

tenure but by serjeanty.⁷ So late as the reign of Edward I. the strip between Pandon and the bank of the stream called 'Eyse' was held under limits by its Byker owners, for the burgesses of Newcastle claimed rights of pasturage over it.⁸ This argument for the ancient extension of Jesmond township to the mouth of the Ouseburn, though not free from difficulty, is worthy of consideration. The present writer is a man of peace and unaccustomed to the rude wrangles of philologists, and so, whilst setting out the facts of the spelling of the name and putting forward the theories of others for what they may be worth, he offers no opinion of his own as to the origin, derivation or meaning, either of the early place-name of Jesmuth or of the later place-name of Jesmond.

THE COMMON FIELDS.

Jesmond, like other townships in Northumberland, was throughout the middle ages cultivated upon that common field system which has been so often described.⁹ The common field system briefly epitomized, was as follows: The houses of the cultivators all stood together in the village itself, each in its little garth or enclosure opening upon a village green. Beyond these lay a bare, uninclosed expanse of arable land divided into three huge fields. One of these fields grew an autumn-sown crop such as wheat or rye, another a spring-sown crop such as barley, oats, peas or beans, the third lay fallow, and the whole was cultivated according to an unvarying triennial rotation. Each of the three fields was divided up into flats, floors or sheths, which in their turn were sub-divided into half-acre rigs or strips separated from each other by balks of unploughed turf. The holding of each cultivator in Northumber-

⁷ *Testa de Nevill*, Hodgson's *Northumberland*, part III., vol. i. p. 224.

⁸ *Hundred Rolls*, Hodgson's *Northumberland*, part III., vol. i. p. 96.

⁹ See *Arch. Aeliana*, 16 N.S., p. 121, and 17 N.S., p. 1.

land usually contained 24 acres of arable land, consisting of these dispersed strips, besides pasture and common rights, and was called a 'farm.' The holdings were so arranged that each man had a third of his arable land in each of the three fields, and the units of the three parcels of half-acre strips so allotted did not lie together, but the rigs were separated and intermixed so that each should receive his due proportion of good and bad land. Besides the three arable fields, there was usually attached to each township a pasture called the leazes, divided into portions by lot, or rotation, for the purpose of hay harvest, and afterwards thrown open for the cattle to graze upon it; and beyond the arable and pasture lands lay a large space of common or uncultivated ground, into which the cattle of the cultivators were turned, and which also afforded them turfs for fuel, heather for thatching and bedding, and wood for repairing their houses, fences, and ploughs.

Jesmond village green was to the south of the old village of Jesmond, and beyond it lay its three common fields known in 1631 as the North Field, the Middle Field and the East Field.¹ Roughly speaking, the North Field extended from St. George's Church to Brandling Park, the Middle Field from Jesmond Manor House to Barras Bridge and the East Field from Fernwood Road to Jesmond Vale.

The flats in the common fields had local names, which were to some extent preserved in the names of the more modern and smaller fields, afterwards enclosed and fenced in, and those names are shewn in the plan of field names which accompanies this paper. By the year 1631, some closes had been formed, but the greater part of the township still lay in flats, open and unenclosed. Many exchanges had been made with the view of getting the strips together and some of the headlands were ploughed up, but as a

¹ *Watson Papers*, Mining Institute. In *Dr. Jennison's MS.* of 1625 the fields are distinguished as the *West Field*, the *Middle Field* and the *East Field*. --*Dr. Jennison's MS.* *pene*s the Newcastle Corporation.

rule the lands of the several proprietors were still intermixed, each owner's rigs being separated from the others by the intervening rigs of neighbouring proprietors.

In the North Field at that date were South Piggs Close, Selby Flat (which included Hopewell Close and other closes). Scot's Leas Close, Coate Haugh Stile, 'Wasr Closs' and Sowlden Flat or Golden Flat, and some of these in the early years of the eighteenth century were represented by Short Fridays, West Riggs, Moody's Close, Golden Flat, Brown's Close, Hepwell Hall Close, Stables, Willow Balks and Piggs Close.

