

Some medieval deeds relating St. John's Hospital land in High Littleton and Hallatrow

The Hospital of St. John the Baptist, Bath was founded in 1180 by Bishop Reginald of Bath (1174-91) for the sick and poor of the city, in order that they might have the benefit of the waters. It was endowed with lands and tenements in Bath and with a tithe of hay from the bishop's demesne lands. In 1331 Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury granted to the warden and brethren a rent-charge of 100s. in lieu of the tithe of hay.

There is a ratification by the Dean and Chapter of Wells of a confirmation by Bishop William Button at Dogmersfield on 15 July 1260 of the act of the warden, Master Adam, and the brothers and sisters of the Hospital establishing a special service for their benefactor Canon William of Wheathampstead (Wethampsted), provost of Combe to take place in the chapel of the hospital. It was from part of Canon William's benefaction that the Hospital acquired land in High Littleton.

The Hospital continued to hold land in High Littleton up to modern times.

89. Grant by Joice de Bayuse (Bayocis) to brother Robert, master of the Hospital of St. John Baptist, Bath and the brothers and sisters of the same, of 1 acre of arable land with adjacent meadow in the manor of Hallatrow (Halewetr), viz: that which lies adjacent in Sladaker by the garden of the said brothers and sisters, which once belonged to David of Welton (Welweton) and extends north south.

Grant also of all his meadow between the meadow of the said brothers and sisters by the fullers' bridge (pons fullorum) 12 perches long and 4 perches wide.

Grant also of the right to enclose 2 acres in Sladaker with adjacent meadows, which lie next to the enclosure of the same brothers and sisters on the west, saving to the grantor and his heirs a way to take away marl, with one cart only, when it shall be necessary, without loss to the said brothers and sisters.

Grant also of the right to enclose their land with adjacent meadow, which lies to the north of the house of the said brothers and sisters and extends along the water by the fullers' bridge; all to be held freely.

For this the said brothers and sisters have granted him 1 acre of arable land in the west part of Sladaker, extending north south, and a meadow in Lutlemers 12 perches long by the meadow which belonged to David of Welton.

Warranty and sealing.

Witnesses Henry of Uley (Hywelye), rector of Stanton, Robert of Littleton, Thomas le Waleys, Thomas super Hulle, John Uphill (Hupehulle) and others.

Seal. c.1261-80. [*Medieval Deeds of Bath & District, SRS Vol. 73. p.49*].

[*Sladaker was presumably synonymous with or close to South Slade, which lay beyond the west side of Butts Lane, close to the parish boundary with Farrington Gurney. A small stream once ran south north from South Slade and joined the stream at the back of Montvale, before passing under the Paulton road and meeting the Cam brook behind Ivy Cottage*].

91. Grant in free alms by Madoc, son of Robert, to God and the Hospital of St. John Baptist in Bath and the brothers and sisters serving God there, of 1 virgate [*approximately 30 acres*] of land in the manor of Hallatrow (Halegetreo), which *Odo, son of Robert of Hallatrow (Halegetr) granted him, to be held by rendering annually to the lord of the manor of Hallatrow (Halegetr) 2s. and 1lb. of pepper at two terms of the year, viz. at Hockday [*2nd Tuesday after Easter Sunday*] 12d. and at Michaelmas 12d. and 1lb of pepper; and to the grantor and his heirs 1 pair of gloves or 1d. for all service, exaction and demand, saving the royal service pertaining to 1 virgate of land in the same fee.

Warranty and sealing.

Witnesses Sir Bartholomew of Emborough (Empnebeor), Sir William de Tylly, Sir Adam of Ashton (Ayston), Knights, Roger of Paulton (Palton), Nicholas of Littleton (Litleton), John BUREL, Philip SKITHER and others.

