

ART. V.—*Great Orton*. By T. H. B. GRAHAM, M.A.,  
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IN medieval times, the place-name is almost invariably spelt Orreton. So is the surname de Orreton, borne by the resident lords of the manor. As early as 1267, the lord's demesne is stated to have comprised land at Great Orton and Little Orton. All the county historians regard the manor as a limb of the barony of Levington (Kirklington) but it will be shown that their view of the case is not consistent with fact. Great Orton has always been part and parcel of the barony of Burgh by Sands.

The name John de Orreton occurs frequently in the records, and it is sometimes difficult to identify the individual, to whom reference is there made, but the conjectural pedigree here exhibited may be of assistance in tracing the genealogy of the family.

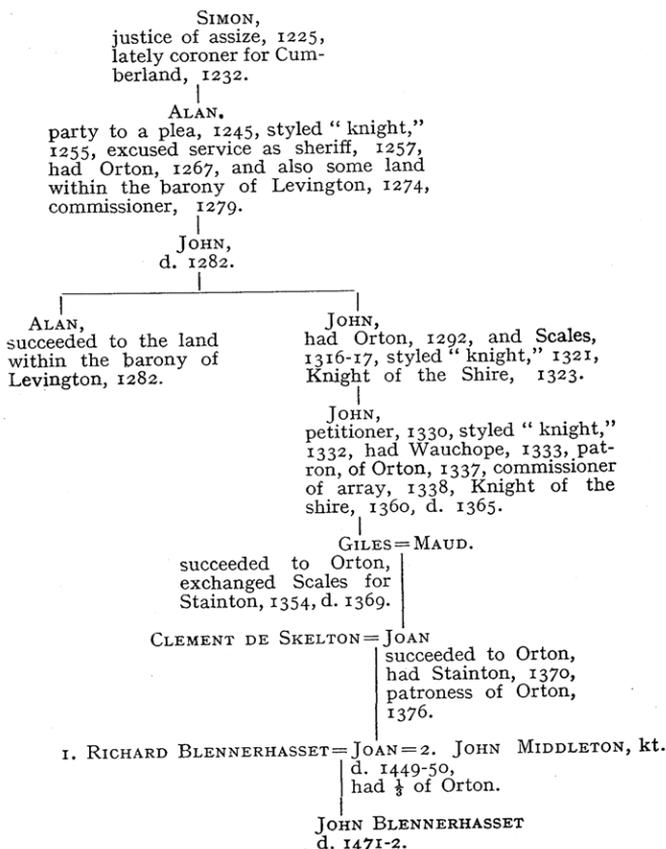
Dominus Simon de Orreton attested a charter, early in the thirteenth century (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 223) and four other charters of the period 1223-29 (*ibid.*, pp. 120, 133, 151, 158).

In 1225, he was appointed justice for taking an assize at Appleby (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 576). There was an order to the sheriff of Cumberland, in 1232, to cause a new coroner to be elected in place of Simon de "Orton" (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 37).

Alan de Orreton appeared, in 1245, in a plea *versus* Walter de Bampton (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 349) and was commanded, in 1255, to go in person to Carlisle Castle and view the defects thereof and the condition in which Robert

de Brus\*, late keeper, had left it (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 445). The report made by Alan de Orreton, "knight," shows that it was in bad condition (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i, p. 391). Alan de Orreton was exempted in 1257, from being put on assizes or juries and from being made sheriff (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 572). He was appointed in 1258, with three other knights, to make enquiry concerning trespasses in Cumberland (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 646).

## PEDIGREE OF DE ORRETON.



\* See pedigree of de Brus, these *Transactions*, N.S. xxvii, p. 21.

There was a grant, in 1267, to Alan de Orreton of free warren in the demesne lands, which he then held, at Great and Little Orreton, Cumberland (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, p. 76). He is witness to charters dated 1271 and 1272 (Wilson, *St. Bees*, pp. 377 and 543).