In the Middle Field we find in 1631, Wall Tree Flat represented in the eighteenth century by Brown's Corn Close, Palm Tree Close and Seven Riggs Close. The Pantry Close (another name for Palm Tree Close) is mentioned at the later date and the earlier record says 'so ends the Palliestree Sheth.' There were open rigs in the Middle Field, represented in the eighteenth century by the East Back Field, the West Back Field, Jesmond Field or Chance Field, and Barn Flatt and God Thorne Hill are also mentioned in the Middle Field in 1631.

In the East Field were situated in 1631, Mr. Gibson's house (afterwards Stote's Hall), a piece of sole meadow, rigs in what in the eighteenth century were called Puddles Close and Dead Men's Graves, the Hirst, Barn Flatt again, a close adjoining the Little Dean on the east side of the High Street, and the Stony Heap, Benton Nook, Short Doderidge, 'and so ends Long Doderidge.'

We also find mention in 1631, of the Ox Close, Sandefor Close, Blind Wells, Stony Heap Close, and Hagg Head 'where the windmill is,' and in the eighteenth century, of Sandyford House, Barnes Close, Mill Close, Haddock's Nook, and West House Close.² In 1658 are described a capital messuage called High Hall, two closes called the Stubble, a close called Selby's Stints on the Common, a tack called Godthorn Hill, six ridges in the Long

² *Watson Papers*, Mining Institute. 'Rigs copied from an old book in the possession of Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., 16 June, 1823.'

Dodderidge called Haddrick's Riggs, and rigs in the Burn Flatt.³ In 1659 we find Puddles Close, Scots Leazes, Long Didderridge, Hirst, Willow Bank, Long Fridays, Short Fridays, Hobson's Close, Sandiver Close, Ox Close, Short Didderridge, Sickman's Close, a messuage upon Hobson's Close and a messuage upon Sandiver Close.⁴ In 1690, besides the High Hall, are mentioned Crag Hall, otherwise Dean Houses, closes called Kibbridges, Langley's Close, Heron's Close, Hall's Piece (otherwise Selby's Piece), Milborne's Close, three closes called Moory Crook, and also North Moor and Brandling's Tack.⁵

In 1724 Lady Oxford, a predecessor in title of the Duke of Portland, held rigs in Chester Field, Coatehaugh Stile, Golden Flat, Palm Tree Flat and Close, Hall Close, Windmill Hill, Blind Wells, Sandyford Wall Close, Long Fridays, Little Short Friday, North Moor and West Moor;⁶ and the next year Lord Oxford's chaplain writes:⁷

'We left Newcastle a little after six and rode a little out of the direct road to Morpeth in order to see my lord's estate about Jesmond, where there are several collieries. *The estate is strangely scattered here; there are two or three lands interspersed in one field and as many in another.*'

The following account of the Earl of Oxford's lands in Jesmond, dated in 1724, shews how completely the land still remained in undivided rigs at that date. Out of the forty-six scattered items, only about seven closes are mentioned, and the last two of those (East North Moor and West North Moor) were taken off the common and never lay in rigs. The land was then held by William Coulson (the largest adjoining freehold owner) as tenant and the township is called 'Jesmond *als* Jesus Mount.'⁸

³ *Jesmond Deeds.*

⁴ *Watson Papers*, Mining Institute.

⁵ *Jesmond Deeds.*

⁶ *Proceedings of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries*, vol. iv. pp. 154, 155.

⁷ Hist. MSS. Com. *Portland MSS.*, vol. vi. p. 106.

⁸ A Survey of several Baronies, Manors, Townships, &c., lying and being in Northumberland, belonging to the Right Honourable Edward Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, containing the Quantity and Quality of each particular Farm. 1724.—*Penes Mrs. Edington*, North Shields.

EXTRACT FROM SURVEY.

