

Enclosure Riots at Chinley.

A.D. 1569.



AMONG the numerous ancient deeds of the Bradshaw Family belonging to Chas. E. Bradshaw Bowles, Esq., of Wirksworth, is an interesting document relating to the enclosure of certain common lands at Chinley.

This transaction was greatly resented by many of the inhabitants, who endeavoured by force to retain their ancient privileges, and their "*Ryotous*" proceedings on the occasion was the cause of an official enquiry, embodied in the following "Interrogatories."

The disturbance took place on the 10th of April, 11 Eliz. (1596), and appears to have been carried to serious lengths, sufficient to warrant the interposition of State authority.

From an indenture made 15 Nov., 10 Eliz. (1568), it appears that a lease of a parcel of herbage called Mayston Field, alias Chynley, was granted for thirty-one years by the Duchy of Lancaster to one Lawrence Mynter, at a yearly rent of £14 13s. 4d., to begin as soon as the lease of the same to Geo. Grymesdich expired. The very day Mynter obtained his lease, he sold it again to Richard Celey, who sold it on the 2nd October following to Godfrey Bradshaw, "who has now sold to Anthony Bradshaw his brother, and to Leonard and Francis (sons of the s^d. Godfrey), for a certain sum of money, a certain portion of the said ground called 'Oxstyeferne' alias 'Okyn fearn syde' and 'Hynd Thorn,' Buttyng and boundyng upon Chyndley Brock of the east part, or syde; upon the Ashen Cleugh on the north part or syde, then up so on forth of the old Dych or mear which leadeth through the Stowpes beyond on the west part or syde, and upon the Boars Cleugh

on the south parte or syde, being in the said parcell of herbage called Maystonfyeld, alias Chynley, which piece of ground aforesaid is by estymacion one Neighbourshipp and a half neighbourshipp.”*

Signed by Godfrey Bradshaw.

This abstract shews the connection of the Bradshaws with the land in question. We will now proceed to the “Interrogatories,” from the nature of which many very interesting particulars may be gleaned of the disturbance.

Nothing can be conceived more interesting to a person of ordinary intelligence, and especially to those who reside in the locality illustrated, than details of the character afforded by this document. The disturbance has long ago subsided, and the spirits, then so much moved and swayed by passion and contending interests have passed away; the heart-burnings have ceased, and the present villagers may not even know that their little hamlet, now so quiet, was once the scene of so much contention. It is one of the privileges of an Archæological Society to draw aside the curtain occasionally, and afford a retrospect.

From these original and authentic sources, we can see our ancestors in their struggles, and their yearnings for justice and for right; we mark their crude ideas, and note our own advancement; and if it were only for this—to afford us the feeling of contentment that our lot is cast in better times—these various publications of the Society will have contributed to some good end. We are very much indebted to Mr. Bowles for his permission to publish this valuable document.

“**Interrogatories** to be furnished upon the behaulf of Godfrey Bradshaw (*? plaintiff, against*) Edward Kyrke, Thos. Bawden, —Kyrke, Otwell Kyrke, Edward Shower, Ranulphe Mellour, Roger—,—Whyte, Will Rydge, John Hatfield, Robert Burnes, John Bawdon, Richard Kyrke, and others.

* One “neighbourship” = 16 Cheshire acres; one Cheshire acre = one forest acre, which is equivalent to about 2 statute acres, or 10,240 sq. yds.—ED.

(1.) "In Primis. Whether do you know certayne the Herbage or ground commonly called Maynstonfield alias Chynley.

(2.) "Item. Whether Godfrey Bradshaw have the sayd herbage or farm by Lease or not, and if so, from whom, and by whom (*was*) the said herbage demised to the said Godfrey Bradshaw.

(3.) "Item. Whether did the said Godfrey graunte any part or portion of the said herbage unto this deponent? yea, or no.

(4.) (*very imperfect*).

