

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

## **John and Joan Cooke's gift to Gloucester**

by R. Austin  
1944, Vol. 65, 199-219

© The Society and the Author(s)

## JOHN AND JOAN COOKE'S GIFT TO GLOUCESTER

by ROLAND AUSTIN

WHEN writing the history of the Crypt Grammar School, Gloucester (1), on the occasion of its four-hundredth year I was fortunate at the last minute of its printing to discover among the City Records an important document which made known the name of the first master, THOMAS YONGE, and it was just possible to add it to the list of Masters (2). This record, now printed for the first time, is not only of great interest in establishing the name of the first master of the school but it also brings out the strong sense of duty shown by Dame Joan Cooke in carrying out her husband's will exactly as he had planned it. It also gives a glimpse of her character and the names of prominent men in Gloucester with whom she was in contact.

The document, dated 24 August 1550, consists of 33 sheets in a fair hand endorsed 'Depositions in a cause relating to Lady Cooks Conveyance' which concerned the lands left by John Cooke for the foundation of a Grammar School in Gloucester. There is little doubt that the document is only one of many other papers which have long since disappeared. For the history of the school it is of first importance. It escaped the notice of Richard Furney (Archdeacon of Surrey), born in Gloucester and master of the school from 1720 to 1724, who made considerable collections for a history of Gloucester which he never published, but has been used by several writers of a later time (3).

<sup>1</sup> *The Crypt School Gloucester, established as a Free Grammar School, 1539-1939.* 1939.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.* pp. 84, 85.

<sup>3</sup> *Gloucestershire Notes and Queries*, 1, 384-7.

It is well known that after the death of Joan Cooke in 1544 the lands which had been left by John Cooke were held by one William Messenger, one of the executors of John Cooke's will, and also of Joan's, which was proved on 25 February 1545-6, and eventually led to the mayor and burgesses of Gloucester taking action in the Court of Chancery. It will be seen how in her lifetime Dame Joan was pestered to place the deeds of the endowment in other hands and how persistently she refused to part with them.

Besides recording the first master of the school the depositions give the names of persons in Gloucester who were present when livery of seisin of the lands was secured to the mayor and burgesses of the city.

Richard Carycke, of Tewkesbury, law clerk in the employ of Thomas Lane, Recorder of Gloucester, prepared letters of attorney and saw them signed by Dame Joan for the purpose of securing seisin to the city. They were directed to Richard Parkyns, chaplain, and to 'one Thomas Yonge Clerke' then (1550) 'scolemayster of the freeschole'. In the ordinary course the owner of the lands would have been present, but Carycke states the reason for Dame Joan not being there was that 'she was soche an unweldy wommon for age and unweldynes that she could not ride nor go herself to soche places oute of the town of Glouceter where the landes and tenementes lay'. Carycke states that not only was livery and seisin made in the presence of witnesses but by 'delivery of twigge and turf'.

Thomas Lane, the Recorder of Gloucester, is said by Fosbrooke (4) to have held office under Gloucester Abbey and after the dissolution was steward to the Dean and Chapter, and that he was buried in the cathedral without memorial. He was a bencher of Court and evidently knew Dame Joan well for he was bold enough to press her to deliver the deeds and evidences of the lands left

<sup>4</sup> T. D. Fosbrooke, *History of Gloucester*, p. 421.

by John Cooke as they would be in greater safety, to which she replied ' that for her tyme she was mystres of the rentes . . . and therefore wold have the kepinge '. Lane had told her that she or her attorney must take seisin of the lands, to which she retorted that ' she should never ride till she were borne upon foure mens shoulders '.

Cristopher Woodwell, of the parish of All Saints, Gloucester (otherwise Allhallows), and parson there, deposed that he knew Dame Joan well and the reason for the letters of attorney being prepared. He was on Poddesmeed when seisin was completed. He also says that her goods and chattels and deeds came to William Messenger, he being her ' heyre ' and ' dwelling in the house with her ' and having ' the whole rule and order of the house '.

Henry Hawkes of the parish of Christ Church, and chaplain to Dame Joan, deposed as to her interest in the grammar school and must have known Thomas Yonge as the master. He was aware that Thomas Payne, mayor of Gloucester, had endeavoured to move Dame Joan to deliver the deeds of her lands to the use of the burgesses of Gloucester, but she was consistent in having them in her own keeping.

Gyles Robertes of Wotton deposed to knowing the school was ' kept ' by the mayor and burgesses and that alms were paid weekly to the school for reparations, and once more Lane tried persuasion as to the deeds being given up, but was met by Dame Joan saying that she ' wold have the kepinge of them durynge her lyff and she wold leave them as she said where they should be suer to be delyvered after her deathe to the mayre and burgesseis '.

