Abbay of St. John at Colchester,

IN

ESSEX.

Bishop Tanner says, Eudo Dapifer, sewer or steward in the courts of King William the Conqueror, King William Rufus, and King Henry the First, began the foundation of the abbey of St. John Baptist at Colchester in 1096. The main particulars of Eudo’s life, as well as the circumstances attending the first building of the abbey, are minutely detailed from the Cottonian manuscript Nero D. viii. in a Latin history appended to the present Account. But although the ground was marked out, the place levelled, and the workmen appointed, the buildings were not actually entered upon till Easter in 1097; when Eudo, attended by Maurice bishop of London, himself laid the first stone.

Whilst the buildings were going on, the founder is stated to have applied to Gundolph bishop of Rochester to recommend him some monks, who should live according to the rule of their Order in the new monastery. Two were recommended, and Eudo allowed each of them a stipend: they grew discontented however, murmured, and at last returned home. In their place two others were sent: one of whom, named Radulphus, is called “religiosus vir et industrius.” But he also took exception at the mode in which he was supported. He pressed Eudo frequently to settle regular revenues upon his foundation: alleging that it was unfit for monks to live like prebendaries, or to depend upon laymen for their maintenance. Eudo, it seems, at first complied with the request. But the churches and tithes which he bestowed for their maintenance were insufficient for the purposes intended. The churches were at too great a distance, and the tithes caused more trouble in collecting than they were worth. In consequence, Radulphus and his brother monk followed the example of their predecessors, and quitted the monastery.

Eudo, upon this, almost repented that he had founded a monastery at all. “Pro his omnibus cepit Eudo confratari, et tederea ut cepit illum pene penitert.” Meeting, however, with Stephen abbot of York, he committed to him both the care of the buildings and the establishment of a convent.

Stephen, returning from this conference to his own monastery, selected thence twelve monks (according to the number of the apostles), with one who was to govern the rest, under the name of Provost or Prior, and who was in process of time to be ordained abbat: these he sent immediately to Colchester.

After the arrival of the convent, the works are said to have proceeded with renewed vigour under the direction of one William, a priest, the nephew of the founder: who spared neither care nor money. In the mean time, the monks living according to the strictness of their Order, serving God regularly in the church, and exercising hospitality. Their good example prevailing, it is added, many of the neighbours took the habit of religion. A few years after, Hugh, one of the thirteen, was chosen abbat: he was consecrated to that office about the year 1104 by Maurice bishop of London.

The offices and lodgings for the monks having been constructed on the north side of the church, toward the town of Colchester, the new abbat resolved on account of their noisy and too public situation to remove them: and they were accordingly, at this early period, rebuilt upon the south side. In aid of which purpose a rising ground, or hill, which stood before the church, was dug away, and the earth taken to the back of the structure to level the church-yard. Some persons, however, putting in claims at this time to a part of the soil upon which the church was erected, Eudo incurred some further expense in satisfying their demands: which done, the monastery was consecrated in a solemn manner on the 10th of January in the year above-mentioned.

Various persons at the time of the consecration of this monastery, following the example of the founder, contributed largely to its endowment: the deeds of gift being offered upon the altar in the church.

At this time, of the monks who came from York, three only were remaining, namely, abbat Hugh, one Walter, and Osmund senior. The rest had either returned home, or were dead.

The monks of Colchester, however, were now increased to more than twenty, all admitted regularly into the Order to which the monastery belonged, and serving God with devotion.

Abbat Hugh, soon after this, being a man of more virtue and religion than of worldly sagacity, got into disputes with the founder: but fearing lest the abbey should suffer on the account, he quitted his dignity, resigning it (under what pretext does not appear) into the king’s hands, and retiring again to York.
Of Eudo's last illness the "Historia fundationis" furnishes a minute account. Finding his end approaching, he gave (with King Henry's consent, and in his presence) to his new monastery: the manor of Bryghyllyngea, and a hundred marks in money; likewise his gold ring with a topaz, a standing cup and cover ornamented with plates of gold, and his horse and mule. He died at the castle of Preaux in Normandy, and agreeably to his own direction was brought over to England, and buried in his monastery of St. John on the 1st of the kalends of March (Feb. 28th) 1120.

The founder endowed this abbey with the following estates: the manors of Wileya, Bricheleg, Mundon, Piches, except in Piches, the estate of Ralph de Mundon, and the land of Alwice Scoane: a marsh which had previously belonged to Lillecherch but then joined Piches; Hallingberi with its appurtenances; two carouses of land, a pasture, two fishponds, a mill, and an oven-ground in Colchester, with a fair of four days at the Nativity of St. John the Baptist; the whole fee, or estate, of Turstul Wiscard; the land of Ralph de Broch; the church of Turnecrust and a hide of land; the tithe of cheese, wool, and underwoods in Essex; the tithe of mills, horse, and wood in Lillecherch in Kent; half the tithe in Eton, with the whole tithe of mills; the whole tithe in Grenewestede and Roynges; two parts of the tithe in Berton com. Bedford of Sandford in Berks, Standie in Hertfordshire, Gamellega in the county of Cambridge, Hamerton in Huntingdonshire, and of Es-tune, Hallingberi, Takelle, Witham, Ereswell, Stanway, and Ladden in Essex; the third part of the tithe in Sar-bricheswirth and Waltham Magna; the tithe of the mill and of wool in Walden; the church of Niewesede; the church of St. Helen, and fourteen acres belonging thereto; the church of St. Mary West-cheap in London, called New Church, and his stone House near it with its appurtenances; the church of St. Stephen Walkbrook; six acres of land belonging to the widow Alvea, and half a messuage; all the profits of the chapel in Colechester castle, and of all the chapels in his manors north of the Thames, especially on the greatest festivals; the tithe of the panage of all his woods and parks north of the Thames; and the tithe of his own panage, and of his colts, mares, and mills. In several of his manors one border with two acres free, from all secular service; except in the three manors about Colechester, and except Witham, Waltham, Saricheswirth, and Waldene. 

