

## Original Documents.

### DEEDS RELATING TO PROPERTY IN VARIOUS PARTS OF YORKSHIRE: FROM THE MUNIMENT ROOM AT WOOLLEY PARK NEAR WAKEFIELD.

COMMUNICATED BY GEORGE WENTWORTH, Esq.

THROUGH the courtesy of Mr. George Wentworth, to whose obliging communications we have been on former occasions indebted for documents and information connected with localities adjoining his paternal estates in Yorkshire, we are enabled again to place before our readers evidence of a similar nature, by aid of which light is thrown upon the descent of families and property, especially in the picturesque and fertile dales of the Wharfe and the Aire.

Of the miscellaneous documents thus kindly entrusted to us from the Muniment Room at Woolley Park, it has appeared advisable, with one exception, to give only detailed abstracts, which may prove more acceptable to the general reader than the tedious repetition of legal phraseology.

The earliest of the documents placed in our hands on the present occasion by Mr. Wentworth bears date A. D. 1298, and it relates to Poole, a township in the parish of Otley, where the prioress and convent of Arthington had possessions about five miles to the south of the river Wharfe, on the south bank of which the Priory stood. Of this document the following is an abstract.

Deed indented, dated on the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross (May 3), A. D. 1298, whereby John, called Russelle, vicar of the church of Knaresborough, leased to Sir Richard de Goldsburgh, knight, all the land with the appurtenances which the said John had in the town and territory of Pouel of the demise of the Prioress and Convent of Arthingtone; to hold to the said Richard his heirs and assigns from the feast of St. Martin in that year for the term of sixteen years next following, at the yearly rent of 33s. 4d. Witnessed by "Laurencio de Arthingtone, Willelmo le Hunte de Adel, Willelmo de Adel de Arthingtone, Roberto de Pouel, Paulino de eadem, et aliis." Appended by a parchment label is a seal on fine red wax, of pointed-oval form, length about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch; the device is the Virgin seated, with the infant Saviour on her knees; legend—*MATER DEI MEMENTO MEI*.

Sir Richard de Goldsborough, one of the parties in the foregoing lease, was of a family of note in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and named from their residence at Goldsborough near Knaresborough. Mr. Wentworth observes that a Sir Richard de Goldesburgh received a pardon 22 Edw. III., with several other knights, for holding justs at Wakefield. (See Cal. Rot.

Pat. p. 157.) He may probably have been the person whose name occurs in the following remarkable document sent to us by Mr. Wentworth.

“Ceste endenture fait entre monsire Richard de Goldesburgh, chivaler, dune part, et Robert Totte, seignour, dautre part, tesmoigne qe le dit monsire Richard ad graunte et lesse al dit Robert deuz Olyveres contenaunz vynt quatre blomes de la feste seynt Piere ad vincula lan du regne le Roi Edward tierce apres le conqueste vynt sysme, en sun parke de Creskelde, rendaunt al dit monsire Richard chesqune semayn quatorzse soutz dargent duraunt les deuz Olyvers avaunt ditz ; a tenir et avoir al avaunt dit Robert del avaunt dit monsire Richard de la feste seynt Piere avaunt dist, taunque le bois soit ars du dit parke a la volunte le dit monsire Richard saunz interruptione [e le dicte monsieur Richard trovera a dit Robert urre suffisaunt pur lez ditz Olyvers pur le son donaunt, *interlined*]. Et fait a savoir qe le dit Robert ne nule de soens coupara ne abatera nule manere darbre ne de boys pur les deuz olyvers avaunt ditz mes par la veu et la lyvere le dit monsire Richard, ou par ascun autre par le dit monsire Richard assigne. En tesmoigaunz (*sic*) de queux choses a cestes presentes endentures les parties enterchaungablement ount mys lour seals. Escript a Creskelde le meskerdy en le semayn de Pasque lan avaunt diste.” (Dec. 26, 1352.)

