

**The records of the Commissioners of Sewers in the Parts of Holland,
1547-1603 / edited by A. Mary Kirkus.**

Contributors

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The Lincoln Record Society

VOLUME 71

The Records
of the
Commissioners of Sewers
in the
Parts of Holland 1547-1603

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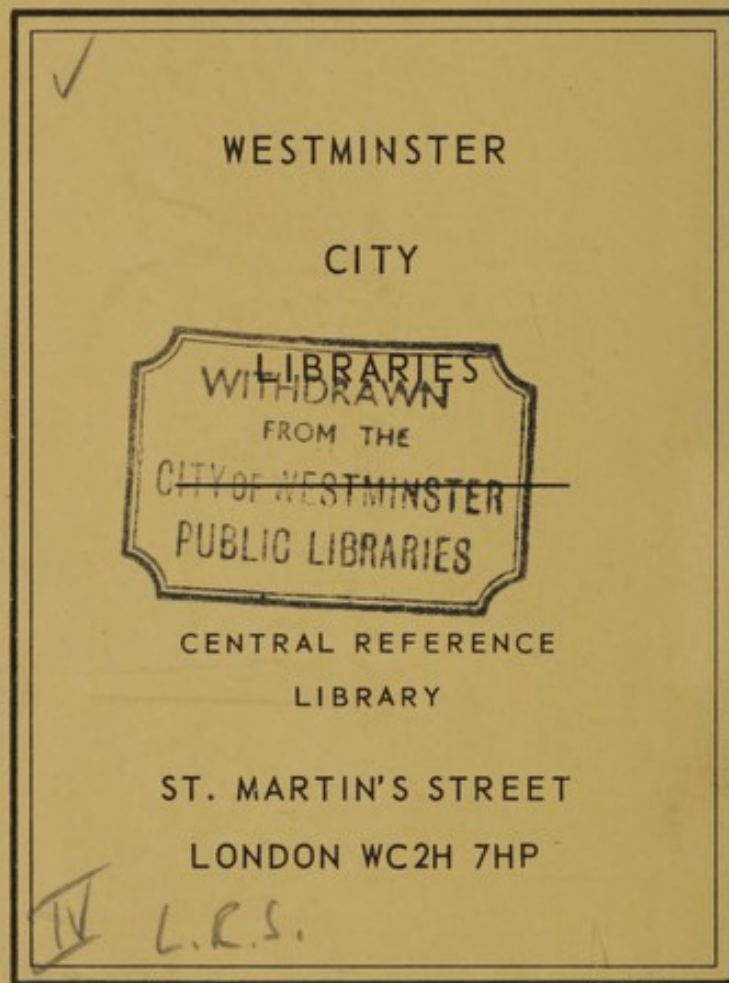
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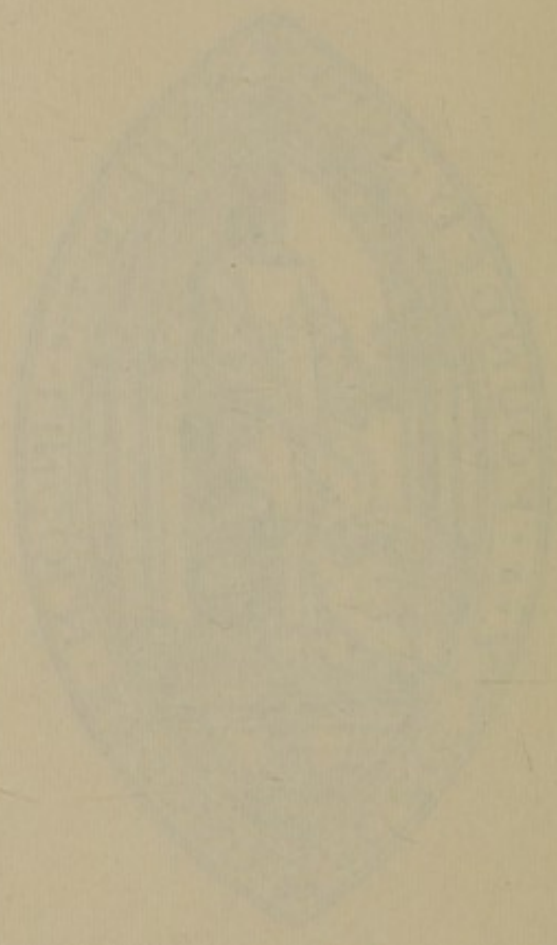


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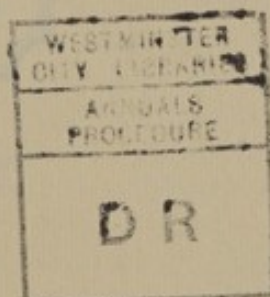
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Volume III



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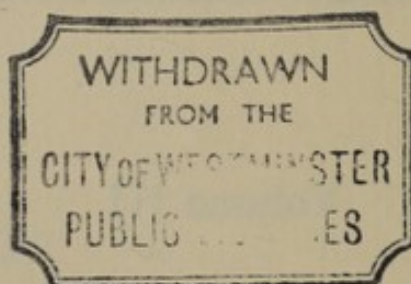
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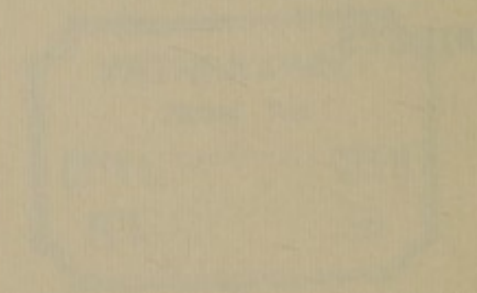
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Introduction to Volume III

This volume completes the edition of early Holland sewers records begun by Miss Mary Kirkus.¹

Scope of the Edition. As explained in volume II, the present editor has found it necessary to depart from Miss Kirkus's original plan in order to keep the edition within bounds. That volume accordingly contained only a selection from the available material for the years 1565 to 1576, a period when the verdicts are particularly full. The verdicts from 1577 to 1587 are fortunately less daunting in length, so that only one has been omitted entirely from the present volume, though others have been abbreviated to a varying extent, thus allowing publication of some of the interesting later laws which Miss Kirkus had transcribed but had not found space for in the edition. It has also proved possible to include a set of dikereeves' accounts for Leake, besides those for Bicker which Miss Kirkus intended to print, and a short passage from a later verdict illustrating the work of the surveyor.

In the Holland sewers records at the Lincolnshire Archives Office there remain unprinted at least ten further files of verdicts for the concluding years of Elizabeth I's reign, further laws for the same period, and a few additional verdicts, fragments of verdicts and other items for earlier years. It has seemed unnecessary to include details of these: the unprinted verdicts can be identified in the table on pp. xxxix–xlix of volume I by a reference in the last column in the form "Lincoln 474, XV, 1" (verdicts comprised in this edition have by contrast a simple number in the table without the "Lincoln" prefix). But attention should be drawn to one item not mentioned by Miss Kirkus, a copy of which is in these records. This is the Welland Navigation Act of 1571, a Private Act not printed in the *Statutes of the Realm* and which must therefore be consulted in the original²: while primarily concerned with Stamford, it has some relevance to problems further downstream.

No copy has been found in these records of the proceedings of one important session of sewers which, although held outside the county, was concerned to a great extent with south Lincolnshire. A volume now in the Norfolk Record Office³ contains the "statutes laws ordinances (etc.)" made at this session which was held at Wisbech on 24 May 1589: a letter to John Jackson printed here (767) alludes to preparations for it. Not the least interesting feature of this session is that it was held jointly for the Parts of Kesteven and Holland in Lincolnshire, the Soke of Peterborough in Northamptonshire, and the hundreds of Wisbech and Witchford in the Isle of Ely, and it was attended by Commissioners from all the counties concerned. On this occasion the problems of drainage in the district were tackled, not by each county in isolation (though, as at Sutton and Tydd in

¹ Volume I, ed. A. Mary Kirkus, 1959 (Lincoln Record Society 54); volume II, ed. A. E. B. Owen, 1968 (Lincoln Record Society 63).

² House of Lords Record Office. Original Act 13 Eliz. I, no. 13. The copy at Lincoln has the reference Spalding Sewers 505. 29–32. See also H. S. Cobb, 'Parliamentary Records relating to Internal Navigation', *Archives* IX no. 42 (Oct. 1969), p. 73.

³ Norfolk Record Office. Bradfer–Lawrence MSS. Xb.

1595 (745d), there must always have been more liaison between adjacent counties than the formal record might suggest), but more in accordance with the modern concept of the "catchment area". The fact that Jackson was Clerk of Sewers for all three counties simultaneously (769) must have made this easier, but we should not underrate the importance of the keen personal interest taken by Lord Burghley in finding a solution to the problems.

Among the orders issued by the Commissioners at Wisbech in 1589 were directions for scouring the Welland from Deeping Stone Bridge to the sea, mentioned as "the law made at Wisbech for the diking of Welland" in a letter to Jackson shortly afterwards (769). There were similar directions for the South Ea, which took some of the South Holland water via Cloughs Cross and Guyhirne to the Nene outfall at Wisbech. As, however, that outfall was inadequate—Sutton and Crowland are named in this context among places which in consequence were greatly "annoyed and drowned" by water—the Commissioners at Wisbech considered two alternative courses for the South Ea water: (i) from Cloughs Cross to the sea by the Shire Drain, (ii) a new cut from Murrow via Newton to the Four Gotes, mentioned in the above letter (769). There was special concern about the drainage of those parts of Whaplode, Holbeach and Fleet lying south of Ravensdike. In 1588, following the issue of conflicting instructions about this from two sets of Commissioners (745a, 745b), Sir Edward Montague and others were appointed to arbitrate between the parties (763–4). But as the Wisbech record shows, the arbitrators had been forced to conclude that neither the ancient drains from south to north, nor a proposed new cut running "by west and east" from Whaplode to the Shire Drain (763), would meet the case. What was needed for these low grounds was a "way or drain" solely for the purpose, with its own outfall into the sea. Four Commissioners were therefore nominated at Wisbech to "track forth" a suitable course for this, with the help of the surveyors Humphrey Bradley and John Hexham, and they were to meet for the purpose before 1 August 1589. A letter from one of them to Jackson (772) shows that they had already met by 28 July and were to meet again shortly.

This project came to nothing; and since a full account of it, in the context of Hexham's map (now at Hatfield House) of the area between Peterborough and Wisbech, has recently appeared,¹ further discussion here is needless. But enough has been said to show that an edition of the surviving records of the Holland Courts of Sewers cannot, by itself, tell the whole story of the courts' activities. Other sources exist, and they need to be consulted. The purpose of an edition such as this must be to exhibit and explain the types of record created by the courts and thereby, as Miss Kirkus put it, to "throw light on the Courts of Sewers and more generally on local administration in the later sixteenth century".

The Commissioners. The law required a quorum of six Commissioners, but no evidence of the adjournment of a court in Lincolnshire for lack of a quorum was found by Miss Kirkus. Nevertheless the number of Commissioners recorded as sitting at one time was in 1579 only two (706)—"legally

¹ *A Description of Maps and Drawings in the Collection made by William Cecil First Baron Burghley now at Hatfield House* by R. A. Skelton and J. Summerson (The Roxburghe Club, 1971), pp. 52–4, item no. 57 and plate 10.

an impossible number", as she points out—and on three occasions only five. Miss Kirkus accepted this evidence at its face value, but the present editor finds it hard to credit that the law was defied so flagrantly, aided and abetted as this must have been by the Clerk. It seems at least as likely that the records themselves are defective, the apparent lack of a quorum on these occasions being due solely to a failure to insert the complete list of Commissioners attending, or to add in its place the usual formula "and others" to the few names given. The likelihood of such clerical error is suggested by the fact that on more than one occasion a space has been provided in the verdict for the Commissioners' names but has been left blank (112, 245, 660).

The Surveyor. In her introduction (volume I, p. xxxv) Miss Kirkus described the surveyor as "a somewhat colourless official" compared with the dikereeve, and found little to say about him. Admittedly the surviving Holland records are seldom very explicit where the surveyor is concerned, but it seemed improbable that an official so often mentioned held a mere sinecure; and further investigation has made clear that his role was in fact one of some importance. He was not a surveyor in the restricted sense which implies land measurement (though he may sometimes have had to engage in this), but in the original and literal sense of the Latin *supervisor* from which the word derives, and of which "overseer" is the exact equivalent in English. In the hierarchy of sewers administration in the sixteenth century, the surveyor stood between the Commissioners, who decided policy, and the dikereeve, whose responsibility was as limited as that of a modern foreman. Upon the surveyor fell the burden of seeing that the orders of the sewers courts were carried out. When landowners and dikereeves, each in turn, failed in their duties, the surveyor had to act. This is laid down explicitly in the general laws of August 1576 (534–567); and instances of the laws being applied occur in 1587, when the surveyors at both Holbeach (715) and Weston (722) had to remedy defects which ought to have been dealt with by others. The surveyor was also "expenditor" or paymaster where any large-scale work was involved. Thus John Gamlyn, one of the Spalding surveyors for a number of years (577, 600, 636), was with others included among the "receivers and surveyors and paymasters" in charge of diking the Welland from Spalding to Cowbit in 1567 (165a). William Stow, a Holbeach surveyor in 1583 (674), and Nicholas Maine were in 1588 appointed "expenditors and overseers" for the abortive works of drainage in south Elloe (745a). A letter of 1589 from Edmund Hall of Greatford (769) sets out how those nominated as surveyors in south-east Kesteven were expected to act as "surveyors and expenditors in this work, to join with yours [in Holland], to see each work well and perfectly done and to take a reckoning with your men, how the money shall be employed". This function is more fully documented in Lindsey, where not infrequently the surveyor rather than the dikereeve is found in immediate charge of the construction of new sea banks and submits accounts in the dikereeve's place.

The same Edmund Hall in another letter (766) stresses the importance of appointing good officers as surveyors and dikereeves who will take pains to perform their duty according to their oath, "or else the laws shall be of none effect", and goes on to speak in detail about the surveyors. He thinks it con-

venient for "one or two special men to be nominated to be surveyors in every town, commoners in the fens", and suggests some names of "meet men" locally. The surveyors should "agree amongst themselves, that a couple of them at the least, twice in one month to travel into the fens . . . to peruse what faults there shall be in either of these parts [i.e. Holland and Kesteven]; and thereupon to give warning unto them that ought to amend the same or else they (the surveyors) . . . to perform their (the defaulters') duties". Not surprisingly, a conscientious surveyor sometimes found his duties a burden; and one who pleaded for a single salaried surveyor in place of a number of unpaid ones obviously spoke from bitter experience of having to "travail your horse, spend much money and many days, and sustain loss at home by neglect of your own business" (730a).

The surveyors, unlike the dikereeves, not infrequently served for four or five years on end, or even longer. In Moulton, Edmund Brimston who was surveyor in 1576-7 was still serving ten years later; and Ralph Wright at Sutton St James in 1598 had been serving since 1587. In Fleet, Anthony Egar serves alone in 1576-7, with William Coker in 1578 and 1583; in 1587 Coker serves with Robert Henryson. In Holbeach, John Key serves alone in 1576-7, 1577, 1578; in 1583 we find William Stucley and William Stow together; but in 1587 John Key is back again alone. Unfortunately the surveyors are not regularly named in the verdicts, but so far as can be judged it seems that, despite the stock phrase "in default of the dikereeves and surveyors", there was not usually more than one surveyor acting in a parish at any one time. Spalding, which regularly had two, must be regarded as exceptional because of its size. Kirton had two on both occasions in the 1580s when the surveyors are mentioned by name. Holbeach had two in 1583 but in other years only one; at Pinchbeck two are named in 1576-7 but afterwards only one; Crowland had two in 1596 but only one a year or two later. Fleet had one in 1576-7 but afterwards two: the second, however, may have been for the "fen end" of the parish, as the second surveyor at Gedney in the 1590s explicitly was. The chapelry of Fosdyke in Algarkirk had its own surveyor. Sutton *cum membris* had four, one for each township (St Mary, St James, St Edmund and Lutton).

Miss Kirkus examined the social background of the Holland Commissioners, and that of the surveyors deserves similar analysis. Little, however, is to be learnt from the sewers records themselves. An ability to render accounts, which was sometimes beyond the capacity of dikereeves, and the need to take greater responsibilities than the latter, make it likely that the surveyors were drawn in general from a higher social class. As against this, the occasional "gentleman" is to be found both among dikereeves and surveyors, but the term is an imprecise one and by itself tells us little. John Jackson, gent., one of the Spalding surveyors in 1596, was also the Clerk of Sewers. John Gamlyn, gent., a Spalding surveyor for a number of years, was later a Commissioner. William Howson, surveyor at Wigtoft in 1579 and 1583, is not called gentleman but he was father-in-law of John Lockton, a Commissioner who was knighted in 1603 (volume I, p. lxx). These are among the few instances discovered where the surveyors seem to approach the social class from which the Commissioners were drawn. On the Lindsey coast the link between surveyors and Commissioners was closer, the social

gap between surveyors and dikereeves perhaps correspondingly wider. In 1565 Thomas Massingberd the elder and Thomas Massingberd the younger are named as Commissioner and surveyor respectively in the same document. Around 1570 Hammond Upton, Thomas Massingberd and Thomas Kyme, esquires, appear together as Commissioners on one occasion and as surveyors on another. No such instances of Commissioners functioning as surveyors have been found in Holland. But the Lindsey surveyors, as already mentioned, had often to take charge of the construction of new sea banks or major repairs to old ones, on which scores or hundreds of labourers might be employed, and this must have called for men of some education and a social position enabling them to act with authority in conditions of emergency, whereas the Holland surveyors' duties seem seldom to have extended much beyond the supervision of routine maintenance work by owners and dikereeves.

The Dikereeve. Much might be added to what Miss Kirkus wrote about the dikereeve, but a thorough discussion would extend well beyond the chronological limits of this edition. One point, however, must be emphasized. Outside Lincolnshire the dikereeve is known only in the Marshland district of Norfolk and in parts of the Isle of Ely. No exactly comparable official existed elsewhere in the country, where the supervision of works of drainage or sea defence was commonly undertaken by marsh bailiffs or similar officials. Miss Kirkus's suggestion that the bailiff "seems to have been the dikereeve under another name" begs the question. In the churchwardens' accounts of a Somerset parish for 1538-9 she found a reference which might, she felt, imply that two persons there named were dikereeves. But no such officers in fact existed in Somerset before the nineteenth century when they were imposed upon it by statute after the discontinuance of the old "standing juries".¹

Miss Kirkus describes the dikereeve as having "a long and somewhat confusing history". Long it undoubtedly is. We first know of him from a reference to Hubert son of Hulf le dicgreive, living in Long Sutton before the end of the twelfth century²; and since, as Miss Kirkus puts it, "dikes without dikereeves are almost inconceivable", he probably had his origin in the period of Danish settlement when the first sea banks appear to have been built in Lincolnshire. It is also probable that, as she suggests, he was "originally a village or parish official". Manorial records, it is true, often make the dikereeve seem to be a manorial officer, but this ambiguity of status may be more apparent than real. As an example of manorial appointment Miss Kirkus quotes the Ingoldmells court rolls of 1443, and this court was indeed appointing dikereeves in the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. But that is not the whole story. On two occasions in the 1350s we find five or six dikereeves appointed at one time, even though two, or sometimes only one, was the customary number per village. The manor of Ingoldmells, however, comprised three villages—Ingoldmells-with-Addlethorpe, Win-

¹ A. E. B. Owen, 'Land Drainage Authorities and their Records', in *Prisca Munimenta: Studies . . . presented to A. E. J. Hollaender*, ed. Felicity Ranger (London, 1973), p. 280 n. 35.

² Harl. MS. 2110, fo. 75. H. E. Hallam, *Settlement and Society* (Cambridge, 1965), p. 220, in citing this, claims it as evidence that the dikereeve "was a well-attested communal official by 1160 at the latest".

thorpe and Skegness—and the six dikereeves plainly represent not six for the whole manor, but the customary two for each village within it. This inference is supported by the court roll for 1411, when two “keepers of the banks of the sea of Skegness” were elected in the Ingoldmells manor court, and the steward of the manor ordered them to maintain the banks according to the custom of the township of Skegness.¹ The authority of the manor is being invoked, but in the interests of the township. Thus, despite the manorial veneer, the dikereeve was—and was regarded as—a village officer. The sixteenth-century Holland sewers records certainly never suggest that he was otherwise regarded. There are occasional instances in Lindsey, and at least one in Holland (745a, 758), of dikereeves appointed directly by the Commissioners, but there seems always to have been some special reason for this, such as the construction of a new bank or outfall or major works of drainage, involving duties beyond what could be expected of a parish officer. On such occasions the title of dikereeve was appropriated for what was really an *ad hoc* appointment of a different character.

Method of Transcription. The conventions employed in this volume are as explained in volume II, p. vii, where the system of *Numbering* is also explained. To what is there said, it should be added that the records which form the basis of this edition now bear the title “Spalding Sewers” at the Lincolnshire Archives Office. Thus anyone wishing to consult the original of the item printed on p. 1 of volume II should quote the reference “Spalding Sewers 473.VIII”.

Acknowledgments. When I undertook to complete this edition after the untimely death of Miss Kirkus, I expected the task to be a largely mechanical one, that of seeing the remaining volumes into print. In the event it has proved necessary to do a great deal more, and the work has taken far longer than I foresaw. At the beginning I knew next to nothing about the Courts of Sewers in the Parts of Holland beyond what Miss Kirkus had already printed in the first volume of the edition; but I have learnt, like her, as I went along. Both for reasons of expense and (as explained in the introduction to volume II) for the avoidance of repetition, it has proved impossible to print everything that she had intended. I hope, however, that the final form of the edition is not too far removed from what she would have wished to see. I am in any case under a lasting obligation to her, as all users of this edition must be, for laying in the first volume the foundations on which the two subsequent volumes have been based.

While preparing the text for press I have paid innumerable visits to the Lincolnshire Archives Office to check Miss Kirkus's typescript against the original documents. I am greatly indebted to the staff of that office for their helpfulness at all times, but I owe a special debt to the former Archivist, Mrs Joan Varley, for much kindly hospitality over the years on the occasion of those visits. Two General Editors, Miss Kathleen Major (for volume II) and my wife (for the present volume), have smoothed the editor's path, and to the latter in addition I have a very personal obligation for her encouragement

¹ W. O. Massingberd, *Court Rolls of the Manor of Ingoldmells* (London, 1902), pp. 140, 147, 220.

and help ever since I took over the edition. The care taken by successive printers, Messrs J. W. Ruddock & Sons and Popper & Company, speaks for itself.

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA: VOLUME I

Introduction. p. xxv line 17. *for parisshe read premisses.*

p. xxvi line 24. *for 755 read 756; line 29. for 756 read 755.*

Meetings of Courts. p. xxxix. 4 Aug. 1544. *for Donington read Boston.*

p. xli. Meetings listed in sequence as "1568, Spalding; 17 June [1568?], Spalding; 22 July [1568?], Moulton; [1568?], Spalding". These entries all probably relate to a single meeting, on 22 July 1568 at Spalding. See further under Corrigenda to volume II.

p. xliii. 20 Aug. 1576. *for 20 read 21 Aug.*

28 April 1577. *for 9 read 7 Commissioners.*

add 2 Oct. 1577/Spalding/576, 636 (names of Commissioners not recorded).

19 Oct. 1577. *delete 576.*

p. xlv. 2 Oct. 1583. *for 7+ read 9+ Commissioners.*

4 Dec. 1584. *add 693 to references.*

delete 7 Dec. 1584/693.

14 Jan. 1587. *for 14 read 13 Jan.*

add 8 July 1588/Whaplode/745b (= "Lincoln 485").

Glossary. p. lxxxv. To didle; Didle mill. A didle or dydow was a metal scoop or bag-net attached to a long pole, used for removing mud from ditches (J. M. Lambert *et al.*, *The Making of the Broads*, Royal Geographical Society, London, 1960, pp. 97-8). A didle mill (114) was perhaps similar to the Dutch mud mill, a primitive form of dredger (illustrated in J. Van Veen, *Dredge, Drain, Reclaim*, 4th edn, The Hague, 1955, p. 92).

add Angle, block of land sharing a drainage system (222).

add Fin, an outfall channel in the marsh.

p. lxxxvi. Gitt, drain-pipe or spout (*not "a drain or sewer"*).

Landlawer, a rate based on acreage (*not "the laws of sewers of the district"*).

Landmer, boundary, O.E. land-gemaere (*not "an inland lake"*).

p. lxxxvii. Maner, soil (*not the more limited meaning given*).

Outring bank, the outermost ring of banks round each parish (*not "division bank"*).

Shift, portion of bank or drain for whose maintenance a parish or township was responsible (*not "a division of land"*).

p. lxxxviii. Staithe. *for warf read wharf.*

Stowe, a dam (*not, in this context, "a place or site"*).

Text. p. 59 note 3. *delete See Dugdale pp. 203-5.*

Index. p. 135. Androwegrave *add Andrew Graves, 81.*

p. 139. "Chapell of the Sea". These references are to the chapel of St Mary-in-the-Marsh in Newton, Isle of Ely.

- p. 145. Grave *delete* Andrew, 81.
 Hale. *for* Great Gale *read* Great Hale.
 p. 152. *for* Pipwell [in Whaplode par.] *read* Pipewell, Pipwell, co. Northant.
 p. 162. Cambridgeshire *after* "Chapell of the Sea" *add* [in Newton, Isle of Ely].
 p. 163. *delete* Pipwell [in Whaplode par.].
 p. 164. Northamptonshire *add* Pipewell.
 p. 166. carts. *References should read* xxix *bis*, xxx, 5, 14, 45, 67.
 flax. *for* 26 *read* 28.
 p. 168. sewers: new sewers. *for* 123 *read* 103-4.

VOLUME II

- p. 16, section 165. The probable date of this verdict is 9 July 1566: cf. volume I p. xli.
 p. 49 *et seq.* A re-examination suggests that certain folios, now dispersed between two files, originally formed the verdict of a *preter illos* jury for Elloe, foreman Robert Pulvertoft, presented at a session of sewers at Spalding on 22 July 1568. These folios consist of 473.XI.25, 34-53; 473.XIII.26-34; and probably two or three others not identified. They bear old numbers 2-10 (473.XIII.26-34), 11-27, 29-31 (473.XI.34-53), 33 (473.XI.25); the last has "xxxij folia" (*sic*) written at the foot. 22 July seems to be the correct date, even though one folio (473.XI.42) purports to be dated in June: this looks like a clerical error. The four references in volume I, p. xli, to meetings at Spalding and Moulton in 1568 all relate to this verdict, "Moulton" as the place of meeting being erroneous.

SYNOPSIS OF DOCUMENTS IN VOLUME III

(An entry in italics signifies that the document is briefly described but not printed, or printed only in part)

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585-599	Verdicts for Elloe Wapentake, c.1578 and c.1598	6-15
600-641	<i>Verdicts for Elloe and Kirton Wapentakes, 1577-8 (part printed)</i>	15-17
642-659	<i>Verdicts for Kirton Wapentake, 1575 and 1580 (section 659 omitted)</i>	17-36
660-661	Verdict for Skirbeck Wapentake, 1581	36-37
662-692	<i>Verdict for Kirton, Elloe and Skirbeck Wapentakes, 1583 (part printed)</i>	37-50
693-701	Verdicts for Skirbeck and Elloe Wapentakes, 1584	50-56
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711-730	<i>Verdict for Elloe Wapentake, 1587 (part printed)</i>	56-69
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745a	Law for Diking the River Welland, etc., 1588	80-84
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745d	Law for Sutton and Tydd, 1595	90-91
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COURTS OF SEWERS

VERDICT FOR KIRTON AND ELLOE WAPENTAKES, 1577

[473.XVIII.1-14] 568-584
Part printed

[Only the Kirton portion of this file is printed. The unprinted portion, 576-584, consists of a *preter illos* verdict for Elloe, 2 October 1577.]

[473.XVIII.1] 568

(*The wapentacke of Kirkton in Hollande in the countie of Lincoln 1577*) An inquisition taken at Boston the xixth daie of Octobre Anno regni regine domine nostre Elizabethe Dei gratia etc. xix^{mo} before Richard Balles William Hunston esquiers and others the quenes maiesties Commissioners of Sewars within the saide wapentacke of all defaultes not done viz. a primo Septembris 1576 usque ultimum Septembris 1577 accordinge to a generall lawe maide and sett downe by the saide Commissioners in anno xvij^{mo} of the quenes maiestie that nowe is by the othes of Edward Elson of Sutterton and others which said as followeth

Wiberton

(*Defaultes in the seabanckes*) That ij roodes of the seabancke belonginge to the landes late the lady Ellerker and nowe Mr Yaxley. Towe roodes belonging to Mr Castle adioyninge to the goote. One rood Mr Copledickes. One rod belonginge to the corporacion of Boston. Towe roodes belonging to the landes sometymes the nunrye of Stixewoulde in thoccupacon of Richarde Felde. Towe roodes belonginge to the landes St Johns of Newsteade in thoccupacion of Richard Draper and [blank] Thorye. One roode belonginge to the landes of Myntinge and Shallocke in thoccupacion of Christofer and William Cortbye. xij foote belonginge to the landes now Mr George Browne. xvj fote belonginge unto the quenes maiestie for landes in thoccupacion of Richarde Felde. One roode belonging to the landes of William Whatton of Boston. xv foote belonging to the landes of theires of Thomas Howitsons. One roode belonging to the landes Richarde Smythes. One roode belonging to the landes of Thomas Bennett gent. in thoccupacion of Peter Margery. One roode belonging to the landes of William Cocke and theires of William Ordinge. One roode belonging to the landes of William Storkes. One roode belonging to the landes of Richarde Jetour gent. One roode belonging to the landes of Henry Strayle. And xij foote belonginge to the landes of William Swanne iure uxoris. All which premisses weare not done by the tyme lymited within the generall lawe in defaulte as well of the owners and occupiars of the landes above resited as all officers there for that tyme beinge.

(*The comman sewarr Respect*) Item likewise that vj roodes within the coman sewarre which is to be deiked by acrege of Wiberton afforsaide againste the landes of Robert Dymocke esquier next unto Welles slaide was not dyked by the tyme lymited in defaulte of all officers there at that tyme beinge nevertheless the saide jurye do saie that the dykeryves hadd appoynted certen laborers to dyke the defaulte afforsaide within the tyme lymited unto them, and coulde not conveyniently perfect the same for water within the saide sewarre.

Item xxth roodes of a pettye dreyne betwene Wiberton and Frampton was

not dyked within the tyme lymited. In defaulte of theires of George Cley-monte gent. v roodes, William Whatton vj roodes John Copledey iiij roodes and the quenes maiestie v roodes for landes in thoccupacion John Kerchen and William Clerke and in defaulte of thofficers, according to the generall lawe.

[473.XVIII.1d]

569

Frampton

(*Defaultes in the seabankes*) The jurye present likewise viij roodes of the seabanke belonging to thenhabitantes of Fram Hundreth in Donington and iij roodes belonging to the manour of Stonehalle in Frampton called Inlocked Bancke was not maide accordinge to the lawe within suche tyme as by the same was appoynted in defaulte aswell of the oweners as the officers for that tyme beinge.

(*A pettie dreyne*) And that xxx^{tie} roodes of a pettie dreyne betwene Wiberton and Frampton was not dyked as was enioyned in defaulte of Richard Carleton Thomas Worme William Holmes John Copledey and William Garrotte and in defaulte of thofficers according to the generall lawe.

Kirkton

(*Defaultes in the coman sewarr Hamond Becke Stalworth Bridge*) The saide jurye saie also that vj roodes in the coman sewarre of Kirkton afforsaide betwene a place called Wright Grene Corner and Anthony Pury dary howse and iij roodes in Hamonde Becke at Kirkton Holme Corner was not dyked, neither one bridge extendinge over the coman sewarre there called Stalworth Bridge was repaired as by lawe was enioyned, in defaulte thofficers aswell dykeryves as surveyours, for that tyme beinge.

(*The fenne banckes Respect*) They saie likewise that the bancke called the West Border within Holland viij^c Fenne from the Horne to a place called Goosegoule cont[aining] in lengthe by estimacion ij myles and a halfe. And that the Easte Border within the said viij^c Fenne from Daynebouthe unto the Shufte Styles cont[aining] in lengthe by estimacion iij miles and a halfe, weare not maide in suche forme and skantlinge and so exactlye in everye respect as the lawe requireth, neverthelesse¹ better then for many yeares past¹ and in many places more defencible, wherefore the saide jury pray that every towneshippe havinge comman within the viij^c Fenne may be enioyned to make theire severall allottmentes in bankinge sufficient and defencible aswell againste the water of Witham as other the West Waters issuinge oute of Kesteaven and so to be dischargd of that skantlinge of bankinge as by generall lawe they ar at this day enioyned unto, otherwise the yearly makeinge of the saide banckes and other ordynary chardges within the saide fenne that many pore men ar put unto will muche more amounte unto then the benefitte of theire comman as by manyfest prouf therof by many this yeare past is apparant. And for the defaultes in all and singler the premisses for the tyme past aswell all owners as officers by whome the saide premisses shoulde have benne perfected commytt them selves unto the favorable consideracion of the quenes maiesties Commissioners.

¹⁻¹ The original choice of phrase, which is deleted, was: "better then at any tyme for theise xli^{ti} yeares past".

[473.XVIII.2]

570

Adhuc Kirkton

(*Petition for perfect bookes to be maide of fenne banckes & all pettie dreynes within the towne Respect*) The jury saie also, wheras there ar diverse banckes at this day maide by ioyestment or land within the viij^c Fenne belonging to Kirkton and no perfect bookes therof, and likewise diverse pettie dreynes within the saide towne and many of them at this day denyed and utterly decayed by meanes they ar not knowen unto thofficers for the tyme beinge, that it is very expedient and neidfull at theise sessions the quenes maiesties justices will appoynte iij or iiij^{or} persons of every vyntayne of the saide towne of Kirkton by speciall name enioyninge them uppon a pennaltie by a day certayn to delyver in writinge under their handes a perfect booke as well of all banckes within the saide viij^c Fenne which at this day ar maide and maynteyned by any mans land makinge mencion what land from tyme to tyme is and ought to be lyable for the mayntennance therof, as also of all pettie dreynes by whome they ar denyed and which waye they ought to have theire accustomed course unto the heade dreyne, and who ar or ought to be from tyme to tyme chardgeable with the same.

(*Petition for reformation of certen bridges over the coman sewar maide in comonaltie Respect' usque prox' . . .*) The saide jury saie likewise wheras by force of the lawe maide in anno xvij^{mo} of the quenes maiestie that nowe is uppon Anthony Cony his verdict all thenhabitantes within Kirkton ar chardged in comonaltie with the meynteyninge of sixe bridges extendinge over the coman sewarr there, and before the saide lawe at no tyme within the memory of man have beane chardged with any mo then thrie viz. Townesend Marketsteade and Bulholme Bridge and all the residue have beane maide and maynteyned tyme oute of mynde some by private persons and others by certayn vyntaynes of the saide towne for their better passage to the churche and markett and other their neidfull affaires. And forsomuche as all the saide inhabitauntes this last yeare past was not onely enforced newly to erect one bridge called the Meres Bridge leadinge unto the vyntayne of the Meres onely but also to repare and amende one other bridge called Lady Bridge likewise extendinge over the saide coman sewarre to their greate chardges as by the dykeryves accompte more at lardge may appere. The saide jury pray reformation in this behalf according to equitie, that is, that thenhabitauntes in comonaltie be no further chardged then accustomed they have of long tyme beane used. And that not onely the chardges (by them susteyned) of the saide ij bridges may be repayed, but also the contynewance in reparinge and maynteyninge the same and all the residue (except before excepted) may be allotted unto suche persons and parte of the towne as heretofore haith beane and at this day of right oughte to be chardgeable with the same.

[473.XVIII.2d]

571

Adhuc Kirton

(*Petition for reformation of a bancke in Holland VIII^c Fenne. Respect*) The saide jury saie also wheras in the xvth article of Anthony Cony his verdict in anno xvij^{mo} of the quenes maiestie that nowe is, that one wardicke bancke in Holland viij^c Fenne in a certayn place there called Salt Hurne

allotted to certen mens landes in Kirkton within the vyntayne of Willington the which of longe tyme so haithe beane kept and maynteyned shoulde be lefte of and forsaken and the strught bancke next unto the haven to be kept and repared in suche sorte as tholde wardicke was by force of which verdict the saide streighte bancke at this day is maynteyned wherby many persons ar indepnied and laide in muche more daungerouse place then they weare in tholde wardicke, wherefore the saide jury do pray that either the saide olde wardicke may be agayne as before maynteyned, or elles those persons which suffered theire allotmentes to dekaye in the same may nowe be layde in the worste parte of the saide newe streighte bancke.

Algarkirke and Fosdicke

(*Defaultes in the sewarr comminge from Symondweare*) The saide jury likewise saie that xx^{ti} roodes in the sewarr from Fishemere Bridge to Dyckonsons howse, and ij partes of x roodes in the sewarr from Acreland Stowe to Fishemere Bridge was not dyked within the tyme lymited accordinge to lawe in default of all officers at that tyme being.

Sutterton

(*Defaultes in the sewarre cominge from Symondweare*) They saie also that x roodes in the sewarr betwene Dyckonsons howse and Spaldinge Gate and the iiij^{de} parte of x roodes from Acreland Stowe to Fishemere Bridge was not dyked within the tyme lymited in default of all officers at that tyme beinge.

[473.XVIII.3]

572

Wigtofte and Swyneshed

(*Defaultes. The commoners of Skerbecke Quarter*) They saie also that the commoners of Skerbecke Quarter have not maide vj roodes of the West Caulsey within the tyme lymited, in defaulte of thofficers for the tyme being.

(*Brethertofte Respect'*) Item the habitauntes of Brethertofte have not repared and maynteyned, in exalting ramming and damming the damme heades at Langaracke according as they ar enioyned by lawe, within the tyme lymited, in defaulte as is afforsaid.

(*Great Haile*) Thenhabitauntes of Greate Halle have not repared the West Cawsey from Parke howse to Babarbothe neither yet layd¹ a sufficient bridge over Holle Dyke in the place appoynted in defaulte as is afforsaid.

Bicker

(*Defaultes in the goute at Langaracke in Holland viij^e Fenne Respect'*) The jury saie also wheras thenhabitauntes of Byckarr, Donington & Quadringe uppon good advise and greate consideracion have beane chardged with the makinge and maynteyninge of a goote at Langaracke within Holland viij^e Fenne, and nowe the saide goote is dammed uppe and haith not rune for theise iiij^{or} yeares past and yet the saide towneshippes (at the chardges of thenhabitauntes of the viij^e) as perfectlye dreyned as at any tyme heretofore. Therefore the saide jury thinke it necessarie that the saide inhabitauntes of Bickarr, Donington and Quadring be enioyned uppon the payne of x li. to repare and make perfect the saide goote agayne before the Purificacion of Our Lady next.

¹ Two or three words inserted here in another hand are illegible.

[473.XVIII.3d]

573

Donington

(*Defaultes in the Tundam*) They saie also that ij roodes in the Tundam belonging to Bryan Robertson towe roodes belonging to Symond Snell & Robert Allen, iij roodes belonging to William Harryman, one roode belonging to Thomas Snell, one roode belonging to Walter Carre iure uxoris, and ij roodes belonging to Rychard Ormeshed, was not dyked within the tyme lymited in defaulte aswell of the owneris as all officers for that tyme being.

Quadringe

(*Defaultes in Newdicke Bancke*) The saide jury likewise saie that ij roodes of Newdicke Bancke belonging to the quenes maiestie for landes sometymes belonging to the Priorie of Peterbroughe in the occupacion of Mr Baker and others one roode belonging to the landes of John Toplidge xxj foote belonging to the landes of theires of John Etwell and ij roodes belonging to the parson of Gosberkirke weare not maide within the tyme lymited in defaulte aswell of the owners and occupiars as all officers at that tyme being.

(*The Stroope Bancke*) Item one roode in a certeyn bancke from the Stroope to Westherope Barr belonging to the quenes maiestie for landes in thoccupacion of John Deathe. And one roode belonging to the landes of Mr Baker was not maide within the tyme lymited in defaulte as is before saide.

(*A bridge over the sewar at Elwoode Elmes*) Item one bridge which shoulde extende over the comon sewarr at a place called Elwoode Elmes, and as yet not layde accordinge to lawe, in defaulte aswell of thenhabitauntes as all officers for that tyme being.

[473.XVIII.4]

574

Gosberkirke¹

Surflett

(*Defaultes Newlove Bridge Hawkens Bridge*) The saide jurie saithe also that one bridge called Newlove Bridge extendinge over the Beiche, one other bridge called Hawkens Bridge extendinge over [blank] weare not repared within the tyme lymited, in defaulte viz. Newlove Bridge of thofficers of Surflett and Hawkens Bridge in defaulte of thofficers of Surflett and Gosberkirke at that tyme being.

Item the rabbet or clowe standing in [blank] was not repared and amended within the tyme lymited in defaulte of thofficers of Surflett at that tyme being.

(*Burne Eabancke*) Item viij roodes of Burne Eabancke belonging to the manour of Cressey Halle and iiij^{or} roodes in Richard Obrey his grownde belonging to John Deathe and theires of John Burton for landes sometymes Mr Markehams weare not maide and perfected by the tyme lymited in defaulte aswell of the owners as thofficers for that tyme being.

[*Endorsed:*] Veredict de anno xix^o E. R^{e2}

[473.XVIII.5]

575

The vue of Skyrbeck Goate taken the xxviijth day of Aprill in the xixth yeare of the rayne of our soveraigne ladie quene Elizabethe by George

¹ The top half of the folio below the heading "Gosberkirke" is blank.

² Also some unimportant scribbling.

Earle maior of the borowe of Boston Richard Boles William Hunston Roberte Carr junior Arthur Walpole William Yeaxley & Richard Hyltoft and Alexander Skynner esquiers Commissioners of the swers within the countie of Lincoln amongeste others assigned etc.

(*Lincoln' Boston*) Uppon the vue of the which Commissioners the daye and yeare aforesayd yt dothe appere that one goate caled Skyrbecke Goate lyinge on the weste syde of the ryver of Boston ys in great ruyn and decaye and hathe note ben repaired nor amended by suche as ought to have don the same accordinge to former lawes of swers made aswell for the repayre thereof as of other goates, for the avoydinge of the imynent danger and for the present repayre thereof, the Commissioners afforesayd do order and decre as followethe, fyrste yt ys agreed by the sayd Commissioners that towardes the repayre of the goate afforesayd that the warrantes forthwith be dyrected unto the degrades of Skyrbecke Quarter on the weste & to the degrades of the weste syde of the boroughe of Boston aswell for the levieinge of ij^s of everie acre within Skyrbecke Quarter aforsayd as also to levie of the inhabytantes of the weste syde of Boston accordinge to theire accustomed rate, provided that the fyrste levie do extend but to the halfe of the some before rehersed And to be expended at the oversight of William Yeaxley Richard Hyltofte & Alexander Skynner, or towe of them And the remnant of the sayd levie or so muche as to them shalbe thought necessarie towardes the performance of the sayd worke to be lykwyses collected and expendid And yt ys furder ordered that the sayd goate shalbe perfected before the feaste of St Mychell tharkangell next commynge uppon the paynes lymtyed to be leveid of eeverie one that shalbe remisse herin as in the generall lawes of swers ys prescribed.

[*Signed:*] per me Ricardum Bollys William Hunston Robart Carre Arthure Walpoole Wylliam Yaxlee Alexander Skynner Rychard Hyltoft.

VERDICTS FOR ELLOE WAPENTAKE, c.1578 AND c.1598

[473.XIX.1-16]

585-599

[The year at the beginning of this file is lost. Miss Kirkus in her notes on individual Commissioners who are named in 585 and 587 assigns this session to "1577 or 1578"; elsewhere (volume I, p. xliii) she couples it with the verdict of 10 October 1578 which follows (600). This may be correct for 585-7, but the rest of the file (588-599) must belong to a much later date. The names of the surveyors suggest this as probably around 1598, and we may also note the appearance in Cowbit and Spalding of Captain Thomas Lovell (598-9), prominent in drainage schemes at the end of the century.]

