

VII.—LEASE OF PROPERTY IN CORBRIDGE DATED 1517.<sup>1</sup>

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The lease is a somewhat unusual one, as it is perpetual, though containing the usual proviso for re-entry in case of the rent being in arrear for twenty days. The rent is merely nominal, five shillings a year. There is nothing to show why the property was leased in this peculiar manner. It is hardly likely that the incursions of the Scots could have been the reason, as the battle of Flodden, fought less than four years before, must have discouraged them from attacking their neighbours. The position of the lessors is also unexplained. They were all connected with Durham. The first mentioned was a member of the family of Billingham, long settled at Crook hall, just outside Durham, endeared to the northern antiquary from having been the residence of the rev. James Raine, the historian of North Durham. Thrillesden is now Turisdale, near Croxdale.

It is possible that the lessors were trustees, and that the property demised belonged to some institution, either a chantry or gild connected with the church of St. Margaret in Durham, which would account for the rent being payable at the altar of St. Thomas in that church. The lessee, Roger Heron, lived at Halydene, now Hallington, in the parish of St. John Lee, near Hexham. He was probably a younger son of John Heron of Chipchase, to whom the archbishop of York granted a lease of Hallington in 1495 for forty years.<sup>2</sup>

The parcels leased by this deed are so numerous and so minutely described that they deserve careful attention. They are the more

<sup>1</sup> I have to return thanks to Mr. R. Oliver Heslop for much information, part of which appears in the notes and part is embodied in the text.

<sup>2</sup> *History of Northumberland*, vol. iv. p. 240.

worthy of note as they lay both in the urban and the rural parts of the township. The house or messuage was called Gormor-hal.<sup>3</sup> It lay on the south side of St. Helen's lane, called lower down *quedam venella, vocata Seynt Eleyen*. A number of lanes and roads are mentioned: Scamylgate (Shamble-gate), where the fishmongers lived;<sup>4</sup> Sidgate, Long-gate, as distinguished from the ordinary narrow lanes like Colwell-chare,<sup>5</sup> where the *chare* may be collated with the *wynd* (pronounced *weend*) in the common fields, as both *chare* and *wynd* convey the same idea, that of the turning or winding of the lane. The road leading out of the town to Stagshaw was called Stagshaw-strett. On the way there it passed through a ford called Stagshaw-furde.

The bridge across the Tyne, as was the case at Warkworth, had an endowment for its support and repair, and twice mention is made of a burgage belonging to this bridge. The other public bodies referred to were both connected with the church, the chantry of St. Mary,<sup>6</sup> and the gild of St. Andrew.

The Barkhous was the place where the bark was stored till needed.

The amount of land demised in the common field was twenty-three and a half acres, in plots varying in size from three acres to half an acre. These parcels consisted of long narrow strips, scattered throughout the common field. It was only necessary to give the boundaries on the two sides, as at either end there was the headland, *finis terre*, on which the teams turned in ploughing. As the team consisted normally of eight oxen, this headland which ran along the end of the narrow strips was of some size. Two headlands are mentioned, one containing an acre, and the other half that amount. Very precise indications are given of the position of the smaller headland. The part of the field in

<sup>3</sup> Gormire row was, until recently, the name of the street running north from Tyne bridge through the village to Princes street. The parish council has now dropped the name Gormire row, and called the whole thoroughfare Princes street.—R. O. H.

<sup>4</sup> Called elsewhere Fish-shambles-gate, the street leading to the Fishers' market. 'Willelmus Hogg tenet unum burgagium in Fischambler-gat.' *Priory of Hexham*, Surtees Society, vol. ii. p. 29. A tenement *in vico fori piscatorum*. *Archaeologia Aeliana*, new series, vol. ii. p. 35.—R. O. H.

<sup>5</sup> Tenent etiam j burgagium in Colwell-chare, ex parte australi ejusdem juxta venellam quae ducit ad Tynam. *Priory of Hexham*, vol. ii. p. 30.

