

IX.—PROOFS OF AGE OF HEIRS OF ESTATES IN
NORTHUMBERLAND (continued from vol. xxiv.
2 ser. pp. 126 and 127).

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[Read on the 27th of March, 1907.]

Since the contribution on 'Proofs of Age of Heirs of Estates in Northumberland' was printed in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, vol. xxiv., some documents of the same nature have been found with the Chancery Inquisitions at the Public Record Office. Of these, abstracts have been made by Miss M. T. Martin, who calls attention to certain facts which suggest that the evidence produced at these inquests is not always so trustworthy as has hitherto been supposed. In the following abstracts Robert de Milneburne gives evidence at three inquisitions: on two occasions he deposed that his father died, and on the third, his uncle, and at the last two he went to purchase wax for the funeral. In three inquisitions sisters of three deponents have died, each named Isold. Some notes on this subject may be found in the *English Historical Review* for January and July, 1907 (vol. xxii. nos. 85, 87).

Chancery Inquisitions, Edward III. file 13.—Proof of age of Robert, brother and heir of John de la Leygh,¹ deceased, who held by knight service of Sir Henry de Percy, late under age and a ward of Edward II.; taken at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 12 April, 2 Edward III. [1328].

The jurors say that the said Robert was born in 'le Pavyllion' by Suthwer-muth, on 2 November, the morrow of All Saints, 34 Edward I. [1306] and was baptized on the same day in the church of the vill of Wermuth, and on 2 November last was twenty-four years old.

¹ A pedigree of the De la Leys, lords of Spindleston and Budle, may be found in the new *History of Northumberland*, vol. I. p. 178. 'Le Pavyllion' is the modern Pallion, near Sunderland, where Robert de la Ley's grandfather, John de la Ley, also resided. Cf. Surtees, *Durham*, vol. II. p. 241.

John de Aleynscheles, aged fifty-five years, says that Robert de Hilton and William de Suthewik lifted the said Robert from the holy font. His son William was born on the same day.

Walter de Ludewrth (aged 33) deposed that:—A certain Walter M. . . .² had a daughter, Alice, born, and took the deponent with him to the church of Wermuth, and made him, then aged nine years, lift his said daughter from the holy font, and there he saw Robert baptized before Alice, which caused a long delay at which she cried. Alice is still living, and by her age he knows that Robert has completed his twenty-fourth year as they have often reckoned together.

John de Hewrth (aged 40) deposed that:—Isold, his sister, died; her death is inserted in the calendar of the said church of Suthwermuth. On that day, he saw Robert baptized with great solemnity, the priest sprinkling too much holy water (*superflue*) in his face and eyes, from the holy font, for which he (the child) was angry with the priest for a long time.

William de St. Paul (aged 50) deposed that:—He had a daughter born.

Adam de Elyngeham (aged 48) deposed that:—William de Suthewik, formerly his beloved neighbour, begged him to dine with him, and he spent the whole day with him and accompanied him to the church of Suthwermuth, where he saw and heard Robert baptized; who was lifted up by Robert de Hilton and the said William de Suthewik.

Roger de Weston (aged 60) deposed that:—He set forth to the fair of Derlington and passed the night at 'le Pavilion,' where he found the mother of Robert lying in bed, Robert being just born. At the same time, he had a bond of Peter de Morpath, horsemonger, for six months for a horse sold to him there, as appears by the date of the bond.

Walter de Dichand (aged 54) deposed that:—He was a witness to the testament of John de Wermuth at Sunderland of the same parish of Suthwermuth, on which day the said Walter was aged thirty years, and Sir Laurence de Akley, then chaplain of the parish church of Wermuth, was present, and said that he had then baptized a beautiful little boy, son of Robert de la Leygh;³ to which boy Robert, the said Walter gave and sent two quarters of wheat on the same day, 3 November, and was at the feast of the purification of the mother of the said Robert.

John de Midilton (aged 52) deposed that:—That a certain John Markman was found killed in the field of Suthwermuth and he was present at the coroner's inquest, of which he has a copy, and dined with John de la Leygh, brother of Robert, at the house of his father and mother on the day on which Robert was baptized, and gave to him, lying in a cradle, eighteen pence.

William de Ellewik (aged 57) deposed that:—Thomas, his father, died; his death is testified in writings.

² This word is interlined and only M is legible.

³ Three words follow here which look like *nomine externa die*.

