

ART. X.—*Fountains Abbey and Cumberland.* By W. P. HASKETT-SMITH.

*Read at Carlisle, September 1st, 1920.*

SOME of the earliest history we have for the country round Keswick is contained in the charters of Fountains Abbey. These are by no means complete. The fragments at Studley have been printed and others are in private hands, but all that most concerns our present purpose is to be seen in a stout MS. volume in the Cotton Library, fuller and more accurate than the Earl of Denbigh's MS., which is valuable as a catalogue but seldom gives more of a document than is just sufficient to identify it. The Cotton MS. is often difficult to decipher owing to the edges having been worn and also shrivelled by heat. An excellent edition of these charters by Mr. W. T. Lancaster, F.S.A. (privately printed, Leeds, 1915) did not come under my eye until my own notes were completed, but it has been a great advantage to check my readings against his.

In the time of King John, Aelicia Pipard, better known by the surname of her grandfather De Rumeli, owned practically the whole basin of Derwentwater down to the head of Bassenthwaite and bestowed, roughly speaking, all south of Derwentwater on Furness Abbey and the rest on Fountains, consisting mainly of Watendlath on the hill and of the flat land between the two lakes. These lakes were no doubt originally one, until severed by the vast deposits made by the rivers draining the west side of Helvellyn and the south side of Saddleback and the severance had already been effected before the arrival of the Romans; but then and long after the land formed between was much narrower and much less solid, so that water and marsh occupied most of the space,

leaving a mere strip of firm ground along the north shore of Derwentwater. We may fairly assume that when these charters describe an "altum chiminum" and a "magnum chiminum" proceeding from Crosthwaite, one along the slopes of Skiddaw to the east of Bassenthwaite lake and one along the foot of Derwentwater over a "pons petrae" to the foot of Whinlatter, we have traces of Roman work. Moreover they show that the latter road was carried on an embankment which held back the drainage of the Newlands valley and ultimately formed a considerable lake known as Husaker Tern. When at length this lake was drained we may suggest that the bed of it provided those "new lands" from which the valley derives its present name. The old name of the tarn is seen in the farm of Uzzicar.

These old deeds thus preserve evidence of topographical changes and still more frequently they shew us changes that have taken place in language. For instance on Hutton Moor is a Farmer Sike which looks a commonplace name enough, similar to many others recording "shepherds" and "hunters," but when we find in an early deed that close to it was a Nirmersike it at once occurs to us that we may have here two instances of that rare comparative form in -mer (seen in "former") and that they mean simply "farther" and "nearer."

The following words and names are noticeable:—

*Advenam* seems to be the same word which frequently occurs as *avenam*, *ovenam*, *afnam* and *ofnam*, the *m* being part of the word itself and not a mere case-ending. It seems to mean "off-take" and perhaps describes a piece of land chosen before a general division.

*Bastunwater*, in a charter of Benedict de Apelthwait of about 1220, like *Bastenthwaite* etc. for *Bassenthwaite* (Sedgefield, *Place-names of C. & W.*, p. 11) points to an original personal name, probably Norse because compounded with the Norse word "thwaite."

*Borghra* is, I am told, not the same word as the *Borgerha* of the other Borrowdale in Dunnerdale. It was in the flat ground near Lodore at the mouth of Borrowdale. The context seems to demand a stream, which can hardly be other than the Derwent, *borgar-á*, the river of the fort, i.e. Castle Crag.

*Cauce, Chauce, Chauchey, Chause, Chaushe* usually with "Le" prefixed is constantly mentioned as near Braithwaite and may have been the causeway of the great road from Portinscale or a dam expressly formed to complete Hosacre Tarn. It is the Latin *calciata* which expresses either and in some way originated the name of Causey Pike. There was also a *Cauce* near Esk Hause, and an ancient causeway-path is traceable from Seathwaite to near the summit of the pass.