William de Havuill, falconer to King Henry the First, gave the church of Takelle.

The following are recorded by Morant as the subsequent benefactors to this house:

Robert de Ramis, who gave the church of Ardley in the reign of King Stephen.

Roger de Villers, who gave half a hide in Chich. 

Hamo de Villers: two parts of the tithe of Walera; i.e. the whole of the mill; one border with two acres free from secular service; and half the tithe of Chaler. 

Hamo de St. Clare, who gave Algureslawe in Berley in Hertfordshire.

William de St. Clare: a manor at Grangest near Colchester.

William de Launvaley: the church of Hamerton.

Robert de Sakeville: the manor of Witham, or Wickham Skeith, in Suffolk; with all its appurtenances and liberties.

Queen Matilda: Est Dunlant.

Roger son of Fulk: 5s. out of the mill and fish-pond in the wood, within Est Dunland.

William de hauley: 4s. in land.

Ralph Marcy: 5s. in land in Falkeburn.

Mall Gremuna: 20s. in land in Wydromeundford. 

William de Curtun: half a mark out of Wreculod.

Walcher: 10s. yearly.

William Peverell: a hide of land in the parish of Pichers.

Ralph de Aubloli: two parts of the tithe of Elmest; half the whole tithe of the mill; one border with two acres of land; and a messuage exempt from all service.

Ralph Pincerna: half a hide of land and two tenants in Wiaman.

Hubelone: four messuages in Colechester, with the out-house, Smith's mill, and a meadow.

Robert Curmin: a mill in Cifton.

Anscheel de Ross: the tithes of Hio; and half the tithe of Plumstead, in Kent.

Fulco Dapaner: the tithe of Roing. 

William son of Constantine: two parts of his tithes at Legro.

Pirates: the tithes of Glameham in Suffolk.

Ralph de Norun: the tithe of Thorp.

William de Curtun: thirty acres.

Humphry son of Humphry: half the tithes of Back-lewy, and the tithes of a mill.

Serlo de Matuen: the tithes of Fineberg in Chshire.

Ralph de Dunmawue: his tithes.

Athelas wife of Ramul of de la Haye: eighty acres of land.

A donor not named: lands in Sherturn.

Godfrey: lands in Witham.

Acketum: lands in Dunland.

Another donor not named: twelve pence in land in Leyer.

Restold: lands in Ardley.

Other donors without names: 5s. in land in Birch; 12s. in land in Stoke; half a hide of land in Poselengard in Suflk; 40s. in land in Manneston; and a mill.

William de Chinaino: 40s. in Ling.

William Martel and Aldreda his wife: the manors of Snape and Aldiburge in Suffolk.

Various donors not named: the church of Albar; 2s. in land at Suleton in Sussex; 20s. in land in Ho; 30s. in land in Lillecherhe parish; lands of Ernise, and a vight of land in Takel; a tenement and wharf in London; 5s. land at Stratford, a hermitage at Writtle; land in Bergholz; land of Syn, in Bergholt; land of Wytyger, the priest, in Bakres; land of Ralph de Brok; and seven acres in Weyenho.

Thus far the grants to the abbot and convent of Colechester were confirmed by King Richard the First in the 1st and 10th years of his reign. They had also the church of Hecham or Higham in Suffolk, which they exchanged with the nuns of Lillecherhe in that county for East Dunland.

John de By... gave the monks one messuage, a hundred and sixty acres of land, six acres of meadow, and 8s. rent in Leyre de la Hay: the licence in mortmain for which bore date 28 Dec. 19 Edw. I.

Roger Bacun gave a messuage and twenty acres of land in Wytham. He had given, twelve years before, nine acres in the same parish.

p Morant says, King Henry II. granted the monks the hermitage at Writtle, as appears by the following Record in the Tower:


r Ibid.

s Ibid.
Henry de Bluntsedon, at three grants, gave a hundred and forty acres of land, in Wytham.\textsuperscript{a}

... of ... grant, gave thirty acres of land, five acres of wood, and 7s. rent in East Dony/projects, by a licence in mortmain dated June 20th, 31 Edw. I.\textsuperscript{b}

William son of Isolda gave eighteen acres of land, and John de Sanare fourteen acres, in Leyer de la Hay; by licence dated Octob. 28th, 53 Edw. I.\textsuperscript{c}

Richard de Thany, by a licence in mortmain dated April 6th, 56 Edw. II, gave two hundred and sixty acres of land, nine acres of meadow, fourteen acres of pasture, a hundred acres of marsh, and 3s, 6d. rent in Little Bemllet, Neuenen, and Bures Gifford.\textsuperscript{d}

In the 3d Edw. III, William atte Welle gave a messenger, a hundred and twenty acres of land and forty acres of ... Garnestede.\textsuperscript{e}

Hugh de Ferynge and Alinore his wife gave one message, a hundred and twenty-two acres of land, nine acres of meadow, thirty acres of pasture, and 8s. rent in Ferynge and Kelendene.\textsuperscript{f} William de Brome and Warin atte Welle gave sixty-four acres of land and two acres of meadow in Little Bemllet and Pecheseye: Robert de Chedworth and William de Brome, one messenger, twenty-two acres of land, two acres of meadow, and three acres of pasture in Okholote, Bengyngham, and Eye. For these donations the licence in mortmain bore date Sept. 12th, 10 Edw. III.\textsuperscript{g}

William de Rolleston and James de Bures gave one message, seventy-six acres of land, an acre of meadow, two acres of wood, and a half of a wood, and a hundred and forty acres of marsh in Brightlingseye: Godofrider parson of Harnerton, four acres of meadow and 8s. rent in Garnestede: James de Bures and Henry de Norwich, two acres of land, and one acre and one roof of wood in Southolt: Henry de Norwich, seven acres of land and two acres of meadow in Dyham and the suburbs of Colchester. For these the licence in mortmain bore date Aug. 4th, 14 Edw. III.\textsuperscript{h}

