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# GUIDE TO THE ESSEX QUARTER SESSIONS AND OTHER OFFICIAL RECORDS

Prepared for the Records Committee by

F. G. EMMISON, F.R.Hist.S.,  
*County Archivist.*

With a Foreword by

R. E. NEGUS, D.S.O., M.A.,  
*Clerk of the Peace.*



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THE SHIRE HALL, CHELMSFORD, 1795  
*from an engraving by J. Walker after Reinagle*

A very special acknowledgment is due to the  
Records Committee of the Essex County  
Council for generously granting the use of the  
type and blocks for this publication.



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[illegible]

ENROLLED DEED, 1536

The fourth entry in the roll of 'Deeds of Bargain and Sale.' It relates to 1½ acres 'late sett and planted with saffren' in Littlebury. The first-known reference to the cultivation of saffron at Walden, an adjoining parish, is in 1545, and the earliest form noted is 'Safrongardyn' in Widdington, a few miles away, in 1467 (*Place-Names of Essex*, ed. by P. H. Reaney, p. 537).

This roll is the oldest Essex Quarter Sessions record, and is believed to be the earliest document surviving in the custody of county Clerks of the Peace.

[See p. 39. Transcript and translation on p. 97.]



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## FOREWORD.

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Essex Quarter Sessions Records proper begin with the records of Sessions in the reign of Philip and Mary. This is by comparison with the records of most Quarter Sessions an early date, but it is well to remember that by that time Quarter Sessions as a Court of Record had already achieved a respectable antiquity, namely, of two centuries, having acquired judicial powers in 1344.

The Clerk of the Peace has statutory custody of certain classes of documents which have no connection with Quarter Sessions or their records, but the *Guide* makes clear in each case under what authority these classes are deposited.

It is greatly to be hoped that with the ever increasing facilities furnished for systematic study it will be found possible to compile a complete history of Essex Quarter Sessions. Such a history would serve to emphasise the robust individuality of the County and would throw much light upon social evolution, with which Quarter Sessions from the middle of the 14th century was intimately connected. Incidentally such a history would largely be a history of local government. Such a work, however, is clearly beyond the reach of all save a very few students and it is therefore well to point out that these records will for many generations be a happy and useful hunting ground for those who have time and inclination only for a more limited type of research. Such research when it results in the publication of monographs is likely to be of great value to historians and to many others beside.

To take but two examples, it would be of considerable value to us to-day to know, so far as can be gathered from the records, to what extent severity of punishment served as a deterrent from crime in the past, and it would be useful to know to what extent the Justices succeeded in local government, e.g., in securing the repair and maintenance of roads and bridges. Research in these directions would perhaps lead to more solid results than the fashionable and interminable theorizings of the present day. Neither private enterprise nor narrowly limited public enterprise show to advantage in these records.

It is not unpleasing, in days of almost continuous world upheavals, to reflect in the course of our studies that in this country we somehow managed to go to the extent of cutting off our reigning monarch's head without any noticeable effect upon "the King's Peace." Such



a reflection tends to give one, as well it may, a comfortable sense of social security, such as one would scarcely derive from study of the more turbulent methods of, say, the French Revolution.

The fact that for 600 years Quarter Sessions has been functioning so well as it has done seems to suggest that this form of the administration of justice is at any rate well suited to our peculiar national temperament.

It is to be hoped that students will not too readily succumb to the lure of statistics. It should be remembered, for example, in the study of recidivism, that very many felons of earlier days were non-recidivist for the simple reason that they were hanged for their first offence, or at a later date transported to the plantations never to return. Even if we count heads it may well be that the records of earlier ages reveal less crime because fewer criminals were caught. Crime is still very popular in Essex, as elsewhere, but perhaps not overwhelmingly so; and it may be that students will be able to present a fair case for the proposition that boiling alive is not the best punishment for poisoners and indeed, possibly, that savage punishments do not prevent savage crimes. But this is just one of those matters where research might well lead to conclusions of great value.

Benefit of clergy, the precursor of probation, could be claimed once only. To what extent was this form of respite efficacious? Is the prevalence of housebreaking partly due to the failure of the Englishman to realise that his house is his castle in no more than a metaphorical sense unless he defend it as stoutly as Sir John Paston, for example, defended his house? These are but a few of the matters which with hope and confidence I commend to students.

They will, I am sure, appreciate and be grateful for the work of our archivist in the preparation of this guide. It has necessitated and has received an immense amount of overtime which nobody save an enthusiast would have devoted to it. Knowing as I do the dimensions of the still greater task which faces him in the handling of the vast and unwieldy collection of deposited muniments and being *virtute officii* primarily interested in Quarter Sessions Records I desire to take this opportunity of assuring him that his labours have been and will be watched with interest and admiration by all members of Essex Quarter Sessions.

R. E. NEGUS.

May, 1946.

## INTRODUCTION.

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### 1. County Records: their Scope and Interest.

The archives of Courts of Quarter Sessions and of Clerks of the Peace rival in interest all other local records of post-medieval date. They yield material so varied that few searchers are likely to go away unrewarded. The biographer and genealogist, the topographer and parish historian, will find in the Sessions Records facts and details unobtainable from other sources.<sup>1</sup> To the student of social or economic history they are of outstanding importance. Crime and punishment, roads and bridges, frequenters of alehouses and absentees from church, the 'wages of servants, labourers and artificers,' and the 'distemper in horned cattle'—these and many other subjects he will expect to find illustrated in Quarter Sessions Records. But when he explores the heterogeneous mass of documents which the Clerk of the Peace was instructed to enrol, register, file, enter, memorialize and so forth, according to the phrasing of successive statutes from 1535 onwards, he will be agreeably surprised at the field for discovery, if, as in Essex, the archives have been preserved more or less complete and from an early date. Not only will he find the familiar deeds of bargain and sale, dissenters' meetinghouse certificates, 'deputations' to gamekeepers with lists of lords of manors, diversions of rights-of-way certificates with maps, registers of alehouses with their signs, enclosure awards and maps, canal and railway plans, land tax assessments and registers of electors, but also documents of rarer types. Nearly every class of document mentioned in the 'List of Records to be found in the custody of the Clerk of the Peace'<sup>2</sup> is extant among the Essex archives, as well as several additional classes not listed. The lesser-known classes preserved include early inquisitions for closing roads through parks, subscription rolls of persons who swore to preserve the 'royal person and government' of William III, 'Tyburn tickets' exempting the holders from unpaid parochial office, agreements for the establishment of workhouses and notices for the registration of printing presses. There are also registers of shopkeepers and dealers in corn, fish, butter or cheese, and of those who used hair-powder, forming partial county directories, as well as the Hearth Tax returns, which are almost complete directories of

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<sup>1</sup> The classes most useful for these types of student are distinguished in the *Key to Classification*, p. xv.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of Committee on Local Records*, Cd. 1333 (1902), Appendix XI.



householders with the number of hearths in each dwelling.

These 'statutory deposits' with the Clerk of the Peace form the strangest miscellany, as will be seen from the appropriate section of the *Key to Classification* (p. xv). Yet an almost equally wide range of subjects is illustrated in one single class, the Sessions Rolls, the contents of which are briefly analysed on pp. 3-9 and include the series—apparently unique—relating to high constables' sessions. Perhaps the most interesting individual group of documents in the Essex Sessions records is the unusually full series of petitions and depositions in the Sessions Bundles for the period 1633-1657 which throw a flood of light on the social and religious history of the county before and during the Civil War (*see* List of Illustrations, p. xii).

It still remains to mention the most numerous class of documents—the County Treasurers' Bills and Vouchers. Their survival intact from as early as 1737 is remarkable. This vast class includes a variety of unexpected documents, relating for example to the movements of troops, of vagrants (*see* *Plates*, pp. 37, 38) and of transported felons.

Throughout all classes are found reflections of the characteristic features of the Essex scene, with its forests and marshlands, creeks and oyster-layings, of the influence of the cloth industry in northern Essex, and of the ever-increasing commercial and social links between the county and the metropolis.

## 2. Extent and History of Surviving Essex Records.

Essex is fortunate not only in the widely representative nature of the surviving Quarter Sessions archives but also in their great number. Holding jurisdiction over a relatively high population<sup>1</sup> the Essex justices and their officers would naturally have accumulated a large quantity of archives, but their preservation was by no means a matter of course. Some counties no longer possess Sessions Records before 1700, while others have lost important series even after that date.

In Essex the Sessions Rolls form a fairly complete series from 1556, Middlesex being the only county possessing Sessions Rolls from an earlier date (1549), while the statutory enrolments with the Clerk of the Peace for Essex include apparently the oldest county record now surviving in local custody. This is the roll of 'deeds of bargain

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<sup>1</sup> The area subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of Quarter Sessions, which excluded Colchester, Maldon, Saffron Walden, Harwich, Brightlingsea and the Liberty of Havering-atte-Bower (for details, *see* p. 30), ranked about fourth among Quarter Sessions areas in England in the seventeenth century. (*See Historical Geography of England before 1800*, ed. H. C. Darby (1936), pp. 435-43.) The total population of the geographical county was not much larger than that of the Quarter Sessions area.



and sale' (property conveyances), the Act relating to which came into force on 1 August 1536: the first deed in the Essex roll was registered in the following month. A similar roll for Somerset begins a month later.

An estimate, necessarily very rough, of the total number of pre-1889 Quarter Sessions records, which was made *after* the release for 'salvage' in 1939-43 of very large quantities of modern documents,<sup>1</sup> shows that there are now no less than 1,100,000 individual documents (volumes, parchments or papers). The largest classes are the Sessions Rolls with about 112,000 before 1850, and the Sessions Bundles and the Treasurers' Vouchers, both of which (as well as other classes) developed out of the original Rolls and comprise about 62,000 and 737,000 papers respectively. The oldest existing inventory of the County Records, made in 1785, shows that no records of any importance have been lost since that date.

The Sessions Order Books afford some glimpses of the vicissitudes through which the county records have passed. In 1718 the Court, having learnt that the records, then kept over the church porch in Chelmsford, 'lay in the utmost confusion there and had received damage by the wet and were likely to receive more,' asked permission of the *Custos rotulorum* of the County to have them removed and put into order. This work took Samuel Reynolds (Clerk of the Peace, 1702-22<sup>2</sup>) nearly four years to complete and earned him an honorarium of £80 'for his trouble and paines therein,' after which the records were more fittingly housed in the Shire House. In 1738 the Deputy Clerk was authorized to procure a chest for the records 'that which they now lye in being broke, and that he remove them to the White Horse in Chelmsford or any other convenient place'! Then there is silence, perhaps ominous, for fifty years. In 1787 part of a house

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<sup>1</sup> Most of the classes of documents enumerated in the 'First, (Second, and Third) Schedule(s) of Classes of Documents in the custody of Clerks of the Peace proposed for destruction' (issued in 1916, 1941 and 1942, all with the authority of the Master of the Rolls, as a result of reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Public Record Office) were disposed of as waste paper and parchment. But the destruction was less extensive than authorised, for no documents were destroyed (1) of earlier date than 1850 (1837 being the date in the official schedules), (2) for the census years, and (3) for the period 1914-19. Briefly, the documents sent for salvage were: indictments, recognizances, depositions, returns of fines and fees, precepts for county and police rates, applications for appointments, police expenditure vouchers and pay sheets, and returns of conviction and dismissal at petty sessions. All these documents were either of ephemeral importance or their contents were recorded elsewhere in existing Sessions Records, e.g., conviction returns are abstracted fully in the conviction registers.

<sup>2</sup> Reynolds, who appears to have been an unusually zealous officer, has left a useful dissertation on the various filing systems of his predecessors.

acquired by the County for demolition (with the object of enlarging Chelmsford bridge) was reprieved, and repaired for use as a record room. The demands of the House of Commons Committee on Records in 1800 and the recommendations of a local justices' committee in 1824 produced reports and inventories of the records, for which new quarters were once more found in 1826. After this the justices seem to have relapsed into apathy until 1885, when, stimulated no doubt by the activity of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, they engaged Mr. A. T. Watson of the Public Record Office to arrange and index the records, including—as he reported after his first inspection—‘the mass of loose papers and parchments mixed indiscriminately under the table in the room at the top of the Shire Hall.’ He carried out his task with more than common efficiency and thoroughness, and his index is still used and valued. Another period of indifference followed, during which certain Sessions Rolls (1753-87) suffered extensive damage through contact with a damp wall. The internal reconstruction of the Shire Hall ten years ago, shortly before the building of the new County Hall, necessitated temporary storage of the greater part of the Sessions Records, and it was not until 1939 that the whole collection was brought together again, in the Sessions Muniment Room of the Essex Record Office at the County Hall. The six years which preceded 1939 might have been fraught with as much danger to the vast mass of records as the six which followed had they not received the personal attention of Mr. E. S. Holcroft, then Clerk of the Council, and Mr. R. E. Negus, Clerk of the Peace. The County is especially indebted to Mr. Negus for largely restoring order out of the chaos into which the records had fallen, despite the good work of 1885, and the present *Guide* would certainly have been delayed another year or two had Mr. Negus not spent so many hours on that self-imposed and wearisome task. To him and to Mr. Holcroft, as well as to Colonel Sir Gilbertson Smith (the first Chairman of the Records Committee) and the late Sir Gurney Benham, the establishment of the Essex Record Office in 1938 is chiefly due, and their desire to make the Sessions Records readily accessible to the public is in marked contrast to the conditions of not so long before, when Essex was criticized in several publications as the sole County to deny facilities to students. During the recent war, many of the important Sessions Records were either evacuated or photographed.

### **3. County Records in Print.**

This *Guide* does not attempt to give any detailed account of the origin and development of the Court of Quarter Sessions. Those



who seek further information are referred to the scholarly introductions to the calendars or abstracts of Sessions Records already published for a number of counties.<sup>1</sup> Soon after 1889, when most of the justices' administrative functions were transferred to county councils, several of the latter, recognizing the importance and interest of ancient county records for the history of local government, began to prepare calendars. The first volume was printed by Worcestershire County Council in 1900, and the list of counties which now have records in print—some of them through the good work of county record societies—includes: Bedford, Buckingham, Cambridge (Isle of Ely), Derby, Hertford, Lancaster, Middlesex, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottingham, Salop, Somerset, Stafford, Warwick, Worcester, and York (North and West Ridings). The Essex County Council proposes to inaugurate a printed series of *Essex Quarter Sessions Records* immediately after the publication of the present *Guide* and a *Catalogue of Maps in the Essex Record Office*. Although Essex is thus late in printing its records, it should be stated that the County Council authorized the preparation of a typescript calendar twenty years ago. This work has proceeded without interruption, and the *Calendar* has now covered a century, 1556-1655 (see p. 9), in twenty-one volumes, which are available for use by students in the Record Office.

#### 4. The Justices and their Duties.

The varied administrative functions of the justices of the peace<sup>2</sup> grew in close association with their judicial powers. During the Middle Ages, and long afterwards, the conception of local government by paid and permanent servants of the public—whether or not controlled by an elected body—was virtually unknown. Instead, it was generally understood that each highway, each bridge, and so forth, was by immemorial tradition the responsibility of someone or other, the inhabitants of the manor or parish or the landowner.<sup>3</sup> If they

<sup>1</sup> The introductions to the first volumes of the series being published for Lincolnshire (Parts of Kesteven) and for Surrey are particularly valuable; both contain brief bibliographies of printed county quarter sessions records.

<sup>2</sup> Their custom of meeting four times a year in 'quarter sessions' was first made a statutory obligation in 1350, by 25 Edw. III, *st.* I, *c.* 7. An account of their development from the thirteenth century 'keepers of the King's Peace,' and their evolution during the Middle Ages, is given in the Introduction to Volume V of the *Guide to Surrey Records* (Quarter Sessions). The work of the justices in the eighteenth century is very fully described in the first volume (*The Parish and the County*) of Sidney and Beatrice Webb's monumental study of *English Local Government*.

<sup>3</sup> See C. T. Flower, *Public Works in Medieval Law* (Selden Society, 1915).



neglected its upkeep, as they frequently did, the only remedy of those affected was legal action. By the Tudor period, when our earliest surviving Essex Sessions records begin, the justices of the peace were well established as the normal judicial authority in rural areas, having largely supplanted not only the Sheriff and the ancient County Court and Hundred Courts, but also to an increasing extent the Manorial Courts, though the latter were still actively dealing with minor nuisances in Elizabeth's reign. On the other hand, the chronicles of Quarter Sessions do not normally include the graver crimes, which were sent to the Assizes.

The Tudor sovereigns, pursuing their policy of strengthening the monarchy by clipping the wings of the nobility, tended to rely more and more on their nominees the justices of the peace, who had already long been successfully carrying out such administrative duties as the fixing of wages and of prices. It followed reasonably enough that when, under Mary and Elizabeth, legislation created 'surveyors of the highways' and 'overseers of the poor,' the supervision of these unpaid and often reluctant parochial officers was entrusted to the justices. As time went on, statute after statute imposed more administrative duties upon the Court of Quarter Sessions and its members.

By the end of the seventeenth century, the justices might well be called 'The Rulers of the County.'<sup>1</sup> As one of our most distinguished legal historians concludes: 'A history of the eighteenth century which does not place the justice of the peace in the very foreground of the picture will be known for what it is—a caricature.'<sup>2</sup> Yet they still operated partly through the cumbrous medieval machinery of presentment and indictment; before money could be spent on the repair of a bridge or a gaol, it was necessary for the Grand Jury to 'present' the County itself,<sup>3</sup> just as private individuals, parish officers, or the inhabitants of a parish were 'presented' for neglect of their lesser responsibilities. When such officials as County Treasurers and County Surveyors began to appear, they were appointed by and accountable to the justices; this explains why their records are found with those of Quarter Sessions.

## **5. The Guide: General Principles of Arrangement and Classification.**

The object of the *Guide* is to tell the enquirer, in simple terms, what

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<sup>1</sup> S. & B. Webb, *op. cit.*, Bk. II, Chap. II.

<sup>2</sup> F. Maitland, *Collected Papers*, vol. I, pp. 468-9.

<sup>3</sup> S. & B. Webb, *The Story of the King's Highway* (1913), pp. 96-102.

information each class of record gives, and in some instances what it does not give. Generally speaking, no account is taken of Quarter Sessions or other County Records of later date than 1889; documents of more recent date are not available to the public without special permission, except of course statutory deposits which are to be produced in accordance with legal regulations. A few unimportant series of documents, beginning after about 1850, are omitted from the *Guide*. It may be assumed that every class included has been catalogued briefly. Those classes which have been more fully dealt with are indicated by the addition of the appropriate word, viz., *calendar* (full abstract), *descriptive list* (full catalogue), *index*, or *photograph*. All these aids to the student are noted in *italics*. Many of the more valuable records not evacuated during the War were microfilmed, and in certain circumstances films (as well as copies of the calendars and catalogues) may be deposited at other approved repositories for the convenience of students unable to do lengthy research at Chelmsford. Applications for such facilities or for prints from photographic negatives should be addressed to the County Archivist.

The main scheme of arrangement of the text, by archive classes rather than by subjects (the latter being covered by the full index) follows that adopted in the fourth revised edition (Giuseppi, 1923) of the *Guide to the Manuscripts preserved in the Public Record Office* and is based on the now accepted principles of archive administration.

For the better understanding of the Essex classification scheme, the reader is referred both to the table on pp. xv-xix and to the chart opposite p. xv.

The reason for assigning each class to its division and sub-division in the scheme will as a rule be found in the introductory paragraph or note to the class. In doubtful cases the only safe guide was the statute which gave rise to the records, and statutes have generally been cited. While it is hoped that the main outline of the arrangement will be of use to others studying or classifying County Records, it is not suggested that it could be followed in every detail, since the records of each county present certain distinctive features.<sup>1</sup>

As we have seen, the administrative functions of the Court of

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<sup>1</sup> The scheme would be too elaborate for the Sessions Records of a very small county, which are far simpler, approximating almost to the elementary archives of the independent Court of the Liberty of Havering-atte-Bower (p. 81), where there is no 'differentiation' or division of the two main classes—documents received (Sessions Files) and acts recorded (Sessions Books).



Quarter Sessions became very extensive and were inextricably involved with its judicial functions. The classification of the complex records created has been correspondingly difficult. Not one of the main divisions ('The Court in Session,' 'Administration,' etc.) is entirely independent. The division entitled, for convenience, 'Enrolment, Registration and Deposit,' includes several classes of records so nearly related to both the judicial and administrative functions of the Court that only after careful consideration of their origin can their proper classification be determined; for example, the 'Licensed Tradesmen' group of four classes. Here the statutes quoted show that the first three classes are not the actual records of the granting of the licences.<sup>1</sup> The fourth (slaughterhouse-keepers) might equally well go into the 'Crime, etc.,' group, or into the 'Administration' division. There are several other instances in which a sound case might be made out for an alternative classification.

The Enrolment division is the most complicated of all. The ancient practice of enrolment on the records of the Royal Courts was first extended to the county records by the well-known Act of 1536, under which all bargains and sales were thenceforth to be 'inrolled in one of the King's courts at Westminster or else . . . before the Custos Rotulorum and two justices of the peace and the clerk of the peace . . . or two of them . . .' The precedent thus created has been followed to the present day. The archivist would have been less perplexed by these diverse series of documents had their physical 'inrolment' been executed in a literal or even uniform manner. But here chaos reigned. The documents to be enrolled might be included in or added to the sessions roll (which was, in fact, not a roll but a file); they might be made up into an independent roll or file, or copied into a book; or abstracted only, in roll or book form; and the practice varied from century to century, and from county to county, according to the caprice of the Clerk of the Peace or his deputy. Any attempt therefore to distinguish between enrolments, registers, deposits, returns and so forth breaks down. A typical example of parliamentary drafting in this connection is in s. 2 of the Savings Bank Act (57 Geo. III, c. 130) which directs that the transcripts of the rules 'shall be *deposited* with the clerk of the peace which transcript shall be *filed* by the clerk of the peace with the *Rolls* of the Sessions.'

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<sup>1</sup> Indeed in the case of victuallers and alehouse keepers, Quarter Sessions had no direct licensing function until the last century, licences being granted at first by any two justices and later by the divisional justices in 'Brewster Sessions.'



## 6. Other Records of Public Local Administration.

We have been chiefly concerned so far with the records of the Court of Quarter Sessions and of the Clerk of the Peace. Closely related are other series of archives (listed briefly on pp. 82-96) which have been combined with the former under the generic heading of 'Public Local Administration.'<sup>1</sup> Each group has a brief introductory note, and the only general comment which seems to be required is that several of these series will probably receive additional deposits, chiefly of the last century.

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<sup>1</sup> See the 'General Report of a Committee on the Classification of English Archives' (Brit. Rec. Assocn., *Reports from Committees*, No. 1, 1936), pp. 13-16.

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Students who wish to consult the County Records should, if possible, write to the County Archivist beforehand, giving particulars of the object of enquiry and suggesting a date for a visit. Normally, however, documents may be seen without appointment. The Record Office is open on weekdays 9.0 a.m.—12.45 p.m. and 2.0 p.m.—5.30 p.m. (Saturdays 9.0 a.m.—12.30 p.m.). In special circumstances arrangements can be made to admit a student in the evening.

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I desire to acknowledge with gratitude the helpful information given to me by Mr. R. E. Negus, D.S.O., M.A., Clerk of the Peace, and the Rev. G. Montagu Benton, M.A., F.S.A., Honorary Editor of the *Transactions* of the Essex Archæological Society. For assistance in the later stages of compilation and for many valuable criticisms and suggestions, I am greatly indebted to my colleagues, Miss H. E. P. Grieve, B.E.M., B.A. (who is also responsible for the index), Mr. F. Hull, B.A., Mr. I. E. Gray, M.B.E., M.A., and Mr. F. W. Steer, F.R.Hist.S. I should also like to pay tributes to Miss A. M. Lydamore, Repairs Assistant, without whose skilled and untiring efforts many entries would have been marred by the phrase 'not yet available to students,' and to my wife, sole part-time Assistant Archivist, 1942-44, whose enthusiasm in organizing an extensive microfilming scheme safeguarded the contents of thousands of documents the originals of which might have been destroyed.

F. G. EMMISON.

COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD.

June, 1946

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

The documents illustrated have been chosen as (1) rare types, e.g. high constables' inquisitions, or (2) interesting for their subject-matter, or (3) being useful lists of personal names.

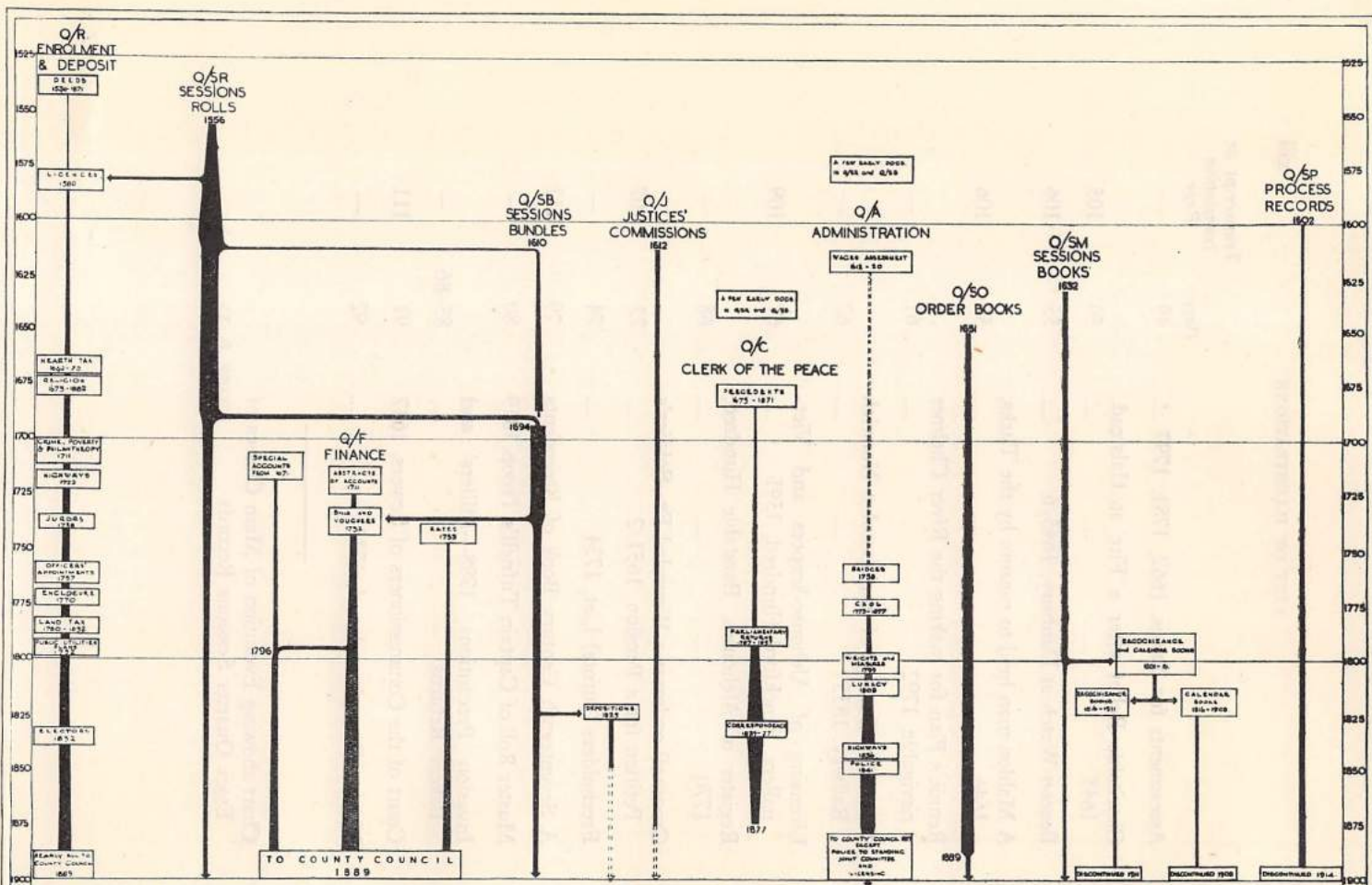
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Chart showing Evolution of Main Classes of  
Essex Quarter Sessions Records *facing p. xv*





# KEY TO CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGUE MARKS

## Public Local Administration

### COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS

NOTE.—Some of the classes for which the terminal date is shown as 1889 are actually still continuing, while others terminated after that date. Documents later than 1889 cannot, however, be produced for students without special permission.

Classes containing much material *indexed or easily accessible* are marked \* if of special interest for parish history and topography,  
† if of special interest for biography and genealogy.

