

## NOTES ON THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS OF QUEENBOROUGH.

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THE recent visit of the Kent Archæological Society to Queenborough may afford excuse for a short notice of the Municipal Records of that borough. The records are carefully preserved in a muniment room beneath the Town Hall, but it seems likely that in former days they were less well cared for, inasmuch as few date back further than the end of the fifteenth century. At some period no doubt a general clearing out resulted in a holocaust being made of what the Mayor and Jurats considered mere useless rubbish, in which the earlier records would certainly have been included. However, enough remains to give us some little insight into the history of the borough in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; and since no report upon the records has been issued by the Historical MSS. Commission, I venture to offer to the members of the Society the result of a few days' work in the muniment room undertaken by the kind permission of A. W. Howe, Esq., the present Mayor of Queenborough.

The Records may be conveniently divided into the following classes:—

- I.—Royal Charters.
- II.—Bound Volumes.
- III.—Loose Papers.

I. The Charter box contains the following six Charters:—

- 1. Dated 1 Henry V.
- 2. „ 1 Edward IV.
- 3. „ 1 Edward VI.
- 4. „ 2 and 3 Philip and Mary.
- 5. „ 1 Elizabeth.
- 6. „ 2 James I.

All the above have portions of the Great Seal attached, of which Nos. 3 and 6 preserve very fine impressions. These six Charters are *inspeximus* Charters confirmatory of the original Charter granted by King Edward III. in his forty-second year (1368). This Charter is no longer extant, but the following transcript from the Patent Rolls is preserved at Queenborough.

“Edwardus dei gratia, etc., etc., inter cetera quibus nostra sollicitudo versatur votis nostris occurrit precipuum regnum nostrum et eius incolae in pace et tranquillitate regere et a noxiis preservare locaque ad fortificandum habilia ad subditi nobis populi securitatem et hostium nostrorum formidamen et repulsionem solida fortitudine roborare sane considerato in Insula de Shepeye quodam loco situ decoro satisque securo et brachio maris multum lato et profundo et pro applicatione navium congruo vicino, castrum et villam ibidem construere incipimus, eaque muris et fossatis sufficienter ad ipsius regni fulcimentum et decorem et hominum partium vicinarum et bonorum suorum munimen proponimus domino concedente firmare quam quidem villam Burgum Regine duximus nominandum, et ut maior confluat concursus populorum ad eandem et ad habitandum ibidem animum assumant promptiorem et sit locus ille securitatis et fortitudinis incrementum ibidem solatium et quietem habitatorum concessimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris et hac carta nostra confirmavimus habitatoribus Burgi illius libertates et privilegia subscripta videlicet quod dicta villa perpetuus et liber burgus sit et homines eiusdem ville liberi sint Burgenses et habeant omnes libertates et liberas consuetudines ad liberum burgum pertinentes et quod de se ipsis singulis annis in festo Sancti Michaelis eligere possint unum maiorem duos ballivos qui burgum predictum et libertates ceteraque dictum Burgum tangencia custodiant et gubernent, et qui cum electi fuerint corporale prestent sacramentum coram constabulario Castri predicti nomine nostro quod nobis et dicto Burgo fideles erunt, et in hiis que regimen et custodia eiusdem concernunt bene et fideliter se gerent, et habebunt et quod habeant duo mercata ibidem singulis septimanis unum videlicet per diem lune et aliud per diem Jovis, et duas ferias singulis annis unam videlicet in festo Sancti Jacobi Apostoli in mense Julii et per quinque dies prosequentes, et aliam quarto die Martii et per septem dies prosequentes cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus ad hujus modi mercati et ferias pertinentibus nisi mercata illa et ferie ille sint