Hugh de Ferynge and Alinore his wife, by a second licence in mortmain dated Nov. 26th, 16 Edw. III. gave one toft, a hundred and twenty-two acres of land, fourteen acres of wood, and 31s. rent in Ferring, Great Tey, Little Tey, Rendham, and Tomworth.\textsuperscript{i}

Clement de Rumburgh clerk, by a licence dated Aug. 15th, 25 Edw. III. gave the licence of Little Berdefelden, and the advowson of that church; which were held of the king in capite as of his Honour of Boulogne.\textsuperscript{j}

Peter Wawyn and John Chatersy, by licence dated Feb. 1st, 30 Edw. III, gave fourteen messuages, four hundred and fifty-eight acres of land, five acres of meadow, twenty acres of wood, 3s, 6d. rent, and a pound of pepper, in Colchester and its suburbs; Stanwhey, Tendring, Great Okes, and Leire de la Hay, to find a monk as a chaplain, to celebrate divine service in the chapel of St. Mary in this abbey; to the king and his progenitors, and of the said Peter and John.\textsuperscript{k}

John Doreward, Esq., and Richard Fitz-Nicholl, by licence in the 8th Hen. IV. gave the licence in Tendringer called Wolles.\textsuperscript{l}

John Stopington, archdeacon, in the 16th Hen. VI. gave a message, and a hundred and forty acres called Lechemus in Letchworth.\textsuperscript{m}

The monks had 2s. 3d. rent from Willingham-House, 2s. out of another tenement, and many other small sums too numerous as well as too minute to mention.

The abbot and convent had also some portions of tithes in the manor of Lyles, of which the particulars were set down in an old paper in Morant's possession: but the donors were not named.

They had also, in West-Bergholt, Almery-land, Greenfield coppice, Withallow coppice, and Pancold coppice: in Boxstead, Revers Halls: and one moiety of that church, given by Hugh de Brome in the reign of King Henry the Second: in Brightlingcyh church: portions of tithes in Hornold on the Hill, and Topesfield: in St. Laurence, or Mayland, in Denge-hundred, East-Newland hall: Bolebeknes and Hauspies, in Aldham and Copford: in Stanwye-fields, land called Goodlith hide; and also Gosebecks: in Lawford, in the parish of St. Thomas. The glebe was in Trinity, and the same number in Essex. They had the manor of the rectory of Berkway in Hertfordshire, otherwise called Newsel: twenty shillings a year out of the fee-farm of the town of Colchester: and the advowsons of the following churches; St. Giles, St. Mary Magdalen, Greensteed, the Holy Trinity, and St. Nicholas in Colchester: Aken in Essex, Mundon, and Pitsy, in Essex; Berkway in Hertfordshire; and St. Mary Woolchurch and St. Stephen Walbrook in London.\textsuperscript{n}

Morant adds the following particular account of the tenements and parcels of land in Colchester belonging to the abbey.

Stokes mill: a tenement in East-Steckwell-street; a tenement in northward called Chaloneres, and afterward Redyngs; a tenement in St. Giles parish, three tenements in St. James's parish, and two in St. Nicholas's cophyhold; Friacye's tenement in Cat-lane in the Holy Trinity parish, given by John Aylett, in his will, proved 19 Edw. II: a tenement in Magdalen Cheke: Monk-downer, and the garden grounds on the east and west sides of Stan- well street; Cow-meadow, at the Hythe, on the east of the river; Colmanes-mead, near Magdalen-moor; Prattys Welle at the Old-Hythe; a meadow near the Balkhen; Cokerersilcroft, land near Magdelyconoul towards Spight- manewlass, land near Chelldale-lane, land in Webbs-street at the Old-Hythe, near Isabellates, Newland, and Colisland by the river; Glasswrights-land, Cross- tye, Tyefield, land near the King's-ox; land called Stapil-stake: Outislay; land on the south side of East-street; Grynestede-bache; Abbots erber, or Abbots-herber in Greatestedy, and in Claye street; Stowfendell, near Herrymorelne in Greensteed; Walshes-grove or Wals- leywood, and Ackermans wood, or Charike, grove seven acres, purchased afterwards by Sir Thomas Lucas.\textsuperscript{o}

The Abbey itself was invested with great privileges. It had the full jurisdiction in determining causes in all the lands adjacent within a mile of the monastic lands. A third of the income, liberty, and laws as the church of St. Peter at Westminster. That is, it was exempt from all episcopal and other jurisdiction; free from suits of counties and hundreds, from sheriffs' suits, and amercements of counties; from pleas of forest, waste, and regard; from passage, portage, warriage, stalling belonging to the king, and burg-penny, aver-penny, ward-penny, chausdege, and hidege in some of their lands; qui ad eam pertinent, et prohibit ne aliquis presbyteri presumat in eas missam cantare sine licentia presbyteri de Licro. Proferet etiam eum domini episcopus, Pretiosi distincte quod ipsa preesentavit ult. & Post ven. usque pars, et posuerunt se in assis. &c. rot. 21.

\textsuperscript{a} Rot. 30 Edw. III, rot. 2. \textsuperscript{b} Rot. 13 Hen. IV.

\textsuperscript{c} Rot. 9 Hen. IV, rot. 34. \textsuperscript{d} Rot. 25 Edw. I, rot. 3.

\textsuperscript{e} Rot. 4 Edw. VI, rot. 5. \textsuperscript{f} Rot. 7 Hen. VII, rot. 22.

\textsuperscript{g} Rot. 6 Edw. IV, rot. 2. \textsuperscript{h} Rot. 7 Hen. V, rot. 6.

\textsuperscript{i} Rot. 8 Hen. VI, rot. 23. \textsuperscript{j} Rot. 6 Edw. IV, rot. 2.

