

ments, and one portifore,³¹ and the abbot one missal, and bread, wine, and candles; afterwards the abbey was to find all bread, wine, vestments, ornaments, and necessaries of the chantry, and the abbot and his successors were to be visitors. The necessary authority was obtained in Trinity term, and on 15th June, 1312 (Thursday next after the feast of St. Barnabas), the abbot gave the bond of the abbey for payment of £10 a year to the chaplains, with powers of distress on the abbey manors of Lydney and Enebroke. Alard also enfeoffed the abbey, for the use of the chaplains, with a house lately belonging to his father, and formerly Jolinet's (18th quarter), the feoffment being witnessed by William Seman, William Pace, Vincent Herberd, Henry Pawlen, John Reynold, Robert Alard, Benedict Alard, John Colkyn, John de Garde, William de Bernefelde, William de Swancombe, William Loterih, and many others.

On 20th December 1430, William Skyle, who had been mayor and member of parliament, granted £2 a year to Sir John Hylle and Sir William Pyngate, then chaplains of the chantry or college of St. Nicholas, in the church of St. Thomas, for prayers for the souls of his father William and Isabel his wife, and for the souls of all the faithful departed.³²

In July 1432, the arrangements were completed for the conveyance of land given by John Salerne, who had also been member for the town, one-third of the rent to be applied towards the sustenance of the church of St. Thomas the Martyr, another third towards the support of the church of St. Giles, and the remaining third towards the repairs of the town-walls.³³

In Cardinal Pole's *Book of Pensions*, at Carl. House Ride, 26th February, 2 and 3 Philip and Mary (1556), there is noticed the pension of £6. 13s. 4d. to Oliver Stacey, late incumbent of the chantry at Winchelsea.

FAMILIES.—*Oxenbridge*, of Ford Place, Brede; and Winchelsea.—The facilities now offered by the Master of the Rolls for the examination of public records for literary purposes,

³¹ Moveable service-book, or breviary.

³² Cotton. MS., Julius, B. iv, fol. 40.

³³ *Ib.*, fols. 45 b, 47. His will is dated 29th May, 1433. His feoffees were William Echingham, Robert Oxenbridge, John Massyngham, John Helde, and John Belynge; he left two daughters his

coheirs,—Margaret, married to Stephen Chaumpayne, and Johanna, married to William Catton, M.P. for the town in 1414 and 1426, Bailiff from 1424 to 1430, and himself a benefactor to the town in 6th Hen. VI.

and the permission given to me by Sir Francis Palgrave, the Deputy Keeper, have enabled me to discover and give many particulars of this family which were heretofore beyond my reach (except at a cost too heavy for a literary student). Mr. Thomas Frewen has lent me his early charters and deeds; the Court Rolls of Brightling have given me some particulars; and York Herald and Somerset Herald have so kindly aided my inquiries at the College of Arms that I am enabled to print a fuller and more perfect pedigree than is given by Berry in his *Hants*. If the authorities at the Prerogative Office in Doctors' Commons would as freely open their stores, a very interesting family history might be written, for there are wills of the Oxenbridges proved there, to procure office copies of which would require a heavy expense, increased from the very cause that the wills are old, and therefore mainly of literary interest,³⁴ and no extracts (except the date and names of executors) are allowed to be taken.

The family of Oxenbridge derived their name from Acken, Oaken, or Oxene-bridge. In the latter form (Oxenebrug) it occurs in a Saxon charter for Dorsetshire, given in Mr. Kemble's *Codex Diplomaticus*, No. 397; and in the time of Edward III, in Sussex; John de Oxenebrigge having been a juror on an Inquisition relating to the Echinghams taken 6th July 1329.³⁵ The residence of this John, who is the first of the family of whom I have found a notice in Sussex, was Atte Gate in Beckley, on the river Tillingham, a place about half way between Udimore and Beckley churches; and the family name still exists in a farm of some hundred acres at Iden. In 1341, John was one of the jurors on the Nonæ Inquisition; and on 5th January 1363, Geoffry, by a deed dated at Beckley, to which John Oxenbridge was a witness, released his right in a pasture in Beckley called Elysebregge to John Maynard.³⁶

The family resided at Beckley till the time of Richard II, when one branch having, according to Leland, married the heiress of Alard (the admiral) and assumed his arms; and having also purchased Ford Place in Brede of Joan atte Forde,

³⁴ In addition to the wills now cited by me there exist in the office, wills of the following members of the family, viz., John and Godfrey Oxenbridge (Reg. 1593-6), Thomas (Reg. 1501-3), Robert

(Reg. 1503-5), William (Reg. 1549-40), Sir Robert (Reg. 1573-4), and John (Reg. 1574-5).

³⁵ Hall's Echingham, p. 11.

³⁶ Add. Charters, Brit. Mus. No. 971.

removed thither. From the latter end of the fourteenth century, when they began thus to flourish, and throughout the whole of the fifteenth and the first half of the sixteenth centuries, when they were of considerable importance in Sussex, the Oxenbridges were connected with Winchelsea. Here they had a town residence; and both the houses of Friars here received their pious benefactions, though the Gray Friars was evidently the favourite house, receiving the larger bequests, and having in 1497 the free return, under Adam Oxenbridge's will, of their chalice, which had been pledged to him for 30*s*. Members of the family filled most of the offices in the county, and acted as Commissioners of Embankment. Fuller (in his *Worthies*, p. 113) mentions William Oxenbridge (of Beckley) and John Oxenbridge (of Sedlescombe) as Commissioners of Oaths for the county in 1433.

Their brother, *Robert Oxenbridge*, in 1404, owned property in Northiam, a part of which (the Parke and Bromfeld) he conveyed to Henry Gotele in 1414;³⁷ in 1415 he was in the commission of Array for Sussex; in 1414, 1415, and 1421, he was a Commissioner for Embankments; on 2d August 1429, he was a feoffee for other property of the Goteles;³⁸ on Nov. 11, 1430, he was feoffee to uses of the will of John Salerne of Winchelsea;³⁹ from 1st Dec. 1430 to 9th Dec. 1431, he was escheator for the county;⁴⁰ in 7th Henry VI, he and William Oxenbridge were parties to a charter relating to land in Bekenham;⁴¹ and he held from the crown for his life, at a rent of 20*s*., the manor of Iham. We learn that he was dead on 6th September 1433, and that his son Robert was his executor, by an inquisition taken at Robertsbridge on that day, to inquire into the waste that had been committed at Iham by cutting down thirty oaks, which could not have been of great size, as the value was only 13*s*. 4*d*.⁴² He probably married the heiress of the family of *Ore*, whose arms with their quartering for *Hopton* have been since borne by the Oxenbridge family; and we know the name of the wife in every marriage later than this.

Of his son, *Robert Oxenbridge* of Brede, and his property,

³⁷ Frewen's Deeds.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Julius, B. iv, p. 426.

⁴⁰ Carl. Ho. Ride MSS.

⁴¹ Harl. Charters, 112, c. ii.