#### *The Court in Session*

					Page
Q/SR	*†SESSIONS ROLLS	....	....	1556-1889	3
	SESSIONS BUNDLES				
Q/SBa	Early Series	....	....	1610-1687	10
Q/SBb	Later Series	....	....	1694-1889	11
Q/SBd	Depositions	....	....	1825-1853	12
	PROCESS AND COGNATE RECORDS				
Q/SPa	Process Rolls and Memoranda	....	....	1602-1778	12
Q/SPb	Process Books of Indictments	....	....	1681-1889	15
Q/SPe	Estreats of Fines	....	....	1627-1876	16
Q/SPd	Insolvent Debtors	....	....	1769-1847	16
	SESSIONS BOOKS				
Q/SMg	General Series (Minutes)	....	....	1632-1889	17
Q/SMr	Recognizance Books	....	....	1801-1889	17
Q/SMc	Calendars of Prisoners Books	....	....	1816-1842	18
Q/SO	*ORDER BOOKS	....	....	1652-1889	18

<i>Administration</i>					<i>Page</i>
Q/AA	ASSESSMENTS (WAGES)	....	1612-1620		21
Q/AB	*BRIDGES	....	1650-1889		22
Q/AG	GAOLS AND HOUSES OF CORRECTION		1772-1878		22
Q/AP	POLICE	....	1624-1881		23
Q/AS	SHIRE HALL	....	1671-1793		23
Q/AL	LUNACY	....	1808-1889		24
Q/AH	HIGHWAYS	....	1836-1881		27
MINOR FUNCTIONS					
Q/AMw	Weights and Measures	....	1799-1845		28
Q/AMm	Militia Armouries and Depots	....	1854-1871		28
Q/AMd	Diseases of Animals	....	1866-1867		28
Q/AMz	Miscellaneous	....	1837-1888		29
Q/AC	COMMITTEES	....	1796-1889		29
Q/AX	EXEMPT JURISDICTIONS	....	1755-1841		30
<i>Finance</i>					
GENERAL ACCOUNTS					
Q/FAa	Abstracts of Accounts	....	1717-1889		33
Q/FAb	Bills and Vouchers	....	1732-1889		33
Q/FAc	SPECIAL ACCOUNTS	....	1671-1889		36
Q/FR	COUNTY RATES	....	1733-1886		36
<i>Enrolment, Registration and Deposit</i>					
DEEDS AND AWARDS					
Q/RDb	*†Deeds of Bargain and Sale	....	1536-1624		39
Q/RDm	Miscellaneous Deeds	....	1795-1871		40
Q/RDc	*†Enclosure Awards	....	1770-1895		40
Q/RDa	Enclosure Agreements	....	1801-1811		41
Q/RDe	Epping Forest Award	....	1879-1882		42
RELIGION					
Q/RRo	†Oaths, etc.	....	1673-1882		42
Q/RRp	†Papists	....	1715-1829		46
Q/RRw	*Places of Worship	....	1761-1852		47
TAXATION					
Q/RTh	*†Hearth Tax	....	1662-1673		47
Q/RTg	*Game Duty	....	1784-1807		48
Q/RTp	*†Hair Powder Duty	....	1795-1797		51



## PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

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Q/RPa	Annuities	....	....	1774-1842	51
Q/RPl	*†Land Tax Assessments	....	....	1780-1832	52
Q/RPr	*†Electors	....	....	1832-1889	52
Q/RPe	Elections	....	....	1741-1859	54

## HIGHWAYS

Q/RHi	*Diversion, Closure and Widening	....	....	1722-1889	54
Q/RHp	Roads on Parish Boundaries	....	....	1802-1867	57

## PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Q/RUm	*Plans of Schemes	....	....	1792-1889	58
Q/RUo	Acts and Orders	....	....	1836-1889	59
Q/RUn	Navigations	....	....	1733-1901	59
Q/RUt	Turnpike Trusts	....	....	1820-1871	59
Q/RUa	Company Accounts	....	....	1841-1889	60
Q/RUv	Verdicts	....	....	1838-1908	60

## CRIME, POVERTY, AND PHILANTHROPY

Q/RSg	*†Deputations to Gamekeepers	....	....	1711-1889	60
Q/RSt	Prosecution of Felons	....	....	1726-1833	63
Q/RSc	Summary Convictions	....	....	1791-1889	63
Q/RSw	Workhouse Agreements	....	....	1810-1829	64
Q/RSv	†Vagrants	....	....	1767-1835	64
Q/RSr	*Charities	....	....	1759-1889	65
Q/RSf	*Friendly Societies	....	....	1793-1862	66
Q/RSb	Savings Banks	....	....	1817-1844	69
Q/RSs	Other Societies	....	....	1836-1888	69
Q/RSm	Freemasons	....	....	1800-1889	70
Q/RSp	Printing Presses	....	....	1799-1869	70

## LICENSED TRADESMEN

Q/RLv	*†Victuallers and Alehousekeepers	....	....	1580-1848	70
Q/RLb	Badgers and other Dealers	....	....	1733-1770	71
Q/RLc	Corn Dealers	....	....	1821-1843	72
Q/RLs	Slaughterhouse Keepers	....	....	1810-1895	72

Q/RJ	†JURORS	....	....	1734-1883	72
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## OFFICERS' APPOINTMENTS

Q/ROs	Sheriff	....	....	1834-1889	75
Q/ROc	Coroner	....	....	1843	75
Q/ROm	Militia Officers	....	....	1757-1800	76

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Q/JC	Commissions of the Peace	....	1612-1869	76
Q/JQ	Qualification	....	1668-1866	76
Q/JL	Lists	....	1748-1875	76

*Clerk of the Peace*

Q/CP	*Precedents	....	1675-1871	77
Q/CR	Parliamentary Returns	....	1787-1857	77
Q/CC	Correspondence	....	1829-1877	78
Q/CI	Inventories of Records	....	1785-1882	81

## LIBERTY OF HAVERING-ATTE-BOWER

Q/HF	SESSIONS FILES	....	1771-1892	81
Q/HM	SESSIONS BOOKS (MINUTES)	....	1835-1892	81
Q/HZ	OTHER RECORDS	....	1822-1840	81

## COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS

P/C	CHELMSFORD DIVISION	....	1801-1887	82
P/W	WITHAM DIVISION	....	1823-1889	82
P/O	ONGAR DIVISION	....	1829-1836	82

## LIEUTENANCY AND VICE-ADMIRALTY

L/M	GENERAL MEETINGS OF LIEUTENANCY	1762-1854	83
L/R	RETURNS	.... 1798-1897	84
L/C	CLERK TO THE GENERAL MEETINGS	1801-1847	84
L/L	MUSTER ROLLS AND LISTS	.... 1813	87
L/O	DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS AND COMMIS- SIONED OFFICERS	.... 1743-1856	87
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L/V	VICE-ADMIRALTY RECORDS	.... 1795-1848	88

## CORONERS' COURTS 88

## SHRIEVALTY

S/C	COUNTY COURT	....	1779-1884	89
S/U	UNDERSHERIFF	....	1794-1840	89



## COUNTY COUNCIL—TRANSFERRED RECORDS

Records of existing and defunct local authorities (i) whose functions have been transferred to the County Council, (ii) or whose records have been deposited with the County Council for safe custody.

Some Rural District Councils and Area Assessment Committees have also deposited their early records. These are not yet available to students without special permission.

Apart from transferred records, the only ancient archives of the County Council are muniments of title to their numerous estates, including deeds (from 1591) and maps (from 1755); as lords of manors the County Council also possess a few court rolls and other manorial documents (from 1542).

				<i>Page</i>
BOARDS OF GUARDIANS	....	....	1835—	90
RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES	....	....	1872—1895	90
HIGHWAY BOARDS	....	....	1863—1884	90
TURNPIKE TRUSTS	....	....	1769—1870	90
PARISH VESTRIES	....	....	1655—1894	90
SCHOOL BOARDS	....	....	1872—1903	93
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## COURTS OF COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS

D/SH	HAVERING LEVELS	....	....	1563—1897	94
D/SR	RAINHAM LEVELS	....	....	1646—1935	95
D/SF	FOBING LEVELS	....	....	1729—1934	95
D/SB	BOWERS GIFFORD, ETC., LEVELS	....	....	1884—1904	95
D/SN	FOULNESS ISLAND LEVELS	....	....	1800—1918	95
D/SZ	WALLASEA ISLAND LEVELS	....	....	1818—1904	95
D/SD	DENGIE LEVELS	....	....	1720—1935	96
D/ST	TENDRING LEVELS	....	....	1727—1932	96

NOTE.—Other records of some of the local authorities listed above have been received from unofficial custody. These will be included in Part II of the *Guide*.





Find

The Inquisition taken at London in the said County for the  
 hundred of Barstable before the Justice of the Peace and  
 the petty Constables of the same John Henry High Constables of the same  
 hundred the xxij day of the month of Aprile in the year of the  
 reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of  
 England ff James of which Council and of the statutes  
 the eight. mo.

2

Fobbing

Whereas the Justice of the Peace and the petty Constables of the  
 hundred of Barstable in the said County have by their  
 present petition presented unto them the said Justice of the Peace  
 and the petty Constables of the said hundred of Barstable

Mucking

that the said Justice of the Peace and the petty Constables of the  
 said hundred of Barstable have by their present petition presented  
 unto them the said Justice of the Peace and the petty Constables of the  
 said hundred of Barstable

INQUISITION BEFORE A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND THE HIGH CONSTABLES, BARSTABLE HUNDRED, 1566

The petty constables of Fobbing present all well. Those of Mucking say that Widow Cockman 'dothe use to buye butter  
 & chicken and sell them agayne without licence.' Dealers had to be licensed under an Act of 1563 (see pp. 71-2).

# THE COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS.

## The Court in Session.

### Sessions Rolls.

1556-1889; some gaps in period 1670-90, otherwise an almost complete series from 1564 (1437 rolls,<sup>1</sup> containing 16,564 documents for 1556<sup>2</sup>-1609, approximately 40,000 for 1610-93, 60,000 for 1694-1850, and 2,000 for 1851-89<sup>3</sup>).

In the sixteenth century all the documents relating to one session were threaded on a single file. Early in the next century, the increase in the number of documents led to the formation of an independent parallel series, known as Sessions Bundles, made up of certain types of paper documents hitherto filed on the Rolls. After 1687 papers are no longer included in the Rolls, but are in an enlarged series of Sessions Bundles which starts in 1694 (no Bundles having survived for 1688-93), leaving in the Rolls only the formal parchment documents, viz., writs, recognizances, indictments and jury panels with lists of high constables and bailiffs. See *Chart* opposite p. xv.

The Sessions Rolls are of such a heterogeneous nature that the following list of the main and less usual types of document may assist the student. Where no dates are given it is to be understood that the type covers the whole period 1556-1889; where the final date is 1687, the later documents are in the Sessions Bundles (pp. 11-12).

### COMMON DOCUMENTS

PRESENTMENTS by the grand jury or 'great inquest' and by the petty juries for each group of hundreds<sup>4</sup> (to 1687), and occasionally

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<sup>1</sup> Rolled files, formerly and more correctly called Sessions Files.

<sup>2</sup> The earliest roll (for Midsummer Sessions 1556) includes a few indictments dated 1554 and 1555.

<sup>3</sup> For the destruction of certain documents, 1850-1925, see Introduction, p. v, n. 1. There were four sessions each year until 1828, thereafter seven 'quarter' sessions and adjourned sessions each year.

<sup>4</sup> From about 1600 the hundreds were always grouped as follows:—Becontree, Chafford and Barstable; Ongar, Harlow and Waltham; Dunmow, Uttlesford, Freshwell and Clavering; Hinckford and Witham; Tendring, Lexden, Winstree and Thurstable; Chelmsford, Rochford and Dengie. The grouping is the same as that given in Norden's *Description of Essex, 1594* (Camden Society, 1840), except for Witham hundred.



by individual justices. The entries, with very few exceptions, relate to offences, the majority being of the kind known as nuisances. The most common are: failure by parishes or individuals to repair specified roads and bridges or by individuals to cleanse roadside ditches or obstruction of ways and watercourses (all these entries being useful for minor place-names); unlicensed or disorderly alehouses; absence of popish recusants and nonconformists from church; building a cottage without the statutory four acres of land attached; and harbouring 'inmates.' Many other offences occur less frequently. The abode<sup>1</sup> (parish) and occupation of the defendant are nearly always stated. Many of the presentments bear the signatures or marks of the jurors whose abodes are given in the jury lists. The presentments and petitions in the Rolls and later in the Bundles are a primary source for signatures of Essex men, especially between about 1580 and 1700. See *Plates*, pp. 44, 50, 56.

PRESENTMENTS, by high (or chief) constables of hundreds, of the findings made by petty constables' juries (termed inquisitions, or petty, statute, special or hiring sessions<sup>2</sup>), relating chiefly to hiring and wages of servants, to vagrants and masterless men, and to alehouses and archery butts (1562-1602). High constables' presentments, of which a fairly large number are preserved in the early Essex Sessions Rolls, are an exceedingly rare type of record,<sup>3</sup> and the same remark applies to the five groups of vagrancy presentments. Four of the latter (1564-8) are each for one hundred only, the fifth (1566) comprises the petty constables' returns for 63 parishes or constablewicks in twelve hundreds. See *Plates*, pp. 1-2, 7-8, 25.

PRESENTMENTS AND RETURNS by parish surveyors of householders who failed to do their statutory six days' work a year repairing roads, including many long parochial lists of defaulters, distinguishing farmers and labourers (1605-87, rarely before). See also p. 10.

Certain offences are recorded both in the presentments and the indictments (next entry), the latter being the formal documents in

<sup>1</sup> In the *Guide* this term always denotes parish unless otherwise specified.

<sup>2</sup> Became later the statute or hiring fair.

<sup>3</sup> S. & B. Webb, *The Parish and the County* (1906), p. 464, quote 1640 and 1629 as the earliest examples found by the authors in County and Borough Quarter Sessions records respectively. The chief constables' presentment for the hundred of Winstree, 1695, in the Sessions Bundles, given in full on p. 467, is apparently the only late Essex example; there are no chief constables' presentments between 1603 and 1645 inclusive. See also *Kesteven Q.S. Records*, ed. by S. A. Peyton (Linc. Rec. Soc., vol. xxv (1931), pp. lxxi-iii).

Latin, based in some cases on the presentments, which are in the informal, picturesque and often illiterate English phraseology of the foreman of the jury and yield many interesting features, e.g. dialect words.

**INDICTMENTS.** The most common offence is larceny; the articles and their owners are always named, details of clothing, household and agricultural implements frequently being translated into English. Other offences include: unlicensed or disorderly alehouses, assault, dispossession; various offences against the game laws; and, in later years, false weights or measures. The defendant's abode and occupation are always given; those of the plaintiff and witnesses, if any, are not stated, but their abode is usually the place where the offence is committed. *See* also pp. 10, 15.

**INFORMATIONS** or indictments by common informers, chiefly in regard to trade offences, such as engrossing, forestalling and regrating of corn, etc., and carrying on trade without being apprenticed (1600-45, rarely earlier or later). *See* also pp. 15, 71.

**SUMMARY CONVICTIONS** (1584-1849) by one justice, sometimes two, out of sessions. Rare early ones for forcible entry under Act of 15 Rich. II, c. 2 (1391); some from c. 1690 for mostly minor offences, including refusal to take the oath of supremacy; more after 1750, e.g. unlicensed preaching, infringement of cattle disease regulations, profane swearing (many). If on paper, they were usually filed in the Sessions Bundles from 1694. From 1791 all were registered in the 'Conviction Books' (*see* p. 63). The increasing number led to the separate filing of originals from 1850 (*see* p. 64). Much the same information is given as in presentments, plus the justice or justices, the penalty, and the person on whose information action was taken.

**RECOGNIZANCES** (or bonds) to secure the appearance of persons at the sessions, generally to answer a charge, less frequently to prosecute or give evidence. In the first case, the majority are entered into by the defendant and usually two sureties—as a rule friends, neighbours or relations. All parties' abodes and occupations are given, and the offence is sometimes stated. The signatures of the justices (usually one but occasionally more) before whom the recognizance was taken are subscribed. At a rough estimate, recognizances comprise about half the number of documents in the Rolls. *See* also p. 17.

**RECOGNIZANCES** of licensed victuallers (innkeepers) and alehouse-keepers for good behaviour, including general recognizances (to 1690); and butchers' and innkeepers' recognizances not to 'kill or dress



flesh' during Lent (a few, about 1600), with several licences to eat flesh during Lent (from 1587). For additional victuallers' recognizances (from 1580) and details of their contents, *see* p. 70. *See Plate*, p. 67.

WRITS to the sheriff to summon jurors, officers and defendants to attend at the sessions, giving abode and sometimes occupation. For some sessions there are over 500 names of defendants. *See also* p. 15.

JURY LISTS AND PANELS for the grand jury (to 1889); for the groups of hundreds (to 1687); for constables' juries (to 1577); and for petty or traverse juries (1573-1889). These are valuable lists, mostly of the smaller freeholders (about 100-200 names each session), with abodes, also occupations from about 1790. The qualification for jury service, which appears to have originated in the Act of 2 Hen. V, st. 2, c. 3 (1414), was possession of lands of the clear annual value of 40s. For the period from 1696 onwards, *see* p. 72.

LISTS of high (or chief) constables and of bailiffs of the hundrede and the liberties.

CALENDARS OF PRISONERS in the gaol (occasionally from 1566, generally 1582-1687) and in the house of correction (1612-87); afterwards in Sessions Bundles (p. 11). These state the offence, names of committing justices, and in some cases the defendant's abode and sentence.

LISTS OF JUSTICES present at Quarter Sessions (to 1687). *See also* p. 17.

MAINTENANCE ORDERS in bastardy cases made by two justices, with examinations (1576-1687).

PETITIONS, complaints and applications, by individuals or by numerous inhabitants of a single parish, in most cases with signatures, about many matters, with some certificates or testimonials for or against alehousekeepers or as to the repair of roads, bridges and ditches (to 1621, thereafter mostly in Sessions Bundles, *see* pp. 10-11).

SACRAMENT CERTIFICATES (1711-1827). Numerous, e.g. 63 for Midsr. 1727. For their contents, and for certificates 1673-1710, *see* p. 45.

#### OCCASIONAL EARLY DOCUMENTS

(Documents falling under this heading do not occur in the Rolls after about 1640.)

Depositions, comprising examinations of defendants and inform-

C<sup>o</sup> for president of the Jury ad  
appearing by their student by law

[illegible]

HIGH CONSTABLES' SESSIONS, CHELMSFORD HUNDRED, 1572

The presentments relate to: offences against the Statute of Artificers, 1563, harbouring rogues and vagabonds, unlawful play at shovelboard and slidegroat, and a decayed millbridge.

[See p. 4. Transcript on p. 99.]



After the Petition was holden then y<sup>e</sup> tenevare being the xxviii daye of December  
 in y<sup>e</sup> xxviii year of y<sup>e</sup> reign of o<sup>r</sup> Edward the sixthe Elizabeth by y<sup>e</sup> grace  
 of god of Englande of France a Ireland Queene defende of y<sup>e</sup> faithfull Bishopps  
 Robt Allen knyght Constable of y<sup>e</sup> hundred of Freshwell in y<sup>e</sup> said countie of Essex

Hadstock

William Bankes } Constable John Claydon } Townsmen  
 Thomas Gredder } Constable Robt Bonwell }

Wherefore Constables & Townsmen do shew y<sup>e</sup> their Towneship is in ab good order & state ab the  
 lawes and Statutes of this realme in that case provided doth requyre see y<sup>e</sup> their names found any thinge  
 in default to their knowledge nor tye to be shewed

Ashton

Robt Claydon } Constable  
 John Bonwell }

Wherefore Constables do shew y<sup>e</sup> one married Gardener of y<sup>e</sup> same Towne Laborer of tenevare y<sup>e</sup> tenevare  
 received a summons who had a competent service whereupon he hath & employed him self to tenevare  
 of y<sup>e</sup> same Towne last past before y<sup>e</sup> date hereof being expired at y<sup>e</sup> said tenevare it is nothinge to  
 be returned w<sup>th</sup> any thinge doth requyre see y<sup>e</sup> their names found any thinge in default to their knowledge  
 nor tye to be shewed

Radwinter

Richard Coote } Constable  
 William Gindner }

Wherefore Constables do shew their Towneship is in ab good order & state ab y<sup>e</sup> lawes & Statutes  
 of this realme in that case provided doth requyre see y<sup>e</sup> their names found any thinge in default to their  
 knowledge nor tye to be shewed

Thomas Smith of Radwinter afore said shew by William Gindner one of y<sup>e</sup> said Constables of y<sup>e</sup> same  
 Towne hath returned into y<sup>e</sup> said tenevare one sylvan & more for one whole yeare  
 to be attempted from y<sup>e</sup> xxviii daye of the first moneth of December for y<sup>e</sup> wage of xx by y<sup>e</sup> year

# HIGH CONSTABLES' SESSIONS, FRESHWELL HUNDRED, 1573

Presentments for Hadstock, Ashton and Radwinter. Two entries relate to the hiring of servants in husbandry, in one case  
 at a wage of 20s. a year.

[See p. 4. Transcript on p. 100.]

ations of witnesses (from 1566; numerous depositions from 1622 are in the Sessions Bundles, p. 10). *See Plates*, pp. 31-32.

Letters addressed to the clerk of the peace (from 1562).

Inquisitions before and presentments by justices in cases of unlawful disseisin, etc. (from 1577).

Petitions of higglers, buyers, laders and carriers of victuals and corn, and licences granted to the same (from 1563). *See also* pp. 15, 71.

Petitions for licences to build cottages without laying four acres of land thereto, occasionally accompanied by consent of lord of manor (from 1591). *See also* p. 12. Applications for licence to travel, and consequent passports (from 1572).

Accounts and bills (a few only, from 1573, the earliest being gaoler's lists of vagrants, i.e. vouchers for reimbursement; a few also from 1598, for repairs to gaol, house of correction and bridges, with certificates or reports by two justices). For later accounts, *see* pp. 10-11.

Orders of the Court (a few only, from 1578). *See* p. 18. Original orders from the Privy Council (a few only, from 1579).

Certificates by bishop or archdeacon of the names of recusants presented to him (1593-1610).

Coroner's inquisitions (a few only, from 1587). *See also* pp. 34, 88.

Indenture of election of knights of the shire (one only, 1593). *See also* p. 54.

Lists of freeholders and landholders directed to appear before the commissioners for the provision of the royal household, giving 501 names, arranged by parishes, 209 being in Barstable and Chelmsford hundreds (1617). Also occasional documents as to purveyance (provision of corn, victuals, etc., for the royal household).

Accounts of the provision of powder, 'match' and bullets for the county magazine, including a list of 202 defaulters arranged under parishes, and of the pay for billeting soldiers in the county (1628).

Two Assize Rolls, 1565-66, and occasional documents emanating from the Assizes.

*Calendar*, in progress (21 vols.), of all documents in the Quarter Sessions Rolls, by W. Le Hardy, F.S.A., Cecily Baker, M.A., and Margaret Emmison, M.A. Each volume has an *Index of parishes and bridges*. Vols. I-XV (1556-90) each have an *Index of persons*; all personal names thereafter included in the Essex Record Office *General Index of Persons*. Over 110,000 personal name references in the *Calendar* are now indexed. It is intended to start publication of the *Calendar* (now completed in typescript up to 1655) about 1948.



**Sessions Bundles.**

1610-87, incomplete; 1694-1889, complete. For the origin of this class, *see* p. 3.

## EARLY SERIES

INDICTMENTS, 1610-23 (966 documents; some of these are not duplicates of the parchment indictments in the Rolls).

DEPOSITIONS and PETITIONS, as in the Rolls, 1622-58, with a smaller number 1665-87 (about 1,100 documents). This is a series of unusual interest and includes documents referring to the plague in various towns, the decay of the cloth industry, poor relief, fires, and various aspects, civil, military and ecclesiastical, of the Civil War and Commonwealth period. *See Plates*, pp. 31-2, 43-4, 50, 55-6, 73.

MISCELLANEOUS. Accounts, administrative and judicial orders, letters, precepts, warrants, etc. 1627-87 (a few only).

PRESENTMENTS. Three special groups: (1) presentments or returns by constables as to vagrants and by overseers as to poor relief, 1614 (40 returns for 25 parishes); (2) presentments by the juries for ten hundreds as to roads and bridges, embodying the surveyors' presentments for numerous parishes, as the result of a special commission for enquiring into the state of the highways and bridges in Essex leading to London, 1618 (*see Plate*, p. 26); (3) presentments or returns as to alehouses by constables and churchwardens, 1644 (56 returns for 60 parishes).

The following two special groups of documents were found in the Sessions Bundles:—

FOREST COMMISSIONERS' ACCOUNTS, 1640-41 (1 bundle containing 19 documents). The reimposition of the forest laws and the attempt of Charles I in 1634 to extend the bounds of the ancient Forest of Essex led to a petition from the grand jury at the Michaelmas Sessions of that year and to the appointment of a special committee to investigate the matter. Subsequently, the Act of 16 Chas. I, c. 16 (1640) provided that commissions might be set up to enquire into the limits of forests, one being appointed for Essex. These accounts include the legal charges and bills for 'dyett and horsemeate' arising from the work of the commissioners and for the preparation of a parliamentary petition and bill.

ROYALISTS' ESTATES, SEQUESTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1642-48 (1 bundle containing 88 documents). In 1642 the Long Parliament set up a

committee for Essex with representatives of the six 'divisions'.<sup>1</sup> The accounts relate to reparations and collectors' taxes on estates in 7 parishes in the Chelmsford, Dengie and Rochford division. There is no apparent connection with Quarter Sessions, but if the clerk of the peace or his deputy was clerk to the committee for the county or division that would account for the presence of these accounts in the Sessions Records.

#### LATER SERIES

1694-1889 (780 bundles, containing approximately 32,000 documents for 1694-1824 and 27,000 for 1825-89).

PRESENTMENTS by the grand jury (few offences or 'all well' presented from about 1800), and by the juries for the hundreds (1719-20 only),<sup>2</sup> and a special group of 34 returns by the surveyors of parishes in the hundreds of Waltham, Harlow and Ongar as to the state of the roads and of the defaulters for statute duty, 1720.

PETITIONS (few after 1750).

CALENDARS OF PRISONERS in the gaol and houses of correction (to about 1830). *See also* pp. 17-18.

REMOVAL ORDERS of paupers from one parish to another, being the subject of appeals to Quarter Sessions by overseers of the poor of parishes in Essex and other counties. These documents are very numerous before 1835, the date of the creation of poor law unions. Some give the names of the pauper's wife and children and the ages of the latter; all are subscribed by two justices. They are useful as records of the migration of the poorer families from one place to another in the period when the settlement laws restricted movement. Also some apprenticeship indentures. *See also* p. 18.

ACCOUNTS, chiefly bills and estimates (not numerous, and very few after 1732 when the class of Bills and Vouchers starts, *see* pp. 33-36).

DISSENTING MEETINGHOUSE CERTIFICATES (from 1695). *See also* pp. 17, 18, 47.

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<sup>1</sup> *See* p. 3, n. 4.

<sup>2</sup> *See* S. & B. Webb, *The Parish and The County*, pp. 460-62, giving a full transcript of the order of the Essex court for revival of the ancient hundredal jury presentments. Only a few such presentments were made, after which they seem to have lapsed again.



RETURNS AND PRESENTMENTS of inspectors of weights and measures, some detailed (to 1797). *See* also pp. 28, 35.

DEPOSITIONS, i.e. informations and examinations (to 1824, when they were formed into a separate class, on account of their bulk, *see* below).

SUMMARY CONVICTIONS before one or more justices out of Sessions (1694-1849). *See* also pp. 5, 63.

REPORTS of visitors and surgeons of gaol and houses of correction (1694-1849). *See* also p. 22.

LISTS OF APPEALS (about 1785-1835).

MISCELLANEOUS. Various reports, draft orders, letters, memoranda and other documents.

#### DEPOSITIONS

1825-53<sup>1</sup> (112 bundles, containing about 30,000 documents relating to about 10,000 cases). Prior to 1825, depositions are included in the Sessions Bundles.

### Process and Cognate Records.

#### PROCESS ROLLS AND MEMORANDA

PLEA AND PROCESS<sup>2</sup> ROLLS, 1602-33, 1714-78 (3 rolls).

Rolls 1 and 2 (1602, 1610-33) are a formal record of proceedings at the Sessions, of a rare and possibly unique type. *See* *Plate*, p. 13. The entries, which are written in a legal court hand, consist chiefly of: memoranda of indictments; informations (presentments by informers); writs and recognizances for appearance at the sessions; occasional precepts to the sheriff to attach defendants, occasional alehouse licences followed by the licensee's recognizance, three licences to shoot with a gun (under the Act of 2-3 Edw. VI, c. 14), and a single licence to a pauper to build a cottage without the statutory four acres (*see* p. 9). There is also a note of taking the oaths of office by two high constables and a petition for the 'enrolment' of a common inn. The

<sup>1</sup> For the destruction of this class after 1853, with certain exceptions, *see* Introduction, p. v, n. 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Process*, 'proceedings in any action, real or personal, civil or criminal, from the beginning to the end' (Jacob's *Law Dictionary*).

† nsted portez & ond & ssex

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A formal record of proceedings in a form rarely found in Quarter Sessions archives. Thomas Rawnsom of Braintree, clothier, is presented for keeping 'a comon tipling house' without licence.

13



Hinckford John Harrison of Hinckford indicted — for assaulting of <sup>12</sup> ~~13~~   
 10<sup>th</sup> April 1744. ~~1745~~   
 10 Tho<sup>rs</sup> Brown of Rodgwall Vic<sup>t</sup> — for keeping a disorderly   
 12 Robt<sup>t</sup> Davis of Hageloburne Vic<sup>t</sup> — for his same —   
 12<sup>th</sup> July 1743   
 15 Sam<sup>l</sup> Ship of Woburn Vic<sup>t</sup> — for false weights   
 15<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1743   
 25 Amb<sup>d</sup> Death of Bulmer Vic<sup>t</sup> — for keeping a   
 27 J<sup>r</sup> Turner of Lidbury — for assaulting of <sup>12</sup> ~~13~~   
 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1744 ~~1745~~   
 13 John Crampton of St. Giles Vic<sup>t</sup> — for assaulting Henry   
 10<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1744.   
 14 Amb<sup>d</sup> Death of Bulmer Vic<sup>t</sup> — for false weights   
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PROCESS BOOK OF INDICTMENTS, 1741-45

The offence is given in the right-hand column. The plea and sentence are written above the defendant's name.

[See pp. 15-16.]

presence of memoranda of recognizances and licences, etc., renders the terms 'Plea Roll' or 'Process Roll' not quite comprehensive, but the record for each session begins 'Placita (pleas) ad generalem quarterialem sessionem.' To many entries are added notes, made in less formal hands at the sessions, as to the sentence or other proceedings<sup>1</sup>. The entries of indictments, informations and writs all record the proceedings by which the original indictment was continued from session to session (in one case, for fifteen consecutive sessions), and the long series of writs sometimes extends from *venire facias* to *exigi facias* and ends in several cases with outlawry; the steps are rightly termed 'process.' But this roll is much more detailed than the later Process Books, and supplements the corresponding indictments, etc. in the Sessions Rolls<sup>2</sup>.

Roll 3 (1714-78) is a formal record of 31 cases, giving verdict, sentence or acquittal, names of justices, jurors, defendant, and plaintiff if any.

PROCESS MEMORANDA, 1631-36 (loose leaves). An incomplete record, apparently kept by the deputy clerk of the peace, partly as a process record and partly as an account of fines and fees due to his principal. Gives the names of the defendants with their abode and offence, and includes lists of recognizances and of higglers and badgers licensed, with their abode (*see also* pp. 9, 71)<sup>3</sup>.

'PYE LISTS OF WRITS',<sup>4</sup> 1650-54 (loose leaves). Lists of persons whose names are to be included in the lengthy general writs for attendance at the sessions to answer for their offences. There is a list for each sessions, giving abode and offence, and occasionally a note of the plea, verdict and sentence.

#### PROCESS BOOKS OF INDICTMENTS

1681-94, 1709-1889 (32 volumes).

These books give a note of every indictment found, session by

<sup>1</sup> The form of entries and hands in the King's Bench Plea Roll, 1602-13 (Johnson and Jenkinson, *Later Court Hands*, plate xlv (i)) is almost identical.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. R. E. Negus, Clerk of the Peace, has furnished advice in connection with this roll.

<sup>3</sup> Many extracts, 1615-29, relating solely to bridges, from two early 'Process Books' no longer extant, occur in the 'Bridge Book' for this period (*see* p. 77).

<sup>4</sup> Pye, an archaic word signifying an index or list. Cf. Giuseppe, *Guide to Public Record Office* (1923), vol. I, p. 223.



session, those arising out of presentments being distinguished in 1681-94. Each entry gives: name, abode and occupation of defendant, offence, plea and verdict, and sentence or decision (whipping, branding, fine, imprisonment, transportation, removal to a higher court by writ of *certiorari*, respite to following session, cessation of process, discharge, etc.). See *Plate*, p. 14. *Index* of defendants in each volume.

Included in the series are two entry books, 1717-1813, of indictments in serious or complicated cases transmitted to higher courts (Chancery, King's Bench or Assizes); these cases are chiefly riot and grievous assault, grand larceny, highways out of repair, and trading without being apprenticed. The indictments were copied because the originals were sent to the higher court.

#### ESTREATS OF FINES

Draft lists of fines, etc., annually returned to the Exchequer.

GENERAL, 1627-49, 1726-1876 (13 small files, 4 vols., 70 rolls). Registers, etc. of estreated fines and amerciaments and forfeited recognizances, giving name, abode, occupation (occasionally 1627-49, usually 1726-1876), and offence (only from 1726). See also pp. 15, 18.

The series 1627-49 includes five lists of recusants convicted and fined 1641-42 (files 4-8; 183 names).

HIGHWAYS, 1722-70 (1 vol., 1 bundle). Register and indentures of fines on parishes for non-repair of their highways, giving brief description of roads affected.

#### INSOLVENT DEBTORS

Under the Insolvent Debtors Relief Act, 21 Geo. II, c. 31 (1748), the gaoler was directed to deliver to Quarter Sessions a list of prisoners for debt, debtors were to deliver a schedule of their real and personal estate, if any, and notices to their creditors were to be published; all with a view to the prisoners' discharge. The provisions of this statute were re-enacted at intervals.

LISTS OF DEBTORS, SCHEDULES, ETC., 1769-1844 (scattered dates only, 2 bundles).

The gaolers' lists give date of imprisonment, at whose suit, and (in later years) amount of debt. A few of the schedules give particulars of real estate and of debts owed and names of creditors. (A few earlier lists of debtors allowed the 'county bread' occur in the Sessions Bundles from about 1720. See also pp. 18, 35.)

There is also preserved a minute book, 1824-47, kept by the clerk of the peace, of the proceedings (for Essex) of the Commissioner of

the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors under the Act of 5 Geo. IV, c. 61 (1824), stating for each case: name of debtor (abode not given), decision (usually discharge), and in some cases name of chief creditor opposing discharge; this is not strictly a record of Quarter Sessions.

## Sessions Books.

### GENERAL SERIES

1632-43, 1686-87, 1718-1889 (46 vols.). Each book contains an average of 450 pages.

