Sheen Anglorum - continued:

1590. The community left Louvain, and after a short stay at ANTWERP, the duration of which is not clear,
1593. they settled at MECHLIN in 1593 at Hof van Immerseel. The authority for this date is Maurice de Meulemeester C.SS.R., in his articles in MECHLINIA for June and July 1930.
1595. Purchased a neighbouring house called SAMSON; and
1626. here they remained until the year 1626.

The priors during this period were as follows:

1589-1596: D. Walter Pitts, previously vicar: resigned in 1596 and retired to another Charterhouse, but returned to Mechlin in 1604, where he d. 10 December 1611 (Long - p.80 - says 1 December 1611).

1596-1611: D. Robert Darbysher: became prior 24 July 1596, resigned 1611: d. 4 October 1612.

1611-1620: D. Robert Mallory, previously vicar: d. 31 March 1620, and buried in the church of the Augustinian Fathers at Mechlin.

1620-1644. D. Thomas Hallowes, formerly procurator: d. 3 January 1644.

NB: It was during the priorate of Dom THOMAS HALLOWES that the community left Mechlin and moved ~~to~~ in September 1626 to:

N i e u p o r t.

There died at MECHLIN during the above period:

15__. D. Francis Barnard, prior (1582-1585): d. 26 April 1594.
1601. D. William Colford; ~~prof. of Sheen~~, subdeacon: d. 4 April 1601.
1606. D. Thomas Blechinden, d. 4 January 1606.
1608. D. Bartholomew Florence, procurator: d. 14 May 1607.
D. Christopher Alred, d. 1 July 1607.
Br. John Freeman, conv. d. 23 October 1607.
1609. D. Nicholas Thornton, vicar: ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ d. 26 Nov.1608.
1612. D. Walter Pitts, vicar then prior (1590-1596): d. 10 December 1611 - see supra.
1613. Br. John Kemp, conv. d. 25 May 1612, prof. of Antwerp.
D. Robert Darbyshire, prior (1596-1611): d. 4 Oct.1612.
1617. D. Joseph Slade, d. 15 August 1616.
1618. D. John Carr, d. 12 February 1618.
D. John Deaken, procurator: d. 27 March 1618.
Br. George Brown, conv. d. 12 September 1617.

Sheen Anglorum - continued:

1620. D. Robert Mallory, vicar then prior (1611-1620): d. 31 March 1620.
D. John Suertis, sacrist and antiquior: d. 2 Apl.1620.
1621. Br. Alexander Ivy, conv. d. 26 October 1620.
Br. John Blythman, conv. d. 31 January 1621.
1622. D. Ralph Brooks, vicar: d. 20 September 1621.
Br. Robert Holden, conv. d. 14 April 1622.
1623. D. Richard Baker, d. 10 November 1622.
Long - p.97 - says 10 November 1617 or 1618.
D. Daniel Tuer, procurator & vicar: d. 4 March 1623.
1621. D. Didacus Maldonato, d. at Montalegre 20 March 1621.

NIEUPORT: 1626-1783:

IT was in September 1626, during the priorate of Dom THOMAS HALLOWES, that the community moved to NIEUPORT. According to Long (p.83) and Hendriks (p.317) the community consisted of 10 choir-monks and 1 novice. ~~Mapledurham, however, - p.172 - adds a 10th monk (Dom Oliver Bertin): the latter, however, died in the following year at GAND, so that he could not have been long at Nieuport.~~ The community were:

D. Thomas Hallowes, prior: d.1644.
D. Robert Dalton, vicar: d.1656.
D. William Chambers; d.1629.
D. George Eglionby, d.1627.
D. Francis Thimbleby; procurator: d.1647.
D. Peter Dolman, sacrist and later procurator: d.1671.
D. John Persons (Piersens) or James, d.1639, see pp.42 and 43.
D. Anthony Langworth; d.1639.
D. John Hutton, afterwards prior: d.1651.
D. Alexander Norris (novice): d.1633.
Br. John Fennell, d.1626.
Br. Christopher Mallory, d.1637.
Br. Bartholomew Kellam - this Brother was sent to England to collect funds for the community, and d. there c.1637.
D. Oliver Bertin d. at Gand 1627.

