



THE SOCIETY OF
THE FRIENDS OF ST. GEORGE'S
WITH WHICH IS AMALGAMATED
THE ASSOCIATION OF
THE DESCENDANTS OF
THE KNIGHTS OF THE GARTER

REPORT
to 31st December, 1941

Price - Sixpence, post free

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THE DEAN'S LETTER

THE DEANERY,
WINDSOR CASTLE.

February 1942.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

WE can only, of course, send you a very short Report, and we are leaving out the Statement about the Objects of the Society and Forms of Application for Membership and Bankers Orders, which can be found in previous Reports. If you can, as I hope you will, secure new members, the Secretary of the Friends and Descendants, St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, will send the necessary forms.

We are printing a short note by Canon Ollard on Dr. John Oxenbridge, whose Chantry Chapel we have undertaken to restore when the time comes, and also some notes on the other Chantries, with an abbreviated copy of the Indenture founding the Chantry of Anne, Duchess of Exeter, in the Rutland Chapel as illustrating such Foundations. We think it useful in these Reports to build up gradually our knowledge about the history of the Chapel.

We cannot expect many members to visit Windsor during the war, nor to attend an Annual Meeting; but we are asking the Committee to meet in the evening of 22nd April at 6 p.m., and should be glad to see any other members who care to come then. On St. George's Day itself we have the usual Mattins and Evensong and a Celebration at 8 a.m. And we are inviting the elder children from the schools in Windsor to come in the afternoon, and Scouts and Guides and members of the Youth Clubs in the evening to hear talks on the Chapel.

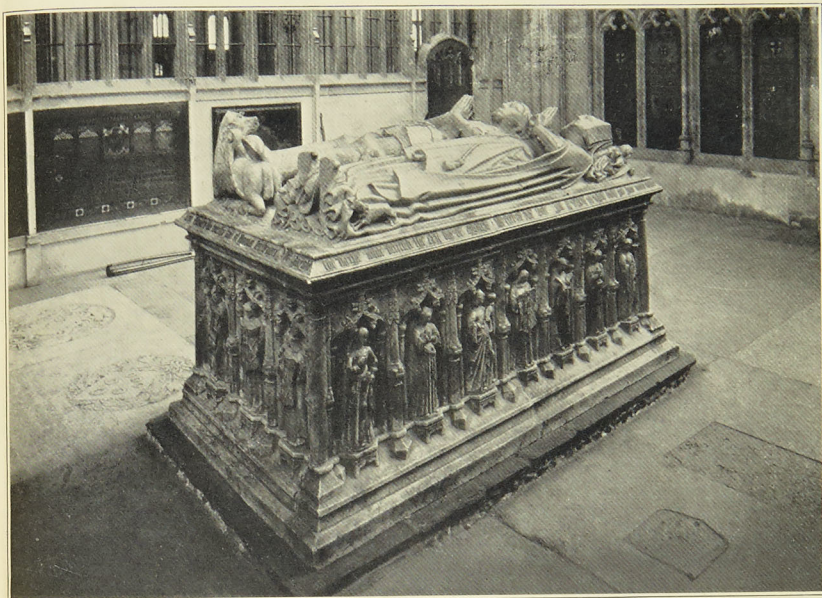
You will see from the Balance Sheet that our Subscriptions and Membership have on the whole been well maintained. During the year 1941 the Association has paid £140 towards the cost of repairing the organ, and £150 for the very important work of microfilming the more precious of the Chapter's ancient documents.

This work is being done all over the country to preserve for posterity the contents of the documents which illustrate English history. Such documents are always in danger from damp and fire, and especially in danger just now owing to air warfare. I do not think the Association has ever done a more useful piece of work than this.

Our Choral Services have been maintained, though the number of our lay clerks has been reduced. But by the help of one of the Eton choristers we have still a balance of voices, and are in a very much better condition than we were in the last war when eight of our men were called up.

We must thank Messrs. Layton-Bennett & Co. for again auditing our accounts. We are again printing the Chapter Accounts, and I would remind you that the position of the Chapter is very perilous at the present time owing to the loss of so much income. The State Apartments Fund is worse than halved, and we have none of the profits from the bookstall or the visitors' boxes, making in all a loss of a great many hundred pounds. All we can do is to look forward to better times.

ALBERT BAILLIE,
Dean.



Alabaster tomb and effigies of Anne, daughter of Anne, Duchess of Exeter (a sister of Edward IV), and Sir Thomas St. Leger, K.G., and of George Manners, Lord Roos. She died in 1526 and he in 1513. They were ancestors of the Dukes of Rutland.



CHAPELS AND CHANTRIES IN ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL

THE Chapel as built in the last quarter of the fifteenth century contained eight Chapels. In the Quire aisles—Edward IV's (the founder's) Chapel at the north-east, the Lincoln at the south-east, the Hastings and the Oxenbridge in the north and south aisles; in the Nave—the Rutland in the north and the Braye in the south transepts, the Urswick and the Beaufort at the north and south-west end.

