

## REED – Durham Parishes and Borough Courts

1395 (13<sup>th</sup> January)

**DCL, Loc.IV.229, Borough of Crossgate, Durham City**

mb.3

Capitalis curia veteris burgi Dunelmi tenta ibidem die Mercurii proximo post festum Epiphanie Domini anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> CCC<sup>mo</sup> nonogesimo quarto

Thomas Wait et Elena uxor ejus devenerunt burgenses pro j tenemento elemosinarii Dunelm<sup>7</sup> et fecerunt finem xx d.

...

1502 (17<sup>th</sup> August, 31<sup>st</sup> August)

**DCL, Borough of Crossgate, Durham City, Borough Court Book 1**

(From Richard Britnell, *Records of the Borough of Crossgate, Durham, 1312-1531*, Surtees Society 212, Woodbridge: Boydell, 2008, no. 253, p. 113; not yet photographed or checked)

f.49

Curia tenta ibidem die Mercurii xvij<sup>o</sup> die Augusti anno etc. supradicto

Placitum      ...  
Thomas Wylkinson queritur de Johanne Pottez <sup>junioris</sup> in placito detencionis iij toppz <sup>cum</sup> <sup>lumin</sup> pertinencium dicto Thome <sup>que</sup> ipse fecit pro processione in die Corporis Christi, precii – ij s. iijj d. <sup>et eciam unius suis precii – xx d.</sup>, et ad dampnum suum – xij d.

Se viij<sup>a</sup>

...

f.49v

Curia tenta ibidem die Mercurii ultimo die Augusti anno Domini millesimo Dij<sup>do</sup>

...

Johannes Pottez junior venit et perfecit legem suam se viij<sup>a</sup> manu, videlicet Roulando Robynson *juratus*, Hugone Spark *juratus*, Georgio Lyttill *juratus*, Georgio Hudson *juratus*, Johanne Hall *juratus*, Roberto Hepton *juratus*, et Roberto Bell *juratus*, quod non injuste detinet Thome Wylkinson<sup>1</sup>

Lex – vj d.

1569 (11<sup>th</sup> June)

**DCRO, St. Nicholas' Church, Durham City, Parish Register♦**

(from TWC; not yet photographed or checked)

(unfoliated)

...

Christenings 1569. Anno Eliz: Reginae 11 mo

...

*Notandum:* Memorandum that A certaine Italian brought into the / Cittie of Durham the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of Iune in the / yeare aboue sayd A very greate, strange & mon / strous serpent in length sixtneene feete, In / quantitie of Dimentions greater

---

<sup>1</sup> Incomplete.

than a great horse. / Which was taken & killed by speciall pollicie in /  
Æthiopia within the Turke's dominions. But before / it was killed, It had  
deuoured (as it is credibly thought) / more than 1000 persons And also  
destroyed a whole / Countrey.

**1609**

**DCRO, St. Giles' Church, Durham City  
Grassmen's Accounts♦**

f.18

...

Expences

...

Item *paid to the pyper* for plaigne to the more when yt was dreste

iiij d

**1630** (5<sup>th</sup> April)

**DCRO, St. Giles' Church, Durham City, Parish Register♦**

unfoliated

...

1630

Roger Richardson tibicen, sepultus fuit  
Quinto die Aprilis

**1642** (4<sup>th</sup> May)

**DCRO, St. Giles' Church, Durham City, Parish Register♦**

unfoliated

...

Baptismata. 1642

...

Anna filia Roberti Richardson tibicinis  
baptiz. 4<sup>o</sup> die Maij.

...

**End Notes**

**1395, Crossgate Borough Court Documents, Durham City:** see Britnell no. 88, p. 43. Thomas Wayte(s) also appears on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1394 as the claimant for a debt (see Britnell no. 73, p. 36); it seems likely, though it cannot be certain, that he derived his surname from his occupation, but neither of the records that mention him concerns an actual performance. At most, this record could only suggest that Durham already had town waits at this date.

**1502, Crossgate Borough Court Book:** the borough court, which sometimes met as often as once every two weeks, existed to investigate and decide local cases. This item is part of a dispute over the estate of John Potts senior, who died between 13<sup>th</sup> October 1501, when he took part in an appraisal of confiscated goods, and 15<sup>th</sup> December 1501,

when John Potts junior and Thomas Wylkinson are both named among his administrators in a claim against his estate (ed. Britnell nos. 234, 235, pp. 104-05). On 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1502, Elizabeth Potts, probably a sister of John Potts junior, sues him for withholding several household items (a cupboard, a pewter dish, a coverlet, etc., Britnell no, 250), and the quoted item follows on 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August. It appears from another case, brought on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1502, that John Potts was a member of the Glovers' Company (Britnell no. 256, pp. 114-15), but Wylkinson's trade is not known, so it cannot be certain that the lights referred to here accompanied the Glovers in the Corpus Christi procession. Bad feeling between Wylkinson and Potts evidently continued: on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1503 Wylkinson was fined 40 pence for an affray against John Potts in breach of the peace (Britnell no. 270, p. 121).

**1609, St. Giles' Church, Grassmen's Accounts:** This is the first reference to the custom of calling out the inhabitants once a year to join in 'dressing', 'scaling' or 'moulding' the moor (Gilesgate Moor, strictly speaking a pasture rather than moorland). Those who 'scaled', i.e. scattered animal dung, were called the 'moulders'. The piper here may have served not only to summon them but also to cheer them in their work. Later entries include 'To George Pearson for playing to the moulders' (1674), 'For playinge to the mouders when they mouded the moore' (1695). Further see J. Barmby, ed. *Memorials of St. Giles's, Durham*, Surtees Society 95 (1896), 36. It is possible that the piper on this occasion was Roger Richardson, whose burial is recorded in the parish register for April 1630, qv.

**1642, St. Giles' Church, Parish Register:** the piper Robert Richardson, whose daughter's baptism is recorded here, was probably a relative of the piper Roger Richardson, whose burial is recorded in the parish register for April 1630, qv.