ad nocumentum vicinarum mercatarum et vicinarum feriarum. Et quod iidem burgenses et successores sui non implacitent seu implacitentur alibi quam infra eundem Burgum coram Maiore et Ballivis dicti Burgi pro tempore fuerint de aliquibus tenuris suis intrinsicis aut transgressionis seu contractibus infra Burgum factis, et quod habeant in eodem Infangenethef et Outfangenethef et iudicium inde facere possint et quod quieti sint per totum regnum et potestatem nostram de thelonio pontagio pavagio muragio Kaiagio gwyndagio lastagio stallagio wharvagio hidagio ryvagio wrecco maris et de shiris et hundredis et de omnibus aliis consuetudinibus de rebus et merchandisis suis propriis prestandum imperpetuum et quod iidem Burgenses heredes et successores sui non ponantur in Assisis Juratis recognicionibus aut inquisicionibus aliquibus ratione terrarum et tenementorum suorum forinsecorum vel ratione transgressionum contractuum convencionum aut aliorum negociorum suorum forinsecorum quorumcunque coram Justiceario aut aliis ministris nostris vel heredum nostrorum emergerint faciendum quamdiu moram in eodem Burgo ut Burgenses ejusdem ibidem inhabitantes steterint et quod homines forinseci non ponantur cum ipsis Burgensibus in Assisis Juratis recognicionibus aut inquisicionibus hujusmodi que ratione terrarum vel tenementorum in eodem burgo existencium aut transgressionum contractuum convencionum aut aliorum negociorum intrinsecorum emergerint faciendi nisi res illa tangat nos vel heredes nostros aut comitato Burgi predicti et insuper quod dicti Burgenses et eorum heredes et successores dictum burgum habitantes et inhabitaturi quieti sint de omnimodis tallagiis auxiliis decimis et quintis decimis ac aliis quotis nobis vel heredibus nostris de propriis bonis suis concedendum prestandum concessimus etiam prefatis Burgensibus et eorum successoribus quod Maior et Ballivi eiusdem Burgi habeant cognicionem omnium placitorum de contractibus debitis convencionibus et transgressionibus in eodem burgo emergentibus et executores eorundem que non tangunt nos vel heredes nostros aut comitatem dicti burgi et quod iidem burgenses de propriis vinis suis de quibus negociantur quieti sint de recta prisanostra videlicet de uno dolio vini ante malum et alio post malum et quod Custos quinque portuum nostrorum aut ministri sui vel Barones eorundem portuum de dicto Burgo vel Burgensibus eiusdem burgi vel de possessionibus aut rebus suis in eodem burgo nec de navibus eorundem burgensium in aliquo non intromittant nec quod ipsi Burgenses de serviciis que dicti Barones quinque portuum nobis et heredibus nostris de navibus suis invenire tenentur in aliquo onerentur sed omnino inde quieti sint et exonerati imperpetuum

Quare volumus et firmiter precipimus pro heredibus nostris quod dicti Burgenses et eorum heredes et successores dictum burgum inhabitantes et inhabitaturi omnibus et singulis libertatibus quietanciis et privilegiis predictis plene gaudeant et utantur in perpetuum sine occasione vel impedimento nostri vel heredum nostrorum Justiciorum Exchaetorum Vicecomitum aut aliorum Ballivorum sui Ministrorum nostrorum quorum cunque hiis testibus venerabilibus patribus S Archiepiscopo Cantuariensis tocius Anglie Primate W Wynton cancellario nostro J Elien thesauro nostro Episcopis Johanne Duce Lancastri, Edmundo comiti Cantebre, filiis nostris carissimis, Humfredo de Bohun comiti Hereford, Ricardo Comiti Arundell, Thoma de Bello Campo Comiti Warr, Henrico de Percy, Thoma de Roos de Hamelak, Walter de Manny, Will Latymer Senescallo hospicii nostri, et aliis. Datum per manum nostram Westminsterio x die Maii.

per ipsum Regem.”

In the preamble of this Charter the King distinctly states that his object in thus dignifying the little hamlet of fishermen's houses (hitherto called Bynnee) with the title of a royal borough, was to attract a larger population to the neighbourhood of his newly erected castle. This castle had been commenced in the year 1361 from the plans of the celebrated architect William of Wickham, and was designed for “the strengthening of the realm and the refuge of the inhabitants” of the Isle of Sheppey; that a town should spring up under its walls capable of supplying the requirements of the garrison within seems to have been the motive which induced the King to grant to the inhabitants full corporate privileges. Under this Charter the town was governed until 1625, when King Charles I. granted a new Charter to Queenborough. This Charter is preserved amongst the archives, and was the basis of Queenborough law until the passing of the Municipal Reform Act in our own times.

The following is a short abstract of the provisions of this Charter.

The boundaries by land are described as follows:—  
 “From the gate called Barres gate on the east side of the borough, and so by the land or fleet by the marsh called Rushenden Marsh, on the south side there, and from thence

to the common creek unto the Swale on the west side, and from the aforesaid Swale unto the marsh called Digge's Marsh on the north side, and from the said marsh unto the gate called Barres gate on the east side." And by water "From the passage or place called King's Ferry unto the place commonly called Swale's Spitt. Saving, nevertheless, to us and our heirs and successors excepted and reserved our Castle of Quinborowe, and all the waters and lands within the liberty, circuit, and precincts of the same Castle."

