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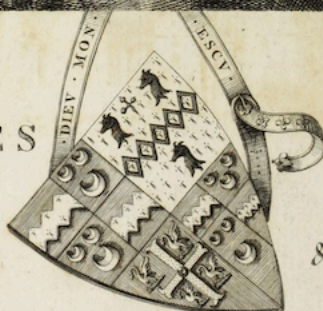
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IOHANNES

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M. D. OXON.

& R. S. S.



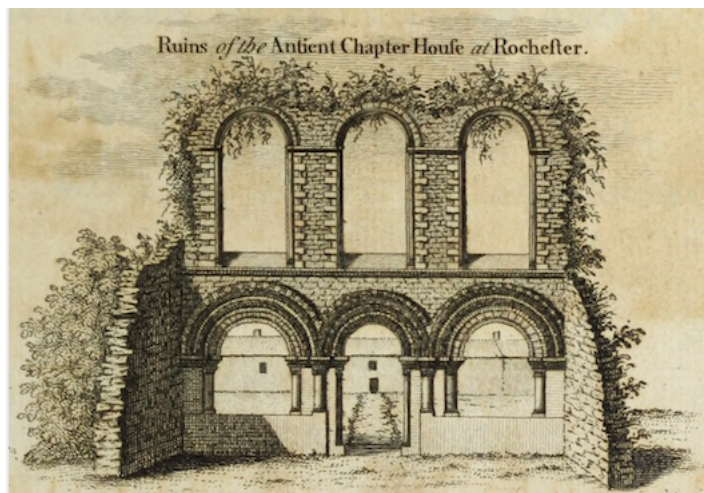
John Thorpe, Registrum Roffense (London, 1769).

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REGISTRUM ROFFENSE:
OR, A
COLLECTION
OF
ANTIEN RECORDS, CHARTERS, AND INSTRUMENTS OF
DIVERS KINDS,
NECESSARY FOR ILLUSTRATING
THE ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF THE
DIOCESE AND CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
ROCHESTER.

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE ORIGINALS
BY JOHN THORPE, LATE OF ROCHESTER, M.D. F.R.S.
AND PUBLISHED BY HIS SON JOHN THORPE, ESQ; A.M. F.S.A.

TOGETHER WITH
THE MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS IN THE SEVERAL CHURCHES
AND CHAPELS WITHIN THE DIOCESE.

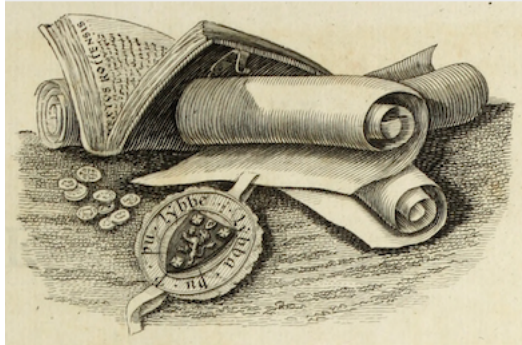


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MDCCLXIX.

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<III>



TO
SIR JOSEPH AYLOFFE, BARONET, F.R.S,
AND ONE OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS OF
THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES,
OF
LONDON:
IN TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP AND ESTEEM,
THIS WORK IS,
WITH ALL GRATITUDE AND RESPECT,
DEDICATED
BY
HIS MUCH OBLIGED,
AND MOST FAITHFUL,
HUMBLE SERVANT,

JOHN THORPE,

BEXLEY, APRIL 20th, MDCCLXIX.

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TO THE
READER.

THE family of Thorpe took its name from a village called Thorpe, near Chertsey in Surry, where it was originally seated in the reign of king Edward I. and had considerable possessions there, and in other parts of that county. In the 12th and 13th years of king Richard the Second, Johannes de Thorpe was returned to parliament as one of the knights of the shire for Surry /1; and before that time, two persons of the name of Thorpe were monks of Chertsey abbey, as appears by their wills still extant

in the prerogative office of the archbishop of Canterbury. Among the names of the gentlemen of Surry, as returned by the commissioners anno 12 Hen. VI. /2 we find Johannes Thorpe de Thorpe, armiger, together with John Bowet de Bokham Magna, armiger, whose family ended in an heiress, married to John Thorpe of Cudworth, in the parish of Newdigate, in that county /3, and of Gibbsaven, in the parish of Worth, in the adjacent county of Sussex /4; where, as well as at Horn and Ifield, he had large Possessions. The male line of this branch of the family becoming likewise extinct, the before mentioned estates vested in an heiress, Ann Thorpe, who carried the same with her in marriage to William Saxby of Lingfield, in the county of Surry, esquire.

