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Yorkshire Deeds

VOLUME 1

EDITED BY WILLIAM BROWN

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The Anniversary Reissue of Volumes from the Record Series of 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 The vast majority of these publications have never been superseded, remaining an important primary source for historical scholarship.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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Yorkshire Deeds

(Record Series volumes 39, 50, 63, 65, 69, 76, 83, 102, 111, 120)

These ten Record Series volumes, published between 1909 and 1955, contain calendars of over 4,700 Yorkshire deeds ranging in date from the twelfth to the early seventeenth century. Some were drawn from gifts or deposits held in the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's archive, but most belonged to private owners. The location of many of these documents cannot now be ascertained. The material is arranged alphabetically by place, and each volume contains an index of names and places.

Volumes 1–3 were edited by William Brown, D.Litt., FSA, whose obituary and bibliography by A. Hamilton Thompson can be found in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, 28 (1926), 118–134. The editor of Volumes 4–8 was C.T. (later Sir Charles) Clay, the librarian to the House of Lords, who was general editor of the Record Series from 1938 to 1953, and who between 1935 and 1955 edited nine volumes of the Extra Series of *Early Yorkshire Charters* (also reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection). Volumes 9 and 10 were edited by Mrs M.J. Hebditch (later Mrs M.J. Stanley Price), librarian to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society from 1941 to 1950 and editor of the Record Series from 1953 to 1975.

In addition to the deeds themselves, several volumes contain important supplementary material. Volume 3 includes a pedigree chart of the Thornhill family of Fixby in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Volume 4 has two appendices, the first on the early history of the manor of Fixby, and the second on the statute merchant seal of Kingston upon Hull. Volume 5 contains a consolidated index of place-headings for the deeds in Volumes 1–5, and appendices on the families of Habton and Stockeld. The four appendices in Volume 6 contain respectively a discussion of the 'Nevile Problem' relating to property in Denaby, information about the family of Sewerby, an index to the 'Ancient Deeds' class in the National Archives relating to Yorkshire, and corrections to Volumes 1–5. Volume 7 contains four plates illustrating notable deeds.

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EDITED BY

WILLIAM BROWN, F.S.A.

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KNIGHT AND FORSTER, PRINTERS, LEEDS.

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INTRODUCTION.

The documents, abstracts of which are printed in this volume, are all in private custody with the exception of the wills which have been added for the purpose of illustrating the documents. The following is a list of the documents with the owners' names :—

Mr. William Brown, The Old House, Sowerby, Thirsk, 11, 158, 192, 193, 196, 223, 257-260, 337, 407, 408, 410, 484, 505, 509.

Mr. S. J. Chadwick, Lyndhurst, Dewsbury, 21, 52, 61-65, 137, 159, 164-167, 185, 242-247, 249, 250, 253, 254, 293, 302-312, 332-336, 351, 352, 429, 432, 456, 456A, 457, 458, 459, 469-473.

Mr. John Charlesworth, The Crofts, Horbury, 7, 20, 202, 228, 314, 315, 319, 320, 480-482, 490-491.

Mr. Francis Collins, M.D., St. Andrews, Lyme Regis, 275-280, 508.

Mr. G. C. Croft, Town Clerk, Richmond, 395.

Mr. R. J. Dent, 42, Grey Street, Oatlands Mount, Harrogate, 281, 512A.

Mr. F. Fawkes, Farnley Hall, Otley, 447.

Guisbrough Hospital, 367-386.

Mr. G. H. Goldsbrough, Middlesbrough, 409, 504.

Rev. William Greenwell, Durham, 140, 153, 157, 168, 273, 299, 346, 463,-468 488.

[1]Rev. H. C. Holmes, Birkby Rectory, Northallerton, 8, 12, 15, 16, 58, 87, 127, 130-132, 154, 169-176, 183, 184, 232, 255, 359, 366, 400-406, 483, 492-500, 513, 516, 519.

Mr. J. T. Horton, Howroyd, Halifax, 25-51, 53-56, 68, 70-77, 90, 140, 141, 155, 205, 208, 225, 235, 251, 289-292, 342A, 345, 356, 357, 392, 394, 398, 411A, 413, 415, 426-428, 430, 431, 433-438.

Mr. Walter Morrison, Langcliffe, Settle, 559A, 568, 579.

Mr. Gleadowe H. T. Newcomen, Kirkleatham. Redcar, 261-272.

Mr. G. L. Nussey, Ardenlea, Ilkley, 57.

Colonel Parker, Browsholme, Clitheroe, 210-220, 340.

Mr. J. Selwyn Rawson, The Haugh End, Sowerby Bridge, 162, 163.

Mr. R. H. Simpson, Great Ayton, 342, 387, 388, 485, 486, 525, 527, 547, 565-567, 572, 573, 574, 575, 591, 612, 613.

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[1]Mr. Holmes's documents were at one time in the possession of Mr. J. C. Brooke, F.S.A., Somerset Herald, who died in 1794, suffocated in a crowd at the Haymarket Theatre. The bulk of his collections is, it is believed, at the Heralds' College.

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Rev. Charles Slingsby, Scriven Park, Knaresbrough, 67, 224, 283, 353.

Mr. Thomas Spencer, Richmond, 396.

Mr. Joseph S. Sunderland, Coley Hall, Halifax, 142-145, 226, 227, 236, 237, 412, 414.

Mr. Robert Sutcliffe, Hallhouses, Shibden, Halifax, 207.

Major Tempest, Broughton Hall, Skipton, 9, 10, 24, 78-81, 81A, 86, 91-107, 110-126, 129, 136, 156, 198, 203, 288, 294, 295, 300, 301, 355, 358, 462, 474-478, 502.

Colonel Edmund Wilson, Denison Hall, Leeds, 14, 69, 160, 221, 222, 233, 350, 389, 390.