\textsuperscript{k} Rot. 6 Hen. V, rot. 2. \textsuperscript{l} Rot. 7 Hen. VII, rot. 11.

\textsuperscript{m} Rot. 6 Hen. V, rot. 24. \textsuperscript{n} Rot. 8 Hen. VII, rot. 19.

\textsuperscript{o} Rot. 6 Hen. V, rot. 1, et Rot. 7 Hen. V, rot. 22.

\textsuperscript{p} Rot. 7 Hen. VI, rot. 16. \textsuperscript{q} Rot. 8 Hen. VI, rot. 2.

\textsuperscript{r} Rot. 49 Edw. III, rot. 3, et Rot. 22 Hen. VI, rot. 2.

Abbey of St. John Colchester.

with many other privileges and immunities, comprehended in a charter of King Richard I. a

King Henry the Third granted moreover to the monks here in the 37th year of his reign free warren in all their demesne

of Wykeham, and Bignor, in Sussex; and at Berlee in

Hertfordshire; Wyley, Blychtyngsye, Estendyionale, Mundon, Pichesse, Laleford, Grensted, and Tackleheghe in

Essex; &c. provided those demesnes were not within the bounds of the royal forest. b

Finally this abbey had the privilege of sanctuary. c

But the Abbey was finally shut at the law-hundred courts of the town of Colchester, for some lands. d

The Abbot of Colchester was one of the twenty-eight in this kingdom who wore the mitre; and had the privilege of sitting in the Upper House of Parliament. e

He was distinguished also by the high titles of, “By the grace of God,” and “By divine permission.”

ABBATS OF ST. JOHN COLCHESTER.

It may be proper to observe here that some trifling variations of dates occur in the minutes of the earlier abbeys; nor can they, in fact, in every instance be settled with minute certainty. The following is believed to be as correct a List as can now be ascertained.

Hugh de York, or Eboraecensis, has been already noticed as receiving the consecration from Maurice bishop of London about the year 1104. Bishop Kenett, in his MS. Dypticha, quoting Henry Wharton’s Collections from Chron. Roff. MS. Cotton. Vesp. A. xxii, dates the beginning of his abbacy in 1102.

He was succeeded soon after by Gilbert de Luncill, a monk of Bec, in Normandy, who governed the abbey twenty-five years. William de Scurl i was the next abbot. He succeeded about A. D. 1130, and governed five years.

Hugo de Haya, who succeeded Scurl, held this abbey seventeen years. f

He was succeeded by Gilbert de Wicham (Willis calls him Wehen), g who ruled the abbey eighteen years.

Walter Wennis, the next abbot, governed seventeen years.

Osbert, who succeeded, governed also seventeen years.

Adam de Campes, the next abbot, governed this house forty-four years; h and was succeeded by William de Wado, of whom the election as was given March 6th, 1237. i Upon his resignation, eight years afterwards, William de Spaldwick was chosen abbot. The royal assent was given to his election April 22, 1245. j He died in the month of July, 1272, when the monks elected Robert de Grimsted, Grimstede, or Grensted. k

Robert de Grimsted, Grimstede, or Grensted, to whom the temporalities of the monastery were restored Aug. 6th, 1272. k

Newcourt says he died in or before the year 1305: on the 8th of December in which year John de Bruges received the royal assent to his election. l

Walter de Huntingfield, his successor, received the temporalities Nov. 30, 1311. m

William de Glemham received the royal assent to his election Dec. 16th, and had the temporalities restored Dec. 23rd, 1236. n

Baird tells us Wymbondham was elected by virtue of the king’s licence bearing date Sept. 2d, 1237, on the death of Glemham: soon after which he received the royal assent. o

Symon de Blyton was elected on Wymbondham’s death in the month of August, 1349. He received the temporalities Sept. 23d. p

He died on Sept. 30, 1363. q

Morant says r that Blyton resided in 1363; whereas Thomas Monerok was elected, who continued abbot about eight years: upon whose death Blyton was reinstated in 1361. He gives Bishop Sudbury’s Register as his authority. Nothing however of this appears upon the Patent Rolls: only that upon Blyton’s death Thomas Stucle (Newcourt calls him Stele) received the royal assent to his election Dec. 16th, and had the temporalities restored Dec. 24th, 1368. s

He died Oct. 8th, 1369. t

Richard de Colne, prior of Snapes, was elected abbot Oct. 15th, 1369. u

He was succeeded by John de Dedham, who governed the abbey about two years. v The temporalities were restored to him Aug. 12th, 38 Edw. III. He was succeeded by William de Gyrrton, or Grutton, who was elected Oct. 28th, 1377, w to whom the temporalities were restored Nov. 14th following.x

Geoffrey Story, or de St. Osyth, received the royal assent to his election Dec. 15th, and the temporalities Dec. 22, 1380. w The Patent Roll says that upon Geoffrey’s death Roger Best succeeded; the royal assent being given to his election Sept. 7th, and the temporalities of the monastery restored Oct. 1st, 6 Hen. IV. y

William de Aubele, or Audele, succeeded, whose election was confirmed Sept. 4th, 1432. z

John de Canoune was the next abbot. He died the temporalities Aug. 11th, 4th Edw. IV. a

Walter Smeaston had the temporalities given him, upon Canoune’s death, Aug. 20th, 1447, 4th Edw. IV. b He governed this monastery about nineteen years.

William Shropton, alias Lyndsey, received the temporalities Feb. 28th, 13 Hen. VIII. c He died June 21st, 1517: p when

John Store, sacrist of the monastery, was elected

p Pat. 9 Hen. III. m. 9.

q Pat. 29 Hen. III. m. 6.

r Pat. 21 Hen. III. m. 6.


u Pat. 35 Edw. I.

v Pat. 5 Edw. II.

w Pat. 9 Edw. II. p. 1.

x Pat. 1 Edw. III. p. 7.

y Pat. 2 Edw. III. p. 2.

z Newe. Repert. ad supr. 