From another branch of the Thorpes of Chertsey descended Edward Thorpe of Rolvynden, in the county of Kent, who dying in the year 1493, was succeeded in his estate by his son Bartholomew Thorpe of Lamberhurst, in the same county. He dying in the year 1545, was succeeded in his estate by his son Thomas Thorpe; who left issue three sons, William, Richard, and Bartholomew Thorpe. William, the eldest son, greatly increased his estate by marrying Ann, the widow of William Listeny, of Westerham in Kent, at which place he seated himself, and died in the year 1615, leaving Thomas Thorpe his eldest son and heir.

/1 Prynne's Register of Parliamentary Writs. /2 Fuller's Worthies in Surry.

/3 The arms of Bowet were, Sable, three bucks heads cabosed argent. /4 Philpot's Visitations of Surry and Sussex in Coll. Armorum. MS.

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John Thorpe, the eldest son of this Thomas, married Anne, youngest daughter and coheir of John Luck of Mayfield, in the county of Sussex, batchelor in divinity /5, by Susan his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Middleton, knight, lord mayor of London; and left issue

John, his eldest son and heir, who married Anne, sister and coheir of Oliver Combridge of Newhouse, otherwise Harts, in the parish of Penshurst in Kent. She brought with her in marriage a very considerable landed estate in Penshurst, Speldhurst, Tunbridge, Chiddingstone /6, &c.

Doctor John Thorpe, the compiler of the following work, was the eldest son of the last named John Thorpe by Ann his wife. He was born at Newhouse on Sunday the 12th of March, 1681-2, and was educated at the grammar school of Westerham in Kent /7, under the care of the then master, the learned and pious Thomas Maningham, afterwards bishop of Chichester, who married one of the daughters of Mr. Ireland, who had succeeded as master of that school Mr. Hoadley, father of the late bishop of Winchester.

On the 14th of April 1698, he was matriculated as a commoner of University College in Oxford, under the tuition of Mr. John Boraston, fellow of that college; who being soon after obliged to residence, either at his curacy of Penshurst or on his rectory of Addington, he was

committed to the care and instruction of Mr. (afterwards doctor) Thomas Cockman, then one of the fellows, and afterwards master of the said college.

In Michaelmas term 1701, he took the degree of batchelor of arts, and that of master on the 27th of June 1704.

On the 16th of May 1707, he was admitted batchelor of physick, and in July 1710 took the degree of doctor.

On saint Andrew's day 1705, he was elected and admitted a fellow of the royal society, which at that time consisted of but few members in comparison with the present number.

Soon after this he fixed his residence in Ormond-street, London, near his friend Dr. Mead; and for several years assisted Dr. Sloane, then secretary of the royal society, afterwards Sir Hans Sloane, president of the same society, in publishing the Philosophical Transactions.

During his continuance in London he contracted an intimate acquaintance with the most eminent physicians, naturalists, and antiquaries of that time. At the pressing and repeated solicitations of

/5 It appears by a visitation of the county of Sussex in the year 1634, that the family of Luck was seated at Mayfield, and had a very large estate there in the beginning of the reign of king Henry VII. They bore for their arms, Ermine, five mascles in fesse, conjoined between three greyhounds heads erased sable.

/6 This family in the reign of Henry III. wrote themselves de Cumberugge, and de Comeregge. They bore for their arms now extant on coloured glass in the church of Penshurst, Gules, a cross moline Or, between four swans with their wings expanded argent, membered and beaked Or, each standing on a turf vert.

/7 This school was at that time in great reputation, it was situate about a quarter of a mile out of the town, but has since been pulled down.