	A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.
House Croft	4	0	30	Four riggs		3	38
Single butt in Chester Field ..		2	20	Seven riggs	2	3	23
Two riggs		2	18	Five riggs	1	0	10
Three riggs	1	0	20	Nine Rigg Close or Blind Wells	4	2	18
Six riggs	1	2	20	Six riggs in Mill Close	2	2	37
Four riggs	1	0	26	Two riggs in Sandyford Wall Close			34
Coat-haugh Stile alias Ten Rigg Close	3	0	18	One in ditto			22
Seven Rigg Close	5	0	9	Four riggs	3	1	10
Two riggs and a butt	1	1	39	One rigg		2	7
Six riggs in Golden Flatt	3	1	28	Two riggs		3	28
Five riggs ditto	1	1	34	Long Fridays	4	1	37
Three riggs		3	28	Two riggs	1	2	36
One rigg		1	19	One rigg		2	4
One rigg		1	3	Cole Way into Palm Tree Flatt	1	1	26
Two riggs		1	2	Two riggs, Little Short Friday		2	0
One rigg			36	Two riggs		3	2
Two riggs	1	0	17	Two riggs		3	9
Two riggs		2	26	Five riggs	1	2	16
Seven Rigg Close	3	1	10	East North Moore	8	2	29
Five riggs in Palm Tree Close ..	2	1	0	West ditto	13	1	38
One rigg in West Hall Close .. .		2	6				
Fourteen riggs	2	3	36		51	1	24
Two riggs in Windmill Hill .. .		3	10		41	1	13
Twelve riggs	2	2	3				
Four riggs	1	0	15				
	41	1	13	Jesemond .. Total ..	92	2	37

'N.B.—There are several parcels of land omitted here which the old survey mentions but I could find no person who could tell certainly where they lay. The pastures or fields where it is said they lye are close to the Town of Newcastle which several people of that Town enjoy by stents either of horses cows or sheep and their having held by that custom out of any one's memory to the contrary makes it impossible to find out the just quantity or number of riggs or lands as is expressly mentioned elsewhere without an exact plan of the old shares or allotments.'

In the year 1800, a comprehensive division of the surface of most of the intermixed rigs then existing was made, on the award



of John Jobling and John Sadler, between the three chief land-owners, John Blenkinsop Coulson, Robert Warwick, who was the successor of John Andrew, and the then Duke of Portland,⁹ but the rigs bordering the Town Moor from Barras Bridge to St. Andrew's Cemetery and extending eastward from that line were not divided between the St. Mary Magdalene Hospital, the Corporation of Newcastle, Robert Warwick and Sir Thomas Burdon until 1813,¹⁰ and so late as 1827 the statute regulating the above hospital and providing for an exchange of lands between it and Ralph Naters, recited that the lands of the hospital at Sandyford lay intermixed with the lands of the said Ralph Naters.¹

The Leazes, which had been enclosed before 1631, lay to the north of Osborne Road, where it turns to the west; and to the north of that again, between Jesmond Dene Road, the Ouseburn, and the boundary of Gosforth, lay the Moor or Common, which was enclosed by John Coulson early in the eighteenth century. The common land also extended down what is now Jesmond Dene as far as Jesmond Dene Terrace.²

In comparing this arrangement with what existed in other townships, one is struck with the small extent of common compared with the amount of arable land. To the immediate west of Jesmond lies the Town Moor of Newcastle, which on the other hand affords a larger amount of common than was generally apportioned to a single township. Shildon Moor, the next great common to the westward, was intercommoned by the townships of Acomb, Bearl, Bywell, Newton, Newton-hall, Stelling, Clarewood, Halton-Shields, East Matfen, Nafferton, Ovington, and Welton.³ Tynemouth

⁹ *Watson Papers*, Mining Institute.

¹⁰ Award of Robert Hopper Williamson, dated 6 Novr., 1813. See *post* for the account of the St. Mary Magdalene Hospital's holding of lands in Jesmond.

¹ Statute 7 and 8 George IV., cap. lviii.

² *Watson Papers*, Mining Institute. Robert Sortkertel, Robert of Glanton's man, leading his lord's harness to Newcastle, was robbed and killed in 1256 on the moor of Jesmond.—*Northumberland Assize Rolls*, 88 Surtees Society, p. 101.

³ *New History of Northumberland*, vol. iv. p. 101.