Hugh Stamp of Belforth (aged 50) deposed that:—Agnes, his daughter, was born, baptized, and dead, and if she had lived would have been of the same age as Robert. Also, he was enfeoffed by charter of Robert Scholl, of one messuage in the vill of Bellefurth, as appears by the date of the charter.

Alexander de Preston (aged 45) deposed that:—He rendered his account in the church of Suthwermuth before master Richard de Morpath, then official of Durham, when Robert was baptized; he knows the day by the date of his account.

Adam de Doxforth (aged 56) deposed that he gave all his land in the vill of Sunderland of the parish of Suthwermuth, to Reginald, his son, who only lived for a year after the enfeoffment; he knows the day by the date of the charter and by the death of Reginald.

Chancery Inquisitions, Edward III. File 13.—Proof of age of Robert Bertram,⁴ son and heir of Robert Bertram of Bothale, deceased, taken at the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 12 April, 2 Edward III. [1328], in the presence of Edmund de Impton and Agnes his wife, executor of the testament of Christina de Wyterton,* forewarned concerning this.

The jurors say that the said Robert was born at Bothale, 24 March, 1 Edward II. [1307-8], and was baptized in the church of the same vill, and on 24 March last, was twenty-one years old.

Robert de Cressewell (aged 50) deposed that:—Robert de la Vale and Robert de Mora lifted the said Robert from the holy font. On the day of St. Mark Evangelist, next after the birth of Robert, the deponent married Isobel, daughter of John de Dudden.

Simon de Welteden (aged 50) deposed that:—He had a daughter, Alice, born.

Robert de Milburn (aged 50) deposed that:—Thomas de Milburn, his father, died.

John de Plessye (aged 60) deposed that:—His son Richard was accidentally drowned in the Blith, on the morrow of the birth of Robert.

Robert de Byker (aged 55) deposed that:—William, his son, was born, and is thus of the same age as Robert.

Thomas de Hydewyne (aged 50) deposed that:—At Whitsuntide next after the birth of Robert, he entered the service of Adam Baret, his master, in whose service he has been for twenty-one years.

⁴ For a pedigree of Bertram of Bothal see Rev. John Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part II. vol. ii. pp. 125-126.

* The name of Wyterton or Witterton which occurs four times in this inquisition is somewhat doubtful in the original. The first letter is undoubtedly W, otherwise Netherton might have been suggested as an alternative reading. The place may possibly be intended for Witton, in the parish of Hartburn, for there is no place called Witterton in Northumberland.

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Richard was not
drowned until
1349

↓

↑

1349

1329

John Kynton (aged 50) deposed that:—He set forth to the Roman court on the morrow of the birth of Robert.

Thomas de Witterton (aged 50) deposed that:—Agnes, his wife, died on the third day after the birth of Robert.

John de Walworth (aged 58) deposed that:—Nicholas, his brother, was killed in the field of Tynemuth, by a person unknown.

Thomas de Wodeburn (aged 50) deposed that:—On the day of St. Mark Evangelist, next after the birth of Robert, Joan de Wodeburn, his mother, gave to him all her land in Tirtlyngton.

Nicholas de Eland (aged 50) deposed that:—At Whitsuntide next, after the birth of Robert, Peter de Eland, his father, was made bailiff of Sir Aymer de Valence, late earl of Penbroch (*sic*) in South Tynedale.

Alexander de Wyterton (aged 60) deposed that:—On the day of the Invention of the Holy Cross, next after the birth of Robert, eight oxen were stolen from him in the woods of Wyterton.

Chancery Inquisitions, Edward III. File 25.—Proof of age of David de Strabolgi, earl of Athol, son and heir of David de Strabolgi, late earl of Athol,⁵ who held of Edward II.; taken at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2 April, 4 Edward III. [1330].

The jurors say that the said David was born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1 February, 2 Edward II. [1308-9], and was baptised in the church of St. Nicholas of the said town, and on 1 February last, was twenty-two years old.

Robert de Milneburne (aged 50) deposed that:—Guyschard de Charron the younger, and master John de Hadington lifted David from the holy font. Thomas de Milneburne, father of the said Robert, died on the day before the said 1 February, and on the morrow he went to Newcastle-upon-Tyne to buy wax for his father's burial, and then saw David baptized in the said church, with great solemnity.

62. — John de Plesis (aged 50) deposed that:—He had a son, Richard, born . . . ⁶ next before the said 1 February.

.⁶ Haukewell (aged 50) deposed that:—He had a daughter, Alice, born.

