

ART. XX.—*Gosforth in the Chartulary of St. Bees.* By W. N. THOMPSON.

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THERE are in the Chartulary of St. Bees numerous documents relating to lands in all the four villis of which the parish of Gosforth consisted. These four villis formed the three manors of Gosforth, of Seascale and Newton, and of Bolton.

I.—THE VILL OF GOSFORD.

The first mention is in a charter of Alan, son of Waldieve, and grandson of Gospatric, Earl of Northumbria, &c. Waldieve, or Waltheof, held Allerdale below Derwent from Henry I., and the land between Cocker and Derwent, with the five villis, from William Meschin, baron of Copeland. Of Alan, little is known: he gave land in Aspatrick to St. Bees, and in this charter, which we may date from the witnesses 1150-70, he gives to God and the church of St. Mary and St. Bega, of Coupland, and the monks therein 2 bovates—*i.e.*, 15½ acres of land in Goseford.

A similar grant of 2 bovates in Gosford to St. Bees was made sometime about 1170 by Robert de Vallibus I., from whose barony of Gilsland the manor of Gosford was held.

About 1217-18, Adam de Newton, with the advice and assent of Godith his wife, as he expressly says, gave three acres and three perches of land, with the appurtenances pertaining to the vill of Gosford, and lying between his own land and the land of Geoffry the Falconer of Gosford towards the north, with common of pasture for 8 oxen, 12 cows, 60 sheep, 20 goats, 3 swine, and their respective young of two years.

From Geoffry the Falconer, or Geoffry de Gosford the Falconer, as he is also styled, St. Bees received two charters sometime before 1240. By the first he grants, with the consent of Grace his wife and of John his heir, one acre of his demesne land above Gillibanc and stretching east to west from the King's highway to Gillebec near the land called Languse, and pasture for 10 cows, 30 ewes, 10 goats, 2 mares, and 2 swine, with their young of one year. By his second charter he gives two acres of arable land lying on the outer side upon the culture * of Gillibanc, whereof one extremity extended thence towards the south, the other towards the north, together with common of pasture for the beasts of the tenant. This grant also was made by consent of his wife Grace (or Grecia) de Gosford.

Grecia de Gosford's three charters probably fall within the years 1235-1250. She is now a widow: and she appears as lady of the manor of Gosford, inclosing and making profit of her wastes and confirming a grant of Hubert de Vallibus. (1) She granted to St. Bees two acres of her land in the vill of Gosford near adjoining the land which was Adam de Newton's in the said vill towards the north, and one perch of land in the valley below the said land near adjoining the land which was the said Adam's beyond the road, with pasture for the two tenants, saving the right of herself and her heirs to cultivate and make approvement of her waste so long as sufficient pasture is left for the said tenants and free ingress and egress. (2) She gave five acres of her land in the vill of Gosford upon Helewynhege, two acres and a half lying between the land which belonged to Alexander, son of Godenild, and that of the Hospital of Jerusalem on the south, and one acre and a half in "butts"—*i.e.*, short pieces of land at the ends of arable ridges and furrows—

* The *cultura* was a set of contiguous and parallel acre strips, each a furlong (farrow-long) in length, more or less. This strip of 2 acres would be 40 rods by 8.

towards the moor, and one acre near the aforesaid land of the Hospital on the north; and she reserved to herself and her heirs the liberty of making clearings, of building, and of appropriating to their own use in all the wastes in the vill of Gosford. (3) Grecia de Gosford granted and confirmed to St. Bees fifty acres of land in Gosford which Hubert de Vallibus had given, about 1157-1161, as we learn from a charter of Savaric, abbot of St. Mary's at York. They are described as follows:—"From the second ford above the house of Adam, son of Richer, and as far as a cross (to wit, towards the north) and lineally from the cross to the road (to wit, transversely) and by the road ascending (to wit, by the boundary) to a canch* and from the canch to a fig tree near the house of Adam aforesaid and by the fig tree ascending to the road and by the road descending to the boundary, which is between the land of the church of St. Mary of Gosford, and the land of St. Bega, and by the fig tree descending to the bounds of Neuton and by the bounds of Neuton descending to the stream which flows to Neuton and by the stream ascending to the ford above the house of Adam." Moreover, she gave all the land within these bounds, which is over and above the fifty acres, from an intuition of charity, as she says, and for the souls of her father and mother and for the soul of Geoffry her husband.

