

printed in the "Memorials of Smarden," pub. 1886, just before his death, and the proof carefully revised by him.

In this pedigree he gives as the children of John Sayer the Alderman, "1. George, d. 1577, 2. John, d. 1563, 3. Robert, living 1573," and I have no doubt correctly. Admitting this, then Richard Sayer "The Exile," who is said to have died in Amsterdam in 1540, if he was the brother of George as claimed, must have been the son, not the grand-son, of the Alderman. The brass to the latter in St. Peter's Ch. Col., represents him kneeling with his wife, *four* sons and a daughter, but does not give his children's names. The question arises, what was the name of the fourth son, and what became of him? Most probably he died young, and perhaps the question may be answered in his father's will, or in the *inquisition post-mortem*, taken in those days to show who were the heirs to an estate, and liable to pay *entry fine* to the crown.

Up to the year 1570, the borough of Colchester enjoyed the privilege of Probate, and upon application to the town clerk, I was informed that the court-rolls were still preserved in his office, and were in his custody.

m/ He further said that they were written in the ancient court-hand and would require the services of an expert, (which he was not,) to decipher. I thereupon wrote to an antiquarian in Colchester, who I knew to be an expert in such matters, to see if he could find the wills of John Sayer and his sons, and make certain extracts for me.

Upon application to the town clerk he was informed that permission to examine the court-rolls, and make extracts, could not be granted. My friend expressed great dissatisfaction at this decision, claiming that as a rate payer for many years in Colchester, he should have the right to search the archives, etc., and declared his intention of applying to the General Probate Office in London for the desired permission. And so the matter rests at present.

A special, but not exhaustive search in London, made by Mr. H. F. Waters, at my request, resulted in finding many Sayers wills, but none certainly identified with the Colchester