness.

[c. 1150]. Harl. MS. 3697. f. 40.

Charter of William bishop of Norwich granting the church of Chippenham to Walden priory. It is witnessed by Daniel abbot of S. Benet's and "Bad" archdeacon (? Rad[ulfus]) A.D. 1148-1153.

[c. 1150]. Hist. MSS. Comm. Xth Report App. IV, p. 453. Blythburgh Cartulary.

Grant by William bishop of Norwich to Blythburgh priory of the Church of Blyford at the request of Ralf

de Criketot, witnessed by Walkelin, Roger, Ralf and others. No more is given in the calendar, but as Walkelin certainly was the archdeacon, the two others probably were archdeacons also.

On the same page is the certificate of Walkelin archdeacon of Suffolk, that he was present when William bishop of Norwich instituted the canons of Blythburgh to the church of Blyford.

These two charters point to there having been an archdeacon of the name of Ralf about this time.

Abbot Daniel's second term at S. Benet's was from 1148 to 1153.

[1156]. Harl MSS. 2110. f. 124.

Charter of William bishop of Norwich appropriating the church of South Creake to Castleacre priory.

The witnesses are Richard prior [of Norwich, 1150-1158] W. and Roger archdeacons, William abbot of Holme [1153-1168] and other clerics. (A.D. 1153-1158.)

W. may stand for Walkelin.

[c 1157]. D. & C. Norwich Register V. f. 23b.

Charter of Ralf fitz Ribald in favour of Norwich priory, for the soul of count Alan and for the safety of his lord Conan. Among the witnesses are Gilbert and Roger archdeacons of Norwich and Henry de Rye who died in or very soon after 1158.

Gilbert appears to have succeeded Ralf.

A.D. 1159. Pipe Roll. Norf. and Suff.

Archdeacon Roger is pardoned 53 sh. and 4 d.

A.D. 1160. John of Salisbury's letters. Vol. I, p. 42. 1159-60. Letter to pope Alexander III, concerning a controversy between the nuns of Gisa and Baldwin archdeacon of Norwich.

Ibid. Vol. I, p. 138.

1159-64. Letter to (William) bishop of Norwich on a complaint against R(oger) archdeacon of Norwich

concerning the advowson of the church of S. Andrew, Ringstead.

[c. A.D. 1160]. Gervase of Canterbury. Rolls Series, Vol. II, p. 288.

Charter of archbishop Theobald confirming to Christ Church, Canterbury, the grant of the church of St. Martin at Dover.

The witnesses are master Bartholomew archdeacon of Exeter, Philip archdeacon of Norwich, master John of Salisbury.

Philip has succeeded Gilbert.

A.D. 1161. Harl. MS. 2110. f. 112 b.

A charter of Henry II addressed to Philip archdeacon of Norwich, decreeing that the privileges of Castleacre priory in regard to the church of S. Andrew of Dunham shall not be violated: given at Rouen, Richard de Lucy being the sole witness.

January 1161 is the probable date.

[c. A.D. 1163]. Galba E ij, f. 45b.

Charter of William bishop of Norwich, instituting Ralf de Stokesby to the church of Ranworth at the presentation of William abbot of S. Benet's (1153-1168).

Witnessed by John prior of Norwich (occurs 1163-1168), Roger and William archdeacons.

William has succeeded Philip.

A.D. 1163. Calendar of Documents in France, p. 486.

Charter of Thomas (Becket) archbishop of Canterbury confirming to S. Bertin the grant of the church of Throwley made by archbishop Theobald. One of the witnesses is Baldwin de Bolonia archdeacon of Norwich. (A.D. 1162-1164).

A.D. 1165. Pipe Roll. Norfolk. Archdeacon Walkelin is in mercy.

[c. A.D. 1165 ?]. Ancient Deed A. 13999.

Confirmation charter of William bishop of Norwich to Lewes priory, witnessed by William archdeacon of Norwich, Roger archdeacon, Walkelin archdeacon, master Steingrin, master Reiner.

The two last will appear later as archdeacons.