⁴² Inq., Carl. Ho. Ride.

we have particulars somewhat more ample. He was called Jun^r. and his father Sen^r. in 1419, in a charter relating to Whitfeld Marsh. He purchased Bixle in 1459; in 1458 and 1465 he was Commissioner for Embankments, and in 1474 for settling the ordinances of Romney Marsh. In 1459 he was jurat of Winchelsea;⁴³ and in 1483 he was a freeman residing at Brede. By his will dated 16th April 1483, he directed his body to be buried in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the church of St. George at Brede, to the high altar of which he gave 6s. 8d., and to the church a missal, chalice, and set of vestments. He also gave 20s. to the shrine of St. Richard at Chichester, and 6s. 8d. each to the Friars Minors and Dominican Friars of Winchelsea, and to the Brothers of Rye; and appointed Anne his wife, and Thomas his son, executors.

In the testament dated 18th October 1482, the testator mentions his wife's brother Robert Lyvelode;⁴⁴ and he gave his house at Forth, and his lands in Brede and Udimore, to his wife for life, or till her second marriage, she keeping the children: in case of her marriage she was to have an annuity of £20 a year; after her death or marriage, these lands were given to his son Thomas. To his son Adam, and Agnes his wife, he gave his tenement in Southwark, called the White Horse. To his son Godard his property in Winchelsea, and lands in Southwark worth £10 a year. To his son Robert he gave his lands in Icklesham and Guestling, purchased of Henry Hall, Robert Alard, and John Paulyn. Robert was to pay Godard £4 yearly till he had lands, &c., in Southwark worth the £10 a year. Thomas was devisee of the residue of the property, and was to pay 10 marks a year to the testator's son John (a clerk) till he should obtain a benefice worth £10 a year. The testator died on 9th March 1487, and was buried, according to his desire, in the Lady Chapel. His will was proved at Lambeth by his widow and eldest son on 11th December 1488. She died on 27th February 1493-4, and was buried by the side of her husband. Her figure, in graceful flowing robes, yet remains in a brass on the floor: the figure of her husband has however disappeared. The shield of her arms also remains: *on a saltier five fleur-de-lis, the centre in pale, the others bendeways.*

⁴³ Batt. Abb. Rec. p. 115.

⁴⁴ Adam Livelode was M.P. for Rye in 1449.

Thomas Owenbridge, the eldest son, was a lawyer of some note. He seems at first to have been fully in the confidence of Richard III, for he was in all the Sussex commissions of the peace and array issued by that king;⁴⁵ but he afterwards gave in his adhesion to Henry VII, and was elected one of the new serjeants-at-law on 10th September, 11th Henry VII,⁴⁶ and the king and queen and chief lords dined on 16th November at the serjeants' feast of that year, which was holden at the Bishop of Ely's palace in Holborn.⁴⁷

There are some charters relating to him as trustee of the Gunters, and as connected with the Fynes family, in the Harl. Charters (53 F, 5-6, &c.), *temp.* Hen. VII.

By his will dated 12th Nov. 1496, and proved at Lambeth 8th February following, he directed his body to be buried in holy sepulchre as it should please Almighty God, and gave 13s. 4d. to the parson of the church of Brede towards the "glassing" of his chancel. He also gave an annuity of 10 marks for seven years to Sir Robert Body, clerk, to sing masses and pray for him in the church of Brede, or in the chapel in his house of Forde. He gave to his wife Anne his saltcellars (silver-gilt), a gilt cup, and three large powis⁴⁸ cups, pierced. He also gave a standing cup to his godson, Francis Fynes, provided his lord would be good lord to and assist the executors, to ensure which the cup was to be kept seven years after his decease by his executors; to Master Thomas Fynes a cross, with a crucifix of gold; to his brother Goddard his standing silver cup, with three angels; to his brother Robert a standing silver cup, grained, with a bird at the top, covered; to his brother John his crimson gown, furred with martens; to his sister Margaret Cheyne a large cup; and to his brother Robert his doublet of silk of his own wearing, and his gown of cotton, furred. He gave 10 marks to the repair of the bridge at Robertsbridge; 40s. towards the repairs of the roads between Herste Cross and Robertsbridge; and 10 marks for repair of the roads between Rye and Brede-high. He

⁴⁵ On 8th November 1483 he was one of the commissioners to take the castle of Bodiam from the rebels; he had also granted to him the custody of the lands of Richard, late Lord Dacre, and the wardship and marriage of the grandson and heir, Thomas; and on 10th April 1484 he

was in a special commission for trials in the Cinque ports.—*9th Rep. of Deputy Keeper of Pub. Rec.*, pp. 18, 31, 35, 104, 107, 141, 146. ⁴⁶ *Dug. Chron.* p. 75.

⁴⁷ *Holinshed*, p. 779, quoting *Stow*.

⁴⁸ Powys, in Welsh, is the state of being at rest, or stationary.—*Pughe's Dict.*

also gave cattle or kine to his wife and to his servants, leaving likewise to one the saddle and horse on which that servant rode. He appointed the parson of Brede, and his brothers Robert and Goddard, executors. And by his testament he bequeathed to his wife Anne his house at Ford and most of his lands in Brede (except his newly innewed marsh at Winchelsea Ferry) till her second marriage, or till his heir male should reach twenty-four years of age, after which she was to have an annuity of £50 (being £30 more than his mother's jointure). He disposed of other property to his brothers, and among other estates the land purchased by him of Goddard, Thomas, John, and William, sons of George Oxenbridge. He also gave to his servant Thomas Londeney⁴⁹ land at Fairlight; and a messuage at Westfield, with a request that the then tenant should be allowed still to occupy it at the old rent.

To the serjeant we are most probably indebted for the painted arms of the family which formerly existed in the windows of Brede church, and which are now in the window over the Frewen pew in Northiam church. His son (if any) could not have attained the age of twenty-four years, for the serjeant's brother Goddard succeeded to the property of Brede, but I have not been able to find any Inquisition on the serjeant.

The brother who died next was *Adam Oxenbridge* of Rye, who, with his wife Agnes, on 10th December 1484, became lessees under the Priory of Hastings of land in Icklesham.⁵⁰ By his will dated 26th September 1496, and proved at Lambeth 4th November following, he directed his body to be buried in our Lady's Chapel at Rye, giving a sum to the high altar there, and sums for the reparations of Rye and Icklesham churches. He also left legacies to the Austin Friars of Rye; to the Friars of Lostenham,⁵¹ and to the Grey Friars of Winchelsea, to whom he also left their chalice pledged to him for 30s. He mentions as legatees his daughter Anne, and his sons Robert and John: to the sons, on attaining twenty-one, he left property at Icklesham and Winchelsea,

⁴⁹ By his will dated 11th April 1511, this Thomas Londeney charged his lands in Fairlight, Westfield, and Battle, with 13s. 4d. for ten years for an obit; and he gave 33s. 4d. to a priest to sing divine service for his soul and all Christian souls

in Brede church by the quarter of a year. *Burr. MSS.* 5697.

⁵⁰ Add. Charters, Brit. Mus. No. 974.