To some of these Chapels a Chantry came to be attached. A Chantry was a benefice created by the gift of property for the upkeep of one or more priests, who were bound to sing masses and offer prayers for the souls of the founder and other specified persons, and usually all Christian souls. The custom of creating Chantries grew up in the late thirteenth century, as enthusiasm for founding Monastic establishments declined, and as a means of securing the same benefits to the souls of the founders at a smaller outlay. The Statute of Mortmain (1279) forbidding alienations of property to religious corporations made it necessary to obtain a licence from the Crown.

Chantries were generally closely connected with cathedrals or parish churches, in which sometimes a special chapel was built or a side altar set up for the use of the Chantry priest, and sometimes chapels-of-ease in outlying districts were built in which he or they performed their ministrations. Besides the conduct of services in the chapels, they assisted in the worship of the cathedral or parish church, under the direction of the Chapter or incumbent, to whom they often acted as assistants in parochial work. They sometimes engaged in educational work as schoolmasters or private tutors, and acted as almoners to the poor.

The duties performed and the value of their work is indicated in the records of visitations of Bishops and Archdeacons of the period, in the inquisitions and deeds and patents connected with these foundations, and in the surveys made by commissions in the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI.

The Commissioners had good reason to belittle and find fault with the Chantry priests, for the endowments from which the latter were paid, if the benefices were dissolved, would be transferred to their masters; yet in their reports they gave the majority of them good characters and described them as performing their useful duties faithfully.

In spite of this, the Act of 1547 carried through the dissolution of 2374 Chantries, and confiscated that part of the funds of guilds

and corporations which was assigned to what was called "superstitious uses", the payments hitherto being made for these purposes being converted to the Crown. The preamble of the Act speaks of the erection of grammar schools, the augmentation of universities and the relief of the poor; but the first use of the funds produced by the sale of Chantry property was "specially for the relief of the King's Majesty's charges and expenses, which do daily grow and increase by reason of divers and sundry fortifications, garrisons, levying of men and soldiers". This Act was not to extend "to any Chantries founded in the colleges, halls and hostels in the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, or Winchester or Eton College, or to any chapel made for the ease of the people dwelling distant from the parish church, or to any cathedral church or college where a Bishop had his see". The Chantries within St. George's Chapel of Windsor Castle were specially exempted.¹

There does not seem to be exact evidence as to how long the Chantries here were maintained, but the Treasurer's Roll shows that in 1571-2 John Marbeck was paid £6 os. 9d. as Chaplain of Lord Hastings' Chantry for three-quarters of the year, and that several appointments were made throughout Elizabeth's reign to the several Chantries, and payments made to the Chaplains.

In the reign of James I appointments were continued to the Exeter and Hastings Chantries only. By 1613-14 all payments to Chantry priests had ceased. A Chapter minute dated 28th September, 1614, shows that Edmund Casse, the last of the Chantry priests, appealed unsuccessfully for his "Chantry pay" and that "the Chapter held his place void and would stand upon their right".

The Chantry priests inhabited separate houses within the Castle built for them by their founders, or lived together later on in the house built for them on the north side of the Chapel by Dr. James Denton in 1520 and known as the New Commons, and demolished in 1860.²

They were placed, as the indentures show, under the discipline of the Dean, and to a great extent shared in the common life of the College. The report of the Commissioners (1547) shows that eight Chantry priests at the time received £78 6s. 8d., and enumerates six Chantries—that of Edward IV, Anne Duchess of Exeter, William Lord Hastings, Thomas Passche (Canon 1449-89), John Plummer (Verger) and John Oxenbridge (Canon 1509-22).

The indentures establishing the first four of these are preserved in what is known as the *Black Book*, in which Dr. James Denton (Canon 1509-33, and Dean of Lichfield 1522-33) transcribed a number of ancient deeds, charters and papal bulls. As many of these are not in the present collection of muniments of the Chapter or

¹ See Tanner's *Tudor Constitutional Documents*. Preface to *Yorkshire Chantry Surveys*, Vol. I, by William Page. Register of John of Pontoise (Pontissara), Bishop of Winchester. Canterbury and York Society.

² St. John Hope's *Windsor Castle*, Vol. II, p. 515.

to be found elsewhere, the entries in this book form an authority for many of the Chapter lands and endowments.

There were, however, other Chantries in existence. William of Wykeham on 29th May, 1402, gave £200 to the Dean and Canons to buy properties with which to support a Chaplain, in addition to those already in the Chapel, to say mass for the souls of himself and King Edward III, and his father and mother and other benefactors. A copy of the indenture concerning this is in the Arundel White Book of documents connected with the foundation and endowments of the College (a collection of 163 folios taken in hand by Dean Arundel in the year 1430, and bound in vellum).

