

NOTES ON THE FAIR AT WEYHILL.

 BY THE REV. ROBERT CLUTTERBUCK, F.S.A.

"To Wy and Wynchestre
I went to the fayre,"

Vision of Piers Plowman.

On the green sward, 300 feet above sea level, in the parish of Penton Grafton, Weyhill Fair has been held from time immemorial. Although the official name of the parish is that given above; in early documents it is always called Wee, and only the importance and celebrity of the fair has caused the hill to become a permanent part of its designation. At present, in popular language, the small hamlet, which is almost inextricably mixed with Penton Mewsey, is called Penton Grafton. The remainder of the parish, except in official documents, being always known as Weyhill.

This elevated ground is crossed by roads, which make it fairly easy of access from Salisbury, Amesbury, Upavon, Newbury, on the west and north; but Basingstoke, on the east, and Winchester, on the south, must be approached through Andover. It is not on either of the great Roman roads which intersect at a distance of three miles and a half as the crow flies. There is not, therefore, anything which suggests a reason for this particular spot being selected for the great sheep-fair of the South of England, unless it be the proximity of the ancient track-way, which retains the name of the Harroway, and which is still a useable road into Andover.

This circumstance is suggestive of a very early origin, which everything else connected with the fair bears out; and indeed, I believe, few clearer instances of tradition and survival could be found, nor, as far as I know, is there the least possible trace of its beginning, and, as will be presently apparent, it is a most striking example of the tenacity of

prescriptive rights. Mention of the fayre of Wee or Wey is made by William *Langland* the reputed author of *Piers Plowman* circa 1360.¹

It will be seen below that the right of the fair rested so firmly with the corporation of Andover that no legal process could shake it. They must have held this right as part of the appurtenances of the "foreign hundred"² which they held with the manor of Andover. This "foreign hundred" is mentioned in express terms in a charter to the town, 15th John (1213), but though the fair of S. Leonard in the town itself is confirmed in a charter of 7th John (1205), the fair at Weyhill is not alluded to by name in any of the royal grants.

But the fact that the Gild of Merchants, and quittance from toll passage and custom are confirmed to the men of Andover in the charter of Henry II., will, I think, cover the whole ground.

At this moment the corporation derive no pecuniary advantage from the fair, or any other rights of the hundred, and, indeed, there are no receipts from the manor of which they are lords, which contains 9,164 acres, though they still have to pay the quit-rent laid down in these early charters. The disuetude of their rights has come on with the development of the system of police and the enfranchisement of the land.

The fair rights are now held on an expiring lease so far as that portion of the ground goes which is "parcel of the manor of Ramridge." The rector of Weyhill receives rent for the glebe where the sheep are penned, and the part where the hops are pitched, called variously Farnham Row and the Hop Row—the real name of which is Blissmore Hall Acre, has been acquired by an association of hop merchants. Blissmore Hall is the old name of what is now called Clanville Lodge—the manor house of the Manor of Clanville.

The local papers give the number of sheep sold at the fair in 1895 as between 17,000 and 20,000. Mudie, while making the same mistake as Woodward and Wilks about the begin-

¹ *Piers Plowman's Vision*, Ed. T. Wright, vol. i., p. 89.

² The "foreign hundred" included all the country comprised within the valley of the Anton, though the tithings never bore entirely the same names as the existing parishes.

ning of the fair, says: "It used to be a fair of great resort and a great deal of business; and though, like all public fairs, it has fallen off a great deal in the numbers, and still more in the quality of those who attend it, is still one of the greatest fairs in England, and a good deal of business is transacted at it. It commences on the day before Michaelmas, which is the principal sheep market, and, when the fair was in the height of its glory, as many as 140,000 were sometimes sold on this day, besides a continuation on the other days of the fair. Next day the agricultural labourers are hired."³ This was published in 1838, but no "mop" is now held, and the fair does not extend beyond four days.

The London and South-Western Railway was opened to Andover in 1854, and the increased facility of communication has inevitably affected this as other fairs. The Hampshire Chronicle for October 19, 1895, remarks that only about 400 pockets of hops were pitched this year, "so that this once celebrated mart for the disposal of hops bids fair in a few years to be a thing of the past."

It will be seen from Sir S. Clarke's report given below, that sheep, leather, hops and cheese were the chief commodities offered for sale at the close of the last century.

Professor Thorold Rogers, speaking of the typical country fair, says: "Ten or twelve generations ago these fairs were a necessity; three or four, a great convenience with which the country could ill dispense."⁴ But I doubt if there were ever any features at Weyhill like those which characterised the great St. Giles' fair at Winchester. The so called "pleasure fair" is a mere accidental adjunct, and the few other stalls beside those devoted to "refreshment" in some sort or other, either fall under the category given above, or represent purely modern notions.