In the main, these are in the nature of minute books. The entries were written out in advance as far as possible, and the verdicts, orders, etc. were noted during the session.

CONTENTS. The entries for nearly every session are as follows, the records before 1718 being less detailed:—

Recognizances of every type except for alehouses, giving all parties, with abode, occupation (rarely before 1740, sometimes 1740-65, always after 1765), penal sums, justices, and whether discharged. From 1801, all recognizances except those 'taken in Court' are entered in a separate series of 'Books of Recognizances and Calendars' (below).

Names of the justices in each (petty sessional) division, distinguishing (to 1754) those who were in holy orders; of the justices present at each session; and of the grand jury, giving abodes (to 1723 only).

Orders made by the Court, mostly administrative (e.g. bridges, payment of accounts), with some judicial orders (e.g. pauper settlement appeals), all brief; and 'questions in Court,' giving names of justices voting for and against in occasional disputed judicial and administrative matters (seldom after 1750).

Persons taking oaths (e.g. clerks, officers of excise), giving abode and occasionally occupation.

Persons fined, giving abode and amount, but not offence except in some cases about 1755.

Bench warrants, giving abode and (from 1765) occupation, but no other details.

Dissenting meetinghouses registered (seldom after about 1730), giving owner, parish and sect. *See also* pp. 11, 18, 47.

Calendars of prisoners in gaol and houses of correction, giving offence in brief detail, date committed to gaol and by whom, with note of sentence or order of Court, but not abode or occupation. From 1801, all calendars are entered in a separate series (next entry).

RECOGNIZANCE AND CALENDAR BOOKS, 1801-16; RECOGNIZANCE



BOOKS, 1816-89; CALENDARS OF PRISONERS BOOKS, 1816-42 (26 vols. in all). Previously in Sessions Books (preceding entry).

Printed calendars of prisoners in gaols and houses of correction for trial at Quarter Sessions and Assizes, from 1860, are also preserved.

### Order Books.

1652-61, 1671-86, 1698-1889 (57 vols.). Termed 'Great Order Books' since 1845. Each book contains an average of 600 pages.

CONTENTS. These formal court records contain orders relating to both administrative and judicial matters (for the informal minutes, *see* the preceding class). The most usual are:—

Repair or rebuilding of county bridges, gaol, houses of correction, shire house and other county buildings.

Levy of county rates, special parish highway rates, and occasionally robbery rates levied on hundreds; appeals, etc., against county and poor rate assessments; appeals by one parish against another against justices' removal orders and other poor law settlement matters (very numerous, as in Sessions Bundles, p. 11).

Orders for relief of poor prisoners and discharge of imprisoned insolvent debtors, and for relief of poor parishioners through overseers.

Appointment of county officers, appointment and discharge of high and petty constables, and appointment of officers and visitors to gaol, houses of correction and (in later years) lunatic asylums.

Reports from committees and county officers (set out in full, mostly after 1800).

Payment of accounts including officers' salaries, etc. (only a partial duplicate of the Abstracts of Accounts, *see* p. 33).

Rates of land carriage (1720-1827). *See* p. 21.

Enrolment orders, giving brief particulars of returns to and registrations by Quarter Sessions and the clerk of the peace, concerning dissenting meeting houses (*see* pp. 11, 17, 47), diverted rights of way (*see* pp. 54-57), and friendly societies (*see* pp. 66-69).

A few orders of a judicial character, relating to indictments, recognizances and fines, and in later years to imprisonment and transportation.

The earlier books, before 1725, include occasional orders for pensions to 'maimed' soldiers or their widows (*see* also p. 34), night watch, suppression of alehouses and fairs, briefs for rebuilding





**Essex.** The particular Rates of Wages of all manner of Artificers, Labourers, and Servants, as well by the Day with Meat and Drink, and without, as also by the whole year, and in gross, or by task: Made and set forth at the Quarter-Sessions of the Peace holden at Chelmsford in the said County, Apr. 8. 1651, by the Justices of Peace there assembled, according to a Statute made 29 Edw. 3. having a special regard and consideration to the prices at this time of all kinds of Victuals and Apparel, both Linnen and Woollen, and all other necessary charges wherewith Artificers, Labourers, and Servants have been more grievously charged with, than in times past.

		By the day from mid-March to mid-September	By the day from mid-September to mid-March	By the whole year			By the day from mid-March to mid-September	By the day from mid-September to mid-March	By the whole year		
		with meat and drink	with meat and drink	with meat and drink			with meat and drink	with meat and drink	with meat and drink		
<b>Masons.</b>	A Mallett Master Mason	12 d	13 d	10 d	16 d	4 li.	10 s				
	A Mallett rough Mason having three under him	10 d	17 d	8 d	14 d	3 li.	10 s				
	Servants and Apprentices above the age of 14 and under 18	4 d	10 d	3 d	7 d	30 s	8 s				
	A Mallett Carpenter having four under him	12 d	18 d	10 d	16 d	4 li.	10 s				
<b>Carpenters and Joiners.</b>	Their Journey-men and Servants above 18 and under 24	8 d	14 d	6 d	12 d	50 s	8 s				
	Servants and Apprentices above 14 and under 24	6 d	12 d	6 d	10 d	24 s	8 s				
	A Mallett Sawyer	10 d	16 d	8 d	14 d	4 li.	10 s				
	His Labourer	8 d	14 d	8 d	12 d	4 li.	8 s				
<b>Plumbers and Glaziers.</b>	Plaster	8 d	12 d	8 d	12 d	4 li.	10 s				
	Ropers of Pale and Clap- board and Lath	10 d	18 d	8 d	16 d	4 li.	10 s				
	A Mill-wright	12 d	18 d	10 d	16 d						
	A Plow-wright and Cart-wright	10 d	18 d	8 d	16 d						
<b>Shipwrights.</b>	Coverer	10 d	16 d	6 d	14 d						
	A Mallett Shipwright having four under him	12 d	18 d	10 d	16 d						
	An Hower or common Shipwright	10 d	18 d	8 d	14 d						
	An Able Clerk	10 d	18 d	8 d	14 d						
<b>Joiners and Carvers.</b>	An Able H. Miter	8 d	14 d	8 d	12 d						
	A Miter Calker	10 d	18 d	8 d	14 d						
	A Calker labouring by trade	10 d	18 d	8 d	14 d						
	A Miter Calker	10 d	18 d	8 d	14 d						
<b>Bricklayer, Tylers, Play- sters, and Shinglers.</b>	A Mallett Journey or Carver above 18 and under 24	8 d	14 d	6 d	12 d	3 li.	10 s				
	Servants and Apprentices above 14 and under 24	6 d	12 d	6 d	10 d	3 li.	4 d	6 s			
	A Mallett Bricklayer and Tyler, Playster, and Shingler	10 d	18 d	8 d	14 d	4 li.	10 s				
	Second Bricklayers, Ty- lers, and Slaters, above 16 and under 24	8 d	16 d	6 d	14 d	3 li.	10 s				
<b>Makers of Brick, Tile, Burners of Lyme, Ashes, and Wood.</b>	Servants and Apprentices above 14 and under 24	6 d	12 d	6 d	10 d						
	Makers of Brick and Tile, Burners of Wood-ashes, and Lyme	8 d	16 d	6 d	12 d	3 li.	10 s				
	Their Servants and Labourers	6 d	12 d	6 d	10 d	3 li.	10 s				
<b>Mowers and makers of Hay.</b>	The mowing of one Acre of Grass after Land measure				10 d						
	The well making, clearing, and cocking of an Acre of Grass dry to carry				2 s						
	The reaping or shearing, well binding, cocking, or shocking of one acre of Wheat, Rye, or Malt				2 s 4 d						
	The reaping or shearing of one Acre of Barley and Ballemeeds				2 s 6 d						
<b>Mowing of Corn.</b>	The reaping, well binding and shocking of an acre of Oats				2 s 6 d						
	The reaping and well binding of an acre of Beans				3 s 6 d						
	The making of an acre of Peas, Fitches, and Tares				2 s 6 d						
	The mowing of an acre of Barley or Oats				2 s 6 d						
<b>Poling and making road.</b>	The following making roads, taking, and laying the same				2 s 6 d						
	The making and ditching of a rod of new ditch out of the whole ground, four foot wide, three foot deep and one foot and half in the bottom, double tow with quick and setting an hedge on either side, after the rate of 1 s 6 d and a half the cost with gathering fern for the same				14 d						
	The mowing of a rod of ditch of 1 ke breadth and depth without quick				3 d						
	The ploughing of every rod of quick hedge				3 d						
<b>Poling and making road.</b>	The making of a rod of an usual hedge, the Huffle laid by				2 d						
	The killing of every load of bushes				12 d						
	The making of an hundred of 5 double bind Fagots				20 d						
	The making of a thousand of 3 li.				8 d						
<b>Poling and making road.</b>	The making of a load of Tallow				6 d						
	The making of a load of Pole, or other Wood				2 s 6 d						
	The making of a hundred of 3 li. or 4 li. Fagots				22 d						
	Wheat and Rye the quarters				22 d						
<b>Poling and making road.</b>	Barley and Oats the quarters				16 d						
<b>Artificers and Labourers, by task, or in great.</b>	Beas, Peas, Ballemeeds, and Tares				10 d						
	Plank, the hundred, of six, six, four				2 s 6 d						
	Board, the hundred				2 s 6 d						
	Slating work the hundred				2 s 6 d						
<b>Rising.</b>	Lath, the hundred				4 d						
	Pale the hundred				1 d						
	Clapboard, the hundred				1 s						
	The setting, cleaving, and hewing of Pale, Post, Shores, and Nayls, and setting up of every rod of six foot long Pale, not exceeding seven foot with single Nayls, after the rate of 16 foot and half to the Pale				2 s 4 d						
<b>Cartwrights.</b>	The making of a Ploough all new with meat and drink				1 s 6 d						
	The bodying of a Ploough, with meat and drink				10 d						
	The heading or bodying of a Ploough, with the handle with meat and drink				12 d						
	The making of a pair of Cart-wheels, finding himself				20 d						
<b>Brick and Tyle-makers.</b>	The heading of all the stufle of a body of a Car, finding himself				20 d						
	The making of the body of a Car, finding himself				3 s 6 d						
	The drawing of every gauge of Fellys which contain 12 for wheel				1 s 4 d						
	The setting on of a Felly, finding himself				8 d						
<b>Making of Coal.</b>	The hewing and living of every gauge of Spoke Timber, the gauge con- taining 2 s				1 s						
	The setting, cutting, and hewing of a dozen Coals, every Coal contain- ing 14 Sacks and every Sack 4 bushels				2 s 4 d						
	The making of a dozen of Coals				2 s 4 d						
	The digging of the Earth, the striking and burning of every M. Brick without meat and drink, having straw and all other necessaries laid by				2 s 6 d						
<b>Poling and making road.</b>	The striking, drying, and setting on Pillar every thousand Tyle, without meat and drink				10 d						
	The setting and setting of every M. Tyle, without meat and drink				1 d						

Ex. per Tho. Goultsburgh, Cler. Facis Com. p. 24.

Place this between fol. 98. 99.

## WAGES ASSESSMENT, 1651

This printed copy is bound in the 1655 edition of Michael Dalton's *Country Justice*. The rates show some increases over the wages assessed in 1612 (see preceding plate).

[See p. 21.]

churches. *Index* of subjects, brief but useful, in each volume.

## Administration.

Some of the problems encountered in distinguishing between the judicial, administrative and enrolment archive divisions are discussed in the Introduction, pp. ix-x. The student of the justices' administrative functions is especially referred also to the 'Licensed Tradesmen' group of classes in the enrolment division (pp. 70-72) and to the Clerk of the Peace Returns (p. 77). In the archives of the Court in Session, the chief classes containing administrative records are the Order Books (p. 18) and the Sessions Bundles (p. 10).

## Assessments.

### RATES OF WAGES

Acts of 13 Rich. II, *st.* 1, *c.* 8 (1389) and 5 Eliz., *c.* 4, *s.* 15 (1562-3) directed the justices to fix annually the rates of wages of servants, labourers and artificers. The assessment was to be kept by the Custos Rotulorum amongst the county records. This is one of the earliest administrative functions imposed on Quarter Sessions.

ASSESSMENT, 1612; with eight brief notes of confirmation, 1613-20 (one roll). This is the only original assessment among the County Records. See *Plate*, p. 19. A full copy of the Essex assessment made in 1651 was bound between pp. 88 and 89 of Dalton's *Country Justice* (edition of 1655). See *Plate*, p. 20. The assessment made in 1661 is set out in full in the Order Book. The wages in 1651 show increases over those in 1612, with only a few variations in 1661.<sup>1</sup>

### RATES OF LAND CARRIAGE

Because 'divers waggoners and other carriers, by combination among themselves, have raised the prices of carriage of goods in many places to excessive rates,' the justices in Quarter Sessions were authorized by the Act of 3-4 Wm. and Mary, *c.* 12, *s.* 24 (1691), to assess and publish annually the rates of land carriage. These are set out at frequent intervals in the Order Books between 1720 and 1827 (3d., later 4d. per cwt. for 5 miles), and a few draft certificates occur in the Sessions Bundles. Rates of carriage for the military forces,

<sup>1</sup> For a comprehensive study of assessments for the whole country, see R. K. Kelsall, *Wage Regulation under the Statute of Artificers* (1938).



under the annual Mutiny Act from 49 Geo. III, c. 57 (1810), also occur in the Order Books, with printed copies in the Sessions Bundles.

### **Bridges.**

A very large number of references to county, parish and private bridges, occurring in the Sessions Rolls, Order Books, etc., from 1556, are entered in the 'Bridge Books' (p. 77), which are fully indexed. In 1800 Quarter Sessions acknowledged liability for 57 county bridges, to which others were added from time to time.

CONTRACTS with specifications and plans, 1758-1889 (1 box). These relate to 23 bridges. *Descriptive list.*

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1786-1889 (2 boxes). Comprise cases for opinion of counsel with opinions given as to liability for maintenance, reports, correspondence, extracts from turnpike trust minutes and other earlier documents, relating to many county and private bridges. *Descriptive list.*

RETURNS from justices' clerks of each division as to county bridges, 1830; and lists of county bridges, c. 1800-72.

TITLE DEEDS, from 1650, of Hobstevens Farm, Layer Breton, devised by will in 1523 for maintenance of Poole Bridge, Nayland, on county boundary.

ANNUAL REPORTS of county surveyor, 1858-90 (complete).

### **Gaols and Houses of Correction.**

The original county gaol was at Colchester Castle, to which there are many references in the Sessions Records, especially in the calendars of prisoners. Shortly before 1700 a building belonging to the County on the Moulsham side of the Stone Bridge, Chelmsford, became the county gaol. For committee minutes, see p. 29.

The Acts of 18 Eliz., c. 3 (1576) and 39 Eliz., c. 4 (1597) required the justices to set up in each county houses of correction, in which vagrants and other disorderly persons were to be punished and set to work; by the Act of 7 Jas. I, c. 4 (1609-10) a time limit was fixed for erection. The earliest Essex references date from 1587.

CONTRACTS with specifications and plans for building new gaol and pulling down old gaol at Moulsham (1773), for additional county gaol at Springfield (1819-78), and for houses of correction at Halstead, Chelmsford, Colchester, Ilford and Newport (1802-65). Also copies of the four Essex county gaol Acts, 1770-1827.

REPORTS, correspondence, estimates, etc., as to gaols and houses of correction 1800-60.

FINE ON COUNTY, 1789-92 (13 bundles). Opinions of counsel, briefs, reports and other papers in connection with fine of £500 imposed on the inhabitants of County of Essex by Lord Loughborough at the summer Assizes, 1789, for failure to provide separate accommodation for the sick in the gaol, as required by the Act of 14 Geo. III, c. 59 (1774). Quarter Sessions challenged the validity of the fine by appeal to Exchequer, but the lengthy proceedings were stayed in 1792 upon evidence that the sick quarters had been provided.

RETURNS by the governors of the gaols to Quarter Sessions under various statutes, e.g. 4 Geo. IV, c. 64 (1823), 5 Geo. IV, c. 85, s. 8 (1824), and 2-3 Vict., c. 56 (1839). *See also* p. 78.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS. Agreements with managers, 1869.

## Police.

The ancient voluntary police system was limited to one or two high (or chief) constables for each hundred and one or two petty constables for each township. Counties were empowered to establish police forces by the Act of 2-3 Vict., c. 93 (1839), and Essex set up a county force immediately. *See also* pp. 29, 36, 78.

TITLE DEEDS, from 1624, CONTRACTS with specifications and plans, 1841-84, and correspondence with Home Office, 1841-4, all relating to headquarters, police stations and court-houses.

MONTHLY RETURNS of distribution of the Force, 1841-61.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Papers relating to appointment of special constables for suppression of riots, especially Tending Hundred riots, 1831-2.

Circulars issued by chief constable to superintendents, 1850-81.

Agreement with boroughs of Harwich and Maldon, 1857, for consolidation of Forces under Act of 3-4 Vict., c. lxxxviii.

## Shire Hall.

The earliest known shire house, the 'faire building called the markett crosse or session house' referred to in John Walker's detailed survey



of the manor of Chelmsford, 1591,<sup>1</sup> and clearly drawn on his survey map,<sup>2</sup> was an isolated building in the Market Square now known as Tindal Square. After successive repairs and alterations, it was replaced in 1789 by the present building.<sup>3</sup>

TITLE DEEDS, from 1671, of 'Red Cross' Inn and messuages on the site of the present shire hall.

PLANS, from 1789. These include Johnson's original drawings and the engraved plans issued to subscribers (1789).

PAPERS AND ACCOUNTS, 1788-93 (24 bundles).

## Lunacy.

### PAUPER LUNATICS

The Act of 55 Geo. III, c. 46, s. 8 (1815) required parish overseers to send lists of pauper lunatics to the clerk of the peace to be laid by him before the Court. The first Act (48 Geo. III, c. 96, 1808) which empowered Quarter Sessions to build a county asylum did not provide for such lists, but the Essex justices, under this Act, ordered the overseers to return them. After the creation of Poor Law Unions, an Act of 5-6 Vict., c. 57, and two subsequent acts, required the clerks to the guardians to send in returns.

PAROCHIAL RETURNS. Lists of pauper lunatics in each of the years 1798-1808, giving names, ages, and whether 'confined, or under what circumstances, and whether now living or dead,' 1808 (400 returns, nearly complete; majority give 'No lunatics'). Also Lists, giving additional details, 1815, 1829-33.

UNION RETURNS. Detailed annual lists, 1843-59, 1878-80.

### COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM

The first county asylum was built at Brentwood in 1851-53, for the joint use of the county and of the boroughs of Colchester and Maldon.

EARLIER ABORTIVE SCHEME for converting ordnance depot at Springfield: reports and correspondence, returns and printed asylum reports from clerks of the peace of several counties, 1819-27.

<sup>1</sup> E.R.O., D/DGe.

<sup>2</sup> E.R.O., D/DM.

<sup>3</sup> See R. E. Negus, *A Short History of the Shire Houses of Essex* (privately printed, 1937).





London Carnen the xxij<sup>th</sup> of September. 1618.

Item we present Richard Ainge that he scour his ditch betwixt.  
Bretts bridge and the footbridge going into daved land by estimation.  
sixtene rodd more or less betwixt and all Saints next.

Item we present Henry wall and Richard Ainge to cut off the  
bushes and wood one the west soyle of both the sides of Bretts  
bridge betwixt this and all Saints next.

Item we present Richard Ainge to scour the ditch betwixt  
Bretts brooke and fourwate fields by estimation ten or twelue  
rodd more or less betwixt this and all Saints next.

Item we present the lady Dun to scour her ditch and cut off the  
wood betwixt the parvise and the fourwate betwixt this and  
Shrouthide next.

Item we present George Collup to scour the ditch and carry  
away the marle against Ransfield by estimation twenty rodd  
more or less to be done betwixt this and Cristmas next.

Item we present Richard Lake to scour the ditch against daved  
land by estimation twelue rodd more or less to be done betwixt  
this and Easter next.

Item we present M<sup>r</sup> William Poole for not doing his worke in  
the highway with his cart this year.

Surveyors

Richard Lake

Thomas. Rogers.

PARISH SURVEYORS' PRESENTMENTS, 1618

Made as a result of a special commission for enquiring into the state of the highways leading to London. Owners or occupiers are called upon to scour their ditches and cut back bushes.

[See p. 10. Transcript on p. 101.]

REPORTS of Brentwood Asylum Committee of Visitors, House Committee, and Medical Superintendent, 1854-89 (3 vols., printed). The first report contains an account of the establishment of the asylum, 1846-53. For minutes, *see* p. 29.

ANNUAL RETURNS. Detailed tables and abstracts of accounts, 1876-84.

#### PRIVATE LUNATIC ASYLUMS

The Acts of 14 Geo. III, *c.* 49 (1774) and 2-3 Wm. IV, *c.* 107 (1832) authorized Quarter Sessions to license private asylums and to appoint justices as 'visitors.'

MINUTES, REPORTS AND RETURNS of visitors including detailed registers of patients, 1832-45.

PLANS of houses referred to in applications for licences, 1828-62.

#### Highways.

The Highways Act of 5-6 Wm. IV, *c.* 50, *ss.* 14, 15 (1835), authorized Quarter Sessions or Special Sessions, on application, to unite parishes into a Highway District and to appoint a district surveyor; the names of the parishes and surveyor, also notices from parishes subsequently seceding from such district, were to be sent to the clerk of the peace. Very few unions in the country were formed under this Act. The Highways Act of 25-6 Vict., *c.* 61 (1862) empowered Quarter Sessions compulsorily to combine parishes into Highway Districts under Highway Boards. By the Act of 41-2 Vict., *c.* 77 (1878), disturnpiked roads and other important roads were to become 'Main Roads' under the Highway Boards. For Highway Districts committee, *see* p. 29, and for some Highway Board minutes, *see* p. 90.

#### RETURNS, ETC.

Under Act of 1835: certified copy of order forming a district of seven parishes and appointing a district surveyor, at a Special Highway Sessions for the North Division of Hinckford Hundred, 1836, with draft of parliamentary return by clerk of the peace showing this to be the only district created, 1837; notices of withdrawal of four of the parishes, 1840-2; and returns by surveyors of parishes in Dengie Hundred only as to state, cost, etc., of roads, 1846.

Under Act of 1862: newspapers giving public notices of formation of districts, and petitions of various parishes against inclusion, 1862-3;



and evidence taken before and report by Quarter Sessions committee on Essex Highway Districts (printed), 1874.

Under Act of 1878: detailed epitomes of applications for declaration by Quarter Sessions of 'main roads' including disturnpiked roads (printed), 1879-81.

MISCELLANEOUS, 1874-80 (1 large bundle). Evidence, etc., on administration of Essex Highway Boards taken before a committee of Quarter Sessions.

## **Minor Functions.**

### **WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

INSTRUMENTS. Bills, contracts and correspondence of the clerk of the peace with scalemakers, and receipts by inspectors for scales and weights, 1799-1845.

CONVICTIONS (original), all Brentwood Petty Sessions Division, 1801.

INSPECTORS' RECOGNIZANCES (20), 1834-5.

INDENTURES (2) of verification of county standards, 1844, with subsequent endorsements.

For inspectors' presentments and returns, *see* pp. 12, 35.

### **MILITIA ARMOURIES AND DEPOTS**

LEASE to the clerk of the peace of a room at Colchester Castle 'which for some time past has been used as a depot for the arms accoutrements and clothing of the Eastern Battalion of the Militia,' 1837, and a further lease, 1850. (The armouries for the West and East Militia were removed by order of the Court in 1852 from an unnamed inadequate place at Chelmsford and the room at Colchester Castle to the former clerk of the peace office adjoining the Stone Bridge at Chelmsford and the former house of correction at Colchester respectively.)

PLANS with contract and specifications of new armouries, 1853-62, and report of Armouries committee, 1854-71.

### **DISEASES OF ANIMALS**

Orders relative to the 'distemper in horned cattle' occur from 1745 onwards in the Order Books. By the Cattle Diseases Prevention Act, 29 Vict., c. 2 (1866), following the serious cattle plague, Courts of

Quarter Sessions were to appoint inspectors, to arrange for diseased cattle to be slaughtered compulsorily, and to pay compensation.

RETURNS by clerks to district committees, correspondence, etc., 1866-7. See also below ('Committees') and p. 36.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### SCOTTISH AND IRISH PAUPERS

Correspondence with London shipping companies about contracts for removal, 1836 and 1845, and with government about regulations under the Act of 8-9 Vict., c. 117 (1845). No statistics or names. For Vagrants' Passes, see p. 64.

#### POLLING DISTRICTS

Sealed orders of Privy Council, under Act of 6-7 Wm. IV, c. 102 (1836), creating additional districts, 1837-58; and various papers concerning new districts, under the Acts of 30-1 Vict., c. 102 (1867) and 35-6 Vict., c. 33 (1872), 1868-73.

#### COUNTY BOUNDARY

Notices, with map, of the proposals of the Commission appointed by the Act of 50-1 Vict., c. 61 (1887) to transfer 40 Essex parishes to adjacent counties, 1888. (These sweeping proposals were dropped except for the transfer of Ballingdon-cum-Brundon to Suffolk in 1888, of Great and Little Chishall and Heydon to Cambridgeshire, and of the Essex parts of Haverhill and Kedington to West Suffolk in 1894.)

### Committees.

#### MINUTES, 1796-1889 (35 vols.).

The earlier books relate to specific matters, mostly administrative, referred to an *ad hoc* committee. The later volumes include separate books for committees dealing with: Additional Gaol (1821-8), Constabulary (1840-88), County Rate Basis (1846-63), Visitors of County Lunatic Asylum (1860-89), Highway Districts (1867-83), Licensing of Public Houses (1873-89), Visiting Justices to County Gaol (1875-89), Diseases of Animals (executive committee) (1879-89), and Highways and Bridges (1884-89). For committee reports, see p. 18.

#### PAPERS, 1845-89 (4 bundles).



### Exempt Jurisdictions.

It is impossible to explain briefly to what extent the boroughs and liberties were exempt from the jurisdiction of the county justices, and how far, nevertheless, their inhabitants figure in the County Records. The student is referred to the detailed analysis at the end of the *Catalogue* of the Q.S. Records in the Record Office.

In the main, the exempt jurisdictions were:—

The Royal Liberty of Havering-atte-Bower (*see below*).

The Boroughs of Colchester, Harwich, Maldon and Saffron Walden; and Thaxted until 1684 when it was disfranchised.

The Town of Brightlingsea—a Member of the Cinque Port of Sandwich.

The Sokens (*see below*).

References to cases for these areas are infrequent in the Sessions Rolls, Order Books and other records of the Court's proceedings. On the other hand, most of the lists and registers (Hearth Tax, Land Tax, Electors, etc.) include all or nearly all these areas, i.e. they relate to the entire county.

### LIBERTIES

**LIBERTY OF HAVERING.** Various papers comprising: (1) copy. c. 1755, of the confirmation charter of the Liberty, 1604 (reciting the original charter of Edw. IV and four charters of *inspeximus*), with notes of confirmations by Charles I and Charles II; (2) 'list of the tenants of the Court,' giving 130 names, (?)1755; (3) list of the inhabitants paying rates (327 names arranged under each of the eight wards), 1755; (4) case for opinions of counsel, with opinion whether the county justices are excluded, 1801, and relevant extracts from the County Quarter Sessions Records from 1747. The Quarter Sessions Records of this Liberty were transferred to the County in 1892 (*see p. 81*).

**THE SOKENS.** Papers relating to the reimbursement of the fees of the coroner for the Sokens (Kirby, Thorpe and Walton), 1837-41, including inquisitions and depositions, 1837-8, and extract from crown grant to Sir Thomas D'Arcy, 1551.

**LIBERTIES OF DUCHY OF LANCASTER.** Papers relating to the payment of fees by Quarter Sessions to the coroner of the liberties of the Duchy of Lancaster in Essex, Herts., Middlesex and Surrey (King's Bench, 1824), including 64 coroner's inquisitions, 1822-24.

The Information of John Aspinall of Morton in the said County  
of Dorsetshire taken before W<sup>m</sup> William Maffham Esq<sup>r</sup> at  
March 11<sup>th</sup> 1635

He saith about three weeks or a month since he and four others  
were at play at cards in George Burdell's house of Morton, and  
played there from one of the Clock till three of the clock in  
the afternoon and saith he knoweth, knoweth about two  
others

W<sup>m</sup> Maffham

The Information of Margrett the wife of George  
Burdell of Morton Taver taken at Dorchester

She doth testify that upon Cardemars Eve last there was  
four strangers came into her house and played there at cards  
and dice; & on Cardemars day that there were three that played  
at cards, & it was there was fiddling and dancing in the  
and further saith that since Cardemars last there hath been playing  
at slideboard.

W<sup>m</sup> Maffham

The Examination of George Burdell of Morton  
Taver taken before W<sup>m</sup> William Maffham Esq<sup>r</sup> at  
Barrington H<sup>l</sup> & Bart and W<sup>m</sup> William  
Maffham Esq<sup>r</sup> at the 04<sup>th</sup> of March  
1635

He doth testify that on Cardemars Eve last there were 3 or 4  
strangers came into his house and played there at cards  
and also that on Cardemars day last there were many persons  
in his house but knoweth of no play nor dancing, and that  
many since he saith there came to his house a boy with a hobbyhorse  
and two other men with him that shewed trickes, and  
they came to his house: He further saith that sometimes he hath been  
some in a place againe or two at slideboard for a piece of  
board but saith he knoweth of no more playing for all this

Th<sup>o</sup> Barrington: W<sup>m</sup> Maffham

UNLAWFUL GAMES, 1635/6

Depositions mentioning 'play at cards,' 'fiddling and dancing,' 'playing at slideboard,'  
and 'a boye with a hobbyhorse and two other men with him that shewed trickes.'

[See p. 10. Transcript on p. 102.]



Exa<sup>to</sup>

The Informant of Robert M<sup>r</sup> White fishwife  
of Barking taken upon oath the 28<sup>th</sup> day  
of June 1645 before Mr Henry M<sup>r</sup> May  
William Toppesfield Esq<sup>r</sup> two of his Ma<sup>ties</sup>  
Justices of the peace for the said County.

The Informant s<sup>th</sup> that two Monethes since or thereabouts going a long  
fishwife street in the town of Barking upon his own house, Margaret  
the wife of Thomas Edwards of the same fishwife as a violent &  
outragious manner called him round headed rogue, and said. He was  
long of such round headed, rogues as she was, and that they were  
brought into such a condition, using many other reviling words  
whereby a great tumult was raised in the said town, informed  
that this Informant was constrained to take a Mace from a  
Marshallman to defend himselfe from hurt & violence, w<sup>ch</sup> was like  
to bee offered to this Informant by reason of the said outrageous  
tumult.

The Informant of Edmund Palmer of Barking  
Deceiver taken upon oath at supra.

The Informant s<sup>th</sup> that two Monethes since or thereabouts has bene  
there continually, & going to demands of Thomas Edwards of Barking  
fishwife some Money due upon a rate, Margaret the wife of  
the said Edwards said to this Informant w<sup>ch</sup> That a Company of  
y<sup>e</sup> had brought a y<sup>e</sup> Papish y<sup>e</sup> Priest to town, but s<sup>th</sup> shew<sup>th</sup> that  
there is a coming now, and then w<sup>ch</sup> shall have a temple taken  
w<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>e</sup> & such as y<sup>e</sup> are: or w<sup>ch</sup> to the like effect.

The Informant of Nicholas Pheas of Barking  
M<sup>r</sup> deceiver taken upon oath at supra.

The Informant s<sup>th</sup> that this day seavight, going out of the Market has bene  
Margaret the wife of the said Thomas Edwards say That m<sup>r</sup> Peter  
W<sup>ch</sup>ham, preacher of Barking, placed there by the y<sup>e</sup> Justices w<sup>ch</sup>  
the approbation of the Assembly of Divines, was a Papist dogg And  
further s<sup>th</sup> That if shee had bin there (meaning at the buyell of  
the said Margaret Edwards) shee would have hoped to have torne him in  
pieces like a Papist dogg as hee was.