The date is conjectural.

[c. A.D. 1165]. Add MS. 5860. f. 11b.

Confirmation by William bishop of Norwich to Colne abbey of the church of Wallingford. Among the witnesses are William and Roger archdeacons, Oger the sheriff (1163-69) master Steingrin.

A.D. 1166. Red Book of the Exchequer. p. 391.

"Carta" of William bishop of Norwich.

Roger archdeacon holds of the bishop two knights' fees.

A.D. 1168. Letters of John of Salisbury; Vol. II, p. 100.

A letter addressed to Baldwin archdeacon of Norwich.

[c. A.D. 1169 ?]. Topham Charter 15.

A charter of Maino prior of Castleacre in favour of Alan fitz Robert. The first witness is Steingrin archdeacon who has succeeded Roger. The date is conjectural.

[c. A.D. 1170 ?]. Cott. Ch. App. xxj. f. 28.

Charter of Richard de Clare earl of Hertford (1148-1176) addressed to masters Steingrin and William archdeacons of Norwich.

[c. A.D. 1170 ?]. Claud D. xiiij, f. 44b.

Charter of William bishop of Norwich to which archdeacons William and Steingrin are witnesses. (1166-1174).

A.D. 1174. Bishop William Turbe died on the 16th of January, 1174. (Ralf de Diceto. Rolls Series, Vol. I, p. 354).

A.D. 1175. John of Oxford was elected bishop of Norwich on the 26th of November, 1175, and consecrated on the 14th of December following.

A.D. 1175. Harl. MS. 2110, f. 130.

Certification by Tengr' (Steingrin) archdeacon of Norwich that Maurice de Barsham gave the church of Tatersett to Castleacre priory, dated at [Castle]Acre 15 August 1175.

A.D. 1178. Hist. MSS. Comm. Various Collections. Vol. IV, p. 317. MSS. at Holkham Hall.

Confirmation by John bishop of Norwich of an exchange of land made in Sparham, dated 1178.

Witnessed by William archdeacon, Teng' archdeacon, Walkelin archdeacon.

A.D. 1178. Harl. MS. 2110. f. 81.

Grant of Jordan prior of Castleacre to Alexander, butler of John bishop of Norwich, of land; to be held from Michaelmas 1178, the bishop being present.

Master Reiner de Hecham is one witness; this is probably the Reiner who subsequently became archdeacon.

A.D. 1181. Harl. MS. 2110 f. 125.

A confirmation to Castleacre priory by John Bishop of Norwich dated 1181; witnessed by Tengr' archdeacon, Thomas archdeacon and master Reiner (not archdeacon).

Thomas has taken the place of archdeacon William, Steingrin and Walkelin are still archdeacons, the fourth name would be Baldwin.

A.D. 1183. Cott. Ch. App. XXI, f. 46.

Confirmation by John bishop of Norwich of a covenant made between the priors of Thetford and Stoke about the tithes of Parva Bradel', made in the presence of bishop John, A.D. 1183.

Geoffrey Chaplain and master Reiner are witnesses; not archdeacons.

Harl. MS. 2110, f. 128.

Charter of John bishop of Norwich granting lands with the consent of Oddo prior of Castleacre (1182–1184) to which Teingrin, archdeacon, is witness with master. Reiner and Geoffrey chaplain.

A.D. 1185. Rotulus de Dominabus. Pipe Roll Society p. 60. Walkelin archdeacon is named as a tenant in Suffolk.

A.D. 1185. Vesp. E. XV., f. Cartulary of Leyston Abbey.

Charter of John Bishop of Norwich dated 1185 to which Walkelin archdeacon is a witness.

[A.D. c. 1187]. Cott. Ch. App. xxj, f. 47.

Confirmation by John bishop of Norwich to Stoke Clare priory of the church of S. Andrew of Burewell witnessed by Gerard prior of Norwich (c. 1183–1202), Reiner archdeacon, Thomas archdeacon.

[A.D. c. 1187 ?] Ancient Deed A. 7606.