The part Weyhill fair supplied in the domestic economy of its frequenters is well illustrated by entries in the diary of the Rev. Henry White, rector of Fyfield, brother of Gilbert White of Selborne.⁵ It was the custom of this worthy clergyman to buy a stock of cheese at Andover fair, May 11th, and

³ Mudie's Hampshire I. p. 262.

⁴ Thorold Rogers—*Six Centuries of work and wages*.

⁵ Hampshire Notes and Queries vol. vii., page 72, et seq.

replenish it at Weyhill fair, and every cheese that was cut is duly entered in the diary, a cheese as a rule lasting his household about four days. Once, however, it did not last so long, the twenty-eighth of the stock was cut on March 1st, 1782, and, on March 2nd, we read: "Cheese cut, 29th, that yesterday being very strong." The following entry will explain the way they were sold. Fives, sixes, &c. meaning that number of cheeses to the hundredweight.

1781, October 10th; Fair at Weyhill.

Cheese bought of Mr. Stone.

Common cheese	..	..	7 sixes.
Do.	..	..	1 fives.
Do.	..	..	1 sevens.
54 cheeses	..	..	Total 9 at 33s.

At the same time, 2, Mr. Powlett.

1, Mr. Cane.

No truckles or sages.

Some of these cheeses may have come from Wiltshire, as I believe do all which are offered for sale at Weyhill now. I have no distinct recollection of ever tasting a Hampshire cheese, but the late Mr. C. Herbert, J.P., of Eastanton, whose memory went back with clearness nearly three score years and ten, has often told me that in his young days if a wooden plough wanted tightening up while work was going on, the readiest plan was the usual one, to cut a wedge from the cheese in the dinner bag and hammer it in. From the fact that Mr. White mentions the purchase of stores from Southampton, as for instance, "2 cwt. Malay raisins and 1 cwt. Smyrna do., and 2 cwt. 7 lbs. of loaf sugar" at a time, though he had "14 loaves hanging on ye beam in ye kitchen." It is surely legitimate to gather confirmation of the belief that at no time were such provisions offered for sale to any extent at Weyhill fair. He makes the following remark about hops:—

1788. October 11th. "Hops, none from Selborne and very few from that district, few from Farnham, and a very thin show on ye hill, tho' some Kentish and some old hops were bot. Best price £11 per cwt. Bought none; Weyhill being the worst market when they are dear, the best when they are cheap."

The bulk of the papers in the corporation chest which relate to the fair have their origin in the long string of lawsuits which arose out of an attempt on the part of the governing body of the town to hold it on ground of their own selection, and so to get the profits into their own hands.

This the holders of the vested interests formed by immemorial use resisted to the uttermost, and fought point by point. It is to be noted that the profits would have gone with the change of site from the holder of the Manor of Ramridge and the rector. Otherwise the alteration would be hardly noticeable because the positions are but a few yards distant.

The confirmation charter of Queen Elizabeth (1599) considerably confuses the subject, it bears indications of having been the outcome of party feeling and dissensions, and was at anyrate, in regard to the fair at Weyhill, the cause of much trouble. The following passage indeed sets forth as much :—

"And whereas the aforesaid good men and inhabitants of our borough and town peaceably held and enjoyed divers other jurisdictions, etc., by the letters patent of divers of our progenitors, made as of prescription and use from time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary. And whereas also by the insinuation of divers of the men and inhabitants of our said borough and town of Andover, we have been informed that divers disputes, questions and ambiguities have lately been moved and arisen, and that it is likely will daily more and more arise, as well as concerning the validity and force of the aforesaid letters patent.....as concerning the validity and force of the prescriptions and use aforesaid.....We, therefore, desiring that such strifes, ambiguities and inconveniences may be hereafter entirely done away, and considering that the borough and town of Andover is an ancient and populous town, and a thoroughfare throughout our whole Kingdom of England in the Western parts, and willing that hereafter a certain and undoubted mode in the same borough and town of in and upon the keeping of our peace..... And further.....we grant to the bailiff, good men and burgesses, that they may have a market to be held in the said borough and town to wit every Saturday. And four fairs there to be holden and kept to wit, one fair to be holden at Weyhill, within the Foreign Hundred aforesaid, on the day before the Feast of S. Michael the Archangel; another fair to be holden within the borough or town aforesaid on the day before the Feast of S. Leonard, and on the day of the Feast of S. Leonard, and on the day next after the Feast of S. Leonard; and another fair to be holden within the borough and town aforesaid, on Thursday and Friday in the third week of Lent; and another fair to be holden there yearly on the Feast of S. S. Philip and James, together with a court of Pie Poudre during the times of the said fairs, together with stallage, picage, fines, amerciaments, and all other profits, comodities and emoluments whatsoever of such markets, fairs and courts of Pie Poudre issuing, happening, arising and contingent and with all the liberties and free customs to such market and fairs appertaining and belonging."

