

## TWO SUFFOLK BRANCHES OF THE REYMES FAMILY

By A. L. RAIMES

### REYMES OF HIGHAM

The barony of Roger de Rames in 1086 included a small property in Higham, described in Domesday Book as follows:—

In Heigham Siric, a freeman, held 30 acres as a manor in the time of King Edward. Then as now half a plough, and then worth 5/- now 8/-. Garenger holds it. Harold (had) the soke in Bercolt.

During the early part of the 12th century the barony was divided, and in 1166 a Robert de Raimes held a quarter of a knight's fee in 'Heham' of Richard de Raimes and a quarter of a fee, locality un-named, of William de Raimes. Both holdings had been created since 1135 and probably represent the two moieties of an original Higham fief owing the service of half a knight.<sup>1</sup> In 1200 a Roger de Remes was one of twelve knights serving on a jury concerning land in the neighbouring village of Raydon,<sup>2</sup> and in 1214/15 he held 1/6th knight's fee in Higham,<sup>3</sup> formerly part of the fief of Richard de Reimes but then in the possession of Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk. The other moiety of the Higham manor had evidently passed into the king's hands, and the division of the property is shown in the inquisition taken in February 1270 after the death of William de Reymes:—

Heham [Higham], 36 acres of land, 4 acres of wood, held of the King in chief, rendering 3s. 5d. and owing suit at the King's Hundred, and 38 acres of land, a messuage, 6 acres of wood and pasture, 4 acres of meadow, a water-mill, 20/- rent and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mark works and customs held of the fee of the Earl Marshal [Roger Bigod], service unspecified.

Holeton [Holton], 20 acres of land and one mark free rent held of Alan and Simon de Bomford, service unspecified. John his son, aged 18 at Michaelmas next, is his heir.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Liber Niger, I, 237, 240; Round's *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, 399-404; *Norfolk Archaeology*, xxx; *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxiii.

<sup>2</sup> Cal. Curia Regis Rolls.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxiii, 95n.

<sup>4</sup> Cal. Inquisitions post mortem.

The division of the tenure between the king and the earl led to trouble. In September 1271 the sheriff took possession for the king, and the wardship of the land and the marriage of the heir were granted to one of the king's clerks. The earl's men under Adam de Cretting promptly ejected the sheriff's bailiff, Alice, widow of William de Reymes, fleeing and taking her son with her. When in 1273 the heir came of age, the king sent peremptory orders to the sheriff to take possession, to render an account, and to see that the earl appeared at Westminster to answer for his transgression, the sheriff being fined £20 for not having executed the earlier mandate and threatened with a fine of £40 'if this is not more fully executed'.<sup>5</sup> Eventually John de Reymes obtained his patrimony, and in 1307 is recorded as holding  $\frac{1}{4}$  fee in Higham of the earl,<sup>6</sup> the other moiety presumably being held of the king.

John's brother, Robert de Reymes, who apparently lived at Little Wenham, died about 1312 and his will has survived.<sup>7</sup> It includes elaborate arrangements for his funeral. His body is to be buried 'in the new chapel of St. Mary' in St. Peter's monastery at Ipswich, his black horse is to go before his body in the funeral procession and is then to be given 'in the name of a mortuary' to the prior, to whom he also leaves 5 marks and 40 pence to remember him in his prayers. £10 is provided for funeral expenses, £10 for distribution among the poor on the day of burial, and 60 marks for payment to the monastery for twelve obits to be celebrated for his soul during the following six years.

Among the Redgrave Hall muniments there are twenty-one charters relating to the land transactions in Raydon, Higham and Holton of another brother, Roger de Reymes.<sup>8</sup> By one of these, dated 1329, he transferred his Raydon property to Alice, widow of Thomas de Reydon, for the term of his own life, retaining, however, his dwelling house and garden with the right to harvest the crop from the apple trees growing in the garden opposite his solar and to control the cutting of the trees and hedges.<sup>9</sup> Under his brother's will, Roger received 60/- and lands and tenements in Wimborne in the County of Dorset. In 1316 he settled land in Raydon on himself for life with remainder to Rose widow of Gervase de Vallibus, and after her death to Walter de Reydon.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>5</sup> B. M. Davy MSS.—extracts from Pipe Roll 4 Edw. I and Placita, Mich. 3 Edw. I Suffolk 5; Cal. Patent Rolls; Cal. Genealogicum, I, 141; Cal. I.P.M. 2 Edw. I. <sup>6</sup> Cal. I.P.M.