Charter of Osbert [fitz William] granting land to the chapel of Cove to which are witnesses bishop John, Geoffrey the chaplain, Reiner and ——[*torn*] archdeacons.

A.D. 1192. Cott. Ch. App. xxj, f. 47.

Charter of John bishop of Norwich confirming to Stoke Clare priory all its possessions in Norwich diocese, dated 1192, witnessed by Geoffrey and Roger archdeacons.

These two are shown by subsequent references to have been archdeacons of Suffolk.

[c. A.D. 1194 ?]. Cott. MS. App. xxi., f. 42 b.

Charter of John bishop of Norwich confirming to Stoke Clare priory the church of Burtuna, witnessed by Thomas, John, Geoffrey and Roger archdeacons, Thomas Brito and others.

Thomas Brito has been identified with archdeacon Thomas, this charter shows them to be distinct. The date is conjectural.

A.D. 1195. Pipe Roll. Norfolk.
Archdeacon Roger is named.

A.D. 1195. Harl. MS. 2110. f. 64b.

Notification by William prior of Butley of an agreement come to with the monks of Castleacre about the church of Aspahale, dated 1195. This is witnessed by Thomas, Geoffrey and John archdeacons of Norwich diocese, Ralf abbot of Sibton, Ellis prior of Blyburgh and others.

A.D. 1196. Cal. Charter Rolls. Vol. I, p. 60.

Charter of Richard I at the Isle of Andelys to which John archdeacon of Norwich is a witness.

[A.D. 1196]. Harl. MS. 391. f. 106 b.

Charter of Everard fitz Ralf de Geist, witnessed by Thomas archdeacon, Roger archdeacon of Suffolk, Thomas Brito, Geoffrey archdeacon (1189-1199).

A.D. 1197. Harl. MS. 391. ff. 108 & 108b.

Charter of William de Draiton granting to the abbey a mediety of the church of Scarning with confirmation by John bishop of Norwich, dated 1197, witnessed by Thomas archdeacon of Norwich, Geoffrey archdeacon of Suffolk, Geoffrey de Bocland, not yet archdeacon, but who occurs a few years later as archdeacon of Norfolk.

A.D. 1198. D. & C. Norwich, Register I, f. 31 and Cotton Charter ij. 19. (12).

Charter of John bishop of Norwich to Norwich priory, witnessed by Thomas and Geoffrey archdeacons dated at Norwich 8 Ides of August, 1198.

A.D. 1198. Epistole Cantuarienses. Rolls Series No. 38.

June 1 to 9, 1198. Letter of archbishop Hubert to John bishop of Norwich in which he tells him to send G. archdeacon of Ipswich and master W. Lenn to him, the archbishop, to advise him on some matter.

A.D. 1199. Mon Ang. vj, p. 95. Shouldham priory, Norfolk.

Foundation Charter of Geoffrey fitz Peter earl of Essex, which is witnessed by H[ubert] archbishop of Canterbury, John bishop of Norwich, Walter abbot of Waltham, Geoffrey de Bocland and Thomas, John, Roger and Geoffrey archdeacons.

Geoffrey fitz Peter was created earl of Essex by King John on his coronation day, 27 May, 1199, and Thomas was succeeded in the archdeaconry of Norwich on 14th Aug. 1200, so must have died a short time before that.

Geoffrey de Bocland is not archdeacon.

John of Oxford bishop of Norwich died on 2nd of June 1200.

John de Grey his successor, was consecrated on the 24th September of the same year.

A.D. 1200, 14 August. Rot. Chartarum. Vol. I, p. 74.

King John gave the archdeaconry of *Norwich*, which Thomas had, to Geoffrey de Burgh (brother of Hubert de Burgh) when the see of Norwich was vacant.

c. A.D. 1200. Ancient Deed A. 3347.

Charter of Arnold de Colvil and Agnes his wife to the church of S.S. Peter and Paul, Ipswich; among the witnesses are a number of justices of whom Godfrey del Isle occurs 1198 and Michael Belet, who was Rector of Hintlesham in 1201, died soon after 1236. Geoffrey archdeacon of Suffolk is another witness.