John the Falconer, who grants the next charter, is doubtless that son and heir of whom mention has already been made. He frequently appears as a witness, sometimes as John the Falconer, but generally as John de Gosford. The date of his charter appears to be about 1247-58, when Elyas, who attests it, was parson of Gosford. He granted to Peter, son of Henry de Aynthorn, one acre of his land, which William, son of Jordan, at one time held of him, lying near Attemore on the north and his own land on the south, one head whereof extends

* *Canch*, a trench cut sloping to a very narrow bottom.—Halliwell, *Arch. Dict.*

towards the peat-moss on the east and the other head towards Grucogile on the west, with all the common pasture of Gosford for 12 oxen, 2 mares, 1 horse, 50 sheep, 20 goats and 4 pigs, with their young of one year. This pasture he was to enjoy with John the Falconer's men (or tenants) and with the men of St. Bega, and he was to have estovers—*i.e.*, such wood as he needed for fuel, repairs, &c.—in every common wood in the vill of Gosford, paying annually to the prior and convent of St. Bega sixpence at Pentecost.

John the Falconer seems to have been succeeded by Robert de Gosford—or Robert le Fauconer de Gosford, as he once appears. Robert de Gosford made no grant to St. Bees, but he frequently appears as a witness in the last quarter of the 13th, and at the beginning of the 14th century. He died in 1316, or shortly before, and an inquisition was made of his lands and tenements. It was found that he held, on the day of his death, the manor of Goseford, by fealty and the service of sixpence annually, of the heir (who was under age and in the King's guardianship) of Thomas de Multon, of Gillesland, as of his manor of Hirthington. There were forty acres in demesne, but neither park nor dovehouse nor fishpond. There were four free tenants and five tenants at will. These five tenants at will held amongst them thirty acres in all. After Robert de Goseford's death the manor of Gosford was broken up among coheirs. The coheirs were his grandson John, son of Agnes de Estholm, then under age; and his daughters, Mariota, wife of Alan Cadde, who was thirty years old; Isabella, wife of Henry Hosecok, aged twenty-six years; Johanna, wife of Adam de Garth, aged twenty-four years; and Elena, widow of William de Kirkebi, who was twenty-five years old.

And now to turn to humbler folk. Adam, son of Richard of Gill, granted, sometime in the last quarter of the 13th century, to William, son of Richard of Caldra, one messuage and an acre of land in the vill of Gosford

lying between the land of the lord of Gosford and the land which Robert Carpenter (or the carpenter) of Santon, at one time held, to hold of the prior and monks of St. Bees by an annual payment of six silver pennies, at Pentecost and the feast of St. Martin in winter.

Afterwards, about 1301, William, son of Richard of Caldra, granted this messuage and acre of land under like conditions to Robert, son of William, son of Roger of Gosford, who quitclaimed the same (1303-13) to John, abbot of St. Mary's at York, and Alan de Nesse, prior of St. Bees, and the cell and monks thereof.

On April 26th, 1371, appears Michael de Brokholebanc. He granted to John Scharp, rector of the church of Whitingham (Whicham), and Thomas Lilling, chaplain, all his tenements and lands with the meadows, buildings, and all other their appurtenances which he had in Growcogill in the vill of Gosford.

A Michael de Brocholbanc also granted one toft with two acres and a half of arable land in Growcogill to Thomas de Lawswater and Randolph Bell, chaplains, and at the same time (January, 1390) he appointed John Cady to be his attorney to deliver to them full seisin of all his lands and tenements in Gosford.