*Felebricge* near Threlkeld looks like "plank-bridge" (A.-Sax. *thille*, Icel. *thilja*). Compare *Felbrigg* in Norfolk with *Felbridge* in Sussex and *Thelbridge* in Devon, and note that the shafts of a cart are called "thills" and these appear as "fills" in Shakespeare and some dialects.

*Gillenukelstagge, Gillunkel, Selluncle*; all these seem to be misreadings of *Gille-mikel* or *Gille michhele* containing the common personal name *Gille-Michael* analogous to *Gil-christ, Gil-martin, Gil-mour*.

*Glenermerghe*, now *Glaramara*, tentatively explained by Mr. Collingwood as *Glever-merhe*, or cliff-boundary.

*Laterhayheved, Latehahafelde, Letterayheved* is mentioned as near *Skithou* and is probably now *Latrigg*.

*Losaiques* should perhaps be read *Lesaiques* as it seems to be the present *Lyzzick*, and is called *Lesakes* in the *Close Roll of 1343*.

*Northmethwait, Normesthwait, Northmanthwait, Normanthwait*. If *Northme* be the true form for which the more familiar *Northman* was substituted it might be another comparative in *-mer*. But *Northman, Norman*, was

frequently used as a personal name in the 12th and 13th centuries.

*Portwinescales, Porvynscale, Porcqueschal, Portquenescales.* The last form must be the original and upsets Prof. Sedgfield's derivation from an imaginary person called Pearta, pointing strongly to Sax. "port-cwene" and Icel. "port-kona," i.e. "the town-women's huts."

*Pyrnebemsyke, Prumebemsyke* near and east of Bastin-water looks somewhat like Byrmebem the old name of Brimham, but if P is the true initial we are reminded of the local word pern = shrivel; a tree blasted by lightning or otherwise withered being very commonly used as a landmark. P, however, may be for the Runic *th*, making "thorn-tree-syke."

*Rantheckoke ridding* (*Fantheckoke* in the Denbigh MS.) suggests Rauthecok, i.e. "red cock-clearing." Would this be red grouse? Or was it the nickname of a man?

*St. John's House* in Threlkeld.

*Satmerdoc, Satmyrthac* now Setmurthy.

*Scippelendig* which the editor tells me must be "ship-landing" is curiously used. A grantor undertakes that if the acreage is short "totum reddam in S.," apparently "will make it good"; but was the shiplanding a spot or an event? Cf. Landing, at the foot of Windermere, and Nichol-end or Nichol-landing at Fawe park on Derwentwater.

*Skythou, Skiddehawe* is given as near Applethwaite and can be nothing but Skiddaw, about which some doubt has hitherto been felt.

*Spon How*, an assart near Crosthwaite, suggests that Spooky Green represents Spoonah Green for Spoon How Green, possibly containing the Icel. word for chips and therefore not very different from Tendre-acre (Fuel-field) which also occurs near.

*Thrailkeld, Therllekeld, Therhkerld*, suggests a spring

tapped by boring rather than a spring frequented by thralls.

*Waterhuches, Watrehoses, Watrehuthes.* The position of these is not defined. Can they have been "hutches" for captive fish? or were they similar to the "water-houses" mentioned in the Inq. p. m. of Sir Thomas de Derwentwater, 1302-3?

They can hardly have been on any of the larger lakes; for in 1343 they are given in a list of fisheries belonging to the lords of Cockermouth, including Derewentwatre, Bastenwatre, Crombokwatre, Buttermere, Lousewatre, Flutern, Brathemyre, Watrehoses, Husacretern, &c.

These charters do us a service with regard to the word "escalinge" which many good paleographers have read as "estalinge"; for in one place they spell it "Eskalinges" thus placing the sound beyond doubt.

It would be interesting if we could locate Cald- (or Eald-) cloue, where the abbey acquired land as a halting place for their cattledroves. One would like to trace their route.

Before we quit the monks and the history of their acquisitions of land it may be well to get an idea of the relative importance of their estates. This we gather from the incomes of 1456 when "Croswat" produced £15 10s. od., "Stangwat" and "Watenland" £17 6s. 10d., "Espnes" £2, and "Cokymouth" only a shilling.