⁵¹ Carmelites, or White Friars of Lostenham, in Newenden, Kent, founded by the Alchers. Nich. Alcher had married an Oxenbridge.

but he devised his tenement called the White Horse in Southwark, and his property in Newington, and several parishes in Sussex, to his wife for life, and then to his son Robert and his heirs, with remainder to his son John; and he appointed his wife Anne and his brother John executors.

Sir Goddard Oxenbridge, Knt., succeeded to the estate at Ford, and added not only largely to his own estate but to the position of his family by marrying—first, Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Etchingam, Knt.; and, secondly, Anna, daughter of Sir Thomas Fynes, brother of Lord Dacre. On his first marriage, the wife's share of the Etchingam estates was conveyed to Sir William Pelham, Knt., Giles Fynes, Richard Devenish, and Christopher Hales, Esqrs., Thomas Foster, gentleman, and John Bradford, as feoffees to the use of Sir Goddard and Elizabeth, and the heirs of their bodies. These estates consisted of the manors of Munfeld, Etchingam, and Salehurst, and lands in Munfeld, Glottynham, Etchingam, Ockham, Salehurst, Brightling, Beckley, Crowhurst, Catsfield, Burwash, Enham, and Udimore, together with the patronage of the church of Etchingam.⁵² By the Inquisition p.m. it was found that the same feoffees held for him and his heirs the manors of Forde, Enham, and Gyles, and lands in Brede, Udimore, and Burwash, and also the manors of Danehurst, Coseley, and Ottingham, and lands in Northiam, Peasmarsh, Playden, Salehurst, Ticehurst, Westfield, Icklesham, and Monfield; and that Sir Thomas Fynys, Knt., Lord Saye, Giles Fynys, and Robert Hall,⁵³ Esquires, were feoffees to the use of Sir Goddard and his heirs of Snayleham, Gravehurst, Globys, and Corner in Guestling.

Sir Goddard was sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1506, 1512, and 1519; and on 24th May 1522 he was one of the knights, &c. summoned to attend the Lord Legate (Wolsey) at Canterbury, and formed part of the retinue of the Cardinal on the landing of the Emperor Charles V, at Dover, two days after.⁵⁴ By his will dated 17th June 1530, and proved at Lambeth on 27th October 1531, Sir Goddard directed his body

⁵² Inq. p.m., taken at Lewes, 7th Oct. 23 Hen. VIII (1531). Among the jurors were Edmund Alfrey, Thomas Bridges, John Garton, Richard Bowyer, James Collis, John Payne, and John Harmon.

⁵³ Robert Hall, of Hastings, the owner of Halland, in Easthoathly.

⁵⁴ Rym. Fœd. vi, pt. 1, p. 204; Rutland Papers, Camd. Soc. p. 72.

to be buried in our Lady's Chapel at Brede, provided he died there or near it, and that a tomb should be set up there with his coat armour, and the ensigns of knighthood. He gave 20 marks to be distributed at or immediately after his funeral; to the high altar he gave 6*s.* 8*d.*, and towards the reparations of Brede church 5 marks; to the shrine of St. Richard at Chichester, 20*d.*; towards the reparations of Echingham church, 20*s.*; to the church and house of the Grey Friars, Winchelsea, 20*s.*; to the Black Friars there, 6*s.* 8*d.*, and like sums to the Friars of Rye and of Losenham; to his wife he gave half his household stuff and furniture, a gilt goblet with cover, a gilt bowl, and a silver bowl uncovered, a salt of silver also covered, and a dozen silver spoons at her choice; to his daughter Elizabeth a gilt bowl of silver; to his daughters Mary and Margery each a white bowl of silver; to his son William a white bowl, and to his son Robert a gilt bowl; and to his sons William and Robert and his three daughters, in equal shares, the other half of his household stuff. He directed that a priest should say masses for his own soul and for all Christian souls in the church at Brede, or in the chapel of his house at Forde, for seven years, receiving £4 a year and his meat and drink at Forde Place. He gave to his cousin Robert Hall his black ambling nag, which he rode himself; to his wife Anne her gelding; to his son William his grey gelding, which he had purchased of the vicar of Burwash; to his son Robert his little gray nag unbroken; to his wife he also gave six kine, and a fat steer at Easter; to each of his servants four months' employment or wages, and a black coat of cloth; and to each of his maiden servants a black cloth gown. He also gave to his sister Jane Fynys, and to his cosen William Hall a flat piece of silver.⁵⁵ He appointed as executors his friends Christopher Hales, the king's attorney (to whom he gave £10 for his trouble), and Thomas Foster of Winchelsea (to whom he gave £6. 13*s.* 4*d.*); and he named Lord Dacre of Hurstmonceaux, with a legacy of £4, supervisor of his will, which was witnessed by Robert Hall, Esq., Robert Beddingham, warden of the Grey Friars of Winchelsea, and others.

In the Inquisition p.m. the devises of the real estates are

⁵⁵ Probably the large flat shilling of Henry VIII.

set forth at length. He gave to his wife Dame Anne, his principal mansion and tenement of Forth in the parish of Brede, and other lands and tenements in Brede, and his other lands in Sussex (except such as he had by that his will otherwise disposed of), she paying yearly to Robert Oxenbridge his son during her life 20 marks; and if she should marry, then Robert was to have such lands to him and his heirs for ever, and was to pay his mother an annuity of 40 marks; to John Bradford and Margaret his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, he gave a messuage and lands called Harries in Brede, containing twenty acres, and in case of failure of heirs then to his son Robert; to Richard Red, his servant, lands lately occupied by John Cheseman; and an annuity of 20*s.* to Daniel Dilgett, his servant. His executors were to stand possessed of his lands in Southwark and elsewhere in Surrey until his daughters were married; to William his son he gave 20 marks a year to be paid out of the profits, the remainder being applied towards the marriage portions of daughters; after all their marriages, William and his heirs were to have the Surrey estates; the profits of Snaylham and all his lands in Guestling and Icklesham, which John Toky then occupied at a rent £15. 6*s.* 8*d.*, and lands in Guestling which John Bachelor occupied, he gave to his executors till his daughters were married for their settlement, and then to his son William and his heirs; to his son Robert and his heirs he gave his messuage and garden in the town of Winchelsea; he also devised to his executors the profits of all his lands and tenements in Rye, Pleyden, and Beckley, Northiam, Ewhurst, Salehurst, Ticehurst, Burwash, Wesfield, and Hastings, and in Icklesham and elsewhere in Sussex, towards the marriage of his daughters, and afterwards to his son Robert and his heirs (except his tenement called Gyles and other lands in Burwash, which he gave to William). Each of his daughters was to have 100 marks for her dower over and above the marriage money to them willed by Master John Oxenbridge, clerk,⁵⁶ his brother. The profits of the lands were to be applied only if his personal estate should be insufficient after payment of his debts.

⁵⁶ On 23rd Feb. 1504, Master John Oxenbridge, LL.D., was presented by the abbey and convent of Ramsey to the

church of All Souls', in Shillyngdon, in the archdeaconry of Bedford.—Wood's *Fasti*, Oxon. ed. Bliss. vol. i, p. 189.