Thomas de Swetopp (aged 60) deposed that:—Isold, his sister, died; her death is inserted in the calendar of the said church of St. Nicholas. He saw David baptized there with great solemnity, the priest sprinkling too much holy water (*superflue*).

.⁶ (aged 40) deposed that:—David was taken, with his nurse, after his baptism, to the house of the deponent's father, in Eland, and was nursed there for three years, and was taken away nineteen years ago.

⁵ For a pedigree of Valence, Strabolgi and Athol, lords of Felton, see new *History of Northumberland*, vol. VII. p. 236.

⁶ The MS. is torn here.

? Agnes

.....⁷ (aged 50) deposed that:—He had a bond of Peter de Morpath for six marks for a horse sold to him, written in the church of St. Nicholas on the day on which David was baptized there; it was twenty-two years ago, as appears by the date of the writing.

.....⁷ (aged 50) deposed that:—He was executor of the will of his father, who died on the eighth day before the said 1 February; he knows the day by the date of the will.

.....⁷ (aged 40) deposed that:—He had a son, John, born at Newcastle.

.....⁷ (aged 40) deposed that:—He took a moiety of the manor of Suthdissington for term of thirty years, by indenture. He knows the day by the date of the writing.

.....⁷ (aged 40) deposed that:—He was enfeoffed of land in Heddon-upon.....⁷ by charter of Nicholas Smith.

.....⁷ deposed that:—He owed 100s. to Thomas de Kalio by a bond [written]⁷ in the said church, of which payment he has an acquaintance.

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Chancery Inquisitions, Edward III. File 45.—Proof of age of Marmeduke, son and heir of Robert de Lumley,⁸ deceased, who held of Edward II.; taken at Chyvington, on Friday the morrow of All Souls, 9 Edward III. [3 November, 1355].

The jurors say that the said Marmeduke was twenty-one years old on the feast of St. Cuthbert in September [4 Sept.] last.

William de Eslington (aged 42) deposed that:—He was present in the church of All Saints of the vill of Chivyngton, on St. Cuthbert's day, when Marmeduke de Twyng and Gawyn de Twyng lifted Marmeduke from the holy font. The said feast of St. Cuthbert was the next after the battle of Bannockburn, which was twenty-one years ago at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist [24 June] last.

John de Morewyck (aged 50) deposed that:—Joan, his mother, was buried in the churchyard of the church of Chivyngton, on the day on which Marmeduke was baptised, and he always remembers how many years have passed since his mother's death.

⁷ The MS. is torn here. The name and deposition of the twelfth deponent are torn away.

⁸ The Lumleys acquired a purparty of West Chevington by the marriage of Sir Roger de Lumley with Sibilla, daughter and coheir of Sir Hugh de Morwick, baron of West Chevington.

The site of the chapel is known but not one stone of the structure remains above ground. One gravestone there is—a large and heavy through-stone—from which the inscription has long ago disappeared. William de Eslington's deposition contains the only known evidence of the dedication of the chapel. Cf. new *History of Northumberland*, vol. v. p. 385.

John, son of William de Chyvington (aged 43) deposed that:—On the eve of the said feast of St. Cuthbert, Robert, his brother, killed a man in the vill of Erdesdoun, and fled and has never returned.

Roger de Knapton (aged 46) deposed that:—At the feast of St. Mary Magdalene next before the birth of Marmeduke, he married, and he always remembers the time of his marriage.

Robert de Balliol (aged 40) deposed that:—William, his father, was drowned in the Coket eight days before the birth of Marmeduke, and he always remembers the year of his father's drowning.

Robert Mareys (aged 50) deposed that:—After his father's death, Alice, his mother, was betrothed (*desponsata*) to John Munck, fifteen days after the birth of Marmeduke, and he stayed with his mother for ten years afterwards, and it is now eleven years, at the feast of St. Michael last, since he himself married.

William Archer (aged 60) deposed that:—He set forth to St. James, at Christmas next after the birth of Marmeduke.

William Arnold (aged 46) deposed that:—He retired from the service of Sir Marmeduke de Tweyng, uncle of the said Marmeduke de Lumley, at the feast of St. Martin next after his birth.

Robert de Morton (aged 57) deposed that:—John, his father, was killed at the battle of Bannockburn, twenty-one years ago, at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist last, and Marmeduke was born on the feast of St. Cuthbert next after the said battle.

