

# ***Romsey Local History Society***

## ***[LTVAS Group]***



*No 4 Portersbridge Street showing the restored medieval frame  
(see article on page 3)*

***Autumn 2021***



Left Photograph of western end of house: at first floor level the wall plate continues westwards into No 2; in the westernmost upright post are two pegholes for the fixing of a rail that would have extended the house westwards.



The roof, arch braced with windbraces, possibly originally intended to be viewed from the ground floor.

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## **A HOUSE OF c1461 IN PORTERSBRIDGE STREET      by Roger H. Leech**

Some months ago my interest in a timber-framed house, No 4 Portersbridge Street, was heightened by the appearance of a plaque fixed to the front wall, bearing the inscription c1461 (*see facing page 2*). Recollecting that there were references to Portersbridge Street in the Winchester College muniments, it did not take long to discover that this must be a date inferred from a lease made by the College on September 29th of that year to John Bakon and Elena his wife of a messuage or house in Romsey 'in Portersbridge Street on the north, between a great gate once John Forster's on the east and a messuage of the abbess of Romsey which John Alen lately held on the west, in length 33 ft, together with a garden the breadth of the said messuage and stretching in length to the garden of John Hall which John Porter lately held of John Benet of Botley Esq, the lease to be for 60 years at 5s p.a. The lessee to rebuild with 3 high roofs etc' (*quoting the summary of the deed as published by Imsworth*).

To have a documented building date for a medieval house in Romsey is unusual if not unique, so having just embarked on the project to look at Romsey's streets and buildings described in the last newsletter, it seemed timely to have a closer look at this building and to see if it really could be the house that was to be built anew in 1461. A first step was to trace the later history of the property to confirm that this lease was indeed of No 4. Leases and title deeds are scattered throughout the Winchester College muniments and in searching for documents relating to No 4 one would be looking for a property described as having Portersbridge Street on the south and a stream on the east.

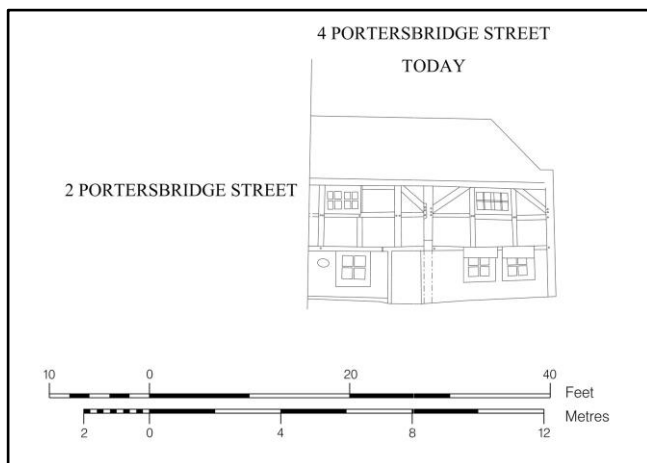
The first such document is of 1794, but fits neatly with the above. On 1st November of that year Winchester College made out a new lease to William Charles Daman, gent., and Anne Daman, spinster, of three tenements with gardens bounded by Porters Lane (an older name for Portersbridge Street) on the south, a College garden demised to the same on the north, the stream under Portersbridge on the east, and a College stable demised to the same on the west.

At this point in tracing the history of No 4, we can turn to maps. The earliest detailed map of the centre of Romsey is the Tithe Map (*see back page*). The Romsey Local History Society copy is held in a Geographic Information System enabling us to see the owners of the respective numbered parcels of land in

1845. On the west side of the stream passing under Portersbridge Street is plot 1,370, owned by Julia Ann Daman one of the daughters of William Charles and Julia. No 4 is the house at the south-east corner of the plot.

The next map to show property ownership is the land valuation of 1911 (see *back page*). No 4 is shown in small print as 606, occupied by Elizabeth Hunt and owned by the solicitors Tylee, Mortimer and Atlee, as were the adjacent plots numbered 19 and 20. It is evident from the documents of this partnership of solicitors, rescued for the Hampshire Archives when No 4 was emptied of its contents, that these properties and some adjacent were probably purchased from the Daman family, at least one of whom we learnt from Barbara Burbridge at one of the Monday morning history meetings was a partner in the same firm.