[473.XIX.1]

585

¹(*Com' Lincoln wapenta' de Ellowe*) The verdict of Richard Welby esq. . . . George Partridge gent. John Gamblyn . . . Custe Henry Dawson John Davison John . . . Larence Clarke Edmond Thomson John . . . Allen Symon Deaves Roberte Gybsone Richard . . . Richard Bollys esquier Roberte Carr esquier Edmon[d] . . . yonger esquier Adlard Welby esquier Thomas Ogle esquier . . . Leonard Irby esquier at Spaldinge the

¹ The right-hand edge of this folio is missing.

tenthe day of . . . yeare of our most gracious soveraigne lady Elizab[eth] . . . queene of England Fraunce and Ireland defend[er] . . .

(*To call for joysebookes Referatur ad visum*) Imprimis the sayd jurye say upon theire oathes that Southe Eay . . . for want of dykinge and scowringe from Sheep Eae Banke to Clo-. . . of the severall townships of Holland in the wapent' aforsayd joy-. . . the same woulde be dyked three foote deeper then nowe it is from . . . the brede of xx^{tie} foote to the middle of the channell and that the . . . for height and bredthe as followethe viz. the towne of Sutto[n] . . . roodes Gedneay iiij^{xx} xiiij^{ten} roddes Fleet and Holbedge vj score roddes . . . and that Shep Eae Banke is in great decay and the banke of Litle P[ursant] . . . them that owe of custome to repayre them.

(*To be repayred at or before St Lukes Day sub pena xij d.* . . .) Item the sayd jury say that the bankes of Great Pursant are also in . . . and that the queenes maiestie and the inhabitantes of Croyland owe to repare . . . that also that banke of the ryver of Welland on the southe syde from . . . to Brotherhouse is in decay in defalt as aforsayd.

(*Ut supra*) Item the sayd jury say that the bankes on the north syde of the . . . Waldram Hall to a ferry called Clout and the bankes of the southe s[ide] . . . from Baston Spoute to Pinchebecke are yearly pulled downe by . . . therfore they thinke it fitt the sayd banks be barred from t[he] . . . Bushopp unto Our Lady Day in Lent as hathe bene accustomed an[d] . . . for safety of the fens betwene the sayd ryveres.

(*Ad visum*) Item the sayd jury sayne that they fynde in theire travell . . . Surflet Eae and Tidd Goate commonly called Shiregoate that the . . . decay in divers and sondry places and therfore they prayen the . . .

[473.XIX.2]

586

¹sewers that certeyne men may be chosen in every tow[n] . . . convenient speed.

(*Ad visum*) Item the sayd jury say that whearas the sayd Shire Goate is so de- . . . the towne of Tidd St Maryes is peteously surrounded and hathe . . . past they prayne the sayd Commissioners to consider of some . . . sayd jury thinke may be by divisinge a drayne towards Sutton Go[ate] . . . newe goate so as the owtfall may spedily fall into Sutton Leam and . . . acresylver of all the groundes of Tidd St Maryes aforsayd.

(*Decreed to be done*) Item the sayd jury sayne that the goate of Sutton cum membris called S . . . Luttongoate are in decay and woulde be made larger then nowe they . . . brode a pece and the same to be done by acresilver of the whole . . . aforsayd before some convenient day to be prefixed by the sayd Commis[sioners] . . .

²(*Ad specialem visum . . . plusquam necessarium ut aliquid fiat*) Item the sayd jury sayne that whearas it is the opynion of divers . . . that of late yeares Gednay Goate did fall into Sutton Leam . . . the same hathe done great harmes & hinderances to the sayd whole town . . . especially to the two hamlettes of St Edmondes and St James and because . . . by experience that the sayd last recyted two hamlettes lye for the most . . . drowned partly for the reason aforsayd and partly for that they are so . . . sea goates as in the

¹ The right-hand edge of this folio is missing.

² A hand drawn in the margin points to this paragraph.

dryest tymes and years yt is almost pa- . . . can take any benifyte of drayninge and then are they present- . . . the queenes maiesties tenantes for hir graces demesnes and all other th- . . . tenantes there have little or no benefitt of theire landes in the . . . they are chargeable in all warkes of sewerer with the other . . . accordinge to the acre so as the rent sometymes will not . . . ij hamlettes therfore the sayd jury prayne the sayd Commis[sioners] . . . some good way to recover the queens sayd demesne . . .

[473.XIX.3]

¹partes of the sayd St Edmondes and St James eyther by some . . . to be devised by men of skill and the sayd Commissioners an[d] . . . of the sayd townshipp of Sutton cum membris as is in lyke . . . the jury do thinke that the leame decayinge as it dothe . . . for lack of releeffe and the hamlettes of St Maryes and Lutto[n] . . . case ar very mucche endamaged by the sock of salt water . . . all which woulde be avoyded if some devise coulde be founde . . . freshe water higher or to quicken it for more speed and . . . Commissioners to vewe all the premisses for the helpe and releeffe . . . of Sutton cum membris.

²(*To be repayred sub pena xx li. ante festum sancte Luce*) Item the sayd jury sayne the dammys of the north syde of Sutton . . . be amended by the townshipp of Gednay by acre silver are in great dec[ay] . . . and annoyance of the towne of Sutton aforsayd and prayne that . . . repayred as is meete.

(*Ut supra*) Item the sayd jury sayne that the bridge in Gedney in the queenes . . . decay to the danger of all traveylers that have cause to journey that . . . is to be repayred by acre silver.

(*Ad specialem visum*) Item the sayd jury say that Fleet Goate is very imperfect bothe in . . . the owtfall so as the greatest parte of the townshipp is in . . . that bothe Holbedge Goate and Whaploade Goate are in the same . . . groundes towardes Ravens Dyke but especially on the southe sy[de] . . . all to the owneres and therfore the sayd jury hartely prayne . . . the paynes to see all thos defectes in theire owne persons and . . . redresse therof In the meane tyme the jury do thinke . . . new goates made for the sayd lowe groundes on the south . . .

[473.XIX.4]

587

³comon chardge of acre silver in the sayd two townes . . . the sayd two townes the one goate to be placed in Whapload . . . suche sorte and quantite as the sayd Commissioners shall appo[int] . . .

(*Md. all the seabankes to be presently repayred sub pena x s. a rod*) Item the sayd jury say that Moulton Goate is very defectyve and the . . . sea banke at bothe endes of the sayd goate is in decay and ough[t] . . . foote from bothe endes of the sayde goate by the acresilver of the . . . and the jury also sayne that the other two goates lyinge there viz . . . for Spaldinge the other of Weston woulde be newe repay[red] . . . they thinke yt necessary that there be a drawe clowe sett before . . . goates and this to be done by acresylver yf the Commissioners th- . . .

¹ The right-hand edge of this folio is missing.

² A hand drawn in the margin points to this paragraph.

³ The right-hand edge of this folio is missing.

(*Respect*) Item the jury prayne the sayd Commissionsers to consider of the . . . made for a mayne sluice to be made in the ryver of Welland . . . called Cowehyrne for the safety of the fens betwene the ryveres . . . Gleane commonly called Spaldinge Fenn to be at the indiffer[nt] . . . partes of Kesteven and Holland eyther by the rate and proportion . . . by the hamstalls or otherwise at the discretion of the Commissioners . . . and as suche paymentes are comonly layde for the partes of Kesteven.

(*To be done next yeare sub pena xx li.*) Item the jury prayne that Northgate Graft in Pynchebecke . . . from the clowe at the fenn syde unto Stiegate Goate and by . . . accustomed.

(*Referred to Mr Ogle and Mr Welby to consider of it*) Item the sayd jury do pray that suche restraynt may be made . . . oute of the sayd two ryveres of Gleane and Welland as the . . . and likewise against steepinge of hemp cheeffly in the towne . . .

All thes places to be vewed and all the partes hearof to be considered and examine[d] . . . by the Commissioneres subscribinge thes presentes on the Monday next before Michaelmas . . . day next.

Richard Bollys. Roberte Carr. Edmond Hall. Adlard Welby. Francis Haringt[on].

Ex^t et concord' cum original' . . .

[473.XIX.5]

588

Sutton St Edmundes

¹Inprimis the jury doe present that all the bankes betweene Clowes Crosse and Grayens Corner to be defective in height & bredth & full of leach holes & bogges to the number of five score roodes especially against the landes belonginge to Gannock house in defalte of . . . chardge of . . .

And that against the landes of Thomas Middleton esquire & Frauncis Hall gent. xij score roodes and also x score roodes against the landes of the said Thomas Middleton and xl^{ty} roodes against the landes of William Makepeace & x roodes against the landes of Robert Diggle & v roodes against the landes of John Sowter & x roodes against the landes of Lawrence Johnson in the said banke are in like defalte.

And that in Gannocke Gate Thomas Sowter & Lawrence Johnson have ij roodes, John . . . Thomas Sowter ij roodes William Makepeace & Robert Diggle ij roodes Thomas . . . Tompson iij roodes the said Thomas & Henry Rawlett ij roodes, the said . . . Henry Glepps ij roodes, the said Thomas & thnhabitantes of St Edmundes iij roodes . . . & Henry Rawlett ij roodes & Richard Baldwere & Edward Foster . . . defective for wante of height in defalte of the owners dikereves & . . .

[And] that in Hallgate Henry Glepps & Wylliam Johnson have one roode, William Johnson & . . . Glepps one roode Richard Baldwere & John Blanke ij roodes, the same Richard . . . Tompson ij roodes Richard Martyn & Richard Porye ij roodes, Henry Tompson & . . . Sowter ij roodes Simon Glepps & Henry Rawlett ij roodes Simon Glepps & . . . Blanke iij roodes Richard Baldwere & Thomas White ij roodes Richard Baldwere & . . .

¹ Most of the left-hand edge of this folio is missing and the surviving marginal notes are illegible.

Blanke ij roodes Jesper Trice gent. & Henry Glepps ij roodes, the same Jesper . . . Wright one roode in like defalte.

And that in Luttongate Jesper Trice gent. with his partners against Hall Yeardes hathe three roodes and the same Jesper against Crossedole vj roodes, John Blanke ij roodes Henry Glepps a roode & William Fisher a roode in like defalte.

And for that betweene Southea Banke & the Fendike is three miles distance or thereabouts and that in time of winter when the waters are high and the windes northerlye the waters are forced from the seawardes unto Southea Banke and soo doe greatly endamage the inhabitants of Sutton St Edmundes by surroundinge & slockeninge of their winter corne & other groundes therefore the jury doe humbly pray that three severall clowes might by the discrecion of the courte be placed in three severall Eaes about the middle of the said towne viz. one at the stone bridge in Little Ea, the second at the stone bridge in Great Ea & the thirde of the east side of Lutton Gate at the stone bridge in Lutton Ea.

Henry Glepps . . . Sowter dikereves John Sowter surveyor

[473.XIX.6]

589

Sutton St Maryes

¹Item the jury do say that Thomas Middleton esquire and Frauncis Hall gent. have . . . hundred in Sutton Great Ea greatly defective for want of diking in defalte of the owners dikereve & surveyors & cannot be diked because the bankes doe overburthen the same till they be first cast off.

(. . .) And that Fleete Old Goate doth not lye soe lowe as the outfall doth serve for the dreyninge of their lowe groundes by a foote at the leaste and their Ea betweene their goate & their clowe is [in] great defalt for wante of debth & bredth and that their clowe is not clenched in defalt of the dikereves & surveyors of Fleete.

(. . .) And that whereas there was a law made for the dreyninge & seweringe of Fleete water through Gedney & Sutton cum membris and for the placinge of a goate for the passage of the said wat[er] betweene Sutton & Lutton Goates which was to the great hinderaunce of the inhabitantes of S[utton] cum membris aforesaid for that the water of Fleete did soe abundantly crosse and checke th[e] other waters at the goate mouthes, that the water issuinge through Lutton Goate could not at any time (whilst Fleete New Goate did run) could not run so lowe in the tunnell by iiij^{or} inches at the least as she was both before the placinge of Fleete New Goate and since she was suncke [The] jury therefore doe humbly pray that the clowe of Fleete at Gedney Delphe may be sett down . . . kepte shutte and that their water may be dreyned by their old goate for that by viue it appeareth that if the same dreyne were made perfecte it would as sufficiently sewer and dreyne . . . lowe groundes as Lu[t]ton Goate will sewer & dreyne the lowe groundes of Sutton St Edmund . . .

But if it seeme convenient to the courte that their new goat shall run still then the jury doe humb[ly] . . . that before she beginne to run an oke ioyce may be placed within the stone worke of the spowte . . . [u]nder Lutton Ea in the east end of the same by an equall levell at bothe endes that

¹ Parts of both edges of this folio are missing.

the water of Fleete . . . [a]ll times be iustly levelled at the same place soe that the water of Fleete doe not run higher . . . [e]nd of the said spowte in Fleete Ea then the water shall run over the same spowte in . . . at any time hereafter And the jury doe further pray that at the aforesaid clowe at . . . there may be a barre placed so as there may be three lockes & three keyes and three . . . for the more safe keeping from pullinge up or settinge downe of any lewd persons tha[t] . . . surveyors of Fleete Gedney & Sutton may have the custody every of them one of the said . . .

Dikereeves Thomas Burd Robert Day Surveyor Richard Baldwere

[473.XIX.7]

590

Lutton

(. . .) Item the jury doe say that Lutton Ea in diverse places betweene Lomes Bridg[e] . . . Lutton Goate is defective for want of dikinge to the number of xl^{ty} roodes . . . diverse mens hundreths in defalt of the owners dikereves & surveyors.

And that Lutton Goate dores are in defalt for want of repayre in defalt of the dikereves & surveyors.

(. . .) And that the bridge at Twogoates is defective for want of planks & joy . . . in the defalte of the dikereves & surveyors.

Dikereve Richard Cocke Surveyor Robert Hill

[473.XIX.8]

591

Gedney

(. . .) Item the jury say that the common sewer of Gedney is defective [for w]ant of dikinge from Brodgate Bridge unto Henupps Lane in defalt of . . . dikereves & surveyors & is to be done by acridge.

And that Gedney dammes of Lutton Marsh are in like defalt & to be done by comonage.

Dike[reeves] . . . George Stobow James Croxton Thomas Fisher Surveyor Robert Stukeley gent.

[473.XIX.9]

592

Fleet

(. . .) Item the jurye doe say that thold goate in Fleete is in decay in timber worke for want of repayre & is to be done by acridge, in defalt of the dikereves & surveyors.

And that the river is in defalt for want of dikinge from the said goate to (?) Warners Stocke in [diver]se places to the number of lx roodes and is to be done by acridge in like defalt.

And that vj roodes in Doles Dike is in like sorte defective & is to be done by comonage.

(. . .) And that iiij roodes in Ravens Dike is in like defalt & to be done by comonage.

(. . .) And that vj rodes betweene New Bridge & Bennes Bridge is in like sorte defective & to be done by comonage.

Dikereves Simon Bucke Jeffray Clarke Richard Murley Surveyor Richard Parke

[473.XIX.10]

593

Holbech

¹Item the jury doe say that Shippea Banke is defective in height & bredth as followeth viz. first theires of Markham for Wilsey ij roodes theires of Tofte ij ro[odes] & iv foote Mr Hunt for Braunches one roode Christofer Mayne a roode Mr Claypole for Colvile a roode Mr Thorrold for Gibbons one roode, Anthony Cope gent. for Highambothams one roode, the queenes maiestie for Hurne Chappell one roode, Mr Hunt for Sibsey one roode, Mr Skipwith for Tegoe ij roodes xij foote, Mr Price for the guild of Boston ij roodes & Richard Jellowe a roode in defalt of the said owners dikereves & surveyors.

(*Hurdletree Dike . . .*) And that Hurdletree Dike is in like defalt in diverse places as followeth viz. Mr Thorrold for Guibons ij roodes Mr Hunt for Littlebury ij roodes & for Knevitt v roodes Mr Littlebury iiij roodes the lord Dakers ij roodes & the queenes maiestie for Croyland v roodes.

(*East side of Thould Ea . . .*) And that Mr Conyers hath xiiij^{teene} roodes of theast side of thould Ea in like defalt.

(. . .) And the jury do humbly pray that a new clow may be made att (?) Ravensdyke in the New Ea to save . . . cornefeeldes and other groundes from drowninge to be done by acridge, and that the New Ea sides may be made where they are defective to defend the fen waters and to be done at your worshipps honourable discrecion by acridge. And that two cart bridges may be newly erected over the New Ea for the passinge to their groundes where the said dreyne is cut over viz. from Whitecrosse to Hunger Dike and from Teg[oe] house to Bells Hurne by acridge, and that the same may be payned to be don[e] by s[uch] time as to the court shall seeme expedient.

[And] the said jury doe further humbly pray that whereas the comon called Drove Comon [bel]onginge to Holbech & Whaplode is of great compasse & subiecte to receive much water by the socke of South Ea & Great Porson which issueth from thence in the winter season into the sewer & dreyne of Holbech to the great damage of diverse ground occupiers thereunto adioyninge, which neverthesse doe beare great chardges towards the mainteyninge of the said dreyne & sewer for that their said groundes by reason thereof cannot be dreyned, That therefore it would please your good lordshippe that a clowe of iiij or iiij foote may be placed at a bridge called Drovebridge for the stayinge of the said water in the time of winter untill the said groundes soe bearinge chardge may be dreyned and afterwarde the said clowe to be pulled up that the water may have free passage to the sea and that the chardge of the said clowe may be borne by thinhabitantes & landhoulders of Holbech by acridge.

[473.XIX.11]

594

Adhuc Holbech

And the said jury doe further pray that Mr Hunt may be enioyned to repayre the new dreyne which is defective before midsomer next betweene the bridge neare Braddowes Place and the new goate, and if he faile therein that then it may be done [by th]e dikereves before Lammas next upon such payne as to the court . . . thought conveynient.

And whereas a certaine banke called Great Sheepe Ea is now in decay

¹ Parts of the left-hand edge of this folio are missing.

onely by reason that the fermors of Great Porson doe take in water into theyre said groundes, which they use for fishing & fowlinge and therefore not thought requisite to be dreyned as other lowe groundes of the contrye are, the which if they were the said banke would be very good and sufficient, and in regard that great profitt ariseth of the fish & fowle taken in the said groundes and those persons that repayre the said banke reapinge noe profitt thereby at all The jury doe humbly beseeche your good worshippes that those persons whoe have (to their great chardges) repayed the said banke without any profitt at all may be dischargd thereof and that it may from henceforth be mainteyned & repayed by such as receive benifitt thereby and as other fruntagers & owners of ground adioyninge in the contry doe in the like case as in your consideracion shalbe thought expedient.

[473.XIX.12]

595

Whaplode

(. . .) Item the jury doe say that Great Shippe Ea Banke is defective both in height & bredth in defalt of thowners dikereves & surveyors as followeth viz. Humfry Littleburye . . . v roodes William Scarlett a roode & iiij foote, Thomas Grome a roode ij foote John Tego vij foote Edward Sculthorpe a roode v foote, Richard Martyn x foote, George Chapman a roode & five foote Josua Martyn iij roodes John Milner ij foote Richard Howson two foote Thomas Chapman ij foote, Frauncis Chapman xvj foote the queenes maiestie for thabbey of Croyland iij roodes & for the prior of Spaldinge two roodes and for the challenge of Tetforth viij foote John Bingham xij foote Thomas Knevitt gent. ij roodes John Colvyle gent. ij roodes Robert Pulvertofte gent. ij roodes John Walpole gent. ij roodes Mistris Isabell Irby ij roodes Anthony Irby esquire one roode, Thomas Simpson ij foote Thomas Scott xv^{tene} foote feoffyes of the Drove a rood x foote Richard Ogle esq. ij roodes the lordes of Moulton ij roodes Lord Dakers ij roodes Robert Carre esquire xij foote Henry Hunston gent. ij roodes Mr Callowe a roode x foote Mr Pratt for Pipwell iiij roodes Harwell iij roodes & George Partridge xij foote in defalt of the said owners [d]ikereves & surveyors.

[An]d that Comon Dike is in like defalt as followeth viz. Humfry Littlebury gent. . . . the queenes maiestie one roode John Horne x foote the abbott of Croyland a roode for the prior of Spaldinge a roode Thomas Knivitt gent. a roode Robert Pulvertofte gent. a roode Mistris Isabell Irby a roode Thomas Marriott ij roodes Laurence Disney ij roodes Adlard Welby esquire a roodes [sic] the lordes of Moulton ij ro[odes] John Durrant a roode Mr Pratt iij roodes Mr Kedby ij roodes & tenne foote William Callow ij roodes Thomas Welby esq. one roode William Pulvertofte one roode x foote Mr Guibon x foote [blank] Wittipoll ij roodes John Harwell ij roodes the feoffies of the schoole of Moulton x foote Humfry Carlton a roode . . . a roode Thomas Pepper x foote & Raph Cappett iij roodes.

[473.XIX.13]

596

Weston

¹(. . .) Item the jury doe say that the Easide from the new goat to the new banke end . . . marshe to the number of xl^{ty} roodes is defective both in height

¹ Parts of both edges of this folio are missing.

& bredth and is to be done by acridge in defalt of the dikereves & surveyors.

(. . .) And that Delgate Ea from Durbaggebridge to the meetinge of Spaldinge Water to the number of c roodes is in like defalt for want of diking and is to be done by acridge.

And that Halgate Bridge & Hundlebridge are defective for wante of timber & to be done by acridge in defalt of the dikereves & surveyors.

And that Brodegate is in like sorte defective in diverse places for want of height to the number of xx^{ty} roo[ds] and is to be done by comonage.

And that the comons in Gouldicke & Newdike is in like sorte defective for want of heig[ht and] bredth to the number of viij rodes and is to be done as aforesaid.

Dikereves William Wells Thomas Browne Thomas Tayleforth Surveyor John Wells

[473.XIX.14]

597

Croyland

¹And the jury doe say that the outringe banke from Croyland to Whitehouse is defective . . . places as followeth viz. the queenes maiestie xl^{ty} roodes Robert Chapman clarke [f]orty roodes Roger Walker x roodes William Allott ij roodes & di. & Thomas Wych one roode.

And from Whithouse to Brotherhouse fourescore roodes are defective in diverse places . . . of height & bredth all which be in the queenes maiestie chardge.

And that George Dixon hath ij roodes & di. & Paule Robinson ij roodes & di. of the . . . banke in like defalte.

(. . . [b]anke *Ut supra*) And that the quenes maiestie from Croyland to Dowsdale hath nine score roodes . . . to be repayed at her maiesties chardge, and from Shippea Stowe to Catchcoyle fitye . . . and threescore roodes of the new banke are defective all within the queenes maiesties ch[arge].

(. . .) And that William Hurne his weare at xxx^{ty} Acres Barre next unto the banke is defective & ought to be xij foote wide & ij foote deper then now it is by the said William.

(. . .) And that the river from Dowsdale to the Stulpes is growne up with haffe in diverse places to the great hinderance of the passage of the water and is to be amended by Edward Carrell esquire fearmer thereof for the lordshippe of Thorney.

And the jury doe humbly crave that the rivers of Weyland & Neyne may be rooded & scowred accordinge to the auntient lawes which for want of being rooded in due time hath bene great hinderance both to the said towne & th[e] . . . of the cuntry.

Dikereves Thomas Wych Mathew Ashley Surveyor Robert Wych

[473.XIX.15]

598

Cowbitt

¹And the jury doe say that John Phillippe hath xij roodes defective in diverse places of low . . . both in height & bredth in defalt of the owners dikereves & surveyors.

And that the outringe banke from Brotherhouse to Pekill is defective as

¹ Parts of both edges of this folio are missing.

aforesaid in div[erse pla]ces viz. John Bromfeild a roode & di. John Phillippe viij rodes William Coulson xl^{ty} roodes . . . roodes in Goolbanke.

[And th]at John Andrew hath iij roodes in Goll Banke & Thomas Freeman halfe a roode the[re] . . . [de]falt.

[A]nd that there is vj roodes at the Droves End in like defalte and is to be done by Jo[hn] . . . Okye the yonger John Stampell widow Allyn widow Watson & the commonage.

[An]d that the river of Weyland from Cowbitt church to Whitehouse is defecti[ve] . . . -inge & rodinge in defalte of captaine Thomas Lovell.

Dikereve Robert Okye Surveyor William Coulson

[473.XIX.16]

599

S[pal]dinge

¹[Ite]m the jury doe say th[at] two roodes of the banke at the clowe at Foxes Dore is . . . [defa]lt for want of height & bredth in default of the dikereves & surveyors.

[And t]hat the dreyne from Lordes Hurne Clowe to Saundersons Dore to the number . . . roodes is defective for want of diking & scowring and also against . . . Lordes Hurne Clowe vj roodes is in like defalte.

[And] that the said Lordes Hurne Clowe is utterly decayed and very needfull to be newe . . . in default of the dikereves and surveyors.

And that the banke on the east side of the dreyne betweene Spaldinge & Wess[ton] . . . from the inclosure of Mr Gamlins marshe to the Lower Clowe to the num[ber] . . . [ro]odes in severall places is defective in like default.

And that diverse places of Hawthorne Banke to the number of xx^{ty} roodes is . . . for want of height & bredth and is to be made & repayed by captayne Tho[mas] Lovell.

[Dikereves] William Wilsby iu[nior] Robert Hickson Thomas Frauncis William Wolritch Surveyors [blank]

VERDICTS FOR ELLOE AND KIRTON WAPENTAKES, 1577-8

[474.I.1-42]

Part printed

600-641

[613-5 and 616 consist respectively of a dikereeves' and a *preter illos* verdict for Kirton wapentake, September 1578. The rest of the file consists of two dikereeves' verdicts for Elloe wapentake, one of 10 October 1578 (600-612, 617-622), the other of 2 October 1577 (623-641). All these presentments are of a routine nature; but 636-8 are printed as a good illustration of how certain of the general laws of 1576 concerning the dikereeves and surveyors were put into effect (cf. 552-3, 560-4).]

[474.I.38]

636

(*Lincoln Holland*) The verdict of Leonarde Cock and his fellowes dykgraves sworne for the inquirye of all lawes of sewars not doen accordinge to the lawes decreed to be doen in Septenbre in anno decimo octavo Elizabethe regine nunc etc. taken at Spaldinge the ijde of Octobre anno decimo nono

¹ Parts of both edges of this folio are missing.

Spalding

Dykegraves their in Septembre anno decimo octavo Elizabethhe regine and so contynued untill Mayday in anno decimo nono William Hart the younger William Brimston William Willesby Thomas Harryman

Surveyors Reignolld Hall Jhon Gamble gent.

Dykegraves from Mayday last for this present yeare of decimo nono Leonarde Cocke Thomas Yarwell Jhon Smythe Jhon Webb

(*Acridge Dykegraves Surveyors*) Item the sayd jurors say upon their othes that the seabancke on the east syde of the water of Weland was insufficyent in Septembre in anno decimo octavo Elizabethhe regine in severall places to the numbere of vj roodes and was not doen by the sayd dykgraves before the fyrst day [of] Octobre in anno decimo octavo nor by the surveyors before the fyrst of Nov[ember] in anno xvij^{vo} predicto neyther was nor is the same repayred as yet that is to say by the dykgraves before the xth day of May nor surveyors before the fyrst of June accordinge to the law of sewars wherefore they have forfeited for every roode [*blank*]

(*Acridge*) Item we say that Cow Hurne dreyn is now insufficyent and needefull to be dyked and is defectyve to the numbere of iij^{xx} roodes and is to be doen by acridge.

(*Joyse banck owners*) Item we say that Lyther Cootes Banck is insufficyent . . . was not doen by the owners before the last of Septemb[re] . . . anno xvij^{vo} supradicto accordinge to the law of sewars that . . . say to the numbere of xj roodes and a halfe in defalt of th[e] . . . owners dykgraves and surveyors the owners whereof are . . . Wolriche gent. iij roodes John Gamble a roode and a halfe Christo[fer] Beston ii roodes William Willesby j roode & a halfe wydow Stanwell j roode William Deen x foote William Parrat x foote wherefore they have forfeited etc.

[474.I.39]

637

(*Spaldinge Acridge Mollton*) Item we say that Spaldinge Seabanck at Mollton Goate was not repayred and amendyd by the inhabitauntes of Mollton by acridge before the xth day of May in anno decimo octavo in default of the dykgraves and surveyors nor yet is not at this day repayred and amendyd accordinge to the lawes of sewars the dykegraves the sayd xth day of May in Mollton were Nicholas Durbagge Symond Denyell Jhon Freman Thomas Lyndesey and William Androw surveyor Edmond Brynston and the sayd persones be still dykgraves and surveyors.

Cowbyte

Dykgraves there in Septembre in anno decimo octavo Elizabethhe regine untill Mayday in anno decimo nono were Wylliam Ashemore Jhon Markham Lawrence Jesopp

Dykgraves their for this yeare of decimo nono Eliz. regine are Thomas Whyte William Cony gent. Thomas Robson

(*Cowbyte Joyse banckes owners*) Item we say that Lowdyke betwene Bellzmore and Brotherhowse was defectyve in certeyn places to the numbere of xv roodes the sayd fyrst day of Septembre anno Elizabethhe regine xvij^o supradicto and yet styll is defectyve in default of the owners dykgraves and surveyores the owners thereof is thearle of Sussexs wherfore they forfeyt for not repaying for every rood thereof etc.

(*Joyse banckes owners*) Item we say lykewyse that the bancke from Brotherhowse to Pykaell was defectyve in certeyn places to the numbre to the numbre [*sic*] of ix roodes the sayd fyrst day of Septembre in anno xviii^o supradicto and yet styll is defectyve in default of the owners dykegraves and surveyores. The owners thereof are thearle of Sussexs vj roodes Nicholas Wolriche iij roodes wherefore they have forfeited etc.

[474.I.40]

638

(*Spaldinge acridge*) Item we say that the sea bancke on the west syde of the water of Weyland was defectyve in Septembre in anno decimo octavo to the numbre of xx roodes and was not repayred the last day of Septembre anno decimo nono in the defalt of the sayd dykegraves and surveyors but is repayred suffyciently the day of givinge upp this verdyc.

(*Frontagers owners*) Item we say that the frontages on the west syde of the water of Weyland was defectyve in certeyn places to the numbre of xvj roodes the sayd fyrst day of Septembre anno decimo octavo predicto and is still defectyve in default of the owners dykgraves and surveyors the owners Lawrence Willesby vj roodes Myles Crosdale vij roodes William Hart the younger iij roodes wherefore they forfeit for not repayringe thereof etc.

(*Owners*) Item we say lykewyse that the frontages on the east syde of the sayd water of Weyland was defectyve in certeyn places to the numbre of fyftee roodes the sayd fyrst day of Septembre anno decimo octavo supradicto and so contynewed defectyve and unrepayred untill this last of Septembre anno decimo nono in default of the owners dykgraves and surveyors the owners Nicholas Fetherston viij roodes John Glean xx roodes Richard Laynam xij roodes Jhon Reidsdale iiij roodes Robert Simpson vj roodes wherefore they have forfeited etc.

Item we present Thomas Yarwell for not executinge the offyce of a dykgrave nor takinge his othe to execute the same according to the law of sewars for this presente yeare of decimo nono wherefore he is to forfeit etc.

(*Acridge*) Item we say it is needefull that a trenche be layd under Starrfengraft to Rede Graft and so to the sea for dreaninge the angle betwene Pinchebecke hyghe way and the sea banck the sayd angle havinge now no drean to the great hindraunce of the land hollders within the sayd angle and the same is to be mayd by acridge.

Item we present the towneshipp and inhabitauntes of Spalding for not havinge a lawfull and suffycient acre booke and joyse booke accordinge to the law of sewars.

VERDICTS FOR KIRTON WAPENTAKE, 1575 AND 1580

[474.II.1-17]

Part printed

642-659

[This file exemplifies the disorder which may underlie an apparently tidy arrangement, and offers further evidence of the confusion that has overtaken the verdicts for the 1570s (cf. volume II pp. 83, 124). The file had been placed chronologically under 1580. A closer examination for the present edition has now shown that only the first and last folios (642, 659) belong unquestionably to that year. 657 seems to be part of a verdict for the previous year. The rest of the file belongs to 1575, and has proved to be largely a repetition of the folios for Kirton wapentake in an earlier file relating to all

Holland (383-452) which, because of its length, was not printed in volume II. 659 is a dikereeves' verdict which substantially repeats the contents of 642 and has therefore been omitted. The rest of the file is printed in full.]

[474.II.1]

642

The verdict of Anthony Coney & his felows of the preterillos tak[en] at Boston the vij of Octobre anno Elyzabethe regine xxij^{do} to enquy[re] of defaltes from the fyrst of Septembre anno xxj usque ad the fyrst of June anno xxij^d supradicto

(*Fiat lex*) Fyrst they say that the goot at Langrake aperteynyng to the inhabitantes of Byker Donyngton & Quadryng is defectyve in the default of the dykegraves and surveyors, videlicet Bryan Robartson Robart Alen dygraves of Quadryng Thomas Haryman surveyor, Robart Underwater Ambros Makre and Robart Thorye dykgraves of Donyngton and Thomas Clarkson & Symond Benacle dykgraves, and Edmond Cleugh surveyor.

(*Fiat lex pro Kyrton & respect' pro Frampton & Wiberton*) Item they say the goote at Langrake aperteynyng to the inhabitantes of Kirkton Frampton and Wyberton & Skerbeck Quarter is defectyve in the stone work & not yet repaired in the default of the dykgraves & surveors ther videlicet Henry Ashe Christopher Johnson Thomas Dawley William Tonard dykereves Anthony Purve and Anthony Conye surveyors of Skerbeck Quarter Wylliam Storkes & Wylliam Cowertby dykegraves & Wylliam Pawlyn surveior of Wyberton, Wylliam Jackson Luke Crystian and James Gybson dykgraves & Robart Carlton surveyor Henry Ashe Chrystofer Jhonson Wylliam Tonard Thomas Dawley dykgraves Anthony Pury Anthony Coney surveyor.

(*Fiat lex*) Item they say that ij roodes & di. in Weberton seabanke aperteynyng to the parsonage of Boston in the tenure of Mr Draper maior of Boston is defectyve in the default of Mr Draper maior of Boston fermor ther, [blank]¹ dykegraves & [blank] surveyors of Wyberton.

(*Fiat lex*) Item ij roodes in the same sea bankes aperteynyng to Mr Jhon Copledyke esquire in the tenure of Richard Feild of Boston is defectyve in the default of the sayd Mr Copledyke, the dykgraves & surveyor of Wyberton aforsayd.

(*Fiat lex*) Item v roodes of the sea banckes aperteynyng to Skerbeck Quarter in common is defectyve in the defaulte of Keales [*sic*] dykgrave & Robart Swan surveyor of Skerbeck Quarter.

(*Fiat lex*) Item one rood of frontage in the same bank aperteynyng to Rychard Feild aforesayd is in decay of the sayd dykegraves & surveor of Skerbeck aforsayd.

(*Fiat lex*) Item they say the Haven bankes aperteynyng to the inhabitantes of the west syde of the water of Boston is defectyve as foloweth, videlicet fyrst at the dam head lx roodes at the cartwhele ij roodes, at Boston Gote ij roodes and at Dayneboth x roodes in the defalt of Robart Sanderson Robart Clarke dykgraves Robert [blank] & surveyor.

(*Respect'*) Item they present Robart Death of Gosberton & Thomas Colchester of the same for damyng up the sewer called Newdyke.

Item they present Bartlomew Gonevell of Great Hole & Wylliam of [*sic*] Fele of the same for dammyng up the sewer calld the . . .

¹ The names first written here have been struck through.

(*Nota pro Kesten Commiss'*) Item they say the inhabytantes of Burn wyth ther coparteners doth anoy the inhabytantes of Surflete & Gosbertown thorough not kypying ther clow at Wryghtbolt yt ys referd unto the reformation of the justices of Kesteven or els the com' on this syd will sett done order for the same.

Kerton degrades sence Mayday laste Roger Cony Barucke Whittingham Thomas Gauge Roberte Warner & the defalte of the goate in thes degrades & not in the olde degrades viz. Ash & his fellowes.

Sit nota pro relax' Henry Ashe et sociis suis vide' William Tonnarde & Christofo Jhonson Thomas Dawley.

[474.II.2]

643

¹(*Frampton . . .*) Item the saide jurye saye uppon ther othes that the comon sewer ys defective & ought to be dyked frome tyme to tyme by the lordes free houlders and coppie holders and by the inhabitours of the towne frome the see gott to the fenne side as oft as neede shall requier.

(*. . . bankes . . .*) Item the saide jewrye dothe saye that the fennebankes ys in gret rewne & decaye and ought to be made by the lordes free houlders and coppie holders & inhabitours of Frampton so oft as neede shall requier.

(*Seagote fen . . .*) Item they saye the sea gotte ys in rewne and decaye and ought to be made repared and amendid by acre silver so oft as neede shall requier.

(*Fen brige . . .*) Item they saye that the fenne bridge ys some default and ought to be made repared and amendid by the inhabitours of Frampton as oft as need shall requier.

(*Scott Pyttes . . .*) Item they saye that the Scottpyttes ys defective in dyverse places & ought to be dyked scorede & clensed by the lordes free houlders & coppie holders so oft as nede shall requier.

(*The bankes of Scotpyttes . . .*) Item they say that the Scottpitt Bankes ys likewise in decaye and ought to be made by the lordes freholders and coppie holders so oft as nede shall requier.

(*Bridges in Scotpyttes . . .*) Item they saye that there ys ij lytle bridges lyenge in the Scottpyttes Baunke whiche ys in rewne & decaye and ought to be made and repaired by the inhabitours of Frampton aforesaide as oft as nede shall requier.

(*Bridges idem . . .*) Item they saye there ys fyve lytle brydges over the comon sewer whereof one ys called Lytle Fenne Brydge, another Stocke Brydge, another Copledaye Bridge, another Bunting Brydge, another in Sowgate Lane whiche are in gret decaye and ought to be made & repaired in sufficient heyght & bredethe for the water to have his course att the charges of the inhabitours of Frampton so oft as nede shall requier.

(*[Co]mon sewer . . .*) Item they saye that the comon sewer ys defective and ought to be dykede and rodide frome tyme to tyme as well over heighe wayes where they be charged as in all other werestedes & ought to be dyked and clensed by the lordes freholders and coppiholders so oft as nede shall requier.

(*Banke in Reches Fen . . .*) Item they saye that there ys a banke in the

¹ The marginal notes added to this and subsequent folios of this verdict are in another hand. They record dates for completion of the work and penalties in default, but are so scribbled as to be almost illegible in most cases.

Reches Fenne whiche ys in rewne & decaye and dothe belonge unto three stonge in Mantill late Humfrye Brastrickes.

¹Item they saye that there ys a pettie dreayne ronyng frome Heymere to the comon sewer betwene the landes of William Wourmslye of the este and the landes of William Garrarde some tyme ladye Allygers of the west and so goethe over the hedinges of the aforesaide William Wourmslye and Anthonie Curtyce on the northe to the comon sew[er].

[474.II.3]

644

(*Frampton Pety drein . . .*) Item the sayde jewrye saye there ys a pettie drayen begening at Headly Doore called Grooye Goose Fleet whiche ys defective & so cometh thorough the landes of Stobes, and then over the waye to Wourmsly Greene, frome thence to have the redye waye betwene the kinges highe waye and the saide Wourmslie, after to go betwene Richard Garrarde and the kinges heighe waye, & so to rune downe by the duke of Southfoulkes landes & the said Garrarde, and so thorough the said duke of Southfoulkes landes and then over the the feeld waye, and so betwene the landes of the lorde Brokes & Nycholas Uppton esquier, and so to go betwene the saide Nycholas Uppton landes & the hedinges of the southe ende of Worlidle, and so to go betwene the landes of Thomas Josson and the kinges heighe waye and so to have the redy waye to the common sewer & ought to be dyked by the lordes frehoulders & coppiholders leyeng against yt as oft as nede shall requier.

(*Pete drein idem . . .*) Item the saide jewrye saye that there ys a pettie drayne coming frome Tompit whiche ys defective & going betwene landes of Richard Garrarde and the townes heighe waye, and so going betwene landes of the said Richard Garrarde & Josson landes, and then coming betwene landes of Roger Conye, & Ordines landes, and frome thens to the common sewer, and yt ought to be dykede by lordes frehoulders and coppie howlders lyeng against yt as oft as ned shall requier.

(*P. drein . . .*) Item the saide jewrye [say] there ys pettie dreayne whiche ys defective lyeng betwene the landes of Nichollas Uppton esquier & the landes of William Gouldinge & betwene the landes of the said William Goulding & Thomas Josson and so by the landes endes of the said Thomas Josson and Roger Conye & Lawrance Copeldaye & so forthe to the comon sewer, and yt ought to be diked by the lordes frehoulders & coppihoulders against yt as oft as nede shall requier.

(*Pety dreane . . .*) Item the saide jewrie saye that the President of Magdelin Collage of Oxforde ought to kepe one pettie dreyne so farr as shall goe thorowghe his grownde begening at Honie Spott & coming frome the goulp within the said lordship betwene the xvj acre and the xvij acres & so to go into the mottes there to kepe at the stowe an hollowe tree or elles the stowe open, whereby the waters maye have ther courses and so to ronne betwene landes of the lorde Broke and the said President and so to go over by a stowe called Paster Gate Stowe that there yt maye have redie passage to common sewer and yt ought to be dyked scored & clensede by the said President & the lord Broke, lyeng against yt from tyme to tyme, as oft as nede shall requier.

¹ This paragraph has been cancelled.

(. . . *dreane*) Item the saide jewrye saye that there ys one pettie dreayne in Sandomefeld whiche ys defective and in decaye coming betwene the landes of Christofof Loffeles & the landes of Robert Jonison & so to go betwene the landes of George Claymonde gent. called Stubnes & the landes of the said Jonison, and after to go betwene the landes of Sainte George gilde of Boston and the said Jonison and to go over the waye to Mylne Hill Stowe, and betwene the landes of the President of Magdalen Collage of Oxforde & the landes and the landes [*sic*] of the said Jonyson and so to go to the stowe in the motte that there yt maye have redye passage to the common sewer & yt ought to be diked by the lordes & frehoulders & coppie houlders of Frampton aforesaid for ther landes lyenge againste yt frome tyme to tyme as oft as nede shall requier.

[474.II.4]

645

(*Frampton*) ¹Item the saide jewrie saythe that crosse Myll Hell all the frontage of the kinges maiestis highe wayes of bothe sides the waye unto the partinge of Frampton & Wiberton are in ruine and decaie and yt ought to be made by the lordes & frehoulders and coppiholders of Frampton aforesaid for there landes lyenge against yt frome tyme to tyme as oft as nede shall requier.

¹Item the saide jewrie saithe that frome Foster Doore all the frontage of the kinges highe waye of bothe sides the waye unto the parting of Frampton & Wiberton are in rune and decaye and ought to be made by the lordes & frehoulders and coppiholders frome tyme to tyme as oft as nede shall requier everie man his owne against the said kinges highe waye.

(*Pety dren*) Item the saide jewrie saye that there ys a pettie dreyne begeninge at Christofof Brond landes called Long Landes at the est ende & so tourne downe to Landall by the Willowes & then tornes downe frome Landall to the common sewer whiche ys in rune & decaye & ought to be diked.

(*Pety dreane*) Item the said jewrie saithe that there ys a pettie drayne lyeing in a certayne feld called Shortofts coming frome a place called Heymere dreyninge the kinges heighe waye, whiche ys [in] rune & decaye and lyeth betwene the landes of the lord Willowbye one the este and in Shortoftes uppon dyvers men one the weste and uppon the ladye dutches with other dyvers many mo one the northe and the ladye Mungeye and Nicholas Uppton gent. on the southe & so roneth forbye the hedinges of Worlidales and so to Graye Goose Fleete & yt dothe mete and roneth so to Stockbridge & ought to be diked by the lordes & frehoulders & coppie houlders lyeng against yt of Frampton aforesaid frome tyme to tyme as oft as nede shall requier.

