

ART. II.—*Ravenglass, Coniston and Penrith in ancient deeds.* By W. G. COLLINGWOOD.

Read at Kendal, April 25th, 1928.

AMONG the ancient deeds belonging to Rydal Hall, and unseen by modern searchers until their recent recovery, are a few which give fresh contributions to local history. The first I shall mention is one relating to early Ravenglass, not known to the late Canon James Wilson when he edited the *Register of St. Bees*, but giving particulars of great interest.

Know . . . that I, Eward f. Ulf, grant for the sake of the souls of my father and mother, my children and ancestors, a piece of land in Rengles between two becks, bounded on one side by the Esk and on the other by a head furrow* (*sulco quodam capitali*); also three acres of land in Rengles, altogether 20 acres; to a hospital I have made in Rengles for the accommodation of poor travellers (*pauperum ibi commeantium*) and for the repairs of the bridge I have made over the Esk. As warden (*procurator*) of that hospital I have appointed brother Gamell, for as long as he manages the business of the hospital suitably, honourably and in the fear of God (*secundum deum*). Witnesses: Roger the dean, Waldef of Brigham, Tomas of dene, Robert of Whitbeck and the chapter of Copeland, Hugh f. Eward and his brethren, Benedict f. Gamel, Hanketin f. Durant, Robert of Lamplugh, R. Corbet and many others.

The witnesses are all of the later years of the twelfth century. The grantor, Eward f. Ulf, was of Waberthwaite (*St. Bees, 290n.*) dating 1160-80 (*Furness Coucher ii, edit. Brownbill, 792f.*), but according to this charter, held land in Ravenglass, near the Muncaster property of

* That is to say, the cross furrow at the extremity of the headrigg or headland. "The headland . . . is ploughed last, with furrows parallel to the fence, which at the head and foot of the regular furrows of the field cross them at right angles" (O.E.D. *s.v.* Headland).

Benedict f. Gamel, who signs as witness. Roger, dean of Coupland, witnessed St. Bees, nos. 84 and 85; Waldeve, parson of Brigham, witnessed St. Bees, no. 82 with Benedict and with Thomas, parson of Dene; Robert, priest of Whitbeck, witnessed St. Bees, nos. 77 and 81, about 1187. Hugh f. Eward granted the charter no. 470 to St. Bees in 1200 or earlier, and witnessed 1170-80 (*Furness Coucher* ii, p. 303). Anketin f. Durant of Cleator granted no. 174 to St. Bees, about 1200, and witnessed many charters from 1180 to 1220. Robert of Lamplugh was the son of Gospatrick f. Orm and brother to Thomas of Workington, ancestor of the Culwens. And Richard Corbet was parson of Whicham, confirmed by Clement, abbot of York 1161-84. These suggest a date for the charter of 1180, or thereabouts.

From this we get the earliest spelling of the place-name Ravenglass, about 1208 'Renglas' (*St. Bees*, pp. 466n., 475) but here 'Rengles'; and we learn, not without surprise, that Eward founded a hospital and built a bridge over the Esk, the earliest medieval bridge we know in our district. That Ravenglass was a port, on a much-used highroad round the coast, seems to be indicated by the fact that Richard, bishop of Sodor and Man, died at Langley park (Langalyver) on his way home from the Council of Lyons, about 1275 (*Chronicle of Man*). A hundred years earlier it seems to have been already a thoroughfare, as this interesting charter shows.

Another charter, dating before 1220, gives us what we have long wanted to know, the early forms of place-names at Coniston.