This charter; which is the one still in force, altered the constitution of the governing body—substituted one bailiff for two, instituted capital burgesses and varied the franchise—but, practically, left Weyhill untouched. It had been going on for centuries and this charter did not affect it. The *Maneloquium* books¹ give records of the most memorable events from the time of Edward II., but I do not remember one single allusion in them to the fair at Weyhill until 1674. On the 26th July in that year we find what appears to be the first record preserved of the litigation that proved to be so lingering and tedious.²

The entry of proceedings for 16th May, 1681, mentions that "the king's matie hath been pleased to manifest great kindness to the Corporacon, and hath granted them the Andover market, and one fair to be held yearly in the said town on the last of August," (which would of course have done much to injure the fair held a month later). But "in the passing of the lrs patent it was by some contrivance stopt at the great seal by the Earl of Shaftesbury, when Lord Chancellor. And whereas some of the immunities and priveleges granted to the Corporacon are incertain, for the better ascertaining and noting whereof it is this day ordered that a surrender be made of the present charter of the Corporacon, and that a new charter be procured and obteyned from his matie with this fair and markett, and such other new previledges and advantages as may prove advantageous to the Corporacon, all which is to be done at the charge of the Corporacon."—*Liber C*, page 79.

The following year a similar entry was made, to which is appended the remark "Protested against per one Peter Blake."

In 1682, we read "Whereas his now matie was lately pleased to renew the charter of the Corporacon, and thereby to confirme and graunte unto the bayliff, &c. their ancient and several other new priveledges."—*Liber C*.

¹ The "*maneloquium* books" are minutes of the transactions at the maneloquium or morrow speech an assembly of the Bailiffs Forward men &c.

² I think it may be well to say here that I have calendered all the documents which exist relating to this protracted litigation, and they will be found under the letter F in the corporation muniments. The minutes of the Town Council at this date are recorded in "*Liber C*."

It must, however, be carefully noted that this new charter never came into force.

Then on 10th November, 1682, it is recorded, "Whereas the Corporacon of Andevor hath of late been exposed to great expense and charges in renewing the charter and defending of severall hearings before his matie's councell, touching the right of Weyhill faire, and maintaining the new priveleges graunted in and by the said charter. And whereas the Corporacon hath already taken up at interest the sume of one hundred and fifty pounds towards affraying thereof, which is not sufficient to discharge the same as appears by severall accounts this day produced. And whereas severall suits are already commenced, and more likely to arise, touching tryinge the right of the said fair."—*Liber C*, page 84.

Next in order of date follow a remarkable series of petitions and counter-petitions, of which one sample of each will suffice.

1682. PETITION TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIE FROM INHABITANTS OF RUMSEY AND THE PARTS ADJACENT, IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

That there hath always been from time immemorial a very great fayre yearly held and kept on the 28th, 29th, 30th dayes of September, at or upon Weyhill, on ye lands belonging to the Hospitall of Ewelme and Rector of the parish of Weyhill aforesaid, which fayre the Corporation of Andever pretend they have power to remove by virtue of a charter lately obteyned from your matie, which, if they should proceed toe do, it would be a very great losse and damage to your petitioners and many others your matie's loyall subjects, and alsoe may occasion the disturbance of the public peace, there being no place near so commodious and capable of receiving so great numbers of people as resort and cattle as are usually brought thither.

Wherefore, may it please your matie, in consideracion of the premises, graciously to order that the clause in Andever charter relating to the sayd fayre to be repealed, and your petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

To this are appended 75 signatures. Other petitions on the same side are from Fordingbridge, Winchester, Blandford, Dorset, Doctor Luff, your Majestie's Professor in the University of Oxford, Master of the Hospital at Ewelme.

The counter-petitions were worded in this way:—

FROM INHABITANTS OF THE TOWNE AND BOROUGH OF MARLBOROUGH, IN THE COUNTY OF WILTS, BEING WITHIN TWELVE MILES (OR THEREABOUTS) OF WAYHILL.

