

THREE LAND-CHARTERS OF MONKS
RISBOROUGH.

BY G. HERBERT FOWLER.

By the generosity of Mr. Robert Steele, the Society's Museum has received two deeds and the photograph of a third, which are of considerable local interest. Though the first of these belongs to the middle of the 13th century, and the last is dated 1461, they deal with the same property, so that, to the student of such instruments, the variations in the spelling of place names and in the phraseology of the charters themselves are very instructive. They name roads and other landmarks which are not to be found on the Ordnance Survey, but might be recovered by local study of Award and estate maps. To one who has no knowledge of the district it seems that the land lay in Askett (Ascote), close to the Kimble boundary; and it is remarkable that the name of Akeman Street seems clearly to be applied to one or other of the two roads usually now called the Upper and Lower Ieknield Ways, both of which open into what is to-day called Akeman Street between Aylesbury and Tring. All the recognisable place-names are in the immediate neighbourhood of Risborough—The Lyde (Bledlow), Owlswick, Meadle, Kimble, Hampden, Calverton, Askett, Upton (by Dinton), and Marsh.

No. 1.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego James de Vlueswike filius Walteri de Vlueswike dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmaui Johanni presbitero de Riseberge pro fidelitate sua duas acras et dimidiam et unam perticam terre mee lucrabilis in villa de Riseberg' Quarum una acra iacet sub uia que uocatur Akemanestrete et extendit se usque ad fontem qui uocatur Hathewise welle et iacet inter uiridem uiam que uadit de Akemanestrete usque ad Hathewise welle et terram que fuit Roberti caretarii de Medhulle. Et altera acra iacet uersus le Horestone

inter terram que fuit Ricardi de la Lithe et Akemane-
 strete et extendit se uersus orientem super campum
 de Kinebelle uersus occidentem super terram Thome de
 Medhulle et super [terram] Roberti filii Alexandri de
 Medhulle Et una dimidia acra et una pertica iacent
 super Pebbewrthe Unde dimidia acra iacet inter
 terram que fuit Nicholai Euing de Medhulle et inter
 terram que fuit Warini de Astcote et extendit se de
 bosco qui uocatur Inwde usque ad uiam que uocatur
 Bissopespad Et una pertica extendit se a dicta uia
 usque ad uiam que uocatur Kulendene Tenenda et
 habenda de me et heredibus meis sibi et heredibus suis
 vel cuicumque dictam terram dare vendere legare uel
 assignare uoluerit libere et quiete bene et in pace iure
 hereditario reddendo inde annuatim michi et heredi-
 bus meis ipse et heredes sui uel cui illam terram
 dederit uendiderit uel assignauerit siue legauerit tres
 denarios in die sancti Michaelis pro omni seruicio
 auxilio et exactione ad me uel ad heredes meos pertin-
 ente Pro hac autem donacione concessione et huius
 carte mee confirmacione dedit michi predictus Johannes
 presbiter viginti et quatuor solidos sterlingorum in
 gersummam Et ego predictus James de Vlueswike et
 heredes mei predictas duas acras et dimidiam et unam
 perticam terre prefato Johanni presbitero contra omnes
 homines et feminas Judeos et Cristianos et contra
 omnes dotes et maritagium warantizabimus Et ut hec
 mea donacio concessio et warantizacio et huius carte
 mee confirmacio rata et stabilis permaneat in per-
 petuum eas sigilli mei appositione corroborauimus Hiis
 testibus Alexandro de Hamedene tunc vicecomiti Buk'
 Willelmo de Bello Campo Oseberto de Santerdune
 militibus Roberto filio Nigelli Stephano de Culuer-
 tune Petro de Hammes Johanne Bredel Bartholomeo de
 Ponde Henrico de Risebergh' Matheo clerico et aliis.

(Full translation.)

“Let present and future men know that I, James of
 Owlswick, son of Walter of Owlswick, have given
 granted and by this my present charter confirmed to
 John Priest of Risborough for his fealty two and a half
 acres and one perch of my arable land in the vill of
 Risborough; whereof one acre lies below the road called

Akeman Street and extends to the spring called Hawaise Well, and lies between the green lane which goes from Akeman Street to Hawaise Well and the land which belonged to Robert carpenter of Meadle. And the second acre lies towards the Hore Stone, between the land which belonged to Richard of the Lithe and Akeman Street, and reaches on the east to Kimble, on the west to the land of Thomas of Meadle and of Robert son of Alexander of Meadle. And the half acre and the perch lie over Pebworth; the half acre between the lands of Nicholas Euing and of Warin of Askett, and it reaches from the wood called Inwood to the road called Bishops path; and the perch reaches from that road to the road called Kulenden. To have and to hold from me and my heirs to him and his heirs, or to whomsoever he may give sell bequeath or assign the land, freely and quietly, rightly and peaceably, by hereditary right; at a rent, to me and my heirs from him and his heirs, or from him to whom he may have given sold assigned or bequeathed it, of three pence on Michaelmas Day for all service aid or exaction due to me or my heirs. And for this grant and concession and the confirmation of this my charter the said John priest has given to me 24s. sterling as handsel. And I, the said James of Owlswick, and my heirs will warrant the said two and a half acres and one perch to the said John priest against all men and women, Jew and Christian, and against all dower and marriage portion. And in order that this my grant concession and warranty and the confirmation of this my charter may remain firm and stable for ever, I have strengthened them by the application of my seal. These being witnesses:—Alexander of Hampden then Sheriff of Bucks, William de Beauchamp, Osbert of Saunderton, Knights. Robert son of Nigel, Stephen of Culverton, Peter of Hammes, John Bredel, Bartholemew of the Pond, Henry of Risborough, and others.”