<sup>6</sup> As a church of St. Mary has been alleged to have existed in Corbridge, it may be well to note that the chantry of the Blessed Mary is here stated to be 'in ecclesia predicta,' that is, within the church of St. Andrew.—R. O. H.

which it lay was known as *le Flurez*,<sup>7</sup> so called from its being very level. Its boundary on the west side was Thomas Carnaby's strip of land, and on the east some selions or strips of land, called 'Flurez, buttes, and wyndes,' or mounds of unploughed turf left between the strips. Where the strips abutted upon a roadway or upon unenclosed land they appear to have been called *butts*. Some of the strips at the Floors abutted upon the large holdings. Others ended at right angles to the long narrow strips. These last may possibly be the *wyndes* mentioned in the document. In the 1776 survey no narrow lanes are shown.

Interspersed amongst these strips were the demesne lands of the chief lord, the earl of Northumberland. The only other important landowners named are the priors of the houses of Austin Canons at Hexham and Carlisle.

There was a kiln for burning the lime needed for the proper cultivation of the land, and a mill for ginding the corn, which could be sold in the *menmerket* (main-market).

Many of the place-names are of very great interest. Historically the most important is Colchestre, marking the site of the Roman station, Corstopitum. The first part of the word, as in the case of the more famous place of the same name in the south, comes from the Latin *colonia*. Other of the names bring before us the chief features of the country near Corbridge. The lime trees by the burn gave rise to the name Lyndburnflat.<sup>8</sup> There was still wood enough standing to harbour a stag when Stagshaw received its name,<sup>9</sup> but a clearing had been made elsewhere on a hill, which was termed Lowridyng,<sup>10</sup> the ridding or clearing in the lower part of the common field. Any piece of rising ground formed a prominent feature in the landscape, and each kind of hill was called by a different name. Besides *law*, as in

<sup>7</sup> In survey, 1776, *Floors*. In this survey the floors are divided into fifteen holdings, ten of which are narrow strips and five are comparatively wide pieces. Query: Are the former the butts and the latter the wyndes? *Floors* was also the name of another part in the West Field.—R. O. H.

<sup>8</sup> Lintburn-flat was the flat land lying on the Lint burn. There were also Lintburn-hope and Lintburn-sheath. The Lint burn flowed out of the west side of Shildon Lough, running into the Tyne through Howden Dene.—R. O. H.

<sup>9</sup> The popular name, however, is Stane-shaw (or Stainchy). Stainchy-bank is always spoken of.—R. O. H.

<sup>10</sup> *High Riding* and *Low Riding* are giving in survey, 1776. There is a precipitous escarpment (now quarried) between them.

Rughlaw, the terms *bark* and *hill* occur in Langbank and Hughishille. For a road or path there were different expressions; *gate* in Scamylgate and Sidgate, *wind* in Flureswyndes, *loaning* in Lonyngdiksyde, *way* in Willedikwey, *lane* in Seynt Elynglayne, *chare* in Colwel-chare, and *street* in Stagshawstrett. The uncertainty about the aspirate, which still prevails amongst us, is exemplified by the forms Ayburne and Hayburne,<sup>11</sup> now Aydon burn, and Trollop and Throllop. Throthoppeys, Lillesaw,<sup>12</sup> Kiplingland, and Didiriche, now Deadridge, seem to defy explanation.

