

ART. III.—*Turgis Brundos*. By T. H. B. GRAHAM, M.A.,  
F.S.A.

IN Henry I's reign, Ranulf Meschin, tenant *in capite* of the Honour of Carlisle, enfeoffed Turgis Brundos\* of the border manor of Liddel, and, when Ranulf surrendered his overlordship to the king in 1122, Turgis became *eo facto* tenant *in capite* of that manor, subject to the obligations of paying 56 shillings a year for cornage and serving at the king's precept in the army against Scotland, going in the vanguard, returning in the rear-guard (*Testa de Nevill; Book of Fees*, published 1920, vol. i, p. 198). The mere fact that the manor was saddled with those obligations indicates that, like the rest of the Honour of Carlisle, it was ancient English territory.

Ranulf Meschin's rule never extended beyond the rivers Liddel and Esk. At that period England and Scotland were at peace, and some of the border families had land in both kingdoms.

Earl David was ruler, under his brother, King Alexander I, of the adjoining province of Scottish Cumbria. He succeeded to the throne in 1124 and made gifts of land in Scotland to his adherents. The English manor of Liddel was consequently hemmed in; on the north by land of Liddisdale including Castletown (Roxburghshire) belonging to Ranulf de Soules; on the north-west by land of Eskdale including Canobie and Kirkandrews-on-Esk (Dumfriesshire) belonging to Turgis de Rossedale; and on the south-west by land of Annandale belonging to Robert de Brus. All those landowners hailed from England.

\* The revised edition of the *Testa de Nevill* adopts that spelling.

Ranulf de Soules is said to have come from Great Doddington, Northants (Chalmers, *Caledonia*, vol. ii, p. 115) a manor pertaining to David's Honour of Huntingdon (Bridges, *Northants*, vol. ii, pp. 137 and 140). He erected on the bank of the river Liddel in Roxburghshire the fortified dwellinghouse from which the old village of Castletown derived its name, and near it stood the church of Liddisdale (Chalmers, vol. ii, p. 177). He attested King David's gift of Annandale to Robert de Brus (*Facsimiles Nat. MSS.*, part i, no. xix). He gave the church of Liddisdale and the church of Great Doddington to Jedburgh Abbey (*Ibid.*, no. xxxviii). He also gave, in King David's reign, to the Hospital of St. Peter of York a plenary carucate of his land in Liddisdale. King Malcolm IV (1153-65) confirms that gift of "my butler" (*pincerna*) in the presence of another Ranulf de Soules, presently mentioned, and of Turgis de "Russendale" (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, vol. iii, p. 93 and *Cal. Doc. Scot.*, vol. ii, p. 423). He survived until the following reign, for he granted to Newbattle Abbey "for the soul of my lord King William" a carucate in Gilmerston (*Chartulary of Newbattle*, Bannatyne Club, p. 29). He died without issue and was succeeded by Ranulf de Soules, son of his brother William. That younger Ranulf renews the last-mentioned gift of "my uncle Ranulf, butler of the king of Scots" (*Ibid.*, p. 30). About 1243 the family removed its seat to Hermitage Castle.

It appears from the sequel that Turgis de Rossedale, who obtained land in Eskdale from King David is identical with Turgis Brundos, lord of the English manor of Liddel. An account of Robert de Brus, who obtained Annandale from the same king, is given by Paul (*Scots Peerage*, vol. ii, p. 429).



rill, which debouches into the Kershope at the same spot, "Limy Sike." The ground adjacent to Scotch Knowe does not exhibit any natural feature to serve as a frontier line, but there was an artificial barrier, for a record of Elizabeth's reign states that "the Kershope descends from the waste grounds called Kershope Head, and divides the realms, from the meare dyke (i.e. boundary dykes) until it meet with Liddel" (Bain, *Border Papers*, vol. i, p. 121). One is tempted to suppose that the meare dyke was identical with the fosse of the Galwegians. The Galwegians, or men of Galloway, were strictly speaking inhabitants of the Solway Shore opposite to England, but in the 12th Century the term may have included inhabitants of Scottish Cumbria abutting upon the English manor of Liddel, in other words Earl David's men. "The other side of the fosse" is the end remote from Kershope Head; "the high moor" is the top of the Kershope valley, and *le cundos* is the slope down which the rain water gravitated into the stream below; the old way of Roxburgh may be the existing road, which falls into the Kershope at Burnt Shiels.\* William de Rossedale, who probably resided in Yorkshire, speaks of the forest (Nichol Forest) as his own, which leads one to infer that he had been enfeoffed of the English manor of Liddel, before his son Turgis obtained possession thereof.

Turgis de Russedale, sometime lord of the manor of Liddel† gave to the abbot and convent of Jedburgh the advowson of Arthuret church, then belonging to the said manor (*Cal. Inq. Miscellaneous*, vol. ii, p. 257).

Turgis probably held the Honour of Russedale in Yorkshire as well as the Honour of Liddel in Cumberland, because both those items of property were ultimately vested in his successor, Nicholas de Stutevill, the elder

\* The entire tract here indicated is now included in Bewcastle parish.

† He is therefore identical with Turgis Brundos of the Testa de Nevill. There is no warrant for Chalmers' spelling "Turgot."

(*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i, p. 101). He also held land in Scotland, for Turgis de Rossedal gave to Jedburgh Abbey the house of religion of Liddel (Canobie Priory) and the church of Kirkandrews-on-Esk (*Facsimiles Nat. MSS.*, part i, no. xxxviii).

