

ART. XII.—*The Manor of Kirkby Lonsdale.* By COL.
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THE original manor of Kirkby Lonsdale, which was only three-fourths of the existing one, appears to have been held under the Crown by Ivo de Taillebois, baron of Kendal. It was surrounded by other manors, of the fee of this baron viz: Casterton, Barbon, Mansergh, Lupton, Hutton Roof and Thirnby, whilst south of the last lies the township of Whittington also of the fee of the baron of Kendal but held of the honor of Lancaster.

About 1090-1097, Ivo de Taillebois gave, among other things, the church of Kirkby Lonsdale to the abbey of St. Mary, York, with the lands and common which belonged to it. In 1120-1130, Chetel son of Eltred, by the advice of Christiana his wife and William his son, and at the instance of archbishop Thurstan, repeated the gift of the church of Kirkby Lonsdale to the monks of St. Mary's abbey, York.*

Usually such a gift implies that the parsonage or rectory passed to the abbey which would have to establish a vicarage in the parish; but of such procedure nothing is apparent and a gap of seventy years intervenes before any further information becomes available.

Sometime in the 12th century the county of Westmorland was formed as we know it and in the process the ancient manor of Thirnby, which was situated between Kirkby Lonsdale and Whittington, was split into two parts, one of which was added to the manor of Kirkby Lonsdale while the other was added to Whittington

* *Records of Kendale*, ii, 142.

(see my paper on this subject).* This increase of the manor of Kirkby Lonsdale, as will presently appear, amounted to a fourth part of the present manor.

The written records of Kirkby Lonsdale recommence with the chartulary of the abbey of Cockersand (as printed by the Chetham Society, page 911) wherein we find five charters by members of the de Kirkby family giving land in Kirkby Lonsdale to that abbey. This family appears to have held the manor under the baron of Kendal† and the head of the family was the hereditary parson of the church; from which it would appear that the gift of the church to St. Mary's abbey had been revoked in some way and the manor had been included in the new grant of the Kendal barony as it is said to be of the fee of William de Lancaster.

The first of the Cockersand charters is by Ketel, the clerk [of Kirkby Lonsdale] *circa* 1190-1195 by which he gives half of Ruhcroft (which is just east of the Spital farm) to the monks. The second charter either gives the remaining half of Ruhcroft or is a confirmation of the first gift with the approval of Adam the son and heir of Ketel and is of the same date. In the third charter Ketel gives four acres *circa* 1184-1190 and this charter has a seal attached bearing the legend: 'Sigillum Ketelli Clerici de Kirkby.' The fourth charter is a confirmation by Adam son of Ketel of all the gifts of his father to the abbey of date *circa* 1190-1200. The fifth charter is by the same man, dated *circa* 1190-1210, giving to the abbey nine acres of his land in Kirkby Lonsdale, from Penningstan How, on the southern side of the highway which leads to Whittington, unto the boundary of Whittington. One of the witnesses is John 'parsona.'

From these charters, the editor of the chartulary, the late Mr. William Farrer, arrived at the conclusion that

* *Hist. Soc. of Lancs. and Chesh.* lxxiii, 225.

† *Records of Kendale*, ii, 308.

these lords of Kirkby Lonsdale were also hereditary parsons of the church and gave the descent as probably

Ketel =

|

Adam =

|

John de Kirkby, parson of the church, who obtained a grant from Henry III, in 1227 of a fair and market.

Now Richard de Copeland appears to have held, under the baron of Kendal, that portion of Thirnby which had been added to the Kirkby Lonsdale township and was defined, in the inquisition *post mortem* on William de Lindsey baron of Kendal in 1283 (when Alan de Copeland had succeeded his father Richard) as one fourth of the manor.*

In the British Museum Library, Harleian MS. 236, there are some documents referring to Kirkby Lonsdale.

The first to be noticed is a concord between John parson of the church of Kirkby in Lonsdale and Ralph [Richard] de Coupeland, regarding an exchange of lands, made at York in 15 Henry III, before Simon de Segrave, Robert de Lexinton and others. This eyre commenced on 8 June, 1231 and lasted until 22 July, 1231. Hence John de Kirkby was living in 1231.

