

## ON THE MANOR OF WOODGARSTON AND SOME DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO.

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Woodgarston or Wodegarstone is a tything and manor in the parish of Monk Sherborne, in the hundred of Basingstoke, situated about five miles to the north-west of that town, on the road to Kingsclere. The place is chiefly remarkable for the small circular hill fort of about 120 yards in circumference, with a deep surrounding ditch. Situated in a commanding position, over 500 feet above the level of the sea, near the two great Roman roads leading from Silchester to Old Sarum and from Silchester to Winchester, it was probably used as a Roman station; but its origin is doubtless British. The name contains the Celtic word '*caer*' or '*gaer*,' Anglice 'fort,' and thus Woodgarston would signify the fortified enclosure in the wood—the manor of Woodgarston. It comprises about 415 acres, made up of 275 acres round the old fort and five other detached portions, forming a chain of irregular islands in the parish of Wootton St. Lawrence, extending from near Ramsdale church on the north to the South-Western Railway on the south. This manor has a most interesting and complete history from the time of the Conquest, when, according to the Domesday Survey (1088), it formed part of the possessions of the great Norman baron, Hugh de Port, and was held by him, together with the manor of Nateley, of the Lords of Basing and their barony,<sup>1</sup> by the military service of one knight's fee.

In the reign of Henry I. the two manors, Woodgarston and Nateley, were granted by John de Port to *Matthew de Scures*, hence the name of the parish Nateley Scures. Matthew, with the assent and consent of Robert de Scures, his heir, granted Woodgarston to his son Matthew for one-fifth of a knight's fee.

<sup>1</sup> Millard's *History of Basingstoke*, p. 59.

The Scures family were the ancient lords of the manor of Wickham (Hants); and it is interesting to remember that Wickham's first patron was John de Scures, Sheriff of Hampshire and constable of Winchester Castle, circa 1338.<sup>2</sup>

In 1381, *John de Uvedale* married Sibilla, the heiress of the Scures family and Woodgarston was possessed by the Uvedale family. In 1619 the manor passed from the Uvedales to *William Wither*, of Manydown, and it remained in the Wither family until 1871, when it was sold to the present owner *Sir Edward Bates, Bart.*

Among the ancient deeds relating to this manor of Woodgarston, in the possession of the writer, is one here given of 10th Henry III. (1226) concerning the services in the chapel attached to the manor house. It seems that the Prior of the Benedictine House of Monk Sherborne, about three miles distant, was under obligation to serve the chapel, which he failed to do. James de Scures referred the matter to the Pope. The deed recites letters from Honorius III. appointing a commission consisting of the Priors of Carisbrook, I.W., and of Southwick, near Portchester, and 'Master Luke, of Sarum' to enquire into and settle the business. Their award was, and it was agreed, that the Prior and monks of Sherborne were bound to provide for the 'celebration of the Divine office' on three days a week and on certain festivals. Further that when the Scures family were at home, the chaplain, after the service, should have a meal provided for him in the house, and that in consideration of his services certain messuages on the manor should be granted by the lord to the Prior and convent. This is a remarkable instance of the all-embracing jurisdiction of the Papacy in the middle ages, that a dispute about the obligation to serve a small chapel in an out-of-the-way place like Woodgarston, in distant England, should come under the far-reaching ken of Pope Innocent III. at his residence at Reate, in Italy.

The court-yard of the manor house, now used by farm labourers, is still bricked and paved, and the ruins of the chapel are remembered by more than one old resident.

<sup>2</sup> See Moberley's *History of William of Wykeham*.

Sciatis presentes et futuri quod Ego archiepiscopus de Scures dedi et cessu cessu et al  
sensu Roberti de Scures heredis mei archiepiscopo filio meo per servitium eius regni  
meam de Wudegarstun cum omnibus pertinentiis suis libere et quiete tene  
dam de me et de heredibus meis. scilicet et heredibus suis in bosco in plano in pas  
tuis in viis et semitis et in omnibus aliis rebus ad eandem regiam pertinentibus  
faciendo inde in et heredibus meis per omnibus servitiis servitium contra partem unam  
agratas. Et ut hoc donatio mea rata et inconvulsa permaneat eam presentem  
et carta et sigillo meo confirmavi. Testibus hiis. Godefrido pater Sulstrensis  
et fratribus eius loci. Willmo Capello de Wiche. Ricardus de la Bega. Rob de Sed  
Clay. Willmo de halshelle. Alano filius Alani. Willms de Scures. Willmo de  
la Bega. Rob de hauge. Willmo frater. Henricus cipo. Will de Bayocis.