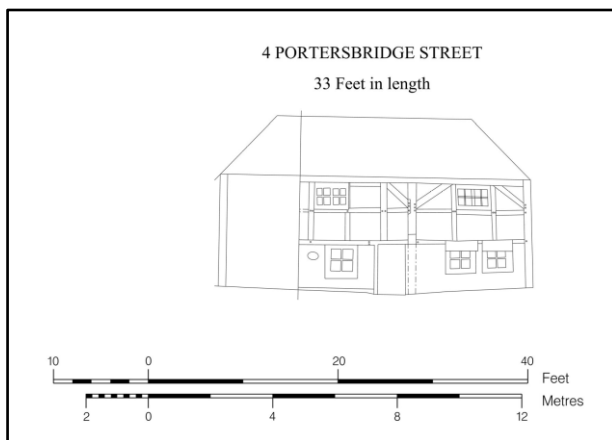
Barbara also informed us that the identification of No 4 as Shutlands, so described in a deed of 1653, is based on the house then being purchased said to be in Romsey Infra 'neere unto a Bridge there called or knowne by the name of Porters Bridge'; Romsey Infra was then the part of the town to the west of the stream. Belonging to this same house was 'Shutlands Close lyeing on the east side of a River there called Shutlands streame conteyning by estimac(i)on Five Acres'. The stream passing under Portersbridge Street can be shown from at least one other document to be the Shutlands Stream. The name 'Shutlands' was chosen by the purchasers of No 4 post 1991 as a link to the stream and has no relevance as a name for the property before that date.



*The street elevation of No 4, as today*

With No 4 firmly identified as the house leased by Winchester College, it was possible to examine whether it was built according to the instructions in the lease. The first of these was that the house was to be 33 feet in length. No 4 is somewhat shorter, but it was apparent looking at the framing that it had originally been longer by at least one bay to the west. At first floor level the wall plate continues westwards into No 2; in the westernmost upright post are two pegholes for the fixing of a rail that would have extended the house westwards. A first step in recording the house was to construct a scale drawing of the elevation to ascertain if the pattern of bays could be extended symmetrically westwards to fit into a house of 33 feet in length. The computer-generated drawing is prepared from a dimensioned sketch completed by myself and our member Sybil Warner.

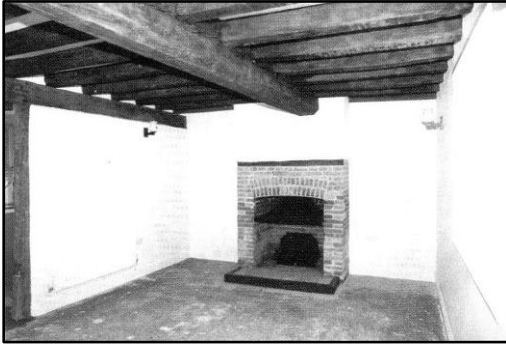
*The street elevation of No 4, restored conjecturally as 33 feet in length*



The result appears to be inconclusive, and readers may wish to copy or enlarge the drawing and see if a sensible extension of the house westwards can be postulated.

A second stage of recording is still to be completed, to produce floor plans and a section. Possibly the “three high roofs” will prove to be three main bays of the late medieval roof already visible. It will be of interest to ascertain if the roof, arch braced with windbraces, was originally intended to be viewed from the ground floor, and if this signifies that this was a house with an open hall, with the beamed ceiling above the central ground floor room being a later insertion into a room originally open from the ground to the roof

This would be of interest. It has long been recognised that a major change in housing practice in late medieval England was the switch from houses with open halls to ones of two or more stories throughout. These can be seen as changes associated with the emergence of an early modern society, more concerned with privacy and the individual, less concerned with the more communal life that characterised the seating and eating arrangements of the open hall.



*The beamed ceiling above the central ground floor room, possibly a later insertion into a room originally open from the ground to the roof.*

There are already several pointers to No 4 being built as an open hall house. In *Hampshire Houses*, Edward Roberts places the development of fully floored houses as being between 1475-1700. In Romsey there are at least two late medieval houses built as fully floored, Tudor House in Love Lane and Nos 19-21 Middlebridge Street, both characterised by jetties to the first floor overhanging the street frontage, and the latter built with trees felled in 1523-4 (the dates established by dendrochronology or tree ring dating). No 4 has no jetties so is less likely to have been built as a fully floored house.

The remaining part of the instructions in the 1461 lease must be the part simply transcribed in Winchester College Muniments as 'etc.'. A visit to the College Archives will be needed to resolve what might not have been fully transcribed – it is a maxim that there is often no substitute for going back to the original document.

I must finish this note with some words of thanks - to Barbara Burbridge for sharing her knowledge of the medieval and later records, to both Frank Green, formerly archaeologist to the Test Valley Archaeological Trust, and James Laffeaty, secretary to the Romsey Buildings Preservation Trust, for photographs and other information, and to Colin Moretti for the extract from the Tithe Map. Our survey has been with the kind permission of Mrs Sharon Webb.