In 1274, Alan de Orreton also held 10 bovates of land situate within the barony of Levington (being part of the then infant Richard de Kirkbride's\* share of that barony) and rendered therefor 2s. a year (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 134). In August, 1277, he had been lately appointed a justice to deliver Carlisle gaol (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 400). He attested a concord dated 1278 (Wilson, *St. Bees*, p. 376) and was appointed commissioner to make enquiry in 1279 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 342).

In October, 1282, the sheriff of Cumberland was ordered to take into the king's hand land late of John, son of Alan de Orreton, deceased tenant *in capite*,† and, in November of the same year, the escheator was ordered to deliver to Alan (*sic*) son and heir of John de Orreton, tenant of Richard de Kirkbride, a minor in the king's ward, the land of his late father (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, pp. 171 and 174). Nothing more is recorded concerning Alan, son of John.‡

In 1292, John de Orreton was summoned to prove his claim to free warren in his demesne of Orreton. He alleged that Henry III granted that liberty to Alan de Orreton, *his grandfather*, whose heir he was, by a charter, consumed by fire, when all the vill of Orreton was burnt, and called for the original record in chancery (*Placita de quo waranto*, 20 Edward I, p. 125).

The church of Orreton had been totally destroyed by

\* See pedigree of de Kirkbride, these *Transactions*, n.s. xv, p. 63.

† This order does not apply to Great and Little Orton. For the moment, de Orreton held his said land, situate within the barony of *Levington*, immediately of the king, because the estate of his superior lord (the infant Richard de Kirkbride) was in the king's hand.

‡ Possibly a clerical error for John son of John.

the Scots, before December, 1302 (*Halton Register*, edit. Thompson, i, p. 196). In 1303, dominus John, rector of Orreton, executed a bond, obliging himself to pay to the bishop 10 marks, if he should in future be convicted of incontinence (*Halton Register*, i, p. 178).

John de Orreton, in 1315-16, sought to recover seisin, *versus* Michael Page, of two acres of moor at Orreton (*Abbrev. Rot. Orig.*, vol. i, p. 231) and, in February 1316-17, he had the hamlet of Scales, which he held of the barony of Greystoke, by service of 6d. a year cornage and suit of court (*Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 10 Edward II, p. 22).

The church was not taxed in 1319, because there was not even sufficient to pay the stipend of a chaplain (*Halton Register*, ii, p. 184).

John de Orreton, knight, was witness to an indenture of exchange of land, made between the bishop and prior of Carlisle and dated 1321 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 3) and was knight of the shire in 1323-4.\*

Dominus John de Whittrigg, rector of Orreton, was ordained deacon in 1324 (*Halton Register*, ii, p. 208).

John de Orreton was commissioner of oyer and terminer in 1327 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 75) and, in the same year, was given power to receive Scotsmen and their adherents into the king's peace (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 168). John de Orreton and Richard de Kirkbride petitioned Edward III in 1330, for wages due from the late king, for their service in Scotland (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 91).

John de Orreton, knight, was in prison at Carlisle in 1332, for trespass of venison in Inglewood forest (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 447). Protection for one year was granted, in 1333, to John de Orreton's men of the barony of Walghope (Wauchope) in the county of Dumfries, buying victuals in divers parts of the realm (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 469). That record is explained later on. John de Orreton and Walter

\* In the list of knights of the shire elected for Cumberland, during the period 1323-60, the name John de Orreton occurs 17 times (*Vict. Hist. Cumb.*, ii, p. 320).

de Kirkbride were pardoned in 1335, for all trespasses of vert and venison (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 172).