Philippe Draper, of Christ Church, aged 34, deposed to having been servant to Dame Joan for 20 years, and that he knew that owing to her being an ' unweldy woman for age and debilitie ' she was not able to ride out of Gloucester. He also gave evidence as to some differences

between Thomas Payne, then mayor, William Massinger, and Dame Joan. Gyles Roberts in his deposition said that Thomas Payne, alderman, and later mayor of Gloucester, reported to him that in the life of Dame Joan ' he exhorted her to deliver the evidences concerning the premisses to the city and she retorted ' that if that as was done she would tell them another tale ', from which we may conclude that something underhand took place to obtain the deeds of the lands in Dame Joan's lifetime, and that she was wise in her decision to hold them to the last.

It is interesting to note that the Recorder, Thomas Lane, ' by report ' had ' x aungelles ' (5) from Dame Joan for his pains in the preparation of the covenants for the administration of the endowment of the ' frescole of gramer '.

#### THE DEPOSITIONS

Ex parte Maioris et Burgentium Civitatis Gloucestrie  
versus Willelmum Messynger testes examinati per  
Willelmum Bromley

Richard Carycke of Tewkysbury in the Countie of Glouc Gent of the age of xxxvj yeres or therabout sworne and examyned the xxiiij th daie of August in the fourthe yere of the reigne of our soveraigne lorde Edward the sixt by the grace of God kynge of Englund Fraunce and Ireland defendor of the feithe and of the churche of Englund and also of Ireland in earthe the supreme head, saiethe and deposethe by vertue of his othe that he did very well knowe Johanne Coke otherwise called Dame Johanne Coke Whiche some tyme was Wyff and Executrix to John Coke namyd in the said bill of complaynt some tyme Alderman of the Citie of Gloucetor And he also saithe that he knowethe that the said Johanne Coke beinge Executrix of the said John made a feoffement

<sup>5</sup> A gold coin worth 6s 8d to 10s (16th century).

tripartite Indentyd of the landes and tenementes mentioned in the said bill of Complaynt to the Mayre and Burgesses of the said Citie of Gloucetor To have to them and their successors for ever to the use and entent that the said frescole and all other thinges conteyned in the testament and last Will of the said John Coke whiche byn specified in the said answer of the defendauntes should be maynteyned and contynued forever Whiche he saiethe he knowethe to be true by reason that he the same deponent (at the commaundement of Thomas Lane Esquier then beinge his Maister and of Counsell Withe the said Johanne Coke) did engrosse the said feoffement and also was present When the same Johanne Coke did seale and delyver the same feoffement to the use afore said, and this deponent did reade it before the said Johanne Coke before thensealinge therof, And he also saiethe that he the same deponent did write a Ire of Attorney made by the said Johanne Coke unto Richard Parkyns Chaplyn and (to his remembraunce) to one Thomas Yonge Clerke then Scolemayster of the said frescole therby auctorisynge them and either of them to entre into the premisses and then to make lyverey and seysyn therof to the Mayre and Burgesseis of the said towne of Gloucetor or their Attorney to the use and entent aforesaid and Was present When the same Johanne Coke sealed and delyvered the same as her deade to the said Richard Parkyns, and at the same tyme he the same deponent wrote an other Ire of Attorney made in the name of the Mayre and Burgesseis of Gloucetor Wherby they auctorisyd the said Thomas Lane Christofor Woodwell Clerke and one Thomas Robertes ioyntly and severally to receyve lyverey and seysyn of the premisses at the handes of the said Johanne Coke or her Attorney and he Was present at soche tyme as the said Mayre and Burgesseis sealed and delyveryd the same Ire of Attorney unto the said Thomas Lane and Christofor Woodwell under their commen seale of the same towne, and the cause why the

