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by the Prior and Convent
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Canterbury, of their Manor
of Wodetone. Dated Sept.
29, 17 Edward II., 1323

Albert Way

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Original Documents.

LEASE BY THE PRIOR AND CONVENT OF CHRIST CHURCH,
CANTERBURY, OF THEIR MANOR OF WODETONE. DATED
SEPT. 29, 17 EDWARD II., 1323.

THE following document is a demise, by the Prior and Convent of Canterbury, to an inhabitant of Merstham in Surrey, of the keeping of their Manor of Wodeton with the appurtenances. It appears to present some features of interest, not only as showing the precision with which monastic manors were leased, but also as comprising certain particulars illustrative of the ancient agriculture and management of estates in some of the southern counties.

It has not been found practicable to identify clearly the situation of the manor. We learn from the Hundred Rolls and from evidences cited in the Monasticon, that the monastery of Christ Church possessed a manor called Wodeton, in one of the Loxfield Hundreds, Sussex, the only one they held in that county.¹ There is found to be a reputed manor now called Wotton, near Chilington in the Hundred of Street; and we are indebted to Mr. W. Figg, F.S.A., of Lewes, for pointing out the existence of a farm called Wooton, in the parish of Folkington, in the Hundred of Longbridge. We have sought in vain for a manor of that or any similar name in either of the Hundreds of Loxfield. Whilst, however, the fact of their possessing but one manor in the county of Sussex might account for its being placed under the charge of the *Custos* of their Manor of Merstham in the adjoining county, it would seem more probable that the manor in question was situate in the wooded district south of that place in the direction of Charlwood. This supposition appears in some degree sanctioned by the fact, that the Manor of Merstham, which had been given to the monks of Canterbury by Athelstan in 1018, had a member in Charlwood; and the nature of the locality in early times would account for the occurrence of a manor there of the name of "Wodetone." It must, however, be observed that Gervase of Dover, who has recorded that donation, mentions a Wodeton as having been given by Archbishop Elfege in 1010,² but where this was situate is not stated. There is one passage in the lease which may seem to suggest, that the manor in question was at some considerable distance from Merstham, since the lessee was bound to pay annually a compensation of 6s. 8d. to the *Custos* of Merstham for his expenses at Wodeton and his

¹ Hund. Rolls, vol. ii. p. 207. It was found that the Prior of Christ Church was accustomed to exercise a right of chase at Wodeton in the Hundred of Lokkesfeld. The Cottonian transcript of the King's Domesday, as cited in the new edition of the Monasticon, vol. i., p. 103, includes Wodeton among the

manors of the monastery; and the Roll of its manors, which was first printed by Stevens, mentions it as in Lockesfield Hundred, Sussex. (Mon. Angl., vol. i. p. 88.)

² Monast. Angl. vol. i. p. 97; new edition.

journey to and fro. This however may be explained by the fact of Charlwood being distant about ten miles from Merstham.

Such of our readers as take an interest in agriculture will not fail to observe the nature of the *vestura* or growing crops. There was, besides oats and beans, *frumentum purum*, being wheat as distinguished from mesline or wheat mixed with rye, formerly not uncommon in the southern counties.³ There was also a kind of barley called *ordeum palmaris*, probably sprot or sprit barley. In the "Boke of Husbandry," attributed to Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, the following passage occurs: "It is to be known that ther be thre maner of barleys, that is to say, sprot barleye, long eare, and bere barley, that somme men calle bigge. Sprot barly hath a flat eare most commonly, thre quarters of an inch brode, and thre inches long, and the cornes be very great and white, and it is the best barly."⁴ The breadth of the ear may have caused the name *palmaris* to be assigned to sprot barley. The species in question may, however, have been the *hordeum distichum*, on account of its long broad awns, which gave a certain resemblance to a palm leaf. Parkinson mentions "sprit barley" as a variety, differing only in the small white grain.⁵

As to the word *Foiagia*, we have not found it explained in any glossary. The context shows that in all probability it signified some kind of manure. The old word to Fey or Fie, to cleanse by emptying, as a ditch, a pond, &c., used by Tusser and earlier writers, is mentioned as a provincialism by Ray, Moore, and Forby. The last cites the Icelandic *Fægja, purgare*. The old French *vuidier* had a similar meaning, and *vuidanges d'une ville* signified, according to Cotgrave, the laystall of a town. In a lease cited in a former volume of this Journal (vol. v. p. 72), the condition occurs that the tenant should manure certain lands yearly "ove les *fienz* de la faude," the dung or litter of the fold. In that instance *fienz* was explained by the late Mr. T. Hudson Turner as signifying *fiente, fimus, ordure*. (Roquefort.)

