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This thirteen-volume series, which first appeared between 1914 and 1965, is an extensive collection of the pre-thirteenth-century charters and related records of Yorkshire, which had previously remained largely unpublished. The first three volumes were edited by William Farrer (1861–1924), after whose death Charles Travis Clay (1885–1978) took up the task. The series was well respected for the quality of Farrer's editing, which was surpassed only by that of Clay in the later volumes. The lack of an index was considered by many reviewers to be the only short-coming to Farrer's work, and so the present volume, a thorough index to the first three volumes, was published in 1942. Assisted by his niece, Clay indexed the content by persons and places (persons are further distinguished by description and occupation), source and chart pedigree.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05835-3 - Early Yorkshire Charters: Index to Volumes 1–3

Compiled by Charles Travis Clay and Edith Margaret Clay

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Early Yorkshire Charters

INDEX TO VOLUMES 1–3

COMPILED BY CHARLES TRAVIS CLAY
AND EDITH MARGARET CLAY



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The Anniversary Reissue of Books from the Yorkshire Archaeological Society

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the leading society for the study of the archaeology and history of England's largest historic county, Cambridge University Press has reissued a selection of the most notable of the publications in the Record Series of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. Founded in 1863, the Society soon established itself as the major publisher in its field, and has remained so ever since. The *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* has been published annually since 1869, and in 1885 the Society launched the Record Series, a succession of volumes containing transcriptions of diverse original records relating to the history of Yorkshire, edited by numerous distinguished scholars. In 1932 a special division of the Record Series was created which, up to 1965, published a considerable number of early medieval charters relating to Yorkshire. The vast majority of these publications have never been superseded, remaining an important primary source for historical scholarship.

Current volumes in the Record Series are published for the Society by Boydell and Brewer. The Society also publishes parish register transcripts; since 1897, over 180 volumes have appeared in print. In 1974, the Society established a programme to publish calendars of over 650 court rolls of the manor of Wakefield, the originals of which, dating from 1274 to 1925, have been in the safekeeping of the Society's archives since 1943; by the end of 2012, fifteen volumes had appeared. In 2011, the importance of the Wakefield court rolls was formally acknowledged by the UK committee of UNESCO, which entered them on its National Register of the Memory of the World.

The Society possesses a library and archives which constitute a major resource for the study of the county; they are housed in its headquarters, a Georgian villa in Leeds. These facilities, initially provided solely for members, are now available to all researchers. Lists of the full range of the Society's scholarly resources and publications can be found on its website, www.yas.org.uk.

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Index to Early Yorkshire Charters, Volumes 1–3

Charters have long been recognised as a major source for English history before the thirteenth century, when the archives of national government begin to survive in substantial quantity. William Farrer (1861–1924) was a scholar of private means who took up historical research when his circumstances gave him the opportunity to do so, employing a cadre of record scholars to transcribe documents on his behalf. His volumes of *Early Yorkshire Charters* were described as his greatest achievement. Three volumes (of a planned total of six) were published between 1914 and 1916, but the work was never completed. After Farrer's death, the Yorkshire Archaeological Society purchased his unpublished research and set about continuing it. Farrer's volumes, and the Society's 'Extra Series' consisting of nine additional volumes of texts and this consolidated index to Farrer's three volumes (the fourth in the Extra Series), are now reissued by Cambridge University Press. This index volume was prepared by Charles Travis Clay and his niece Edith Margaret Clay, and first appeared in 1942.

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EARLY
YORKSHIRE CHARTERS

VOLS. I—III

EDITED BY

THE LATE WILLIAM FARRER, HON.D.LITT.

A CONSOLIDATED

INDEX

OF PERSONS AND PLACES

PREPARED BY

CHARLES TRAVIS CLAY, F.S.A.

