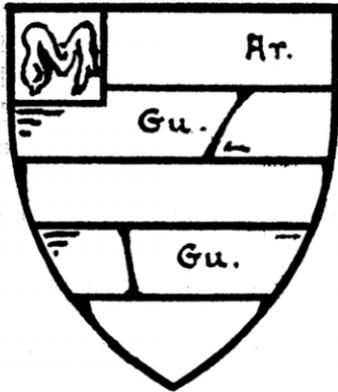


ART. XI.—*Some Notes on the de Bardesey Family of Bardsea Hall, Furness.* By JOHN F. CURWEN, F.S.A.

Communicated at Conishead, September 14th, 1905.



WHATEVER may have been the origin of the name, the manor of Bardsea was certainly connected at an early period, and for many generations, with a family termed de Bardesey, spelt in the earlier deeds as de Berdesei. That they were of some considerable local importance and associated

with the de Lancasters is shewn by the fact that they bore the arms of the barons of Kendal, viz.:—Argent, two bars gules, with the difference of a maunch argent instead of a lion passant gardant or, in the canton. It is noteworthy that four other ancient Furness families give the same arms—Broughton of Broughton charge the canton with a cross flory or; Preston of Preston Patrick, and afterwards of Furness, charge with a cinquefoil or pierced argent; Kirkby of Kirkby charge with a cross moline or; and Lowick of Lowick omitting the canton charge with 3 mullets gules in chief.

So far back as the year 1135, when Godard de Boyvil of Millum made a grant of a certain carucate of land in Coupland, named Fossa, in pure and perpetual alms to Ewan, the first abbot of Furness, we find the name of RALPH DE BARDESEY appended to the document as a witness. *Charters, Duchy of Lancaster, Box B, No. 154.*

ROGER, the son of Ralph, with many others, witnessed a confirmation by the Earl of Warren in 1158 of an exchange made, in order to consolidate their respective estates, between the aforesaid Ewan and Michael le Fleming, by which Michael held Bardsea of the abbey and the abbey held Roose and Newton of Michael. *Duchy of Lancaster Ancient Deeds*, L 342.

We next meet with the name in the year 1202, amongst the Lancashire Final Concords, when there was an assize of *mort d'ancestor* summoned between a WILLIAM, son of ROGER DE BARDESEY, and William, prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, being tenant of one acre of land with the appurtenances in "Bardeseia." William de Bardesey quit-claimed his right in the land to the said prior and his successors in perpetuity, whilst for this quit-claim the prior gave him five shillings sterling.

Nothing very much is known about this religious house, said to have been founded by William de Lancaster I. It was evidently one of the "commanderies" or homes established in different parts of the country under the charge of the canons regular of the Order of St. Augustine, for the relief of the poor, decrepit, and lepers. It will be seen presently how that after a few more years the hospital was removed to a new site at Conishead where it eventually developed into a priory.

It would appear that William left three sons and one daughter—(a) Roger, of whom presently; (b) Ralph, who in the year 1248 is mentioned as rendering homage and service to the abbot and monks of Furness Abbey; (c) Daniel, who had issue a son William, mentioned in William fitz Roger's grant of land in 1272 to Gilbert, which is referred to later on; (d) Agnes, who gave to her brother Roger her land which was called Pychille in Bardsea. *Furness Coucher*, folio 172^b.

ROGER fitz William received from his father half a bovate of land in Bardsea, for which he rendered 8d. per annum. *Furness Coucher*, folio 172^b. In the year 1269,

Roger granted to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the monks of Furness, on behalf of his soul's salvation and on behalf of all his ancestors and successors, a certain portion of land in Bardsea, which his father William had given to him—*i.e.*, one acre and three parts among the coalpits in Alderfield—for the privilege of having his body buried within the abbey walls. *Furness Coucher*, folio 173.

