

Wyghtham prædicto [filio] Roberti Wyghtham, 6l. 13s. 4d., &c. At the end of the will it is said, That whereas he willed his body to be buried in the Grey Fryers at Oxon; yet the king disposed of it otherwise, viz. that it should be buried at the Conventual Church of Westminster.

“Probatum fuit hoc Test. per Ric. Episcopum Sarum, 27 Nov. 1396.”

William of Worcestre, in his Itinerary, has given the following as the Dimensions of the Church of this House in 1480:

“Longitudo chori ecclesiæ Sancti Francisci Oxoniæ continet 68 gressus. Longitudo a valva chori usque ad fenestram occidentalem continet 90 gressus, sic in tota longitudine continet 150 gressus. Latitudo navis dictæ ecclesiæ ab orientali parte continet cum Ela 28 gressus. Longitudo ecclesiæ navis a parte meridei usque ad borealem portam continet 40 gressus tantum, et ibi sunt x. capellæ in dicta navi boreali ecclesiæ. Latitudo navis borealis ecclesiæ continet 20 gressus. Latitudo cujuslibet capellæ continet 6 gressus, et sic latitudo totius navis ecclesiæ ex parte boreali cum x. capellis continet 26 gressus. Et quælibet capella continet in longitudine 6 gressus. Et quælibet fenestra vitrea dictarum x. capellarum continet tres dayes vitreatas.”^a

BRIDGENORTH, in SHROPSHIRE.

In this Town was a House of Grey Friars, founded (as Speed saith) by John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, temp. Hen. VI., and valued at 4l. per annum, which was granted, 36th Hen. VIIIth, to John Beaumont.^b

GREY FRIARS, at SHREWSBURY.

LELAND tells us, “My Lorde Powis sayith that Hawise, wife to Charleton Lorde of Powys, was the causer that the Gray Freres College in Shrobbesbyri, wher she lyith buried under a flate marble by Chorleston’s tumbe, was buildid. And that she causid Charleton to be buildid.”^c

Messrs. Owen and Blakeway, in their History of Shrewsbury, vol. ii. p. 460, say, “The lady here mentioned was the heir of the ancient Princes of Powis Gwenwynwyn; she who so stoutly withstood the attempts of her uncles to wrest that inheritance from her, and transmitted it to her posterity by Sir John de Charlton. But this House of religion certainly did not owe its original foundation to her; for she was not born till 1291: and there is pretty good authority that her grandfather, Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, who was dead at least two years before her birth, as well as his son Owen de la Pole, this lady’s father, both received interment in this Church. Indeed, it is plain that this religious society had existed in Shrewsbury several years antecedent to 1267, for then Hen. III. being at Shrewsbury (Sept. 23.) granted to his beloved the Friars Minors of Salop licence to widen their gate in the middle of the town wall, for the admission of carts into their precinct.^d Indeed as Roger de Mortimer of Wigmore, who succeeded his brother in 1227, and died himself in 1247, had a son (John his third son), a friar of this House, it must have been founded at an early period of this century. Lady Powis, however, may have been a great benefactress, and second foundress of this Friary, and may have built its church: and it has ever been conjectured, that the fine glass at St. Mary’s Shrewsbury, which commemorates so many of her descendants, was originally set up in the Church which she built here.”

Sir John de Cherleton Lord of Powis, the son of the Lady Hawisia, was a benefactor to the Grey Friars in the 45th Edw. III.

Leland says, “One D. Francis, a frere, of late dayes re-edified almost a great part of this Fryers House.”^e This

appears to have been Doctor Francis Duffylde, who occurs in the 18th and 20th Hen. VIII. as Warden.^f

This House, says Messrs. Owen and Blakeway, was the poorest in the town of Shrewsbury; for the Friars had only three or four acres of arable land adjoining, and little personal property; no jewels, nothing but a plated crucifix and a mean chalice. The Site was granted, upon the Dissolution, 35th Hen. VIIIth, to Richard Andrews and Nicholas Temple.^g The later descent of this House will be seen in the History of Shrewsbury. A portion of this Friary, converted into Houses, still remains. A window obtusely pointed, on the river side, and a door-way on the other side, mark it as the house of Dr. Francis. The walls of the Garden may be traced far in the adjoining meadow.

There is an Inventory of the Goods of these Friars in the Chapter-House, Westminster, temp. Hen. VIII.

BRIDGEWATER, in SOMERSETSHIRE.