The government of the town, which under King Edward III.'s Charter was vested in a Mayor and two Bailiffs, was now entrusted to a Mayor, four Jurats, and two Bailiffs, with one "discreet man learned in the laws of England" as Steward.

The Mayor on his election had to take oath before the Constable of the Castle. A Court of Record was to be held before the Mayor and Steward, or either of them, every Monday three weeks, but they had no power to try cases touching the loss of life. No burgess could be compelled to muster or find arms out of the borough. All was to be held "as of our Manor of East Greenwich as in common soccage on payment of ten shillings of lawful money of England payable at the receipt of the Exchequer or into the hands of the Sheriff of the County of Kent at the feast of St. Michael."

The Queenborough Charters were, in the fifteenth century, distributed amongst various members of the Corporation. In 1476 an entry in the Statute Book informs us that Alan Jacob (Mayor) holds the Papal Bull\* and the common seal.

John Raynet, a box covered with leather containing two Charters.

John Clerk, a box of wicker work containing one Charter.

Richard Pylgryme, a box with one Charter.

Richard Rand, a box with one Charter.

William Brett, a box with one Charter.

\* What was this Papal Bull? On another page we find the following entry:—"The privileges contained in our Charter which said privileges all and every of them our most Holy father in Christ Pope Nicholas the fourth hath graciously ratified." This is a puzzle, since Pope Nicholas IV. died in the year 1292, seventy-six years before the date of the earliest Queenborough Charter.

## II. BOUND VOLUMES.

The most important of these is the Statute Book, a thick quarto containing 115 vellum leaves, bound in oaken boards from which the clasp has disappeared. On one of the fly-leaves at the beginning of the volume are some verses in a handwriting of the early part of the fifteenth century; they are apparently a somewhat coarse satire upon the Friars. Also the following memorandum: "That William Kyng and Richard Davy hath axett franchys in the Kyng's name of Yngelond of the Mayor of Queneburgh for the saff gards of thar lyffys and ther godys on the vij<sup>th</sup> day of february in the yere of our sovereign lorde Kyng Harry the vij<sup>th</sup> vj<sup>th</sup> yere." At the beginning of the volume is a rubricated Calendar occupying twelve pages; at the foot of the page for the month of february is the following entry:—

"Be itt known to all men by these presents that I Richard Bond of Quinborow, Mayer in the County of Kent in the Isle of Shepey, and I John Allan of the same towne, byndys us and every one of us to other our heres, executors, and assyns, to abyde the wourde and arbytrayment of Richard Taylor, Robert holton, Thomas hewet, and Richard Cockerell ye elder burgesys of ye same towne, for all manner of causes, debaytts, demands, and controversys had between ye forsayd Richard and John from the begynging of the world to the date hereafter on payne of forfitt xij<sup>li</sup> sterling to the party y<sup>t</sup> will not ther abyde the Arbetryment of ye forsayd arbetrater, and for ye more suerty we ye forsayd Richard and John charytably hath sett to our seylls hand ye xx day of Aprell the xvij yere of King Harry the viii.

By me Rychard Bond  
P' me John Alyn."

A Table of Contents follows the Calendar.

Tot subscripta continentur in isto volumine.

Magna Carta	de finibus.
Carta de fforesta	novi articuli.
Sentencia lata super eisdem	Statuta de Gaveleto.
Provisiones de Merton	De terris et libertatibus per
Statuta de Marleburgh	quirendis de gratia Regis.
Westmonasterii primum	Consuetudines Kancie.

Gloucesterie cum explanatione	Exposiciones vocabulorum in
Westmonasterii secundum	cartis libertatum.
Statutum Religiosorum	Modus Calumpniandi essonia.
Confirmacio domini regis Cartarum	Dies communes in banco.
Statuta scaccarii	Dies dotis.
Districiones scaccarii	Visus franciplegii.
Statutum de bigamis	Modus faciendi homagium.
Statutum de mercatoribus	Assisa panis et cervisie.
Statutum Wyntonie	Extenta manerii. [ram.
Statutum de quo Waranto	Modus ad mesurandum ter-
Articuli contra Regiam prohibicionem	Compositio ad puniendum
Statuta de emptoribus terrarum	infringentis assisum et
Statutum exonie	forstallarios.
„ de militibus	Summa parva hengham.
„ de vocatis ad warrantum	Modus ordinandi brevia.
„ de vasto facto in custodia	Exceptiones ad cassandum
„ de Conspiratoribus	brevia.
„ de Juratis et assisis	Tractatus de bastardia.
„ Contra vicecomitis et clericos	Judicium essoniorum.
„ brevia retornantes	Cadit Assisa.
	Articuli qui in narrando
	indiget observari.

