

The following are interesting random extracts from original deeds which throw some light on characters and behaviour from medieval, Plantagenet and Tudor times:

**Corum Rege Roll 340, m 6 Rex. Easter, 19 Edward III, 1345 to 1347**

Leycester; Robert de Farnham of Quorndon was attached by his body to answer to Ellen, the daughter of Sir Thomas de Rous, chivaler, for robbery and the King's peace broken, whereof she appeals him.

And the pledges of the said Ellen for the prosecution are Walter, the son of John le Cok of Haydon in the county of Norfolk, and John de Dysseworth in the county of Leycester. And the reason wherefore the same Ellen appeals the aforesaid Robert of the said robbery and the King's peace broken, is that whereas the said Ellen was in the peace of God and of the now King on Monday next before the feast of St Peter in cathedra (February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1344), in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of the now King of England, in the township of Barewe in the county of Leycester, in a certain place called "Barewebrigg" on the bridge which extends over the water of Sore, at the third hour of the said day in the middle of the same bridge, there came the said Robert de Farnham feloniously, as a felon of the lord the King, assaulting and with assault premeditated against the peace of the lord the King, his Crown and Dignity, the day, year, hour, township, place and county aforesaid, and her the said Ellen, of 20s 3d sterling of the said Ellen's money found in her possession, feloniously did rob, and as soon as the aforesaid Robert had committed the said felony he fled; and the said Ellen recently pursued him from Vill to Vill until the said Robert is attached by the King's writ at the suit of the said Ellen; and if the said Robert wishes to gainsay the felony aforesaid, the said Ellen is ready to prove this against him as a felon of the lord the King, as the King's Court shall adjudge etc.

And the said Robert de Farnham denies all the felony, robbery, and whatsoever is against the lord the King's peace, his crown and dignity and he says he is in no wise guilty thereof, and for good or bad he puts himself on his country, and the said Ellen does likewise. Therefore let a Jury come before the lord the King on the Octaves of Holy Trinity wheresoever, etc.

And in the meantime the said Robert is committed to the prison of the Marshalsea.

*When the case was next heard, Elena le Rous did not appear in Court to support the charge, the case was adjourned again and Robert was sent back to prison. He either escaped or was let out on condition that he volunteered for the impending war with France. He fought at Crecy and during the siege of Calais in the retinue of Edward the Black Prince. He acquitted himself with such credit that the King, at the request of the Prince, gave him Letters of Pardon for any offences that he might have committed previously to his departure from England for the war. Armed with these Letters, Robert returned home and surrendered himself in Court, where several charges were waiting to be preferred against him. He was dismissed rather unwillingly by the Court on condition that he found sureties for his good behaviour in future and on his undertaking to come up again for trial if anyone pressed the former charges against him.*

**Gaol Delivery Roll, Leicester, 137, m. 14 d. 26 Edward III., A.D. 1352**

Before William de Skypewyth and John de Moubray, Justices for Gaol Delivery at Leycester, on Monday next after the feast of St Andrew the Apostle.

Goda the wife of William Godehusbonde of Querndon was taken with her handiwork, five sheep of the value of 5s at Querndon feloniously stolen, and for that, that she together with the said William her husband on Friday next after the feast of St Michael in the 26<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Edward III at Belton, feloniously stole 6 sheep of the value of 6s., of which she was indicted before the Sheriff in his turn.

Judgment: Not guilty, but the sheep are forfeited to the King.

**Coroner's Roll 59, Leicester. 4 Richard II., A.D. 1381**

Inquest taken at Querndon before Thomas de Queneby, one of the Coroners of the lord the King for county of Leycester, on Monday next after the feast of St Gregory in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Richard II, after the Conquest.

To view the body of Alan (Cosour's man of Derby) on the oaths of John de Gaddesby of Querndon, Thomas Hebbe, Richard Mason, Henry Mateny, John Walwyn, John Elyn, Robert Rouland, William le Wryght, John Grase, John de Waltham, Thomas Taillour and William de Bosworth.

