

## SUSPECTED PERSONS IN KENT.

BY A. RHODES.

WHILE engaged in making some researches to annotate a list of certain Kentish tokens, I came across seven volumes formerly in the possession of Ralph Thoresby the antiquary, to whom they were presented by Robert Kitchingham, a merchant of Leeds. How they came into the possession of the latter it is impossible to say; their proper depository should be the Record Office. Though the series is incomplete, these volumes possess a certain value as throwing a vivid side light on the history of that period by revealing the elaborate system adopted by the Commonwealth for the registration of the movements of those suspected of Royalist sympathies, and they have special claim on the attention of the local historian, besides being useful in a biographical or genealogical sense. They are now in the British Museum (Add. MSS. 34,011-17), where they are described as "Returns made by the various Major-Generals and their Deputies presiding over the Military Districts into which the Protector Cromwell divided the country in 1655." From these Returns I have extracted all the entries relating to Kent, supplemented by another volume (Add. MSS. 19,516), one of three, the other two being missing.

Coming to the registration system we find that the local registrars forwarded lists of "suspected persons" to an office in London. The names of these were entered under counties in rough alphabetical order. The volume containing Kent is Add. MSS. 34,013, and the names are entered from four lists, the nature of which cannot be explained, nor does it seem to be of any consequence. I have marked all these extracts A. When one of the suspects travelled, the Registrar forwarded to the office in London the address where the traveller intended to lodge. These particulars were entered in a book (Add. MSS. 34,014) which I have marked B; and so minute was the supervision that a removal from a lodging in one part of Fleet Street to another was duly recorded (see HORTON KIRBY). On the arrival of the traveller in London he had to certify to the central office the place of his lodging, and his arrival was notified to the Major-General commanding his county, as was the date of his removal or departure. Add. MSS. 19,516 is a "Booke of such Letters as from tyme to tyme have been sent from this Office to the Maior generalls of ye respective Associations of the Several Counties of this Nation." Extracts

from this book I have marked C. The office was at the "Three Kings" in Fleet Street, as appears from the following letter:—

M<sup>r</sup> REYNOLDS,

Yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> [May 1656] present I received directed to me at the golden cock on Ludgate Hill, a place vterly vnkown to me, nor to be found by any person you gave such direction vnto. From my house at the 3 Kings in fleet stret.

This Reynolds was the "Registrar for receiving appearances of persons landing from forreigne parts at Dover," and his answer to this was not considered satisfactory, as it evoked a further official remonstrance:—

21 May 1656.

M<sup>r</sup> REYNOLDS,

To what purpose should I give you such particular notice of the Street and Signe from whence I send my Letters but for yo<sup>r</sup> Information where yo<sup>r</sup> returnes will finde mee out, and for your Excuse implying you might notwithstanding suppose the Office to be elsewhere; it would haue had some satisfaction therein, if after you had such a hint of the place whence I sent my letters, you had informed persons engaged to appeare that if they had been disappointed in one place they might have found mee in the other: but for the future there will I hope bee no occasion of such kind of writing as this, but having heard well of you from M<sup>r</sup> Price, you may alsoe heare from mee as from

yo<sup>r</sup> very loving friend.

Subsequently he received (in company with Mr. Tidey, the Registrar at Rye) a request, with the first part of which we can all agree, viz., to write "with a more plaine and legible hand, without which it is not easie to read names of persons or places; and alsoe that you would send the name of the parish, street, and house where persons intending for London purpose to lodge."

Mr. John Kingsland, the Registrar at Deal, was likewise reminded that he had omitted to mention the house, street, and parish of such of those sent in his list as intend to lodge in and about London. On 23 September 1656 a "Newe Booke" is sent to Mr. Reynolds, and a memorandum that "what he has intimated about the return of a banisht person from the Barbadoes shall be remembered." The Registrar at Gravesend was named Pelling. The following is the form of the letters to the Major-Generals:—

HON<sup>ble</sup> S<sup>r</sup>,

John Trowte of ffaversham in y<sup>e</sup> Countie of Kent, Gent., the 7<sup>th</sup> p'sent p'sonally gave notice of y<sup>e</sup> place of his Lodging a' Also of his Intension on this day or to Morrow the 8<sup>th</sup> p'sent to return to ffaversham aforesd. I only Add

London, 7<sup>th</sup> febr. 1655-[6].Honble. S<sup>r</sup>,Yo<sup>r</sup> humble Servant.