The other bound volumes are—

I.—A. A parchment bound book in bad condition labelled “Entries in King Henry VII<sup>th</sup> and part of Henry VIII<sup>th</sup>s reign.” The first entry is dated 11 Henry VII. (1497). It contains views of frankpledge, etc.

B. A parchment bound book in bad condition and imperfect. The first entry is dated Monday, May 8, 34 Henry VIII. Contains views of frankpledge, etc. On a subsequent page the following entry appears:—“M<sup>d</sup> that I Willyam Nobull husbandman hath here taken senctory for the safety of my body and my goods the xxij day of Apprell, Thomas Robinson meer the xix yere of ye rayne of King Harry the viij<sup>th</sup>.”

C. A parchment bound book in bad condition, inscribed “C from 1533.” Contains admission of Freemen and Actions for debt.

D. Court book, commencing April 8, 1611, and ending April 29, 1661.

E. Court book, 1661—1724. At the end are a number of Certificates under the Test Act. Also entries relating to the oyster fishery.

1661. (Extracts.) "Stephen Morris disfranchised till he pay £5 for contempt in sliteing and undervalueng ye charter.

"None to keep a horse except ye Mayor, Jurats, and Bailiffs, and ye two Butchers, on forfeiture of 3<sup>s</sup> for every day except they hire two whole leeses or rent £10 per annum.

"The Hoymen and Bakers admitted to keep a horse on the green.

"Mr Rich<sup>d</sup> Nicolls fined £5 for abusing the Mayor and undervaluing him in his authority."

II.—Proceedings of the Mayor's Court, 1573—1608 (extracts):—

1573. "At this law day it is ordayned by the Maior, Bayliffs, and Burgesses y<sup>t</sup> every Baker in the said Towne and liberty shall sell to every victuayler xiiij loves to the dossin, and likewise every burges in the town and liberty shall sell xiiij loves to the dossin being no vitayler, uppon the payne of every one that offendeth to the contrary iij<sup>s</sup> iiiij<sup>d</sup>."

1575. "We present the butts (*for the Archers*) for being in decay and will that they be made up this weke."

"We the said Jury will that order be taken in the towne for keepinge clean of the Churchyard, and about the Church."

1582. "It'm we present that we think it is expedient to have a cucking stole made in the Towne for the punishment of scouldes and unquiet."

1584. "It<sup>m</sup> the same Jury do present all the Inhabitants of the said towne for Bowling and such other unlawful games wherefore every man is amerced to paye ij<sup>d</sup> unto the poor men's boxe, and he that refuseyth to pay shall be distrayned by the officers and shall paye xij<sup>d</sup>."

1584. "Y<sup>t</sup> is agreed that Richard Higat Fleming shall paye unto our Church, that is to saye unto the Minister iij<sup>s</sup>, and unto the Clerk xij<sup>d</sup>." "It'm it is agreed that Richard Higat Fleming shall provide one caliver furnished, to remayne in the custody of our chambers for ever uppon payne if he doe not provide it by Midsommer next xx<sup>s</sup>."

1588. "We present privy tiplers not licensed to sell malt. Widdowe Lawson and Richard Whyte not to tipples or sell any more upon payne of vj<sup>s</sup> and viij<sup>d</sup> for every tyme."

"M<sup>d</sup> that Robert Lulley Clarke did sell a black mare of three years old in the market for the sum of fifty three shillings."

III.—Records of Court, 1598—1674.

IV.—Book of Enrolments, 1585—1671.