The jurors found that the lands in Brede were held of the Abbess of Syon by the rent of £11. 1s. 6d., and that the lands in Odymer were holden of Sir Edward Grey and others, and that Sir Goddard died on 10th February (1531); that Anna the widow died 24th May (1531); and that Thomas the eldest son was thirty years of age and upwards.

By the style of the architecture of the house at Brede, and as he for the first time calls it Forde Place, it may be assumed that Sir Goddard rebuilt the family mansion. The directions contained in his will as to the erection of a tomb were faithfully executed; and there stands against the south wall of the chancel of Forde Place his raised altar tomb in stone, with his figure lying on his back, his head resting on a helmet, his hands clasped over his breast, and a lion at his feet. On the base of the tomb are shields of the Oxenbridge arms; the same impaling *Echingham*; and the same impaling *Gu. three escallop shells ar. for Dacre*, above; and below *Az. three lions rampant, two and one, or, for Fienes*; the sinister side being in fact the 2nd and 4th quarters of a shield of Fienes and Dacre, dimidiated. The date on the wall at the back is 1537, when the tomb was probably erected. An excellent drawing taken in 1777, by Francis Grose, is in the Burrell MSS., No. 5697, p. 40.

Thomas Oxenbridge (the eldest son by the first wife) survived his father only nine years; and by an Inquisition p.m. taken at Echingham 15th July 1540, the jurors⁵⁷ found that he held nothing of the king *in capite*, but that he was seized in fee tail, that is to himself and the heirs of his body, and of a certain Elizabeth, lately his wife, and daughter of a certain Sir George Puttenham, Knight, of the manors of Echyngnam and Salehurst in the county of Sussex, belonging to the heirs of Thomas Echingham, Knt., deceased, by virtue of an indenture made between the said George Puttenham, Knt., of the one part, and the said Thomas Oxenbridge and Goddard Oxenbridge, Knt., his father; and of an act of Parliament of the 27th year of the king; and that the said Thomas had issue by the body of the said Elizabeth his wife, one daughter, Elizabeth, then alive (and who afterwards married Sir Robert, eldest son of Sir William Tirwhit of Kettleby, in Lincoln-

⁵⁷ The jurors were Henry Upton, Goddard Crotynnden, John Bynde, Alex. Colyn, John Colyn, Thomas Fowle, Wm. Hunt,

John Benett, Wm. Benett, Anthony Nash, Thomas Oxenbridge, Stephen Amenyr, Mark Brabon, and Thomas Glasyer.

shire); and that the said Elizabeth, the wife, about twelve years then since, died; and that the said Thomas Oxenbridge afterwards married a certain Faith Devenysh, daughter of Richard Devenysh,⁵⁸ and that the said Thomas and Faith were seized of the manors of Monfield and Glottingham and divers messuages and lands in Monfield, Salehurst, Crowhurst, and Brightling, and of 28*s.* rents arising out of Great Okeham and Little Okeham, late Robert Pond's, and Friggetts and Hoddenham, in the tenure of Thomas Humphrey; and of 13*s.* 4*d.* rents of assize out of divers tenements called Solmes, in the tenure of Edmund Roberts in Salehurst; and the jurors said that the said Faith survived the said Thomas Oxenbridge, and still survived at Huhenden, Bucks; and they found that the said Thomas was also seized in demesne as of his fee of the manor of Gyles in Burwash; and that all the said manors, &c. (except the manor of Gyles) went to the heirs of the said Thomas Echyngam;⁵⁹ and that the said Thomas had by the said Faith a son and heir, Andrew Oxenbridge, who was still living; and that all the said manors, &c., in Echingham, Salehurst, Monfeld, Glottingham, Ockham, Crowhurst, and Brightling, were held of George Earl of Huntingdon, as of his rape and honour of Hastings, by knight's service; and that the said manor of Gyles was holden of William Wyborne as of his manor of Burwash by fealty, suit of court, &c.; and further, that the manors of Echingham and Salehurst were worth £50 a year clear, and the other lands (except Gyles) £40 a year, and the manor of Gyles 47*s.* 8*d.* a year.

The jurors also found that the said Thomas Oxenbridge died on the 28th March then last, and that the said Andrew his son, at the time of taking the inquest, was five years old and upwards, and Elizabeth, his daughter, was eleven years old and upwards. The son Andrew was of Trinity College, Cambridge, and public orator in 1561; he afterwards became an LL.D., and, adhering to the Catholic faith and denying the Queen's supremacy, was in 1583 committed with others to Wisbeach Castle, whence he was released on signing an acknowledgment of the Queen's supremacy.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ In the MS. pedigrees she is wrongly described as a third wife of Sir Goddard Oxenbridge.

⁵⁹ On 6th August 1526, Thomas Oxenbridge and Robert Elrington had pre-

sent Master John Cockys to the church of Middleley, Kent.—Wood's Fasti, Oxon. vol. i, p. 22, note.

⁶⁰ This acknowledgment is printed in Strype's Annals iii, pt. 1, p. 276.

Elizabeth Oxenbridge, the daughter of Sir Goddard Oxenbridge, married, before the year 1546, Sir Robert Tirwhitt of Leighton, county of Huntingdon, second son of Sir Robert Tirwhitt, and brother of Sir William Tirwhitt of Kettleby, county of Lincoln. In May 1546, Lady Tirwhitt was lady-in-waiting on Queen Katharine Parr, to whom her husband was master of the horse, and she was in attendance on the Queen at the time of her accouchement and fatal illness at Sudeley Castle, in September 1548. In 1546 the Duke of Norfolk appeals to Lady Tirwhitt as one of the suite of both his nieces, "whom it had pleased the King's Highness to marry," to testify what malice both those nieces bore to him;⁶¹ and on 17th Feb. 1549, the custody of the person of the Princess Elizabeth, and her good education and government, were committed by the council to Lady Tirwhitt, in consequence of the misconduct of Mrs. Katharine Ashley.⁶² Sir Robert describes his wife as "not sane (learned) in divinity, but half a scripture woman." John Field, in dedicating to her in 1577 his translation of the *Treatise on Christian Righteousness*, calls her his "vertuous and dear friend," and praises her for her "forwardness, fidelity, and sincerity in the religion of Jesus Christ;" and in 1574, there was printed in 16mo, by H. Middelton for Christopher Barker, "*Morning and Evening Prayer, with divers Psalmes, Himnes, and Meditations, made by the Lady Elizabeth Tirwhitt:*" at the end is printed the *Litany*. The arms of Oxenbridge are at the back of the title-page. Queen Elizabeth had a copy bound in gold and enamelled, mentioned by Herbert (p. 1801-2), as then belonging to Mr. Ashby. It was lately in the Duke of Sussex's library, and is now in the possession of George Field, Esq., of Ashurst Park, near Tunbridge Wells. On one cover is enamelled the Raising of the Serpent by Moses, and on the other the Judgment of Solomon; the binding is supposed to be by George Heriot, and is engraved in the *Gentleman's Magazine* (vol. lxi, pt. 1, p. 321) and Dibdin's *Bibliomania*

⁶¹ Burnet, *Hist. of Reform*, iii, pt. 2, p. 259.