[c. A.D. 1201]. Cal. Charter Rolls, Vol. V. p. 201.

Charter of H[ubert] archbishop of Canterbury confirming the grant of the church of Tremworth to Leeds priory, Kent. Witnesses to the archbishop's charter include Geoffrey de Boel[and] archdeacon of Norfolk, Simon fitz Robert archdeacon of Wells (1199-1204).

This is the first mention of an archdeacon of Norfolk.

A.D. 1202. June. Claud D. xiiij, f. 183.

Charter of John (de Grey) bishop of Norwich con-

firming to Binham priory a rent on the church of Backton (Suffolk) of which archdeacon Roger is the rector. It is witnessed by Master W. de Len and others and dated at Lynn, 12 Kal. July in the second year of his episcopacy, (1202).

A.D. 1202. 22 Sept. Harl. MS. 2110 f. 127.

Institution by John bishop of Norwich of a parson to Fulmodeston church, saving the vicariate of Geoffrey archdeacon of Suffolk; witnessed by G[oeffrey] de Burgh archdeacon of Norwich, dated 22 Sept. in second year of his episcopacy, (1202).

At this date Geoffrey de Burgo is archdeacon of Norwich.

Geoffrey de Bocland archdeacon of Norfolk.

Geoffrey is archdeacon of Suffolk.

Roger is archdeacon of Suffolk, but will be known a few years later as archdeacon of Sudbury.

It would seem that the distinction in naming of the archdeaconries dated from the opening of the xiiijth century.

A.D. 1205. Galba E. ij. f. 46b.

Confirmation by John bishop of Norwich of a charter of bishop William appropriating the churches of Hove-ton and Asmanhaghe to S. Benet's abbey; witnessed by Geoffrey archdeacon of Suffolk; dated at Thorp 14 Kal. October in the sixth year of his episcopacy, (1205).

A.D. 1206. Historical MSS. Report No. X. App. IV. p. 454. Blythburgh Cartulary.

Charter of John bishop of Norwich confirming a charter of his predecessor John of Oxford, appropriating the church of S. Andrew, Claxton, to Blythburgh priory, saving the possession of Geoffrey archdeacon of Suffolk, dated the 6th year of his episcopacy (24 Sept. 1205—23 Sept. 1206).

[c. A.D. 1208]? Ancient Deed D. 1253.

Institution by John bishop of Norwich of a parson.

to the church of Great Thurlow, Suffolk, at the presentation of the abbot of Battle.

Witnessed by Geoffrey and Roger archdeacons.

The date probably is before 1209 when the bishop went to Ireland.

Ibid. D. 2154.

Letter of Roger archdeacon of Sudbury stating that he was present at the above institution.

This appears to be the first mention by name of the archdeaconry of Sudbury.

A.D. 1210. Pipe Roll. Mich. 1210. Norf. and Suff.

Geoffrey archdeacon of Suffolk paid 300 marcs into the treasury to have the king's good will and he was quit.

A.D. 1211. 6 September. Claud D. xiiij.

Charter of John bishop of Norwich, confirming to Binham priory a rent on the church of Backton, to be received after the death of archdeacon Roger, the rector of the church.

Dated at London 8 Ides of September, 11th year of his episcopacy.

A.D. 1212. Pipe Roll. Mich 1212. Norf. and Suff.

Archdeacon Roger paid 500 marcs into the treasury to have the king's pardon, and he was quit.

A.D. 1214. Rot. Litt. Pat. Vol. I.

p. 123. Letters Patent addressed to R[oger] archdeacon of Suffolk.

p. 125. same to G[eoffrey de Burgh] archdeacon of Norwich.

Cal. of Letters Pat. 1292-1301 p. 179.

p. 179. 1 Jun. 1296. Protection for 2 yrs. to Master Thomas de Skeermyng - Archdeacon of Suff.

NOTES.