Know . . . that I, Gilbert f. Roger f. Reinfrid, grant to Gilbert f. Adam f. Bernulf and his heirs 'Cūningeston,' to be held for service and homage by military service, doing forinsec service for half a carucate of the knight's fee of Lancaster. The bounds are—from the place where 'Hywedalebec' falls into 'Thurstane-water,' and thence up (Yewdale beck) to the head of 'Dricoue' (Drycove at the top of Tilberthwaite gill) towards 'Grenebotne'

(Greenburn) and thence by the ridge (*cundosium*) between 'Lauerewater' (Leverswater) and Grenebotne to the head of Grenebotne (top of Broad Slack; the summit recently called Swirl How). Thence to 'Lauerescart' (Leverscarth, i.e. Levershouse) and to 'Geiteswater' (Gaitswater—not Gates-water—under Dow Crags) and by the beck from Geiteswater down to the beck of 'Thoruerga' (Torver beck) to the laund of Torver (*ad Landam de Thoruerga*) and thence by the beck between 'Brackenbergh' (Brackenbarrow) and 'Litelherga' (Little-arrow, the little shieling) to Thurstanewater, and so to the mouth of 'Hywedalebec.' To be held with all liberties and free customs belonging to the land, except hart and hind, wild boar and sow (*leea*) and hawks, and fishing by boat and net in Thurstanewater; but with leave to assart and build and to have a mill and to make profits in whatever way he can. Witnesses:—" Ric. de Marisco p[at]r[e], Henrico de Rademan, Lamberto de Busse, Gilberto de Loncastr', Raynero de Stiueton', Alano fil. [Benedicti?], Rogero filio Will'i de Kirkeblit [Kirkby Irelith?], Will'o filio Waldef, Gamello forestario, Ada filio Alani, Rad. d'Ancurt, Rogero de Lonc[astre], Will'o de Turron', Henrico de Kellet, Ada clerico " and many others.

Of these, Gilbert himself dates 1184-1220. Richard de Marreys is known in the period 1198-1208; Henry de Redman, 1194-1220; Lambert de Bussei, 1190-1220; Reiner de Stiveton, 1216-20; William f. Waldeve, 1190-1220; Gamel the forester, 1216-20; Adam f. Alan, 1201-1206; Ralph d'Aincurt 1215; Roger de Lancaster, 1189-94; Henry de Kellet, 1204-7, and Adam the clerk 1216-20. The form of Greenburn, like that of Wythburn, in *-botn* shows that *burn* does not mean "beck" but 'valley-head'; and *Litelherga* proves, what has been suspected, that 'arrow' is a form of 'erg' or shieling. Much trouble has been spent (*see* Professor Ekwall's *Place-names of Lancashire*) in hunting for early place-names among these fells, of which samples showing great antiquity are here given.

The Flemings did not acquire Coniston until after the middle of the 14th century; but early in the 13th they got Nibthwaite, at the foot of the lake, and bought a right of

fishing with one boat, 'from their own houses' on Thurston-water. Much later there was an incident in connexion with the fishery which is not only interesting to the present writer as the culprit's successor on the premises but also gives details otherwise unknown about methods of fishery in the sixteenth century. It is the bond of Francis Banke of (Bank Ground) 'Munck conistonn,' husbandman, to William Fleming of Rydal, esquire, in £5, dated March 25, 1589, and states that whereas he

hathe bene trespassing and offending in the severall Waters and fyshynges of Willm. Fleminge, Lyenge and Beinge within his manor or Lordshippe of Coniston By reason whereof and For the better conservacion of his said wateres and Fysheres there of From spoile and distruction he hathe been putto discharge and disburse certaine somes off monye wth the said Willm. Fleminge hathe Freelye remitted; Yff therefore the said Frauncis Banke doe not onely at all tyme and tymes heereafter well and honestlie demeane and behave him selfe towards the said Willm. Fleminge; But also at noe tyme or tymes from hence-forthe Fyshe take distroye or kille, or cause to be fyshed taken destroyed or killed wthin any the Brookes Riveres ponndes pooles mootes [i.e. moats] stanges stewes or severall waters or Fyshinges of the said Willm. Fleminge . . . wth any nett Tramell keepe where hane creels lister lowing; or any other engine or device whatever; That then this obligacion to be voide

On this may be remarked, first, that F. Banke was let off very easily; and secondly that there is no mention of angling with rod and line. A 'trammel' was a trawl-net; a 'keep' was a weir; a 'hane' probably a *hain* or enclosure for a trap, and 'creels' meant the wicker-traps. The 'lister' or leister was the pronged fish-spear (such a one was found in a hedge not far from Bank Ground) and 'lowing' meant attracting the fish by torchlight after dark (an instance occurred not long since in the Crake below Coniston-water). And the family of Francis Banke held the property until 1831.