Seal. Madoci de Haleg. c.1259. [*Medieval Deeds of Bath & District, SRS Vol. 73. p.50*]

[*In September 1259 the master of the Hospital declared that, with money received from the executors of William of Wheathampstead, he had acquired inter alia a virgate of land in Hallatrow (HMC Wells i 144). Although there is no indication of a sale in the present deed, this is the only virgate known to have been acquired in Hallatrow by the Hospital.*

**Odo is probably a misreading of Adam, since Adam son of Robert of Hallatrow's deed of sale to Madoc, son of Robert, is in the possession of the Corporation of Bath*].

92. Impremixus and confirmation by John Le VILERS, lord of Hallatrow (Haletr) of No. 91 above (*text given in full*).

Sealing and Warranty.

Witnesses as above. c.1259 [*Medieval Deeds of Bath & District SRS Vol. 37 p.50*].

101. Grant by William de la BROK, son of William de la BROK, to Nicholas of Littleton (Lutlethon) for his service of all his land in the vill of Littleton (Lutlethon), to be held for the chief lord of the fee, freely and by hereditary right, by rendering annually 1lb of cumin at Michaelmas, or within the quindene, for all secular service, exaction and demand, saving the royal service pertaining to that amount of land in that vill.

Warranty and sealing.

Witnesses Roger of Paulton (Peuton), David of Welton (Welweton), Roger of Stanton, Richard de Bere, Philip Skyther, John de Insula, Henry of Uley (Iwelegh) and others.

Seal William de la BROK. c.mid 13th C. [*Medieval Deeds of Bath & District SRS Vol. 73 p.53/4*].

102. Grant in free alms by Nicholas, son of Robert of Littleton (Littlethon) to God and the Hospital of St. John Baptist in Bath and the brothers serving God there, of all the land which William de la Brok, son of William de la Brok, granted to him in the vill of Littleton (Littlethon) along with the capital messuage, by rendering annually at Michaelmas, or within the quindene, to the chief lord of the fee 1lb of cumin, and to the grantor and his heirs, at the same time, 1 pair of white gloves or ½d. for all secular service and demand, saving the royal service pertaining to that amount of land in fee.

Grant also in free alms of 10 acres of land of his demesne, as they lie and have been used to lie and 1 acre of meadow fenced on all sides at Shaddeford. Of the 10 acres, 2 acres lie on Stonigrove among his own land, 2 acres extend up to Tidone on the north and towards Tideweye on the south, 1 acre is called Haselacre in the same field, 3 acres lie below les Hinches, between the land of the rector of Littlethon and that of Philip Skither and 2 acres lie below the road leading from Littlethon to Goseford [*this is presumably Goosard*] on the western side of the land of Walter, the grantor's brother.

Also concession that the brothers may have 4 oxen anywhere in his pasture with his own oxen outside his customary enclosure and 100 sheep in the common pasture of Littlethone, both in the south and north fields, with the issue of lambs of their sheep, until the lambs shall be weaned.

To be held with free entry and exit to and from the fields of Littlethone in perpetuity.

Warranty with provision for reasonable exchange in the demesne of Littlethone; acquittance of suits to his court; and sealing.

Witnesses Sir Thomas de Hauteville (Altavilla), Knight, John Maureward (Marleward), Roger of Stanton (Stanthon), John le Brun, David of Welton (Welewethon), Ralph of Taunton (Taunthon), Richard of Cromhall (Cromale), Walter of Littleton (Littlethon), grantor's brother, Geoffrey Maureward and others. c.1250-75 [*Medieval Deeds of Bath & District SRS Vol. 73 p.54*].

103. Grant in free alms by Nicholas of Littleton (Litlethon) to God and the Hospital of St. John Baptist in Bath and the brothers and sisters serving God there, for his soul and those of his father and mother etc. of 1 acre of meadow lying in Preostmede on the eastern side of Goseford in the field of Littlethon, to be held freely. [*This can reasonably be identified as Pressmead, on the north bank of the Cam brook and on the east side of Goosard*].

Warranty and sealing.