Archdeacon Herman is the author of an account of the controversy between Arfast bishop of East Anglia and S. Edmund's abbey about the latter's immunity from the bishop's jurisdiction, it is printed in "Antiquitates S. Edmundi Burgi" by John Battely, Oxford, 1745.*

According to the "Dictionary of National Biography" Herman probably was a native of Lorraine.

Richard de Belfou, whilst he was archdeacon, granted the churches of Ormesby to the Norwich hospital for the poor (Norwich Cath. Archives, Reg. I, f. 239). He was consecrated bishop of Avranches in 1135 and he died in 1142.

Alan de Belfou confirmed the grant (Ibid). The Chronicle of Battle Abbey shows that he was Richard's son (p. 120).

It is tempting to identify Richard de Belfou with the Richard son of Alan who in 1086 held half a ploughland in Ormesby of William (de Belfou), bishop of Thetford, but as Domesday Book records that this was given to him by bishop Arfast, who died in 1184, he could hardly have been less than 70 years old in 1135, an age at which it is unlikely that he would have been promoted to a bishopric.† His son having the name Alan lends some colour to the surmise seeing what a common practice it was to name a child after its grandparent in the middle ages.

Reference has been made under the date 1130 to Blomefield's statement on the division of the archdeaconry of Suffolk into two archdeaconries. Presumably this is founded upon evidence recorded in the Cathedral archives. The earliest reference to Walkeline as archdeacon of Suffolki s in the certificate cited under the year c. 1150, a date which is only conjectural. No actual reference to an archdeacon of Sudbury is found till early in the next century.

There are one or two references to archdeacon Walkelin in John of Salisbury's letters, whose wrath he incurred. It seems that in about 1156 whilst in Italy he became the father of an illegitimate son whom, with a misplaced sense of humour, he named Adrian after the pope, his countryman Nicholas Breakspere. This story John of Salisbury duly communicated to the pope (Letters 1848, p. 29). In a later letter to pope Alexander he alludes to the vexations which Walkelin is causing bishop William (p. 167). However, his conduct does not seem to have affected his position in

*Also of the "Liber de miraculis Sti. Eadmundi" printed in Col. Francis Hervey's "Corolla" as well as by Thomas Arnold and by Liebermann.—Ed.

†A list of the bishops of Chichester records that in 1586 Thomas Bickley was consecrated in his 80th year, and in 1678, Guy Carleton in his 82nd year.

any way, he was still archdeacon in 1185 and must have held office for about 50 years. By Canon Law a man cannot be an archdeacon under the age of 25 (Phillimore, "Ecclesiastical Law," Vol. I, p. 194), so he must have been 75 years old or more at his death.

Blomefield's statement that he was a nephew of bishop Everard must be derived from the Cathedral archives, there appears to be no authority for it in other quarters.

Roger also held his archdeaconry for a long period, probably more than 43 years. The name of archdeacon Roger de Fiscano occurs as witness to several charters of Stephen at the beginning of his reign, and his identification with Roger archdeacon of Norwich is not at all certain.

Archdeacon Steingrin had a son named John de Marisco who made a grant to Castleacre priory (Harl. M.S. 2110, f. 65) of the land near the church of St. Paul which his father held of Norman's Spital, Norwich, i.e. of S. Paul's Hospital.

Archdeacon Reiner was vicar of the church of Heacham which was appropriated to Lewes priory somewhere about 1182 subject to the incumbency for life of Reiner. (Ancient Deed 14093). As master Reiner de Hecham he occurs among the witnesses to Ranulf de Glanvill's foundation charter of Leyston priory of that year.

Thomas archdeacon of Norwich was instituted to the church of North Walsham by bishop John de Oxon at the presentation of Thomas abbot of S. Benet of Holme (1174-1186). (Galba E. II. f. 46b.)

Roger archdeacon of Suffolk was vicar of the church of Bacton, Suffolk, as shown above under the years 1202 and 1211.

Geoffrey I. archdeacon of Suffolk.