⁶² See also J. G. Nichols' *Literary Remains of King Edward VI*, page 11; *Burghley Papers*, Haynes, pp. 104-107; *Ellis Orig. Lett.* 1st Ser. vol. ii, pp. 153,

155. But it appears by the Princess Elizabeth's Household Book at Hatfield (*Camd. Soc. Misc.* vol. ii), in 1551 and 1552, that Mrs. Ashley was reinstated as attendant. Lady Tirwhitt's name is not mentioned in any item during the year.

(p. 330), and the front cover in the *Illustrated London News* of 6th April 1850. To Herbert Ingram, Esq., I owe the accompanying woodcut, which is of the exact size of the original binding, and shows the loop through which passed the chain suspending it to the girdle.⁶³



The prayers, &c., were reprinted in Thomas Bentley's *The Monument of Matrones*, published in 1582.

The following specimen of the writing shows that, if Lady Elizabeth were one of the earliest and one of the most pious, she was also one of the most prosaic of our Sussex poets:—

An Hymne of the state of all Adam's posteritie.

I am the fruite of Adams hands.
 Through sinne locked in Sathans hands :
 Destined to death, the childe of ire,
 A flaming brand of infernall fire.
 Borne I was naked and bare,
 And spend my time in sorowe and care,

⁶³ In A. More's portrait of Queen Mary she is represented as wearing in that way a book of the same size, most probably "*The Queene's Prayers or Meditations*, VIII.

wherein the mynde is stirred to suffer all afflictions here," which were composed by Queen Katharine Parr, and a copy is bound at the end of Mr. Field's volume.

And shall returne unto the dust,
 And be deprived of carnall lust.
 Yet thou Father didst Jesus send,
 To pardon them that did offend.
 We laud him in the worke of might,
 That we be blessed in his sight.

Sir Robert Oxenbridge (the son of Sir Goddard by the second wife) succeeded to the family estates at Brede; but having acquired from Sir John Gate extensive estates at Priors Hursborne and Dunley, in Hants, for which he was sheriff in 1568, he seems to have removed from Sussex, and to have let his property at Brede. The registers of Brede commence in 1559, and do not contain any entry of the baptism, marriage, or burial of an Oxenbridge.⁶⁴ In 1539, Robert Oxenbridge was one of the commissioners of Musters for the rape of Hastings;⁶⁵ and in 1551, sheriff of Sussex. He represented East Grinstead in parliament in 1547 and 1552, and the county of Sussex in 1554, 1555, and 1557. In 1556 he was made, by Mary, constable of the Tower of London, where, on 14th June 1556, he entertained Father Sydnam, a Grey Friar of Greenwich, after a sermon at Trinity Church; and thence in March 1556-7 he rode with Lord Stourton and his lordship's four servants to their execution at Salisbury for killing two Argylls (father and son).⁶⁶ On 18th August 1557, he was one of the mourners at the funeral in London of John III, King of Portugal.⁶⁷ He married Alice, one of the daughters of Thomas Fogge, Esq., of Ash, in Kent, on whom he made a handsome settlement; for by the Inquisition p.m. taken at Winchester 5th March 1575, it was found that he died seized in demesne as of his fee of the manor of Hursborne, otherwise called Priors Hursborne, and the park and lands in Hants, then lately belonging to Sir John Gate, Knt., and of other lands and tenements there, which (by indenture made between the said Robert Oxen-

⁶⁴ Ex. inf. Reverend Augustus Aylward. Some of the family remained in Sussex. In the Burwash Reg. are baptisms of eight children of John Oxenbridge, 1559 to 1578, and of seven children of his son Thomas, 1608 to 1620. I take them to be descendants of George (*ante*, p. 218). The Bexhill Reg. has entries in 1573-78.

⁶⁵ MSS. Rolls House, A, 6, 16.

⁶⁶ Machyn's Diary, pp. 108, 127-8.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 148. Letters were addressed to Sir Robert Oxenbridge, as lieutenant, from the councils, held at Greenwich, 16th January 1556-7, and at Richmond 28th July 1557. Minute Book, ex. inf., H. Reeve, Esq., F.S.A., Registrar.

bridge of the one part, and John Gage of Firle, Esq., William Scott of Mote, gent., John Wyborne of Hawkewell, gent., Francis Kempe of Twyford, gent., Edward Kempe and John Stockman, of the other part, dated 4th June 1565), were demised for the term of forty-one years, if he should so long live, and then for the same term after his death, if his wife Alice should so long live and remain his widow, at a rent of £139. 1s. 1¼d., half of which was to be for the use of his wife, and the residue for her as guardian of his son and heir until he should come of age. It further appears that on 21st June 1574, being then at Hursborne, he made his will, giving his wife the Hursborne property for life in lieu of dower and thirds. The jury also found that by an indenture made between Sir Robert Oxenbridge of the one part, and Sir Thomas White, Knight, of the other part, dated 10th April 1565, and made on the marriage of Robert the son and heir, Sir Robert covenanted that he would convey land, &c., in the villages of Brede and Udimore, then in the occupation of John Devenyshe, Beatrice Baye, Margaret Maunser, John Woodhouse, Robert Lunsford, John Freebody, John Sherbold, and William Sneppe, to the sole use of Robert Oxenbridge the son, and Barbara his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, and in default to the use of said Robert and the heirs male of his body, with remainder to Sir Robert and the heirs of his body, with remainder to Andrew Oxenbridge, cousin of Sir Robert, with remainder to Sir Robert and his heirs general; and other premises in Brede and Udimore then in possession of John Atwater, Thomas Asted, William Iden, John Iden, Thomas Devenyshe, Thomas Rigge, Alleyn Wekes, and Simon Prior Sen., to the use of Sir Robert for life, and then to his son Robert and Barbara his wife, with the same remainders over. The jurors further say that on 10th April 1565, Sir Robert was also seized to him and his heirs of the manors of Forde, Enham, and Goteley, and houses in Rye, in the occupation of Roger Squire, John Pope, and John Braybrooke. The lands at Brede and Udimore occupied of J. Devenyshe, &c., were held of Visc. Montague, and were worth £45. 8s. 6d. a year, and the tenements in the possession of Atwater, &c., were held of Visc. Montague, the Lord Windsor, and Sir Rob. Tyrwhitt, Knt., and were worth £27 and 21d. a year; and

that Forde, Enham, and Goteley were held of the same parties, and were worth £9. 19s. 8d. a year. And lastly, the jury found that Sir Robert died 17th November 1574, and that Robert Oxenbridge the son was thirty years of age and upwards.