These To his hon<sup>ble</sup> frend Coll<sup>l</sup> Kelsey, Ma. Gen<sup>l</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> Counties of Kent & Surrey, p'sent.

And the form of entry of abode will be seen under HORTON KIRBY; sometimes the entry specifies that the notification to the office has been made in person (see FAVERSHAM, ULCOMBE). Not

only were the movements of residents minutely traced, but those of officials passing through on State affairs:—

12 Feb. 1655-[6].

John Lord Bellasio on ye 15 p'sent gave notice of ye place of his Lodging, and likewise of his Lordp' Intention from Kente to remoue vpon Monday or Teusday next towards Dover or Rie to imbarke himsele for ffrance, by reason of a licence from his highnesse Councell dated ye 12<sup>th</sup> p'sent.

Also Thomas Cantly, Meniall Serv<sup>t</sup>, to attend his Lordship.

21 Aug. [1656].

Charles Gibbons of St. Clement's Dane on the 18<sup>th</sup> gave notice of his intention to remoue to Gravesend, and from thence the day following to Dover, and thence to imbarque himself for Callice in France by a Lycence under the hand and seale of the Lord Fleetwood, late Ld. Dept. of Ireland.

For convenience of reference I have arranged the matter alphabetically under the names of places, putting all the available items under one heading, with the name from A, the place of lodging from B, and removals from C. Curious as some of the information is, unfortunately the series is incomplete: A contains names only; B, the most interesting, concludes on 11 June. There were two other volumes, for Add. MSS. 34,017 is an index of names with references to two volumes missing from the series. The remaining notices of removal are taken from C.

A glance at the list will exhibit some names of which there is nothing beyond their entry in the lists as suspects; on the other hand, names occur in the removals which are not in the lists. One list also supplies the deficiency of another; for instance, Pordage is entered in A as "of Preston," but the particular Preston is identified by C as "neere Faversham" (see also MARGATE).

These travels might serve as a guide in many instances to one searching for a register of marriage or death, as it is just possible that frequent journeys to one place might indicate an amorous errand as well as professional business, and an invalid, say at Tunbridge, might never return to his earthly home. For this reason I have thought it advisable to include all those moving into Kent (see TUNBRIDGE, SUTTON.) It was at one time my intention to have annotated each name wherever possible by biographical or topographical details; and although I gathered many interesting items, I abandoned the task as requiring more time and labour than I could devote to it. A few hints only have been inserted to clear up some dubious points.

ASH.—John Solley, yeoman. A  
John Solley issued a token at Wingham, No. 569, in Kent  
(Boyne's *Seventeenth Century Tokens*, Second Edition).  
AYLESFORD.—John Taylor, yeoman. A  
BENENDEN.—Stephen Ginder, gent. A  
BETHERSDEN.—Francis Whitfield, gent. A  
BEXLEY.—Richard Wood, chandler. A  
George Cooke. Was in London 18 Nov. 1656. C