On Sept. 21st, 1392, Thomas de Lawswater and Randolph Bell grant two tofts and two acres and a half of arable land in Gosford to Nicholas de Staingrefe, vicar of the church of Kirkeby in Lonsdale; Thomas de Brunby, vicar of the church of St. Laurence in Apylby; William de Gaiscoigne, chaplain; and John Thornour, by whom they were conveyed a few days later to the abbot and convent of St. Mary's, York.

The last document to be noticed in connexion with the vill of Gosford is the charter of Abbot Savaric, which has already been alluded to. He granted and gave to Richer, son of Punzun, to hold in fee and inheritance fifty acres of land which Hubert de Vallibus gave to the cell at St. Bees, to which cell Richer and his heirs are to

pay five shillings a year. The date is between 1157 and April, 1161.

II.—THE VILL OF NEUTON.

Adam de Newton has already been mentioned as giving land in the vill of Gosford to St. Bees. His grants of land in Neuton belong to the same period, and cannot be later than January, 1239.

(1) Adam, son of Richer (or Richard) de Neuton, gave to God and Blessed Mary and St. Bega the virgin and the monks there serving God "all my land which lies between the land of the church of St. Mary of Goseford and the great road which goes from Calder to Goseford and the boundary of Neuton with the meadow adjoining within the said bounds. I have given also to the said monks one acre of my land and one perch near adjoining on another part of the said road, and all my land which is called Kylnebach, and the meadow which lies between Kylnebach and the path which goes from my house to the great road of Gosseford. Moreover, I have given eight acres of my land in Stelrunbach, near to the road of Goseford, ascending to the boundary which is between me and Goseford. I have also given all my land which lies between the land of Robert, son of Ulf, and the land of the church of St. Mary, viz. :—two acres and one rood with the appurtenances. Also one acre of land which lies between the one acre of land which John de Brakenthuerth holds of me and my land near to the house of the said John." This grant he made to maintain for ever a light in the chapel of St. Bega the virgin. He granted, in addition, that the monks should have with him common of pasture in the vill of Gosford for 40 oxen, 8 swine, 140 sheep, 40 goats, and 6 mares, with their young of one year.

The second charter of Adam de Newton seems to be either in substitution for his first grant, or to be the first

grant augmented. It is for the same purpose—the maintenance of a light, and carries rights of common for the same number and kinds of cattle.

(2) Adam, son of Richer de Neuton, with the advice and assent of his spouse and his heirs, gave to St. Bees part of his land in Neuton within these bounds :—“As the bounds extend from St. Helen’s Well, which is at the corner of my garden, towards the south to a great grey stone and thence to another grey stone which stands upon the bank and so by the bank to the head of the said bank on the south and from the head of the bank in a straight line to the south side of Sceleren, and from Sceleren in a straight line to a cross which stands in Stanraise above Welleberch, and from the cross to the syke which falls from Hessegile, and by the syke descending to the great road which comes from Caldra, and from the said road by the bounds which divide my land and the land of Blessed Mary of Gouseford, descending to the bounds of Radulph de Feritate,* and by the first-said bounds into Grucogile beck and by the said beck ascending to the outfall of the said well and thence towards the south by the said syke to the well of St. Helen aforesaid.” [Then follow the stipulation for a light, and the same grant of common as before.] “And it is to wit, that the monks shall have within these bounds four buildings having hearths and the services of John Brakenthueith. They shall provide a road for me and my heirs between Grucogile beck and the bank as far as the bounds of Radulph de Feritate. But upon the aforesaid land they shall have no mill.”

This land, together with the annual service of John Brakenthwait, was afterwards granted by Robert, abbot of St. Mary’s, York (1197—Jan., 1239), to Michael, son of Hubert de Meles, and his heirs, at a rent of thirty-two pence, to be paid annually to the cell of St. Bees.

* He was lord of the manor of Bowness on Solway.

About 1250-60, or perhaps rather later, Adam de Neuton, son of Adam, son of Richer, quitclaimed to the prior and monks of St. Bees, "my patrons," one acre of his land in Neuton, which lay between the land of William, son of Jurdan, and a burial-place (?), with pasture for 8 oxen, 40 sheep, 1 horse, 10 goats, 1 pig, and their young of one year.