W<sup>m</sup> Toppesfield

'ROUNDHEADED ROGUE' AND 'PAPIST DOGG,' 1645

Depositions about the behaviour of an abusive fishwife in Barking market.

[See p. 10. Transcript on pp. 102-103.]

BRIGHTLINGSEA. Correspondence on levy of county police rate, 1841.

#### BOROUGH WITH SEPARATE COURTS

Under the Municipal Corporations Act, 5-6 Wm. IV, c. 76, ss. 111-2 (1835), a copy of the grant to a borough of a separate Court of Quarter Sessions was to be sent to the clerk of the peace for the county.

GRANTS. Copies of grants for the continuance of independent Courts for the boroughs of Colchester, Maldon, Saffron Walden, 1836, and Sudbury,<sup>1</sup> 1838.

### Finance.

From 1598 the Essex justices chose two of their number annually as unpaid county treasurers, in accordance with the Act of 39 Eliz., c. 3 (1597), to administer the 'county stock' derived from poor rates. By 1652, when the Order Books start, they were described as treasurers for the West and East Divisions of the county, and their separate accounts were submitted at each session.<sup>2</sup> Not until 1877 was there a single paid county treasurer, although a small salary was paid to a treasurers' clerk (later deputy treasurer) from an early date.

### General Accounts.

#### ABSTRACTS OF ACCOUNTS

1717-44 (unbound, almost complete); 1744-1889 (15 vols., complete).

TREASURERS' ABSTRACTS. Quarterly abstracts of the separate accounts of both treasurers. For each of the two divisions (East and West Essex), the items, which are always numbered to correspond with the original bills and vouchers, average 15 per session in 1744, 30 in 1800, thereafter increasing rapidly.

#### BILLS AND VOUCHERS

1732-33, 1737-1889 (about 1,250 bundles, containing about 17,000

<sup>1</sup> This Suffolk borough at this date was deemed to include Ballingdon-with-Brundon in Essex.

<sup>2</sup> For another instance of this apparently awkward arrangement, see H. H. Copnall, *Nottingham County Records* (1915), p. 13 (treasurers for the North and South Divisions).



documents for 1732-60, about 160,000 for 1761-1810, and about 560,000 for 1811-89<sup>1</sup>).

Earlier bills, chiefly for repairs to county bridges, gaol and houses of correction, are found in the Sessions Bundles from 1644 and a few of still earlier date in the Sessions Rolls. The increase in the number of bills and vouchers led to the creation of this separate class. All bills are folded and endorsed with the name of the payee, the sum, the subject and a number corresponding to that in the Abstracts (p. 33); for each item in the Abstracts there may be either a single bill (e.g. for repair of a bridge) or a group of as many as 100 vouchers (e.g. petty constables' receipts). In view of the vast number of original accounts which have been preserved, the student is advised to consult the Abstracts before examining any original bills. For each of the two county treasurers there are four sessional bundles a year from 1739 onwards. Before that date, accounts were made up annually. The change is probably the result of the Act of 12 Geo. II, c. 29 (1730) which established a single county rate in place of separate rates for bridges, maimed soldiers, charitable uses and gaol.

**COMMON DOCUMENTS.** The following are the chief types found in this class, which includes some records, e.g. of coroners, vagrants and the militia, that would not have been preserved except as vouchers for payment: —

Bills for repairs, etc., to gaol and houses of correction (*see* also p. 36), shire house (from 1789, *see* also p. 24), and county bridges (to 1796 when a separate class of county surveyor's bills was created, *see* p. 36), including detailed vouchers for rebuilding Ilford Bridge, 1757-62.

Warrants or receipts for salaries and bills for fees of county officers, viz., clerk of the peace, inspectors of weights and measures, chief constables, surveyor of county bridges (later county surveyor), keeper, surgeon and chaplain of the gaol and houses of correction, crier of the court, and treasurers' clerk.

Coroners' bills for inquests (from 1752), sent under the Act of 25 Geo. II, c. 29 (1752), giving fees and travelling expenses, and (from about 1805) name of deceased person and verdict; with receipts for petty constables' expenses (from about 1838). *See* also pp. 9, 88.

Receipts for pensions to maimed soldiers (to about 1740). *See* also p. 18.

Vouchers or precepts for reimbursement submitted by chief

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<sup>1</sup> For the destruction of certain documents from 1850, *see* Introduction, p. v, n. 1.

constables, with the original receipted claims by petty constables for sums paid for relief and conveyance of vagrants (to about 1844) and for relief of distressed or discharged seamen and soldiers (to about 1750); the place of origin and destination are sometimes given. (*See Plates*, pp. 37-38). *See also* p. 65.

Chief constables' vouchers for reimbursement, with the original receipted claims of the overseers of the poor for sums paid by them for maintenance of militiamen's wives, giving name of militiaman, number of his children and name of his company; these parish accounts, signed by one or two justices, were sent to the treasurer under the Act of 31 Geo. II, c. 2, s. 28 (1758), which required overseers to pay weekly allowances, as authorized by any justice, to the families of serving militiamen (numerous detailed vouchers, for war periods only, viz., 1759-63, 1779-83, 1793-1816). *See also* p. 36.

Vouchers and claims for expenses and rewards for apprehending or prosecuting felons, witnesses' and petty constables' expenses, and petty constables' expenses in conveying prisoners to gaol or houses of correction.

Warrants for payment, to the clerk of assize, of contractors' charges for the transportation of felons; also (from about 1830) bills for the removal of male convicts to the hulks at Portsmouth, giving names of convicts and details of journey of escorting warders. *See also* p. 78.

Vouchers for reimbursement submitted by chief constables with the original receipted claims by petty constables for impressing carts and waggons to convey military baggage between various places in the county, sometimes stating the names of regiments and of owners of carts impressed (1794 to 1844). These claims record the movements of troops along the main roads, especially to and from Colchester and Chelmsford Barracks and the ports.

Accounts relating to maintenance of gaol and houses of correction, some giving names of prisoners, vagrants and debtors, periods of imprisonment, and other details.

Returns by inspectors of fines for defective weights and measures, giving offender and parish (from about 1830); and detailed statements of fees received, giving, under each town and large village, names of shopkeepers (but not their address or occupation) and number of each type of measure (from about 1830). *See also* pp. 12, 28.

Returns of prices of corn (separate weekly figures for wheat, rye, barley, oats and beans) at Chelmsford and Colchester markets sent to Quarter Sessions under the Act of 10 Geo. III, c. 39 (1769; repealed by 31 Geo. III, c. 30, 1791), and treated as vouchers for payment of fees for returns (1772-94). *See also* p. 72.



**Special Accounts.**

BRIDGES. Accounts of 'Bridge Money,' 1671-1702 (1 vol.). Gives both disbursements for repair and occasional rebuilding of many county bridges (cost of each repair but no details of work, with name of superintending justice, builder or carpenter) and receipts from special levies or rates for county bridges (sums received from high constables). Entries in the 'Bridge Books' (p. 77) duplicate all the items in this book.

COUNTY BUILDINGS (shire hall, gaols and houses of correction, and county bridges).

Original bills and vouchers, 1796-1889 (numerous bundles). (For the accounts for the building of the shire house, 1788-93, *see* p. 24).

County surveyor's quarterly abstracts of payments, 1796-1826 (3 vols.).

GAOLS AND HOUSES OF CORRECTION.

Rebuilding of county gaol. Bills and vouchers, 1767-83 (1 bundle).

Old gaol at Chelmsford, new gaol at Springfield, and houses of correction. Bills and vouchers, 1773-1843 (4 bundles).

County treasurers' and surveyor's accounts, 1822-40 (3 vols.).

Gaol governor's accounts (detailed disbursements), 1830-6 (7 vols.).

MILITIA. County treasurers' annual abstracts of receipts and payments for maintenance of militiamen's wives, 1812-16 (1 bundle). For detailed claims, *see* p. 35. *See also* p. 96.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS. Vouchers for compensation paid to owners of slaughtered animals, inspectors' fees, etc., in connection with the cattle plague of 1865 and subsequent outbreaks, 1866, 1874-80 (9 bundles). *See also* p. 28.

CONSTABULARY.

County treasurers' quarterly statements of receipts and payments, 1840-89 (5 vols.). *See also* p. 23.

Original bills and vouchers, 1840-85<sup>1</sup> (numerous bundles), including pay lists, by divisions (giving name and rank but not abode or station), and monthly accounts of disbursements; travelling expense sheets give details of duty on which engaged.

**County Rates.**

RATE OR ASSESSMENT ROLLS AND BOOKS. Give amounts to be collected, in respect of every rate levied, from each parish and large

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<sup>1</sup> Destroyed except 1840-41, 1851, 1861, 1871-85; *see* Introduction, p. v, n. 1.

Essex To Wit

HEREAS by a Pass granted by *Me Sir Nathaniel*  
*Mend* Serjeant At Law directed to the Constable of *Great*  
*Ward* in the said County of *Essex*  
requiring the said Constable to  
convey *Nathaniel Cowell* aged *Eighty seven* Years  
Vagrant taken up and acting as a Vagrant in the  
said Parish of *Great Ward* of the Parish of  
*Hempstead* in the County of *Essex* that appearing on Her Oath to be  
the true of Her last Segall's Mement 3:  
Do hereby order and direct the said Person, to be  
conveyed in a Cart to the said  
Parish of *Hempstead*  
in the said County of *Essex*

in *Two* Days Time; for which the said Constable  
to be allowed the Sum of *Thirty* Shillings and  
no more. Given under My Hand and Seal this *second*  
Day of *July* in the Year of our Lord 1745



To Daniel Chapman, High Constable Of Chafford Hundred, in Essex  
 Pay To Robert Bowtell, Petty Constable of Great Warley  
 For Conveying The Withinmentioned Vagrant To  
 East Fildes, He Being Very Sick And Old 01-13-00  
 Also For Maintaining The Withinmentioned  
 Old And Sick Vagrant Three Days And Three Nights  
 With His Expences 00-07-00  
 Also For The Reward For Apprehending The Within-  
 mentioned Vagrant According To The Directions Of The  
 Act Of Parliament In That Case Made And Provided 00-10-00  
 Total 01-13-00  
 In Full For The Sum Of Fifty  
 Shillings And The Same Will  
 Be Allowed Upon In Your Accounts  
 Given Under My Hand The Eighth Day Of July In The Year Of  
 Our Lord 1745 J. N. M. R. O.

VOUCHER FOR APPREHENDING, CONVEYING AND  
 RELIEVING AN OLD AND SICK VAGRANT, 1745

This is written on the back of the pass—see preceding plate. Hundreds of these passes are preserved in the County Treasurers' bills and vouchers. In the right-hand bottom corner is the receipt for the vagrant, given by the churchwarden of Hempstead.

[See pp. 35-36.]

township. The only personal names given are those of the chief constables of each hundred. This series comprises: —

‘Quarteridge<sup>1</sup> and bridge money for the use of the gaol, charitable use money, houses of correction, for passing of vagrants, and repairing of the bridges,’ 1733 (1 roll).

General county rate, 1739-1885 (21 rolls, 87 vols.).

Gaol and new shire hall rate, 1789-91 (1 roll).

Additional gaol rate, 1821-33 (5 vols.).

Police rate, 1840-85 (51 vols.).

Contagious diseases of animals rate, 1873-86 (18 vols.).

RETURNS FROM OVERSEERS AND UNIONS, 1841-84 (5 large boxes).

In order to rectify inequalities in the proportion of the county rate charged on each parish which was altered only at long intervals, the Acts of 55 Geo. III, c. 51 (1815) and 8-9 Vict., c. 111 (1845) empowered Quarter Sessions to call for returns of rateable value from the parish overseers. Each parish return for 1847 gives: total annual value of rateable property, date of last valuation, name of surveyor, number of acres (arable, pasture, woods), and a few other particulars; the earlier and later returns are not quite so detailed. Individual properties are not specified. There are a few papers about extra-parochial places. For committee minutes, *see* p. 29.

## Enrolment, Registration and Deposit

The Introduction (pp. ix-x) deals generally with the origin and nature of the classes in this division, and their close relation in some instances to the judicial and administrative archive divisions; the reason for their classification (for example, Hearth Tax, Game Duty and Hair Powder Lists under ‘Taxation,’ but Land Tax Assessments under ‘Parliamentary Elections’) is generally explained by the introductory note to each class; the act of parliament giving rise to the class is the determining factor.

## Deeds and Awards.

### DEEDS OF BARGAIN AND SALE

1536-1624 (1 roll containing 100 deeds). This roll, as far as is known, is the oldest official county record in the country. *See Frontispiece.*

<sup>1</sup> The old county rate for maimed soldiers was colloquially called Quarteridge Money: *cf.* S. A. Peyton, *Kesteven Q.S. Minutes* (1931), vol. I, p. lii.



By the Act of 27 Hen. VIII, c. 16 (1535), deeds of bargain and sale were to be enrolled within six months in one of the Courts at Westminster or with the clerk of the peace of the county in which the property lay. The majority of the deeds in this roll are of 1536-39. The Act came into force on 1st August 1536, and the first deed was enrolled in the following month.

*Calendar, with index of persons and parishes.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS DEEDS

1795-1871 (1 roll).

Six conveyances to trustees, on behalf of the county justices, of houses and land for the site of the new house of correction at Chelmsford, 1795-1820; 31 sales by turnpike trusts, under 3 Geo. IV, c. 126 (1822), and 4 Geo. IV, c. 16 (1823), of surplus strips of land, of former courses of roads, and of toll houses, 1831-71; the sale of a plot of land, under Heybridge Enclosure Act, 1812; and conveyances under a commission of bankruptcy, 1814.

*Calendar.*

#### ENCLOSURE AWARDS AND MAPS

1770-1895 (67 files, 5 vols., 81 maps).

These are the awards made by commissioners appointed under (a) Private and Local Acts, (b) the General Inclosure Acts of 7 Wm. IV, c. 115 (1836) and 8-9 Vict., c. 118 (1845), and (c) the Hainault and Hatfield Forests Acts (1851-58). They relate to the enclosure and allotment of either (1) open fields and meadows, or (2) commons, heaths, greens or forests, or (3) land of both types.

Essex was to a large extent an enclosed county from an early date, which explains why there are few statutory enclosure awards as compared with the Midland counties<sup>1</sup>. Much of the land was never under the open field system which prevailed over much of England, and some was enclosed direct from the forest as it was cleared. But there was one notable exception. The north-west and extreme west of Essex lay on the eastern fringe of the 'Midland' open-field area. Here the great unenclosed arable fields with holdings in intermixed

<sup>1</sup> Incidentally, this also accounts for the existence of so many early Essex estate maps. It is hoped that a detailed *Catalogue* of all the parish, estate and other large-scale maps, including enclosure award maps, in the Essex Record Office will be published in 1947. At the present time, the office houses about 1,150 maps, 1586-1860, excluding Plans of Public Undertakings (p. 58).

strips still existed at the end of the 18th century, and the enclosure awards for the twenty odd parishes in this part of the county date from 1799 to as late as 1865. The remaining awards, between 1770 and 1893, deal with unenclosed pasture, forest and other 'waste' land, the areas ranging from large tracts, such as Tiptree Heath which stretched into several parishes, to village greens, long narrow bits of roadside verge and green lanes. The total approximate areas actually enclosed under awards dealing (1) mainly with open-field arable and (2) with other unenclosed land, are 30,000 acres and 10,000 acres respectively; to the latter may be added 5,000 acres enclosed by the Hainault and Hatfield Forest awards, making a grand total of about 45,000 acres out of the 987,000 acres which the county contained. The areas recorded in this class are however much larger because some of the awards and maps cover the entire parish by including the old enclosed parts, and most of these awards give the names and owners of the closes as well as the names of the former open fields, commons and greens, and other minor place names. For some parishes the map is much more detailed than the award, is beautifully executed, and (if earlier than the tithe apportionment map of about 1838-50) may be the oldest complete map of the parish. In one case, Langley, in the N.W. corner of Essex, a complete pre-enclosure map of the parish prepared by the enclosure commissioner accompanies the award map.

The series of Enclosure Awards and Maps statutorily deposited with the clerk of the peace is complete, and photostats of those awards and maps enrolled only in the Public Records have been obtained. Several private (i.e. non-statutory) enclosure awards or agreements, with maps, are included in the Deposited Estate and Family Muniments in the Essex Record Office. *See* also next entry.

*Calendar* of both awards and maps, with *Index* of surveyors. The areas covered by each award and map have been plotted on a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch O.S. map for easy reference.

*Photographic negatives* of all the maps have been made; enlarged prints of any of the maps can be supplied at cost price. A copy of the typescript *Hand List of English Enclosure Acts and Awards*, by W. E. Tate, F.R.Hist.S., Part 13 with introduction (Essex, 1942), has been presented by the author.

#### ENCLOSURE AGREEMENTS

1801, 1811 (2 documents).

The Act of 29 Geo. II, c. 36 (1756) permitted the lord and tenants of any manor to enclose common land by mutual agreement for



planting and preserving timber, such agreements to be enrolled with the clerk of the peace; any aggrieved tenant might appeal to Quarter Sessions. The earlier agreement involves 135 acres in Great Bromley, and was quashed on appeal; the other refers to a small area of waste land in Blackmore.

#### EPHING FOREST AWARD

ARBITRATOR'S ORDERS, 1879-82 (787 documents). Deposited under Epping Forest Act, 41-2 Vict., *c.* ccxiii, *s.* 19 (1878).

ARBITRATOR'S AWARD MAP, 1882. Deposited under Epping Forest Act, 43-4 Vict., *c.* cxxx, *s.* 8 (1880).

### Religion.

#### OATHS AND DECLARATIONS

By the Test Act, 25 Chas. II, *c.* 2 (1673), every person holding civil or military office was obliged within six months of appointment to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper according to the usage of the Church of England and to deliver into Court a certificate to that effect signed by the minister, churchwardens and two witnesses; also when taking the oaths of office to make a declaration denying the doctrine of transubstantiation. This Act, which operated equally against Roman Catholics and Protestant nonconformists, was not repealed until 1828, and was several times re-enacted with various amendments in connection with the taking of the oaths of allegiance, abjuration and supremacy, etc., from 1701 onwards. By the Act of Association, 7-8 Wm. III, *c.* 27 (1696), every person holding office was to subscribe in court to the form of 'Solemn Association for the better preservation of his Majesty's royal person and government.' To counteract traitorous conspiracies in support of the 'popish pretender,' the Act of 9 Geo. I, *c.* 24 (1722), ordered all persons in England aged 18 or more to take the oath of allegiance, if they had not already done so, before 25 Dec. 1723, or else to register their names and real estates in the same manner as papists (*see below*, p. 46). The time-limit was extended to 28 Nov. 1724 by 10 Geo. I, *c.* 4 (1723), which explained that women were not obliged to take the oath. The Sessions Books record various oaths taken, *see* p. 17.

REGISTER OF DECLARATIONS AGAINST TRANSUBSTANTIATION, 15 July-1 Aug., 1673 (1 roll). A list of 530 persons (no signatures) who subscribed the declaration at Quarter Sessions and adjournments, giving abode, with rank or occupation (details similar to those in Oath Book,

מחצית

Als yondal Bafkow perro dent xogot touz j'en plett tout aprou  
 D'elnefford in old rouz die ulew giffout d'onne ortax die d'prie  
 d'uno xogot d'azoli. munt Chiglex d'onne textie

Whereas it is apparent that the taking of many sheep out of the country  
to the law by the same color trade belonging to the manufacturers of  
that county is a great waste of so many years of labor & daily  
income in that part of the country for the <sup>realizing of the same</sup> purpose of which  
it is ordered by the court & all the justices of peace of this county  
are authorized to be every six years in purifying all that do or  
shall commit offenses in that nature & it is further directed that  
the order shall be published in every division in this county that all  
the justices of the peace of every where it may touch may take  
notice of it for the purifying pruning and amending of  
the said abuses

And it is further ordered & declared that the reports in pub-  
lication of our gift within this county we now are or hereafter  
shall be ~~instructed~~ <sup>instructed</sup> with all our inferiorities & disqualifications  
case of special case & ~~disqualifications~~ <sup>disqualifications</sup> for to provide for his power  
that they do not suffer any of them to wander into other  
fields we may be damaged for the further spreading &  
interfusing of the said inferiorities & disqualifications of  
the roots of this county are desired to pass an especial  
case & order & sentence to punish all such as do or shall  
Aoud, from

To the right honorable, right honorable  
of the house at this present session  
assembled.

The humble petition of the Freeholders of Abington

3. Humbly knowing that whereas by reason of the late institution  
in Chatham a large sum hath been upon the parish of Chatham of  
£200 and a woode for the space of 3 months last past  
is tendered towards the relief of the poor of Chatham  
£37 6<sup>d</sup> for 3 woodes thereof is paid to Mr. Churton  
the high Constable for that sum that tyme that hath  
pleased god to in little many were plaid within our  
parish with the aid of the poor & other pishners  
with hath caused a very great charge to our parish  
to the tune of £200 & woodes in the space of 3 months  
last past over & about our ordinary <sup>yearly</sup> expence we have  
be likely to continue if not to increase

Our humble suit with so good <sup>and</sup> <sup>over</sup> is that you  
will please to take the Simsbury into your  
consideration, on account thereof to send our  
parish for any further weekly charges toward  
the relief of our them

And we shall daily pray for ye  
good & sound health & prosperity

## CLOTH MANUFACTURE AND PLAGUE

- (a) Justices' orders, 1637, concerning the taking of too many apprentices by manufacturers of 'cloth and bayes' and the spread of infectious diseases.
- (b) Petition, 1642, referring to the 'disease of the pox' at Witham and Bocking.

[See p. 10. Transcripts on pp. 103-104.]



The Informant of within I understand the will of William  
 Purleigh who succeeded Lawrence Washington, 1645  
 from a bill of pains but never against John A. Purleigh  
 Purleigh's nephew, sister and son the former taken 1645  
 The Informant appears for oath saying that about a year or more  
 ago he saw John A. Purleigh being taken an witness in the  
 court of justice and at that time he was taking of me  
 Washington who had been separated from Purleigh's family  
 and of which saying that must be the first separation at the  
 time John A. Purleigh bid a part on them and with his knife  
 in his hand and that if his companion claiming him  
 for the said Purleigh and affirm him of it with his knife  
 in his hand and that he did not with his knife  
 in his hand but in his hand of our parish and of the same  
 and of which the said Purleigh said that he would  
 be able to claim a way for that time and some time to  
 come by it

Isaac Aleyn.

Quarto July 1640

whereas Thomas Gonsalves of Purleigh was lately proposed  
 before his justice, Jurors at the quarter Sessions holden for  
 the County for assurance of the high water of the rising and  
 trouble in the same year, wanted him to be paid for his  
 by the lord and the tenants of that manor, was together  
 whole manors and hundred written in a deed to certify that  
 he had taken bond of the resident manors and did not  
 not find it any more the expenses of his said journey  
 Lawrence Washington, Rector. The manor of

Thomas Gonsalves

William Gonsalves

Thomas Gonsalves

Thomas Gonsalves

William (Purleigh)

John A. Purleigh

John A. Purleigh

Thomas Gonsalves

Thomas Gonsalves

Thomas Gonsalves

Thomas Gonsalves

# GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER

- (a) Deposition taken before Isaac Aleyn, justice of the peace, of Hazeleigh Hall, as to threatening words against the rector of Purleigh who succeeded Lawrence Washington, 1645.
- (b) Certificate or testimonial given by parishioners of Purleigh. The top left-hand signature is that of Lawrence Washington, rector, 1640.

[See p. 10. Transcripts on pp. 104-105.]

1714-16. The officers include the governors of the Dutch Bay Hall in Colchester and excise gaugers). *See* next entry.

SACRAMENT CERTIFICATES, 1673 (97 certificates), 1676-1710 (about 300). These yield the details required by the Test Act, and the rank or occupation of each person who took the sacrament. They are numbered to correspond with the registered declarations (previous entry). Including the clergy, churchwardens and witnesses, these certificates give about 600 names. Numerous certificates, 1711-1827, are filed on the Sessions Rolls (p. 6).

ASSOCIATION ROLLS, 1696 (2 rolls). The main roll is an incomplete but valuable record comprising the returns for 57 parishes in various parts of the county and gives about 2,000 signatures or marks ranging from about ten for small villages to about 180 for the towns of Earls Colne and Brentwood. Apart from the petty constable and in a few cases the minister, no descriptions are added; a very small number of women (?overseers of the poor) occur. The second roll contains affirmations, with signatures, of nine quakers of 'Kelvedon and places adjacent.'

OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE, ABJURATION AND SUPREMACY, AND DECLARATIONS AGAINST TRANSUBSTANTIATION.

Declarations against transubstantiation, 1689-1702 (1 roll). Made at Quarter Sessions and adjournments elsewhere; 150 signatures, no indication of abode apart from place of sessions.

Oaths of allegiance, etc., 1702-14 (2 rolls). Subscribed at Quarter Sessions and adjournments. About 500 signatures, abode not stated.

Oaths of allegiance, etc., 1714-16 (1 vol.). Register of persons holding public office, etc., who, after producing sacrament certificates, took the oaths and subscribed the declaration at Quarter Sessions and adjournments in various towns, under the Act of 1 Geo. I, *st.* 2, *c.* 13 (1714), which enumerates the classes liable. Contains about 1,000 names, giving abode in most cases, with description, e.g. esquire, gentleman, rector, vicar, curate or clerk, dissenting minister or baptist preacher, schoolmaster or usher, chief constable, petty (parish) constable, military officer (rank given), lawyer (mostly attorneys), physician or surgeon: of these, the great majority are constables, clergy or schoolmasters, but there are occasional officers of special interest, as the postmaster of Chelmsford. For similar details, *see* Declarations against transubstantiation, 1673 (above).

Oaths of allegiance, etc., Aug.-Sept. 1723 (2 rolls). Subscribed by persons over 18 (*see* above, p. 42), at Quarter Sessions and adjourn-



ments in various towns. Nearly 8,000<sup>1</sup> signatures or marks, but about 3,000 names now illegible. Neither abode nor description is given, but as the majority took the oaths locally many persons can be identified. Perhaps one-fifth are women.

Oaths of allegiance, etc., 1715-1882 (29 rolls, 2 vols.). Signatures only. Each document gives about 200 names.

Papists' oaths of allegiance, 1778-91 (1 roll). Taken at Quarter Sessions under the Act of 18 Geo. III, *c.* 60 (1778). 70 signatures, in some cases with abode and rank or occupation. *See* below.

Dissenting ministers' subscription to the Thirty-Nine Articles, 1726-77 (1 roll). 40 signatures, no indication of abode.

Dissenting ministers' oaths of allegiance and abjuration and declarations of Christian faith, under 52 Geo. III, *c.* 155 (1812), 1812-38, 1853 (20 documents). Signatures, with abodes but no other particulars; mostly of Billericay and Chelmsford.

#### PAPISTS

Immediately after the Jacobite Rebellion, every papist was obliged, by the Act of 1 Geo. I, *st.* 2, *c.* 55 (1715), to register his name and real estate with the clerk of the peace of the county in which the estate lay and to subscribe the entry at Quarter Sessions, personally or by attorney.

PAPISTS' ESTATES, 1718-86 (5 rolls). These registers (4 rolls) give very detailed legal description of 90 estates (manors, advowsons, farms, cottages and lands, etc.), with names of occupiers, field names and tenants' rents. The fifth roll registers the warrants of attorney, the persons named being either local lawyers or relations or friends of the papists.

*Calendar*, with *index* of all personal names and parishes.

CONVICTIONS OF PAPISTS, 1715-25 (1 roll). Twenty certificates of conviction for refusing to take the statutory oath, giving name, abode, rank or occupation, and names of two justices.

JESUITS. Register under 10 Geo. IV, *c.* 7 (1829), 1829 (1 volume). Gives name, age, place of birth, also name and residence of superior of Order (three entries only).

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<sup>1</sup> Obviously this number represents only a small part of the total population over 18. The corresponding roll for Hertfordshire (*Herts. County Records*, VII, Appx. VI) contains 6,050 names. At the 1801 census the respective populations of Essex and Herts. were 226,437 and 97,577.

## PLACES OF WORSHIP

## PROTESTANT DISSENTERS.

By the Toleration Act, 1 Wm. & Mary, *c.* 18, *s.* 19 (1688), dissenting congregations were obliged to register their place of meeting with the bishop or archdeacon, or with the county justices. For such certificates, from 1695, *see* p. 11. The Places of Religious Worship Act, 52 Geo. III, *c.* 155, *s.* 2 (1812), required that the places so certified should be returned also to the alternative registering authority. The return which the House of Commons ordered to be printed, 1836, and a more detailed return, 1853, both show that the provisions of the 1812 Act had been largely disregarded. No returns were required after the Act of 15-16 Vict., *c.* 36 (1852).

Register of meeting places, 1761-1852 (1 roll). Gives parish (in some cases also street), meeting-place (dwelling house, barn, newly erected building, etc.), owner or occupier, and denomination (methodist, anabaptist, independent, quaker, Wesleyan methodist). 56 entries spread fairly evenly throughout the period. *See* also p. 78.

## ROMAN CATHOLICS.

The Act of 31 Geo. III, *c.* 32 (1791) extended some of the provisions of the Toleration Act of 1688 to Roman Catholics, relieving them of the existing penalties subject to their recording at Quarter Sessions the places of worship and the priests' names (*s.* 5); Roman Catholic schoolmasters were to do the same (*s.* 16).

Register, 1791-1837 (1 volume). Gives for each place of worship (12 entries), parish, building (house, etc.), and sometimes owner or occupier; for priests (12 entries), abode (parish) and rank or order; for schoolmaster (one entry only, 1806), school and parish.

**Taxation.**

## HEARTH TAX

The Act of 13-14 Charles II, *c.* 10 (1662), 'for establishing additional revenue upon his Majesty,' required an annual payment by every householder of 2*s.* for each firehearth. Petty constables were to deliver lists of householders and number of hearths in each house in their parishes or constablewicks to Quarter Sessions, to be enrolled by the clerk of the peace, who was to send a duplicate thereof to the Exchequer. Poor persons exempted from parochial rates were also exempt from the tax. The duty was abolished by 1 Wm. & Mary, sess. 1, *c.* 10 (1688).



## ORIGINAL RETURNS AND ENROLLED COPIES, 1662-73.

1. Enrolment (i.e. copy) of returns received at Quarter Sessions and adjournments, 15 July-26 Aug. 1662 (1 roll). Complete for every parish and constablewick; excludes poor persons. About 20,000 names. *See Plate*, p. 49.

*Index of personal names.*

2. Original returns by collectors and constables, 1668, of poor persons and of householders having an increase or decrease in number of hearths since the assessment of 1663 (1 bundle; incomplete; returns for hundreds of Chelmsford, Clavering, Dunmow, Freshwell, Hinckford, Lexden, Tendring and Uttlesford, and liberty of Havering and town of Colchester).

3, 4. Enrolment of returns of increase and decrease of hearths since (?) 1663, received at Quarter Sessions, 16 July and 6 October 1668 (2 rolls; incomplete; same hundreds as in no 2.)

5. Enrolment of returns to Quarter Sessions, 2 May 1671 (1 roll; complete; includes poor persons exempted with their hearths, usually one or two). About 25,000 names.

6. Original returns of increases and decreases in number of hearths, received at Quarter Sessions, 18 July 1672 (complete; gives not only persons returning more or less hearths but also new householders).

7. Enrolment of no 6 (1 roll).

8. Copies of returns received at Quarter Sessions, 7 Oct. 1673 (15 booklets; complete except for hundreds of Barstable, Becontree (part), Chafford, Clavering, Harlow, and liberty of Havering; includes persons exempted).

