

## Original Documents.

### LEASE OF A PIECE OF PASTURE TO HALTEMPRICE PRIORY, YORKSHIRE, DATED MAY 13, 2 EDW. IV. 1462.

COMMUNICATED BY GEORGE WENTWORTH, Esq.

WE are indebted to the kindness of Mr. George Wentworth for the following document, found by him among the family evidences at Woolley Park, near Wakefield. It is a lease to the Prior and convent of Hautenpryce, now written Haltemprice, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, by William Roucliff, the king's Auditor in the Duchy of York, and John Woderove, the king's Receiver in the same, of a pasture called Wythes in the demesne of Cottingham. The site of the Priory, of which no remains exist, is in low ground near Hull, between the wolds and the Humber, from which it is about four miles distant. It was founded by Thomas de Wake about 1321; he originally began to build the monastery in his manor of Cottingham, but it was shortly after removed to a spot in the neighbourhood called Newton, known also as "de Alta Prisa," or Haltemprise. As to the Priory and its possessions information may be found in the collections by Tanner, Burton, and Dugdale.<sup>1</sup>

The pasture in question is described as called Wythes, possibly from withy or willow trees growing in the low lands of that district, which is drained by numerous artificial channels or dikes; it abutted on the "Sawtyng" towards the east, and the "Thorndike" towards the west. In the charter of the founder, as printed in the new edition of the *Monasticon*, he granted to the Canons, among other possessions, "quadraginta acras prati, tresdecim acras scituatas in le Sggelmyre, et tresdecim scitas in le Salt-yng, quinque scitas in Salt-yng, et alias divisas bene cognitass." <sup>2</sup>

Mr. Wentworth has pointed out that William Roucliff, the king's auditor, one of the parties to this lease, was a person of some note in the East Riding, and resident at Woolley; the descent of the family is given by Mr. Hunter.<sup>3</sup> An effigy of him, as we learn from Dugdale and Dodsworth, was formerly to be seen in the east window of Woolley Church, with that of of his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Laurence Hamerton of Wigglesworth in Craven. The former represented him kneeling, in armour, with a tabard of his arms impaling those of Hamerton, as described by Dodsworth, whose account is cited by the learned historian of South Yorkshire before mentioned. Of the inscriptions formerly to be seen under these figures, Mr. Wentworth has furnished the following copies: "Orate pro anima Joh'is Woderove de Wolvelay armigeri, quondam preceptoris (*sic*) domini regis Edward IIII. dominiorum suorum de Wakefield, Conisburgh, et Hattefeld;

<sup>1</sup> Tanner's *Notitia*, Yorkshire, xlix.; Burton's *Monast. Ebor.* p. 313; Dugdale's *Monast. ed. Caley*, vol. vi. p. 519.

<sup>2</sup> *Mon. Ang.* vol. vi. p. 521. Ing, in north country dialect, according to Brockett, signifies a pasture, and often occurs in names of places, but it is "now chiefly applied to low moist ground, or such as is subject to occasional overflows." The proximity of the Priory

to the great tidal waters of the Humber suggests the notion that the pasture above mentioned may have been of the nature of salt marsh. There is a place called Salts House, east of Hull, at some distance from the river; we find Salt-marsh on the water's edge near Howden, and Salt-haugh Grange, near Patrington.

<sup>3</sup> Hunter's *History of South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. p. 389.

cujus animæ propitiatur Deus.—Orate pro anima Elizabethæ uxoris suæ quondam filiæ Laurentii Hamerton de Wrigglesworth in Craven armigeri ;  
cujus animæ propitiatur Deus.” The deed is as follows :—

Hec indentura, facta apud Cottenyngham, terciodecimo die mensis Maii, anno regni Regis Edwardi quarti secundo, testatur quod Willelmus Roucliff Auditor domini Regis Ducatus sui Eboracensis in comitatu Eboracensi, et Johannes Woderove Receptor domini Regis Ducatus sui predicti in comitatu predicto, tradiderunt et ex parte dicti domini Regis dimiserunt Roberto <sup>4</sup> Priori domus sive prioratus beate Marie et Sancte crucis de Hautenpryce et ejusdem loci conventui, quandam pasturam vocatam Wythes infra dominium de Cottenyngham predict’, buttantem super le Sawting versus orientem, et le Thorndyke versus occidentem, habendam et tenendam prefatis Priori et conventui et successoribus suis, a festo purificationis beate Marie Virginis proxime futuro post datam presencium usque finem termini decem annorum ex tunc proxime sequentium et plenarie completorum, reddendo inde predicto domino Regi, hereditibus, sive assignatis suis, decem marcas sterlingorum per annum ad terminos ibidem usuales, per equales porciones. Et predicti Prior et conventus et successores sui . . . . .<sup>5</sup> pasturam predictam . . . . . bene et sufficienter ad . . . . . et . . . . . domini Regis reparabunt, sustentabunt, et manutenebunt durante termino predicto. Et, si predicta firma a retro sit in parte vel in toto per unum mensem post aliquem terminum ibidem usualement [non soluta ?], quod tunc bene licebit prefato domino Regi, hereditibus, et assignatis suis in pasturam predictam distringere, distractionemque [ibidem captam ?] fugare, abducere, et penes se retinere, quousque de predicta firma et arreragiis suis, si que fuerint, plenarie satisfacti fuerint et persoluti. Et, si predicta firma a retro sit in parte vel in toto per sex septimanas post aliquem terminum ibidem usualem non soluta, et sufficiens districcio in eadem pastura pro firma predicta invenire [*sic*] non poterit, quod tunc bene licebit prefato domino Regi, hereditibus, et assignatis suis in pastura predicta reintrare, [et eam ut de priore ?] statu suo retinere, hac dimissione non obstante. In cujus rei testimonium huic parti istarum indenturarum penes Robertum priorem et conventum domus predictæ Willelmus Roucliff et Johannes Woderove sigilla sua apposuerunt, ac alteri parti harum indenturarum penes prefatum dominum Regem remanentem predicti Prior et conventus sigillum domus Capitulo [pleno ?] apposuerunt. Datum die et anno predictis.

(L. S.)

A seal of red wax, now wholly lost, was appended on a parchment label.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The name of the Prior is very indistinct in both places where it occurs in the document, but the initial letter is undoubtedly R. According to the list given in the Monasticon, ed. Caley, vol. vi. p. 519, Robert Holme became prior in 1457, the next name occurring in the list being that of William Marshall, who succeeded in 1471.

<sup>5</sup> The parchment is here torn. The sense seems to require some words expressing—from time to time.

<sup>6</sup> No seal of Haltemprice had come

under the observation of the editors of the Monasticon. See ed. Caley, vol. vi. p. 519. It is not improbable, however, that the fine matrices, prepared for the convent first established by Lord Wake at Cottingham about 1321, and bearing the figures and arms of the founder and his wife, continued in use subsequently to the removal of the house, about 1324, to Newton or de Alta Prisa. These remarkable seals are figured in the *Vetusta Monumenta*, vol. i. pl. iv. See also Gough's *Brit. Top.*, vol. ii. p. 472.