On 20th June, 1475, Edward IV made a will directing that his body was to be buried in St. George's Chapel and an altar erected near it, and round the altar a Chapel. In the will he ordained that "two priests are to sing and pray perpetuate, for us, our wife, our father and our ancestors". The two priests are to be chosen by the Dean and Canons of Windsor. They are to be Doctors or Bachelors of Divinity of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and are each to have twenty marks a year. They are to be continually resident within the College of Windsor.³

Richard Duke of Gloucester founded an obit, rather than a Chantry. He made a covenant with the Dean and Canons in 1478 and conveyed lands to them in 1480, providing for a daily mass to be said for the good estate of himself and Anne his Duchess while they lived and for their souls when dead, and for the souls of their parents.⁴

The Chantry founded in 1494 by Thomas Passche and William Hermer, formerly Canons, and John Plummer, formerly Verger, was attached to "a certain altar on the north side at the end of the Nave of the Church".⁵

Ashmole states that Margaret Countess of Richmond had licence from the King to found a Chantry in St. George's dated 1st March, 1497; her agreement with the Dean and Canons concerning this Chantry he gives as dated 18th July, 1497.⁶ But the letters patent of 1st March were cancelled two years later, and in all probability the Chantry was never founded.

On 27th June, 1481, William Lord Hastings made his will. In it he refers to the place assigned him by the King for his burial, and to the performance of mass and divine service "at the awter next to the place where my body shall be buried". Lord Hastings was beheaded in 1483. An indenture was made, 21st February, 1503, between his widow Katharine and his son Charles and the Dean and Canons of Windsor, founding a Chantry for one priest "to say daily his divine service when he is disposed to say masse

³ Denton's Black Book, ff. 259-60.

⁴ *The Erary Catalogue*, XI. P. 11, 12 (p. 15).

⁵ St. John Hope's *Windsor Castle*, Vol. II, pp. 383-5.

⁶ Ashmole's *Order of the Garter*, p. 150.

Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1494-1509, p. 79.

at thautre within the Chapelle wherein the body of the said Lord lyeth buried in the said Church".⁷

In 1506 a Chantry was founded by Charles Somerset, Lord Herbert and Gower, and his wife Elizabeth for a priest "to sing and say daily masse if he be disposed within a Chapell of the saide College now dedicate in the honner of our Lady at the lower ende of the south isle where the same Lord and Lady by the grace of God intended to have their bodies buried", and where their tomb and effigies actually stand.⁸

A Chantry was founded in 1507 by the Dean and Canons in commemoration of Christopher Urswick, late Dean, in the Chapel at the north-west corner of the nave, wherein the Passche Chantry had been founded in 1494.⁹

The indenture founding the Chantry in the north transept Chapel is printed below as a specimen of such deeds. It shows how much care the founders took to prescribe the duties of the priests and to insure that they were duly performed. Sir Thomas St. Leger's half of the indenture is copied into Denton's book in English, as well as the Dean and Canons' half which is in Latin.

Injunctions of Queen Elizabeth ordained that individual commemorations were no longer to be kept on their several days, but that once in each quarter there was to be an obit service at which these and other benefactors should be named and commemorated.¹⁰ These quarterly obit services are still regularly held, and the College Choir and Military Knights take part in them.

In the preparation of these notes valuable help has been given by Miss A. K. B. Roberts in searching and verifying records and in transcribing and condensing this indenture.

A. S. CRAWLEY.

⁷ St. John Hope's *Windsor Castle*, II, 385, 420-1.

⁸ *Ib.*, II, 384.

⁹ *Ib.*, II, 383.

¹⁰ *Frere. Visitation Articles*, II, 213-27.

CHAPTER MUNIMENTS XV.58.C.7.

(Written in English).

INDENTURE OF FOUNDATION OF THE CHANTRY OF ANNE, DUCHESS OF EXETER, SEALED WITH THE SEAL OF THOMAS SAINTLEGER.

THOMAS SAINTLEGER, knight, late husband of the king's sister, Anne, late duchess of Exeter, to all to whom these present letters may come, greeting.

By letters patent dated 30 March 1481, King Edward IV at my humble supplication, gave licence for me or my executors to found a perpetual chantry of two chaplains to celebrate divine service

daily in the king's free chapel of St. George within the castle of Windsor for the good estate of the king and his wife Elizabeth, queen of England, and his mother Cecily, duchess of York, while they live, and for their souls after death, and for the soul of his father Richard, late duke of York, and for the good estate of me, the said Thomas and of Richard bishop of Salisbury while we live and for our souls after death, and for the soul of the said Anne, late duchess of Exeter, for whom especially the king gave assent for this chantry to be founded.

[The letters patent are here quoted in Latin, beginning with wording as above and continuing thus :]

The chantry is to be called for ever the chantry of Anne, late duchess of Exeter, in the free chapel royal of St. George within the castle royal of Windsor. The chaplains of the chantry and their successors are to be one corporate body in deed and in name, to have perpetual succession and be persons able in law. By the name of chaplains of the chantry of Anne, late duchess of Exeter, they may purchase and receive any properties from any persons whatsoever, and under that name they may plead and be impleaded, sue and defend, answer and be answered as other our lieges are able. Moreover we give licence to the said Thomas and his executors to grant in mortmain the manor of Ham, in the counties of Surrey and Middlesex, the manor of Hartley Westpall and the advowson of the church of Hartley Westpall, in the county of Southampton, 7 messuages in the City of London in Watling Street in the Parish of St. Augustine at the door of St. Paul's, London, between a tenement of the master and brethren of the hospital of St. Bartholomew by West Smithfield on the east, a tenement belonging to the cathedral church of St. Paul on the west, the highway at Watling Street on the north, and a lane called Distaff Lane on the south, and 72 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, 12 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood, 9s. 2d. of rent in Chiddingfold and Hambledon in Surrey to the dean and canons of the free chapel of St. George. Also we give licence to the said dean and canons to grant in mortmain to the said chaplains a yearly rent of £23 1s. 8d. from those properties.