BONNINGTON.—Charles Boys, Esq. A  
7 Feb. 1656, lodged at the house of Mr Browne, a Barbour, next Dore to Essex House in ye p'ish of Clement Dane. 14 Feb., gave notice of his intention to remove back to Bonnington. B  
12 Feb., John Boys, Esq., is entered in C, but this may be a mistake.  
BORDEN.— A  
Ralph Clarke, gent. A  
15 April 1656, at the Katherine Wheel in Southwark, at the house of Mrs. . . . . Widow. B  
John Greenstead, gent. A  
John Lake, yeoman. A  
23 April 1656, entered as Luke, at the house of Henry Booth in Chick Lane, Cooke. B  
James Rayner, gent. A  
24 April 1656, in Cross Key Lane, at ye house of William Cobbe, a chirurgeon, near Jeoffard's Bldgs. in high Holborn. B  
20 May, at the house of William Cobbe, in Cross Key Lane, next to the Angell, in parish of Gyles in the feilds. On the 23rd to remove back. B  
9 Sept., to the Countie of Bedford, to the house of Mr Taylor in the parish of Eatton Soaken, and from thence back to Borden aforesaid. 26 June and 18 Nov., in London. C  
BREDHURST.—Richard Tray, clerk. A  
7 Feb. 1656, at Mr E. Hobson, Innkeeper, at ye sign of ye Golden Calf in Thames street, near ye three Cranes. B  
BRIDGE (Query BRIDGE).—James Tongue, gent. A  
BROMLEY.—  
John Andrews. B  
28 Feb. 1656, at the Crown in Shoe Lane, William Knowle, Victualler. Removed 29<sup>th</sup>. B  
Henry Gilburne, Esq.; Nicholas Gardner, chandler; Henry King, gent.; Arnold King, gent.; William Phillips, yeoman. A  
CALEHILL.—Sir John Darell. A  
CANTERBURY.—  
John Best, Councillor at Law, of Paules, neere Canterbury. A  
At his Chambers in Graye's Inn. 30 April 1656, at his own Chamber in Graye's Inn. 11 June, at his Chamber in Graye's Inn. B  
John Bettenham, Gent. A  
In London 15 July 1656. C  
Thomas Edwards, gent. In London 26 June 1656. C  
Thomas Everett, Mayor. A  
Jeremy Gay, gent., of Paules neere Canterbury (*conf.* NONNINGTON). A  
Richard Hardress, Esq., of Hardress. A  
Of Hardress Court. C  
6 Feb. 1656, at Lawrence Winderis, A Shoemaker in Graye's Inn Lane. 12 Feb., gave notice of removal from Winderis in Graye's Inn to Upphards. 7 May, of Upp Hards at Samuell Cullimores in Bread Street, next door to ye Signe of the Crowne, in ye parish of Bennetsfincks. B  
26 June, in London. C  
Thomas Hardress, Esq. A  
23 Jan. 1656, at his chambers in Graye's Inn. Removed 20 Feb. back to Canterbury. 22 April, at his chamber in Graye's Inn. 22 May, gave notice of his intention to remove back to Canterbury. B  
4 June, at his chamber in Graye's Inn. B  
In London 8 July and 9 Dec. 1656. C  
Avery Hills, Apothecary. A  
In London 24 July and 4 Dec. 1656. C

- William Kingsley, gent. A  
 Francis Lovelace, Esq., of Paules neere Canterbury. A  
 29 Ap. 1656, at his chamber in Graye's Inn. B  
 Francis Maplesden, grocer. A  
 29 Jan. 1656, at the Sign of the Squirrel, Robert Wheeler, gunmaker, in Shoe Lane, London. 7 Feb., again at Wheeler's, who is called a Gunsmith; on the 9<sup>th</sup> gave notice of his intention to remove back to Canterbury. 26 Feb. 1656, at the house of John Webb, Cheesmonger, on St. Mary Hill by Billingsgate. Removed on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 2 June 1656, at the Squirrel; removed on the 5<sup>th</sup>. B  
 In London on 4 Nov. 1656. C  
 William Marshall, Pewterer. A  
 Henry Palmer, gent. A  
 On 18 Nov. 1656 he was in London, and described as of Martin Hill, near Canterbury. C  
 Richard Pysing, Carpenter. A  
 3 March 1656, at the bleeding heart at Ratcliffe Cross, in the p'ish of Stepney at the house of Thomas Gibson; on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> intendeth to remove back to Canterbury. B  
 Robert Pownoll, Clerke; William Rigdon, gent., of Nether Hardress (see LIMIDGE); William Russell, gent.; John Reader, gent. A  
 Edward Roberts, Esq. A  
 26 Jan. 1656, at his Chambers in Graye's Inn, Holborn. 14 Feb., removed back to Canterbury. 30 Ap., at his chamber in Graye's Inn. 23 May, gave notice of his intention to remove back to Canterbury. B  
 In London 8 July and 4 Dec. C  
 Joseph Roberts, gent., of Dunstons; John Slowman, gent., of Paules neere Canterbury. A  
 John Simpson, grocer. A  
 In London 15 July. C  
 Anthony Sanderson, gent., of Dunstons; Thomas Tuke, Tobacco-pipe Maker; Robert Turner, Vintner. A  
 CHALLOCK.—John Giles, gent.; Gibbon Hawker, gent. A  
 CHARLTON.—Edward Wilsford, Coll. A  
 This is probably Charlton-by-Dover. A  
 CHART, LITTLE.—Daniel Bourne, yeoman. A  
 30 April 1656, lodgeth at ye house of Richard Baylye, Innkeeper, at the Crowne in Covent Garden. 3 May, gave notice of his intention to remove back to Little Chart on the 5<sup>th</sup>. B  
 CHARTHAM.—Thomas Osbourne, Esq. A  
 5 Feb. 1656, at the house of M<sup>r</sup> Clarke, A Surgion in the old Bailey at the Surgions' Armes. 7 May, at the house of Mrs. Bellinger, widow, in the old Bailey, near the Pump. 24 May, gave notice of his intention to remove back on the 26<sup>th</sup>. B  
 CHELSFIELD.—Francis Brasyer, yeoman; John Cocke, husbandman; John Clark, yeoman; Robert Petley, yeoman. A  
 CHERITON.—Zouch Brockman, gent. A  
 CHEVENING.—15 July 1656, Thomas Turnur of Graye's Inn gave notice of his intention to remove towards Chevening, and on the 24<sup>th</sup> to remove to Kingston on Thames. C  
 CHISLEHURST.—Phillip Warwick. 12 June 1656, was in London. C  
 CHISLETT.—Huffham, gent. [*sic*]. A  
 CRANBROOK.—John Leigh, gent. A  
 8 May 1656, John Leigh, the elder, of the Towne of Cranbrook, Gent., at his Chamber in Staple Inn in the parish of Andrew in Holborn. 22 May, to remove on the 23rd. 11 June, at his chamber in Staple Inn. B  
 In London 8 July and 4 Dec. C