The foregoing deed has appeared well deserving of being printed at length, as it seems to relate to certain metallurgical operations, and may possibly tend to throw light upon iron workings in Yorkshire at an early period. The park of Creskelde, in which Sir Richard de Goldesburgh leased to Robert Totte<sup>1</sup> “deuz Olyveres contenaunz vynt quatre blomes,” is situated, as Mr. Wentworth informs us, near Otley, the name being at the present time written Kirskill. The manor, now the property of the Darwin family, formerly belonged to the Wentworths of Woolley; Michael Wentworth, who lived in the reigns of James I. and Charles I., died in 1631 seized of the manor of Kerskill and lands in Arthington. He left Kerskill to his son, Sir George Wentworth, by whom it was portioned out to his daughters, and thus passed out of the family.

We have sought in vain for a satisfactory interpretation of the “Olyveres contenaunz vynt quatre blomes,” which we must admit our inability to explain. Bloom, it is well known, is a metallurgical term signifying a hammered mass of iron (Ang.-Sax. Bloma, a mass or lump of metal; Germ. Eisern Blume), the first form into which the metal is wrought after it has been melted from the ore. A Bloom is usually described as a four-sided ingot about two feet in length; the next process being the reduction of blooms into anconies, or flat bars with a square rough knot at each end. The large amount of the payment to be made by the lessee here deserves notice, being 14 shillings a week “duraunt les deuz Olyvers;”<sup>2</sup> but it must be observed that the Olyveres were of limited durability and probably

<sup>1</sup> See a descent of the family of Totty in Whitaker's Ducatus Leodiensis. A Robert Totty occurs as party to a deed in 1404. The name still occurs at Leeds.

<sup>2</sup> It must be observed that, although the word has here been printed “Olyver,” (the *v* being taken as equivalent to *v*); yet, as will be obvious to those who are

conversant with the writing of the period, this word of unknown derivation occurs possibly to be read “Olineres;” we have sought, but in vain, for any archaism or local term connected with metal-working or any other craft which may supply a clue to the signification of it so read.

perished in the using, and the lessee was to be supplied with fuel, on condition that no tree should be felled without consent of the lessor.

There occurs in this curious little document another term involved in some obscurity. Sir Richard covenanted to provide "*urre* suffisant pur les ditz Olyvers." It has been suggested that *urre* may signify ore, and the word occurs in this sense in old French writers; Roquefort gives "*Ore*; mine, trésor, metal quelconque."<sup>3</sup> We hope that some of our readers, conversant with archaisms of this class and period, or with technical words in use in the districts of Yorkshire which abound in mineral wealth, may favour us with some more satisfactory interpretations of the terms which Mr. Wentworth has thus brought under our consideration.

It appears by another document preserved at Woolley that, two years subsequently to the date of this lease, Sir Richard de Goldesburge granted to John de Halm and Robert de Cheworth, his park of Creskeld, "*cum clautura et fossata*," and all other appurtenances, to hold to them and their heirs of the chief lords of the fee by the services therefore due and accustomed. To this deed (without witnesses) dated at Lamely, "*die venationis, in crastino Ascensionis domini*," 28 Edw. III. (23 May, 1354), the grantor appended his seal. The impression is on red wax; the seal is circular and bears an escutcheon charged with a cross moline. From the Roll of Arms, compiled 1337—1350, edited by Sir H. N. Nicolas, we learn that Monsire de Goldesbrough "*port d'argent a une crois patey du sable*."

With the documents already described Mr. Wentworth has communicated two others, concerning the possessions of the Cistercian Monastery of Byland, in the North Riding of Yorkshire. These deeds relate more immediately to the estates of his family at Woolley. Of the first the following is an abstract:—

Deed indented, dated at Woolley (Wlveley) on the feast of Pentecost (June 8) A. D. 1348, whereby Thomas de Stayntone of Woolley released to the Abbot and Convent of Byland (Bellalanda) and their successors all services corporeal and incorporeal, viz., homage, scutage, suit of court, or any other foreign service, or any customs, exactions, or demands which he claimed from them for all their lands and tenements within the territory of Woolley, except the rent of 2*s.* 3*d.* for land which the said Abbot and Convent held of him in "*Wlveley Morehouse*" by fealty and the aforesaid rent. Witnessed by "*Dominis Willelmo Scote, Briano de Thornhille, Henrico de Sotehille, militibus, Hugone de Brereley, Johanne de Stayntone, Laurencio de Stayntone, et Thoma de Stayntone, filiis Thome de Stayntone, et aliis*." Seal missing.