{ See also Willis, Mit. Ab. vol. i. p. 67.

a Pat. 4 Edw. III. p. 2.


c Ibid.

{ Newe. Repert. ad supr.

{ Pat. 1 Ric. II. p. 2.

{ Pat. 4 Ric. II. p. 1.

{ Pat. 6 Hen. IV. p. 2. Willis, in his Mitred Abbeys, vol. p. 66, and Morant after him, insert here the number of four abbots unknown to any entry upon the Rolls. The three first are from the Register of Lan- don, the fourth from Bishop Tanner’s Collections. They are John Syllyond, elected in 1391: who, resigning soon after, was succeeded by John de Ocre, who resigned anno 1395: whereupon

Robert de Grimsted, Grimstede, or Grensted, admitted abbot the same year. After

Robert is said to occur abbot in 1408. Ms. E34, referring to Drowne Willis, with the names of Priors of Religious Houses expressly says under Colchester, “In my papers Geoffrey was elected from 1361 to 1404.” Ms. Col. vol. ii. p. 12.

P. Pat. 6 Hen. V.


S. Pat. 11 Hen. VI. p. 1.

T. Pat. 4 Edw. IV. p. 1.

U. Pat. 3 Edw. IV. p. 2.

V. Ms. Lansd. 365, p. 54.

W. Registrar. Lond. Fizch. fol. 121.

x Addenda

y The original Grant with the great seal appendant is still preserved among Bishop Tanner’s MS. Collections at Oxford.

z Cart. & &c. 10 Ric. I. See also Dugd. Bar. tom. ii. p. 269.

a That is for five acres in Halsefield. After long disputes about this matter it was finally settled by indenture, Dec. 21, 12 Edw. III.

b quad abbas loci predicti qui pro tempore fuerit, vel per se vel per aturnnam sua, us, vel in, per annum, sib zum faciendo ad sum Louis de humberto dictum baronem de Calecest, die lunae proximo post festum sancti Michaelis; die lunae proximo post festum sancti Hilarii; et die lunae proximo post Hode- day, pro terra predicta."

F Bath book, fol. 76. Nota bene, Morant adds, it appears from our records, that the abbey was always en- dowing to encroach upon the liberties and privileges of the town. But very severe presentations were made upon that score at the Lawe- hundred court in the 1st of King Henry V. Hist. Colch. p. 144, Note c

Mados, in his Formulario Anglicanum, p. 554, has printed a letter of a will of a monk in the year 1387, relating to 27 acres of land in Oxford and Sussex, the abbats of Bury, Hyde, and St. Benet Helme, jointly and severally, to appear and act in parliament in his stead.

Robert De Grimsted, abbat. d


k Ibid.

l Ms. Lansd. 365.

m Mit. Ab. vol. i. p. 65.

n Ibid.

o Ibid. and Newcourt, ut supr.
Abbey of St. John Colchester.

The last Act of Edward III., on 12th September 1335, granted to the Abbey of St. John, Colchester, a charter by which they were enabled to acquire lands and property within a ten-mile radius of the town.

But in the following year, 1336, the charter was revoked by the Parliament, and the Abbey was compelled to give up all the lands and property it had acquired.

Despite this, the Abbey continued to thrive, and in the 14th century it became one of the wealthiest religious houses in England.

The Abbey was dissolved under the Act of Supremacy in 1538, and its property was seized by the Crown.

The Abbey was burned down in 1540, and its ruins have since been used as builders' materials.

The Abbey of St. John Colchester is an important example of the architectural style of the 13th and 14th centuries, and its ruins remain a popular tourist attraction in the town of Colchester.

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1. From the record of the dissolution of the Abbey of St. John, Colchester, in 1538, it appears that the Abbey was in a flourishing condition at the time of its dissolution.

2. The Abbey was dissolved under the Act of Supremacy in 1538, and its property was seized by the Crown.

3. The Abbey was burned down in 1540, and its ruins have since been used as builders' materials.

4. The Abbey remains a popular tourist attraction in the town of Colchester.

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Abbey of St. John Colchester.

[Text continues with historical details and accounts of the Abbey's history and influence.]

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[Further historical and architectural details about the Abbey are provided, including its significance in the history of Colchester and its role in the medieval period.]

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[Concluding remarks on the importance of the Abbey in the history and culture of Colchester and its region.]

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[Additional information on the Abbey's impact on local and national history is discussed, including any remaining artifacts or structures that have been preserved.]
The Abbey of St. John Colchester.

An impression from the SEAL of this abbey remains attached to the Acknowledgement of Supremacy, 1534, in the Chapter-house Westminster. It represents on one side St. John the Baptist, seated, holding in his left hand a lamb, to which he is pointing with his right; on each side, on his right and left, are the apostles Peter and Paul, the former with his key, the latter with his sword reversed: underneath is a shield with the Arms of the abbey; a cross surmounted by an escarbeoune within a bordure. The whole of the Seal is ornamented with Gothic tracery. The legend, SIGILLVM . COVNI . MONASTERII . SANTI . JOIIS . BAPTISTE . COLCHESTRI. On the other side, the Saint is differently represented. He is seated under a rich canopy, with a cup in his right hand, on which a bird is standing; on each side of him is tabernacle work, on the summits of which rest two eagles: by the side of these, but somewhat lower, are two angels, each bearing a shield; that on the right hand being quarterly France and England, that on the left the abbatical Arms. On the right and left hands of the saint are two other angels; and under him, in an arch, an abbat with his crosier is standing between two small human figures. The legend on this side is unfortunately so much flattened as to be nearly illegible.

The Abbey ARMS, represented in the initial Letter of the present Account, were thus emblazoned, according to Morant: Gu. a cross within a bordure Or; over all an escarbeoune of eight staves Sable fleury Ar. The Abbey Arms are drawn in the Cottonian manuscript Nero D. viii. A Procession Roll of the Lords to Parliament in 1512 gives them a little different: viz. Ar. and Gu. a cross Or over it a escarbeoune Sable and a bordure Or.