Having being informed that severall remote townes and places have preferred unto his matie and his houle. privy counsell several false and clamorous petitions upon the importunity of Mr. Drake and some other

of his adherents, concerning a fayre yearly kept on Weyhill, and other priveleges and immunities lately granted by his matie to the towne and corporation of Andever, in the county of South'ton, and the said town had intentions to remove the said faire some distance from the said hill. Wee do dislike suche theyre vexatious proceedings thereon, and doe believe that in case the faire be kept on any part of the ground called Wayhill, yt can be noe damage or prejudice to them or us or any other persons whatsoever that have any trade or comerce att the saide fafre. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands, the tenth day of November, anno dom. 1682.

To this there are 54 signatures. Similar counter-petitions were from Ramsbury, Wilts; Ludgershall, Wilts; Great Bedwynne, Wilts; Rumsey, Mayor and Aldermen of Rumsey.

Next in date is a letter from the Mr. Drake mentioned above, who held of Ewelme College, the Manor of Ramridge, which shows that the contention was over the insertion of the words "these additional privileges, viz. to keep Weyhill fayre apud Wayhill, or in tali convenienti loco, where the bayliffe, steward and two or three justices of them shall think fit." He encloses an order from the king—"Yt the parties herein respectively concerned doe by their counsell learned attend the council chamber on the first Fryday in November next ensuing." The trials that ensued were:—

- 1.—John Luffe, Dr. of Phisick, and Thomas Dixon, Plts., and Walter Robinson, Bayliffe of Andover, Dett. "It appeared to the court that the bayliffe and corporacon of Andever, by their antient charters and usage, had a right to keepe Wayhill faire (the thing then in question) on any place on Wayhill, and that the plaintiffs had noe right to a faire, or any good prescription to bar the deft's. right in keeping the sayde faire on any place on Wayhill. Yett the jury, contrary to the evidence and contrary to the directions of the court, gave their verdict for the plaintiffs.
- 2.—Between same parties, 'at the Barr of the Exchequer.'—"It did appeare upon the evidence that the faire had been removed from the place where it was antiently kept, and that the plaintiff had not any title to a fayre, nor any good prescription to barr defendant's right of keeping it upon any place on Weyhill, yet the Jewry, contrary to the direction given by the court.....gave their verdict for the plaintiff.
- 3.—By a jury of gentn. of Middx., who gave their verdict for the towne, which verdict is exemplied and nothing said against it.
- 4.—"Is the special verdict sett forth verbatim on the other side of this paper, which says that Andever has the right of the said faire."

An appeal was made to the House of Lords against the order of the court, with the result that it was ordered by the Lord Chancellor that the master state the case, specially of the last three fairs, Mr. Attorney General to hear both parties, who are to attend him at his house in Hampshire, and he is desired to mediate.

They according went to Sir S. Clarke, at Highclere, at 10 in the morning. Both parties having given bond to abide by his decision, this was in August, 1686. But, meanwhile, 16th June, 1685, another action was commenced by the Master of Ewelme against the Bailiff, on the ground that on a former occasion the jury was prejudiced, some of them bred up in Queen's Collidge in Oxford, and so preingaged or interested persons and the said collidge at the charge of the suit.

Sir S. Clarke's report contains the statement—"I find by ye proofes in the cause that the Plt. Drake did in the years 1683, 1684, 1685, receive for the profitts of the said fair in the said yeares as followeth, vizt.:-

By the sheep	150,00,00
By the leather and hops .. .	010,00,00
By booths	021,00,00
By stalles, cheese and other small profitts ..	045,00,00

Makeing in all	226,10,00
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Out of which is to be discompted :-

For repairing of the hurdles yearley 10 li, out of which must be deducted yearly 2 li as money made of the old hurdles, soe that there remaines ..	08 li
per ann. clere, which for the said three yeares comes to	24,00,00

For carriage of the hurdles to and fro yearly, 2 l.; for thatching them yearly, 01,10,00; for wattling the hurdles yearly, 01. li; and for Mr. Drake's interest for the stocke of hurdles proved to be worth about 70 li, the yearly sum of 4 li. All which payments make 08,10,00 yearly, and for the said three years the sum is

Both which sumes discompted as aforesaid come to	049,10,00
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Which being taken out of the 226,10,00 aforesaid there doth remaine	177,00,00
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Which 177 li is clere money recd. by the said, compt., Mr. Drake, over and above all reprisals for the profitts of the said faire for the said three years.

But the plt. doth insist that the saide faire for the said three years was held upon Mr. Drake's owne land, and that Mr. Drake recd. the said profitts for pickage and stallage and the use of his hurdles onely, which materials were provided by him at his own charge. And that the Bayliffe of Andever did in all the three years aforesaid receive the profitts of tolles, weights, scales, shoo pence and tapp money, as Lords of the faire. All which I humbly certify and subscribe to the judgement of this honble. court." S. Clarke: (F. 29)

1687. The special report of Sir S. Clarke, Knt., coming before the Lord Chancellor, and argued, it is ordered that the report do stand and that the plts. do pay the £177 to the defts. The sum was paid the same year.