(5.) "Item. Whether hath Otwell Kyrke erected and buldyd one house upon the seid herbage, and included certein parcells of the same.....? was the enclosure made in ryotous manner or not, and how many persons were at the doing thereof, and what were their names?

(6.) "It. Whether hath one Charles Kyrke builded upon the same herbage and taken in a p'cell of the same, and whether was the same done in ryotous manner or with fforce? yea, or no, and how many p'sons were there, and what there names?

(7.) (*defective*).

(8.) "Whether hath Ranulphe Mellour taken a p'cell of the p'misses, and whether was the same done in riotouse manner and wth force, and howe meny p'sons were at the doinge thereof, and what weapons had they, and what is there names?

(9.) "Itm. Whether hath Edward Kyrke taken in any peces or p'cells of the same herbage in lyke ryotouse manner as is aforesaid, and howe meny p'sons were p'sent at the doinge thereof, and what is there names?

(10.) "Item. Howe many howses hathe the sayd Otwell Kyrke and others buylded upon the seyde Herbage, and howe manye sundrye and dyverse p'cells of the same be taken in by the sayd p'ties, and what eu'ye of them have taken in thereof, and of what valewe the sayd howses and Intacks the w^{ch} the sayd p'ties have taken in be of, and whether they be worthe to be lett for syxe pounds a yere or not, and whether dyd they not wth great force and in Riotouse manner buyld the sayd Intacks, and take in the sayd enclosures, and howe manye

p'sons were at the doing thereof, and what weapons had they, and what were there names?

(11.) "Itm. Whether the sayd Thomas Rawlynson Edward Kyrke Thomas Bawdon Will Ridge and others did riotouslye and forcibly pull downe one newe dyche made by the sayd Godfrey, and threaten to kyll, murther, and mayme the sayd Godfrey Bradshawe, and howe meny p'sons were at the doinge thereof, what weapons had they, and what were there names?

(12.) Itm. Whether dyd the sayd Godfrey Bradshawe for his owne Savegard obteyne warrand for the p'ser'vacon of the Quenes M^{ties} peace owt of the Queenes benche at Westmynster ageynst Thomas Bowden Thomas Rawlynson Richard Shower and others, and whether the sayd Rich^d Shower was served wth one of the sayd Warrants or not, and if he were not, what was the cause?

(13.) "Itm. Whether dyd the sayd Godfreye Bradshawe delyver to George Bowden and other occupiers of the sayd herbage a letter from the Right Honorable S^r Raulphe Sadler chaunceller of the Duchie, and from M^r Bromley Attorney of the sayd Duchie whoe required them by the same letter to kepe in reparacion all the houses hedges and dyches environinge the sayd herbage, and whether they doe p'forme the contents of the sayd letter yett? yea, or no, and what is the cause they obey not, and p'forme the effecte of the sayd letters?

(14.) "Itm. Whether dyd Thomas Rawlynson, Raulphe Mellour, Thomas Bowden, Edward Shower, Edwarde Kyrke, and others riotouslye assemble and mete together in the sayd Herbage (not regarding the sayd letter to them dyrected) with unlawfull weapons marchinge towards a place called Chynleye Hyll. Howe many were there, and what weapons had they, and what was there entent in soe doing? and whether about Twesday before our Ladye day in Harveste last past, did they riotouslye pull downe one p'cell of ground enclosed by the sayd Godfrey Bradshawe in Chinleye aforesayd, and whether they soe did by the consent counseil and commaundement of William Beard and Raulphe Bradley of the Haughe, or by the counseil of ether of them or eny other, and howe you knowe the same to be trewe?

(15.) "Itm. Whether dyd Reynold Kirke Thomas Rawlynson and others gyve unto Willm. Beard a pece of ground in the sayd herbage called Half a Neyghbourshipp to maynteyn them geynst the Quenes Ma^{tie}, and ageynst the sayd Godfrey, and to thentent that the sayd Beard should from tyme to tyme send them ydill ryotouse p'sons to assyste them in there yll doinge?