9. Copies of returns, undated (c. 1673). (7 booklets; incomplete; returns for hundreds of Becontree, Clavering, Dunmow, Lexden, Tendring and Witham, liberty of Havering and town of Colchester). Names differ only very slightly from those in the same hundreds in no. 8, of which this may be a fair copy.

## GAME DUTY

The Act of 24 Geo. III, c. 43 (1784), for raising additional taxes, required 'every person qualified in respect of property to kill game' to register his name and abode with and pay the fee to the clerk of the peace, likewise every appointment of a gamekeeper by the lord of a manor. Because 'the payment of the duties has been greatly evaded' a new Act was passed the next year, 25 Geo. III, c. 50, by which 'every person who shall keep any dog, gun, net or other engine for the taking or destruction of game' was to register and take out a certificate annually. *See also* Deputations to Gamekeepers, p. 60.

Sturk's mung bean medusa	Centropomus	17
Yellow pompano		10
Chemical	Centropomus	18
Chemical	Centropomus	19
Yellow pompano		20
Yellow pompano		21
Yellow pompano		22
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Yellow pompano		100

Parish of Dagenham } An Appraisal  
in the County of Essex } made in pursuance of an Act of Parliament  
passed in the 20<sup>th</sup> Year of his Majesty's Reign  
by a Land Tax to be raised in great Britain  
for the Service of the Year 1781

Books	Occupiers Names	Depristors	L	S	D
20	James Armstrong	Himself	1	0	0
11	Samuel Bogart		2	16	0
9	D <sup>o</sup> wants Land	Eliz Watson	1	16	0
30	D <sup>o</sup>	Graves	6	0	0
12	D <sup>o</sup>	Memph. Charity	2	8	0
8	D <sup>o</sup>	Mrs Clark	1	12	0
36	Bro. W. A. Blackton	Himself	7	1	0

*Spec* District *Francis Smyth* Distributer.

Certificates for using Hair Powder issued for the Year 1797

Parish of

No of Certificate	Date	Persons Names	Description	No of Certificate	Date	Persons Names	Description
		<i>Layser de la Kay,</i>				<i>Layton</i> <i>cert.</i>	
208	Apr. 8	Durand Elj	Slave	429	Apr. 26	Colwell Cha	Slave
				430	26	D. Ann	Wife
		<i>Layser Thorneyc</i>		431	29	Dicks Thomas	Slave
				467	29	D. Eliza	Wife
				462	6	Dorsett Anne	"
496	Apr. 8	Lock Elj	Wife of Slave	200	8	Payne Phil	"
		<i>Layton,</i>		496	June 29	Kearl John	Slave
				497	29	D. Elj	Wife
62		Adams Rich	Slave	207	Apr. 14	James Ann	Slave
		D. Elj	Wife	208	14	D. Margaret	Wife
		D. Maria		3	14	D. Elj	
						D. Anne	

(Top left) Hearth Tax, Boreham, 1662. The first entry relates to New Hall, 117 hearths, then owned by the Duke of Buckingham. Other famous owners of this mansion include Henry VIII, Oliver Cromwell, and General Monk.

(Top right) Land Tax, Dagenham, 1781.

(Bottom) Hair Powder Tax, Laver de la Haye, Laver Marney, and Leyton, 1797.

[See pp. 47-48, 51 and 52.]



*And we the undersigned do hereby certify that the above named persons are the persons who have been*

*And we the undersigned do hereby certify that the above named persons are the persons who have been*

*And we the undersigned do hereby certify that the above named persons are the persons who have been*

John Webb. vicar. ibidem  
 William Burgess. lecturer  
 John Richardson  
 John Litch  
 Thos. Long  
 Jo. Chaplyn  
 Nathaniel Woods  
 Anthony Bennett  
 John Hobbs. junr.  
 John Lamb  
 William Yorksberg

Thomas Harker  
 Richard George

CHARITABLE RELIEF AFTER A FIRE AT  
 HALSTEAD, 1645

Petition describing 'the utter undoeing' of a family 'by reason of an accident of cruel fyre' which 'burnt downe and consumed their dwelling house 'together with their working loomes, beddinge and househould stuffe.' Signed by the vicar, lecturer and eleven other parishioners. At the left-hand corner is a note to the effect that the Court authorised a collection 'within the devisions, i.e. the petty sessional district.

[See p. 10. Transcript on p. 105.]

REGISTERS, 1784-1806 (3 volumes). The 'gentlemen's list' of qualified persons gives: name, abode (parish and occasionally mansion), and usually rank or occupation (including, e.g., militia officers, clergymen and farmers); the gamekeepers' list gives: gamekeeper (but not his abode), manor(s), lord, dates of deputation and certificate. Both lists are alphabetical (the second by gamekeepers, not lords), and for each year there is usually a long list and a shorter supplement. The lists for 1784 and 1806 give 1,188 and 952 'gentlemen' and 358 and 169 gamekeepers respectively.

DRAFT LISTS, 1785-1807 (1 large bundle). Same facts as in registers.

#### HAIRPOWDER DUTY

The Acts of 35 Geo. III, *cc.* 49, 112 (1795) obliged persons using hairpowder to take out an annual certificate with a stamp duty of a guinea. Non-commissioned officers and the clergy, unless wealthy, were exempt. Lists were to be transmitted by the commissioners to the clerk of the peace, but were discontinued after a few years in most counties, although the provisions were not actually repealed until the Statute Law Revision Acts, 1861 and 1871.

REGISTERS, 1795-97 (3 volumes). These are fair copies of the parochial returns. About 3,000 names in each annual list. The names are chiefly those of the upper classes, including a few military officers and clergy; the remainder are servants. Names are arranged under parishes, with brief description, e.g. householder, inmate, wife, daughter, butler, footman. *See Plate*, p. 49.

*Index* of names (except servants) in register for 1795.

CORRESPONDENCE of the clerk of the peace with chief constables, drafts and forms, 1795-7 (1 bundle).

### Parliamentary Elections.

#### ANNUITIES

1774-1842 (54 original certificates and 1 vol.).

By the Act of 3 Geo. III, *c.* 24 (1763), certificates of annuities and rent-charges on freehold land were to be lodged with the clerk of the peace and entered by him in a book. The object was to prevent fraudulent votes, as an annuity of £2 or over entitled the grantee to a vote. Both the certificates and the register give transcripts of the deeds granting the annuities.

*Calendar.*



## LAND TAX ASSESSMENTS

1780-1832, nearly complete (1,172 bundles containing about 22,000 documents).

To lessen the number of disputes at county elections the Act of 20 Geo. III, *c.* 17, *s.* 3 (1780) declared that no person could claim to vote unless assessed to the land tax, and a duplicate of the annual assessment for each parish was accordingly to be sent to the clerk of the peace. The Representation of the People Act of 1832 rendered the preparation of these duplicates unnecessary.

Assessments are preserved for the whole county, including the liberty of Havering (from 1794) and the boroughs. They give for each property taxed: (1) proprietor, but not his abode or occupation; (2) occupier; (3) sum payable; and (4) rental. The last item is optional though usual before 1825; the figure given, however, bears little or no relationship to the actual rent paid to the proprietor, since it does not vary with rent fluctuations but is based on the county assessment fixed in 1692. *See Plate*, p. 49. Additional columns were added in 1799 for 'sums assessed but exonerated,' i.e. redeemed, and in 1826 for 'description of property.' Such descriptions may be general (e.g. land, or house and land), or as in the majority of post-1825 assessments, more specific (e.g. farm with name, inn with sign, windmill, shipyard, lighthouse).

*Index*<sup>1</sup> of all personal names (about 20,000) of both owners and occupiers in the assessments for 1782.

## ELECTORS

By the Representation of the People Act, 2-3 Wm. IV, *c.* 45 (1832), the overseers of the poor were to deliver the list of voters for each parish to the high constable annually; the latter forwarded them to the clerk of the peace for transmission to the revising barrister. The lists, revised by him after determining claims and objections, were to be returned for preservation among the Sessions Records. The clerk of the peace was directed to copy the lists into a book, assigning a serial number to each name, deliver it to the sheriff or under-sheriff, to be the Register of Electors for the ensuing year, and to have it printed.

By the Act of 1832 the county franchise, previously limited to men of 21 or over possessing freehold property within the county worth at least 40s. a year (*see* Freeholders' Books, p. 75), was enlarged by

the addition of copyholders of £10, leaseholders of £50, and long leaseholders of £10 a year. The extensions of the franchise by the Reform Acts of 1867 and 1884 are reflected in immediate increases in the names in the registers (*see below*). The registers do not exclude the boroughs: they give both those county voters living in a borough whose freehold may be elsewhere in the county, and those having qualifying property in a borough though living elsewhere in the country.

LISTS (sometimes known as 'Claims and Objections'), 1832-71 (about 6,000 documents). For some years no lists, or lists for certain hundreds only, are preserved. The facts recorded are those given in the Register (*see next entry*), but the lists, especially the earlier ones, are valuable as giving various details additional to those statutorily required, e.g. tenants' names, often omitted in the Register.

REGISTERS, 1832-89 (132 printed volumes). Slightly incomplete in early years, but the gaps are largely filled by the Lists. The entry for each voter gives: (1) serial number; (2) abode—usually only the parish, but the large houses are named, and with the increase in the number of voters, the street and later the number in the street are given, and always the full address of those living in London; (3) nature of qualification, usually the briefest term to comply with the Act (e.g. 'freehold house(s)', 'copyhold house and land value £10 a year' (minimum), 'lease of 21 years'), but many early entries are a little more specific (e.g. 'freehold mills,' 'freehold dissenting chapel,' 'two houses and blacksmith's shop')<sup>1</sup>; and (4) situation of property in the parish (hamlet or street), or its name (especially if a farm, inn, mill, etc.) and/or tenant. It is difficult to summarize the information in the Registers as there is little uniformity, but they are of great value for various lines of enquiry, especially where names of farms, etc., and their occupiers are concerned. It must be emphasised that the Registers are lists of owners or occupiers of qualifying property in each parish, not of inhabitants; under each parish therefore some electors may be recorded as living not only in another parish but in another county; for the parishes near London the proportion is higher. As a parochial record of the abodes of non-resident owners, the Registers are most useful.

The number of persons recorded as eligible to vote in the Essex Registers is 9,651 in 1832, 18,610 in 1868, 32,371 in 1885, and 81,023 in 1886.

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<sup>1</sup> Similar facts are given in most of the Land Tax Assessments, 1826-32.



*Indexes* of persons eligible to vote, S. Essex, 1832, and N. Essex, 1838.

#### ELECTIONS

POLL BOOKS, 1810, 1812, 1830 (March and August elections), 1831, 1832, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1841 (205 volumes).

These give: name of freeholder, abode (parish only), parish in which qualifying estate is situated, nature of estate (land, house, tithes, etc.), name of occupier, candidates for whom polled; names are given in the order in which the votes were polled, and there is no contemporary index. There are, however, separate books for each hundred or group of hundreds until 1831, and for each polling district from 1832. The books for the election of 1810 give about 3,800 names, about 3,500 being those of voters.

*Index* of all names in the poll books, 1810.

Earlier poll books, from 1679, for the county and for Colchester and Maldon, are among the unofficial records in the Essex Record Office.

RETURN. Original indenture of election of knights of the shire, 1741; counterpart signed by sheriff. *See* also pp. 9, 89.

EXPENSES, 1857, 1859. Detailed accounts of the candidates' expenses at the county elections. *See* also p. 78.

### Highways.

#### DIVERSION, CLOSURE AND WIDENING

By Act of 8-9 Wm. III, *c.* 16, *s.* 6 (1697), 'Where any common highway at any time hereafter shall be inclosed, after a writ of *Ad quod Damnum* issued, and inquisition thereupon taken, it shall be lawful for any persons aggrieved by such inclosure to make their complaint by appeal to the justices at the quarter sessions next after inquisition taken, who are hereby authorised to determine such appeal, and if no such appeal be made, then the said inquisition and return, entered and recorded by the clerk of the peace, shall be for ever afterwards binding to all persons.'

By Act of 13 Geo. III, *c.* 78, *ss.* 19-22 (1773), a highway, bridle-way or footway might be diverted or stopped up by the order of two or more justices at their Special Sessions, with the consent of the land owner, provided that the proposed way was nearer or more convenient to the public; if there was no appeal, Quarter Sessions confirmed the order, and a certificate of completion of the new way was to be returned to the clerk of the peace for enrolment. By *ss.* 16-18, two or more justices might order a narrow road to be widened, and the

To the Justices of the honorable Court of Quarter  
Sessions;

The humble petition of Samuel Sadler  
of Danbury in the said County of Essex

Sheweth that whereas your petitioner was  
employed to watch the Beacon at Danbury by the  
high Constables for the hundred of Chelmsford and  
that it is now a whole year since that your petitioner  
did wait the said watch and that your petitioner cannot  
by any means get his money for watching the  
Beacon that there are divers persons in the hundred  
that are bound and have not brought in their money  
for Beacon watching so that your petitioner hath been  
compelled to make many journeys and to attend the  
honorable Court for the recovery of his said money  
with great bond and great charge to your petitioner  
and hath many times paid your petitioner and sold  
your petitioner in debt. Wherefore your petitioner  
humbly desireth this honorable Court that some  
course may be taken for the recovery of his  
said money that your petitioner may be satisfied  
his money and your petitioner shall be bound by law  
for good honor & reward

BEACON WATCH AT DANBURY, 1645/6

Petition for arrears of pay by the man 'employed to watch the Beacon at Danbury.'

[See p. 10. Transcript on p. 106.]





parish surveyors of highways to agree with the owners of the lands acquired for recompense or purchase. By the Act of 55 Geo. III, c. 68 (1815), the relevant sections in the earlier act were repealed, a slightly more elaborate procedure substituted, and justices' powers extended to the stopping up of unnecessary ways. A notice was to be inserted in three successive issues of local newspapers, and the order returned to the clerk of the peace for enrolment. These provisions were repeated in the consolidating Highways Act of 5-6 Will. IV, c. 50, ss. 82-92 (1835) which is still operative.

ENROLMENT OF WRITS AND INQUISITIONS 'AD QUOD DAMNUM.'  
1722-73, 1815-17 (3 rolls).

These relate to highways, bridleways and footways diverted or closed, and concern 32 cases, 1722-73, and three cases, 1815-17; in some, more than one way in the same parish is dealt with. No maps are included. These documents give the owner of the land (mostly large estates) and a brief description of the way, and name the inn, etc., at which the inquisition was held.

*Calendar* giving all personal and place names including inn signs.

JUSTICES' ORDERS AND CERTIFICATES, WITH MAPS.

Enrolment, 1775-1841 (3 rolls).

Original orders, etc., 1784 (a single unconfirmed order), 1808-89 (10 boxes). Local newspapers are included from 1815. There were 82 diversions in 1775-1815, and 310 in 1816-89. Except for four cases of widening narrow roads, these all relate to diversion or closure. Maps are nearly always included, mostly sketch maps before 1800, but after that date many are coloured, well executed and detailed, and a few show areas containing twenty or more fields. The documents give the owner, and sometimes the occupier, of every field through which the old and new ways pass, field and other local names; and many of the maps give the owners and occupiers of adjacent fields.

*Calendar* giving all personal and place names, including inn signs, to 1850; areas of each parish shown on maps have been plotted on 1-inch O.S. maps for ready identification. *Photographic negatives* of all maps, 1808-50, have been made, and enlarged prints of any of these maps can be supplied at cost price.

#### ROADS ON PARISH BOUNDARIES

By Act of 34 Geo. III, c. 64 (1794), 'for the more effectually repairing of such parts of highways as are to be repaired by two parishes,' i.e. where parish boundaries passed along the middle, two justices, on the application of the parish surveyors of highways, might



determine what lengths were to be repaired by each parish. Their order and map were to be filed with the clerk of the peace.

JUSTICES' ORDERS, WITH MAPS, 1802-67 (39 orders).

## Public Undertakings.

### PLANS OF SCHEMES

In connection with parliamentary Bills for schemes of the kind now termed public utility undertakings, the Standing Orders of the House of Lords (1843) required the deposit, with the clerk of the peace, of 'a plan, and also a duplicate of such plan, on a scale of not less than four inches to a mile . . . together with a book of reference . . . and in the case of bills relating to turnpike roads, cuts, canals, reservoirs, aqueducts, and railways, a section and duplicate thereof.' Promoters of railway bills had to deposit additional plans of deviations from the original line and when renewing any application to parliament. Plans and books of reference were deposited from the earliest date (but not in duplicate until 1838), also sections from 1812; the scale of some of the early plans is smaller than 4 inches to a mile.

ORIGINAL PLANS, ETC., 1792-1889. (Plans, sections and books of reference of 457 schemes, many being abortive.)

The following analysis gives the date of the first deposit for each type of undertaking:—river navigations, canals and cuts, 1792 (the earliest, the Chelmer Navigation, concerns both a ship and a barge scheme, *see Plate*, p. 61); docks, mostly Thames-side, 1796; waterworks and reservoirs, 1805; turnpike roads, 1807; sea-water baths (projected inland pipe-line from Thames estuary to London, with reservoirs), 1811 only; iron rail-roads (horse or tram), 1811; Thames ferries, 1815; Thames tunnels, 1825; piers and jetties, 1828; Thames floating dock, 1832 only; steam railways, 1834; drainage, 1846; Blackwater land reclamation and estuary improvements, 1851 only; oyster fisheries, 1864; local boards of health improvements, 1870; flood prevention and coast defences, 1875 only; Walton and Frinton sea-front improvement, 1878 only; electricity supply, 1882. Between 1835 and 1865 the majority concern railways (*see Plate*, p. 62). For certain railways there are plans of two or more schemes following similar courses. In canal, road and railway plans, fields and buildings within about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile on each side of the proposed course are recorded in both plans and books of reference. Some of the plans give names of farms, etc., and a few show strips in 'open' fields and meadows especially in N.W. Essex. The reference books give for each house, field, etc., the following details:—(1) no. on plan; (2) description (e.g. four cottages,

windmill, White Hart public house, arable, lammas meadow, plantation, pound); (3) owner; (4) lessee (usually blank); and (5) occupier(s).

*Calendar* of plans, 1792-1844 (in progress). *Photographic negatives* of all the plans, 1792-1844, have been made; enlarged prints of any of the plans can be supplied at cost price.

REGISTERS. Contemporary registers of deposits, 1792-1889 (2 vols.).

#### ACTS AND ORDERS

1836-89 (107 acts and provisional orders).

These relate to public utility undertakings schemes, and were deposited with the clerk of the peace under the Companies (Land, Railways) Clauses Acts, 8-9 Vict., c. 16, s. 161, c. 18, s. 50, and c. 20, s. 162 (1845). A few private and local acts for public undertakings of earlier date are among other classes in the Essex Record Office.

#### NAVIGATIONS

STOUR. Appointments of commissioners under Act of 4-5 Anne (1705) for making Stour navigable from Manningtree to Sudbury, 1733-1911 (1 roll).

#### CHELMER AND BLACKWATER.

Conveyances and agreements as to lands adjoining rivers between Maldon and Springfield, 1793-1866 (1 vol.); the majority relate to 'slipes' of meadow, but a few are of important properties, e.g. Beeleigh Mills.

Minutes of Commissioners, 1794-1807 (8 documents). Copies of proceedings at eight meetings, deposited with the clerk of the peace, relating chiefly to claims adjudged by the commissioners, e.g. from millers.

#### TURNPIKE TRUSTS

The Act of 1 Geo. IV, c. 95, ss. 4, 9 (1820) obliged the clerks and treasurers of turnpike trusts to send returns to the clerk of the peace to be copied into a book and transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department. That of 3 Geo. IV, c. 126, ss. 78-9 (1822) directed clerks and treasurers to send annually a copy of each trust's accounts to the clerk of the peace who was to register (copy) them.

RETURNS, 1820 (1 vol.). Contains full copies of the returns from 17 trusts; apart from total length of roads under each trust and number of trustees, the returns relate wholly to their finances.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS, 1823-71 (5 bundles, 4 vols.). Both the original



abstracts of accounts and the registered copies, from 22 trusts, for varying dates within this period.

For individual Trust records, 1769-1870, *see* pp. 90, 96.

#### COMPANY ACCOUNTS

These were deposited with the clerk of the peace by parliamentary standing orders.

ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS, 1841-89 (30 bundles). Apart from two railway companies, 1841-60, these relate to gas, water and electricity companies.

#### VERDICTS

1838-1908 (1 bundle containing 96 documents).

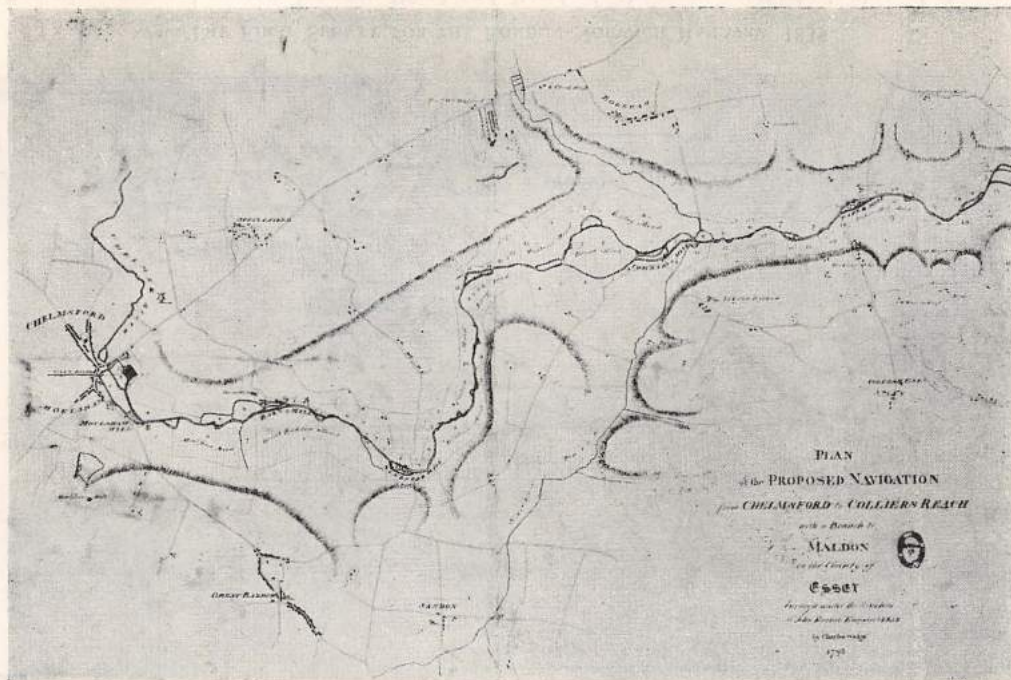
These assessed the compensation for property required and were deposited with the clerk of the peace under the companies' or corporations' own Acts, or under the general Land Clauses Consolidation Acts, 8-9 Vict., *c.* 18, *s.* 50 (1845). The majority concern railway companies, the rest relate mainly to corporations and local boards of health. From 1853 there is also for each case the warrant to the sheriff from the company, with a small map of the lands required, and the sheriff's inquisition embodying the verdict, *i.e.* the monetary compensation. Only short stretches of railway line are affected.

### Crime, Poverty and Philanthropy.

Under this heading have been grouped some miscellaneous but associated archives, mainly concerning certain aspects of crime and of poor law administration and various societies and institutions controlled or encouraged in the public interest by specific statutes.

#### DEPUTATIONS TO GAMEKEEPERS

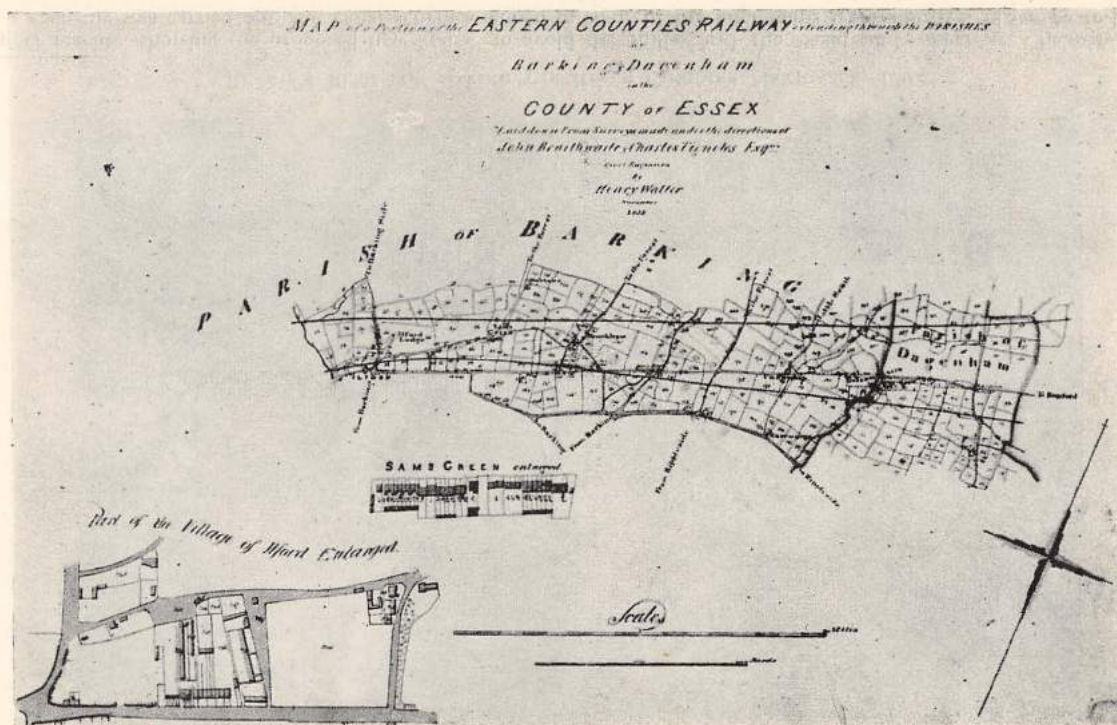
The Act of 9 Anne, *c.* 27 (*c.* 25, Ruffhead's edn., 1710), 'for the better preservation of game,' directed that a lord of a manor might appoint not more than one gamekeeper with power to kill game and must enter his name with the clerk of the peace. This statute made perpetual and amended that of 5 Anne, *c.* 14 (1706), which stated that earlier game laws had 'been found insufficient to prevent destroying the game, by reason of the multitude of higlars (*sic*) and other chapmen, which give great encouragement to idle loose persons to neglect their lawful employments, to follow and destroy the same.' This earlier act made no provision for registration.



RENNIE'S PLAN FOR MAKING THE RIVER CHELMER NAVIGABLE, 1792.

The upper reaches, showing the proposed new 'cuts' to avoid the mills, and the basin and wharf at Chelmsford. This scheme was carried out, but canal schemes shown in some of the later maps were abortive. [See p. 58.]





THE FIRST SURVEY FOR THE LONDON-NORWICH RAILWAY, 1835

Shows alternative proposed courses between Ilford and Romford; the more southerly is that of the present line.

[See p. 58.]

REGISTERS, 1711-1889 (5 volumes). These are of great value as giving, in addition to the gamekeepers, the names of the lords of the manors at precise dates. The abode of the gamekeeper, but never that of the lord, is given frequently in 1711-13, rarely in 1714-1807, but generally again, 1808-89. Sometimes a lord appointed the same gamekeeper for more than one of his manors. In some entries, two or more alternative manor names are given. Occasionally the gamekeeper is termed 'esq.' or 'gent.,' or (from 1778) 'a menial servant.' The entries are in chronological order.

*Index* of names of lords of manors, 1711-85.

See also the Game Duty Registers giving annual lists of lords of manors appointing gamekeepers, p. 48.

#### PROSECUTION OF FELONS

Under the Act of 10-11 Wm. III, c. 23 (1699; also cited as 10 Wm. III, c. 12), 'for the better apprehending, prosecuting and punishing of felons that commit burglary, house-breaking, or robbery in shops, warehouses, coach-houses or stables or that steal horses,' a certificate was given to any person who successfully apprehended and prosecuted a felon to capital conviction. This certificate, commonly called a 'Tyburn ticket,' exempted the grantee or his assignee from all offices (overseer, etc.), in the parish where the crime was committed; it could be sold, and often fetched a large sum. Certificates and assignments were to be enrolled with the clerk of the peace. The act was repealed by 7-8 Geo. IV, c. 27 (1827).

'TYBURN TICKETS ROLL,' 1726-1833 (1 roll). Contains copies of 145 certificates dated between 1717 and 1823, and of some assignments, giving names of prosecutor (often the plaintiff), brief note of felony, parish in which it was committed, and value of goods. All cases were tried at the Essex Assizes.

*Calendar.*

#### SUMMARY CONVICTIONS

The procedure of summary conviction for certain offences by one, two or more justices out of Sessions, upon information or complaint, developed at an early stage, not under any general statute but under the terms of the justices' commission and specific acts, a right of appeal to Quarter Sessions being allowed. The long-established practice of forwarding the conviction to the clerk of the peace for filing was confirmed by Act of 11-12 Vict., c. 43 (1848) which regularized summary conviction procedure. See also pp. 5, 12, and 82.

CONVICTION BOOKS, 1791-1889 (18 volumes). Registers in which



are entered in column form all the facts recorded in the original convictions, giving for each person convicted: abode (parish); occupation; offence, set out fully (15-20 words in many cases); convicting justice (rarely two or more); date of offence; penalty, usually a fine; name of informer in most cases, and date of Quarter Sessions at which original conviction was filed. From 1856 abode and occupation less frequently and from 1861 never given. After the Criminal Justice Administration Act, 1855, the petty sessional division is given instead of the justice(s). Before the date of this act, the penalty was either a fine, up to £100, or imprisonment in the gaol or house of correction, up to three months hard labour. There are about 2,000 convictions recorded in the first volume, 1791-1824; thereafter the number each year increases rapidly. Within each volume the entries are arranged by the initial letter of the defendant; those in the Bundles are marked 'B' (*see* next entry).

ORIGINAL CONVICTIONS.<sup>1</sup> 1850-56. Before 1850 these, if on parchment, are filed on the Sessions Rolls, if on paper, in the Sessions Bundles (from 1697). Apart from the justices' signatures, the originals from 1791 yield nothing additional to the facts in the registers.

#### WORKHOUSE AGREEMENTS

The Act of 22 Geo. III, *c.* 83 (Gilbert's Act, 1782), authorized the setting up of a 'proper' workhouse by a single parish or a union of parishes. A copy of the agreement for its establishment was to be entered with the clerk of the peace.

REGISTER, 1810-29. Five agreements, the last relating to a union of 10 parishes, the rest to single parishes.

#### VAGRANTS

By the Act of 17 Geo. II, *c.* 5 (1744), because 'the number of rogues, vagabonds, beggars and other idle and disorderly persons<sup>2</sup> daily increases,' such persons might be committed by a justice of the peace to the house of correction (*s.* 1), and he was empowered, by means of a pass with examination annexed, to have them conveyed to the place of their last legal settlement, or if that could not be found, to their birth place (*s.* 7); a duplicate of the pass and examination, similarly signed by the justice, was to be transmitted by him to

<sup>1</sup> For destruction of these papers, 1856-1913, *see* Introduction, p. v, n. 1.

<sup>2</sup> These are set out in detail in *s.* 2 of the Act.

the next general or quarter sessions, 'there to be filed and kept on record' (s. 8).

PASSES AND EXAMINATIONS, 1767, 1779-1835, apparently complete from 1779 except for 1811 (about 18,000 papers relating to about 8,000 removals). The pass, i.e. removal order, gives the parish in which the vagrant was arrested, the parish in which he was last settled or born, and, if (as in most cases) the latter was outside the county, the parish immediately over the boundary in the adjoining county 'in the next direct way' thereto. The examination gives the date and the origin or believed origin of the acquired settlement (e.g. hired service, stating the wages; apprenticeship, naming the master and his occupation in either case; renting a house over £10 a year; marriage in the case of a woman; or place of birth; the last is commonly given where a different settlement was subsequently acquired), and usually the vagrant's age; it bears the vagrant's signature or mark. From 1779 to 1810, the documents are arranged alphabetically by the names of the vagrants, in two divisions, 1779-90 and 1791-1810; within each letter group they are in annual bundles (later, sessional bundles) in strict order of date. After the passing of the Act of 5 Geo. IV, c. 83 (1824), which abolished passes except for removals to Scotland and Ireland, the documents relate only to Scottish and Irish paupers (*see* p. 29). The number of documents per year, which shows a fairly steady increase from 1779 onwards, is much diminished from 1824. Although the great majority of the documents in this class concern paupers, a few relate to persons who had gained a settlement by payment of rates or occupation of a tenement. *See* also p. 35.