(*[Pe]ty dreane*) Item the saide jewrie saithe that there ys a pettie drayne begeninge at the Slayde a litle waye of Copledayes & so rones downe betwene the landes of Richard Courtys and the towne heighe waye & then tornes downe betwene Thomas Wormslye and the saide Richarde Courtys & so goethe to the comon sewer & it ys in rune & decaye & ought to be made & diked by Thomas Wormslye & Richard Courtis as oft as ned shall requier.

¹ This paragraph has been cancelled.

¹Item the saide jewrie saithe that there ys a pettie drayne begeninge at yong Carlton doore and so goethe betwene the saide landes & the townes heighe waye and so goethe over the townes heighe waye betwene the landes of ould Carlton and Richarde Langrake & so goeth to the common sewer. And yt ys in rune & decaye and ought to be dyked by Thomas Carlton the yonger & Thomas Carlton the elder and Richard Langrake so oft as ned shall requier.

Item the saide jewrye saithe that certain of the fenne bankes be in rune & decaye and ought to be made by them that owes them as oft as nede shall requier.

[474.II.5]

646

(*Kirkton Seabankes . . .*) First the jury saith that the sea bankes of Kirkton are in decay in height & breadth & owght to be made repared & amended frome tyme to tyme by the lordes & land holders of Kirkton by acre silver provided alwais that ther be yerly one comon meanwarke day of all the inhabitunces of Kirkton in place most nedfull upon the seid sea banke betwixt a place called Crale Goote & another place called Whitam Ee.

(. . .) Item they say that the fenne bankes of Kirkton frome Molton Ynges corner to Symon Were clowes beyng a banke of greate defence for the towne against the fenne water is in decay & owght to be made & repared by comon meanwark of suche wyntins as hertofore hath bene accustomed to kepe the same.

(*Comon sewer . . .*) Item they say that the comon sewer of Kirkton called the Ee is in decay & owght to be diked as oft as nede require by the lordes & landhol[d]ers of Kirkton by acre sylver the out fall or crike & the seid Ee to be roded & scowered so oft as nede requireth by the inhabitunces of Kirkton aforeseid.

(*Great Ee . . .*) Item they say that the Greate [Ee] of Kirkton owght to be repaired & made so oft as nede requireth by the lordes & landholders of Kirkton by acre sylver.

(*Pety dreanes . . .*) Item they say that all petty dreans & especially one petty dreane betwene Kirkton & Frampton called the Old Ee, & another petty draine drawing frome a feld cald Rustenyng into the comon sewer beyng nowe defectyve & owght to be maynteyned by all suche landes as abutes of the same.

(*Hedynges . . .*) Item they say that all the hedinges within the same towne made for defence of forrane waters owght to be made repared & kepte so oft as nede requireth so nyght the uttermost parte of the towne as place will serve by comon meanwark of such wintans of old tyme accustomed.

(*Hyewayes . . .*) Item they say that as well all heigh waies hundreth waies as also briggess for comon passages within Kirkton & the brigge called Frampton Holme Brigge owght to be made repared & amended so oft as nede requireth by the inhabitunce of Kirkton, viz. the briggess by comon & indeferent assesment, & the heigh ways & hundreth waies by comon meanwarke.

(*Purprestures . . . pena xx d.*) Item the seid jury presentes all wath . . . steades fordes purpresturis & lettes over or in the comon sewer of Kirkton to be clerly avoyded & spedely diked upp, so that no person hawing comon

¹ The left-hand margin is defective and any marginal note has now gone.

passage with drove & carriage over the seid sewer but by brigges onely upon paine of every defalte.

(*Drovewayne S. A. F. . .*) Item they say that the hunderers of Sutterton Algarkirk & Fosdik which frome the feast of Sainte Michael unto Mayday do clayme a drove way thorowe the parishe of Kirkton, begininge at a place called Austyn Corner, & so thorowe Gookes Horne & frome thence to Symon Were, owght all tymes to amend exalte & sufficiently meayntaine the same nowe defectyve, not onely for the saffe passage but also for the suer keping of their water within their comon swer, so that the towneshipe of Kirkton be not therby surrounded as of late they have bene.

(*Clowes . . .*) Item they say that it is very necessary & expedient that a paire of clowes be sett in the comon sewer of Kirkton neygh a place called Bulholme¹ Brigge for the stopping of salte water which often tymes hath bene letten in at the greate goote by unknownen persones & that for sondry porposes to the great hurte of many the inhabitunce aswell in distroyenge ther wood as also in poysonyng the water & cattell & that the charges of the seid clowes be borne by lordes & landholders by acre silver.

(*Pissegoote . . .*) Item they say that aswell for the more spedy drawinge of the fenne water in the spring tyme thorowe the seid comon sewer of Kirkton into the sea as also for the relevyng of the seid sewer & a great nombre of pasture nygh adioyning with water in the somer tyme, it is necessary & very profytable that a pisse goote or hollow tree be layde upon the fenbank into Hamon Becke neigh the landes of Anthony Browen esquire & the landes late Alexander Carlton the charges wherof to be borne by the inhabitunce of Kirkton.

(*Hamon Beck . . .*) Item they say that a parte of the comon sewer Hamon Becke belonging to Kirkton is in decay & owght to be diked roded & scowered so oft as ned requireth, to be diked by acre silver, roded & scowered by the inhabitunce of Kirkton by comon meanwarke.

(*Haven Bankes . . .*) Item they say that all commoners within the fenne beyng of Kirkton not having nor beyng charged with fenne bankes of the haven syde for ther frehold or copenhold in Kirkton shall & owght to be charged in the fenne bankes as by [*blank*] warditt appereth, viz. the commoners Marketstead shall make fyve rodes, the commoners of the Meres fyve rodes, the commoners of Willington xij rodes, the commoners of the Eedike & Kirkton Holme xij rodes, & the commoners Skyldike xij rodes, at the appoynting of the degreves as far as hath bene accustomed.²

[*Endorsed:*] veredictum wapen' de Kirton de Anno xvij^o Elizabethe regine. Kyrton wapen' Anno xvij^{mo}.

[474.II.6]

647

(*Seadyke*) Item the worst seedyke belonging to Algarkirke and Fosdike beginneth at Cromer Hurne and so towards theast to an ould [*sic*] going downe to the Wasshe and is in ruyne and decaye in many places and ought to be repaired and amended at all tymes by the landes within the parishe as appeareth by a sedykeboke and so of longe tyme haith bene accustomed.

¹ This word is deleted and "Ladye" written above in another hand.

² At the foot of this and each of the next three folios is a scribbled note in another hand: "intr' lib' decret' " or "intr' in lib' decret' ".

(. . .) Item the best seadyke beginneth at Cromer Horne aforesaid at the ende of the said worste sedyke and so to Sutterton Goote leavinge there and begynninge at a place called Kyrton Goule at the Inmarsh Corner and so towards the southe to the last ende of the worst sedyke and is defectyve in divers places and ought to be amended and repaired as aforesaid.

(*A fence . . .*) Item the inhabitauntes of Algarkirke Fosdike and Sutterton ought to kepe one sufficient fence at the forefenne yate called Symon Were as haith bene accustomed.

(*Fen banke . . .*) Item the fenne banke in the west syde of the Lawe Fenne from the Horne to Willowe Boothe is in ruyne and decay bothe in height and b[r]eadeth and ought to be made in breadeth xij foote and in height fouer foote by the inhabitauntes of Sutterton Algarkirk and Fosdike asmuche as they have bene accustomed of longe tyme heretofore.

(*Headinges . . .*) Item the inhabitauntes of Algarkirk and Fosdike ought to kepe there headinges and other defences for the defending of Kirkton and Sutterton water as before haith bene done of long tyme.

¹Item the said jurye forbiddeth that any man shall passe or gooe over the foresaid weste banke from the Horne to Willoweboothe with any carte, or carriage in carte upon payne of every defalte iij s. iiij d. to be employed to the repairinge of the same.

(*The hed dreane . . .*) Item the heade dreane of Algarkirk and Fosdike beginneth at a place called Spaldinge Gate by Strogges Bridge and so to Coulder Bridge and from thence to Mandike Brigge and so to Cuntewade and from thence to Brighthouse Brigge and so forthe to the goote at Fosdike Stowe which is defectyve in divers places and ought to be repaired and amended at all tyme and tymes as ofte as nede shall require by the lordes landes, and gentilmens landes, and all the landes and landehoulders within the parishe of Algarkirke and Fosdike by acre sylver as haith bene accustomed of long tyme.

[474.II.7]

648

(*1575 Sutterton verdict Comon sewer . . .*) The jury sayth that a dreanne or common sure begenneth at a playce called Symon Were & from thense by the este syde of a gatte called Mores Gatte to a playce called Acre Land Stawe in Sutterton & from thense to a brydge in Fyschmer Ende called Wasse Brydge & from thense to a howse called Jhon Dickinson howse now Jhon Bennakell howse & from thense to the sowth ende of a pasture in Sutterton called Squire Tofte & buttes of a way called Boston Way or Struges Way & from the said Struges Way to the gotte of Algarkirke & Fosdicke the whiche sure is defective for lacke of dykin scowring & clensing by the spayce of one hundereth rodes at the least from Symon Were to the brydge called Wasse Brydge & owght to be dyked scowred & clensed by the inhabitantes of Sutterton Allgarkirke & Fosdicke by common menwarke accordinge to their olde costome that is to say Algarkirke & Fosdicke tow pense two rodes or tow spaydes & Sutterton one peny one rode or one spayde & from the brydge in Fyschmer Ende called Wasse Brydge to the howse called Jhon Dickinson howse is defective for lacke of dykin scowringe & clensing & owght to be dycked scowred & clensed by the inhabitantes of Algarkirke & Fosdicke by

¹ This paragraph has been cancelled and "nihill" written against it.

common menwarke & from the said howse called Jhon Dickinson howse to the sowth ende of the pasture called Squire Tofte owght to be dycked scowred and clensed by the inhabitantes of Sutterton by common menwarke & from the said ende of Squire Tofte to the gotte of Algarkirke & Fosdicke owght to be dycked scowred & clensed now & from time to tyme as ofte as neyde shall require by the lordes frey holders & copy holders of Algarkirke & Fosdicke by acre sylver & from Jhon Dickinson howse to the gotte of Sutterton owght to be dycked scowred & clensed as ofte as neyde shall require by the lordes frey holders & copy holders of Sutterton by acre silver.

¹And a horse bryge to be made & the (?) river dyked through the . . . to be made by Allgarkirke Fosdyke & Sutterton as . . . the . . . by the . . .

(*Fyshmerend . . .*) Item the jury sayth that the stone brydge in Fychemere Ende in Sutterton called Wasse Brydge over the common sure of Sutterton Algarkirke & Fosdicke is to be repayred so ofte as neyde shall require by the inhabitantes of Sutterton Algarkirke & Fosdicke accordinge to their olde costome as is afore saide.

(*Goox Hurn Lane . . .*) Item the jury sayth that the lytell gatte or layne called Goxhorne Layne commynge from Symon Were to Goxhorne & from Goxhorne to Wylliam Howson howse in Sutterton is defective in certene places for lacke of exaltinge reparinge & amendinge by the spayce of xx rodes from Symon Were to the afore saide howse & owght to be repared & amended now & from time to tyme as ofte as neyde shall require by the inhabitantes of Sutterton Algarkirke & Fosdicke by common menwarke as is afore saide accordinge to their olde costome.

(*Struggeswey . . .*) Item the jury sayth that their is a drowe way in Wygtofte & Sutterton begynnyng at Struges & from Struges to a laine called Squire Layne & from thense to Acre Lande Stawe & from thense to Symon Were the whiche drowe way is defective for lacke of exaltinge reparinge & amendinge in certeyne places by the spayce of xl rodes at the least from Symon Were to Acre Land Stawe & owght to be repared & amended now & from time to tyme as ofte as neyde shall require by the inhabitantes of Sutterton Algarkirke & Fosdicke by common menwarke as is aforesaide accordinge to their olde costome.

(. . .) Item the jury sayth that the stone walle at Symon Were is defective & owght to be repayred & amended so ofte as neyde shall require by the inhabitantes of Sutterton Algarkirke & Fosdicke by comon charge accordinge to their olde costome.

(. . .) Item the jury sayth that the see banckes of Sutterton begenneth at a staw of a pasture of iiij acres belonginge to the mannore of Dowdicke Halle now in the tenure of Thomas Perse & goeth from thense to a playce called Catecote Brydge & is in ruine & decay for lacke of exaltinge reparinge & amendinge betwext a playce called Spyttell Crosse & Wygtofte Gotte & owght to be repayred now & from time to tyme as ofte as neyde shall require by the lordes frey holders and copy holders by acre sylver.

(. . . *Goote*) Item the jury sayth that the see gotte of Sutterton is defective & owght to be repayred now & from time to tyme as ofte as neyde shall require by acre sylver.

(*Goote cricke*) Item the jury sayth that the gotte crycke of Sutterton is

¹ This sentence is a scribbled insertion in another hand.

deffective & so landed by reson of the see that as we suppose it cannot well be dyked to convey away the wateres of the same towne.

[474.II.8]

649

The verditte of William Howson & his fellowes geven at Boston the xxxjth day of Maye 1575 anno xvij^{mo} regni regine Elizabeth.

(*Skrybek Quarter*) Inprimis thay say that the greate goote comonly called Scyrbeke Goote is in greate ruyne & decay for lack of seachyng repairing & amending & ought to be repaired & amended so oft as nede requereth by the lordes & landholders of Scyrbeke Quarter & the inhabitaunces of Boston on the west syde of the water. ¹to be done before Myghelmes . . . by the . . .

(*Gootes Swynshed & Wygtoft*) Item thay say that the sea goote belonging to Swynshed & Wigtoft is in some decay & owght to be made repayred & amended frome tyme to tyme so ofte as nede shall require by the landes & landholdres of Swynshed & Wigtoft by acre sylver according to old custom.

¹ . . . Lames pena xx^s.

(*West Mere . . . acrage*) Item they say ther is a comon swer called the West Mere betwixe the boundes of Swynshed & Wigtoft is in greate ruyne & decay frome a place called the Rendelles in dyvers places unto the goote & owght to be diked scowered & clenched by the lands & landholdres of Swynshed & Wigtoft by acre sylver. ¹1576 Martylmes CCCC rode before Martylmes pena xx^d rod resid' ad 1576 pena . . .

(. . . *mere acrage*) Item they say ther is another swer or drene called theste Mere betwixte the boundes of Wigtoft & Sotterton is in greate ruyn & decay frome a place called Fishemerend unto Kytgate Brigge & owght to be diked scowered & clenched by the landes & landholdres of Swynshed & Wigtoft by acre sylver. ¹ . . . Martylmes 1576 pena . . .

(*West hedinges . . .*) Item they say that the west hedinges frome Parson Lane unto the uttermost parte of Grenerowe Comon is in decay & owght to be made repayred & amended by the inhabitaunces of Wigtoft. ¹ . . . Martylmes . . .

(*Stallholme . . .*) Item they say ther is a petty dreane & cometh frome a place called Stalholme & goith thorowe Staggatefeld by thend of Cappe-rigges & goeth over the feld way & takethe a dike betwixe the landes of John Brigges & theires of John Stockes & so taketh the West Mere, which is [in] decay & owght to be diked & scowered by the landes next adioyning the seid petty dreane according to the old custome.

(*Sowflet . . . Mich. pena viij d. acre*) Item they say ther is an other petty dreane called Sowflett cometh frome the almes howse thorowe Holflett . . . & so by Greaves Grene & so goeth over the hey way at Greavestowe unto the West Mere which is likewise in decay & owght . . . diked & scowered frome tyme to time by the landes next adioyning the same pettie dreane.

(*The Roughtes*) Item they say ther is a dreane called the Rawght betwene Bicker & Brond Dike is in decay & owght to [be] diked scowered & roded by the landes lieng of the west parte therof.

(*The Pisse Goote Resp' . . . Commiss'*) Item they say that the goote called the Pisse Goote at Langrake belongyng to Donyngton Becker & Quaderinge is in decay for thate the seid goote lyeth a great dele to heye & owght to be

¹ Concluding words added in another hand which is almost illegible.

laid lower for the conveyans of the waters, by the inhabitunces of Donyngton Bicker & Quadering aforseid accordinge to old custom.

[474.II.9]

650

(*Anno 1575 Swineshed Wigtoft . . . Acrage*) Item they say that the sea bankes of Swineshed & Wigtoft begineth at the furthest decayed salte cote belongyng to the lord Lawarr estward & so by the north syde of the comon marshe of Swineshed & Wigtoft unto a place called Lancatholme Crosse is defectyve in divers places bothe in height & bredthe & owght to be repayred & amended by the landes & landholdres of Swineshed & Wigtoft by acre silwer.

(*Kymedyke Banke . . . ante Martyl[m]es pena xx d. per rod*) Item they say that the banke of Kyme Dike is defectyve in height & bredthe frome a place called Willowe Bothe unto Flete End & owght to be made repayred & amended so oft as nede shall require by the inhabitantes of Swineshed aforseid.

(*From Fletend lyke . . .*) Item they say that the seid banke frome Flete End unto Goosse Goole is likewisse defectyve in height & bredthe & owght to be made repayred & amended so oft as nede shall require by the inhabitauntes of Wigtoft aforseid.

(*Sewer . . . et lex ante Michel[m]es pena xx d. per rod*) Item they say that Kyme Dike is defectyve & in greate ruyne for lacke of dikyng frome a place called Willowe Bothe unto Goosse Goole and owght to be diked viz. the west syde therof by the lorde of Kyme & the est syde by the inhabitantes of the Eight Hundreth according to old custome as oft as nede shall require.

(*West Cawsey . . .*) Item they say that ther is a cawsey or banke called the West Cawsey which leadeth frome the northend of Swineshed thorowghe the West Fenne unto Holle Dike is in decaye in divers places & owght to be made repaired & amended by the inhabitauntes of the Eight Hundreth every towne their parte according to old custome.

(*Brond Dyke . . .*) Item they say ther is a dike called Brond Dike is in ruyn & decay frome a place called the Eshe Tree unto Wragmerstake which owght to be diked frome tyme to tyme by the Eight Hundreth every towne ther parte according to old custome the manour to be cast on the north syde.

(*Hubberd Syke . . .*) Item they say ther is a syke called Hubbard Syke frome Androwe Grave into the Haven is defectyve for lacke of diking & owght to be diked by the inhabitantes of Dockdikehill & Brethertoft.

(*Skyrth . . .*) Item they say ther is a dreane called the Skyrthe is in ruyn & decay frome Swineshed Barr unto Androwe Grave which owght to be diked & repayred frome tyme to tyme by the inhabitauntes of the Eight Hundreth accordinge to old custome.

(*Rakes Dyke . . .*) Item they say ther is a dike called Rakes Dike frome a place cald Holle Dike unto the Horne is defectyve & owght to be diked viz. the west syde by the towneshippe of Hekington & the est syde by the inhabitauntes of the Eight Hundreth accordinge to old custome.

(*The Horne . . .*) Item they say ther is a dike called the Horne is defectyve frome the seid Rakes Dike unto the Scrith & owght to be diked by the inhabitauntes of Brethertoft.

(*Gyll Syke . . .*) Item they say that Gyll Syke frome the Skirth unto Amber Hyll is likewise defectyve & owghtt to be diked by the inhabitauntes of Brethertoft aforseid.

(*Depe Ee . . .*) Item they say ther is a dike called Depe Ee or Medfether is defectyve & owght to be diked viz. the west syde by the townshipe of Hekington & thest syd to be banked & diked by the inhabitauntes of Sutterton Algerkirke & Fosdike according to old custome.

(*Hamon Bek . . .*) Item they say that the comon swer called Hamon Becke begininge at Brond Dike & so unto the ryver cald the Fenne Dike at Kirton Holme owght to be diked roded & scowered frome tyme to tyme as ofte as nede shall require by the inhabitauntes of Swynshed Wigtoft Sutterton Algerkirk & Fosdike every hundreth & towne ther parte by equall measure accordinge to old custome.

(*Hyebrygg . . .*) Item they say ther is a brigge over the seid swer called the Hey Brigge which is in decay & ought to be made repayred & amended by the inhabitauntes of Swynshed & Wigtoft accordinge to old custom.

(*Acreland Stowe . . .*) Item they say ther is a stowe or dame called Acreland Stowe att Fyshemerend which hath bene allwaies accustomed to be kepte open frome mid Marche unto mid Aprill for the spedye convayans of the water of Swynshed & Wigtoft unto the drayne of Sutterton Algerkirk & Fosdike accordinge to old custome.

(*iiij bryges . . . ante Lammes Stonebrige & Martylemes the other . . .*) Item they say ther is fowre brigges viz. Asperton Brigge Stonebrige Muskildikbrige & Kitcatebrige wherof Stonebrige & Muskildikbrige are in greate ruyn & decay & owght to be made repayred & amended so oft as nede shall require by the inhabitauntes of Swynshed according to old custome.

(*ij bryges . . .*) Item they say ther is other towe brigges called Lynam Brige & Spittill Crosse Brige which ought to be made & repayred viz. Lynam by the inhabitauntes of Wigtoft and Spittill Crosse Brige by the inhabitauntes of Swynshed & Wigtoft according to old custome.

(*Pety dreane . . . ante Michel[m]es . . .*) Item they say ther is a petty drayne beginning at Hamon Becke & so to the clowes which draen & clowes is in decay & owght to be made repaired diked & scowered by the inhabitanes of Swynshed & Wigtoft according to old custom.

(*Fen Goote Langrak . . . ante Martylmes next the . . .*) Item they say that the Fenne Gote or Pisse Gote at Langrake is in decay & owght to be repaired & maynteyned by the inhabitauntes of Swynshed Wigtoft Sutterton Algerkirk & Fosdik so oft as nede require.

And Kyrton Goote in lyke . . . by Kyrton Frampton & Wyberton . . .

[474.II.10]

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Charges and defaltes of the swers in the
townshipe of Bicker

¹(*Bicker Hamond Becke*) Imprimis the jurye saythe one dreane called Hamond Becke beginning at a place called Cranmar & goeth to a place called Mr Holland Raughte ought to be dyked & banked by the lordes and land houlders from the sayd Cramer unto a place called Swanwath & from thence to Mr Holland Raught it ought to be by [*sic*] dyked by common mynworkes and ought to be holy rodid holy by common mynworkes which drean & bankes is defectyve in many places.

¹ Part of the right margin of this folio is missing.

(*Newdyke resp'*) Item the jurye saythe on other dreane called the New Dyke begynnyng at a place called Helpringham Becke & comethe to Cranmer ought to be dyked howked & roded be the townshipes of Bicker & Donyngton & the sayd townshipe of Bycker hathe dyked and roded the one halfe of the sayd Newdyke according to the former verdytes & the sayd townshipe of Donyngton have nether dyked nor roded the sayd Newdyke nor yet wyll not doe, to the great dammage of the contry adiacent.

(*A banke*) Item the jurye saythe one dyke and banke goyng from Wolsdome Stow unto Cramer which ought to be dyked & banked from Wolsdomestow unto the Inge Corner by the inhabytors of Bycker by common mynworkes & from the Inge Corner unto Cramer ought to be dyked & banked by the lande houlders that joinethe upon yt which dyke & banke ys defectyve in certayne places.

(*Seadyke . . .*) Item the jurye saythe one seedyke begynnyng at the est end of Bycker & goethe unto Holflete called Staygate . . . ought to be kepe by the inhabetors of Bycker in sufficient repayre which sedyke is defectyve in sar[tayn] places.

(*Bicker Dyke*) Item the jury sayth one dyke called Bycker Dyke oughte to be dyked & banked from Horne Parke un[to] . . . Horne by the inhabyters of Byker & all the reste of the dyke ought to be kepe by the . . . houlders ioyinge therupon yt in suffycient repaire which dyke & banke ys defectyve in sertayn pla[ces.]

(*The Ee*) Item the jury saythe on other dyke called the Eye & goethe to a place called Cantlet Bouthe oughte to be dyke[d] by house rodes and common mynworkes, as often as ned shall requere.

(*The Ee Banke*) Item the jury saythe one other banke called the Eye Banke begynnyng at Master Littelberies house & goethe to the Ynge Banke Stowe oughte to be mayd by the inhabytors off Bycker which is defectyve in many places.

(*A goote*) Item the jury saythe one goote lyinge at Langrake to be kepe & mantayned by the townshipes of Bycker Donyngton and Quadrynge so often as nede shall requere.

(*West Cawsye . . . Resp'*) Item the jury requerethe especially the towne of Bicker Donyngton Quadering Gosbertowne & Surflet that the . . . Causey in Holland Fenn maye be kepe as yt hath bene in ancient tyme that is to have . . . ij or iij gooles kepe open for the passage of the water which doethe anoye the tounes afor[esaid.]

(*Mr Hollandes Fen . . . Resp'*) Item the jury requyereth that wheras ther is one fenn called Mr Hollandes Fenn now inclos- . . . and stayeth the passag[e] of the water to the anoyans of the whole countrie that . . . headynges therupon maye be kepe open for the passage of the water and . . . of all the contrye adiacent & being upon the south syde of the . . .

[474.II.11]

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(*Donyngton verdett 1575 1 Gooldyke Banke f' ante Martilmes pena . . . rod*) Inprimis the sayd jurye sayth that ther is a scertane dyke and banke called Goole Dyke and Gole Dyke Bancke begynninge att a place called Marlod and desendeth unto a sce[r]tane place called Becker Cranmer is defectyve in scartane places and ought to be repaired dycked and bancked for the moste

parte be the lordes and land holders of Donyngton and Qwadringe Hundreth and the rest be the inhabetaunc of Donyngton.

(2 *Dreane Michelmes pena xij d. rod*) Item they saye ther is another dreane begynninge at a place called the More Corner and desendes to another place called the Cowe Bryge of Donyngton is defectyve in scartane places bothe dycke and bancke and owghte to be dycked and bancked be the inhabeters of Donyngton.

(3 *S. Fendyke f' ante Martylmes pena xl d. rod*) Item they say ther is a scertane bancke called the Sowthinge Fendycke begynninge at a place called Kynnitofes Style and extendes to another place called the Qwenes Hye Waye leading to Bryge Dycke is defectyve and owght to be heaned and bancked be the lordes and land holders of Donyngton and Qwadringe Hundreth.

(4 *Brydge market f' lex per insert' ante primum July 1576 pena C s. to be doone of stone & . . . present . . .*) Item the jurye saythe that ther is a brydge in Donyngton markyte place which is in ruyng and decaye and owght to be mayd repaired and amendyd so oft as nead shall requer be the lordes of Donyngton.

(5 *F' ante . . . pena xx s. Brownyng*) Item they saye ther is another brydge in Brownyng Wayke in Donyngton is in ruinge and decaye and owght to be mayd and repaired be the towneshype of Donyngton.

(6 *F' respect' ad visum leg' Hye Brige of Brygdyke resp' ad vis' Commiss'*) Item they saye that ther is another brydge called the Hye Bryge of Brygedycke which owghte to be mayd and repaired so often as nead shall reqwear the one halfe be the land layte Sante Saveors nowe beinge the quenes landes and the other halfe be the towneshype of Donyngton.

(7 *F' ante Martyles pena xx s. Cowbryg*) Item they saye ther is another brydge in Donyngton called Cowe Bryge which is in reuinge and owght to be mayd repaired and mendyd so often as nead shall reqwear be the towneshype of Donyngton.

(8 *Tundam f' ante Mich' pena xx s.*) Item the sayd jurye sayth ther is a scertayn tundame in Qwadringe of the north syd of Qwadringe Eaye begynninge att a place called Crane Bryge and extendes to Qwadring Eadyke which is in ruinge and decaye and owght to be mayd repaired and mendyd as often as nead shall reqwear be scertayn landes adioynninge uppon it and is knowne & called be the name of Tundame Landes.

(9 *Hyebrig banke f' ante . . . pena xl d. rod*) Item they say ther is another bancke begynninge att a place called the Hye Bryge of Bryge Dycke and extendes to another place called Castell Howghe is defectyve in scertayn places and owght to be mayd and repaired be the towneshype of Donyngton.

(10 *Marlode banke idem dies et pena*) Item they saye ther is another bancke begynninge att a place called Marlode and extendes to another place called Kynnitofes Style is defectyve and owght to be heaned and bancked as often as nead shall reqwear be the towneshype of Donyngton.

(11 *Seabanke . . .*) Item they say ther is one seae bancke begynninge att a place called Boemon Hyle and extendes to another place called Browne Seadycke which owghte to be m[ade] and repaired so often as nead shall reqwear be the lordes and l[and] holders of Donyngton aforsayd.

[474.II.12]

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(*Donyngton 1575 12 Chappell Drean Martyles pena xx d. rod*) Item the sayd jurye saythe ther is another dreane begynninge at the chapell of Brygedycke and extendes to another place called the Leame and is defectyve and owght to be dycked clensed and scowred so often as nead shall reqwear be the inhabeters of Donyngton.

(*13 Horblyng Drean idem dies et pena*) Item they saye ther is another dreane begynninge at the bound stone betwene Donyngton and Horblynge and desendes to a place called Marlode and owght to be dycked clensed and scowred be the inhabeters of Donyngton and Qwadringe.

(*14 Churche Drean dies Mydsomer et pena xijd. the rod 12d.*) Item they saye ther is a pettye dreane dessending oute of the qwenes hye waye in Donyngton called Church Gatte into a dycke betwene the qwenes maiesties land late Mr Bellowes and the land of Robert Sharforthe is defectyve and owght to be clensed and scowred as often as nead shall reqwear be the towneshepe of Donyngton.

(*15 Shypgate Drean ante Mych' pena xijd. rod*) Item they saye ther is another pettye dreane goynge outte of the qwenes hye way called Shype Gatte in Donyngton and desendes betwene the messwage of William Haryman and the messwage of John Toplyss into a dyke and owght to be clensed and scowred so ofte as nead shall reqwear be the towneshype of Donyngton.

(*16 Harryman [d]rean . . .*) Item they say ther is another pettye dreane desendenge oute of the sayd hye waye betwene the land of William Haryman and John Robart is defectyve and owght to be clensed and scowred as often as nead reqewreth be towneshepe of Donyngton.

(*17 Another Shyp Gate drean . . .*) Item they say ther is one other pettye dreane goynge outte of the sayd hy waye called Shype Gatte is defectyve and desendes in a dyke betwene the land of William Haryman aforsayd and the land of John Chaters and ought to be clensed and scowred as is before sayd.

(*18 West Cawsey . . . Resp' ad . . .*) Item the jure reqweareth easpeaceallye theye of Donyngton Becker Qwadringe Gosberkerke and Surflete that the Weste Cawuseye in Holland Fenne may be kept as it hath bene in awntiente tyme that is to saye to have ij or iij goles kepte for the passage of the water which doth annoye the townes aforsayd.

(*19 Holland . . .*) Item the sayd jurye reqweareth that whear as ther is one fenn called Mr Holland Fenn nowe in closed seaverallye and stayeth the passage off the waters to the great annoyance of the whole contrye that all the headinges ther uppon may be keptte oppen for the passayge of the wateres and ease of all the contrye lyinge or beinge uppon the sowthe syd of the same.

[474.II.13]

654

(*Gosbertowne Sea Bancke defaltes fiat lex*) Fyrste at the shefte betwene Surflete & Gosbertowne from Surfle[t]shefte paste bothe the greate clowes wiche we judge to xl roodd & ought to be amended by the lordes & freholders & the inhabytaunces of Gosbertowne, one other goole by exstemacion v roodd & ought to be amended in lyke manner and ther is dyvers other places on the seadyke betwen that goole & Launse Damestyde & ought to be

amended in heyght & breatghe by acreidge & the inhabitaunce of Gosbertowne, on other place betwene Launsdamsstyd & Angoote by the exstema-
cion of iiij roodd & ought to be amended in lyke maner.

(*Poynton Lode Poynton Lode fiat lex*) Item ther ys a drene called Poynten-
lode dyscyndyng frome Mylnthorpe wiche drene ys in decaye for lacke of
bankyng & rodyng tyll Rusgate Eye mouthe & thence to a place nye Fen End
Bridge wher the joce dyke was wont to begyne & so from thence to Surflet Sea-
goote nowe torned by a new course which drene from ¹Rusgate Ey mouthe¹
to the joce dyke at Fen End ys to be dyked banked schoured & amended by
the inhabitaunce of Gosbertowne & Surflet by common & from thence to
the goote to be dyked banked roded schowred & amended from tyme to tyme
as occacion shall serve by the lordes & freholders of Surflet & Gosbertowne
to be layd by a joyce booke as doth appear.

(*Note Risegate Ee*) Item we saye that Russgate Eeye is defectyve & ought
to be dyked & scoured from Fen End to Humps Bridge by the lordes & land-
holders of Surflet & from Humps Brydge to the Newe Brydge is defectyve
& ought to be dykyd & scoured by the lordes & freholders of Gosbertowne.

(*Clowes at Risegate Ee . . .*) Item ther is a pare of clowes standyng in Rus-
gate Eee which clowes ar not sound & are to be serched repared & ammended
by both townes by acre sylver.

(*Beche Banke . . .*) Item the Beche Banke is in defectyve & ought to be
banked by the landholders joyunyng nyesto yt.

(*Newdyke Banke . . .*) Item ther is another banke called the Newdyke
Banke which is in decaye in dyverse places & ys to be amended as apperethe
by a joce booke therofe.

(*Newdyke . . .*) Item we saye the Newdyke is defectyve in dyverse places &
ought to be amended by the lordes & freholders as a joyce book dothe apper.

(*A pety dreane . . .*) Item we saye there is a pettye drene comyng from the
mydle fyld under Rusgate Eee & so to the Beache & ought to be dyked &
banked by them that drens by yt & is defectyve.

(*Lafenlode*) Item we saye ther is a drean called Lafen Lood is defectyve
& ought to be dyked & scoured by them that drens by yt.

[474.II.14]

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(*Surflett Defaltes in Burne Ey Banke fiat lex . . .*) Fyrst at the shefte be-
twene Pynchbeke & Surflett at a place called Newbery there ys a serten
banke defectyve & ys to be exalted repared & amended by Robert Pagham
esquier as apperethe by a joce booke of the same.

(. . .) Item ther ys serten of the same banke ny Pett house whyche lakkethe
henyng & ys to be amended by Robert Pett.

(*A Clow . . .*) Item ther ys a serten rappytt in Surflett lyyng in Burne Ey
Banke whyche lyeth ther to take water into a drene called the Beache when
the water ys hye in the Ey bothe to mantayne the sayd Beache & sea gote &
also the people to have relefe of fresshe water when great salt fludes be
whyche rappytt ys not sound & wold be serched and amended by the in-
habytance of Surflett.

(*Tondame Dreane . . .*) Item ther ys a serten drene comyng from Crecy
Hall called the Tondam & so yssuyng into the Beache of Surflett whyche ys

¹⁻¹ These words are interlined and the words "a place called Flat Pooles" are cancelled.

in utter decay for lak of dykyng & ys to be dyked as apperethe by old varyttes of the same.

(*Defaltes in the sedyke . . .*) Fyrst ther ys one place betwene Durbag Hyll & Newland Brydge where a breake was whyche ys to lo & ys to be hened & the resodeu of the seyde banke to be skerted & the same to be done by acar sylver.

(*Seabankes . . .*) Item ther ys other ij places in Surflett Sedyke where one gote of old tyme have lyen whyche were broken at the great flud & hathe bene amended but yet not suffyciently whyche seyde places ar to be exalted & amended by the inhabytances of Surflett & Gosbertowne as appereth by old vary[ts.]

(. . .) Item ther ys dyverse places in Surflett Sedyke defectyve for lake of skyrtynge from Newland Brydge & so compassyng Newland to Common Hyrne & from thence unto agaynst a dry dyke in Long Brych betwene a parsell of ground of Thomas Bryges late Yngrams in Gosberkyrke & a smale persell of Mr Robert Paghnam in Surflett the fyrst parsell of Surflett ground dyrectly agenst the seyde sedyke where now a stone ys sett whyche defaltes ar to be amended by the lordes & freholders of Surflett by acar sylver.

(*Surflet Seabanke . . .*) Item ther ys one pece of Surflett Sebanke broken by the inhabytantes of Donyngton & Quadryng for the setteng downe of a new gote whyche pece of banke lyethe in great decay & peryll to bothe the inhabytances of Surflett & Gosbertowne whyche seyde place ys to be repaired & amended ether by setting downe the seyde gote or els to be exalted repaired & amended by the seyde townes of Donyngton & Quadryng accordyng to the fyrst proporcion of the same banke.

(*Brydges Note this ys to be . . . by the . . .*) Fyrst ther ys a brydge in Surflett called Newland Brydge mayd of stone & arched now perseved to be to narrowe for yssuyng of the water in the Beache at great downfalles or at the utterance of the fen waters . . . watry yeares wherfore yt ys thought exsedyent to have the seyde brydge half a yarde wyde . . . yt may suffyciently convey all waters & at all suche tymes of out ragyn downfall or . . . yeares aswell from the fens as for the drenyng of all the acars of groundes subjecte to receyte of the same drene whyche ys the chefe drene for all the landes in Surflett wherfore the seyde brydge ys to be wydded & amended by acar sylver of the same towne.

Item ther ys an other brydge in Surflett called the Drove Brydge whyche ys in utter decay . . . to be amended by the inhabytante of Surflett.

Verte folium

[474.II.14d]

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(*Beche Banke . . .*) Item ther ys serten banke of the Beache [Ban]ke betwene the clowes in Surflett & the wynde mylne greatly defectyve for lake of henyng & ys to be amended by the inhabytantes of Surflett.

(*Newdyke Banke . . .*) Item ther ys another banke called the Newdyke Banke whyche ys in decay in dyverse places & ys to be amended as apperethe by a joce booke therof.

(*Clowes . . .*) Item ther ys a pare of clowes standyng in Rusgate Ey whyche clowes ar not sound and ar to be serched repaired & amended by bothe townes by acar sylver.

Kyrton preterill' a° xvij Wm Howson

[474.II.15]

¹(*Quadringe varydte*) Inprimis we saye that ther is one drene called the Newedicke beginninge at a place called Surflet Stile and extendethe to Marre Lodde & is well dicked & bancked & is to be dicked & bancked as ofte as need doth require as in a joyssse booke dothe appeare.

Item ther is one other drene called Maires Becke betwene the marrishes of Dunningtone and Quadringe, beginninge at a bound stone betwene Keistyen & Holland and so extendethe to Marreload mouthe & is in sufficyent repaire, and ought to be dicked clensed & skoured as ofte as need dothe require th'one side by the towneshippe of Dunnington & the other side by the towneshippe of Quadringe & Quadringe Hundrethe.

Item ther is a clow at the mouthe or infall of Marre Lodde which is in sufficyent repaire whiche is made & mayntained from time to tyme by Dunnington & Quadringe & Quadringe Hundreth.

Item ther is a drene beginninge at the same clowe & extendethe to a place called Crayn Bridge which is in sufficyent repaire and is to be clensed & skoured by Dunnington and Quadringe & the Hundrethe of Quadringe.

Item ther is a certaine bridge called Crayne Bridge which is in sufficyent repaire & is made & maintaynede by the towneshippe of Quadringe onlye.

Item ther is an other shifte of the same drene beginninge at the same bridge and extendethe to one ashe tree in Richard Ormesheeds land called Willowtofte which i[s] . . . sufficyent repaire & ought to be dicked clensed & skoured when need dothe require . . . towneshippe of Quadringe and Quadringe Hundrethe.

Item ther is one other shifte beginninge at the same ashe & extendethe to a place . . . Elwarde Elmes which is in sufficyent repaire & ought to be dicked clensed and skoured . . . as need dothe require by the towneshippe of Dunnington onlye.

Item from the said Elwarde Elmes to a place called Cockerell Houghe ther is one othe[r] shifte in the same eae which is in sufficyent repaire & is to be dicked clensed and skoured when need dothe require by the towneshippe of Quadringe & Quadringe Hundrethe.

Item ther is one borden bridge goinge over the waie at Elward Elmes, which is in sufficyent repaire & is made & maintayned by the towneshippe of Quadringe onlye.

Item ther is one stone bridge at a place called Cockerell Houghe which is in suff[icient] repaire and is made & maintayned by Dunnington and Quadringe and the hundrethe of Quadringe.

Item ther is one other parcell of the same drene, which was Gosbertowne Oulde Ea beginninge at the said stone bridge & extendethe to the goote which is laid for Dunn[ington] & Quadringe, and is at this presente in sufficyent repaire which is to be dicked, clensed & skoured when need doth require by the akeridge of Dunnington & Quadringe and the hundrethe of Quadringe, as ther equall shiftes dothe appoint them. And for that the headinges within this shifte of the southe side, beinge the charge of Gosberton have not beane sufficyentlye made sence Maidaie last by the dikeryves or surveyers & many times letten runne into the said parte of the Eae to the great checkinge of Marre Lodde water : therfore we desire your worshippes that ord- . . . may

¹ Part of the right margin of this folio is missing.

be taken therin, that ther water may rune wher it . . . to goo & ther headin[g] . . . sufficyentlie made.

Item ther is one great goote laide in the sea b[ank]e . . . by the cha- . . . Dunnington & Quadringe & Quadringe Hundrethe, which is in sufficient repaire . . . that she lyeth very lowe & that the sea will not suffer hir dores to open & sparre unlesse she may have a new bottome made for hir.

Thomas Harry- . . . Rychard . . .

[*Endorsed:*] Veredict' preposit' de Kyrton anno xxj^o E. regine

[474.II.16]

658

Sutterton Algarkirke and Fosdicke

(*Fiat lex*) Item the saide jury say that all the landes of the towne of Sutterton beinge of the number of a thowsande foure hundrede fyftene acres & a halfe have no dreane conveyance nor goate for the advoydinge of their waters within their towne but that the same nowe be & maye moste convenyentlye be dreaned & conveyed by the heade dreane of Algarkirke & Fosdicke begynnyng at a place called Spaldinge Gate alias the south syde of Squyer Tofte and throughe the newe brydge their & so to Struges Brydge, Colder Brydge, Mandyke Brydge, Brydgehouse Brydge, & so thorough theyre goate at Fosdycke & so to the sea. In consyderacion of which way & course to be hade for the dreanyng of the saide thowsande fowre hundrede fyftene acres & a halfe reconyng sixe score to the hundred of the landes in Sutterton it is convenyent & resone that all the saide acres & every of them from tyme to tyme & at all times when nede shall requyer duryng the continuance of their dreanyng that way, be lyable & chargeable & beare & pay equall charge of levyes of acreage or acre sylver with the landes in Algarkirke & Fosdicke beinge of the number of tow thowsande & fyftene acres after the same rate of vj score to the hundred aswell for the dykinge clensing scowring & repayring of the saide dreane begynninge as before at Spaldinge Gate & so to the fall into the sea as also for the amendinge manteynyng & reparinge of the saide goate & flewe with the appurtenance & all brydges nowe layde & lyinge over the saide dreane before named & all other that shalbe nedefull to be layd & mayde over the same duryng the time of their waters dreanyng that way.

Item the saide jury say that it is nessessary that the saide landes in Sutterton for their better & more spedyer dreyanyng to ha[ve] a cutte & another fall of their waters into the heade dreane of Algarkirke & Fosdicke as foloweth, that is from the laite hea[d] dreane of Sutterton unto & betwene the landes of the maner of Busolace & the landes of the quenes maiestie laite the chantery of Algarkirke & so to the Church Layne of Algarkirke as it is alredye dyked & so over the sa[me] where the saide inhabitants of Sutterton have laide a carte brydge, & from that layne unto & betwene the landes of Gregor[y] Procter & Thomas Roper to a way called Andrewe Common & so over the saide hye way called Andrewe Common where it is alredye cutt & a carte brydge layde over by the inhabitants of Sutterton, & so betwene a pasture of Anthony Meres gent. . . . the Gelles & the landes of Thomas Roper & William Swane unto & into the afore saide heade dreane of Algarkirke & Fosdicke . . . whiche cutts & dreane from the saide late heade dreane of Sutterton unto the saide heade dreane of Algarkirke as before lymy[ted] & alredye dyked to be from hencforth continually mayntened & scowrede

duringe their dreanyng that way by the on[ly] charge of the landes in Sutterton by acre sylver over & besydes their equall charge of their landes with the la- . . . in Algarkirke & Fosdicke before expressed for their dreanyng by Spaldinge Gate, & also the saide tow cart brydge[s] layd over the Church Layne & Andrewe Common to be lykewysse mayntened repared & upholden duryng the time . . . theire dreanyng that way by & at the onely charge of the landes in Sutterton by acre sylver over & besydes theire aforesaide equall charge with the landes in Algarkirke & Fosdicke as aforesaide.