Who say on oath that it chanced in the fields of Querndon under the Wood of Buddon on Saturday next after the feast of Saint Gregory in the year above mentioned, at the hour of Vespers, a certain Thomas Cosour of Derby and Alan his servant came riding on the Highway between the town of Loughteburgh and the village of Querndon, wishing to go as far as Leycester, and there met three men 'robbers' and they believed that the robbers were honest men, and one of the robbers said to Thomas Cosour, "Whither are you going this night?" And he replied, "To the Town of Leycester". "We also would like to ride together with you," they say to Master Thomas Cosour. One robber says he knows a better way if Thomas will come with them, and took the road leading from the High Road from Querndon to the Wood of Buddon.

And when they came to the gate of Buddon and were inside the Wood, one of the robbers said to another of the robbers, "Do what you know", and immediately he pulled out a knife and struck Alan the servant of the said Thomas Cosour, and the said Thomas Cosour saw the Deed, and by the grace of God he fled as far as the village of Querndon and raised the "Hue and Cry". And the robbers feloniously killed the said Alan the servant of the said Thomas and carried off three horses belonging to the said Thomas to the value of £10, and immediately after the said felony they fled.

And the said Alan did not have the rites of the Church.

Thomas Cosour his master first found him and raised the "Hue and Cry". And let the "Hue and Cry" be raised through the four nearest villages, namely Querndon, Barewe, Wodhouse and Thorp.

*NB: The feast of St Gregory was on March 12<sup>th</sup>, and the hour of Vespers was 4pm to 7pm. The road from the High Road would be the Beggarwell Lane (region of Wood Lane), and in those days apparently the wood extended much further towards Mountsorrel.*

**Coroner's Roll 61, m, 18, Leicester. 22 Richard II., A.D. 1398**

Inquest taken at Querndon on Thursday next before the feast of St Martin in the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the reign of King Richard II.

Before John Folvill, coroner of the county of Leycester, to view the body of John de Lancastre, of Querndon, and on the oaths of John Daddy, William Brown, John Bylby, Robert Ormeston, Richard Fysher, William....., John ate Yate, William Boseworth, Roger Prychet, Richard Doxy, Richard Freman, and Thomas le Eyr, jurors, who say on oath that it chanced at Querndon in a field in a certain place called "Flaggmere" on Friday before the feast aforesaid in the morning that the said John de Lancastre, was proceeding towards Dalby on the woulds in order to pay John Bele of the same place some money which he owed him, certain robbers unknown to them lay in wait to rob John de Lancastre, and him the said John they did there feloniously rob and struck the same John with his own sword (value 12d) on the body to the heart, of which blow the same John languished from the Friday until the Wednesday next following, on the morning of which day he died, and had the rites of the Church. And the jury say that robbers feloniously killed John de Lancastre and that these unknown robbers fled immediately after the felony and have no goods or chattels.

The coroner viewed the body and buried it. And the village of Querndon is answerable for the value of the sword.

**Corum Rege Roll 580, m.52. Easter, 7 Henry IV., A.D. 1406**

Leycester; William Wyloughby of Barkeby was attached to answer to John Herberd of Querndon in a plea wherefore he took, imprisoned and ill-treated the same John at Querndon with force and arms. And of which John Herberd, in his own person, complains that the said William on Monday next after the Feast of St Michael in the third year of the Reign of King Henry IV, with force and arms, to wit, swords, took and imprisoned him John Herberd at Querndon, held him for the day next following, ill-treated him and did other enormities, by which he says he has received damage to the amount of 100 marks. And thus he produces his suit.

And William comes by his attorney and says that it is not incumbent on him to reply to this Suit, because he says that the said John is his "Bondsman", and that he and all his ancestors and all those whose estate William now has in the said John and his ancestors, from a time when memory does not exist, were seised of the said John and his ancestors as their Bondmen; and because John did not permit him to do justice on him the said William took the same John and imprisoned him, as was lawful for him to do, and on this account he seeks judgment.

And the said John says that he ought not to be excluded by any allegation from his action, because he says he is a “Freeman” and of a Free Condition and not a “Bondman of the said William” as William alleges above; and he prays that enquiry be made concerning this by the Country. And the said William likewise. Therefore let a Jury come before the lord the King in the Octaves of Holy Trinity whersoever, etc.

The process having been continued between the parties until, before William Thirning and William Waldeby, Justices of Assize for the county of Leicester, there came both John Herberd in his own person and William Wylloughby by his attorney. And the Jury come, and having been chosen and sworn they say on oath that the said John Herberd is a “Freeman” and of a Free Condition in the form in which the said John hitherto alleged, and is not a “Bondman of the said William” as the said William alleged, and they award damages to the same John for the occasion of trespass to the amount of 10 marks.