Castleacre cartulary contains a notification by bishop John de Oxon, c. 1184, that he has instituted his Chaplain Geoffrey to the church of Fulmodeston at the presentation of Maino prior of Castleacre (Harl. MS. 2110, f. 127). On the same folio a notification by bishop John de Grey, dated 23 September, 1201, states that he has instituted William de Crakeford to the same church, saying the vicariate of Geoffrey archdeacon of Suffolk.

Blomefield names him Geoffrey de Derham and says that he died in 1195. However a charter of the same bishop dated 12th October, 1204, is given by the hand of Geoffrey de Derham at London (Add. MS. 7096 f. 101 b).

He is the bishop's chaplain but he is not called archdeacon and cannot with certainty be identified with the archdeacon of Suffolk or, as he is once called, archdeacon of Ipswich, who was alive in 1210. (See under that year).

Archdeacon Geoffrey de Burgh was a brother of Hubert de Burgh earl of Kent and chief justiciar. Geoffrey was presented to the church of Felmingham by Ralf abbot of S. Benet of Holme (1186-1210). The record (*Curia Regis* Roll No. 92, m. 13) of the year 1225 adds that he was then bishop of Ely; it was the year of his consecration.

He was perhaps rector of Great Walsingham also. A charter in Walsingham cartulary relates that the church of All Souls, Great Walsingham is appropriated to that priory, subject to the life incumbency of archdeacon Geoffrey (*Nero E.* VII. f. 30).

The rubric says that the giver of the charter was bishop John de Oxon. There being no witnesses named it is not possible to check the accuracy of this: if correct Geoffrey archdeacon of Suffolk would be the person referred to.

Geoffrey de Bocland was rector of Burnham Thorp (*Vesp. F.* XV. f. 241). On the 6th of August, 1205, he was presented by king John to the church of Tenham, the see of Canterbury being then vacant. (*Rot. Chart.* p. 157). Before the year 1210 he was appointed to the deanery of S. Martin's-le-Grand and in that capacity he witnesses an agreement between Robert abbot of S. James of Walden (d. 1210) and Geoffrey fitz Peter earl of Essex (*D.K. Report XXXv.* App. p. 3). A writ of king John, dated 18th November, 1213 is addressed to G. de Bocland and refers to him as the brother of Geoffrey fitz Peter (*Rot. Litt. Pat.* p. 102b.) William de Bocland (his brother?) was the husband of Maud, the sister of Beatrice de Say, Geoffrey fitz Peter's wife, which seems to be the explanation of the relationship.

There was a justice itinerant of the same name who exercised his functions between the years 1195 and 1218. He may be the same individual though he is never spoken of as an archdeacon.

On 14th September, 1225, the king appointed his chaplain Luke to the deanery of S. Martin's, vacant by the death of Geoffrey de Bocland, the late dean. (*Rot. Litt. Pat.* p. 550).

This Luke is included in Blomefield's list of archdeacons of Norwich, in the year 1218. This must be wrong because Geoffrey de Burgh retained that archdeaconry until his elevation to the see of Ely which took place in the same year, 1225, in which Luke was made dean of St. Martin's. He may have occupied one of the other archdeaconries. In 1228 he was consecrated bishop of Dublin.

Robert de Gloucester, one of the king's clerks, was presented by the king to the church of Holcam (? Holkham) in August, 1207 (*Rot. Chart.* p. 169), and in May, 1213, he has letters of presentation to the church of Welles, being in the king's gift by reason of the

vacancy of the abbacy of Ramsey. The letters are addressed to the bishop of Norwich. (Rot. Litt. Pat. Vol. II, p. 99b).

In these letters he is not called archdeacon but in November, 1216, Robert of Gloucester archdeacon of Stafford, is presented to a mediety of the church of Outwell, Norwich diocese. (Ibid., Vol. I, p. 171). He is included in all the lists of Norwich archdeacons with the date 1209, but no authority is given.

In 1220 Geoffrey de Burgh and Robert de Gloucester archdeacon (archdeacons?) are the witnesses to a charter of William prior of Norwich (P.R.O. Misc Books, Vol. 5, f. 16b). confirming certain letters patent of Pandulf, the elect of Norwich. From the associations he would probably be one of the archdeacons of Norwich diocese.