UNDATED DEED (XII cent.)

Grant by Matthew de Scures, of land at Woodgarston (Hants,) with the consent of his heir Robert de Scures to Matthew his son (2nd or Grandson?) Size of original on vellum, 6½ by 4½ inches, tabs attached, but seal gone.



We here give the *facsimile* of an undated deed, probably of the 12th century, together with an extension of the Latin text and a translation of the same. The original, on vellum, has been trimmed down close to the writing and is of the size of the facsimile, measuring  $6\frac{3}{4}$  by  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The tabs are attached, but the seal is gone. We also subjoin an extension with a translation of the deed of 1226, with the translation of a lease 1331, mentioning the furniture of the chapel and giving the names of old farm instruments. Also abstracts of later deeds which differ but little from those preceding. These translations, made by the late Rev. R. H. Clutterbuck, F.S.A., of Penton Mewsey, have been revised by Mr. A. W. Kirkaldy, of Oxford, a skilled archivist, who has also kindly extended the undated deed and that deed of 1226. Of the former he says: "by the writing I should date the document between 1160 and 1170 A.D.; it clearly belongs to the second half of the 12th century." Of the latter Mr. Kirkaldy writes: "the deed of 1226 which measures, full size, 11 by 7 inches, with good margin, is a difficult one to read. At the period when it was written, men either became very economical or else parchment was scarce, hence abbreviations abound, and a great deal is written on a very small skin. In this case the small piece of parchment extends into three sheets of modern foolscap. It is interesting to note that the known Itinerary of Honorius III. confirms the date of the papal Bull."

## I.

## FACSIMILE.

GRANT OF LAND AT WUDEBARESTONE (*sic*) BY MATTHEW DE SCURES WITH THE CONSENT OF HIS HEIR ROBERT DE SCURES TO MATHEW DE SCURES HIS SON. (XII CENT.)

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod Ego Matheus de Scures dedi et concessi, concessu et assensu Roberti de Scures heredis mei Matheo filio meo pro servicio ejus, terram meam de Wudebarestone cum omnibus pertinenciis suis, libere et quiete tenendam de me et de heredibus meis, sibi et heredibus suis, in boxo, in plano, in pasturis, in viis et semitis, et in omnibus aliis rebus ad eandem terram pertinentibus faciendo inde mihi et heredibus meis pro omnibus serviciis serviciū



quinte partis unius militis. Et at hec donatio mea rata et inconcussa permaneant, eam presenti Karta et Sigillo meo confirmavi. Testibus his Guidone priore Suwiciensi, et Fratribus ejusdm loci; Willelmo Capellano de Wichamia; Ricardo de la Bera; Roberto de Sancto Claro; Willelmo de Halliwelle; Alano filio Alani; Willelmo de Scures; Willelmo de la Bere; Roberto de Hache; Willelmo fratre; Henrico Crispo; Willelmo de Bajocis.

## TRANSLATION.

Know (all men) present and to come that I Matthew de Scures have given and granted, and with the consent and assent of Robert de Scures my heir to Matthew my son for his service my land of Wudebarestone with all its appurtenances freely and quietly to hold of me and of my heirs to him and his heirs in wood, in plain, in pasture, in roads and footpaths and in all other things appertaining to the same land, on rendering thence to me and my heirs for all services the service of a fifth part of one knight's fee. And that this my gift may remain firm and unshaken I have confirmed it in this present charter and with my seal. These being witnesses, Guy prior of Southwick and the brethren of the said place, William Chaplain of Wickham, Richard de la Bere, Robert of Saint Clare, William de Halliwelle, Alan the son of Alan, William de Scures, William de la Bere, Robert de Hache, William (his brother, Henry Crisp, William de Bayeux.