There was also a Brother Abraham Ellis in the time of prior Robert Mallory (c.1611-1620): he was similarly sent to Spain to collect the arrears of pensions due to the monks; but he d. at the Charterhouse of Paular in Spain c.1637. (Long p.99, says c.1620, but the obituary is the surer guide).

Nieuport - continued:

According to Mapledurham (p.174) the community in (or after) June 1668, consisted of the following:

D. Peter Bilcliffe, prior: d. 1693.
D. John Guillym, vicar: d.1672.
D. Peter Dolman, procurator: d.1671.
D. Robert Clarke alias Graine, d.1675.
D. John Young, d.1677.
D. Peter Constable, d.1670.
D. Francis Fenwick, d.1677.
D. John Barnsley, d.1680.
D. Peter Brigham, d.1679.
D. Thomas Owst, sacrist: d.1679.
D. James Clayton alias Bertwisle, d.1684.

c.1750.
Long: p.93.
D. Gilbert Jump; prior: d.1774.
D. Anthony Matthews, vicar: d.1752.
D. James Long, procurator, afterward prior: d.1759.
D. Aloysius Blevin; d.1761.
D. Bruno Fleming, sacrist, afterwards prior. d.1761.
D. Joseph Dennett; d.1761.
D. Macarius Formby, d.1772.
D. Charles Tighe ~~(probably)~~: no further trace [Left the Order]
Br. John Ryding, donate: d.1757.
Br. William Blevin; donate: d.1767.
and later: Br. Thomas Whitfield, donate, d.1761.

c.1764:
D. Augustine Mann, prior: left the Order in 1777 and d. at Prague in 1809.
D. Francis Williams, vicar, afterwards prior: d. in England in 1797.
D. Gilbert Jump; procurator, twice vicar, prior from 1743-1753: d. as coadjutor 1774.
D. Macarius Formby; d.1772.
D. Lawrence Corneforth, d.1765.
D. Ignatius Norris; d.1783 at Capelle.
D. John Baptist Lee, d.1782.
Br. Thomas Carfoot; donate: d.1786 at Bruges.
Br. James Orford, donate: d.1797 in England.
Br. William Blevin; d.1767.

Long - p.95 - mentions the following as vicars of Nieuport, but gives no dates; nor can their obiits be traced:

D. Anthelme Weare, a Fleming.
D. Anthony Mare, prof. of Antwerp.
D. Paul van Horn, a Fleming.
D. Paul Collins, prof. of Liege.
D. Joseph Wantier, prof. of Tournai.
and Procurator - D. James Pierssens; prof. of Bruges.

Nieuport - continued:

c.1777. Under the priorship of Dom Francis Williams, the last prior of SHEEN ANGLORUM at Nieuport, the community consisted of:

D. Francis (Joseph) Williams, prof. at Nieuport on 13 October 1759; vicar then prior (4 September 1777), d. at Little Malvern Court in England 2 January 1797.
D. John-Baptist (George) Lee, vicar, d.1782.
D. Ignatius (Mary Magdalen) Norris, d.1783 at Gand Capelle.
D. Joseph (Charles) Brook from Maryland; professed 2 February 1769 but never received Holy Orders as he went out of his mind. He d. with the Alexian Brothers at Bruges (having been taken there on 11 July 1783) on 19 April 1784.
D. Bruno (James) Finch, the last professed of Nieuport. He also lost his reason more than once, but recovered, and d. at Fernyhalgh in Lancashire on 3 March 1821, the last member of SHEEN ANGLORUM to die.