V.—Chamberlain's Accounts from 1611 :—

1613.	P <sup>d</sup> to M <sup>r</sup> Lee (Steward) for his fee . . . . .	2 <sup>li</sup>	0	0
	It'm paid for the Vane and setting it up . . . . .		8	4
	It <sup>m</sup> paid for writing a petition to ye lord of Canterbury . . . . .		7	6
1623.	For gaging 410 barrells of beere 4 <sup>d</sup> per barrel . . . . .	6	17	4
	M <sup>r</sup> Garland rent for the land laid to the Copperas house . . . . .	2	10	0
	P <sup>d</sup> to M <sup>r</sup> Pretchett for making of a sermon ye 4 June . . . . .		6	0
	For repairing the Court Hall and building of a prison under the same and for repairing of the cadge and pillory . . . . .	15	12	3
	P <sup>d</sup> for chardges in going to the Burgesses to Lon- don and for lobsters that were given to them . . . . .	1	0	0
		£	s.	d.
1653.	Rent for the New Salt house . . . . .	1	0	0
	For mendinge the glass windows in the Court Hall . . . . .		2	0
	For the Market House tylement . . . . .		3	0
	For two posts for the stocks . . . . .		7	0
	Vile for setting up the stocks . . . . .		3	8
	For a sheet to burie a poore man . . . . .		4	0
	for sockinge of him . . . . .		1	0
	For lobsters for Col. Kenniwicke . . . . .		15	6
	To Weldishe and William ffelowe for fetching back the souldiers . . . . .		3	0
	To Vile for clearing the well . . . . .		3	0
	„ for setting up the cesterne . . . . .		10	0
	„ for makeing a waterside place at the great pond . . . . .		1	0
	For cleaning the well and mending the hoope of ye bucket . . . . .		1	16
	For cleaning the pond . . . . .		4	15
	To John Siborne for a rope . . . . .		2	16
	To Smith for his work about the bucketts* . . . . .		1	13

\* The well above referred to was no doubt the Castle well, to which the townsmen now had free access for the first time, the Castle having been demolished in the previous year. This well is still the sole source of the water supply for the town.

VI.—Chamberlain's Accounts from 1700.

VII.—Folio Book labelled Town Quay.

VIII.—Parchment bound book containing translations of Charters, copies of By-laws, etc. The Mayor's salary is set down at £20, with a lease for twenty-four sheep on the Common. Fines: A Jurat refusing the office of Mayor £50. A Bailiff refusing to be a Jurat £30. Free Burgesses refusing the office of Bailiff £20. Admission of Freemen 40s for the sons of freemen and for apprentices, £6 in the case of "foreigners."

IX.—Churchwardens' Accounts, 1723—1768:—

1731, June 5 <sup>th</sup> . "Pd the Ringers and for Bonfire, Beer, etc., upon his Majesty's coming to anchor within Sheerness"	£1 13 6
June 6 <sup>th</sup> . "Paid to the Boats' crews that attended the Mayor, Jurats, and Bailiffs when they waited on his Majesty on board the Carolina yacht"	1 0 0
1762, May 7 <sup>th</sup> . "Paid Mr Ongley for one barrell of Strong beer to be drank by the populace when peace was proclaimed"	1 16 0

X.—Cesse Book from 1706. Also contains the Land Bailiff's disbursements from 1702.

XI.—Folio book inscribed Parish of Queenborough—Articles of ye Committee, 1806—1810.

XII.—Folio book containing abstracts of leases.

### III. LOOSE PAPERS.

These may be divided into two classes (a) General, (b) Letters. Many of the latter refer to the Parliamentary elections, and are of interest as shewing the influence which was brought to bear upon the Burgesses by those who imagined that they had a right to control their choice of representatives.

#### CONTENTS OF LARGE PORTFOLIO.

Office copy of the Royal Charter of Queenborough.  
 "A copy of the original record remaining in the Rolls Chapel having been examined therewith this day by me John Hewett Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> 1827."

A copy of King Charles II.'s Confirmation of the Charter.

A letter from Christopher Robinson, Mayor, to the Collector of the Queen in Kent, protesting against the imposition of the 10th and 15th being levied by the parish of Minster on lands and goods of certain Burgesses of Queenborough.

A copy of the Charter, "amended by Cap<sup>t</sup> Evans 1626."

A "copy of ye old Charter of Queenborough," 42 Edw. III.

Names of the Burgesses 1459-60, and 1471.

Nomina Burgensium ville de Queenburgh tempore Johannis Swalman Maioris de Queenburgh Anno xxxvij<sup>o</sup> H. vj<sup>th</sup>.

Northwode Armiger.

Joh'es Swalman, Maior.

Will's Bret, Sen'.

Will's Bret, Jun'.

Joh'es Bret.

Galfred Benet, mortuus.

Alanus Jacob.

Joh'es ladys.

Joh'es lowythe.

Joh'es Wyllys.

Joh'es Clerk.

Joh'es Gryggs.

herte.

Will's Baker.

Joh'es Coke.

Will's Barnarde.

Nomina Burgensium de novo  
Apposita Anno E. iiiij<sup>to</sup> xi<sup>o</sup>.

