

Original Documents.

HERBERT CHARTERS, PROBABLY RELATING TO HEREFORD-SHIRE, OF THE REIGN OF EDWARD I.

THE two following charters were found recently among the large collection of muniments constituting the family papers and title deeds of J. N. Carne, Esq., D.C.L., at St. Donat's Castle, in Glamorgan, and they are given here because they do not appear to relate to Wales, and because, being private deeds, they may or may not, in years to come, be accessible to any future historian of the county to which they appear to belong.

CHARTER BY CHRISTINA HERBERT, WIDOW, TO WILLIAM LE BRET.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Christina Herbert dedi et concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi in legitima viduitate mea Willielmo le Bret juniore unam acram regiam et quartam partem unius acre regie, et extendit se tota dicta terra in longitudine a terra domini Hugonis de Kinardesle militis usque ad terram Ade Hurel, et in latitudine a terra Gilberti Balle usque ad terram dicte Christine. Tenendam et habendam sibi et heredibus suis vel suis assignatis de me et heredibus meis libere et quiete integre et pacifice jure hereditario in perpetuum. Reddendo inde annuatim michi et heredibus meis ipse et heredes sui sex denarios ad festum Sancti Michaelis pro omni servicio, querelis, exactionibus et demandis, salvo regali servicio ad tantam terram pertinente. Pro hac autem mea donacione et concessione habenda dedit michi dictus Willielmus præ manibus quatuor marcas et dimidiam sterlingorum. Et ego Christina et heredes mei dictam terram dicto Willielmo et heredibus suis vel suis assignatis contra omnes homines et feminas tenemur warantizare. Et ut hec mea donacio et concessio firmitatis robur optineat, presentem cartam sigilli mei impressione coroboravi. Hiis testibus, Waltero Yavan, Johanne de Aula, Waltero de Bikenore, Willielmo filio Sacerdotis, Henrico de Nortone, Michaele Eli, Adam Hurel et multis aliis.

There is appended upon a label a small lump seal in green wax, with something which appears pretty certainly to be "a Peacock in his pride." The face of the seal is on the same side with the back of the deed.

Although there is no date to the deed, its appearance and style point to the reign of Edward I., and this conjecture has been confirmed by Mr. Burt, to whom the deed was submitted, and who remarks, "The label by which the seal is appended is a strip cut from a document in a hand much resembling that of the deed. Above the seal, on this label, can be read 'est convencio inter dicto Waltero unam extendit se in longi'" Below the seal may be read 'anno gratie

domini M^{cc}.L via que ducit de domo’ This fixes the date of the label in the latter half of the thirteenth century, probably very late in it, and from the general resemblance between the writing upon deed and label, the former may be assigned safely to the reign of Edward I. Possibly the label was cut from an unfinished deed, or one that had been put aside.”

The deed is on parchment 5½ in. by 4, in excellent condition, and the writing black and clear. Sir Hugh de Kinardesle was knight of the shire for Hereford, 35 Ed. I., and a Sir Hugh, probably his father, was sheriff 33 and 34 H. III. They seem to have been lords of Newchurch and Kinardesley, co. Hereford, and John de K. was so returned in the parliamentary writs of Ed. II. Also 20 Ed. II. Richard de K. died seised of lands in Kinardesley, and the manor of “Brugge super Wayam.”

Le Bret was also a Herefordshire name. Wm. le Bret was assessor and collector for Hereford city, 22 Ed. I. The name of Bikenor points to the same county. It will be observed that the measure employed is the “royal acre.”

CHARTER BY DEONISSIA, WIDOW OF WILLIAM HERBERT, TO NICHOLAS LE FRANCEIS, OF LANDS IN BROHAMTON.

Noverint universi hoc presens scriptum visuri vel audituri quod ego Deonissia relicta Willielhmi Herebert de Brohamton remisi concessi et quiete clamavi Nicholao le Franceis de Brohamton totum jus meum et clamium quod habui vel decetero habere potero in terra quam ab eo exigi nomine dotis mee cum suis pertinentiis in campis de Brohamton, scilicet de duodecim acris terre quam predictus Nicholaus quondam emit de domino meo Willielmo Herbert jure hereditario in perpetuum. Habendum et tenendum to tum predictum jus et clamium prenomina tum pro me et heredibus meis omnibus prefato Nicholao et heredibus suis vel assignatis suis in perpetuum. Pro hac autem remissione concessione ac quieta clamancia mea dedit mihi predictus Nicholaus duos solidos argenti ad in mensum negocium præ manibus. Et ut hec mea remissio concessio ac mea quiete clamancio pro me et heredibus meis ac assignatis meis firma et stabilis in perpetuum permaneat, huic presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus, Willielmo Hodekenas de Brohamton, Hugo Boltusham de eadem, Thoma le Clatar de Winchecumbe, Galfrido David de Cloppell, Roberto de eadem, Waltero de Sevenhamton et aliis.

The seal is lost, nor does there remain even a friendly label to indicate a date. Still the style and writing of the deed point to the reign of Edward I. It is on parchment 7½ in. by 3, in good condition, the ink brown but clear. As the two charters are by Herbert widows, and are found in the same repository, and are evidently of about the same date, it is probable that this also relates to Herefordshire. In that county are two parishes named Brockhamton, and the other places of the name are in Hants and Warwick. Winchcombe and Sevenhampton are in the contiguous county of Gloucester, where in the Hundred rolls temp. Ed. I. appears a Nicholas Franceys, in Deerhurst Hundred.

To what family of Herbert the ladies were allied has not been discovered. The great family of that name which afterwards spread over South Wales and the border counties, had not then adopted a surname.

G. T. C.