AND

EDITH MARGARET CLAY

PRINTED FOR

THE YORKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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EXTRA SERIES VOL. IV

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INTRODUCTION

It was Dr. Farrer's intention to print a consolidated index to *Early Yorkshire Charters* at the end of the final volume. But after the publication of the third volume he abandoned the series in favour of his *Honors and Knights' Fees*. The lack of an index to his three volumes of *Early Yorkshire Charters*, which contain unsurpassed material for the history of twelfth-century Yorkshire, has been felt acutely, and has obscured much of their value. The Yorkshire Archæological Society, having acquired after his death the stock of unsold copies and the draft manuscripts of the unprinted portions, has felt a special responsibility; and several years ago, largely at the instigation of our late President, Colonel John Parker, it was decided to prepare a consolidated index to Farrer's three volumes. The work proved to be more formidable than we had originally supposed; but it is now in a sufficiently complete state to justify its publication, and be available for those who possess the volumes.

It was originally proposed that to the Index of Persons and Places, which forms the bulk of the present volume, there should be added a Subject Index; and, indeed, Professor Tait kindly gave me several suggestions for the lines on which such an index should be compiled, especially with regard to references of an agricultural interest. A proportion of the entries were duly entered on cards. But it was decided to abandon the scheme, not only for financial reasons, but also because its completion would postpone the issue of the present volume, perhaps indefinitely. At the same time it was thought that as such an entry as 'Alexander, the goldsmith' was only indexed under 'Alexander,' it would be useful to have a short Index of Descriptions and Occupations, giving cross-references to the names concerned. In this index (pp. 268-71) such descriptive terms as goldsmith have their place, and justices and lay officials are included. But ecclesiastical and clerical descriptions—such as chaplain, clerk, priest—are omitted; and as regards bishops and ecclesiastical and monastic dignitaries, at all events for the post-conquest period,¹ cross-references are given in the main index under their respective sees, archdeaconries, churches or religious houses; and rectors and vicars will usually be found there under their respective parishes. As a special case, however, a heading is given for rural deans, on whom some observations are given below.

This Index of Descriptions and Occupations is followed by an Index of Chart Pedigrees, which are often so difficult to find in Farrer's volumes; and then by an Index of Royal Writs and Charters and of Final Concords, which number just over 300 royal documents and 19 final concords. Finally, there is an Index of Sources. This may be found useful in listing the documents printed by Farrer from any particular chartulary or volume of

¹ No attempt has been made to assign their respective sees to those merely described as 'bishop' in the Pre-Norman Documents in vol. i, pp. 1-28.

the Dodsworth manuscripts; and it may be noticed that of the total number of documents printed in the three volumes, namely 1897, the number of original charters (which are marked in this index with an asterisk) is about 120, apart from a few copied from the texts in printed sources. Incidentally, a volume consisting of collotype facsimiles of the originals printed by Farrer would be a production of particular interest and value.

§ 2.

It is a fortunate circumstance that there is no recognized set of rules for the indexing of early charters; and, indeed, it is unlikely that the findings of any committee, however authoritative, would cover the multitude of special and doubtful points which confront the indexer at almost every turn. The following observations are intended to be merely explanatory of the system which has been adopted, and are not intended to suggest that it is in any way a better one than others.

(i) Place-names, when identified, are indexed under their modern form, with cross-references from the various spellings, or from the majority of them. Attempts have been made to identify the large varieties of places which have the same constituent form, such as Kirkby, Newton, Sutton and Thornton; but in some instances the absence of a clue suggests 'unidentified' as the only possible entry. Unless stated otherwise places are in Yorkshire. Consolidated cross-references will be found under various English counties.

(ii) Members of families deriving their name from a place are indexed under the place in its modern form, when the place itself is entered in the index, and there is no reason for doubt; but where the place is not so entered the original spelling of the family name is usually preserved in the entry. Far more, no doubt, could be done in identifying the places in the latter category. Such identifications, however, open the door very wide to a process of guessing, and it is safer to leave them for the most part as they are. If it is certain that Rainer de Waxtonesham, Glanville's steward and deputy sheriff, took his name from Waxham in Norfolk, and reasonably certain that Roger de Fodringai took his from Fotheringhay, and Thomas de Quernebi his from Quarmbay, near Huddersfield, it is doubtful whether Salmon de Cornewail took his from Cornwall or from Cornouaille in Brittany, or whether William de Holebeche took his from Holbeach in Lincolnshire.