<sup>7</sup> Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch., xxiii, 113-5.

<sup>8</sup> In the writer's possession (C.R.D.) and in the Chicago University Library. The letters C.R.D. refer hereafter to a calendar of Reymes and Reydon charters in the writer's possession; copies are in the Ipswich Record Office and in the Institute's library at Bury.

<sup>9</sup> C.R.D. 90.

<sup>10</sup> Feet of Fines, Suffolk, 9 Edw. II.

REYMES OF HIGHAM

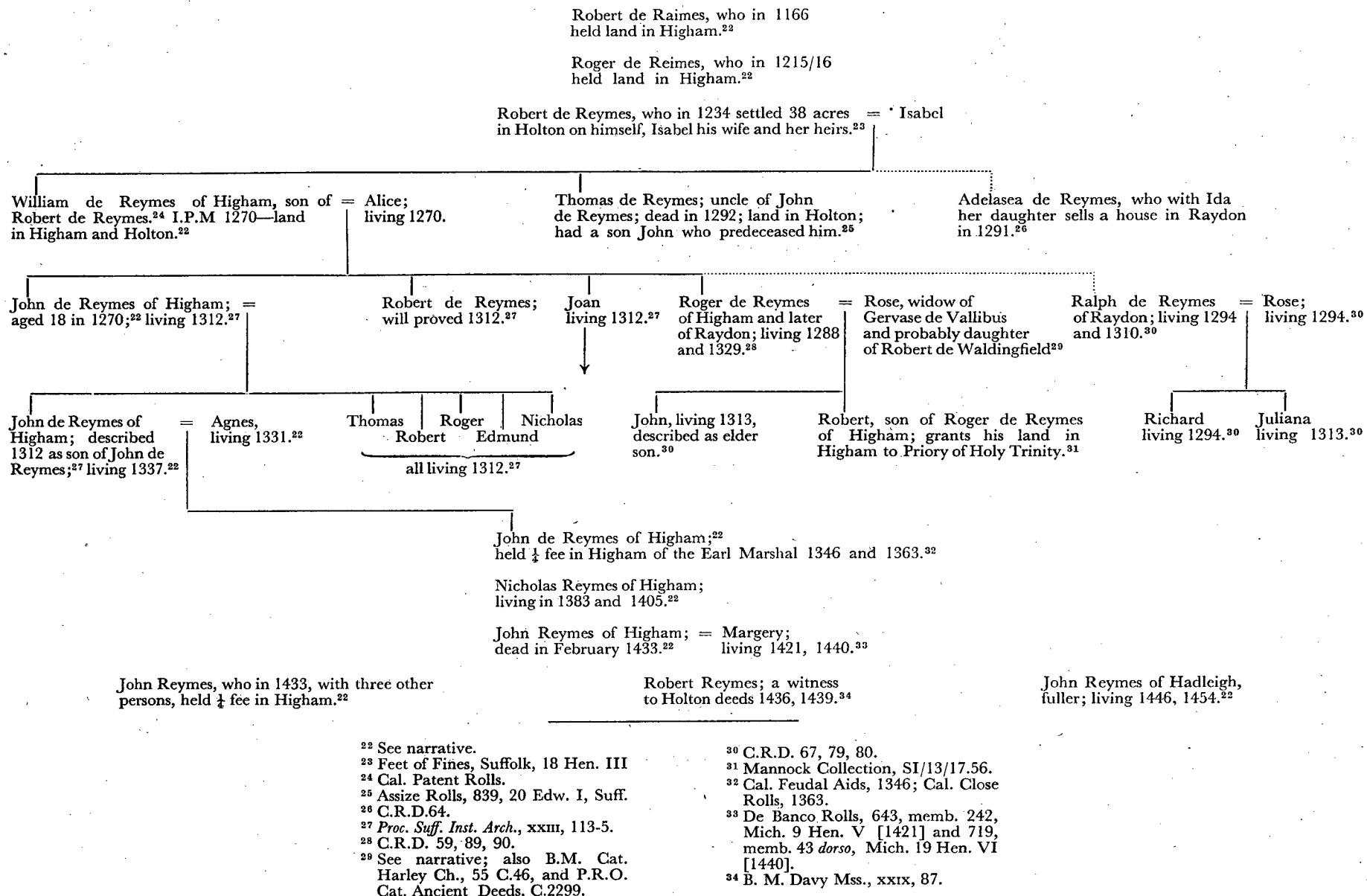


FIG. 1.—Reymes of Higham.

In 1331 a later John de Reymes settled his Higham property on himself and his wife Agnes and their heirs,<sup>11</sup> the manor being described as follows:—

4 messuages, 1 mill, 300 acres of land, 16 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 40 acres of wood and 8/- rent in Hegham and Heicham (*sic*).

The inheritance clause is unusual:—

To have to the said John and Agnes and the heirs male of the said John for ever. And if it shall happen that the same John shall die without heirs male, then after the death of the same John and Agnes the aforesaid tenements shall wholly remain to John son of the same John and his heirs male. And if the same John son of John shall die without heirs male, then after the death of the same John the aforesaid tenements shall remain to the right heirs of the aforesaid John de Reymes.

This John de Reymes was in the king's service as a *valettus regis*, and was probably on duty at Roxbrough in December 1334 when he was granted free warren in his demesne lands at Higham, Raydon and Holton.<sup>12</sup> In 1337 he took a lease from Sir William Giffard for his life of a fishpond on the River Sale in Shelley, the annual rent to be four 'pickerels' each 1½ feet long.<sup>13</sup>