Br.James Orford, donate, d. 1797 in England.
Br. Thomas Carfoot, donate, and the last religious to be received at Nieuport: d. 1786 at Bruges.

Mention is also made in both the Long and Bruges Mss. of a Dom Charles Tighe, who made his profession on 23 January 1748; but he appears to have left the Order and the date of his death is not recorded.

Finally, right at the end, in 1783, there were only the prior, Dom Francis Williams, two monks (Dom Bruno Finch and Dom Charles Brook) and the two donates, Brs.James Orford and Thomas Carfoot.

Dom Francis Shipp is mentioned by Hendriks as having died before the suppression, but he gives no reference to his source. There is no mention of him in either Long or the Bruges Ms.

Nieuport - continued:

The following is the list of PRIORS of SHEEN ANGLORUM, continued from Dom Thomas Hallowes, p.40:

1644-1647. D. John Duckett, previously vicar, d. 21 August 1647.
1647-1651. D. John Hutton, previously vicar, d. 23 October 1651.
1652-1654. D. Thomas Gerard, resigned after two years, formerly procurator: d. in England 9 June 1667.
1654-1668. D. George Transam alias Tyas, previously vicar, d. 17 June 1668.
1668-1693. D. Peter Bilcliffe, vicar and then prior, d. 13 February 1693.
1693-1695. D. Thomas Thorold, deposed by the Gen. Chapter of June 1695: d. probably in England c.1740.
169 1696. D. Jean-Baptiste van Horenbeecke, prof. of Gand: vicar of Capelle (1692-1693); returned to Gand as coadjutor in 1696; prior of Bois St.Martin (1699-1702); prior of Bruges, d. 1721.
1696-1699. D. William Hall, novice-master with the English novices at Brussels; resigned as prior in 1699, and became vicar, but prior again - see 1715.
1699-1700. D. Jerome Nyverseel, prof. of Brussels, vicar of Capelle; vicar of nuns at Bruges; returned to Brussels as prior, and d. there 1701.
1700-1715. D. George Hunter, resigned 1715, d. 31 December 1727.
1715-1718. D. William Hall (secundo), resigned 1718 to become procurator, d. 6 November 1718.
1718-1722. D. Columba (Richard) Townley, prof. of Bourg-Fontaine; procurator of Nieuport under prior Hunter; returned to Bourg-Fontaine in 1708; made prior of Nieuport in 1718, but resigned in 1722, d. 17 January 1729.
1722-1729. D. Joseph Betts, formerly procurator, d.31 October 1729.
172 1740. D. Charles (Benjamin) Lee, formerly procurator; made prior December 1729, d. 20 April 1740.
1740-1743. D. Thomas Yate, prof. and procurator of Nieuport; coadjutor of Diest but resident at Brussels; made prior of Nieuport April 1740, d.8 April 1743.
1743-1753. D. Gilbert Jump, twice vicar, also procurator; resigned as prior to become coadjutor, d. 30 June 1774.
1753. D. James Long, formerly procurator and vicar; retired as prior to become coadjutor at Brussels, where he d. 7 January, 1759.
1754-1761. D. Bruno Fleming, formerly vicar, d. 1 December 1761.
1762-1764. D. Jean-Baptiste LUYCK, prof. and prior of Brussels; vicar of Gand; prior of Nieuport from 12 March 1762 to 1764; procurator of nuns at Bruges; prior of Bruges (28 July 1767); prior of Brussels (29 December 1768-1783). He was the last prior of Brussels, but the date of his death is not known. (Hitherto the gap between 1762 and 1764 has not been known, but see the Bruges Ms.).

Nieuport - continued:

1764-1777. D. Augustine Mann, formerly sacrist; became prior 8 June 1764, but resigned 9 August 1777, having obtained a bull of secularisation. He resided for a time at Brussels, but was forced to leave on the arrival of the invading armies. He took refuge at Prague, where he d. 23 February 180 On 15 May 1784 he wrote from Brussels to Br. Thomas Carfoot, who then resided with the Augustinian nuns at Bruges: 'I am more and more intimately persuded that the lot of those who are well out of this world is greatly to be envied... Pray for me who am obliged to be much against my will in the midst of a tumultuous and bad world'.