Will's Bret, Sen'.

Will's Bret, Jun'.

Rob<sup>t</sup> Knyght.

Joh'es Clerk.

Alanus Jacob.

Joh'es Cowle.

Ric. Pilgrym.

Will's Bunce.

Joh'es Payne.

Thomas Benet.

Rubene Bret.

Ric. Rande.

Will's Estwood.

Thomas Aleyne.

1368. Copy from Patent Roll of a Warrant for the appointment of Richard de Blore, Richard Cok, and William Chaundeler as paymasters for work done at Queenborough Castle.

1384. Copy from the Patent Roll of Grant by King Richard II. of the lordship of the Castle to his favourite Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford.

The will of Thomas Robynson, singleman, of Queenborough, made Nov<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup>, 1557:—

... "I give and bequeath my soul to God Almighty, and my body to be buried in the Churchyard of Mynster, to the parish

priest of the same *ij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>*, to the Chapell of Queenborowe *xx<sup>s</sup>*. To Roger Kircopp *ij<sup>s</sup>*, to Elizabeth Stevenson one half angell in gold. To Ralph Blythe one blacke cote and *ij<sup>s</sup>* in money. To William Thorneborowe's wife *xij<sup>d</sup>*. To Kircoppe's Children and John Saunders' children *vij<sup>s</sup>*. To each howse *xij<sup>d</sup>*. To Gilbert Amore one doblett. To William Howhe one sherte and my best breaches. To Mr John Saunders for the injuries done to him by me when I was his servaunt *vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>*. To Roger Kircoppe *ij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>*. To my Mr John Saunders' wife *v<sup>s</sup>*. To be bestowed at Mynster at my buryall one ewe shepe wyth as moche brede and drynke as shall suffice, and at my moneths minde at Quinborowe. To the townhall of Quinborow *xl<sup>s</sup>*." His executors are directed to sell his house to the best advantage, and to devote the money to making a well in the middle of the town. "To every pore house in the towne *xij<sup>d</sup>* and all the rest to be bestowed in dedes of mercy and pyttie." Witnesses, Sir John Sheref preste, James Pette, Roger Kircoppe, and other more. (Proved before the Mayor Robert Colens May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1558.)

#### SMALL PORTFOLIO.

1558. An Assessment for the Minister's wages, 4l paid and the total amounted to £5 3s. 4d.

1660. Proceedings in the Court Leet before John Tyce, Mayor :—

" We present that Daniel Baker, ffreeman, being at home at his owne house, hath wilfully absented himself from his attendance at this Court Leet and hee is therefore amerced at 5<sup>s</sup> to bee levied for the use of the poor of the towne.

" Also we present Mr Nicholas Taylor and Henry Minge for their keeping each of them a hogg on the Common more than their stock, and are therefore allowed a moneth's time for their removal of them upon penaltie of *xij<sup>d</sup>* a peece.

" Also we present John Tayler for keeping company at his house in Sermon time on the last Lord's Day and hee is therefore amerced at *ij<sup>s</sup>*.

" Also we present Mr Richard Thompson for breaking downe the cage and stock house, and doe order him to reparaire the same againe at his owne charge within one moneth upon penaltie of *xx<sup>s</sup>*.

" Also we present Mr Richard Thompson for detaining forty shillings of the money given to the Towne by James Herbert, Esq<sup>re</sup>, and Sir William Wheeler, K<sup>t</sup>,\* and order the same to be paid unto

\* Members for the Borough 1660.

the Chamberlain of the Town before the next Court day upon the penalty of iii<sup>j</sup>l<sup>i</sup>.

“Also we present the same M<sup>r</sup> Richard Thompson for deteyning the plate taken off the Town Mace, whereon was engraved the last pretended State arms and order it to be delivered to the Chamberlain before the next court day on penalty of 40<sup>s</sup>.

“Ordered that the severall Victuallers of this Towne shall sell a full wine quart of strong beere for a penny to any person who shall have occasion for the same, upon the penalty of xij<sup>d</sup> for every default not exceeding two quarts in one day to one *man* (pen drawn through) house.

“Whereas the Register booke of this Towne hath heertofore bene in the hands of severall persons uncapable of keeping the same by reason whereof divers persons who have been borne and buried within the said Towne have not been Registered to the great dishonour of this Towne and of those borne therein, it is heereby ordered that the said Register book bee put into the hands of the Minister of this Towne for the time being or some other person capable of keeping the same, to be duly kept on penalty of 5<sup>s</sup> a moneth for every other person who shall deteyn the same.”

