

ART. XII.—*Notes on the Manor of Drigg.* By MARY C. FAIR.

Read at Lancaster, September 14th, 1949.

THE history of the Manor of Drigg is confused and bewildering, and there are serious errors in the accounts given by the county histories. The evidence is still not complete and there remains much to seek, but it seems advisable to place on record such materials as have been gathered, as the basis for a coherent account of the manor.

Early in the twelfth century, when William le Meschin, lord of Skipton and numerous other estates in Yorkshire, was granted the barony of Coupland (Egremont) by Henry I, the "lordship of the land of Carlisle" was granted by that monarch to William's brother Ranulf le Meschin. The latter lordship included the barony of Lydel, granted to Turgis Brundas, the ancestor of the de Stuteville family which played a considerable part in the history of Drigg: the earliest record of their association with the manor is a grant of land in Drigg, by Nicholas de Stuteville, previous to 1184.¹ Later, the marriage of Helewise de Stuteville with William, son of Ranulf de Greystoke, carried the Drigg manor to the latter family; and Anselm le Fleming of Furness, by his marriage with Agnes de Greystoke, acquired a moiety of Drigg, evidently including the advowson of the chapel of St. Peter at Drigg, which he expropriated to the priory of Conishead in Furness²: but there is no evidence to show that he was the actual founder of the chapel.

Two charters from the Rydal Hall documents, already published in these *Transactions*,³ establish Anselm's

¹ *Register of St. Bees*, pp. 456-457.

² *Op. cit.*, p. 461 note.

³ CW2 xliv 37.

marriage with Agnes de Greystoke and define the position of Yanwath in relation to Drigg:—

(a) *Circa* 1150-1160: Walter son of Ivo de Greystoke confirmed to Alice his sister, on her marriage to Edgar son of Earl Gospatrick, Euenwit (Yanwath) and other fiefs which do not concern Drigg.

(b) *C.* 1180: Edgar of Dunbar and his wife Alice, daughter of Ivo de Greystoke, settled upon Agnes, their daughter, in free marriage with Anselm son of Michael de Furness, half their land of Euenwit (Yanwath).

Anselm and Agnes had four daughters, heiresses; one of them, Isobel, married Thomas son of John, and Anselm granted land in Drigg to him, probably as a marriage dower.⁴ The Register of St. Bees records other grants of land in Drigg made by Anselm, but they need not be quoted here.

Nicholas de Stuteville, too, granted land in Drigg,⁵ and two St. Bees charters⁶ record that Robert de Yanwath owned land in Drigg—a fact which has an important bearing on the problems of the manor; the charters also tell us that the abbot of Calder owned land in Drigg, near to that of Robert de Yanwath: but it is not known who granted that land to the abbey. The temporalities of the monks of Calder in the vill of Drege in 1535 amounted to £3. 13s. 4d.⁷

The Muncaster papers include a thirteenth-century charter which records another gift by Nicholas de Stuteville⁸:—

Grant by Matilda daughter of Alan, widow, by consent of her son Patric, to Robert her younger son, of lands in Dregge which her father had by gift of Nicholas de Stuteville. Witnesses: Richard le Fleming knight, Richard de Gedenay bailiff of Egrement, William de Ponsonby, John de Ponsonby and others.

⁴ *Reg. St. Bees*, p. 538.

⁵ *Op. cit.*, p. 456.

⁶ *Op. cit.*, pp. 458-459, nos. 462 and 463.

⁷ Dugdale, *Monasticon* v 341.

⁸ Hist. Records Commission, p. 224, xix, 1.

A Final Concord of 1234 records that Matthew de Redman (of Levens) received the manor of Carleton and Dreg on his marriage with Amabel, who is held to have been the daughter of William de Stuteville. This Drigg property was granted by Matthew to Furness abbey, but it does not seem to have been a permanent alienation, for there is no further record of that abbey owning land in Drigg. Matthew died *c.* 1250.

Nicholas de Stuteville died in 1233, and his daughter and heiress, Joan, married Hugh Wake (ob. 1241), and their son Baldwin died in 1281: endorsed upon his Inquisition Post Mortem is the note:—

William son of Thomas de Craystok holds half a Knight's Fee in Dreg in Coupland. The Lady of Aldingham in Furneys holds half a fee in Dreg.