Recently, in a second-hand copy of Liveing's *Records of Romsey Abbey*, published in 1906, I came across a newspaper cutting. The cutting is a letter from Liveing himself and must have been printed in one of the local newspapers. It seems that Henry Liveing had been shown the Wilton Psalter, a book of psalms, dating from the 14th century but with an inscription dating from 1523 when the book was given to 6 year old Elizabeth Langrish.

Elizabeth Langrish was then entering the convent of Romsey and took her final vows as a nun in 1534. She spent 10 years in the Abbey before the dissolution of the monasteries threw her back into society. Another inscription in the book suggests that it was treasured and passed down through the Saunder family. Whether they were relatives of Elizabeth Langrish or whether the book was sold or gifted to them is unknown.

### ROMSEY ABBEY IN THE XVIth CENTURY

Sir,- Some of your readers may be interested to learn that there is in existence an ancient Psalter connected with Romsey besides the one which is kept in the glass case in the Abbey Church. My attention was called to this book by a friend just as I was publishing "Records of Romsey Abbey" a dozen years ago, but it was then too late to incorporate the information into the book. This Psalter is a 14<sup>th</sup>-century illuminated copy with calendar prefixed, and a Litany of Saints at the end, including St Swithun and St Dunstan. The connection of the book with Romsey Abbey is undoubted because of an entry engrossed on a page about two-thirds through the volume, and the entry yields some interesting information about one or two persons connected with the Abbey during the earlier part of the sixteenth century.

The paragraph is as follows:

*The xth Day of October yn the yere of our Lord God one thousand fyve hundreth and XXIII the XVth yere of Kyng Henry the VIIIth and the XXVIth yere of the translacon of my Lord Rychard ffox Bysshop of Wynchestre. Maister Raufe Lepton parson, of Alresford and Kyngs Worthy, servant and Chapelayne to my sayde lord Richard gave thys boke to Elizabeth Langrege whos Grandfader John Warner gentylman was Uncle to my lady Dame Anne Westbroke Abbess of Romsey: to the saide Elizabeth Mynchynne (nun) of Romsey the saide Maister Raufe was grete Uncle unto. Above that the saide Maister Raufe gave first at the veylling of the saide Elizabeth in money ffyve pounds delyvered to John Raye Bayllyff of Romsey. Above that the said Maister Raufe gave to the saide Elizabeth one goblet of Sylver all gylted covered, with lyons on the fote And two sponys the oon crystable garnyssed with Sylver gyltede with an Image on the end, the oder All whyte.*

The Langrish family owned lands near Petersfield for generations, and one member was Vicar of Eastmeon in 1559. I have not been able to identify Elizabeth the nun; she must have been born about 1517, as she was 17 years old when she made her full profession as a sister on the 28th of July, 1534. When the Psalter was given her in 1523 by her clerical great-uncle, Ralph Lepton, she would have been a child of six years, and was, we must suppose, placed in the convent school, to await profession when she grew older.

The two relatives who took an interest in her - her great-uncle, Ralph Lepton, the cleric, and her aunt, the Abbess of Romsey, Anne Westbroke - probably arranged together for her reception into the convent. It looks as if the child was an orphan of good family, and as if these relatives were trying to make a provision for her for life. If so, they were not quite successful: the Abbey was suppressed about 1540, and Elizabeth Langrish must have gone out into the world when she was about 23 years of age. Did she carry her Psalter with her? There is an entry on top of the fly-leaf in the beginning of the Psalter as follows:

*'This was my great-grandmother's father's booke, and therefore for antiquities sake I keep it. Nich. Saunder.'*

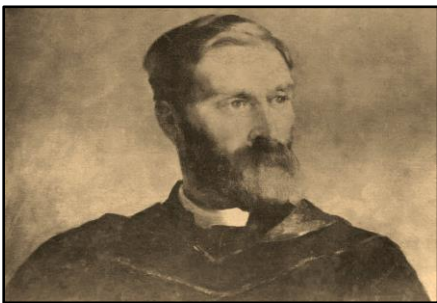
Here is a field of speculation for the curious. Were the Saunders relatives of Elizabeth Langrish and did they inherit the book, or did it come to them by purchase or gift? Any information relative to these families of Langrish, Warner, Westbroke, Lepton, and Saunders would be of interest to lovers of Romsey Abbey.

-Yours, etc.,

HENRY LIVEING

Combroke Vicarage, Warwick.

May 6th, 1919



**Rev. Henry George Downing**

**Liveing**, one-time curate at Romsey Abbey and Vicar of Hyde Abbey, Winchester, at the time of publication of his book **'The Records of Romsey Abbey'**, first published in 1906

The Wilton Psalter is now held in the collection of the Royal College of Physicians. No further information has come to light about Elizabeth Langrish except that there are places called both Langrish and Westbrook in East Meon.