In the former edition of the Monasticon, a Print of the Abbey Church was given from an ancient drawing preserved in the Cottonian manuscript Nero D. viii. It has been thought best in the present edition to give it as a wood-cut, of a size somewhat less than the original:

The Abbey of St. John Colchester is stated to have had two CELLS: BARROW in ESSEX, and WICKHAM SKETHY in SUFFOLK. Leland says, "Habet Cellam vocantem BAROW, in qua est unus monachus." 2 but Tanner says "Quæ, quando it be not the same with Bedesmannes BORCH in Writtle parish, said to be a cell or chapel in the patronage of this abbey, as in Newcourt, vol. ii. p. 689." This is all which is known of Barrow.

All that is known of the Cell of WICKHAM SKETHY

It stood on the south side of the present church of St. Giles.

The Entrance Gateway to this abbey is now the only remain which deserves particular notice; it is built of hewn stone and lint; and is a very beautiful specimen of Gothic architecture. An Engraving of it has been already given in this Work.

The garden walls of the abbey-site enclose near fourteen acres of ground.

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* See Num. VIII. taken from the copy deposited in the British Museum by order of the Commissioners upon the Public Records.

2 John Melford the prior, and fifteen other monks, were the subscribers.

Collectan. tom. i. p. 63.

Cartae ad Colecestrense Coenobium in agro Eseriensii spectantes.

**NUM. I.**

**Historia Fundationis ejusdem.**

[Ex MS. Colice in bibliotheca Cottoniana, sub effige Neronis D. VIII. ad calceum.]

Rex Willielmus junior civitatem Colecestria, cum suis pertinentiis, tradidit servandam Eudoni, qui erat major domus regiae, quem nos vulgariter senecalium vel dapiferum vocamus. Fecit autem hoc, civium Colecestrensis postulatione, qui hoc ab eo impetrare grandi exequio, tam victimam quam impenhorum transe mare delato. Acceperat autem Eudo hunc honorem ab Willielmo seniore, pro suo sui pacis sake in regalium familiae devotione. Pater vero eis erat Hubertus de Rilla, qui internumitus et sequeretur pro duce Normanniae et regne Anglie exitterat. Simil- dum rex Edwardus negrotans, cum eo maxime cruciaretur, quod in se region genus deficere videtur: per quondam Godesclumensem negotiatores, qui soluti erant, cum mundos longinquos audire terras, mandavit Willielmo Normanniae duci, ut sibi aliquem dirigeret ad suo latere, cui tuto committeret quodque vellet mandata. Quo nuntio ac- cepto, factaque magno procerum conventu; dum singuli citarem, dum omnes recusans, barbarum expetere gentem, proper ila quae audirent facia, apud Gelcardorum, solum Huberiton dixit invenit, qui se dicit spontanea hac lega- tio finiturum. Istaque ab omnibus laudatas, ad duce mu- mentis, profectus est cum grandi apparato, cum pompâ, magni, equis phalernatis et fretum terribilibus; hominibus serio inductis, et colore vestiment spectabilibus. Ad regem veniens honorifici susceptit, et ei primae in Anglia sua missionis volt, quae Esse dicatur, perpetuo possidendae con- sideratur.


Est igitur Coelestri civitas in orientali parte Britanniae postis; civitas vicina portu, uti amen, foibitus undique scaturientibus irrigua; aere saluberrimo, membrius firmissi- mis constructa; civitas inter eminentinae numerosae, si non yetasas, conflagrationes, elusiones, denique piratarum inmisiones, varie casum afflicationes omnin civitatis memoriam delevissent. Traditur tamen Helenam, quon- dam imperii matrem, ex hac civitate natam et educatam; quae quanti fuerit, vel eo conjuravit, quod Constantius Con- stantii magni genitum, triennio dicitur habe obdissesse; nec optimis, nisi tandem per Helene nupias. Conjectur- etiam ex his, que de terrae fosseres eruerunt; tam facrum, quam lapides, quam aera signata, quam edificia sub terrâ inventa. Juxta hanc civitatem erat ad parte monticulus au- strali; in cuius aquiloniali decivo habebat Siricus presbyter habitationem, et ecclesiam ligneo tabulato compactam, S. Johannis Evangelistae devotam, in qua, per obscures noctes tenebras, divina saepe visa sunt miracula luminaria, et voce Deum laudantium audire, dum esset nemino intrinsecus. Cullum etiam illud accidit ut quidam vir, qui jussum regis est competitus, et vicissim alebatur a civibus, dum quodam die festo sancti Johannis adeset ibidem, cum multis subito, dum missa celebrarent, pessus boarum ultra quartum vel
NUM. IV.

Carta Regis Henrici seculi, per quam quietum clamavit
Monachis S. Johannis Bap. de Colescetriâ tribunum de
Danseldge, Mardro, et Hidagio, in diversis Terris suis.

[Charte antiqua, n. 33.]

Henricus secundus rex Anglie, baronibus de nec-
cario salutem; scatis me concessisse et quietum clâmâisse
triginta octo hidas, et unam carucatam terrae de danseldgeis,
et murdris, et hidagiis, Deo, et abbatiae sancti Johannis
Baptiste de Colescetriâ, et abbati, et monachis ejusdem
locri in perpetuum; vis. in Essexia, de hundredo de Ten-
dringiae, decem hidas in Brinklingegeia; et tres hidas in
Wileia, et de hundredo de Wribthorpe, decem hidas in
Mundonie. Et de hundredo de Bardestable, sex hidas in
Prechedeia; et de Lexidene hundredo, tres viraetas, et vi-
ginti acras terrestre in Damlandia. Et de hundredo Col-
cestrâe, tres hidas, et dimidiam. In Hertfordie, de Ar-
minestre hundredre, quatuor hidas et dimidiam. Et de
decem acras in Adiarealwia. In Sudfulâ, de hundredo de Sain-
fordia, unam carucatam terre in Hecham. Et precario
volvis, quod singulis annis, quicquid evertiverit super pra-
dictiis hidis, de danseldgeis, et murdris, et hidagiis, com-
patiis vicecoemitis, in quorum balliviis terre illae sint, et
...... detrahatur de summâ rotulorum meorum, ita quod uli-
erius ab eis esse exigatur ab aliquo, testo Theobaldo
Cantuarensi archiepiscopo.