A Nicholas Reymes of Higham is described in 1383 as son of Isabella daughter of William de Boyton and as one of the executors of William de Boyton.<sup>14</sup> Two service indentures have been preserved among the Mannock muniments (See Appendix). By virtue of one of these, dated 1388, Nicholas agrees to serve with a page under John Staple in an expedition (*viage*) under the earl of Arundel, and by virtue of the other, dated 1405, he agrees to serve with an archer under the earl of Suffolk in a voyage (*voyage*) about to be made by Thomas of Lancaster.

In 1428 John Reymes, in conjunction with Robert Fitz Ralph and his wife Margaret, sold the manor of Holton for 100 marks of silver to Richard Wethermersh.<sup>15</sup> He was coroner for Suffolk and was dead in February 1433 when his successor was appointed.<sup>16</sup> In May 1433 the Bigod moiety of the Higham manor is described as 'the fourth part of one knight's fee in Heigham sometime held by John Reymes and now by John Reymes, esquire, Richard Walgrave, knight, John Manfelde and Richard Doget.'<sup>17</sup>

<sup>11</sup> *ibid.* 5 Edw. III.

<sup>12</sup> Cal. Charter Rolls.

<sup>13</sup> Mannock Collection, SI/13/18. 1a (Ips. Rec. Off.).

<sup>14</sup> *Genealogist*, n.s., xiii, 96; De Banco Rolls, 491, memb. 217, Mich. 7 Rich. II.

<sup>15</sup> Feet of Fines, Suffolk, 6 Hen. VI.

<sup>16</sup> Cal. Close Rolls.

<sup>17</sup> Cal. Close Rolls.

In 1446 Richard Doget and John Gosselyn accused John Reymes of Hadleigh, fuller, of having come to Higham with force and arms and of having broken into their close and houses 'and taken and carried away a certain chest of theirs found there, with charters, writings and other muniments contained in the same chest.' The sheriff was ordered to outlaw him if he was unable to arrest him.<sup>18</sup> In 1450, when Jack Cade led the men of Kent in rebellion, this John Reymes of Hadleigh, presumably a connection of the Higham family, was among those pardoned for having 'in great number in divers places . . . gathered together against the statutes of the realm to the contempt of the King's Estate.'<sup>19</sup> In 1454 he was accused with two other Hadleigh men of having broken into the close of William Dunton at Hadleigh and of having stolen cattle worth £40.<sup>20</sup>