In the History of Surrey, by Manning and Bray, vol. ii. p. 255, an abstract is given of a lease of the Manor of Merstham with its member of Charlwood by the Prior and Convent of Canterbury to John atte Dene of Merstham and others. The original is described as a long Roll in the Library at Lambeth, marked 85. The lease is dated 19 Rich. II., 1396. It has been inaccurately read, and in many particulars bears considerable resemblance to that which follows.

CHIROGRAPH BETWEEN THE PRIOR AND CONVENT OF CHRIST CHURCH,
CANTERBURY, AND JOHN ATTE HYERNE, DATED, SEPT. 29, 17 EDW.
II., 1323.

(Cart. Orig. W. 55. Treasury, Canterbury Cathedral.)

Universis pateat per presentes quod in festo Sancti Michaelis Archangeli, anno regni Regis Edwardi filii Regis Edwardi xvii., ita convenit inter Priorem et Conventum Ecclesie Christi Cantuariensis tradentes, ex parte una, et Johannem atte Hyerne⁶ de Merstham, ex altera, videlicet, quod

³ See Blunt's Law Dict. v. *Mestilo*; Cotgrave v. *Meteil*, and the Promptorium Parvulorum, v. *Dragge*, and *Mestlyone*.

⁴ Ancient Tracts concerning the management of landed Property reprinted.

London, 1767. Husbandry, p. 14.

⁵ Parkinson's Herbal, p. 1129.

⁶ This example of a surname derived from the position of a dwelling deserves notice. The Anglo-Saxon Hyrn, a corner,

predicti Prior et Conventus dimiserunt et tradiderunt predicto Johanni custodiam manerii ipsorum de Wodetone cum pertinentiis suis, et cum vestura ix. acrarum dimidii unius rode frumenti puri, novem acrarum ordi palmalis, trium acrarum fabarum, et sexaginta duarum acrarum avene, cum stramine et palea existentibus et collectis ad custus predictorum Prioris et Conventus in grangiis ipsorum de Wodetone, et cum feno viginti et octo acrarum prati; tenendum et custodiendum predictum Manerium cum pertinentiis suis et cum blado et feno predictis, sine aliquo compoto inde reddendo, a predicto festo Sancti Michaelis usque ad finem sex annorum proxime sequencium et plenarie completorum, pro xvj. libris sterlingorum eisdem Priori et Conventui annuatim in manerio eorum de Merstham solvendis, videlicet, medietatem pro primo anno ad festum Nativitatis beati Johannis Baptiste proxime sequens post confeccionem presencium, et aliam medietatem in festo Sancti Michaelis proxime sequente; et sic de anno in annum ad eosdem terminos annuatim sexdecim libras, usque ad finem predictorum sex annorum. Et predictus Johannes solvet annuatim custodi de Merstham, qui pro tempore fuerit, sex solidos et octo denarios pro expensis suis apud Wodetone et alibi eundo et redeundo. Et, cum contingat predictum custodem vel aliquem alium monachum ecclesie Christi predictae, seu ballivum vel clericum dicti custodis, ad predictum manerium accedere, dictus Johannes sumptibus suis de feno et littera sufficienter providebit eisdem. Et predictus Johannes habebit omnia proficua que provenient de relevis, herietis, placitis, et perquisitis Curie in causis simplicis querimonie, per totum tempus predictum; salvis tamen predictis Priori et Conventui eschaetis catallorum fugitivorum et dampnatorum, et similibus proventibus que eveniunt pro effusione sanguinis, et murthero, et omnimodis amerciamentis hominum et tenencium suorum extra Curiam de Wodetone; ac etiam omnibus aliis proficuis provenientibus de summonicione Scaccarii, (et) retornatu brevium seu preceptorum Domini Regis quibuscunque in manerio predicto; salvis eciam eisdem Priori et Conventui omnibus boscis et arboribus existentibus et crescentibus in dominicis terris dicti manerii; videlicet, cccc.xvj. arboribus de quercu crescentibus per fossata circa campum in quo Curia de Wodetone sita est, et in eodem campo juxta pratum; Item, c. arboribus de quercu et xl. arboribus de fraxino crescentibus circa gardinum et in gardino circa Curiam; Item, cxvj. arboribus de quercu et xxx. arboribus de fraxino crescentibus circa Cotland; Item, lvij. arboribus de quercu, et iv. arboribus de fraxino, et lxi. arboribus de fago crescentibus (apud ?) gravam^s de Staple. Et predictus Johannes tenetur toto tempore supradicto omnes terras arrabiles dicti manerii congruo modo arrare, seminare, herciare, et sarculare, et omnia waynagia⁹ dicti manerii in bona et debita seisona conservare; et totum bladum et fenum de terris et pratis predicti manerii provenientibus (*sic*) in orreis predictorum Prioris

