

Victoria, University of Victoria Libraries, Doc.Lat.1
Acc. 1992-045, Item #5
Norfolk, Charter
England 24 June 1423

TYPE: Charter

DATE: June 24, 1423

SETTING: City

PRODUCED FOR/BY: [Norfolk]

CONTENTS: Tenements and lands

LANGUAGE: Latin

LOCATION: Drawer 5A/08 (Acc.1992-045, Item #5)

[Incipit] Sciant presentes et futuri quod nos Robertus Edward parsona ecclesie de Sweynesthorp Thomas Glyse Capellanus Edmundus Man Cordwainer ciuis... **[Explicit]** natiuitatis sancti Johannis Baptiste Anno regni regis Henrici Sexti post conquestum primo

EXTENT

Single leaf of parchment that measures 95 x 300 mm. Four seal tags, also of parchment. Seal tags measure between 15 x 110 mm and 15 x 125 mm. Tags maintain red wax seals (two of which are intact, fragment of third remains, while fourth is missing). As noted by Clemens and Graham (226), in England red seals often indicate privy seals or private correspondence. Parchment is thin with text written on flesh side.

SCRIPT

Script written in black ink in a fifteenth-century English court hand. Single column, with large margin to the left side of the text. Minimal use of decorative characters: only a decorative “S” (in “Sciant”) at beginning of charter, and a stylized “A” (in “Anno”) in final line. Extensive use of abbreviations throughout. Some text on recto mildly obscured by fold lines. Charter was likely stored folded based on worn creases at fold lines. Text written on dorse fits within two quadrants of fold lines: “Sylys” (presumably the scribe’s signature) is written upside-down in relation to main text, while a summation of the charter’s contents and its date of composition is written in an adjacent quadrant right-side up in relation to main text.

DATE

Charter is dated “apud Brakene in festo natiuitatis sancti Johannis Baptiste Anno regni regis Henrici Sexti post conquestum primo” (“at Brakene on the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist in the first year of the reign of King Henry VI after the conquest”). The first year of Henry VI’s reign was 1423, and the date of the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist occurs on 24 June 24, which dates the charter to June 24, 1423. The charter also refers to a previous charter: “prout in quadam carta inde nobis confecta plenius continentur cuius data est apud Brakene die lune proxima post festum sancti Iacobi apostoli anno regni Regis Henrici quinti post conquestum” (“just as is executed in a certain charter concerning us, in which all is contained, dated at Brakene on the Monday after the feast of St. James the Apostle, in the fifth year of King Henry V’s reign ran from March 21, 1418 to March 20, 1419, and the feast of Saint James the Apostle occurs on July 25th. This date fell on a Saturday in 1418, and the Monday following this date is then July 27, 1418).

PERSONS NAMED

Robert Edward, Thomas Glyse, Edmund Man, John de Dunstone, Nicholas Norton, Thomas Chaunseys, William Morlee, Thomas de Moor, Richard Bernard, John Fredesham, Richard Kempston, and Syls (scribe, on dorse).

In the first line of the charter, Robert Edward is called the “p(ar)sona eccl(es)ie de Sweynesthorp,” or the parson of the Swainsthorpe church. An existing church—St. Peter’s, Swainsthorp, a “small medieval flint church” that is dated from “probably the 12th century” (“History of St. Peter’s Church”)—continues to serve the area today; however, an additional church, Swainsthorpe St. Mary’s, also existed in the village but was abandoned before the English Reformation. It is unclear whether Robert Edward was the parson of the St. Peter’s church or the defunct St. Mary’s. A Robert Edwards is listed as the rector of Swainsthorpe beginning in 1386 (Blomefield), and he was succeeded by a Thomas Glyse in 1429 (who is also noted as the “cap(e)ll(an)us,” or chaplain, of “Sweynesthorp” in the first line of the charter).

Additional individuals are listed in the charter as participants in the transfer of lands or as witnesses: Edmund Man (cordwainer at Norwich), John de Dunstone (grantor), Nicholas Norton (grantee), Thomas Chaunseys (grantee), William Morlee (witness), Thomas de Moor (witness), Richard Bernard (witness), John Fredesham (witness), Richard Kempston (witness). Some of these individuals appear in similar charters from the Norwich region and surrounding areas. For example, a charter dated January 4, 1421 lists Nicholas Norton

p(er)tinenc(iis) in vill(is) p(re)dict(is) vt p(re)d(i)c(tu)m est p(re)fatis Nich(ol)o Norton (et) Thome Chaunseys / h(er)edib(us) (et) assign(at)is eor(um) de capit(a)lib(us) d(omi)nis feod(or)um ill(or)um p(er) s(er)uicia inde debita (et) de iur(e) consueta imp(er)p(etuu)m In cuius per testimonio(m) hinc p(re)sentis carte sigilla / n(ost)ra apposuimus hijs testib(us) Will(el)mo Morlee Thoma de Moor Ric(ard)o Bernard Joh(ann)e Fredesham Ric(ard)o Kempston' (et) aliis Dat(a) apud Brakene in festo / natiuitatis s(an)c(t)i Joh(ann)is Baptiste Anno regni regis Henrici Sexti post conquestum p(ri)mo

[dorse]

[scribal signature, medieval] Sylys

[description of contents, modern]

Braken

Rob(ert) Edward

to

feofment of all messuages

Nich(olas) Norton

(and) lands late Ric(hard) Dunstones.

(and) Tho(mas) Chau\ n/seys

24 June 1^o Hen(ry) 6

WORKS CITED

Blomefield, Francis. *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 5*. London: W Miller, 1806. *British History Online*. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol5>. Accessed 7 June 2022.

“Bracon Ash: Grant by Thomas atte Moor of Brakene [Bracon Ash], Thomas Chaunceux of Hethill [HehiNHQDV