

XXVII.—*PROOFS OF AGE of Heirs to Estates in Northumberland in the Reigns of Edward III. and Richard II. : Transmitted by the REV. C. H. HARTSHORNE, to JOHN HODGSON HINDE, Esq., and by him communicated to JOHN ADAMSON, Esq., Senior Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.*

*Acton House, Dec. 30th, 1853.*

MY DEAR SIR,

THE enclosed abstracts of the "Proofs of Age," found amongst the unarranged records at the Tower, so far as they relate to the heirs to estates in Northumberland, were made by Mr. Sharpe, of the Public Record Office, and presented by him to my friend Mr. Hartshorne, who sent them here for my perusal. Considering that they would furnish interesting matter for the Transactions of the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, I obtained Mr. Hartshorne's permission to communicate them to you as the Secretary of the Society.

No portions of these Records have, I believe, ever been published ; but a calendar of them during the reign of Edward III., will be found in the Appendices to the third and fourth Reports of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records. These calendars contain the date of the inquisition, the name and parentage of the heir, the nature of his relationship to his predecessor, and the time and place of birth and baptism. Besides these particulars, the abstracts furnish, incidentally much curious information, some of the reasons given by the witnesses for remembering the day of a birth or a baptism being quaintly illustrative of the manners of the period. On comparing the abstracts with the calendar, I find the former complete, with the exception of the first entry, which I have supplied from the calendar.

I am, my Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

JOHN HODGSON HINDE.

JOHN ADAMSON, ESQ.

*Secretary, Society of Antiquaries,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.*

## PROOFS OF AGE :—NORTHUMBERLAND.

*Inquisition, 21 Edward III.*—Proof of age of Robert, son and heir of William de Clavinger, taken on the 21st of Edward III.—Witnesses depose that the said Robert was born and baptized at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on the morrow of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin (Feb. 3), 21 years ago.

*Inquisition, 40 Edward III.*—Proof of age of Henry, son and heir of William de la Vale, deceased, taken at Morpeth.—Robert de Louthre and John de Walington depose that the said Henry was born at Seton de la Vale on Monday after the Epiphany, 17 Edw. III., and baptized in the church there ; and they recollect it because they hunted with William the father on the day on which the said Henry was baptized. John de Wodeburn and Gilbert Vaus recollect the day because they heard the said Henry cry while he was being carried to the church. William de Hidewyn and John Loweson, because they were at Seton de la Vale to speak with Robert de la Vale, the grandfather of the said Henry, on some business, on the day on which the said Henry was born. William de Seaton and Nicholas de Hoghton, because they were in Seton church, and saw the said Henry baptized. Gilbert Loweson and Richard de Cramlington, because William Brown, the Chaplain, baptized the said Henry, and told them that he had baptized him in the said church. Robt. de Eland and John de Farnylowe, because on that day they paid their rent to Robt. de la Vale, grandfather of the said Henry, for 20 acres of land in Middleton.

*Inquisition, 41 Edward III.*—Proof of age of John, son and heir of John Musgrave and Margaret his wife, both deceased.—Edmund de Craucester deposes that the said John was born at Heton 14 Feb., 19 Edw. III, and baptized in the church of All Saints, Newcastle-upon-Tyne ; John Freemarays and John son of Robt. de Benton were his godfathers : he recollects the day, because he saw him baptized. John Comyn, because he saw him baptized. Henry de Haryngton, because his own son John was born in the same month. John de Killingworth, because he married Agnes his wife in the same month, &c., &c.

*Inquisition, 44 Edward III.*—Proof of age of Thomas, son and heir of John de Trewyck, deceased.—Robert de Louthre deposes that the said Thomas was born at Kyblysworth on Monday before the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, 22 Edw. III., and baptized in the parish church of Lamesley ; and he recollects the day because

he was god-father of the said Thomas. Gilbert Vaus, because he was in the said church hearing mass when the said Thomas was baptised. John de Walyngton, because on that day he dined with William de Kyblysworth, in whose house the said Thomas was born. Robert de Hydewyn, because he had a son baptized in the said church on the same day. William de Hydewyn, because he had a daughter baptized in the said church on the same day. Robert de Eland, because he met the said Thomas on the day of his baptism when he was being carried to the church. Thomas de Hydewyn, because on that day he had a son buried in the *garden* of the said church. Alexr. de Cressewell, because on that day he dined at Kyblysworth with Thomas de Scrutevyle. Adam de Seton, because on that day he married his wife in the same church. Richard Vaus, because on that day his father was buried in the cemetery of the said church. William de Felton, because on that day he had a son buried in the cemetery of the said church. Thomas Turpyn, because he was godfather of the said Thomas, and named him with his name.