In 1240 license is given by Pope Gregory to the abbot and convent of St. Mary's of York to convert to their own use the church of Kirkby in Lonsdale, putting in a chaplain to serve it. It would therefore be after this date that the vicarage would be created and endowed as mentioned in the Ecclesiastical Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV, in 1291.†

There are also three charters by Thomas, abbot of St. Mary's of York, dealing with lands in Kirkby Lonsdale. Thomas was abbot from 1244 to 1258 and one of his charters is dated 24 June, 1245 in which he confirms to

* *Lancs. Inq. and Ext.* (Lancs. and Chesh. Record Soc.), i, 256.

† *Records of Kendale*, ii, 308, 309.

William de Fraccinis and his heirs half a bovate of land in Kirkby Lonsdale.*

From this it appears that at some period between 1231 and 1240 John de Kirkby had given his portion of the manor of Kirkby Lonsdale to the abbey of St. Mary's, York and it would remain in the abbey's possession until the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII.

Owing to the decree against married clergy in 1215 it is highly probable that John de Kirkby did not marry and, as the last of his family, ended his life in the monastery at York after making over his property to the abbey.

The other fourth part of the manor (i.e. that part which came from Thirnbby) is easy to follow as it was part of the fee of the barons of Kendal and must have followed their fortunes. It descended to the de Gynes family; but owing to the head of that family adhering to the French King when the war broke out in 1337 it and the other lands were seized into the king's hand and let out to various persons for varying periods until the marriage of Isabella the daughter of King Edward III, with Ingram de Gynes, another man of the same family, to whom these lands were returned. This couple had two daughters co-heirs, viz:—

(a) Philippa married to Robert de Vere, created Duke of Ireland, and (b) Mary married to Robert de Barr.

The quarter of the manor of Kirkby Lonsdale was taken by Philippa de Vere as part of her portion of the lands and on her death without issue in 1411 was again taken into the hand of the king. After this it was given to various persons; but like the rest of the Richmond fee it kept escheating to the crown until it was given to Margaret countess of Richmond in 1487; she held it until her death in 1509 when it descended to her grandson King Henry VIII. Hence when the dissolution of the monasteries brought the three fourths of the manor to the crown, the king

* See Appendix.

became possessed of the whole manor which was retained by the crown until 2 July 4 and 5 Philip and Mary [1558] when it was sold to Thomas Carus and Katherine his wife.

Thomas Carus died on 5 July 13 Eliz: [1571] and was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas Carus who was 26 years old in that year.*

This second Thomas Carus married Anne only daughter and heiress of Wilfrid Preston of the Biggins in Kirkby Lonsdale township, by whom he had an only daughter Elizabeth who became the second wife of Sir Nicholas Curwen of Workington Hall and held the manor until her death on 30 April, 1611. She had three daughters, but only two survived her, viz: Mary married to Sir Henry Widdrington, knt., and Jane married to William Lambton, esq.

These heiresses appear to have sold the manor to George Preston of Holker, esquire, who held a Court of the manor on 24 April 1639 and died on 5 April 1640 when his son and heir Thomas Preston succeeded him.† This Thomas Preston died in 1664 and was succeeded by his son and heir Thomas Preston who sold the manor to Sir John Lowther, knight and baronet, between 22 April and 21 October 1667 on which last date the court of the manor was held in the name of Sir John Lowther;† since then it has remained in the family of Lowther.

In the *Records of Kendale* recently published it is stated, on page 305 and in a footnote on page 308 of the second volume, that a moiety of the manor of Kirkby Lonsdale came to the Copeland family by the marriage of Alice daughter of John de Kyrkeby with Richard son and heir of Alan de Copeland, *circa* 1249—the assumption being apparently that Alice was a daughter of John de Kirkby of Kirkby Lonsdale; but it appears more likely that this Alice was a daughter of John de Kirkby of Kirkby Ireleth for the following reasons:—

* *Records of Kendale*, ii, 314, 315.

† Court Rolls of the Manor of Kirkby Lonsdale.