During the 15th century the Reymes manor in Higham passed into the possession of the well-known family of Mannock of Gifford's Hall in Stoke-by-Nayland, being named in the inquisition taken in 1476/77 after the death of John Mannock.<sup>21</sup>

#### REYMES OF BURSTALL AND BRAMFORD

By an un-dated charter, apparently of the time of Stephen, Richard son of Maurice granted to Osbert de Raimes the land in Burstall which Osbert's father had held of Richard's father 'in the time of Henry the King', William and Robert de Raimes being witnesses. Before 1158-62 Osbert granted to the Priory of Holy Trinity in Ipswich land in Bentley and Bramford.<sup>24a</sup>

In 1204 Mabel de Remes, represented by her son Robert, gave Mericia daughter of William 3½ acres in Burstall and two marks of silver in exchange for 30 acres in Sproughton.<sup>25</sup> Mabel de Remes's sons, Alexander and Robert, both left descendants who held land in the same villages and used the same Christian names, which makes the genealogy confusing and to some extent conjectural.

By an un-dated deed of the 13th century, Alexander's son Thomas confirms a grant by his father:—

Thomas de Ramis to all his men and friends French and English, present and to come, greeting. Know ye that I

<sup>18</sup> De Banco Rolls, 741, memb. 74 *dorsa*, Easter 24 Hen. VI [1446] and 743, memb. 533 and 5 *dorsa*, Mich. 25 Hen. VI [1446].

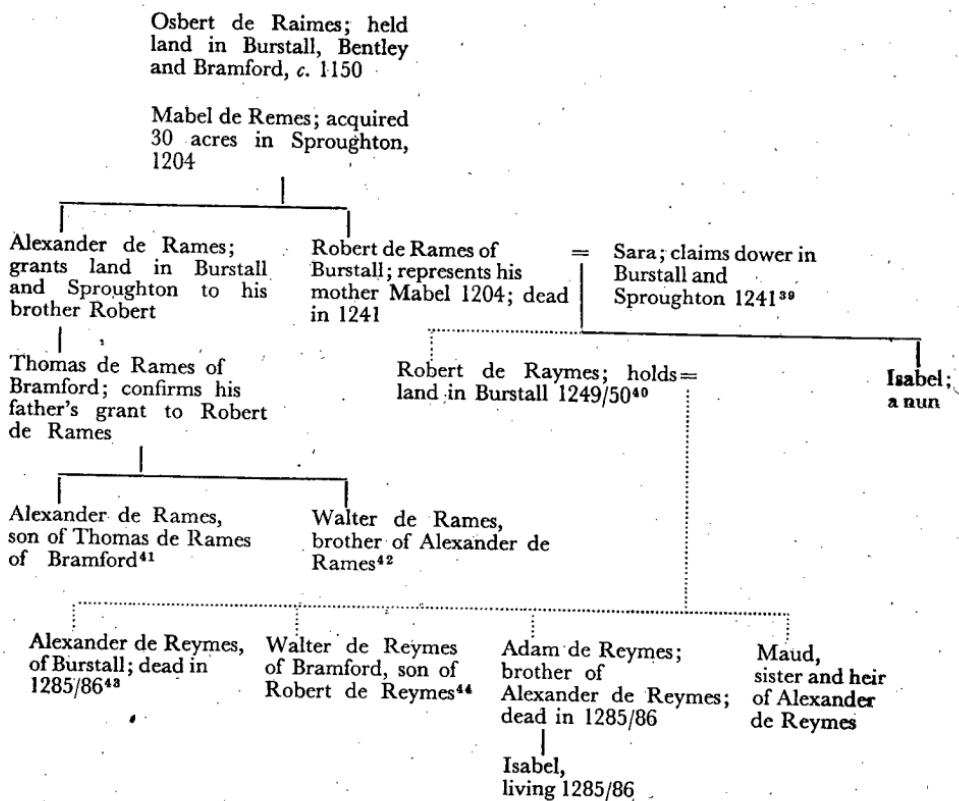
<sup>19</sup> Cal. Patent Rolls.

<sup>20</sup> De Banco Rolls, 773, memb. 49, Easter 32 Hen. VI [1454].

