

Some Early Chapel-en-le-Frith Charters.

By W. BRAYLESFORD BUNTING.



LAST summer a bundle of documents concerning an estate at Chapel-en-le-Frith came into my hands, and as some of the earlier ones appear to be of interest, I have availed myself of the owner's permission to transcribe them.

Two, of even date, of the fourteenth century, are, so far as can be ascertained, the earliest extant private charters relating to the ownership of lands in this parish, and an exact copy of one of them is given, showing the abbreviations, with a verbatim translation, from which the reader may judge as to whether my reading of the contracted text is correct. The conventional marks indicating usual contractions are not noticed in the printed copy. The accompanying illustration is from a photograph by Mr. J. T. Gray, Chapel-en-le-Frith.

To avoid repetition, only the more important parts of the others have been abstracted.

No. 1.

Oñibs ad quos psens sçptu pvenit Thoñs fil Thom le Raggedd salute etnam in Dño Novitis me remisisse concessisse relaxasse t omnino p me t hēdibs meis quiet clamasse imppetuu Willmō fil Rici de Hurdeffeld t hedibs suis t suis assignat totu jus meii t clameu qd heo hui seu aliter jur vel heditar her potui in sex acris terre cū ptin suis infra metas de Boudon que quidam ac simul jacet in campo de Staynolsleye t pedder medowe Ita vero qd nc Ego dts Thoñs nec hēdes mei nec aliqs alius p nos sive p nobis nc noie ñro aliquod jus vl clameu in pdictis

Omnia et quos p[ro]p[ri]os s[er]v[er]e p[re]sent[er] Thom[as] Le Regness p[re]sente e[ss]entiam in d[omi]no p[re]sentat
 me p[re]sentat concessisse ad h[uius]m[od]i homin[os] q[ui] nos e[ss]entia mea quod cl[er]icall[is] imp[er]at[ur] de h[uius] p[re]sentat
 de h[uius]m[od]i p[re]sentat et h[uius]m[od]i d[omi]n[us] et d[omi]n[us] assignat[ur] ead[em] h[uius]m[od]i mei et cl[er]icall[is] q[ui] p[ro] h[uius]m[od]i p[re]sentat p[re]sentat p[re]sentat
 ut p[re]sentat h[uius]m[od]i p[ro] p[ro] in d[omi]no h[uius]m[od]i p[re]sentat q[ui] infra m[en]s[ur]as de p[re]sentat que quodm[od]i ad q[ui]m[od]i
 v[er]at in campo de p[re]sentat p[re]sentat p[re]sentat p[re]sentat p[re]sentat p[re]sentat p[re]sentat p[re]sentat p[re]sentat p[re]sentat
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 ut vendit[ur] p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o p[ro]m[od]o
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CHARTER NO. 1.

sex acs terre cū ptin exiger vel vendicar potim In cū rei testim
huic p̄sent sc̄pto sigillu mei apposui Hiis testibs Rico ffoleiambe
Iohe de Smaleleys Willmo de Baggeshagh Iohe de Olleronshagh
Hug de Horderon t aliis Dat apud Cappellam de ffrith die Dm̄ca
px post festu trslons sci Thom martu Anno Regni Reg Edwardi
fil Reg. Edwardi sextodecio.

TRANSLATION.

To all to whom the present writing may come Thomas son
of Thomas le Ragged health eternal in the Lord Know ye that
I have remised granted released and absolutely for me and my
heirs quit claimed for ever to William son of Richard de Hurde-
field and his heirs and his assigns all my right and claim which
I have may have or otherwise by right or descent can have in
six acres of land with [their] appurtenances within the bounds
of Boudon which same six acres together lie in the field of
Staynolsleye and pedder meadow So that truly neither I the said
Thomas nor my heirs nor any other person through us whether
through us or in our name any right or claim in the aforesaid
six acres of land with [their] appurtenances may be able to exact
or levy In witness whereof to this present writing my seal is
appended these being witnesses Richard Foljambe John de
Smaleleys, William de Baggshagh, John de Ollerenhawh, Hugh
de Horderon and others. Given at the Chapel of Frith on the
Sunday next after the Feast of the Translation of S. Thomas
the Martyr in the 16th year of the reign of King Edward son of
King Edward (1323).