From a Fine of 1195 dealing with Rumili land north-west of that granted to Fountains we gather some curious names. It was printed years ago by Hunter, who, however, missed one or two important words which are given below in italics. Unfortunately the lower lefthand corner has been torn off and so from the later lines more and more of the beginning is wholly lost.

The places mentioned are:—"pasturam apud Wizope sicut *Riu . . s fori*" and as boundaries "Ad Kirkefen. In Saluneis et flumine. In Olebec. De Olebec aut' usque

Oustwibec" (then along the edge of the moss) "et de Estwibec (along edge of moss) usque ad summitatem de Loftweic et de Loftwic usque ad capud de Rutenbec et de Rutenbec ad Dubbes et sicut Dubbes *fluunt in Bastun.*" "The men of Kokmue, Lorenton, Oustwic and Satmdac; the wood which lies to the road between Kokmue and Lorenton from Cruce Sundwize as far as Kokmue; pasture for 60 cows in Dochora and joint pasture with the men of Caudebec."

Our word "along" is here rather unusually expressed by the Latin proposition "in."

The gist of this document is that one Orm, having some sort of claim to Wythope, is being bought off by the grant of pasture rights on the fells sloping up east and south from Embleton with some privileges in a wood between it and Cockermouth. Norman scribes found great difficulty in H, TH, and W, and usually ignored the first, expressing TH (hard) by F or S, TH (soft) by Z, and W by O or OU. We should therefore expect modern forms resembling *Withope*, *Holebeck*, east and west *Wibeck*, *Cokmouth*, *West Wick* and *Dockwra*.

Now as most of these names can be matched near the north end of the Whinlatter range which flanks Bassenthwaite Water on the west we may safely assume that the west side of the last knob of this range is the part chiefly dealt with. In those days it had water on two sides of it, for the sinking of the level of the lake has since withdrawn a short and shallow westward arm then called *Dubs*, now visible only in floodtime. Some trace of this creek still exists in the old Cockermouth road, which could not always cross it as now at *Dub Wath*, but turned along the south bank. The base of the little triangle was the Kelswick depression, while the ridge is cut about midway by a dip from which *Routen Beck* flows north and *Lothwaite* descends towards the lake. It appears from this early form that *Lothwaite* was once

*Loft-thwaite* which, in view of *Loft-barrow* elsewhere, is not unlikely. As *Sale Fell* is close by; it may seem that *Saluneis* preserves the name of the whole promontory or of its pointed west end, *Sale How Ness*, (for "how" may drop to "u" as it must have done in *Silf-how-Cove* in Ennerdale, which became *Silfucov* and is now *Silver Cove*).

But on the whole it is more likely that these boundaries started near Lorton, that Kirkfen has some relation to Kirkfell, that *Saluneis* was a northerly ridge, that West and East Wibec are the two main streams draining Wythop Moss, that Loftwic was the cartroad which still leads, passing between Kelswick and Wythop Hall, up to the col overlooking Lothwaite, after which the line turned sharp to the left for Routenbeck and so to Dubs and the lake.

In passing we may note that the only three ways of leaving the manor house were marked by the same termination, West-wick, Kels-wick, Loft-wick and the fact that Keswick sprang up beside a very ancient road may explain its final syllable more satisfactorily than some theories that have been put forward.

On the Lorton side of Wythop Fells is a stream called Whit- or Wythe-beck, suggesting that the original names may be east and west *Wythe Beck* flowing down from *Wythe-Hope*. The *Old Bec* given in our document would probably be *Hole Beck*.

Of the other names *Satmrdac* is of course the old form of Setmurthy, *Lorenton* is Lorton, but there is no Dockway nearer than Lamplugh Fells to represent *Dochora* and *Cruce Sundwize* must be somewhere along the Cocker-mouth road.

The cross may possibly have stood on the Cocker-mouth road where the way to Southwaite turns off.

There is now no Wick about here except Kelswick, which, however, may then have had another Wick to the east or west of it.