

THE ORIGINAL CHARTER OF AYLESBURY.

NOTES ON A CONTEMPORARY COPY NOW IN THE LIBRARY
OF BUCKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

By E. HOLLIS, F.Z.S.

This copy, originally No. 8,849 of the Phillips MSS., was purchased some time ago by Mr. E. L. Reynolds, who very generously presented it to the library of this Society. Here it is of great interest, owing to the facts that the original Charter and all official records connected with the municipality appear to have been lost, and that with the exception of the notes by Lipscomb in his "History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham" (Vol. II., page 23) and Gibbs's "History of Aylesbury" (pages 115-126) nothing has been published regarding the municipal history of the Borough during the few years which elapsed before most of the privileges granted under the Charter were allowed to lapse.

The copy is written in a very scholarly hand on eight sheets of paper with wide margins, upon which are brief summaries of the contents of the various paragraphs. With these sheets are one more of similar size and a smaller one, both of which contain interesting matter, which will be referred to later. The whole ten sheets are sewn into part of an Illuminated Vellum Missal of the late 15th century, which acts as a wrapper to the rolled sheets.

The portions of the Church service on this cover are:—

Part of the Ceremony of the Blessing of the Font
(with music).

Part of the Ceremony of the Adoration of the Cross.

Part of the Rubrical directions for the Mass of the
Presanctified.

Part of the Rubrical directions for the Blessing of
the Light.

I have compared this copy with that preserved in the Patent Rolls, 1st Mary, in the Public Record Office, and find that with the exception of trifling differences

in spelling they correspond in every particular. It agrees also with a transcript preserved in Aylesbury, which appears to have been made in the 17th Century.

As Lipscomb has given much of the text in Latin and Gibbs a free translation of practically the whole Charter, it is unnecessary to reprint it here, further than to state correctly the names of the first Mayor, Aldermen, and principal burgesses, as these differ slightly from the names given in the above works, the most important variation being that Lipscomb has transcribed the name of the first Mayor as John Walden. This should certainly be as in the list below.

First Mayor, John Walwyn; Aldermen, John Bosse, armiger, William Anne, armiger; Robert Woodleff; gentleman; Thomas Berde, gentleman; Richard Fryer, Thomas Dale, William Atkyns, Thomas Munday, William Ballarde. Principal Burgesses: Edward Cutler, John Hynde, Robert Fordc, Richard Duncombe, Richard Huchenden, William Hales, William Tomes, Robert Goldynge, Henry Parrott, Edmund Woolfe, Robert Broke, and Anthony Fyndall.

From the two attached sheets of paper above mentioned the following hitherto unrecorded facts can be gathered: that Wm. Anne was second mayor, Thos. Dale the third, and Anthony Hornyold the fourth.

The notes from which these facts are collected are almost certainly in the writing of Anthony Hornyold.

The smaller sheet is as follows:—xxviii^o die Septembris Annis Regnor Phi et Marie Rs. & R^o Scdo et Tertio Thomas Dale electus est in officiu balli et Jur coram Willo Anne ar. vete ballio. Johe Walwyn, genoso. Willo Atkyns, Henr Parrat, Rico Huchyn-den Edwardo Cutler, Johe Andrewe, et Anthonio Horniold. (Below this the following list of names, probably burgesses attending the election). W^o. Ballard, Robts ffoord, Robts Bryan, Johes Clark, Thomas Godarde, George Wyat, Ricus Kyng, Wills Alynson, Manwaring Gryffyn, Ricus Pyerson, Wills Taylor als Thorpe, Johes Hawle, Johes Turner, xpofer Horwood, Thomas Gibson, Phus Grene, Johes New-man, Robtus Bankwoth.

We know from the Charter that John Walwyn was Mayor in the first year of Mary's reign, therefore Wm. Anne, described here as former Mayor, must have been second mayor and Thomas Dale the third.

The larger sheet bears notes referring to nine inquests held by Anthony Hornyold as coroner, and are dated 3rd and 4th Phillip and Mary. As the terms of the Charter specify that the Mayor shall be coroner it seems safe to presume that Anthony Hornyold was fourth Mayor, and that this copy of the Charter was his, but it is possible, as this was the first year in which the power of electing Members of Parliament was not exercised, that the office of Mayor was also left vacant.

The notes are almost certainly in his own writing, for in one inquest the phrase "came to my house" occurs, and in notes in the same hand, which are written on the vellum cover, and refer to the births of his children, the third is described as "tertius filior meor."

Anna, the first-born, 1549, and Margaret, the second (no date given), were born at Quarryndon; William, the third, 1556, was born in Aylesbury, their mother being Johanna, second daughter of Thomas Padwell, of Crendon, near Thame.

Although the above notes refer to the years 1553-4-5-6, and the Registers of St. Mary's Church, Aylesbury, begin in 1564, it is remarkable that of the names mentioned above the only ones appearing in the register are: Richd. Fryer, Thos. Dale, Henry Parrett, Edmund Wolfe, Anthony Fyndall, John Andrewe, Robert Bryan, John Clark, Richd. King, Richd. Pyerson, John Sawle, Christopher Horwood, Phillip Grene, and John Newman.