angulus, is a word not uncommonly used by old writers, and still retained in certain provincial dialects. See the Promptorium Parvulorum, *v. Hyrne*, and *Halke*. In Norfolk a nook of land projecting into another parish or field is termed a herne.

⁷ Grava, a wood or grove, Sax. *græf*, Spelman. Between Merstham and Charlwood is a place still called Staplehurst.

Possibly this may have been the grove of Staple.

⁸ "Cotland, *cotsethland*. Land held by a *cotarius*, whether in soccage or villenage." Kennett. There is a place called Cotland, near Hunts Farm, Charlwood.

⁹ Probably tillage. See Ducange, *v. Gagnagium*, *Wagnagium*, &c. M. Paris and Brompton have Wainagium in this sense.

et Conventus ibidem et non alibi collocare. Nec licebit eidem Johanni fimos aut foiagia alibi cariare nisi super dominicam terram ejusdem manerii. Omnes eciam domos, sepes, et fossata predicti Manerii idem Johannes sumptibus suis per totum tempus predictum sustentabit in coopertura, clausura, et mundacione competenti. Et omnia dampna et expensas, que predicti Prior et Conventus fecerint (*sic*) vel incurrerint pro defectu cooperture, claustrure, et mundacione (*sic*) domorum, sepium, fossatorum, vel weynagii predicti, idem Johannes, per estimacionem sex legalium virorum per dictum custodem de Merstham et predictum Johannem equaliter electorum, eisdem Priori et Conventui restaurabit. In fine vero predictorum sex annorum predictus Johannes restituat et resignabit predictis Priori et Conventui totum predictum Manerium suum cum omnibus suis pertinentiis, et cum vestura novem acrarum dimidii unius rode de frumento puro, novem acrarum ordeï palmalis, trium acrarum fabarum, sexaginta et duarum acrarum avene, bene seisonat' cum stramine et palea, et (cum) feno viginti et octo acrarum prati, prout totum superius est expressum, sumptibus ejusdem Johannis per visum alicujus assignati per dictum custodem, in orreis predictorum Prioris et Conventus bene et fideliter collectis et intractis et in tassis collocatis, prout ea prius recepit. Et predicti Prior et Conventus et successores sui warantizabunt predicto Johanni predictum Manerium cum suis pertinentiis contra omnes gentes per totum tempus predictum, in forma predicta. Ad que omnia et singula supradicta bene et fideliter observanda et tenenda obligat se predictus Johannes, heredes, et executores suos, et omnes terras et tenementa sua, et omnia bona sua mobilia et immobilia, ad quorumcunque manus imposterum devenerint, (ad) distraccionem predictorum Prioris et Conventus et cujuscunque ministri domini Regis Anglie qui pro tempore fuerit pro voluntate predictorum Prioris et Conventus eligendi: et ad majorem securitatem omnium premissorum Nos, Robertus atte Wode de Merstham, Willelmus atte Tye, de eadem,¹ Johannes atte Tye de eadem, Robertus Bost de eadem, Johannes atte Tye de eadem, et Henricus atte Tye de eadem, conjunctim et divisim, et quilibet nostrum, insolidum cognoscimus nos teneri per presens scriptum principales debitores, et obligamus nos, et heredes, et executores nostros, terras et tenementa nostra, ad quorumcunque manus imposterum devenerint, ad omnia premissa in presenti scripto contenta facienda, tenenda, et observanda, eodem modo sicut predictus Johannes se et sua, ut predictum est, obligavit. In cujus rei testimonium, Nos, Johannes atte Hyerne, Robertus, Willelmus, Johannes, Robertus, Johannes et Henricus predicti sigilla nostra parti hujus scripti Cyrographati penes predictos Priorem et Conventum remanenti apposuimus, et sigillum dicti Prioris Ecclesie Christi predictae alteri parti ejusdem scripti penes nos remanenti est appensum. Staurum et utensilia die et anno predictis remanentia in manerio predicto, videlicet, boves decem, precium cujuslibet sexdecim solidi; de quibus bobus vel de precio predictus Johannes in fine predictorum sex annorum predictis Priori et Conventui ad voluntatem eorum respondebit. Item, remanent una tabula cum trestell'.