(16.) "Itm. Dyd Raulphe Mellour, Reynold Kyrke, Richard Kyrke, Otwell Kyrke, Thomas Rawlynson w^t a great number of others aforesayd riotouslye assemble and mete together in the Forest of the Hight Peake to consult to mayntene there wicked enterpryses, and soe about the tenthe daye of June last paste marched on to a place called Bakewell—Howe many they were in nomber, what weapons they and every of them had, and what was there p'pose, to do at Bakewell, and with whom had they conference there, and to what entent and purpose?

"Itm. Whether Edward Kyrke would have hyred and gyven money to anye p'son to have burned a howse of the sayd Godfrey Bradshawe in the sayd Chinleys or not, and how you knowe the same to be trewe?

"Itm. Whether the sayd Thomas Rawlynson Willm Ridge Thomas Bowdon Reynold Kyrke and others doe suffer xxi p'cells of the ground to be taken in ⁱⁿ, the sayd (herbage) or thereabouts, and whether they suffer them all to stand excepte one p'cell taken in by the sayd Godfrey, and whether they Riotouslye uphold and mayntayne, and in what sorte they mayntayne, the same with howe many p'sons, and what weapons have they, and what want they soe to doe?

"Itm. Howe many tymes Edward Kyrke Reynold Kirke Edward Shower Nichols Aston Thomas Thomas Lomys Anthony Barber and the other have riotouslye assembled and gathered grete stores of money to meynteyn there unlawfull doings and what is the cause they be doe?

(19.) (*Erased*).

(20.) "Itm. Whether Edward Bradshawe beinge appoynted officer to serve the sayd Warrants came to Heyfield to attache the said Thomas Rawlinson, Thomas Bawdon, Otwell Bawdon

George Andrewe, Reynold Kyrke, Richard Shower and others, was ryotously by them resysted—howe manye p'sons were they, and what weapons had they, and what ys ther names?

“ Itm. Whither the sayd p'tyes or enye of them dyd ryotouslye assemble themselves together in great companies at the Towne of Hayfeld wth unlawfull weapons, that is to saye, wth bowes, pytche forks, clobbes, staves swords and daggers drawn and Ryotouslye dyd then and there assaulte and p'sue the sayd Godfrey and Edward Bradshawe, and in ryotouse manner dyd reskewe and take from them the Bodye of the sayd Richard Shower, beinge attached; the Quenes Officer George Yaveley constable of Bawdon then beinge p'sent commaundinge the peace to be kepte—yea, or no—howe many p'sons were at the doinge thereof?

“ Itm. Whither dyd not the p'sons before resyted ryotouslye resyste the sayd Edward beinge then offycer as aforesayd, and would not suffer him to arreste suche p'sons as were conteyned in his sayd warrant and p'cepte, and howe you knowe the same to be trewe, howe many p'sons were they that soe dyd, and what were there names?

“ Itm. Whither dyd Thomas Rawlynson Thomas Bawdon beinge on foote, and Raulphe Mellour upon his horse backe, ryotouslye followe the sayd Edward Bradshawe and Godfrey Bradshawe the space of one quarter of a myle from the sayd towne of Heyfield, and wth drawn weapons had ryotouslye like to have slayne and murdered the sayd Godfrey and Edward Bradshawe—what weapons had they—and howe you knowe the same to be true—and how many p'sons were they, and what are there names?

“ Itm. Whither dyd the sayd Edward Rawlinson and others about may daye paste . . . and in ryotouslye manner assemble themselves together in the sayd pasture or Herbage called Chinleys, wth bowes staves clubbes pytchforkes spades mattockes and pull downe a pece or p'cell of enclosed grounde enclosed by the sayd Godfrey Bradshawe, and why dyd they soe, and whether was not the same enclosed by ther consents?