AMONG the things which Leland marked in the West part of the Town was “a goodly House wher sumtyme a College was of Gray Freres. Wyllyam Bruer, sunne to Wyllyam Bruer the first, buildid this House. One of the Lordes Botreaux and his Wife were Especial Benefactors to this House. Thereapon his Hert and his Wife’s Body were buried there. The Accustumer of Bridgewater hath translated this Place to a right goodly and pleasant dwelling House.”^h

Tanner says this House seems to have been built about A. D. 1230:ⁱ and that the Site was granted in the 35th Hen. VIIIth to Emanuel Lukar.^k

In William of Worcestre’s Itinerary, p. 92, we read, “Longitudo Ecclesiæ Fratrum Minorum de Bryggewater 120 steppys, et ejus latitudo 30 steppys, et latitudo Navis Ecclesiæ 14 steppys. Guardianus Ecclesiæ Monasterii Bryggewater, vocatur frater Blackborow: et frater Pollard est legista Fratrum. Stevyn Byrkecomb discipulus fratris Johannis.”^l

At p. 136, in some Extracts from the Martyrology of these Friars, William de Cantilupe is styled founder: perhaps patron only. “Dominus W. de Cantilupo fundator hujus Ecclesiæ Ordinis Sancti Francisci, 25 die Septembris.”

BRISTOL, in SOMERSETSHIRE.

LELAND says, “The Gray Friers Howse of Bristol, was on the right ripe of From Watar, not far from Seint Barptolomes Hospital,”^m in St. James’s parish, in the street called Lewenesmede. It was founded before A. D. 1234:ⁿ and after its dissolution, King Henry the Eighth, in the 33d year of his reign, granted the Site of it to the mayor and citizens of Bristol.^o

William of Worcestre, in his Itinerary, p. 116, says “Longitudo Ecclesiæ Fratrum Minorum Bristollia continet 4454 steppys. Latitudo continet 52 steppys.” In another part, p. 237, he is more minute in describing the dimensions of their church, which he calls “Ecclesia Fratrum yn Lewelynysmede.” “Ecclesia et Conventus Sancti Francisci Bristoll in parochia Sancti Jacobi in vico Lewenysmede, videlicet chorus ecclesiæ continet in longitudine 28 virgas sive 50 gressus. Latitudo chori continet 9 virgas sive 18 gressus. Longitudo navis dictæ ecclesiæ cum duabus magnis alis continet 28 virgas sive 50 gressus. Latitudo dictæ navis cum duabus alis continet 27 virgas sive 52 gressus. Latitudo campanilis turris quadratæ continet 4 virgas sive 7 gressus. Archus 4 sunt in boreali navis ecclesiæ, et tot in meridionali.”

LICHFIELD, in STAFFORDSHIRE.

“THERE was an House of Grey Fryers in Lichefeild,”

^a Itin. Symonis Simeonis et Willelmi de Worcestre, 8^o Cantabr. 1778, p. 296.

^b Tann. Notit. Monast. Shropsh. vi. 3.

^c Lel. Itin. vol. vi. p. 16. Speed says it was founded by Geoffrey Lord Powis; and Leland, Itin. vol. iv. p. 100, calls it “The Grey Fryers of Shrewsbury of the Charleton’s foundation, and there laye the Lady Charleton, whome they tooke as their Foundresse.”

^d Pat. 51 Hen. III. m. 6. ^e Lel. Itin. vol. iv. p. 100.

^f Hist. of Shreswb. vol. ii. p. 463.

^g Tanner, Notit. Monast. Shropsh. xxv. 14.

^h Leland, Itin. vol. ii. p. 97.

ⁱ For this Will. Briwere jun. died A. D. 1232, as Dugd. Baron.

vol. i. p. 702. Mr. Speed makes this House endowed at the Dissolution with above 120l. per an., which was inconsistent with the rules of their Order; and was more likely the valuation of the Hospital of St. John in this town.

^k See the Repert. Orig. MS. Mus. Brit. vol. iii. p. 240.

^l See also Itin. Will. Worcest. p. 137.

^m Leland, Itin. vol. vii. p. 92.

ⁿ Claus. 19 Hen. III. m. 26. quod Fratres Minores Bristol habeant septem fusta ad focum in bosco de Furch. Tanner, who gives this reference, adds to it, “Pat. 48 Edw. III. p. 1, m. 2. pro fonte in suburbiis. Pat. 9 Ric. II. p. 1, m. 26 vel 27.” Notit. Monast. Bristol, 25.