John de Whittrigg was presented in 1337, to the vacant rectory of Orreton by John de Orreton, knight, and, upon his resignation in the same year, William de Arthuret was presented by the same patron (Nicolson and Burn). John de Orreton was commissioner in 1338, to array the men of Cumberland, for defence of the realm against the French (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 135). In 1340, there was grant of special grace to John de Orreton and his heirs of free warren in their demesne lands of Orreton, Cumberland, with further grant that they might enclose their wood of Orreton and hold the same as a park, without impediment, provided that it was not within the metes of the forest (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, p. 467).

In 1341, there was *inspeximus* and confirmation of a charter of Edward (de Baliol) king of Scots, dated in the first year of his reign (1332-3) granting to John de Orreton, knight, and his heirs land at Walghope, then in the said king's hand, by reason of the late tenant's rebellion (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 173). John de Orreton was a commissioner in 1344, to view Carlisle Castle (*ibid.*, p. 291) and, in the same year, complained that Robert de Mulcaster, *chivaler*, and others had attacked him at Carlisle and wounded him with a sword (*ibid.*, p. 392). He was collector in 1352, of the tenth and fifteenth in Cumberland (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, p. 335).

Licence was granted in 1354, for William de Greystoke to grant to Giles\* de Orreton and Maud, his wife, in tail three carucates at Stainton, held *in capite*, with remainder to John de Orreton, *father of Giles*, and his heirs, in exchange for the manor of Scales, also held *in capite*, which Giles and Maud were to give to William de Greystoke and his heirs (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 113).

\* St. Giles was the patron saint of Great Orton (these *Transactions*, N.S. I, p. 144).

On February 3rd, 1365, it had been found by inquisition that John de Orreton, *chivaler*, did not hold any land in Cumberland as tenant *in capite* on the day of his death, but he held the manor of Orreton in his demesne as of fee of the heir of Richard de Kirkbride, a minor in the king's ward, by homage and service of 3s. a year for cornage, and that Giles de Orreton, his son, was his heir and of full age. The escheator was ordered to deliver the manor of Orreton to Giles (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, p. 302).

The verdict of the jury is significant. Margaret de Dacre, lady of the barony of *Burgh-by-Sands*, died on December 10th, 1361 (Cokayne, *Peerage*) and was seised *in capite* of Great Orton parcel of that barony (*Cal. Esch.* 36 Edward III, p. 250). John de Orreton, undertenant of Great Orton, was dead in 1365. He had not been holding Great Orton immediately of Margaret de Dacre, but of Richard de Kirkbride, who was consequently Margaret de Dacre's immediate tenant of the same, while John de Orreton was Richard de Kirkbride's feoffee of the same. Therefore Great Orton was parcel of the barony of Burgh.

To put the argument in other words: the infant Kirkbride, living in 1365, was entitled to a fragment of the barony of Levington (including land at Kirklington and Kirkandrews-on-Eden) held of the king *in capite*. He was further entitled to the manor of Great Orton, held *in mesne* under the lord, for the time being, of the barony of Burgh. His title to the former item of property was absolutely distinct from his title to the latter. Therefore Great Orton was parcel of the barony of Burgh.

There was an order, in August, 1369, to take into the king's hand land in Cumberland, held *in capite*\* by Giles de Orreton (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, p. 57) and inquisition, held in 1370, showed that Giles de Orreton held to him and the

\* Giles was tenant *in capite* of Stainton by virtue of the statute *Quia Emptores*. The order did not apply to Orton.

heirs of his body by Maud late his wife, deceased, three carucates at *Stainton*, in the barony of Greystoke, by grant, with the king's licence, of William, late baron de Greystoke. They were held *in capite* by service of 3s. 6d. for cornage, and Joan, daughter of Giles and Maud, whom Clement de Skelton had taken to wife, was the next heir and of full age. The escheator was ordered to deliver the premises to Clement and Joan (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, p. 81).

The will of William de Arthuret, rector of Orreton, was proved on March 3rd, 1376 (*Test. Karl.*, edit. Ferguson, p. 112). Richard de Langwathby was thereupon presented to the living by Clement and Joan de Skelton (Nicolson and Burn).