#### CHARITIES

The Act of 26 Geo. III, c. 58 (1786) required ministers and churchwardens to forward returns of charities to the clerk of the peace for transmission to Parliament; that of 52 Geo. III, c. 102, s. 3 (1812), required him to register memorials of every charity, giving real and personal estate, gross annual income, investment and object of charity and names of founders, trustees or possessors of the charity; and that of 16-17 Vict., c. 137, s. 61 (1853), required the trustees of charities to deliver to him copies of their annual accounts of income and expenditure.

RETURNS, 1787-8 (Essex section only, pp. 351-90 of printed 'Abstract of Returns of Charitable Donations, 1787-1788' (1816)). Gives briefly, in tabular form: parish, donor, date and instrument of



foundation, purpose of charity and whether in land or money, trustees, value in money, and additional observations; 'Supplementary Returns' (date not stated), are printed in red.

MEMORIALS, 1813-53 (4 bundles, 1 vol.). Both the original returns and the memorials (full copies) relating to 121 charities, including free schools, almshouses, etc. Also draft of return to Secretary of State, 1829.

ACCOUNTS, 1853-89 (70 bundles). Relate to about 75 charities. Few accounts after 1870.

MISCELLANEOUS, 1759-1827 (2 bundles). Annual accounts of (1) a charity at Chrishall, 1761-1827, deposited by virtue of a chancery decree of 1745, and (2) Newport Grammar School, 1759-1824, deposited in accordance with the founder's Will.

A bound set of the Essex sections of the 'Charity Commissioners' Reports,' 1819-37 (684 pp., with index), giving the origin and history of the local charities, is in the Record Office Library.

#### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

By the Act of 33 Geo. III, c. 54 (1793), rules and subsequent amendments were to be exhibited at Quarter Sessions for annulment or confirmation; if confirmed, transcripts were to be filed by the clerk of the peace. There were numerous amending Acts. The transcripts were transferred to the custody of the Registrar of Friendly Societies under 9-10 Vict., c. 27 (1846). See also p. 78.

REGISTERS, 1794-1847 (3 volumes). These give the serial number of each society, its parish, place of meeting, clerk or secretary, and occasionally the name of the society if differing from that of its meeting place. The great majority met at public houses (signs always given), the remainder at vestries, chapels or schools; 181 separate societies were registered in 1794-5. Original rules, 1816-62, for three societies are preserved in the bundle mentioned below.

CORRESPONDENCE, etc., 1793-1862 (1 bundle).

RETURNS to Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1830, 1847.

Also copy of printed official 'List of Friendly Societies in the County of Essex, whose rules have been enrolled . . . from 1793 to 1855' (1856), arranged alphabetically by parishes, giving serial number (1-656), name (if any), place of meeting, and dates of registration of original rules and of amendments.





Essex,

The Register or Kalender of all the Ale-House Licences sent and returned to the Clerk of the Peace of the County of Middlesex Septem 1770.

# Barstable Hundred

Parrishes	Persons Licenced	Signs	Secretaries
Bensfield North	Sharpe Thomas	Narrow Shot	Newland, Henry Denkings,
Bensfield South	Brewell Ann	Blue Anchor	Phillips Labor, Joseph Amis,
	Foster Stephen	Hoy	Phillips Labor, Joseph Amis,
	Greenaway Haggard	Worlds End	James White, Phillip Mead,
	Spurrier William	Chiquier	Shot Newland, Henry Denkings,
	Watson William	Crown	Mathew Cook, Stephen Foster,
Bowerslyfford	Butler William	Gun	John Harvey, Leonard Rust,
Bulpham	White James	Narrow	Dan <sup>e</sup> Mitchin, John Davan,
Bursted Great	Baker John	Wh <sup>e</sup> Hart	Phillip Mead, James White,
	Kirst Elizabeth	Crown	Shot Newland, Henry Denkings,
	Lowe James	— Bull	Shot Butler, George Dandridge,
	Mead Phillip	— Fox	Dan <sup>e</sup> Mitchin, John Davan
	Marsh Arthur	— King's Head	W <sup>m</sup> Warner, James Lowe,
	Peacock Thomas	— Chiquier	John Harvey, Leonard Rust,
	Raven Simon	— Wh <sup>e</sup> Lyon	W <sup>m</sup> Wright, W <sup>m</sup> Emmerston,
	Rumble John	— Old Horse	John Davan, Dan <sup>e</sup> Mitchin,
	Shrother Abraham	— Red Lyon	John Harvey, Leonard Rust,
	Warner William	— Horse Head	Shot Butler, George Dandridge,
	Watson John	— Maypole	John Harvey, Leonard Rust,
	Wright William	— Bull	W <sup>m</sup> Bird, Shot Archer,
Chadwell	Gowers Watson	— Cross Keys	Shot Butler, George Dandridge
	Green George	— Red Lyon	Dan <sup>e</sup> White, Phillip Mead,
	Sworde William	— Lamb	Shot Butler, George Dandridge,
Corningham	Beil Sarah	— Bull	Mathew Cook, Stephen Foster,

## SAVINGS BANKS

By the Acts of 57 Geo. III, *c.* 130, *s.* 2 (1817), 59 Geo. III, *c.* 48 (1818) and 9 Geo. IV, *c.* 92 (1828), transcripts of savings banks rules, and by 3-4 Wm. IV, *c.* 14 (1833), those of annuity societies, were to be deposited with the clerk of the peace. The requirement was repealed by 26-7 Vict., *c.* 87 (1863).

CERTIFICATES, 1817-44 (88 large parchment documents). Original rules and subsequent amendments, giving date of establishment, trustees and other officers, sphere of activity (some of the earliest were for a hundred or group of hundreds), and rules in full. Also a few treasurers' and cashiers' bonds, 1817-44.

REGISTER, 1817-44 (1 volume). Also copies of two printed brief statistical analyses for the whole country of savings banks accounts and number of depositors, 1829-32; in Essex in 1831 there were 15 banks with 8,374 depositors, total deposits £299,537.

## OTHER SOCIETIES

Somewhat similar to the Friendly Societies were the Loan Societies and Benefit Building Societies 'for the Industrious Classes,' regulated respectively by 5-6 Wm. IV, *c.* 23 (1835), as amended by 3-4 Vict., *c.* 110 (1840), and by 6-7 Wm. IV, *c.* 32 (1836), which extended to them the provisions of the Friendly Societies Acts as regards deposit of rules, etc.

LOAN SOCIETIES, 1836-88 (1 bundle). Rules of about 80 societies, held at public houses or working men's clubs, with signatures of trustees and secretary; mostly printed from 1859.

BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETIES. Officers' bonds, 1845-69. Also register of rules certified, 1890, giving the name and place of meeting of about 100 societies, registered 1845-88; the rules were transferred to the custody of the Registrar of Friendly Societies in 1874.

LITERARY SOCIETIES. Rules filed at Quarter Sessions, under Act of 6-7 Vict., *c.* 36 (1843) to gain the benefit of the Act, viz., exemption from rates; for Witham Literary Institution, 1844, and Colchester Young Men's Christian Association, 1856.

THAMES WATERMEN AND LIGHTERMEN. Rules for their 'better regulation,' deposited with the clerk of the peace under Acts of 7-8 Geo. IV, *c.* 75 (1827) and 22-3 Vict., *c.* 133 (1859), 1828-60 (4 printed booklets).



## FREEMASONS

The Unlawful Societies Act, 39 Geo. III, c. 79 (1799), which suppressed certain 'dangerous' societies, exempted existing regular 'lodges of free masons, the meetings whereof have been in great measure directed to charitable purposes,' provided that each lodge certified the members' names annually to Quarter Sessions, which was empowered to order the discontinuance of any lodge against which a complaint was submitted (*ss.* 5-7).

REGISTER, 1800, with later additions. This is a list giving each lodge's number, with place and time of meeting, nearly always an inn in a market town; ten were in existence in 1799, 19 additional lodges were registered, 1800-42.

LISTS OF FREEMASONS, 1818-89 (about 400 lists). Until about 1860, these were deposited only on initial registration; thereafter in the case of many lodges lists were sent annually. They give number, name, place and time of meeting of each lodge, and names of members, with their abode and occupation.

## PRINTING PRESSES

Owing to the printing of 'irreligious, treasonable and seditious' papers by certain societies, the Unlawful Societies Act already cited instituted control over printers. Notices were to be delivered by every person having a printing press (*s.* 23) or making presses or types (*s.* 25) to the clerk of the peace, who was to send a copy to the Secretary of State.

NOTICES, 1799-1869 (1 bundle containing 106 notices). These give names of printer(s) with their signatures, parish and usually street, and number of presses; four were registered immediately after the Act. The printers are mostly those of the local newspapers. There are no notices from manufacturers.

RETURNS, 1799-1820 (3 drafts).

**Licensed Tradesmen.**

## VICTUALLERS AND ALEHOUSEKEEPERS

By the Act of 5-6 Edw. VI, c. 25, s. 2 (1552), licensed victuallers' recognizances for good behaviour were to be taken before two justices who were to 'certify the same at the next quarter session . . . there to remain of record.' By 26 Geo. II, c. 31 (1753), the clerk of the peace was also to 'keep a register or calendar' of the filed recog-

nizances and to deliver a copy of it to the justices at their 'general meetings in September every year for granting licences in each division,' i.e. brewster sessions. The Acts of 9 Geo. IV, c. 61 (1828) and 11 Geo. IV & 1 Wm. IV, c. 64 (1830) deprived the justices of all control, and led at once to the opening of a very large number of beer-shops. Some restriction was later imposed by the Act of 3-4 Vict., c. 61 (1840) under which excise licences for the sale of beer were not to be granted to occupiers of houses rated (in the country) at less than £8 per annum; a duplicate of the overseer's certificate of the rateable value was to be deposited with the clerk of the peace (s. 2). For Licensing Committee minutes, *see* p. 29.

ORIGINAL RECOGNIZANCES, 1580-1612, 1640, 1712 (23 files, etc.). This class presumably came into being because the recognizances for certain years between 1580 and 1612 were too numerous to file on the appropriate Sessions Roll (*see* p. 5). Most of them are individual recognizances of victuallers (innkeepers) or alehousekeepers. The rest are general recognizances taken at the petty sessions for one or more hundreds and contain many entries, omitting only the legal form and giving all the facts, including the usual two sureties. The abode and occupation of all the three parties are nearly always given, but not the sign. About 500-750 recognizances must have been issued for the county each year; the incomplete records for 1612 alone list 269 licensees with two sureties each. *See Plate*, p. 67.

ANNUAL REGISTERS OF RECOGNIZANCES, 1769-1828, complete except for 1771 (59 volumes). As these give, under each parish, the name of the licensee and his two sureties, and also the sign, they are a useful source for the history of inns and public houses. From 1822 the abode, but not occupation, of all three parties is given. *See Plate*, p. 68. The registers for 1769 and 1828 record about 1,080 and 890 houses respectively.

CERTIFICATES OF RATEABLE VALUE OF BEERSHOPS, 1840-48 (1 bundle containing 88 certificates). These give only the parish and the licensee.

#### BADGERS AND OTHER DEALERS

By the Act of 5 Eliz., c. 12, s. 6 (1563), particulars of the recognizances of every person licensed by Quarter Sessions as a 'badger, lader, kiddor or carrier of corn, fish, butter or cheese, or a drover of cattle,' were to be entered in a register kept by the clerk of the peace. The Act was repealed by 12 Geo. III, c. 71 (1772). The licences were issued to prevent petty dealers from 'engrossing, forestalling or



regrating,' which were offences against market and trading laws. *See* p. 5.

REGISTERS OF RECOGNIZANCES, 1733, 1759-70 (5 volumes). Contain the names and sometimes the abode and occupation of persons licensed and their two pledges. The trades of the persons licensed (given only in 1765-70) include jobbers, higglers, carriers, innholders, shopkeepers, butchers, fishmongers, fishermen, farmers, cornchandlers. The later registers form a partial county directory of tradesmen. The number of licensed persons recorded in the recognizances is about 230 in 1733 and about 2,500 in 1759-70. For lists of badgers and higglers licensed, 1631-36, *see* p. 15; for lists of shopkeepers, *see* p. 35.

#### CORN DEALERS

By the Act of 31 Geo. III, *c.* 30 (1791), for regulating corn imports and exports, corn dealers, maltsters and millers were liable to a fine if they bought corn for sale unless, within one month of starting to trade, they had filed with the clerk of the peace a declaration that their returns of prices would be true (*s.* 53). This regulation was continued by 1-2 Geo. IV, *c.* 87, *s.* 19 (1821). The only declarations extant are those under the later statute.

DECLARATIONS, 1821, 1842-3 (2 bundles containing 209 returns). Give name, abode and occupation; no other details.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSE KEEPERS

The Act of 26 Geo. III, *c.* 71 (1786), in an attempt to reduce horse and cattle stealing, enforced the licensing of slaughter-houses (other than butchers') by Quarter Sessions. A copy of every licence was to be entered in a book kept by the clerk of the peace.

REGISTERS, 1810-12, 1856-95 (2 vols.). Give name of licensee and parish.

### **Jurors.**

The Act 'for the ease of jurors and better regulating of juries,' 7-8 Wm. III, *c.* 32 (1696), directed petty constables to return annually to Quarter Sessions lists of men between 21 and 70 qualified to serve on juries at Assizes, Quarter Sessions, etc.; copies of these were to be kept in a book by the clerk of the peace. The qualification for jury service, as fixed by 4-5 Wm. & Mary, *c.* 25, *s.* 15 (1692) viz., ownership of freehold or copyhold lands worth at least £10 a year, was extended to substantial long-term leaseholders by 5 Geo. II, *c.* 25,

To his Excellency the Lord Generall Cromwell,  
In humble petition of Seroniah Nays.

Sheweth, That aboute yere 1640 your wt. Gt. Hon. Gen. Waller comd. downe the River of Severn, did take a waverlece man, his horse & arms at Stamford Hill, and hee offered them his horse & go. in money to lett him escape. But there was the same, but longe after your wt. was in most at Ashdon in the County of Essex for the Parliament service, forwd under the Command of Gen. John Smith in the Regiment of Sir William Waller at Basing house, where hee received divers hurt & wounds in his Body, & by Certificate will appears, the w. last altogether made him unfit for future service, & now is able to maintaine himselfe a languishing family beinge now & then must have a pension.

I humbly beseeching your Excellency to take the necessities into your consideration and to be directed to grant your Excellency's Warrant and order to the Hon. the Bench & Bench in Essex, to afford your petitioners a pension or some other Reliefe, what they in their wt. Gt. Hon. shall thinke fitt.

Whereas the Bearer hereof Seroniah Nays this petition was wounded in the service of the Parliament, & thereby was able to followe his callinge as appears by the Certificate before said. There are therefore for by 123 quires your Gt. Hon. to suffer to be paid him quarterly by the Ashdon of the former abbad & out moldstare, of the County of Essex, as appeared for the said County to allow unto the said Seroniah Nays a competent weekly pension for his holife, & the same was ordered to be paid to the said Seroniah Nays, under the hand of the said Gt. Hon. of the said County of Essex.

To all effect, & to the end that the said Seroniah Nays may receive the same, your Gt. Hon. is hereby commanded.

Cromwell

# CROMWELL ENDORSES A WOUNDED EX-SOLDIER'S PETITION FOR A PENSION, 1651/2

An Ashdon man relates how he refused a captured cavalier's bribe but later received wounds in Sir William Waller's regiment at Basing House. Cromwell gives him a passport to his home and asks Quarter Sessions to grant him a weekly pension. In the corner opposite his signature is a fine impression of Cromwell's armorial seal.

[See p. 10. Transcript on pp. 107-108.]



Chelmsford Hundred				(11)
Names of persons	Names of persons	Age	Estate where it lies	
John Buck	Grace Chelmsford	68-10		
Robert Mason	Glazier	60-10		
Edwina Joyce	Cartmanaker	50-10		
Jos. Woodcock	Maister	50-10		Chelmsford
Mr Joslin	Knigholder	25-10		
John Holmes	Knigholder	40-10		
Henry Bundoock	Butcher	50-10		
John Lewis	Butcher	50-10		
Geo. Fisher	Blacksmith	50-10		Rayleigh
Thos Adams	Saltworkman	60-10		Chelmsford
Stephen Lewis	Clockmaker	45-10		Chelmsford
Wm. Clarke	Brassier	40-10		Chelmsford
Chignall	St. James			
Lechworth	Bridges of Chignall	28-10		Chelmsford
Thomas	Witt	37-12		Chelmsford
Chignall	Miller			
Daniel	Cook	59-50		Chignall
James	Nox	61-10		Chignall
Danbury	Robert	52-30		Chelmsford
Wm. Nicholas	Eng.	59-30		Chelmsford
Samuel	Cooper	57-50		Chelmsford
Henry	Blacksmith	62-30		Chelmsford
Wm. Ridd	Wooler	42-10		Chelmsford
John	Moody	42-10		Chelmsford
Tryerling	Henry	54-20		Tryerling
Thos. Worthy	Esquire	58-12		Tryerling
Edward	Esq.	48-22		Tryerling
Anthony	Brassier	56-16		Tryerling
Thos. Worthy	Esquire	59-25		Tryerling
Hanningfield East				
Mr. John	Young	53-45		
Rich. A.	Esq.	51-12		
Geo. Rodman		47-25		
Henry	Esq.	61-18		
Hanningfield West				
Mr. Bush	at Church house	41-40		Chelmsford
Mr. Moore	at Beechons	40-40		Chelmsford
Mr. Smith	at Beechons	31-20		Chelmsford
Mr. Dooling	at Bullthorps	39-14		Chelmsford
Hanningfield South near within age.				
Ingatestone				
The Honble	Edward	55-35		Ingatestone
The Honble	Pro. Rutter	56-66		Ingatestone
Thos. Brand	Esq.	50-50		Ingatestone
James	Esq.	43-10		Ingatestone
Edward	Esq.	27-40		Ingatestone
Henry	Esq.	54-18		Ingatestone

# FREEHOLDERS (JURORS) LIST, 1734

These afford useful facts such as occupation and age.

[See p. 75.]

s. 18 (1730). The Act of 6 Geo. IV, c. 50, ss. 1, 6-8, 12 (1825), which added holders of leases for 21 years or more to the annual value of £20, directed high constables to instruct overseers to compile jury lists and return them to the clerk of the peace; the latter registered them in a Jurors Book which was handed to the sheriff. For early lists of jurors at Quarter Sessions, *see* p. 6.

LISTS (termed 'Freeholders Books'), 1734, 1759, 1768-83 (11 volumes). These valuable registers give each man's age, the annual value and situation (parish) of his qualifying estate, and sometimes his rank or occupation. Men are entered under the parish in which they live, not that in which the estate lies as in the Registers of Electors (p. 53). The lists for 1734 and 1759 give about 2,500 names each. Quakers are frequently specified. *See* Plate, p. 74.

*Indexes* of all names in the books for 1734 and 1759.

LISTS (termed 'Jurors Books'), 1838-48 (5 volumes). The particulars in this series are occupation and qualification (poor rate, freehold, copyhold, leasehold, etc.). Names arranged under parishes. The list for 1838 contains about 5,200 names. These books were presumably handed back by the undersheriff.

RETURNS, 1855-83 (numerous annual bundles, almost complete). Originals under the Act of 1825 giving same particulars as in earlier Jurors Books, signed by the churchwardens and overseers. After 1870 they give, in addition, poor rate assessment, inhabited house duty assessment and a note of special jurors.

## Officers' Appointments.

### SHERIFF

The Act of 3-4 Wm. IV, c. 99, ss. 4-6 (1833) required that the following documents should be sent to the clerk of the peace for enrolment and filing:—

DUPLICATE WARRANTS of appointment of sheriff by Privy Council, 1834-89 (2 bundles).

APPOINTMENTS of undersheriff and DECLARATIONS of sheriff and undersheriff, 1834-89 (2 bundles).

### CORONER

APPOINTMENT of deputy by coroner for Eastern Division, 1843 (sent to clerk of the peace under Act of 6-7 Vict., c. 80, s. 1). *See* p. 88.



## MILITIA OFFICERS

The Act of 2 Geo. III, c. 20 (1761) provided that every deputy lieutenant and militia officer, on appointment, should deliver to the clerk of the peace a description of his property qualification.

QUALIFICATION ROLLS, etc., 1757-1889 (19 rolls, 2 volumes, and 5 bundles). Relate to: deputy lieutenants, 1757-1843 (about 380 names); commissioned officers in the Essex Militia, 1759-1826 (300), giving the abode and parish(es) in Essex and elsewhere in which the estate lies, in a few cases naming the manors or farms; and commissioned officers in East and West Corps of Provisional Cavalry of Essex, 1797-8 (30). Also original qualification certificates, with entry books, of deputy lieutenants and other officers, 1759-1882.

The annual returns (from 1767) as to the strength and personnel of the Militia are found in the Sessions Rolls. For similar returns, 1770-77 and 1825-97, see pp. 83, 84, 96.

## Justices of the Peace.

## COMMISSIONS OF THE PEACE

1612-1869 (60 documents, an almost complete series). These formal documents issued under the Great Seal give the names of justices but not their abodes.

*Photographic negatives* of the 33 commissions, 1612-77, have been made.

## QUALIFICATION

WRITS of *dedimus potestatem*, 1668-77, 1830-66 (2 bundles containing 45 writs). Give the names of justices administering and those taking the oath.

'QUALIFICATION ROLLS,' 1745-1847 (13 files and 1 bundle). The Justices' Qualification Act, 18 Geo. II, c. 20 (1745), provided that a justice must possess an estate worth at least £100 a year and take an oath to that effect. Give justices' signatures (over 1,000), but rarely any property details.

## LISTS

1748-1875 (4 vols. and 1 bundle). Numerous lists<sup>1</sup> of existing and acting justices, of those newly appointed and those recommended for

<sup>1</sup> Some of these documents may be Lieutenancy Records (p. 87).

insertion in the commission; also correspondence with the clerk of the peace as to appointment. Some give residence, parish in which estate lies, and dates of qualification and death. They also name the justices' clerks, chief constables and deputy lieutenants for each division, 1817-64.

## Clerk of the Peace.

### PRECEDENTS

Under this heading have been grouped three small series of records, compiled or preserved by clerks of the peace mainly for future reference.

'BRIDGE BOOKS.' Extracts from 1556 to 1717, compiled *c.* 1675-1725 (4 vols.). Mainly concerning bridges (county, parish and private) and county buildings (shire house, gaol and houses of correction), but there are also many entries about other matters, e.g. indictments, fines and fees of an unusual character, burning of popish relics at Chelmsford market-cross, and enrolment of deeds. The extracts, which are in chronological order, are taken from the jury presentments in the Sessions Rolls, and from the Process Books, Order Books and Sessions Books; there are also references to bridge cases at the Assizes, 1556-87. *See Plate*, p. 79.

Contemporary *Index* to each volume (bridges only, 1556-1615; all subjects, 1615-1717).

'PRECEDENTS,' 1730-40 (2 bundles). Drafts and copies of indictments, orders, etc. Included is a MS. abstract of a Bill for making the Chelmer navigable, 1697 (scheme revived 1792, *see* p. 58).

CASES FOR OPINION OF COUNSEL, WITH OPINIONS, 1781-1871 (1 bundle, 2 vols.). Relate to 41 matters, including six bridge cases, 1785-1816. For other bridge cases, *see* p. 22.

### PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS

#### POOR RATES AND CENSUS, 1787-1831.

The concern of parliament at the ever-increasing poor rates led to the Acts of 26 Geo. III, *c.* 56 (1786), 43 Geo. III, *c.* 144 (1803) and 55 Geo. III, *c.* 47 (1815), which required detailed information on parochial rates and expenditure. The clerk of the peace was to distribute copies of the acts to the overseers of the poor, with schedules for completion, and to transmit to parliament the information returned. A similar procedure was adopted for the returns under the Census Acts from 1800 onwards.



Under Act of 1786. Printed 'Abstract of the Returns' for the whole country (1787), arranged by counties, giving for every parish the total poor rates levied in each of the three years 1783-5, the cost of poor relief in 1776, and parish expenses other than for poor relief.

Under Act of 1803. Original correspondence of the clerk of the peace 1803-4 (1 small bundle), and printed 'Summary of the County Totals' (1803) giving no parochial figures.

Under Act of 1815. Overseers' returns from every Essex parish, 1817; also printed *Abridgement of the Abstracts* (1818) (Essex section only), and *Report from Select Committee on the Poor Laws* (1818) with an appendix giving county totals. The original returns for each year, 1800-16, give the total poor rates, distinguishing expenditure on legal charges, county rate, militia, vagrants, fines for road indictments, highway rate, church and constables' rate, overseers' fees or salaries. The *Abridgement* gives, for every parish, condensed amounts for the three years 1812-15 as above, also number of persons in receipt of permanent relief (distinguishing those in and out of the workhouse) and occasional relief, number of members in friendly societies, with brief notes on charities, almshouses and free schools.

Under the Census Acts. Correspondence of the clerk of the peace and lists of parishes, etc., but no copies of the original parochial returns, 1801-31 (4 bundles).

NONCONFORMISTS. Returns from dissenting ministers of size of their congregations, 1829 (8 bundles). See also p. 47.

GAOLS. Copies of annual returns of the state of prisons in Essex, 1844-57 (1 bundle). These are detailed statements on printed forms giving particulars under 34 heads (including number of prisoners, sickness, prison officers, cost of food, and labour conditions) relating to the old and additional gaols and three houses of correction. Diets at two prisons are preserved.

OTHER MATTERS, 1815-41 (4 bundles). These relate to a variety of administrative, judicial and financial matters, of which the more important are: constabulary, 1827-41; crime and punishment, including transportation, 1814-53; parliamentary elections, 1831-40; friendly societies, 1831-36; justices of the peace, 1826-40; and coroners' inquests, 1832-39. Each group contains the government circular demanding the return, correspondence, original replies to clerk of the peace from high constables, divisional justices' clerks and others, and the draft return to parliament. Some give valuable details and analyses.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

LETTERS RECEIVED, 1829-64 (13 bundles, incomplete).

Certaine Observations extracted out of the  
ancient Records of the peace for this  
County of Essex.

Septuagesima tent apud  
Rochford xxij<sup>th</sup> Julij anno  
3<sup>re</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Phil. & Marie Conun<sup>er</sup>

At this Sessions vij Indictments found, &c.  
forfeitable Entry besides many others

3<sup>re</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Phil. & Marie  
It doth not appear, where  
this Sessions was kept.

At this Sessions xvij Indictments of felony and  
treason beindes xxiij<sup>th</sup> person in the Countie  
whereof, vij were hanged & y<sup>e</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> gallies delibant

The Recognizants were alwaies taken to appeare  
before the King and Queen & Maies Comissions of  
Essex and Sumner at the Quarter Sessions.

Chris 3<sup>re</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Phil. & M<sup>arie</sup>  
apud Chelmsford.

Willm<sup>e</sup> Dutton de Marchbury yeoman Indit fuit eo  
q<sup>d</sup> ipse mahr<sup>e</sup> uxavit quendam Thomam Eve Osirum et  
appellavit ipsum nebulonem eodem Thoma aditum et  
ibm in sp<sup>er</sup>ando ad telebram<sup>e</sup> quam benedictam in  
eodem Ecclesia existit contra stat<sup>u</sup> de ximo Marie,

Thomas Resoman de Quenden yeoman Indit fuit eo  
q<sup>d</sup> ipse extraxit sanguinem et verbaavit quendam Janam  
Wolbere et q<sup>d</sup> ipse in Ecclesia parochiali p<sup>er</sup> quendam  
pugionem su<sup>m</sup> quem ipse aditum et ibm sem<sup>e</sup> fecit extra  
Ecclesiam exhausit et eduxit eo intentione ad p<sup>er</sup>uicend<sup>u</sup>  
p<sup>er</sup> Janam n<sup>un</sup> eodem pugione contra stat<sup>u</sup> et  
contra formam Statut<sup>i</sup> 3<sup>re</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Edm<sup>undi</sup> 6<sup>thi</sup>

Verdict Jur<sup>is</sup> super d<sup>omi</sup>n<sup>o</sup>  
illa.

Nulla partim vera videt<sup>ur</sup> in hoc q<sup>d</sup> d<sup>omi</sup>n<sup>us</sup> Thomas  
exhausit et eduxit pugionem suum infra t<sup>er</sup>rit<sup>or</sup>iet<sup>at</sup>e non  
eo intentione et diam Janam nec aliquam aliam p<sup>er</sup>uicere,  
set tantum in audigine defensionem, Et quoad omnia  
alia infra contenta penitus ignoramus.

in Dunmow Bridge.

Inditment that there is a Brieg<sup>e</sup> in Muth Dunmow  
in Chelmsford high way that is in decay and that the  
Queens Maies ought to repaire it.

A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY BOOK OF PRECEDENTS

The earliest so-called 'Bridge Book,' made by the Clerk of the Peace. The second entry refers to seven persons 'suspended,' i.e. hanged; the last to Great Dunmow Bridge.

[See p. 77. Transcript and translation on p. 111.]



To the Right Honble Lord Braybrooke, His Majesty's  
Lieutenant for the County of Essex.

Muster Roll of the Persons Enrolled and Serving in Captain  
Turnell's Troop of the 1<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Essex Yeomanry Cavalry December 5<sup>th</sup> 1819

No	Names	Parish	When Enrolled	No	Names	Parish	When Enrolled
<u>Effectives entitled to Exemption</u>				10	Posler Tho <sup>s</sup>	G. Waltham	June 2 <sup>nd</sup> 08
1	Barrow W <sup>m</sup> & Mrs	Chelmsford	Apr 1 <sup>st</sup> 17	14	Hawthornthwaite W <sup>m</sup>	Chigwell	1 08
<u>Sergeants</u>				15	Laycock W <sup>m</sup>	G. Waltham	Mar 01 07
1	Barby Tho <sup>s</sup>	B. Raley	Feb 21 98	16	Larkin W <sup>m</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	Sep 11 19
2	Chenell W <sup>m</sup>	Springfield	Jan 1 99	17	Mason Giles	Chelmsford	Jan 21 16
<u>Corporals</u>				18	Osborne Jas <sup>s</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	Sep 2 07
1	Brownwell Tho <sup>s</sup>	Broomfield	July 27 08	19	Palmer Arch <sup>d</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	June 21 12
2	Bulfe Jas <sup>s</sup>	Chelmsford	Sep 28 07	20	Lawe Peter	G. Waltham	Apr 6 13
3	Chenell John	Waltham	June 21 08	21	Shepherd W <sup>m</sup>	Waltham	Nov 18 09
<u>Trumpeters</u>				22	Smith Sam <sup>l</sup>	L. Waltham	May 6 09
1	Adams W <sup>m</sup>	G. Waltham	Jan 1 09	23	Smith And <sup>rs</sup>	Chelmsford	Apr 5 13
<u>Private</u>				24	Smithworth Pa <sup>r</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	7 12
1	Adams And <sup>rs</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	May 1 00	25	Stapflee John	B <sup>o</sup>	June 4 16
2	Alger W <sup>m</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	Feb 21 98	26	Water W <sup>m</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	Jan 1 06
3	Alton John	Chelmsford	Apr 6 13	27	Wray Tho <sup>s</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	June 18 10
4	Archer Jas <sup>s</sup>	Chigwell	Mar 29 08	28	Larkin Jas <sup>s</sup>	G. Waltham	9
5	Butler Jas <sup>s</sup>	Chelmsford	July 26 08	Enrolled since last Return			
6	Brown Jas <sup>s</sup>	Thundersley	Sep 17 19	Finch Rob <sup>t</sup>	Broomfield		
7	Crooks Tho <sup>s</sup>	Chelmsford	July 12 12	Cherwell W <sup>m</sup>	Waltham		
8	Cumfey Jas <sup>s</sup>	L. Waltham	Dec 15 09	Helditch R. H.	L. Waltham		
9	Booth Tho <sup>s</sup>	Waltham	Sep 1 16	Murphy John	W. Wargan		
10	Dowdall Tho <sup>s</sup>	Chelmsford	May 1 08	Smart Henry	Chelmsford		
11	Good Jas <sup>s</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	Feb 21 98				
12	Green Rob <sup>t</sup>	L. Waltham	May 7 12				

Exempt from Militia or other Service..... 35

Not exempt from do do..... 0

Total No<sup>s</sup> enrolled in the Troop..... 35

J. J. Turnell - Capt.

I Certify the above Troop is ready & willing to be inspected

MUSTER ROLL OF CAPTAIN TURNELL'S TROOP,

1ST REGIMENT OF ESSEX YEOMANRY CAVALRY, 1819

An example of Lieutenancy Records.