No. 2. Of the same date as No. 1, is a grant by Elena, daughter
of John de Bonkes, to the before-mentioned William, son of
Richard de Hurdefield, of the same six acres, and is in identical
terms. The witnesses are also the same, with the addition of
Richard de Horderon. No. 1 is about $8\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by
 $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches in depth. No. 2 is $7\frac{5}{8}$ inches by $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches. A label
for the seal is attached to each, but all traces of the seal have
disappeared. These documents are dated on the Sunday after
the Patronal Festival of the Parish Church (7th July), still
observed as the local "Wakes."

Thomas le Ragged was Bailiff of the High Peak 8 Edw. I.,* and Thomas, his son, was a Forester in fee of Langdendale,† in which ward of the forest the greater part of the parish of Chapel-en-le-Frith lies. He and John de Smaleleys, a *Regardator*, were present at an inquest ad quod damnum at Fairfield on the Monday next before the Feast of S. Luke, 11 Edw. II.‡ Richard de Herdifield built a house in the King's demesne *temp.* Henry III.,§ and also had enclosed half an acre in Coombes *temp.* Edw. I.,|| and Richard Foljambe was a Regarder-Forester in 11 Edw. II.¶. William de Bagshawe is also mentioned several times in the Forest Pleas *temp.* Edw. I. It has been suggested that John de Bonks was of Bankhead, whence sprang the Bradburys, who were subsequently connected by marriage with several Chapel-en-le-Frith families.**

No. 3. Is a ffeofment of Thomas del Kirke, senior, and Margaret his wife of one messuage and the adjacent hereditaments called le Netherlegh, and a meadow called le pedder medow lying "in le Whytehalgh within the vill of Bawdon," which the said Thomas had of the gift and ffeofment of Alice and Elena sisters of the said Margaret to Thurstan son of the said Thomas and the heirs of his body with Remainder to Roger brother of the said Thurstan. T. William de Honford Nichs Broune Waltere del Kirke Thomas Ionesson Radulphs Broune "et multis aliis." Dated at "le Whitehalgh" on Wednesday next after the Annunciation B.V.M. 10 Hen. VI. (1432).

No. 4. Is a Chirograph of Fine dated at Westminster on the morrow of S. Martin 11 Hen. VI. (1433) wherein Ralph Kirke is Plaintiff and Hugh Bredburie and Elena his wife are Defendants of one messuage and nine acres of land in Whitehalgh. "Pdem Ratus dedit pdtis hugoni et Elene decem marcas argenti."

* Yeatman, *Feud. Hist.*, sec. vi., p. 267.

† *Ibid.*, p. 320.

‡ *Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. ii., p. 587.

§ *Feud. Hist.*, sec. vi., p. 252.

|| *Ibid.*, p. 295.

¶ *Ibid.*, p. 322.

** *Reliquary*, vol. viii., p. 240.

No. 5. Margaret "q fuit uxor Thome Kyrke" grants "in pura viduetate mea" to her son Thurstan all her estate in one messuage and land called Netherlegh and Pedder Meadow which the said Thurstan had of the gift and ffeofment of Thomas Kyrke his father. T. Richo. Brown, Iohe Stafforth Willo Bradshaw et aliis "Dat apud Capella le ffryth in fest sci martini in yeme" (hieme—in winter) 12 Hen. VI. (1434).

No. 6. Is a grant in similar terms by Agnes "qudm uxor Willi Hobson" of her interest in the same hereditaments to the said Thurstan (which he had of the gift and ffeofment of the said William Hobson) and is witnessed by the same persons and bears the same date as No. 5.

All these documents evidently relate, in part at least, to the same property, but we have no clue to the devolution of the title during the century or more intervening between numbers 2 and 3. Whitehalgh, or Whitehough, was the home of the Kirke family for many generations, but the names of the parties to these charters do not appear in the published pedigree.* It has been suggested that Margaret, Elena and Agnes† mentioned in Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6, were sisters, and married Kirke, Bradbury, and Hobson respectively.

