

# VIII.—PROOFS OF AGE OF HEIRS TO ESTATES IN NORTHUMBERLAND IN THE REIGNS OF HENRY IV., HENRY V., AND HENRY VI.

By J. C. HODGSON, F.S.A.

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The fourth volume of the quarto series of the *Archaeologia Aeliana* contains abstracts from a very valuable and interesting class of documents known as Proofs of Age of Heirs to Estates. The series, as there set out, comprises abridged translations of such of these documents as relate to Northumberland during the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II., and of two others of the reign of Henry IV.<sup>1</sup> Those documents furnish the name and parentage of the heir, his relationship to his predecessor, the time of his birth and place of baptism, etc., and are, therefore, of the first importance for genealogical purposes. They incidentally cast side lights upon the ecclesiastical and civil customs of the period, and afford so much curious information that further abstracts have been procured so as to continue the series to the close of the reign of Henry VI. in 1461. In these Proofs of Age the events by which the jurors testify to the heir's age always took place on the day of birth or baptism, but, to economise space, this has not in every case been put into the abridgement. It will be noticed that in two of the inquisitions all the jurors, except one, are the same, although they were taken on different days.

*Inquisitio post mortem*, 2 Henry IV. No. 62.—Proof of age of Thomas Surteys, knight, son and heir of Alexander Surteys, deceased, who held of Richard II., taken at the king's castle of New-castle upon Tyne, 28 October, 3 Henry IV. [1401]. The jurors say that the said Thomas was aged twenty-one years on Monday, in the quinzaine of Easter last past [11 April, 1401]. John Corbet, aged 54 years, Adam de Seeton (53)<sup>2</sup>, William Holgreve (60), William Hydewyn (62), Robert de Hedle (49), and Robert de Belyngham (48), were all at Durham about an inquisition before the sheriff of Durham to enquire con-

<sup>1</sup> The Proof of Age of Margaret, daughter and co-heir of Sir Henry de Heton, 12 Henry IV. No. 47, and that of William de Carnaby, 13 Henry IV. No. 52, although printed in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, vol. iv. (quarto series), pp. 329-330, are reprinted in the present series in order to correct some inaccuracies and to furnish some additional details.

A Proof of Age of William Heron, knight, Newcastle, 9 Henry V. No. 70, is calendared as 'wanting.'

<sup>2</sup> The figures within brackets denote the age of the witness.

cerning the death of John Benkyn, of Gateshede, and there William Bowes, knight, came and told them how Alexander Surteys had a son born, and baptized in the church of Detynsale, and that Thomas Surteys was his godfather, and they, and many others, rejoiced thereat; and they know his age by the date of the said inquisition, which is in the keeping of William de Chester, coroner. William Benet (48), Robert Heburn (51), William de Wodeburn (43), John Prestewyk (47), John Bykerton (55), and John Yongur (45), say that Alice, wife of the said William Benet, was in the said Alexander's house at Detynsale when Thomas was born, and went to the church of Detynsale on Monday when he was baptized, and was his godmother: William Benet and John Pykdene took him to Sylton in Yorkshire to the keeping of a nurse there on the morrow of Holy Trinity, when he was six weeks old: John de Dalton, chaplain to the said Alexander, wrote his name and the day of his birth in a missal of the said church, and thus by the date of the writing they know his age, and also by an inquisition previously taken concerning the death of Alexander.<sup>3</sup>

*Ing. p. m.* 8 Henry IV. No. 80.—Proof of age of Nicholas Heron, son and heir of Thomas Heron, deceased, taken at the king's castle of New-castle upon Tyne, 4 March, 8 Henry IV. [1406/7]. The jurors say that the said Nicholas was born at Meldon and baptized in the church of the said vill, and was aged twenty-one years on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, last past [25 January, 1406/7.] Nicholas Turpyn, aged 42, heard mass in the said church, and waited long to hear it [by reason] of Nicholas's baptism, and the chaplain who celebrated mass would not suffer Nicholas's father to be present at the divine offices in the said church. John Watton (41): his mother lifted Nicholas from the font and was his godmother. Simon Weltden junior (38), hunted a hare, and met the said godmother returning from the church, who told him that she had lifted Nicholas from the font and had named him Nicholas. John de Lee (45): William his son was born. Thomas Schafthowe (35): John his brother was buried. John Wetewod (29) struck himself on (*cum*) his left hand with his own knife, for which cause he carried his hand in linen cloth for a year afterwards, round his neck. William Hydwyn (60), was betrothed to his first wife. John Cambowe (56): his elder brother died, after whose death ten marks of rent [descended] to him by right of inheritance. John Doune (38): a white canon of Blaunchelande, baptized Nicholas. Ely Rathbery (57): Nicholas Raymes, esquire, was [Nicholas's] godfather. Robert Hedlee: . . . . . [illegible] . . . . . Nicholas's godfather told him that he had lifted him from the font and had given to him 20s. Robert Pethe: . . . [illegible] . . his father came to the father of Nicholas . . . [illegible] . . . for his redemption, and Nicholas's father said he could not help him therein.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Sir Alexander Surtees of Dinsdale, knight, died about the month of September, 1380 (*Ing. p. m.* 4 Ric. II. No. 50), seised of North Gosforth and many other states. His son Thomas, born at Dinsdale on the 11 April, 1380, had livery of his lands on the 10 Oct., 1392, was high sheriff of Northumberland 10 Hen. V., and, dying at York 12 April, 1435, was buried there in the church of St. Nicholas in Walmgate.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Heron of Meldon (second son of Sir William Heron of Ford), dying about the year 1403 (*Ing. p. m.* 5 Hen. No. 3), was succeeded in Meldon, Whalton, Rivergreen, Fenrother, Tritlington, Denom, and other estates, by his son Nicholas Heron, who was born at Meldon on the 25th January, 1385/6