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many of his relations and friends he, in the year 1715, quitted London and settled at Rochester for the practice of his profession; where, at his leisure hours, he applied himself to his favourite study, the History and Antiquities of his native county, and more particularly those relating to the Ecclesiastical Affairs of the Diocese of Rochester. In this pursuit he employed several amanuenses to copy and transcribe from the registers and antient deeds and muniments of that see and church, and from other public and private repositories of antient learning, whatever appeared pertinent to his purpose. His labour was also indefatigable in taking the sepulchral inscriptions and Coat armour on monuments and painted glass within several miles of Rochester (with a copy of which he obliged that great collector of antiquities his friend the earl of Oxford) in searching and tracing out the scite and ruins or remains of churches, chapels, chantries, cells, hermitages, hospitals, &c. many of which now lie hid in the midst of woods, over-run with bushes and brambles, and known to very few persons. Having been chosen into several places of trust, and particularly into that of one of the assistants of Rochester bridge, of which he was elected one of the wardens for the year 1733, he set himself to search out and make as complete a collection or materials as he pos-

sibly could, not only from antient historians, but from patents, statutes, grants, inquisitions, commissions, and other authentic evidences, for illustrating and ascertaining the history and antiquities of that ancient and well constituted incorporated body. He endeavoured to shew that Rochester was the Durobrovis of the Romans; that Durolenum was most probably at or near Newenton; the Vagniacae at Swanscampe, near the head of the Fleet, which divides that parish from Northfleet; Noviomagum at Crayford; and that the emperor Claudius passed the Thames out of Kent into Essex from Higham to East Tilbury, the same continuing the most frequented place of passage between those two counties till after the dissolution of Higham abbey; that there was a passage over the river Medway at Rochester, in the time of the Romans; that the first bridge was there built about an hundred years before the Norman conquest by king Edgar, Dunstan archbishop of Canterbury, the bishop of Rochester, and other considerable owners of lands in that part of the county, who settled large estates (commonly called the Contributory Lands) for the perpetual maintenance of the several parts, or portions that they had built, which were constantly assessed to the support of those parts as long as that bridge continued, and which are now by parliament made subject to taxations, applicable to the repairs of the present bridge, whenever the estates, since given to the support of it (commonly called the Lands Proper) shall prove insufficient for such purpose. He likewise drew up an account of the building the present bridge by Sir Robert Knolls and John lord Cobham, in the reign of king Richard II. and of the benefactions given to it, adding thereunto a great number of original grants, confirmations, licences

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of mortmain, inquisitions, surveys, decrees, orders, and other authentic instruments and evidences relating to it, and to the chantery there founded by the said lord Cobham; together with a series of the wardens to the year 1575, and of the wardens and assistants from that to the present time, most of whom were the principal noblemen and gentlemen, owners of contributory lands in that part of the county. By his enquiries, industry, and labour, that corporation hath been brought into a much more regular and laudable way of acting than formerly; and as he was very instrumental in redressing the many abuses and irregularities that had inadvertently and insensibly crept into the management of the affairs of that corporation, so he strenuously opposed the corrupt practice of making a private advantage of a public charity: it having been his chief design, in whatever he was concerned, to make himself master as well of the antient as present state of the business, well knowing that the surest way of attaining a true knowledge of any thing is by tracing it up to and seeing its original institution, and to execute the trust reposed in him with justice equal to his judgment. He was very communicative, and always ready to assist and contribute any thing in his power toward the studies and labours of others; as hath been acknowledged by many of the most learned antiquaries who

were his cotemporaries, particularly by Mr. Thomas Hearne the Oxford antiquary, Brown Willis, esq; and the reverend Mr. Johnson, editor of the Ecclesiastical Canons. He practised his profession in the city of Rochester and county of Kent thirty-five years, thinking it as much his duty to relieve out of charity the poor and necessitous in their afflictions as those of affluent circumstances for a reward. He was void of pride, vanity, luxury, and ambition; having a desire of being a good man rather than to be thought a great one: in a word, he was remarked as a man free from all vices of self-interest, an enemy to fraud and deceit, and for having the strictest regard to truth, justice, and the public good in all his actions. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Woodhouse of Shobdon, in the county of Hereford, second son of Francis Woodhouse of Ledicot, in that parish, who was second son of John Woodhouse of the Woodhouse, esq; in the parish of Byton, in that county, the antient seat of the family, where they had lived time out of mind, as appears by very antient deeds and writings, some of which are without date, and are supposed to be older than reign of king Edward I. They antiently wrote themselves de Bosco, afterward de Wode, then de Wodehous, and afterwards Wodehouse de Wodehouse, and at present Woodhouse of the Woodhouse. Their arms are, Sable, on a chevron Or five billets gules, between three cinquefoils pierced ermine. By Elizabeth his said wife he had one son, the editor of this work.