[A summary in English of the above letters patent is printed in *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1476-85, pp. 269-70. Thomas then continues in English as follows :]

I, Thomas, by the strength and authority of the same letters, proceeds in this wise.¹

1. In the name of the Holy Trinity I found a perpetual chantry of two priests, who are to be masters of arts or at least graduates, to hallow, sing and say divine service daily in the king's free chapel of St. George for the estates and souls aforesaid.

2. I name William Paynell and Richard Hakforth (Halford)² the first chaplains.

¹ The paragraphs are not numbered in the original.

² The name is written Hakforth in this document and Halford in Denton's Book, f. 232d.

3. I ordain that during my life I shall be patron of the chantry and present a suitable priest to the dean and canons for institution whenever a vacancy occurs. After my death Anne, daughter of the late duchess and myself, is to be patroness, and after her death her heirs. If she have no heirs or if she or her heirs fail to present a suitable person within one month of a vacancy, the dean is to collate within a month. Should he fail to do so, the chancellor is to present a candidate within another month, and if he fail, the archbishop of Canterbury is to make collation.

4. During the vacancy the dean and canons shall provide a priest to say mass.

5. Every chaplain at his admission must swear obedience to the dean and to observe the customs of the chapel as far as concerned him and to keep the statutes I have ordained. Chaplains once admitted and sworn are to be perpetual.

6. Daily when first they enter the chapel the chaplains are to say kneeling the psalms *Miserere mei Deus* and *De profundis* with the collect *Inclina* for their founders quick and dead.

7. They are to say matins daily together or separately in the duchess' chapel before 8 o'clock, and evensong between the first peal and the end of evensong or compline in the choir 'by note' (with music).

8. They are to say masses daily by the tomb of the duchess in the north side of the aisle of the new church, one of them at 8 and the other at 10, or at any other hour for a reasonable cause; on Sunday, the mass of the Trinity; on Monday, of the Angels; Tuesday, of the Holy Ghost; Wednesday, of the Wounds of Christ; Thursday, of Corpus Christi; Friday, of Requiem; Saturday, of Our Lady. They are in turn to say the earlier mass for a week.

At the masses they are to say a special collect for the good estate of the king, the queen and the prince while they live and after their deaths, and for the welfare of me and all their founders with the collect *Deus qui justificas impium* while we live, and after our deaths the collect *Deus qui in terra promissionis* which I wish them to say daily for the soul of the late duchess and myself, both expressed by name, after their devotions.

9. When they go on to the *lavabo* after the Gospel they are to say the psalm *De profundis* with the collect *Miserere quæsumus domine anime famule tue* with her name and mine.

10. Daily either together or separately they are to say *Placebo* and *Dirige* with commendations, after the use of Sarum.

11. Immediately after compline they are to kneel and say the psalm *Deus in nomine tuo* with the collect *Deus qui caritatis* for me and all their benefactors while I live.

Before they leave the chapel after compline one of them is to say in English before the duchess' tomb "For the soul of the noble Princess Dame Anne late duchess of Exeter" and for me when

I am dead "and for all our founders' souls and all Christians" *De Profundis* and the collect *Fidelium*.

12. If one of the chaplains be too ill to sing mass he is to say a nocturn of David's Psalter, or have it said if he is too ill to say it, or else give a penny to the poor.

If both chaplains be too ill to say mass the dean and canons are to provide a mass daily at the altar at the cost of the chaplains until one of them can say it.

The chaplains are to help each other to say mass or find a substitute so that the mass is not left unsaid.

13. Every Sunday and holiday after their duties are done, the chaplains are to join in procession and masses in the places in the choir given them by the dean and canons.

14. They are continually to be resident and dwell in a house I have built within the precincts of the college. They are to keep their commons there, or at least within the precincts. The house is to be called Exeter Chantry Priests' House, and it is to be repaired at the cost of the chaplains under the dean's supervision.

They are not to be absent from the house for more than 14 days in each quarter except with the dean's permission. The 14 days may be taken either separately or together.

Both chaplains are not to be absent at the same time and neither of them at the great feasts of the year, except for illness.

15. The dean and canons have full power to warn and remove a chaplain who is a waster and alienates wilfully any goods or jewels belonging to the chapel, who is a common hunter or a tavernhaunter, a dicer, a carder or a tennis player, or if he be excessively unpriestly in his array or his tonsure, or if he be a fornicator, and if he be notoriously foresworn especially in keeping the statutes, or found guilty of any other crime wherever it be committed.

16. I have made a chest for the money, jewels and ornaments of the chantry to be kept under three locks. The dean is to have one key and each of the chaplains another.

In the chest is to be an inventory of the contents, and the muniments are also to be kept in the chest.

