

Extracts from Dalby's Feodary, 1451.

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HERE is a manuscript in the Duke of Norfolk's office in Sheffield which purports to be an abstract (*extractum*) of the fees, or estates in fee simple, of John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, made by Richard Dalby, his "fedary,"¹ in 1451. The Derbyshire part of the manuscript is here printed.

All the lands included in the feodary seem to have been held of the Earl, not merely in fee simple, but on a military tenure. They are sometimes called "hastler lands"—the word "hastler" being derived from the Latin *hastula*, a spear or javelin.

Eyam, written Eym in our document, is found as Eyum in the Hundred Rolls and in many old deeds. It means, as I have had occasion to say elsewhere, "islands," and is the dative plural of M. E. "ey," place-names being often, as is now well known, in the dative. Originally the preposition "æt," governing the dative, was prefixed, but it was dropped at an early time. The singular occurs in Alben-ey, now Abney.

At Abney there was only one of these "eys"; at Eyam there were many.

If we could be sure what the "eys" exactly were, we should have discovered something of much historical value. They were not pieces of land surrounded by water; that is quite obvious to anybody possessing the least acquaintance with the places in question. They seem to have been lands which

¹ An old account, dated 1590, relating to Pontefract, and belonging to the Duke of Norfolk, mentions "Mr. Bland, the Fedarye." Cp. "the feman's chamber."—*Richmond Wills* (Surtees Soc.), p. 209.

differed in tenure from land with which they were intermixed. Was this intermixture, this difference in tenure, the result of conquest?

It will be noticed that three of the tenants are called Eyer, or Eyere, this being the surname now usually written Eyre. It may be that the "eyer" was a man who possessed an "ey," and was therefore a freeholder or military tenant. If so, it is the English equivalent of Franklin, which is an old French name for freeholder.

Meyrill, or Mayrill, is a shortened form of Meverell; in Sheffield it has been still further shortened into Merrill.

DARBY.

EXTRACTUM FEODARII Domini Johannis Comitis Salop' per Ricardum Dalby, feodarium suum, factum iijio die mensis Marcii anno regni regis Henrici vjti post conquestum Anglie xxxmo.

GALFRIDUS DE POYNTON, GREVE DE MANERIO DE EYM.

De Roberto Stafford, armigero, pro certis terris et tenementis, pro duobus rationalibus auxiliis, videlicet pro uno rationabili auxilio ad primogenitum filium militem faciendum dicto Comite, viijs.

De eodem Roberto pro consimili causa ad primogenitam filiam maritandam dicto Comite, viijs.

De Ricardo Bawkewell pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, ijs.

De Alicia Milne pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, xvjd.

De Thoma Cobin pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, xvjd.

De Rogero Padley pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, iijs.

De Johanne Lyum [Leam] pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, iiijd.

De Johanne Meyrill pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, ijs.

De Thoma Meyrill pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, ijs.

De Willelmo Mylne pro certis terris et tenementis, xijd.

De Margareta uxore Johannis Stafford pro certis terris et tenementis in Mydleton, pro eodem, vjs.

De Nicholao Marten pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, xijd.

De Willelmo Olley pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, xijd.

De Roberto Eyer pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, iiijs.

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FOWLOWE.

De Johanne Mayrell, juniore, pro certis terris et tenementis, pro ij auxiliis, vjd.

De Ricardo Stadon pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, xijd.

De Margareta Hill pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, xijd.

De Elio (*sic*) Foulow pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, ijs.

De Roberto Hall pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, ijs.

De Johanne Troute pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, ijs.

De Roberto Eyere pro certis terris et tenementis, pro eodem, xijd.

ALBENEY.

De Willelmo Wylde pro certis terris et tenementis, pro duobus auxiliis, ijs.

NETHER PADLEY.

De Roberto Eyer, armigero, pro certis terris et tenementis in Nether Padley, tentis per seruicium xlm (*sic*) partis unius feodi militis, pro ij recionalibus auxiliis, xijd.

BAMFORD.

De Johanne Fox pro iij bouatis terre, pro ij racionalibus auxiliis, iiijs.

De Agnete uxore Johannis Foxe, pro certis terris, et ij bouatis terre, pro duobus racionalibus auxiliis, ijs.

De Johanne Skinner pro dimidia bouata terre, pro eodem, xijd.

De Willelmo Skinner pro dimidia bouata terre, pro eodem, xijd.

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MIDDLETON.

De Roberto Gregory pro ij bouatis terre et dimidia, pro ij racionalibus auxiliis, iiijs.

De eodem Roberto pro dimidia bouata terre, pro eodem, ijs.

Summa totalis, iijli. xvs. ijd.