Plac. in com. Essex-coram Solom. de Roffen. et sociis suis

[Ex orig. in Dono Capitul. Westmon. asservato.]

Abras Sancti Johannis de Colescetriâ. summomini usuit ad respondendum domino regi quod waranto clamat habere visum franci plegii et emendas assises panis et cervisie fraete in Takeleye sine assensu et voluntate domini regis.

Et abbas venit et dict quod dominus rex concedit cui-
dam abbati preceedessori istius abbatis frithskone in pra-
dicta villa de Takeleye quum idem libertatem dominus
rex Henricus pater domini regis nunc per cartam suam ex-
posuit ad communem intelligiament vocando frithskone, vis-
franci plegii, ad quem emendi, panis et cervisie pertinere, et
profert cartas ipsorum domini regis, et Henrici regis, que
hoc idem testatur. Ideo predictus abbas inde sine die salvo, &c.

Abras de Colescetriâ. summomini usuit ad responden-
dum domino regi de placito quod permittat homines suos de Petechesy faciere sectam ad turnum vicecomitis domini
regis quum ad illud facere debent, &c.

Et abbas venit et dict quod dominus rex Willlemus
conquestor Anglie concedit eis per cartam suam predictum
manerium de Peteeseye cum omnibus pertinentiis suis
habendum sicut in manu sua illud habuit melius, plenus, et
liberus. Dict etiam quod dominus Henricus rex secundus
concessit abbatiis sue predicto quod de his quae ad ipsam
pertenent nullus se intimidatit nisi per ipsam abbatiem et
suos monochos, nec eam inquietet vel libertates infringendo
vel aliquid auferendo, nec terras vel homines, nec aliquid
aliiud, et profert cartas predictorum regum Willlemi et
Henrici quae predicta testantur. Dict quod dominus rex
Richardus concessit, et per cartam suam confirmavit quod
ecclesia sua predicta cum omnibus suis possessionibus sit
libera, et absoluta, et quies de sectis com. et fundr. et de
auxilio vicecomitis. Et profert cartam predicti regi Rich-
cardi que hoc idem testatur. Dict etiam quod dominus
Henricus rex, pater domini regis nunc, concedit abbati
sue predicta pro se et hominibus suis de turno vicemici
per predictas cartas antecessorum domini regis, et quod
homines sui ad turnum vicecomitis sectae facere non de-
bent.

Et Willimelmus de Giselmam qui sequitur pro domino
Rege dicit quod dominus Henricus rex, pater domini regis
nunc, fit in seisima de predicta secta hominum predicti
abbatis, de Petecheseye, post concessione predictarum car-
tarum quosque jam viginti et quinquies annis clapia quod
prehecesseores predicti abbatis predictam sectam domino
regi subtraxerunt. Et hoc paratus est verificare pro do-
mino regi.

Et predictus abbas tantummodo petit judicium si de
ominus rex contra factum antecessorum suorum actionem
habere possit ad predictam sectam petens.

Dies datum est ei coram domino rege ubiqueque, &c. a
die Pasc. in xv. dies, &c.

Abras de Colescetriâ. summominitus fuit ad respondendum
domino regi quod waranto clamat habere liberam warra-
nam, furcas, visum franci plegii et emendas assises panis et
erisie factae in Pchesecye sine assensu et voluntate domini
regis, &c.

Et abbas venit, et quo ad warra, dicit quod dominus
Henricus rex, pater domini regis nunc, concedit eodem abbati et eisdem assises panis et cervisie factae in Pchesecye sine assensu et voluntate domini regis, &c.

Et quo ad furcas dicit quod dominus Henricus rex,
pater domini regis nunc, concedit eisdem abbati et eisdem
assises panis et cervisie factae in Pchesecye sine assensu et voluntate domini regis, &c.

NUM. V.

Plac. in com. Essex-coram Salom. de Roffe. et sociis suis

[Ex orig. in Dono Capitul. Westmon. asservato.]

Abras Sancti Johannis de Colescetriâ. summomini usuit ad respondendum domino regi quod waranto clamat habere visum franci plegii et emendas assises panis et cervisie fraete in Takeleye sine assensu et voluntate domini regis.

Et abbas venit et dict quod dominus rex concedit cui-
dam abbati preceedessori istius abbatis frithskone in pra-
dicta villa de Takeleye quum quidem libertatem dominus
rex Henricus pater domini regis nunc per cartam suam ex-
posuit ad communem intelligiament vocando frithskone, vis-
franci plegii, ad quem emendi, panis et cervisie pertinere, et
profert cartas ipsorum domini regis, et Henrici regis, que
hoc idem testatur. Ideo predictus abbas inde sine die salvo, &c.

Abras de Colescetriâ. summominitus fuit ad responden-
dum domino regi de placito quod permitat homines suos de Petechesy faciere sectam ad turnum vicecomitis domini
regis quum ad illud facere debent, &c.

Et abbas venit et dict quod dominus rex Willlemus
conquestor Anglie concedit eis per cartam suam predictum
manerium de Peteeseye cum omnibus pertinentiis suis
habendum sicut in manu sua illud habuit melius, plenus, et
liberus. Dict etiam quod dominus Henricus rex secundus
concessit abbatiis sue predicto quod de his quae ad ipsam
pertenent nullus se intimnittit nisi per ipsam abbatiem et

NUM. VI.