Item the saide jury say that wheras the inhabitants of Sutterton aforesaide have alrede given to the inhabitants of Algarkirke & Fosdicke vj li. xiiij s. iiij d. alrede employed in mendinge & dykin their dreane in consyderacion to have a tryall how theire watters wyll dreane by the wayes & cutts before lymitted for the spayce of thre yeres from the feast of All Saintes last past fully to be ended over & besydes their equall charge of acreage at all times duringe the saide space when nede shall requyer about eny the premysses before expressed the said jury thinke it nessessary & reson that if at the ende of the said iij yeres yt shalbe thought good by the vewe & dyscression of iij justices of sewers inhabitinge in the parties of Hollande that the saide landes in Sutterton may have theire continuall way of dreanyng by the wayes & cuttes before lymitted without the hurte damage or detryment of eny the landes or inhabitants of Algarkirke & Fosdicke & upon a lawe in sewers to be sett downe for theire continuance of dreanyng the wayes before expressed that then the inhabitants of Sutterton shall immediatly pay to the dygreves of Algarkirke & Fosdicke then beinge to the use of the towne xvj li. of lawfull Englishe mony to be levyed of the landes in Sutterton by acre sylver over & bes[ides] theire continuall equall charges with the landes in Algarkirke & Fosdicke & this in consyderation of the continuall dreanyng by & thorough the saide dreane brydges & goate of Algarkirke & Fosdicke alrede in resonable repayre wit[h] their costes & charges.

VERDICT FOR SKIRBECK WAPENTAKE, 1581

[474.III.1]

660

(*Wepentag' de Skirbecke the verditt of the degraves*) The verdytt of Alex. Robynson and his fellowes degraves within the wepen' aforesaide geven uppe at Boston the xijth of January 1581 and in the xxiiijth yeare of her maiesties raigne before [blank] and others her maiesties Commyssioners of the sewars within the countie of Lincoln

Wrangle

(. . .) Fyrste the degraves of the towne aforesayd desyre that they maye ether have a joyce booke or an acridge booke, that thereby they maye knowe every mans lotment.

Leake

(. . .) Fyrste the degraves of Leake doe fynd that the common sewar of Leake is defectyve for want of dykinge from Hiegate Bridge to the Goate, by the negligence of the owners digraves and surveyors.

Leverton

All is well and done aswell by the dygraves as surveyor.

Bennyngton

Omnia bene.

Butterwycke

(. . .) The inhabitauntes of Butterwycke craves a payre of clowes to stand at Chapman Fleete to staye the sault water forthe of the lawe feyldes of Butterwycke & Freyston . . .

Freyston

Omnia bene.

Fyshtofte

Omnia bene.

Skyrbecke

(. . .) We fynd a parcell of bancke that lyeth uppon fruntidge belonginge to the heyres of Awmonson is defectyve contayninge by estymacyon towne roodes and is omytted by the owner digraves and surveyor.

[474.III.1d]

661

Also we fynd a parcell of bancke lyinge uppon fruntige is defectyve belonginge to Mr Bartne contayninge by estymacion a roode, in defaute of the owner, degraves and surveyor.

Also an other parcell of bancke belonginge to Mr Hoode defectyve, contayninge ij roodes, in default of the owner, degraves and surveyor.

Also an other parcell of bancke belonginge to the west syde of Skyrbecke, by estymacion one roode in default of the inhabitauntes digraves and surveyor.

Also one other parcell of bancke lyinge uppon fruntige is defectyve, per-
teynninge to the lord of St Jones, conteynninge a roode & a halffe, in default of the owner, dygraves & surveyor.

[474.III.2d]¹

[*Endorsed*:] A verdict of the sewars Skirbeck Verdicte geven upp at Boston the xijth of Januarii anno xiiij^o regine Elizabeth.

VERDICT FOR KIRTON, ELLOE AND SKIRBECK WAPENTAKES, 1583

[474.IV.1-29]

Part printed

662-692

[662-8 and 684-692 are respectively a dikereeves' and a *preter illos* verdict which largely repeat each other, save that the former lacks the text of the petition entered on 692. 662-8 have therefore been omitted, as also, for reasons of space, some lists of names in 670-1, 673-6, and 684-7.]

[474.IV.8]

669

(*Wapentag de Ellowe Veredict preterillorum*) The verdict of John Heydon gent. and his fellowes geven upp at Spaldinge the second daye of October in the xxvth yeare of the reigne of our soveraigne ladie the quenes maiestie that nowe ys before Robert Carr junior Anthony Cawdron George Carlton Gregory Wolmer William Watson Arthur Walpole John Walpole Henry Addam & Anthony Ireby esquiers and others her maiesties Commissioners of Sewers within the countie of Lincoln

¹ The recto of this folio is blank.

Tidd St Marie

(*Master Deeke . . .*) First the jurye saye that two roodes in the foresaid banke are defectyve in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors.

(*Southe Ea Banke*) Item we fynd one roode in the said banke defectyve in default of Mr Addams the dygraves & surveyors.

Item one roode in the said banke in defalt of Mr Keyes the dygraves & syrveyors.

Item halfe a roode in the said banke, in defalt of Robert Tomlynson the dygraves & surveyors.

Dygraves [blank] Surveyor Richard Nicholson

[474.IV.9]

Sutton cum membris

670

(*The goot*) The jury saye that Lutton Goat ys defectyve, and the defaltes thereof to growe by reason that Thomas Pearson one of the dygraves of Sutton uppon purpose to amend the same did without consent of Commys-sioners take uppon him to remove certen stones which dede ys supposed to be hurtfull to the said goate.

(*The sea banke Comonage*) Item the jurye saye that the sea banke of Sutton, betwene Tydd St Maries & Pelles Goote was defectyve in dyvers places to the number of tenn roodes and nott donne accordinge to the generall lawes in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors. And now donne.

(*Hedinges . . . betwene . . . & Lutton not done*) Item the jurye saye that there are xxx^{tie} roodes defectyve in the said hedinges betwene Gedney and Lutton from Marrites Stowe to Jackes Stowe and are not donne in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors.

(*[S]utton [He]adinges in [St] James*) Item the jurye saye that there were dyvers roodes defectyve in the said headinges and not donne accordinge to the generall lawes in defalt of the owners dygraves & surveyors. And the owners which made defalt were theis viz.: [*10 entries not printed*]. All which defaltes are nowe amended.

(. . .) Item the jurye do fynd dyvers places defectyve in Hallgate for want of height as followeth viz.: [*11 entries not printed*]. All which defaltes are nowe donne, but not donne in tyme accordinge to the lawes in default of the owners dygraves & surveyors.

(*Peticion fiat lex*) Wheras the quenes maiesties groundes and others betwene Wylloughe Dyke & Gannocke Gate have no sewer to passe by unto the sea, our request ys to have a mete and conveyniente dreane, which may passe from a place called Hundred Acres Corner under Wyllowe Dyke, and so by the mannor of Gannocke, goinge betwene the said mannor of Gannocke & Edmond Hall esquier to Gannocke Gate & so to Momfordes Bridge, and the joyninge, and the same dreane to be in wydnes ix foote.

Dygraves [blank] Surveyors John Negall James Baldwar senr.

[474.IV.10]

Gedney and Gedney Fenn Ende

671

(*Headinges under Southe Ea Banke*) First the jurye saye that theis defaltes hereunder wrytten were defectyve in defalt of the owners dygraves and surveyors as followeth viz. [*18 entries not printed*]. All which defaltes are now donne lykewyse, but not in tym or accordinge to the generall lawes.

(. . . *rslough* . . . *a comon*) Item the jurye say that theis defectyve places were in the said banke in defalt of the dygraves & surveyors viz.

From Toogood to Lomes Bridge vj roodes

Item from Lomes Bridge unto Gedney Crosse iiij roodes

Item from Jackes Stowe unto Camplines Bridge viij roodes.

Nowe donne also but not accordinge to the lawes.

(*Delphes*) Item the jurye saye that William Cramper hathe one delphe to the valewe of v roodes defectyve in defalt of the said William the dygraves & surveyors. Now done.

Item that the quenes maiestie hathe one delphe of the mannor of Pollyttes fee defectyve to the valewe of v rodes the defalt as aforesaid. Done.

Item that Henry Welbie esquier hathe one delphe to the valewe of vj roodes defectyve in defalt of the said Henry the dygraves & surveyors. Not done.

Item one delphe to the valewe of iiij roodes defectyve of the mannor of Thabbotes in defalt of the owner dygraves and surveyors. Done.

[474.IV.10d]

672

(*Yowle Dyke*) Item the jurye saye that Yowle Dyke is defectyve to the valewe of two roodes the defalt in the ow[ners] dygraves and surveyors. Done on the hedinges.

(*West Plow Land headinges*) Item the jury doe fynde that Henry Batman hath xv^{tie} roodes which was defectyve in the said headinges in defalt of him the dygraves & surveyors, And nowe donne.

(*[Joy]se Banke*) Item that Henry Batman hathe a joyse banke at Leyes Yates in decaye to the valewe of iiij roodes. And nowe donne.

(*The Fenn Banke*) Item that there was v roodes defectyve in the said bancke in defalt of the dygraves & surveyors. Now done.

Dygraves [blank] Surveyors Thomas Fysher

[474.IV.11]

673

Fleete

(*The common sewer*) First the jurye saye that the comon sewer from Ravens Bridge unto Flete Stocke in Flete Fenn End ys defectyve for dykinge to the number of fyve hundred roodes in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors.

(*Flete lande meare*) Item the jury saye that a certen joyce bank called the Land Meare in Flete was before the fyrst daye of September last past defectyve to the number of 205 roodes in defalt of the owners dygraves and surveyors. And ys nowe donne. viz. [18 entries not printed] in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors.

(*Headinges . . . the Old Ea . . . now done*) Item the jurye saye that the headinges against the Old Ea from Ravens Dyke unto the clowe at Poundrugend were defectyve as aforesaid in dyvers places and ought to have bene made by frontigers as followeth, videlicet [15 entries not printed].

(*Ravens Gate & Dooles Dyke*) Item the jurye saye that Ravens Gate was defectyve to the valewe of xx^{tie} roodes. And also that the comon called Dooles Dyke was defectyve, to the valewe of x roodes in defalt of the dygraves & surveyors. Now done.

Dygraves [blank] Surveyors Anthony Eager William Coker

[474.IV.12]

674

Holbech

(*Comon Sea Bancke*) First the jurye saye that the foresaid banke ys defectyve xij roodes & viij roodes at the clowes and the longe bridge in defalt of the dygraves & surveyors. Now done.

(*South Ea [B]ancke*) Item one roode at the drawinge over of the said banke defectyve. And ys to be donne by Nicholas Mayne in defalt of the said Nicholas the dygraves & surveyors. Not done.

(*Shippe Ea Banke*) Item the jurye do fynde theis defaltes hereunder wrytten to be undonne in the said banke in defalt of the owners dygraves and surveyors, viz. All done. [*11 entries not printed*]

(*[Hur]dletree . . .*) Item viij roodes to be donne by the quenes maiesties fermers. Not done and order to be sett donne for the makinge hereof, & my lord Tresarer.

Item defectyve the crest in Porson from Dousgate house to Shipp Ea Stowe and ys to be donne by the quenes maiesties farmors. Not done.

Item Lowe Dyke defectyve from Cattes Cole Corner to Brother House and ys to be donne by the inhabitantes of Moulton, Weston, & Spaldinge. Not done.

Item Moulton caaswaye defectyve from Lowe Dyke to the clowe that goeth to Moulton ryver, and ys to be donne by the owners & farmers of the East Fenne, William Whyte Robert . . . and the scole of Molton the pore of Molton & Edmond Brymston of Molton. Not done.

Dygraves [*blank*] Surveyors William Stucley gent. William Stowe

[474.IV.13]

675

Whaployde

(*Greate Shipp Ea*) First the jurye do saye that all theis defaltes in Great Shipp Ea are yett defectyve in defalt of the owners dygraves and surveyors videlicet [*40 entries not printed. After entry 11 is the note: All before not done. The next 12 entries are bracketed with the note: Theis defaltes now donne but not by the tymes lymytted in the generall lawes. After the final entry in the list is the note: Not donne.*]

(*Little Shi[pp] Ea*) The defaltes in Little Shipp Ea not donne in defalte of the owners dygraves and surveyors [*13 entries not printed. The last 3 are bracketed with the note: Now donne as before.*]

Defaltes in comon dyke by the owners dygraves and surveyors [*12 entries not printed. After entry 7 is the note: Not done. The last 5 are bracketed with the note: And nowe donne.*]

[474.IV.13d]

676

Also the defaltes in Ravens Dyke by the owners dygraves and surveyors [*14 entries not printed. After entry 7 is the note: Not done. The last 2 are bracketed with the note: Theis also now donne.*]

(. . .) Haise roodes defectyve in defalt of the owners dy[gr]aves & surveyors. Inprimis the quenes maiestie three roodes. Not done.

Item one thousand roodes in common sewer. Four hundreth not done.

Item the jury fynd Manners & Cranes Gate to be defectyve in defalt of the dygraves & surveyors of bothe townes. x rodes not done.

Item a bridge called Pinchbecke Bridge defectyve in defalt of the dygraves & surveyors. Nowe done.

(*A petition fiat lex . . . tymes as shalbe necessary . . .*) Item we crave a shitt to be sett at Great Shipp Ea Stowe, and another at Goyes Hurne to take water into the comon sewer at all tymes when nede shall requier.

Item we fynd that a creast should be made from Dowsdaile to Shipp Ea Stowe by the quenes maiestie & her tenantes and not donne in defalt of the owners dygraves & surveyors.

Dygraves [*blank*] Surveyors Symon Sycklepryse

[474.IV.14]

Moulton

677

(*Lowe Dyke a defensive banke betwene Moulton and Crowland*) First the jurye saye that theis defaltes are in the said banke in defalt of the owners dygraves and surveyors, viz., the quenes maiestie for the house of Spaldinge iiij roodes, the schoole of Moulton vj roodes John Bygott senr. one roode, Nicholas Scarlett iiij roodes John Preste one roode, the comon one roode John Walpole ar' ij roodes Henry Nicall di. roode, the lordes of Moulton xij roodes, item at the west end one roode comon. Not done.

(*Dole Dyke*) Defectyve places there the defalte as followeth

Item the jurye saye that the said Doole Dyke ys defectyve to the number of xij^{xx} roodes, and ys to be donne by the quenes maiestie the farmers and leasors of the West Fenn, in defalt of the said farmers & leasors, the dygraves & surveyors. Not done and to be done before the last of December.

(*Goole Dyke*) Defectyve places in Goole Dyke in defalte of the owners dygraves & surveyors, viz., the lordes of Moulton Hall xvj roodes.

Item Richard Booles esquier xij roodes. Not done.

(*. . . -ne Causy*) Item the said cawswaye defectyve to the number of viij^{xx} roodes in defalt of William White gent., the owners of the East Fenne, the dygraves and surveyors.

(*Syde Dyke*) Item Syde Dyke defectyve on the west side of Woodes beinge common in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors. Nowe done.

(*Lowe Feilde headinges*) Item defectyve places in the said headinges to the number of xxix roodes in defalt of the quenes maiestie for the house of Spaldinge the dygraves and surveyors, item the schole of Moulton ij roodes Gyles Capp ix roodes, the heires of Thomas Hall one roode Thomas Parker of Whaplod ij roodes Mr Heron iij roodes, the lordes of Moulton xxij roodes, Roger Nicall iij roodes John Lane senr. one roode, the lord Fytzwater ij roodes and the lordes of Moulton one roode, beinge an entrie to a pasture called xiiij acres, all which defectyve places are not donne in defalt of the owners dygraves and surveyors. Not done.

Item the jury fynd Ea Sides defectyve neare unto Northe Meadowes to the number of xij roodes and ys to be made by acre sylver and not donne in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors. Done.

Dygraves [*blank*] Surveyor Edmond Brymston

[474.IV.15]

Weston

678

(*Lowe Dyke*) First the jurye do saye that there are dyvers roodes defectyve in Lowe Dyke banke, in defalt of the owners dygraves & surveyors, viz.,

John Leves one roode Mr John Harrington iij roodes & di. John Covell esquier iiij roodes, Richard Orden iiij foote Symon Hall di. roode Thomas Palmer one roode Robert Cullier di. roode William Ederiche xv foote the common at Delgate End ij roodes & di. the common of Broadgate iij roodes & Anthony Cawdron esquier xvj roodes. By the last of December.

(*[N]ewe Dyke*) Item two roodes & di. defectyve in Newe Dyke beinge comon in defalt of the dygraves & surveyors.

(*Broad Gate*) Item the comon of Broadegate to the valewe of three roodes defectyve in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors. Now done.

(*Headinges the west side of [Delga]te Ea*) Item dyvers roodes defectyve in the headinges against the west side of Delgate Ea in defalt of the owners dygraves and surveyors, viz. Mr Manninge vj^{xx} roodes John Lawe ij roodes Leonard Cooke xx^{tie} roodes Anthony Cawdron esquier ij roodes, John Welles j roode, and William Ederche ij roodes.

Item tenn roodes defectyve in the headinges on the east side of Weke Meare in defalt of Mr Manninge the dygraves and surveyors.

Dygraves [*blank*] Surveyor Thomas Leves

[474.IV.16]

Crowland

679

(*Newe Banke*) Inprimis the jury saye that betwene Catch Coolle and Brother House in the sayd Newe Banke there ys defectyve one hundred roodes in defalt of the quenes maiestie the dygraves & surveyors. Item from Brother House to Crowland tenn score roodes defectyve in defalt of the quenes maiestie etc. Item on the same vj roodes in defalt of William Gamble & Richard Sherington. Item v roodes in the same banke in defalt of Morrys Collyn. Item iij^{xx} roodes defectyve in defalt of the mynister of Crowland the dygraves and surveyors.

Item betwene Crowland and Dousdale a hundered roodes defectyve of the foresaid banke in defalt of the quenes maiestie the dygraves and surveyors.

(*Weyland*) Item the jurye fynd the ryver of Welland from the Northe Weare to the oke howlt, and from Goosey Lacke to the White House to be defectyve for want of haffinge and scowringe uppon the west syde of the same ryver and ys to be donne by Henry Gibson the farmer thereof in defalt of the said Henry the dygraves and surveyors. iiij^{xx} rodes not done.

Item from Shipp Ea Stowe to Cache Cole Corner iiij^{xx} roodes defectyve in defalt of the quenes maiestie etc.

Item the jury say that the banke against Dousdale from the barr to Whap-lod banke to the nomber of eight roodes ys defectyve in defalt of William Gaby farmer thereof the dygraves & surveyors.

Item the jury saye that the outringe banke of Crowland was cutt at Crowland towne end by her maiesties purveyor and not amended in defalt of the dygraves & surveyors.

Dygraves [*blank*] Surveyors [*blank*]

[474.IV.17]

Cowbyte

680

(*Out Ring Bankes*) First the jury saye that the banke against Moulton Lode ys defectyve xx^{tie} foote beinge the out ringe and ys to be made by the towne of Moulton in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors.

(*Lowe Dyke*) Item that Lowe Dyke ys defectyve lx roodes and ys to be made by the lordes or tennantes of Moulton Hall in defalt of the owners dygraves & surveyors.

Item that the owtrynge ys defectyve from Lowe Dyke to Cookes Crest to the number of xxx^{tie} roodes in defalt of the owners dygraves & surveyors. Nowe done.

Item from Cooks Creast to Goole Dyke Banke defectyve to the number of lx roodes beinge the outringe in defalt of Mr Cawdron the dygraves and surveyors.

Item that Goole Dyke Banke is defectyve to the number of lx roodes in defalt of Mr Cawdron and his tenantes.

Item the jury saye that John Harrys hathe iiij roodes defectyve at Peckell End beinge the owte ringe in defalt of the owner dygraves & surveyors.

Item that Richard Robson hath iij roodes defectyve in defalt of the owner etc.

(*[G]oole Banke*) Item that Goole Banke ys defectyve for want of skyrtinge to the number of lx roodes and ys to be made by Christofer Mannyng or his tenantes in defalt of the owners digraves & surveyors. Now done.

Item that William Harrys hath two roodes defectyve against his pasture at Droves End in defalt of the owner etc. Done.

(*The Olde Fenn Dyke*) Item the jury saye that the Old Fenne Dyke from Welland of the west to Weke Meare of the east ys defectyve in dyvers places to make the said banke of the ground of Wymbley and so of the farme of William Collson, to Thornham Drove and so to take the ferme of Thomas Yarwell to Weke Meare, which ys verie nedefull to be made, being an angle for to hould the water of the highe groundes from the lowe and to force yt to the sea.

Item the jury thinke yt verie necessarie for a clowe to be sett in the dreane at Broken Crosse by acaredge for to kepe the water of the highe groundes from the lowe, and the said fenn dyke to be made by commonage by Spalding & Cobytt.

Dygraves [*blank*] Surveyors [*blank*]

[474.IV.18]

681

Spalding

(*Sea bankes*) Inprimis the jurye saye that the sea banke at a place called the Weale ys defectyve conteyninge tenn roodes for wante of skyrtinge and heighteninge, and ys to be made by common meaneworke in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors. Done.

Item vj roodes of the same banke defectyve and ys to be made by John Rydsdale. Item iiij roodes in the same banke defectyve, and ys to be repayed by Rychard Lanam, and not donne in defalt of the owners dygraves & surveyors.

Item the jurye fynd that the said banke from Broken Crosse to Burr Lane End conteyninge one hundred roodes ys defectyve and in decaye, and ys to be made and banked sufficiently for the defence of the water on bothe sides, and ys to be donne by comonage in defalt of the dygraves & surveyors.

(*Respect'*) Item that one hollowe tree lyinge att Burr Lane End ys to be taken upp, for that yt ys annoyante to that angle wheare yt lyeth, and was never found to be theare lade by lawe of sewers.

Item the jurye fynd Hauthorne Banke defectyve in certen places to the number of xl roodes, amd ys to be made by the owners or fermers of the said angle; as yt appeareth by the joyce booke, and not donne in defalt of the owners dygraves & surveyors.

Item the jury fynd Lord Hurne Clowe defectyve and ys to be made by acredge in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors.

Item the jurye fynd all the headinges defectyve from Old Fenn Dyke unto the said clowe, on both sides Cowe Hurne Dreane, and ys to be made by frontegers.

Item the jurye fynd that Hamer Gate ys in decaye from the churche end unto Lordes Hurne Clowe. Now done. And from Lordes Horne Clowe unto Wete Meare Dreane conteynge lx roodes, and ys to be heightened for that ys a defence for the water betwene the high groundes and the lowe, and also a comon highe waye, and ys to be donne by comon-age.

Item the jury fynd that the outfall of Cowe Horne Goate ys in decaye, and lyke to be the overthrowe of the said goate, for that the ragies of the sea and the water of Wealland together ebbingge & flowinge doth weare and take awaye from tyme to tyme, the fyrme ground, betwene the owtfall and the said water of Welland, and ys to be repayred by acredge.

[Item] the jurye saye that one dore belonginge to Gallaye Goate was in decaye in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors. But nowe donne.

Dygraves [*blank*] Surveyors [*blank*]

[474.IV.19]

682

Pinchbecke

First the jury saye that a brydge in Mylne Grene lyinge over Starrfenn Grafte, nyghe the dwellinge house of John Harlinge ys defectyve and in great decaye, and ought to be made by acer sylver accordinge to a veredict thereof made in anno xxvij Henrici octavi.

Item the jurye do thinke yt verie necessarie that a clowe or shutt be made and sett in Burtefenn Grafte Horne, for the stoppinge of the Southfield water, that the said water come not backward, when yt ys lettett to ronne & diverted from his right course, and also when yt ys enforced to retorne by reason of any incombrance.

Item the jurye saye that Mylne Greene trenche ys insufficient for lacke of a rappitt, and that yt doth ronne contrarye to the lawe, and that in the defalt of Spaldinge, and further we crave that yt maye be amended.

Item that the trenche under Starfenn Grafte belonginge unto Mylne Angle shalbe plucked upp for that she dothe not ronne accordinge to their premyses and the rather because of the great inconvenyence we receyve by the same trenche.

Dygraves [*blank*] Surveyors [*blank*]

[*Endorsed:*] The other parte hereof is upon the fyle

Verdicts geven upp at Spaldinge the second . . . October anno xxv^o regine Eliz. Verdt. 1583

[474.IV.20]

683

(*Wapentag de Skirbecke Vered' preterill'*) The verdict of Fraunces Read and his fellowes geven upp at Boston the xijth of October in the xxvth yeare of the quenes maiesties reigne before John Locton Arthur Walpole John Walpole Richard Ogle Robert Tounley and others esquiers comysshioners of sewers within the countie of Lincoln

Wrangle

Fyrst the jury say that there ys no perfect acre bookes nor joyst bookes within the said towne of Wrangle.

Dygraves John Stevenson Nicholas Tunard Surveyor Fraunces Rea[d]

Leake Omnia bene

Dygraves John Anthony John Busshie Surveyor Thomas Crebbe

Leverton Omnia bene

Dygraves William Lyme Thomas Garth Surveyor Richard Busshie

Bennyngton Omnia bene

Dygraves John Randall Simon Robson Surveyor [blank]

Butterweke Omnia bene

Dygraves Richard Pinchbecke Edward Lawes Surveyor Thomas Gilbert

Freston Omnia bene

Dygraves Thomas Mason William Lawes Surveyor [blank]

Fyshetofte

Item the jury saye that there ys three roodes defectye in great harme lyinge against Thackers pasturs in defalt of the lord Willoughbie the dygraves & surveyors.

Dygraves Robert Gerye Robert Rabydye Surveyors Fraunces Robertson William Crosley

Skirbecke

Item the jury saye that one place in Ringle Hurne ys defectyve for lacke of backinge to the quantetie of viij rodes and further they say that yt ys also defectyve for lacke of brestinge to the quantetie of xx^{tie} rodes in defalt of the dygraves & surveyors.

Item the jury say that the foreflewe of the gote is defectyve in defalt of the dygraves and surveyors.

Dygraves Thomas Orsbie Edward Guye Surveyor Robert Gannocke

[*Endorsed:*] A verdict geven upp at Boston the xijth of October anno xxv^o regine Eliz.

[474.IV.21]

684

(*The wapentacke of Kirkton in Hollande in the countie of Lincoln. 1583*) An inquisition taken at Boston xij^{mo} die Octobris anno regni regine domine nostre Elizabethe dei gratia etc. xxv^{to} before [blank] esquier and others the quenes maiesties Commissioners of Sewars within the parties of Holland of diverse defaultes within the said wapentacke, by the othes of Thomas Pury and others his fellowes uppon there severall vewes which saie as followeth

(*Surflett The Burne Ee Bancke*) That ix roodes therof is in dekaie for brestinge in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors, and theise persons followinge viz.

Richarde Sucleprise	ij rodes	iiij d.
William Obrey	ij rodes	iiij d.
John Sye	v rodes	x d.

All which nowe done

(*The Beache*) In many places betwene the clowes, and Wyndsor Lane, not roded in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors and theise persons followinge viz.

Thomas Brigges junior	xv rodes	ij s. vj d.
Richarde Smyth iur' uxoris	vj rodes	xij d.
Thenhabitauntes in comonaltie	xxj rodes	iiij s. vj d.

All which now done.

(*The Newdyke*) In sundrie places from Rusgate Ee mouthe to Quadringe Uppe Fenne stile not roded in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors and theise persons followinge viz. [58 entries not printed]

[474.IV.22]

685

Adhuc Surflett

[14 entries not printed]

Gilbert Durbagge John Strawson Dykegreves John Lawes Surveyor

(*Gosberkirke The seabancke*) In foure severall places betwene Plowman While and Meres Cote cont' x rodes in dekaye of height and skirtinge in defaulte of thenhabitauntes dykegreves and surveyors.

(*The Beiche*) From Wyndsor Lane unto Wrightbolle Clowes not roded in many places in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors and theise persons followinge viz. [17 entries not printed]

[474.IV.23]

686

Adhuc Gosberkirke

(*The Newdicke*) From Westfelde Corner unto Rusgate Ee mouthe not roded in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors and theise persons followinge viz. [42 entries not printed]

Thomas Honingham Richarde Shawe Dykgreves Roger Dethe Surveyor

(*The insufficiencie of a dykegreve*) Also the saide jewrors saie that William Harwoode did execute thoffice of a dykegreve for one halfe yeare ended at Michaelmesse 1582, as deputie to Richard Shawe and the saide Harwoode was not so sufficient thereto as the lawe of anno xvij^{mo} of the quenes maiestie that nowe is haithe appoynted.

[474.IV.24]

687

(*Donington The comman sewar*) In many places betwene Cockerell Houghe and the goote cont' xx^{tie} roodes is in dekaie of diking in defaulte of thenhabitauntes dykegreves and surveyors there.

(*[Th]e Newdicke*) In moste places betwene Marloode and the Highe Brigge not roded in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors and theise persons following viz. [50 entries not printed]

(*Chappell Dike v s.*) From the Chappell of Brigdicke to Newdyke and from Cowbrige to Cranmer Stile in many places not roded estimated to lx rodes in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors.

Robert Remye Richard Quyncey Richard Reyner Dykegreves Robert Love Surveyor

[474.IV.25]

688

(*Quadringe and Quadringe Hundreth. The coman [se]warr*) In sundrie places betwene the goote and Cockerell Houghe cont' xx^{tie} roodes in dekaie of diking in defaulte of thenhabitauntes dykegreves and surveyors.

Cristopher Fawkener John Toplidge Dykegreves for the towne Richard Sudbery Thomas Tompson Dykegreves for the Hundreth Thomas Harryman Surveyor

(*Byckar*) Nota omnia bene.

(*Swyneshed The comman sewar goote & outefall quilibet prepositor iij s. iiij d. et supervisor iij s. iiij d.*) From a pasture of Mr Cawdrons unto the goote in moste places in greate dekaie of diking and skowring estimated to ij^c rodes at the leaste. The goote and outefall is also insufficient and so haithe beane many yeares to the greate annoyzaunce of the towneshippes next adioyning in defaulte of thenhabitauntes dykegreves and surveyors.

(*The Raughtes & Hamond Becke xij s. iiij d.*) From Cantlott Close End in many places unto the shifte of Wigtofte cont' xx^{tie} rodes and likewise in sundrie places from Brondyke unto Boston Sycke mouthe cont' lx rodes not roded in default of the dykegreves and surveyors.

(*The West Bancke*) In moste places througheowte estimated to xlv rodes at the leaste insufficient bothe in height and bredeth and iij greate gowles haithe rune by all the wynter last past to the damage of the commoners in Holland Fenne. Nowe done.

(*A purpresture vj s. viij d.*) Thomas Marchant did make a damesteade over the coman seware called the West Dreyne nighe unto a place called Gunfleete to the greate annoyzance of thenhabitauntes and contrary to the lawe in that case specially provided.

(*Accomptes not yelded exon'*) Thomas Rawlott & George Dawson dykegreves in anno 1581 did levie sundrie collecions of money within the tyme of their offices and have yelded no accomptes unto thenhabitauntes therof contrary to the lawe as in that case provided.

(*Refusall of the dikegreve office exon'*) Robert Gosseppe maide refusall in executing thoffice of the dikegreve, being therto elected in default wherof the dreynes weare not roded, and diverse other workes unperfected.

Thomas Bennacle Christofer Halle Dykegreves Henry Pridgen Surveyor

[474.IV.26]

689

(*Wigtofte The seabancke . . . xij d.*) At a place called Boston Waie cont' ij roodes in defect of height and skertinge, in defaulte of thenhabitantes dykegreves and surveyors.

(*Hamand Becke iij s. iiij d.*) From Boston Sykemouthe unto the shifte of Sutterton in sundrie places not roded cont' by estimacion xl^{tie} rodes in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors.

Richarde Smythe Anthony Duffen Dikegreves William Howson Surveyor
(*Sutterton*) Nota omnia bene.

(*Algarkirke*) Nota omnia bene.

(*Fosdicke The West Bancke v s.*) In many places within the same cont' x rodes insufficient bothe in height and bredeth, in defaulte of thenhabitautes dikegreves and surveyors. Nowe done.

William Elward Dykegreve Thomas Smyth Surveyor

[474.IV.27]

690

(*Kirkton . . . comman [sew]arr*) From the clowes to Hamondbecke cont' xl^{tie} roodes is in dekaie of diking in defaulte of thenhabitautes dikegreves and surveyors. And now done.

(*The goote*) For want of diligent regarde of the dikegreves the salte water haith issued in at the sea goote every springe sence Lammesse and so enfecte the hole dreyne throughout to the greate dammage of many inhabitautes in their severall growndes besides the generall wante of freshe water in the saide dreyne which haith beane the cheif and comman relief for caytell in the tyme of sommer. And yet the goote in sufficient repaire but that the dores falle not close in their places appoynted.

(*The clowes at Kirkton Holme*) Ar not repared accordinge to a lawe sett downe at the laste sessions of sewars.

(*The Haven Bancke in the Est Fenne*) One peice therof cont' iiij^{or} roodes is in greate dekaie and haith runne at sundrie springes to the hurte and surrounding of some partes of the Est Fenne in defaulte of Nicholas Pulvertofte the dykegreve of that vyntayne and surveyors.

Richarde Longley William Fowle William Massingberd William Greyve Dykegreves Anthony Cony Anthony Pury Surveyors.

(*Frampton The Haven Bancke in the Est Fenne*) One peice therof cont' a roode & a half is in dekaie of brestinge and heyninge in defaulte of John Copledey the dykegreves and surveyors. Now done.

John Ketton Thomas Stalworth Richard Pearson Dykegreves Robert Carleton Surveyor.

[474.IV.28]

691

(*Wiberton . . . daungerouse [Have]n Bancke*) In sundrie places betwene George Garrott howse and Slypper Goote amountinge to xviiij^{ten} roodes di. & v fote is in greate dekaye aswell for bresting as heyninge in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors and theise persons followinge, viz. William Felde iiij roodes Robert Carre esquier v roodes Mr Neale one roode Mestres Smyth one roode Mr Copuldicke ij roodes & a half and Mr Holbich one roode and a half Peter Margery xv fote and thenhabitautes on either side of Slipper Goote ij roodes.

(*Hamond Becke*) From Frampton pissegoote in moste places to Skerbecke shifte amountinge to lx roodes not roded in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors.

Robert White John Cleymonde Dykegreves William Pawlen Surveyor.

(*Skerbecke Quater The daungerouse Haven Bancke*) In many places betwene Slipper Goote and the ij^{de} stile but in moste places from thence unto

the fruntage beinge not lesse then ij^c roodes is in greate dekaie bothe in brestring backinge & sundrie places in height in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors and withoute spedie amendment the same is like to put the hole cuntrey in perill of surrownding but especially the towneshippes next adioyninge.

(*The Haven Banckes in the Est Fenne x s.*) In sundrie places for want of brestring and heyning the same is insufficient amounting to xx^{tie} roodes, but in whose defaulte other then the dykegreves and surveyors we know not for that their was no dykegreve to shoue theire bookes of agistment.

William Howson Peter Gibson Dykegreves John Wormesley Surveyor

[474.IV.29]

692

(*The borroughe of Boston The Haven [Ban]cke in the [Es]t Fenne the dygreves iiij s. the surveor ij s.*) In certen places from the shufte stile to the shifte of Skerbecke but especially at the damme heades amountinge to xij rodes is in decay of heyninge and skirting in defaulte of the dykegreves and surveyors.

William Smyth Clement Toynton Dykegreves

(*A petition for the mayntenance of the damme heade at Langaracke*) For so muche as the damme heade at Langaracke by warrant from certen Comissioners was cutt open this last wynter viz. xxj^{mo} Februarij for the benefitt of all commoners (as then supposed) wherby the same was very muche ympared (beinge the private bancke of certen commoners) and never sence so defencible as before, therefore the saide jewrors pray that this courte will ordre that the same henceforth may be contynewally repared and maynteyned by all commoners in Holland Fenne in comonialtie when and so often as neide requireth.

(*A petition for the rodinge of any dreyne in sommer E. 25 Eliz.*) And likewise wheras by the lawe of anno xvij^{mo} of the quenes maiestie that now is, it is provided that all dreynes ar to be roded at ij severall tymes in the yeare in the saide lawe specialy sett downe & limited, the saide jewrors, uppon due prouf aswell this yeare as sundrie sommers paste, do signifie unto this courte that the rodinge of any dreyne in sommer (except greate downe falle of water) is thonellye cause of greate want of water in the fennes for caytell and do humblie pray, that this courte will take consideracion herin for the generall benefitt of many inhabitauntes within this cuntrey of Holland.

(*A petition for a slewice to be laid in Holland Fenne*) And furthermore wheras of longe tyme it haith beane thought a thinge moste necessarie aswell by sundrie her Maiesties Commissioners bothe within Kesteaven and Holland as diverse other discrete persons and men of bothe cuntres best experienced to have a greate goote laide in Holland Fenne for the conveyance of the wynter water of diverse townes in Kesteaven which have no other passage for the same but into & through the said fenne, and as by due prouf untill either by cuttinge of bancke or greate extremetie of a north west wynde (the same fenne being once overflowen), the lowe growndes of Kesteven next adioyning to Holland will not be dreyned in any conveynient tyme, therefore the premisses by hus advisedly considered do signifie unto this courte that we thinke it very neidfull for the generall benefitt of sundrie townes in Kesteaven and Holland to have a greate slewice of xx^{tie} fote wide at the leaste to be layde in some conveynient place in the Haven Bancke betwene Langa-

racke and Tofte and that to runne but at certen neidfull tymes, as uppon further consideracion may better be devised, so that the chardges therof may be borne and contynewed by all suche townes in Kesteaven and Holland as receyve any benefitt of dreyning thereby (exceptinge suche towneshippes in Holland as at this daie ar chardged with certen gootes at Langaracke for the dreyning of the said fenne, wherof one was laide within theise iiij^{or} yeares to the greate chardge of certen commoners) which slewice we thincke wilbe thonly meane of the spedie dreyning of suche growndes in Kesteaven as ar now subiect to every overflowe. And will likewise nothing so muche suffer the Est Fenne Brethertofte and the pasture growndes belonging to the west syde of the water of Boston to be endaungered of surrownding as now every yeare once in greate perill.

M^d. to asseesse of all banckes & sewers undone vj d. and of them done not putt downe by us ij d. a rode.

[*Endorsed:*] Skirbeck Veredictes at Boston xij^o die Octobr anno xxv^o regine Eliz. E 25 Eliz. 5

VERDICTS FOR SKIRBECK AND ELLOE WAPENTAKES, 1584

[474.V.1]

693

(*Skirbecke wapent'*) The werdicte of William Dynele & his fellowes digreves within the wapentake of Skirbecke geven upp the iiijth of December 1584 annoque regine Eliz. xxvij^{mo}

Wrangle

(*Vacat*) First wee fynd the sewer of Wrangle from the seagoote there to M^{res} Kymes tofte to be defectyve in severall places and lackethe scowringe to the value of lx roodes but the digraves are at this present in amendinge therof accordinge to a warrant to them directed for the repaire therof.

¹Item we fynde that Fraunces Red gent. hathe bene absent with his cariage from one meanworke contrary to the lawe iij s. iiij d.

Fraunces Chamberlaine for three meanworkes absent x s.

(*Fiat lex*) Whereas all the banckes within the towne of Wrangle are now of an equall equallytye, and there ys not sufficient bookes for the severall charge of the said banckes, wee nowe thinke yt requisyte that hereafter all the said banckes shall from tyme to tyme be mantayned by acaridge.

(*Respect'*) Wheras likewise there ys a certaine dreyne or dicke within the waste of Wrangle which hath his continuall course from Wrangle M . . . to a certaine brigge called Pynder Brigge and so throughe alonge the towne to the sea by means wherof the manie sewers within the said . . . ys maintayned, and for so muche as the same hathe bene diked & scoured somtyme by comonage & other somtyme by acaridge, we now thinke yt most fytt that hensforth the same to be diked by acaridge onelye.

Leake

²Fyrste wee presente Peter Cade deputye or servante to . . . Browne of St. Leonardes iuxta Stamforde, or some other of the said . . . his assignes for

¹ This paragraph has been cancelled.

² The foot of this folio is defective.

cuttinge the maine sewer & drowinge . . . called the Broodes in Leak afore-
said by meanes . . . there colde hardlye . . .

Item wee present . . . severall menworkes . . .

[474.V.1d]

694

¹. . . -hill sent . . . pece of a bancke . . . which ys defectyve . . .

Item wee fynde the banckes about the seagoote of . . . to be defectyve in
defalt of the degraves & surveiors.

Item we fynde one bancke there belonginge to the L. of S[t.] Johns cont'
by este[mation] iiij rodes to be defectyve in the . . .

Item wee fynde one pece of the churcheyarde of Skirbecke . . . to west
syde of the warter, cont' by est[imation] ij rodes defectyve, and . . . likewise
from the churcheyard syde to Mr Hoodes howse ende cont' ij rodes defec-
tyve, in the defalt of thenhabitantes ij roods & Mr Hood ij roodes the degraves
& surveyor.

Jhon Dawson Roberte Robinson Roberte Ganock

[474.V.2]

695

(*Wapentag' de Skirbecke in comitatu Lincoln' Veredict' preterillorum*) The
verdict of Richard Busshie & his fellowes geven upp at Boston the fourth
daye of December in the xxvijth yeare of the reigne of our soveraigne ladye
Elizabeth, by the grace of God queene of England Fraunce & Ireland
defender of the faith etc. before George Earle maior Robert Carre An-
thony Cawdron William Darbie John Walpole Richard Ogle & Robert
Towneley esquiers Commissioners of Sewers amongst others assigned
(*Skirbecke*) Inprimis the jurors saye that a parcell of banke belonginge to
the lord of St Johnes Sir Henry Sidney conteyninge by estimation iiij roodes
is defective for want of brestinge in default of the owners dygraves and
surveyors.

Item the jurors saye that the church yeard of Skirbecke ys defectyve to the
quantatie of iij roodes in default of thinhabitantes digraves and surveyors.

Item the jurors saye that one other parcell of banke adioyninge uppon the
churchyard to the quantitie of two roodes ys defectyve in height & brestinge
in default of Henry Hood gent. the dygraves & surveyors.

(*[N]ot donne in tyme . . . donne*) Item the jurors further saye that an other
parcell of banke belonginge to the lord of St Johnes adioyninge uppon Rigge
Dyke conteyninge by estimation iij roodes in default of the owners dygraves
and surveyors.

Item an other parcell of banke as uppon fruntage belonginge unto the
heires of William Almandson ys defective to the quantite of iiij roodes in
default of the owners dygraves & surveyors.

Item an other parcell of banke adioyninge uppon the foresaid Almandsons
made by ioystment ys defective to the quantitie of iij roodes in default of the
dygraves & surveyors.

Item an other parcell of banke at Ringle Hurne ys defectyve conteyninge
by estimation iij roodes for wante of backinge in defalt of the digraves &
surveyors.

Digraves John Dawson Robert Robertson Surveyor Robert Ganno[ck]

¹ The head of this folio is defective.

(*Tofte*) Item the jurors saye that a parcell of banke belonginge unto the lord Willough[by] ys defectyve to the valewe of iij roodes for wante of brestinge in default of the owners dygraves & surveyors.

Digraves Alexander Robertson Peter Thacker Surveyor William Crosley

(*Freston*) Item the jury saye the goote of Freston was defectyve in default of the dygraves and now repayed in the surveyors tyme.