LETTER BOOKS (MS. copies of out-letters), 1841-77 (9 vols.).

Earlier correspondence is in the Sessions Rolls (p. 9) and Bundles (p. 12).

#### INVENTORIES OF RECORDS

1785-1882 (7 vols.). The earliest list shows that only a very small number of documents, of minor value, have been lost since that date. *See* Introduction, p. v.

### Court of Quarter Sessions of the Liberty of Havering-atte-Bower.

The Liberty, created in 1465 by royal charter, comprised the extensive ancient parish of Hornchurch which included the later civil parishes of Hornchurch, Havering and Romford. The Liberty and its separate Court of Quarter Sessions were abolished in 1892, when its jurisdiction and its Sessions Records were transferred to the County.

#### SESSIONS FILES

1771-1892 (484 files, one for each sessions, containing about 4,000 documents).

The older files contain recognizances, indictments, jury presentments, jury panels with names of chief constables, and sacrament certificates. Those of later date also include depositions, justices' diverted highways certificates, etc.

#### SESSIONS BOOKS

1835-92 (2 volumes).

These are court or minute books and record names of jurors, recognizances, jury presentments, indictments, orders, with occasional other entries.

#### OTHER RECORDS

COURT OF ANCIENT DEMESNE OR 'THREE WEEK COURT' (King's Bench: *Rex v. steward and suitors of Liberty*), 1822 (20 documents). The case concerns the grant of process for recovery of debt. The papers include affidavits, brief, mandamus, etc., and extracts from the records of the Court of Ancient Demesne of the Manor and Liberty, 1759-1803, giving names of suitors and of jurors with jury's verdict.

TRANSCRIPTS, etc., made about 1820 (1 bundle). These documents comprise: translation of detailed extent of Manor of Havering, 1307; translations of inquisitions-post-mortem, 1261-1453; and 'Nonarum



Inquisitiones' being extracts relating to parishes in the hundred of Becontree including Hornchurch.

For other documents concerning the Liberty, *see* p. 30.

## COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

The work of the justices in 'petty,' 'special' or 'divisional' sessions or 'monthly meetings' is represented in the Quarter Sessions Records by numerous original documents, copies and references, from 1556 onwards, including presentments at the high constables' sessions (the original petty sessions, *see* p. 4). The following are the more important records, formerly preserved in the custody of the clerks to the petty sessional divisions, and now transferred to the Essex Record Office. *See* also Summary Convictions, p. 5.

### CHELMSFORD DIVISION

MINUTES, 1801-87, complete except for 1811-14 and 1846-48 (30 vols.). Monthly sessions, dealing with criminal, licensing and administrative business. Annual lists of parish overseers, surveyors and constables appointed.

PAPERS, 1813-43, apparently complete (about 18,000 documents). The most numerous types of documents are informations, i.e., depositions of plaintiffs and witnesses, and examinations of paupers as to settlement, all taken before one or two justices.

### WITHAM DIVISION

MINUTES, 1823-89, almost complete (29 vols.).

### ONGAR DIVISION

MINUTES, 1829-36 (1 vol.).

## LIEUTENANCY AND VICE-ADMIRALTY.

Owing to the dual tenure by the same person of the separate appointments of clerk of the peace and clerk of the general meetings of lieutenancy, it has not been easy to assign certain documents to their proper archive class, all the more so as the clerk of the lieutenancy was required to send certain returns to the clerk of the peace. It is, however, quite clear that various documents, treated in some counties as Lieutenancy Records (e.g. Officers' Qualification Rolls)

are Quarter Sessions Records. The series of Lieutenancy Records preserved for Essex is unusually full and of considerable interest.

#### GENERAL MEETINGS OF LIEUTENANCY

The Act of 13-14 Charles II, *c.* 3 (1662) made permanent the ancient office of lieutenant of the county, and gave him complete control over the County Militia. The amending and consolidating Act of 2 Geo. III, *c.* 20 (1761) specified the minimum estate qualifications of deputy lieutenants and officers (*ss.* 5-11) and the fixed quota of militiamen to be raised in each county (*s.* 41), the figure for Essex being 960. For some records additional to those following, *see* p. 96.

MINUTES, 1762-1854 (44 volumes). Period 1762-96, formal, brief and uniform in contents. There were usually three or four meetings each year. At the first were fixed the four dates of meetings for each of the twelve sub-divisions and the inns where they were to take place. At the second were received the lists of men liable to serve in the militia, and the clerk was ordered to calculate the number of men actually to be raised in each hundred, including the boroughs and the Liberty of Havering. The 'calculation' follows, in two parts, *viz.*, number liable in each parish or independent hamlet and in each hundred respectively, e.g., in 1762, 23,751 men liable, quota to be raised 960, hence one man in every 25 had to serve. At the third and fourth meetings the figures were received and the dates for the training of the two Battalions (Western and Eastern) of the Essex Militia were fixed. From 1767 to 1777 are entered copies of the annual returns to the clerk of the peace as to training, giving the number of officers and non-commissioned officers of each rank and of privates for the two Battalions, with the names of the officers present; for later lists, *see* pp. 76, 84, 96.

Period 1796-1805. The threatened invasion by Napoleon and the two resultant Acts of 1796 for raising a Supplementary Militia and Provisional Cavalry and the Act of 38 Geo. III, *c.* 27 (1797) for internal defence, caused the minutes to lose their formal character and become very much fuller. They record much material bearing on the various schemes to be carried out 'in case of invasion or imminent danger thereof,' especially for evacuation of some of the coastal population and cattle inland and for the supply of transport and provisions for the army. The mustering places for each sub-division are fixed, usually heaths or commons. *See* also next entry.

Period after 1805. The minutes revert to their former routine character, with minor differences.



## RETURNS

PREPARATIONS AGAINST INVASION, 1798 (2 bundles). This small group consists of the signed returns of all millers and bakers for the hundreds of Uttlesford, Clavering and Freshwell (N.W. Essex), in response to the lord lieutenant's plan 'for insuring a regular supply of bread to his Majesty's Forces in the Eastern District, during the continuance of the present war, in case it should become necessary to assemble large bodies of men . . . for the purpose of opposing an enemy.' The millers' returns state the condition of the windmills and watermills, and the number of sacks of flour which could be furnished daily. The bakers' returns give the number of loaves which could be supplied daily with and without additional journeymen. *See Plates*, pp. 85-86.

MILITIA (REGULAR AND LOCAL), 1804, 1808-31 (about 2,000 papers). Returns to the clerk of the lieutenancy by clerks to sub-divisions and militia officers, and drafts of his returns to the Secretary of State, containing detailed information on the personnel and strength of the militia. Also many forms of return under Militia Acts, mostly Geo. III, the most valuable being those for 1813, with the names of about 4,800 men arranged under parishes, covering the whole county except the Dunmow and Dengie sub-divisions. These give: (1) age, mostly 18-25; (2) whether any children and if so whether under 14; (3) date of enrolment (1809-12); and (4) whether a volunteer or a balloted man (about 3,000 were volunteers). From the lists for Hinckford and Colchester sub-divisions, which also state the man's abode, it is evident that all balloted men and about two thirds of the volunteers lived in the parish for which they were returned and the remainder lived in nearby parishes. The later lists (after 1813) are those of 'principals' and their 'substitutes,' but as ages are given only for substitutes, who do not necessarily belong to the parish, these are not so valuable.

ANNUAL RETURNS OF STRENGTH, 1825-97 (2 bundles). Drafts of returns from lord lieutenant to clerk of the peace, giving names, number and rank of officers and number of non-commissioned officers and privates; and the original returns giving these particulars from the Western and Eastern Battalions of the Regular Militia. (The engrossed returns sent to the clerk of the peace are filed on the Sessions Rolls, 1767-1908 inclusive; *see* pp. 76, 83).

## CLERK OF THE GENERAL MEETINGS

CORRESPONDENCE. Letters received, 1801, 1806-35, 1845 (31

And we do hereby appoint *Stephen A. Field* —  
residing at *Stephen's Grove*, — for the Purposes  
expressed in the 5th Article of the said Plan. *Dated this 24th Day*  
*of May 1798* —

SUBSCRIBER  
NAMES.

There she cannot expect to  
obtain the same satisfaction  
I have said & should not to be  
worn the same as the men

*I have no more space left  
with MS. - must close for this time  
and leave drawing sheet blank.  
No more.*

Stephen Phelps  
& the Mills

Richard Hunt  
To be delivered at any  
Discretion

Names and State of Wares Mills.	Names and State of Wind Mills.	Use of Wind as a motive power, and how far the Wind is used to drive Machinery in Process.	Value of Stock in the Mills, and Value of Machinery in Process.
1st No. 1000 2nd No. 1000 3rd No. 1000 4th No. 1000 5th No. 1000 6th No. 1000 7th No. 1000 8th No. 1000 9th No. 1000 10th No. 1000	1st No. 1000 2nd No. 1000 3rd No. 1000 4th No. 1000 5th No. 1000 6th No. 1000 7th No. 1000 8th No. 1000 9th No. 1000 10th No. 1000	10	100

## MILLERS' RETURNS

These forms illustrate the elaborate plans for ensuring bread supplies for the Forces when French invasion was threatened. The miller of Ashdon reports, of his water-mill: 'of no use only in very wet weather'; of his wind-mill: 'a very good one, can do (if wind) 10 loads pr. week.' For Bakers' Returns, see next plate.

[See p. 84.]



WE, the undersigned BAKERS, of the Parish of *St. Andrew* in the County of *Glen* having taken into our Consideration, a *PLAN* recommended to our Attention by the Lord Lieutenant and Chief Returners, of the County aforesaid, "For Intending a regular Supply of BREAD in His Majesty's Forests in the Valentin District, during the Continuance of the present War, in Case it should become necessary to employ large Batches of Men, in some or more of the Points, for the Purpose of supplying an Army," DO hereby declare our entire Approbation of the same. WE do therefore most readily and faithfully promise and engage to make, and deliver such Quantities of good, wholesome, well-baked Bread, in Loaves of Three Pounds, as our Stock of Flour in Hand at the Time may enable us to furnish, over and above the ordinary Consumption of our Customers, and also to bake and deliver such Quantities of good, wholesome well-baked Bread, in Loaves of three Pounds, as are explicity appointed to our respective Names out of such Flour as may be delivered to us for that Purpose, whenever we may be required to do so, the whole in the Manner, and upon the Terms and Conditions specified in the *PLAN* herein-before mentioned.

As D WE do hereby appoint *retailing at* for the Purposes expressed in the 10th Article of the said *PLAN*.

[illegible]

Alexander McWhinnie of Elsenham states: 'There is not a Baker properly qualified for the Business in the Parish. Every Body Bakes their own Bread, only some of the Poor, who can't always purchase Flour nor Wood. The above Subscriber [i.e. himself] is no Baker, only for his own Family and sells the Poor a little when they are in need, as Farmers & others do betimes.' For Millers' Returns, see previous plate.

[See p. 84.]

bundles containing about 5,000 letters). Letter books (MS. copies of out-letters), 1806-47 (8 volumes).

ACCOUNTS termed 'Bill Books,' 1804-26 (16 volumes).

#### MUSTER ROLLS AND LISTS

YEOMANRY AND VOLUNTEER CAVALRY, 1813-27 (15 annual bundles containing about 500 'rolls' and extracts, etc., all on paper). Records of about 15 corps (e.g., '1st Squadron Essex Yeomanry Cavalry,' 'Halstead Volunteer Cavalry,' 'Captain Tufnell's Troop,' *see Plate*, p. 80). Some name as many as 350 officers and men, with their abode and date of enrolment.

MEN ENROLLED IN ARMY OF RESERVE, 1804 (1 volume). About 1,000 names, in alphabetical order, giving sub-division in which enrolled (but not parish), number of regiment, and in some cases date of discharge or desertion.

VOLUNTEERS FROM ESSEX MILITIA INTO REGULAR ARMY, 1809-15 (3 volumes). Long lists, names arranged by date of enrolment, giving abodes (parishes) and sub-divisions.

#### DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS AND COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

ORIGINAL COMMISSIONS, 1803-46 (30 commissions, signed by lord lieutenant).

LISTS, 1743-1826 (6 lists). Give abode (parish, also in many cases name of house). Also a copy, with many MS. notes as to resignations, etc., of the War Office 'List of the Officers of the Gentlemen and Yeomanry Cavalry and Volunteer Infantry of the United Kingdom'; for each county, the names are arranged under the local corps, with each officer's rank and date of commission (between 1797 and 1803); total number of Essex officers, 374. A few of the lists of justices of the peace (p. 76) may be Lieutenancy Records.

COMMISSION ENTRY BOOKS, 1797-1856 (5 vols.). Give name, date of commission and fee paid.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST, 1745 (2 documents). 'The Resolution and Agreement of the nobility, gentry, clergy and freeholders of the County . . . for the support of his Majesty and his Government against the attempts of the Popish Pretender . . . and in consequence of an Association entered into at the General Sessions' on 8 Oct., being a list of subscribers dated 14 Oct. with subscriptions for raising men for 'His Majesty's Foot Guards and Marching Regiments,' giving



275 subscribers, abode (usually parish only), and sum (from £500 to 10s. 6d.).<sup>1</sup>

#### VICE-ADMIRALTY

Archives of this office are rarely found in local official custody; the following were preserved with the Lieutenancy Records because the two offices were usually held by the same person: —

Commissions (letters patent) to John Griffin, Lord Howard, 1795, and Henry Viscount Maynard, 1831; and appointment by Henry Viscount Maynard of deputy vice-admiral, 1827.

Accounts of wreck (mostly anchors and chains) sold by order of owners at Southend, 1845-47, with four letters relating to wreck at Burnham-on-Crouch, and the responsibility of the vice-admiral in such matters, 1848; and letter from officer in charge of coastguard station, Harwich, to deputy vice-admiral about a wreck there, 1845.

### CORONERS' COURTS.

The question whether Coroners' Records are County Records, Public Local Records or Public Records does not seem to have been satisfactorily determined.<sup>2</sup> No original Essex Coroners' Court Records are known to be extant<sup>3</sup> except a few records of the coroners for the Sokens and the Liberties of the Duchy of Lancaster respectively (p. 30).

Among the County Records have been found the following isolated documents relating to coroners: —

Contested election of coroner, 1798: eight letters to one of the candidates and copies of three election addresses on his behalf; contested election, 1826: two election addresses; and removal of coroner for Eastern Division from office, 1846 (11 papers). *See also* pp. 34, 75, 78.

<sup>1</sup> As no reference occurs to the list or resolution in the Sessions Records this has been classed as a Lieutenancy record. A similar subscription list for Derbyshire is undoubtedly so (J. C. Cox, *Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals* (1890), i, 194).

<sup>2</sup> *See Report of Royal Commission on Public Records* (1914), Appendix II, part ii, pp. 143-63 (Essex, pp. 148-9).

<sup>3</sup> Medieval coroners' rolls and some coroners' inquisitions of later date are among the Assize Records in the Public Record Office.

## SHRIEVALTY.

### COUNTY COURT

COURT BOOKS, 1779-84, 1798-1884 (26 vols.). It is believed that records of the ancient County Court in the last stages of its decline have been preserved for very few other counties. This series contains the formal record of about 865 monthly courts. The business was generally confined to pleas of trespass and replevin (unjust detention), and the entries merely give the names of the plaintiffs and defendants but neither their abodes nor particulars of the cases. After the Court's judicial functions were re-modelled by the County Courts Act of 1846 these cases no longer came before it. Special courts were held for the election of knights of the shire and occasionally of coroners or Waltham Forest verderers; these elections form almost the sole business after 1846.

### UNDERSHERIFF

ACCOUNTS and CORRESPONDENCE, 1821-40. These contain brief entries of payments and receipts for the Assizes and other business, copies of writs, jury lists for Quarter Sessions and Assizes, and a bundle of election papers including a draft election indenture, 1826.

ESSEX VOLUNTEER SUBSCRIPTION COMMITTEE, 1794-1833. Transactions of a committee formed, at a County Meeting convened by the Sheriff, to collect funds for the raising of volunteers to be attached to the Essex Militia, at the time of threatened French invasion.

Minutes, Accounts, and Correspondence, 1794-1833, and Trust Deed, 1822, disposing of surplus funds for benefit of the Essex and Colchester Hospital.

## COUNTY COUNCIL:

### TRANSFERRED RECORDS.

Records of existing and defunct local authorities (i) whose functions have been transferred to the County Council, (ii) or whose records have been deposited with the County Council for safe custody.

Some Rural District Councils and Area Assessment Committees have also deposited their early records. These are not yet available to students without special permission. This also applies, from 1889, to the records below and to the County Council Records proper.

Apart from transferred records, the only ancient archives of the County Council are muniments of title to their numerous estates,



including deeds (from 1591) and maps (from 1755); as lords of manors the County Council also possess a few court rolls and other manorial documents (from 1542). *See* Part II of the *Guide*.

#### BOARDS OF GUARDIANS

Minutes (nearly complete) and general ledgers (incomplete) of all the Essex Poor Law Unions, 1835-1930 (931 vols.).

#### RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES

DUNMOW. Minutes, 1872-85.

EPPING. General Ledgers, 1873-95.

ILFORD. (Parochial Sanitary Authority.) Minutes, 1883-90.

LEXDEN & WINSTREE. General Ledgers, 1880-94.

MALDON. Minutes, 1872-93.

ORSETT. Minutes, 1880-86. General Ledgers, 1873-88.

ROMFORD. Minutes, 1887-89.

#### HIGHWAY BOARDS

BILLERICAY. Minutes, 1868-74, 1880-84.

CHELMSFORD. Minutes, 1863-83.

HEDINGHAM. Minutes, 1868-78. General Ledger, 1868-71.

#### TURNPIKE TRUSTS (See also p. 96.)

EPPING AND ONGAR TRUST (Woodford-Harlow and Epping-Writtle).<sup>1</sup> Minutes, 1769-1870 complete (4 vols., detailed).

Accounts, 1804-70 complete (2 vols., detailed). Also general annual statements, 1822-70 (3 vols.), and leases and mortgages of tolls, 1833-59.

#### PARISH VESTRIES

The Local Government Act, 1894, which established Urban District and Parish Councils, vested in them the custody of existing 'civil' parish records, but very few were in fact removed from the custody of the clergy. Some pre-1894 parish records have been received from Urban District and Parish Councils, but for convenience of classification these will be incorporated in the main series of Parish Records received from ecclesiastical custody, which will be dealt with in Part II of the *Guide*.

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<sup>1</sup> For a detailed history, see Benj. Winstone, *Minutes of the Epping & Ongar Highway Trust, 1769-1870* (1891).

[illegible]

*I* hereby certify that the Engineer of the Erie & Ontario Canal  
has been authorized by the Board of Directors to take all such  
specimens of soil as may be required for the purpose of the  
Canal.

- [illegible]

COURT OR SESSION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS, 1647

Matters to be enquired into by the jurors for the 'Levell betwene Rainham-bridge and Graves-bridge.'

[See p. 95. Transcript and translation on pp. 111-112.]





## SCHOOL BOARDS

Minutes of 26 Boards, 1872-1903 (45 vols.).

## SCHOOL MANAGERS

Log-books of 38 schools, 1863-1944 (68 vols.). Additions are received at intervals.

## COURTS OF SEWERS.

Neglect by owners of marshlands of their ancient obligations to maintain walls or embankments restraining the inroads of the sea or tidal rivers, and to cleanse ditches, dikes or 'sewers,' led to such disastrous inundations that royal intervention became necessary. Temporary commissions of sewers were first issued in the 13th century; in these early commissions, justices were appointed to survey and enquire, by juries, what persons were liable for repairs and for contributions to the common charges for carrying out the work. The consolidating Act of 23 Henry VIII, c. 5 (the Statute of Sewers, 1531), which remained law for over three centuries, refers also to mills, milldams, and bridges, and deals with the appointment of officers and the levy of fines and rates.

Brief details of many of the early commissions and of pleas concerning the sea-walls and marshland rivers in Essex are given in Dugdale's *History of Imbanking and Draining* (1652, revised edn., 1772), a copy of which is in the Essex Record Office library. This work also includes a note of a Session of Sewers for the Level of Havering and Dagenham, 1594.

The Court of Sewers was a court of record. The court books of the commissioners for the various 'levels' in Essex refer both to the 'Court of Sewers' and the '(General) Sessions of Sewers.'

The areas of the Essex 'levels' under the jurisdiction of each commission cannot be defined briefly, but correspond, in the main, to the low-lying land clearly marked as marshland within the sea-walls on most old printed county maps, e.g., Chapman and André's map, 1777, and the early editions of the 1-inch O.S. maps, from 1805. Although these areas were mostly coastal, lands bordering some of the larger streams, e.g., the Mar Dyke, were subject to flooding well inland, and were accordingly placed under the commissioners' jurisdiction.

The main types of record of each Commission, which are similar, are as follows:—

Court and Order (Presentment) Books: these include presentments,



inquisitions, reports, depositions and orders relating to state and repair of sea walls and marsh drains (sewers), with appointments of officials.

Many names of owners and occupiers, but not their abodes, are given and the volumes for all the levels form a rich source for minor place names; their usefulness, however, is somewhat limited by the complete absence of indexes. The volumes for Tendring and Wallasea Island contain less detail throughout than those of the other Commissions.

Surveys and maps comprise: (i) very detailed surveys giving a full description of the bounds of each level, with tables for each marsh giving owners, occupiers and field-names with references to the appropriate map; and (ii) a fine series of maps for the greater part of the Essex marshlands, giving considerable detail of the drainage of the area but few field-names (*see Plate*, p. 92).

Accounts: little detail, even in the earliest volumes; usually one line entry for each sum received or expended.

Minute books: the same information as the Court and Order books.

Jury presentments: also entered in full in the Court and Order books.

Maps: most of these record only those areas of each parish under the Commissioners' control but in some cases this acreage is the greater part of the parish.

Sewers assessments: give owners, occupiers, description of property, acreage and sum payable; exist for the Rainham, Fobbing and Dengie Levels only, from 1836.

*Calendar* of all maps. *Photographic negatives* of all maps before 1863 have been made, and enlarged prints can be supplied at cost price.

The records listed below have been deposited by the Essex Rivers and Roding Catchment Boards, except for the 1654 Commission, which was found with Commissions of the Peace in the County Records.

COMMISSION OF SEWERS, 1654, for the Levels of the hundreds of Rochford, Dengie, Witham, Thurstable, Wintree, and Lexden, and the islands of Foulness, Wallasea, and Canvey.

HAVERING LEVELS (also termed Essex, Middlesex and Kent Levels). This is the brief name for the Havering, Dagenham, Ripple, Barking, East and West Ham, Leyton, Walthamstow, Bromley and East Marsh Levels.

Presentment Books, 1691-1789 (3 vols.); Minutes, 1854-81 (1 vol.). Accounts, 1759-79 (1 vol.); Rates Analysis, 1736 (1 vol.).

Survey, 1563 (copy, 18th cent.; 1 vol.). This includes Rainham Levels (next entry). Each marsh (36 in all) has three sections, viz., (1) brief description of lands held with names of owners or occupiers, areas and special covenants regarding the upkeep of sea walls; (2) a list of royal lands acquired on the dissolution of the monasteries, giving the name of the previous monastic owner and that of the present lessee; and (3) 'calendar' of each level giving persons responsible for the upkeep of walls and drains, with lengths. The areas are somewhat less extensive than those in the eighteenth century series of maps.

Maps, 1735-1897 (18). *See Plate*, p. 92.

**RAINHAM LEVELS.** Comprise Levels of: Rainham, Wennington, Aveley and West Thurrock; Childerditch; Chadwell, Little Thurrock and Grays Thurrock; Pincocks Trough; and Mucking, East and West Tilbury.

Court and Order Books, 1646-1883 (6 vols.); Minutes, 1835-1932 (15 vols.). *See Plate*, p. 91.

Accounts, 1743-1935 (13 vols.); Sewers Assessments, 1874 (2).

Commission, 1860.

Jury Presentments, 1835-61 (26).

Surveys and Maps, 1834-80 (15 maps and 7 vols.). *See also* Havering Levels, 1563.

**FOBBING LEVELS.** Include parts of parishes of Fobbing, Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope, Mucking, Laindon, Dunton and Little Warley.

Court and Order Books, 1729-1934 (8 vols.); Minutes, 1885-1927 (4 vols.).

Accounts, 1881-1927 (1 vol.); Sewers Assessments, 1864-95 (19).

Commission, 1861.

Jury Presentments, 1861 (3).

**BOWERS GIFFORD, HADLEIGH AND LEIGH, AND CANVEY ISLAND LEVELS**

Maps only, 1884-1904.

**FOULNESS ISLAND LEVELS**

Court and Order Books, 1800-1916 (4 vols.); Minutes, 1882-1917 (2 vols.).

Accounts, 1861-1918 (1 vol.).

Commissions, 1860-1905 (4).

**WALLASEA ISLAND LEVELS**

Minutes, 1818-32 (1 vol.).



DENGIE LEVELS. Comprise Levels of: Burnham, Southminster and Mayland; Althorne and Creeksea; St. Lawrence, Mayland and Steeple; Asheldham and Dengie; Tillingham and Bradwell.

Court and Order Books, 1720-1934 (10 vols.); Minutes, 1737-1926 (6 vols.).

Accounts, 1776-1935 (4 vols.); Sewers Assessments, 1836-95 (88).

Commissions, 1761, 1771, 1861 (3). Jury Presentments, 1861 (2).

Surveys and Maps, 1799-1913 (13 maps and 2 vols.).

TENDRING LEVELS. Include parts of parishes of Frinton, Great and Little Holland, Great and Little Clacton and Thorpe.

Court and Order Books, 1727-1932 (6 vols.).

Commissions, 1772-1858 (9). Maps, 1783 (4).

The following records were discovered in unofficial custody just as the *Guide, Part I*, was about to go to press:—

*Add after p. 36, l. 23.*

(SPECIAL ACCOUNTS : MILITIA)

Settlement of accounts between Essex and other counties for the maintenance, etc., of families of militiamen, including substitutes, 1795-1813 (11 vols. and 10 bundles). Give names of militiamen, number of children, abode and rank, and name, county and abode of person for whom substitute serves.

*Add after p. 87, l. 3. (LIEUTENANCY)*

#### CLERK TO SUB-DIVISION MEETINGS

CHELMSFORD, DENGIE AND ROCHFORD SUB-DIVISIONS.

Enrolment minutes. Chelmsford sub-division, 1762-1804 (7 vols.); Rochford sub-division, 1775-1802 (2 vols.).

Certificates for balloted men who provided substitutes for East and West Essex Militia, 1797-98, 1826-31 (5 vols.).

Regular Militia lists. Chelmsford and Dengie sub-divisions, 1816-29. These are returns by parish constables, giving names of men, occupation, age (between 18 and 45), if any children and number under 14, and if exempt, grounds for exemption. Lists for parishes of average population contain about 80 names each.

*Add after p. 90, l. 24. (TURNPIKE TRUSTS)*

ESSEX TURNPIKES TRUST (Chelmsford Division of the First District, Shenfield-Sudbury and Chelmsford-Witham).

Accounts, bills and vouchers, orders, correspondence and miscellaneous papers, including apportionment of statute duty and a few specifications and plans of road improvements, 1783-1848 (4 vols. and about 4,500 papers).

## TRANSCRIPTS OF SELECTED ILLUSTRATIONS

Transcripts (or translations, where the original is in Latin) are given of all the documents illustrated, except for those which can be read without much difficulty and the Wages Assessment of 1612, which is very similar to the printed Assessment of 1651. As it is hoped that some of the plates may be useful as exercises to students of palæography, most of the transcripts are literal (e.g. 'wth' for 'with') but a few have been expanded (e.g. 'honble' is transcribed as 'honorable').

### *Transcript and translation of Frontispiece*

#### ENROLLED DEED, 1536.

#### 4 Essex

Be it remembered that William Selle of London capper, on 1 February in the 28th year of the reign of Henry VIII by the grace of God, King of England and France, Defender of the Faith, Lord of Ireland and on earth Supreme Head of the Church of England, at London, came before us Richard Heigham and John Blake, his Majesty's justices appointed for keeping the peace in the said County and for hearing and determining divers felonies, trespasses and other misdeeds done and perpetrated in the said County, and Richard Lyndsell, Clerk of the Peace of the said County, and he acknowledged a certain indenture made according to the form and effect of a certain Statute for enrolling deeds, writings and other muniments, lately issued, and asked that the same indenture be enrolled, And it is enrolled in these words This indenture made the xxviiij<sup>th</sup> day of January in the xxviiij<sup>th</sup> yere of the reign of our sovereygne lord Henry the viijth of Ynglond & Fraunce kyng defender of the Feith lord of Yreland and supreme hede in erthe of the churche of Yngland, betwene William Selle of London capper of thone partie and William Raymont of Littelbury in the Countye of Essex yoman of thoder partie, Wytnessith that the seid William Selle for a certen summe of money to hym in hand paid hath bargeyned & solde & by these presents bargeyneth & clerely selleth unto the same William Raymont & his heirs oon acre & an halfe late sett & & [sic] planted with saffren be it more or lesse lying in a certen Feld in Littelbury aforeseid called Slinkersdane betwene the land perteyning to the Manor of Lyttelbury on thone partie and the land late of George Nicolls of thoder partie, oon hede therof abbutteth upon the kynges high waye ledying from Lyttelbury aforeseid towards Royston, thoder hede therof abbutteth upon the land belongyng to the Manor of Littelbury aforeseid. [*Remainder not transcribed.*]

### *Translation of p. 1.*

#### HIGH CONSTABLES' SESSIONS, DENGIE HUNDRED, 1572.

Hundred of Dengye.	Session of William Hempsted and John Levett, High Constables of her Majesty the Queen, held in the execution of their office at Purleigh in the said Hundred, on Tuesday,
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23 September, in the 14th year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc., 1572.

Purleighe.	John Strange	}	constables
Chief Sureties.	John Thurstell		
	William Sone	}	jurors
	William Saverey		

Who charged and sworn say and present on their oath that 'the buttes' [are in decay] contrary to the statute of the [blank] year of Henry VIII.<sup>1</sup> It is therefore ordered etc. to mend [them before] the next general sessions of the peace to be held at Chelmsford on Thursday after the feast of St. [missing] under pain of the penalty set out in the statute. And further they say that Thomas Burton, John Kele, and an unknown man dwelling with [missing] of the same town and county, are labourers at Purleigh in the said county & [are] vagrants out of service and unhired being unmarried [and under] thirty years of age, contrary to the Statute of 5 Elizabeth, entitled ' [An Act] towching divers orders for artificers husbandmen laborers servants and [apprentices]. ' Therefore they are to be taken up, etc.