William de Gysenes (aged 50) deposed that:—Robert, his eldest son, and Marmeduke are of the same age, and Robert was twenty-one years old on the feast of St. Cuthbert last.

Roger de Wodrington⁹ (aged 40) deposed that:—He was present at the battle of Bannockburn with Sir Robert Bertram his lord, and there his said lord died. This happened twenty-one years ago at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist last, and on the following feast of St. Cuthbert, Marmeduke was born.

William atte Halle (aged 60) deposed that:—At the feast of St. Michael next after the birth of Marmeduke, as he, the said William, was journeying to Newcastle, his horse fell by the way and broke William's shin so that it is not yet altogether healed.

Chancery Inquisitions, Edward III. File 25.—Proof of age of John de Cramelington, son and heir of Richard de Cramelington,¹⁰ deceased; taken at New-

⁹ If this is the Robert Widdrington who in 1334 married Elizabeth Acton he had probably a prior wife.

¹⁰ The dedication of the parochial chapel of Cramlington—subordinate to the vicarage of Newcastle—to St. Mary, conflicts with the evidence adduced by Mr

castle-upon-Tyne, on Wednesday next after¹¹ the feast of St. Martin in winter, 9 Edward III. [16 Nov., 1335].

The jurors say that the said John was born 2 November, 7 Edward II. [1313] at Cramelington, and was baptized in the chapel of St. Mary of the same vill, and on 2 November last was twenty-one years old.

Robert de Milneburne (aged 50) deposed that:—Sir Roger de Milneburn, vicar of Brankiston, his uncle, died at Brankiston, on the last day of October, 7 Edward II. [1313], and immediately afterwards he went to the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne to buy wax for the light round the body of his uncle, and on the third day following he came through the vill of Cramelington, and then saw John baptized in the said chapel of Cramelington. His uncle died twenty-one years ago.

John de Plescis (aged 50) deposed that:—His daughter, Joan, was born on the feast of St. Michael Archangel, 7 Edward II. [1313], and in the month of November following he saw John in the hands of his nurse at Cramelington. His daughter is twenty-one years old.

Robert de Rihill (aged 40) deposed that:—He came from the battle of Stryvelyn, through the vill of Cramelyngton, and there spent a night with the father of John, and then saw John lying in a cradle. It is twenty-one years since the battle.

Alan de Heppescotes (aged 50) deposed that:—A certain John de Trewyk made him a bond for 40s. in the said chapel of Cramelyngton, 2 November, on which day John was born and on the same day he saw him baptized. He knows the day by the date of the bond.

John de Faudon (aged 40) deposed that:—He let to farm ten acres of land in Faudon to Walter de Burneton for term of twenty years, on the feast of St. Michael Archangel, 7 Edward II. [1313], and in the month of November following, he saw John held in the hands of his nurse at Cramelyngton.

John de Kynton (aged 54) deposed that:—He came to talk with Richard de Wytelaue at Cramelyngton, and there saw John de Trewick lift John from the holy font.

.¹² Wesley of Haliwell (aged 40) deposed that:—John, his father, made his will, and his executors proved it in the said chapel of Cramelyngton

Bates ascribing it to St. Nicholas. Cf. 'The Dedications of the Ancient Churches and Chapels in the Diocese of Newcastle,' *Arch. Ael.* vol. XIII. p. 337.

A pedigree of Cramlington may be found *Arch. Ael.* vol. xix, p. 12, and a revised account of that branch of the family which was settled at Newsham will appear in the new *History of Northumberland*, vol. ix.

¹¹ At the foot of the document this word is given as *ante*; at the head it is *post*, and has apparently been altered, probably from *ante* which has been left at the foot.

¹² The christian name is illegible.

John of Plescis

before the sequestrators, 2 November, 7 Edward II. [1313], when he saw John baptized there.

William de Prestewick (aged 48) deposed that:—He had a daughter, Desiderata, born on the said day. In the same month of November, he saw John at Cramelyngton, lying in a cradle.

Alan de Wytton (aged 46) deposed that:—On the second day after the birth of John, he was summoned with other neighbours, before the king's coroners, to see the body of a man who had been struck by lightning, at the mill of Cramelyngton, and afterwards, on the same day, he went to the vill of Cramelyngton and there saw John held in his nurse's arms.

William de Fenrothir (aged 40) deposed that:—He was cited to prove the will of Adam de Killingworth, his grandfather, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, before the Ordinary, and on the morrow, returning home, he came through the vill of Cramelyngton, and there saw John born and baptized, wrapped in cloths.