A similar inventory is to be in the chaplains' keeping, and my ordinances are to be written in it. The ordinances are to be read out once every quarter. When a chaplain is admitted, he is to see the inventory.

Yearly at Michaelmas or within 4 days after, the chaplains are to present before the dean and chapter their account of the goods they use every day and of all other things that are to be given them.

17. Whenever a stranger wishes to sing at the chantry altar, the chaplains are to provide bread, wine and wax.

The chaplains are to swear to observe these ordinances, and I may alter them at my discretion during my life. For all this I have given to the dean and chapter the manors of Ham and Hartley Westpall and other lands and tenements as in the king's letters patent. In return the dean and chapter are content to fulfil these conditions :

1. They are to pay the chaplains yearly for their salary, repair of their house, and for bread, wine and wax £20, *i.e.* £10 each in equal sums at the 4 terms of the year (Midsummer, Michaelmas, Christmas and Easter).

2. They are to put 13s. 4d. yearly in the chest for the upkeep of the ornaments, etc., necessary for mass in number, form and value as I now give them. Besides the yearly repairs, every 10 years the dean and canons and the two chaplains are to see what needs to be repaired or renewed and have it done with the money in the chest. Any residue is to be used to repair the duchess' tomb, or the chapel, or be kept for another time.

3. They are to keep 3 obits yearly.

(a) An anniversary of the duchess' death, with *Placebo* and *Dirige* on the eve and commendation and mass of Requiem on the day. They are to distribute from their common fund to those who attend : 3s. 4d. to the dean, 20d. to each of the 12 canons, 10d. to each of the king's two chantry priests, 8d. to each of the 13 minor canons, 8d. to each of the 13 vicars, 8d. to the deacon, 8d. to the verger, 6d. to each of the 13 clerks, 4d. to each of the 13 choristers, 6d. to the yeoman sexton, 4d. to the groom sexton and 20d. to the bellringers.

(b) An obit exactly 13 weeks after the anniversary, and another 13 weeks after that. The distributions at these obits are to be : 2s. to the dean, 12d. to a canon, 6d. to the king's chantry priests, minor canons, vicars, deacon and verger, 4d. to the clerks and yeoman sexton, 3d. to the groom sexton, 2d. to the choristers and 20d. to the bellringers.

4. After my death they are to keep my obit with distributions like those for the duchess' two single obits.

5. For the principal anniversary they are to provide 5 wax tapers to burn about the hearse, each of them weighing 5 lbs., and at each of the three obits 5 tapers, 4 weighing 5 lbs., and 1 weighing 2 lbs. For this they are to have 10s. yearly.

6. They are to give 10s. to the chaplains to buy $\frac{1}{2}$ d. loaves to distribute to the poor on the day of the duchess' anniversary, and 6s. 8d. on my obit. The dean is to supervise the distribution.

7. Every Friday the treasurer is to give 5d. to the chaplains to distribute to 5 poor men and women at the tomb of the duchess.

Until my death the money for my obit and 6s. 8d. for alms are to be put yearly in the chest for me to dispose of. The properties which I have given to the dean and canons are to be charged with the payments above.

I have set my seal to this part of the indenture, which the dean and chapter will keep.

To the other part which I keep the dean and chapter have set their common seal in the Chapter House 20 April 1482.

CHAPTER MUNIMENTS IV. B. 3 (DENTON'S BLACK BOOK) ff. 230-233 v.

ORDINANCE FOR THE CHANTRY OF THE LADY ANNE DUCHESS OF EXETER.

(Written in Latin.)

[This is a copy of the Dean and Canons' half of the indenture of foundation, and it is not as long or as full as the other half]. It begins :

We the Dean and Canons of King Edward IV's free chapel of Saint George within his castle of Windsor to all to whom these present letters may come, greeting.

Then it goes on to quote the substance of the king's letters patent of 30 March 1481.

In accordance with the king's licence they then make formal grant to the chantry priests, William Paynell and Richard Halford and their successors, a yearly rent of £23. 20d., *i.e.*,

£20 for their salary and repairs to their house ;

10s. for wax at the 4 obits ;

16s. 8d. for distribution to the poor on these obits ;

13s. 4d. to put in the chest for repairs ;

21s. 8d. in alms, 5d. for distribution each Friday,

according to the ordinances made by Thomas Saintleger. Should the dean and canons ever neglect payment for 6 weeks or more, the chaplains may distrain upon the properties which are charged with the rent granted.

Sealed with the common seal in the chapter house 26 April, 1482.

JOHN OXENBRIDGE, LL.D.

JOHN OXENBRIDGE, who founded and endowed the beautiful chantry in the south choir aisle of St. George's Chapel, is a man of whom it would be interesting to know more.

Only fragments of his story remain here and there, in entries in the State Papers and in Bishops' Registers; yet these, when pieced together, give a tolerably good idea of the man. He came of a good family in East Sussex, whose principal home was at Brede, in the agreeable hinterland of Rye and Winchelsea. They bore for their arms, stated unheraldically, a silver lion rampant on a red shield with a green border to it. A fuller version of the arms adds eight scallop shells of gold to the green border (Gyll's *Wraysbury*, p. 64), and a yet more elaborate one¹ gives the silver lion a black tongue and adds the crest, a silver demi-lion rampant with a black tongue holding in his left paw a golden scallop shell. The arms on the upper part of the chantry have the colours of the lion and the shield reversed, i.e., the lion is red and the shield silver, and there are no shells in the green border.