Actions were now commenced—W. Drake, Esq. *versus* Thos. Wate, sen., William Browne, jun., and William Thomas—in trespass, 1690, down for trial at Winchester.

Kuff *versus* Barwick, at the King's Bench, 4th Feb., 1690-91.
Then the Master, &c. of Ewelme *versus* Nicholas Flower,
Bailliff, for contempt.

The Town of Andover *v.* Dr. Thomas Dixon (Dr. Dixon was rector of Weyhill, 1682-1722). The result of this was a reference to Sir Robert Sawyer, Knight, Attorney General, who directed that the said Corporation should "relinquish to the said Dr. Dixon the three years' profits by them received, and also his part of the costs. And that the Corporacon of Andever should have the true use of all the gleab lands on Weyhill for keeping the fayre thereon, and should pay to the said Dr. Dixon, yearly, the sum of twenty pounds."

But Dr. Dixon "refused to stand to the said articles, and petitioned that he might proceed with his action against the Corporation." And it was at length agreed that "such part of the fair as hath been antiently kept on the parcel of gleab land, shall in future be kept on the same plot," and that the Corporation shall have the sole use of it, for the fair time paying thirty-five pounds a year to the rector, and that they shall have the right to stack their hurdles on the glebe.

One does not, as a rule, look to lawyers bills as likely to afford light and amusing reading, but Mr. Dowling, the Town Clerk, in the account rendered for his part of these proceedings has contrived to introduce so many indications of the manners and customs of his cloth, that it is at once curious and entertaining.

1 Sep.	My expenses vp to L'don & down and on the			
1690.	Clarks & officers of ye Cort. ..	..	1	10 6
	To Sr. Charles Porter ..	..	2	3 0
	his clerk ..	..	0	2 6
	to Sejt. Killingworth..	..	2	3 9
	his man ..	..	0	2 6
	Mr. Squibb ..	..	0	10 0
	Affidt filing and copy ..	..	0	5 6
	Coach to Hamstead and expenses there ..	..	0	5 4
	pd. Mr. Stone to copy Brevatts..	..	0	5 0
	The Lords Comrs. officers had in all ..	..	0	16 6
	lre ..	..	0	0 2
			8	4 0
	Rec. ..	..	6	10 0
	payd then more than recd ..	..	1	14 0
	besydes horse hyre ..	..	0	10 0
			2	4 0

1690.	I payd Nat Webb for horse hyre for 17 dayes			
Weyhill	for his horse to Weyhill, Winton, Combe,			
faire.	Tedworth, Chute and to Weyhill many			
	dayes before and after the faire ..	0	17	0
	Besydes the moneys pd by Mr. Bayliffe Bar-			
	wicke to Council and in Court, I disbursed	0	10	0
	My coach hyre and expenses vp purposely			
	to the hearing the beginning of the terme			
	and stay 10 dayes on it ..	1	15	4
	To Mr. Guydott ..	1	0	0
	To Moring to warne some men ..	0	2	6
	Spt att Angell on some witnesses ..	0	2	6
	on others at Winton ..	0	4	6
	The expenses of my horse, &c, in ye Inne ..	0	6	4
	Pd the officers for placing wittnesses at tryall	0	8	6
	Horse hyre & expenses vp and sending downe	0	17	6
	My expenses the first 5 dayes ..	0	12	6
	To Mr. Squibb for his advice and dr. pleas ..	0	10	0
	To Sejt. Pemperton ye like ..	1	1	8
	lrs to and from abt yt affair of the pleas ..	0	1	10
	Drawing Breviatts in 2 causes, 3 copies each,			
	and attendance ..	1	0	0
	I pd halfe a crown to gett off W. Thomas ..	0	2	6
1691.	My expenses vp to the hearing on the Equity			
	reserved and 8 daye attend thereon ..	1	15	0
	Copies of declar and close copy lres ..	0	0	10
	Reteyned Mr. Holt ..	1	1	8
	I pd the Register for his hand to the order ..	0	4	0
	Spt on him then ..	0	3	6
	My journey vp and stay a weeke in Andever's			
	buisnesse ..	1	18	0
1691.	My coach hyre, horse hyre and expenses vp			
11 Sep.	and downe to and from London and stay			
	there 3 days, & spent on the messenger in all	2	1	9
20 Sep.	Oath and expenses up to London ..	0	16	6
1691.	Sjt Thomas Powis ..	2	3	4
	Sr Ambrose Phillipps ..	2	3	4
	Their Clarkes ..	0	5	0
	To Mr. Bratherton ..	1	0	0
	To Mr. Squibb ..	0	10	0
	To Mr. English to gett the private seale ..	1	1	8
	Spt att the S Johns head tavern on the Reg-			
	ister, Mr. Guydott, Clarkes in Court & officers	0	18	6
	Pd fees for the private seale ..	2	2	6
	Spt the first night at a meeting of or Councell,			
	Mr. Bramston at Ks head tavern ..	0	7	4
	My other expenses whilst in towne ..	0	3	6
	Coach and expenses downe ..	0	17	0
1692	To Mr. Guydott 2 guineas, Mr. Squibb 2 G,			
	his drawing 5 case in p'liamt for ye presse	5	9	2
	Coach with Mr. East and Mr. Cooper ..	0	1	0
	Mr. Peasley had of me to attend some Lords	1	1	10
	lres and parcels and porter ..	0	3	2
	My expenses and coach vp and downe and in			
	London ..	3	05	0
17 Mar.	My journey to London to remove the shoul-			
9 th	diers, pd and expended in searches and fees			
	at Whitehall, and expenses in my journey			
	vp to London, downe and in towne ..	2	16	4