*The following study relating to the will of John Uvedale was the result of Phoebe Merrick coming across the various versions of the will and asking me if I could make sense of them. The resulting article is a lesson on the value of revisiting old research.*

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 1572, John Uvedale, a gentleman staying in Romsey, lay dying in his room at the *White Horse Hotel*. Realising the parlous state of his health, he asked for a lawyer to come to his bedside so that he could make a nuncupative will, that is a will made as a deathbed declaration. The bequests that he detailed concerned Francis - the younger of his two brothers – and the three sons of Francis. The whole tenor of the will suggests that John was either a bachelor or a childless widower. The resulting will, as recorded by the lawyer, John Ayloff(e), is held at Hampshire Record Office and a transcription of it follows:

**Document 1**

**Nuncupative Will of John Uvedale, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1572**

**HRO 1572B/106**

*Burial register 2 March 1572/3*

*Agreed that the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1572 between eight and nine of the clock in the morning John Uvdall gent did send for John Ayleff of Romsey to come unto him being very sick in his bed in a chamber of the White Horse at Romsey and when Ayloff came unto him he found him very sick and immediately he came to himself and was of very good remembrance.*

*Then he said unto John Ayloff, 'I pray you look into my coffer and take out the conveyance of my portion of tithes in More Crochell and as amply as I purchased the same from my Lord St John make conveyance thereof unto my brother Francis Uvedall of Horton in the county of Dorset and to his heirs for ever if you be able to do it, or otherwise if ye think it good make them first in lease for four score and nineteen years at 4d rent by the year to be paid to me and my heirs if it be asked. But my will is that he and his heirs naming his three sons Thomas, Ephraim and Edmond shall have the fee simple thereof if by law he may enjoy it.'*

*Then Ayloff did open the coffer and take out the box wherein his deeds of purchase did lie and when John Ayloff had taken out the box in the coffer which stood by his bedside and showed him the box, the said John Uvedale said, naming Ayloff, 'I give unto you my cloak.'*

*And immediately the said John Uvedale said, Further, I give my host Pratt a lease of a portion of tithes which he called freehold', and bade the said Ayloff seek out the lease in his coffer which lease at the first time the said Ayloff could not find for that he knew not whereof it was. Then the said John Uvedall by signs and tokens showed the length and breadth of the Indenture whereby Ayloff did know it and set the same out of the coffer immediately and found hem and brought hem forth. And as soon as he saw it he said 'This is it' and his host being there present he said unto him my host, 'This lease I give unto you'.*

*Then John Ayloff being minded to depart from him said in the presence of Mr Pratt and ... his wife and Agnes Barrett the words he had before spoken which were this that follow, 'Mr Uvedall you have willed that your younger brother and his heirs shall have your portion of tithes in Crochell which you bought of my Lord St John and that he and his heirs for ever shall have and enjoy the same.'*

*'Yes' said the said John Uvedall.*

*Then said the said Ayloff, 'What is your younger brother his name?'*

*He said, 'Francis and his sons' names are Thomas, Ephraim and Edmond.'*

*Then said Ayloff, 'What is your older?'*

*He said, 'His name is Harry.'*

*Then said Ayloff, 'Is it he that you will shall enjoy no portion of tithes?'*

*'No,' said the said John Uvedale, 'my brother Francis and his heirs shall have it', naming Thomas, Ephraim and Edmond.*

*'Very well said Ayloff, 'unto hem then you will not that your older brother shall have it.'*

*'No said he my brother Francis and his sons shall have it.'*

*'Then', said Ayloff unto him, 'you said to me that if your brother Francis might not enjoy the fee simple of that portion of tithes by virtue of your gift, then your will was that your brother Francis and his heirs should enjoy the same as amply as ye bought it of my Lord St John for four score and nineteen years, paying the fee unto your heirs but 4d by the year if it were asked of them.'*

*'Yes, verily,' said the said John Uvedall, 'that is my will for I will not that my brother Harry shall have any commodity or anything that I have, but my brother Francis and his sons', naming them again. And bade us deliver them his evidence and deeds thereof, moreover upon the sight of certain scrolls laying in his coffer, he called to his remembrance that he had*

*delivered to Mr Welsted of Wimborne Minster 20s to fetch out of the chancery the exemplification of depositions and suits.*

*This done, John Ayloff took his leave and departed from hence.*

*After this he said to his hosts Pratt and Agnes Barret that Abraham Pratt should have his better pair of old hose and his two frieze coats.*

*William Pratt: Per me, John Ayloff*

*And that in token of the truth of all the premises before written, we whose names are here written having subscribed our hands in the presence of these witnesses whose names are*

*By me Edward Walker, Vicar of Romsey*

*By me John Brackley, Mayor*

*By me George Barton*

*Per me John Barton.*

There is much of interest to learn from this will. The year of burial, for example, is given as 1572/3. That is because this country had not fully adopted the Gregorian calendar with the new year starting on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Use was still made of the Julian calendar with the new year starting on Lady Day, 25<sup>th</sup> March, which was also one of the traditional quarter days when payments such as rents might fall due. Documents of the time often indicated this anomaly of the calendar.

