

ART. XV.—*Bowness-on-Solway*. By T. H. B. GRAHAM,
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AT a date previous to 1122, Ranulf Meschin, Henry I's trusty administrator, carved the barony of Burghby-Sands out of his *honor* of Carlisle, and gave it to Robert de Stiviers* (*Chronicon Cumbriae*, edit. Wilson, *St. Bees*, p. 491). Its western extremity formed the extensive manor of Bowness, which is described as follows:—

Bowness is a name common to the manor, town and parish there. It containeth on the north side, where the sea floweth up into the river of Eden, the town of Bowness itself, Glasson, Drumbugh† and Easton, where the bounder of the same crosseth over southward, on the east side of Fingland and Whitrigg, unto Wathempol (the river Wampool) and taketh in the towns of Whitrigg, Whitrigglees, Langcrofts, Fingland, Aynthorn and Caerdurnok, all which make a great point of land into the sea, thrusting in between the waters of Wampool and Eden (Denton, *Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 76).

Denton supposes (*Accompt*, p. 78), that the families surnamed de Feritate and le Brun, sometime lords of Bowness, were one and the same, and were descended from a common ancestor, Gamel son of Brun, *alias* le Brun. The evidence is slight, but, at any rate, the manor of *Bothel*, in Torpenhow parish, originally given to Gamel son of Brun; the manor of *Bowness*, with its vill of Drumbugh, Glasson and Fingland; the manor of *Beaumont* and the manor of *Brunscaythe*, all belonged to de Feritate, at the close of the thirteenth century, and to le Brun, at the beginning of the fourteenth century.

* He is called Robert de Trivers in the Sheriff's return, 1212.

† Now Drumburgh. The various forms of the place name have been collected by Professor Haverfield (these *Transactions*, o.s., xvi, p. 100).

Denton further supposes (*Accompt*, pp. 49 and 78) that the le Bruns were styled de Feritate, because their mansion of Brunscaythe was seated towards the wild wastes. But the Border-land consisted of little else than wild waste, and the designation *Feritas* does not seem to have been specially applied to any portion of it. On the other hand, Du Cange observes that *Feritas*, *vulgo la Ferté*, is the name of many places in France, so the family may have originally acquired the surname de Feritate, or de la Ferte, in that country. For two hundred years, the de la Fertes and le Bruns of Cumberland were persons of importance, but did not hold any land of the king *in capite*.

Another problem arises at the outset of this investigation, namely, the site of the now forgotten manor of Brunscaythe. Denton places it (*Accompt*, pp. 49 and 78) "beneath the river Eden, near the wastes, and where the town of Brunskeugh now standeth." Nicolson and Burn misunderstand that description and identify the place (vol. ii, p. 123) with Brunsceugh (Brunstock) in the manor of Linstock. Brunscaythe belonged to the family surnamed de Feritate at a date subsequent to 1169, when its inhabitants enjoyed rights of fishing in the Eden and Esk. That fact implies that it was bounded by those rivers.

A fragmentary record, dated 1280, throws light upon the subject:—Henry Scot bought a mare at Carlisle fair, but John Wyncheles alleged that the mare was his, and that it had been stolen, so, according to the law of the march of Scotland, he appealed Henry at *Solewathe*. An inquisition was thereupon held, respecting laws and customs in use in Cumberland, and the jury returned a verdict that:—

From time whereof no memory exists, if any robber in the king dom of he must quickly, within the day or night after the robbery, according to the distance of the place where committed Brunscaythe, on the English side, and to Rocheland, on

the Scottish side, and there publish to them the robbery committed on him and have his evidence (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 58).

A contemporary *inquisitio post mortem* (1281-2) states that Robert de Feritate held Brunscaythe of the lord of Liddel, so it may be inferred that the manor of Brunscaythe comprised the strip of seashore lying between the mouths of the Esk and Eden, and formed a detached fragment of the ancient barony of Liddel.

Bearing in mind those obscure points, one may proceed to consider details of evidence which relate, directly or indirectly, to the history of Bowness-on-Solway.

1. Robert de la Ferted (see Table), attested a very early charter, respecting land situate on the river Kershope, boundary of Liddel (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 423). One of his fellow witnesses was Richard the Knight, mentioned in Henry I's pipe roll, 1130, so Robert de la Ferted was possibly Robert de Trivers' original feoffee of Bowness, but that is mere conjecture.