*Inq. p. m.* 8 Henry IV. No. 82.—Proof of age of Joan, wife of Robert de Rotherford, and Elizabeth, wife of William Johnson, sisters and heiresses of William, son and heir of Henry de Heton, knight, deceased, their said brother having died under age; taken at Alnewyk, 25 June, 8 Henry IV. [1407.] The jurors say that Joan is aged eighteen years and more, and was born in the manor of-Chevelynham, on the feast of St. Peter, which is called 'ad Vincula,' 13 Richard II. [1 August, 1389.], and baptized in the church of the same vill on the same day: and that Elizabeth is aged fifteen years and more, and was born in the said manor, 13 September, 15 Richard II. [1391], and baptized in the church of the same vill on the same day. John del Throp, aged 63, was sent to the abbot of Alnewyk on the day on which Joan was born, to ask him to be her godfather: on the day on which Elizabeth was born he was sent to the prior of Brenkeburn to ask him to be her godfather. Robert Burnegyll (60), carried a lighted torch to the church before Joan at the time of her baptism: he was sent to Lady de Horton when Elizabeth was born, to ask her to be her god-mother. William Wryht (62), was butler to the said Henry, and delivered bread and wine at the baptism of Joan and of Elizabeth. Thomas Spofford (65), at the time of Joan's birth, was sent to Berwick by Isobel her mother, to enquire for the said Henry: at the time of Elizabeth's birth, he was present in Chevelyngham. Robert Paxston (60), on the day on which Joan was born, took a husband-land of the said Henry, in the said vill: he saw Elizabeth wrapped in a red cloth on the day of her baptism. Henry Dunstan (60), had a daughter Katherine betrothed to William Morton at the time of Joan's baptism: he rode to New-castle upon Tyne, on the day on which Elizabeth was born, to buy three gallons of wine. Robert Soppath (62), was present in the church when Joan was baptized: he rode to Norham to Thomas Gray, on business of the said Henry de Heton, on the day on which Elizabeth was born. Henry Chester (60), underpinned anew a house in Chevelyngham on the day on which Joan was born: he was chamberlain to the said Henry on the day on which Elizabeth was born. Alan Hyndmars (65), was Joan's godfather at the time of her baptism: on the day on which Elizabeth was born he was with the said Henry at Berewyk. Roger Gibson (66), married Joan, daughter of John Holand, at Alnewyk, on the day on which Joan was baptized: he was Elizabeth's godfather on the day of her baptism. John Porter (64), married Isabel, daughter of Robert Wellys, at Emyldon on the day on which Joan was born: he sold a grey horse to the said Henry, for twenty marks, on the day on which Elizabeth was born. John Ryll (60), carried a bason and ewer to the church before Joan at the time of her baptism: he rode to Lady de Ogle on the day on which Elizabeth was born, to ask her to be her godmother.<sup>5</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 8 Henry IV. No. 86.—Proof of age of Henry de Lylburn, son and heir of John de Lylburn, knight, deceased, taken at Corbrygge, on Saturday,

<sup>5</sup> Sir Henry de Heton, knight, died about 1399-1400 (*Inq. p. m.* 1 Hen. IV. No. 4), leaving William de Heton, his son, and Joan, Elizabeth and Margaret, his daughters, seised of Chillingham castle, lands at Hethpool, Doxford, etc. William de Heton did not long survive his father, and dying *s.p.* (*Inq. p. m.* 5 Hen. IV. No. 18), his sisters Joan, wife of Robert de Rotherford, born 1 August, 1389; Elizabeth, wife of William Johnson, born 13 Sept., 1391; and Margaret, born 13 January, 1394/5, were his coheirs.

eve of the Ascension, 8 Henry IV. [4 May, 1407]. The jurors say that the said Henry is aged twenty-one years and more, and was born in the manor of Shawden on Friday, in the first week of Lent, 10 Richard II. [22nd February, 1386/7], and baptized in the church of Bolton on the same day. John Eryngton, aged 61, rode to Shawden with Henry Percy, late earl of Northumberland. Simon de Weltiden, senior *sic* (62) was at Shawden.

Richard Crawcester (60), was present at Bolton. John Lysle (65), was at Prudhowe, and there saw a robber hanged. Nicholas Turpyn (62), saw Henry at the time of his baptism, wrapped in silken cloth. John del Lee (67), saw him bound with a gilt girdle at the time of his baptism. Robert Elryngton (63), saw Henry de Percy, late earl of Northumberland, be his godfather. John Herle (69), saw the abbot of Alnewyk be his other godfather. Roger Fenwyk (60), saw Lady de Graystok be his godmother. Roger Wotton (65), saw the said John Lylburn riding to Alnewyk. Simon de Weltiden, junior *sic* (69) was serving in the buttery in the said John's household. John Whytfield (60), rode to Alnewyk, with the said John Lylleburn.<sup>6</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 8 Henry IV. No. 87.—Proof of age of Thomas Gray, knight, son and heir of Thomas Gray, knight, deceased, taken at Alnewyk, on Monday, 18 April, 8 Henry IV. [1407]. The jurors say that the said Thomas is aged twenty-two years and more, and was born in Alnewyk castle on the feast of St. Andrew, Apostle, 8 Richard II. [30th November, 1384], and baptized in St. Michael's church of the same vill, on the same feast. John Midlame, aged 55, was in the church at the time of Thomas's baptism. John Clerke of Nesbet (56), saw him carried to church. William Asplion (57), was in the castle. John Etall (58), saw him bound with a gilt girdle on the day of his baptism. Thomas Clerke (60), was in Alnewyk. John Holand (50), saw Thomas Watton, Thomas's godfather, riding to Werkworth. William Midlame (53), saw him wrapped in a red cloth at the time of his baptism. John Hyndley (49), saw Thomas de Ilderton, knight, Thomas's godfather, riding to Dunstanburgh. Robert Soppath (60): Thomas was born in 'le Midyllgathouse' of the castle when the said Robert was present there. Robert Burnegyll (63), was in Alnewyk abbey at the time of Thomas' baptism. Robert Lawe (56), rode to Morpath. Henry de Chester (59), rode to Rugby.<sup>7</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 12 Henry IV. No. 47.—Proof of age of Margaret, one of the sisters and heiresses of William, son and heir of Henry de Heton, knight, deceased, taken at Morpeth, 12 February, 12 Henry IV. [1410/11]. The jurors say that the said Margaret was aged sixteen years on the feast of St. Hilary last past [13 January, 1410/11], and was born in Chevelyngham castle and baptized in

