

V.—ANCIENT DEEDS RELATING TO GUNNERTON.

(Communicated by the Right Rev. bishop Hornby, vicar of Chollerton.)

I venture to send you copies of MSS. on parchment that I have discovered amongst the papers of my predecessor and grandfather. I was hunting for the trust deed of our national parochial schools, and rummaging at the bottom of a drawer I came across a parcel labelled 'ancient deeds relating to Gunnerton.' The paper in which the MSS. were folded was a copy of the *Morning Post* of 1847.

I have no notion how the MSS., dating from the thirteenth century and onward to the seventeenth, have been preserved so long—but they must have passed into the possession of the Rev. Christopher Bird, my grandfather, when he purchased the estate of Gunnerton from Mr. Beaumont.

I took the MSS. up to the British Museum as I was unable to decipher them myself. The substance of them may have been published before in the *History of Northumberland* (Chollerton Parish), but I am not aware of the fact. Indeed, I do not think that my immediate predecessor the Rev. Canon Bird was aware of the existence of the papers.

I shall be interested to know whether they throw any fresh light upon the history of old families in the north.

I think you know that I came across the tombstone of one who, I believe, was the last of the Herons of Chipchase. The stone is in the floor of the parish church, Surfleet, Lincolnshire.

There is a place called Gunnerby (or Gunwarsby) in Lincolnshire on the Watling Street. I wonder what is the connecting link with Gunnerton in this parish—also on the Watling Street.

No. 1.—Grant by Peter de Gunwart[on] to Adam Baret, for his homage and service, of a toft and croft lying between the house of Gilbert and the house of Robert de Bent[on] in the vill of Gunwart' [Gunnerton, co. Northumb.] and ten bovates of land in the territory of the same vill, beginning from Gooles up to Jerdenbury, and from Jerdenbury eastwards to Holden, and southward to Inflasches, and westward to the land of the church, and from the land of the church to Jerdenbury: with common of pasture. Paying yearly one pound of pepper, or eight pence within the octave of St. Cuthbert in September for all services (with clause of warranty).

Witn. Dom. Robert de Merlay, Roger Bertram, Hugh de Bolbec, H. de Magneby tunc vic[ecomite] Otwey de Lyle, G. fil G., Grnd[an] Her, Robert de Wiccestre, Simon de Bruntoft, Robert de Cornhou, Peter de Lyle, John de Mildit[on], and many others.

Undated. [12-15 Henry III., 1227-1230.]

Vellum. Latin.

No. 2.—Quitclaim by Robert fil. Ricardi de Siperwas to Ralph fil. Willelmi de Essindene, his kinsman, of all the land which he held from the said Ralph in the vill of Gunwarton, for which quitclaim the said Ralph has given him four marks of silver and an acre of land in Essindene.

Witnesses, de Insula, Richard de Colewelle, Orm de Bromhope, John de Shuineburne, de Shuineburne, Derric de Cunwartun, Eustace de Bentona, and many others.

Undated [*circa* 1230].

Vellum. Latin.

No. 3.—Lease by Michael de Esshynden to Dom. Henry de Hauerington, knt., of all his messuages, lands, meadows, woods, etc., which he had on the day of these presents in the vill of Gunwarton [Gunnerton], to hold for a term of 6 years, at a yearly rent of five marks at the feasts of Pentecost and St. Martin-in-the-winter, the first payment due at Pentecost, 1348, the lessee agreeing that if the rent shall be in arrear for 40 days after any term (if he should be at the time within the county of Northumberland) the said Michael may enter and retain the said messuages, etc. And it is agreed that if the rent should be in arrear and the said Henry be out of the county, that the bailiffs of the two parties shall levy from the goods and chattels found in the said tenements, in the discretion of the said bailiffs and with as little detriment as possible to the said Henry : and at the end of the term the lands, etc., to be given back in the same condition as they were when leased, namely, so many acres lying fallow, so many acres manured, etc.

Dated at Gunwarton, 10th May, 1348.

Seal of brown wax, containing shield of arms.