said Johanne made the sayd Ire of Attorney he saiethe was for that that she was soche an unweldy wommon for age and unweldynes that she could not ride nor go herself to soche places oute of the towne of Gloucetor Where the said landes and tenementes lay oute of the same towne, and he remembreth that the said Thomas Lane told the said Johanne that she herself or some Attorney for her must go or ride oute of the towne to make lyverey and seysyn of the premisses, and she then made answer that she should never ride till she were borne upon foure mens shoulders, And this deponent also knowethe that (by vertue of the said Ire of Attorney made by the said Johanne Coke) lyverey of seysyn was made at Poddmede beinge parcell of the landes in the sayd feoffement in the name of the hole landes and tenementes conteyned in the deade of feoffement Within the Countie of the Citie of Gloucetor and Within the Citie of Gloucetor then called the towne of Gloucetor by the said Richard Parkyns and receyvvd by the said Christofof Woodwell in the presence of John Partridge of Poddmede Thomas Hale of Tuffley one Sir Robert Nasshe Curate of Hempstede William Morgan Gent. Henry Wattell this deponent the said Thomas Yonge and his scolders Withe other Whose names he nowe remembrethe not by vertue of the said Ire of Attorney made by the said Mayre and Burgesseis of the towne of Gloucetor, and this deponent was specially sent thither to reade the said feoffement and Ires of Attorney and to instructe the said Attorneys to execute the said estate of the premisses Whiche he did accordingly not onely by entre into the house but also by delyverey of twigge and turff growinge and beinge upon the same landes called Poddmede And as by report he saiethe that lyverey of seysyn Was made at Ebley in the Countie of Glouc' parcell of the premisses in the Countie of Glouc' in the name and for the hole landes and tenementes in the oute shyre mencioned in the said deade, And he further saiethe that Thomas Lane Esquyer beinge

a bencher of Court Was then lvyng and Recorder of the said Citie and cheif of Counsell in conveyenge of the estates of all the premisses as is aforsaid, and at the tyme of the execucion of them remaynyng at Gloucetor, And he also saiethe he knowethe that the said scole is continually kept by the said Mayre and Burgesseis and the reparacions mencyned in the said answer done of the rentes and revenues of the premisses and by report he saiethe the said almes mencyned in the said answer is wekely paied by the said Mayre and Burgesseis and after the said assuraunce and conveyance made of the premisses to the said Mayre and Burgesseis he saiethe the said Johanne Coke sent for the said Thomas Lane Who at his repaere to her said unto her nowe madame that all thinges be perfect accordinge to your will and pleasure it shalbe expedient that ye delyver over to the Mayre and Burgesseis all evidences and deades in your kepinge where they shall be sauff and so your will shall not be in any wyse infrynged Wherunto the said Johanne Cooke in the hearinge of this deponent said unto hym that for her tyme she was mystres of the rentes therof, and therefore wold have the kepinge of the evidences and at her deathe she said she wold delyver them Where they should be sure of them or elles soche as she should put in trust should lose more then they were ware of, at Whiche tyme to his remembraunce he saiethe the said Thomas Lane delyvered unto her the said Ire of Attorney by her made as aforsaid Withe one parte of the said feoffement made tripartite indentyd as aforsaid, And after the deathe of the said Johanne he saiethe the goodes and catalles of the said Johanne together Withe the evidences of the sayd assuraunce came to the handes of the said William Messynger beinge heyre and one of the executors unto the said Johanne he the same William Messynger then dwellinge in the house Withe the said Johanne Coke and havynge the hole rule and order of the same house, and as by report he saiethe that the yere after the deathe of

the said Johanne Coke parte of the sayd evidences were delyveryd by the said William Messinger hymself unto Thomas Payne then Mayre of the sayd Citie to the use of the Mayre and Burgesseis of the same Citie but more or otherwise he saiethe he cannot depose to any the interrogatories to hym mynistryd in this behalf

Christofor Woodwell of the parisshe of Alhallowes Within the Citie of Gloucetor Clerke and parson there of the age of lvj yeres sworne and examyned the daie and yere abovesaid saiethe and deposethe by vertue of his othe that he did very well knowe Johanne Coke otherwise called Dame Johanne Coke Whiche some tyme Was Wiff and Executrix to John Coke namyd in the said Bill of complaynt some tyme Alderman of the Citie of Gloucetor, and he also saiethe that he knowethe that the said Johanne Coke beinge Executrix of the said John made a feoffement of the landes and tenementes mencionyd in the sayd bill of complaynt to the Mayre and Burgesseis of the sayd Citie of Gloucetor To have to them and their successors forever to the use and entent that the freescole and all other thinges conteyned in the testament and last will of the said John Coke whiche byn specified in the said answer of the defendauntes should be maynteyned and contynued forever Whiche he saiethe he knowethe to be true by reason that he did heare it red and sawe it under seale, and the said Johanne he saiethe was soche an unweldy womon for age and unweldynes that she could not ride nor go herself to soche places oute of the towne of Gloucetor Where the said landes and tenementes laye oute of the same towne to make lyverey and season therof, and therefore made a Ire of Attorney unto Richard Parkyns and Thomas Yonge Clerkes to make lyverey and season of the premisses for her to the said Mayre and Burgesseis or their Attorney, and therupon he saiethe that they made lyverey of seasyn at Poddesmede beinge parcell of the landes in the feoffement in the name of the hole landes and tenementes conteynynd in the deade of