WILLIAM fitz Roger fitz William was a witness to the deed of gift, previously mentioned, made by his aunt Agnes to his father Roger. It would seem that the small hospital at Bardsea was before this time removed to Conishead, as we find from the 2nd volume of *Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum* that this William, son of Roger, granted to the newly established hospital at Conishead an oxgang of land in Bardsea, with a croft, in which the house of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem stood, with eight acres of land in Bardsea. In the year 1272, he also made a further gift of all his lands in Bardsea to his cousin Gilbert, the son of Margaret, in consideration of the said Gilbert paying to William, the son of Daniel, the son of William de Bardesey, and his heirs, 8d. in two portions—*i.e.*, 4d. at the Passover and 4d. at the feast of St. Michael. "Moreover I give to Gilbert the whole of the land called Pychill which Roger my father had out of the dower of Agnes daughter of William de Bardesey." Given at Bardsea on the 20th day of January, 1272. *Furness Coucher Book*, folio 173^b.

GILBERT, the son of Margaret de Bardesey, the daughter of Robert Boyvil. I cannot at present say for certain which de Bardesey was the husband of Margaret and father of Gilbert, but can only conjecture it to have been Ralph, who had predeceased his brother Roger, and that his son became spoken of in later deeds as the son of his widow Margaret. However, in the year 1278 Gilbert, for the good of his soul and that of all his ancestors and successors, granted to God and the monastery of Furness all his lands in Elliscales acquired by gift from his mother,

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who had received it from William, son of Roger, son of William. *Furness Coucher*, folio 174; also *Dodsworth's MSS.*, p. 174.

At this time there was living one ADAM DE BARDESEY, who in the beginning of the fourteenth century left issue (a) Hugh, of whom presently; (b) Adam. The *Lancashire Final Concords* for 14 Edward II. (29th May, 1321) give a suit between John de Horneby and Adam de Bardesey and Christiana his wife, deforciant of a messuage and 14 acres of land in Hornby. Adam and Christiana acknowledge the said tenements to be the right of John de Horneby, to have and to hold to him and his heirs, for the which John gave them £20. And when, on the 29th of January, 1337, Sir John Harrington rendered homage and fealty to the abbot, John Cockerham, for half the manor of Ulverston and other lands held by him of the convent, Adam is mentioned amongst those who were present. *Furness Coucher*, folio 192^b, col. 2. He was also a witness to the charter of Ingelram de Ghuynes to the burgesses of Ulverston.

HUGH was a minor at the time of his father's death, and we find a grant, in the year 1302, by the abbey of Furness to Adam, the son of John de Urswick, of the wardship of Hugh fitz Adam de Bardesey, together with the lands and houses in Bardsea, for which the said Adam received 20s. To be held until the said Hugh attained the full age, at which time the said Adam was to restore all the said premises together with the body of Hugh. *Furness Coucher*, folio 175.

Here the genealogical thread is broken, and until further evidences are forthcoming I can only mention each scion of the house in chronological order.

RICHARD DE BARDESEY of Halton is mentioned in the *Exchequer Lay Subsidy Roll of Lancaster* for the year 1332.

In the *Lancashire Final Concords* for 22 Edward III. (27th October, 1348) there is a suit between WILLIAM DE BARDESEY and ADAM DE BARDESEY and Isabella his wife,

deforciantes of 20 messuages, 2 carucates of land, 10 acres of meadow, 10 acres of wood, 40 acres of pasture, and a moiety of a mill in Bardsea, Ulverston, and Broughton. Adam acknowledged the tenements to be the right of William, for which William granted them to Adam and Isabella for their lives, rendering by the year a rose at the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. After the decease of Adam and Isabella the said tenements were to revert to William and his heirs. JOHN DE BARDESEY put in his claim.