¹ A Tye in the Southern and Eastern counties signifies an open waste, a common. See Forby, and Cooper's Sussex Glossary. An extensive green waste in the Parish of Bulmer, Essex, near Sud-

bury, is called Bulmer Tye. The frequent occurrence of it as a termination in names of places in Sussex, as Gravetye, Brambletye, &c., must be familiar to our readers.

Item, una olla enea de duabus lagenis, unus urciolus de dimidia lagena, una patella enea de duabus lagenis, una patella enea de dimidia lagena, una patella ferrea, et unum morterium cum pestello. Item, unum dolium pro cisera,² unum bussellum ferro ligatum, duo costerell', uterque de duobus lagenis, unum ventilatorium ligneum. Item, una caruca cum toto apparatu, unum carrum cum rotis novis, una corda de canabo pro eodem, una furca ferrea pro bladis, unus ligo, una tribula, et una vanga, triginta crates pro ovili, et quinque magne pecie meremii de quercu non scapulate,³ quarum una pecia jacet in camera Aule. De quibus superius contentis predicti Johannes et plegii sui in fine predictorum sex annorum predictis Priori et Conventui respondebunt in forma predicta. Datum apud Merstham, die et anno supradictis.

Seven impressions of Seals are appended : all of dingy coloured green wax. Diameter of each seal about $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

1. A "love seal." Two figures, male and female, looking towards each other.—✠ LOVE ME AND Y THE.

2. A bear standing before a bush.—IE ME VOIS AV BOIS.

3. A hawk preying on a duck.—✠ ALAS IE SV PRIS.

4. A head in profile, one hand raised.—✠ IESVS MERCI.

5. A fox carrying off a goose.—✠ IE VOYS AD OYS.

6. A stag's head cabossed, a cross between the attires : on a chief—
LEL. This seal is in the form of an escutcheon, all the others are round.

7. A bird, very rude design.—✠ AVE MARIA.

ALBERT WAY.

² Cisera, more commonly written *sisera*, cider.

³ To scapple, in the Craven dialect, signifies rough-dressing stones with the hammer without using the chisel ; hence called hammer-scapple. See Dr. Carr's Glossary, *in v.* Mr. Parker, in the Glossary of Architecture, observes that the term is now used exclusively, or nearly so in reference to stone, but was formerly

applied to timber also, and must have signified the barking of a tree, or more probably squaring it with the axe. In the bailiffs' accounts of the Manor of the Savoy, 16 Rich. II., an entry occurs—"De prostracione et scapulat' et cariagio meremii de bosco de Wildewode," &c. Archæologia, vol. xxiv, p. 307. Cotgrave gives Fr. *Chapeler*, *Chappler*, *Eschapeler*, to clip, hack, hew, &c.