The works which he published in his life time are:

I. A letter in the Philosophical Transactions to Sir Hans Sloane, concerning worms in the heads of sheep, &c. dated July 24, 1704.

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II. <OURESIPHOITES> Helveticus, sive Itinera Alpina tria; from the M.S. of Scheuchzer, a celebrated German naturalist with whom he corresponded.

III. A list of lands contributory to Rochester bridge; one sheet fol.

IV. A collection of statutes concerning Rochester bridge.

V. Articles of the high court of Chancery for settling and governing Sir Joseph Williamson's mathematical school at Rochester.

At length, being worn out with the fatigues of his profession, and having contracted a cold in one of his journies, it brought on a severe and fixed rheumatism, that terminated in an atrophy, which he bore with admirable patience and resignation to the divine will. He departed this life on St. Andrew's day 1750, within the precincts of the cathedral church at Rochester; and lies interred in a chapel on the <Noth side of the church of Stockbury in Kent, which belonged to an house and lands in that parish, called Nettledsted, which he some years before had purchased; and was for several generations the mansion of the family of Plott, ancestors of that eminent naturalist Dr. Robert Plott.

On adjoining grave stones in the said chancel are the following in-

scriptions.

H. S. E.
JOHANNES THORPE,
Med. Doct. OXON. et Reg. Soc. LOND. Sod.
JOHANNIS THORPE de PENSHURST Filius,
JOHANNIS THORPE de WESTERHAM Nepos.
Natus XII. Mart. MDCLXXXI.
Obijt XXX. Nov. MDCCL.
Parenti indulgentissimo
Posuit,
JOHANNES THORPE, A. M. OXON.
Filius unicus et Haeres.

Here lieth intombed
The body of
MRS. ELIZABETH THORPE,
Wife of JOHN THORPE, of
The city of ROCHESTER,
Med. Doct. OXON. & Reg. Soc. LOND. Sod.
Daughter of JOHN WOODHOUSE of
SHOBDON, second son of FRANCIS
WOODHOUSE of the same place,
Second son of JOHN WOODHOUSE of
The WOODHOUSE (their ancient seat

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That gave name to the family) in
The parish of BYTON, in the
County of HEREFORD.
She died Oct. 26, 1745. leaving issue
JOHN THORPE, A. M.
Her only son.
Blessed are the dead who die
In the LORD.

Above on an atchievement painted on board are these arms, viz. Quar-
terly, 1st, Azure, a fesse dancette ermine. 2d, Three crescents ar-
gent. 3d, as the 2d. 4th, as the 1st, impaling Woodhouse, with a
crescent on a crescent for a difference. Crest, On a chapeau azure,
lined ermine, an hart sable, unguled and attired Or. Motto, DIEV
MON ESCV.

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OF
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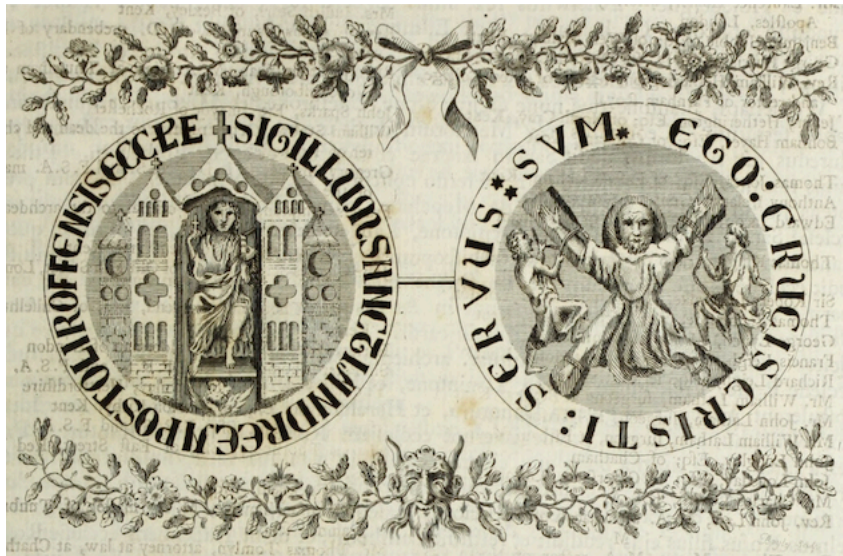
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REGISTRUM ROFFENSE.