About 1261-1271, Andrew, who was then chaplain (chantry priest ?) of Gosford, granted and confirmed to Ada de Neuton, daughter of Richer Tyllof—a family of this name were lords of the manor of Scaleby—one acre and rood upon the bank in the vill of Neuton and two houses below the bank, with part of a garden, beginning at the grange of the said Ada, towards the east, descending to some cummin in the aforesaid garden, and from the cummin to the land of Ralph, servant of John, rector of the church of Goseford, towards the south. This property Ada was to hold of the house of St. Bega by an annual payment of threepence.

Some years afterwards, about 1286, Ada, daughter of Richard Tyllof of Neuton, as she is now described, granted this property to Richard Ward of Dreg, to hold of the abbot of St. Mary's at York and the monks of St. Bees, rendering annually to the prior of St. Bees two silver shillings.

Richard Ward immediately quitclaimed the acre and rood of land which he had by the gift of Ada, daughter of Richard Tyllof of Neuton, to the abbot of St. Mary's and the monks of St. Bees.

We must now go back some years, when Ada, daughter of Adam, son of Richer, quitclaims to the prior of St. Bees certain of her land in Neuton lying between a stone fence which ran down from the *chance* (canch) and stretched to Gretigate and the land of John Kalewar, and all the other land between Gretigate and the land of the said John on the west, and one acre lying at the outlet towards the west near the land of the lord of Gosford—

i.e., John de Gosford the Falconer : and so the date would be about 1250, or a few years earlier. It could hardly be so early as the time of Geoffry the Falconer, who would be lord in right of his wife.

At the same date, Guy, prior of St. Bees, demised, and granted this land to William, son of Jordan, and his heirs, reserving an annual rent of sixpence to St. Bees.

About the same period Adam, son of Adam de Neuton, granted to Hubert, son of Michael, half of his whole land of Neuton and one acre upon Welebanc, to hold of Adam and his heirs by an annual payment of two shillings and sixpence.

About 1250-61 Pavia, daughter of William, chaplain of Punchunby, quitclaimed to her lord, the prior of St. Bees and the monks, all her land in Neuton which she had by gift of her father. This land was between the land of the prior and the land of Ralph, the parson of Goseford's man.

About the same period, Hubert de Newton quitclaimed and confirmed to St. Mary's at York and St. Bees sixteen acres and one rood of land in the territory of Neuton, lying in a spot called Acris, near the land of Ralph, the parson's man, on the south, beginning at the boundaries of Goseford and stretching to Haynebanc and Stalerun.

Again he quitclaimed to St. Bees seven acres which are also described as being near the land of Ralph, the parson's man, and as extending to Hayhnsbanc and the land of John le Faucunar. He likewise quitclaimed a certain plot of ground with buildings thereupon, beginning at Graystan on the bank and extending to Graystan below the bank and up to the corner of the prior's house, and so to a *ran* as far as Likebulbek, and by a *stan ran* along the end of his (Hubert's) house to the road, and by another *ran* lying near the land of Gilbert the mason to the bank at Graystan near the road.

He also quitclaimed to St. Bees, about 1270, twelve

acres in Neuton lying near the sixteen acres described above, whereof ten acres began at the boundaries of those sixteen acres and extended in breadth to the Brathaurane, and so on to the path in Hollesalc near Scelerun on the west and from Holleslac to the boundaries of Goseford on the east, the other two acres lying near the Brachaurane on the south.

About the same date Hubert, son of Clara de Neuton, as he is now described, granted and confirmed to Thomas his son four acres of his land, with the buildings in the vill of Goseford, which four acres were in Neuton near the great road which comes from Dreg and goes towards Grucocgile on the east, and abutted towards Scelrun on the land which he sold to the prior of St. Bees on the south.