The seal is lost. Endorsed on back, "*Wodcastone*."

## II.

DEED 2ND HENRY III. (1226) CONCERNING OBLIGATION OF  
THE PRIOR AND CONVENT OF MONK SHERBORNE TO SERVE  
THE CHAPEL AT WOODGARSTON.

Omnibus scilicet fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit J de Karesbroc et L de Suwykt priores, et Magister Lucas canonicus Sarisburiae salutem in domino Noverit universitas vestra nos literas domini papae suscepisse in haec verba. Honorius episcopus Servus servorum Dei dilectis filiis de Karesbroc et de Suwykt prioribus Wintoniensi diocesis et magistro L Canonico Sarisburiae Salutem et Apostolicam benedictionem; Jacobus de Scures patronus

Capelle de Wodegarstonia sua nobis petitione monstravit quod cum Prior de Schereburna Wintoniensi Diocese tribus diebus in ebdomada teneatur in ipsa capella divina facere officia celebrari, predictus prior id efficere denegat contra compositionem inter ipsos super hoc amicabilem initam temere veniendo Ideoque discretioni vestre per Apostolica scripta mandamus quatenus partibus Convocatis audiatur Causam et appellatione remota fine debito terminetur facienti quod decreveritis per censuram ecclesiasticam firmiter observari Testes autem qui fuerint nominati si se supra odio vel timore subtraxerint per censuram eandem appellatione cessante Cogantur veritati testimonium perhibere quod si non omnes hiis exequendis potueritis interesse duo vestrum ea nichilominus exequatur. Datum Reate nono Kalendas februarii pontificatus nostri anno decimo. Harum ergo auctoritate litterarum partibus in presentia nostra constitutis in ecclesia Sancte Marie apud Novas Sarisburias cum diu esset causa ventilata de consilio discretorum et juris peritorum Communi et unanimi assensu ipsarum partium amicabilem hac fine conquivit videlicet quod W Prior et ejus successores qui pro tempore fuerint et conventus de Schireburnia Wintoniensi diocese per Capellanum idoneum facient ter in ebdomada divina celebrari in Capella de Wodegarstonia scilicet die Dominica quarta et Sexta feria et si forte Capellanus aliqua causa rationabili prepediente predictis diebus in capella non celebraverit aliis diebus id supplebit ita tamen quod singulis ebdomadis ibidem ter divina celebrabuntur porro in festivitibus subscriptis scilicet in die nativitatis Domini in die Epiphanie in omnibus festivitibus Beate Marie Virginis in die ascensionis Domini in festo Beati Nicholi si feria secunda tertia quinta vel Sabbato evenerit in dicta capella divina facient celebrari diem cum die compensando ad hoc predictus Jacobus et uxor ejus et eorum heredes cum apud Wodegarstoniam fuerint residenti capellanus qui ibidem missam celebraverit et ejus clericus in domo predicti Jacobi et heredum suorum victum suum habebunt et ut predicti prior et conventus ad hoc facilius inducerentur et ob sustentationem Capellani in dicta Capella ministranti predictus Jacobus Collatione unius hide terre eis predecessoribus suis factam ratam habendo confirmavit preterea dedit

eis et quiete Clamavit totum servicium regale predictę hıde quod ipse et antecessores sui inde percipere solebant et ipsam hidam terre tanquam liberam et perpetuam elemosinam de serviciis regalibus dicti Jacobus et heredes sui acquitaverunt dedit insuper dictus Jacobus eisdem tria messuagia in Wottonia scilicet messuagia quae Gervasius et Agnes et Ysabella tenuerunt eis tenenda et habenda in perpetuum et confirmavit eis duo messuagia in eadem villa cum terra eisdem messuagia quae Serlo cementarius et Rogerus Buye tēuerunt eis a Matheo patre ipsius Jacobi ob dictum servicium in eadem capella habendum collata libera et quieta ab omnibus secularibus exactionibus eisdem Jacobo et heredibus suis pertinentibus. Nos ergo auctoritate Sanctarum litterarum suffulti dictam compositionem a partibus inviolabiliter in jure prestito cum adjectione pene decem marcarum a parte dictam compositionem violante quod absit parti eandem observanti persolvende dicta ccompositione rata nichilominus permanente roboratam judicialiter confirmavimus jurisdictionem et cohersionem partium si quod absit vellent contravenire nobis reservanti. In cujus rei testimonium presenti scripto signa nostra cum sigillo partium munito apposuimus. Actum anno ab incarnatione Domini X<sup>mo</sup> C C<sup>mo</sup> XXVI<sup>mo</sup> in ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis apud Novas Sarisburias.