Plac. de Juratis et Assis., coram Solomone de Roff. et diis
Justiciar. domini Regis itinerant. apud Gyperianem in
quarto decimo.

[Ex orig. ut supra.]

Abras Sancti Johannis Colescetriâ. summominius fuit ad respondendum domino regi de placito quod warant clamat habere visum franci plegii et emendas assises panis et cervisie factae in Wychams, &c.

Et abbas per attornatum suum venit et dict quod dominus R. rex, consanguineus dominii regis nunc concedit eis frithskone ad quod predicte emende pertinere per cartam suam quam eis inde fecit, et quam quidem cartam domini
Henricus rex, pater domini regis nunc, confirmavit, quam quidem confirmationem profert, et quod idem testa-
tatur. Ideo predictus abbas inde sine die salvo, rot. 44.

NUM. VII.

Comptus diversorum Firmariorum Dni Aabras Se
Johis Colescetri.

[Abstract of Roll 2 Hen. VI. Augmentation Office.]

Essex' Pechesey—Firma maner' cum terris
dominaealibus et maris' vocat Eys
lond.' 20 0 0
Essex

Pechesey—Firma maner' de Holefeld... 10 13 4
Pechesey—Firma maris' in Ca
nev... 10 13 4

Hor... 10 12 0

Berkeley—Firma rectoriae ibidem... 20 13 4
Berkeley—Firma maner... 17 0 0

Essex

Colchester Hall in Takelehig—
Firma maner... 6 13 4
Berdefeld Parva—Firma maner... 14 13 4
Berdefeld Parva—Reddit' mobil' Wykeham—Firma maner' et de-
clim' blad' et teni ejusdem vil-
ea, cum pastur' de Southwoode 8 0 0

Suff

Beneyngham—Reddit' assis... 6 19 6 ob'
Beneyngham—Firma terr' et ten 5 6 8
Beneyngham—Firma dominic' de
Southholt... 4 0 0
Beneyngham—Exit' cur' et let' in 5 11
Beneyngham—Exit' cur' et let' in
Southholt... 0 0 6
Beneyngham—Reddit' nullam... 0 0 6
Beneyngham... 0 1 6

Essex

Ferynge—Firma ibidem... 5 6 8
Ferynge—Forn' recept' ut in
precito unius equi de domino
abate... 1 0 0
Bacon in Wythham—Firma te-
menti ibidem... 3 0 0
Ry in Leyre—Firma ibidem... 6 13 4
Wolves in Trendering—Firma
ibidem... 6 13 4
Wylag—Firma ibidem... 22 0 0
Wylag—Agistamentum parci... 0 9 0
Wylag—Vend' hos' et belet' 13 11 2

Suff

Aldeburgh—Annal' pens' recipi-
iend' de vicar... 2 1 0
Aldeburgh—Vend' bladi et staur' 8 10 0

London

Hospitium Leonard... 5 0 0

NUM. VIII.

Inquisitio capta apud Colcestr in com. Essex. post mortem


Inquisitio capta apud Colcestr in com. Essex. coram
Roberto Radclyff armigerou, ecaecore domini regis in com.
predicto, ultimo die Octobris anno regni regis Edwar-
di Quarti post Conquestum octavo, virtute officii sui predicti
per sacrament Johannis Raulton, Johannis Wyndelo,
Johannis Smyth, et al. juratorum, qui dicunt super sacra-
mentum sumo quod. Habbath sancti Johannis Colcestr
sancti die Mercur. ixiiij, iul. die Ulti. praeceptor. per mori-
tem Johannis Canon ultimi abbatis ibidem, et dicunt nuper
abbus tenet dicto die quo obit, ut de jure ecclesiae sua
predicte que est de patronato domini regis, unus mansu-
ram, unum molendinum, unum virginitum, quartam partem
marii de Grynsted, videletc locum ubi abbatia predicta
constitu' maneriam de Puykeves, manerium de Mux-
don, manerium de Bryngleyshope, et iij. curat', terre in
Colcestr. in jij. vivaria, j. molendinum, j. virginitum, quar-
tam partem marii de Grynsted nuper Trustun Wyskaed,
y. j. terre et dimid. mans. que fuerunt Alveyve viduere in
Grynsted, que quidem mansur. manerium, terreas, vivaria
molendinum, Eudo dapifer dedit abbatia predicta in fun-
dationem dicte abbatiae, in puram et perpetuam elemosi-
num. Et dicunt quod predicti. mans. nihil valent per an-
um ultra reprisae. Item dicunt quod predictum manerium de
Wylcy valet per annum vij. libras, et predictum man-
erium de Bryngleyshope valet per annum deccem libr., et
predictae ij. curat'. terre in Colcestr. valent per annum
centum solidos, et predicta ij. vivaria cum dicto molendino
val. per annum xiiij. et predict. virginitum valet per anni
viiij. Et predicta quarta pars maneri de Grynsted valet
per annum xijv. et predict. vij. acre terre et dimid. mans. predict.
val. per annum xiiij.

Item tenet cx. acre terre in Chich in dicto com. et
val. per annum xij. acre terre solid.

Item tenet manerium de Grynsted cum pertinens et
valet per annum decem marc.

Item tenet manerium de Estondlyon cum pertinentiis
in dicto com. et val. per annum decem marcas.

Item tenet xijv. ex. pr. terrarum in villis de Leyre,
Fawbourn, Wykeham, Westerford, in dicto com. solvendi.
Et predict. xij. acres terre in villis de Leyre et init.

Item tenet xijv. acres terre in vij. acres terre in
Areyle que val per annum xiiij.

Item tenet xijv. acres terre in Breyre, et xij. acres terre
in Areyle que val per annum xiiij.

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in Areyle que val per annum xiiij.

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in Areyle que val per annum xiiij.

Item tenet xijv. acres terre in Breyre, et xij. acres terre
in Areyle que val per annum xiiij.
Com' Essex'

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