

Original Document.

Communicated by JOSEPH BAIN, F.S.A. (Scot).

Viro venerabili et amico suo in Christo karissimo, domino priori de Motesfonte, W. de Perci salutem in Domino. Noverit dilectio vestra quod implacitati sumus apud Leicestriam coram justiciariis itinerantibus, ego et dominus Eustachius de Bailloillio, et domina Agnes filia mea, uxor illius E., et dominus prior de Sandonia, de villa de Fotestona. Quare vos exoro quatinus pro amore meo mittatis mihi per Ricardum de Moredona, unam cartam de confirmatione Domini J. Regis de omnibus terris et tenementis que juste adquisivit dominus W. Briwerre vel potuit adquirere, et maxime de manerio de Fotestona cum omnibus pertinentiis; et quoddam cyrographum de finali concordia facta in curia Domini Regis inter Margaritam de Pillande et W. de Briwerre de tercia parte ville de Fotestona; et unam cartam Jordani de Abernon(?) de jure et clameo si quod habuit idem W. in terris que fuerunt Henrici de Secchevilla in Fotestona, que quietum ei clamavit; et unam cartam domine Margarete de Pilland de toto jure et clameo quod habuit in Fotestona et in Lincumbe et in Godeling, que quietum clamavit domino W. Briwerre et heredibus suis; et cartam Rogeri Giffard qui renuncit et quietum clamavit domino W. Briwerre totum jus et clameam quod Mazra ava illius vel Baldewinus pater eius habuerunt vel habere potuerunt in Fotestona in Leicestresira; et aliam cartam Rogeri Giffard quod debet ad voluntatem et summonicionem W. Briwerre coram justiciariis ubicunque fuerint vel alibi ubicunque voluerit venire ad recognoscendum quietam clameam quam ei per carta sua fecit de toto jure et clamea quod Mazra ava illius vel Baldewinus pater illius vel aliquis antecessorum illius vel ipse vel aliquis heredum suorum unquam habuerunt vel habere potuerunt in Fotestona in Leicestresira. Et vos precor quod cum festinacione eas mihi mittatis, qui dicti justiciarii sederunt apud Leicestriam die Lune proximo post festum Sancti Hyllarii, tamen inde facientes ne dominus Eustachius, nec ego, nec domina Agnes filia mea, nec prior de Sandona, simus perdentes per defectum cartarum illarum. In cujus rei testimonium mitto vobis has literas meas patententes.

A seal in yellow wax is appended on a strip of the parchment. A knight on horseback, in flat-topped close helmet, sword in hand, and shield on left arm, galloping to dexter: SIGILLUM WILLELMI DE PERCY.

This document is among the charters of the Duchy of Lancaster (A) 289, and is briefly catalogued in the 35th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records (Appendix No. 1), and there said to date between 1199 and 1216. I took a copy of it when going through these Duchy Records some years ago.

In the "House of Percy," by Mr. de Fonblanque (vol. i, pp. 35, &c.), it is related that this William de Percy was the only son of Henry de Percy, the sixth baron, who died in 1196, when the son [who, if born in 1193, was only three years old, though on another page he is said to have been fifteen at his father's death], fell under the tutelage of his uncle, Richard de Percy, who usurped his nephew's rights and became seventh baron, holding a large part of the family property till his death in 1244. Mr. de Fonblanque adds that William de Briwere (doubtless the same person referred to in the letters patent) was the official guardian of the minor, but appears to have wanted either the will or the power to resist Richard's high handed proceedings. That this was so is clear from the Yorkshire Pipe Roll, 13 John, where Richard de Percy appears as holding fifteen fees of the half fee of William de Percy's Honour, while William Briwere holds the fifteen fees of the other half of the same Honour with the heir, whom he no doubt married to his daughter Joan, as she is named by Dugdale. On p. 46, Mr. de Fonblanque says that Agnes, the youngest daughter of the above William de Percy and Joan Briwere, married Eustace de Balliol after 1254. This, however, must be incorrect, if this William, eighth Lord of Percy died (as he says), in 1245, a year after his usurping uncle Richard, for the above letter to the prior of Mottisfont urgently requesting him to send with haste six writings in his hands, for an impending law plea at Leicester, shews that Lady Agnes had married Sir Eustace de Balliol before her father's death.

This Sir Eustace de Balliol was no doubt nearly related to the chief line, and perhaps an uncle of John Balliol, King of Scotland. He seems to have been dead before 5th May, 1276, when his widow Agnes leased her land in Foxton to her son Ingram de Balliol, for five years, confirmed by Edward I (Patent Roll, 4 Edw. I). Ingram appears earlier, on 8th Oct. 1270, in his father's lifetime, before an Assize Court at Leicester for disseising the master of the Hospital of the Holy Spirit of Saundon, of a freehold in Foxton, probably the same given them by his grand father William de Percy (*Calendar of Scots Documents*, vol. i, no. 2573). Lady Agnes his mother was dead by 28 May, 1291, when Edward I then at Norham Castle deciding the claims to the Scottish Crown, respited Sir Ingram's homage till All Saints' day, at the request of the King of France. (*Calendar ut supra*, vol. ii, no. 479). Sir Ingram, styled "of Tours," was dead before 20 Feb. 1298-99, when Edward I gave all his lands in England and Scotland (including Foston) to his cousin Henry de Percy, as Ingelram de Umfraville, who had the hereditary right to them, was a rebel (*Calendar ut supra*, vol. ii, nos. 1060, 1102). He left a widow Isabel, who being in France, had licence from Edward II to appoint attorneys on 28 January 1307-8. (*Calendar ut supra*, vol. iii, no. 34). From the nature of his succession, they evidently had no children.

The seal of William de Percy, which is the first given on the Plates of Percy seals, is the same as that appended to the above letters patent, which is a very good impression. But I fail to trace on it the saltire which appears on the shield in the plate.