Digraves William Sibsey William Pysshey Surveyor Richard Douse

[474.V.3]

696

(*Butterwicke*) Omnia bene.

(*Benington*) Omnia bene.

(*Leverton*) Omnia bene.

(*Leake*) Item the jury saye that one Peter Cade with others servantes to John Browne did cut the banke of the mayne dreane, to the surroundinge of a certen common called the Brodes, to the great damage of all thinhabitanes.

Item the jury saye that one William Kye of Leake obstinatly doth refuse to be at the comaunde of the dygraves in any worke of charge appertayning unto their comone meane workes . . . their gootes, and other causes of sewers.

(*Wrangle*) Omnia bene.

[*Endorsed:*] Verdicts geven up at Boston iiij^o die Decembris anno xxvij^o regine Eliz.

[474.V.4]

697

(*Lincoln Holland Sessiones sewerarum tent' xxiiij^o Augusti anno regni regine Elizabeth etc. xxvj^o*) The verdict of Reginold Hall of Spaldinge gent. John Gleane of the same gent. William . . . of the same, Roberte Tysedale of Tydd St Maryes John Glean the elder . . . Thomas Cony of the same Thomas Francis of the same Thomas Johnson [of] the same John Reginaldes of the same Anthony Edmondes of the same Henry Deyns of the same John Negall of the same John Tyllson of Gedney Lau[rence] Arthrew of the same Roberte Clarke of Fleete William Stowe of Holbedg . . . Thomas Burrett of the same William Scarlett of Whapload Edmond B- . . . of Moulton Thomas Kynge of the same John Wells of Weston Richard . . . of Crowland Roger Slater of [*blank*] & Roberte Cawthropp of the same . . . taken before Robert Carr the yonger Edmund Hall Arthur Walpoll [Anthony] Cawdron Francis Haryngton Richard Ogle John Walpoll W[illiam] Watson Anthony Irby & Henry Adams esquiers her maies-ties Commis[sioners] of Sewers amongst others in the partes and county afforsayd . . . xxiiijth day of August in the six and twentiethe yeare of the [reign] of our soveraigne lady Elizabethe by the grace of God queen of E[ngland] Fraunce and Ireland defender of the faithe etc. as followethe ([*Pin*]chbeck currat lex, & to be amended before St. Lukes day sub pena . . . a rood) Imprimis the sayd jury say upon theire oathes that Baston bankes on the northe syde of the ryver in decay in defalt of the dykegraves and surveyors of Pynchbeck & ought to be repaired by the inhabitantes of Pynchebeck by hamstalls from Goothram Goate Corner to Pynchbeck Townsend and that on the south syde they are in lyke decay in lyke defalt from the barre in Gelthoram stand over against Lemmans Coate alias Eastcoate to Dovehyrne in Pynchbeck.

(*Refertur ad visum*) Item they say that yt is needfull there be a waredyke made for the defence of the sayde northbankes from the sayd corner at Gotherames Coate to Dovehyrne an Cth foote of the wydnes of xij foote and the maner to be cast to the northe at the chardge of the commoners in the sayd fenn called Pinchbeck North Fenn by order and rate of inhabitauntes.

(*[Curr]at lex & to be done ante festum sancti Michaelis sub pena ij s. a rood*) Item they say that the drayns in the sayd fenn sewynge the waters oute of the partes of Kesteven to Newdyke are in decay for want of rodinge and clensing in defalt of the dykegraves surveors and owners of Pinchbeck.

(*Refertur ad visum*) Item they say that Northgate Graft is in decay for want of dykinge & that the clowe at the fen syde is broken and ought to be repaired by the inhabitantes of Pynchbeck by acre silver.

(*Currat lex et refertur ad visum*) Item they say that Starfenne Graft is in lyke defalt by the dykegraves of Spaldinge

[474.V.5]

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& Pinchbeck & owethe to be repaired by the inhabitantes of thes ij townes by acre silver and the say . . . pray that the inhabetantes of Kesteven who have the greatest profitt by the sayd drayne may also beare parte of the chardges as they were formerly accustomed.

(*Spaldynge currat lex, to be dyked before Martinmas sub pena xx li.*) Item the sayd jury say that the drayne comonly called Westload is muche sylted & wan- . . . clensynge & scowringe from Parke House Corner to the ryver of Welland in defalt of the [dyke]graves & surveyors of Spaldinge & is to be repayred by the inhabitantes of the same by comonage.

(*Currat lex & is to be done before Michaelmas sub pena x li.*) Item they say that the drayne leadinge from Lethercottes angle to Fulney is in decay . . . the trenche under the ryver & is to be repayred by the inhabitantes of Spaldinge . . .

Item they say that Spaldinge northe dosens are in decay in defalt of the dykegraves . . . surveyors of Spaldinge and are to be repayred by joycement.

(*[Ut] supra*) Item they say that Spaldinge drayne leadinge from the Lowe Feld to Cowhirne Goat is in lyke decay in defalt afforsayd and so is the goate there and owethe to be repaired by acre silver by the townshipp of Spaldinge.

(*Currat lex, & to be done ante xxth Oct. sub pena xx li. every towne etc.*) Item they say that the crosse drayne in the Southe Fen leadinge from Gothram End over against Lemans Coat alias Eastcoate to Crosse in the Ea is in decay and ought to be repaired on the east syd from the sayd Eastcoate to Crosse in le Fleggs by the inhabitantes of Pinchbeck and Spaldinge by commonage and on the west syde by the inhabitantes of Baston and Longtoft and from the sayd Crosse in le Fleggs to Depinge over against Crosse in the Ea on the southeast parte by the inhabitantes of Crowland & of the southwest syde by the inhabitantes of all the Deepinges and the rest that be commoners in Kesteven parte.

(*Crowland Currat lex, & to be done before Michaelmas sub pena x li.*) Item they also say that Pursant Bankes are in decay for want of height in defalt of the dykgraves and surveors of Croyland and ought to be repayred by the queens maiestie & the inhabitantes there for the severall fishinges.

(*Ut supra*) Item they say that the ryver of Welland from Clowte to Brotherhouse is in great dammage for want of rodinge and clensing in defalt of the dykgraves and surveyors of Crowland & owethe to be repaired & amended by the queens maiesties tenantes of Crowland for the fishings there.

(*[U]t supra*) Item they say that Weston Ea is in lyke defalt for want of rodinge & clensing in defalt of [474.V.6] the dykegraves & surveyors of hor [*sic*] and owethe to be repaired by the inhabitantes of Weston by [acre] silver, and they say that the brydge over the sayd drayne in the queens highe way is in deca[y] & ought to be repayred by lyke acre silver and the clowe fast by the sayd bridge.

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(*Moulton, ut supra*) Item they say that Moulton Ea from the goate at Cowhyrne upward by the space of a myle & more is almost landed up and owethe to be repayred by acre silver.

(*Ad visum*) Item the sayd jury do pray the Commissioners so sone as their leasure may serve them to vewe the sayd drayne & goate bycause they feare that the same goate yt nowe lyethe & the drayne will not suffice for the nedfull helpe of the townshipp, but feare that necessity will force them to seke an other drayne towards the east syde of Sir Lambartes marshe as they hope upon vewe to . . . unto the Commissioners and that the same woulde be done by common chardge of the . . . by acre sylver.

(*Whapload Currat ut supra prius*) Item the sayd jury say that Whapload Ea is in decay for want of rodinge in defalt of the dykg[raves] and surveyors and the clowe at Ravensdyke is broken and owethe to be repayred by the townshipp of Whapload by acre silver.

(*Refertur ad visum*) Item the sayd jury do pray that for the better drayninge of the lowe groundes in Whapload Fen End & on the southe of Ravensdyke the sayd Commissioners woulde devise some way & lykewise for the same cause in Holbedge that eyther joyntly togeyther or severally meanes may be founde as hathe bene longe desyred eyther by enlarginge their former goates (for as they be they will not suffice) or by some other drayne & goate or goates to be made neare the olde for the jury do feare that the devises nowe in hand by Mr Carleton wilbe dangerous and therfore pray (*ut supra*) that their water may sewe throughe the townes as it hathe done and thes goates & drayns to be done by acredge of all the groundes betwene Litle Pursant and South Ea Banke on the southe and the seabanke on the northe and if Litle Pursant do drayne that way likewise (*ut supra*) to contribute and so for Holbedge Fenn yf the sayd Commissioners thinke so goode for the sayd jury thinkethe that yt dothe stand with equitye and justice that the highe and towne groundes shall contribute with the lowe for their helpe seinge the lowe groundes have alwayes contributed in all chardges with the towne groundes and yet reaped no apparant profit therby as is evidently to be sene in thes ij sewerres and in all the rest from hence to Shiredrayne.

(*Holbedge [ut] supra*) Item the sayd jury say that Holbedge Goate is too litle for relevinge all the groundes that are layd upon the same and therefore desire as before is sett forthe and say that the sewer is in great decay for want of rodinge clensing and scowring in defalt of the [474.V.7] dykegraves and surveyors and that all the premisses are to be repayred by acresilver and . . . most indifferent.

(*Refertur ut supra*) Item the sayd jury say that Fleet Ea is defectyve for want of rodinge scowringe & clensing in defalt of the dykgraves & surveyors and they pray that the goate for the sayd tow-. . . Fleete may be removed six score roodes nearer the sea and to be made wyder then nowe it is by th-. . . foote by acre silver of the sayd townshipp for they thinke it is a peteous thing . . . see howe the lowe groundes there are drowned and yeld almost no profett at . . . wherof they pray a charitable consideracion.

(*Gedney currat lex to be done before Michelmas sub pena xx li.*) Item the sayd jury say that Gedney Goate is in decay of tymber in the yardynges . . . boards there and even floaringe in the tunnell and is to be repaired by acre silver . . . and that the dammes in Sutton marshe that owe to be mainteyned by Gedney men . . . much dirupted and dilacerat and woulde be presently amended by the sayd inhabitantes [of] Gedney by lyke acresilver and they say the dealfe is in decay for want of repaire in defalt of suche persons as the jury have sett downe in a roll ready to exhibitt to the sayd Commissioneres.

(*Sutton cum membris ut supra sub pena x li.*) Item they say that the drayns in Sutton called Lutton Ea and Sutton Ea are very fowle for want of rodinge clensing and scowringe from about Bellinghams Bridge to the goates in the defalt of the dykegraves & surveyors and that ij bridges over the sayd eas in the quenes highe way betwene Spaldinge and Wisbyche are in decay to the great danger of traveylers and are to be repayred by acre selver of the sayd townshipp.

(*Resptur ad visum et ad majorem consid'*) Item the sayd jury pray as they have often heartofore done that the sayd Commissioners woulde take care for relevinge the lowe groundes in the sayd towne especially of St James and St Edmondes which for the space of many yeares past have bene so wofully overflowne as they have yelded litle or no profitt at all for the ordinary chardge for doinge the usuall worke in St Maryes and Sutton Lutton and to the seawardes (by which they reape no good at all) hathe bene and is some yeares more then the groundes woulde yeld in rent (unles in a drye sommer) so as hir maiesties tenantes and the rest there are almost undone And therefore they still do pray the Commissioners that in theyre wisdoms some other goates dreynes or devises may be taken in hand for their helpe by acre selver of the sayd towne of Sutton cum membris or ells the sayd ij hamlettes are lykely to be lost and become marishe (. . . *alium tempus*) especially in wett seasons and the other ij hamlettes to be overgone with salt water in drye tymes in suche sorte as is lamentable And the sayd jury also pray that consideracion [474.V.8] may be used whether yt be not meete and reasonable that the townshipp of Gedney should . . . and contribute accordinge to their proportion of acres to the relevinge of the sayd towns[hip] of Sutton cum membris eyther for a newe goate or drayne or what els shalbe devised . . . wisdom of the sayd Commissioneres for the sayd jury do beleve (as the sayd towne of Sutton hathe longe complayned) that Gedney is especially the cause of their hurt and so . . . bene ever since Gedney Goate hathe runne (as yt dothe) withoute check or stay whearas it ought not to run at all but by a gage and they thinke that yf Gedney do contribute with Sutton in all acreshottes and all the workes of sewers yett they reape more profett by this libertye of runinge in one yeare then their charges would amounte unto in ten yeares at least.

(*Resptur ad aliud tempus*) And the jury also do pray (that if the sayd Commissioners thinke yt may stand with lawe) that the . . . surrounded hamlettes of St Edmondes and St James may be spared of their achedge and charges to and . . . the townend and seaward (untill yt please God to send them some helpe) for nowe they reape nothings for all their yearly great charges all which poyntes they hartely prey the Commissioners in pittie to remember and consider.

(*Tydd St Maryes Currat lex, to be done sub pena x li. ante St Lucam*) Item the sayd jury say that Tydd St Maryes drayne is defectyve for want of dykinge from the goate upward by the space of tenn score roodes and is to be done by acre sylver.

(*Joycebokes to be [m]ade in every towne [sub] pena xx li. a pece ante Omnium Sanctorum*) Item the sayd jury say that Southea Bankes all wholly from Crowland to Parson Drove would be lokd unto and in sondry places are in great danger to the manifest perill of the cuntrye and yet for want of perfect joycebokes the jury is not able to make any perfect presentmentes but do humbly pray the sayd Commissioneres that they will not only cause joyce bokes and acrebokes to be newe made as is necessary but also take paines somtymes this sommer to vewe the sayd bankes and the ryver of Southea and Shepea Bankes and Pursant Bankes and all the other bankes envyroninge the wapentake of Ellowe and the sayd jury wilbe ready to attend them for the dangers are very great that are lykly to followe if they by their wisdomes be not prevented.

Exr. et concordat' cum originali per me Richardum Coventree.

Exr. et concord' cum originali per me Ro: Jackson Cleric' Sewer' ibidem.

VERDICTS FOR KIRTON WAPENTAKE, 1579 AND 1584

- ¹[474.VI & VII.1-7] *Not printed* 702-710
[Verdicts for Kirton wapentake, 9 October 1579 (702-8) and 4 December 1584. The latter should have been filed with 693-4, which is of the same date.]

VERDICT FOR ELLOE WAPENTAKE, 1587

- [474.VIII.1-20] *Part printed* 711-730
[Some of the longer lists of names in 713, 715, 717, 719, 722 and 729 have been omitted to save space.]

- ²[474.VIII.1] 711
(*Lincoln' Holland Wapentake de Ellowe*) The verdict of John Heydon gent. and his fe[l]lows given upp at Spaldinge the xiiij day of Januarye in the xxixth yeare of the reigne of our soveraigne ladye Elizabe[th] by the grace of God of Englande Fraunce and Irelande quene defen[der] of the faithe etc. before Roberte Carre the yonger Anthony C- . . . John Walpole Richarde Ogle Walter Asheton and William . . . esquyers Commyssioners of sewers amongst others assigned . . . partes and countye aforesayde

¹ This is all one file. The reason for the double numeration is not known.

² Parts of the right-hand edge of every folio in this file are defective.

Tidd Ste Maryes

First the said jury say and dothe presente upon their oathes that the common ee or river ther is defective for want of dikinge clensing and scouringe in divers places as followeth viz. xvj roodes against Tilney Hall vj roodes at Tydd Bridge vj roodes at Tretton Bridge . . . roodes betwene Roberte Akers bridge and Midelton Corner in defalt of the dikegraves and sur[veyors] and that the same is to be doen by acridge and was presented at the last sessions of . . . hollden to be defective and could never since be repayred or amended by reason of . . . aboundaunce of water in the saide dreyn this sommer past.

Dykegraves Roberte Jeffrey William Medley Surveyor John Pha- . . .

[474.VIII.2]

712

Sutton cum membris

(*Lutton a common owte ringe against Saltfeild Bridge Currat lex*) Item the sayd jury say that ther is viij roodes defective in the said owte ringe for wa[nt] of height and breadthe from Marryotes Stow to the lande late John Brigges and . . . the same was presented at the laste sessions of sewars and is yet undoen in defa[lt] of the dykegraves and surveyors of Lutton.

(*A petition to be vewed & considered by two Commissioners & then allowed to be mad before lames next*) Item the said jurye say that ther is certeyn grounde in Ste James lyenge ther betwe[en] Master Dyke and Suttons Gote which hath no dreyn to dreyn the same, and that it is v[ery] requysite to have a spowte to be laid over the fenn dyke at Master Dykes End for the conveyinge of the water within the said dreyn and do crave that the same may be perfectid and doen by common acridge of Sutton.

(*A petition ut supra*) Item the said jurye pray that ther may be a spowte layed over Sutton Bro- . . . against the landes of Thomas Wilson for the dreyninge of certeyn groundes lyenge th[ere] betwene Wantons Gate and Batemans Gate and that the same may be doen by . . . as aforesaide.

(*A petition the clowe there to be mayd . . . & so to be . . .*) Item the said jurye pray that the clowe standinge at Henrye Deanes his d- . . . may be taken upp for that the same is a great hindraunce to the passage of wat[er] and that a sufficyent clowe may be sett upp and placed at Fowchers Bridge . . . be doen by acridge as aforesaide. Currat lex. Item that the banke betwene Gedney and Sutton called Twogoodes is defective to the value of iiij roodes and ought to be repayred by Gedney by acridge & is undoen in defalt of the dikegraves and surveyors of Gedney.

Dykegraves Henrye Deanes William Watson junior Anthony Edmonde John Pharer Androwe Swashe Henrye Rawlett Surveyors Thomas Sowter Raphe Wright Thomas Wilson Henry Bateman

[474.VIII.3]

713

Gedney

(*New presentment Fiat lex To be repayred by the last of October*) Item the sayd jury do say that the bridge nere the howse late Dayes is defective and . . . to be repayred by acridge in defalt of the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*A new presentment Fiat lex ut supra*) And that the bridge over the com-

mon sewar from Ravensdyke to Jeggils Gayt is def[ective] in defalte of the dikegraves and surveyors and is to be doen by acridge as is afores[aid].

(*Common sewar new presentment Fiat lex ut supra*) And that the common sewar from the bridge nere Dayes howse to Brodgate Bridge is defective to the valew of ccc roodes for want of dykinge scowringe and clens[ing] in defalte as aforesayd and is to be diked & clensed by acridge as is aforesayd.

(*Headings Currat lex*) And that the headinges from Leazyates to Sowthe Ee Bancke are defective [as] followethe viz. Thomas Ismey one rood William Freman x roodes in defalt of the . . . and surveyors.

(*Headinges from Sowthe Ee Banke to Leazyates A new presentment Fiat lex ut supra*) And that ther are certeyne headinges from Sowthe Ee Banke to Leazyates defective in diverse places as follow[eth] [9 entries not printed] in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Petty dreyn now done*) And that the petty dreane against Peters Trottes eight acres to the valew of xxx . . . roodes is defective for want of roadinge haffinge and clensing and to be doen by fruntagers in defalt of Peter . . .

(*To be made & done by Candelmes day next sub pena set down in the generall laws*) And that Sowthe Ee Banck in divers places is defective for want of heighthe and breadth as followethe viz. [26 entries not printed. After some is the note: Done.] in defalt of thoweners dikegraves & surveyors.

Dikegraves John Dagle Stephen Tonge William Waryner William Sygr . . . Surveyors [sic] Peter Trott

[474.VIII.4]

714

Flete

(*Flete Landmeare Done*) Item the said jury do say that the headinges on Flete Landmeare are defective as followethe viz. the quenes maiestie and Edward Hearon esquyre x roodes thearle of Sussex viij roodes Sir John Harrington knight xx roodes Mistris Halton ij roodes thearle of Sussex j roode the comon of Flete vij roodes and that the same were presented in Aprill last [to] be defective and were not made till October last in defalt of thoners and dikegraves b[ut] nowe are maide by the dikegraves.

And that Roberte Thorpe (done) hath one headinge there conteyninge one roode defective in defalt of thowner dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Headinges against Gedney Delfe done*) And that the headinges against Gedney Delfe are defective as followeth viz. [the] quenes maiestie vij roodes Roberte Carre iiij rods [blank] Woodes gent. viij roodes John Key gent. vj roodes Robert Stewkley gent. iij roodes John Nayler and William Williamson ij roodes wydow . . . a roode James Clarke one rood and that the same were presented in Aprill last to be def[ective] and were not made till October last in defalt to thoweners and dikegraves but now are made by the dikegraves.

(*Seabanckes betwene Gedney and Flete Currat lex*) And that the seabancke at Trundell Stowe betwene Gedney and Flete to [the] valew of ij roodes in defalt of the dikegraves & surveyors of Gedney and Flete.

(*Comon sewer to be done by the last of October next*) And that the comon sewer of Flete is defective for want of dykinge clensing and scowringe to the value of iij^c roodes betwene Leazeyates and Flete Stocke in defalt of the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*A petition Respectetur untill it be vewed by the Commissioners*) And further the sayd jury do say that Flete goate is greatly in decay for want of sufficyent finnes to grind up the silte and sand of the sea brought up with the flood and therby the owte fall so landed upp that the grounde in the sayd towne cannot be dreyned for wante of sufficyent conveyance of the waters surroundinge the said groundes to the sea the said jury therfore most humbly crave that some ordre may be taken for the perfectinge of the sayd goate and owtefall for the better dreyninge of the sayd groundes and deliverye of the sayd waters to the sea.

Dykegraves Richard Ewen John Leaves William Fisher Surveyors
William Coker Robert Henryson.

[474.VIII.5]

715

Holbiche

(*Sheepe Ee done*) Item the said jury do say that Sheepe Ee is defective in divers places as followeth viz. [7 entries not printed] in defalt of thowene[rs and] dikegraves but now doen by the surveyor in his monethe.

(*Common Dike Currat lex*) And that Comon Dike a defensible bancke is defective in divers places as followethe viz. [8 entries not printed] in defalt of tho[wners] dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Ee syde done*) And that the ee side from Comon Dike to Asgardike to the number of xx roodes were defective in defalt of thoweners and dikegraves and now repayred by the sur[veyor] in his moneth.

(*Ee side done*) And that the ee syde from Asgardike to Chanons Feild Corner were defective to the number of x roodes in defalt of thowners dikegraves and surveyors and were made by George Carleton esq. in the surveyors moneth and that the ee syde from Asgardike to Chanons Feild Corner are defective in divers places to the value of v roodes in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Hurdletre Dike done*) And that Hurdletre Dike was defective as followeth viz. the quenes maiestie iiij roodes in defalt of thoweners and dikegraves and now maid by the surveyors.

(*Church Bridge Currat lex*) And that one bridge called the Church Bridge is in ruyne and decay and is to be repayred and amended by acridge in defalt of the olde dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Maydens Bridge Currat lex*) And that one bridge called the Maydens Bridge is in ruyne and decay in defalt of the olde dikegraves and surveyors and to be repayred and amended as is aforesaid.

(*Clowes at Maydens Bridge Currat lex*) And that the clowes which by law should have bene maide sett up and placed at Maydens Bridge for the stayinge and kepinge of the socke of the sea from the towne are not yet sett downe in defalt of thoweners the olde dykegraves and surveyors.

[474.VIII.6]

716

Adhuc Holbiche

(*Comon Bridge A petition Vacat*) Item the said jury do pray that Comon Bridge parcell of our joyce banck and our river . . . determyninge may either be sufficyently dammed upp or els have a shitt ther placed . . . stay the water in the common.

¹(*A petition Vacatt*) And further the say that ther is a clowe placed at Garners Bridge that doth decay and overthrowe the corne feild in Holbiche by forcinge such aboundance of water into the common sewer when the wynd is in the sowthe that the dore of the said clowe be[ing] sett downe stayethe the waters in the river so abundantly that the feild waters cannot fall or dreyn into the common sewer but are stayed for runinge sommetye by the space of x . . . xiiij dayes together. Therfore the sayd jury do pray that the dore of the sayd clow . . . be taken away and that a new clowe and the sayd dore may be sett downe at a . . . called Comon Platt neare to a bridge lyinge over the ee leadinge to Preistes Feild and the chardge therof to be borne by acridge.

(*A petycyon Fiat lex by thend of October*) Item the sayd jury do crave that the clowe at Ravensdike now in decay may presently be repayred & amendid & a sufficyent doore mayd for the same to let upp & downe as need shall requyre and that ther may be a new clowe or shitt placed & sett up at a place called Comon Platt neare . . . bridge lyinge over the ee leadinge to Preist Feild to keepe the sock of the . . . from annoyinge the groundes on the sowth syde of the sayd clowe so to be placed and . . . chardge therof to be borne by acridge.

Dykegraves John Stowe Edward Callow Roberte Burnitt Surveyor John Key

[474.VIII.7]

717

Whaplod

(*Shitt at Gabyes howse and at Shipp Ee Stowe Currat lex*) Item the said jury do say that the shittes by former verdictes found to be sett downe and placed at Gabyes howse end and at Shipp Ee Stowe are not yett placed and . . . downe in defalte of the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Shitt at Gayes Hirne Currat lex*) And that the shitt at Gayes Hurne is defective in defalte of dikeg[raves] and surveyors.

(*Litle Shipp Ee Currat lex*) And that Litle Shipp Ec bank is defective in diverse places as followeth viz. [19 entries not printed. After each of the first 4 is the note: Done.] in defalt of the thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Common Dike Currat lex*) And that Comon Dike is defective as followethe viz. the qu[enes] maiestie for the chauntrye of Tydd one roode Thomas Litleberry esquyre one roode the feoffes of Whaplod Drove ij roodes the lordes of Molton ij roodes in defalte [of the] oweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Headinges Currat lex*) And that the headinges from Gayes Hurne unto Symondes Bridge against the common sewer are defective to the nombre of xxx roodes in defalt of the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Common sewer Respectuatur*) And that the comon sewer is defective in divers places betwene Gayes Hurne and the new goate to the number of ccc roodes for want of dikeinge clensing and scowringe in defalt of the dikegraves and surveyors and could not be doen by reason of thaboundaunce of water in the sayd comon ee this sommer past.

(*Crayens Gate Currat lex*) And that Crayens Gate from Ravens Dike to Jegoll Dike and from Jegoll Dike to Asgardike is defective in heighthe &

¹ This paragraph has been cancelled.

breadthe & ought to be made by the inhabi[tants] of Whaplod and Holbiche by comonage in defalte of the dikegraves & surveyors of both the sayd townes.

(*Syde Dike Currat lex*) And that Sydedike is defective in divers places as followeth viz. the quenes maiestie for the howse of Croylande vj roodes the lordes of Molton viij roodes . . . holders of Mr Knevett iiij roodes in defalt of thoweners dikegraves & surveyors.

[474.VIII.8]

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Adhuc Whaplod

(*Ravens Dike done*) And that Ravens Dike is defective in divers places for want of heighth and breadth as followethe viz. theires of Symond Scykelprixe j roode the lordes of Molton ij roodes James Cleypole ij roodes John Durraunte ij roodes Henry Pratt iiij r[oodes] Thomas Conney esquyre ij roodes theires of Thomas Welbye ij roodes in defalt [of] thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*A petition Respectuatur untill the former laws therof may be shewed at the next sessions*) Also the sayd jury do say that the towne of Whaplod and the comon sewer ther are greatly surcharged with Holbich waters contynually for that Craynes Gate is not suffyciently maide from Ravens Dike to Comon Dike. And for th[at] Whaplod Ee syde on the east syde the river ther are yearly cutt open for dreyninge of Holbich low groundes the jury therfore do crave that Craynesgate may be maide in such sorte as by diverse old and former lawes it is provided and established.

Dykegraves Henry Richardeson Thomas Williams George Thacker Surveyor Edward Scultho[rp]

[474.VIII.9]

719

Mollton

(*Headinges on the east syde of Mollton Ee Currat lex*) Item the said jury do say that the headinges on the east syde of Molton Ee between Godders Bridge and Hye Gate Bridge are defective as followeth viz. William Jacks[on] x roodes John Slator ij roodes in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Headinges Currat lex*) And that the headinges betwene Godders Bridge and Beggerslowghe Bridge on both sydes the common sewers there are defective as followethe viz. [9 entries not printed] in defalt of thoweners dikegraves & surveyors.

(*Comon headinges Currat lex*) And that the headinges on the west syde the common sewer nere unto Browne[s] Bridge are defective to the number of viij roodes and are to be made by thinhabit[ants] of Molton by comonage and are not made in defalt of the dikegraves & surveyors.

(*Headinges against Lowe Feildes done*) And that the headinges on the west syde the comon sewer against Low Feild which were founde in Aprill last past to be defective and yet undoen as followeth viz. Mat[hew] Gamblin gent. xxviij roodes John Hall v roodes Edward Maninge ij roodes John Layne se[n.] iiij roodes in defalt of thoweners and dikegraves but now made in October last by the dikegraves.

(*Side Dike Currat lex*) And that ther is vj roodes on Syde Dike defective

for want of heighth & breadthe and to be doen by comonage and undoen in defalt of the dikegraves & surveyors.

(*Doole Dike a defensyble bancke Currat lex*) And that the quenes maiestie hath on Dooledike beinge a defensible bancke xxx ro[ods] defective for want of heighth and breadth in defalt of Mathew Gamblyn gent the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Lowe Dike Currat lex*) And that Lowe Dike beinge a defensible bancke is defective as aforesaid to the number of vj roodes in defalt of Anthony Beatriche the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*New Cawsye Currat lex*) And that New Cawsye a bancke of devysyon betwene theast and West Fenes in Molton is defective as aforesaid to the number of lx roodes in defalt of Thomas W- . . . gent. & other the land holders of theast fen the dikegraves and surveyors.

[474.VIII.10]

720

Adhuc Molton

(*Meare Bancke Currat lex*) And the bancke callid Meare Bancke betwene Austendike and Westdike is defective in divers places for wante of heighth and breadthe to the number of xx- . . . roodes and is to be maide by comonage and undoen in defalt of the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*West Dike Currat lex*) And that West Dike a comon way leadinge from Meare Dike unto Ste James Crosse which is to be maide by thinhabitauntes ther by comonage is defective in divers places to the number of xl roodes in defalt of dikegraves and surveyors.

(*New presentmentes Lowe Dike Currat lex*) And that Lowe Dike a defensible bancke is defective as followeth viz. the quenes maiestie for the house of Spaldinge viij roodes the feoffes of the schole of Molton vi roodes Robert Ardes gent. j roode Anthony Beatrich iiij roodes Roberte Wildbore ij roodes John Walpole esquyre iij roodes in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Golldike Currat lex*) And that Golldike a defensible bancke is defective in divers places as followeth [viz.] the quenes maiestie and thearle of Sussex xvj roodes Richarde Bolles esquyre iij roodes the feoffes of the schole of Molton vj roodes Roberte Wildbore iij roodes Anthony Beatriche iij the defalt as aforesayd.

(*Dooledike Currat lex*) And that Dooledike is defective in divers places viz. the quenes maiestie . . . in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*New Cawsye Currat lex*) And that New Cawsye is defective to the number of xl roodes in defalt of . . . Welbye gent the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Garners Dike Currat lex*) And that Garners Dike an owte ringe bancke is defective in divers places as followeth viz. the quenes maiestie vj roodes Henry Mordaunte gent. v roodes Roberte Wildbore vij roodes in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Lowfeild headinges Currat lex*) And that the headinges on theast syde the river against Lowfeild are defective in divers places as followethe viz. the quenes maiestie for the howse of Spald[ing] x rood the quenes maiestie the quenes maiestie [*sic*] and thearle of Sussex xl roodes the quenes maiestie x roodes Thomas Kinge viij roodes John Layne senior halfe a rood in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

[474.VIII.11]

721

Adhuc Mollton

(*A petition Spalding to have the bridg . . . in Pitfeld and Moulton to be recompensed . . . the iudgment of Mr John Walpole & Mr Ogle for thother bridge yt is granted that yt . . . may . . .*) Item the sayd jury do say that whereas abowte xvij yeares past the inhabitauntes of Mollton were enioyned by the lawes of sewers to make ij carte bridges over their d[rain] runinge throughe Weston thone in Pittfeild thother in Hallgate and for that the course of their said dreyn is now allowed an other way through the towne of Molt[on] the jury therfore do crave that they may have leave either to take upp the sayd bridges or ells that they may receyve such recompence for the same at thandes of those that now receyve benefitt by the sayd bridges as shalbe sett downe and adiudged the- . . . by the courte.

(*A peticon Fiat lex*) And also the sayd jury do say that it is very requysite that a shitt be made and placed in a petye dreyn against the comon sewer betwene the landes of Thomas Welbye gent. and John Heydon gent. over against Abrahams Hollte on theast syde . . . the sayd sewer to be drawne upp and sett downe as occasion shall serve for the drening of an angle on the est syde therof.

(*A petition Fiat lex*) Also the sayd jury do say that it is very necessary that a shitt be sett downe & placed . . . petye dreyn betwene Greate Hayle Meadowe & Litle Hayle Meadowe for the dreyninge . . . west angle into Mollton Meare & the chardge therof to be borne by acridge.

(*A petition Vacat*) And the sayd jury do say that ther is a petye dreyn runninge betwene the . . . of Anthony Dixon and Godfrey Cook and the landes of the sayd Anthony and . . . belonginge to Ste Johnes Colledge in Cambridge and so over certeyne headinges . . . the common sewer for the dreyninge of the cornefeild there which is now decayed . . . greate hinder-auce of the landholders in that feilde called Cranwelles Feild and heretofore hath bene from tyme to tyme diked clensed and scowred by frontagers on both sides which the said jury most humbly do crave that it may still be continued & that the same now decayed may be clensed & scowred by the frontagers on both sydes before next . . . next under a payne by the courte to be sett downe & that a law may be maid for the conty- . . . of the same.

Dikegraves Godfrey Cooke Nicholas Frauncis Roberte Mayson Surveyor
Edmunde Brimston

[474.VIII.12]

722

Weston

(*Old defaltes Newdike a defensible bancke done*) Item the sayd jury do say that Newdike a defensible bancke is defective in div[ers] places as followeth viz. [*9 entries not printed*] in default of thoweners and dikegraves and now doen by the surveyor.

(*Headinges on the west syde of Molton Meare Currat lex*) And that the headinges of the west syde of Molton Meare are . . . followeth viz. Leonarde Cocke ij roodes Thomas Fletcher viij roodes the comon . . . defalte of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Headinges on theast syde of Weekemeare done*) And that the headinges on the east syde of Weeke Meare are defective as followeth viz. Christofer

Manninge xl roodes Roberte Hewit vj roodes William Harrys iiij roodes Richard Margyson j roode Roberte Stanwell halfe a roode Mathew Gamblyn gent. j roode in defaltes of thoweners and dikegraves. And now doen by the surveyor.

(*Headinges on the west syde of Delgate Ee Currat lex*) And that the headinges on the west syde of Delgate Ee are defective [a]s follo[weth] viz. Christopher Maninge xl roodes John Layn x roods Thomas White xvij roodes John Yarwell xx roodes John Hobson xx roods John Wells xij roodes Will[iam] Colson xl roods the comon x roodes in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*New defaltes Lowe Dike an owte ringe bancke all done but Math. Gamlyns*) And that Lowe Dyke an owte ringe bancke is defective in divers places as fo[lloweth] viz. Sir John Harrington knight ij roodes and a halfe William Coney j roodes [*sic*] . . . halfe John Colvill esquyre iiij roodes John Easton for Weston Lathes halfe . . . John Welles halfe a rood Mathew Gamblyn gent. viij roodes in defalt of thowen[ers] dykegraves and surveyors.

(*A petition Fiat lex*) Allso the sayd jury do crave that Delsegate Ee and Weekemeare may hereafter from tyme to tyme by rooded clensed and scowrid by thinhabitauntes of Weston for ther partes by acridge.

¹(*A petition This petition is satisfied in thother viridicte*) Allso the sayd jury do say that the sewer called Weekmeare hath of late tyme bene very chardgeable to the towne of Weston not onely in diking clensing and scowringe . . . same dreyn but also in makinge three bridges over the sayd dreyne one called Hargate Bridge & two other in the land of John Harrington esquyre neare unto the old goate and for that the chardges thereof have bene greate & have stand the said towne very nighe . . . markes to perfecte & do the same and that now halfe the sayd dreyn is allotted to Spald[ing] the sayd jury do crave that the courte would sett downe suche allowaunce to be made b[y] thinhabitauntes of Spaldinge to the sayd towne of Weston as by the . . . of sewers shalbe thought convenyent.

[474.VIII.13]

723

Adhuc Weston

(*Fiat lex*) And the sayd jury do say that it is very necessary that the tenantes of . . . have a bridge maid over the new dreyn cutt throughe the sayd marshe for the[ir] cattle to passe over from one parte of the sayd marshe to thother now devyded . . . the same to be placed neare unto the new bancke of John Colvill esquyre and to be maid and sett downe at the chardges of thinhabitauntes of Weston and Spald[ing] by acridge and after to be contynued by and at the chardges of the sayd tenantes [and] fearmors from tyme to tyme.

Dikegraves Thomas Leaves Roberte Cullyer William Worledge junior Surveyor J . . . -rought-

[474.VIII.14]

724

Croyland

(*Owte ringe bancke from Clowte to Croyland Currat lex*) Item the said jury do say that the owte ring bancke from Clowte to Croyland . . . defective in divers places as foloweth viz. the quenes maiestie xx roodes Frauncis Ashe-

¹ This paragraph has been cancelled.

bye esquyer iiij roodes Thomas Fayrechild clarke v roodes in defalte of the oweners dykegraves and surveyors.

(*Owte ringe bancke from Croyland to Dowsdale Currat lex*) And that the owte ringe bancke from Croyland to Dowsdale is defective in divers . . . followethe viz. the quenes maiestie xl roodes William Gabye iiij roodes William Digle halfe a ro[od] the quenes maiestie at theast end of Dowsdale howse one roode in default of thoweners dikegraves [and] surveyors.

(*Currat lex*) And that New Bancke from Sheepestowe to Brother Howse is defective to the valew of one hundreth roodes in defalt of the quenes maiestie the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Currat lex*) And that the streame or river runninge from Dowsdale to Croylande is defective as followeth viz. from Dowsdale to Thirtye Acre Barr conteyning in lengthe one myle estopped landed and choked for want of dydalinge and haffeinge in divers places in defalt of William Gabye the dig-raves and surveyors.

(*Currat lex*) And that the streame or river of Weyland from Croylande to Whitehowse contey[n]g in lengthe two miles is defective in divers places to the valewe of xl roodes for wa[nt of] haffeinge and clensing in defalt of Henry Gibson the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Currat lex*) And that the sayd river from Clowte to Brotherhowse is defective in divers places to the valew of xx^{ti} roodes for want of diking and dydalinge in defalt of the quenes maiestie the dykegraves and surveyors.

Dykegraves Joyes Wright Nicholas Brumflete Surveyor [*blank*]

[474.VIII.15]

725

Spaldinge

(*Olde defaltes Burr Layne Currat lex*) Item the sayd jury do say that Bur Layne a defensible bancke is defective to . . . number of lv roodes from Broken Crosse to Weyland for want of heighth and bre[adth] and ought to be maide by thinhabitauntes of Spaldinge by commonage and is und[one] in defalt of dikegraves and surveyors who could not do the same fo[r] that the same hath bene so surrounded with water this sommer past.

(*Old Fendyke Currat lex*) And that Old Fenndyke from Broken Crosse to the howse of John Foxe . . . as aforesayd to the number of C roodes and is to be repayred by thinhabit[antes] . . . Spaldinge by commonage and is undoen in defalt of the dykegrav[es] and surveyors of Spaldinge who could not do the same for . . . it was overflowne with waters this sommer past.

(*Cowhurne dreyn Currat lex*) And that the headinges on both sydes Cowe Hurne dreyn from Lordes Hurne . . . to Hargate Bridge in divers places is defectyfe as followethe viz. John Jackson gent. and Thomas Harpeley j rood John Preston halfe a rood Richarde Awger halfe a rood John Gleane j rood Richarde Laynam j roode in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Weeke meare super . . .*) And that the headinges against Weeke Meare from Thornefeild to the goate are defective in divers places as followeth viz. John Harwell ij roodes done Mathew Gamblyn gent. j C roodes not done George Hobson j C roodes not done Jarrat Ivers xvij roodes done John Freman gent. xxj roodes not done in defalt of thoweners dikegreves and surveyors.

(*Hargate Bridge Currat lex a newe dore to be made by Whytsontyde next*)

And that the doore of the clowe of Hargate bridge is insufficyent in defalt of . . . dikegraves and surveyors and very needfull presentely to be amended.

(*Hallmergate Currat lex*) And that Halmer Gate from the crosse way called Litle Grene to Lordes . . . from thence to Wekemeare is very ruynus in divers places to the nu[mber] . . . roodes for want of heighthe and breadth in defalt of the dikegraves and . . . that it is very needfull that the same should presentely be repayred.

(*New defaltes Hargate Currat lex*) And that ther is iiij roodes in Hargate defective betwene the pasture stow of John Wolsey and Swyngles Drove End and that the same is to be mayd by commonage by thinhabitauntes of Spaldinge and is unmaide in defalt of the dikegraves & surveyors & very needfull presentely to be repayred & to be done by Whytsontyde next sub pena xx li.

(*East syde of the river of Weylande*) And that j roode of bancke on the east syde the river of Weyland neare unto . . . Clonyes howse is defective in defalt of Peter Buninge the dikegraves & surveyors. Done.

(*West syde the river of Weylande Currat lex*) And that one roode & a halfe of bancke on the west syde of the riv[er] . . . neare unto Synckinge Damm is defective in defalt of Thomas Kitton . . . & surveyors.

[474.VIII.16]

726

Spaldinge adhuc

(*Carte bridge Currat lex*) And that one carte bridge in Hargate over Lithercootes Dreyn neare unto . . . howse at Fulney is very ruynus and in greate decay in defalt of the dikeg[raves] . . . surveyors and that it is very needfull that the same should presentely be repay[red] amended and to be doen by thoweners & land occupyers of Lithercootes angle by . . .

(*The new goate to be taken up and set agen before Mydsomer nexte uppon pen of C li. by the order of vj Commissioners*) And the sayd jury do say that the new sea goate lately maide for the . . . Spaldinge and Weston is defective in somme parte of hir for that the former . . . or towne bay is sunck since that the same was placed to the great hind- . . . inhabitauntes within both the said townes and do therfore crave that they may . . . leave to take up the sayd goate and to place the same agayne eyther ther or in somme other convenyent place neare the same by the veiw of such Commyssioners [of] sewers as shalbe nominated by the courte.

(*A petition Fiat lex*) Allso the sayd jury do crave that the dreyn called Weekemeare . . . from tyme to tyme be rooded clensid and scowrid by thinhabitauntes of . . . and Weston by acridge and that the dreyn called Cow hurne dreyn may . . . be rooded clensid and scowrid from tyme to tyme as need shall requyre by the inhabitauntes of Spaldinge and Cowbyte by acridge unto Pytfeild to the meetinge of the waters of Spaldinge and Weston and from thence to the new goate by both the sayd townes of Spaldinge Cubbyte and Weston by acridge as aforesayde.

(*A petition Respectuat*) Allso the sayd jury do say that the banckes which be of late maid . . . enclosing of the salt marshes lyenge in Spaldinge Pinchebeck and West[on] . . . enclosed by Arthure Walpole John Harrington and John Colvill . . . greatly preiudyciall & hurtefull to the owtefall of the river of Weyland by reason that the creekes are imbancked from the river of Weyland owte of which after . . . tyde did issue and fall floode water which did

helpe to weare and mantayne the owtefall of Weyland which creekes now are stopped and for the remedye therof we pray that such order may be taken by lawes of sewers as the said banckes may be throwen downe in such places wheras any creeke commeth throughe any of the salt marshes which creeke were and have be[en] the onely helpe to the owtefall of Weyland in the sommer tyme when the[re] hath come downe the sayd river litle or no head of freshwater.

[474.VIII.17]

727

Adhuc Spaldinge

(*A petition Fiat lex*) And the sayd jury do crave that ther may be a payne sett downe . . . that Broodgate in Weston may sufficiencyntly may be repayed & amendid . . . sett downe in the law maid in August last past & if the sayd Broodgate . . . then sufficiencyntly maid of Spaldinge to make the same at or before Michelmas next at the chardges of Weston.