Lady Oxenbridge (the widow) seems to have lived till 1583, for on 15th September, 1583, *Robert Oxenbridge* (the only son) by an indenture made between him of the one part, and Gabriel White and Stephen White of the other part, demised to them his lands in Husborne, then late in the occupation of Alice his mother, for the use, after his decease, of his wife Barbara for her life, if she should remain unmarried, and if not, then to raise her an annuity of £60 a year; subject to which, and to the following annuities to his six younger sons, the property went to his eldest son Robert: these annuities were, to Goddard £26. 13s. 4d. a year; William, £20; Henry, £20; Gabriel, £20; Richard, £20; and John, £20, when they should attain the respective ages of twenty years. And on the Inquisition p.m. taken at Andover, 16th April 1591, it was found that, in addition to the Hampshire property, he was in possession of the lands in Brede, Udimore, and Rye, lately belonging to his father, and that by his will dated 21st May, 1587, he left the whole of his Hants property, and lands called Bunges and Mabbands in Brede, to his wife for life, and then to his son Robert and his heirs male, with remainders successively to his other six sons and their heirs male, with the ultimate remainder to his own right heirs: and Forde and the remainder of his property to his son Robert and his heirs for ever; and also that he died at Husborne 22nd January 1591, leaving Barbara his widow; and that his son Robert was then twenty-two years old and upwards.

Sir Robert Oxenbridge, Knt., the eldest son, who married Elizabeth, daughter and coheiress of Sir Henry Cock of Broxbourne, by indenture dated 2nd July, 1599, demised his estates in Hants to Sir Henry Cock, Edward Lewknor, Esq., and Edward Cason, for a term of years, to pay the rents to his wife for life, or whilst she remained unmarried, and in the event of her marriage to pay her an annuity of £74 a year. He was sheriff of Hants in 1596. During the long reign of Elizabeth no member of the Oxenbridge family sat in parliament; but on the accession of James in 1603, Sir Robert,

like his grandfather, sat for the county of Hants. He died at Husborne on 28th May, 1616, seized in Sussex of the manors of Forde, Enham, and Goteley, and of lands in Brede, Udimore, Beckley, Peasmarsh, Northiam, Ewhurst, Sedlescombe, Munfield, Westfield, Guestling, Pett, Fairlight, and Icklesham, held by John Sackville, Thomas Culpeper, Francis Kempe, Jordan, Butler, Sneppe, Fryman, Bishop, &c., the Inquisition being taken at Winchester, 5th Sept. 1616.⁶⁸

He left five sons; the eldest, *Robert*, was knighted at Newmarket 29th November 1619, and sat in parliament for Whitchurch in 1620, and for the county of Hants in 1623. He and his brothers sold the whole of the Brede property, and, as they all died without issue (in the lifetime of their mother, who survived till 1645), their sister Ursula became the heiress of the Herts property. She married in 1627, Sir John Monson, ancestor of Lord Monson, who has very kindly communicated to me several particulars of the Oxenbridge family. There is a very nice portrait of Lady Ursula, by Cornelius Janson, among the Monson family pictures.

I have not been able to identify with the Sussex family Daniel Oxenbridge of Daventry or his son John, the zealous Nonconformist, who was removed from the tutorship of Magdalen Hall and the fellowship of Eton.⁶⁹

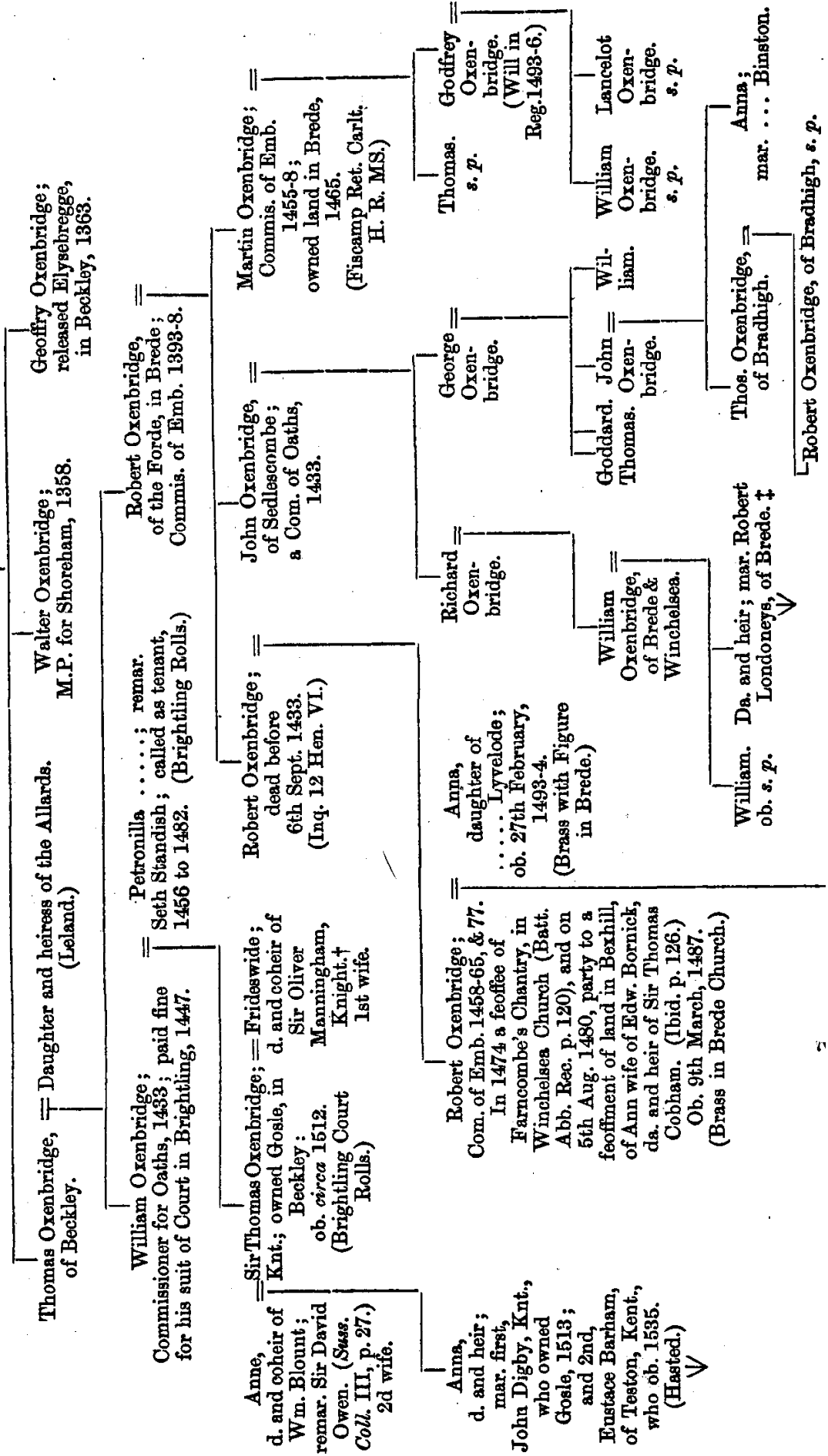
⁶⁸ In the book of St. George's funeral proceedings (Harl. MS. No. 1368, p. 31) is "The proceedinge of the funeral of the Right Worshipfull Sir Robert Oxenbridge, Knight, on Thursday the 20th June 1616, at his house at Hursborne Pryors, in the countye of Southampton, who departed this mortall life on Tuesday the 28th of May 1616:—2 conductors; pore men in gownes, 48. *Servants to Strangers*—Mr. Wm. Oxenbridge's man and Geo. Hamon; Mr. Kempe's man and Mr. Woodward's man, Mr. Lambert's man and Mr. Fran. Harwell's man, Mr. Jo. Knight's man and Sir Walter Tichborne's man, Sir Rich. Tichborne's man. The *standert borne* by Mr. Fran. Kempe. *Servants to the defunct*: Geoffrey Mills and William Kidgell, Danyell Wyatt and Tho. Penton, Henry Puckridge and Willm. Brooker, Jasper Mannings and Nicholas Gray, Tho. Atkinson and Tho. Faldoe, Henry