<sup>21</sup> I.P.M., John Mannock, 16 Edw. IV.

<sup>24a</sup> Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch., XXIII, 97.

<sup>25</sup> Feet of Fines, Suffolk, 5 John.

<sup>39</sup> Copinger's *Suffolk Records*, I, 274.<sup>40</sup> Assize Roll 819, membs. 18 and 19, 34 Hen. III [1249/50].<sup>41</sup> C.R.D.14.<sup>42</sup> B. M. Davy MSS., Bramford Deeds; no. 69, Walter de Reymes of Burstall; no. 72, Walter de Reymes of Bramford; no. 73, Alexander son of Thomas de Reymes, Walter his brother, Alex. de Reymes a witness.<sup>43</sup> P.R.O. Anc. Deed A.3695; grant of land in Bramford to Alexander de Reimes of Burstall, Walter and Adam de Reimes being witnesses (1260).<sup>44</sup> B. M. Add. Ch. 9819, 9820; grants by Walter de Reymes of Bramford, son of Robert de Reymes.

Other references will be found in the narrative.

FIG. 2.—Reymes of Burstall and Bramford.

have granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed, to Robert de Ramis my uncle for his homage and service the gift of Alexander de Ramis my father, namely 30 acres of land in Sproughton of the fee of Robert de Furmanville . . . paying therefor yearly to me and my heirs nine shillings . . . for all service and demands . . . except the service of the Lord King, namely at 20/- the scutage 12d., and at more, more, and at less, less. And all the land of Peverel fee . . . in Burstall, paying therefor yearly to me and my heirs 15/- . . . for all services and demands. And fifteen acres of land of the fee of the Abbot of St. Osith in Burstall, which are called Stoniland, paying therefore yearly to me and my heirs 3/- . . . for all services and demands. And one acre of land which is called Brocsblade in the vill of Burstall, paying therefor yearly to me and my heirs two pence . . . for all services and demands . . . There being witnesses:—Geoffrey parson of Sproughton, Master Walkelinus, Peter son of Everard, William de Ramesholt, Geoffrey de Badele, Alexander de Haia, Manaser de Bordeshowe, William son of Gregory, Roger Calmodin, Robert de Nordwde, John Mori, Warin de Gitthelefford, Roger his brother and many others.<sup>36</sup>

By another un-dated deed of the same period, Robert de Ramis of Burstall makes provision for his daughter Isabel who had become a nun, giving her for life two acres in Bramford, four acres in Burstall, five measures of grain each year and four shillings annual rent. Thomas de Ramis is one of the witnesses.<sup>37</sup>

The latest reference to this branch of the Reymes family is in 1285/86 when Isabel, daughter of Adam de Reymes claims a messuage and 52½ acres in Burstall, formerly held by her uncle, Alexander de Reymes. The defendants stated that Adam died before Alexander, and that after the latter's death his sister Maud entered into possession as his heir. Isabel could not deny this and the verdict was given against her.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>36</sup> P.R.O. Anc. Deed A. 3946.

<sup>37</sup> *ibid.* A. 3499.

<sup>38</sup> Assize Roll 826, memb. 17, Suff. 14 Edw. I [1285/6].

APPENDIX

*Indenture between John Staple and Nicholas Reymes, 1388.*

(Mannock Collection, S1/13/23.1)

This indenture made between John Staple sergeant-at-arms (*sergeant darmes*) of one part and Nicholas Reymes of the hundred of Samford in the county of Suffolk of the other part witnesses that the said Nicholas well and properly armed and arrayed as belongs to a man-at-arms (*homme darmes*) is retained to remain with the said John and to have a page with him to serve him in this present expedition (*viage*) of the very noble lord the Earl of Arundel Admiral of England as well by sea as by land and where the said John will go for the term of four months commencing his term the day of their muster. The said Nicholas taking from the said John for all the said term six marks of silver of which he will be paid one half in hand and the other half after their muster when others his companions are paid. And the said John Staple shall have the third of all that which the said Nicholas or his page can gain by way of war during the said time. And if the said Nicholas or his page or either of them shall take lord or a royal (*real*) captain on the said expedition the said John Staple will behave to him giving reasonable satisfaction according to right (*luy avera fesant gree resonable pur luy come droit le voet*). And to hold and perform these covenants on the part of the said Nicholas well and loyally as above is said the said Nicholas and Richard Spicer of Orford oblige themselves and each of them by himself and for all their heirs and their executors to the said John Staple to his heirs and to his executors in twenty pounds sterling by these. In witness of which thing the parties abovesaid to these indentures interchangeably have set their seals. Given the twenty-ninth day of April the year of the reign of the King Richard the second the eleventh [1388].