Vellum. Latin.

No. 4.—Grant by Thomas de Swynburn, knt., to John de Eston, vicar of Pont Eland [Ponteland, *a.e.* Pont Island], John de Kylingale, John de Kyrkeby and Sampson Hardyng, of his manor of Gunwarton [Gunnerton, co. Northumb.], with all its appurtenances in the vill of Gunwarton, to hold for ever : with clause of warranty.

Witn., Robert Heroun, John de Felton, John de Kylburn, Robert Claueryng, knts., William de Carnaby, William de Elmeden, John Heroun, and others.

Dated Monday aft. the F. of St. Nicholas [6th Dec.], 15 Ric. II. [1391].

Vellum. Latin.

No. 5.—Power of attorney from Thomas de Swynburn, knt., to William de Carnaby, John Eryngton, Adam de Bolton and John de Attelowe, to deliver seisin in his name to John de Eston, John de Kylingale, John de Kyrkeby and Sampson Hardyng, of his manor of Gunwarton [Gunnerton].

Dated at Gunwarton, Monday aft. F. of St. Nicholas [6th Dec.], 15 Ric. II. [1391].

Vellum. Latin.

No. 6.—Quitclaim by Thomas de Cornorth, knt., to John de Eston, John de Kelingale, John de Kyrkeby and Sampson Hardyng of all his right in the manor of Gunwarton [Gunnerton], with all appurtenances in the vill of Gunwarton, co. Northumb., which he lately acquired by grant and feoffment from Robert de Swynbourne, his brother, together with all rights belonging to the same manor.

Dated at Horkesley, in Essex, Sunday, F. of the Holy Trinity [1st June] 16 Ric. II. [1393].

Seal of red wax, broken and the arms on shield defaced.

Vellum. Latin.

No. 7.—Quitclaim by John Kyrkby, de Hauthornⁿ [? Houghton] to John Fenwyck of all his right in the manor of Gunwarton [Gunnerton].

Dated at Gunwarton, 6th May, 1 Hen. V. [1413].

Seal of red wax, broken.

Vellum. Latin.

This charter has been gnawed at the edges by rats.

No. 8.—Release by Sampson Hardyng to John de Fenwyk, 'true heir and tenant and in full possession of the manor and vill of Gunwarton' [Gunnerton], co. Northumb., of all his rights in the said manor and vill.

Witn., John de Woddryngton, William de Swynburne, Robert Lisle, knts., William de Carnaby, Robert Raymes, John de Strothir, Nicholas Turpyn, Robert Horsle, John Eryngton and Symon de Weltden, and others.

Dat. at Gunwarton, M. aft. F. of St. Hillary [13 Jan.] 9 Hen. V. [1422].

Fragment of red seal.

Vellum. Latin.

No. 9.—Release by William Hardyng to John de Fenwyk, esquire, of all his right in the manor and vill of Gunwarton with all its members and appurtenances in co. Northumberland which John de Eston, clerk, and John de Kirkby, John de Killyngalle, all deceased, and Sampson Hardyng, father of the said William, now dead, but who survived the aforesaid John de Eston, John de Kirkby, and John de Killyngalle, acquired by feoffment of Thomas de Swynburn, knt., to the use of the said John de Fenwyk.

Witn., William de Carnaby, Henry de Fenwik, sheriff of Northumberland, Simon de Welden, Nicholas Turpyn, William Laweson, of Cramlyngton, and others.

Dat. 20th Oct., 7 Hen. VI. [1428].

Seals of William Hardyng and William de Carnaby, broken.

Vellum. Latin.

No. 10.—Deed of sale by sir Francis Radcliffe, of Meldon, co. Northumb. baronet, to Thomas Errington, of Bingfield, gent., of a messuage, tenement or farmhold in Gunnerton, now in the possession of Cuthbert Heron, with covenant to assure the same by fine or other conveyance, provided the said sir

Francis or Dame Catherine his wife be not compelled to travel out of the county, etc.; and power of attorney to William Magdowell, the elder, of Gunnerton, to deliver seisin of the said property to the said Thomas.