<sup>6</sup> Sir John Lilburn, knight, married Margaret de Presson, widow of Sir Thomas Grey of Heton, and died about 1399-1400, seised of Lilburn, a moiety of Belford, Shawdon, etc. (*Inq. p. m.* 1 Henry IV. No. 3), and was succeeded by his son, Henry de Lilburn, who was born at Shawdon on the 22nd Feb. 1386/7. (*Inq. p. m.* 12 Henry IV. No. 45.)

<sup>7</sup> Sir Thomas Grey, who was born in the Middle Gate-house of Alnwick castle on the 30th Nov. 1384, married Alice, daughter of Ralph, Lord Neville of Raby; but entering into conspiracy against Henry V. he was arrested and beheaded at Southampton on the 5th August 1415. He is immortalized by Shakespeare as 'Thomas Grey, knight of Northumberland.'

the church of the same vill on the same day. John Whytfield (62), was in the church and saw John Bolton, canon of Alnewyke, her godfather. John Corbet (47), met Margaret Fox and Margaret Scryfwyn, her godmothers, at the church. John Horsly (60) was taken by the Scotch.

Wyland Mawdit (62), was sent by Henry, her father, to New-castle to buy wine. William Cramlyngton (64), sold a white horse to Henry, her father, at Chevelyngham.

John Serjant (66), was betrothed to Alice, daughter of William de Wyndgates, in the said church. William Cotis (65), killed a doe in a field of Chevelyngham.

John Wytton (67), took Thomas Turnebull, Scot, and led him to Chevelyngham castle. John Belasise (68), rode to Alnewyk, and carried a letter to the earl of Northumberland. Nicholas Heron (69), was betrothed to Katharine, daughter of John Gybson of Chatton, in the said church. Thomas de Throkclawe (49), kept the obit of Alice, his wife, in the said church. Robert Horner (50), was taken by Thomas Gray of Heton, knight, against his will, and led to Norham castle.<sup>8</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 12 Henry IV. No. 52.—Proof of age of John, son and heir of Thomas de Clifford, knight, deceased, who held of Richard II., taken at the king's castle of the vill of New-castle upon Tyne, 9 June, 12 Henry IV. [1411]. The jurors say that the said John was born at Hert and baptized in the church of the said vill on the feast of St. George, 12 Richard II. [23rd April 1389], and is aged twenty-two years and more. William Whitcheestre, knight, aged 50, saw him baptized. Robert Lysle, knight (60) : Robert Lysle, his son, was born within three days after the birth of John. Richard Crawceestre (51), married the daughter of William de Urde at the said church. John Lysle (56) : Thomas his eldest son died on the third day after the birth of John. John Strother (54), Thomas Middleton (58), John Whitfeld (61), Eldomar Heryng (47), Weland Mawedit (62), and John Wettewodd (56), stood hearing mass in the said church, in the choir of Blessed Mary, on the said St. George's day on which John was baptized there, and they offered to him various gifts. Thomas Schaftowe, (52), John Belyngham (64), were godfathers of John, son of John Golde, who was baptized on the same St. George's day in the font of the same church. The jurors would give other noteworthy proofs of the said age, if necessity should demand it.<sup>9</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 13 Henry IV. No. 52.—Proof of age of William de Carnaby, son and heir of William de Carnaby, deceased, taken at Corbrigg on the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, 13 Henry IV. [3 May, 1412]. The jurors say that the said William was aged twenty-one years on Thursday next before the feast of Easter last past [31 March, 1412], and was baptized in the church of Halton on the same day. John de Lisle, aged 50, bought a horse of the said William, the father, at Halton, where he saw William the son baptized in the church.

<sup>8</sup> Margaret, daughter of Sir Henry de Heton and sister and co-heiress of William de Heton, was born at Chillingham castle on the 13th January 1394/5.

<sup>9</sup> The history of the Cliffords, lords of Ellingham, is given in the new *History of Northumberland* down to the year 1366 when that estate was alienated. It is probable that from this family sprang Sir Thomas de Clifford, knight, whose son John was born at Hart on the 23rd April, 1389.

John Eryngton (53), on the day of William's baptism, was present in the church, and had a meal with William the father. Richard Crawcestre (48), was present in the church at the time of his baptism, and in riding to his house his horse fell on him and badly hurt him. Nicholas Turpyn (47), was likewise in the church at the time of his baptism, and in returning to his house in Whytchester he met various hunters chasing a fox from his own wood.

John Strother (45) was chasing a hare with his neighbours, and met various women carrying William to the church to be baptized. Thomas Hesilrygg (49) was hunting with the said John Strother when they met the said women carrying William to the church to be baptized, and the said Thomas spent the night with William, the father. John Belásis (54), was in the same hunt, chasing a hare, and met the said women, among whom was Katharine, his niece, who told him that Isabel, William's mother, was in great danger of death. Nicholas Heron (46), met Thomas Ormesby, vicar of the church of Corbrigg who told him that he had baptized William on the same day, in the aforesaid church. William Car (58), was William's godfather, with William Laweson his other godfather, and lifted him from the font. William Laweson (46), is his other godfather, and with William Car, lifted him from the font, and waited to dine with William de Carnaby, the father. John Hoggesson (47), in returning from the court of Corbrigg to his own house met William carried to the church of Halton to be baptized. William Richardson (48), coming to Corbrigg to arbitrate between William Raa and Nicholas Skelly in various matters, met William Car, one of William's godfathers, who told him that he had lifted William, on the same day, from the font.<sup>10</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 13 Henry IV. No. 54.—Proof of age of Gilbert de Umframville, son and heir of Thomas de Umframville, knight, deceased, who held of Richard II., taken at the king's castle of New-castle upon Tyne, 5 March, 13 Henry IV. [1411/2.]

