

ART. XIV.—*A deed of 1740, about the Bromfield Grammar School.* By the Rev. C. M. LOWTHER BOUCH.

THE deed, of which a summary is given below, is not without interest. The school referred to is, of course, that founded by Richard Osmotherley in 1612.*

The deed has a further value in the light it throws on the conditions of the time. There is the clear evidence of the value attached to education by this farming community, in the fact that they were willing to go to some personal sacrifice to obtain it for their children. The omission of the Vicar is noticeable. Generally in those days the Church was the leader in such movements, but this is a corporate effort of the people themselves. Evidence is also given of the educational standard already reached, of the ninety-six people who sign the deed, only twelve cannot write their names.

For the genealogist also the deed has its interest. The signatures, presumably, provide an almost complete list of the owners of land in the parish at the time. But only three names, Brisco, Bouch, Martindale remain of the known owners of land in medieval times.

“Articles of Agreement made 4 October, 14 George II, 1740 between the several persons, who have subscribed their names, being parishioners and inhabitants of the parish of Bromfield and owners and proprietors of messuages, lands and tenements there. Whereas a free grammar school has anciently been taught and kept within the said parish for the use and benefit of all the parishioners thereof in a school house situate near the

* Pedigree of family in *Trans.* n.s. xvi, 169-204.

south-east corner of the churchyard of the parish church which said schoolhouse through length of time became so ruinous that master and scholars could not assemble there without manifest hazard of their lives and is now fallen down and demolished. And whereas they, whose names are under written, have come to one common vow to rebuild the said school house either upon the old foundation, or some other convenient place near the said churchyard. Now these Articles witness that for promoting good literature and for the publick advantage and benefit and to the end that the parties hereunto may be united and confederated in carrying on and compleating so commendable a work it is covenanted, concluded, and agreed by and between the said parties that they do for themselves and their heirs, executors, and administrators covenant, and agree to with each other by these present in maner and form following: That John Barwise, John Dover the younger, Cuthbert Roper, John Willson, John Twentyman, John Ritson, and John Grainger, be assigned on behalf of themselves and the rest of the parties as Trustees or Undertakers for rebuilding the said schoolhouse, according to the plan here unto annexed, and to do everything needful and proper to be done for accomplishing and perfecting the same. And the trustees are hereby impowered to assess, levy, and demand such sum sums of money, to be rated according to their several or purveys anciently paid for their messuages, lands, etc., to be applied for carrying on, compleating, and finishing the said building. And the said parties do hereby agree to pay to the Trustees all such sums of money upon demand. And lastly it is agreed that these present shall continue in force until the said schoolhouse shall be completed and finished.

Will Thomlinson
Jonathan Barwis

Dundraw
John Bouch
John Dand

John Dover	Ed. Robinson
Cuthbert Roper	Jo Steel
John Willson	Robert Ricksby
Jno. Twentyman	Joseph Hikeman
John Ritson	Thomas Messenger
Jno. Grainger	Thomas Cowen
Isaak Ashbridge x	John Wood
Edward Musgrave	John Watson
Reaye Atkinson	Joseph Fell
Joseph Rawlings	Mary Moor
John Thomlinson xo	John Ross
Joseph Falkin xo	Daniel Walters x
Thomas Clerk	Tho. Messenger
Thos. Moor	Daniel Watson
Thos. Sine	John Bouch x
George Simson	Eunice Dowthwath
John Twentyman	Henry Peat
James Bouch	C. Mandewell
David Hodgson	William Wilson
Mary Deekman	George Messenger
Isaac Falkin	John Wood
Willm. Calvert	Joseph Ismay
Robert Barne	William Barnes xo
Robert Barns	John Messenger
Mary Roper	William Martindale
Jane Bowness	Joseph Watson
Elizabeth Pearson	William Mandwell x
John Adamson	Sarah Twentyman xo
Joseph Jackson	Mary Harison xo
	Langrigg
Crookdake	— Barwis
Thos. Robinson	— Brisco
Mary Roper xo	— Rawlings
John Bassat	John Todd xo
Joseph Aldersay	Wm. Bell
John Johnston	Thomas Miller

Sarah Chambers
 George Potts
 John Richardson
 Francis Asbridge
 Ro. Murthwaite
 William Roper
 Thos Tremble xo
 Isaac Sharp

x = mark
 xo = seal and mark

William Jackson
 Richard Thomson
 Joseph Atkinson
 John Pen
 John Reedy
 John Pearson
 William Gibson
 Thomas Wally
 John Peat
 Rob. Twentyman
 Jacob Atkinson
 Jose Spencer
 George Atkinson
 John Johnson "

(Thanks are due to Miss Booker of Langrigg Hall, in whose possession the original is, for leave to print).