John de Backworth (aged 50) deposed that:—He had a bond of Peter de Morpath for six marks, for a horse sold to him, written in the chapel of Cramelyngton, on the day on which John was baptized there.

Henry Faukes (aged 50) deposed that:—Isold, his sister, died; her death is in the calendar of the said chapel of Cramelyngton.

Chancery Inquisitions, Edward III. File 52.—Proof of age of Thomas, son and heir of Thomas de Bradeford,¹³ deceased, who held of Edward II.; taken at Baumburgh, on Monday after the feast of St. James Apostle, 11 Edward III. [25 July, 1339], in presence of Sir Thomas de Baumburgh, the king's clerk.

The jurors say that the said Thomas was twenty-one years old on Monday next after the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, last, and was born at Bradeford on Monday next after the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, 9 Edward II. [13 July, 1316], and on Tuesday following was baptized in the church of St. Aidan of Baumburgh by a chaplain named Thomas de Corbrige, and was lifted from the holy font by the same Thomas and John his son, godfathers, and Alice, wife of Roger Colyn, godmother.

Roger de Weston, knight (aged 50) deposed that:—On the said Monday, a Scot named Donald de Duns was taken in war and beheaded at Baumburgh.

John de Loker (aged 30) deposed that:—Robert de Loker, his father, raised a new hall in his manor of Loker.

Richard de Hopum (aged 32) deposed that:—Alexander, his brother, died.

Adam de Doxford (aged 40) deposed that:—Thomas, son of Ralf, his tenant in Doxford, died.

¹³ The evidence produced at this inquest illustrates the pedigree of Bradford of Bradford in Bamburghshire (*cf. new Hist. of Northumberland*, vol. I. p. 297), which may be collated with a pedigree of the same family in Flower's *Visitation of Yorkshire* (16 Harl. Soc. Publ., p. 35).

Killingworth
Bishop

Robert Porter of Baumburgh (aged 60) deposed that:—Thomas, his brother, fell from a cart and broke his shin.

Thomas Corouner of Baumburgh (aged 26) deposed that:—William del Heuedrawe of Baumburgh married his sister.

Alexander de Preston (aged 60) deposed that:—Robert de Parys of Baumburgh married Maud Grym.

William de St. Paul (aged 50) deposed that:—He was seised of a burgage in the vill of Baumburgh, of the gift of Simon de Elford.

Robert Goldwyn (aged 50) deposed that:—He was given as hostage in Scotland, for the ward of Baumburgh.

William Leger (aged 40) deposed that:—A house was accidentally burnt in Bedenhall.

William Skinner of Baumburgh (aged 56) deposed that:—Robert de Brus granted a truce to the men of the ward of Baumburgh, for the next half-year.

John de Whatton (aged 60) deposed that:—John de Homeldon married Cecily, his sister.

Chancery Inquisitions, Edward III. File 63.—Proof of age of Jacoba, third daughter and co-heir of Richard de Emeldon,¹⁴ deceased; taken at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 16 February, 14 Edward III. [1339-40].

The jurors say that the said Jacoba was born in the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 23 March, 18 Edward II. [1324-5], and was baptized in the church of St. Nicholas of the same town, Laurence of Durham, Margaret of Castle-Bernard, and Joan Moubrey lifting her from the holy font, and was fifteen years old on 23 March last.

Adam Graper (aged 44) deposed that:—He was sent to London, 30 March, 18 Edward II. [1324-5], to Richard de Emeldon, Jacoba's father, with letters from Christine, Richard's wife, and the said letters having been read in his presence, he knows the day of Jacoba's birth.

John de Carliol (aged 50) deposed that:—He followed the said Margaret of Castle-Bernard and Joan de Moubray to lift Jacoba from the holy font.

William Russell (aged 56) deposed that:—He saw Jacoba lying in a cradle, 30 March, 18 Edward II., and gave her forty pence of silver.

Adam Page (aged 58) deposed that:—On 23 March, when Jacoba was baptized, as she came from the church of St. Nicholas¹⁵ to him wonderful so that he called her by a boy's name when she herself was a girl.

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¹⁴ For an account of Jacoba de Emeldon and of her three marriages, see Mr. Dendy's account of 'Jesmond,' *Arch. Ael.* 3 ser. vol. I. p. 94.

¹⁵ The blank spaces represent words torn away. The rest of the inquisition is torn off.