feoffement Within the Countie of the Citie of Gloucetor and within the Citie of Gloucetor then called the towne of Gloucetor unto the handes of this deponent to the use of the same Mayre and Burgesseis and their successors forever Who Withe Thomas Lane Gent. and Thomas Robertes was ioyntly and severallie auctorisyd by the said Mayre and Burgesseis by their Ire of Attorney under the towne seale of Gloucetor so to do then and there beinge present Henry Hawkes Clerke Robert Nasshe Clerke John Jenyns William Fepot the said William Messynger and other whose names he remembrethe not, And he also saiethe that in like maner lyverey of seysyn was made by the said Richard Parkyns and Thomas Yonge unto the handes of this deponent in Ebley in the Countie of Gloucetor parcell of the premisses in the Countie of Gloucetor in the name and for the hole landes and tenementes in the oute shire mencyoned in the said deade, then and there present William Bennett, John Partridge the fermor of Poddsmede and dyvers other whose names he remembrethe not, at Whiche place and at Poddsmede also he saiethe the said feoffement tripartite and the said Ires of Attorney were openly red but certeynly by whome he remembrethe not, And he further saiethe that Thomas Lane Esquyer being a bencher of Court was then lyvyng and Recorder of the said Citie and the fyst of Counsell in conveyenge the estates of all the premisses, and at the execucion of them was remayning at Gloucetor or nigh therabout, And this deponent also saiethe that he knowethe that the said scole is contynually kept by the said Mayre and Burgesseis and the said almes mencioned in the said answer be wekly paied and the reparacions mencioned in the said answer done of the rentes and revenues of the premisses, And saiethe that he hard saye that the sayd Johanne after the said assuraunce and conveyance made of the premisses to the said Mayre and Burgesseis said that she wold have the kepinge of all the Writinges and evidences concernynge the said assuraunce

durynge her lyff, but upon what occasion she so said he saiethe he knowethe not, and as by report he saiethe that the said Johanne duringe her lyff did kepe the said writings and evidences and namely the said Ires of attorney, and after the deathe of the said Johanne he saiethe the goodes and catalles of the said Johanne together withe the evidences of the said assuraunces came to the handes of the said William Messynger beinge heyre and one of the Executors he then dwelling in the house Withe the said Johanne Coke and havynge the hole rule and order of the same house and as by report he saiethe that after the deathe of the said Johanne Coke parte of the said evidences Were delyveryd by the said William Messynger to the Mayre and burgesses of the said Citie, but more or otherwise he saiethe he cannot depose

Henry Hawkes of the parisshe of Chrischurche in the Citie of Gloucetor Cleke and parson there of the age of xlv yeres or more sworne and examyned the daie and yere abovesaid saiethe and deposethe by vertue of his othe that he did knowe Johanne Coke otherwise called Dame Johanne Coke whiche some tyme was Wyff and Executrix to John Coke namyd in the said bill of complaynt some tyme Alderman of the Citie of Gloucetor, And he also saiethe that he is privie that the said Johanne Coke beinge Executrix of the said John made a feoffement of the landes and tenementes mencioned in the said bill of complaynt to the Mayre and Burgesseis of the said Citie of Gloucetor To have to them and their successors forever to the use and entent that the frescole and all other thinges conteyned in the testament and last Will of the said John Coke Whiche byn specified in the said answer of the defendauntes should be maynteyned and contynued forever, and this he saiethe he knowethe to be true by reason he Was Chapleyn unto the said Johanne and hathe by reason therof hard her before she had so done saie that she wold so do, and after it was so done hard her confesse that she had so done And saiethe he knowethe

that the said Johanne was soche an unweldy woman for age and unweldynes that she could not ride nor go herself to soche places oute of the towne of Gloucetor where the said landes and tenementes laye oute of the same towne to make lyverey and seysyn Neverthe lesse he saiethe that he is privie that lyverey and seysyn of the premisses was made from the said Johanne by vertue of a Ire of Attorney made in the name of the said Johanne to Richard Parkyns and Thomas Yonge clerkes whiche this deponent did bothe see and heare red but whether it were sealyd or not he remembrethe not, and the said Richard Parkyns he saiethe made lyverey of seysen at Poddesmede beinge parcell of the landes in the feoffement in the name of the hole landes and tenementes conteyned in the deade of feoffement Within the Countie of the Citie of Gloucetor and Within the Citie of Gloucetor then called the towne of Gloucetor in the presence of this deponent and dyvers other into the handes of Christofor Woodwell Clerke Who was auctorisyd by a Ire of Attorney to hym made by the Mayre and Burgesseis of the same towne of Gloucetor to receyve the same to the use of the said Mayre and burgesses and their successors Whiche Ire of Attorney he did see under seale of the said towne and hard it red, and the said deade of feoffement and Ires of Attorney were red at Poddesmede aforsaid by one Richard Carecke, but whether ther were any lyverey of season made at Ebley in the Countie of Glouc' parcell of the premisses in the Countie of Glouc' or not he saiethe he knowethe not, And he further saiethe that Thomas Lane Esquyer beinge a bencher of Courte was then lyvyng and Recorder of the said Citie and chefe of Counsell in conveyenge of the estates of all the premisses and at the tyme of the execucion of them remayned at Gloucetor, And saiethe he knowethe that the said scole is contynually kept by the said Mayre and burgesseis, and the reparacions mencyonyd in the said answer done of the rentes and revenues of the premisses and he supposethe that the