1777-1783. D. FRANCIS (Joseph) WILLIAMS, the last prior of SHEEN ANGLORUM. Professed at Nieuport 13 October 1759; vicar then prior (4th September 1777), d. 2 January 1797 at Little Malvern Court in England.

The following died at NIEUPORT during this period:

ex carta 1597: D. Arnold, Taeye prof. of Gand told 'to return to the House of his profession'. Ga.

1627. Br. John Fennell, conv. d. 22 November 1626.
1628. Br. David Lewis, d. 26 September 1627.
D. Oliver Bertin, prof. and vicar of Nieuport, d. 12 October 1627 at Gand.
D. George Eglionby, d. 20 October 1627.
1630. D. William Chambers, antiquior, d. 11 November 1629.
1631. D. Arthur Gilpin, d. 18 September 1630.
D. Thomas Greene, vicar, d. 1631.
1637. Br. John Floyd, conv. d. 18 August 1636.
D. Robert Dalton, vicar: d. 26 November 1636.
c.1637. Br. Bartholomew Kellam, conv. d. 15 March 1637, as agent in England.
Br. Abraham Ellis, conv. d. c.1637 at Paular in Spain.
1638. Br. Christopher Mallory, conv. d. 2 December 1637.
1639. D. John Persons, d. 15 February 1639. (Probably the same as James Pierssens, prof. and procurator of Bruges - see Bruges Ms.p.230bis). non ? —
D. Anthony Langworth, d. 9 April 1639.
D. Peter Verwoerd? + a AL, c. 1639 —

Nieuport - continued:

ex carta 1640: complaints against D. John Guttum (?Guttman).

1644. D. Thomas Hallowes, prior (1620-1644), d. 3 January 1644.
1647. D. Francis Thimbleby, procurator, d. 17 February 1647.
D. Henry Stapleton, d. 5 March 1647.
c.1647. Br. William Hawkins, conv. 'a superioribus in Angliam missus, ibidem pro religione Catholica in carcere obiit' c. anno 1647 (probably 12 May).
1648. D. John Duckett, vicar then prior (1644-1647), d.21 Aug.1647.
Br. Martin Thimbleby, conv. d. 25 September 1647.
1649. D. Benedict (Benet) Baxter, d. 17 August 1648.
1652. D. John Hutton, procurator, vicar then prior (1647-1651), d. 23 October 1651.
165? D. Edmund Ireland, d. 1 April 1652.
165? Br. George Baxter, donate, d. 13 December 1653.
Br. William Skinner, donate, d. 1654.
1658. D. Charles de Douay, prof. of Gde.C., vicar of Nieuport, d. 14 November 1657.
1659. D. Edward Fettiplace, sacrist, d. 31 March 1659.
D. Anthony Naylor, d. 9 April 1659.
1663. D. Alexander Norris, coadjutor, d. 26 January 1663.
1666. Br. Adam Taylor, donate, d. 29 April 1665.
1668. D. Thomas Gerard, procurator then prior (1652-1654), d. somewhere in England 9 June 1667.
D. Benedict Vranz ~~or Franz~~, prof. of Bois St.Martin. according to Long - p.94 - he was vicar of Nieuport.
1669. D. George Transam alias Tyas, vicar then prior (1654-1668), d. 17 June 1668.
1670. D. Peter Constable, procurator, [illegible] then vicar, d.13 March 1670.
1672. D. Peter Dolman, procurator, sacrist and antiquior, d. 24 December 1671.
D. John Guillym, vicar, d.1672.
1674. D. ... Colman, novice, d. 1674.
1676. D. [illegible] Robert Clarke alias Graine, antiquior, d. 31 December 1675.
1677. D. Francis Fenwick, subdeacon, d. 14 April 1677.
1678. D. John Young, antiquior, d. 15 September 1677.
1679. D. Thomas Owst, sacrist and procurator, d. 15 January 1679.
D. Peter Brigham, prof. of Nieuport, guest at Bruges, d. 30 January 1679.
D. Andrew, prof. of Nieuport, guest at Bruges.
1681. D. John Barnsley, d. 10 October 1680.
1685. D. James Bertiwsle alias Clayton, vicar, d. 23 June 1684.
1689. D. Gregory Sutrix, prof. of Liers, procurator of Nieuport.
1692. D. Thomas Bilcliffe, vicar, d. 25 March 1692.