The jurors say that the said Gilbert was of full age, namely, twenty-one years, on the feast of St. Luke, Evangelist, last past [18 October, 1411] and was born in Herbotyll castle and baptized in the church of Herbotyll. Robert Lisle, knight, aged 50, rode for Gilbert de Acton to be his godfather. Wyncellan (*Wyncellanus*) Borstanour, knight (42), rode for Gilbert, abbot of Mewros, to be his other godfather. Robert Tempest (43), rode for Elezabet Heron to be his godmother. Richard Craucester (50), carried a bason and ewer before Gilbert to the church on the day of his baptism.

John Lysle (44), built a new house at Herbotyll. Hugh Galon (45), met Elizabeth Heron at Routhebury, going to Herbotyll to Gilbert's baptism. Nicholas Turpyn (46), rode to Kemylispath to meet George, earl of March. William Galon (47), met Gilbert de Acton at Felton going to Herbotyll to Gilbert's baptism.

John Ourde (48), rode to New-castle to buy wedding clothes (*sponsalia*) for the marriage of Katharine his daughter. William Cramlyngton (49), was in

<sup>10</sup> Sir William de Carnaby, knight (*Inq. p. m.* 9 Henry IV., No. 14), apparently a Yorkshireman from the East Riding, obtained the manor of Halton in marriage with Margaret (called Isabel in the text), widow of Thomas de Lowther, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John de Halton, and their son, named William de Carnaby, after his father, was born at Halton on the 31st March, 1391.

the said castle as house-steward to Gilbert's father. William Butecom (50), was betrothed to Mary his wife. Edward Wetewang (51), rode to Scotland with Robert Umframvyll, Gilbert's uncle, with a large force. <sup>11</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 6 Henry V. No. 54.—Proof of age of William Heron, son and heir of John Heron of Thornton, taken at the king's castle of New-castle upon Tyne on Thursday, 6 June, 6 Henry V. [1418]. The jurors say that the said William was born in Whityngham and baptized in the church of the said vill, and was aged twenty-one years on the feast of St. Gregory, pope, last past. [12 March, 1417/8]. John del Stroyther, aged 60, and William Rodom, one of William's godfathers, rode to Whytyngham. William Chesman (51), was at Whityngham in the church concerning a love-day between Thomas Hesylyrgg and John Swan. John de Mitteford of Pounteland (62), rode from Bolton to Whityngham with Edmund Heron, master of Bolton, William's other godfather, to his baptism. William de Cartyngton (54), was at Whityngham to hire Patrick Garre to serve him for a year as ploughman. Richard Wettewang (53), was with John de Lylleburn, knight, and they rode to Whityngham, and in a field there they killed a hare. Edmund de Selby (56), rode from Shawden to Whityngham with Elizabeth, daughter of Alan del Stroyther, William's godmother, to his baptism in the said church.

Thomas Rede (65), was at Whityngham, and there bought a grey horse for 10*li.* of John Claveryng, knight. Roger Usher (56), was [there] to speak with John Clerke, clerk of the church of Whityngham, for a bond against John Lang binding him to pay to him ten marks on the feast of Whitsunday then next following. John Hogsyson (58), was at Whityngham for the burial of Robert Croxton in the churchyard of the said church. John Belyngham (66), saw John Burn, parish chaplain, baptizing William in the said church. Thomas Maynevyll (59), rode with Hugh Galone, one of the King's coroners in Northumberland, from Whityngham to Cartyngton, to view the body of John Mayre, who was killed by Robert Forster. Robert Carlell (69), rode with John Heron, William's father, from Whityngham to Alnewyk, to speak with Henry Percy, late earl of Northumberland.<sup>12</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 2 Henry VI. No. 49.—Proof of age of John Mitford, son and heir of William Mitford, esquire, deceased, taken at New-castle upon Tyne, 1 October, 2 Henry VI. [1423.]

The jurors say that the said John was born at New-castle upon Tyne and baptized in St. Nicholas's church of the same vill, and was aged twenty-one years 8 April last past.

<sup>11</sup> Sir Thomas Umframvill knight, died, on the 12 Feb. 1390/1 (*Inq. p. m.* 10 Ric. II. No. 43), leaving Gilbert de Umframvill his infant and only son. The latter, born at Harbottle on the 18 October, 1390, married Anne, daughter of Ralph Nevill, 1st earl of Westmorland, and was slain on Easter eve 1421, at Baugy in Anjou (*Inq. p. m.* 9 Hen. V. No. 56 : 26 Ap. 17 Bp. Langley.)

<sup>12</sup> William Heron, eldest son of John Heron of Ford and of Thornton in Islandshire (*Inq. p. m.* 10 Hen. IV. No. 11. and 1 Ap. 3 Bp. Langley), was born in the parish of Whittingham, on the 12 March, 1396/7, and is stated to have been 'maliciously slayne' before Ford castle by his neighbour, Sir John Manners of Etal. (*Inq. p. m.* 6 Hen. VI. No. 15.)