(iii) Several systems have been or could be adopted for indexing the simple case of *Ricardus filius Roberti*. He can be entered under 'Robert, Richard son of'; or 'Richard son of Robert'; or under some such comprehensive heading as 'Son of,' or 'Filius.' In the indexes to the later volumes of *Early Yorkshire Charters* (vols. IV-VI) he would be found under both Robert and Richard. But the present volume would be greatly increased in bulk if that system had been followed; and it was decided to have only one

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entry—a choice between the father and the son. It seemed more advantageous to choose the father; and the entry in the present volume is under 'Robert, Richard son of.' There is the further point that Richard may have had children and grandchildren. Swane son of Alric, for instance, had a son Adam, well-known as the founder of Monk Bretton priory. All three names appear in the text; the grandfather is indexed under 'Alric,' the father under 'Alric, Swane son of,' and Adam under 'Swane, Adam son of.' Then Adam himself had two daughters, his coheirs. It would be carrying the process too far to index them under 'Adam,' and they will be found as subordinate entries, with the names of their husbands, under 'Swane, Adam son of.'

Further, Richard son of Robert may appear elsewhere in the text as Richard de Newton, or as Richard son of Robert de Newton. Where there is no doubt that he is the same man he would be indexed under 'Newton, Richard de,' with a corresponding cross reference from 'Robert, Richard son of,' together with another entry under 'Newton, Robert de.'

(iv) The same man may be described as of more than one place. Ranulf son of Wielard was known both as Ranulf de Hickleton and Ranulf de Stamfordham (in Northumberland); and Aschetil son of Gospatric was known as Aschetil de Habton, de Brawby, and de Ridale, being the ancestor of the Scottish family of Riddell. In complicated cases such as these a system of cross-references is necessary.

(v) It must not be supposed that all the references under a particular entry in the index are necessarily to the same man. To differentiate people of minor importance, members of the same family with the same christian name, would be an impossible task; but attempts have been made to differentiate men with the same christian name in important families such as Brus, Fossard, and Lascy, of which Farrer has given detailed accounts, and for which the necessary dating criteria are available. On the other hand, for instance, no attempt has been made to differentiate all the several people who bore the name of William de Percy. Again, a man of the same name may have a descriptive designation in one entry, and not in another; he may or may not be the same man. In such instances, such as Baldwin de Gant (canon of Bridlington), the descripton is placed in brackets; or, for Hugh Gernagan, elsewhere described as Hugh son of Gernagan, the 'son of' is similarly treated.

(vi) Wives, whose parentage is known or suspected, are indexed under the family name of their fathers, or under their fathers in the absence of a family name, with a cross-reference from their husbands in either case. If their parentage or family name is unknown they are indexed with their husbands.

(vii) Priests, clerks and chaplains require special consideration. It is by no means certain that such an entry as John *presbiter* or *sacerdos* of Thornton indicates that John had any beneficial

interest in the church of Thornton. It may often mean that a man called John came from a place called Thornton, and was a priest. He may occur elsewhere as John de Thornton, or perhaps merely as John the priest. On the other hand there may be conclusive evidence that he was actually the rector (*persona*) of Thornton. Such a proof is available for Nicholas, rector of Tickhill, who occurs in one entry as Nicholas *sacerdos de Tichilla* (vol. II, p. 337), and in another as Nicholas *persona de Tykehill* (vol. III, p. 299). But, generally speaking, John would be indexed under 'John the priest (of Thornton),' and the relevant page is also given in the entries under the place Thornton. Clerks and chaplains are treated on similar lines.