#### APPENDIX.

July 8, 9 Hen. viii. (1517). Perpetual lease from Cuthbert Billyngham of Crukehalle by Durham esq., John Bentley of Thrillesden, Thomas Marnduke chaplain, Hugh Wakerfelde chaplain, Robert Hervy of Durham, Hugh Rowlle of the same, John Colson of the same, Robert Crake of the same, Richard Merley of the same, and Robert Wilfett of the same, to Roger Heron of Halydene, gentelman, to hold of the chief lords of the fee by the customary services, and by paying a yearly rent of 5s., payable halfyearly at Martinmas and Whitsontide at the altar of St. Thomas in the chapel of St. Margaret in Durham, with a proviso for reentry if the rent were in arrears for twenty days and bond of 20<sup>li</sup> from the lessee for due payment of the rent, of the following property in Corbridge:—Unum mesuagium in Corbrige in comitatu Northumbrie, vocatum Gormorhal, prout jacet inter burgagium Willelmi Baxter ex parte australi et quandam communem stratam ibidem, vocatam Seynt Elynglayne ex parte boreali, nunc in tenura Johannis Ladley; unum burgagium jacens ibidem in quadam venella, vocata Seynt Elsyn, ex parte boreali ville ibidem, inter burgagium Comitum Northumbrie ex parte orientali et burgagium prefati Willelmi Baxter ex parte occide[n]tali; unum aliud burgagium vastum jacens super finem cujusdam venelle inter burgagium gilde S. Andree in ecclesia de Corbrige predicta ex parte orientali et communem stratam, ducentem versus Stagshawe, ex parte occidentali; duo alia burgagia jacentia in Scamylgate ex parte boreali ville ibidem inter burgagium Prioris de Hexham ex parte orientali et burgagium Rogeri Heron ex parte occidentali, nunc in tenura Jacobi Robson; unum aliud

<sup>11</sup> There was a 'Hay-street' in the West Field.

<sup>12</sup> In the survey of 1776 the names High Lilly Lows and Low Lilly Lows occur. Probably the *lilly lea* of the ballad, 'They laid him low on lilly lea.' Herein lies an amusing piece of etymological humbug. John Ray gives 'Lillylow, a comfortable belly bleeze,' whatever that may mean. Dr. Mackay compiled a dictionary in which he manages to find a Celtic etymon for almost every English word. This *Lilly Low* he finds has to do with a 'bleeze,' so he drags in a Gaelic word like it in sound, which happens to mean flame. So there you are at once. These Lilly Lows were the hills, he infers, on which the fires of Beltane were lighted.—Q. E. D.—R. O. H.

burgagium in eadem strata jacens inter burgagium Johannis Elryngton,<sup>13</sup> in tenura Willelmi Horner; duo alia burgagia jacentia in fine orientali ville ibidem super le Northraw, inter burgagium Thome Elryngton ex parte orientali et burgagium Willelmi Baxter ex parte occidentali, nunc in tenura Willelmi Richerdson; unum aliud burgagium vastum jacens in Colwelchare ex parte boreali ejusdem ville inter burgagium Prioris de Hexham ex parte australi et burgagium cantarie B. Marie in ecclesia predicta ex parte boreali; unum aliud burgagium jacens in Sidgate ex parte boreali ville ibidem, inter burgagium Gilberti Huddispath<sup>14</sup> ex parte occidentali et burgagium pertinens ponti de Corbrige ex parte orientali; unum aliud burgagium jacens in Sidgate ex parte boreali ville ibidem inter burgagium Johannis Chestre ex parte orientali et burgagium pertinens predicto ponti ex parte occidentali, nunc in tenura Gilberti Huddispath; unum aliud burgagium, quondam vocatum Barkhous, jacens in Scamylgate ex parte boreali, inter burgagium Johannis Elryngton ex parte orientali et burgagium Comitis Northumbrie ex parte occidentali, nunc in tenura Edwardi Huddispath; unam acram terre jacentem in Lyndburnflat, prout jacet inter terram Rogeri Heron ex parte australi et terram pertinentem cantarie B. Marie in ecclesia predicta ex parte boreali, nunc in tenura dicti Rogeri; tres rodas terre jacentes apud Throthoppeys, prout jacet inter terram Rogeri Heron ex utraque parte, nunc in tenura Johannis Harlle; unam rodam terre jacentem in Menmerkett inter terram dicte cantarie B. Marie ex parte orientali et terram dominicam<sup>15</sup> Comitis Northumbrie ex parte occidentali, nunc in tenura Ricardi Huntley; quandam parcelam terre, vocatam a *hedland*, continentem dimidiam acram terre, jacentem in le Flurez, inter terram Thome Carnaby ex parte occidentali et quosdam seliones terre vocat' Flurez buttes et wyndes, ex parte orientali, nunc in tenura Roberti Belle; unam acram terre jacentem in Lonyngdiksyde inter terram Willelmi Baxter ex parte australi et terram Rogeri Heron ex parte boreali, nunc in tenura Willelmi Richerdson; unam acram et dimidiam terre jacentes in Colchestre inter terram Rogeri Heron ex utraque parte, nunc in tenura Edwardi Huddispath; unam acram terre jacentem ultra quendam rivulum, vocatum Ayburne, inter stangnum molendini ex parte orientali et terram Comitis Northumbrie ex parte occidentali, nunc in tenura Thome Trollop; dimidiam acram terre jacentem inter dictum rivulum ex parte australi et terram Johannis Chestre apud Stagshawfurde ex parte boreali, nunc in tenura Willelmi Dalton; duas acras et dimidiam terre, quarum due jacent apud Langbank inter terram dominicam Comitis Northumbrie ex parte orientali et terram Johannis Chestre ex parte occidentali, et dimidiam acram terre jacentem in quodam loco, vocato Sandyrod, inter terram Gilberti Huddispath ex parte australi et terram Rogeri Heron ex parte boreali, nunc in tenura Henrici Broune; dimidiam acram terre jacentem in fine occidentali de dicta Sandyrod, inter terram Prioris de Karlille ex parte australi et terram Gilberti Huddispath ex parte boreali; unam acram et dimidiam terre jacentes in Langbank, in fine occidentali ejusdem, inter terram Willelmi Baxter ex parte orientali et diversos fines terrarum diversorum dominorum ex parte occidentali, nunc in tenura Rogeri Heron; unam acram et dimidiam terre supra le Lillesaw Reynneys, inter terram Willelmi Baxter ex

