

“THE NAUGHTY CHEESE” A. F. (Budge) ADAMS

The Charters and other Documents which for years were stored in the Muniment Room at the Town Hall provide fascinating glimpses of the legal ‘mechanics’ of life in the town from the early 13th century to almost the end of the 16th. Stored with them was a considerable mass of other miscellaneous documents bearing dates up to the early part of this century. I was, in my 20’s and 30’s privileged to see and handle and read many during the course of giving them, as a craftsman bookbinder, the care and attention they needed: cleaning them, ‘feeding’ the leather bindings and in some cases re-binding them.

After the fairly recent municipal government re-organisation this valuable collection was, I believe, taken to the County Archive in Maidstone but whether it is now accessible to Dovorians (or any others) I do not know.

The document printed below demonstrates, clearly, I do believe, an early method of defining ownership or responsibility prior to arbitration: the phraseology is fascinating.

“26 July, 1 Eliz., 1559

To all those to whom thes present Leatters Testimonialles shall come, or the same shall see, here, or reade, Thomas Collye, Maier of the Quenes Majesties towne and porte of Dovor; William Crippes, jentellman, esquire, Leaftenent of the Castell of Dovor, and Roger Wood, Town Clarke and Recorder of the said towne of Dovor, seand dewe commendations and greateyng, etc. Knowe ye and everye of you to whome in this case yt maye or shall appertayne, That we, the said Thomas Collye, William Cripes, and Roger Wood, being required and also desyred by William

Hanington, of the said towne and porte of Dovor, in the county of Kent, jentellman, to see and voywe sarten chesse of Essex and Suffolk, which was a remaynder of the late victellyng of the Quens Majestis shipp, nowe remayning in the storehowse at Dovor port, in the custody and charge of the said William Hanington, in watt estatt and case the chesse was and is in, and to witness the trothe thereof, beinge there unto required. Therefore we, the said Thomas, William and Roger Wood, for a declaration of Trothe, doe by thes presentes, at the request aforesaid, wittnese and testyfyte to be for trothe, that about the xxth daye of June last past by for the datte hereof, sawe a sarten parcell of olde rotten and nawghty chesse wayed, being a remaynder as is aforesaid, which was of Suffolk and Essex chese, and dyd extend by weyght to the number of a leven way of chesse, and was not worth the value of iid., except it were to feade dogges, for that it was soe olde, rotten, corrupt, and consumed by myutes, to evell to be expressed.

In wytnes of all the premysses to be matters of trothe, we, the said Thomas, William, and Roger Wood, have to these presentes put to our seals; and for that our seals is not to all men knowen, Therefore we have caused for the better testimony thereof the sealle off office of mayiralty to thes presentes to be affyxed.

Dated the xxvith daye of Julii anno regni Regine nostre Elizabeth, primo”

Translation from poor Latin, in 1903, is by the Rev. S.P.H. Statham, B.A., Honorary Freeman of Dover

The Dover Pageant

LEO WRIGHT

Copies of the programme of the 1908 Dover Pageant are a souvenir treasured by older Dovorians. Among the “credits” is L. N. Parker. The initials stand for the extraordinary forenames: Louis-Napoleon

and his famous namesake must have been still in living memory in 1908, However, under P for Parker he has gained a place in the recently published Oxford Dictionary of Drama and among his works listed are the Pageants of Dover and Brighton. Lasting fame.