*Inquisition, 45 Edward III.*—Proof of age of Walter, son and heir of Henry Tailboys, deceased, taken at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 45 Edw. III.—Robert de Louthre deposes that the said Walter was twenty-one years old on the Feast of the Purification last past; that he was born at Hephall, and baptized in the church of Routhbury; he recollected the day because he was a godfather. John de Walyngton, because he had a son baptized there the same day. John Lawson, because he had a son buried there the same day. William de Hydewyn, because he had a daughter baptized there the same day, &c., &c.

*Inquisition, 48 Edward III.*—Proof of age of Robert, son of Robt., son of Robert de Ogle, taken at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 48 Edw. III.—Geoffrey Faule deposes that he was born at Callerton on the Feast of the Conception of the Virgin, 27 Edw. III., and baptized in the parish church of Ponteland. He recollects the day because he was in the church when the said Robert was baptized, and buried William his brother. Robert de Eland, because in going towards Ponteland, he met Alice the wife of Robt. Short, godmother of the said Robert, carrying him from the church to Callerton. Thomas de Trewyk, because he had a son baptized in the same church on the same day. John de Brampton, Robert de Belingham, William de Hedwyn, and John de Ogle, because they were at Newcastle in the company of Robert, father of the child, when news was brought to him of the birth of his son, and he gave the messenger a horse for his labour. Adam de Seton, John de Prestwyk, and William de Fenrothir, because they began their pilgrimage to St. James' on that day, after high mass had been celebrated in the said church. Richard Ward, because he had a daughter Katherine baptized in the same church on the

same day. Thomas Ayre, because he was at Bothale with Robert Bertram, knt., his grandfather, when the said Robert was told of the birth of the said Robert, son of Robert, son of Robert de Ogle, and he gave the messenger one "husband" land in Staunton, to hold for his life.

*Inquisition, 49 Edward III.*—Proof of age of John, son and heir of Robert Maners, taken at Felton 49 Edw. III.—William de Rodom deposes that the said John was 21 years old on Friday the Vigil of St. Michael last. He was born at Etale, and baptized in the church of Forth [Ford], when Roger Heroun was rector; he recollects the day because he saw the said John baptized by John de Clyfford, chivaler, who was his godfather. Henry de Lilbourne, because he was in Forth church, and heard mass at the time that the said John was baptized by John de Clyfford, chivaler. Thomas de Witton, because he was at the burial of Robert Maners, father of the said John, at Forth, and heard people compute the age of the said John, and that he was a year and three weeks old on the day his father died. Robert de Croxton, because he took a parcel of land of Robert Maners, and was at Etale on the day, for the indentures. Richard de Kurslaw, because he was married on that day. Robert del Grove, because he was "de consilio" of the father, and present in the castle at the time of the birth of the said John. Robert de Lilburn, because he was servant to John de Clifford at the time, &c. &c.

*Inquisition, 5 Richard II.*—Proof of age of Mary, daughter and heir of John Orby, wife of John, son of Thomas de Roos de Hamlake, taken at Werkworth, 5 Ric. II.—Robert de Rede deposes that the said Mary was 14 years old on the day of St. Gregory last; he recollects the day, because he married Alice Bere on that day, and the marriage is entered in the missal in Werkworth Church. John Wardrobe, because he had a son born six days before the said Mary; and he saw the said Mary sucking her nurse. John Porter, because he had a son born five days after, and his birth is written in the portoforio [breviary] of Werkworth Church. Henry Roos, because he was present at the baptism, and held a lighted taper at the font. William de Werkworth, because on that day he was riding his bay horse towards Carlisle, and spurred him and he moved suddenly, and by his sudden motion the said William fell off his horse, and broke his left arm. Robert Johnson, because his sister died on that day, and her death is entered in the "Martilagio" of the Friars of Jarum. Adam Bikerman, because, a fortnight before the birth of the said Mary, a stable was blown down, and a rafter falling on his head, broke it almost to his brains, and a fortnight after that, going to Werkworth to the doctor there to cure his head, he saw the said Mary at the church door to be baptized. Thomas de —atton, because his brother Henry was on that day inducted and instituted by the bishop into the rectory of Werkworth,