(a) The Copelands had their main seat at Bootle in Cumberland and the Furness district was nearest to them. Now the witnesses to Alice's charter are all from that district with the exception of Sir Ralph de Bethum, knt., who died in 1252 and therefore fixes the marriage as not later than that date. Of the other witnesses Thomas rector of Aldingham is only known to occur once, viz: in 1250 and the other witnesses are indecisive as to date so that the upper date of the marriage is uncertain.

(b) Had Alice been the daughter of John de Kirkby of Kirkby Lonsdale her husband could have claimed the manor in his wife's name as heir and have raised an objection to its passing to the abbey of St. Mary at York.

(c) It has been shown above that the transfer to the abbey must have taken place before 1240 and this marriage occurred *circa* 1250 when the lady must have been at least sixteen years old to be able to issue a charter, so that when John de Kirkby was giving away his manor he would have had to ignore his daughter's inheritance if this lady was his daughter.

(d) It has also been shown above that Richard de Coupeland, the grandfather of the Richard of Alice's charter, was in possession of lands in Kirkby Lonsdale manor in 1231, which is opposed to the supposition that the quarter of the manor came to the Copelands by this marriage.

A pedigree of these de Copelands is appended and copies of documents from the Harleian MS. No. 236 are also added, for which I am indebted to Miss Ethel Stokes, record searcher, of Chancery Lane, London. I have also to thank the Rev. R. Percival Brown, M.A., for reading over this paper and for his advice upon it.

APPENDIX.

From the Register of the abbot of St. Mary's, York.

(British Museum: Harleian MS. 236)

Carta Willelmi de Fraccinis de terra in Kirkeby in Lon: Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit Thomas

miseracione divina Abbas et Conventus sancte Marie Ebor' salutem eternam in domino. Noverit universitas vestra nos cum communi consilio et assensu capituli nostri concessisse et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse Willelmo de Frenes et heredibus suis dimidiam bovate terre cum pertinentiis in villa de Kirk' Lon' quam ipse et ancessores sui tenuerunt libere quiete pacifice sicuti ancessores sui tenuerunt Reddendo inde annuatim ecclesie nostre de Kirk' Lon' quatuor solidos sterlingorum medietatem ad festum Sancti Martini in yeme et aliam medietatem ad Pentecostem pro omni servicio et exaccione. Hoc ei concedimus quamdiu se legaliter erga nos habuerit et predictam firmam bene reddiderit. Si contingat eum vel heredes suos predictam terram vi vel racione amittere non dabimus eis escambium. In cujus rei testimonio huic scripto sigillum capituli nostri apposuimus. Hiis testibus: Magistro J. de Hamerton tunc persona, Magistro W. de Lilling.' Willelmo de Longa villa, Rogero de Wederhaw, Robert de Conco' clerico et aliis. In cujus rei testimonium sigilli mei impressione roboravi. Actum apud Ebor' in Nativitate sancti Johannis Baptiste Anno domini M.CC.xl. quinto. [24 June 1245].