## TRANSLATION.

To all faithful people to whom this present writing shall come, J prior of Carisbrooke and L prior of Suthwick, and Master Luke canon of Salisbury,<sup>1</sup> greeting in the Lord. Know all men that we have received letters from the Lord Pope in these words, "Honorius, Bishop, servant of the servants of God to our beloved sons the priors of Carisbrooke, and of Suthwick in the diocese of Winchester, and to Master Luke, canon of Salisbury, greeting and apostolic benediction James de Scures patron of the Chapel of Wodegarston has shown us by his petition that whereas the Prior of Sherborne in the Diocese of Winchester is bound to celebrate the Divine office<sup>2</sup> in that chapel three days a week. The aforesaid prior

<sup>1</sup> *Salisbury*—New Sarum commenced 1220 A. D. by Bishop Pboe by license from Pope Honorius.

<sup>2</sup> Divine office=Mass.



refuses to do it, coming only casually in contravention of the agreement made between them in a friendly way as to this Wherefore we command by Apostolic letter that at your discretion, the parties having been summoned, the case (*causa(m)* is the nom here) shall be heard and without right of appeal, brought to a satisfactory settlement (*fine debito terminetur*.) You making (*facienti*) sure that what you have decided, shall be firmly observed on pain of ecclesiastical censure. If moreover the witnesses who have been nominated withdraw themselves, owing either to prejudice or fear, they shall be compelled as defaulters to the summons to bear witness to the truth on pain of the same censure. If however you cannot all be there to carry out these matters let two of you suffice for the execution of this. Given at Rieti<sup>1</sup> the ninth. of the Kalends of February (*i.e.* Jan. 24) the tenth year of our Pontificate.<sup>2</sup> By authority of these letters the parties being brought together in our presence in the Church of St. Mary at Salisbury, when the case has been discussed for a long while by the advice of discreet men learned in the law, and by the unanimous assent of the parties themselves, the matter was amicably arranged by this settlement. To wit that Prior William and his successors for the time being, and the Convent of Sherborne in the Diocese of Winchester, shall, by a suitable chaplain, cause the Divine office to be celebrated in the chapel of Wodegarston three times a week, to wit Sunday, Wednesday and Friday, and if by chance the chaplain being hindered by some reasonable cause has not celebrated on the aforesaid days in the chapel he shall supply the lack on other days, so that in each week there shall always be three celebrations of the Divine office there. Furthermore on the festivals mentioned below, to wit: the feast of the Nativity of our Lord, the Epiphany on all feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Ascension Day, on the feast of St. Nicholas. If it happen on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday, they shall cause Mass to be celebrated, letting one

<sup>1</sup> A small town 40 miles N.E. of Rome.

<sup>2</sup> The 10th year of Honorius began on the 24th July, 1225 and ended 23rd July, 1226—thus the date of this is 24th January, 1226. Honorius was as a matter of fact at Rieti from the 15th to the 31st January, 1226 cf Morlatrie *Tresor de Chronologie*, col. 1115 (Itinerary of Honorius.)