1679. Article exhibited in the Court the fourth day of August 1679 against Andrew Widgin, Serjant Mace, and one of the Freemen of the Borough of Queenborough:—

“Imprimis that the said Andrew Widgin in the presence of diverse of the ffreemen . . . did upon the fower and twentieth day of July last past publish declare and say these approbious scandalous and villifying words following, that is to say, ‘They are all rogues that voted or spoke against Captaine Hales,’ M<sup>r</sup> Richard Nicholls being then present and hearing the same words and knowing that M<sup>r</sup> Henry Knight, Maior of the said Borough, amongst severall of the Juratts had given his vote in the last election against the said Captain Hales, asked the said Andrew Widgin what he made of his Master, Master Mayor. The said Andrew replied that he was as badde as the rest.”

1664. Cesse for renewing the Charter, total £37.

1728. View of Frankpledge.

1607. A petition from the Mayor, etc., of Queenborough to the King complaining that although King Edward III. built them a chapel of their own, and that they provide a convenient Curate, yet they have to pay tithes to the parish church of Minster.

## The Muster Roll, 16 Elizabeth (1574).

Walter Wheatley, Mayor . . . . .	two calivers furnished.
Thomas Lawson, Water balie . . . . .	two calivers furnished.
Allen Henman, land baylie . . . . .	two calivers furnished.
Eli Graff . . . . .	one caliver one corslet furnished.
Robert Rayholl . . . . .	his caliver furnished.
William Browman . . . . .	a bowe and shef of arrows sword and dagger.
John Maplis . . . . .	a bowe and shef of arrows sword and dagger.
Thomas Nox . . . . .	one caliver furnished.
Edward Browne . . . . .	one caliver furnished.
John Howlyng . . . . .	a bill sword and dagger.
John Brett . . . . .	a bill sword and dagger.
Thomas Spencer . . . . .	a bowe shef of arrows and dagger.
Edmund Weynam . . . . .	a bill sword and dagger.
Wyllym Noreotte . . . . .	a bill sword and dagger.
Roger Gayton . . . . .	a bill sword and dagger.
Robert Daile . . . . .	a bill sword and dagger.
Gilbert Amore . . . . .	a bill sword and dagger.
William Antony . . . . .	a bill sword and dagger.

## LETTERS.

1576. Thomas Smyth, Customer, to the Mayor and Jurats of Queenborough.

“I am advised that you have stayed fyve barrells of powder of Mr Thomas Manwood which came indeed very unorderly to y<sup>r</sup> hands by ignorance of them that shipped it, and therefore you have done duties of good offices in staying it. But seeing it is the dewtie of all men to certifie a truth when any thing is in contraversie. And that also I am requested thereto by the right worshipful Mr Justice Manwood his uncle. This is to let you know the Custom of the said powder is truly paid.”

1596-7. Sir Moyle Finch to the Mayor and Jurats of Queenborough.

Directing them to choose “meete and unmeet men to serve in the next Parliament,” “for the better asserting whereof I am to inform you by my letters or otherwise of the contents of her Ma<sup>ties</sup> good meaning for the said Borough in the intended Parliament, which if y<sup>t</sup> shall otherwise appeare to be evill supplied, the said

Lord (as they write) shall have occasion to enquier and find out by whose default the same hath happened.”\*

1610. From the Mayor and Burgesses of King's Lynn to the Mayor and Burgesses of Queenborough, in answer to a complaint by the latter that the “officers of the town of Lynn had taken some dewties which they ought not to take from the Burgesses of Queenborough.” The Mayor of Lynn returns a guarded answer, but takes the opportunity of reminding the Burgesses of Queenborough that their Charter is less ancient than that of Lynn, which dates from the days of King John.

1623. The Earl of Montgomery† to the Mayor and Jurats.

Thanking them for having “soe freely conferred one Burgess' place at my disposinge and the other upon Mr Bassett,” but *inasmuch* as “upon the first motion of a Parliament” he did “presume upon their love so far as to make a promise to engage his credit for two of his special friends Mr Roger Palmer and Mr Pooley.” He therefore begs the Jurats to elect these gentlemen as Mr Bassett offers to retire.

Whitehall, 6 Jan. 1623.