The family name is Saxon and means, literally, "Oaken bridge", though later this had been forgotten, for on either side of the door of the chantry there is carved the *rebus*—oxen crossing a bridge over a stream. The family goes back in Sussex to 1329, though it is found earlier in Dorset. Their pedigree has been traced in a learned article in Volume VIII of the *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (1856), which is partly reprinted (not very accurately) in Gyll's *History of Wraysbury* (1862), p. 64. It would be a useful bit of work if some scholar would write the history of the family accurately, for it played a not unimportant part in its day. It became extinct in the male line in the reign of Charles I, but it continues in the family of the Lords Monson, a fact which was recognized when the seventh Baron Monson was created Viscount Oxenbridge by Queen Victoria in 1886. But the name faded out of history again in 1898, when he died without issue, and he was succeeded by his brother as eighth Baron Monson, but the Viscounty of Oxenbridge became extinct.

A grim legend about the Oxenbridge family lingers in Sussex folklore. One of the family was an ogre, fond of dining upon young children. He was invulnerable to the bows and arrows of the time; the only way of destroying him was to cut him in two by a wooden saw. His neighbours constructed one, then made him drunk and quietly cut him in halves. The incident is supposed to have occurred at Brede, at a bridge still called

¹ *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, VIII, p. 233.

"Groaning Bridge".² So much for the family to which John Oxenbridge belonged.

John Oxenbridge was a younger son of Robert Oxenbridge of Brede, and Agnes (*née* Livelode) his wife. Robert Oxenbridge made his will on 18th October, 1482, and died on 9th March, 1487. They were both buried in the Lady Chapel of Brede under a brass, but the figure of Agnes Oxenbridge alone remains, that of her husband has been stolen. In that will his father leaves lands to his other sons, but to John, a clerk, 10 marks a year till he should obtain a benefice worth £10 a year. It was to be paid by his eldest brother, Thomas, who was the residuary legatee.

Thomas was a lawyer of some distinction, and though he had been in favour with Richard III, he adhered to Henry VII and was created a Serjeant-at-law on 10th September, 1495. The King and Queen dined at the Serjeants' feast held two months later. Thomas did not enjoy his honour long; he made his will on 12th November, 1496, and it was proved on the following 8th February. In it he left many gifts, particularly to his brother John his "crimson gown furred with martens". To each of his brothers he left lands, so John now had a property of his own. Thomas was succeeded at Brede by his brother, Sir Goddard, who was of sufficient importance to form part of the retinue of Cardinal Wolsey when he received the Emperor Charles V at Dover in 1522. He had been Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1506, 1512 and 1519.

Meanwhile John had pursued his clerical career and, like many clergy of his class, had studied law. He is described as LL.B. in a document of 1498, and as LL.D. in 1499. There appears to be no record of his proceeding to these degrees at Oxford or Cambridge. It is quite likely that, like his brother Canon and friend at St. George's Chapel later on, Dr. James Denton, he had studied Canon Law at the University of Valencia and taken the degrees there. His early ecclesiastical record is more puzzling.

A John Oxbridge was made Vicar of Udimore, close to Brede, in 1478, but resigned in the same year. If this was John Oxenbridge he can have been only a boy, and he was certainly not a priest. The appointment must have been merely for some legal arrangement. We are on firm ground, however, when we come to 1496, for on 27th February of that year "John Oxenbrygge" of the diocese of Chichester was ordained priest by the excellent Bishop of the See, Edward Storey.³ He was a "secular", i.e., he belonged to no religious order and he had no "title" save his own property, i.e., he could live on his private income. No record of his admission to the Minor Orders nor to the diaconate has been found; clearly they were by some other bishop.

Three years later, in 1499, Bishop Storey collated him to the prebend of Hampstead in Chichester Cathedral. It was one of the smaller prebends, and by 1648 its lands had been embezzled; such estate as there had been was not in the well-known Hampstead

² Lower. *History of Sussex*, Vol. I, p. 75.

³ Register of Bishop Storey I, fo. 190, r., at Chichester. For the reference I have to thank W. D. Peckham, Esq.