(viii) Rural deans are not easy to index, principally because it so often happens that it is not the name of the rural deanery, but the parish of which the rural dean was incumbent, that appears in his description.¹ A well-known example is Hugh *decanus de Silkstone*. The evidence is conclusive that he was rector of Silkstone and rural dean of Doncaster; and from the index it must not be deduced that several unknown rural deaneries have been created. The rural-decanal history of Yorkshire in the twelfth century has never been examined in detail; and it may be of some small help to have a list of all those who are mentioned as having filled the office under the heading of 'Rural deans' in the Index of Descriptions and Occupations.

(ix) Another point is the possible danger of supposing that in a string of names followed by a generic word, *canonici* for instance, the generic word applies to all the names, and not only to the last two or three. Uniformity cannot be achieved in a matter of this kind, and cases must be taken on their apparent merits.

(x) Names printed in italics are field-names, or local names such as streams and hills of minor importance. In these cases the entries are usually entered under their medieval spellings. It would be a difficult task to decide in a large proportion of them to which of two or three neighbouring townships or hamlets a particular field-name should be assigned. They are therefore indexed in their own alphabetical order. Streets, however, in cities or large towns, are included in the entry for the city or town in which they lay.

This list of explanations is by no means exhaustive; but it is hoped that it will give some general idea of the principles on which the Index of Persons and Places has been compiled. It only remains to add that in that index the roman numerals in thick type refer to the numbers of the volumes, and the arabic numerals to the numbers of the relevant pages.

¹ Some examples of this in the archdeaconry of Richmond are given in *E.Y.C.*, vol. v, introd., p. ix.

§ 3.

It is necessary to consider the action which an indexer should take when slips in the text have been noticed. No worse compliment could be paid to Farrer's volumes than to pretend that they are free from slips; and, in the light of research which has clarified certain questions since his volumes appeared, he would have been the first to welcome amendments. In a footnote to his preface to vol. II he has himself negated a statement in that volume relating to Herbert the chamberlain. It is only in rare instances, however, that we have ventured to adopt in the index such amendments as seem to be required. Two or three examples may be quoted. The first is one of special importance in the history of the holders of the constabship of Chester, and bears on the difficult question of the origin of the Constables of Flamborough. In charter no. 1111 (vol. II, p. 408), from a transcript of the original, the grantor's name appears as *Robertus filius comitis constabul' Cestrie*.¹ Farrer, following the text in the *Monasticon*, extended the fourth word as *constabul[ariū]*; and, transposing the third and fourth words, described him as 'Robert son of the constable of the earl of Chester,' with the suggestion that he was a natural son of William son of William, the earl's constable. But the charter was issued at the petition and with the assent of Agnes the grantor's wife; and there is a later clause which, in conjunction with other charters printed in the same section, shows that Agnes his wife was Agnes who had married Eustace FitzJohn. This was Agnes daughter and eventually coheir of William, constable of Chester (no. 1109; and see pedigree in vol. III, p. 199), whose husband Eustace held the constabship of Chester in her right. Evidently after Eustace's death she married a certain Robert *filius comitis*, who thus became possessed of the constabship in her right; and there can be no doubt that the correct extension of *constabul'* in the charter under consideration is *constabul[arius]*. Here, then, is a constable of Chester named Robert *filius comitis*, who appears to be otherwise unknown. He was clearly a son of the earl of Chester, and is indexed under Robert, with a cross-reference from 'Chester (earl of).'

Another example is that of John Belesmains or Bellesmains, a distinguished treasurer of York, and archdeacon of the East Riding (not of Nottingham), who became bishop of Poitiers, and later archbishop of Lyons. Farrer refers to him as John Talvace, treasurer of York (vol. I, p. 140; vol. III, p. 442), and elsewhere (vol. I, p. 38) as John Belesme, where the form of his name given in the charter is Belesm'. Neither of these descriptions is correct. He had no connexion with any family named Talvace or Talvas, nor with any family which took its name from Bellême, nor, incidentally, with the Belmeis family. Belesm' is the abbreviated

¹ For the following observations I am indebted to Mr. L. C. Loyd. He informs me that there is a MS. facsimile of the original in Sir Christopher Hatton's Book of Seals, where the full contracted form is *Robertus fil' com' constabul' Cestrie*.