Then the lawyer was named as John Ayloff(e). Coincidentally, he is probably the same man as one mentioned under the slightly different spelling of John Ayliff in a 1571 Bargain & Sale whereby three properties of various rental values changed hands. These included the medieval stone building known today as *King John's House* and the deed is still displayed there. As the only secular stone building in Romsey it must have been the prestigious dwelling that commanded a higher rent than the other two. John Ayliff was certainly paying by far the largest rent of the three tenants: so it is likely that he was the tenant of *King John's House*, conveniently close to the *White Horse Hotel*. It is easy to imagine a messenger rushing round to Church Street and begging him to make all haste to the White Horse.

Then the mention of More Crochell (now More Critchel) is the key to John Uvedale's position in life. More Critchel is an East Dorset village mentioned in Domesday, and in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Uvedales held the manor. A high-status family, they were closely connected with the royal court, holding

important positions such as Constable of Corfe Castle and the role of High Sheriff. The National Archives at Kew hold a 1571 document whereby John Uvedale granted a whole swathe of his Dorset lands to Queen Elizabeth I.

So, it was a person of considerable importance who died in clearly unexpected circumstances while staying in Romsey. We cannot tell from this document whether he was intentionally visiting the town or whether he was forced to break a longer journey due to sudden illness.

The framing of the will itself is of interest. Care had to be taken in recording a nuncupative will and the rule of three was crucial. The repetition three times of important facts is an ancient procedure – perhaps even linking back to the Bible where Jesus warns a protesting Simon Peter that, before the cock crew, he would deny him thrice. Then, in medieval times, an accused person who did not appear in court had to be called three times to present himself for trial and only after his third non-appearance could he be fined, sentenced or outlawed *in absentia*. In this instance the lawyer asked John Uvedale three times to confirm that he wished his bequest of tithes to go to his brother Francis (and his three sons) and that Harry, the elder of his two brothers, should be excluded. This repetition made it difficult for anyone to challenge the will. And, as John Uvedale must have been recognised as an important personage, John Ayloff called in the Vicar and the Mayor of Romsey to sign as two of the four witnesses.

When I transcribed this will in the 1980s I did not appreciate the significance of the mayor's name being given. He was John Brackley, a mayor who has not hitherto appeared in any documents. His name is not included on the Honours Board in the Town Hall Council Chamber and I have not (until now) put it in my table of past mayors. It is particularly satisfying to add another name to the very short list of those known to be filling this role before the Royal Charter of 1607.

Finally, it is fascinating the way that John Uvedale bequeaths items rather than cash in appreciation of the care that he receives from the lawyer and the people of the *White Horse Hotel*.

But there are curious circumstances surrounding the will of John Uvedale as there is a second version with some ancillary support declarations. Perhaps Harry (or Henry) the elder of the two surviving brothers did contest the will in some way. Whatever the reason, Francis Uvedale had a second tidier version

drawn up with additional information, some omissions and several discrepancies. This seems to have been the will that was successfully submitted for probate (i.e. approval).

## **Document 2**

### **Nuncupative Will of John Uvedale: 2nd Version**

*John Uvedale gentleman of Lye within the parish of Romsey in the county of Southampton, being sick in his bed and in good and perfect memory declared his last will and testament nuncupative before the witnesses underwritten in manner and form following, that is to say*

*First he the said testator desired John Ayliff, one of the witnesses under-written, to look into his, the said testator's, coffer and to take out the conveyance of his portion of tithes in More Crochell, and when the said John Aylife had taken out a box out of the said testator's coffer standing by his bedside wherein the deeds and conveyance of his purchase aforesaid were, then the said John Uvedale willed the same his portion of tithes in More Crochell unto his brother Francis Uvedale of Horton in the County of Dorset, and to his heirs for ever. And also required the said John Ayliff to make conveyance of the said portions of tithes unto his said brother Francis Uvedale and his heirs for ever naming Thomas, Ephraim and Edmond his children as amply as he purchased the same from the Lord Saint John.*