John Broun aged 45, saw John Wedryngton, knight, and Robert Lisle, knight, treating together in the said church for agreement concerning matters in dispute between them, of which agreement an indenture was made, dated the same day, and was delivered at the same time to him to keep, and yet remains in his keeping. John Cotom, barker (48), bought of Robert Flesshever three cow-hides, at the same time at which John was carried to church to be baptized. John Parlebyn (50), sold to William Mitford one ell of woollen cloth, called 'clathe of lake,' to make a 'crissom-cloth' for John. John Colman (44), saw John Wedryngton, John's godfather, give to him when he had been baptized, a cup of silver gilt. Thomas Fox, skinner (47), sold to Robert Lisle, knight, John's grandfather, at New-castle upon Tyne 'fururam de puro gresio,' for 100s., in which fur John was wrapped when he was carried to church to be baptized. Robert Vere (53), met Henry Percy, knight, at the church-door, who asked him whose was the child then lifted from the font. He told him that he was the son of William Mitford, whereat the said Henry rejoiced greatly.

John Talbot (51), saw Thomas Galon, parish priest of the said church, baptizing John. William Gray (53), was in the church hearing Robert Kirkeby chaplain, celebrating mass of Blessed Mary, Virgin, at the altar of the Holy Trinity, and immediately after mass, the said William and Robert, talking together at the said altar, saw John carried from the font where he had been baptized, and Robert Kirkeby asked him whose son he was; to whom he answered that he was the son of William Mitford, and the said priest said to him 'Thanks be to God for now has William Mitford his own heir of his own name.' John Dunstan (46), saw John Mitford, knight, John's grandfather meet a woman in the churchyard, carrying John from the church where he had been baptized; he said to the woman 'I ask thee, shew me the child's face,' she showed him, and he kissed him and said to him 'My son, God bless thee and give thee good strength on earth (*bonam vigenciam in terra*).' John Scaleby (49), carried a bason and ewer of silver from William Mitford's house in Scein Joncheir [or Sceinroncheir] in New-castle upon Tyne, to the church, to give water to John's godfathers and godmother to wash their hands when he had been baptized. Thomas Hautewesyll (48), was in the church and saw a chaplain called Thomas Galon baptizing John in the font when he fell from the chaplain's hands into the font, and John Wedryngton, knight, his godfather, said to the chaplain, 'Prest, prest, fond be thi heued.' William Stodhyrd (44), met many men and women coming from the church rejoicing, and among them a woman carried John; he asked them who was the boy and they told him that he was the son of William Mitford.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> John de Mitford, who was, apparently, the only son of William de Mitford, was born at Newcastle on the 8 April, 1402. His grandfather, Sir John de Mitford, an influential man in the second half of the fourteenth century, represented the county as knight of the shire in several parliaments in the reigns of Edw. III., Ric. II., and Henry IV., died on the 16 July, 1409, seised of estates of Mitford, Molesden, Espley, Benridge, &c. (*Inq. p. m.* 10 Hen. IV. No. 26), and was succeeded by his son William de Mitford (*Inq. p. m.* 1 Hen. VI. No. 40). The latter married Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Lisle of Woodburn and Felton, and died during the minority of his son John de Mitford, who attained his full age on the 8 April, 1423. John de Mitford married Constance, daughter of Sir Robert Ogle, and died on the 6 May, 1437.



*Inq. p. m.* 5 Henry VI. No. 74.—Proof of age of Henry de Fenwyk, son and heir of Alan de Fenwyk, knight, deceased, son of Elizabeth, who was wife of John de Fenwyk, knight, deceased, and kinsman and heir of the said Elizabeth who held of Henry IV., taken at the king's castle of New-castle upon Tyne, 31 October, 5 Henry VI. [1426]. The jurors say that the said Henry was born at Alnewyk on Christmas day, 3 Henry IV. [1401], and baptized in the church of the said vill, called 'Seynt Michel Kirk,' on the morrow, and was aged twenty-one years on the feast of Christmas last past. Robert Swynburn, aged 50, came into the church and *prosecutus fuit unam billam Henrico comiti Northumbrie*, last deceased, one of Henry's godfathers, at the time of his baptism. Laurence de Acton (48), was in the church and saw Henry Percy d'Athell, his other godfather, give to him directly he had been baptized, a silver cup with a cover, and to his nurse 6s. 8d. Simon Welden (50), was elected one of the king's coroners in Northumberland.

John Herbotell (45), carried a bason with a ewer of silver from Alnewyk castle to the church, to give water to Henry's godfathers and godmother to wash their hands when he had been lifted from the font.

Henry Trollop (48) : so great and strong a wind arose, that all the men and women of the said vill greatly feared for the shaking of their frail houses, immediately after Henry was baptized. John Mitford of Coupon (50), carried a lighted torch from Alnewyk castle to the church before Henry, and held it while he was baptized. Thomas de Throklawe (60), met many men and women coming from the church who told him that Henry had been baptized. William Laweson (50) : Alan de Fenwyk, knight, Henry's father, was sheriff of Northumberland for the same year in which Henry was baptized. Adam Heggman (50), was elected the king's bailiff in the county. William Benet, (48), carried two pewter pots with wines of 'clerrey' and 'malvesy,' and four silver cups, from Alnewyk castle to the church for refreshment of the godfathers and godmother and others present. William Elison (50), saw Thomas Percy, knight, give to Henry, directly he had been baptized, 40s., and to his nurse 6s. 8d., for joy of his birth. Robert de Neweton (45), was at the betrothal at Alnewyk of Katharine, daughter of Thomas Clerk, to Richard Mitford.<sup>13</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 7 Henry VI. No. 83.—Proof of age of Thomas Hesilrig, son of Thomas Hesilrig, of Eselyngton, deceased, held within the castle of New-castle upon Tyne, on Tuesday next before the feast of Easter, 7 Henry VI. [22 March, 1428/9]. The jurors say that the said Thomas was born at Eselyngton and baptized in the church of Whityman [Whittingham], and was aged twenty-one years on the feast of St. Michael, last past. Thomas Lilleburn, aged 46, had a daughter born, called Joan. Adam Kylyngworth (47) : Andrew, his son, died of an illness which had held him for a long time. John Mitford, senior (45), was present in the church when Thomas was baptized, and saw Thomas Dunker, his godfather, give to him 40s. John Herle (51), married Katharine, daughter of

<sup>13</sup> Sir John de Fenwick married Elizabeth (*Inq. p. m.* 2 Hen. VI. No. 39) daughter and coheir of Sir Alan de Heton, and had with other issue an eldest son Sir Alan de Fenwick, whose son, Sir Henry de Fenwick, knight, was born at Alnwick on Christmas day 1401. Sir Henry de Fenwick died without issue male and left his six daughters his coheiresses.

