

ALDBOROUGH

Introduction

The village of Aldborough, located about 18.5 miles northwest of York, developed on the site of the important Romano-British town *Isurium Brigantes*, on the Roman road between York and outposts in Scotland. Aldborough's significance declined after the invasion of William the Conqueror because the Normans redirected the main route to the north so that it went through Boroughbridge, where it crossed the River Ure. The ancient parish of Aldborough included two townships in the old North Riding of Yorkshire, six in the West Riding, including the three that appear in the records: Aldborough, Boroughbridge, and Roecliff.

The accounts of performance in Aldborough, all late Elizabethan, appear in documents of either a manorial court or a diocesan one. They are, in effect, documents of control: one attempts to limit the activity of minstrels and the attendance of children and servants at their performances; the others aim to punish some members of the parish for their disorderly behaviour during the time of divine service and thereby to deter others from similar behaviour.

Texts

1585

Manorial Court Roll

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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@\Aldborough cum Borowbrigg@l \

pena ponit est that ffrom hensfurthe no *manner* of minstrell shall play in any *parte* of the towne of Aldeburghe at any time whearby to Call or kepe any manns *servauntes* or Children from ther masters or parentes howses after ix of the Cloke at night except it be at a wedding vpon payne for euery such mynstrell so playing to forfeyte x s.

...

1590-1

Diocesan Court Book

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@\Aldbrough.@l \

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Henrae Robinson &
Wilfrid Inland

for behaving them selves
disorderlie in church in
service time, in piping
dauncing & playing
Mr Hudesley the vicar

being then *preaching*.

Simon Condall plaid the foole the same time in a fowles Coat.

1593-4

Diocesan Court Cause Paper

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@\Aldbroughe@l \

May it please your worshipes to vnderstand that the 14 day of Iuly last, the townshipe of Roclife in the parishe of Aldbroughe bringyng Rissches to the churche & hauyng strowed them, because the minister dyd reproue certayne disgised persons *yat* were comed into ye churche, & wylled them to come in more humble & reuerent maner to ye place, Robert Rodes alias Scotson beyng in ye Ale house & vnderstandinge of it, hiered a gonne of Richard Santon of Burrobridge, & gaue him ij d to haue a shott, & [carrying] ^{comyng} onto the churche, so sone as euer ye minister had ended his sermond, & before he stirred hs fote, on the fore sayd Robert Scotson discharged his gonne, amying directly ouer the minister, eyther to hit him, as it was reported, or to afray him, & in deed the paper where *with* ye gonne was ramed, light very nighe him, whene he was comed out of ye pulpit. More ouer that the same Robert Rodes alias Scotson came not atthe churche agayne tyll the 15 day of September, & so hathe offended agaynst the statutes bothe in discharging his gonne in that place, & in absenting him selfe *from* ye churche thre monthes

Item the vjth day of Ianuary instant, thes (whose names are subscribed) hauyng folowed there Vanitie althe night in sekyng there Mammet commonly called the [fly] floure of thwell, would nedes bringe the same on a barrow into ye churche in prayer time, and althoughe they were admonished by one of ye churche wardons bothe before & when they came to ye churche stile, for to leaue of theyre enterprise & not to trouble the congregation, yet they would not, but proceded forward *with* suche a noyse of pyping, blowyng of an horne, [or] rinyng or strikinge of basons, & showtinge of people *yat* the minister was constreyned to leaue of readinge of prayer, yea it was such disorder *yat* Mr Raufe Ellicar beyng a stranger merueled att it, & spoke him selfe to ye churchwardens *yat* they should stay it, where vpon the other churche wardon & ye Cunstable went forthe: And althoughe by them they were stayed [for] ^{from} *commyng* [int] into the churche, yet they *continewed* the same tumult in the churche yeard for ye space of a quarter of an hore to the great disquietting bothe of ye [pepl] [people] minister & people

The names of ye principall of them *which* mayd this disorder & tumult.

Richard Wharfe
[George Dickonson]
Iohn Toonson alias Glouer
Richard Gibson
Lenerd Linne
Raufe Clemetson

Wylliam Mountayne
Thomas Mason
Peter Simson
Gorge Waringe & others
[wytte]
@l\wyttnesses@l \ @f1\
Thomas Hundislay Vicar
Iohn Girnton
Iohn Allon church wardons

Textual Notes

Square brackets set off material that has been cancelled. Material in the left margins begin and end with @l\ and @l \. Individual textual notes are numbered by @f#\.

@f1\ wyttnesses: *located opposite Iohn Girnton and followed by a brace grouping the three names that follow.*

Document Descriptions

1585 Manorial Court Roll

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, DL 30/494/11, mb 12d; 1585; English and Latin; parchment; 1 mb; 560mm x 250mm; fair condition; bound with fourteen other mbs of a Court Roll for the Honour of Knaresborough and the Manors of Aldborough and Roecliff.

1590-1 Diocesan Court Book

York, Borthwick, V. 1591/23.2, f 22v; 1590/1; English and Latin; paper; 119 folios; 210mm x 150mm; fair condition; repaired and rebound in modern board and leathers; numbered in pencil by folio.

1593-4 Diocesan Court Cause Paper

York, Borthwick, HC CP N.D./11, f 1; [1593/4-1594]; English; paper; 1 leaf; 205mm x 310mm; fair condition, with right marginal damage as though torn from a book; a cause paper, stamped on dorse "Diocesan Registry York" and endorsed "Rodes *alias* Scotson *cum* diuersos alios *paroc'* de Aldburgh *precept* enga *mertes* in *prima*." Not dated by year, but it must be 1594 because, within the appropriate time span, only in that year does Sunday fall on 6 January (1593/4), 14 July (1594), and 15 September (1594).