The following extract from the Council book will carry down the history of the fair sufficiently near to our own time to make the present position intelligible :—

"Ordered that a lease be taken of Mr. Richard Kent, of Blissmore Acre att Weyhill, for seaven years from ye date att tenn guineas per ann. rent."

There is no entry of the formal appointment of Trustees, but that was apparently one of the next steps, for we find one of Leases (numbered L. 12. 1.) is an

"Indenture between the Bailiff and Corporation of Andever and Joseph Wimbleton of Andever, gent, Edward Warham of Andever, Nicholas Flower of Andever, and Robert Hillman of Andever, Trustees of Fairs and Markets to receive all Tolls, &c., and to pay over to the use of the Corporation and to hold in trust the Lease of the Glebe Land called Whitecroft at Weyhill, from Dr. Dixon Rector of Weyhill, for 50 years from the 15th September to the 15th October in each year with liberty to keep a stack or pile of hurdles there at the rent of £5 for the first two years and afterwards of £9, which lease is dated 2 June 1700."

The counter-part Indenture is L. 12. 2.

"In 1729 Articles of Agreement (L. 12. 3.) were signed between the Rev. Joseph Todhunter Rector of Weyhill and the Bailiff and Corporation of Andover, to let for 21 years the glebe at Weyhill for a sheep fair at the yearly rent of £46 less rates &c., and to sell the hurdles at a valuation."

And among the papers there is the following receipt :

"Weyhill Sep. 27 1729.

"Received then of Mr. Thomas Woodman Bailiffe of Andover the sum of fourty six pounds by John Hacker being in full for ye rent due on account of ye sheep fair holden on the glebe this year.

"Received I say by me

"JOSEPH TODHUNTER

"Rector of Weyhill."

I have only as yet found records of two sittings of the Court of Pie Poudre, and they are both among the entries of the Hundred Court, but I am by no means sure there may not be others. One held in 1572 is headed :—

Weyhill.	Court held at Weyhill the last day but one in September, in the xv th year of the Queen aforesaid. John Bene, plaintiff, against Thomas Rooke; William Gormell, plaintiff, against Henry Skeate; Henry Tumks, clerk, plaintiff, against — Smith; Joseph Hugo, plaintiff, against Emele Vrell.
Let a summons be issued.	Edmunde Morell, plaintiff, against Richard Jones, on a plea of debt.
Let a summons be issued.	Robert Vell, plt., against Richard Gyatt, on a plea.

Up Clatford.	The tithing man there, &c., sworn, comes and presents all well.
Ann Abbatis.	The tithing man there, &c., comes and presents all well.
Sarson and Tudworth:	The tithing there comes and presents all well.
Amport.	The tithing man there comes and presents all well.
Cholderton and Appleshaw.	The tithing man there comes and presents all well.
Fifelde.	The tithing man there comes and presents all well.
Penton Grafton.	The tithing man there comes and presents all well.
Foxcotte.	The tithing man there comes and presents all well.
Knights Enham.	The tithing man there comes and presents all well.
Hatherden Manor.	The tithing man there makes default . . . in the manor.

It will be seen that there is no more in this record of the court of pie poudre than would be in any ordinary record of the Hundred Court or of the View of Franc pledge for the Out Hundred, and the same is true of the other instance which was held in 1578.