said almes mencioned in the said answer is yerely paied by the said Mayre and burgesseis and after the assuraunce and conveyance made of the premisses to the said Mayre and burgesseis he saiethe that on a tyme the said Johanne reportyd to Richard Parkyns Thomas Yonge the said William Messynger and this deponent that one Thomas Payne moved her to delyver the evidences concernynge the premisses to the use of the Mayre and burgesseis and then (as she reportyd) she said she wold have the kepinge of them duringe her lyff, and further said to hym that if that whiche was done were undone she wold tell hym more of her mynd, whereby he saiethe he supposethe that she repentyd herself of the makynge of the said feoffement, but otherwise he saiethe he knowethe not whether the said Johanne kept the said writinges and evidences or any of them duringe her lyff or not, but after her deathe he saiethe that the goodes and catalles of the said Johanne came to the handes of the said William Messynger being heyre and one of the executors unto the said Johanne the same William Messynger then dwellinge in the house Withe the said Johanne Coke and havinge the hole rule and order of the same house, but more or otherwise he saiethe he cannot depose to any the interrogatories to hym mynistred in this behalf

William Bennett of Stone house in the said Countie of Glouc' tucker of the age of xlvj yeres sworne and examyned the daie and yere abovesaid saiethe and deposethe by vertue of his othe that he did right well knowe Johanne Coke otherwise called Dame Johanne Coke Whiche some tyme Was Wyff and Executrix to John Coke namyd in the said bill of complaynt some tyme Alderman of the Citie of Glouceter, for he saiethe he was tenaunte bothe to her and her husband also, And also saiethe that he is privie that the said Johanne Coke beinge Executrix of the said John made a feoffement of the landes and tenementes mencionyd in the said bill of complaynt to the Mayre and burgesseis of the said Citie

of Gloucetor, To have to them and their successors forever to the use and entent that the frescole and all other thinges conteyned in the testament and last Will of the said John Coke Whiche byn specified in the said answer of the defendantes should be maynteyned and contynued forever, and this he saiethe he knowethe to be true by reason he was present When lyverey of seasyne was made at Ebley in the Countie of Glouc' parcell of the premisses in the Countie of Glouc' by entre into the house there and delyverey of turff and twigge withe the said deade of feoffement and the same lyverey and seasyne was made by one Richard Parkyns clerke by vertue of a Ire of Attorney to hym made by the said Johanne under hir seale unto Christofer Woodwell Clerke to the use aforesaid who receyvyd the same by vertue of a Ire of Attorney to hym made by the said Mayre and Burgesseis of Gloucetor under their towne seale, Whiche feoffement and Ires of Attorney he saiethe were there openly red by one Yonge then Scolemaister of the said scole, and the said Johanne he saiethe was soche an unweldy woman for age and unweldynes that she could not ride nor go her self to soche places oute of the towne of Gloucetor Where the said landes and tenementes lay oute of the same towne to make lyverey and seasyne, and therefore he supposethe she made the said Ire of Attorney unto the said Richard Parkyns, but whether lyverey of seasyne were made at Poddmede or not he saiethe he knowethe not, And further saiethe that he is privie that Thomas Lane Esquyer beinge a bencher of Court was then lyvyng and Recorder of the said Citie and cheif of Counsell in conveyenge of the estates of all the premisses and remayned at Gloucetor at the tyme of the execucion therof, And saiethe he knowethe that the said scole is kept by the said Mayre and Burgesseis and the sayd almes mencyoned in the said answer is yerely paied of the rentes and revenues of the premisses, and as he supposethe he saiethe the reparacions mencyoned in the sayd answer

by yerely done of the rentes and revenues of the premisses by the said Mayre and Burgesseis, but more or otherwise he saiethe he cannot depose in this matter