Moor, on the east, was intercommoned by the townships of Tynemouth, North Shields, Cullercoats, Chirton, Murton, Preston, Monkseaton, Whitley, Backworth and Earsdon,⁴ and it seems probable that at some distant date the Newcastle Town Moor was intercommoned by the cultivators of Jesmond, if not also by those of Elswick, Benwell, Fenham, Kenton, and Gosforth. So late as 1331 William Goodeman, senior, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, conveyed to Robert de Halliwell, a burgess of that town, 22½ acres of land in Jesmond Field, with common and pasture from the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne to the said lands.⁵

There is a very old tradition that Newcastle Town Moor was a gift to that town from either Adam of Athol or Adam of Jesmond. The tradition is handed down by the earliest written history of Newcastle, Gray's *Chorographia*, published in 1649, the author whereof writes of 'The Towne Moore as some say the gift of Adam de Athell of Gesmond.'⁶ This statement is repeated with variations by subsequent historians. Bourne says Adam of Athol was called 'Dominus de Jesmond,' but points out that he could not have been the donor of the moor, for he was living in 1392, and in 1357, more than thirty years earlier, Edward III.'s charter to Newcastle had set forth that the Town Moor had belonged to that town time out of mind.⁷

Notwithstanding Adam of Athol's supposed description as lord of Jesmond no record can be found connecting him in any way with that township. The inquisitions on his death and on the prior death of his father are extant.⁸ They both died seised of the manor of Ponteland, where Adam of Athol was besieged by Douglas

⁴ 16 *Arch. Aeliana*, N.S., p. 137.

⁵ 1 *Arch. Aeliana*, N.S., p. 29.

⁶ Gray's *Chorographia*, Longstaffe's edition, p. 5.

⁷ Bourne's *Newcastle*, pp. 81, 149.

⁸ *Inq. p.m. 3 Henry IV.*, No. 21. For pedigree and account of Adam of Athol see Hodgson's *Northumberland*, part II., vol. ii. p. 43; and *New History of Northumberland*, vol. vii. p. 236; and see also Longstaffe's Account, 50 Surtees Society, p. 93, note.

before the battle of Chevy Chase, but these inquisitions contain no mention of any lands in Jesmond; and the owners at that time of Jesmond manor were entirely different persons, who are equally well ascertained and will be described in a subsequent part of this paper.

On the other hand, Adam of Jesmond, who lived more than one hundred years before Adam of Athol and who died in 1271, was the undoubted lord of the entire manor of Jesmond. He was much mixed up with Newcastle affairs, and was mayor of the town and governor of the castle, which he held for the king during the rebellion of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester.

Such a long-standing tradition, though doubtless broader in its statement than the facts can warrant, should not be lightly disregarded. Adam of Jesmond, as will be shewn in the account of his life contained in the next section of this paper, was in high favour with the king in 1267-8, when Henry III. took successful legal proceedings to recover part of the moor from the mayor and community of Newcastle,⁹ and it is quite possible either that he intervened on behalf of the town or that, as part of an arrangement then made, he may have surrendered a right of common *pur cause de vicinage* over the Newcastle part of the then entire open moor, and consented to retain as an equivalent the soil and the exclusive right to the pasturage of the north-west corner thereof, between Gosforth, Jesmond and the Ouseburn, now represented by enclosed fields.

The following very early deeds relating to land in the common fields of Jesmond are interesting. The first is undated, but was

⁹ John of Lethegrene, who prosecuted for the King, appeared against the mayor and community of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne on the plea of shewing by what warrant they hold seventy acres of moor with appurtenances in the suburbs of the town aforesaid and which ought to be in the hands of our lord the king as his demesne and are unjustly alienated from his crown, and they did not appear, and a precept was issued to the sheriff that he should attach them; and it is ordered that they be attached.—*Abbrevatio Placit.* 52 Henry III., Roll 14.

executed about the year 1190. By it Henry Bulmer gave in frankalmoign 28½ acres of land in Jesmond fields to the monks of Tynemouth. Translated into English the deed runs as follows:—

To all the sons of Holy Mother Church to whom these present letters shall come, Henry de Bulmer sends greeting. Know ye that I, moved by love, have granted and given, and by this my present deed have confirmed, to God and the blessed Oswin of Tynemouth and the monks serving God there, for the health of my soul and the health of the souls of my ancestors, twenty-eight and one-half acres of land of my demesne in the fields of Jesemu, of which eight acres are in that flat (*cultura*) which is called Weneflat and four acres in that flat which is called Great Millside, as the same lies in length and breadth up to the These (*sicut ipsa est longa et lata usque in Thesam*), and two and one-half acres in that flat which is called Little Millside, and two and one-half acres in that flat which is called Huwehalen, and three acres in that flat which is called Sandirig, and six acres in that flat which is next to that house which was Ralph Baard's towards the south, and two and one-half acres in another flat on the south side of the rivulet of Litteldene on the west side of the road as you go to Bentun, and they lie between flats (*culturas*) of Ralph Baard. And also all the right of pasturage (*herbagium*) which I had on the west side of Litteldene as the track stretches (*sicut via se extendit*) from the Newcastle road as far as the Benton road, and so downwards as the rivulet runs from the west part of the same rivulet, and so down by the rivulet until it comes to the head of that flat towards the east which is called Welleflat. To be had and holden in pure, free and perpetual alms, &c.