1625. From the same to the same.

“After my hastie commendacions I have just cause to make ye worst constructions of your indiscreete carriage towards me in slighting my letters which I directed unto you for Mr Robert Pooley, a gent. every way able to discharge a greater trust than happily might betide him from that Corporation, if you had made choice of him according to the tenor and meaning of my sayd letters. And assure yourselves since Sir Edward Hales out of respect to mee is content to wave acceptance of that Burgesshipp w<sup>h</sup> yee would enforce upon him, if in his Roome you choose not the sayd Mr Pooley for whom you see how much I am engaged, I shall consider it as a neglect and scorne doubled uppon mee, and shall most assuredly therefore whensoever your occasions shall need my furtherance bee found

Yo<sup>r</sup> friend according to yo<sup>r</sup> behavio<sup>r</sup>  
to mee in this and in ye future,

MONTGOMERY.”

Whitehall,  
25<sup>th</sup> of Aprill 1625.

\* In 1592-3 the Burgesses had returned John Cobham, Esq., and John Baynham, Gent.

† Philip, second son of the second Earl of Pembroke; he was raised to the peerage in 1605 as Baron Herbert of Shurland in the Isle of Sheppey and Earl of Montgomery. In 1630 he succeeded his elder brother in the Earldom of Pembroke.

1654. John, Earl of Thanet, to the Mayor, etc.

“His Highness the Lord Protector and the Councill have thought fitt that at the time and place where proclamation shall be made for the election of Burgesses, the instrument entitled ye Gou’ment of the Commonwealth shalbe alsoe read.”

1680-81. William Glanvill\* to Mr. Peter Ken, Mayor of Queenborough.

“Mr Mayor,

“And all that are freemen of the Corporation of Queenborough. Though I freely confess that I cannot pretend any Title to your favour, yet I hope I have not by any act of mine deserved y<sup>r</sup> unkindness. I did heretofore by a letter (or I now doe) offer myself and service to yo<sup>r</sup> Corporation which I think was in itself no offense; in that offer I neither sought or designed any particular advantages to myself beyond the reputation of being your servant in Parliament . . . I hope no man can reasonably think I gave you, Mr Mayor, or any other person any just cause of displeasure by my late petition to the honourable House of Commons for the asserting my own right and theirs who at the last election were pleased to vote for me . . . As the whole house was pleased without a negative voice to think my cause good, so after all my trouble and charge I got nothing but the hon<sup>or</sup> of being thought worthy to sit in that House and capable to serve my King and country and yo<sup>r</sup> Corporation. It would be a meanness much below the minde of a gentleman to make supplication to be y<sup>r</sup> Burgess, but it is a necessary peice of civility and good manners to offer my service if you please to accept it. I freely forget all unkindness shewed me at the last election, and I think mee as fitt to serve you in the next Parliament as the house of Commons thought me in the last, though my prospect be no other but trouble and expense I will think it some credit to mee to bee in the next session the towne of Queenborough’s

Most faithfull and humble ser<sup>nt</sup>

London, Jan. 27, 8<sup>o</sup><sub>1</sub>.

WILL’M GLANVILL.”

1680. Sir Edward Hales to the Mayor, etc.

Says that on account of age and infirmity he must cease to represent them in Parliament, and recommends his son Charles as his successor.

\* William Glanville of St. Cleres in Ightham; he married Frances, daughter of Edward Hales of Chilston.

1689, Jan. 22. James Herbert to the Mayor and Jurats.

“Gentlemen, I have had the happiness to serve twice for your Corporation thro’ ye favour of some of my friends among you, and yet by ye opposition of others it was upon termes so severe as a stranger might have expected it. However I shall not decline still offering you my service in this next Parliament, and hope you will consider my Interest and fortune in ye Island and Hundred is not so inconsiderable as to expose me to ye hazard of such opposition as I formerly met with all. And I am willing to believe that you will think them friends no more to you than to me y<sup>t</sup> made use of so unworthy an argument as to make my kindnesse and gratitude to your Town in ye present I made you of a New Mace as an occasion in ye Comitty to void my last election. Gentlemen, I need no act to assure you that I cannot but intend ye good of your Corporation since ye best of my ffortune lyes in your nearest neighbourhood, and so concerns me as Common good to us both. Truly I am sensible of these oppositions as reflecting too much upon me in that place. I will hope to finde you better inclined at this time, and therefore make you this early offer of standing in hope to find your favour, and that such as were my friends before may have so good an influence upon ye rest as to encourage me thereunto, which I wish I may understand by M<sup>r</sup> Barton who will deliver you this from  
your assured friend  
to serve you  
JAMES HERBERT.”