*Indenture between the Earl of Suffolk and Nicholas Raymes, 1405.*

(Mannock Collection, S1/13/23.2)

This indenture made between the very honoured lord my lord Michael de la Pole Earl of Suffolk of one part and Nicholas Raymes Esquire of the other part witnesses that the said Nicholas is retained to remain with the said earl

to serve him in the company of the very noble lord Thomas of Lancaster son of the king Seneschal and Admiral of England in a voyage (*voiage*) which is now soon to be made on the sea for half a year with an archer himself well and sufficiently armed and the said archer well and sufficiently arrayed commencing himself the said half year when the said earl commences his own. And the said Nicholas will take from the said earl for himself and his said archer fourteen marks in the half year with sufficient allowance at the table (*one bouche de court sufficent*) of which he will be paid in hand forty shillings in part for the first quarter and the 1<sup>o</sup> [?50th] day after his muster on the sea all the remainder for the said first quarter. And for the second quarter of the said half year the said Nicholas will be paid and garnished in the same manner as the said earl will be paid and garnished of the said lord Thomas for himself. In witness of which thing as well the said earl as the said Nicholas to these indentures have interchangeably set their seals. Given the twenty-eighth day of March the year of the reign of the King Henry the fourth since the conquest the sixth [1405].

(Endorsed in a contemporary hand 'Md. that Nicholas within written has received as part of his covenant forty shillings'; in another hand (in Latin) 'the same received in full payment for the first quarter at Sandwich 13s. 4d.').

#### REYMES OF WHERSTEAD

*Settlement by Roger de Reymes of Wherstead, 1263.*

*(Ipswich Record Office, T5/13)*

In volume xxiii of these *Proceedings* (1939) there are printed translations of four settlements made by or concerning Roger de Reymes of Wherstead, and are of interest as showing how in the 13th century a man of modest estate dealt with his property when engaged in civil war and, later, when absent on crusade. A fifth settlement has since been found and a translation is here printed:—

Know present and future that I Roger de Reimes have granted, given and by this my present charter have confirmed to Sir Richard de Gosebec all my manor of Werstede with all its appurtenances rents namely in the towns of Werstede, Wlfereston, Kaldewelle, Westerfeld and in Hegham and in all other places. . . Saving to me and my heirs all 'my rent in Gypp' [Ipswich] together with the advowson of the

church of St. Stephen in the same town. To have and to hold of me and my heirs to the said Sir Richard for as long as he lives, freely, quietly, well, in peace by doing annually to the chief lords of the fee the owed and accustomed service as my attorney. And after the decease of the said Sir Richard all the said manor with all its appurtenances as above shall revert to me and my heirs wholly without any contradiction or claim of the heirs of the said Sir Richard quit and freed. And for the grant, gift and confirmation of this my charter the said Sir Richard shall be held to me by the legitimate stipulation of finding all necessaries and paying my debts as more fully is contained in writings of covenant made between us. And for the greater security of this matter to the present writings made in the form of a chirograph each of us to the writing of the other has placed his seal. These being witnesses Sir Hugh Pechie, Sir Hugh Gernegan, Sir William son of Rayner, Sir Geoffrey de Badele, Sir John de Henley, Sir John de Bokkinge, William le Brettun, Thomas de Freson, Reginald de Houton, Richard de Benges, Robert de Wiveston, Robert de Impetona and others. Made at Werstede on the morrow of St. Felix in March in the year of the reign of King Henry the third forty seventh [1263].<sup>45</sup>

<sup>45</sup> The writer is greatly indebted to the staff of the Ipswich and East Suffolk Record Office for the three translations of documents in the Appendix.