day make up for another. To this end, when the aforesaid James and his wife and their heirs are living at Woodgarston, the Chaplain, who shall have celebrated mass, and his clerk shall have their meals in the house of the aforesaid James and his heirs. And that the aforesaid Prior and Convent may the more easily be induced to do this, and for the sustenance of the Chaplains ministering in the said Chapel, the aforesaid James has confirmed and ratified the gift of a hide of land made to them by his predecessors, he has also given to them quit claim for the whole Royal dues of the aforesaid hide of land, which he and his ancestors were accustomed to receive thence. The said James and his heirs have acquitted this hide of land as free perpetual Francalmoigne from the royal dues. The said James has also given them three messuages at Wotton, to wit: the messuages which Gervase and Agnes and Isabella held, to hold and to have for ever, and has confirmed to them two messuages in the same township with the land lying behind the same messuages, to wit: the messuage which Serlo the mason and Roger Buye held, given to them by Matthew, the father of the said James, to be held free and quit of all secular burdens, belonging to the same James and his heirs, in return for the said services to be performed in the said Chapel. We therefore, supported by the authority of the said letters, have confirmed the said compact, to be for ever inviolably observed by the parties on the bodily oath vouched for in court of the said parties,<sup>1</sup> a penalty of ten marks being added, to be paid by the party which breaks the said compact (quod absit) to the party which keeps it. The said compact nevertheless not being broken thereby, but continuing for ever, reserving to ourselves the jurisdiction over and coercion of the parties, if they should wish (quod absit) to contravene (this agreement). In witness of which matter we have set our signs to this present writing, thus confirmed by the seals of the parties. Done in the year of the Incarnation of our Lord, MCCXXVI. In the church of St. Mary, at Salisbury.

<sup>1</sup> "A partibus inviolabiliter in perpetuum observandum ipsarum partium Sacramento Corporaliter in jure prestito:—to be for ever inviolably observed by the parties (confirmed) by oath taken upon themselves personally (corporaliter) in court.

## III.

DEED 5TH EDWARD III. (1331) LEASE OF THE MANOR OF  
WOODGARSTON FROM BEATRICE, DAUGHTER OF SIR JOHN  
SCURES TO ROGER FIFHIDE.<sup>1</sup>

## TRANSLATION.

On the feast of Saint Peter which is called Ad Vincula,<sup>2</sup> in the fifth year of the reign of King Edward the third from the conquest. It is agreed between Beatrice, the daughter of Sir John de Scures of the one part and Roger Fifhide of the other part, thus to wit. That the aforesaid Beatrice delivers, grants and to farm, lets to the said Roger, her manor of Woodgarston, as in houses except the chapel, rents, services, arable lands, pastures, and all other profits to the said manor belonging, reserving to the said Beatrice and her heirs the woods, heriots, wards, releases, fines, escheats as of freemen or of villeins from the aforesaid feast of Saint Peter which is called Ad Vincula, unto the term of nine years next following and fully to be completed. Paying thence yearly to the same Beatrice and her heirs and assigns, at the feast of Easter five marks sterling and at the feast of Saint Michael five marks sterling. Item the same Roger takes with the reception of the farm of the said Beatrice one cart with three yokes, two barrows, one line for tying the cart one saddle for the cart, two pairs of traces, two collars, one hatchet, one brass pot holding a flagon and a half, one tripod, one winnowing fan, one bushel. Item in the chapel, one super altar, one pair of vestments, three napkins, one missal, two brass candlesticks, one leaden bucket, one coffer. Item two weak tables ten feet and eight feet long, two tressels ten and four tables nine feet and a half long and two feet wide. Item five tables thirteen feet long and one foot wide, two forms ten feet long, three short forms, one ladder twenty

<sup>1</sup> The family of Fyhide took their name from Fifehide (meaning five hides—*mod.* Fyfield) near Andover, in which neighbourhood they long retained possessions. Wm. de Fyhide in 1361 died, seized of lands and tenements at Andover, Kyngesley, Anstye, etc. The return in 1386, of the holdings of Sir Wm. Fyhide, recites two messuages, two ploughlands, two hundred acres of wood, and the advowson of the rectory of Faccombe, with other manors and advowsons, two messuages at Andover. Walter de Fyhyde was Abbot of Hyde, 1319-1362.

<sup>2</sup> *St. Peter ad Vincula*, August 18th.

feet long, one little ladder. Item, twenty-one acres and a half wheat as they lie, of which eight are in manurance,<sup>1</sup> eleven acres and a half of bere<sup>2</sup> as they lie, six acres of barley as they lie, of which three are in manurance seventeen acres of oats as they lie, and twenty-six acres of fallow-land as they lie, of which two acres are manurance, all which things the said Roger at the end of the said term to the said Beatrice will leave or answer with the price. The same Roger also is to sustain the houses of all kinds besides the chapel. The enclosures and all other things belonging to the manor as in house lot and hay lot or the woods of the manor aforesaid, at his own expense in a sufficient manner. As to making which payment, leavings, sustentacions, the said Roger binds himself and his heirs, his lands, tenements and all his goods moveable and immoveable, held and to be held into whosoever hands they may have come.