Robert Nasse of Hempsted in the said Countie of Glouc' Clerke and Curate there of the age of xlvij yeres and above sworne and examyned the daie and yere abovesaid saiethe and deposeth by vertue of his othe that he did knowe Johanne Coke otherwise called Dame Johanne Coke Whiche some tyme Was Wyff and Executrix to John Coke namyd in the said bill of complaynt some tyme Alderman of the Citie of Gloucetor, And he further saiethe that he knowethe that the said Johanne Coke beinge Executrix of the said John made a feoffement of the landes and tenementes mencioned in the said bill of Complaynt to the Mayre and Burgesseis of the said Citie of Gloucetor To have to them and their successors forever to the use and entent that the freescole and all other thinges conteynynd in the testament and last Will of the said John Coke Whiche byn specified in the said answer of the defendantes should be maynteynynd and contynued forever, and this he saiethe he knowethe to be true by reason that he was present amongst dyvers other at Poddesmede beinge parcell of the landes in the feoffement Where he saiethe he did see Richard Parkyns Clerke for the said Johanne Coke (by virtue of a Ire of Attorney to hym and one Yonge in her name made) make lyverey of seysyn of the landes at Poddesmede in the name of the hole landes and tenementes conteyned in the said deade of feoffement within the Countie of the Citie of Gloucetor and Within the Citie of Gloucetor then called the towne of Gloucetor unto Christofor Woodwell Clerke by delyverey of the said feoffement withe twigge and turff to the use aforesaid Who receyvvd the same by vertie of a Ire of Attorney to hym made by the Mayre and burgesseis of Gloucetor under their towne seale, and the said feoffement and Ires of Attorney he saiethe were openly red in the presence of Walter Jennyns Robert

Fypott Nicholas Crowdy William Piper William Messynger Richard Caracke Henry Wattell and other Whome he nowe remembrethe not, and the said feoffement and lres of Attorney he saiethe were red there by the said Richard Caracke and William Messynger, and When the same lyverey and seysyn was so executyd the said Richard Parkyns went towardes Ebley withe other to delyver possession of the landes there unto the said Christofor Woodwell to the use aforesaid and the same daie before dynner they returned agayne and enformyd this deponent that lyverey of seysyn was there made unto the said Christofor Woodwell in forme aforesaid, And the said Johanne he saiethe was soche an unweldy woman for age and unweldynesse that she could not go herself to soche places oute of the towne of Gloucetor where the said landes and tenementes laye oute of the same towne to make lyverey and season and therefore (as he supposethe) she made the said lre of Attorney unto the said Richard Parkyns and Yonge, and this deponent knowethe that Thomas Lane Esquyer being a bencher of Court Was then lvyng and Recorder of the said Citie and cheif of Counsell in conveyinge of the estates of all the premisses and at the said tyme remayned at Gloucetor, And the said scole he saiethe he knowethe is contynually kept by the said Mayre and burgesses and the said almes mencioned in the said answer paied of the rentes and revenues of the premisses, and he sopposeth that the reparacions mencioned in the said answer be done by the said Mayre and burgesseis, And after the deathe of the said Johanne he saiethe he knowethe that the goodes and catalles of the said Johanne came to the handes of the said William Messynger (and his brother) beinge heyre and one of the executors unto the said Johanne he the same William Messynger then dwellinge in the house withe the said Johanne Coke, and as by report he saiethe that after the deathe of the said Johanne Coke parte of the said evidences were delyveryd by the said William Messynger

hymself to the Mayre and Burgesseis of the said Citie of Gloucetor, but more or otherwise he saiethe he cannot depose in this matter

Gyles Robertes of Wotton in the Countie of Glouc' husbondman of the age of lxxvj yeres or therabout sworne and examyned the daie and yere abovesaid saiethe and deposeth by vertue of his othe that of longe tyme he did knowe Johanne Coke otherwise called Dame Johanne Coke Whiche some tyme was Wyff and executrix to John Coke namyd in the said bill of complaynt some time Alderman of the Citie of Gloucetor, And as by report of one Richard Caricke and other to hym made he saiethe that the said Johanne Coke beinge Executrix of the said John made a feoffement tripartite of the landes and tenementes mencyoned in the said bill of complaynt to the Mayre and Burgesseis of the said Citie of Gloucetor, To have to them and their successors forever to the use and entent that the free scole and all other thinges conteyned in the testament and last Will of the said John Coke Whiche byn specified in the said answer of the defendauntes should be maynteyned and contynued forever, and as by the said report he saiethe that lyverey and seasyn was therof made by one Richard Parkyns Clerke by vertue of a Ire of Attorney to hym and one Yonge made by the said Johanne Coke, and Christofor Woodwell Clerke receyvvd the same at Poddesmede at the handes of the said Richard Parkyns to the use aforsaid by vertue of a Ire of Attorney to the saide Christofor Woodwell and Thomas Robertes made by the Mayre and Burgesseis of Gloucetor under the towne seale of Gloucetor Whiche feoffement and Ires of Attorney he saiethe he did see under seale shortly after the estate executyd as aforesaid, and hard the said feoffement red over by the said Richard Carycke, And this deponent knowethe that the said Johanne was soche an unweldy woman for age and unweldynes that she could not ride nor go herself to soche places oute of the towne of Gloucetor Where the said