The Lady of Aldingham was the heiress of the family of le Fleming of Furness, who married Richard de Cancefield; she was a widow in 1282. Her daughter and heiress, Agnes, married Robert de Harrington, and her dower was presumably a moiety of the manor of Drigg. The Harringtons were known as lords of Aldingham, with their *caput* at Gleaston.⁹

An Extent of 29 Edward I, i.e. 1301, states that the abbot of Calder, Patric Curwen and the lady Margaret Multon held Dregg of John de Greystoke and of John son of Robert Harrington, and they over John Wake. The position of Patric de Curwen in regard to Drigg has caused serious confusion to historians, who have stated that the manor of Drigg and Carleton was acquired, in the reign of James I, by Sir William Penington of Muncaster from Nicholas Curwen: this is clearly erroneous, for Sir William Penington died in 1573, and Sir Nicholas Curwen did not in any case own Drigg and Carleton, which then belonged to the Eglesfields of Alneburg (now Maryport)—witness the following Final Concord of 3 Elizabeth, i.e. 1561:—

⁹ For the family of Harrington cf. *Furness Coucher Book* i 482-483.

William Penington Armiger and George Porter gent. pl. versus John Eglysfeld Armiger def. Manor of Drege and Carleton, 58 messuages and land 10/- rent in Drege and Carleton, as well as free fishing in water of Erte and Mite. £230.

George Porter appears to have acted as business agent for Sir William Penington, who granted him the estate in Miterdale, Eskdale, of Lowholme (now owned by Lord Rea of Eskdale).

The position of the Patric Curwen of the early fourteenth century was only a life interest, probably acquired through marriage, his wife being either an Eglesfield or a Twynam; the evidence of two Final Concords is clear:—

11 Edward II, i.e. 1318: Patric son of Gilbert de Wirkington held Dregge for life, with reversion to Walter de Twynam and his heirs, and then to remain to Adam de Eglesfield and his heirs.

17 Edward II, 1324: Adam de Eglesfield versus Walter de Twynam. The manor of Dregge, which Patric de Culwen and Alma his wife held for life.

The de Twynam interest in the manor of Drigg originated with the marriage of Walter de Twynam and Isobel, daughter of Robert de Yanwath, in 1286¹⁰:—

Robert de Yanwath grants to Walter de Twynam and Isobel his daughter and Adam their heir and the heirs of Adam his whole possession in Yanwath, they doing customary service to the barony of Dufton (Greystoke).

Walter de Twynam died *c.* 1300, his son Adam (whose wife was Agnes) died in 1306/7; their son, another Walter, was living in 1318. The family of de Twynam also had an interest in Brigham through Robert de Yanwath and Alice his wife, whose daughter Isobel had married Walter de Twynam.¹¹

After the death of Sir William Penington in 1573, his son Joseph was a minor and Dame Bridget, his widow

¹⁰ CW2 xxiii 158.

¹¹ Final Concords 40 Henry III, 8 Edward I, 13 Edward II.

(who had been the widow of Sir Hugh Askew of Seaton, Bootle), is recorded in the Survey of 1578 as being active at Drigg:—

“Certain improvements at Drigg made and suffered by Bridget Lady Askugh, late wife of — Penington of Mulcastre Esquire deceased and now by her detained from the said Earl (*sc.* of Northumberland), which said improvements are at the taking of this survey in question, and in the occupation of these persons following, (*Viz.*)

Bridget Lady Askugh holdeth there a barn called a Tithe Barn & one improvement adjoin: cont: sac: and rent per an. 6d.

Note. There hath been paid for ye said barn pr. an. 2d.

The New Miln. Bridget Lady Askugh holdeth there a Miln lately erected upon the Water of Irte called ye new miln and rent pr. an. 10s. od.

There is also certain rokes in the sea near Drigg whereon ye said earle his tenants have always been accustomed to gather Tangle (*i.e.* seaweed), which is now of late used by ye said Lady as her own, disposing the said Tangle at her pleasure.”

In another place, in this Survey of 1578, is the following entry:—

“Freeholders. Item Jos. Penington holdeth certain lands and tenements in Dregg late Rich. Eglefield's before that Thos. Wake by the service aforesaid and by the rent for cornage 6s. 8d., for Seawake 1s. and for Serjeant's Food 4s. wholly belonging to the Lord pro partia Dm. de Lucy.”

I have not been able to discover to whom the advowson of Drigg was granted at the Dissolution, but it was in the possession of the family of Penington of Muncaster till sold to Samuel Irton Esq., of Irton Hall; it was later acquired by Mr Burns-Lindow when he purchased the Irton Hall estate.

I acknowledge with grateful thanks much help, in obtaining the widely scattered information here collected into a single brief paper, from Mr Thomas Gray, the Rev. C. M. Lowther Bouch and the Rev. W. S. Sykes.