^o See Tanner, ut supr.

says Leland, "on the south-west part of the towne. Alexander bishop of Lichfeild gave first certaine free burgages in the towne for to sett this House on, and was first founder of it. There cometh a conduct of water out of an hill brought in lead to the towne, and hath two castles in the towne, one in the east wall of this Fryers' Close on the street syde, another about the market-place." ^a Tanner, from the Collect. Anglo-Minorit. P. ii. p. 36, says it was founded about A. D. 1229. ^b According to the Anglia Sacra, tom. i. p. 447, this Friary was burned down in 1291; but being afterwards rebuilt, continued till the general Suppression; and in the 36th Hen. VIII. was granted to Richard Crumbilthorn. ^c

STAFFORD.

IN the north part of this town, says Tanner, ^d was the House of the Franciscan or Grey Friars, who were settled here before 10 Edw. I. ^e Speed erroneously gives the valuation of St. Mary's College at Stafford, as the annual revenue of this friary. The Site of this House was granted in the 31st Hen. VIII. to James Leveson. ^f

There is an Inventory of the Goods of this Friary, *temp.* Hen. VIII., in the Chapter-House, Westminster.

BABWELL, or GREY FRIARS at BURY ST. EDMUND, SUFFOLK.

"IN the latter end of 1256," says Tanner, "or beginning of 1257, upon the vacancy of the abbey by the death of Edmund de Walpole, the Grey Friars began to fix themselves in the north-west part of this town, and notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the monks, went on for some years to build their church and offices, being protected by the bulls of Pope Alexander the Fourth, and by writs from King Henry the Third (who styled himself their founder), and supported by the interest of several great men, especially Richard earl of Gloucester, and Gilbert de Preston. ^g However, after above six years' struggle and immense sums of money expended in the court of Rome, Pope Urban the Fourth revoked the bulls of his predecessor, and sent a peremptory order to the provincial to remove them out of the town and jurisdiction of Bury, which was done on the eve of St. Edmund, A. D. 1263, ^h when they retired to a place just without the bounds, beyond the north gate called Babwell (now the toll-gate), which the abbat and convent generously gave them ⁱ to build on; and here they continued till the Dissolution. The Site of this House was granted, 33d Hen. VIII., to Anthony Harvey. ^k

Taylor, in his Index Monasticus, enumerates various benefactors to this House. He says, the present owner is Mrs. Palmer. Part of the premises is now the toll-gate. Carter, in his Antient Architecture of England, Part II. pl. viii., has given a View of the Gateway of this Friary.

DUNWICH, in SUFFOLK.

THE House of Grey Friars here was founded first by Richard Fitz John and Alice his wife, and afterwards, according to Weever, by King Henry the III. Gardner thinks the corporation of this borough were rather the founders, they having given the friars a place on which to

^a Itin. vol. iv. p. 118.

^b Alexander bishop of Lichfield died in 1259, 23 Hen. III., and was buried in his cathedral.

^c Tann. Notit. Monast. *Staff.* xvii. 5. See also Repert. Orig. MS. Mus. Brit. tom. iv. fol. 79. vi. fol. 61 b. Tanner refers, relating to this House, to Pat. 3 Edw. III. p. 2, m. 6 vel 7.

^d *Ultra flumen.* Lel. Itin. vol. vii. p. 28.

^e See Prynne's Papal Usurpations, tom. iii. p. 291. Pat. 10 Edw. I. m. 10. pro victualibus emendis sine impedimento ministrorum regis.

^f Tann. Notit. *Staff.* xxiv. 7.

^g Matt. Paris, edit. Lond. 1634. pp. 330, 332, 345, in ann. 1258 et 1259.

^h Lel. Itin. vol. vi. p. 33.

ⁱ So Lib. Rub. MS. fol. 59 b. But Mr. Weever makes master Adam de Lincoln founder of this House.

^k Tanner says, "*Vide* In Append. ad Plac. Parliam. edita a Gulielmo Ryley, fol. 611, petitio Fratrum Minorum apud S. Edmundum dom. Regi, ut mandaret vicecomiti Suffolc. quod plantet aulam de Catshale in tali loco, quod non sit ad nocumentum Fratrum, 30 Edw. I. In libro Rubeo abbatie S. Edmundi, MS. fol. 59 b. de expulsione Fratrum Minorum ex villa de Bury, A. D. 1263. Pat. 42 Hen. III. m. 29. Pat. 43 Hen. III. n. 12. d. Pat. 2 Edw. III. p. 1, m. 28 vel 29. Pat. 25 Hen. VI. p. 1, m. 17 vel 18. Pat. 27 Hen. VI. p. 1, m. 6 vel 7." Stevens, Contin. vol. i. p. 155, quotes the Hist. of the Friars Minors by