- CRAY.—(See NORTH CRAY, ST. MARY CRAY, and CROUCH.)  
 CRAYFORD.—Thomas Andrews, yeoman. A  
 CROUCH.—Robert Maning, yeoman. A  
 There is a parish of this name in the Hundred of Wrotham (*Hasted*, vol. ii., p. 240), but possibly it may be one of the Crays, as the name occurs several times on tokens in this district. Isaac Manning of Dartford issued one in 1664, in 1658 Ann Maning of St. Mary Cray issued one, and Robert Maning of St. Mary Cray appears in these lists (see ST. MARY CRAY). A family named Manning was seated at Cudham and Down for many years.  
 CUDHAM.—Roger Knowe, yeoman. A  
 DARTFORD.—George Smale, yeoman. A  
 DAVINGTON.—John Bode, gent.; Robert Owre, gent. A  
 DELCE, GREAT.—(See ROCHESTER.)  
 DIMCHURCH.—Edward Harrison, gent. A  
 DITTON.—William Brewer, gent. A  
 In London 8 July 1656. C  
 DOVER.—  
 Arnold Braines, Merchant. A  
 The clerk was dubious as to the spelling of the name, besides being shaky as to the topography of his lodging; apparently he had removed to Bridge.  
 6 Feb. 1656, at the house of M<sup>r</sup> Richard Harrison, A Taylor over against the Dolphin Tavern in Tower Street in the parish of Barking. 12 Feb., Braames gave notice of removal from Tower street to Dover. 12 March, again at Harrison's. 19 May, entered as Arnold Braems of Bridge, at the house of Harrison, a Tayler, over against the Dolphin Tavern in Tower Street in the parish of Dunstan-in-the-East. B  
 12 Feb., entered as Brames in C. In London 20 Nov., entered as Brancies of Bridge. C  
 Ferdinando Booth, gent.; Nicholas Easton, Merchant; John Foster, Innholder; Robert Howard, Cordwainer; John Looome, Merchant; Humphrey Mantle, Brewer. A  
 Peter Nevill, of Hussam, near Dover. C  
 In London 11 Sept. 1656.  
 Edward Ranger, Merchant; John Rolfe, Mercer; Lawrence Sawyer, Innholder; John Smith, Innholder; Robert Valie, Brewer; George West, Maltster; William Wellard, Brewer. A  
 DUNSTAN.—(See CANTERBURY.)  
 EASTRY.—John Austin, yeoman. A  
 ELMES.—Peter Neprow, Merchant (Query ELMSTONE). A  
 ELTHAM.—Thomas Supp, gent. A  
 ERITH.—John Harvill, yeoman. A  
 EYTHORNE.—John Farnaby, gent. A  
 EAST FARLEIGH.—Thomas Deering, gent.; John Wood, yeoman. A  
 FARNBOROUGH.—Henry Hall, gent. A  
 FAVERSHAM.—  
 Robert Owre. A  
 John Trowt, gent. A  
 5 Feb. 1656, lodgeth at the house of Edward Jones, Victualler, in Warwick Lane, and on Thursday or Friday intendeth to remove back to flaversham.  
 4 March, at same lodging, returned on 11<sup>th</sup>. 25 April, at same lodging, to return on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. 20<sup>th</sup> May, again at the George; to remove on 23rd. B  
 In London 11 Nov. and 16 Dec. C  
 William Trowts is entered on 24 April, but this is probably a mistake. C  
 John Vpton, gent. A