Therefore it is adjudged that John recover his damages from William Wylloughby. Whereupon John remits the damages.

*George Farnham has no doubt that this suit was a **manumission**. An act whereby a master releases a bondman from servitude. High productivity, loyal service, or even buying their way out of service were all reasons for which slaves or serfs received their freedom under manumission.*

#### **Coroner’s Roll 61, m. 6 d., Leycester. A.D 1413**

Inquest taken at Querndon on Thursday next after the feast of St Valentine in the fourteenth year of the reign of King Henry IV., before John Folville, one of the Coroners of the lord the King for the county of Leycester to view the body of Robert Walker of Querndon by the four nearest villages, to wit, Querndon, Barowe, Wodehouse and Wodethorp, and on the oaths of John Bille of Barowe, John Colman, Thomas Harvy, John Wysowe, John Purse, Thomas Bulle, John Daddy, Richard Doxey, Robert Ormeston, William Boseworth, Thomas Herberd, John Lewyn, jurors, who say on oath that it chanced at Querndon on Tuesday in the feast of St Valentine the Martyr in the year above mentioned at one hour after Noon that as the said Robert Walker, miller of the lower Mill of Querndon, was oiling the wheel of the Mill called “Le Coggewhele” his sleeve got fastened among “Les Cogges” and he was suddenly involved in them by the said wheel, by which his body was so lacerated that he died without the rites of the Church.

And they say that the said wheel and a certain other wheel called “Le Watwhele” and “Le Trendelow”, of the value of 13s 4d killed him and were the cause of death of the said Robert Walker, and nothing else, whence the village of Querndon will answer.

#### **William Ellis of Quarndon. Will dated January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1531**

To John my son cattle, etc

My daughters Isbell, Jone and Agnes.

Also I will that a bushell of wheat and a bushell of malt be made in “bred and ale” and be spent amongst my neighbours in the Church at my burying.

The residue of my goods I give to Amyce my wife, whom I make my full executor of this my last Will, to pay my debts and discharge my bequests, with the discretion of Mr Robert Warneham (*sic*) (?Farnham), which I make my Overseer of my Will, and he to have for his paynes 2 capons.

**William Hebbe of Quarnedon. Will. A.D. 1542**

My body to be buried within ye Chapel of Saint Bartholomew for Quarnedon. To the mother Church of Lincoln 4d

To the Chappell of Quarnedon a quarter of malt.

To Wyllyam my son all my lands, also £6 13s 4d

To Richard my son £6 13s 4d. To Robart my son £6 13s 4d

To Annes my daughter £6 13d 4d. To Jesse my daughter £6 13s 4d

Thomas Hebbe to have a nagge.

Isabel my wife and Wyllyam my son to be my executors, and Mr Robert Farnham to be the Overseer of this my Will.

My goods to my executors to dispose of for the wealth of my soul as they shall think best. My Overseer to have 3s 4d for his pains.

Witnesses: Wyllyam Shevyn, curate, John Wartofte, John Hubbard, John Munke and Wyllyam Freman.

Inventory taken by Richard Chaveney of Quarnedon, Robert Purs of the same, Robert Stapuls and Robert Symson of the same, June 12<sup>th</sup> 1542

In the Hall

A folding Board, 2s; a form; an Ambree; 2s; a Hanging, 2 cushions and a little printed cloth, 22d; a Chair, a short form, 3 stools, 6d; a Lattyn bason, 5 candlesticks and a chafing dish, 2s

17 platters, 12 porringers, 10 small dishes, 5 sawcers of pewter, 12s; two dozen of trenchers, 2d; three salt cellars of tin, a pair of tongs and a fire shovel, a sword, a dagger and a buckler, 2s

In the Chamber

6 pair of flaxen sheets and 2 pair of hardyn sheets, 16s

2 dubletts, 2 pair of hose, a cap and a hatt, 20s

2 mattresses, 2 pillows, 2 coverletts, 1 blankitt and the bed hangings, 8s 4d

In the Parlor

A bedstead, a mattress, a blanket, 3 coverlets and the bed hanging, 6s 8d

A trendall bed, a coverlet, a blanket and a bolster, 20d  
5 Coffers, 5s; 5 bord cloths, 4 towels and 10 napkins, 6s 8d