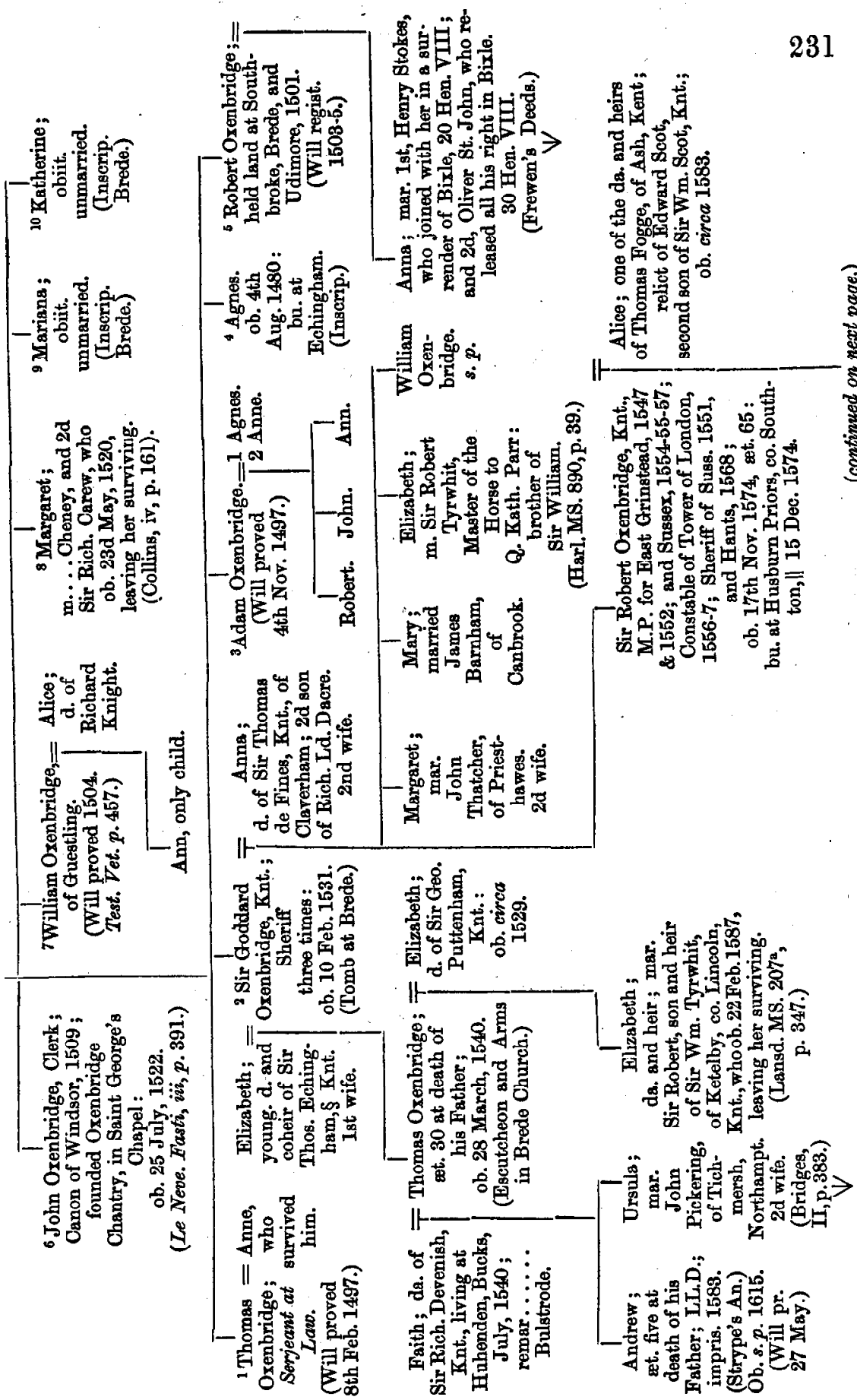
Hall sen. *Gentn in cloakes*: Mr. Peter Noys and Mr. Lambert Jun., Mr. John Oxenbregg and Mr. Godard Oxenbregg, Mr. Edw. Woodward and Mr. Tho. Lambert, Mr. John Knight and Mr. Fran. Harewell, Sr Walter Tichborne and Sr Rich. Tichborne; Mr. Elmes, Vicker, and Doctor Johnson, preacher; Mr. Rich. Oxenbregg, the *penon*. *Healm and Crest*, Richmond. *Sword and Targe*, and *coate of armes*, Wyndesore—The *Corpes*—Mr. Robt. Oxenbrigg, cheife mourner; Mr. Henry Oxenbregg and Mr. Willm Oxenbregg, Mr. John Oxenbregg and Mr. Willm (*sic*) Oxenbregg, assistants to the cheife mourner—Knights & Gent. without blacks."

⁶⁹ See Wood's *Ath. Oxon.* ed. Bliss. iii, p. 1026; Baker's *Northamptonsh.* i, p. 338; Lipscombe's *Bucks.* iv, p. 486; *MS. Collect. Coll. of Arms*, K. 1, p. 150.