Assheldham.	William Walker	}	constables
Chief Sureties.	Richard Some		
	John Preston		juror

Who being sworn say and present that Richard Justice of Assheldham aforesaid in the [said] county being unmarried and under thirty years of age is a vagrant [apprehended in Purleigh] aforesaid in the said county, not hired by any master, etc., contrary to the said Statute, etc. Therefore he is to be taken up, etc.

<sup>1</sup> 33 Hen. VIII, c. 9, s. 4.

*Transcript of p. 2.*

INQUISITION BEFORE A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND THE HIGH CONSTABLES,  
BARSTABLE HUNDRED, 1566.

Essex. The Inquisicyon takon att Hornedon in the saide Countie for the hundred of Barstable before Edwarde Ryche Esquyre Justice of the pease Robert Bretten and John Hayes Highe Constables of the same hundred the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> daye of the moneth of Apryle in the yeere of the Reigne of our sovereigne Ladie Elizabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland Quene defendrix of the Faythe etc. the eight.

Fobbyng.	Thomas Arnold	}	jurors
	William Hulke		
	Henry Doe		

Who saye uppon theire othes that all thinges within theire parishe are well and in good order as farre as they knowe.

Muckyng.	Henry Hoye Constable	} jurors
	Robert Gylman	
	Robert Pytman	
	Nycholas Drane	

Who also saye upon theyre othes that Wedowe Cockman dothe use to buye Butter Egges and Chicken and sell the[m] agayne without lycence or elles all thinges are well.

*Transcript of p. 7.*

HIGH CONSTABLES' SESSIONS, CHELMSFORD HUNDRED, 1572.

The presentment of the Jury as apperythe by ther severall bylles

Item, we present Thomas Burche of Chelmysford a taylor for hyaring of Charles Brown a singleman by the weke con[trary to] the Statute of Artyfecers and Sarvautes etc.

Item we present Thomas Bagley of Mulseham for harborrowing and lodging of Roges and vacabounds [contrary] to the lawes and Statutes in thos cases made and provydyd.

Item we present Rychard Baylye of Mulseham for harborrowing and lodging of Roges and vacabo[unds] contrary to the Statute etc.

Item we present Robert Sandes of Mulsham for lodging and harborrowing of Roges and vacabounds [contrary to] the Statute etc.

Item, we present Robert Leonarde of Mulseham berebrewer for keping and mayntayning of an unlaw[ful game] in his howse callyd Shovyll a borde and Slyde grote<sup>1</sup> contrary to the Statute etc.

Item we present one Raulfe Padnall of Woodhamferrys a tayler being a singleman and out of [service] workythe at his own hande contrary to the Statute in thos cases made and provydyd for Artificers.

Item, we present one brydge callyd Sandford mylne brydge in the paryshes of Mutche Baddowe of Springefyld and Sandon which hathe ben of longe tyme decayd and broken down by force [of] gret waters and fluddes to the grete anoye and troble of all the contre and of thinhabytants which in suche tymes eyther passeover in very grete perryll and danger of drown-  
ing or els ar driver. ij or iij myles abought and the sayd Brydge in tymes paste hathe ben remembryd to have [been made] and amendyd always by the lordes of the manor of Mutche Baddowe and have allowyd tymber for [rectius, from] the common callyd common of gallowyd [Galleywood Common] but howe the same brydge was fyrste made we knowe not [nor who of] right ought to make the same.

Item, we present John Clarke of Mulseham boocher dothe geve to Richard Dale hys sarvaunt gret and excessive [wages] at fyve pounds iiij s by the yere after the rate of ijs the weeke contrary to the Statute [of servants] and artyficers and the rate and proclamacion made and sett forth for the same.

<sup>1</sup> Shove-ha'penny; cf. 'slideboard' and 'slydegroate' in transcript of p. 31, below.



*Transcript of p. 8.*

## HIGH CONSTABLES' SESSIONS, FRESHWELL HUNDRED, 1573.

Essex. The Petie sessyons holden ther y<sup>e</sup> tewesdaye being the xxii<sup>tie</sup>  
 Hempsted daye of Decembere in y<sup>e</sup> syxteneth yeare of y<sup>e</sup> reign of our  
 Soveraigne Ladye Elizabeth by y<sup>e</sup> grace of god of Englund  
 Fraunce and Ireland Quene defendor of y<sup>e</sup> fayth etc. Be-  
 fore Robert Allen Highe Constable of y<sup>e</sup> hundreth of  
 Freshwell in the sayde Countie of Essex.

Hadstock. William Bankes } constables John Claydon } Townesmen  
 Thomas Meller } Robert Bowtell }  
 Which sayde Constables & Townesmen doe present y<sup>t</sup> ther  
 Towneship is in as good order & state as the Lawes and  
 Statutes of this realme in that case provydyd doth require  
 soe y<sup>t</sup> they cannot fynde any thinge in defalte to ther  
 knowledge worthy to be presented.

Aschdon. Robert Claydon } constables  
 John Cowell }  
 Which sayde Constables doe present y<sup>t</sup> one Michael  
 Gardynar of y<sup>e</sup> same Towne Laborer of thage of thirtye  
 yeares & unmarried who had a compytent Farne where-  
 uppon he lyved & employed hym self untill the Feaste of  
 St. Michell Tharchaungell last past before y<sup>e</sup> date hereof  
 being expired at y<sup>e</sup> sayde Feaste is willinge to be reteigned  
 wth anye & to do his dyligent servis to his power And  
 further they present that ther Towneship is in as good  
 order and state as y<sup>e</sup> Lawes & statutes of this realme in y<sup>t</sup>  
 case provydid doth require soe y<sup>t</sup> they cannot fynde any  
 other thinge in defalte to ther knowledge worthye to be  
 presented.

[R]adwynter. Richard Coote } constables  
 William Gardynar }  
 Which sayde Constables doe present that ther Towneship is  
 in as good order & state as y<sup>e</sup> Lawes & statutes of this  
 realme in that case provydyd doth require so y<sup>t</sup> they cannot  
 fynde any thinge in defaulte to ther knowledg worthy to  
 be presented.  
 Thomas Smyth of Radwynter aforesayde gentleman by  
 William Gardynar one of y<sup>e</sup> Petye Constables of y<sup>e</sup> same  
 Towne hath reteigned into his servis y<sup>e</sup> daye & yeare above-  
 sayde one Julyan Ewyn for one whole yeare to be accompted  
 from y<sup>e</sup> xxviii<sup>tie</sup> daye of this present moneth of Decembere  
 for y<sup>e</sup> wages of xx<sup>s</sup> by y<sup>e</sup> yeare.

*Transcript of p. 25.*

## PETTY CONSTABLES' VAGRANCY RETURNS, 1566.

Richard Partridge a Rooge apprehended by Thomas Wood one of the  
 Constables of Netteswell the seconde daie of September in the viij yere of

the Quenes Majesties Reigne that nowe ys and whipped according to the statute and licensed by the highe constable to depart into his Countrey and delivered by the same Thomas Wood to John Helham constable of Lytle Paringdon.

Richard Powel an other Rooge apprehended by the same Constable of Netteswell the daie and yere above written whipped and licensed as before and delivered by the same Wood to Francis Ward constable of Latten.

Be yt knowen to whome thys present wrygh[t]lyne shall appartayne that I John Hamond Constable of Gravessend yn ye Countye of Kent have receyvyd by a precept from ye Justices of Assyce the ixth daye of august yn the eyght yere of the Raygne of oure soveraygne ladye Elizabeth quene of ynglond et cetera fyve counterfett egypcyans whose names hereafter folowyth by the hands of the constable of West Tylberye whose name ys Robard Takelye To be delyvered to ye constable of ye next parysshe towards the towne of Wynchelsye That ys to saye Kateryn Wylyams Margeryt Amye, Thomas Wylyams ye elder, Thomas Wylliams the yonger and Davye Rumpull. In wytnes herrof I the sayde John Hamond constable of Gravessend to thys sertyfyat I have sett my seale datyd at Gravessend the daye and yere fyrste above wrytten.

*Transcript of p. 26.*

SURVEYORS' PRESENTMENTS, SPECIAL HIGHWAYS COMMISSION, 1618.

1618.

Thoydon Garnon the xxvjth of September 1618.

Inprimis we present Richard Finch that he scoure his ditch betwixt Bretts bridge and the footebridge going into Dawes land by estimacion sixtene rods more or lesse betwixt this and all Saints next.

Item we present Henry Wall and Richard Finch to cut of the bushes and wood one [on] the wast soyle of both the sydes of Brett bridge betwixt this and all Saints next.

Item we present Richard Finch to scoure the ditch betwixt Bretts brooke and fourewants<sup>1</sup> feild by estimacion ten or twelve rods more or lesse betwixt this and all Saints next.

Item we present the lady Dun to scoure her ditch and cut of the wood betwixt the pownde and the fourewants<sup>1</sup> betwixt this and Shrovetide next.

Item we present George Collup to scoure the ditch and carry away the mearle<sup>2</sup> against Ramfeilds by estimacion twenty rods more or lesse to be done betwixt this and Cristmas next.

Item we present Richard Lake to scoure the ditch against Dawes land by estimacion twelve rods more or lesse to be done betwixt this and Easter next.

Item we present Mr. William Poole for not doing his worke in the highway with his cart this yeare.

Surveiours—Richard Lake, Thomas Rogers.

<sup>1</sup> 'Fourewants', four wents, i.e. cross-roads.

<sup>2</sup> Marl.



*Transcript of p. 31.*

## UNLAWFUL GAMES, 1635/6.

The Informacion of John Plaile of Morton in the said Countie Carpenter taken on oath before Sir William Masham Bart. etc. March 11th 1635.

He saeth about three weeks or a month since he and some others were at Play at Cards in George Burrells house of Morton, and stayed there from one of the clock till three of the Clock in the afternone and saeth he thinketh there was about xx<sup>tie</sup> persons.

Wm. Masham.

The Informacion of Margrett the wife of George Burrell of Morton Tannar taken as aforesaid.

She Confesseth that upon Candlemas Eve last there was foure strangers came into her house and played there at Cards and dice; & on Candlemas daye that there was divers that played at cards, & y<sup>t</sup> then there was fidlinge and dancinge in the house and further saeth that since Christmas last there hath bin playing at slideboard.

Wm. Masham.

The Examinacion of George Burrell of Morton tannar taken before Sir Thomas Barrington Kt. & Bart. and Sir William Masham Bart. etc. the xiith of March 1635.

He confesseth y<sup>t</sup> on Candlemas Eve last there was 3 or 4 strangers came into his house and played there at cards and also y<sup>t</sup> on Candlemas daye last there was much companie in his house but knoweth of noe play nor drinkinge, and about a month since he saeth there came to his house a boye with a Hobbyhorse and two other men with him y<sup>t</sup> shewed trickes and drew much Companie to his house. He further saeth y<sup>t</sup> somtymes his Neighbors come in & play a game or two at slydegroate for a Jugg of beare but saeth he knoweth of noe monie played for att it.

Tho: Barrington      Wm. Masham.

*Transcript of p. 32.*

## 'ROUNDHEADED ROGUE' AND 'PAPIST DOGG,' 1645.

Essex.

The Informacion of Robert White of the parish of Barking yeoman taken upon oath the 28th day of June 1645 before Sir Henry Mildmay Knight & William Toppesfeilde Esquire two of his Majesties Justices of the peace for the said County.

The Informant saith that two Monethes since or thereabouts going along Fishers streete in the towne of Barking upon his occasions, Margaret the wife of Thomas Edwards of the same Fisherman in a violent & outrageous manner called him roundheaded rogue, and said, It was long of such round-headed rogues as hee was, that they were brought into such a condicion, using many other reviling words whereby a great tumult was raised in the said towne, insomuch that this Informant was constrained to take a Marsh.

forke from a Marshman to defend himselfe from hurt and violence, which was like to bee offered to this Informant by reason of the said uproare and tumult.

The Informacion of Edmund Palmer of Barking Draper taken upon oath ut supra.

The Informant saith that two Monethes since or thereabouts hee being then Constable & going to demaund of Thomas Edwards of Barking Fisherman some money due upon a rate, Margaret the wife of the said Edwards said to this Informant, videlicet, That a Company of yow had brought a Popish Preist to towne, but (saith shee) the King is a coming now, and then wee shall have a course taken with yow & such as yow are; or words to the like effect.

The Informacion of Nicholas Cleere of Barking Mealeman taken upon oath ut supra.

Who saith that this day sennight, going out of the Markett, hee heard Margaret the wife of the said Thomas Edwards say, That Mr. Peter Witham Preacher of Barking, placed there by the Parliament with the approbacion of the Assembly of Divines, was a Papist Dogg, And further said, That if shee had bin there (meaning att the buryall of one Margaret Spence) shee would have holpe to have torne him in peices like a Papist dogg as hee was.

William Toppesfeilde.

*Transcript of p. 43.*

CLOTH MANUFACTURE AND PLAGUE, 1637 and 1642.

Essex.

At the General Sessions of the Peace of his Majesty the King held for the said County at Chelmsford in the same County on Tuesday 18 April in the 13th year of Charles now King of England, etc.

Forasmuch as it is apparent that the takeing of many Apprentices contrary to the law by clothiers & other trades belonging to the manufacture of cloth & bayes is a greate cause that soe many poore doe abound & dayly encrease in divers parts of this county & especially in Clothinge townes, for the reforming of which abuses it is ordered by this court & all the Justices of peace of this county are entreated to be very seveare in punishing all that doe or shall hereafter offend in that nature & it is further ordered that this order & the other order herto subscribed shalbe published in every division of this county that all the Justices of peace & others whome it may concerne may take notice hereof for the punishing preventing and reforming of the said abuses.

And it is now further ordered & declared by this Court that the cheife inhabitants of every parish within this county which now are or hereafter shall be visited with any infectious diseases shall have a speciall care & diligence soe to provide for their poore that they doe not suffer any of them to wander into other parishes which may be daungerows for the further spreading & increasing of the said infectious diseases & all Justices of the peace of this county are desired to have an especiall care hereof & severally to punish all such as doe or shall offend herein.



To the Right Honorable and Right Worshipfull the Justices of the peace att this present Sessions assembled.

The humble petition of the Inhabitants of Bocking.

Humbly shewing that whereas by reason of the late visitacion in Witham a taxe is layd upon the parish of Bocking of xij<sup>s</sup> vjd a weeke for the space of 3 monethes last past and upwards towards the releife of the poore of Witham and 37<sup>s</sup> 6d for 3 weekes thereof is payd to Mr. Thursby the high Constable, and for that since that tyme it hath pleased god to visitte many poore persons within our parishe w<sup>th</sup> the disease of the pox and other sicknesses w<sup>ch</sup> hath caused a very great Charge to our parish to the some of xij<sup>li</sup> and upwards in the space of 8 weekes last past over and above our ordinary weekly collection which wee feare is likely to continewe if not to encrease.

Our humble suites unto your honors and worships is that, you wilbe pleased to take the premisses into your consideracion, and in regard thereof to spare our parish for any further weekly charge towards the reliefe of Witham.

And wee shall dayly pray for your honors and worships health and prosperity.

*Transcript of p. 44.*

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER, 1640 and 1645.

(R.H. document.)

4 July 1640.

Wheras Thomas Comptone of Purleigh was latly presented before his Majesties Justices at the quarter Sessions houlden for this County for anoyance of the heighwayes by inclosing some grounds in the same parish yealded to him the sayd Tho. Compton by the Lord and the Tenants of that Manor, wee therfore whose names are hearunder written doe give to certifie that we have taken vew of the pretended anoyance and doe not finde it any being the parishners of the sayd parish.

Lawrence Washington Rector, William Pond, the mark of Thomas x Skinner, Edwyne Scott, William Walford, John Saffold, The marke of Henery x Moynes, John x Spilleman, The marke of Christfor x Badcock, Signatt: x John Davye, Signat: x Richard Croften, Myhell Lyman.

(L.H. document.)

The informacion of Marian Turnedge the wife of William Turnedge of Purlie concerning some threatning speeches used by John Saffold of Purlie butcher against John Andrewes of Purlie aforesaid Clerk and Samuel Eve yoeman, taken October 6, 1645.

The Informant uppon her oath saith That above a yeare since the said John Saffold in his owne dwelling house being then an alehouse in the said

parish of Purley did use these speeches speaking of Mr. Washington who had been sequestred from Purley Parsonage and of those which had caused the said sequestration he the said John Saffold bid a poxe on them and wished his knife in their throats. And some of the companie blaming hym for the said speeches and asking hym yf he wished his knife in their throats his answer was that he did not wish his knife in their throates but in the throat of our Parson and of goodman Eve. And he hoped the tyme would shortlie come that they would be glad to runne away for that they had donne and not to stay by it.

Isaac Aleyn.

*Transcript of p. 50.*

CHARITABLE RELIEF AFTER A FIRE AT HALSTEAD, 1645.

To the right honorable and worshipfull the Comittees and Justices of this Countie of Essex.

Wee whose names are underwritten the Ministers and others the Inhabitants of the parish of Halsted in the Countie of Essex doe certifie your honors and worships that Samuel Pannell thelder Nathaniel Pannell Samuel Pannell the younger Benjamin Foster & Thomas Lucas all of our said parishe whoe being tradesmen & had wherewith together with their labours & industries to mainteine themselves their wives and children (being in number nineteene) and weere ready to yeild reliefe to others, untill Friday the sixteenth of this instant May 1645 by reason of an accident of Cruell fyre then happeninge & seizeinge upon Five Messuages or Tenements wherin the said Samuel Pannell thelder Nathaniel Pannell Samuel Pannell the younger Benjamin Foster and Thomas Lucas with their wives and children then dwelt and the same Messuages or Tenements burnt downe & consumed to the Ground together with their working loomes beddinge and household stufte to the valewe of One hundred pounds & upwards to the utter undoeing of the said parties & their wives and children they being lefte without any places of reside, but upon the charitie of some neighbours neere dwellinge & well affected for the supply of such wants & necessities.

The tender consideracion wherof causes us the said Ministers & Inhabitants to become petitioners unto your honors and worships on the behalfe of the said poore distressed persons above mencioned, that your honors and worships wold be pleased to graunt them your favours in a charitable Collection in this Countie of Essex for & towards the reliefe of the said distressed persons And wee shall pray for your honors & worships long lives, etc.

John Webb vicar, William Archer lecturer, William Richardson, John Littell, Thomas King, John Chaplyn, Nathan Wade, Anthony Bentall, John Fokes junior, John Hand, William Heckford, Thomas Isaacke, Robert Ivory,

Within the devision<sup>1</sup> [*added in a different hand*]

<sup>1</sup> The Court authorizes collection within the (petty sessional) division.



*Transcript of p. 55.*

## BEACON WATCH AT DANBURY, 1645/6.

To the Justices of the honorable Courte of Quarter Sessions:

The humble petition of Samuell Leadley of Danbury in the said County Tayler.

Humble sheweth that whereas your petitioner was employed to watch the Beacon att Danbury by the high Constables for the hundred of Chelmsford and that it is nowe a whole yeare since that your petitioner did watch the same, nevertheles your petitioner cannot by any meanes gett his money for watchinge thereof, in regard that there are divers parishes, within the hundred that are behinde and have not brought in their said money for Beacon watch, soe that your petitioner hath bene enforced to make many Jurneys and to attend this honorable Courte for the gayninge of his said money which hath bene a greate hindrance to your petecioner and hath much impoverished your petitioner and sett your petitioner in debt: wherefore your petitioner humblie desireth this honorable Courte that some Course may be taken for the bringinge Inn of the said money: that your petitioner may be satisfied his money And your petitioner shalbe bound to pray for your honors and worships.

[NOTE.—Both the beacon and the watch-house are shown on the plan in Morant's *History of Essex* (1768), vol. II, plate facing p. 30. The petition is endorsed with a note that it was referred to the neighbouring justices to find out what parishes were in arrears.]

*Transcript of p. 56.*

## A MALDON MAN HELD TO RANSOM BY THE TURKS, 1646.

Essex.

To the truly Pious and Worthily Enobled the Right Honorable Robert Earle of Warwick Lord High Admirall of England with all other his well deserved Titles and Digneties,

The humble petition of Mary Steele  
of Maldon in the said County.

Most Humbly Sheweth

That whereas about the latter end of June Anno Domini 1645 at the Generall quarter Sessions holden at Chelmsford, your poore petitioner presented a petition to the Honorable Bench, in the behalfe of William Steele, the distressed husband of your humble suppliant, (who then was, and still remayneth, a poore miserable captive in Argeire [Algiers] in the dominien of the Turks) for letters of licence, to Collect and gather, within the said County, the liberrall Contribucions of good people, for the Raysinge of a summe of Mony, to pay his Ransome, where your good Lordshipp of your wonted Clemencie, takinge the sad Condicion of poore Christians,

lyinge in slavery amongst those Barbarous & Heathenish Tirants, into your pious Consideracion, subscribed the petition with your owne hand unto Captaine Crauley, who then was to be employed by the High and Honorable Court of Parliament for the Redeeming of poore Captives, That the said William Steele should be with the first of those, that were to be Redeemed, but the Shipp miscarryinge, his Redemption was not effected

My humble petition to your Honor is, That you would be Graciously pleased, to take into your pious and Grave Consideracion, his forlorne & Comfortlesse Condicion, And as your Honor have ever been a succourer of the afflicted to refresh and revive their sad & drooping spirits, soe be pleased to renue the Order formerly given, under your Honors hand, that his ransome may be paid, And for the Obtayninge of your Lord-shippes favour, I have besought the Magistrates, Ministers, gentlemen, and other Inhabitants of Maldon abovesaid, who hath her unto subscribed their names to beseech your Honor in my behalfe

Be pleased then (I most humbly begg) to lett your eye of pittie, and tender Compassion, reflect upon soe sad an Obiect, and your mercifull hand reach to the unloosinge of those Chaynes & fetters, & the bondage that he now endureth, And as in duty bound your poore petitioner shall dayly pray etc.

Samuell Bedell, Israel Hewit minister, Thomas Harris, Edmund Whitefoote, John ———, William Frauncys, Jeremy Browninge, John Symson, [? Howard] Hammound, Thomas ———, ——— Stee—, Bartholomew Bryckwood.

*Transcript of p. 73.*

CROMWELL ENDORSES A WOUNDED EX-SOLDIER'S PETITION FOR A PENSION,  
1651/2.

To his Excellency the Lord Generall Cromwell,  
The humble petition of Jeremiah Maye.

Sheweth, that aboute 7 yeeeres since your petitioner with one John Wyeburne Sir Timothy Middletons mans did take a Cavelleere with his horse & armes at Stamford Mount Fitchett, and hee offered them his horse & 40<sup>li</sup>. in money to lett him escape, But they refused the same, Not longe after your petitioner was imprest at Ashdon in the County of Essex for the Parliament service & served under the command of Captain John Smith in the Regiment of Sir William Waller at Basing howse where hee received divers hurts & wounds in his Body, As by certificate will appeare, The which hath altogether made him unfitt for future service & noe waies able to mainteyne himselfe & languishinge family beinge nowe in a most sadd & deplorable condicion.

Humbly beseechinge your Excellency to take the premisses into your wise consideracion and to bee pleased to grant your Excellencies Warrant directed to the honorable Bench assembled in Essex to afford your



petitionner a pencion or some other Releife what they in their Wise-  
domes shall thinke Fitt.

And hee shall ever pray for your Excellency.

(Written on the back)

Whereas the Bearer hereof Jeremiah May the petitioner was wounded in the service of the Parliament & thereby unable to follow his calling as appears by the annexed Certificate. These are therefore to require you to permitt & suffer him quietly to passe to Ashden in Essex his former aboad without molestacion. And I desire the Justices of peace for ye said County to allow unto the said Jeremiah May a competent weekly pencion for his releife & maintenance according to the late Act. Given under my hand & seale the 10th of January 1651.

To all officers & souldiers under  
my Command & others whome it may concerne.

O. Cromwell.

*Translation of p. 13.*

#### PLEA AND PROCESS ROLL, 1610.

Peter and Paul [i.e. Midsummer Sessions], viii Ja[m]es]

Records in the time of the most noble Thomas Earl of Suffolk Custos  
Rotulorum of the County of Essex.

Pleas at the General Sessions of the Peace of the said County held at Chelmsford in the said County on Thursday next after the Feast of the Apostles Peter & Paul, being 5 July in the 8th year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c, and the 43rd of Scotland, Before Gamaliel Capell, kt., Willm. Smyth, kt., Anthony Everard, kt., Henry Maxey, kt., Robt. Riche, esq., and their fellows, his Majesty's Justices appointed for keeping the peace in the said County as well as for hearing and determining divers felonies trespasses and other misdeeds perpetrated in the same County.

Essex.

At this Session it is presented on the oath of twelve jurors that Thomas Rawnsom of Brayntree in the said County clothier did on 1 February in the 7th year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James now King of England &c., and the 43rd of Scotland, & on many days afterwards, to wit, until 1 July in the 8th year of the said King of England &c., at Brayntree in the said County, obstinately and without proper authority to the same Thomas Rawnsom and without any permission or licence of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in the said County take upon himself to keep and did keep 'a common tipling house' and at the same place on the said 1 February and the said days thereafter did commonly and publicly sell 'ale & beare' to sundry of his Majesty's lieges and subjects in contempt of his Majesty and contrary to the form of the Statute made and provided in such case And against the peace &c.

And the said Thomas Rawnsom cometh in his own person and denyeth the offence and injury [etc.] And having heard the indictment saith that he is not guilty thereof, And of this he puts himself upon the country. And William Davies, gent., who sueth for his Majesty in this case, likewise. Therefore they come sworn before the said Justices of the Peace &c. at the next General Sessions of the Peace to be held for the said County [etc.] The same day is given to the said William Davies who sueth &c. and to the said Thomas Rawnsom &c., On which day, to wit, Thursday next after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel in the 8th year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James now King of England &c. before the said Justices of the Peace &c. at Chelmsford in the said County there come both the said William Davies who sueth &c. and the said Thomas Rawnsom in their own persons, And the Sheriff returneth here the names of twelve jurors of whom none &c. Therefore the Sheriff is ordered not to omit &c. but to distrain them by all lands &c. And that concerning the issues &c. And that he have their bodies before the Justices &c. at the next General Sessions of the Peace to be held for the said County to acknowledge in the said form &c. The same day is given [etc., as before]. On which day, to wit, Thursday next after the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord in the 8th year as above-said, before the said Justices at Chelmsford, there come the said William Davies who sueth &c. and the said Thomas Rawnsom, in their own persons. And the sworn Jury, empanelled and summoned by the said Sheriff, did come, who being chosen tried and sworn to declare the truth concerning the premises say on their oath that the said Thomas Rawnsom is not guilty of the trespass & contempt specified in the said indictment above specified, as he himself above alleged &c. Therefore it is considered that the said Thomas should go hence without day &c. [i.e. is discharged].

Eldred [Clerk of the Peace].

*Transcript and translation of p. 67.*

LICENSING OF ALEHOUSE-KEEPERS AND VICTUALLERS, HINCKFORD HUNDRED.  
1591.

Essex.

Hundred of Hinckford.

Be it remembered that on 17 February in the 33rd year of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., Nicholas Stanlie of Braintree in the said County, barber, and all and singular the other persons first named below in their several parishes, being in the same county, alehousekeepers and victuallers, came personally before us, Edward Huddilston, knight, William Aylofffe and Anthony Maxey, esquires, justices appointed by her Majesty to keep the peace in the said County, at Braintree in the said County and undertook for themselves in form following, viz., each of them individually under pain of forfeiture to her Majesty of their goods and chattels, lands and tenements, and Richard Ussher senior of Bocking in the said county clothier and John Ennowes of Bocking shoemaker and all the other persons secondly





*Transcript and translation of p. 79.*

A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY BOOK OF PRECEDENTS

Certaine Observations extracted out of the ancient Records of the peace for this County of Essex.

*Session of the Peace held at Rochford xvij<sup>o</sup> July in the 3<sup>o</sup> and 4<sup>o</sup> years of Philip & Mary in the presence of etc.*—At this Sessions vij Indictments found of forceable Entry besides many others.

3<sup>o</sup> [3] 4<sup>o</sup> Philip & Mary. *It doth not appeare where this Sessions was kept.*—At this Sessions xxvij Indictments of felony and trespasse besides presentments, xxxj prisoners in the Gaole whereof vij suspended by [blank] iij set free by proclamation.

The Recognizances were always taken to appeare before the King and Queenes Majesties Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer at the Quarter Sessions.

*Christmas 3 & 4 Philip & Mary at Chelmsford.*—William Lukyn of Mashbury yeoman was indicted because he maliciously annoyed Thomas Eve clerk and called him a worthless fellow while he was preparing to celebrate Holy Communion in the same Church, contrary to the Statute of 1 Mary.

Thomas Newman of Quenden yeoman was indicted because he drew blood and beat Jane Wolbere and carried a dagger of his into the parish church and drew it forth from its sheath and brandished it with the intention of striking the said Jane with the same dagger, contrary to the peace etc. and contrary to the form of the Statute of 5 & 6 Edward VI.

*Verdict of the jurors endorsed on the indictment.*—The bill is in part true, that is, in this that the said Thomas drew and brandished his dagger but not with intention of striking the said Jane or any other but only in his own defence. And as for all other things contained within, we are quite ignorant.

*Great Dunmow Bridge.*—A presentment that there is a Bridge in Much Dunmow in Chelmsford high way, that is in decay and that the Queenes Majestie ought to repaire it.

*Transcript of p. 91.*

COURT OR SESSION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS, 1647.

Essex.

Session of the Sewers for the several meadows between Purfleet Mill & Childerditch pond in the County of Essex held at Stifford, 3 May in the 23rd year of our lord Charles now King of England etc., and in the year of our Lord 1647. Before Cranmer Harris, knight, Robert Smyth, James Silverlock, Thomas Withrings, George Walton, Thomas Latham, esquires, George Thorowgood, Roger Tavernor & Robert Hill, gentlemen, being the Commissioners of our said lord the King here by virtue of a commission of our said lord the King directed to them and to others under the Great Seal, on which day it was ordered as follows.

Queries to be enquired of by the Jurors for the Levell betweene Rainham-bridge & Grayes-bridge att this presente Session of Sewers delivered unto them by the Commissioners presente.



1. Inprimis. What is the cause that the Meadowe groundes between Purfleete-Myll & Childerditch-Pond are soe much overflowne with salte & freshwater.

2. How high is the markestakes placed att Purfleete Mylls & Cawsey bridge att a dead lowe water from the brinke of the water to the marke in the stakes.

3. How often have these markestakes byn overflowne since the last Session of Sewers being the 19th of November last.

4. What is the cause the Salte & freshwater lyes soe longe upon the meadowes to the destruction of the land.

5. Are the Floudgates sufficient & good, if not, whose faulte is it, that they are not sufficient.

6. If these gates be good, whether are they bigg enough to draine the Country upon any overshott of freshwater.

7. What gates are used to the greate Mills neare London, as the River of Bowe and other Rivers there wch ebb & flowe.

8. Is the Marditch & Crosse ditches soe sufficiently scowred & cleansed yt the freshwater may have free passage downe to the Mylls.

9. If not, whether is it fitt to be done att a generall Charge upon every Acre, or at a particuler Charge.

10. If att a generall Charge, then how much wilbe fitt to be imposed upon the Mylls, How much upon every Acre betweene the Mylls & Cawsey-bridge, how much betweene Cawseybridge & Stifford bridge, And how much betweene Stifford bridge & Childerditch Pond.

11. Whether are the Myll gates sufficient to lett out the freshwater and to keepe backe the Saltwater upon any over shott of freshwater. If not in what are they deficient.

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This is an index of subjects and does not include casual references to persons or places. The classes of record most valuable to the genealogist, topographer and parish historian are indicated in the Key to Classification (*see* p. xv); full indexes of persons and places for many of these classes (*see* entry for 'Indexes', below) are available for consultation in the Essex Record Office. As all parishes in the county figure frequently in the Sessions Records it would be misleading to index the few which happen to be mentioned specifically in the *Guide*.

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