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St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Bristol; some new material

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ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, BRISTOL:
SOME NEW MATERIAL

The documents translated below (which have been deposited by the owner, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Ducie, in the custody of the Gloucestershire Records Office,¹) supplement the short account of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, Bristol, by Miss Rose Graham, F.R.HIST.S., which appears in the *Victoria County History of Gloucestershire*, Vol. II, pp. 118, 119. The new evidence may be summarised as follows:—

1. Some light is shed on the foundation of the Hospital. According to the *V.C.H.* article, the claim of the la Warre family to have founded it was made in the second half of the fourteenth century. We now have the definite statement (in No. III, dated 1324/5), that Sir John la Warre was the founder, his son Sir Roger (1st Baron Delawarr) and his grandson Sir John being described as patrons of the Hospital. The share of the la Warre family in admitting the Master is also clearly defined.

2. An earlier Master than those listed is mentioned in March 1291/2: Wm. de Axebrygg'. (No. I).

3. John de(l) Hulle is presented to John la Warre to be admitted as Master in 1325/6 (No. IV). But in 1324/5 (No. III) he is already styled Master, and Miss Graham's sources state that his term of office began in 1322, that is, not long after Sir Roger la Warre's death (1320). It seems likely therefore that No. IV represents a re-election.

4. In addition to these points, the inventory of 1303 gives fascinating details of the goods, lands and rents of the Hospital which enable some picture to be formed of the house, its inmates and financial position.

Note. Christian names have been returned to their English form. Place names are as in the originals, followed by the modern equivalent.

¹ Reference D 340.

No. I. (In Anglo-Norman French).

To all those who shall see or hear this writing Brother William de Axebrygg' [Axebridge, Somerset], Master and guardian of the house of St. Bartholomew of Bristue [Bristol] by the agreement and common assent of our brothers and sisters, greeting in God. Know you all that we have received from Sir Roger la Warre one hundred marks of silver, in which he was bound to us by the testament of Sir John la Warre, father of the aforesaid Roger, for the which hundred marks we were and are bound to find two chaplains to chant for ever for the souls of the aforesaid John and Roger and their ancestors and their successors; the which hundred marks we brothers and sisters are fully paid, so that neither we nor any of our successors after this day can claim or demand any of the aforesaid debt from the aforesaid Roger or his heirs, provided that to the profit of the house of St. Bartholomew aforesaid we may do our will with the lands, tenements, rents, woods and all other appurtenances belonging to the aforesaid tenements which we claim to hold of the aforesaid Roger in Wykewarre [Wickwar]; for the which land and tenements we are bound to find a chaplain to chant for ever for the souls of Henry de la Mare and Roger la Warre and all those wellwishers. And that this may be our deed and covenant and sure quittance for ever, by common consent we have placed our common seal¹ on this present writing. Given at Bristue in the house of St. Bartholomew on St. Edward's Day in March in the twentieth year of the reign of our lord King Edward. [18 March 1291/2].

No. II. (Latin; sewn at the margin onto No. III).

In the year of Our Lord 1303 on Ash Wednesday these things were found in the house of the Hospital of Saint Bartholomew in Bristol according to the word of the brothers and sisters living in the said house, to wit: in the hall 3 tables with trestles, 3 basins with 3 copper ewers, 1 damaged basin. In the pantry 7 table-cloths, 4 towels, 1 damaged silver footed cup. Item 2 cups bound and footed with silver and they are pledged for 8s to

¹ Seal missing.

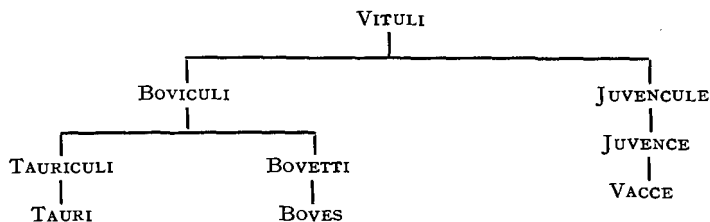
Robert of Tewkesbury and John le Cluere. Item 1 old chest for storing and keeping the aforesaid. Item in the guest-house 1 damaged bench-cover, 2 feather beds with 1 woollen mattress, 2 quilts, 1 woollen coverlet, 5 hangings, 12 sheets, 4 pillows, 4 linen bolsters, 3 bolster-covers embroidered with silk, 1 box for storing the said cloths. Item in the kitchen 1 big leaden oven, 1 small leaden oven for meat, 3 copper caldrons¹ of which each contains 14 gallons but one has been in pawn at the house of Wm. Adrian for half a mark for 10 years. Item 3 copper caldrons which hold in all 10 gallons. Item 2 copper caldrons which hold in all 3 gallons. Item 3 brazen pans² with feet which hold 5 gallons, 1 knife, 1 andiron, 1 trivet, 1 stone mortar with a pestle, 1 gridiron, 2 iron graters, 1 axe, 1 bucket to carry water. In the cellar, 2 great barrels, 1 cask for ale, 2 old broken barrels, 2 great vats, 4 tubs, 1 box for storing flour. Item in the larder 1 tub for salt, 1 tub for storing meat, 5 quarters of beef, 6 small salted hogs. In the bakehouse 2 vats for boulding, 2 troughs for making dough, 1 handmill for grinding malt. In the granary 1 iron-bound bushel, 1 wooden winnowing-fan for fanning, 1 quarter of barley, 1½ quarters of bean; and all gates throughout the whole house secured with locks and keys. Inventory at Horefeld [Horfield] on the aforesaid day and year, to wit: in the hall, 2 tables with trestles. In the kitchen 1 brazen caldron which holds 4 gallons, 1 brazen pitcher which holds a pottle, 1 damaged pan which holds 2 gallons, 1 trivet, 2 tubs. In the granary, 1 iron-bound bushel, 1 wooden winnowing-fan with sieves and small sieves, 2 coffers for storing grain, 1 quarter of beans, 3 quarters of oats threshed for the seed. In the barn in sheaves by estimation 6 quarters of corn, 1 quarter of barley. In the stable 1 mare. In the byre and cowshed 16 oxen, 1 bull, 1 cow. In the carpenter's shop, 2 ploughs with all gear, 1 ox-harrow with iron teeth, 2 carts without iron tyres on the wheels (*nudum*) with ropes and other gear of wood, 2 sickles. In the pig-sty, 1 sow, 7 hogs of half a year.