near London, but in the parish of Arlington, Sussex. The appointment gave Oxenbridge a place in the cathedral church of his native county, and he held it till his death. Meanwhile Oxenbridge was appointed to various benefices both inside and outside his county. He was Commissary and Sequestrator-General for the Bishop in the Archdeaconry of Lewes in 1498, for on 20th August of that year the will of a parishioner of Icklesham was proved before him in that capacity.³ Whether he was then Vicar of Icklesham (close to Winchelsea) is not clear, but he certainly held that benefice, for he resigned it in 1505. He was also Vicar of Cullompton, Devon; the date of his appointment is not recorded, but he held it till he died. The patrons were the Prior and Convent of St. Nicholas, Exeter. And on 23rd February, 1504-5 he was instituted to the Vicarage of Shillington, Bedfordshire, being presented by the patrons, the Abbot and Convent of Ramsey, Hunts.⁴ Presumably this presentation was the cause of his resignation of Icklesham. Whether he resided at Cullompton and at Shillington there is no evidence to show. Cullompton was returned in the King's Books of 1535 as worth £47 4s. 2d. annually, Shillington as worth £18, so that there was ample margin for the vicar to pay, as he would be bound to pay, a curate-in-charge. Dr. Oxenbridge's prebend of Hampstead was valued at £2 13s. 4d. This gives his income from Church sources as £67 17s. 6d., which multiplied by 20 to bring the figures up to modern values amounts to close on £1450 a year.⁵ This, with his own private estate, the value of which we do not know, made him a well-to-do man. He was also a generous one, for on 27th January, 1514, he founded at Shillington a chantry for one chaplain, to be called the Chantry of John Oxenbridge, and got a licence to allow the chaplain to acquire lands to the annual value of £10, thus giving the parish an extra priest (*L. and P. Henry VIII*, Vol. I, p 727). And Oxenbridge had evidently become a King's Clerk, which means that he was what would be called to-day a Civil Servant. This is shown by the fact that on 7th November, 1505, "John Oxbridge, clerk", with four others, one of whom was Roger Lupton, Canon of Windsor, was appointed to collect the benevolence voted by Parliament on 14th October.⁶

Under King Henry VII the Civil Service was remarkably well run, and the King liked it to be not only efficient, but also cheap, and trained ecclesiastics were admirable for both purposes, for they were intelligent, reliable, and could be paid by being given Church preferment. The ablest Civil Servant when Henry VII died was without question Thomas Wolsey, then Dean of Lincoln, and evidently he had marked John Oxenbridge as a capable man. Henry VIII succeeded his father on 22nd April, 1509, and less than a month later, on 18th May, 1509, John Oxenbridge, now a Royal chaplain, was appointed by the King to a vacant canonry at Windsor.

³ *Sussex Notes and Queries*, I. 155.

⁴ Register 23, fo. 397d, at the Lincoln Dioc. Record Office.

⁵ The figures are taken from Ecton, *Liber Valorum*, 3rd Ed., 1728.

⁶ *C.S.P.*, 1494-1509, p. 459.

It would seem that Wolsey, if it were he, was set on filling the stalls at St. George's with competent Civil Servants.

Oxenbridge was appointed in May; Dr. James Denton, future Dean of Lichfield, was appointed in the following September; and a new Dean, Dr. Nicolas West, a very able man, was appointed in November. Thomas Wolsey himself became a Canon in February 1511. Oxenbridge's capacity for business is attested by the fact that he became Steward of the College early in his time: he held that office from 1511 until 1514, and again for the years 1518-20. But he was nearing the end then, and he began to buy lands near Windsor, in Bray, Cookham, Old Windsor, Clewer and the like.

On 16th May, 1522, he gave them to his two brother Canons, James Denton and Geoffrey Wren, and to one William Duffield, for the use of himself and for fulfilling his last will, which very evidently contained his wishes about his chantry. And three months later, on 25th July, St. James's Day, he died.

There was some queer work in after years about his will. That he left one is clear from the will of his brother, Sir Goddard Oxenbridge, dated 17th June, 1530, and proved 27th October, 1531. Sir Goddard refers to the "marriage money" (i.e. money for dowries) left to his three daughters by his brother, "Master John Oxenbridge, clerk".

But in 1587 Robert Oxenbridge, Esq., of Brede, then head of the family, claimed lands in Wraysbury and Old Windsor which he said were left to the family under the will of Dr. John Oxenbridge, but which the Dean and Canons held. He asserts that the then Dean of Windsor, Dr. William Day, conceals Dr. Oxenbridge's will and will not let him, the plaintiff, see it. Dr. Day replied that search had been made, but that neither the will nor a copy of it were among the Chapter documents. If the will is discovered a copy shall be sent to the plaintiff.⁷ Apparently the will was not found, and certainly the Dean and Canons retained the lands. Dr. Day and his predecessor, Dean Carew, gained an evil reputation for their dealing with Chapter lands, and Thomas Frith (Canon, 1610 to 1631), the first historian of the College, speaks with great severity of their trickiness in handling the Chapter property. He tells how Lord Chancellor Ellesmere rebuked Dean Day in open court for his slippery ways.

The loss of Dr. Oxenbridge's will is still a loss, for evidently in it are recorded the rules he made for his chantry. But there is no trace of them to be found. It is possible that Mr. Oxenbridge was none too pleased with the way in which the money left by his kinsman in 1522 was being spent in 1587.