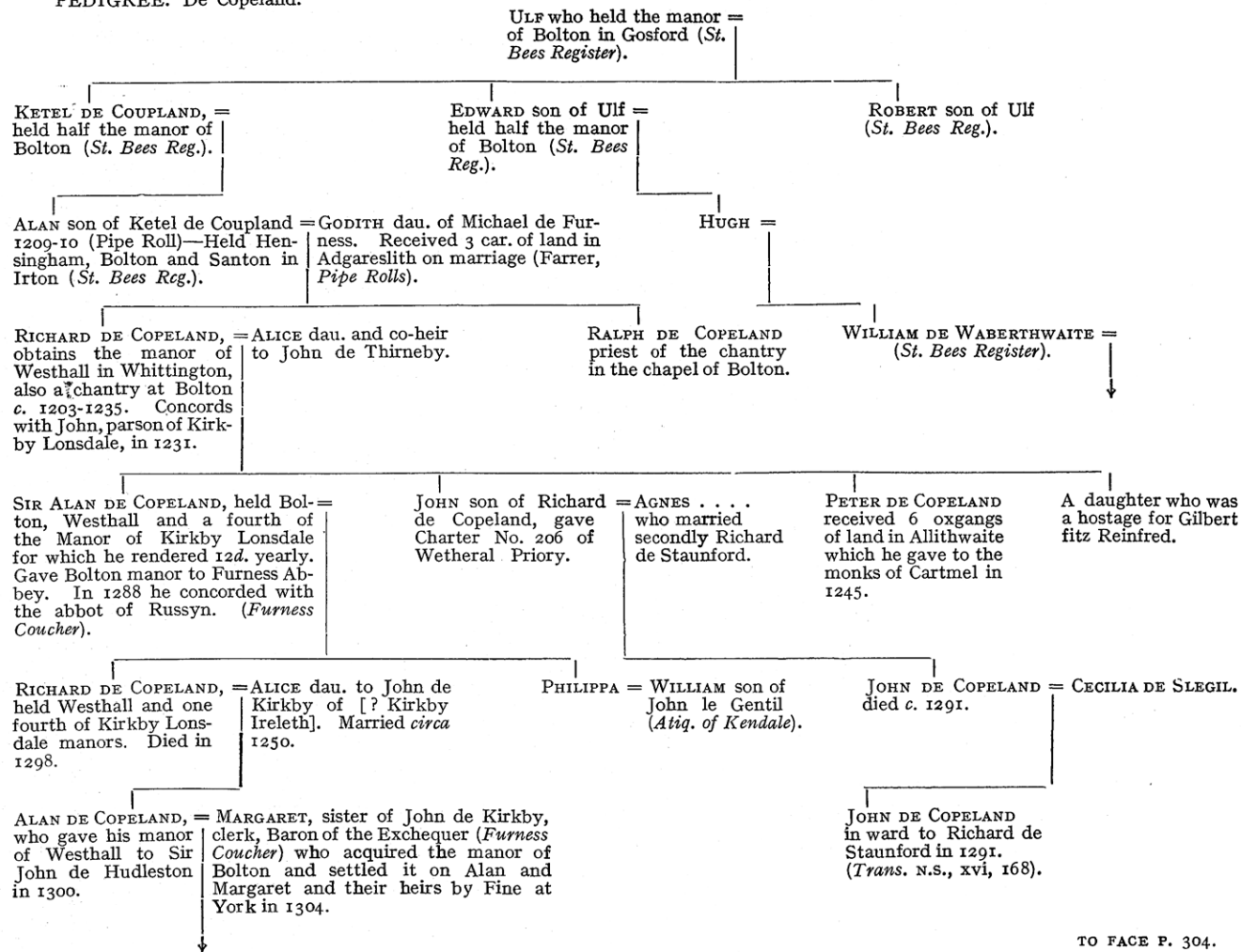
Carta de terra in Kyrkeby Lon'.

Sciant omnes qui viderint vel audierint litteras has quod ego Thomas Abbas sancte Marie Ebor' cum communi consilio et assensu capituli nostri dedi concessi et hac presenti carta confirmavi Willelmo filio Madion et heredibus suis et suis assignatis totam terram quam habuimus de dono Gene de Saleby in Kirk' Lon'. Tenendum de nobis in feodo et hereditate libere integre et quiete ab omni servicio et accione ad nos pertinentibus. Reddendo inde annuatim ecclesie nostre 12d. sterlingorum medietatem ad Pentecosten et aliam medietatem ad festum Sancti Martini in Yeme. Hoc eis concedimus [etc. as above down to *escambium*]. Et sciendum est quod non licebit ei vel heredibus suis neque assignatis suis predictam terram viris Religiosis vel Judeis vel dominis feodorum dare aut vendere aut invadiare. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum capituli nostri apposuimus. Hiis testibus: Domino Waltero de Eglesclive tunc renescallo, Nicholao Janitore, Rogero Coco, Waltero de Ask', Willelmo vicario de Kirk', Willelmo de Frenes, Johanne de Bygginges et aliis.

Carta Abbatis Ebor' de terra in Kyrk' Lonesdale

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit Thomas Abbas Sancti Marie Ebor et ejusdem loci Conventus salutem in domino. Noverit universitas vestra nos communi

PEDIGREE. De Copeland.