He likewise gave to his son John a messuage which Gilbert the mason once held from him in Neuton, with the whole waste adjoining, within these bounds—between Grucokgilebeke on the west and the great road by which you go from Neuton towards the sea-grange of Caldra on the east, whose one head abuts on the spring near the ancient site of a mill towards the south, and the other head on the waste of Goseford towards the north.

Hubert de Neuton's next proceeding apparently was to deliver over the rest of his lands to his son Adam, and then he seems to have disappeared. This was before November 11th, 1271.

Shortly afterwards Thomas and John de Neuton grant the lands given to them by their father to God and the church of St. Mary at York and Blessed Bega the virgin, reserving only "prayers and orisons."

And Margaret, daughter of Hubert de Neuton, also quitclaimed to St. Bees her interest by right of inheritance in the land of her sister Alice, with the buildings, in the vill of Neuton.

Now appears for the first time Adam, son of Hubert de Neuton. He grants, demises, and surrenders to the prior

of St. Bees in Coupland and the monks there all his land with its appurtenances, as well with farms and rents as with other things belonging, which he held in the vill of Neuton by demise and surrender of his father, for the term of six years, the term beginning in the Feast of St. Martin in winter 56 Henry III. (November 11th, 1271), for a certain sum of money given to him by the prior and monks "in his great necessity." But should Hubert, the father of the said Adam, return to the parts of Coupland before the completion of the term and claim the land as his own, then Adam was to refund the whole of this sum together with any other advances which the monks might make to him. The term, however, being fully complete, the land was to revert to Adam in the same state in which he had demised it.

Hubert de Neuton apparently did not come back to Coupland, and he must have died meanwhile, for in 56 Henry III. (1271-2) Adam de Neuton granted and confirmed to God and Blessed Mary of York and Blessed Bega of Coupland all the lands and tenements in Neuton which Hubert his father gave to them, and those which he had by the gift and grant of his brothers Thomas and John. He granted also to the monks the site of a mill, with liberty to erect a mill with pool and watercourse, at their will and pleasure where they thought most expedient in their own land in Neuton. He likewise granted and confirmed that an annual rent of seven shillings and eightpence which his father had been accustomed to pay to them for the lands and tenements which he held of them in the vill of Neuton should be paid to them and their successors for ever for the residue of his lands therein.

From an *inspeximus* by Thomas de Senhows, dated January 18, 1419, it appears that this annual payment of seven shillings and eightpence was a rent-charge on Flemynghall and other lands in Neuton.

And, last scene of all! so far as the family of de Neuton

is concerned, Adam de Neuton remised and quitclaimed to St. Mary's at York and St. Bees all his land in the vill of Neuton, as well in services, farms, rents, as in demesnes, which land he held of them (about 1272 or so).

III.—THE VILL OF SESCHALIS.

The solitary grant of land to St. Bees in the vill of Seascale was made by a non-resident owner, Roger de Beauchamp, lord of Little Croglin, and of Staffield in Kirkoswald. Early in the thirteenth century he gave two bovates of his land in the Seschalis, lying near the land of the nuns of Ainstapillith—the Benedictine nuns of Ermynthwait, in the parish of Ainstable—in the same vill, between their land, that is, and the Seschalis. This grant he made for the salvation of his soul and the soul of his wife, and for the souls of his father and mother.

IV.—THE VILL OF BOLTON.

The Bolton charters nearly all belong to the first half of the thirteenth century. Of the two following grants, however, the names of the witnesses have not been preserved.

The first is a grant by Richard de Coupland. He gave to St. Bees one acre near Morthweyt Bec, with pasture in the common of the vill of Bolton for 8 oxen, 8 sheep, 3 mares, 8 goats, 3 swine, and their young of one year.

The other is a grant by John, son of Alexander de Houthunhou, of a half-acre and half-perch of his land in Houthunhou, the half-acre lying between a path and two stones on the south of the path and Untheknur, and the half-perch below Staynknoc near the land of the said John, and hard by a great stone.

John, son of Alexander de Hovenoth, also gave to St. Bees one acre of arable land in the territory of Bovelton lying near Seteknoc towards the north, with common pasture for the beasts of the tenant.