2. Waldeve son of Gospatric, Ranulf Meschin's feoffee of the barony of Allerdale-below-Derwent, gave Bothel, in that barony, to Gamel son of Brun (*Chronicon Cumbriae*) and Alan son of Waldeve (*circ.* 1150) gave Ruthwaite (in Ireby parish) for one-third of a vill to Gamel le Brun (*ibid.*). Gamel Brun is witness to a charter of Alan son of Waldeve (Wilson, *St. Bees*, p. 537).

3. Ranulf de Feritate is mentioned in Henry II's pipe roll of 1158. He attested the foundation charter of Lanercost Priory, in 1169, and made two grants to the same house.

One, attested by Ranulf *juvenis*, relates to some salt-works, given by Ada, wife of the founder. The other relates to land at Beaumont, in the barony of Burgh, a free net in the Eden and a fishery, to be enjoyed in common with the men of Brunscaythe, in the Eden and Esk (*Register of Lanercost*, quoted by Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 97).

The name of Ranulf de la Ferte occurs in the pipe roll of 1185, and that of William de la Ferte in the pipe roll of 1186.

Very early in the thirteenth century, Ranulf de Ferte, *Ranulf his son* and William de Ferte attested one of the Wetheral charters (*Wetherhal*, p. 116). William de Feritate was surety for Richard Gernun in 1204 (*Pipe Roll*).

4. Again, very early in the thirteenth century, Ranulf de Feritate (probably the younger Ranulf) and *Gilbert, his brother*, were witnesses to another Wetheral charter (*Wetherhal*, p. 97). Ranulf de Feritate rendered account of 60 marks in 1211 (*Pipe Roll*). In a plea, heard at Carlisle in 1212, Helena de Morvill put in her place Gilbert de Feritate (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i, p. 89).

The younger Ranulf de la Ferte here comes into prominence, for instance, in 1216, he was constable of Carlisle Castle (*Pat. Rolls*, edit. Hardy, p. 163); in 1219, Ranulf de la Ferte and William de la Ferte were appointed to hold inquisition at Carlisle concerning the royal forest (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 218); in 1221, Ranulf de la Ferte, Robert de Dunbredan (Dumbarton) and Hervey de Wampool were jurors at an important inquisition, concerning the farm (*firma*) to be paid to the king by the citizens of Carlisle (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 312; and *cf.* Ferguson, *Royal Charters*, p. 1); and in 1225 Ranulf de la Ferte and Gilbert de la Ferte, clerk, were collectors of the fifteenth at Carlisle (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 565).

Ranulf was appointed, in 1232, justice to hear an assize of novel disseisin at Carlisle (*ibid.*, p. 521) and, in 1237, justice to deliver Carlisle gaol (*ibid.*, p. 182). He was ordered in 1240-1, to report on defects in the castles of Cumberland (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 346) and, in 1247, held Bromdun,* Northumberland, of Patrick, earl of Dunbar (*Cal. inq. miscellaneous*, i, p. 12).

* Bromdon, now Brandon (*Arch. Ael.*, 3, xiii, 209).

Meanwhile, at the supposed date, 1233-5, a series of charters were attested by a certain Richard Brun, sheriff of Carlisle. His name does not appear in any official list of sheriffs, but he may have acted as *custos* during that period (*Wetherhal*, p. 183).

It is interesting to notice, by the way, some further particulars concerning Robert de Dunbredan and Hervey de Wampool, who acted with Ranulf de Feritate as jurors in 1221. Robert de Wampool had in 1224-5 married Margaret, daughter of Richard son of Truite, the younger of that name (*Bracton's Notebook*, edit. Maitland, iii, p. 71), and she executed a release to Holmcultram Abbey *circ.* 1236 (*Wetherhal*, p. 175). Denton says (*Accompt*, p. 75) that her sureties, on that occasion, were Robert de Dunbredan, Hervey de Wampool, William de Feritate and *Ranulf his brother*, and regards them all as members of the le Brun family. Robert de Dunbredan is mentioned in the pipe roll of 1209, and an earlier Robert de Dunbredan attested a gift to the hospital of St. Peter, York, in 1158-64 (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 422).