Weyhill.	A court of pie poudre held there the Twenty-ninth day of September, in the Twenty-first year of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c., in the time of Robert Noyce and Robert Hibbard, Bailiffs of Andover.
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But at a later date we get indications of practices not yet obsolete. Among the indictments preserved at the Town Hall, are the following :—

1699. John Daniell late of Portsmouth, labourer is a person of bad repute, and on 30 September at Weyhill, obtained and took away from Richard Wallis by a certain deceptive game called cuppes and balls ten shillings.
1697. Caleb Clarke of London Victualler, Benjamin Arnold of Southwark and William Stevens of London gent and John Bryant of the city of Norwich, clothmaker, are persons of ill repute and on 28th September 1697 at Weyhill stole certain pieces of gold called guineas from Richard Mowland by a certain deceptive game with cards.

		Dowling.
Benjamin Arnold	}	pleaded separately
and John Bryant		not guilty
and pray travesty at the next Session of the peace.		
Endorsed Witness—Richard Mowland, sworn.		
As to Benjamin Arnold	}	True
John Bryant		
As to Caleb Clarke	}	We do not
and William Stevens		know.

Among the traditions clinging to Weyhill Fair is one of a practice which has but very recently died out, and is indeed by some still held in regretful memory. The rough ceremonial which was called "Horning the Colts." Anyone who had not attended the fair before either in the Hop-rows or otherwise was deemed "a colt," and was initiated or "made free" by the following rite, which seems to have come down from an early date.

The new hand was seated in a chair, in one of the inns, among the regular frequenters of that particular house, and on his head was placed a hat adorned with two horns, between which was fixed a "cup." The officiant stood before him and sang the following strain, the rest of the company joining in the chorus, which was repeated several times:—

"So swift runs the hare and so cunning runs the fox,
Why sholdn't this young heifer grow up to be an ox,
And drink with his daddy with a large pair of horns.

Chorus—With a large pair of horns."

This ceremonial was practised at "The Sun," "The Star," "The Bell," and one or two other public-houses. The lines were repeated to me by Mr. Farmer, of the "Red Lion," Clanville, and have been approved as correct by many whom I have consulted. But Mr. Shore suggests a variant which he remembered:—

"So swift runs the hare, so keen runs the fox,
Why should not this young calf grow up to be an ox,
And get his own living among briars and thorns,
And drink like his daddy with a large pair of horns?

Chorus—Horns, boys, horns, horns, boys, horns,
And drink like his daddy with a large pair of horns."

When this chorus was over the head dress was handed down and the newly initiated drank the beer with which the cup had been filled and had to pay for half a gallon more, which was consumed by the company. It is very possible that the exact words may have differed at the various houses, as the fashion of the head gear varied, but I have found nothing to lead me to believe there was any omission of the last part of the ceremonial.

The illustration (Pl. I. fig. 2) represents the "horns" in this case from the head of a ram, which was in use at a public-house on the fair ground now no longer in existence,

and are now in my possession. But I had a description of those which were used at "The Bell," which were, I gather, the horns of a fallow deer. The headpiece in that instance was of wood shaped like a "Billycock hat with the band and all" painted green, and on a metal plate in front it bore the inscription "Better times coming." The "cup" was of wood varnished, in shape like a rummer or drinking glass with a stem and it was tied to the horns by a blue ribbon. Unfortunately these "very old fashioned old things" having become rotten with time and use were consigned to the copper fire about the close of the last decade, the horns proving themselves "very hard to burn."

The horns which were kept at the Star have unfortunately been mislaid owing to a change of landlord. They were described to me as rams horns gilded at the tips, and the head piece carved to resemble some animal's head "like a dog with an open mouth which was painted red inside."

Mention is made in Woodward of a fire at Weyhill Fair, October 15, 1784.

This must be the same disaster as is referred to in a Brief, the particulars for which were certified at the Quarter Sessions at Winchester, 26 George III., (B.M. Bxxvi. 1.) and is an instance of the very lax way in which these pernicious begging facilities were used. It is stated in that Brief "That on the fifteenth day of October one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four a sudden and terrible fire broke out at Weyhill Fair in the Parish of Penton Grafton in the said county of Southampton in a booth there called the White Hart booth kept by the said James Barham which fire instantly spreading in a short time consumed the said booth called the White Hart booth and several other booths and standings and large quantities of hops with sundry goods wares and merchandise."

The damage is said to amount to £880, and among the receivers is the Reverend Nathaniel Bristoo, Vicar. Who he was I do not know, he may have been a curate, but certainly was never incumbent.