In witness of which both the aforesaid Beatrice and the aforesaid Roger have placed their respective seals to this duplicate, writing and indenture, given at Woodgarston the day and year above said.

A round seal in red wax bearing an *Agnus Dei* and the legend.

## IV.

DEED 6TH EDWARD III. (1332) LEASE OF THE MANOR OF WOODGARSTON FROM SIR JOHN DE SCURES TO ROGER FYFHYDE.

This deed differs but little from the preceding except in the name of the grantor. The seal is destroyed.

## V.

DEED 14TH EDWARD III. (1340) JOHN DE SCURES LEASES THE MANOR OF WOODGARSTON TO EDITH, "WHO WAS WIFE OF ROGER DE FYFHYDE."

<sup>1</sup> *Manurance*—i.e. tilled from *F. Manouvrier* lit. to labour with the hand.

<sup>2</sup> *Bere*, a variety of barley differing from *hordeum*.



This is a lease granted to the widow of the preceding Lessee. The terms are similar and for any infringement of the covenants a fine of one hundred marks is to be paid to the said Sir John or to his attorney at Wykham. Given at Wood Garston and has a round seal in crown wax bearing a cross-like device in a quatrefoil.

## VI.

DEED 3RD HENRY IV. (1402) JOHN UVEDALE LETS TO ROBERT GERARD THE MANOR OF WOODGARSTON.

Given at Wykeham. Red seal with profile of a man to similar ancient gem.

## VII.

DEED OF 3RD HENRY V. (1416) JOHN UVEDALE, ESQ.; LETS THE MANOR OF WOODGARSTON TO RICHARD DYKERE.

Given at Wykeham. The seal of red wax is gone.

John Uvedale above mentioned was Sheriff of Hants, 1419 and living in 1445. In the family of Uvedale Woodgarston remained until after the death of Sir William Uvedale, (ob., 1615). It then passed to William Wither, Esq. of Manydown, in 1619.

The family of Wither, of Lancashire origin, dates back to the reign of Edward II. Towards the close of the reign of Edward III. Robert Wither settled at Manydown, in the parish of Wooton, St. Lawrence, where his descendants resided for at least five hundred years. George Wither, the celebrated poet was born at the village of Bentworth, near Alton, his father, son of Richard Wither of Manydown having had an estate there. William Wither, the first of the name to possess Woodgarston died 1620 and the succession continued in that family until the decease of William Wither of Manydown, who died unmarried in 1789, when the estates devolved upon his kinsman Lovelace Bigg, Esq., of Chilton Follyat, Wilts, who assumed, upon inheriting the estates, the surname and arms of Wither.

The family of Bigg found at Benenden, Kent, in 1540, have some historical associations, Richard Bigg, of St. Giles-in-the-Fields and Alderman of London, married Anne



(died 1646), daughter of Ralph Juxon, citizen, uncle of William Juxon, Bishop of London, who attended King Charles to the scaffold. From him was descended the above named Lovelace Bigg, Esq., of Chilton Follyat, Wilts. who married (1684), Dorothy, daughter of William Wither, of Manydown, and the great grandson of this marriage, the Rev. Lovelace Bigg-Wither succeeded to the estates in 1833. From him Manydown, the Manor of Woodgarston, and other estates were purchased by Sir Edward Bates,<sup>1</sup> Bart. in 1871.

<sup>1</sup> Not the "present owner" as stated p. 242. - The baronetcy was conferred, after the purchase of Manydown, on Mr. Edward Bates, M.P. for Plymouth (1st Bart., 1880). He was succeeded 1896 by his son, Sir Edward Percy Bates (2nd Bart.), died 1899, and his son, Sir Edward Bertram Bates (3rd Bart.) is present owner. The Rolls of the Manor of Manydown, edited by Dean Kitchin, form an interesting volume, published by the Hants Record Society in 1895.