¹ *Olla*: a caldron is the only contemporary vessel which would compare in size and would also be made of metal.

² *Patella*: probably a wide deep pan. These sometimes had feet.

In the yard, 7 geese, 3 capons, 12 cocks and hens. Inventory at Wykeware [Wickwar] on the day and year aforesaid, to wit. In the yard 1 dove-cote worth 12*d* a year, 7 geese, 8 cocks and hens. In the hall and kitchen 2 old copper caldrons containing 3½ gallons, 1 old small pitcher, 1 vessel very damaged holding 3 gallons, 1 mortar with a pestle. In the granary, 1 bushel, iron-bound, with other measures for straw, 1 wooden winnowing-fan, 1 twig basket, 2 coffers for storing grain, one sowing-basket, 2 buckets, 1 tub, 2 old sickles, 1 quarter 2 bushels of corn, 6 bushels of maslin, 6 bushels of beans, 3 bushels of oats. In the barn in sheaves by estimation 1 quarter of maslin, 4 quarters of oats. Item in the stable 1 male foal of 2½ years, 1 female foal of 2 years, 1 female foal of 1 year. In the byre and cowshed 4 oxen, 8 cows, 3 steers and heifers, 4 young oxen of which 1 is female, 5 yearlings of which 2 are female, 2 female calves.¹ In the carpenter's shop, 1 wooden cart without iron tyres with all gear, 1 hayfork, 2 ploughs with one pair of ploughshares, 1 iron horse-harrow damaged, 1 hatchet, a small sieve, 1 woodbox (*wodebockes*). And be it known that their rent of assize at Wykeware amounts yearly to 3*s* at the four quarters. Item at Stanleghe [Stanley] in Wiltshire yearly 20*s* at the four quarters. Item at

¹ *In boveria et vaccaria iiii boves viii vacce iii bovetti mares et bovette femelle quatuor Boviculi quorum i femella v annales quorum ii femelle ii vituli femelle.* Mr R. E. Latham of the Medieval Latin Dictionary Committee, to whom I am indebted for help with some of the more obscure agricultural terms, states that *boviculi*, etc. seem to be classed in manorial documents according to age-groups, and illustrates with the following classification:—



Apparently no English pastoral terms exist which express these differences exactly.

Stanleghe Wynterburne [Stanley Winterbourne] yearly 2s at the feast of St. Michael. Item at Brustlynton' [Brislington] 10s a year paid half yearly. Item at Bristoll' in various places as appears by the Register of the house at various times yearly $\text{£}10\ 14\text{s}\ 6\frac{1}{2}\text{d}$, of which 10s is pledged from the rent on the bridge from the feast of St. Michael last past to the end of the six following years. And from Balde Wynesstrete [Baldwin Street] 3s rent is pledged. And 13s 4d yearly rent on the market is kept by John le Forestar' and he has kept it back for the past 10 years. And John Russel keeps back 8s a year and has kept it for the past 10 years. And Ralph de Bacon keeps 6d a year on Corn Street and John Russel has kept back 7s 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d a year on Grace Lane for the past 20 years. Item 1 chalice is pledged for half a mark in the hands of the almoner of Saint Augustine's, Bristol. The total of rent per year [is] $\text{£}12\ 9\text{s}\ 10\frac{1}{2}\text{d}$ of which 13s is pledged and 29s 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d is withheld. And $\text{£}10\ 7\text{s}\ 2\text{d}$ yearly is paid. And the said brothers and sisters [here one word illegible, probably meaning 'have'] yearly from the rent of assize, as appears in the register of the house, 10s in silver and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of pepper.

No. III. (In Latin).