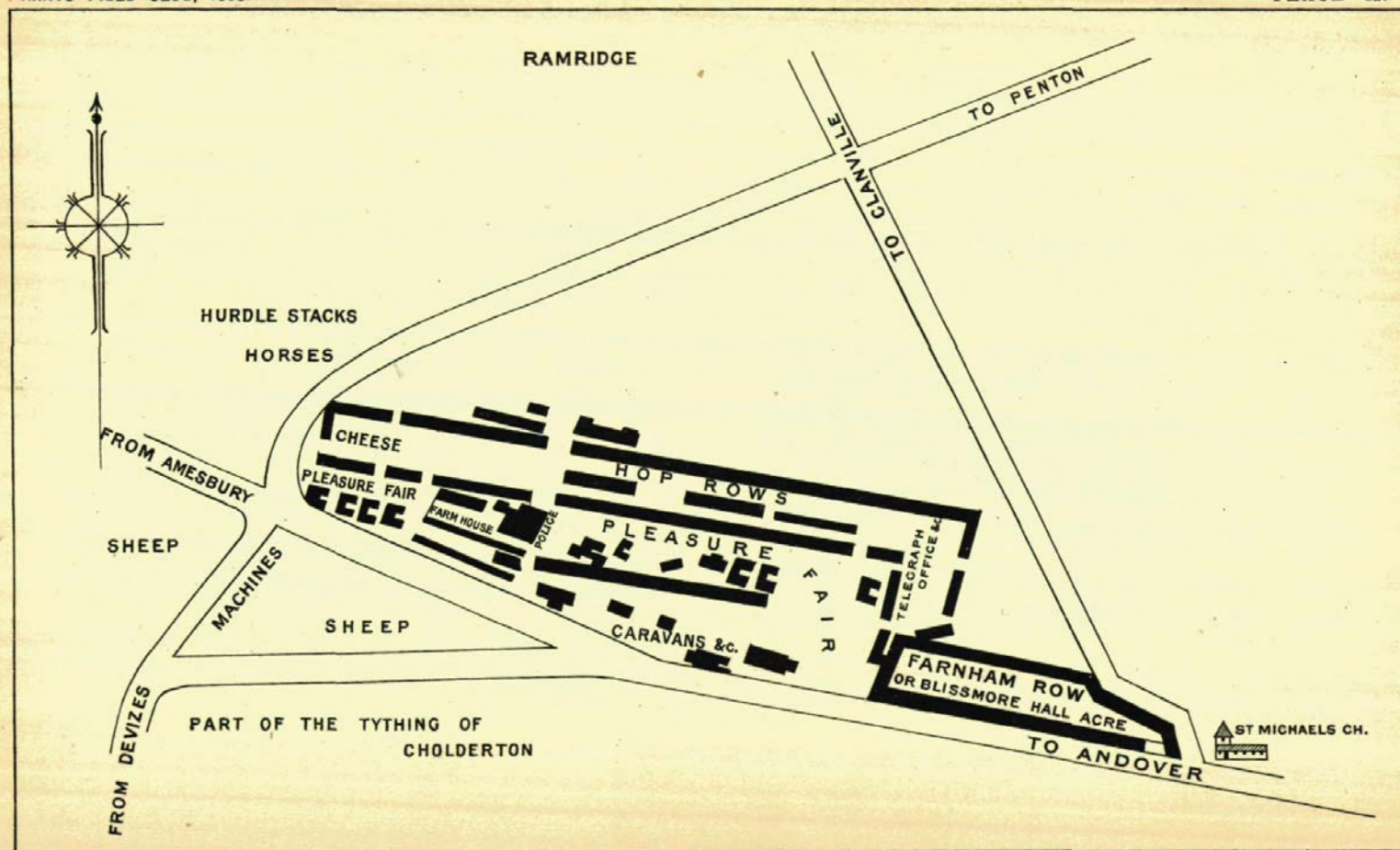
A view is given of a booth (Pl. I. fig. 1) which stands at the angle between two of the rows marked A on the accompanying plan: Although it has been repaired and beautified

it is obviously one of the older of these erections as shown by its "mud" walls and thatched roof. The gates mark the entrance to the hop row (Blissmore Hall acre), and the building at the corner with the slated roof is where the cheeses are sold.

These booths are let by public auction some time before Michaelmas. The late Mr. F. Tabor who held under Ewelme College, at his death bequeathed his holding in shares to his children. One of these shares was sold by Messrs. Ellen, 10 Nov., 1893. It was described as "a one ninth share of the profits arising from the rents, tolls, dues, &c., receivable in respect of the noted Weyhill fair."

The accompanying plan (Pl. II.) shews the positions of the booths and general arrangement of the Fair, held in October, 1895.





PLAN OF THE FAIR GROUND, AT WEYHILL, SHEWING THE BOOTHS AND PERMANENT BUILDINGS, 1895.