(*A petition Fiat lex*) Also the sayd jury do crave that ther may be fower shittes . . . clowes . . . downe in fower severall places as followeth viz. one in Yarwells headinges . . . Foxes howse one at Taylboys meadowes & the fourth at Wheatcroft on a headinge betwene the pastures of John and William Wells called Swingles and for the conveyinge of the waters in Spaldinge into Weekemeare and that the same . . . of the widnes of iiij^{or} foote and to be sett downe & ther placed by thinhabitauntes [of] Spaldinge & Cowbite at or before Michaelmas next by acridge.

(*A petition Vacat*) Also the sayd jury do crave that the bridge called Gollbridge at . . . be dammed upp and that the water of Goll & Pykaell angle may . . . by Delgate Ee & that Pykaell angle be from tyme to tyme . . . & Weston for & towards the maintenance of Delgate Ee.

(*A petition Fiat lex A new tre or spout to be layd & the same to be kept*) Item the sayd jury do crave that the hollow tree or spowte lying at Cowb[it] . . . river towards Spaldinge may be taken up for that the river water & fen . . . same unto the said feildes & greatly surrounde the sayd feildes to the great hinderance . . . of Spaldinge.

Dikegraves John Gleane Thomas Graves Thomas Vassell Rafe Gershopp Leonarde Cocke Surveyors . . .

[474.VIII.18]

728

Cowbite

(*Olde defaltes Lowe Dyke Currat lex*) Item the sayd jury do say that Lowe [Dyke] a defensible bancke is defective to . . . of xxx roodes in defalt of the lordes of Molton the dikegraves & surveyors.

And that the owte ringe bancke called Belmer Bank (made) is defective in divers places . . . Brotherhowse to Gooledike as followeth viz. the lordes of Molton xxx roodes . . . Gamblyn gent. vj roodes in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Golldike Currat lex*) And that Golldyke a defensible bancke is defective in divers places to the number of x roodes in the defalt of Mathew Gamblyn gent. the dikegraves & surveyors.

Dykegraves William Bolton John Stanwell Roberte West Surveyor Thomas Okey

[474.VIII.19]

729

Pinchebecke

(*Barres at East Coate Currat lex*) Item the sayd jury do say that the barres upon . . . -dyk aga[inst] . . . are not maide & repayred accordinge to the generall lawes of sewers . . . the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Sea The banke to be remaied & set where yt was before*) And that the sea bancke at a place called Abell Goate is nott sufficye[ntly] repayred and amended accordinge to the generall lawes of sewers but that . . . same is defective to the number iij roodes in defalt of thoweners dik[egraves] and surveyors.

(*Sowthe Fen Banckes Currat lex*) And that the Sowthe Fen Banckes are defective in divers places as followeth viz. [*11 entries not printed*] in defalt of thoweners dikegraves and surveyors and the sayd jury do crave . . . have day for the makinge of the sayd banckes untill [*blank*] that the water then beinge in the heigest they may be sufficiencytly be maide with haffe . . .

(*Comon sewer Reedye Graft Currat lex*) And that the comon sewer under the sea bancke is defective . . . for want of dykinge clensing and scowringe to the number of sixe . . . and that Reedye Graft is defective in like sorte in divers places . . . of sixe roodes in defalt of the dikegraves and surveyors.

(*Whaplod Bridge Currat lex*) And that Whaplod Bridge is not maide and repayred . . . former lawes of sewers in defalt of thoweners dikegraves & surveyors . . . & by Micaellmas next.

(*Currat lex*) Allso the sayd jury do present William Dale for takinge in of water owte of North Gate Graft into the feildes to the hinderaunce of thinhabitauntes ther & contrary to the lawes of sewers.

(*Currat lex*) Also the sayd jury do present Rafe Gershopp of Spaldinge for sufferi[ng] . . . water to run owte of the fen througe his goate lyenge under Sowthe . . . into the feild of Pinchebecke to the hinderaunce of dyvers the inhabitauntes the- . . . contrary to the lawes of sewers.

[474.VIII.20]

730

Pinchbecke

(*Old defalties Currat lex*) And the sayd jury do say that the clowe at Wright Booll Corner is . . . in defalt of the lord treasurer or his tenantes the dikegraves. . .

(*A petition Vacat*) Also the sayd jury do crave that the trench or hollow tree under Star[fen] Graft for the dreyninge of Mylne angle in Spaldinge may be taken upp fo[r] . . . the same is very hurtfull to thinhabitauntes of Pinchebecke in surrownd- . . . groundes & for that we thinke ther is not any law of sewers that th- . . . should lye there. Ther is . . . for the . . . was in the . . .

(*Yt is ordered uppon lyke request made by Spalding*) And concerninge the new maid banckes of the new enclosed marshes in Pinchebecke Spaldinge & Weston beinge very hurtfull to the river of Weyland & the owtefall therof we crave that they may be throwen downe in such places & in such sorte as Spaldinge . . . hath pray in ther second peticyon.

Dikegraves Henry Cust William Leaves Roberte Cawthropp Surveyor Roger S . . .

[*Endorsed:*] Ellow Verdictes gyven upp at Spaldinge the xiiijth January anno xxix^o Eliz. The last verditt

EXTRACT FROM A VERDICT, c.1595

[474.XIV.15]

730a

[Miss Kirkus did not intend to publish any verdicts after 474.VIII. But the following extract seems worth inclusion for the light it sheds on the work of the surveyor (cf. the introduction to this volume). It occupies the whole of one folio which seems to be part of a verdict for 1595, in a file containing portions of several verdicts.]

Reasons for the appontinge of one man to be surveyor onely & not many.

First wheras at every sessions almost, new surveyors be appointed, which for a great while afterwarde, some knowes not that them selves be made surveyors, wherby when a gull is broken and faultes commytted, it is to seeke who should amend yt, wherby a myschief is longe contynued before yt be reformed wheras if one man were knowne to be a generall surveyor for all, then would every man send him worde, so that he should remedy yt with expedition.

Also yf one man have yt, he would be furnished with horse and boat at every time accordinge to the season to be ready to performe his service in hast and celeritie, wheras now noe surveyor provydes any thinge, nor hath any care at all.

Also it were a shame for a man to take his neighbours money and not seeke and endeavour by all meanes possibly to deserve yt, and to winne the love and credit of his countrye, for if he be a sluggard, and doe not execute his office with an honest care havinge a fee, every bodie would poynt at him in the streete to his shame.

Also when a matter or the faultes in the executione of an office is transferred to a multitud, no man particularly takes it to himself or hath the shame of yt, but postes it over to his fellowes. But if one man were knowne and appointed, to him onely should the shame & discredit redowne, if faultes were not amended.

Also an other reason I will urge unto you / What man amongst you all, would be willinge or contented to travayle your horse, spend much money and many daies, and susteyne losse at home by neclecte of your owne busines, and receive noe pryvate commoditie to your self, to defray theise charges (but as it were done to a thankeles multitude, without any prerogative to himself above the worst that will doe nothings), but havinge a fee and your money, he is bound to yt in dutie and charged with yt in conscience.

[*Endorsed:*] Reasons for inducement to have but one surveyor.

GENERAL LAWS OF SEWERS FOR HOLLAND, 1581

[485.III]

731

(*Holland in comitatu Lincoln'*) CERTAINE GENERALL LAWES orders and decrees, considered provyded decreed establysshed set downe & indented at Boston the seconde daye of September 1581 and in the xxiiijth yeare of the raigne of our moste gracious soveraigne lady Elizabeth by the

grace of God quene of England Fraunce & Ireland defender of the faythe etc. BY William Hunston Roberte Carre the yonger John Lockton Arthure Walpoole Anthony Cawdron William Watson William Darbye Henry Addams Rycharde Ogle John Walpole and Alexander Skynner esquiers Commyssioners of the Sewars in the forsayde countye of Lincoln and in the confynes and borders of every parte thereof, for the preservasion of every particuler towne & hamlett within the wepontakes of Ellowe, Kyrton, and Skyrbecke in the partes of Holland, a border and confyne of the said countye by vertewe of her highnes Commyssion of the Sewars to them and others decreed, moste necessary & profytable for every of the sayd townes & hamlettes within ether of the sayd wepontakes uppon there longe & paynfull vewe travayle and survaye had and taken, in and aboute all the partes of Holland, contynewynge from the xxjth of Auguste laste past, untill the second of September, and thereuppon concluded, as followeth that is to saye

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1 FIRSTE the sayd Commyssioners doe order establyshe & decree that all goates, brydges shuttes and clowes which are defectyve shalbe substauncially repayred and amended by all suche persons as ought to doe the same by the dayes & tymes lymyted, and uppon the paynes contayned in the generall lawes mayde in anno xvij^o Eliz. regine.

2 ALSO the sayd Commyssioners doe order establyshe & decree, that no man shall cutt up or breake any parte of South Eaye Bancke, seabancke or outringe bancke without the consent of sixe Commyssioners of the Sewars whereof three to be of the quorum, under there handes & seales, uppon payne of every person offendinge therein consentinge procuringe or agreeing to the doinge of any suche acte or thinge to forfeyte to the quenes maiestie for every suche acte a hundreth poundes to be levyed of there landes or tenementes goodes or cattayle.

3 AND THE sayde Commyssioners doe further order establyshe & decree that all seabanckes beinge defectyve and all fenne banckes, and also all other outringe banckes or banckes of defence or devysyon betwene towne and towne and all mayne draynes & petty draynes and also all other common sewars whatsoever which at the makeinge thereof stand allowed of as necessarye, shalbe suffyciently repayred & amended accordinge to the lawes mayde & provyded for the same by suche dayes & tymes, & uppon the paynes set downe, in anno xvij^o Eliz. regine.

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4 IT IS ALSO establysshed ordered and decreed by the Commyssioners abovesayd, that no bancke dyke or goate heretofore mayde or used for the staye or keepinge of any water within any severall angle shalbe cutt upp or broken without the consent of sixe Commyssioners of the Sewars whereof three to be of the quorum under there handes and seales uppon payne of every person offendinge therein or consentinge procuringe or agreeing to the doinge of any suche acte or thinge to forfeyte to the quenes maiestie for every suche offence tenne poundes.

5 ALSO yt is ordered and decreed by the Commyssioners aforesayd that the degraves of every severall towne or hamlytt wherein any suche offences shalbe commytted or done contrary to this order & decree shall suffyciently

repayre and make upp the same agayne within sixe dayes, uppon payne of fyve poundes to be forfeited to the quenes maiestie to be levyed of the landes or tenementes goodes or cattayle of the degraves offendinge as aforesayd, and yf the degraves doe not suffyciently performe the same by suche tyme as is before lymyted THEN yt is ordered and decreed by the sayd Commys-sioners that the surveyor or surveyors shall doe the same within sixe days after, uppon payne of twentie poundes to be lykewyse forfeited to the quenes maiestie and to be levyed of the landes or tenementes goodes or cattayle of the surveyor or surveyors . . . there dewtyes therein, and that the degrave or surveyors do substauncially repayre make . . . performe all suche workes of the proper goodes of them thatt did cutt upp or breake the . . . same to be done.

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6 IT IS ALSO further provyded ordered & decreed by the Commys-sioners aforesayd that . . . damme or shutt upp any water course, mayne sewer, drayne or petty drayne, without the consent of sixe Commyssyoners of the Sewars, whereof three to be of the quorum, uppon payne of twentie poundes to be forfeited to the quenes maiestie, and to be levyed of the landes or tenementes goodes or cattayle of all such as shall offend therein, and that the degraves of every severall towne or hamlytt, wherein any suche offences shalbe commytted or done, contrary to this order & decree, shall suffyciently repayre and make upp the same agayne within sixe dayes, uppon payne of fyve poundes to be forfeited to the quenes maiestie, to be levyed of the landes or tenementes goodes or cattayle of the degraves offendinge as aforesayd AND yf the degraves do not suffyciently performe the same by suche tyme as is before lymyted, then yt is ordered & decreed by the sayd Commyssyoners that the surveyor or surveyors shall doe the same within sixe dayes after uppon payne of twentie poundes to be lykewyse forfeited, and that the degraves or surveyors doe repayre make & performe all suche workes of the proper goodes of them, that did cutt upp or breake the same or procured the same to be done.

7 AND FURTHERMORE yt is provyded ordered establysshed & decreed by the sayd Commyssioners accordinge to a former auntyent order & decree mayde & provyded in that behalfe, that whensoever the fenne waters shall by the vehemency of the wyndes fyll the common sewer so full that the arrable landes & pastures of good valew cannot have suffycient drayne and outfall into the common sewer, that then the degraves or any one of them shall carefully forsee that the sayd fenne waters shall not ronne but at suche tyme & gage as the inhabitauntes maye well beare yt: and that yt shalbe lawfull for the sayd degraves from tyme to tyme to set downe suche shuttes or clowes as maye staye the same untill suche tyme as the groundes of good valewe be dreaned, uppon payne of fyve markes to be lykewyse forfeited to the quenes maiestie of all suche degraves as shall offend therein: PROVIDED alwayes that yf the degraves shall affectionatly behave them selves herein that then suche as shall fynde themselves iniured thereby makinge there complaynt to any towe Commyssyoners of the Sewars inhabitinge in Holland, yt shalbe lawfull for the sayd towe Commyssyoners uppon the vewe thereof to set downe under there handes at what gage and tymes the sayd fenne waters shall ronne.

8 FURTHERMORE yt is ordered provyded & decreed by the sayde Commyssyoners that after the degraves have set downe any clowes within there severall townes or h[amlets f]or the stayinge of the water as is afore-sayde, that yf any person or persons shall take upp the . . . without the consent of towne Commyssyoners of the Sewars inhabitinge in Holland he or they so offending shall forfeyt to the quenes maiestie for every suche offence fyve poundes to be levyed of his landes or tenementes goodes or cattayle Geven at Boston under our handes & seales the daye & yeare above written.

[Signed above seal tags:] William Darby Robert Carre Arthur Walpoole Antony Cawdron Wylliam Watson Henry Adam Richard Ogle John Walpole Alexr. Skynner

[Endorsed:] 4. Confirmacon of old generall lawes xxiiij^o Eliz. 1582 [sic] Sept 2nd.

20. Confirmacon of ould lawes & new orders made.

GENERAL LAWS OF SEWERS FOR HOLLAND, 1583

[485.IV]

736

(L[inco]ln Holland] ORDINANCES LAWES dyrections and decrees indented, ordeyned, enacted, decreed, establyshed and made att Boston the laste daye of Februarye in the fyve and twentieth yere of the reign of our soveraigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland quene defender of the faythe etc. by Robert Carr the yonger Thomas Robinson maior of the towne of Boston Andrewe Gedney Anthony Cawdron Arthure Walpole John Locton William Watson John Walpole Richard Ogle Edward Hunston Anthony Irby Robert Townley & Alexander Skynner esquiers her maiesties Comysioners of Sewers within the countie of Lincoln and in all the confynes and borders therof, aswell for the renewynge revyvinge and contynuanee of all former lawes aswell generall as specyall which heretofore have bene establyshed enacted decreed and made, for the preservacion and safegarde of all the partes of Holland within the wepentakes of Kirton Skirbeck and Ellowe, as also for the substanciall repayre amendment and performance of certen particular lawes hereafter following videlicet

1. FIRST yt ys verie specyally establyshed enacted ordered and decreed that all former lawes of sewers aswell generall as specyall which have bene heretofore enacted and made for the safegard & preservacion of the whole contrie of Holland and all and everye the confynes and borders therof shall stand remayne and abyde in as full force power strengthe and effecte, as they were at any tyme before the makinge hereof or any thinge herin conteyned to the contrarye notwithstandinge.

2. AND for furder reformation of dyvers defectes appertayninge and belonginge to the towne of Moulton the said Comysioners doe order and decree that Moulton Ea from the Easte and Weste Fenn to their outfall shalbe substauncially repayred scowred clensed amended and dyked accordinge to the former bredthe and depthe, and that all other pettie draynes, sewers and defenceble bankes with stoppes and shuttes to the same, belonginge and apperteyninge to the said towne of Moulton, shalbe sufficiently mayde re-

payred and amended before the feast of All Sayntes which shalbe in the yeare of our lord God 1583 uppon the paynes conteyned in the generall lawes made in anno xviiij^o Elizabeth regine.

3. YT YS lykewyse ordered establyshed and decreed, that the lordes landholders and inhabitantes of Whaplod shall suffyciently repayre and maynteyne all manner of mayne sewers and the bankes of the same, and all pettie dreynes and defenceble bankes belonginge to their towne of Whaplod by the daye and tyme afore lemytted and uppon the paynes made in xviiij^o Elizabeth regine.

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4. ALSO yt ys ordered establyshed and decreed by the Comysioners aforesaid, that the goate belonginge to Whaplod shalbe removed from the place where yt nowe standethe nearer towards the sea beyond the northe corner of Mathew Robinsons newe in marshe, and att and uppon the vewe of six Comysioners of the Sewars to set the same goate in the most apte and convenyent place where they maye have suffycient fynnes for the mayntenance of their outfall, and that the said worke be substancyally performed & donne by the tyme before lymeted uppon payne of a hundred poundes to be levyed as by former lawe ys provyded.

5. YT YS further concluded establyshed and decreed that the comon sewer or dreyne belonginge to Holbeche shalbe suffyciently dyked clensed & scowred from Saturdayes Bridge unto Comon Dyke, and the bankes on bothe sydes to be sufficiently repayred banked and amended by the dayes and tymes before lymmed uppon the paynes conteyned in the generall lawes anno xviiij^o Elizabeth regine.

[Signed above seal tags:] Thomas Robynson maior Robert Carre Arthur Walpoole John Lockton Wylliam Watson Antony Cawdron Andrew Gedney John Walpole Anthony Irby Richard Ogle Alexr. Skynner Robert Townley Edward Hunston

[Endorsed:] 31. for confirmacion of former lawes and amendmentes of new defectes and for the removege of Whaplode Goate

5. Moulton Whaplode & Holbech a confirmacon of some lawes Febr. 23 Eliz. 1582 [sic]

Lawes made at Boston anno regine Eliz. xxv^o

LAW FOR PART OF ELLOE WAPENTAKE, 1584

[485.V]

738

(*Lincoln Holland*) Certen agrementes sett doune at Fleete Hargate the eight daye of Aprill in the six and twentieth yeare of the reigne of our soveraigne lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland quene defender of the faith etc. by Thomas Morryson Edmond Hall Robert Carre junior Richard More Arthure Walpole Edward Heron Vincent Skynner Thomas Bendyshe John Locton William Watson John Walpole George Carleton Anthony Ireby Anthony Death Henry Addame Richard Ogle esquiers Alexander Skynner Robert Townley William Lacy and Richard Shute gent. her maiesties Commysioners amongst others assigned by vertewe of her highnes specyall Comysions aswell under the broad seale of England as out of her maiesties

Duchie court beringe date the xxiiijth daye of Februarie in the xxvjth yeare of her maiesties reigne for the perfect drayninge repayringe and amendinge of Little Porson in the paryshe of Crowland, and of all the lowe groundes lyinge on the south side of Gardners and Ravens Dyke within the townes and parysshes of Whaplod, Holbich, and Fleete as in the same severall Commissions more playnely appeareth.

FIRSTE yt ys agreed that the next session and metinge of the said Commissioners concerninge the service now required by the Commissioners aforesaid shalbe at Fleete Hargate on Tusdaye beinge the first of September next ensewinge

ALSO yt ys ordered & agreed by the court that the jury shall geve upp their verdicte of all such articles as were delivered them in charge at the same daye and place uppon paine of fyve pound for every one that shall make defalt

ALSO the said Commissioners do order that all gootes bridges shittes and clowes and all maine sewers and pettie drains and all other defensable bankes within the said allotment beinge defectyve, shalbe substauntially repayred and amended before the said first daye of September next ensewinge, and the chargies thereof to be borne by all such as are to performe the same uppon the paines conteyned in the generall lawes made anno desimo [*sic*] octavo regine Eliz.

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IT WAS lykewyse ordered that the newe goote of Whaplod shalbe once againe vewed by viij vij or vj of these Commissioners followinge viz. Robert Carre junior Arthure Walpole John Walpole George Carleton Edward Heron Richard Ogle Henry Addame & Anthony Ireby esquiers, and that the said Commissioners uppon the vewe thereof shall take present order for the placinge and perfectinge of the said gote in the most apt and convenient place for the same, and that yt maye be donne with all convenient speede, or els the said goote as yt nowe standeth, to be made perfect, yf the said vewe be not taken before Lowe Sondaye next beinge the xxvjth of this present moneth of Aprill

FURTHERMORE yt was ordered and agreed by the whole court that yt shalbe lawfull for George Carleton esquier to make vantes under the ryvers of Whaplod and Holbich nere unto Ravens Dyke, and that after the perfectinge and profe thereof had all such groundes lyinge on the south side Gardners and Ravens Dyke as shalbe found to take bennyfitt thereby shall beare acridge and be endeferently contributarie towards the chargies thereof

(*The Commissioners names which tooke the gage Robert Carre Arthure Walpole John Walpole George Carleton Vincent Skynner Richard Ogle Thomas Bendyshe Anthony Irebye Alexander Skynner Robert Tounley & William Lacye*) LASTLY yt was agreed that this present daye a vewe of the gage should be taken for the ronninge and drayninge of all the waters into Gedney ryver lyinge on the south side of Ravens Dyke belonginge to Fleete Holbich and Whaplod which gage shall stand and abide in such sort as by lawe in that behalfe shalbe hereafter made & provided.

Whereuppon vewe hath bene taken the said daye and the gage sett doun at Wentfordes Bridge at the west end and the north side three course of bricke under the stoupe end that beareth upp the bridge and nyne course of bricke directly under the sleper of the same west end and north side

[Signed above seal tags:] Robert Carre John Lockton Richard Ogle
Arthur Walpole John Walpole Robert Townley

[Endorsed:] 6. Fleet xxvj^o Eliz. 1585 Apl. 8 Fleete Lawes att Fleet in
April 26 Eliz. Agreementes made at Fleet Hargate

GENERAL LAWS OF SEWERS FOR HOLLAND, 1585

[485.VI]

740

(*LINCOLN HOLLANDE*) CERTEN GENERALL lawes orders and decrees, confirmed provided decreed establyshed sett doune & indented att Spaldinge the seventh daye of June in the seaven and twentieth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of God queene of England Fraunce & Irelande defender of the faith etc. BY Robert Carre the yonger Anthony Cawdron Arthure Walpole John Walpole William Watson Richard Ogle Henry Addams & Anthony Ireby esquiers Commissioners of Sewars in the foresaid countie of Lincoln amongst others assigned 1584 [sic]

FIRST WHEREAS in the generall lawes made at Boston in the xviiith yeare of the queenes maiesties raigne that nowe is there ¹is one lawe or ordinance made amongst the rest to this effecte, that if any ambiguytie, doubte, question, variance or contravercie should happen to arryse concerning any lawe or ordinance then made and sett doune, or concerninge any clause article or thinge therein conteyned, or concerning any clause sentence or thing to be conteyned in any warrant or precept to be directed by any Commissioners of Sewers or to any dygrave or dygraves or other officer or officers of Sewers for the doinge & performinge of any worke or ordinance of Sewers be it repayinge of bankes settinge of gootes clowes shyttys or any other worke or labor of sewers whatsoever, or yf any precept should be directed unto them for the levyinge of any acridge or for the collectinge or gatharinge of any some or somes of monye by force of any lawe or ordinances of sewers, that the same ambyguitie, doubte, question, variance, or contravercie should be discided, discussed, hard and determened only before us² in open sessions of Sewars by six Commissioners, and not before any other judgies or justices or in any other court or courtes whatsoever at the common lawe, which lawe was principally made and graunted uppon the statute of Sewars made in the xxiiijth yeare of kynge Henry the eight, and accordinge to the true intende and meaninges of the same, and was chafely made and mente for the reliefe & benefit of the dygraves and officers of Sewers, that shall fortune to performe or execute any workes orderes warrantes or busines of sewars, but that they should be to the uttermost furthered and incoraged in the imployinge and doinge of their busines & service for the benefitt of their countrie. [741] Since which tyme notwithstandinge dyvers evell disposed persons neyther regardinge the said lawe & ordinance nor the statute made in the xxiiijth yeare of kynge Henry the eight, to the intende to lett and hinder the procedinges not only of the Commissioners of Sewars & of the said dygraves & officers in performinge and executinge of such workes of sewars as by them were to be accomplyshed [by] force of lawes ordinaunces and decrees of sewars, but

¹ A patch has been sewn to fill a piece missing from the right edge of the folio. The writing continues across the patch in a different but contemporary hand.

² A fold in the folio makes the reading of this word uncertain.

also to hinder as much as they maye the officers aforesaid to execute any warrantes or preceptes of sewars, which to them have bene or should be directed for the doinge of any workes aforesaid, or for the levyinge collectinge or gatheringe of any some or somes of mony or forfeitures to be levyed gathered or forfeited, by force of any lawe ordinaunce or decree of sewars aforesaid contrarie to the true intent & meaninge of the said lawe and ordinaunce, and contrary to the said statute made in the said xxiiijth yeare of kynge Henry the eight FOR redresse of which abuses and discordes it is nowe therefore at this present sessions holden att Spaldinge the vijth daye of June in the xxvijth yeare of the raigne of our most gracious soveraigne lady queene Elizabeth ordeyned decreed & establyshed, that yf at any tyme hereafter any person or persons shall sue, impleade, vex, molest or troble by any proces of lawe any dygrave or dygraves or any other officer or officers of sewars whatsoever, in any court or courtes or before judges or justices whatsoever, unlesse it be in the said open sessions of sewars there to have the said matter hard & examined adiudged & determined accordinge to the said formar ordinaunces for, touchinge, or concerninge any distresse or distresses to be taken, or any acridge some or somes of mony to be levyed, had, made, or taken by any dygrave or dygraves or any officer or officers of sewars whatsoever, or concerninge the executinge of any warrant or warrantes precept or preceptes to them to be directed by any Commissioners of Sewars for the doinge performinge or executinge of any cause matter or thinge aforesaide, or for the doinge or performinge of any other worke or workes busines or businesses of sewars whatsoever, that then the said person or persons so offendinge sewinge, impleadinge, molestinge, vexinge or troblinge any such dygrave or dygraves officer or officers aforesaid, eyther in their persons, landes or goodes, for any cause matter or thinge aforesaid contrarie to this generall lawe or contrarie to the said late ordinaunces of the xviiijth yeare of the queenes maiestie or contrarie to the true intent and meaninge of the said late statute of the xxiiijth yeare of Henry the eight, unlesse he or they shall have lysence so to doe by order and decree for the same in full sessions of sewars under the handes of six Commissioners in open sessions of sewars yf (uppon notice to him or them geven of this lawe by the partie or parties greved) hee or they do not surcease his or their said procedinges or sewte, or at the next sessions of sewars after such notice shewe to the court . . . sufficient cause as shalbe allowed of, by the court, the said person & persons so offendinge in any thinge contrarie to this ordinaunce, shall . . . and paye not only to the dygrave and dygraves officer and officers so greeved, vexed or trobled their tribble damagies costes chargies and expences by him or them by any wayes or meanes, by occacion of any such sute, or troble susteyned, the said damagies, costes & chargies to be sett doune and awarded by the discreccion of six Commissioners in full sessions of sewars, but also shall forlett & lose to the queenes maiestie her heires and successors for every such offence the some of fourtie poundes to be levyed of their landes and tenementes goodes & cattells to the use of her maiestie her heires and successors. [742] And aswell the said penaltie & forfeiture of fourtie poundes as also the said tribble damagies and chargies to be levyed collected and gathared by force of any warrant to be directed to the said dygraves or any others for that purpose or for the levyinge or collectinge thereof accordinge to the wordes purport

effecte and true meaninge of the said warrant, any lawe ordinance or decree heretofore made, contrarie to the true intent and meaninge of this our generall lawe in any wyse notwithstandinge.

ALSO WHEAREAS the jurye of the dygraves and of the preter illos which do presente the defaultes of sewars accordinge to the generall lawes and accordinge to the particuler verdictes in their severall townes both for the owners dygraves and surveyors which are to be donne sometymes by acridge sometymes by common meanetworkes sometymes by fruntagers and otherwyse accordinge to their particuler verdictes for their said severall townes, uppon which their said present[ments] there groweth many tymes contravercie uppon dyfficulties rysinge uppon their said presentmentes, for lacke of vewe of the verdictes and lawes of their severall townes wherby the burthen and charge is laide many tymes where it ought not THEREFORE it is nowe ordered and decreed that if the dygrave of every severall towne shall not at every sessions of sewars when any verdicte shalbe geven in and presented of defaultes made by the inquest of dygraves and preter illos or uppon any demaundinges of acridge at any sessions of sewars have in a reddines to be shewed to the court the last verdictes and lawes of their particuler townes concerninge the said charge and demaund of acridge aforesaid or concerninge any presentment of defaults by them made within their severall townes whereby they will charge any owner or owners dygraves or surveyors or whereuppon their presentment is maide, that then the dygraves & inhabitantes of every severall towne, not havinge their said last severall verdictes & lawes in that case last made & provided, redie to be shewed yf nede shall so requier under the clarke of the Sewars hand shall forfeit & lose for every such default to the queenes maiestie her heires and successors the some of fourtie shillings to be levied of their landes tenementes goodes & cattells AND it is provided that the clarke of the sewars shall have in a reddynes the said lawes and verdictes to be delivered to the dygraves of every particuler towne when they shalbe required at his handes (they payinge for the same) uppon the lyke paine of xl s. by him to be forfeited for refusall to deliver the same to the dygraves uppon request made.

Antony Cawdron Arthure Walpoole Richard Ogle Robert Carr William Watson John Walpole Henry Adam¹

[Endorsed:] 3. Generall lawes for officers to doe their duties

Generall Lawe for officers to doe their duties 27 Eliz. 1586²

15. A law that officers might distraigne and be encoraged in their offices
Lawes of sewars

Lawes made at Spaldinge

LAW FOR SPALDING AND WESTON, 1586

[485.VII]

743

³(*LINCOLN HOLLAND*) ORDINANCE lawes directions and decrees indented ordeyned enacted decreed established and maide at Spaldinge the xxvjth day of Awgust in the twentye and eight yeare of the reigne of

¹ These seven signatures are written above four seal tags.

² Corrected from 25 Eliz. 1584.

³ 485.VIIa is a second copy of this law, without signatures or seal tags. The differences between the two copies are (with one exception, noted below) insignificant.

our soveraigne ladye Elizabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland quene defendor of the faith etc. by Anthony Cawdron William Darby John Walpole Richarde Ogle William Watson Walter Asheton Henry Gate Anthony Irbye Roberte Harrington and Henry Adam esquyers hir maiesties Commyssioners of Sewers within the county of Lincoln and confynes of the same amongst others assigned for the perfect and reddy dreyninge of the townes feildes and terretoryes of Spaldinge and Weston maid aswell upon the veiw of the said Commyssioners as by the verdict of George Hall and others his fellowes sworne

FIRST wheras it appearithe very manifestly to the said Commyssyoners that the soyle of pasture grounde and tillage within the townes of Spaldinge and Weston be of no such valewe as heartofore they have bene but that the same be greatly decayed by reason that the river of Weyland their auncient drayn is so sylted and landed up that the winter water surroundinge the sayd grounde can have no discent or fall into the sayd river and so to be conveyed to the sea as hath bene heartofore accustomed THERFORE to thintent the groundes aforesaid may conveniently be dreyned

¹(28 Eliz.) IT IS ordred decreed and established by us the said Commysyoners as followeth viz. that all the waters in Spaldinge in the groundes on the sowthe syde of Weyland shall fall into Weston drayne callid Weekemere in all places wheare the said Weekemere will receyve the sayd waters and that all the waters in Weston betwene Broodegate and the sayd Weekemere from Newdike to a place callid Gitstone shall likewyse fall and drayn into the sayd drayn callid Weekemere in all places likewyse wheare the same dreyn will recayve the sayd waters. And that both the sayd waters of Spaldinge and Weston shall runne in the sayd river of Weekemere unto the sayd Gitstone and then to fall into thother ryver or drayn of Weston called Delgate Ee to a place called Weiddykes and there a damme to be made in the sayd Delgate Ee and so to run betwene the sayd Weiddykes and the landes of the quenes maiestie called xx acres in the tenure of John Gamblyn gent. into a river called Molton Dreyn and ther a damme to be cast and from thence downe Molton Dreyn to Pitfeild Corner and so into the dreyn provided for Hargate Graft and then to run by or against the seabancke to a place devydinge the marshe called Dominorum Marshe and the marsh or upgrasse of John Colvill esquyre. And that Lithercoates Dreyn and Cowehurne Dreyn in Spaldinge shall kepe their old course of runninge to Hargate graft to a headinge betwene the seadyke and the groundes of John Harrington esquyre, and that the sayd headinge or damstead shalbe cutt up that the said waters or dreyns may fall and have their course into Weston dreyn till they come to Pitfield and that the headinge or damsteade devydinge the waters of Molton and Weston shalbe cutt upp and an other headinge or damsteade in Weston Dreyn shalbe likewyse cutt upp whearby the said waters may have their course to run into Molton Dreyn to the end of Pittfeild whearby the sayd waters may be forced to run betwene the groundes of John Harrington and John Colvill esquyres to the sea bancke and so directly to the sea devydinge the marshe callid the Dominorum Marshe and the marshe or upgrasse of the said John Colvill esquyre.

¹ A hand drawn in the margin points to this paragraph.

AND further it is ordred decreed and established by the sayd Commys-
syoners that the inhabitauntes of the said townes of Spaldinge and Weston
shall place and sett downe in that parte of the seabanke devydinge the said
Dominorum Marshe and the marshe or upgrasse of the said John Colvill a
goate for the receyvinge and conveyance of the waters of the said townes to
the sea. And that the said inhabitauntes of Spaldinge and Weston do make
or cause to be made a sufficyent dreyn of the widenes of thirte foote and of
the depthe of vij foote from the sayd goate betwene the said Dominorum
Marshe and the marshe or upgrasse of the said John Colvill to the lower
end of the new enclosed marsh of the said John Colvill and from thence
directly throughe Dominorum Marsh to a creike called Old Depesteade to
convey the waters of the said townes from the said goate to the sea. And
further that they the said inhabitauntes do place and sett downe one other
goate and a clowe in the said dreyn betwene the said new bancke or new
enclosed marshe of the sayd John Colvill and the said owtefall and the same
to be placed aboute xij^{xx}¹ pole or therabowtes from the said new bancke.
And that they do sufficyently imbancke the said new dreyn on both sides
betwene the said new goates to kepe the salt waters owte of the said dreyn.
And that they the sayd inhabitauntes of the sayd townes do cast or cause to
be mayde sufficyent dammes in creekes in most convenyent places to be
appointed by the veiwe of two Commissioners of Sewers aswell within the
said Dominorum Marshe as in the marshes of the Right Honorable thearle
of Sussex John Harrington and John Colvill esquyers. And that the sayd
dammes be so mayde and the creikes within the said marshes on both sydes
the sayd dreyn so cutt that the sea water brought up into them at everye
floode may discende and fall one into another and so to make sufficyent
fynnes or creikes on both sydes the said dreyn for conveyinge the salt waters
into the said dreyn from the mouth of the sayd seagoate on both sydes therby
to grinde and were owte the sylte and sand brought into the said dreyn or
flete by the sea and that aswell the sayd new dreyn as the sayd goates and
other aforesayd workes be performed maid and doen by acre silver of everye
acre within the said townes to be rated a like for the performinge of the
sayd workes except those groundes in Spaldinge which dreyn by Pinche-
becke.

IT IS also ordred and decreed by the said Commyssyoners that ther be
maid sufficyent carte bridges and passages wheresoever any damsteades
wayes passages or stowsteades shalbe cutt upp by either of the sayd townes
for the more reidy passage and conveyinge their said waters to the said first
and second goate in and throughe any mans severall groundes or marshes,
and the same to be maide and borne at the first by either of the said townes
that shall have occacion to cutt up the said passages dammes or stowsteades
& after to be contynued by thoweners.

IT IS further ordred and decreed by the said Commyssyoners that ther
be a sufficyent clow placed and sett downe in Weston betwene the landes of
George Hall and John Hobson whereas the waters in Delgate Ee doth fall
into Molton meare not onely to kepe backe the salt socage but also to force

¹ "vij^{xx}" in 485.VIIa.

the waters to run into Weekmeare to the sea at everye wynde catche and the same to be doen by acridge at the chardge of thinhabitauntes of Weston.

IT IS further ordred and decreed by the sayd Commyssioners that Brodegate in Weston shalbe sufficiencyntly maide in heighth and breadth from a place called Newdyke to the foresaid place called Gitstone by the sayd inhabitauntes in Weston by commonage at or before Lammas next. And that all those groundes lyinge in Weston on the west syde of the sayd Broadgate from the said place called Newdike to Gittstone that dreyn by Weekemeare shalbe ratably charged for and towards the repayre therof as any the groundes in Spaldinge that dreyn by the sayd Weekemeare.

IT IS also ordred & decreed by the sayd Commyssioners that whensoever any other chardge of sewers shalbe in [*Mem. 2*] Weston that all the groundes in the sayd Weston shalbe chardged as hath bene accustomed.

IT IS also ordred & decreed by the sayd Commyssioners that yf hereafter the land waters in Spaldinge & Weston may have any fall into the river of Weyland through their goates at Cowehurne that then it shalbe lawfull for the sayd severall townes of Spaldinge & Weston to have their owne and accustomed course of dreyninge aswell by the sayd goates in Cowhurne as by thafforesayd new goate and that the sayd goates and dreynes shalbe continued to that effect.

AND that a carte bridge at Gitston in Weston be ther placed set up & continued at the indefferent chardges of Weston & Spalding by acridge.

AND lastly that the aforesayd dreynes goates clowes shittes bridges & other workes of sewers be perfected maid & doen before Lammas next by the sayd inhabitauntes of Spaldinge & Weston and the chardges therof to be borne ratably as is aforesayd.

Antony Cawdron John Walpole Wylliam Watson Richard Ogle Wylliam Derby . . . [As]heton¹

[*Endorsed:*] Weston & Spalding to draine by Weekemeare 28 Eliz.

1. Weston & Spalding to dreyn by Weekemeare dat 28^o Eliz. 1587 Aug. 27. B the 1^o

LAW FOR DIKING THE RIVER WELLAND, ETC., 1588

[485.VIII]

745a

Statutes ordinaunces decrees and lawes of Sewers made enacted and established at the sessyons for the Sewers begune at Spaldinge the nyne and twenty day of May in the thyrtyth yeaere of the reigne of our sovereigne lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland quene defender of the faith etc. and from thence adiourned to Whaplod, and theare holden the thyrtyth day of the same moneth before Anthony Cope John Colvyll Edward Heron George Carlton Robert Wingefeild Anthony Irby Richard Worme James Cleypole Thomas Welby and John Gamblyn esquiers amongst others assigned Commissioners for the Sewers within the partes of south Holland in the countye of Lincoln as followeth

Imprimis in soe muche as the auntyent river of Weyland hath in former tymes receaved a free and good discent and passadge to the sea thorough the towne of Spaldinge and theare meetinge, at the point of the marshe late the quenes maiesties, late in the tenure of Arthur Walpole esquire, with the

¹ These signatures are written above four seal tags.

river of Glenn ys soe decayed, landed, stopped and sylted, as that the same is nothinge profitable to draine, eyther the fenns of Deepinge, Langtoft, Uffington, Crowland, Spaldinge, and Pinchbecke lyinge betwene the banckes comonly called Deepinge Bancke, and in auntyent tyme Aspath, and the bancke called Basson Dyke, or any other the groundes of Spaldinge, Pinchbecke, Weston, Cubbyt, and Moulton, which have for many yeares past beene usually drayned into the said river, but alsoe greatly hyndereth the drayninge of the said groundes, and other the fenns and marishes, called Alderlandes and Burrow Fenn, otherwise Eye Fenn, and contynew waters in the meadowes and comons beyond Waldram Hall, unto the towne of Uffington, soe as they are many tymes longer surrounded then els they would be, as to the greate losse chardge and hynderauns of the said townes hath manifestly appeared. And for that uppon vew and examinacion had by the said Commissioners by vertue of her maiesties Commyssyon under the great seale of England yt doth appeare, that severall enclosures of the tow severall marshes next adioyninge one both sydes of the channell of the said river, damminge uppe of great and deepe creekes of the sea in them, which weare wont to fall uppon the flow and reflow of the sea into the mayne channell of the river, towards the sea, are one of the princypall, and cheif occacions of the decay thereof, for that the sea beinge excluded and streightened, doth not come in that measure and force as els yt would have done, and that when as springe tydes decay, towards thend of the springe tydes, the sylt of the sea whiche ys left behynde, doth not by that meanes for want of sea water, which was wont to be afforded out of those creekes, and marshes, now enclosed, and dammed, ioyned with the freshe water in the retorne of the sea, one other cause alsoe within theis lymittes ys, for that from the Crosse in the Eae (about whiche place the lymittes of south Holland begin) unto Cubbyt, and soe unto Spaldinge, and soe unto the deepe of the sea, towards Fosdyke, the river of Weyland ys landed, sylted, and overthrowne, and likewise by misturninge the said ryver in sonndry partes thereof the freshe water serveth not soe abundantly to grynde the channell, or outfall to the sea, as heretofore yt hath done. And whereas also theare hath beene neare to the said Crosse in the Eae, a raught dyke, which caryeth dyrectly under the bancke of Deepinge, parte of the water of Weyland, untill against Whyte House, theare fallinge into the river againe, by meanes whereof, a good parte of the water of the river, in any land water, had a shorter passage, by one myle almost, into the river towards Spaldinge, then the course ys thorough the towne of Crowland, wheare now yt cheiflye runneth, in that the said raught dyke hath of late yeares beene soe landed, for not skowringe and clensing of the same, as that the whole water, fallinge towards Crowland, the greatest parte thereof ys caryed under Crowland bridge, by that parte of Weyland which falleth into Neene to Guyhurne, and so parte into the river of Wisbich and parte by March and Well caryed into the greate river which falleth at Salters Load towards Lynne, To thintent therefore that all theis inconvenyencies may be reformed, and the river of Weyland, (yf it may be) re-tayned in hys old course, it is especyally enacted and established, that the land holders of those severall marshes wherein the enclosures and dammes have bene committed and made, shall at the next cessyons of the Sewers to be holden for the said partes of Holland shew suche suffycient cause after

notice gyven why theire said enclosures and dammes should not be layed open as by the Commyssyoners than to be assembled or the most of them shalbe allowed reasonable and good, or in defalt thereof the said enclosures to be layed open and playned, within one moneth after at the chardges of the said landholders uppon paine of everye landholder whoe doth not cast out twentye poundes. and alsoe that the said river, and raught, from the said Crosse in the Eae unto Pegge Bridge, shalbe dydalled, roaded, and manured, in the most needfull places, accordinge to a verdict thereof found, and of late presented, and from Pegge Bridge, unto the point, wheare the said river of Weyland, and the river of Glenne doe fall into one channell, the said river to be ditched dyrectly without crookes, and gytties alsoe to be made at convenyent and needfull places, and from thence where the said channell ys defectyve towards Fosdyke, shalbe skowred, clensed ditched, and manured, as aforesaid, before the feast of All Sceintes next, by such as by former lawes are, and ought to doe the same, uppon paine of everye rood then defectyve in the said raught dyke three shillinges and foure pence, and in the ryver whiche should be dyked sixe shillinges and eight pence, and in suche places wheare the ryver ys to be roaded or dydalled three shillinges foure pence.

Item yt is further ordayned, enacted and established, that South Lake in the confynes of the said lymittes shall have a shutt and damme against the said river, to be made at the chardges of thinhabitauntes of Crowland before the feast of All Sceintes next comminge uppon payne of fyve poundes, for that the same was lately in theire defalt, dyked deeper and wyder, then the same was in former tyme, to the great hurt of the said river of Weyland.