*Item the said testator willed that in case his said brother Francis Uvedale and his heirs may not by law enjoy the said portion of tithes aforesaid in fee simple according as his mind and will was, then he willed that his said brother Francis and his heirs naming his children aforesaid should enjoy and have his said portion of tithes beforenamed by lease for the term of four score and nineteen years, paying therefor unto his the said testator's heirs four pence by the year and no more if the said 4d by the year were asked of the said Francis or his heirs.*

*Item the said testator being then and there asked whether Henry Uvedale, his eldest brother should not enjoy his portion of tithes afore recited answered that his elder brother Harry Uvedale should not have it but willed again that his brother Francis and his heirs should have it naming the children of the said Francis viz. Thomas, Ephraim and Edmond aforesaid. And then and there the said testator especially willed that his brother Harry should not have any commodity of any thing that he the said testator had.*

*Item the said testator willed his deeds and evidences of the tithes aforesaid to be delivered to his said brother Francis and his sons aforesaid.*

*Item the said testator did will and give to the said John Ayliff his cloak.*

*Item he did give and will unto his host William Pratt of Romsey a lease of a portion of tithes which he called Freholde which lease the said testator willed the said John Ayliff to seek out of his coffer, and being found he gave it as aforesaid.*

*Item he willed that Abraham Pratt should have his better pair of old hose and his two frise coats.*

*Then and there being present and witnesses unto the premises John Ayliff and William Pratt of Romsey, and Ellen Pratt his wife and Agnes Barret, widow of Romsey.*

Proved 7<sup>th</sup> March 1572 with administration granted to Francis Uvedale

#### NOTES:

- 1 This second version of John Uvedale's will indicates that he was living at Lye (?Lee) in the parish of Romsey. This change of residence presumably followed on the grant of his Dorset lands to Queen Elizabeth I.
- 2 William Pratt, named as the innkeeper of the *White Horse Hotel* in the first will, is called Abraham Pratt in this second version. There was definitely a William Pratt in Romsey at the time as he became mayor in 1578. Perhaps there was some confusion between the two. Many, including John Ayliff the lawyer, may have known both simply as 'Master Pratt'.
- 3 The witnesses to the first version of the will – the vicar, the mayor, George Barton and John Barton – are omitted from this second version.
- 4 The lawyer's name appears as John Ayliff, the same spelling as in the *King John's House* deed.

#### Document 2a

Another document supplementary to this second version of John Uvedale's will deals with the awkward issue of no executor being appointed by him.

*Edward Cole*<sup>1</sup>. *This is the effect of the testament and last will/words of Mr John Uvedale of Lie the parish of Romsey gentleman deceased out of the which I would you should conceive a nuncupative testament and the same for lack of an executor to be annexed unto letters of Administration to be committed unto Mr Francis Uvedale, gentleman of Horton in the county of Dorset, to be sworn by the person of his son Mr Thomas Uvedale who will*

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<sup>1</sup> According to another (Latin) document, Edward Cole was a Notary Public/Deputy Registrar

*meet with you at Romsey upon Monday next, where late Mr Walker stood both the administrator and the witnesses. And you must needs be there yourself to give testimony thereof when need requires, you must repair unto John Ayliff his house where you shall meet with Mr Uvedale who will .... recompense your pains. If you cannot go thither then send the testament sealed to me before the day and I will be there myself because of my promise / give Mr Uvedale advice that he say to my ...-keeper, to have a dedemus potestatem,<sup>2</sup> to certene to examine these witnesses in perpetuum res/rei memoris.*

*Robert Knaplock*

*You shall have sureties at Romsey.*

### **Document 2b, dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 1572**

And yet another declaration made in association with the second version was a Power of Attorney made by the deceased's brother Francis to his eldest son, Thomas

*Be it known to all men by these presents that I Francis Uvedale of Horton in the County of Dorset, gentleman, do authorise constitute and in my place put my welbeloved in Christ Thomas Uvedale my son and heir, my true and lawful attorney or substitute in all and every thing or things, act or acts, whatsoever of for and concerning the probation of the last will and testament of John Uvedale my brother now deceased, wherein my said brother gave unto me the tithes of the manor of Moore Chrychell, and all other thing or things whatsoever necessary to be executed and done in that behalf either in the spiritual court or in any other court whatsoever, I the said Francis Uvedale do authorise my said son to fulfil execute and do for me and in my name, allowing ratifying and confirming whatsoever my said son shall do in that behalf.*

*In witness whereof I have set to my hand and seal the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March in the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth of England France and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith etc. [1573]*

*By me Francis Uvedalle*

NOTE; This power of attorney features yet another variant spelling of More Critchel,

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<sup>2</sup> *Dedemus potestatem* (we have given power) Legal term meaning a writ empowering a person to act in place of a judge.