Notulae quaedam Historicae de Fundatione et Dotatione Ecclesiae Roffensis.

ANNO ab incarnatione Domini sexcentesimo, predicante beato Augustino Anglorum apostolo, Ethelbertus rex Kancie fidem Christi suscipiens, ecclesiam Kantuar. in honorem Christi, monasterium quod nunc dicitur Sancti Augustini in honorem beati Petri apostoli, et ecclesiam Roffe in honorem Sancti Andree fundavit. In hac ecclesia Roff. sanctus Justus episcopus sedit primus, et presbiteros ad servandum Deo in ea ordinavit, ad quorum victum presbiterorum, rex Ethelbertus unam porcionem terre dedit, quam vocavit Prestefelde, eo quod presbiteri Deo servientes jure perpetuo eam possiderent. Addidit etiam ecclesiam dotare cum Doddyngherne et cum terra que est a Medewaye usque ad orientalem portam civitatis Roffe, in australi parte, et aliis terris extra murum civitatis versus partem aquilonalem. Processu vero temporum Adelbertus rex occidentalium Saxonum dedit ecclesie Beati Andree et Wermundo episcopo unam partem terre in Roffa. Adelwolfus rex australium Anglorum dedit Sancto Andree et Chelmundo episcopo, unam partem terre in Roffa. Anno Domini septingentesimo Eadbertus rex Kanc. dedit ecclesie Roffe Stokes. Anno Domini DCC.LXIII. Offa rex Merciorum et Sigeredus rex Kanc. dederunt ecclesie Sancti andree Apostoli et Wermundo episcopo Frensesberiam, Eslyngham, et Wicham. Idem rex Offa et Egbertus rex Kanc. dederunt Bromheye. Idem rex Offa dedit ecclesie et Wermundo episcopo, Trottesclyve. Kenwolfus rex Merciorum dedit ecclesie et Bernodo episcopo Borstalle. Anno ab incarnatione Domini DCCC.XXXVIII. Egbertus rex Westsaxonum et Kantuarior. dedit ecclesie Sancti Andree & Dioranno episcopo Hallynge,

et magnas libertates. Idem Egbertus rex dedit ecclesie et Beormodo episcopo Snodelonde et Holeberghe. Ethelwlfus rex, filius Egberti regis, dedit Sancto Andree et Swyndulfo episcopo, Cuckelstane. Rex Edmundus Irenside dedit Sancto Andree et Burrico episcopo, Mallyngge. Eadgarus rex Anglorum dedit Sancto Andree et Ethelstano