Malcolm IV (1153 and onward) confirmed to the Hospital of St. Peter of York, the land called Greshopa (Kershope) which William de "Russendale" and Godeheuld, his wife, gave in alms. That confirmation charter was executed at Carlisle and attested by Turgis de "Russendale" (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, vol. iii, p. 93).

In 1158, Turgis de Russedale was one of the witnesses to Henry II's grant to Hubert de Vallibus of the barony of Gilsland (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 418). Some 36 years had elapsed since Ranulf Meschin's departure from Cumberland, but it is not impossible that the Turgis de Russedale of that day was Ranulf's feoffee of the manor of Liddel.

Guido de Rossedale, with the assent of Radulf, his son, gave to Jedburgh Abbey, 42 acres between Esk and Liddel, where those rivers meet, and liberty of water from the fosse of Liddel up to the church of Liddel (Canobie Priory). William the Lion, king of Scots, confirmed that gift (*Facsimiles Nat. MSS.*, part i, no. xxxviii). A certain Guido de Russedale held land in Lincolnshire in 1166 (*Red Book*, Rolls edition, i, 380). One cannot help suspecting that the donor of the 42 acres and right of fishing was successor of Turgis in the manor of Liddel. Then came the Scottish invasion of 1174. William the Lion attacked and captured Liddel Mote, then belonging to Nicholas de Stutevill (*Benedict of Peterborough*, Rolls edition, vol i, p. 65). It is suggested that Henry II had deprived de Rossedale of the honours of Liddel and Rossedale, for complicity with the Scots, and bestowed them upon Nicholas, a younger son of the Robert de Stutevill who commanded the English army at the battle

of Alnwick in the same year. Nicholas de Stutevill did not marry the heiress of de Rossedale. He married Gunnora, daughter of Sibilla de Valoniis. Sibilla was widow of Ralph de Albini, and must not be confused with another Sibilla de Valoniis, who married Robert, son of the said Nicholas and Gunnora (*Surtees Society's Publications*, no. 94, p. 43). The pedigree of the de Stutevills is set out in these *Transactions*, N.S. xiii, p. 36. The last-named Robert de Stutevill is said to have founded the nunnery at Rosedale, Yorks. (Dugdale, *Mon.*, iv, 316) but a charter of King John, dated 1201, confirms the gift which William de Russedal made to the nuns of Russedal and which Turgis, his son, conceded to them (*Rotuli Chartarum*, edit. Hardy, p. 85).

Such is the early history of the English manor of Liddel and the Scottish territory immediately adjacent thereto. It only remains to compare the story with the text of the local monastic charters.

The confirmation charter made by William the Lion to Jedburgh Abbey, *circ.* 1165, specifies the following benefactions:—

*Ex dono Turg. de Rossedal, domum religionis de Lidel, cum tota terra ei adjacente; ecclesiam quoque de Kirchand. cum omnibus ad illam pertinentibus.*

*Ex dono Guid. de Rossedal, assensu et consensu Rad. filii sui, xlii acras inter Esch et Lidel, ubi Esch et Lidel conveniunt; et libertatem aquae a fossa de Lidel usque ad ecclesiam de Lidel.*

*Ex dono Ran. de Sol., ecclesiam de valle Lidel et ecclesiam de Dodint. juxta Bertonam (Facsimiles Nat. MSS., part i, no. xxxviii).*

The first gift is made by Turgis. The house of religion of Liddel was afterwards known as Canobie Priory. The church of Kirkandrews-on-Esk was then situate in Scotland.

The second gift is made, perhaps at a later date, by

Guido. The fosse of Liddel is the Railzie or Railey, an abrupt ridge extending from Ryeleahead to Liddle Bank on the border of Dumfriesshire and seemingly giving a name to both localities (Morton, *Monastic Annals*, p. 51). The church of Liddel here mentioned is certainly Canobie Priory, for there is reference in 1220 to the church of Liddel and the prior there resident (*Register of the Bishopric of Glasgow; Bannatyne Club*, p. 97).

The third gift is made by Ranulf de Soules, the elder. The church of the vale of Liddel, that is to say Liddisdale, stood near his residence marked on the Ordnance Survey of Scotland "site of Liddel Castle." It is called the church of Liddel St. Martin in 1220 (*Ibid.*, p. 99). At a still later period it was known as the church of Castletown, from its proximity to the said Castle. The existing parish church is built upon a different site (*Origines Parochiales, Bannatyne Club*, vol. i, p. 354).

It appears from the foregoing geographical sketch that the existing frontier, marked by watercourses and watersheds, has always been deemed the dividing line between England and Scotland, and every hostile penetration beyond that dividing line has been regarded as an encroachment.

Gospatric's "land of Carlisle" including the "manor of Liddel" (those terms are here used by anticipation) was essentially English ground. Malcolm III (Canmore) in 1070, had occupied it and another fragment\* of the ancient kingdom of Cumbria by force of arms, but, two years later, William the Conqueror compelled him to do homage for the same. In 1092, William Rufus resumed possession and equilibrium was restored. In Stephen's reign David I occupied the same tract, and exercised benevolent rule therein, on behalf (as was alleged) of his niece, the Empress Matilda and her son. He never did homage to Stephen, but his son, Henry, certainly did

\* Coupland and the barony of Kendal.

so in respect of the land of Carlisle (*Chronicles of Stephen*, Rolls edition, vol. iii, p. 146). When Henry II gained the throne, he resumed possession as of right. Subsequent kings of Scotland, Alexander II, Alexander III and John de Bailliol enjoyed in succession a group of six Cumberland manors, but only as feudal tenants of the king of England, and their tenancy came to an abrupt end in Edward I's reign (these *Transactions*, N.S. x, p. 22). Though occasionally subject to Scottish control, Cumberland was always part of England.

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