5. Next comes Robert de la Ferte, who, in 1256, was exempted from being put on assizes and juries and serving as sheriff (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 536). The exemption suggests that he was incapacitated by age, or infirmity, from taking part in the affairs of the county.

6. In 1263, Robert de la Ferte, perhaps a younger Robert, appeared by attorney at Westminster, in a plea *versus* Patrick, earl of Dunbar (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i, p. 462), and, in 1265, Robert de la Ferte was on the side of the earl of Leicester (Simon de Montfort) and against the king, an adherent of Thomas de Multon, with horses and arms, and tenant of Bromdun, in Northumberland (*Cal. inq. miscellaneous*, i, p. 256).* In 1266, he had safe conduct,

* Hodgson cites (*Norhumb.*, part ii, vol. ii, p. 409) a "badly written" abstract of a Newminster charter; contained in *Lansdowne MS.*, fol. 132, "B . . helesden. Robert de Feritate, in 1240, for the soul of his wife,

in coming to the king's court provided he stood his trial (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, pp. 530, 554, 589, 608).

In 1278, the sheriff was ordered to deliver to Robert de la Ferete the manor of Glasson (in Bowness) which had been in the king's hand for a year and a day, because William de Glasson, Robert's undertenant, had been outlawed for felony (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 477).

In March, 1281-2, Robert de la Ferte held the manor of Brunestache (Brunscaythe) of Baldwin de Wake, lord of Liddel, and a certain Richard le Brun held one-sixth part of Torpenhow of the same Baldwin de Wake (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 66).

By final concord made in 1284, between Richard le Brun, plaintiff, and Robert de la Ferte and Ada, his wife, impedients, Richard granted the manors of Brombough (Drumbugh) and Bowness to Robert and Ada, to hold to Robert and Ada and the heirs of the body of Robert, of the chief lords of the fee. But if Robert should die without an heir of his body, then, upon Ada's death, the premises were to revert to the fictitious grantor, Richard le Brun and his heirs, to be held of Robert's heirs for ever, rendering to Robert's heirs every year a pair of gilt spurs or six pence on the Nativity of St. John, the Baptist, for all service, and doing for Robert's heirs all service due to the chief lords of the fee (*Feet of Fines, Cumb.*, C.P., 25, case 35, file 6, no. 27).

One gathers that Richard le Brun was Robert de la Ferte's heir apparent.

Robert de Ferete established his right, in 1292, to assize of beer in Bothel, Brunscaythe, Bowness, Drumbugh, Fingland and Glasson (*Placita de quo waranto*, 20 Ed. I, p. 125)* He is styled knight (*ibid.*, p. 115). It was

Ada, gave one-third of lands there and whatever belonged to Ralph de Feritate and Eve, his wife."

* In the printed edition the names appear as Bernvill, Brunschayt, Bounes, Arumbhouf, Fymgeian and Glassan.

ordered, in 1295, that the service of Robert de Feritate be delivered to Isabel, widow of Thomas de Multon, lord of the barony of Burgh, for her dower (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 417). Robert de la Ferete, as lord of Beaumont, made a presentation to the church of that manor in 1296 (*Halton Register*, edit. Thompson, i, p. 73).

In October, 1300, his widow, *domina* Ada de Feritate, presented Roald de Richmond, clerk, a minor, to the church of Bowness (*ibid.*, i, p. 135) and he was instituted as rector in October, 1301, with leave of absence for three years (*ibid.*, i, p. 163).

7. Next comes Richard. There was a grant in September, 1301, to Richard le Brun and his heirs, of free warren in his demesne lands of Bothel, Drumbugh, Bowness and Beaumont (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, p. 22). He was appointed keeper of the March of Scotland in 1302 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 44).

Richard le Brun, knight, was patron of Beaumont in January, 1305-6 (*Halton Register*, i, pp. 247 and 248). Roald de Richmond, rector of Bowness, having been ordained priest, had leave of absence in 1306, for three years, in order to study (*ibid.*, i, p. 264).