Among the pleas at Lancaster on Monday in the fourth week of Lent, in the sixth year of the regality of the Duke of Lancaster (17th March, 1381-2), we find that THOMAS DE BARDESEY was summoned to answer the abbot of Furness concerning the restoration of the custody of certain lands at Ulverston which appertained to the said abbot, in that William de Pennington, deceased, held the said lands of him by knight's service and by reason of the minority of Alan, the son and heir of the said William. Thomas replied that William de Pennington long before his death enfeoffed him, Michael de Harington, and John de Bretby of the said lands, and he produced a charter to this effect dated at Pennington on the feast of St. Michael, 42 Edward III. (29th September, 1368). *Furness Coucher*, folio 199^b. Then follows another charter dated at Millum, 20th May, 20 Richard II. (1397), in which Thomas grants to Elizabeth, the widow of William de Pennington, for her life, the manors of Pennington and Mulcaster, together with lands, &c., in Langler, Meols, and Gosford, which he held of the gift and feoffment of the said William, with remainder in tail to Alan de Pennington and his heirs lawfully begotten. *Furness Coucher*, folio 200. In the same month Thomas made a further grant to Alan and his wife Katherine of the manor of Langdan, with remainder in tail to his heirs if begotten lawfully. *Furness Coucher*, folio 200^b. Two years later Thomas makes another grant to Sir Alan of lands and tenements in

Borowdale, viz.:—Gaytschale and the Blakehall in the county of Cumberland. Dated at Borowdale Milnegrune, on the feast of St. Gregory Pope, 22 Richard II. (12th March, 1398-9). *Duchy of Lancaster Charters*, Box B, No. 167.

The second of these grants was witnessed by a WILLIAM DE BARDESEY, who was also present when, on the 25th of January, 1404, Sir Thomas le Fleming did homage to Abbot Bolton for his manor of Coniston. Among the Lancashire Fines for 1410 and 1411 this William paid fines for writs, and in the year 1430 there was another fine paid by the executors of William de Bardesey.

In a Return to a royal brief from Henry V. to the abbey of Furness, given at Lancaster on the 20th day of October, in the ninth year of his reign (1422), mention is made of a CHRISTOPHER and EDWARD BARDESEY as occupying lands at Bardsea. Probably these were the sons of William. Again, among the *Lancashire Final Concords* for 26th March, 1432, there is a suit between Christopher Bardesey and John Urswick, plaintiffs, and John Broghton, Esq., and Margaret his wife, deforciant of the manor of Bolton in Furness.

Two generations pass over till we come to another CHRISTOPHER, against whom the abbot of Furness made a claim for arrears of tithes, &c., at Bardsea. In the *Duchy of Lancaster Pleadings* for 9 Henry VIII. (1518) and for 13 Henry VIII. (1521), it is stated that Alexander, the abbot, trusting to the benevolence of Christopher and considering that he was a "gentleman born" and a near neighbour, devised to him about ten years before the Tithe Barn of Bardsea, with all manner of tithes of corn pertaining to the same, for the term of his life, he paying yearly for the same £4 sterling. Also at divers times the said abbot lent to Christopher, in his necessity, certain sums of money amounting to £20, for the payment whereof Christopher was bound in a "statut marchaunt." Afterwards, when the said abbot was in trouble and absent

from his monastery, Christopher "imbesselyd" the said statute. Instead of being benevolent, defendant had been most "cruell, unkynde, and maliciouse," and he had been put to "sumptuose expences and chardges." The said abbot had sent his monks to re-enter the tithe barn and to bring the grains to the monastery, but as they were in the fields gathering the same, the said Christopher had caused William Bardesey, son and heir of George Bardesey, with some 30 others to take with force and arms Edmond Curwen, plaintiff's assistant, and to beat him and imprison him in his house. The said monks were so frightened that they returned to the monastery without horse or tithes. The said Christopher is under-steward of "myche" lands in Furness under the Earl of Derby, who is so powerful in the said county that plaintiff dare not bring a suit against him, Christopher. On the other hand, the poor abbot and monks were indicted at Lancaster before Sir Humphrey Conynsby, Kt., for their riotous behaviour, and were not acquitted.