## Document 2c

### Declaration, dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 1572

A declaration, in Latin, made by John Pore, notary public, regarding testimonies of witnesses to the nuncupative will, including those whose names are not included in the second 'tidier' version of the will itself. It also endorses the name of the innkeeper as Abraham Pratt, rather than William Pratt.

<i>Die m(ar)tis x<sup>o</sup> vi(delicet) die martij Anno d(omi)i iuxta</i>	<i>On Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> namely on that day of March in the year of our Lord by</i>
<i>comptac(ione) etc. 1572 / in quada(m) camera infra hospitium(m) calculatione etc. 1572</i>	<i>Computation etc 1572 / in a certain private room within the hostelry (crossed out)</i>
<i>albi equi infra villa de Rumsye m(agister) Edwardus</i>	<i>of the White Horse in the town of Romsey Master Edward</i>
<i>Walker cl(er)icus Vicarius de Rumsey p(re)d(ict)e in hac p(ar)te</i>	<i>Walker cleric vicar of Romsey aforesaid in this matter</i>
<i>Commissarius assignatus. Jurato on(er)ali q(uo)d s(an)c(t)a de?</i>	<i>appointed Commissioner. Having been sworn</i>
<i>evanelia on(er)avit, p(re)d(ict?) Testes o(mn)es et sing(u)l(ar)es</i>	<i>the aforesaid witnesses all and singular</i>
<i>retrono(m)inatos vi(delicet) Joh(ann)em Ayleff, Will(el)mum Pratt</i>	<i>named before viz. John Ayleff William Pratt</i>
<i>Elenam, uxor(em) sua(m) et Agnete(m) Barret vidua(m)</i>	<i>Elena his wife and Agnes Barret widow</i>
<i>de Rumsye qui quidem sic iurati deposuerunt et testificerunt</i>	<i>Of Romsey who indeed have so given oath and testified</i>
<i>o(mn)ia et sing(u)la(?) in hui(usm)o(d)i testa(men)to contenta</i>	<i>all and singular contained in this testament</i>
<i>et spificata (except legato donato Abrahamo</i>	<i>and details (except for the bequest left to Abraham</i>
<i>Pratt) fuisse et esse acta (?)esta data et</i>	<i>Pratt to have been and to be ... acted upon given and</i>
<i>diposita p(er) voluntatem et secundum voluntat(em) d(i)c(t)i testatori in ess(?on) p(ro)ut in eode(m) continetur p(er) eunde(m) testator(em)</i>	<i>deposed through the will and according to the will of the said testator just as is contained in the same by the same testator</i>
<i>in sana memoria existen(tem) Et quoad p(re)d(ictum) legat(um)</i>	<i>being of sound memory And as far as the aforesaid legacy</i>



<i>p(re)exceptum D(i)c(t)a Agnes Barrett solu(m) modo deposuit</i>	<i>previously excepted the aforesaid Agnes Barrett only gave evidence</i>
<i>et testificavit de et p(ro) veritate eiusdem</i>	<i>and testified concerning and for the truth of that</i>
<i>p(ro)ut in eode(m) Testa(men)to declarant(/) ?P(ro)n(o)taribus? tunc</i>	<i>according to what is in that will. Declaring to the Clerks then</i>
<i>et ib(ide)m me(o) Edwardo Cole Notorr(io) pub<sup>(li)co</sup> Deputato</i>	<i>and at that place to me Edward Cole Notary Public Deputy</i>
<i>Reg(ist)rarij Ep(isop)atus Wintonie Necnon magi(ist)ro Joh(ann)e Bracklie maiore ville</i>	<i>Registrar of the Bishopric of Winchester and also to Master John Bracklie mayor of the town</i>
<i>de Rumsy(e) pred(icte) et Joh(ann)e Pore Notar(rio) pub<sup>(li)co</sup> de Civi(ta)te Wintonie Thoma</i>	<i>of Romsey aforesaid and John Pore Notary Public of the City of Winchester Thomas</i>
<i>Cradock et Georgio Barton de Rumsye pred(icte)</i>	<i>Cradock and George Barton of Romsey aforesaid</i>
<i>et Joh(ann)e Shapton Civ<sup>itatis</sup> Winton(ie) p(re)d(icte)is testibus ad/quod</i>	<i>and John Shapton citizen of Winchester, aforesaid witnesses</i>
<i>p(re)missa testificand(is) assigatis(?) et requisitis) p(er) Thoma(m)</i>	<i>Freely testifying to the premisses having been assigned and questioned by Thomas</i>
<i>Uvedale gen(er)ossum unu(m) filiorum d(i)c(t)i ffrancisi Uvedale</i>	<i>Uvedale one of the sons of the said Francis Uvedale</i>
<i>in Testa(men)to nominat(i)</i>	<i>named in the Will</i>
<i>Ha(c) est Test(ament)um me(e) Joh(an)is Pore</i>	<i>This is the Testament of me John Pore</i>
<i>No(tar)rio Pub<sup>(li)co</sup></i>	<i>Notary Public</i>