Nieuport - continued:

1693. D. Thomas Whale, vicar, d. 5 July 1692.
D. Peter Bilcliffe, vicar then prior (1668-1693), d. 13 February 1693.
D. John (Anthony) Garnet, vicar, d. 14 February 1693.
Br. Christopher Hazzard, donate, d. 27 February 1693.
D. Robert Roberts, subdeacon, d. 17 March 1693.
1694. D. Robert Willasey, d. 14 December 1693.
1696. D. Michael Constable, procurator, d. 18 June 1695.
ex carta 1694: D. Francis de Rycke 'sent to Capelle'.

1701. D. Jerome Nyverseel, prof. of Brussels; vicar of Capelle; vicar of nuns at Bruges; prior of Nieuport (1699-1700); d. prior of Brussels.
1704 Br. Stephen Suiis, a Belgian, donate, d. 1 December 1703.
1708. D. James Eden, d. 7 November 1708. Ex-Jesuit; prof. Feb. 1698.
D. John Nelson, procurator and vicar, d. 20 November 1706.
1714. D. Anthelme de Velterra, prof. and prior of Bruges; prior of Bois St.Martin; vicar of Nieuport: 'qui ultra 52 annos laudabiliter vixit in Ordine'.
1717. D. Oliver (Octave) vanden Bogaerde, prof. of Bruges; vicar of Nieuport.
1719. D. William Hall, procurator; twice prior (1696-1699 and 1715-1718), d. as procurator 6 November 1718.
Br. Edward Formby, donate: for several years agent in England, d. 21 April 1719.
1721. D. Jean-Baptiste van Horenbeecke; prof. of Gand; vicar of Capelle (1692-1693); prior of Nieuport (1695-1696); coadjutor of Gand (1696); prior of Bois St.Martin (1699-1702); probably prior of Bruges 'qui 50 annis laudabiliter vixit in Ordine'.
1722. D. Justus de Pape, prof. of Liers; vicar of Nieuport, 'qui 61 annis laudabiliter vixit in Ordine'.
172-. D. Francis Thompson alias Tyrwhit, vicar, d. 8 March 1727.
1728. D. George Hunter, prior (1700-1715), d. 31 December 1727.
1729. D. Columban (Richard) Townley; prof. of Bourg Fontaine; guest and procurator of Nieuport, then prior (1718-1722), d. 17 January 1729.
1730. D. Joseph Betts, procurator and prior (1722-1729), d. 31 October 1729.
1731. D. Henry Hills, d. 3 May 1730.
1740. D. Charles (Benjamin) Lee, procurator then prior (1729-1740), d. 20 April 1740.
D. William vander Looven, prof. of Capelle, and vicar of Nieuport.
1742. Br. Joseph Cook, donate, d. 26 October 1741.
D. John Boswell, deacon, d. 20 March 1742.

ieuport - continued:

743. D. Thomas Yate, procurator then prior (1740-1743); formerly coadjutor of Diest, d. 8 April 1743.
749. Br. Thomas Clarkson, donate, d. 22 October 1748.
D. Bernard Briscoe, sacrist, d. 27 December 1748.
750. Br. Peter (John) Pennington, donate, d. 11 August 1749.
753. D. Anthony Matthews, vicar, 16 December 1752.
757. Br. John Ryding, donate, d. 1 March 1757.
759. D. James Long, procurator, vicar then prior (1753-1754), d. coadjutor at Brussels 7 January 1759.
762. D. Bruno Fleming, vicar then prior (1754-1761), d. 1 December 1761.
Br. Thomas Whitfield, donate, d. 10 December 1761.
D. Aloysius Blevin, procurator, d. 18 December 1761.
D. Joseph Dennett, d. 29 December 1761.
1765. D. Lawrence Cornforth, d. 2 November 1764.
1767. Br. William Blevin, donate, d. 10 May 1766.
1770. Br. Liborius Leonard, donate of Liege, guest at Nieuport.
1772. D. Macarius Formby, antiquior, d. 31 December 1771.
1773. D. Gilbert Jump, procurator, vicar then prior (1743-1753), d. as coadjutor and antiquior 30 June 1772.
1782. D. John-Baptist (George) Lee.
1783. D. Francis Shipp - d. before the suppression (if we are to trust Hendriks - see p.43.)
D. Ignatius Mary Magdalen Norris, prof. of Nieuport, d. guest at Capelle in January 1783 according to the Bruges Ms. The LAITY'S DIRECTORY in the Catholic Record Society vol.xii for 1913, says he d. 'probably after September 1783' but the Bruges Ms. is probably more trustworthy.
1784. D. Joseph (Charles) Brook, from Maryland, prof. of Nieuport, after receiving profession went out of his mind, and was unable to receive Holy Orders. He was taken by Brs. Orford and Carfoot on 11 July 1782 to the Alexian Brothers at Bruges, and died under their care 19 April 1784. His death was peaceful.
1787. Br. Thomas Carfoot, donate, was the last religious to be received at Nieuport before the suppression. He entered at Nieuport on 8 September 1768. At the suppression in 1783, he stayed for a while with the English Augustinian nuns at Bruges, then with the English nuns at Louvain, returning to Bruges in December of the same year. He died in his 44th year of consumption, having suffered for some years. He received the Last Sacraments on 18 May 1786, and died the following day between 11 and 12 at night. His obiit is therefore counted as 20 May 1786. He was buried among the religious of that convent, somewhat outside of the town, having rendered much service to the Sisters.

Nieuport - continued:

1797. D. FRANCIS (Joseph) WILLIAMS, the last prior of Nieuport. Born in Wales on 25 August 1729, O.S. he was professed at Nieuport on 13 October 1759; was ordained priest on 20 September 1760; was vicar then ~~made~~ installed prior on 4 September 1777. He d. at Little Malvern Court in England on 2 January (not June as it so often said - this is confirmed by the parish register: a photostat of the entry is at Parkminster) 1797.

Br. James Orford was the next to die. He was a donate of Nieuport, entered on 6 January 1753. He died at Hengrave Hall in England on 10 January 1797.

18[illegible]. D. Augustine Mann, prior (1764-1777). d.at Prague on 23 February 1809 - see p.45.

1821. D. Bruno Finch (James Finch), the last of SHEEN ANGLORUM to die. Professed at Nieuport 18 October 1770, N.S. d. at Fernyhalgh in Lancashire 3 March 1821, aged 72½. He was buried in the graveyard attached to the new chapel, and the following inscription is still to be seen on his tombstone:

b. 22.5.1748 O.S. priest 1772.

> Sacred to the memory of the Reverend JAMES FINCH, the last of the English Carthusians monks. He died March 3rd, 1821, aged 72.

In the list of obituaries given in the LAITY'S DIRECTORY in the Catholic Record Society, vol.xii, p.149, is the following simple entry under Ecclesiastiques francois:

> 1821 avril : Finch ..... pretre.