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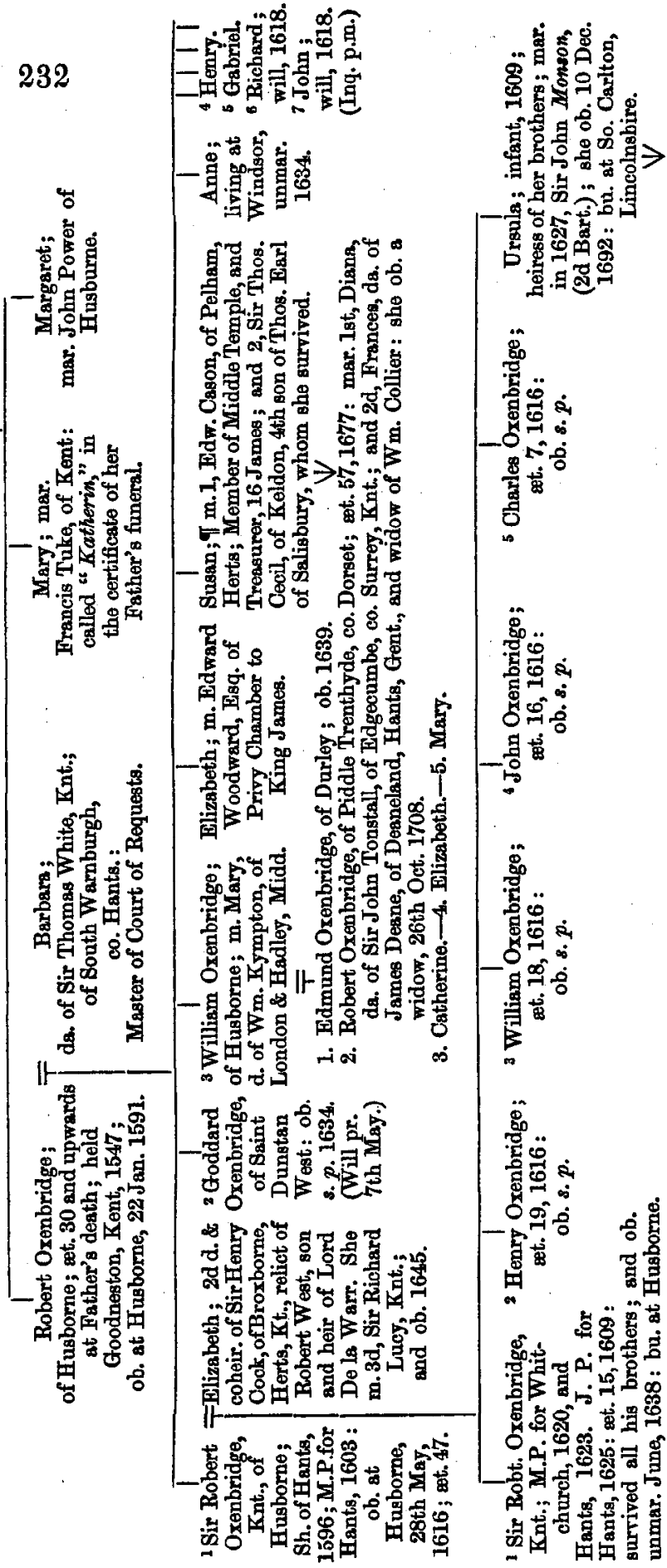
JOHN DE OXENBRIDGE,*
of Atte Gate, Beckley;
Juror 1329 and 1341.





(continued on next page.)

Sir Robert Oxenbridge, Knt. = Alice.



* Jordan de Oxenbridge, of Sussex, Mancupator of Nicholas Waselyn, was distrained to receive Knighthood, 26th June, 1278. —*Pelgrims, Part. Writs*, vol. i, p. 217.

† The mother of Lady Oxenbridge was Eleanor, daughter and heiress of William Lord Molins; the other coheir was Mary (the grand-daughter of this Eleanor, by her first husband, Sir Robert Hungerford), who married Edward Lord Hastings; in 1492 the coheiresses and their husbands joined in levying a fine of Aston Molins and Dorton, Bucks.—*Lepcombe*, vol. ii, p. 165.

‡ Robert Londoneys and his wife had one son, Richard, who married Katherine, daughter of Fines Lord Dacre, and left a

son, Richard, who died s. p., and a daughter, and ultimately heiress, Mary, who married Thomas Hariakaden, of Warehorn, Kent (MSS. *Coll. Arms*). The arms of Londoneys of Brede, are wrongly given in *Hist. of Winchelsea*: they are, *Or. three cross Crosslets fitchés gy.*

§ In some of the MSS. she is called the widow of Roger Fynes. Her eldest sister, Margaret, married first, William Blount, and their daughter, Elizabeth, married Andrew Lord Windsor; and secondly, Sir John Elington, Treasurer of Household to Edw. IV and Edw. V; Constable of Windsor Castle; Sheriff of Surr. and Suss. 1480; and Bailiff of Winchelsea.

¶ Sir Robert Oxenbregg, Knt., died at his Mansion-house, at

Husborne, in the county of Southampton, on Wednesday, 17th Nov. 1674, and was buried at the Parish Church, near the said Mansion-house, 15th Dec. following. He married Alice, daughter and one of the heirs of Thomas Fogge, Gent., and of Eleanor his wife, daughter and heir of Robert Browne, Gent.—*Fest. Certif. I*, 10, 107, *Coll. Arms*.)

¶ She was a proper comely lady, endowed with a most pregnant wit, a florid and ready tongue, very sharp but witty in her repartees; her common discourse did much exceed the ordinary capacity of her sex, and she dying at a great age, Edward Cason, her son, succeeded her in the estate at Furneux Pelham. —*Chaucery*, 145a.

The pedigree is based on the Wills and Inquis. p.m., and the following MSS. at the College of Arms:—Vincent 121 (Sussex), fol. 136; D. 13 (Vis. Sussex, 1570), fol. 406; D. 28 (Vis. Dorset, 1677), fol. 33; I. 10-107, and I. 16-314.

The *Arms* of Oxenbridge were *Gu. a lion rampant ar. langued sa. a bordure vert charged, with eight escallop shells or.*: and the *Crest* a demi lion rampant ar. langued sa., holding in his dexter paw an escallop shell or.

The *quarterings* of the last knight were:—1, HOPTON; 2, ORE; 3, FOGGE; 4, BROWNE; 5, ARUNDEL; 6, MALTRAVERS; 7, COCK; 8, HAMMOND; 9, ADAM; 10, HOOPER.

The Notorious Westons.—The two Westons, Joseph and George, resided at the Friars, Winchelsea, for some months in the years 1781-2, under the assumed names of William Johnson and Samuel Watson. They made a great display here, but other parts of the country had the advantage of their presence. The *Annual Register* calls them “two most notorious villains, who, for some years, have defrauded the country by various artful contrivances.” They were at length captured in Wardour-street, London,⁷⁰ March 17, and finally committed, April 17, 1782, for robbing the Bath and Bristol mail, between Maidenhead and Hounslow, on the morning of January 29, 1781. On July 2 (the day before the sessions) they, with three other felons, made their escape from Newgate, having been aided by the wives of the Westons. George however was retaken in Smithfield; and Joseph in Cock-lane, by John Davis, a porter, who was passing, and who was wounded in the cheek by a pistol fired by Joseph. They were both arraigned on July 6 for the mail robbery, and acquitted; but were again tried and convicted on the same day: George for forging an endorsement on a bank post-bill of “John Ward, at the ‘Dun Horse’ in the Borough or German town of Norfolk,” the bill having been sent from Bristol on January 27, 1781, by the mail; and Joseph, under the Black Act (9 Geo. I, c. 22), for firing the pistol at Davis. They were identified as the Westons by a witness from Draycott, Staffordshire, who had known them from their birth as sons of a farmer named George Weston. They were executed at Tyburn on September 3, 1782; and

⁷⁰ Joseph was not, as has been stated, churchwarden in any year. Tho. Martin

and John Peters were churchwardens 1780-81-82. Ex. inf. Rev. J. J. West.