Item yt is further enacted, established and ordered, that after the openinge of the said marshes, order shalbe taken by John Colvyll, George Carlton, Edward Heron, Richard Ogle, Anthony Irby, John Walpole, and James Cleypole esquiers or three of them, aswell for skowringe, and manureinge, the channell of the said river of Weyland wheare yt ys stopped at the outfall, as for makeinge of convenyent fynnes uppon the said marshes adioyninge.

Item for soe much as it doth appeare to the said Commyssyoners that the low groundes, lyinge aswell of the north as the south syde of Ravensdyke within the severall townes of Whaplod Holbech and Fleet, conteyninge in quantyty seaven thowsand acres, at the least, are and have beene greatly surrounded and growen to small valew, albeyt the same have beene as deeply chardged, and contrybutory to the draines and sewers, as the best groundes, in the said townes, and therefore have beene in former ages, and of late tymes endeavored to have beene drayned, by crosse draines, to passe directly under the severall sewers of the said townes, and soe to be caryed, thoroughe Gedney into the towne of Sutton, and soe to the seas, which said endeavors and purposes, have bene hytherto cheifly hindered in that yt hath beene alleadged, that the said townes might be suffyciently drayned by theyre owne proper sewers, and thereof experyens hath beene formerly desyred, as by orders before her maiesties Pryvie Counsaile and otherwise yt doth appeare, and one other reason hath beene added, that the socke of those draynes, and theire fall towards the seas by Sutton and Gedney in theire passadge would preiudice those townes, for that we plainly see uppon dew examinacion and vew, that the draynes and goates of Moulton, and Spal-

dinge, (beinge placed within theis twoe yeares past nearer to the sea then heretofore they weare) doe in small measure helpe the said low groundes theare, nor that the goates of Fleet and Holbech doe in any sort cary the water of those groundes to the sea, and that the goate of Whaplod beinge accompted the best of all the goates within those townes doth not take the water of the low and drowned groundes, in suche sorte as that they are in any measure drayned, althoughe the chardges of theis experiences, within the said severall townes have amounted of late yeares to the somme of three thousand poundes, or thereaboutes, to whiche the said low groundes have contributed, equally with the heigh groundes, without benefyt, yt is therefore especyally ordayned, enacted, and established, by the Commissyoners aforesaid, that the low groundes one the south syde of Ravensdike, in Whaplod, Holbech, and Fleet, and likewise the low groundes called Little Porsaunte shall and may hereafter have theyre passage, for their drayninge as followeth, that is to say, to begyn towards Moulton at Asgarsdike of the south syde of the same, next to Sydyke, and soe to fall on the south syde and on the north syde thereof, (yf need shall requyre) and to passe under the sewer of Whaplod, and soe of eather syde the said bancke under Holbech sewer, and from thence to passe into Fleet by a dyke, bancke and gate called by some Jekelsdyke in Fleet, of one syde of that bancke, and from thence to fall into Gedney Delf at Gedney under Fleet ryver, wheare a shutt is to be placed, and from thence neare Lea Yates to goe under the sewer of Gedney, and soe to be cutt dyrectly to a clow in Sutton, and thence to be conveyed under a certaine crosse way which leadeth from that clow to Willow Dyke, and theare to fall in on the south side of Willow Dike [*Mem. 2*] into the Shyre Drayne, at a place called Graynes, and thence in the Shyre Draine, and by the Shyre Goat into the sea, wherein severall bridges over the wayes, and troughes under the pety draines, and maine draines of Sutton and Gedney, are to be performed, from tyme to tyme, at the chardges of the said landholders of the said low groundes.

And yt is further ordayned, enacted, and decreed that yf the said crosse drayne thorough any of the said townes in which the same shall passe, shalbe thought by the vew of sixe Commissioners of Sewers last above named whereof three to be of the quorum preiudiciall to the same townes, thorough which the waters shall fall, in respect of not suffycyent fall thereof into the sea, or in respect of insufficient embanckeinge of the same, against the groundes thorough which yt shall passe, that then ymmedyately after such vew, the same shalbe stopped uppe, untill reformation be had, of that whiche shall seeme to the said Commissyoners to be hurtfull, to the said townes, thorough which the same should passe.

And yt ys alsoe enacted established and decreed, that reasonable allowauns or recompence shalbe had with every owner of any severall groundes, thorough which there shalbe any cutt for the said drayne, and in defalt of suche recompens the said owner or owners shalbe recompenced uppon complaint in the open cessyons of sewers by vew of the said last named sixe Commissyoners of the Sewers, whereof three of them to be of the quorum.

And it is further enacted, and ordered, that the said draines shalbe made and perfeyted with ditchinge clowes, and all other chardges, at the chardge

of the land holders of the said low groundes, for and towardes the perform-
auns whereof, such taxes, and aceridges shalbe layd, and levyed, as shalbe
thought necessary by John Colvyll, George Carlton, Edward Heron,
Anthony Irby, Robert Wingfeild, Richard Ogle, John Walpole and James
Cleypole esquires, or three of them, and the same to be levyed by such
orders, wais meanes, and lawes, as hath beene heretofore or now is, already,
in use or force, for the levyinge, of lyke chardges, about sewers, and further
yt is ordayned and enacted, that a vew shalbe taken and had, by the said last
mencioned Commyssyoners, or three of them of all the said low groundes,
and thereuppon suche pety draines appointed, and devised therein to draine
the said low groundes, to the said new dike or sewer, as to them or three of
them shalbe thought meete, and the said pety draynes to be made at the
chardges of suche of the land holders adioyninge, as by the said Commis-
sioners last named or three of them shalbe thought meete, and that the said
landholders, and owners of the said low groundes shalbe from henceforth
dischardged of makeinge of any pety draines one the sowth syde of the said
Ravensdike into the common sewers or ryvers of the said townes, and like-
wise of all accredge taxes, and chardges for the sewers one the south syde of
Ravensdike, or towardes any other the sewers or ryvers, or pety draynes of
the said townes other then the said new mayne sewer and the said pety
draynes, and other then the bancke of South Eae & Shippe Eae and all
banckes, whereunto they have beene heretofore chardged.

Item it is enacted, established, and decreed that all lawes, and orders here-
tofore made to the contrary of any thinge herein prescribed, shalbe revo-
cated, frustrated, and of none effect, and that theare shalbe for this present
worcke appointed, for dykereves, John Joys, Abraham Sommers and Symon
Browne, and expeditors and overseers thereof to be William Stow and
Nicholas Maine, and such others in their defalties, to be appointed in their
places, as by the said last named Commyssioners, or three of them, shalbe
appointed, which Commissioners or three of them shall have aucthority,
to vew the said goat called the Shyre Goate, and to make such fynnes and
other worckes for the same, as shalbe thought necessary.

Provyded alsoe that noe execucion of thys law or ordinauns be had, other
then vewes and appointmentes to be had as aforesaid, untill the eight day of
July next ensewinge the date hereof.

[Signed above seal tags:] Anthony Cope John Colvill Edw. Heron George
Carlton Robert Wingfeilde Anthony Irby R. Worme James Cleypool
Thomas Welbye

[Endorsed:] For dikeing of Welland 1589 [sic] xxx^o Elizab.
Elloe, 30 Eliz.

For the diking of Weyland. 34. Prima Bundela 1B.8.

LAW FOR PART OF ELLOE WAPENTAKE, 1588

[485.IX]

745b

(*Lincoln Southe Hollande*) LAWES ORDERS decrees and constitucions
of Sewars made ordeyned decreed indented and established at Spaldinge
the xiiijth day of July in the thirtieth yeare of the reigne of our soveraigne
lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland quene

defender of the faith etc. by Roberte Carre the yonger John Walpole Richard Ogle William Watson John Gamlyn and Mathewe Gamlyn esquyers Commyssyoners of Sewars of our soveraigne lady the quene in the partes of south Holland in the countye of Lincolne amongst others assigned upon and after a vewe by them the said Commyssyoners had and taken for the redresse and reformation of a late devysed dreyne for certayne lowe groundes in the said partes lyinge ther on the south side of Ravensdyke and Garnersdyke which lawes are now established accordinge to the forme and effecte of the statute of sewars made in the xxijth years of the reigne of the late kinge Henry theight as followeth

FIRST WHEARAS for the dreyninge of the lowe groundes lyinge and beinge on the south syde of Ravensdyke and Garnersdyke in the partes of south Holland aforesaid certayne lawes are pretended to be ordeyned and established and certayne course is sett downe lymytted and appoynted for the conveyinge of the waters therof from Leaz Yates unto the sea by the Shyre Goote which lawes were intituled to be made at the sessions of the sewers begun at Spaldinge the xxixth day of May and adiorned to Whaplod and ther ended the xxxth day of May last past in the xxxth yeare of hir maies-ties reigne By and before Anthony Cope John Colvill Edward Hearon George Carleton Roberte Wyngfeild Anthony Irby Richard Worme James Cleypole and Thomas Welby esquyers which lawes so by them pretended to be established and made were after indented in parchment and delivered at the next sessions of the sewers at Whaplod aforesaid and ther published in open sessions the viijth day of July last past forasmuch as we the said Commyssyoners doe nowe finde upon our vewe that the said lowe groundes cannot conveniently dreyne by the said Shire Goote and in such wise manner and forme as by the said lawes indented is pretended and as in & by the said writinge indented is expressed mencioned and declared But that the said lowe groundes as it is thought to us the said Commyssyoners upon our vewe may be better dreyned and more aptly & conveniently conveyed to the sea as we suppose by the auncyent dreynes of sewers then by their new pretended dreyne & course expressed mencioned & declared in & by the said writinge & lawes indented and forasmuch also as ther is not yet any presentment of any jury to warraunte or auctorice the said late pretended lawes indented or any of them or any thinge in the said writinge indented mencioned or wherby it may appeare that the country who are to be preiudiced or benefitted by the said lawes have any likinge of the said new devysed course but utterly do mislike therof & do allowe rather to have a contynuan-
ce of their auncyent dreyns as appeareth by the verdict & presentment of xlvij jurors beinge of the most substancyall personnes of the inhabitantes within the said partes of south Holland which jurors at the said sessions holden the said xxixth & xxxth day of May last past & beinge sworne at Spaldinge aforesaid before the said Commyssyoners for the inquiry for & concerninge the new pretended course of dreyninge of the same were beneficyall for the said lowe groundes gave up their verdict & presentment therin at Whaplod the eight day of July last past that they utterly misliked of the said new dreyne & course as manifestly appeareth by the said verdict & was further manifested by their speches then uttered & delivered in open court to the said Commyssioners who also by their said verdict found that the said

Whaplod goote is already a sufficient dreyne for all the groundes in Whaplod and for the rest they could not agree to the said new devysed dreyne & course Which premises considered & for that it hath seldome bene hard of or sene that any lawe of sewers hath bene made at any sessions of sewers for the dreyninge & conveyinge of any waters by any new course but by the inquiry & presentment of the country neyther are any lawes of sewers indented warranted by the statute of sewers of xxijth of Henry theight unles ther be therof a record extante & remayninge with the clarke of the sewers to warrant the said lawes indented before the indentinge therof neyther can any lawe be made upon a vewe unles that the vew be taken before the lawe made neyther of which can be proved or justified for the warrantinge of the said pretended lawes indented. And forasmuch also as the said inhabitantes of the said country and many oweners of the said lowe groundes do still desyer the contynuance of their said old dreynes without any innovacion or alteration therof and that diverse hir maiesties lovinge subiectes & tennauntes of Whaplod Sutton & Gedney doe compleyn of the discomodities hir maiestie & hir tennauntes shall have & receyve in their good groundes by the said new pretended dreynes if the same be permitted [*Mem.* 2] and suffered beinge of a greater yearly valewe & better to hir maiestie and others then the said few low groundes and therefore a thinge very dangerous to hassard & indanger a certayne yearly comodity of a greate valewe for the hope of a gayne of a small porcion and by the which hir maiesties revenues shalbe rather impared then any way benefitted therby And lastly for that if any hurt or danger should happen to the said inhabitantes of the country by the said new dreyne & lawes devysed the said hurtes losses and inconveniences growinge therby cannot be redressed or reformed but by themselves that be the lawe makers by any sufficient proviso sett downe by the said pretended lawes & they themselves beinge the law makers most of them strangers & dwellinge out of the country some of them above one hundred myles and if any of them should dye or be unwillinge or cannott be found then none of the gentlemen dwellinge in the country can reforme any abuse or disorder not in their meanest officer or alter any of their lawes be they never so dangerous hurtfull or inconvenient to the country a thinge of all other most absurd & inconvenient And lastly for that for the better contynuance of their said lawes unrevocable & without checke or danger of the lawe they for that purpose have taken away repealed & abbolysed all the auntyent lawes & presentmentes of the country made for the preservation of the country beinge in any thinge repugnant to their lawes by the which all or the most parte of the lawes before this tyme establyshed eyther for the high groundes or lowe groundes of Holbich Whaplod and Flete be repealed & made voyd beinge lawes either in some parte or other repugnant to theis besyde the generall lawes of the country which are greatly impeached by their said late repeale wherfore for the avoydinge of all the inconveniences of absurdities dangers losses hurtes & other preiudices that may happen to the country by the said new devised lawes before any sessions of sewers shall heareafter be had for the redresse hereof Therefore we the said Roberte Carre John Walpole Richard Ogle William Watson John Gamlyn and Mathewe Gamlyn for theis & for diverse other causes & consideracions us movinge do nowe ordeyne enacte decree & establish theis lawes orders decrees and constitucions of sewers hearafter

mentioned and followinge upon our vewe taken & had of the premisses which lawes are to endure untill some other sessions of sewers shalbe had within the said partes of Holland for the better redresse & reformation of the premisses and untill it shalbe otherwyse ordeyned provided and established in some open sessions of sewers, First therfore we the said Commys-sioners enacte ordeyne & establish that all & every the lawes orders decrees ordinances & constitucions of sewers expressed mencioned & declared in the said pretended lawes & writinge indented beinge under their handes & seales & made by the said Anthony Cope John Colvill Edwarde Heron George Carleton Robert Wyngfeild Anthony Irby Richard Worme James Cley-pole and Thomas Welby & every or any of them and all and everye matter & thinge therin expressed mencioned & declared shalbe from henseforth utterly repealed & revoked & by theis presentes be made frustrate voyd & of none effect any lawes or constitucions of sewers to the contrary notwithstandinge. Item we do¹ further enacte ordeyne & establish that the said lowe groundes on the south side of Ravensdyke & Garnersdyke shalbe dreyned & conveyed to the sea by the said Whaplod goote and others the accustomed dreynes in such course manner & wise and by the same lawes orders decrees & ordinances of sewers as the said lowe groundes in former tymes by former lawes before the xxth day of May now last past hath bene ordeyned established or accustomed & not by the said new devysed course or dreyne nor accordinge to the lawes nor any ordynance provided enacted established or decreed by the said pretended lawes or writinge indented nor accordinge to any matter or thinge expressed & declared in the said writinge indented untill it shalbe otherwise provided in some open sessions of sewers hereafter to be holden & kept in the said partes of south Holland. Item we do further by theis presentes revoke & by this our lawe sett in full force strength & effect all our generall lawes & all other lawes orders decrees ordinances & constitucions of sewers of the cuntrye both generall & specyall whatsoever which by force of any verdict lawe or other decree or constitucion of sewars was in force or effect the xxth day of May now last past. Item we do further enacte ordeyne decree and establish that all dreynes both mayne dreynes & petty dreynes which were in esse or beinge or were mainteyned or made by any lawes of sewars the xxth day of May now last past shalbe contynued maynteyned & kept by the same lawes & ordinances of sewers as they were before the xxth day of May last past & all lawes orders & constitucions of sewers made for the maintenance & preservacion of the same which were in esse or in force or effect the said xxth day of May shalbe revived stand & remayne in full force & effecte as they were in force the said xxth day of May notwithstandinge any matter or thinge expressed mencioned or declared in the writinge or lawe indented now repealed to the contrary therof. Item we do further revoke & repeale by theis presentes all lawes orders & constitucions of sewers that do make frustrate or voyd any lawe order or decree of sewars either generall or specyall that was in esse or beinge or in force or of effect the said xxth day of May last past or which doth or may in any wise tend to the overthrowe impeachment or decay of any dreyne banck goote or sewer that was in esse or beinge or to be mainteyned & kept by any lawe of sewers within the said partes of south Holland or elsewhere the said xxth day of May

¹ A hand drawn in the margin points to this clause.

now last past. Item we do further enact ordeyne & establish that both high & lowe groundes of Whaplod Holbich & Flete shall passe & be dreyned to the sea by their auntyent & accustomed dreynes and accordinge to the lawes & ordinances that were in esse & in force & effect the said xxth day of May now last past & not otherwise.

[*Signed above seal tags:*] Robert Carre John Walpole Richard Ogle Wylliam Watson John Gamlyn Mathew Gamlyn

[*Endorsed:*] For the south side of Ravensdike repealeing a former law xxx^o Eliz. Holland Elloe 1589 [*sic*] July 14.

For the south side of Ravens Dike repealing a former law. 25. 7.

LAW FOR WYKEHAM IN SPALDING, 1591

[485.X]

745c

(*LINCOLN HOLLAND*) STATUTES lawes orders decrees ordinances and constitucions of sewers made ordeyned established enacted and indented at a sessions of sewers holden at Spaldinge the fourth daie of June in the three and thirtieth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland queene defender of the faith etc. by Roberte Carre Anthony Cope Richard Ogle William Watson Thomas Lambart Mathewe Gamlyn and Mathewe Robinson esquyers Commyssioners of Sewers in the partes and county aforesaid amongst others assigned as followeth viz.

WHERAS Richard Evington of Wikeham within the parrish of Spaldinge at a sessions of the sewers holden at Spaldinge the sixteenth daie of Aprill last past exhibeted a petition unto the courte wherein the said Richard Evington prayed that ther might be a lawe made and established for him, to lay a pipe of lead or a trough of wood or stone in the botham of the seabancke neare unto Broddy Cote, with a sufficyent clowe with a rappitt to be placed at thend of the said pipe or trough towardses the river of Weyland at the bothom of the said seabancke, therby at everye springe tyde to receyve fresh water into his groundes out of the said river of Weiland : the said water to be conveyed to the said bancke in a ditch leadinge from the said river neare the said Broddy cote and so to be taken in at the said clowe through the said pipe or trough to be placed in the said seabancke and so to be conveyed in some ditch unto Cowhurne Dreane, and under the same to be conveyed in the like pipe or trough into the groundes of the said Richard Evington neare and about his howse or into any other his groundes belonginge to Wikeham lyinge in Spaldinge. His which said petition beinge redd in open courte, was by the Commyssioners ther assembled referred to the vewe and consideration of William Davison and others his fellowes of the dikereeves inquest and to John Kaye gentleman & his fellowes of the preter illos inquest then sworne to present defectes within the partes aforesaid. Who after vewe had and taken by them the said severall jurors did give upp their verdictes at Spaldinge this present daie and therin did sett downe that his said petition was very reasonable and requisite to be graunted, aswell for the benefitt of the said Richard Evington as for diverse others who have their groundes next adioyninge to his for the takinge in of fresh water into their said groundes in the sommer tyme for the releife of themselves and their cattle.

The premisses therfore considered by the Commyssioners of Sewers at theis presente sessions of the sewers.

IT IS by them ordred decreed enacted and established that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Richard Evington to lay a pipe of lead in the botham of the said seabancke neare unto Broddy Cote or els to make a trough of bricke or of wood one foote square with a rappitt to be placed as aforesaid at the head therof : therby at everye springe tyde to take fresh water into his groundes out of the said river of Weyland. And that it shalbe lawfull for the said Richard Evington to convey the water out of the said river to the said pipe of lead or trough of wood or stone so placed in the botham of the said seabancke neare unto the said Broddy Cote in a ditch leadinge from the said river directly neare to the said Broddy Cote on the south side therof. The said ditch to be of the bredth of tenn foote and of such depth as to him shall seme good. And so to convey the saide water from the said river through the said pipe or trough taken in at the same clowe to be placed in the said seabanck to be conveyed in some ditch unto Cowhurne Dreane, and under the same to be conveyed in the like pipe or trough into any of his groundes neare unto his dwellinge howse or unto any the groundes of Wikeham as is aforesaid. Provided alwayes that the said Richard Evington and all other occupyers of Wikeham groundes shall at his & their proper costes & charges at all tyme & tymes hereafter uphold mainteyne repaire and kepe the said banckes about the said pipes or troughes together with the pipes or troughes & ditches in sufficyent repaire so as the same seabancke be at no tyme lacerat or in decay or any breach made in the same in any fluddes or surge of waters by reason of the said pipe or trough to the preiudice of any the ingroundes lyinge neare the said seabancke on the east side therof, but if any such should fortune to be, the same forthwith to be anew & sufficyently repaired and made againe within twenty daies next ensuinge after any such breach laceratinge or decay by the said Richard Evington his executors or assignes then fearmors of the said groundes of Wikeham or by the owener therof or any other his tennauntes of the same upon payne of one hundrethe pound to be levyed of his or their goodes or cattelles land or tenementes to hir maiesties use.

IT IS also ordred decreed and enacted by the said Commyssioners that it shall not be lawfull for any person or persons whatsoever to cutt upp or open or cause to be cutt up or opened any banckes or headinges adioyninge upon the groundes of the said Richard Evington belonginge to Wikeham to take from him the water so taken in through the said seabancke without the consent of the said Richard Evington or his assignes or without the consent of any other then occupyers of Wikeham aforesaid.

IN WITNES wherof we the Commyssioners first abovesaid have sette our handes and seales the day and yeare first above written

Jackson¹

[Signed above seal tags:] Robert Carre Richard Ogle Wylliam Watson Thomas Lambarte Mathew Gamlyn Mathewe Robinson

[Endorsed:] Spalding Broadicote tunnell 1592 [sic] xxxiiij^o Eliz. A law for a tunell at Brodecote in Spalding to Mr Evingtonn. 33. Mr. Evington. No. 1. 9.

¹ The clerk.

LAW FOR SUTTON AND TYDD, 1595

[485.XII]

745d

(*Lincoln Holland*) STATUTES lawes orders decrees ordinances and constitucions of sewers made enacted decreed ordeyned indented and established the seaven and twentieth day of August in the seaven and therteth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland quene defender of the faith etc. by William Welby Richard Ogle Anthony Irby Thomas Lambart Elias Brantingham Adlard Welby and Thomas Ogle esquyers Commissioners of Sewers within the partes and county aforesaid amongst others assigned.

FIRST upon viewe had and made by the said Commissioners the same day of diverse defectes within Sutton cum membris & Tydd St Maryes IT IS enacted decreed ordeyned and established by the said Commissioners, that Willowe Dike bancke from the begininge therof at Gannock to the further end of Pryors Feild shalbe sufficiently made and repaired by Thomas Myddleton esq. Frauncis Hall gent. and others the landholders of the severall groundes frontinge theron before the feast of St Michael tharkeangell next upon payne of twentye poundes. And because the said bancke is the more fretted by the contynuall chasinge and rechasinge of cattle in wynter tyme by the inhabitantes of Sutton cum membris and Tydd St Mary IT is further ordred decreed enacted and established that every inhabitant within Sutton and Tydd aforesaid shall pay towards the repaire of the said bancke for this tyme onely for everye messuage in his or their tenures eight pence and for every cottage not havinge above fower acres belonginge to it fower pence, and that the dikereves of either the said townes shall presently collect and gather the same accordinge to warrantes to them to be directed accordingly and make present payment therof to thandes of Thomas Pearson and John Dale who shall see the same expended and make accompt therof at the next session of the sewers to be holden within the partes of Holland upon payne of ten poundes. And that from and after the repairinge of the said bancke accordingly, it is provided decreed enacted and established by the said Commissioners that the landholders of the said severall groundes frontinge on the west side of the said Willowe Dike bancke shall for ever at their owne proper costes and charges sufficiently make repaire and mainteyne the said bancke from tyme to tyme, any lawe statute ordinances or constitucion heretofore made to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstandinge. ¹Provided allwayes that this law shall not in any sorte be prejudiciall or hurtefull to hinder any of their passadge withe their cattle or otherwyse over the sayd bancks as they have so accustomed to do.

AND wheras the groundes in Tydd Fenend are greatly surrounded with water to the great hinderance of all the landholders ther IT IS therfore ordeyned decreed constituted enacted and established by the said Commissioners, that the said water in Tydd Fen shalbe taken into the Shire Dreane at Graynes Hill, and so run in the Shire Dreyne to Tydd Bridge, and ther it shalbe cutt out into the ditch that runeth betwene Mylne Gate and the landes of Mr Adams and Tylnes, and then thwartinge over unto Priors Ditch shall

¹ This sentence has been added after the second paragraph was begun.

fall neare Priors Barne by the spoute into Sutton Litle Eae and at Brodgate into Sutton Great Eae and so to Lutton Gote, all which shalbe done before Michaelmas next at the charges of all the landholders in Tydd by acridge upon payne of twenty poundes PROVIDED alwayes that if the said dreyne be hereafter hurtfull to the landholders in Sutton in any of their groundes that then upon complaynt made to [blank] of the Commissioners of Sewers by the said landholders and certificate therof from the said Commissioners to the said landholders in Tydd had, the said dreyne presently againe to be stopped and then all the banckes and wayes (now to be cutt) then to be made sufficient agayne by the said landholders in Tydd upon payne of twenty poundes.

IT IS further ordred decreed enacted and established by the said Commissioners upon their said viewe, that Hollocke Bancke and Harrold Banck (now beinge in decay) shall forthwith sufficiently be repaired and amended in forme followinge, that is to say, Hollock Banck by thinhabitantes of Tydd St Giles and Newton in the county of Cambridge and Harrold Bancke by the inhabitantes of Parson Drove in Leverington in the said county of Cambridge before the feast of St Michael tharkeangell next. And in the defalt of the said inhabitantes of Tydd St Giles and Newton in not amendinge the said Hollock Bancke accordingly, the dikereves and surveyors of Tydd St Maryes shall presently after the said feast day sett men on worke to repaire sufficiently the said Hollock Bancke so undone. And the dikereves and surveyors of Sutton St Edmundes shall in defalt of thinhabitantes of Parson Drove sufficiently make and repaire the said Harrold Bancke and the said dikereves and surveyors for the doinge therof together with their sallary and wages shall distreyne and make saile of the cattle of any thinhabitantes of that parte that shalbe remysse herein and ought to do the same yeldinge to them the overplus with a bill expressinge the cause of the takinge of their distresse or distresses. Provided alwayes that the said dikereves or surveyors of Tydd St Marye and Sutton St Edmundes shall presently give notice hereof to the said inhabitantes of Tydd St Gyles, Newton, and Parson Drove upon payne of forty poundes.

IN WITNES wherof, the said Commissioners have hereunto sett their handes and seales the day and yeare first above-written

[Signed above seal tags:] W. Welby Richard Ogle Anthony Irby E. Brantingham Thomas Ogle

[Endorsed:] Tid St Maries Willow Dike Banke Hollock Bank Harrold Banke & to dreine unto Shire Dreine at Craines Hill xxxvij^o Eliz. 1596 [sic] Aug.

For Tidd St. Maryes. Tid St. Maries. 11.

DIKEREVEES' ACCOUNTS FOR BICKER, 1579

¹[490.I.13. Mem. 1]

746

Biker Anno domine 1579

Aconnt mayd by Edmund Clowgh and Henry Echeard digraves the xxix day of March and in the xxj yeres of the reng of our sovering lady Elizabeth

¹ This is made up of four paper sheets sewn end to end to form a roll.

by the grace of God of England France and Ireland quene defender of the fayth etc. to ceertain inhabitanc' of Biker beneth subscribed

We the sayd digrawes did receave of the inhabitanc' of Biker one sesment for the reparing and mending one brig going over the comon sure and other nissares which came to the some of iiij li. xvij s. viij d.

Layd out of the sayd some as folowethe	
Imprimis to John Gaes for the stone warke of the brige	xl s.
Item for porterege and toll whe[n] the lime was foche	iiij s.
Item Rychard Chaters for carig	ij s.
Thomas Jackson for the same	iiij s.
Item to the clarke of the sures for the lawes	xx s.
Item for nottyng the sayem	ij s.
Item to one vj dayes and his hors for caring water	iiij s.
Item for brike ij c' d.	ij s. viij d.
Item for caring ij lod stone	xij d.
Item for foching of the brike	viij d.
Item to Tournier, and William Borow Thomas Jackson	
charges and ours at Kime	vj s. viij d.
Item Henry Echerd and John Cortis	vj d.
Item to Henry Echerd for waching the water	vij s. iiij d.
To Rawfe Anderson for maiking the wodwork of the	
brig	iiij s. iiij d.
To John Stringher for caring the wod	vj d.
Summa iiij li. xvij s. viij d.	

We receaved of the digrawes of Donington viij li. for diking of ther lotment in the New Dike beg[inn]ing at Hilpringham Beck and we lad yt out as foloweth in the xx day of Octobor

(Great Hal) Imprimis Willam Kirton	} v rode	iiij s. iiij d.
To John Dea		
To Robert Kirton		
Nicolas Pertrig		
Christofer Benet jun.		

Hillpringham men

[490.I.13. Mem. 2]

747

Helprengham men cum Burton

Simond Robenson	}	vij s. iiij d.
Henry Twelles		
Rychard Wright		
Robert Robenson		
Thomas Robenson		
Sograve and his man		
Edmund Fockingham		
John Smith		
Thomas Benet		
Robert Butlar		
every man one rod		

xxj October Great Hall

Imprimis Thomas Ploumer	}	vj rod	iiij s.
Robert Kirton			
Cristofer Benet			
Willam Kirton			
John Dea			
Nicolas Pertrig			

Hilpringham cum Burton

Rychard Glover	}	xij rod	viij s.
Willam Harnes			
Rychard Robenson			
Thomas Robenson			
John Smith			
Edmund Fockingham			
Robert Robenson			
Rychard Wright			
Henri Twelles			
Thomas Benet			
Adam Higson			
Robert Butlar			

Parvus Hall

Ranold Kint	}	iiij rod	ij s. viij d.
Willam Hirdman			
John Fine			
John Martine			
Robert Lancton of Great Hall			

Biker men

Willam Pender	}	ij rod	xvj d.
John Gouldall			

xxij day Maior Hall

Christofer Benet	}	viij rodes	v s. viij d.
John Dea			
Nicholas Pertrig			
Willam Kirton			
Thomas Plumer			

Minor Hall

Ranold Kint	}	xx rodes	xiiij s. iiij d.
Willam Hirdman			
John Fine			
John Martine			

Burton

Simond Robenson	}	v rod	iiij s. iiij d.
Rychard Glover			
Thomas Robenson			
Robert Walker			
Michill Lawe			

[490.I.13. Mem. 3]

747 bis

Helpringham

John Smith
 Edmund Fockingham
 Robert Robenson
 Willam Harnis
 Thomas Benet
 Adam Higson
 Willam Diconson
 Rychard (?) Inge
 Anthony Higson

}
 ix rod

vjs.

Willam Plummer

j rod

viij d.

Item when we went to here men to dik the dick in Keston
 our charges

vj d.

xxiiij day Great Hall

Christofer Benet
 Willam Kirton
 John Dea
 Thomas Plummer
 Nicolas Pertrig

}
 xx rod

xiiij s. iiij d.

Helpringham

Thomas Benet
 Adam Higson
 Anthony Higson
 Edmund Fockingham
 Thomas Grenger
 Thomas Basse
 John Kirton
 Robert Butlar
 Willam Harnis
 Edmund Faullar
 Rychard Wright
 John Smith
 Edmund Fockingham
 Thomas Higson
 Rychard Robenson

}
 xv rodes

xs.

Burton

Simond Robenson
 Thomas Robenson
 Robert Walker
 Rychard Glover
 Michell Lawe

}
 vj rodes

iiij s.

Maior Hall

Hughe Smith

iij rod

ijs.

Bicker men		
Willam Pender	}	
Frances Pender		
John Goludall		
Rychard Simson		
Thomas Lapman		v rod
		iiij s. iiij d.
John Gouldall	}	j rod
Henry Echerd		vj rodes
		viiij d.
		iiij s.
xxv Biker		
Willam Pender	}	
John Gouldal		iiij rodes
		ij s. iiij d.
Burton		
		748
[490.I.13. Mem. 4]		
Simond Robenson	}	
Thomas Robenson		
Robert Wallker		
Rychard Glover		
Michell Law		v rod
		iiij s. iiij d.
Helpringham		
John Smith	}	
Rychard Robenson		
Thomas Heapes		
Rychard Wright		
Robert Robenson		
Willam Harnis		
Willam Diconson		
Adam Higson		
George Kirton		x rodes
		vj s.
xxvij day Biker men		
Willam Pender	}	
John Gouldall		
Frances Pender		xxj rodes
Henry Echerd		iiij rodes
		xiiiij s.
		ij s. viij d.
Helpringham		
John Smith	}	
Edmund Fockingham		xiiiij rodes
Henry Echerd		xvj rod
		ix s. iiij d.
		x s. viij d.
Hall		
Robert Lancton and his brother		viiij rod
Hughe Smith		vj rodes
		v s. iiij d.
Willam Kirton	}	
John Dea		
Nicolas Pertrig		iiij rod
		ij s. viij d.
Henry Echerd		iiij rodes in the (?) rowth
		ij s.
Item for writing up the bokes		ij s.
Summa vij li. xix s. x d.		

Receyved for minewarkes	
In primis of Water Cair	vj d.
Item of John Balye	ijs.
Item of John Bidail	ijs.
Item more of Walter Cair	xvj d.
Item of Edmund Chambers	ijs.
Item of Henry Rycson	ijs. vj d.
Item of John Fene	. . . ¹
Item of Robert Ingbody	. . . ¹
Summa xij s. viij d.	
Paid of the money . . . as foloweth	
In primis to . . .	
Item to . . .	
[Endorsed:] Accts 1579 Byker xxj ^o E. Regine	

DIKEREVEES' ACCOUNTS FOR LEAKE, 1592

[490.I.14]

748a

(Leake) A true and perfect accompte of Richard Gregbye and Thomas Goodwyn dygrave[s] for the said towne of Leake in the yere of our lord 1592 of all levyes graunted and money receaved and by them in or about theie[r] said offyce dispused dispended or defrayed in the said yere of our lord 1592.

Inpr' receaved of John Anthonye and John Bawtree adm' of Silvester Bawtree digraves for the said towne of Leake for the yere of our lord 1591. three pounds eight pence.

iij li. viij d.

Item receaved by vertue of a levye awarded the xxiiijth daye of Maye in the yer 1592 towards the needfull repaire and amendement of the sea goat after the rate of on pennye le acre.

xiiij li. xvij d. ob.

Item receaved by vertue of a levye and warrant awarded at the sessions of the sewers holden at Spaldinge the last daye of June in the yere of our lord 1592 for the needfull & further repayre of the said goate after the rate of on pennye le acre.

xiiij li. xvij d. ob.
xxij d.

Item received more of theis ij levies.

[490.I.14d]

Item receaved for wood sold to Mr. Aldye

vijs. vj d.

Item of William Knight for certen tyle left

vijs.

Item of the churchwardens of Leake for certen wood sold unto them

v s.

Item of Robert Pinchbeck for chiepyes

xvj d.

Summa tot' recept'

xxx li. vj s. v d.

And behinde remayning in the hands of the said digraves unbestowed

iiij li. vj s. ij d.

¹ The foot of this sheet is torn away.

[490.I.15]

A true note howe all the rest of the monye wase bestowde that we recayde in our yeare of ij d. acre.

First layd oute to the same daye to towe worke men that came to se our worke

viiij d.

And paid the xxiiij daie of May for a warand to Mr. Jackson

vj s.

And the same daye for our charids

ij s. iiij d.

And laid oute the xvj day of June to Rychard Lounde for woid we bought of him

xls.

And for our owne chareds

viiij d.

And for the wyndr' to laide with

xij d.

And for mete and drinke & toule

xviiij d.

And paid to Edward Bawtre for wrytting the lattbooke

xxj s.

And payd to Lyon Foyntte for woyde we bought of him

xxx s.

v li. iijs. ij d.

[490.I.15d]

And for our owne charedes

xij d.

And for the wyndr' to loid with

xij d.

And paid to Thomas Bawtre for his chart to the woid

ij s. iiij d.

And to John Collynwoid for the same

ij s. iiij d.

And given to Snele then he came to se our gote

vj d.

And payd to Thomas Anddrowe for iiijti paille post & rayle

iiij li. vj s. viij d.

And for our own charedus

xij d.

And in breid & drinck then thay ware fexte

vj d.

And paid for a newe warand

vj s.

And for the enterying our new boukes

xs.

And laid out for mete & drynke of Loraund Ranlawall then he came to se our gote

xij d.

And paid for our vardyt wrytting

vj d.

And for the recaynedying yt

ijs.

And to Wynbycht for his (?) fyse

xij d.

v li. xvs. xd.

[490.I.16]

And to Wylliam Fyn for his wyne to the woyde

ijs. iiij d.

And of our selest then we feyhte the woyd

xij d.

And paid to Adlard Julane Rychard Came and Hendry

Ranshow for makying a dame at the Borow Brycke & cottyng up towe at the gott

viiij d.

And payd for vj chalder of lyme

xxx s.

And to the parters for the loydyng yt

iiij s.

And for the mesering yt

vj d.

And for meat & drynke of them that fysete yt

xviiij d.

And for tow nates to (?) hille yt

vj d.

And paid to Hendery Parker & to Rychard Bonnd for menddyng the greit dame

vj d.

And to Wylliam Knyght for his cort

viiij d.

And to Lynnard Pyckern for his cart to the woyde

ijs. iiij d.

xls. iiij s.

[490.I.16d]

And paid to Wylliam Norton tene dais workes x d. a daie

viij s. iiij d.

And to Edward Brought for ix dais x d. a daie

vijs. vj d.

And paid to George Snelle for vij dais and a halfe xij d. a daie

vijs. vj d.

And for his man vij dais di.

v s. ix d.

And for his sonne ij dais

xx d.

And paid to Thomas Johnson for one daie

viij d.

And to Wylliam Bushe for tow dais

xvj d.

And to Martayn Haward tow dais

xvj d.

And to Rychard Clarke for tow dais

viij d.

And of dryncke of them

vj d.

And lad out of our selese that weake

xij d.

And paid for a chelder of lyme

vijs. vj d.

And to Thomas Brought for him & his brother

xiiij s. vj d.

And to Gorge Snelle for vj dais worke & iij nyght and his tow men

xx s. x d.

iij li. xix s. j d.

[490.I.17]

And to Rychard Clarke for towe nyght

xiiij d.

And to Ab. Bawtre for his chart to the woid tow times

iiij s. viij d.

And to Rychard Peryn for vj dais

v s.

And to Wylliam Rowsoth for vij dais & a halfe

v s.

And laid out for mete and drynck that nyght that thay sold the gote

xviij d.

And laid out to Robard Panson for tow dais

xxij d.

And for tow syeftes

vj d.

And paid to wydow Bushe for hir chart to Boston for lyme

xvj d.

And to Robart Dowse for the same

xvj d.

xxijs. iiij d.

[490.I.17d]

Ittm paid to Rychard Bonde

viij d.

And paid to Wylliam Bushe for his charte for lyme

xvj d.

And to Mr. Jackson for the abstrykes

ijs.

And paid to Wylliam Knyght for his charte to the woyde

ijs. iiij d.

And to Gorge Sneelle for ix dais worke him self & thre men

xxix s.

And to Wylliam Lambord for vij dais viij d. a day & one nyght

v s. iij d.

And bestowd of them then¹ thay had (?) doyses in drynke

vj d.

And paid to Wylliam Rowforthe xij dais & nyght workes

viij s.

And paid to Wylliam Julian for xiiij dais & nyght and for a skepe to (?) harse with all

viij s. viij d.

And paid to John Dowdycke for xv dais & iiij nyght

xijs. iiij d.

iij li. x s. j d.

¹ Words "thay had" are cancelled.

[490.I.18]

Ittm paid to Thomas Burton fo[r] making of viij gret
nales

viij d.

And paid to Wylliam Norton for xv dais x d. a daie

xij s. vj d.

And paid to Rychard Maram for one daie

viij d.

Payd to Rychard Pyryn for xij days iij nyght

xj s.

And payd to Martyn Havard for vj dais

iiij s.

And paid to Rychard Clarke xj dais worke

vijs. iiij d.

And paid to Rycharde Clay for xiiij dais & one nyght

x s.

And paid to Thomas Pereson for iij dais x d. a day

ijs. vj d.

And paid to Robart Ourton for his charte twyste to the
woode and once to Boston for lyme

vj s.

And paid to John Collynwode for his chart to Boston for
lyme

xvj d.

lvjs. some ys xxiiij li. x s. x d. [sic]

[490.I.18d]

And paid to the towne of Sebsaye for our waye

iij d.

And paid to Alxcunder Grebbie for tow dais worke at the
cryake

xvj d.

And paid to Bennite Panson for thre dais at the same
tyme

ijs.

And paid to Gorge Panson for there dais at the same
tyme

ijs.

And paid to Rychard Grebbie for his mane towe dais

xvj d.

And paid to the same Rychard for thre skore thacke

xij d.

And for his wane to leade the thacke to the gote & for
towe dais that that [sic] lede the pales

iiij s.

And paid to Thomas Goodwyne for his chart twyste to
the woyd & one to Boston & one daye that he lead wode
from Lerton to the got

vijs. iiij d.

[490.I.19]

Ittm to Wylliam Norton for one days worke then the gote
endins was paid up

x d.

And to Thomas Brought fo[r] the same for towe daies

xx d.

xxj s. ix d.

xxv li. xij s. iij d.

And paid to Rychard Grebbie the xv daie of Januery for
tow man one day to chelne the cryke

xvj d.

And paid to Wylliam Norton for towe daie & a halfe

ijs.

And to Martayn Havard for one daie & a halfe

xij d.

And paid to Rychard Southe for one skepe that was
broken

vj d.

And paid to Rychard Grebbie for his man one daie & a
halfe

xij d.

And paid to Edward Browght for one daie & a halfe

xiiij d.

And to John Dowdyck

xij d.

vij s.

[490.I.19d]

And so the some of the mony that ys bestowste by us
comes to xxvj li. iij d.

xxvj li. iij d.

And recaivyd of Mr. John Bawtre then we entred

iij li. viij d.

And sould to Edward Alday one stake for

vij s. vj d.

And sould to Wylliam Knyght ceartayn tayle for

vij s.

And sould to the charche masters of Leake certayn woid
for

vs.

And to Robart Pynbyck chypes

xvj d.

[490.I.20]

This accompt was sene perused & allowed for a true and perfect accompt
the xvj day of Aprill Anno 1593 by the inhabitants of Leake whose hands are
hereunder subscribed viz.

Roberte Chapman

Per me Abraham Bawtre

By me Williame Fayn

Raiffe Pell

[*Mark of*] William Orpin

Edward Bawtree

Per me William Busshe

[*Mark of*] William Hopster

[*Mark of*] William Garnett

Handre Knape

Robart Addisom

Thomas Bawtre

[*Mark of*] William Atkinson

Thomas Stephenson

By me Rychard Greane

By me John (?) Raynoyd

[*Mark of*] Roger Pyckbeck

This accompt seene and allowed by me

William Rigdon John Reade

[490.I.20d]

Paid by the said digraves since the day of makinge this there accompt thes
somes followinge

First paid & alowed to Richard Grebby for his carte &
ij men ij daies

iiij s.

Item to the said Richard to paid to the clarke of sewers
for receivinge this accompt

ijs.

Item to Thomas Goodwin for a soe

xij d.

[490.I.21, 22 recto blank]

[490.I.22d]

Compts Leake de Anno 1592

Richard Gregbye

Thomas Goodwin

} prepositor'

ACRE BOOK FOR LUTTON, 1597

¹[453.XI.1-4]*Part printed*

749-753

[As this document is merely a list of names and holdings, the first two membranes only are printed to show its character. The third membrane, 751, contains "the copyhoulde acarr booke for Lutton in Sutton", 1597, complementing 750. Membrane 4, which is undated, contains on the recto (752) "the freholde acrebooke of Lutton in Sutton"; this concludes: "Summa acarar' ij^cv^{xx}xij. Summa soluc' xxix s. iiij d." On the dorse (753) are the copyhold entries, concluding: "Summa acarar' ccccxviiij. Summa soluc' xxj s. ij d." This membrane is in a different hand from the rest and must be earlier in date, since in three instances holders of land named in it are in 1597 stated to be represented by heirs.]