Richard Hobson. Roger Fenwyk (44), rode to Morpath and on the way fell among robbers who plundered him. James Buk (48), was hunting in the forest of Rothebery, and a stag running at him, struck him to the ground and broke his left arm.

Robert Vaux (49), held a bason with a ewer in the church. William Rotherford (50), saw Katharine Heron, Thomas's godmother, give to him 20s. and a gold ring. John Babyngton (52), met Thomas's godfather and godmother at the end of the vill of Eselyngton, and there fell into a deep hole so that he was nearly drowned.

Robert Langwath (53), held a candle in the church when Thomas was baptized. Henry Robson (46), had a son born, named Richard. Richard Heppell (44), held a torch in the church.<sup>15</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 10 Henry VI. No. 56.—Proof of age of Thomas Lumley, son and heir of John Lumley, knight, deceased, who held of Henry V., taken at Morpath, 26 November, 10 Henry VI. [1431.] The jurors say that the said Thomas was born at Morpath on the feast of St. Michael, Archangel, 1408, and baptized in the church of Blessed Mary, of the same vill, on the morrow, and was aged twenty-two years on the feast of St. Michael, last past.

Robert Swynburn, aged 60, was in the church and saw Thomas Surtes, knight, one of Thomas's godfathers, give to him there when he had been baptized, a silver cup with a cover. Adam Killyngworth (50): Margaret, his daughter, was asked to nurse Thomas. Simon Welden (50), was elected one of the king's coroners in Northumberland.

Nicholas Turpyn (50), so great and strong a wind arose that all the men and women of the said vill greatly feared for the shaking of their frail houses immediately after Thomas was baptized. William Rotherford (50), carried a bason and ewer of silver from Morpath castle to the church, to give water to the godfathers and godmother to wash their hands when Thomas had been lifted from the font. William Bedenhall (50), carried a lighted torch from Morpath Castle to the church before Thomas and held it during his baptism. Robert Musgrave (50), met many men and women coming from the church, and they told him that Thomas had been baptized, whereat he had great joy. John Herle (50): John Lumley, knight, Thomas's father, was sheriff of Northumberland for the same year in which Thomas was baptized. Roger Fenwyk (50), carried two pewter pots with wines of 'clerrey' and 'malmesy,' and four silver cups from Morpath castle to the church for refreshment of the godfathers and godmother and others present. William Benet (50), was at the betrothal, at Morpath, of Katharine, daughter of John Galon, to William Coutour. Robert Neuton (50), saw Henry Percy d'Athell, knight, give to Thomas directly he had been baptized, 40s., and to his nurse, 6s. 8d., for joy of his birth. John Elison (50), was elected—[The MS. is torn away].<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Thomas Hesilrig of Eslington (*Inq. p. m.* 1 Hen. VI. No. 18), was probably a son of that John Hesilrig who obtained Swarland on marriage with Agnes, daughter and coheir of Thomas Graper. His son, Thomas Hesilrig, was born at Eslington on Michaelmas-day, 1407. He was married to a certain Agnes before December, 1429, and with his son John was party to a deed, dated 4 March, 1444/5; he died about 1468. (*Inq. p. m.* 7 Edw. IV. No. 25).

<sup>16</sup> Sir John Lumley of Lumley, knight, was slain on Easter Eve, 1421, at

*Inq. p. m.* 13 Henry VI. No. 45.—Proof of age of Thomas Lisle, son and heir of John Lisle, son of Robert Lisle, knight, deceased, and kinsman and heir of the said Robert, taken in the king's castle of New-castle upon Tyne, 1 February, 13 Henry VI. [1434/5]. The jurors say that the said Thomas was born at Nafreton and baptized in the parish church of Ovyngheham, and was aged twenty-one years on the feast of St. Barnabas, Apostle, last past. [11 June, 1434]. Simon Weltiden, aged 60, said that William Forster, of Ovyngheham, was betrothed to Alice, his wife, at the door of the said church. John Belyngheham (70), set out on his journey to the city of London, on business of Robert Lisle, knight, then his master. Adam Kelyngworth (67), buried Alice, his wife. Robert Musgrave (50): John Taillour, of Nafreton, was killed accidentally by the wheel of a wagon.

William Iot (?) (67), was in the church when Thomas was placed in the font. Robert Langwath (65), held a lighted candle when he was baptized. John Babyngton (48), set out on his journey to Berwick in Scotland, to fight with the Scotch, the king's enemies. William Rotherfeld (44): John, his brother, was drowned in the water of Tyne.

William Sabram (69), John Enoteson was parish chaplain of the said church of Ovyngheham. Roger Fenwyk (56): Elizabeth, his wife, was Thomas's god-mother.

William Benet (47), bought of Robert Lisle, knight, Thomas's grandfather, a white horse for 20s. John Herle (44): the vill of Altonburn was burnt by the Scotch, the king's enemies.<sup>17</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 14 Henry VI. No. 47.—Proof of age of Thomas, son and heir of John Wetewode and Margaret his wife, deceased, taken at New-castle upon Tyne 15 January, 14 Henry VI. [1435/6].

The jurors say that the said Thomas was aged twenty-two years, 23 November, last past, and was born in the said vill and baptized in the church of All Saints there.