The following brief history of the last days of SHEEN ANGLORUM is taken from a manuscript account loaned us by the Augustinian nuns of Bruges, written evidently by one of the nuns of the community which eventually found refuge at Hengrave Hall in England, a contemporary of Brother James Orford, who died there as recounted above. The account is much shortened of necessity.

The edict of the Emperor JOSEPH II suppressing many of the monasteries in Flanders was dated 17 March 1783, but in the case of the Carthusians actually did not take effect until 30 June, when the ENGLISH CARTHUSIANS as a community came to an end. At that time, as has been said, the community only consisted of the prior, two Fathers (Dom Charles Brook - see p.48 - and Dom Bruno Finch) and the two donate Brothers, James Orford and Thomas Carfoot. Fr.Prior and Fr.Finch left Nieuport on 30 June (1783), arriving at Bruges the same day, where they were welcomed by 'Mrs.More' the superior of the English Augustinians at Bruges. There not being enough accommodation for both in the extern appartments, Fr.Finch went to the English nuns at Louvain on

Nieuport - continued:

3 July (1783), Fr.Prior remaining on at Bruges in the Confessor's quarters, where he lived as much a Carthusian as circumstances would permit.

On 11 July (1783) the two Brothers Orford and Carfoot brought Fr.Brook from Nieuport to the Alexian Brothers at Bruges as related on p.48. He was placed there by order of the Court (at Brussels). The Brothers were obliged to return to Nieuport the next day, being retained there by the Commissary.

On 22 July (1783) the two Brothers again left Nieuport for Bruggs, but there being no room with the Sisters, they were obliged to seek accommodation elsewhere.

Fr.Prior left Bruges on 22 November 1783, and went to Bornhem, where he stayed with the Dominican Fathers, being much taken with the retirement of their convent.

It appears (for the first time, from this account) that sometime in 1783, before the Commissary took possession of the convent of the English Carthusians at Nieuport, Lord Arundell wrote to Fr.Williams the prior, offering him a house in Cornwall, where His Lordship invited him to retire with his community, following the Rule in so far as they could in a private manner. Fr. Prior was obliged to refuse this offer, simply because they had no means of maintaining themselves, as they would lose their pensions if they left the country.

In a letter from Bornhem dated 17 October 1784, the following account is given of Fr,Williams: 'He lives more retired than ever; he eats nothing but what is produced in the garden, he has deprived himself of all sorts of fish, and even soup for several weeks past, and seems determined to pursue the same plan'.

He left the two Brothers at Louvain.[21] Br.Carfoot returned to the nuns at Bruges on 1 December 1783, and rendered a great deal of service to that community. He had suffered much from consumption in recent years, and gradually became worse. He made a spiritual retreat in the November before he died; received the Last Sacraments on 18 May 1786, and died with great calmness between 11 and 12 at night on the 19th in the Confessor's quarters. He was buried amongst the religious of that convent in the parish of Holy Cross, a little out of the town, the Emperor having forbidden all burials in the town. His name was written down in the Dirge Book to be prayed for as long as the community stands. On his anniversary a solemn requiem Mass was offered as for one of the community. What little he had he left to the Sisters.

Nieuport - continued:

Br. James Orford arrived at Bruges on 29 May 1786, to supply Br.Carfoot's place at the Austin convent. He went away to settl his affairs, but soon returned. On 19 July 1787 he went to Ghent to sign a request that was presented to the States, which had already been signed by the prior and Fr.Finch.

Fr.Williams left Bornhem in March 1790 and went to Fr.Finch at the English Austin nuns at Louvain. In April Fr.Finch left Louvain and went to the English Benedictines at Brussels; he came from thence in May and on the 25th set off from Bruges for Ostend on his way to England. (He appears to have returned to Brussels for some reason in August of the same year). On the 13 October (1790) Fr.Williams, Fr.Finch and Br.James went Nieuport to take possession of their right to the convent, and to the revenues there. The whole town rejoiced to see them.

