

ART. I.—*Gleanings from Rydal Muniments.* By W. G. COLLINGWOOD, M.A., F.S.A.

*Read at Carlisle, April 23rd, 1930.*

## I. CONISHEAD AND ORTON.

CONISHEAD Priory has recently occupied our attention not unprofitably (these *Trans.*, n.s. xxx, p. 149) but documents from it are rare. We are told that the church of Orton in Westmorland was given to Conishead *temp.* Henry II (1154-89) by Gamel de Pennington (N. & B., i, 48) and as his son Benedict flourished before 1163 it would seem that this benefaction was made between 1154 and 1163. Orton Church was in the priory's possession in 1263 (these *Trans.*, n.s. iv, 164) and in 1269-70 (n.s. vii, 227), and to the Dissolution (n.s. iv, 166). Among the Rydal Hall MSS., which are printed here by the kind leave of our vice-president, Mr. S. H. le Fleming, is an original letter from the priory about this church. It is dated March 1st, 1508. Prior George and the Chapter write to the bishop of Carlisle (John Penny) giving power of attorney to Cuthbert Conyers, LL.D.—soon to be archdeacon of Carlisle (n.s., xi, 101), William Burbanke, LL.B.—archdeacon later on (*ib.*, 102), Robert Burbanke, notary public, and John Robynson, chaplain—perhaps the same who became last prior of Lanercost (*V.C.H. Cumb.*, ii, 160) and rector of Aikton. They are to see the bishop or his Official on some business of Orton church, perhaps for the valuation made soon afterwards (see *Records of Kendale*, i, 55; ii, 361). The priory seal has been cut off. The text, expanded, reads as follows:—

Pateat vniuersis per presentes quod nos Georgius Prior Religiose domus siue Monasterij de Conysheved, Archidiaconatus Richmondie Eboracensis Diocesis et eiusdem loci conuentus sive

capitulum, Ordinis sancti Augustini, Ecclesiam parrochiam de Overton Karliolensis Diocesis in vsus proprios canonice obtinentes et eam licite possidentes, tenore presencium ordinamus, facimus et constituimus predilectos nobis in Christo Magistros Cudbertum Conyers, decretorum doctorem, Willelmum Burbanke, in legibus Baccalaureum, Robertum Burbanke, auctoritate apostolica notarium publicum, et Johannem Robynson, capellanum, nostros veros et legitimos procuratores et nuncios spirituales, coniunctim et diuisim, siue quemlibet eorum insolidum, ad comparandum (et) reddendum pro nobis et nostro monasterio de Conysheued et ecclesia nostra predicta de Overton, coram Reuerendo in Christo patre in domino, domino Johanni de ipsa apostolice sedis gratia Karliolj episcopo, siue in eius absentia coram vicario suo generali seu Officiali, in quibuscumque Clerum Conuocationibus et synodis conuocatis in predicta ecclesia sua Cathedrali vel alibi rite celebrandis vocari contigerit: Dantes et concedentes eisdem procuratoribus nostris et nuncijs et eorum singulis plenam potestatem et mandatum generale, ut permittitur vicario generali siue Officiali, comparendi et interessendi, absentiam nostram personalem excusandi, excusacionis causas allegandi et probandi, tractandi, consulendi et super iuramentum corporale seu aliud quodcunque genus liciti sacramenti in animas nostras preferendi et iurandi, ac omnia alia et singula faciendi, gerendi et exercendi que in premissis de ea necessaria fuerint seu quomodo licere oportuerint, Eciamsi mandatum in se magis exigant speciale: Ratum, gratum et firmum habentes et habituri totum et quicquid dicti procuratores nostri fecerint nomine nostro, aut eorum aliquis fecerit in premissis, aliquoue eorundem Jurauerit; Libertatibus, immunitatibus, exemptionibus et privilegijs nostris in omnibus semper saluis. In cuius rei testimonium sigillum nostrum Commune presentibus apposuius. Data in domo nostro Capitulari, primo die mensis Marcij, Anno domini millesimo Quingentesimo octavo.