landes and tenementes laye oute of the same towne to make lyverey and seysyn and therefore he supposethe she made the said Ire of Attorney to the said Richard Parkyns and Yonge, And this deponent also saiethe that he knowethe that Thomas Lane Esquier Was then lyvyng and Recorder of the said Citie and cheif of Counsell in conveyenge of the estates of all the premisses and remayned at Gloucetor at the tyme of the execucion of the estate made as aforsaid, and as by report had x -- aungelles of the said Johanne Coke for his paynes, and she thancked hym sayenge that nowe she was in quyet that her husbondes Will was performyd, And further he saiethe that he knowethe that the said scole is contynually kept by the said Mayre and Burgesseis, and the said almes mencioned in the said answer is wekely paied, and the reparacions mencioned in the said answer done of the rentes and revenues of the premisses, And as by report he saiethe that the said Thomas Lane after the assuraunce made of the premisses perswaded the said Johanne Coke to delyver the evidences concernynge the same unto the mayre and Burgesseis of Gloucetor, and in so doinge she should be sure that all thinges should be performyd, and she answeyrd hym agayne sayenge that she wold have the kepinge of them duryng her lyff, and she wold leave them as she said where they should be suer to be delyvered after her deathe unto the Mayre and Burgesseis of Gloucetor aforsaid, And one Thomas Payne one of the Aldermen of the said Citie reportyd to this deponent (howe longe sythe he remembrethe not) that in the lyff of the said Johanne he exortyd her to delyver the evidences concernynge the premisses unto the Mayre and Burgesseis of Gloucetor and she made hym answer that if that were to do as was done she wold tell them an other tale, And after the deathe of the said Johanne he saiethe that the goodes and catalles of the said Johanne came to the handes of the said William Messynger beinge heyre and one of the executors unto the said Johanne the same William

Messynger then dwellinge in the house withe the said Johanne Coke, And moreover as by report he saiethe that after the deathe of the said Johanne the said William Messinger delyvered an Indenture concernynge parcell of the premisses unto the mayre and Burgesses of Gloucetor, And this deponent saiethe that he beinge fermor of parcell of the premisses paid his rent unto the said Johanne Coke duringe her lyff, and after her deathe to the Mayre and Burgesseis of Gloucetor by force of the said feoffement, but more or otherwise he saiethe he can not depose

Henry Wattell of the parissh of Christchurche within the Citie of Gloucetor parissh clerke there of the age of xlvj yeres sworne and examyned the daie and yere above-said saiethe and deposethe by vertue of his othe that he did knowe Johanne Coke otherwise called Dame Johanne Coke Whiche some tyme was Wyff and Executrix to John Coke namyd in the said bill of Complaynt some tyme Alderman of the Citie of Gloucetor, And this deponent saiethe that he is privie that the said Johanne Coke beinge Executrix of the said John made a feoffement of the landes and tenementes mencioned in the said bill of Complaynt to the Mayre and Burgesseis of Gloucetor To have to them and their successors forever to the use and entent that the freescole and all other thinges conteyned in the testament and last Will of the said John Coke Whiche byn specified in the said answer of the defend-auntes should be maynteyned and contynued forever, and this he saiethe he knowethe to be true by reason that he amongst dyvers other was at Poddesmede parcell of the landes in the feoffement Where he saiethe he did see one Richard Parkyns Clerks for the said Johanne Coke make lyverey of season therof in the name of the hole landes and tenementes conteyned in the deade of feoffement Within the Countie of the Citie of Gloucetor and Within the Citie of Gloucetor then called the towne of Gloucetor by vertue of a lre of Attorney by the said Johanne to hym made, unto the handes of Christofer