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form of Belesmains, a descriptive name—‘of the fair hands’—by which he was known.¹ He appears in the index either under ‘Belesm[ains]’ or under ‘John, treasurer of York,’ with cross-references between the two.

Again, in an annotation to a charter relating to Gilling-in-Ryedale (vol. III, p. 489), an abstract is given of a charter of Clement, abbot of St. Mary’s. This certainly refers to Gilling in Richmondshire, and is so indexed. In the pedigree of the Luvetot family in vol. III, p. 4, a small amendment may be noticed. Ernulf de Magnevill was not the first husband of Matilda, daughter and heir of William de Luvetot, but the second husband of Matilda her mother; and he has been so treated in the index. Lastly, it has been thought more in consonance with recent investigations² to index the *comites Albemarle*, lords of Holderness, as counts of Aumale and not as earls of Albemarle. William, count of Aumale, was created earl of Yorkshire by Stephen; but this title was not recognized by Henry II, and his comital rank of *comes Albemarle* was due to his possession, not of an English earldom, but of a Norman comté.

§ 4.

The greater part of the task of making the entries on cards, and of preparing the index in its initial stages, was undertaken by Miss Edith Clay; and it is on her manuscript that the present work has been based. For the purpose of identifying place-names in Yorkshire general use has been made of Thomas Langdale’s *Topographical Dictionary of Yorkshire* (2nd ed., 1822), and of the admirable Yorkshire index in *Feudal Aids*, vol. VI; and also of a typewritten dictionary of Yorkshire place-names compiled by Mr. E. W. Safford, an Assistant Keeper of the Public Records, which was placed at my disposal by the kindness of the Deputy-Keeper. The great assistance given by the volumes of the English Place-Name Society for the North and East Ridings can best be measured by the fact that the volume for the West Riding has not yet been published. For Lincolnshire, a county with which Yorkshire had many feudal associations in the twelfth century, Canon Foster’s *Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, published by the Lincoln Record Society in 1924, has solved several difficulties; and for the wider field of England generally Dr. Ekwall’s *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (2nd ed., 1940), and the index volume of the *Book of Fees*, have been particularly helpful. On special points of identification which I have put before them the assistance readily given by Professor F. M. Stenton and Mr. L. C. Loyd is gratefully acknowledged; and my wife has frequently given welcome help in the final stages of the work.

¹ For a detailed examination of this question see the paper on ‘The Early Treasurers of York’ in *Yorks. Arch. Journal*, vol. xxxi, pp. 11 *et seq.*

² *Complete Peerage*, new ed., *sub* Aumale.

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In conclusion a note of warning will be excused. The work has been spread over several years, and has been done in spare time and in different places. There is a danger that some cards and a few of the references may have been misplaced. Nor have the circumstances of the last two years been conducive to work which requires great concentration. A process of checking, on which considerable time has been spent, has been undertaken; and it is hoped that the discrepancies, which are noted in the corrigenda, have been reduced to a minimum. I shall be grateful, however, to receive lists of any omissions or corrections; and in a year's time these, perhaps, could be printed, and circulated to all who are in possession of the volume.

CHARLES CLAY.

ASTON TIRROLD,
October, 1941.

CORRIGENDA

It is possible that an additional reference should be given for each of the following :

- Bloet, Robert, bishop of Lincoln (*not I*, 324)
- Giffard, William, kg's chancellor, bishop of Winchester (*not III*, 136)
- Gilbert, the priest (of Folkton) (*not II*, 291)
- Hovingham, soc (*not II*, 307)
- Neville, Peter de (*not III*, 331)
- Robert, Robert son of (*not II*, 123)
- Roger, Roger son of (*not II*, 363)

It is also possible that a reference should be given for Richard, sub-dean of Lincoln; but this may be a confusion with Richard, chancellor of Lincoln, or with John or William, sub-deans of Lincoln, who are duly indexed.