To all sons of Holy Mother Church to whose notice the present letters shall have come John de Hulle, Master of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, Bristoll', and the brothers and sisters of the same place send eternal greeting in the Lord. Whereas Sir John la Warre, founder of our house aforesaid once gave to God, to our church of the Blessed Bartholomew at Bristoll' near Frome bridge, and to the brothers and sisters there serving God, the place in which the same house is founded with a garden, a certain piece of ground which Matilda, the widow of a goldsmith, held and eight shillings and four pence in rent with their appurtenances in Bristol, one croft at Clifton against the Jews' cemetery, half a farndel of land at Horefeld, half a farndel of land at Roubergh [Rowberrow, Somerset], and a messuage, one croft with a wood at Voxholes and at the hanger to the north as far as the road which goes to the water, and one virgate of land with their appurtenances at Brustlington,



PLATE VIII

facing p. 184

to hold in free and perpetual almoign of the same Sir John and his heirs, performing the regular services of the lord king when the time shall have come for doing it; on condition that whenever there is a vacancy in our house aforesaid, whoever has been elected by the brothers and sisters to be [‘our’ apparently deleted] Master shall be presented to the same Sir John and his heirs by the same brothers and sisters with their letters sealed with the common seal, so that through the presentation of the same John and his heirs he may be admitted by the Bishop of Worcester as Master. Also the same Sir John left to those brothers and sisters one hundred marks of silver that through the presentation of the same John and his heirs the brothers and sisters aforesaid may receive into the habit and profession of the aforesaid house and keep two chaplains perpetually celebrating for the souls of the same Sir John and his heirs. And the son and heir of the aforesaid Sir John, Sir Roger la Warre, our patron while he lived, lately gave to God, to the Blessed Mary and to the brothers and sisters of the Blessed Bartholomew at Bristoll’ two virgates of land with appurtenances in Wikewarre except the land called Sevenacres in the field of Normor and the meadow of Coltmede, to hold from the same Sir Roger and his heirs in free and perpetual almoign for receiving into our house and order through the presentation of him and his heirs and for keeping one chaplain celebrating for the souls of the same Sir Roger, his ancestors and heirs and of Sir Henry de la Mare, his ancestors and heirs for ever, as is more fully contained in the charters of the aforesaid John and Roger. Know that by our unanimous consent and free will we have granted for us and our successors for ever to our patron Sir John la Warre, son and heir of the aforesaid Sir Roger, our patron, that as often as it shall have happened that we or our house at Bristoll’ aforesaid shall be by whatever cause without a Master appointed in spiritualities by the aforesaid Bishop and in temporalities by the same Sir John or his heirs, we and our successors will immediately present to the same Sir John or his heirs whichever of our brothers we shall have chosen to be our Master, together with

the same election confirmed by our common seal, that he, elected by us, may be admitted by the aforesaid Sir John or his heirs to the custody of temporalities, and that through the presentation of the same Sir John or his heirs he may be admitted by our diocesan Bishop aforesaid to the care of spiritualities, and be confirmed as Master. We grant moreover by the aforesaid agreement that we and our successors will admit to our habit, profession and house aforesaid and keep for ever three chaplains whom the aforesaid Sir John, son of Sir Roger, or his heirs shall have thought fit to present to us or our successors to celebrate divine service for the souls of the same Sir John, his ancestors and heirs, one of whom however shall celebrate for ever both for the souls of the said Sir John, his ancestors and heirs, and for the souls of Sir Henry de la Mare, his ancestors and heirs. Which three chaplains shall first make an oath to the aforesaid Sir John or his heirs to do the aforesaid services lawfully. And after the death of any of the aforesaid chaplains, we and our successors are bound to receive into our habit, profession and house and keep another or others whom the same Sir John or his heirs shall have presented to us or our successors, to do the aforesaid services for ever. Also the same Sir John and his heirs shall be allowed, as often as it shall have been necessary, to oversee and examine the state of our house in temporalities in their own persons or by some man of theirs, when in future we and our successors will distinctly and openly explain the temporal business of our house aforesaid. We bind ourselves, our successors, lands and tenements aforesaid and all our goods to the distraint of the same Sir John and his heirs for ever for the performance of the premisses faithfully and without fraud. In witness of which thing our common seal¹ is appended to the present [writing]. Given at Bristoll' on Monday on the Morrow of the Epiphany of the Lord in the year of grace one thousand three hundred and twenty-four, [9 January 1324/5], but of the reign of Lord Edward the King, son of King Edward, the eighteenth.

¹ See illustration.

No. IV. (In Latin; attached by parchment thong to seal-tab of No. III).

To [that] noble man and their reverend Lord John la Warre his humble and devoted brothers and sisters of the hospital of Saint Bartholomew at Bristoll' [send] due reverence and honour. Since we have chosen Brother John del Hulle, one of our brethren, to be master of our house aforesaid, we humbly present the aforesaid Brother John to your reverend lordship, begging that you will deign to admit the same Brother John as our master, as far as in you lies. In witness of which our common seal¹ is appended to these presents. Given at Bristol on the 1st day of January in the year of our Lord 1325. [1325/6].

MARGARET HOLMES, M.A.

¹ A fair impression, but defective inscription.