There is a story in the Chronicles that one Geoffrey de Norwich, in one account called Geoffrey archdeacon of Norwich, having incurred the anger of King John, was by his orders, murdered by being crushed under a cope of lead.

Roger de Wendover (Rolls Series No. 84, Vol. II, p. 52) gives the fullest account. Under the year 1209 he relates that, whilst at the exchequer at Westminster engaged on the king's business, Geoffrey archdeacon of Norwich began to discourse on the sentence of excommunication passed on the king, saying it was not safe for benefited persons to remain in the service of an excommunicated king, and then without licence he took himself off to his own affairs. Upon this the king sent William Talbot to arrest him. He was imprisoned and by the king's orders, confined in a leaden cope, from the weight of which and the insufficient food supplied to him, he soon succumbed.

The Annalist of Dunstable (Annales Monastici Rolls Series No. 38, Vol. III, p. 34) tells the story under the year 1210, how at the king's orders Geoffrey de Norwich (not called archdeacon) was arrested by the earl of Salisbury near Dunstable, imprisoned at Bristol and there martyred. The leaden cope is not mentioned.

The Annals of S. Edmund's (Rolls Series No. 96, Vol. II, p. 25) state that Geoffrey de Norwich, a clerk of noble family, being called upon by the king to give account for having cited the pope's letter (of Jan., 1209) before the barons of the exchequer, was arrested at Nottingham and put to death in the manner described by Wendover. There is no date given in this account.

The continuator of Florence of Worcester (Eng. Hist. Soc., Vol. II, p. 170) tells the same story under the year 1212, the victim being Geoffrey de Norwich, clerk.

The following are the dates given by Miss Norgate (John Lackland, pp. 129, 130, 161, 169) of the events connected with John's excommunication.

24 March, 1208. The Interdict was proclaimed.

January, 1209. The pope sent a letter to John with certain demands and at the same time commissioned three of the bishops to excommunicate him if he had not complied by the 6th of October.

John did not comply but the bishops did not pronounce the sentence till November when they were in France. The excommunication remained a dead-letter in England.

In August, 1211, at Northampton, Pandulf, the papal legate, pronounced the sentence to John's face and absolved his subjects from their allegiance.

In September, 1212, John was assembling an army at Nottingham for an expedition into Wales when he heard of the defection of a number of the barons who, acting on the papal orders, intended to withdraw their allegiance and attack him. On this John abandoned the expedition and returned to London.

During this period three of the archdeacons of Norwich diocese were named Geoffrey but, as has been shown, of these Geoffrey de Burgh lived to become bishop of Ely and Geoffrey de Bocland did not die till 1225.

The third Geoffrey, who is always called archdeacon of Suffolk, could possibly be the martyr, but his payment of a heavy fine to have the king's good will in 1210, mentioned under that date, is hardly consistent with the statement of his having been put to death by the king's orders.

Another possible candidate for the honour is Geoffrey de Norwich who in 1200, with Thomas de Nevill and two others, was appointed a warden of the Jews. Writs are addressed to him and his colleagues up to March, 1208 (Rott. Litt. Claus), after which date he does not appear in that capacity, though Thomas de Nevill occurs in the same office in 1214 (Rot. de Oblatis, p. 519).

In 1212 Geoffrey de Norwich with Thomas de Nevill archdeacon of Shrewsbury and William de Ely the king's treasurer, is witness to one of John's charters (Rot. Chart. p. 187). This probably is the same Geoffrey and as his name disappears from the rolls after this date he may be the subject of the story.

The different versions of the story, however, are not consistent in name, place or date, and the two last have the appearance of having been manipulated to fit the events of the reign.

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Add MS. 7096. Register of S. Edmund's.

Nero. E. VII. Cartulary of Walsingham priory.

Vesp. E. XV. , Cartulary of Leyston Abbey.

} Brit. Mus.