<sup>13</sup> An omission here.<sup>14</sup> Also spelt Huddispath.<sup>15</sup> *Terr' d'nic'*, and so below.

utraque parte, modo in tenura Rogeri Heron; dimidiam acram terre jacentem inter terram cantarie B. Marie ex parte boreali et terram Rogeri Heron ex parte australi, et abuttantem super fossatum strate, vocate Stagshawstrett, modo in tenura Edwardi Huddispath; tres acras terre jacentes ex parte occidentali de Willedikwey inter terram Rogeri Heron ex parte boreali et terram Gilberti Huddispath ex parte australi, vocatas Kiplingland, modo in tenura Gilberti Huddispath, Willelmi Dalton, et Johannis Harlle; unam acram et dimidiam terre jacentes apud Hayburnsid, inter Hayburne ex parte boreali et terram Rogeri Heron ex parte australi, modo in tenura Edwardi Huddispath; dimidiam acram terre de Rughlaw, inter terram Rogeri Heron ex parte occidentali et terram Willelmi Baxter ex parte orientali, modo in tenura Alicie Thomson; dimidiam acram terre jacentem super le Lymekilles, inter terram Rogeri Heron ex parte boreali et terram Willelmi Baxter ex parte australi, modo in tenura Thome Throllop; unam acram terre jacentem super Lawridyng, inter terram Rogeri Heron ex parte occidentali et terram S. Margarete in Dunelm. ex parte orientali, modo in tenura dicte Alicie Thomson; unam acram terre jacentem apud Lymekilles inter terram Prioris de Karlille ex parte australi et terram Willelmi Baxter ex parte boreali, modo in tenura Johannis Harle; unam acram terre, vocatam a *hedland*, jacentem super terram dominicam vocat' Hughishille, modo in tenura Johannis Ladley, et inter terram S. Margarete ex parte occidentali; dimidiam acram terre apud pedem et finem australem de Lawridyng et terram Rogeri Heron ex parte australi, modo in tenura Rogeri Chestre; et unam acram terre jacentem apud Didiriche inter terram Willelmi Baxter ex utraque parte, modo in tenura Willelmi Richerdson. One tag for seal, which has been destroyed. Endorsed 'Corbridge.'