The witnesses to this bond are Roger Sandes, Robert Nychollson and Myles Rigg 'clarke,' apparently Hawkshead people; but we do not know the name of the vicar of Hawkshead at this date, nor of the curate of Coniston church then recently built by William Fleming.

We come to Penrith by a rather devious route. The Bost family was famous there, with Thomas, vicar in 1478 (these *Trans.* N.S. xxi, 185), Nicholas, one of the first governors of Penrith School in 1564, and John, the seminary priest and missionary who was martyred at Durham in 1594. Our late member George Watson, in his 'Penrith Parish Registers' (p. 133) thought that the name of Bost or Boost was German or Dutch and that the family had come in with the miners; but this is impossible in the face of the following deed.

Bardsea; April 9, 1423. Indenture (in French) between Margaret, widow of William de Berdesay and Christopher de Berdesay of the one part and John Bost de Penreth of the other. The said John will take to wife Issabell', daughter of the said Margret and receive £40, that is to say £20 on the wedding day, and at Martinmas next, 10 marks; and at Pentecost following, 10 marks; and at Martinmas after that, 10 marks; and on the wedding day he shall personally give seisin of land and tenements worth 40s. a year (etc.).

These Bosts were also of Dufton, where Nicholas above-mentioned was bailiff, as the following bond shows.

October 20, 1580. Lancelot Booste of Dufton, gentleman, and William Hutton of Gaylle [in Melmerby], co. Cumb., gentleman, are bound to Edmond Dudley, gentleman, in 100 marks. The condition is that whereas Lancelote Booste by his writinge beinge of the dayte of these p'sentes upon consideration mencyned . . . Haith fullye . . . surrendered vnto . . . Edmond Dudley for euer All his righte . . . vnto the office of the baliffeshipp of Dufton . . . and . . . the fees (etc.) And also . . . all those parcellles of groundes in Dufton aforesaid commonlye called the demaine lands (etc.) which . . . Nicholas Booste father of the said Lancelote deceased . . . had in his possession . . . Now yf the said Lancelot (etc.) fulfil all and singular articles (etc.) that then this obligation to be voyd . . .

Nicholas Bost of Dufton, gentleman, and Heughe Bost of Plumpton, gentleman, were arbitrators along with Thomas Carlton of Carlton, Anthony Hutton of Penrith, Thomas Lowghe of Moorhouses and John Whelpdayll of Penrith, on Aug. 1, 1565, in a dispute between John *alias* Jenkyn Walton of Winder and Richard Dudley of Yanwath, esquire, representing the children of the late Thomas Stevenson of Winder. 'Mr. Hew Bost' was buried at Penrith in 1581 and his widow in 1586; and the last entry of the name given by Mr. Watson is that of Jan. 21, 1601, the burial of 'Anne Bost, a poor gent[le woman].' Before that, however, Dorothy Bost had married Lancelot Threlkeld (Dec. 3, 1560) and Elizabeth Bost had married John Lancaster (Aug. 28, 1580), showing a connexion still kept up with respectable families.

The Sir Lancelot Threlkeld of a century earlier comes into this group of deeds with an agreement of June 27, 1473, between him and a little known cleric, 'Sir Robert Wresyll,' vicar of Barton, as he had been since 1467 (these *Trans.*, N.S. x, 414) and vicar of Askham in 1449 (*ibid.* 412). In this deed he and 'Herry' Hudson

have graunted and letten to ferme to the said S^r Launcelot the Tendcorne (tithe corn) of Yanewyth (etc.) except that the Tendcorne of Amotbrig (Eamont bridge chapel) shall not be had nor taken under the tendcorne of yanewyth . . . Yelding yerely therfor iij li. at y^e fest of St. John Baptist . . . And if any man of the parish of Barton feft (i.e. grant) or put any beaste to gyste (admit to pasture for hire) to any grounde or pasture within the lordship of yanewyth thei shall paye their tend to the said vicar notwithstanding the graunt abouesaid . . .