In 1307, Richard le Brun was appointed *custos pacis* for Cumberland, and the sheriff was ordered to render him assistance with the entire *posse* (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 3). He was knight of the shire in the same year. Licence was granted, in 1307, to Robert (*sic*) le Brun to crenellate his dwelling house at Drumbugh (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 11). Drumbugh was *caput manerii*, but the parish church stood at the village of Bowness-on-Solway. In the summer of 1307, Richard le Brun, knight, presented Roger de Northburgh, acolite, to the church of Bowness, and he was instituted in place of Roald de Richmond, late rector, deceased (*Halton Register*, i, pp. 283 and 285). Richard le Brun was brother of Ada le Brun, divorced wife of Hugh de Multon, tenant of Isel (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 1310, p. 57).

Richard le Brun died in March, 1312-13. The jury returned a verdict that:—

The same Richard held of the heir of John Wake, on the day on which he died, one-half of the hamlet of Brunscath. There are 10 customary tenants there, each of whom holds 20 acres and renders 14s. 11d. a year, at the terms of Pentecost and St. Martin; and 10 *cotarii*, each of whom holds a messuage and 3 acres and renders 4s. a year, at the same terms; and 7 *cotarii*, each of whom holds a messuage and one acre and renders 2s. at the same terms; and free tenants, namely Robert le Brun and *Margaret his wife*, who hold the other half of the said hamlet, of the said Richard, by service of one penny a year, on the Nativity of Our Lord, for all service. (*Chan. Inq. p. m.*, Ed. II, file 29, no. 6).

He also held one-sixth part of Torpenhow of the same heir; the manor of Bothel of Anthony de Lucy; and the manors of Beaumont and Drumbugh of John de Castre and Isabel, his wife. All his lands were held by service of paying cornage. Robert, his son, aged 29, was his heir (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 6 Ed. II, p. 215).

On Lady day, 1313, it was ordered that the land, which Richard le Brun held by knight-service (*sic*) of the heir of John de Wake, should be taken into the king's hand; and, in May following, that seisin of the same should be given to his son Robert (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, pp. 165, and 172):

8. Robert le Brun was knight of the shire in 1316.

The bishop informed the collector of first fruits, in May, 1318, that the church of Bowness had been vacant since the previous December, by resignation (*dimissio*) of dominus Roger de Northburgh and was worth £20 (*Halton Register*, ii, p. 171).

Robert le Brun was conservator of the peace in 1320 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 461) and again knight of the shire. By virtue of a fine levied in 1322, between Robert le Brun, plaintiff, and Walter, parson of Beaumont, deforciant, the manor and advowson of Bowness was settled on Robert to hold of the chief lords of the fee during his life, with remainder to his son, Richard, and the heirs of his body,

and ultimate remainder to Robert's right heirs (*Feet of Fines, Cumb.*, C.P. 25, case 35, file 8, no. 16).

Robert le Brun was sheriff in 1325 (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, p. 342), and knight of the shire in 1326-7.

Matilda Brun, as lady of Beaumont, made a presentation to the rectory of Beaumont in 1339 (Nicolson and Burn, ii, p. 224).

9. Then comes Richard. In 1342, Richard Brun, as lord of Drumbugh, presented William, son of Walter de Kirkbythore, to the church of Bowness, in place of Walter, the late parson, who had been presented by Robert Brun, father of the then patron (Nicolson and Burn). Richard was a commissioner, in 1345, to enquire into fatal collisions between the garrison and commonalty of Carlisle (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 584).

By fine levied in 1346, Henry de Raughton, of Aynthorn, and Idonia, his wife, in consideration of 10 marks of silver, quitclaimed from themselves and the heirs of Idonia, one-eighth part of the manor of Bowness to Richard Brun and his heirs for ever (*Feet of Fines, Cumb.*, C.P. 25, case 35, file 10, no. 43). An earlier Henry de Raughton of Aynthorn is mentioned in 1289 (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 42).

10. Then comes Robert. In 1354, Robert Brun, as lord of Drumbugh, presented William del Hall, to the church of Bowness, in place of William, late rector, who resigned (Nicolson and Burn). In 1369, there was ratification of the estate of William del Hall as parson of Bowness (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 336).

