APPENDIX III

THE BOROUGH OF PLESHEY

No charter for the borough has survived. In 1334 the taxation assessment for the borough amounted to the modest sum of 18 shillings and in 1336 burgesses and stalls in the market were recorded (Beresford 1967, 262, 436). In 1339 some concern for the defence of the area was evident (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1338-40, 356-7):

'Commission to Thomas Chatham, Thomas Fabel, and John Heiroun to array pursuant to the statute of Winchester the men and tenants of the king's kinsman, Humphrey de Bohun .... of the manor and towns of Plescy .... and others in the counties of Essex and Hertford, as the earl, who is going to parts of Wales to stay there, for the safe keeping of those parts, desires that the said counties may be put in a state of defence in his absence.'

The value of 'the castle, manor and town' was placed at 106s.8d in 1376 (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1374-7, 407).

Documents of 15th and 16th century date indicate that markets and shops were still prospering (Beresford 1967, 436). Gough notes (1803, 5,48):

'A rental of the free tenants of the burgage of Pleshy 7 Henry VII (1516), in the Duchy Office, makes the whole amount of the rents, (reddit and volunt) 20l. 6s. 1d. and the "comyn fyne on the lete day, 10s. 4d."

The commissioners under the Chantry Act of February 14th, 1547-8 describe Pleshey as a 'greate town of a hundred houseling people or more' where 'the most part of them dwell upland' (VCH Essex 2,516). A reference from 1641 reflects the old customs of the borough (Clark 1906, 37):

'The Burrough of Pleshy was aunciently ditched in and to this day they yearly choose a mayor, who is the King's Officer to collect and answer the burgh rents amounting to a matter of vi.li per annum.

There is a manor and burrough of Pleshey, both which have Courts, Barons and a Leete belonging to them....'
ABBREVIATIONS

CP The Complete Peerage
DNB Dictionary of National Biography
ERO Essex Record Office, Chelmsford
PRO Public Record Office, London
RCHM Royal Commission on Historical Monuments
VCH Victoria County History

BIBLIOGRAPHY