Robert Hauson (54), and John Halton (52), bought a horse called 'Morel Gray,' of the said John Wetewode, Thomas's father, for ten marks payable at Easter then next, and were bound by a bond made the same day; the sum was faithfully paid at the said feast, and John Wetewode gave back to them their bond in place of an acquittance, and thus they remember the day by the date of the said writing which is still in their keeping. John Dey (59), Robert Reade (55), John Litster (56), William Howetson (57), Robert Holbek (59), John Alnewyk (60), Thomas Swan (54), William Gudeneghbur (56), Robert Penreth (58), and Thomas Bamburgh (62), were assembled in the said church, standing

Baugy in Anjou, whence his body was carried to Durham cathedral for burial. His will, dated 24 April, 1418, was proved on the 2 September, 1421. His son, Sir Thomas Lumley, knight, born at Morpeth on Michaelmas-day, 1408, had livery of his lands in 1430, and in the first year of Edward IV. petitioned for, and obtained, the revival of the attainder of his grandfather, Ralph, Lord Lumley.

<sup>17</sup> Sir Robert Lisle, of Woodburn and Felton, knight, was high sheriff of Northumberland in 1414, and died on or before 1426. (*Inq. p. m.* 4 Henry VI. No. 5). Having survived his son John, he was succeeded by his grandson, Thomas Lisle, who being born at Nafferton, was baptized at Ovingham on the 11 June, 1413.

there among other persons to hear a solemn sermon by master Robert Hardyng, Doctor in Theology, and saw Thomas Woller, chaplain, Thomas's godfather, immediately after he was baptized, writing in a missal of the said church, the day and year of his birth; they know also by inspection of the said writing in the missal.<sup>18</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 17 Henry VI. No. 66.—Proof of age of John Hibburne, son and heir of Thomas Hibburne, deceased, who held of Henry V., taken at New-castle upon Tyne, 5 May, 17 Henry VI. [1439.] The jurors say that the said John was aged twenty-two years and more, 4 May last past, and was born in New-castle and baptized in All Saints' church in the said vill, 28 October, 5 Henry V. [1417], and that John de Hall deceased, and John Hall, chaplain, still living, were his godfathers. Thomas Chirden, aged 60, was at the funeral of John Hall, senior, John's godfather, who died within six days after John's birth. William Reynaldson (66), carried a wax candle and held it until John had been baptized. Robert Langwath (64): John Rodys, the King's justice of the peace, sat in 'le Gildhall' of the said vill, to examine inquisitions concerning the keeping of the peace, 4 November next following the said 28 October. John Hunter (60): a day of truce between England and Scotland was kept at Hawdenstank, 3 November next following the said 28 October. William Stoddart (66), paid in the church of Blessed Nicholas of the said vill, 10 November next following the said 28 October, 20*li*. to Thomas Langton for lead bought of him. William Enmath (49): his ship loaded with wheat was in danger at Hertilpole, 9 November next following the said 28 October. John Sainpyll (50), came from hunting, and met John carried in a woman's arms to All Saints' church to his baptism. John Welles (60): Robert Welles, his brother, was betrothed to Margaret his wife in the church of Blessed Nicholas, 14 January next following the said 28 October. Henry Webster (67): John Hunt, his wife's kinsman, was acquitted of an indictment of trespass delivered before the King's justices sitting in the King's castle in New-castle, 8 August next following the said 28 October. William Plummer (70): Joan his daughter was baptized in St. Andrew's church of the said vill, 2 March next following the said 28 October. John Alnewyk (62), took his tenement in fee, in which he now lives, of Lawrence Acton, esquire, 4 April next following the said 28 October. William Rede (62), was elected by the mayor and sheriffs of New-castle, keeper of the prison called 'le Newgate,' 16 January next following the said 28 October. John Seman (60): Joan his daughter was buried in St. John's church in the said vill 6 May next following the said 28 October. William Zote (60), impeaded John Dale of Alnewyk, for a debt of 10*li*., 7 March next following the said 28 October, before the mayor in the 'Gildhall' of New-castle.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> John de Wetewode (*Inq. p. m.* 8 Hen. V. No. 41), as heir to his second cousin, John de Bradford, succeeded to the barony of Bradford in Ramburghshire in 1398. His son, Thomas de Wetewode, born at Newcastle 23 November, 1413, assumed the name of Bradford, married Eleanor, daughter of John Horsley, of Outchester, and died an aged man on the 12 August, 1494.

<sup>19</sup> Robert Hebburn, mayor of Newcastle 'being sick in body but sound in mind, considering the deceitfulness of this world, the imminent peril of death and that here we have no abiding city but seek the future,' made his will on Friday, 8 August, 1415, and appointed his eldest son Thomas to be one of his

*Inq. p. m.* 22 Henry VI. No. 2.—Proof of age of Robert Gabefore, son and heir of Alice who was wife of Nicholas Gabefore, deceased, taken at the Guildhall of New-castle upon Tyne, 20 June, 22 Henry VI. [1444.] The jurors say that the said Robert was born in New-castle upon Tyne, in the parish of All Saint's church, and baptized in the same church, and was aged twenty-two years on the feast of St. Peter which is called 'Ad Vincula,' last past [1 August, 1443]. John Clerk, aged 56, was in the church, and saw John Rodes, Robert's godfather, give to him directly he had been baptized, one mark of silver. Edward Bartram (52): Joan his daughter was born, and was baptized in the same church. Robert Wingates (60), carried a bason with a ewer to the church, to give water to the godfathers and godmother to wash their hands when Robert had been lifted from the font. Robert Wetwang (68): Joan his daughter was buried in the churchyard of the said church.

William Medecroft (66): John his son was born, and was baptized in the same church. John Rae (66): there was a great rain so that the water of Tyne opposite his door, through the great abundance of rain and overflow of the sea, entered his house in New-castle upon Tyne. Robert Laverok (58), married Katherine his daughter to John Whitehede, and they were married in the said church.