[453.XI. Mem. 1]

749

The frehoulde acarr booke for Lutton
side in St JamesThe copyhoulde acarr booke for
Lutton side in St James

Imprimis Henr' Skinner

Idem

iiij acr. iiij rodes

gent.

v acr. di.

Thomas Digle

iiij acr. di.

Idem

xiiij acr.

Robert Elme

ij acr. di.

William Elme

iiij acr. di.

Raphe Wright

v acr.

Idem

iiij acr.

Richard Hodgson

ix acr. di.

Henry Wright

ij acr.

Idem

ix acr.

Feoffes of Sutton

ij acr.

William Welbye arm.

viiij^{xx}

xiiij acr.

Idem

xix acr.

Richard Raynton

iiij acr.

Thomas Pearson

viiij acr.

William Riggden arm. iure uxoris

xviiij acr. iiij rodes

Richard Graunt iure uxoris

x acr.

The fee of Castellacar

iiij acr.

Anthony Edmonde

viiij acr.

Idem

viiij acr.

The schole of Spaldinge

ij acr.

Idem

xxv acr.

John Bladwinge

xxiiij acr.

Idem

xxx acr.

Thomas Baytman

vij acr.

Idem

xvj acr.

Richard Blancke senior

x acr. di.

Idem

xliij acr.

Richard Marchante senior

j acr. di.

Idem

xviij acr.

William Wylsbye iure uxoris

v acr.

Idem

vj acr.

Simon Blancke

v acr.

Idem

v acr.

Richard Briggges iure uxoris

v acr. di.

Idem

xj acr. iiij rodes

The manner of Bardlinges

xliij acr.

John Negall

vj acr.

Idem

xv acr.

William Danyell

v acr.

Theirs of Hugh Northen

viiij acr.

The poore of St James

iiij acr.

¹ This consists of four parchment membranes fastened together at the top and rolled. Entries on the first membrane are in two columns; the remainder are entered in a single column.

Thomas Howell iure uxoris			vij acr.
Richard Thomson			ij acr.
Richard Baldwerr			xvij acr. iij rodes
William Rawlett iure uxoris			iiij acr.
Thomas Alderson	vj acr.	Idem	x acr.
Thomas Kinge			x acr.
Richard Scholye			ij acr.
John Wright			xj acr. iij rodes
John Puttrell senior	ij acr.	Idem	xxij acr.

[453.XI. Mem. 2]

750

The frehoulde acarr booke for Lutton in Sutton maid anno domini 1597
as followeth

Imprimis theires of Jo: Derlove	ij acr.
Richard Jackson	j acr.
John Puttrell junior	vij acr. di.
William Conye gent.	iiij acr.
Thomas Smyth iure uxoris	iiij acr.
The chappell of Lutton	j acr. di.
Thomas Browne senior	iiij acr.
Robert Hyll senior	ix acr. di.
Thomas Conye	iiij acr. di.
Thomas Pearson junior	xj acr.
Thomas Wyllson	iiij acr.
William Daye	viiij acr. di.
Simon Egarr	v acr.
William Browne	vij acr.
John Putterell senior	vij acr. di.
Robert Robertson	j acr. di.
Nicholas Bennett iure uxoris	xv acr. di.
Gregorye Maye filii Laur' Maye	j acr.
Barnard Reade	j acr.
Anthonye Edmond	j acr.
John Rylaye	xij acr. di.
Richard Maye	j acr.
Robert Ashton	iiij acr.
Richard Wyllyson	xvij acr.
John Ashton senior	j acr.
Catherine Elwarde	iiij acr.
Robert Carr arm.	vj acr.
Nicholas Ryndge	j acr.
John Sowterr	vij acr.
Raphe Wright	iiij acr.
The poore of Sutton	vj acr.
Adlarde Welbye gent.	xxiiij acr.
Richard Hodgson pro ter' annorum	ij acr.
The fee of Castellacarr	j acr.
Rich. Smyth pro ter' annorum	xj acr.
Henrye Skynner gent.	vij acr.

Thomas Fraunces	vj acr.
Fraunces Shackson gent. iure uxoris	xviiij acr.
Thomas Diglee	iiij acr.
William Elme	xxij acr. di.
Robert Elme	xxiiij acr. di.
John Grubb pro ter' annorum	ij acr. di.
Thomas Allyn gent.	xviiij acr.
Chantry of Sutton	xvj acr.
Feoffes of Sutton	xiiij acr.
Thomas Waters	dimid' acr.
John Jackson	dimid' acr.
William Hyll	iiij acr.
Robert Hyll junior	ij acr. di.
Richard Porey iure uxoris	dimid' acr.
Henrye Deynes	dimid' acr.
William Byllinge	j acr. di.

LETTERS, 1586-1592

[506.65-79]

754-773

[The file from which these letters are taken consists of quires from one or more paper books, mainly in a single hand of the mid-seventeenth century. They include copies of a variety of documents relating to sewers: statutes; charges delivered to sewers juries; abstracts of leading cases; a list of the indented laws of sewers in the custody of Robert Jackson, Clerk of Sewers in 1607; and a list of contents of the "Black Book", a register now lost which may have been compiled by John Jackson, Clerk of Sewers from 1586 to 1607. One item in the Black Book was "Letters of severall occurrences in matters of sewers", and this was perhaps the source of the letters here printed. There are some later marginal notes which have not been transcribed.]

[506.65]

I

754

The Earle of Sussex 15^o Augusti 1586.

To the Commissioners of Sewars my very loving freinds within Holland in Lincolnshire, give these.

After my hearty commendations, whereas I wrote unto you in my former letters, that you should forbear to cut through my marsh grounds for the drayning of your lands: for that I did perceyve, that it should be no benefit or commodity to me, but that my grounds should still be surrounded: the profit thereof onely redounding more unto others then unto me and myne; of the which letters I as yett harde no aunswere from you. And whereas I since understande, that you have made a lawe, that the drayne for Spalding and Weston, should be perfected, through my marsh grounds: and that as well the lowe grounds as the high should pay equally ij d. an acre, whereas ever heretofore the lower grounds hath payed but a penny the acre; which is no indifferency: these are eftsounds to will and require you, that you surcease and make stay aswell of the said determinacon of cutting through my grounds for the perfecting of your draynes, as also for such imposition upon the tenants, untill I shall be there my selfe to veiwe it: or some of my

officers to take order for the same: otherwise I shall be forced to complayne to them that shall see a redresse thereof: and so marveyling that I have receyved no aunswere from you of my former letters, I committ you to God: from the Courte at Windsore this 15th of August 1586. Your loving freinde H. Sussex.

II

755

The Lord of Burleigh 20^o August 1586.

To my very loving freinds, Mr Robert Carre the younger, and other Commissioners of the Sewars in the county of Lincoln as shall appertayne.

After my very harty commendations: where I understand by your letters, that Richard Coventry late clarke of the sewars for the parts of Holland and Kesteven is departed this life: whereby you are destitute of one to supply that place: for which purpose you have signified unto me, your good liking of this bearer John Jackson, as a meete man to succede in that office: having beene imployed sundry tymes in those affayres in the absence of Coventree: I thought good hereby to lett you understande my concurrence with you in the liking of the said Jackson: the rather for his experience sake: whereby he shall be the better able to discharge the place: requiring you to provide for the further establishing of him in that office as shall appertayne: and so I bidde you heartily farewell: at my howse in Westminster this xxth of August: 1586: your loving freinde William Burghley.

III

756

The Earle of Lincoln 19^o Augusti 1586.

To my very loving freinds Mr Robert Carre the younger: and other the Commissioners of the Sewars in the county of Lincolne as shall appertayne.

After my very harty commendations: where I understande that Richard Coventry late clarke of the sewars for the parts of Holland, and Kesteven, is departed this [506.66] life: whereby you are destitute of one to supply that place: and whereas you have signified unto my Lord Treasurer by your letters that this bearer John Jackson my servant is a meete man to succede in that office, having beene imployed sundry tymes in those affaires in the absence of Coventree: of whome my Lord Treasurer hath conceyved liking: and to that ende hath directed his letters unto you for the establishing of him in that office: I likewise have thought good to signifye unto you that I doe thinke him very fitt to have the same: and have graunted him my good will therein: accordingly requiring you to proceede for the further placing of him in the said office, as to you shall appertayne: and so I bid you hartily farewell: from my howse in Chanon Rowe this 19th of August 1586: your loving freinde: Hen: Lincolne:

IV

757

The Lord of Burleigh Lord Treasurer: 5^o Julii 1588.

To my very loving freinds the Commissioners of Sewars, for the limitts of South Hollande in the county of Lincolne: and to every of them as shall appertayne.

After my very hartye commendations: where there hath beene of late tyme some controversy among you in matters of Sewars about the drayning of certayne low grounds on the south side of Ravens-Dike: wherein there was

an order taken heretofore by my selfe and others of her Majesties Privy Counsell, upon hearing of both parts : that a tryall should first be had of the auncient course by Whaploade Goate, by perfecting of the said goate, and the mayne sewar thereto belonging : which was by that order to be veiued, and judged of by certayne Commissioners specially nominated on either side : who (as I understand) did dissent in opinions upon theyr veiue : and so the matter remayneth still in question among you : which I heartily wish were growen to some good accomde : and forasmuch as I am given to understande, that the making of a perfect platt of South Hollande : and of all the sewars bankes, draynes, and divisions, is to be committed to Mr Hexam, a man of very good understanding and skill in that facultye : aswell for the better deciding of this present controversy, as for any other the like that might happen hereafter : I wish he were assisted therein, by all the good meanes that may be, because I perswade my selfe he will performe it very sufficiently : and for that purpose, I have written to him in very earnest manner : requiring him to have the moore care of doing it with all indifferency : that if the difference which is among you, should still continue, the matters wherein you dissente, being brought to some poynte of issewe, it may be the moore easily discerned, which opinion is more approoveable and agreeable to the truth : whereby the matter might more readily receyve some finall ende : and those unkindnesses cease, which are growne thereby, to the hinderance of her Majesties [506.67] service otherwise, as may be doubted in these tymes of unquietnesse : whereof I have cause to take care : and therefore doe wish and advise you to have regard thereof accordingly : and so bid you right hartily farewell : from my howse at Westminster this 5th of July 1588 : your loving freinde : William Burghley.

V

758

9^o Julii 1588.

To Mr Jackson, Clarke of Sewars.

Whereas it is purposed by the Commissioners of Sewars within South Holland, that a levell shall be taken of all the draynes within the precincts thereof : according to the effect of letters by the right Honble. the Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer of England to them directed : and in that it is thought to us the commissioners underwritten very needfull : that the outfall in the Shire Goate, should be fully experienced : and certayne woorkes within the Shire Drayne, and so towards Leeze Yates, this yeare performed, towards the manifesting of the levell, and descents of that drayne, and the perfectnes of the outfall : it is therefore established ordayned and decreed, that an acreshott of two pence the acre, shall be forthwith awarded against all the landholders of the grounds of the south side of Ravens Dike, betweene Whaplode Seadike, and Gedney Delph : and against the landholders of Little Porsent within the severall townes of Whaplode, Holbeech, Fleete, and Croyland : and that a warrant to that effect shall be foorthwith graunted and awarded unto John Joyce, Symon Browne, and Abraham Sommers appointed dikereeves for the needefull woorkes about the said draynes : dated at Whaploade this ixth of July 1588.

Edward Heron ; George Carleton ; R. Worme ; James Claypoole ; Anthony Irby ; Thomas Welby ; John Colvill ; Robt. Wingfeilde.

17^o October 1588.

To my freinde John Jackson these:

John Jackson, I receyved your letters and the warrants: which warrants I have signed: I would touching the rate, that you conferre with Mr Ogle: and my sonne Walpoole: and what rate they doe sett downe I will be contented withall: but I thinke it meete, that every towne be rated, seing it is the Counsell's pleasures, that the plott be made of the whole country: thus fare you well: Aswarby the 27th of October 1588, your freinde Robt. Carre:

I doubt whether they will be contented with 10^{li} a peice as you have written: if they will, then for this tyme, the smaller rate will suffice.

29^o October 1588.

To my freinde John Jackson.

Mr Jackson, I am sorry the proceedings in this action is so backwards: but for my poore opinion, I think it beste seeing the intendment is, To have a platt of the whole country, That the rate be sett downe as we agreed at Spalding, levying an ob. of every acre: the money payable to your selfe. Thus in haste I bidde you farewell:

29^o October 1588. Your freinde Richard Ogle.

[506.68]

16^o December 1588.

To all Maiors, Sheriffes, Justices of the Peace, Constables, Headeborroughs, and all other Her Majesty's Officers, and loving subiects, as it may concerne, and every of them:

Whereas the bearer hereof John Jackson gent., is with all speede to make his repayre to the towne of Spalding in Lincolnshire about Her Majesty's speciall service: These are therefore to will and commande you in Her Majesty's name, to see him and his guyde to be furnished from place to place with sufficiente poste horses at usuall and ordinary prices: and hereof not to fayle: as you will aunswere the contrary at your perills: from the Courte at Greeneweich this xvith day of December 1588:

Christofer Hatton Canc.: William Burghley.

19^o February 1588 [i.e. 1589]. Mr Edmond Hall:

To his very freind Mr Jackson, Clarke of the Sewars in Spalding, deliver these.

Mr Jackson in my heartiest wise I have me commended unto you. At my being at Spalding, you did promise me, that I should have had my booke delivered me, which I lent unto Coventree your predecessor: But being so sicke at my comming from Spalding, I had no minde to sende to you for my booke: I have sent unto you since by diverse for the said booke, But yett I have it not. Wherefore I pray you deliver it to William Beaver the bearer hereof: The booke is of the lawes made at Stamforde, as I remember by the Earle of Lincoln that deade is, My Lord Treasurer that now is, Mr Bartye and sundry other Commissioners for the Sewars: In the penning of which

lawes, the Lord Treasurer that now is, in sundry places hath written his minde with his owne hande: I pray you in any wise sende it me by this bearer; whose hande sett to this my letter, acknowledging the receipt thereof shall be to you a sufficient discharge for the same; Thus I bid you most heartily farewell: Written from Gretforth the 19th of February 1588: Your freinde Edmond Hall.

Receyved of the clarke of the sewars one booke of the Lawes of Sewars for Mr Edmonde Hall: William Beaver.

X

763

The Lord Chancelor The Lord Treasurer Secretary Walsingham 7^o Augusti 1588.

To our very loving freinds Sir Edward Montague, Sir Edward Dimooke, and Sir John Peiton Knights: Robert Bevill, Thomas Cotton, and Vincent Welby Esquires and to every of them.

After our very hearty commendations: where there hath beene some controversy of late tyme, and yet is depending, betwixt certayne Commissioners of Sewars in the county of Lincoln, about the drayning of Little Porsend, and certayne lowe grounds on the south side of Ravens Dike in the townes and parishes of Whaploade, Holbeech, and Fleete in the parts of South Hollande—some of them allowing of the course of the auntiant draynes extending from south to north: as sufficiente for the drayning of the said lowe grounds, in conveniente sorte respecting the townes of theyr scituation: others pretending to drayne the same by a new cutt, to passe in vaults, crossing all the sewars betwixt Whaploade and the Shire Drayne, by weste and easte: and to fall out at the Shire Goate: which hath beene impugned on the other parte by many allegations of sundry inconveniencies to growe thereby [506.69] aswell by diverting the heade of theyr waters from theyr accustomed goats: which should maynteyne theyr outfalls: as by surcharging theyr hamletts of St James, and St Edmonds members of Sutton, being a very lowe bottome as is alledged, with greate abundance of socke, to the danger of surrounding the said hamletts: with many other arguments besides: which on the other side is as confidently avowed, that the same may be provided for in every respecte: wee understanding this division in opinion: and being desirous to be duly informed of the truth in all things concerning this controversy: and to have the same speedily brought to some good accorde: have for that purpose thought good, to direct these our letters unto you: very earnestly, and heartily praying you, that forasmuch as you are nominated by the mutuall assents of certayne of the gentlemen on each parte, as persons to whose judgements and reports they are contente to refer themselves touching this difference that is amongst them: you would agree of some tyme of meeting about the latter ende of September, to understande the cause in question betwixt them: and aswell by your owne veiwe and perambulation: as by conference with the Commissioners of theyr different opinions: and hearing theyr allegations on eyther parte, and of others the inhabitants of those parts: to consider of both the courses as they shall be sett forth unto you: for your better information wherein, and to the intente you might be the better instructed in all the particularities to be considered in such a cause: for that there may be some impediments: that you can not well take

perfect veiwe of all places your selves: there are two persons of good faculty and skill, John Hexam, and Ralphe Agars gent. appointed likewise by assent of both partyes to make a perfect platt of south Holland, and of the confines thereof, and of all bankes, goates, clowes, sluces, shutts, sewars, draynes, and divisions whatsoever: with the severall discents and ascents of the waters therein: which we heartily pray you, throughly to consider of, and to examine, that you may thereby the rather conceyve the arguments on each parte, and discern which of the two courses, you shall hold more conveniente, and approoveable for the generall state of the country: with least damage or detriment to any: wherein if happily you can by your wisdomes make any good ende and accorde to the contentation of both parts, we would be very glad thereof: otherwise our desire is to be advertised from you, of your proceedings, together with your opinions, eyther jointly or severally touching this controversye: especially for the said two different courses: before the feaste of All Saynts: to the intent, there may be some finall order taken therein, for the inconveniencies that may growe by these divisions: and so we bid you right hartily farewell: from the Court at St James this vijth of August 1588: your loving freinds: Chr: Hatton Canc.: William Burghley: Francis Walsingham.

XI

764

Sir Edward Dymooke 24: Augusti 1588.

To the right woorshipfull my very loving freinds Robt. Carre, John Walpoole, Richard Ogle, and William Watson, Esquires or any of them:

After my most hearty commendations: whereas I have receyved from you, a copy of the letters of Her Majestyies [506.70] honorable Privy Counsell, to me and others directed, for the understanding of the causes in question, betwixt you and Mr Carleton, about the drayning of Little Porsend: and for the better knowledge thereof, that a tyme be sett downe about the latter ende of September, for our meeting, veiwing, and understanding, the allegations of all partyes concerning the same: and so to certifie our opinions thereof: and whereas it hath pleased you, by your letters to request my company in Hollande about the same: you desiring to knowe by this bearer, what tyme my comming thither will be: I thought good to certifie you by these presents: that albeit my businesse fall out wonderfull greate at that tyme, by reason of Michaelmas drawing on, and Michaelmas Tearme: yett being a matter concerning the country so greatly, as I understande by many it doth: and for that I perceyve, our travells may tende to your Quietnesse: to whome as many wayes above desart being greatly beholding, I have bounde my loving affections, and vowed my travell in what I shall knowe may pleasure you, being the utmost recompense I can yeilde you, for your speciall good-wills: first that I will not (God giving me health) fayle your requeste: then, for that I knowe not the place, and cannot therefore appoint any place conveniently neare to the same, I will referre the meeting place unto your good appointments: and if it will please you, that we may have St Matthias Day being the xxjth of September when we may meete: the next day being Sunday, in the after noone, you and wee may have some conference before the veiwe: then may wee proceede to the veiwe upon Moonday being the xxiiijth of the same monthe; desiring you, that you forgett not, to give John Hexam

and Ralphe Agars gent., warning to be at the veiwe according to the tenor of theyr Lordships letters: and as I shall heare from you of the place of our meeting betwixt the date of these presents, and the said xxjth of September, so will I addresse my selfe to attende on you: So with my most hearty commendations, I committ you to God this xxiiijth of Auguste, 1588. Yours, ever ready in what I may: Ed. Dymooke.

XII

765

Mr Edmond Hall. 19^o February 1588 [i.e. 1589].

To the Woorshipfull and his very good freinds Mr Robt. Carre: Mr Rich. Ogle: Mr Thomas Lambarte: Mr William Rigdon: Mr Watson: Esquires: and others the Queenes Majesties Commissioners for the Sewars, within the parts of Hollande, Deliver this:

In my hartiest wise I give me commended unto you, being very sorry that I dare not adventure to travell into Hollande, to be at the giving up of the verdict: and for making of lawes for the performance of the said verdict, as shall be most conveniente both for our country, and yours: and for the drayning of Deeping Fen; which now is so sore surrounded, as is to the utter undoing of the inhabitants in St James Deeping, Markett Deeping, Weste Deeping, Tallington, Baston, and Langtofte: if that remedy therefore be not had; whereof I doubt not, but that you will have care for the reliefe of both the Countryes, to make such lawes as may doe them both [506.71] good: but truly our Kesteven men thinke, that if the inhabitants of Spalding and Pinchbeck may have theyr wills, the auntiant draynes which have beene made paste the tymes of any mans remembrance for dreyning of the said fens, are so misused by the inhabitants in Hollande: that they cannot have theyr course, as by the lawes of the sewars they ought to have: nor yett will not agree for the reformation thereof:

First Starfen-goate, which by the Lawes of the Sewars, is an auntiant drayne, and ought to run three foote water above the soile of Gallow-goate: and that all purprestures in the said drayne to be plucked up, so as it should run at a certayne widenesse according to the lawes of the sewars: but as I am informed there are diverse bridges made upon the said drayne, betweene Starfen-goate, and Gallow-goate: whereby the drayne is greatly straytened: and whereas by the lawes of the sewars, the inhabitants in Spalding and Pinchbeck, ought to make and erect theyr bankes on both sides of the said drayne, as the water out of the fen might passe by the said drayne to Gallow-goate: and there to run three foote above the soile of the said goate: the drayne now is diked so deepe, that the water standeth at Gallow-goate, above two foote under the soile of the same contrary to the lawe: and the bankes of both sides be so abated, as the water cannot run one foote above the soile of Gallow-goate, but that it must needes overflow the bankes, as I am informed: which is to be reformed by you, according to the auntiant Lawes, or else there can no water passe that way, as it ought to doe, which if it be not reformed by your meanes; this country must be fayne to seeke some other remedy by such as are of higher authority, that may give such orders as may be beneficiall for both the Countryes:

And also whereas lawes were made about xxty yeares past or more, for the making of the goates, of Old Holme, and New Holme: and the goates to be

shutt to keepe out the salt water out of the fen, which then did flowe of a good height much above those goates: and also Symkin Dam, and other draynes, that fell out of Welland, were by that lawe stopped up, to the ende the salt water should not come into the fen: now the sea is so gone from us, as it is confessed by the inhabitants of Spalding, that the sea doth not flowe except it be twice by the yeare, not to the windmill: wherefore our country men, thinke it most conveniente, that the goates of Old Holme, and New Holme to be taken away: and also that a new jetty be made in the banke, betweene the said goates and Spalding, for the waters of the fen to fall into Welland: and also some other jettyes to be made in some other of the most aptest places of the said banke, for the more speedy passage for the water out of the fen into Welland: to the amendment of theyr outfall, and more speedy drayning of the fen: which is not onely agreed unto by the jurors in the high country, but also by the moste of your countrye, saving a few persons as is sayed: what they meane by it, God knoweth, I doe not.

766

And also where there is five principall draynes, to carry the water which falleth into the fen, from the high country: from Baston, Langtofte, Markett Deeping, and St James Deeping, to Crosse-Lake: and so likewise in the said fen is five other auntiant draynes to [506.72] carry the water in the said fens from Crosse-Lake to Starfen-Goate, Westloade, Old Holme, New Holme and other the outfalls into Wellande: and are now so straitned and landed for fault of diking and scowring according to the lawes, as that they be almost in many places landed, so as the water can have no course to fall into Wellande: and also be so streitned with the weares, made parte by the inhabitants in Kesteven, but cheifely by the inhabitantes in Holland; so as where the draynes should be kepte xij foote wide at the leaste; in many places they are straitned by the said weares to lesse then viij foote wide: and that, that woorse is, they that have the said weares, doe overlay the said draynes with greate harfes, to bring the fish to theyr weares, so as the water can not passe, nor yet hardly boates can passe by the said draynes by occasion of the overlaying with harfes, as Mr Armyn and I saw our selves in our passage to Spalding and our returne from thence againe, which faults if they be not reformed, the fen can never be dreyned, but shall remayne drowned, to the undoing of the commoners in the said fen:

When you shall agree upon lawes to be made for the reformation of these faults, and for the perfecting of these draynes, and maynteyning thereof: if you doe not appointe good officers, as surveyors, and dikereeves, to peruse such faults as shall be committed eyther on your parte, or on our parte: and such as will take paynes to peruse and veiwe the draynes which are to be kepte and maynteyned, aswell by your country men, as by ours: and they to have authority, not onely to veiwe, but also when they shall finde any fault, eyther on Kesteven side, or on Holland side in not diking and harfing of the said draynes, or by overlaying them with harfes, or by streightning of the said draynes by weares, or in not performing that which by the lawes they are charged to doe: to take notice of it so as it may be amended, or else the lawes shall be of none effecte: and also it is to be ordered, that the said surveyors or dikereeves, or any one of them, first to give warning to the party offending in the breach of any law or ordinance, and they to amend such

faults within ten or twelve dayes after such warning given: and if the faults be not within that tyme amended, then the survayor or dikereeve to hire woorkemen to amende the same, and for theyr charges in so doing, to be lawfull for them to distreyne the goods of them that shall so offende: and the distresse being taken and kept by the space of one whole day, then to be prized and sold: and the survayor to take the money thereof to pay his charges and the workefolke: and the overplus to be repayed to the owner of the distresse taken: without such streight order be taken, there will be no reformation:

And because it is very necessary, that there may be such men appointed to be surveyors and dikereeves, as will take paynes therein to performe theyr duty according to theyr oath, I thinke it convenient to have in every towne one or two speciall men: to be nominated to be survayors in every towne, commoners in [506.73] the fens: both for the maintenance of the rivers, and other small draynes according to the lawes of the sewars: Wherefore I have thought good to nominate unto you such men, as I thinke meetest, to be Survayors in every towne within those parts, as I truste you will doe for Hollande, and for that the inhabitants of Thurlby are to maynteyne the banking and scowring of the moiety of the water of Gleane: and Baston and Langtofte is charged with the banking and scowring of the other moiety on the south side from Cate-Bridge to the Easte Coate: I thinke William Harwood, and Robt. Eldred for Thurlby: and John Hudde for Obthorpe and Wilstrop: and Richard Loyde for Tedforde Hall: and John Harebottell for Baston: and for Langtofte, William Beavor, and John Fairfax: and for Markett Deeping Mr Thomas Wake, and Alexander Hudson: for St James Deeping John Tighe, and William Wayte: and for Uffington John Stoyett, and Salomon Waters: to be meete men for surveyors for these parts: I doe appointe the moore surveyors, to the ende they may agree amongst themselves, that a couple of them at the leaste, twice in one month to travell into the fens, aswell into your side, as of ours, to peruse what faults there shall be in eyther of these parts: and thereupon to give warning unto them that ought to amend the same or else, they, for fault of doing thereof, to performe theyr duties: not doubting but that you will give order to your surveyors and dikeereeves to doe the like: which being well executed, I truste will turne to a greate benefitt to both our countryes: also it is very convenient, that it may be sett downe by lawe of sewars, what every survayor and dikereeve shall have by the day, when they shall travell in the executing of the sayed lawes:

Our country desireth, that there be no jetty cutt out of the banke, neyther on the south side of the river of Gleane, nor yett on the banke on the north side of the said river: nor yett out of the banke of the north side of the river of Weyland, without the consente of ^{iiij} Commissioners for the Sewars, whereof two to be of the quorum: upon payne of ^{vi}, to be levyed of them, that shall offende to the contrary:

I having a good will to doe as much, as in me is, eyther to benefitt your country, or ours: hath caused me to write thus much unto you, for the reformation of such things as by me, and others is thought conveniente: which I truste you will take in good parte. I minde on Moonday next, God willing, to goe towards London, if I have not worde from them this weeke to the

contrary. It would be very conveniente that a Sessions for the Sewars might be appointed for both the countryes, to be kepte at Deeping or Burne, where the Commissioners of these parts might accompany you, to agree upon such lawes as should be necessary for both the countryes: thus I bid you most hartily farewell: From Gretfoorth the xixth of February 1588: your very freinde Edmond Hall.

XIII

767

The Commissioners letter. 28^o Aprilis 1589.

To our loving freinde, John Jackson be this deliverd at Spalding.

After our very hearty commendations: whereas the plott lately made for South Hollande, by Ralphe Agas a man experienced in that facultye: is thought [506.74] needefull to be had and deliverd, unto him, John Bradley, and John Hexam, for the joyning thereunto of Thorney, Singlesole, Borough Fen, and other parts confining to South Holland: in furtherance of further service of the sewars: and wherees also the late Commissions of the sewars lately graunted for the parts of Kesteven and Hollande, and the city of Lincolne, and for the soake of Peterburgh, and the hundreds of Wichford and Wisbeech, as well under the greate seale of England, as under the seale of the Dutchy of Lancaster, are sayed to be remayning with you: these are to will you, that you cause the said plott forthwith to be deliverd and sent unto the said Agas Hexam and Bradley, or any two of them: and that you doe also bring those Commissions with you, and the dedimus potestatem unto Peterborowe, uppon the xvijth of the next month of May: where you are then to give your attendance: whereof we will you not to fayle, as you will aunswere the contrary at your perill: from the Courte at Whitehall, this xxvijth of Aprill 1589: your loving freinds: H. Sussex: Henry Lincolne: William Russell: Vin. Skinner: Walter Cope: Anthony Irby.

XIV

768

Mr Edmond Hall. 27^o Maii 1589.

To his very freinde Mr John Jackson Clarke of the Sewars in the County of Lincolne, and the confines of the same give these:

Mr Jackson I commende me unto you: for that, the inhabitants in the parts of Kesteven: as also the inhabitants within the parts of Hollande, are greatly hindered by the surrounding of Deeping Fen, in that the outfall in Welland from Spalding Bridge to the outfall is not diked, as by the lawe last made at Spalding was appointed: which is to be done with all expedition, for the reliefe of the commoners within the said fen: wherefore this is to desire you, to sende me by the bearer hereof the cobby of the lawes then made: and at whose charges it is to be diked, and what money is appointed equally to be levyed by the commoners in the said fen, inhabiting within the parts of Kesteven and Holland: to the ende order may be taken with expedition, for the levying of such money, as is to be levyed, for the perfecting of the said woorke: and also I pray you to advertise me, who are appointed to be surveyors of the said woorke as well in Kesteven as in Holland: so as if there be not men specially appointed in Kesteven already, that then upon the sight hereof, such others as shall be thought meete and conveniente in these parts presently to be nominated, to joyne with such as be appoynted in your

country, to be surveyors there: to the ende all things may be done to the good contentment of both the countreyes: which premises being performed I truste the woorke shall be soone made an ende of, to the benefitt of both the countreyes, which God graunt: and thus I bid you farewell: written from Grettforth this xxvijth day of May 1589.

Your very friende,
Edmond Hall.

XV

769

Mr Edmond Hall 2^o Junii 1589.

To his very freinde Mr John Jackson, Clarke of the Sewars in the countyes of Lincoln, Northampton, and Cambridge deliver this with speede.

I commende me unto you: I have receyved your letter, as [506.75] also a copy of the lawe made at Spalding: and likewise the copy of the lawe made at Wisbeech, for the diking of Wellande: by the which lawe you have charged the commoners of Kesteven side with threescore and six pounds thirteene shillings and fower pence: and the commoners of Holland side but with threescore pounds: which we thinke not indifferent, and therefore we cannot agree thereunto: but we are content to be contributors indifferently with you of Holland, as we have beene accustomed; and otherwise we will not be charged, contrary to the olde accustomed order: and we have rated the townes in these parts, what every one shall pay, to make up the summe of threescore pounds: which shall be collected with expedition: and as the townes be rated, hereafter shall appeare unto you:

And also there is nominated within these parts, them whose names hereafter inseweth, to be surveyors and expenditors in this woorke, to joyne with yours in those parts, to see each woorke well and perfectly done and to take a reckoning with your men, how the money shall be imployed: and for that, the water must be stayed for the diking of the river of Welland, there must be a damme made, at Spalding Bridge; or at some other place: where it shall be thought most conveniente, before the woorke for the diking of the said river can goe in hande: therefore it is very needefull, that a day may be appointed, that both the Commissioners of Holland and Kesteven, doe meete at Spalding some day this weeke if it may be possible: therefore it were well done, that you should give notice to the Commissioners in Hollande, to appoint a day for our meeting at Spalding; which agreed of, and notice given, to Mr Francis Harrington, Mr Armyne, and Mr Lacye, and others that be in commission in these parts, I shall be willing to accompany them to Spalding at the tyme appointed, not onely to give order for the making of the damme for staying of the water for the tyme the river shall be in diking: but also to give order, in what sorte, by whome, and in what manner the river shall be diked.

And, because you are desirous to have the opinion of Bradley in doing of the same: I doe like you should so have, in that he is a man of understanding, and hath a good experience in such woorkes; therefore you shall doe well, to intreate him to be at Spalding at the tyme that shall be agreed of for our meeting: but I feare me, there is such a charge layed upon him for the diking of a river from Murrowe to the fower goates in Cambridgeshire: as also for the making of a sluice at the horse shoe neare Wisbeech, as I thinke he shall

scant have leasure to come to Spalding: yet notwithstanding you shall doe well to proove him: I pray you let us heare from you with as much speede as you possibly may: and thus I bid you hartily [506.76] farewell: written from Greatford this second of June 1589: Your very freinde, Edmonde Hall.

The names of the survayors and expenditors in Kesteven: Thomas Wake gent. and William Baite for St James Deeping, Norborrow, Maxey, Peakirke, and Glynton: Alexander Hudson, and Bartholomew Shorthoose for Markett Deeping, and West Deeping: Richard Lloyde gent. and William Beavor, for Langtofte, Baston, and Greatford: John Roe, and Solomon Waters, for Uffington, Tallington, Barholme, and Stowe:

The rattall of the townes: the three Deepings xxj li. vj s. viij d.: Langtofte vij li. iiij s.: Baston vij li. iiij s.: Barholme cum Stowe lxxij s.: Uffington cum Caswicke ix li. vj s. viij d.: Tallington cvj s. viij d.: Greatford xiiij s. iiij d.: Norborrowe, Maxey, Peakirke, and Glington cv s. viij d. I pray you direct your warrant, to Mr Wake, and William Bates to levy the five pounds five shillings and eight pence in Norborrowe, Maxey, Peakirke and Glynton, in the County of Northampton.

I pray you, make my cousin Lambarte, privy to this letter: because he writte to me, to the same effect as you did.

XVI

770

Mr Edmond Hall 5^o Junii 1589.

To his freinde Mr John Jackson, Clarke of the Sewars in the County of Lincolne, and the confynes of the same, give these:

Mr Jackson I receyved by this bearer your letter: by the which I understande, that the gentlemen in commission for the sewars in your parts, have appointed a meeting to be at Spalding upon Friday next: which is very shorte tyme for to give understanding to the Commissioners in these parts, dwelling so farre a sunder to be there at that day; yet notwithstanding, because the Commissioners there, have agreed to meete there, as upon Friday next, I will be with you at the tyme appointed: and will doe what I can, to bring with me as many Commissioners in these parts as I can obtayne; in that the necessity of the cause requireth, that the woorke should goe in hande with speede: but I am informed that olde Mr Gamble and other in your parts be minded, that the woorke shall not begin untill October next: if they be so minded, I would be loath, that I and others that be in commission in these partes should loose our labors in comming to you on Friday next: yet notwithstanding I will keepe my promise, except I heare to morrowe from you to the contrary: thus leaving to write any further at this tyme, I bid you farewell, untill our meeting: written in haste the fifth of June 1589: your freinde, Edmond Hall.

XVII

771

The Lord Burghley Lord Treasurer, 16^o Julii 1589.

To the right honble. my very good lordes and others my very loving freindes, the Commissioners of Sewars in the county of Lincoln, to whome, it may appertayne:

After my very hearty commendation to your lordships: where the late

Abbott of Kirkesteade being owner of Wildmoore, and of diverse and sundry possessions within the precinct thereof; was before the dissolution chargeable by reason thereof with the reparation of [506.77] certayne bankes against the water of Witham, and otherwise: which possessions are now dispersed into the hands of diverse, and the entire charge, as I am informed, is layed upon me in respect of Wildmoore onely: which in equity ought to be apportioned upon the other dispersed possessions chargeable therewith heretofore before the dissolution: I have therefore thought good, to pray your lordships, and the reste of the Commissioners of Sewars; that when you shall have any cause of assembly about the sewer causes: you would consider of the equity thereof, in the apportioning of the said charges as may be thought to your wisdomes, indifferent, and equall: not doubting but that such, as are there inhabiting, and shall have cause to give theyr attendances upon you, may upon charge to be given them, of that poynte amongst others, concerning the owners of the possessions heretofore chargeable, with the said reparation of bankes agaynst Witham, and other like charges: shall be able to give your lordships and other the Commissioners sufficient information in the premises: so as you may thereupon, take some indifferent, and reasonable order therein: which for my parte, and for such of my possessions as are parcell of those possessions in Wildmore, I will give order to myne officers to see performed accordingly: being loth to be charged further, then reason is, I should: and so I bid your good lordships right hartily farewell: from my howse at Westminster this xvith of July 1589: your lordships very assured loving freinde William Burleigh.

XVIII

772

Mr Vincent Skinner 28^o Julii 1589.

To my loving freinde, Mr Jackson, Clarke of the Sewars at Spalding.

Mr Jackson, I sende you herein included a copy of a letter directed from my Lord to the Commissioners of Sewars: The originall I deliverd to my Lord the Earle of Lincolne as the principall of them, to whome it was directed: which being opened by his Lordship, I receyed agayne to be communicated with others the Commissioners: and being heere at Boston with Mr Bolles, to whome I inparted the same, I understoode that something had beene done therein of late to the effect of the letter, whether to the full satisfaction of the contents he could not certaynely tell, for which cause I doe sende this bearer to you, praying you to sende me a copy of that presentment: that was made touching this cause: that upon sight thereof I may have conference with such as are beste acquainted with those causes in these parts, for the small aboade I make here: That at my returne I may in some sorte be able to render his Lordship some accompt, what I have understoode, touching that cause: and thus with my very harty commendations, I commende you to God: at Boston, this Tewesday, the xxviith of July, 1589:

Mr Carre, and others, with my selfe, who as you [506.78] knowe was appointed to meete before Auguste, have accordingly entred into the consideration of the cause directed: and have given some directions to Mr Bradley and Mr Hexam, and have appointed to meete agayne the sixth of Auguste: but Mr Carre, and I, purpose to meete at Gedney the day before: where it

may be wee shall have neede of your presence: where I wish you for that cause to be: and that my Cousin Watson would be there also for his better advise, in any cause whereof we shall have neede of his advise: whome I pray you to deale with, to be there at Gedney the fifth of August: your very loving freinde, Vin. Skinner.

XIX

773

The Commissioners 30^o Augusti 1592.

To the Right Honble. theyr very good Lorde, William Lord Burleigh, Lord High Treasurer of England, give these.

May it please your Honble. good Lordship, that whereas in the yeare laste, we were humble suitors unto your good Lordship, to have had five hundred pounds allowed by Her Majestie for the diking of the river of Welland from Peck-Bridge in Spalding to White-House: which is five miles distance, and to be performed by Her Majestie in respect of her monastreyes of Spalding and Croyland: and it pleased your Lordship to direct a warrant unto Mr Moore her highnesse receiver generall for the county of Lincoln to pay 100^{li} towards the perfecting of the said woorke: which was receaved, and to very good purpose expended, by certayne officers by us appointed; whose accompts we have receaved, and have sent the same by this bearer the Clarke of the Sewars, for your Lordship, if it seeme with your good liking to peruse: the country hath founde greate benefitt by the last yeares woorke: but we doubt, that except it please your good Lordship to graunt us money to finish the reste of the woorke (which is almost fower miles, and will hardly be performed with 300^{li}) that both the 100^{li} already expended for her Majestie and 200^{li} which was expended by the country the yeare before in the said river will be all lost: by reason that the fresh-waters, which come from Stamforde, and should have theyr passage through the said river by Spalding to the sea, whereby the outfall might be maynteyned, are so hindred by the landing of the river in the parts aforesaid, that the said waters have theyr course through the river of Neane, and so by Wisbeech to the sea; to the greate losse and hinderance of all her Majesties tenants in the parts of Holland and Kesteven commoners in Deeping Fen: besides we heare the river of Neane, from a place called No-Mans-Lands-Ende unto the outfall of the same by Wisbeech, is intended presently to be diked, by the inhabitants of the Isle of Ely, and parte of Hollande: wherewith if they goe forward before this be finished, the whole river is like to be decayed to the utter undoing of many Her Majesties poore tenants and subiects inhabiting in both the said parts, and commoners in the said fen: and for that we are loath to loose the opportunity of this yeare, wherein by meanes of the drought, much more may be done with that mony then at any other tyme: the necessity of this service being so importunate, and in regarde of the whole estate of the countrey, we are inforced the rather, to become suitors unto your good Lordship agayne, that 300^{li} moore may be allowed, towarde the perfecting of the said woorke, being more then three miles in length: and so not doubting of your honble. favor [506.79] herein, and your greate care of your countreyes good: we humbly take our leaves: Boston the 30th of August 1592: your Lordships alwayes to use: Hen. Lincolne: Fr: Willoughbee: Fr: Copuldike: Bartholomew Armyn: William Heneage: Charles Dimooke: Andrew Gedney:

Edmond Hall: Nich. Saunderson: William Welby: Rich. Ogle: Tho. Lambarte: William Lacye: James Cleypoole: William Rigdon: Robt. Harrington: Matthew Robinson.

Finis

LETTER TO DIKEREEVES, 1598

[460.V.206]

774

¹Whereas there hath bene already a law made for the better dreyning of the West Fen in time of great overflowing by the inlarging and setting lower of a goate called the New Goate which for ordinary times is sufficiente enough as it now is without charging the townes of Boston and Skirbecke with the takeing up or medling therewith and for that the benefitt of the inlarging and altering of the same reacheth to the soake of Bollingbroke and townes of Holland as by the reasons sett downe in the said law appeareth And that the said law was grounded upon the presentment peticon and request of the said contry of Holland in the presence of the contryes and comissions of both sides by assent That for this time onely the said soake of Bollingbroke and townes of Holland should beare the one moiety of the charge of the new setting of the said goate And the whole for ever after to remaine upon Boston and Skirbecke: for that we are informed that the said townes of Holland and Bollingbroke have not yet paid any money towards the same (either of wilfulnes or negligence) whereby the worke being now in hand is like to be lost And the law well made to good purpose utterly frustrate and the money and charge imposed upon Boston and Skirbecke vaynely and wastfully spent for the remedy thereof we have first thought it good to admonish yow and gently to require yow: that as the first cause proceeded from yourselves and was benevolently yealded unto by yow so it may be speedily collected and paid over unto those who have the oversight of the worke for the speedy dispatch thereof least otherwise yow be compelled to levy the same by greater extremity according to the lawes of sewers And if ther be any thing which yow desire to have done for the security of your contry to impose the charge for ever after upon the townes of Boston and Skirbeck that yow doe preferre the same at the next sessions of sewers wherein yow shall have therefore done what soever may by yow devised And soe we leave yow to the consideracon hereof

(A cōpy of lettres sent from the honble persons & gent. subscribed)

Ed: Anderson Tho: Cecell Edw: Heron Vin: Skinner Anth: Irby

(In dorso) To the dikereeves of all and every the townes of the soake of Bollingbrooke and of the six townes of Holland viz. Leake Leverton Bennington Butterwicke Freiston and Toft and to every of them give these.

Exempl. et exam. 8 die Junii 1598.

¹ This is a copy, not much later in date than the original.

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The numbers relate to pages

Major place names are indexed under their modern forms but minor names, e.g. of fields and petty drains, usually appear under the spelling in the text. Where no county is given after the name of a place, it is in Lincolnshire, all county boundaries being understood as those of the sixteenth century.

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