TO FACE P. 304.

consensu et assensu capituli nostri dedisse concessisse et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse Uthtredo de Underlay et heredibus suis xv. acras terre cum tofto et crofto in villa de Kirk' Lon' scilicet inter Kirchill' et Crogill' super Ripam de Lone. xj. acr' et j. rodam et quartam partem de Scrogmanholme scilicet tres acras una roda minus et in Stiggessald unam acram. Tenendum de nobis in feodo et hereditate libere et integre et quiete cum communa ville et cum omnibus libertatibus et aysiamentis infra villam de Kirk' Lon' et extra absque aliquo retenemento ad terram pertinentibus imperpetuum. Ita quod non licebit ei neque heredibus suis aliquid accipere de bosco nostro nisi de gracia nostra speciali. Reddent nobis 3s. annuatim medietatem ad Pentecostem et aliam medietatem ad festum sancti Martini. Hoc eis concedimus [etc. as above down to *escambium*]. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum capituli nostri presenti scripto apposuimus. Hiis testibus Domino Waltero de Eglesclive tunc senescallo, Magistro Johanne de Askeby, Roberto de Conco', Nicholas Janitore, Willelmo de Frenes et aliis.

Carte tangentes ecclesias de Kirk' Lonesdall', Kend' et Kirk Stephan ultra Moras.

Composicio de terra ecclesie de Kirkeby in Lon' ultra Moras. Hec est composicio facta inter Johannem personam ecclesie de Kirk' in Lon' ex una parte et Radulfum* de Coupeland ex altera de centum acris terre in Kirk' quas dictus Johannes petiit de dicto Ricardo per breve domini Regis ut Jus suum spectans ad ecclesiam suam de Kirk' Lon' videlicet quod dictus Ricardus quietum clamavit dicto Johanni et successoribus suis personis dicte ecclesie totum Jus suum et clamium quod habuit in terra de Bynsithe et Crophthwayt sicut terra illa extendit in Lone. Et pro illa terra dictus Johannes reddidit dicto Ricardo tanquam jus suum spectans ad Laycum feodum suum inescambium terre que jacet juxta Westhythe tam subtus viam quam supra que vadit versus Hoton usque Swynhirst unbank scilicet medietatem illius juxta terram Wesththt et quod defecit ibi de tanta terra quantam percepit in Bynsik et Crosthtwayt dictus Johannes perfecit dicto Ricardo juxta toftum Ade de Westlith versus ecclesiam tam subtus viam quam supra tantam terram quantam defecit eidem Ricardo de terra juxta Westhithe. Preterea dictus Ricardus quietum clamavit dicto Johanni et dicte ecclesie sue toftum cum domibus et croftis que fuerunt Hugonis filii Hawysie. Et

* A scribe's error for Ricardum.

in escambium illius tofti et crofti et domuum reddidit dictus Johannes dicto Ricardo toftum cum domibus que fuerunt dicti Adam de Westlith tamquam laycum feodum suum et perfecit eidem Ricardo in crofto quod fuit Hugonis filii Hawysie. Preterea dictus Ricardus quietam clamavit dicto Johanni et ecclesie sue totam partem suam quam habuit in Toskeher scilicet quartam partem de tofto Kerthe et in escambium illius terre reddidit dictus Johannes dicto Ricardo ut laycum feodum suum tantam terram in Wynderth' quantam recepit de dicto Ricardo in Toskerth scilicet quartam partem de Toskerth. Preterea dictus Ricardus quietam clamavit dicto Johanni et ecclesie sue terram de Taulesheved propinquiorem terre Rogeri prepositi dicti Johannis versus Lyndalekeldsik' et in escambio illius terre reddidit dictus Johannes dicto Ricardo ut laycum feodum suum tantam terram versus ecclesiam de Kirk' ubi terra dicti Johannes jacet propinquior illi terre quam percepit de dicto Ricardo in Teulesheved. Et ut hec compositio rata et firma perseveret inter eos uterque istorum in manu Petri de Vallibus affidavit. Hec autem compositio facta fuit coram S. de Segrave, Roberto de Lexinton, Willelmo de Lond', Willelmo de Insula, Ranulfo filio Roberti, Briano filio Alani, Robert de Scertlawe Justiciariis itinerantibus apud Ebor' anno regni regis Henrici filii Regis Johannis xv. et istud scriptum continetur in Rotulis eorundem Justiciariorum.

[Note: This eyre commenced 8 June, 1231 and lasted until 22 July, 1231.]