Witnesses: Gilbert Delaval, Patrick son of Edgar, Walter Gratherd, Miles son of Hubert, Ralph of Witelithe, Walter servant of Peter of Mulsham, Nigel of Dichington, Jordan of Bacworth, Adam of Herford, Ralph the chaplain, Simon son of Milo, Daniel son of Nicholas, John with the beard (*cum Barba*), John son of Ivete of Newcastle, and many others. (Seal lost.)¹

By the second deed, which is also undated, but which was executed a few years later than the first deed, Arnald Bucel granted

¹ A transcript in Latin of the original of this deed will be found in Brand's *Newcastle*, vol. ii. p. 77, note (z). He found it in the Augmentation Office, but when Mr. Gibson searched there for it for his *History of Tynemouth* it was no longer to be found.



THE OLD MILL, JESMOND DENE, 1820.

From a water colour drawing by T. M. Richardson the elder, in the possession of Mr. S. H. Fraser,
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to Elstan son of Edric of Newcastle lands in the fields of Jesmond.²
The translation of this deed is as follows:—

Know all men that I, Arnald Bucel, have granted to Elstan son of Edric of Newcastle and his heirs six acres three perches of land in the fields of Jesemue, viz. :—three acres upon the floors (*sup. floris*)³ and two and one-half acres at the thorn tree (*ad spynam*) and five perches in the west head of the said vill, to hold to him and his heirs for ever quietly and peaceably, paying therefor yearly seven shillings of silver and one penny, viz. :—half a mark at two terms, to wit, at Pentecost forty pence, and at the feast of St. Martin, forty pence; and three pence for me to the hospital of St. Mary in Westgate at the Assumption of the Blessed Mary; and one wax candle or two pence at the feast of St. Matthew to the chapel of St. Matthew, which is at the head of the hospital of the Blessed Mary in Westgate, for all service and custom.

If the said Elstan shall not pay the said farm promptly he shall be fined twelve pence of silver. And I, the said Arnald will warrant to the said Elstan and his heirs the said land for ever against all men and women.

Witnesses: Sir John Samson, Adam de Jesemue, Ralph Baard, Peter Scot of Newcastle, John with the beard, Godman son of Edric, Hwylthard Duc, Richard de Jesemue, Osbert his neighbour, Geoffrey de Jesemue, Robert son of Everard of Jesemue, Godman son of Alice of Newcastle.

Sir John Samson, the first witness, was probably the master of St. Mary's hospital,⁴ and the terms of the grant would seem to imply that Arnald Bucel was a benefactor of that charity.

² British Museum, *Wolley Charter*, vol. iv. The connection (if any) between this freeholder, Arnald Bucel, and the lords of the manor cannot be traced. Earlier members of the family of Bucel or Buscell were donors to Whitby Abbey, and relatives of the Yorkshire Percys who founded it. Under the modern form of Bushell the name is not uncommon in the north of England; and is to be met with in Jesmond.

³ We find 'in floris' in a deed relating to Stickley in Horton in 1261, *Hist. MSS. Comm. Report 11, App. 7*, p. 68; and at Stanington 'apud flores 1 acram et dimidiam,' *Newminster Chartulary*, 66 *Surtees Society*, 58; in Higham 'super floris' in a charter of Simon de Dilston, *Ibid.*, p. 112; and in Stanington again 'duæ acræ in les flores,' *Ibid.*, p. 285; Howndon Flower is a field, in Low Buston township, lying near Warkworth Station; and see Heslop's *Northumberland Words*, title 'Floors.'

⁴ Cf. 88 *Surtees Society*, p. 23.