John Uvedale's final moments have left a small cameo of a very human story acted out in the heart of Romsey. At one and the same time it offers a personal glimpse into the private life of a member of the gentry, and a glimpse of life in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Romsey, revealing fascinating details that fill in gaps in the known history of the town and showing something of the way in which lots of different stories and people overlapped. It is also, to date, the earliest documentary evidence for the White Horse Hotel.

Author's Apology: Document 2c was transcribed and translated by me in the early days of my venture into Medieval Latin

## Local History News: Saxon Timbers in the Fishlake.

During the recent work on the Romsey Flood Alleviation scheme a new sluice was built near the start of the Fishlake, where it leaves the main channel of the Test. As the channel was cleared by a mechanical digger it was noticed that two pieces of timber had been picked up in the bucket.

The timber was clearly old and the conditions of the contract meant that the contractors needed to have the timbers analysed. A dendrochronology expert was employed to try to date the timbers, but the patterns of the tree rings could not be matched against the master sequence. An alternative method of dating, using carbon 14 analysis, gave dates of 600-658 cal AD and 639-706 cal AD. Unfortunately, these dates could be wrong by several centuries from the felling date of the timbers depending on exactly which part of the timber was sampled. Moreover, because the timbers were found in the base of the Fishlake channel they must have originally been in place further upstream.

The date of the timbers does not, therefore, give a date for the building of the Fishlake because they could easily have been washed out of position and travelled downstream long after their original felling and erection. However, it does show that people in the Test Valley at this time were building some structure in or alongside the Test, perhaps a bridge or causeway, a little upstream of this point.



*Old Timsbury Bridge, c1900*

This could be a bridge on the site of Old Timsbury Bridge. It is possible that the exact line of the channel of the Test and Fairbourne in this area may have been slightly different at the time, but the boundary of the estate of Romsey Abbey described in the 10th century charter suggests that both the watercourses and the boundary of Romsey Infra were similar to their present courses.



*Excavation of the riverbed  
Fishlake Stream flood control structure, looking north-east*

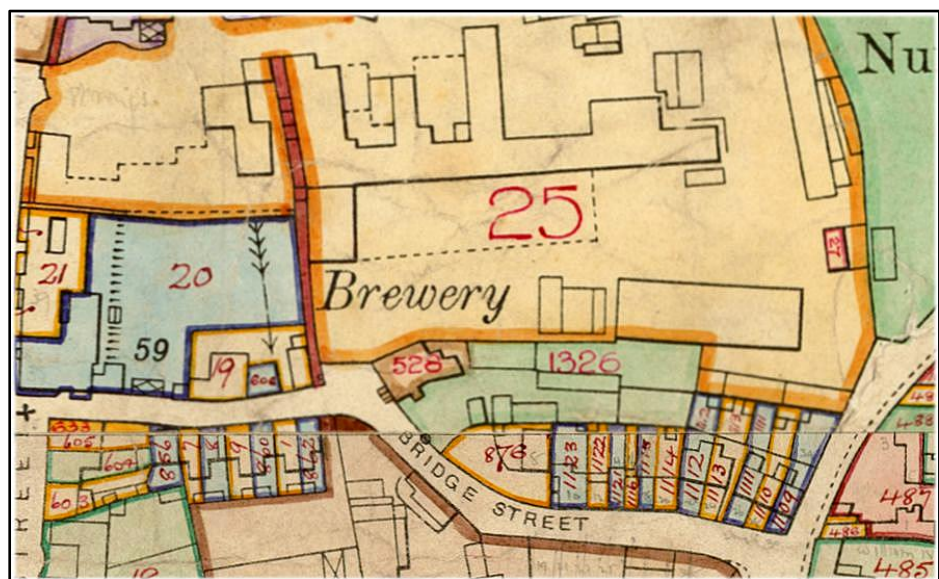


*Saxon piles from stream bed  
in flow control location (Scales: 1 m and 0.3 m)*

*Please Note: The above photographs were taken from Test Valley Services  
Romsey Flood Alleviation Scheme Archaeological Watching Brief*



*The Tithe Map of 1845*



*Extract from 1911 Map  
(land valuation map)*