At this point it appears that there was not entire agreement between the three. Prior Williams was anxious to resign both his priorship and all claim to the convent, leaving the revenues to some English convent or College, persuaded that they would never be established again as a community. Fr.Finch and Br. Orford, on the other hand, were against resigning their rights. This caused Fr.Finch who was at the English Benedictines at Brussels to make another formal and legal protest, against whatever Fr.Prior had done or might do, in the way of alienating the effects of the convent. Which done, he wrote to the prior in a letter dated 3 November 1790, informing him of what he had done through motives of conscience.

The Emperor Leopold's army entering Brussels on the submission of those countries to him, an idle report was spread that all priests were to be put to death. This made such an impression on the mind of Fr.Finch that, on some soldiers ringing at the convent door, he fell into a sort of fit, but recovered so as to be able to say Mass the next day, the 5 December, at which he was noticed to weep. Soon after his Mass, he went entirely out of his senses, and was conveyed to the Alexian Brothers at Bruges (presumably, but it may have been at Brussels). It looks as though it must have been Brussels, for the next account says that Br.James, going from Bruges to Brussels in February of 1791, found Fr.Finch perfectly recovered, and he returned to the English Benedictines, where he was before. In March of the same year, however, he 'left his judgment' again, and as he was 'too raging' to be taken to Bruges, he had to be confined in a madhouse in Brussels. It seems that they had great difficulty to get Fr.Finch out of the madhouse when he was in a condition to be removed, but eventually (on the 17 June1791) Br.James was able to get him removed to the Alexian Brothers at Bruges, where he perfectly recovered. Br.James left for England in 1794 ?(unfortunately the year is not too clear),

Yes!

Nieuport - continued:

settling with the exiled Austin nuns at Hengrave Hall in England. He, too, edified the nuns by his piety, but the good Brother, being somewhat rough in his temper was not beloved by all around. He was laid to rest in English ground on 10 January 1797, dying just eight days after his old prior, Fr.Williams, who died at Little Malvern Court on 2 January of the same year.

Meanwhile, Fr.Williams had left the good Dominican Fathers and was residing with the Austin nuns at Louvain in 1789. But the nuns themselves being obliged to leave the country, Fr.Francis left with them, crossing to England and arriving at their convent at Hammersmith in July of that year (1794). On the 30 July he arrived at Little Malvern, where he had been invited by his niece Mrs.Wakeman, to stay and end his days. From a letter dated 25 February 1795 from Mrs.Wakeman to Br.James, it appears that the old man saw no company, and kept the same diet as when he was at Bruges. He ate no meat, and prayer and study was his employment. Suffering from pleurisy, he breathed his last on 2 January 1797, in the 68th year of his age, the 38th of his profession, and the 20th as prior. He was buried, according to the Parish Register, on 8 January 1797.

From a further note in the handwriting of the time in the Bruges Ms. it appears that the community of nuns left Bruges in the year 1794 (15 June). Br.Orford accompanied them to England, but went to stay at first for some time in London, until there was room for him at Hengrave Hall. There he continued his edifying life, until by a dropsy he finished his course at the age of 74 on 10 January 1797, as has been said. The Bruges Ms. contains also a very interesting account of his burial on the 18th of January. Matins began at 4 o'c in the morning, at the end of which the body was brought into the choir, and the commemorations and Mass followed. Unfortunately, in this account, there is no further news of Fr.Finch, though we know that he found his way back to Lancashire, where he died.

Although not an English Carthusian, mention may be made here of another Carthusian buried on English soil, an exile for the faith. This was Dom Anthelme Guillemet, professed of the Charterhouse of Bourbon-lez-Gaillon in Normandy, who died in England at Coombe in Dorsetshire (where a few of the monks had been invited by Lord Arundel), aged 86. He is buried in the church of Donhead St.Mary near Shaftesbury, where a tablet to his memory may be seen to this day. He died 1 April 1798.