The Wilson MSS., Cheltenham, 411.

Amongst so many kind contributors it is somewhat invidious to particularize, but especial attention must be called to the documents from Major Tempest's collection at Broughton and Colonel Parker's at Browsholme. Colonel Parker has laid our members under a further obligation by presenting the plates with facsimiles of seven of the more important of his charters.

There are still two series of documents unnoticed, without which this volume would shrink to very small dimensions. The first and more important series, which forms the back bone of the first part of this volume, is derived from originals in the possession of Colonel Gascoigne of Parlington Hall, near Leeds. For leave to copy these the editor is indebted to the kind offices of the Rev. F. S. Colman, rector of Barwick-in-Elmet. Some of these deeds may have been collected by Richard Gascoigne, an antiquary living in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, though the major part has been inherited from families, represented in later times by the Gascoignes of Parlington. The other series, which appears in the second part of this volume, is from documents preserved at Sizergh Castle in Westmorland, inherited by the Stricklands from the Nevilles of Thornton Bridge, near Boroughbridge, and from other Yorkshire families. Mr. William Farrer, F.S.A., Hall Garth, Over Kellet, Carnforth, has very kindly furnished the editor with abstracts of these documents.

The range in date of the documents here printed is very considerable, some being prior to 1200, and a very few after the Restoration. The earliest is a grant of lands in the Scarborough district by Henry I. (No. 257). This however occurs only in a royal confirmation of 1444, so the earliest original document is probably the grant of land at North Cave by the Hospital of St. Peters, York, (No. 129). from Broughton Hall. Some of the grants to Rievaulx Abbey of land at Harden from Browsholme cannot be later than the third quarter of the Twelfth Century. Many of the Parlington deeds, notably Nos. 22, 83, 109, and 134, must have been executed before 1200. A deed from Mr. Greenwell's collection (No. 157) is dated 1176.

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The places to which these charters refer will be found in almost all parts of the county. This is especially the case with the Parlington deeds. The Halifax district, thanks to the generosity of Mr. J. T. Horton and Mr. Joseph S. Sunderland, is specially well represented. That most of the Halifax deeds are late in date does not diminish their value, as the population was till almost modern times very sparse in those parts and only a small portion of the land had been brought into cultivation. The number of place-names ending in *rode* or *royd*, as Howroyd, Stile Rode, Hood Royd, Tirrerode, Milnerode, Tukrode, Hertley rode, Harryrode, Morerode, Edward Rode, Olderode, and many others, bear witness to the gradual extension of the cultivated area into the adjacent woodland. Other indications of the country becoming more settled are not wanting. At Shelf (No. 412) in 1543, at Broughton (No. 126) in 1573, at Bowling (Nos. 78, 79) in 1607, and at Brierley (No. 164) in 1607, instances occur of lords of the manor making grants out of the waste to tenants of the manor on payment of a small quit-rent. Terms such as *le Neu brek'* (No. 160), in Dalton Parva, near Rotherham, and perhaps *Thornbrotes* (No. 444) in Great Studley refer to the breaking up of pasture land and its conversion into arable. At Mexborough (Nos. 314, 315) is an interesting example of exchanges of parcels of land in the Common Field for the purpose of facilitating cultivation and abolishing the wasteful communal system which had been in vogue through the Middle Ages.

Very many of the religious houses in the county are mentioned, and also chapels at Coley, Hallytreeholme, Octon, and Waddington. Grants for the purpose of furnishing light and covering for the poor and strangers sleeping at Fountains (No. 168) and for a pittance at Rievaulx (No. 211) are somewhat unusual benefactions. In this last document it is not only provided that prayers should be made by the monks of Rievaulx for the soul of Adam, son of Peter de Birkin, the grantor, and for the souls of all his kin and heirs, but also for the souls of those who had sinned by him or through him. As the same clause occurs in a grant (No. 212) by his son, John de Birkin, it would appear that both father and son had been occasions of stumbling in no ordinary degree.

The more interesting deeds in English have been printed at full length. Nos. 409, 509, and 510 are worth notice as specimens of the vernacular in use at the time of their execution. Phrases and words like bed and bak (Nos. 37, 41), dublerwrith (No. 176), multurward (No. 177), woughe (No. 244), gare (No. 276), and eling or outshutt (No. 244) are all explained and indexed. Weland the smith's son in No. 443 is perhaps an unique example of the survival of the name of a mythical Norse hero as an existing personal name so late as the latter part of the Thirteenth Century.

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Nos. 66, 503, and 510 are wills which have not been entered in the registers at York. The roll for the manor of Scruton (No. 410), near Northallerton, is much more interesting than is usually the case with this class of document. No. 320 shews that in the province of York the widow had in addition to her third of her husband's personalty right to certain household effects.

In conclusion the editor wishes to tender his hearty thanks to Mr. W. T. Lancaster and Mr. E. W. Crossley for reading the proofs and for many valuable suggestions. To Mr. John Lister, the reader is indebted for the pedigree of the Rishworth family at the end of the volume.

WILLIAM BROWN.

SOWERBY, THIRSK.
January, 1909.

CORRIGENDA.

P. 32, note 1, l. 2, for *tailt* read *tail*.
P. 48, l. 15 from bottom, for *Johnn* read *John*.
P. 72, l. 8, for *Seunard* read *Seuuard*, the modern Seward.
P. 82, l. 4 from bottom, for *Bingley* read *Bingeley*.
P. 142, l. 16, for *gardinis* read *gardianis*.
P. 167, l. 14 from bottom, for *Hovley* read *Houley*.
P. 200, l. 17, for *Brantteby* read *Brancceby*, that is, Bransby.
P. 213, notes, l. 6 from bottom, for 1541-5 *read* 1584-5.

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