With this document a second has been preserved, relating to the same transaction, and executed on the same day, and in presence of the same witnesses. We here give an abstract of it:—

Deed indented, dated at Woolley (Wlveley) on the feast of Pentecost (June 8) A. D. 1348, whereby Robert de Stayntone, son and heir of

<sup>3</sup> Ang.-Sax. Ora, *vena metalli*. According to another supposition, *urre* may signify fuel, from *uro*, to burn; Kelham

gives, in his Norman Dictionary, "*ure*, burned."

Thomas de Stayntone of Woolley, released to the Abbot and Convent of Byland (Bellalanda) for ever all services corporeal and incorporeal and foreign, and also all exactions, customs and demands for all their lands and tenements within the territory of Woolley, except the land in "Wlveley Morehouse," for which they pay annually 2s. 3d. for all service, as appears in a certain quit claim by Thomas his father to the said Abbot and convent. Witnessed by "Dominis Willelmo Scot, Briano de Thornhille, Henrico de Sotehille, militibus, Thoma de Stayntone, Hugone de Breresley, Johanne de Stayntone, Laurencio de Stayntone, et Thoma de Stayntone, filiis Thome de Stayntone, et aliis."

Appended by a parchment label is a fragment of a seal of dark green wax, of pointed-oval form, about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in width; the device appears to have been an ecclesiastical figure standing, holding in his right hand a crosier, and in his left a closed book against his breast; on each side is suspended an escutcheon charged with a lion rampant; the ground is diapered. Of the legend only the letters · · ELL · · remain. On the reverse is an impression of a counterseal, probably the abbot's *secretum*, of oval form, about  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch in length; the device, a gem, possibly antique, is a



Seal of Byland Abbey.

From an impression appended to a document at Woolley Park, Yorkshire.

bull; the legend is—\*GVTGV TANITEBAL:<sup>4</sup>—No perfect impression of any seal of Byland Abbey appears to be known. In the last edition of the *Monasticon* a mutilated impression is mentioned, of which the device seems to have been an abbot with a crosier in one hand and a book in the other; of the legend no more remained than · · · · ABBATIS · DE · BEL · · · · It was appended to a deed without date, probably of the thirteenth century, in the Office of the Duchy of Lancaster. *Mon. Angl.* vol. v. p. 345. We are indebted to Mr. Wentworth for an impression of another seal, probably

<sup>4</sup> The counter seal of which we have here an impression was doubtless one of the interesting class of seals, consisting of antique or mediæval gems set in inscribed rims of silver or other metal. Examples have been noticed in this *Journal*, vol. iii. p. 76, especially one


found in Suffolk, and exhibited by the late Marquis of Northampton. Mr. C. Roach Smith has given a very curious memoir on mediæval seals set with ancient gems, *Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. iv. p. 65, where numerous examples are figured.

of the same abbey, now detached, of which the device appears to have been an ecclesiastical figure standing, between two escutcheons each charged with a lion rampant. The dimensions, form, and general design appear to have been very like those of the seal above described, but it is evidently from a different matrix, and there is no counterseal. Two coats have been assigned to Byland Abbey, namely, gules a lion rampant argent debruised with a crosier in bend sinister or; and quarterly gules and argent a crosier in bend dexter or. The former was doubtless the coat of the founder Roger de Mowbray differenced with a crosier; which addition does not appear upon either of the seals sent by Mr. Wentworth.

It will be noticed that the legend upon the *secretum* used by the Abbot of Byland, as above described, supplies another example of the mysterious talismanic, or phylacteric, inscriptions which have been noticed in former volumes of this Journal, as occurring upon personal ornaments, brooches, and rings, mostly of the fourteenth century. Such objects appear to have been regarded as endowed with certain physical qualities; they were designated "medicinable," or "*virtuosi*," and they were probably held in considerable estimation.