Other clerics of the period are named in a deed of Jan. 26, 1485, which also gives an interesting glimpse of Penrith when it was a township in the forest but not yet what we now call a town. The place 'Curdmyre' is identified by Colonel Haswell with Crudmire, named in 1851 as on the town boundary, close to the point where the railway crosses Thacka beck. This deed is in Latin:—

Know . . . that I, Sir John Jonson, chaplain of Penreth, have given . . . to Sir William Hogeson, rector of the church of Ormesheued (Ormside) a purpresture lying between *lee Curdmyre* on one side and the king's highway on the other, in the 'town' (*villa*) of Penreth . . . with all the assarts belonging to it ('in which now lives Robert Stanwygs', is added in a draft of the same, not sealed). Witnesses, Sir Rolland Warcopp, rector of Brougham, Sir John Burgess, rector of Moresby, Sir Hugh Buntynge, chaplain, Geoffrey Jacson, John Abbott, Robert Abbott, William Abbott and others.

Before reaching the Reformation we get another Penrith cleric, hitherto so unknown that Mr. Daniel Scott says in his 'Penrith Parish Church' (p. 94) 'in 1535 Henry Beneman said to be vicar.' Here we have his real name and his signature, 'Syr herry Beryman,' to an award which he signed along with John Hoton, probably of Hutton Hall in Penrith, on February 10, 1530. There had been

certene travesses and warrianncez (traverses and variances) by twene James Hogeson, smyth, and Henry Stephenson, husbandman, for and concernynge the occupacion of one Teneament in penreth with the lands medowes and closses thereto p'tenyng . . . and allso for certen guds leying within the howsses of the seid teneament and the rep(ar)ac'ons of the saym . . . Wheruppon the forseid John Hoton and Sir Henry Haith Indeferently herdde and examened the forseid p'ties in off and appon all their compleyntes and Inlykwyes (in like wise) their awnswers therto . . . and awardest the forseid p'ties to stande full ffreyndes ffor all man^r of matters by past, and . . . the seid Henry Stephenson to pay . . . to the seid James Hogeson . . . xxs. sterlinges for such hurttis firmes* and rep(ar)acions as haith beyne Done . . . also . . . to suffer the seid James Hogeson . . . peaxably fromnowfurth to . . . Inyoye the forseid teneamēt . . . excepe one Closse at the logges of penreth afforseid callyd the bishops close the wheche the seid James is content and agreit y^t the seid Henry schall have . . . paying [xvs. ?] by Zere, always p'vydith y^t all suche landes as the seid James haith aboute the Towne of penreth afforseid that he wilnot occupie hym selfe that hee schall lett theyme to the seid Henry Stephenson *and to no other person* (interlined) hee dowing

* Perhaps meaning 'farms' or letting out the premises on rent which the other party had not shared.

and paying y^r fore . . . as largely as other men doith for suche lyke landes theire neyre hande beside itt, and also for suche Guds as is within the hows . . . the seid Henry is contented that they schall riste their styll vnto the feast of Penticost . . . and that then the seid James or his assignes shall Delyu^r it to the seid Henry Stephenson or the p[']te thereof at the Seight of the forsaid S^r Henry Beryman chaplain.

The Herry Stenson of the next is evidently Henry Stevenson above; there are many Steinsons, Stevensons and Stephenson^s in the 16th century register, but Harry must have died before that book begins. A Richard Brisbie was buried at Penrith May 21, 1566.

Thys Indentur mayd the xxijth Day of the moneth of July in y^e xxij zer off y^e Ryngge off owr sufferyan lord king henry y^e viijth betwyne Ric' brysby off penreth the elder, marchand . . . And herry Stenson husbandman in y^e saym towyn and conty . . . Witnessyth y^t y^e sayd p[']tes er clerre and content y^t wh(ereas) y^e sayd richard and herry Bought certene landes rentes and tenamentes of gerge tunstall lyeing in banton caldbek and penreth shalbe equaly and ewenly devydyd betwyne y^m to y^r vsse y^r heres and asinges by the sight of Indeferent p[']sons chosen for y^e same And if it can be sene by y^e sayd indeferent p[']sons y^t y^e forsayd Richard have layd dowyne more monie yan y^e sayd herry for ye pament off y^e sayd landes y^t y^e sayd herry schall repay agayn to ye sayd ric' hys heires and assynges (and vice versa) . . . Thes wytnes S^r Herry Beryman vicar off penreth, Willm wylkynson husbandman Robt [Crosby?] off pluntan w^t other.