Thomas Barbour (60): Joan his wife was Robert's godmother, and he gave to her a silver cup to give to him when he had been baptized, and Thomas gave to his nurse 20d. Thomas Lyncoln (60), carried a towel and a silver salt-cellar before Robert to the church. Robert Swynburn (66): Robert his son made affray with Nicholas Horton who struck him on the arm and gave him a great wound.

John Lytster (58): John his son was betrothed to Joan, daughter of John Cotour, in the same church. John Wotton (56): held a torch in the church while Robert was baptized.<sup>20</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 24 Henry VI. No. 52.—Proof of age of John Orde, son and heir of William Orde, esquire, taken at the Guildhall of New-castle upon Tyne, 28 April, 24 Henry VI. [1446.]

The jurors say that the said John was born in New-castle upon Tyne in the parish of the church of St. John the Baptist, and baptized in the same church, and was aged twenty-two years on the feast of St. Martin in winter, last past [11 November, 1445]. John Musgrave, aged 50, was in the church and saw John

executors. The testator died shortly afterwards and was buried in the church of All Saints, his will being proved on the 27 September following. Thomas Hebburn (*Inq. p. m.* 1 Hen. VI. No. 38) being desirous of marrying Isabel, widow of William Strother, who was nearly related to him, in 1417 obtained a dispensation from the bishop of Durham for that purpose. Their son, John Hebburn, was baptized on the 28 October of the same year.

<sup>20</sup> Robert Gabefore was one of the merchants named in the Letters Patent dated 7 July 1400, by which Henry IV. granted certain privileges to the town of Newcastle. He owned property in Gateshead, and was probably the father of Nicholas Gabefore, who was one of the jurors before whom Roger Thornton's inquest was taken on the 27 May 1430. The latter married a certain Alice (*Inq. p. m.* 17 Henry VI. No. 1) and their son Robert was born at Newcastle on the 1st August 1422.

Fitz Henry and John Layng, John's godfathers, give to him directly he had been baptized two marks of silver. Edward Bartram (52): Joan, his daughter, was born, and was baptized in the same church. Robert Wyndgates (60), carried a bason with a ewer to the church to give water to John's godfathers and godmother to wash their hands when he had been lifted from the font. Robert Wetwayng (68): Joan, his daughter, was buried in the churchyard of the same church. William Medecroft (62): John, his son, was born, and was baptized in the same church. John Raa (60): there was a great rain so that the water of Tyne opposite his door, through the great abundance of rain and overflow of the sea, entered his house in New-castle upon Tyne. Robert Laverok (62), married Katherine, his daughter, to John Whithede, and they were married in the same church. Thomas Barbour (50): Joan, his wife, was John's godmother, and he gave to her a silver cup to give to him when he had been baptized, and Thomas gave to his nurse 20d. Thomas Lincoln (60), carried a towel and a silver salt-celler before John to the church. Robert Swynburn (60): Robert, his son, made affray with Nicholas Horton, who struck him on the arm and gave him a great wound. John Litster (50) was betrothed to Joan, daughter of John Cotour, in the same church. Robert Witton (50) held a torch in the church while John was baptized.<sup>21</sup>

*Inq. p. m.* 31 Henry VI. No. 49.—Proof of age of Edmund Hastynges, son and heir of John Hastynges, knight, deceased, taken at Lynton, 22 April, 31 Henry VI. [1453.] The jurors say that the said Edmund was born at Braunspath and baptized in the church of the same vill, and was aged twenty-two years on the feast of Easter last past [1 April, 1453.] William Rede (aged 57) carried a lighted torch from Braunspath manor to the church before Edmund and held it while he was baptized. John Norton (50), was in the church and saw William Elmeden, knight, Edmund's godfather, give to him directly he had been baptized, a silver cup with a cover and to his nurse 6s. 8d. Richard Horsle (46): John Horsle his son was born. Robert Unthanke (66): Richard his son celebrated his first mass in the said church.

Thomas Durham (48), carried a bason with a ewer from the said manor to the church to give water to Edmund's godfathers and godmother to wash their hands when he had been lifted from the font. Robert Strother (56), married Katherine his daughter to John Dey, and they were married in the same church. John Furde (46), was in the service of John Hastynges, Edmund's father, as his butler, and carried a silver pot with wine to the church, to give to Edmund's godfathers and godmother when he had been baptized. Robert Straung[wayes] (50), saw John Claxton, Edmund's godfather, give to him a piece of silver with a cover, and to his nurse 6s. 8d. Gilbert Rotherford (57): John his son was born and baptized. Henry Smyth (46), held a torch in the church while Edmund was baptized. William Ogle (42): Alice, his mother, was Edmund's godmother, and he was present with her on the day on which

<sup>21</sup> William Ord of Newbiggen, in Norhamshire, died on the 18 June 1441, (*Inq. p. m.* 19 Henry VI. No. 13), leaving a son, John Ord, who was born at Newcastle on the 11 Nov. 1423 and died in or before the year 1482 (*Inq. p. m.* 22 Edward IV. No. 22).

Compare this inquisition with the last one.

Edmund was baptized. Robert Rydell (58), met Edmund's godfathers and god-mother going to the church, and they told him of his birth, whereat he rejoiced with great joy.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Sir Edmund Hastings, knight, died about the year 1449, seised of estates at Ellingham, Lemington, Newton, Rugley, Bolton, Thirston, Nafferton (*Inq. p.m.* 27 Henry VI. No. 24). By his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Felton, and sister and heir of John Felton, esq., he had an eldest son, Sir John Hastings, knight, who died in his father's life-time about midsummer, 19 Henry VI. The latter left an only son, born at Brancepeth 1 April 1431, who succeeded to his grandfather and grandmother's estates.