Robert, by his will, made at Bothel and proved in 1369, desired burial at Bowness, with a mortuary, as in the case of his ancestors. He bequeathed £30 for his funeral expenses, and 13s. 4d. to the light of Blessed Mary at Bowness church and Drumbugh chapel, in equal shares, and appointed dominus William, rector of Bowness, his executor (*Test. Karl.*, edit. Ferguson, p. 98).

11. He was succeeded by John Brun, sheriff and keeper

of Carlisle castle in 1376 (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, p. 369). He subsequently appears as patron of Bowness (Nicolson and Burn). That completes the history of the manor to the close of Edward III's reign.

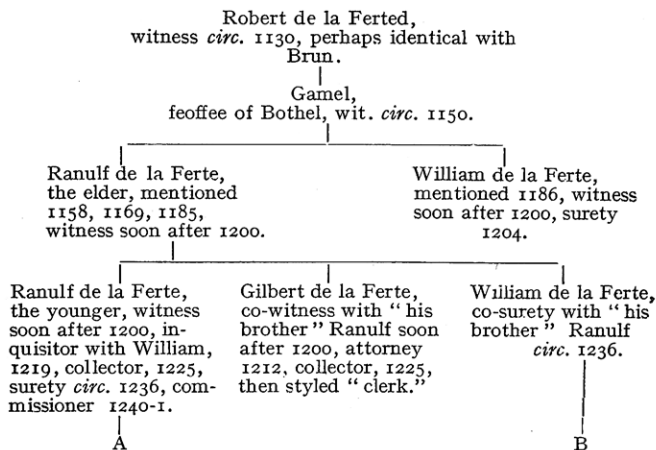
TABLE OF NAMES.

1. Robert de la Ferted, witness *circ.* 1130.
2. Gamel, son of Brun, *alias* le Brun, witness *circ.* 1150, had Bothel.
3. Ranulf de Feritate, the elder, mentioned 1158, had land at Beaumont and fishery at Brunscaythe.
4. Ranulf de Feritate, the younger, his son, constable of Carlisle castle, 1216, had Bromdun, Northumberland, 1247.
5. Robert de la Ferte, excused service as sheriff, 1256.
6. Robert de la Ferte, knight, had Bromdun, 1265, Glasson, 1278, Brunscaythe, 1281-2, settled Drumbugh and Bowness 1284, and had assize of beer at Bothel, Brunscaythe, Bowness, Drumbugh, Fingland and Glasson, 1292, patron of Beaumont, 1296.
His widow, *domina* Ada, was patron of Bowness, 1300.
7. Richard le Brun, knight, had free warren at Bothel, Drumbugh, Bowness and Beaumont, 1301, died 1312-13, seised of Brunscaythe, Torpenhow, Bothel, Beaumont and Drumbugh.
8. Robert le Brun, his son, knight of the shire, 1316, 1320 and 1326-7.
Domina Matilda Brun was patron of Beaumont, 1339.
9. Richard Brun, patron of Bowness, 1342.
10. Robert Brun, patron of Bowness, 1354, d. 1369.
11. John Brun, sheriff, 1376, patron of Bowness, 1381.

SEQUEL.

The evidence here collected inspires the genealogist to construct a pedigree, showing the relationship of the families of de la Ferte and le Brun to one another. That

evidence is not sufficiently precise for the purpose, but forms a basis for conjecture. Gamel, son of Brun, was lord of Bothel. Then how did Bothel become vested in de la Ferte? John Denton who was perhaps acquainted with records and traditions which have not survived to the present day makes the elder Ranulf de la Ferte a son of Gamel and fixes Brun's chief mansion at Brunscuegh, that is to say Brunscaythe in the barony of Liddel (*Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 49). So one is tempted to suppose that Robert de la Ferted, witness *circ.* 1130, is identical with the patriarch Brun. At the beginning of the thirteenth century, the family of de la Ferte consisted, so far as is known, of three brothers, Ranulf, Gilbert and William, and in 1281-2, Robert de la Ferte, last representative of the elder branch, settled Bowness by foot of fine upon himself and a certain Richard le Brun, who in 1300, succeeded to that item of property by virtue of the foot of fine, and to all the unsettled family property as heir general. Richard was not issue of the second brother, Gilbert, who was a cleric, so it is likely that he was issue of the third brother, William. The following conjectural pedigree makes that point clear.



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