Possibly Thomas Kirke was a younger son of one of the owners of Whitehough. William Bradshaw, the witness to the charters of Margaret Kyrke and Agnes Hobson, was no doubt the William Bradshaw who was living in 1478,‡ and who is said to have married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Kirke, of Whitehough.

Of the other three documents, one, dated 11th November, 1 and 2 Philip and Mary (1554), is a settlement of lands in the County of Derby on the marriage of Richard, son and heir of George Kyrke, of the Hamlete of Whytehalgh, husbandman. One of the witnesses is "Dom Edw. Bagshawe Cappellanus," who was perpetual curate of Chapel-en-le-Frith at that time.

* See *Reliquary*, vol. viii.

† *The Christian name of Agnes was often used as synonymous with Alice.*
[EDITOR.]

‡ *Arch. Journ.*, vol. xxv., p. 22.

The others are two fines (duplicates) dated 23 Charles I. (1647), in which Nicholas Kerke Dorothy Shirte and Thomas Gee are Querents and William Earl of Devonshire (who leased the Manor of High Peak) Deforciant of messuages and lands in Chapel-en-le-Frith and Glossop.

These deeds are, and probably for generations have been, in the possession of the owner of "Laneside," a farm situate in the township of Bradshaw Edge, in the parish of Chapel-en-le-Frith, or Bowden Chapel, as it was called, which farm was in 4 Charles I. the property of Nicholas Kirke, perhaps a descendant of the Whitehough family, whose estate was not far distant, or of the former owners of "Courses" immediately adjoining Laneside.

We are, unfortunately, unable to identify the lands mentioned; one of the Laneside fields is known as Stoneylea (possibly a corruption of Staynolsleye), but Pedder Meadow and Netherlegh cannot now be traced.

All these documents are in excellent preservation, the older ones particularly being remarkably clear and well written.

No doubt many such exist throughout the county, and it is to be hoped that members of our Society will do their best to place them on record before they fall into the hands of some one who, like an individual I met not long since, will burn "two or three barrowfuls of old parchments which he could not read and were no good to anyone"!

NOTE BY EDITOR.

Among the extracts from charters made by Mr. Bagshawe, of Ford, are two which are worth quoting, which he kindly allows me to do:—

(1) "A grant witnessed by Walter Kyrke and dated 12 Hen. VI. of lands and tenements in the Ville of Bowden by Margaret, relict of Thomas Kyrke and Ralph Kyrke her son to Rich. Pigot and Thomas Kyrke son of the same Ralph Kyrke."

(2) "A grant witnessed by Hugh and Walter Kyrke and dated 32 Henry VI. (1454) by Ralph son of Hugh Bredbury to Ralph Kyrke of all his lands and tenements in Whitehalgh in the Ville

of Bowden which he had of the gift, &c., of Agnes late wife of Wm. Hobson."

Now, unless the Kyrkes in the above Deeds be a side branch only of the owners of Whitehough, it is a little difficult to reconcile the genealogical information derived from them with the pedigrees of the Kyrke family as shown in vol. ii. of this *Journal* and in vol. iii. of the *Reliquary*. In the charters before us, we gather that in 1432 Thomas Kyrke, senior, was in possession of land situated in Whitehough, and that two years later he was succeeded by his son Thurstan; Roger and Ralph being the only other sons who are mentioned.

The first in the published pedigree of Kyrke, of Whitehough, is Edward Kyrke, whose son and successor is also Edward, and who is himself succeeded by another Edward—his son. Now, the first Edward, if the pedigree be correct, would in 1434 have been not only born but probably married, as his daughter Elizabeth, eventually (according to the *Leicestershire Visitations*) his sole heir, married Richard Salusbury, of Newton Burland, Co. Leicester, in 1450.* It is just possible, though most improbable, that her father was a son of the above Thurstan, but it is not possible, as stated in the pedigree, that her brother Edward carried on the line, if as appears she was her father's sole heir. Nor is it probable that Elizabeth, wife of William Bradshaw, one of the attesting witnesses to the deed of 1434, was daughter of that same Edward. The *Derbyshire Visitations* give no Christian name to the father of Elizabeth Bradshaw, and it seems more than likely that she was daughter of Thomas and sister of Thurstan Kyrke.

* *Reliquary*, vol. vi., p. 213.