Woodwell Clerke by the delyverey of the said feoffement with twigge and turff of the same ground accordinge to the effecte of the same deade and the same Christofor Woodwell receyvyd the same by vertue of a lre of Attorney to hym made by the Mayre and burgesseis of Gloucetor under their towne seale Whiche feoffement and lres of Attorney he saiethe were there openly red by Richard Caricke Gent. in the presence of John Partridge Thomas Yonge Clerke and other whose names he nowe remembrethe not, And saiethe that Thomas Lane Esquyer beinge a bencher of Court Was then lvyng and Recorder of the said Citie and cheif of Counseill in conveyenge of the estates of the premisses, and at the tyme of the execucion therof remayned at Gloucetor, And he also knowethe that the said scole is contynually kept by the said Mayre and burgesseis and the said almes mencioned in the said answer is yerely paied and the reparacions mencioned in the said answer done of the rentes and revenues of the premisses, And saiethe he knowethe that after the deathe of the said Johanne the goodes and catalles of the said Johanne together withe soche evidences as were in her kepinge came to the handes of the said William Messynger beinge heyre and one of the executors unto the said Johanne for he the same William Messynger then dwelled in the house withe the said Johanne Coke and had the hole rule and order of the same house, but more or otherwise he saiethe he cannot depose Philippe Draper of the parisshe of Christchurche Within the Citie of Gloucetor Clotheyer of the age of xxxiiij yeres sworne and examyned the daie and yere abovesayd saiethe and deposethe by vertue of his othe that he did knowe Johanne Coke otherwise called Dame Johanne Coke Whiche Was some tyme Wyff and Executrix to John Coke namyd in the said bill of Complaynt sometyme Alderman of the Citie of Gloucetor very well, for he saiethe he Was her servaunt twentie yeres together, And he also saiethe that he knowethe that the sayd Johanne Coke beinge Executrix of the said John

made a feoffement tripartite of the landes and tenementes mencyoned in the said bill of Complaynt to the mayre and Burgesseis of the said Citie of Gloucetor To have to them and their successors forever to the use and entent that the free scole and other thinges lymtyd in the said feoffement tripartite should be maynteyned and contynued forever Whiche he saieth he knowethe to be true by reason that he was present when she sealed and delyvyd the same as her deade but he remembrethe not to whome she delyveryd it, and as by report he saiethe that lyverey and seysyn was made accordingly by vertue of a Ire of Attorney by her made but to whome it was made or who made lyverey and seysyn he knowethe not, nor yet at any tyme to his remembraunce did see the said Ire of Attorney either sealed or unsealyd, And saiethe that the said Johanne was soche an unweldy woman for age debilitie and unweldynes that she was not able to ride nor go herself without moche payne to soche places out of the same towne of Gloucetor where the said landes and tenementes lay oute of the same towne to make lyverey and seysyn, And saiethe he knowethe that Thomas Lane Esquier beinge a bencher of Court was then lyvyng and Recorder of the said Citie and cheif of Counsell in conveyenge of the estates of all the premisses, and if the same assuraunce were not in all thinges perfect accordinge to the due order of the lawe he saiethe the fawte was in the said Thomas Lane who was put in trust therwithe for he saiethe he is well assuryd the said Johanne Coke at the tyme of the sealinge of the said feoffement was fully bent and determyned that the said Mayre and Burgesseis and their successors should enjoye the premisses to thentent abovesaid, And he also saiethe he knowethe that the said scole is contynually kept by the said Mayre and Burgesseis and the said almes mencioned in the said answer is yerely paid, and the reparacions mencioned in the said answer be done as he supposethe of the rentes and revenues of the premisses, And saiethe he knowethe that the

said Johanne after the said assuraunce of the premisses had in her custody all or the most parte of all the old evidences concernynge all the said landes except Poddesmede, And after the deathe of the said Johanne he saiethe he knowethe that the goodes and catalles of the said Johanne together Withe all the evidences as were in her custody the daie of her deathe came to the handes of the said William Messynger and Thomas Messynger his brother he the said William Messynger beinge herye and one of thexecutors unto the sayd Johanne and then dwelling in the house Withe the said Johanne Coke and havynge the hole rule and order of the same house, but whether any of the evidences concernynge the assuraunce of the premisses to the use aforesaid came to his handes then or not he saiethe he knowethe not, Neverthelesse he saiethe that after the ensealinge of the said feoffement tripartite in the presence and hearinge of this deponent one Thomas Payne of the said Citie of Gloucetor came to the said Johanne and desyryd her to have her favor after the purchasyng of certeyn landes to the use of the towne, and then she said to hym that her husband and she had lovyd the said towne, and for that cause she said that she thought that the Mayre and burgesseis of the same wold not have gone aboute to dysapoynt her cousyn the said William Messynger beinge a suter for the same, they knowinge of it, and considringe that they might have had as good landes as those, and therefore she said she percevyd that they did it of no good will they bare towardes her or any of hers, Wherefore she bade Hym make moche of that they had for they should be suer to have no more of her whiles she lyvyd, but what she meant therby he saiethe he knowethe not, And saiethe that he the same deponent hathe receyvyd rentes of the premisses to the use of the said Mayre and burgesseis eversithe the deathe of the said Johanne Coke [and] more or otherwise he saiethe he cannot depose to [any the] interrogatories to hym mynistryd in this behalfe