

ART. VII.—*Some Deeds relating to Cumberland, Westmorland and the Furness District.* By COL. W. H. CHIPPINDALL.

Read at Alston, July 10th, 1929.

IN the library of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Hornby, near Lancaster, there are preserved a large number of ancient deeds, some which belonged to the Bennisons, who were attorneys in Lancaster, and some which were the property of the Rev. Thomas West, the author of the first history of the District of Furness. Mr. West died at Sizergh Castle in the early years of the last century, and the Mrs. Strickland of that time packed up his papers, as far as she could tell, and sent them to Dr. Lingard, who was writing his history of England, at Hornby. There they have remained, and some of them were utilised by our late member Dr. William Farrer when editing the Victoria County History of Lancashire. Lately the priest in charge, the Rev. J. Rawlinson, has kindly permitted me to inspect them and make abstracts of them, so that I am able to give the following account of some which appear likely to be of interest to our members.

1. The most ancient is one dated in the year 1191 and, wonderful to relate, it is in perfect condition and easy to read. By it Alan, preceptor of the brotherhood of the Hospital of Jerusalem in England, with the consent of the chapter gives to Lambert Corvisarius and his heirs the sixth part of Lindale. And the sixth part of the land between Breithagate and Lindalebec which they had by the gift of Reiner Flandrensis. Rendering three shillings and one penny yearly, half at Easter and half at Michaelmas, to the house of the Hospital; and also sixteen pence to

Reiner Flandrensis, half at the feast of St. Martin and half at Pentecost by the hand of whatever brother should happen to be procurator in those parts. And, in case of his death or that of his heir, a third part of his chattels existing on the said lands shall remain to the Hospital. Among the witnesses are Gilbert de Ver, Robert fitz Richard and Henry de Dalbi. The date is quite clear viz.: M^oC^oXC^o primo and a note at the bottom adds: This charter was written by brother Nicholas of Cartmell.*

2. The next earliest deed is one by John de Cancefeld and Susana his wife in which is recited and confirmed a charter by Gilbert son of Ranulf son of Roger de Bardsey lord of Bardsey by which the lordship of Bardsey is given to his son Adam and his heirs. The boundaries of the lordship are minutely laid down and these have been printed in the Vic. C. Hist. of Lancs. vol. viii, p. 332, n. 77. But the interesting point in this charter is that the first witness is an unknown abbot of Furness. The witnesses are: John abbot of Furness, John de Cornnoeria, knight, Master Peter de Gyldeford, Master John de Seleby, Vincent Verdena, then of York, and others. Dated at Furness in the feast of St. John the Baptist in the tenth reigning year of Edward son of King Henry [24 June, 1282].

Now Beck in his book *Annales Furnesienses* p. 223 makes Hugh Brown abbot from 1276 to 1289 when William of Cockerham became abbot. In the Furness Coucher (Chetham Soc.) Part III, p. xlvii, it says "it is evident that Hugh le Brun's demise had occurred in the interval between 1282 and 1290," but it has no suggestion as to the person who became abbot on Hugh's demise and from the

* Alan, the grantor, became prior of the order of Hospitalers in 1190; Gilbert de Vere became prior in 1195 and Robert fitz Richard in 1197. The Breithigate, written in the original with a 'thorn' for 'th,' is also mentioned as the Breidegate, and appears to have been an ancient road from Cartmel, through Lindale in Cartmel, which is no doubt the place meant in the charter.

above deed it appears to have been a man named John, who thus becomes an addition to the list of abbots.

3. The next deed is a power of attorney by Richard de Wysebeche, vicar of Kirkby Lonsdale, and Thomas de Whysall, chaplain, appointing John del Chambre of Kendale as their attorney to receive seisin of all the lands of James Pikaryng, knight, in Siggiswyk and the vill of Heversham. Dated at Kirkeby in Lonestalla on Monday next before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary in the 48th year of Edward III [30 January 1373-4].

4. Another deed is by Oliver de Welle rector of the church of Gressemere by which he gives to Roger son of Henry de Croft, knight, all the messuages, lands and tenements which he had in the vill of Warton in Kendale on the day of making this deed. Warranty. Witnesses: William de Wessington, John de Wessington, William de Camera, the forester, William de Wirisdale, John son of William, the clerk, and others. Dated at Warton in Kendale on Monday next after the feast of Saint Michael the archangel in 29th year of Edward III [3 October 1355]. Has a good seal showing 3 balls connected by a line with a fleur-de-lis above and a tail with two bars below the centre ball which is larger than the others.

5. The next deed is also a Warton one by which John Fox, chaplain, gives to Thomas Wheleman of Warton and Johanna his wife two parts of a burgage in Warton which formerly belonged to John de Syke. To have and to hold to said Thomas and Johanna for their lives and the life of the longest liver; then to remain to Thomas their son and heir and his heirs; which failing then to remain to John brother of Thomas and his heirs; which failing then to remain to Katherine sister of Thomas and her heirs; which failing, then to remain to Alice sister of Thomas and her heirs; which failing then to remain to Margaret sister of Thomas and her heirs; which failing,

then to remain to Ellen sister of Thomas and her heirs; which failing, then to remain to Joanna de Repon her heirs and assigns for ever. Witnesses: Nicholas de Croft, esquire, John de Croft de Yeland, John de Berwyk and others. Dated at Warton seventh day of September in the second year of King Henry VI [7 September 1423].

6. This deed relates to Cumberland, being a demise by William de Stapilton of Edenale to Richard Restwald, the elder, of the Castle of Hegheved [Highhead] with all its demesne lands and the lands in Ivegill and Kirkelevyngton which formerly belonged to the said Richard. To have and to hold to said Richard his heirs and assigns for ever holding of the chief lords of the fee by the services due and of right accustomed and "rendering to me the said William, my heirs and assigns for the first twelve years ten pounds sterling yearly at the feast of St. Martin and at Pentecost." Clause for distraint in case of non-payment. Dated on Friday next after the feast of Saint James the apostle in the 13th year of King Henry IV. [29 July 1412]. Note: There are no witnesses to this deed.