#### In the Kitchen

5 brass pots and 5 Panes, 24s; a kettle, skimmer and ladle, 16d; three Spits, 2 pair of covers, 2 pots, etc 5s

Malt and peas, 53s 4d; 3 ladders, 2s; Wood in yard and Hovell, 20s 3 silver spoons, 6s 8d; a pair of chairs, 2d; 3 iron rakes, 18d; 3 harrows, 2 ploughs, 3s 4d; a Wain, 16s; 6 yokes, 2 teams, 4s 4d; 4 Oxen, £4; 8 Kyne, £4; 16 Beasts and 7 beasts, £13; 18 young beasts, £7 4s 0d; 10 yearlings, 40s; 4 Horses, 28s; 4 Mares, 18s; 8 and a half acres of Wheat at 4s an acre, 34s; 9 acres of barley at 3s an acre, 27s; 7 acres of Oats at 20d an acres, 12 8d; 10 acres of peas, 23s 4d.

The Sum Total of Goods in the Inventory: £53 4s 0d

*This Inventory is a good example of the belongings of a well-to-do yeoman of King Henry VIII's reign.*

#### **William Rafyn of Quarndon. Will. A. D 1556**

My body to be buried in the Churchyard at Quarndon.

To William Rafyn my son 2 bullocks and an iron-bound wain, (*A wain is a type of horse-drawn, load-carrying vehicle, used for agricultural purposes rather than transporting people, for example a haywain.*) A mare and an arke.

To George my son 6 sheep, a cow and a great Ark.

To Katherine my daughter a cow, 6 sheep and a bed. The same to each of my other two daughters.

I bequeath to the mending of the bridge within the Town of Quarndon 12d. To the mother Church of Lincoln 2d.

To the Church of Quarndon 4d to be prayed for.

The residue of my goods with the years of my house to Agnes my wife, whom I make my full executrix, she to dispose of them as she thinks best for my soul.

#### **Jane Staples. Will dated September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1558**

My soul to Almighty God and our blessed lady Saint Mary and all the company of heaven to pray for me, and my body to be buried in the Church of Querndon, and also I give to the Church of Querndon, for breaking the ground, 6s 8d

I bequeath to John Staples, son to Robert Staples my brother, my great pan; also I give to William Staples, son to the same Robert, a cow of 20s; also I give to Robert Staples, son of the aforesaid Robert, a brass pot, a great spit and 4 acres of meadow in Querndon Field.

Also I bequeath to my sister Margrete a cow to bring me to the ground, and furthermore I give and bequeath to Isabel Staples and Jone, my brother Robert Staples' daughters, whom I make my full executors, the residue of my goods unbequeathed.

And I will that my sister Margrete shall be one of the Overseers of them, and I give her for her labour 12d.

Witnesses: John Taylor, Thomas Samson, and Sir James Hynman, the curate of Querndon.

Debts owing me.

In primis, my brother Ellys Staples doth owe me 56s 8d in old gold, that I did take him to keep when the sickness was in our Town, and a pan that I lent him, which pan I give to my goddaughter Elizabeth Foxe.

**Barrow Court Rolls. Held on 8<sup>th</sup> May in the second year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, A.D 1560**

Querndon Ordinances – It was ordered at this Court that no one shall put hemp or flax in the stream called “Buddon Brooke” or in the stream called “Le Town Brooke” under penalty that each who offends shall forfeit to the lord (*Francis, Earl of Huntingdon*) for each offence 6d

And that no one shall keep any cattle within the Common of the “More” without a shepherd for flock of oxen under a penalty of 2s.

That no one shall tether a mare with a foal after the foal is of the age of one month unless the foal be tethered with its own mare, under a penalty of 2s

That every one within the town of Querndon upon reasonable notice given to them shall be prepared with a spade and his other necessary tools to make gates at the “Moregates” and to make ditches there under a penalty of 12d for a husbandman and 6d for a cottager.

William Symson and Thomas Corker, jurors, say on their oath that an intoxicated ram called “A sturdy Ram Hog” of a white colour, since the feast of Easter, also a sheep of a white colour were estrays in Querndon aforesaid, and being seized as estrays by the Officer deputed for this are used and treated as they ought to be according to law, and by the view and assent of the Bailiff of the lord the same sheep are placed in safe custody.