In the *Duchy of Lancaster Pleadings* for 16 Henry VIII. (1524) there is another suit in which Richard Kirkby complains that he having several actions-at-law against Anne Kirkby, widow, for the manor of Kirkby Hall and Kirkby Ireleth, and being on Sunday next before Christmas last, one Rowland Thornborough, William Lancaster, William Kirkby, and Christopher Bardesey, with 20 or more riotous persons, about eleven o'clock in the morning at the parish church, the priest being "reversed at messe" there, in manner of war arrayed, at the command of the said Anne Kirkby grievously assaulted plaintiff, intending shamefully, without pity or mercy, to murder him, if God and good people had not well provided for him, so much so, that the priest, fearing a murder would there take place, did "unrevesse" himself and would not say mass.

WILLIAM BARDESEY, son and heir of Christopher, witnessed in the first suit that he had met the abbot coming from the "higstable" towards the church, and that he

had tendered 66s. 8d. in ready money as part payment. In the 1538, he was also a witness in the suit between Sir Robert Nevil and Sir John Nevil *versus* Thomas Lord Monteagle, farmer of the monastery of Conishead, *re* a claim to Swathmoor lands. Two years later (1540) he was one of the appointed commissioners to examine the reason for the destruction of the parish church of Ulverston, at the time when the parishioners prayed the King to grant timber from Cartmel to rebuild the church destroyed by the "hold stepill standyng in the middle thereof, which was false in the foundation, unknown to anybody, which suddenly fell down carrying with it the whole church."

In the *Duchy of Lancaster Pleadings* for 24 Henry VIII. (1532), we find that one ANTHONY BARDESEY, with Christopher Curwen and others, complain that they were seised of 20 messuages, 200 acres of land, 200 acres of pasture, 100 acres of meadow, and 100 acres of wood, with appurtenances in the parishes of "Kyrkebye and Wolverston" (Kirkby-Ireleth and Ulverston) in their demesne as of fee, and have been peaceably seised thereof for nine years and more, until the 24th day of December, 23 Henry VIII. (1531), when they were disseised thereof by Richard Kirkby and twenty other riotous persons, arrayed in manner of war, who still keep their forcible entry and possession, &c.

In the Ulverston Parish Registers, we find a JENET BARDESEY married, the third Sunday in August, 1552, to one Richard Lindoe.

The male line terminated with one NICHOLAS BARDESEY, whose name was included among the first governors of the Free Grammar School at Urswick, founded in 1585. He married Anne, daughter of William Banister of Hesington in Bolland, by his wife Anne, the eldest daughter of Thomas Preston of Preston Patrick and Levens. He died in the year 1586, leaving two daughters, of whom Dorothy, the elder, married James Anderton of

Clayton-le-woods, and Elizabeth, the younger, married Lancelot Salkeld of Whitehall in Cumberland. Nicholas' will is dated June 30th, 1586, and was proved at Richmond the same year. In it he devises his body to be "buried in my parishe church of Uriswicke nighe to the place where the bodye of Anne Bardesey my wief was laid. Also I will that my sonne in layes James Anderton and Lancelotte Salkeld, which tow I make my executors of this my last will and testament, do, after my debts payed, take and have for their wyffes and themselves either of them a full childs porcon of my goods accordinge as I have by indenture covenanted unto them; that done, I will and bequeathe all the resydue of my good and cattles as well reals as personals amongst all my daughters children," &c., with certain references to his kinsman Richard Bardesey.

About the year 1720, Mary Anderton, to whom Bardsea Hall had descended, sold it to Lord Molyneux for a hunting seat. A few years later it was again sold to Christopher Wilson, who married Margaret, the daughter of John Braddyll of Conishead Priory, and died in 1773. Sarah, his only daughter, married John Gale of Highhead, and he died in 1814. Their eldest son, Wilson Gale, took the name and arms of Braddyll and inherited Conishead Priory; their youngest son, Henry Richmond Gale, retained Bardsea Hall, and from him the present owner is descended.