build their convent, A. D. 1289. The site contained seven acres, which have hitherto escaped the devastations of the sea. Weever, in his Funeral Monuments, p. 721, has enumerated the names of various benefactors who were buried here. The Site was granted, at the Dissolution, to John Eyre, Esq. The present owner is Barne Barne, Esq. A portion of this friary is now converted into farm buildings, consisting of a barn and other offices. Two of the gates remain nearly entire. Gardner and Taylor have described two SEALS of this Friary. One, oval, representing a ship, in the head of which is seated a king with his crown on, and at the stern a bishop with his mitre on, and a crosier in his left hand: with the Legend "*✠ Sigillum fr̄m. Minor. Donewici.*" The other, also oval, representing a friar kneeling and praying to St. John the Baptist, with this label issuing from his mouth, "*S. Joh. ora pro me.*" The inscription round, "*Sigillu' Gardiani fratrum Minor' Donewicy.*" ^l

GREY FRIARS of IPSWICH.

IN the west part of this town, says Tanner, and in the parish of St. Nicholas, was the Church and House of the Friars Minors, who were fixed here, *temp.* Edw. I., by the charity of Sir Robert Tiptot of Nettlested. ^m Weever, Fun. Mon. p. 751, has given the names of several persons of note buried in the friary church here. Tanner refers, relating to this House, to Collect. Anglo-Minorit. P. II. p. 20, and Pat. 6 Edw. III. p. i. m. 25 vel 26. The present owner of the Site of this House is Simon Jackaman, Esq. ⁿ

Of this Friary are proceedings, *temp.* Hen. VIII., Augm. Office, and in the Chapter-House, Westminster, an Inventory of the Goods.

RICHMOND, in SURREY.

THE following is Manning's Account of the Grey Friars at Richmond; Hist. Surr. vol. i. p. 423. "Bishop Tanner informs us that a Convent was built here, near the Royal Palace, for Observant Friars, by King Henry VII., about the year 1499. These were of the Order of Franciscans, Grey Friars, or Friars Minors; whom, on some considerable relaxations having crept in among them, it was thought necessary to reform, and reduce to the Rule of their first institution; when such as continued under the relaxation were called *Observants* or *Recollects*. This Reformation took place in England, about the year 1452, and was entirely settled about 1499, when they were introduced at this place." ^o Harpsfield also, in his History of England, ^p takes notice of this, as one of six Houses of Observants founded by King Henry VII.: ^q and Stow speaks of it as having (with others of the same Order in different places) been suppressed on the 11th of August, 1534. ^r

In a Survey of 1649, a Building is described as adjoining to the Palace, and "called the Friars, containing three Rooms below stayrs, and four handsome ones above stayrs," and then used as a Chandler's shop. ^s The lane also which leads from Richmond Green to what was the Duke of Queensbury's house is still called *Friars' lane*; in which are two tenements, whose description in recent leases sufficiently marks the Site of their House itself. ^t

Francis a Sancta Clara, p. 14, for this friary. See also Leland, Itin. vol. vi. p. 33.

^l Tanner says, "*Vide* Collect. Anglo-Minorit. P. ii. p. 19. Escaet. Suff. 13 Edw. I. n. 92. non est ad damnum si Rex concedat Communitati Villæ de Dunewico, quod unam placeam inter stratam regiam ex parte australi, et domum Ricardi Kelbich, ex parte boreali dare possint Fratribus de Ordine Minorum, ad edificandum et inhabitandum, &c. Pat. 18 Edw. I. m. 11. [bis] licentia dom. regis desper. Pat. 2 Edw. III. p. 2, m. 19 vel 20. Pat. 10 Hen. IV. p. 1, m. 23. Pat. 16 Hen. IV. p. 1, m. 23. pro antiquo situ Domus ipsorum reservando."

^m He died 25 Edw. I. as Dugd. Baron. tom. ii. p. 39. *Robert Tilbot* founder, in Speed.

ⁿ See Taylor, Index Monast. p. 105.

^o See Stevens's Contin. vol. i. p. 93. ^p Harpsf. Hist. §. xv. c. 7.

^q Stevens, *ibid.* p. 96.

^r Annals, p. 571.

^s Lysons's Envir. of Lond. vol. i. p. 445.

^t Viz. 1. A piece of ground, with some buildings thereon, situate in *Friars' lane*, near Richmond Green, being part of the ground formerly called the *Friars*, let to William Gardener, Esq., by lease dated 15th June, 1752, for 41½ years from 26th July, 1759, after in the occupation of Joseph May, Esq. 2. Another piece of ground, with several tenements, a malt-house, and other buildings, being part also of what was called the *Friars*, let to John and Henry Andrews, by lease dated 20th Feb. 1784, for 29 years from March 6th, 1804. Report of the Commissioners, &c. p. 100.