*Inquisition, 16 Richard II.*—Proof of age of John, son and heir of Roger de Wyderington, taken at Morpeth, 16 Ric. II.—Deponents say that the said John was 21 years old on the Feast of the Purification last past. John de Lilburn recollects the day because he carried fire to Wyderington Church when the said John was baptized in it. Wm. de Swynburne, because he came from Roxburgh to Wyderington, and on the same day dined with Roger, father of the said John. Nicholas Raymes and John Heron, because they were godfathers. William de Lylburne, because he rode towards Wyderington, and broke his horse's leg. Simon de Weltten, because at that time he was dwelling with Roger, father of the said John, and carried an ewer and basin to Wyderington Church to wash the hands of the priest who baptised the said John. William de Schaftow, because he was living with Roger, the father of the said John, and was so rejoiced at the birth of the said John, that he got drunk on that day, and fell down in the hall at Wyderington and broke his leg. Thomas de Qwytle, because his daughter Margaret was buried on that day. John de Brampton, because he married Isabel his wife on that day. Gilbert de Babynton, because, on the following night, he was taken by the Scots, carried into Scotland and kept there six weeks. John Walshe, because Isabel his wife was godmother, and he rode with her to Wydryngton Church, in which the said John was baptized. Roger Usscher, because his brother Robert was drowned in the water called Lyne, and was buried in Wyderington Church on the day on which the said John was baptized.

*Inquisition, 12 Henry IV.*—Proof of age of Margaret, one of the daughters and heirs of Henry de Heton, knt., taken at Morpeth.—Witnesses depose that she was 36 years old on the Feast of St. Hilary past; she was born in Chevelingham Castle, and baptized in Chevelingham Church. John Whitfield recollects the day because he was in the church, and saw John Bolton, canon of Alnwick, godfather of the said Margaret. John Corbet, because on that day he met Margaret Fox and Margaret Seryfwyn, the godmothers, at the church. John Horsley, because on that day he was taken by the Scots. Wyland Maudit, because he was sent on that day by the father of the said Margaret to Newcastle to buy wine. William Cramlington, because on that day he sold a white horse to the father of the said Margaret at Chevelyngham. John Serjeant, because he married Alice de Wyndegales. William Cotys, because he slew a doe in the field of Chevelingham. John Wytton, because he took Thomas Turnebull, a Scot, and took him to Chevelingham Castle. John Belsise, because he rode to Alnwyk and carried a letter to the Earl of Northumberland. Nicolas Heron, because he was married on that day in the said church. Robert Horne, because he was taken against his will by Sir Thomas Gray, of Heton, and carried to Norham Castle.

*Inquisition, 13 Henry IV.*—Proof of age of William, son and heir of William de Carnaby, deceased, taken at Corbrigg.—Witnesses depose that the said William was 21 years old on the Thursday before Easter last ; that he was baptized in Halton Church. John de Hole recollects the day because he bought an horse of Wm., father of the said William, and saw him baptized in the church. John Eryngton, because he was in the church. Richard Crawcester, because he was in the church, and in riding home, his horse fell, and hurt him badly. Nicholas Turpyn, because he was in the church, and in going home met divers huntsmen chasing a fox out of his wood. John Strother, because on that day he was with his neighbours hunting a hare, and met the women carrying the said William to church to be baptized. Thos. Hasilrigg says the same. John Belasis says the same, and that among the said women was Catherine his niece, who told him that Isabel, mother of the said William, was in great danger of death. Nicholas Heron, because he met Thomas Ormesby, vicar of the church of Corbrigg, who told him that he had baptized the said William. William Car and William Lawson, because they were the godfathers. John Hoggesson, because in going home from Corbrigg, he met the said William being carried to Halton Church to be baptized. William Richardson, because going to Corbrigg to an arbitration between William Raa and Nicholas Skelby, he met William Car, who told him he was one of the godfathers.

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