## II. COCKENSHELL IN BLAWITH.

Sir Daniel Fleming marked this deed ' k ' in the Beckermet box, and wrote in his catalogue *Lege*, meaning that he would try to read it someday (*Memoirs*, p. 99). In another hand it is endorsed, rather obscurely, ' Wathendal.' Its substance is:—

Alan de Staynton, senior, quitclaims to John le Fleming, his heirs and assigns, all services and right in the land which Randolf le Repper held in Colganschales, namely fealty with one barbed arrow . . . And because I have no seal of my own I have affixed to these presents the seal of Radulf de Frisington. Witnesses, John Avenel, Radulf de Frisington, William de Clayfe, Alexander de Ywdale, Alan f. Hawise and others.

This John le Fleming must be he who is named (*Memoirs*, p. 26) in the deed, now at Rydal Hall, by which Hugh le Fleming settled Frizington on Ralph and Sarra and their children Clement (not Thomas), Alice and Agnes, with ultimate reversion to John le Fleming, lord of Beckermert and his heirs; dated St. Vincent's day (Jan. 22), 1326-7. And Ralph de Frisington witnessed frequently until 1333 (*St. Bees Register*, pp. 215, 218-221, 224, 228, 230, 275). John Avenel of Strickland Ketel witnessed 1296 and 1320 (*Records of Kendale*, i, 278, 280), so that the date of this deed may be about 1320, and John Avenel suggests a connexion of the grantor with Westmorland, rather than with the Stainton in Furness. Both Cockenshell in Blawith and Stainton in Westmorland were in the barony of Kendal, and two-thirds of Cockenshell had been already granted to Richard le Fleming by Adam f. William de Skelsmergh (*Memoirs*, p. 20). An Alan de Stainton had sold in 1243-45 land there which his grandfather, Eward f. Roskil, had got from a source connected with the Flemings, from Bernard f. Gilbert, uncle of Anselm f. Michael I of Furness (*Rec. Kendale*, ii, 190f.) and consequently Bernard of Westmorland must have been brother or brother-in-law to the famous Michael of Aldingham. It appears that we have only to go a little further to find Fleming connexions, hitherto unknown, widely ramifying and explaining the many puzzles of this pedigree.

The name of Cockenshell must surely mean the 'hut of Cogan,' an Irish or Manx man, Mac Cagadhain (A. W.

Moore, *Surnames of I. of Man.*, p. 59), who came over with the Norse. Opposite to it is Bethecar; Bethoc's 'erg' or shieling (Ekwall, *Place-names of Lancs.*, p. 218), formed in the same way.

### III. A PENRITH CHAPLAIN'S WILL, 1484.

Sir John Johnson, chaplain at Penrith, we have met before (these *Trans.* xxix, 44). He was the son of William Johnson, who in another deed at Rydal Hall, dated July 16, 1466, gave him all his lands and tenements in Penrith; witnesses, Christopher Moresby, esq. seneschal of the liberty of Penrith (*see* his graveslab in Penrith Church, dated July 26, 1490), John Adamson, junior, and William Abbot of the same place. The chaplain made his will on December 11, 1484, devising his personal property, but not his real estate, which he left on the 26th of the next month to his friend Sir William Hogeson, whose name appears in the will as Hotteson; for in those happy days spelling mattered nothing. The will was proved in the same year, i.e. before Lady Day, 1484-5, so that John Johnson's last illness ended soon after these transactions, but his death was not sudden.

His will, in Latin, is to this effect. After the usual formulæ he directs that he is to be buried in Penrith church yard, and leaves  $13/4$  to a priest 'of good conversation' to say masses for his soul in that church during half a year; 40d. for lights on the altar of St. Mary; 20d. to the Gild of the Holy Trinity, and 12d. to the Friary. His breviary (*portiforium*) he bequeaths to Robert Abbot, if he should take orders, but if not, then to Robert's brother William, senior; but if neither is available he puts it into the hands of Sir William Hotteson, rector of Ormside, to give to whomsoever of his family should take orders, so that as long as it lasts it might be with some priest of his kin who will swear that he will pray for his soul.