“Itm. Whether Edward Shower Richard Kyrk Anthonye Bradshawe and other of the p’sons aforesayd dyd ryotously, and at another tyme by nyght, a bout the tenth daye of Aprill in the xith yere of the Quenes Ma^{ties} Reigne that nowe is, the sayd p’cell of grounde beinge newlye enclosed agayn by the sayd Godfrye by ther consents, beinge quick setts wth xliii hundreth quicksetts willowes and willowe stacks, pull downe the same agayne, and utterlye destroy and cutt the sayd stacks and quick-setts in peics—and howe you know the same to be trewe?

“Itm. Whither dyd Edward Kyrke Otwell Kyrke Raulphe Mellour wth the moste parte of the sayd p’sons before named agree in May last paste and before grass tyme that the sayd Godfrey should take in a peice of ground in the sayd herbage and erecte a howse therevpon, and afterwards in ryotouse manner pulled downe the same inclosure, and how many p’sons were at the doyinge thereof, and what weapons had they, and what ther names?

“Itm. Whither dyd Reynold Kirke aboute May daye last paste, and dyverse tymes synce, and before, or any other tyme confederate, consulte, practise, or other wise confer and talke w^t one M^r Bircles of the Countye of Chester, at the howse of the sayd Reynold in the countie of Derb.: or elsewhere, touching or concerning prophesies by noblemen or otherwise, and what books of prophesie have you or the said Bircles seen or heard, and what is the effect thereof, and howe often have you or he perused, used, or conferred of the same, or about such purposes, and with whom?

“Itm. Whither did you after any such conference practyse consultacon or talke, assemble, or confederat in companye or companyes, to, or about a place in the sayd countye of Derb. called the Lord’s Yate, and who were the p’sons soe assembled, howe many were they, and when and howe often have they soe done, and whether were not William Beard in the sayd countie of Derby gent, and Raulphe Bradley of Haughe in the same countye yeom. then thereat eny suche assemblye, what meant

they by such assembly, and what dyd the sayd Books of prophesye conteyne?

“Itm. Whither dyd not Reynold Kyrke Raulph Mellour Richard Kyrke Thomas Bawdon Edward Coqswer and others ryotouslye assemble themselves at a place called Chinley Hall in the Countye of Derby aforesaid, about June last past, or eny tym eells, wth bylles staves pychforkes mattocks daggers or other weapons defensyve and invasyve, and soe arrayed and marched forward to have pulled downe a certeyn close of one Godfrey Bradshawe in Chynley aforesayd, or to have done some other unlawfull acte. And whither dyd not George Yeavly and Edward Barbar use some persuasion or speche for the surceasinge and appeasinge of that ryotouse pretence and entent to the sayd Reynold or eny other, what be the name of suche p'sons w^{ch} soe assembled. What was there purpose and entent, and whither dyd not the sayd Reynold Kyrke and others the same day of the sayd assemblye and at the towne of Chapell of Ffrythe in the sayd countie of Derby move, entreat, speke to, or persuade w^t the sayd Godfrey Bradshawe to lett passe or not to comp— of the sayd riotouse assemblye and whether dyd you consent and (vow?) that the sayd . . . shuld have and enioye that pece of ground in Chinley aforesaid w^{ch} the sayd Godfrey dyd lately there enclose, and put your hand seale and marke to eny such agreem^t, and whither dyd you or enye other to your knowledge afterward ryotouslye pull downe or distroye eny more enclosure or eny part thereof. When was the same done, and by whose counsell, Howe many p'sons were at the doing thereof?

Whether dyd Nicolas Broke, Dan Molt, Edw^d Kerke, Rufe Meller, Rafe Garb, Rob Tonsted . . . John *Buzgard? Xpof Elote*, Will Kerke, . . . Samson Ward, Otwell Kerke, Charles Kerke, Wili Barber, Edw^d Sowden, Richard Shower, Antoney Redferne, Antoney Ward, on Easter Daye last paste and dyvers tymes before. . . . (*Three lines more complete the MS., but th y are illegible.*)