

ART. VI.—*The Manor of Ainstable*. By T. H. B. GRAHAM, M.A.

*Communicated at Carlisle, August 19th, 1919.*

THE manor of Ainstable, formerly Ainstapillith, included Nunnery (of which an account is given in these *Transactions*, N.S. xvii., p. 1), the vill of Ruckcroft and the hamlet of Dale. A map showing its extent will be found in these *Transactions*, N.S. xiii., p. 31. No mention of Ainstable occurs in the Pipe Rolls, beyond the bare facts that, in 1178, Oulf de Ainstable paid an amercement and, in 1211, Osbert de Ruckcroft owed a mark. As the story proceeds Ainstable appears as a mesne manor divided into one-quarter shares and holden of the de Nevills. The bishops' registers do not record any presentation or institution to the living, because the church was early appropriated to the Nunnery, and it is probable that the nuns' chaplain, for the time being, acted as parish minister. The de Thursbys were connected with the manor. In 1211-12, Juliana, widow of Adam de Ireby, claimed dower in Ainstable and Blencarn from William de Thursby (*F.F.*,\* no. 26); and, in 1226-7, Bernard de Thursby came to an agreement with Ivo de Vipont and Sibyl his wife concerning land at the same places (*F.F.*, no. 32).

Henry de Terriby, in 1230-1, gave to Wetheral Priory 7 acres at Ainstable, including land at Hallbank and his assart, nominally half an acre, which lay in front of the gate of the "nuns of Armathwaite." One of the witnesses was Michael del Dale, a landowner at Ainstable, whose daughters, Eda and Elena, made grants of 5 acres

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\* Cal. Feet of Fines, these *Transactions*, N.S. vii., p. 215.

to Lanercost Priory (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 272). In 1231-5, Simon, chaplain of Wetheral, quit-claimed to the monks of Wetheral all the land which he held of them in the vill of Ainstable and Ruckcroft (*ibid.*, p. 263).

Shortly after 1236, Michael de Ainstable granted to Wetheral Priory 9 acres and adjoining moor (*ibid.*, p. 266). About 1241, Michael, son of David de Ainstable, in the presence of Robert de Hornby, gave it half an acre at Ruckcroft, in the fee of Ainstable (*ibid.*, p. 267); and 3 acres more in the territory of Ainstable (p. 269). At the same period, John Musey and Matilda, his wife, gave to Wetheral Priory 7 acres and adjoining moor at Ainstable. Their gift was attested by Odard the clerk (p. 270) and confirmed by the said Henry de Terriby (p. 273). A little later, William de Terriby conveyed to the same priory some little plots of land at Alder-ruckcroft and elsewhere in Ainstable (p. 274).

About the middle of the century, Alice, daughter of David de Terriby, a widow, quit-claimed to Wetheral Priory 2 acres in the field of Ainstable adjoining the sheep-fold of the nuns of Armathwaite (p. 275); and, about the same time, William the chaplain, rector of the Hospital of St. Nicholas of Carlisle, and the brethren and sisters of the same place, demised to Alice, daughter of Richard Sagittarius (Archer), of Gersinton, and her assigns, all the land in the fee of Ainstable, which Michael, son of David de Valle (del Dale), John Musey, William, son of Thomas de Ainstable and Cecilia, daughter of David de Ainstable had given to that house, at the yearly rent of sixpence (p. 276).

On February 10th, 1271, Adam Skirelock, of Ainstable, a crusader going beyond seas, in aid of the Holy Land, was granted special protection and protection with the clause *volumus*, for four years (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 55 Henry III., p. 588).

In 1276-7, William, son of Guido de Boyvill, levied a

fine *versus* Robert de Susanemargh, of Ainstable, and Edesa, his wife, respecting some land at Ainstable, to which Gilbert, son of Robert de Askeby, put in a claim (*F.F.*, no. 118). Guido de Boyvill is said to have married the heiress of the de Thursbys (Denton, *Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 57).

William de Boyvill died in 1305, seised of the manor of Ainstable, held of Richard de Nevill, for the rent of four pence. His son, John, inherited Ainstable, subject to the estate for life in dower of his mother, Joan (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 33 Edward I., p. 183).

By charter, dated June 17th, 1310, William de Ainstable quit-claimed to his mother, Isabella, in fee simple, all his lands in the field and territory of Ainstable. Henry, vicar of Ainstable, was one of the witnesses (these *Transactions*, N.S. vi., p. 284). The said John de Boyvill, mesne lord of Ainstable, died in 1319, leaving a widow and doweress Agnes, who married, secondly, Sir Richard Denton, and a brother, Edmund de Boyvill, who succeeded to the inheritance (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 13 Edward II., p. 131).