He leaves to Robert his cousin a cow with calf agisted (*remanentem*) with James Lee of Alston moor (Haldstonmore) and ten sheep. To Robert Abbot he gives his doublet with a pair of sleeves or 'splints' (*deployden cum vno paro lez Splentyes*).\* To Esabel Jakson a bed, complete with patchwork quilt (*centonem*), two coverlets (*lodices*), two linen sheets (*lyntheamina*) and its furniture. To John Abbot, a long-bow of yew (*euium*) with twenty-four arrows, and a helmet (*cassidem*). To his sister Joan, a blue cloak reaching to the ankles (*toccam talarem blodij coloris*), and to his sister Elen another such cloak of grey woollen cloth (*de lez most' de vylers*).† To the unmarried children of Robert Atkynson ten sheep, to be divided equally among them, and the like to John Atkynson's children. To Esabel and Margaret, daughters of William Abbot, six sheep. To William and Christopher, sons of Geoffrey Jakson, six sheep and a new pack-saddle (*clitellum*) and to Geoffrey Jakson a cow and calf at James Lee's, Alston moor. To Agnes Beryman his second-best bed, complete as before. To Sowerby bridge he leaves 40s. if his resources run to so much, and to Thomas Abbot four (? shillings). The residue after his debts are paid is to be in the hands of his executors, John, Robert and William Abbot, who are to consult with Sir William Hotteson, rector of Ormside, and use it conscientiously for the good of his soul.

Witnesses, Sir William Hotteson, Sir Hugh Buntynge (chaplain), Sir William Partryk and others. Probate at Carlisle.

Of the persons named, the Abbots and Hugh Buntynge

\* A 'doublet of defence,' or brigandine, "composed of smaller lames and giving wearer greater ease of movement." (Charles ffoulkes, F.S.A., in *Archaeologia*, vol. 79, p. 24). It looks as though the chaplain had been, in his youth, a fighting man.

† See O.E.D., *Musterdevillers*: "a kind of mixed grey woollen cloth, much used in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries," called after the monastery of Villiers, now Montivilliers, in Normandy.

have appeared before (N.S. xxix, 44*f.*). Isabella Jakson is met again in her deed at Rydal Hall, dated March 14, 1492, as the daughter and heiress of William Crosby, and widow of Henry Jacson of Penrith, giving her son Robert half an acre in Newlands, Penrith, between the lands of John Burgham and Richard Coldale of Carlisle (probably son of John Coldale of Caldecotes, M.P., 1472 for Carlisle; the graveslab of Richard, 'Dick o' the low,' dated December 27, 1562, in Penrith church, may be that of his grandson, son of John Coldale, M.P. in 1529). Witnesses for Isabella Jacson were Thomas Carleton, junior, Thomas Payne, John Gryndon, John Alanby, John Symson and others. And Agnes Beryman was surely some relative of Sir Harry Beryman (N.S. xxix, 45), vicar of Penrith in 1530.

One more glimpse of pre-Reformation Penrith we get in the following deed from Rydal Hall; abridged translation:

John Stevynson of Penrith gives to his son Richard Stevynson, chaplain, a purpresture in the upper end (*in le ou' hende*) of Penrith with the new building called 'the Stanehouse' . . . . Witnesses, Richard Stevynson and John Threlkeld, chaplains, Thomas (? Martyn), Robert Huson and many others. Dated September 10, 1498.

There were then two chaplains at Penrith named Richard Stevenson; and it is noteworthy that a stone house was a novelty, just before 1500, in the old town.

#### IV. MUSGRAVE OF BEWCASTLE.

It is a name of romance: recalling Border ballads and the mysterious tragedy of Holm Cultram, when the daughter of another of the same name was shot. But the excuse for dragging it in here is that in 1478 Bewcastle was lying waste, and we do not hear of it again until 1514 (Curwen, *Castles*, 139, 147). But Sir John Musgrave wrote himself—he could write, but not spell—of Bew-

castle some years earlier in a connexion by no means romantic. Shortening and translating, we have:

I, John Musgrave, knight, of Bewcastel, . . . confirm to Richard Stephenson, chaplain, of Penreth [whom we have just met] one barn (*orveum*) with a garden, as it lies between the tenement late of John Stephenson [the chaplain's father, apparently dead] on the north, and the barn late of Hugh Dobyson on the south, in the vill of Penreth. To have and to hold, etc. and if the rent is behind hand for a fortnight, then it will be allowed me, the aforesaid John, to distrain, etc.: if the rent is behind in whole or part for a year and 40 days, then I may re-enter the aforesaid barn and garden and possess it again in its former condition, this indenture notwithstanding . . . . Dated at Penreth 15th June, 1508.

[Signed in the ablative case, understanding *per me*]

Joan'e musgr<sup>a</sup>[u]e melete.

His seal is a figure 2 within a square, or is it a *manche mal taillée*?