episcopo, Bromleghe. Ethelredus rex Anglorum dedit Sancto Andree et Godwyno episcopo, Woldeham, Stantone que nunc dicitur Stone, Litelbroke, et Hiltone, et quindecim mansas terrarum. Ceonwlfus rex Merciorum dedit unam partem terre in Bromheye. Aluredus rex Anglorum dedit Sancto Andree et Burrico episcopo, Frekeham. Ethelstanus rex dedit Sancto Andree et Kyneferdo episcopo, incudem monete. Quidam prepotens homo nomine Brithrichus de Mepeham, cum uxore sua Elfswicha, dederunt ecclesie Sancti Andree, Suthflete, Denintone, Langefelde, Falkeham, et Derente, quod manerium quomodo postea ad archiepiscopum pervenerit ignoratur. Goda comitissa dedit ecclesie Roffe manerium de Lamhethe cum ecclesia. Hec omnia predicta data fuerunt ante adventum Normannorum in Angliam, in codicellis; at post adventum Normannorum, facte sunt donaciones in cartis. Rex Willelmus et dux Normannie qui dicitur conquestor, Lanfranco Kantuar. archiepiscopo procurante, reddidit et restituit ecclesie Roffe, Frekenham, Stoke, Denintone, et Falkeham, et omnes alias terras quas abstulerant principes in gwerra Danorum, et Haraldus postea detinuit occupatas. Idem rex Willelmus et filii ejus privilegiaverunt ecclesiam Roffensem sicut et Kantuar. Preterea inter cetera magna bona que eidem ecclesie in vita sua fecit, imminente articulo mortis sue, centum libras ei dedit, et tunicam propriam, et cornu eburneum, et alia plura ornamenta. Tempore istius regis porciones episcopi et capituli separate fuerunt; Willelmus Rusus filius ejus reddidit et restituit Lamhethe, et dedit Hadenham ecclesie Roffe. Nobilissimus rex Henricus primus multa bona contulit, scilicet ecclesias de Boxele, de Kynggesdoune, et ecclesias de Chiselherst, et de Wolewich, et decimas de Strodes et de Chalkes, et alia multa. Dedit enim multas libertates ecclesie Roffe et incudem monete. Gilbertus comes Gloucestrie dedit ecclesiam de Ritherfelde. Hugo de Newenham dedit ecclesiam de Nortone. Willelmus de Albeneio dedit terram de Elham. Odo Baiocens. episcopus dedit terram in vinea Roffe. Sanctus Anselmus archiepiscopus Kantuar. dedit ecclesie Roffe ecclesiam de Northflete. Rogerus Bigod comes Suthfolchie dedit Waletone. Johannes rex dedit Gilberto episcopo et successoribus suis quinque acras bosci cum una area ad habitandum, et cum tenentibus in Osprenge, et unam partem bosci apud Herbaaldoune prope furcas archiepiscopi. Idem Johannes dedit et reddidit ecclesie Kantuar. patronatum ecclesie Roffens. Henricus rex filius Johannis dedit ecclesie Sancti Andree ecclesiam de Hertlepe. Henricus rex primus dedit ecclesias de Suttone, cum capellis de Kyngesdonne et Wylmintone, de Derteford et Aylesford. Willelmus rex secundus reddidit Lamhetham, et dedit Eastunam et terram elemosinariam ubi (1) Hospithale est in Strodes. Gaufridus Talebot dedit parvam Wroteham. Hugo de Neweham dedit terram ubi <pristinum est. Gilbertus comes Gloucestrie filius Ricardi, et Otinus, dederunt Bullocesfelde. Item Gilbertus dedit terram quam tenet Robertus de Watenilla et terram de Burne in Tunebregge, cum prati et piscariis et ceteris. Anselmus archiepiscopus dedit terram de Northwode in villa de Hese. Willelmus filius Hamonis, et Sybilla uxor ejus, et Hamo filius et heres ejus, et Wandregisilus frater ejus, dederunt ecclesiam de Sturemuthe. Willelmus comes de Warennia dedit Grimescroft in Suthwerche. Willelmus filius Adam de Hallynges dedit duas acras prati, et duas terrulas in Hallynges, quarum una vocatur Hanesdene et altera Ordricchesland. Walterus episcopus dedit terram que pertinet ad mandatum pauperum in Borstalle. Hamo de Yselham dedit dimidiam marcam redditus in Yselham. Edmundus comes Cornubie dedit advocacionem ecclesie Sancte Beriane in Cornubia episcopo Waltero de Mertone, quam quia non erat consecutus in compensationem illius, dedit advocacionem ecclesiarum de Broundish, Mixeberi, et Henle. Idem Walterus lucratus est terram de Cressy in banco, set postea episcopus Thomas de Woldeham implacitatus est in ea in itineracione Johannis de Berewich et conquisivit. Idem Thomas conquisivit per placitum, terram de Mortemer apud Frekeham, et jus patronatus ecclesie de Nortone recuperavit. Laurencius episcopus emit advocacionem ecclesie de Yselham et redditum in Derteforde.

(1) Sic.

Carte libertatum et warrenie et aliarum terrarum per diversos episcopos adquisitarum, et placita itineracionum, et omnia alia memoranda, evidencie, et scripture de statu Roffen. ecclesie, necnon et omnia alia suprascripta, patent per infrascripta in hoc registro ac in registris capituli. Notandum quod licet superius scribatur quod tempore regis Wilhelmi primi facta fuerit separacio bonorum ecclesie, non fuit tamen huiusmodi separacio ratificata et confirmata per regem, usque ad tempora novissima regis Henrici primi. Deficient siquidem multe scripture codicellorum & cartarum vetustate consumpte, alie per negligenciam, malam custodiam, et combustionem tempore gwerre, sublatae. Nam nunquam fuit locus certus nec securus deputatus ad repondenda munimenta, set quando in ecclesia cathedrali, vel in manerio de Hallynges, erant derelicta; et ideo si hoc register sit insufficiens, non imputetur compilantibus peccatum. -- E Registro Temporal. Ep. Roff.