He also grants all his land at Houchenhou in Boulton, which lies between Blindbec and a burial-place (?) at the south, and from Gretigat towards the west. These gifts were made for the salvation of his soul and of the souls of his father and of Alan, son of Ketel. The date is sometime in the first half of the thirteenth century.

About the same period William, son of Hugh de Warthebuthewait, gave three acres of arable land in the territory of Bovelton, one acre being near Borthhevid between two sykes, and one acre in Thornbanc which extends from the highway towards the vill of Bovelton to the moss, and a half-acre near Thornhevid on the west which extends from the marsh to Whitrais, and a half-acre in Lovetsche near a rivulet on the east.

William, son of Hugh de Werbuthethwait, also gave one acre of arable land of his free tenement in Bolton lying in Lowkesk near the marsh towards the west.

Adam, son of William de Waybuchthwait, gave five acres of land in the territory of Bolton, two of which are near the road which stretches towards Kerlingsik, and two near the other two acres between the road and the moss, and one other acre in Thornborhe. This was in the time of Geoffrey the Falconer, who is one of the witnesses.

In Geoffrey's time also, Ada, daughter of William, son of Hugh, for the salvation of the souls of her father and mother, gave to St. Bees two acres of her land in Bolton lying near the arable land of Richard de Coupland towards the south upon the *cultura* of Strivland. She also granted and confirmed those four acres of land near the said two acres which her grandfather Hugh, son of Eward, gave to Peter de Sevenhow in frank marriage with Gunnilda his daughter.

About 1271 Alan, son of Richard de Coupland, gave thirty falls of his arable land in the vill and territory of Bolton which lay beneath Setikonoc, between the road and the land which Alan de Wesmerland held of St. John of Jerusalem.

About 1240-50 Sir John de Langliuer, who appears to have been a person of considerable local importance, granted to John de Boyvill for five silver marcs a moiety of the wardship of all the land in Bolton, which had belonged to Adam de Waithbuthwait—which moiety he had by the gift of Thomas de Multon—to have and to hold till the right age of the heirs of the said Adam, marriage being excepted.

About the same period Walter de Seuenhows granted to Yvo, son of Hubert de Hirton, one acre of his demesne land in the territory of Botelltun, which acre lay in Robert's assartel, or small clearing, and extended on the south in length from the said Walter's land to the rivulet of Morechait east and north; in breadth from the said Walter's land to the land of William Denhi on the west—for which Yvo was to render annually to the monks of St. Bees fourpence *de eadem firma quam exhibet* for the land whereon he dwelt.

Somewhat earlier Peter de Seuenhou, by the advice and consent of his wife Gunnilda, gave to St. Bees the four acres in Bolton (already mentioned) which he received in frank marriage with Gunnilda, together with a shieling in Butoft.

In 1382 John Scharp, who has now become perpetual vicar of Dalton, granted to Leonard de Malton, John del Banc, and Radulph Bell, chaplains, one acre of land called the couper acre in Boltonheved, which he had by gift of William Scharp, lying between the land of Richard de Coupland on the north and the land called Fleteland on the south.

THE CHURCH OF GOSFORD.

There is only one more point of interest—the church of Gosford. The church appears to have been given to St. Bees by William de Romely, the Boy of Egremond, and confirmed by his sister Cecily, Countess of Albemarle.

Her words are:—"I grant, moreover, and confirm [to God and St. Bega the virgin and the monks there serving God] the gift of W. my brother of the church of Gosford which he himself made to the aforesaid monks." This grant was further confirmed by Roger, Archbishop of York (1154-1181) and Papal Legate, to the abbot of St. Mary's, York, and the monks of St. Bees.

NOTE.—By an Inquisition taken after the death, June 16, 1363, of Joan, wife of Robert Fitz-Walter, and sister and coheir of John de Multon of Egremont, it was found that among her possessions she held the advowson of Gosforde (Foster, *Penningtonia*, No. 34). The gift, therefore, to St. Bees had probably not been valid.