Dated 13th December, 1665. With signature and (fragment of) seal of sir F. Radclyffe.

Attested, on the back, by Thomas Bradley, John Canonier, and Samuel Banckes.—And the seisin attested by William Mackdowell, Edward Coxon, Bartholomew Kook, and Edward Olliver.

Vellum. English.

No. 11.—Attached to the last deed of sale (by a pin of the period) are :
(a) A bond in £30 from the said sir Francis Radcliffe to the said Thomas Errington to observe the covenants in the said deed of sale.

Dated 13th December, 1665. Signed and sealed by sir F. Radcliffe and attested by the same three witnesses.

No. 12.—(b) A bond in £60 from George Shaftoe, of Ingoe, gent., to Thomas Errington, of Bingfield, to observe the covenants in a deed of release of equal date.

Dated 20th December, 1665. Unsigned and unattested.

N.B.—This latter bond should have been attached to the deed of release of 20th Dec., 1665 (No. 13 of these Deeds).

Vellum. Latin and English.

No. 13.—Release by George Shaftoe, of Ingo, co. Northumb., to Thomas Errington, of Bingfeild, in the same county, of all his rights in the messuage, tenement or farmehold in the town of Gunwarton [Gunnerton], which is now in the tenure of the said Thomas Errington; with warranty and covenant to assure the same by any surer conveyance if called upon.

Dat. 20th Dec., 1665.

Witnessed, on the back, by Thomas Bradley, John Canonier, Samuel Banckes.

No. 14.—Grant by Thomas Errington, of Bingfield, co. Northumb., to John Shaftoe, of Gunnerton, of a certain 'farmehold' in Gunnerton in the parish of Chollerton, now in the possession of Margery Heron, mother of the said John : to hold for term of his life, paying yearly one ounce of pepper to the said Thomas.

Dated 13th March, 29 Charles II. [1677.]

With signature and seal of Thomas Errington.

Witnesses, William Mills, Thomas Mackdowell.

Paper. English.

No. 15.—Lease, for a year, by Arthur Shaftoe of the East Quarter, in the county of Northumberland, gentleman, and John Shaftoe, of Gunnerton, gentleman, to sir William Blackett, of the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne, baronet, of 'a messuage, tenement and farmehold lying within the Towne, Townefeilds and Territoryes of Gunnerton,' in return for the payment of five

shillings, in order that, in accordance with the statute for transferring of uses, the said sir William may be in actual possession of the property and so be enabled to accept a grant and release of the same.

Dated 7th Feb., 4 William and Mary [1693.]

Signed by Arthur Shaftoe and John Shaftoe, the latter making his mark.

Attested, on the back, by F. Allgood, John Leadbitter, John Parr and Anthony Sharpe.

No. 16.—The grant and release of the same property in Gunnerton from the same Arthur Shaftoe and John Shaftoe, to sir William Blackett, bart., in consideration of the sum of £70, with covenant to assure the same by any surer conveyance at the will of the said sir William, provided the parties 'required to make the same be not forced or compellable to travell further than the county of Northumberland or Towne and county of Newcastle upon Tyne for the doeing and executeing of the same.'

Dated 8th Feb., 1692 [3].

Sealed and signed by Arthur Shaftoe and John Shaftoe, the latter making his mark.

Attested, on the back, by the same witnesses as the lease.

Vellum. English.

No. 17.—Attached to the last deed of grant and release (by a pin of the period) is the usual bond, in £140, between the parties to observe the covenants in the said deed of grant, etc. The day and month are not filled in, but the bond should have been dated on the same day (8th Feb.)

Sealed, signed, and attested as before.

Vellum. Latin and English.

No. 18.—The acquittance by Arthur Shaftoe and John Shaftoe to sir William Blackett, bart., for the sum of £70, the amount of the consideration money for the grant and release to the latter of the messuage, etc., in Gunnerton.

Dated 8th February, 1692 [3].

Signed, sealed, and attested as before.

Paper. English.