By 1532, therefore, Beryman was vicar; and if it was his practice to settle the quarrels of his parishioners by arbitrations like these, we can only wish we knew more about him and about the Penrith of his day. One obscurity we can now clear up; that is to say, "The office of metlaw and weighlaw, viz., a dishfull of corne and salte due to the officer out of every sacke of corne and salte that cometh to be sold in the market of Penrith," etc. (quoted from Walker's 'Penrith' by Whellan, p. 589). From the next deed it is evident that the office was that of superintending metes (or measures) and weights at the market.

To all Crysteane people to whome this presente Wrytynge shall come Nycolas Carrothers of pereth . . . yoman sendithe gretynge . . . Whereas Henry the eighte late Kinge of Englande of mooste famouse memorye, by hys letters pattentes beringe date Westm'ster viijth day of march yn the xxxv^o yere of his highnesse Reigne, yn Respecte of Service to hym doon, yn the Warres by the foresayd Nycol's Carrothers gave ande graunted vnto the same Nycolas for terme of hys natural lyffe the Office ande Rowme of Wayleyshyppe ande matleyshyppe off ande within the towne of Pereth . . . then Occupyede . . . by one henry Swynbarne for the yerely Rente of xxiijs. iiijd. To have holde occupye ande enyoie the sayme Office and Rowme and the sayde yerely Rente of xxiijs. iiijd. Vnto the sayde Nycolas Carrothers ande hys assynes, dureing the seyde naturall lyfe togeather with all manner of fees p'fittes comodities and Advantages (etc.). Knowe ye me . . . for dyvers and goode causes ande consideracones me specyally mevyng to have geven . . . and assigned Vnto Rycherde Dudley of yenwythe . . . the fore saide Offyce and Rowme of Weyleyshyppe and meteleyshippe (etc.). Dated the xxijth day of the moneth of marche yⁿ the fyfte yere of the Reygne of oure Soverayne lady Elizabethe . . . 1562. (Signed with his mark, a wheel with six spokes; and witnessed by) Jhon Rigge, Nycolas Lowghe, gentilmen, Jhon Wilson, Henry Symson, lancelott lancaster, Cristofer Walkarr and oders.

The parish registers record Nicholas 'Carrudes' and a John, as it might be his brother. How far back the family came over the Solway we know not, but the name, in various forms, is now widely established in our district.

One more Penrith parchment we should like to read, for the sake of the old schoolmaster who has written his name on it, 'Antho: Page.' He was the man who supped with Camden the antiquary at the Crown Inn and heard him read his notes about Sir Hugh Cesario who 'lived in a disert place in a Rocke; a marshall man; like a knight errant.' That would be in 1599; Anthony Page had married Isabel Lancaster at Mardale on June 12, 1586, and he died in 1623 (these *Trans.*, o.s. xi, 290ff.), having lived to tell Edmund Sandford about the stranger gentleman who

'said he came to see the antiquities.' This document is dated March 6, 1586, the bond of Henry Salkeld, glover, of Penrith in £40 "to kepe the award of Thomas Stephenson gentleman and Anthony Page Scholem' of Penrith of for and concerneinge one messuage and tenement in Penrith in a streate their called Dockeraie and dyverse p'cells of land to the same belonginge." Signed by Henry Salkeld (who was buried Dec. 22, following), and witnessed by Tho. Stephenson (gentleman, buried Aug. 20, 1587), Anthony Page, Henrie Page (son of John, baptized Penrith, Nov. 16, 1567), William Herris, tanner, and Miles Turner his mark.

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