Witnesses John Brun, David of Welton (Welewethen), John of Mene, Jordan of Norton (Northon), Richard of Cromhall (Crumhal) and others.

Seal. c.1250-75. [*Medieval Deeds of Bath & District SRS Vol. 73 p.55*].

104. Grant and quitclaim by Nicholas, son of Robert of Littleton (Litlinton) to the master of the Hospital of St. [John], Bath and the brothers and sisters serving [God] there, of 1 robe per annum and 1 pair of spurs and 7 pairs of gloves. In return the master, brothers and sisters have given him 2 marks of silver.

Sealing.

Witnesses Sir Henry de Montfort, Sir Adam de Grenville (Greivile), Sir Thomas de Hauteville (Hautevile), Sir John of Laverton (Law'ton), Knights, John Maureward (Marleward), David of Welton (Weluton), John of Norton and others.

Seal. Nicholai de Litelitone. c.1250-75. [*Medieval Deeds of Bath & District SRS Vol. 73 p.55*].

105. Confirmation in free alms by John of Littleton, son of Nicholas of Littleton to God and the Hospital of St. John Baptist in Bath and the brothers and sisters serving God there, of all the land, with meadows, pastures, messuages and liberties, which all his ancestors have granted, according to the tenor of their charters.

Grant also (..... text confused) his father, the said Nicholas ought to have received in assized rent at Michaelmas.

Concession also that the brothers and sisters may have 8 oxen anywhere in his pasture with his oxen inside and outside his enclosure, viz: by his own concession 4 and by that of his ancestors 4, and I draught animal with 5

heifers (bovet) in the common pasture of Littleton, both in the south field and in the north field, and 200 sheep with their issue of lambs, until the lambs are weaned, viz: 100 by his own concession and 100 by that of his ancestors, and 12 pigs, freely without pannage in the said pasture.

To be held in free alms with free entry to, and exit from, the fields of Littleton, by rendering annually at Michaelmas, or within the quindene, 1 lb of cumin and ½ lb of pepper for all secular services and demands, saving the royal service pertaining to such a tenement of that fee.

Warranty, with provision for reasonable exchange in the demesne of Littleton; quitclaim of all suits of his court, in accordance with the charters of his ancestors; and sealing.

Witnesses Sir Thomas de Hauteville, Sir John of Laverton, Humphry of Whaddon (Waddon), Amis de Bays [*Bayuse*], Nicholas le Brun and others.

c.1250-75. [*Medieval Deeds of Bath & District SRS Vol. 7 p.55*].

88. Quitclaim by Adam le More and Margery his wife to brother William, master of the Hospital of St. John Baptist in Bath and the brothers and sisters of the same, of suit of their court in the manor of Hallatrow (Alewetre), which they unjustly demanded from them.

Sealing.

Given at Alewetre on St. Valentine's day 27 Edward 1 [*14 February 1298/9*].

Seals Margerie de Bause. Seal Ada de la More. [*Medieval Deeds of Bath & District, Somerset Record Society Vol. 73. p.48/9*].

90. Quitclaim by Joice de Bayuse (Baiocis) to brother William of Chelwood (Cheolworthe), master of the Hospital of St. John Baptist, Bath and the brothers and sisters of the same, of all suit of his court of Hallatrow (Haaluwetre) and 1d. annual rent or 1 pair of gloves, which they owe annually for 1 virgate of land, which they hold in the vill of Hallatrow (Haaluwetreo).

Sealing.

Witnesses Sir John St. Loe (Sancta Laudo), Sir John of Paulton (Palton), Sir Thomas de Gornaye, knights, Thomas of Whiteoxmead (Wyechokysmede), James Husee, minor, John of Ford (Forde), John of Rockbourne (Rokebourne) and others.

Given at Haaluwetreo on St. Clement's day 13 Edward III [*23 Nov 1339*].

Seal Iocei de Baiocis. . [*Medieval Deeds of Bath & District, SRS Vol. 73. p.49*].