The Shrievalties of Alexander de Hampden ran from 1249 to 1252, and from 1259 to 1264; the charter falls somewhere within this period.

No. 2.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Hugo clericus filius et heres quondam Johannis le Carpenter de Ryseberg' monachorum dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmaui Dulcie sorori mee totum mesuagium meum in Ascote cum edificiis et incluso pertinente et cum noua fabrica sibi anexa cum omnibus suis pertinenciis et aisiamentis que de domino Priore ecclesie Cristi Cantuar' in feodo et hereditate tenui. Dedi insuper concessi et presenti carta mea confirmaui predicte Dulcie duas acras et dimidiam et unam perticam terre arrabilis iacentes in campo predicte ville de Ryseberg' cum suis pertinenciis et libertatibus quas tenui de feodo domini Archiepiscopi Cantuar' Quarum una acra iacet sub via que vocatur Akemanstret et extendit se usque ad fontem qui vocatur Hawyse Welle Et altera acra versus le Hore stone inter terram que fuit quondam Richardi de la Lythe et Akemanstret Et una dimidia acra et una pertica iacent super Pebeworthe unde dimidia acra iacet inter terram que fuit Nicholai Euyng de Medhulle et terram que fuit quondam Warini de Ascote Et una pertica iacet super idem Pebeworthe et extendit se de via que vocatur Bisschopespas usque ad viam que vocatur Kelenden

Habendum et tenendum omnia predicta tenementa cum suis pertinenciis et libertatibus infra villam de Riseberg' predictam et extra predicte Dulcie et heredibus de corpore sui legitime procreatis de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per seruicia inde debita et de iure consueta libere quiete bene et in pace Et ego predictus Hugo et heredes mei predictum mesuagium et predictam terram cum omnibus eorum pertinenciis ut predictum est predicte Dulcie et heredibus de corpore suo legitime procreatis contra omnes gentes warrantizabimus in perpetuum In cuius rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigellum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Domino Waltero de Upton' milite Roberto de Mersche Willelmo Queynterel Henrico de la Ponde Willelmo de Fardon Henrico Mason Henrico Ytie et aliis Datum apud Riseberg' monachorum die sancti Martini episcopi Anno regni Regis Edwardi filii Regis Henrici decimo nono finiente.

(Abstract.)

Hugh clerk, son and heir of the late John Carpenter of Monks' Risborough, grants to his sister Dulcie all his messuage in Askett, with its buildings and close and a new workshop attached to it, which he holds of the lord Prior of Christ Church Canterbury in fee and heredity. He further grants to her by this charter $2\frac{1}{2}$ ac. 1 per. [set out nearly as in the previous charter], to the use of her and her heirs lawfully born of her. [Sealing clause.] Witnesses:—Sir Walter of Upton, knight. Robert of Marsh, William Queynterel, Henry of the Pond, William of Fardon, Henry mason, Henry Ytie, and others. Dated at Monks' Risborough, 11 November 1291.

No. 3.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Robertus Sloo de Ascote in parochia de Rysborgh' monacorum in comitatu Buk' filius et heres Nicholai Sloo defuncti dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmaui Johanni Goodman et Willelmo Alkoner unum mesuagium cum gardino adiacente cum suis pertinenciis situatum in Ascote predicto inter cotagium Thome Eyre ex parte australi et viam regiam ducentem usque Aylesbury ex partibus boreali et orientali cum tribus acris et una roda terre arabilis eidem mesuagio pertinentibus Unde una acra iacet iuxta unam viam vocatam Grenstrete et unum capud abuttat super Akemanstrete et aliud capud abuttat super viam vocatam Hawespatth Et alia acra iacet versus Horestone inter terram Nicholai Wendover ex una parte et dictam viam vocatam Akemanstrete ex altera parte et abuttat super unum campum vocatum Kymbelfelde Et alia acra terre iacet super Pebworth iuxta unum boscum vocatum le Inwode et unum capud abuttat super viam vocatam Bysshoppspatth et aliud capud abuttat super viam vocatam Kulendenne

Et predicta roda terre iacet super Pebworth predictum et extendit a dicta via vocata Bysshoppspatth usque dictam viam vocatam Kulendenne Habendum et tenendum predictum mesuagium cum gardino adiacente et cum predictis tribus acris et una roda terre arabilis cum suis pertinenciis prefatis Johanni Good-

man et Willelmo Alkoner heredibus et assignatis suis imperpetuum de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per seruicium inde debitum et de iure consuetum. Et ego vero prefatus Robertus Sloo et heredes mei predictum mesuagium et gardinum necnon predictas tres acras et una[m] roda[m] terre arabilis cum suis pertinenciis prefatis Johanni Goodman et Willelmo Alkoner heredibus et assignatis suis contra omnes gentes warantizabimus et defendemus imperpetuum. In cuius rei testimonium huic presenti carte mee sigillum meum apposui

Hiis testibus Willelmo Tayloure Willelmo Syrott Thoma Edmond' et aliis. Data apud Ascote predictam septimo die mensis Augusti Anno regni Regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum primo

(Abstract.)

Robert Sloo of Askett in Monks' Risborough, son and heir of Nicholas Sloo deceased, grants to John Goodman and William Alkoner a messuage and garden in Askett, between the cottage of Thomas Eyre on the south, and the King's highway to Aylesbury on the north and east, with three acres and a rood of arable land thereto appurtenant [these, though set out somewhat differently, appear to be the same lands as in the earlier charters, except that the original half acre is now an acre, and the perch is now described as a rood.] Warranty clause and sealing clause. Witnesses:— William Tayloure, William Syrott, Thomas Edmond, and others. Given at Askett, 7 August, 1461.