The particular formula which here occurs has been frequently noticed upon finger-rings, engraved upon the hoop, but we do not recall any example of its use as the legend on a seal. Of the former, we may cite a ring figured in this Journal, vol. iii. p. 267, found at Bredicot, Worcester-shire, and inscribed—+ THEBALGVTHGVTHANI; another found in Rockingham Forest, described *ibid.* p. 358, and bearing the legend—+ GVTTV : GVTTA : MADROS : ADROS, and on the inner side—VDROS : UDROS : THEBAL; also a third, found on the Glamorganshire coast, and inscribed—+ THEBAL . GVT . GVTANI. Several other rings with the like mysterious inscriptions might be enumerated, and they were probably regarded as charms against cramp, the falling sickness, and other disorders. On a silver ring-fibula in Mr. Waterton's collection the following occurs, with other mysterious inscriptions, in niello—+ GVGGVGBALTERANI ALPHA ET · ω. It was obtained at Florence. Among physical charms in an English medical MS. at Stockholm, and published in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxx. p. 390, a formula bearing considerable resemblance to those above cited is given as of virtue against toothache—"for peynys in theth."

In a volume amongst the MSS. in the Cathedral Library at Canterbury, entitled—"Liber Majoris Voluminis Secretorum" (marked B. 8.), the following curious prescription is preserved:

"Pro Spasmo.—Accipe unam cedulam pergameni, et scribe primo signum crucis, hoc modo  Deinde scribe hec nomina sic,—

"+ Thebal + Guthe + Guthanay + in nomine patris + et filij + et spiritus sancti amen + IKc nazareus + Maria + Johannes + Michael + Gabriel + Rapael + Verbum caro factum est +.

"Postea claudatur ista cedula ad modum unius litere ita ut non leviter possit aperiri. Qui vero super se istud carmen honeste et reverenter portaverit in dei omnipotentis nomine, et crediderit, sine dubio a spasmis salvus erit. Istud carmen habeatur in magnam reverentiam propter deum qui virtutem dedit verbis, lapidibus, et herbis; et secreta servetur ne omnes noscant hoc carmen, ne forte virtutem a deo datam amittet."

It should be observed that the crosses in this singular physical formula are alternately rubricated and coloured blue ; in form they are similar to that above figured. We are not aware that this *secretum* has been cited in any notices of the charms and mysterious phylacteric *carmina* so much in vogue in mediæval times. Another formula in the same MS. gives the word "Thebel," in directions for the invocation of good angels ; it is entitled "Angelicum volumen de proprio angelo."

With the documents already noticed we have received by Mr. Wentworth's kindness the following, of somewhat later date, and relating to property in the West Riding of Yorkshire, between Leeds and Bradford. It may be regarded with interest on account of the distinguished personage, Humphry the Good Duke of Gloucester, whose name here occurs as one of the feoffees of Margaret Bollyng of Wadlandes, a place now called Woodland Hall, near Bradford. Of her history or connexion with the parties here named, Mr. Wentworth has not supplied particulars.

Deed dated at Wadlandes, 10 August, 11 Hen. VI. (A. D. 1433) whereby Margaret Bollyng granted to Humphry, Duke of Gloucester, John Leventhorp, sen., John Leventhorp, jun., John Kyng, vicar of Halifax, Robert Broune, parson of Kighley, Cristopher Spenser, esq., Robert Inskipe, vicar of Calverley, Richard Willesthorpe, and John Rissheworthe, all her estate in all lands and tenements, rents and services, in Calverley, Farsley, Pudsey, Wadlandes, and Eccleshille, which she lately had of the feoffment of Thomas Thornour her father ; to hold to them and their heirs for ever, of the chief lords of the fee by the services therefore due and of right accustomed ; upon condition that the Duke, &c., or one of them, should reinfeoff her and her heirs, or perform the will of her or of her heirs in any other manner when they had notice thereof ; with a power of re-entry to her and her heirs in case the said Duke, &c., should refuse so to do. Witnessed by "Waltero Calverley armigero (Johanne . . . Henrico . . . . *erased*), Roberto Bollyng, Willelmo Rotheley, et aliis (Willelmo de Leventhorpe . . . . Johanne de Hille de Wulstone, *interlined*)." Appended by a parchment label is a small circular seal of red wax,  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. diam. ; the device is an M. rudely executed.

A. W.