John Oxenbridge's generosity to the Chapel is recorded in at least one of two items in an Inventory of the Plate made in 1534. No. 100 is "a pair of square cruets parcel gilt (i.e. silver gilt) given by Mr. John Oxenbridge"; the other, No. 69, is "a chalice in the Chapel made by Mr. John Oxenbridge", though this last may not necessarily have been given by him. Incidentally, this list records

⁷ Gyll's *Wraysbury*, p. 63.

the articles of plate belonging to "my Lorde Hastynges Chappell"; they are "a chalice silver and gilt" and "a Mass book covered with red velvet having 2 clasps of silver", which disposes of the ridiculous notion that the chantry chapels were too small to be used for service. They were large enough to hold the celebrant and a server; the congregation would kneel at chairs or benches outside, as may be seen to-day in the cathedral churches of Winchester and Chichester, to name no others, where the chantry chapels have been restored for use.

One question I wish I could answer: why was Dr. Oxenbridge's chantry dedicated in memory of the Beheading of St. John Baptist, a feast which occurs on 29th August? Was that his birthday? Was St. John the Baptist his patron saint after whom he was named John? Or was there an altar dedicated to St. John the Baptist in the older Chapel of 1240 transferred to the present Chapel and decorated with its stone screen and painting and given a special endowment by Dr. Oxenbridge? No one of the three suggestions excludes the other two; all three may be true. But until we discover more about John Oxenbridge's life we cannot tell. If his will is ever found it may help to answer the question; but I don't suppose it exists. I strongly suspect that Dean Day and his merry men burnt it, lest when the services in the little chapel ceased, its endowment should return to the Oxenbridge family.

S. L. OLLARD

THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. GEORGE'S
WITH WHICH IS AMALGAMATED
THE ASSOCIATION OF DESCENDANTS OF THE
KNIGHTS OF THE GARTER

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
For the Year to 31st December, 1941.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
BALANCE AT 1ST JANUARY, 1941	76	15	3
RECEIPTS:						
Life Membership Fees	11	3	6
Bank Interest..	0	7	8
				11	11	2
BALANCE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1941	£88	6	5

(Note: At 31st December, 1941, the Society held £350 3½ per cent War Loan, the market value of which at that date was £367 10s., and 500 National Savings Certificates, the realizable value of which was £427 9s. 3d.)

GENERAL ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
BALANCE AT 1ST JANUARY, 1941:						
At Bank	125	19	2
In Hand	5	1	10
				131	1	0
RECEIPTS:						
Donations and Subscriptions	240	4	7
War Loan Interest	12	5	0
Bank Interest..	0	0	3
Income Tax recovered	2	6	0
Amount transferred from Romance and Publications Account	100	0	0
				354	15	10
				£485	16	10
PAYMENTS:						
Assistant Secretary	45	0	0
Printing and Stationery	14	18	3
Postage and Sundries	10	12	0
Donation towards the Cost of Repairing the Organ in St. George's Chapel	140	0	0
Grant towards the Preservation of the Ancient Muniments in the Erary of St. George's Chapel	150	0	0
				360	10	3
BALANCE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1941: At Bank	£125	6	7

ROMANCE AND PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
BALANCE AT 1ST JANUARY, 1941	..	..	..
RECEIPTS:			
Sale of Publications	..	..	..
	24	7	0
	£113	19	2
PAYMENT:			
Amount transferred to General Account	..	..	..
	100	0	0
BALANCE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1941	..	..	..
	£13	19	2

SUSPENSE ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
BALANCE AT 1ST JANUARY, 1941	..	..	..
RECEIPTS:			
Bank Interest	..	..	..
	1	10	5
BALANCE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1941	..	..	..
	£307	17	1

L. SMELT, *Hon. Treasurer.*

We have examined the foregoing Statement of Receipts and Expenditure and certify that it is in accordance with the Books and Vouchers produced to us.

LAYTON-BENNETT & CO.,
Hon. Auditors.

5th February, 1942.

DOMUS AND FABRIC FUNDS

Summary for the Year ended Michaelmas, 1941

	£	s.	d.
INCOME.			
(a) "DOMUS" FUND :			
To Payment received from Ecclesiastical Commissioners	6,400	0	0
„ Amount received from other sources, including income of a suspended Canonry ..	1,670	15	11
(b) "FABRIC" FUND :			
To Amount received from the Windsor Castle State Apartments Fund	450	0	0
„ Amount received from other sources ..	269	1	5
„ Balance, being Deficit for the Year 1941 ..	873	1	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
	£9,662	18	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

	£	s.	d.
EXPENDITURE.			
By Salaries—Minor Canons, Organists, Chapter Clerk and Surveyor, Lay Clerks, Verger, &c.	5,101	12	1
„ Maintenance—Chapel and Services—Lighting, Heating, Cleaning, Rates and Taxes ..	1,854	15	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ Choristers' Scholarships, Choir School Expenses	1,121	7	7
„ Statutory Payments — Ancient Stipends, Charities	455	5	0
„ Fabric Charges—Chapel and Collegiate Buildings	1,129	19	4
Total Expenditure for the Year ..	£9,662	18	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

SUMMARY OF BALANCES 1937 TO 1941.

	£	s.	d.
1937. Surplus	567	18	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
1938. Deficit	783	16	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
1939. Deficit increased by £970 9s. 4d. to ..	1,754	5	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
1940. Deficit reduced by £250 13s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to ..	1,503	12	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
1941. Deficit increased by £873 1s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to ..	2,376	13	8

A. C. DEANE,
Canon and Steward.