About 1322, Andrew de Harcla, the rebel, purchased all Edmund de Boyvill's interest in Ainstable, and also acquired a quarter of the manor, which belonged to Robert de Askeby (*F.F.*, no. 198).

By deed, executed in London, May 8th, 1324, and enrolled, Matthew, son of Richard de Whitefield, conveyed to Robert de Tymparon, clerk, all his land in Ainstable and the manor of Terriby, which Richard, father of the donor, then held by the courtesy of England of the donor's inheritance. Sir Richard de Denton and Robert Parvyng were witnesses (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 17 Edward II., p. 193).

The two following records require careful study:—Letters Patent of Edward III., dated June 2nd, 1335, recite that Edward II. had already granted to Sir Richard

de Denton, in fee simple (1) the land acquired by Andrew de Harcla from Edmund de Boyvill, which had escheated for rebellion ; (2) the land which Sir Richard and Agnes, his wife, held in dower of the lands of John de Boyvill (sometime husband of Agnes), of the inheritance of the said Edmund and which would, by pretext of Edmund's grant to Andrew, revert to the king at her death ; and (3) land held for life by Joan, widow of William de Boyvill, which, for the like reason, would revert to the king at her death, all such lands to remain to Sir Richard de Denton and his heirs, the excess over £50 a year to be paid to the exchequer; and the said letters thereby direct that Sir Richard shall have the knights' fees and the services of free tenants of the premises ; and also (4) the land in Ainstable and Thursby which escheated to the king by the adherence of William le Blount to the Scots in rebellion (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 9 Edward III., p. 111). And, on June 28th following, the escheator was ordered to restore to Margaret, widow of Robert de Askeby, four acres in Ainstable and the lordship of one quarter of the vill of Ainstable. The escheator took the premises into the king's hand, because Robert and Margaret had acquired the same, without licence, from Gilbert de Askeby, tenant in tail. Margaret alleged that the premises were held, not in chief, but, of Sir Richard de Denton. A further inquisition revealed the fact that they were held of John de Nevill of Hornby, by service of one penny (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 9 Edward III., p. 406).

Hornby, Lancashire, belonged, in the 13th century, to Roger de Montbegun, descendant of Adam *fitz* Swane. Mention of it here gives colour to John Denton's theory that Ainstable formed a limb of Adam *fitz* Swane's seigniory. On March 13th, 1337, there was a grant to Hugh de Moresby and his heirs of free warren in his demesnes of Ainstable and Askeby, Westmorland (*Cal.*

*Charter Rolls*, 11 Edward III., p. 389), and the fact seems to imply that Hugh had acquired the one-quarter share of Ainstable which had belonged to the de Askebys. In 1343-4, Sir Richard de Denton conveyed to John de Denton his manor of Ainstable, which Joan, widow of William de Boyvill, still held for life as dower (*F.F.*, no. 247).

In 1344-5, the said Matthew de Whitefield and Agnes, his wife, levied a fine *versus* Robert de Tymparon, clerk, in respect of their one-quarter of the manor of Ainstable and their manor of Terriby (*F.F.*, no. 252). Hamelton, in Ainstable, called "le Dale," was destroyed by the Scots, after Michaelmas, 1345 (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 20 Edward III., p. 30).

William, son of Christiana de Ainstable, by his will, proved February 4th, 1358-9, bequeathed his body to be buried in the burial-ground of the church of St. Michael of Ainstable; desired that 2s. should be given to chaplains to celebrate for his soul; and gave the residue to Isabella, his wife, and his boys. The executors were his wife and Thomas, son of Robert de Ainstable (*Test. Karl.*, p. 24).

Ivo, vicar of Ainstable, is mentioned in 1377 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 51 Edward III., p. 443). John, vicar of Ainstable, made a will in September, 1380 (*Test. Karl.*, p. 142).

The history of the de Dentons' share of the mesne manor is contained in these *Transactions*, N.S. xvi., p. 54. During the wars of the roses, John de Denton forfeited it. Henry VI. gave it to Thomas, Lord Dacre of Gilsland, and Humphrey, Lord Dacre, was in possession of it at his death in 1485 (Denton, *Accompt.*, p. 119); when it is described as follows:—

Manor of Ainstable and a tenement there called "Bromehous." There are within the same a capital messuage; 40 acres in demesne; a close called "le parke"; rents; 8 cottages; 20 autumn works in reaping

corn, price one penny each, to be paid on St. Cuthbert's Day in autumn (September 4th); a water corn-mill; a several fishery, worth 6d., in the water of Eden; and a court worth nothing above the expenses of the steward. And the said manor is held of Thomas Harrington, knight, service unknown (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 1 Henry VII., p. 67).

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