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Court Rolls of the Manor of Wakefield

The detailed records of the proceedings of the manorial court of Wakefield provide a unique insight into medieval life and commerce, the many legal disputes arising, and the mechanisms for resolving them. The manor court met every three weeks, as well as holding additional courts, or 'tourns', at various locations around the West Riding of Yorkshire. Recognising the historical significance of these exceptionally complete court records for one of the largest manors in England, in 1901 the Yorkshire Archaeological Society began publishing them as part of its Record Series. Up to 1945, five volumes appeared that span the years 1274–1331. Edited with an introduction and notes by John Lister (1847–1933) and published in 1917, Volume 3 contains the court rolls for the years 1312–13 and 1314–15 along with the surviving portion for 1285–86. The texts of the rolls are given in English translation.
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Court Rolls of the Manor of Wakefield

Volume 3: 1313 to 1316, and 1286

Edited by
John Lister
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 The vast majority of these publications have never been superseded, remaining an important primary source for historical scholarship.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.
**Court Rolls of the Manor of Wakefield, 1313–1316 and 1286**

(Record Series volume 57)

The Wakefield manorial court rolls span more than six centuries from 1274 to 1925, making them one of the most comprehensive series now in existence, and the Yorkshire Archaeological Society has been engaged in their publication and preservation for more than a century. The manor of Wakefield was one of the largest in England, covering a huge area of the West Riding of Yorkshire, although it was divided into many sub-manors. The actual area over which the court had jurisdiction during the centuries for which the records survive was approximately 90 square miles. The records of the manor's property transactions, agricultural business and law enforcement are an important source for legal, social and economic historians. In 1898, several members of the Society provided a fund to employ Miss Ethel Stokes, a leading London record agent, to produce translations of the earliest surviving rolls.

This is the third of the five volumes in the Record Series devoted to these early rolls, the others being 29, 36, 78 and 101. Its title is somewhat misleading: in fact, it contains translations of the surviving rolls for 1312–13 and 1314–15 (and not the rolls for 1313–14 and 1315–16), together with the surviving portion of the roll for 1285–6 which, having been in the possession of Sir Thomas Phillipps, the Victorian self-styled ‘vello-maniac’, was purchased at auction by Sheffield City Library. This roll is now at Sheffield Archives, where it has the reference MD158. The other court rolls published here are owned by the Society and have the references MD225/1/38 and 40.

The editor of this volume, John Lister (1847–1933), prepared several publications for the Record Series, five of which are reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection. An obituary and bibliography of Lister, which can be found in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, 31 (1934), 423–6, records that he died ‘at his ancestral home’, Shibden Hall, Halifax, and that – like many of his colleagues in the Society – he was a member of the landed classes, and also a non-practising barrister. His obituary in *The Times* of 13 October 1933 reported that he was a founding member of the Labour Party in Halifax and had twice stood as a parliamentary candidate for the Independent Labour Party.
COURT ROLLS
OF THE MANOR OF WAKEFIELD.

VOL. III.
THE YORKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Founded 1863. Incorporated 1893.

RECORD SERIES.

Vol. LVII.

FOR THE YEAR 1917.

COURT ROLLS

OF THE

MANOR OF WAKEFIELD.

Vol. III.

1313 to 1316, and 1286.

EDITED BY

JOHN LISTER, M.A.,


PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY.

1917.
INTRODUCTION.

It is more than fifteen years since the second volume of the *Wakefield Court Rolls* was published, though matter for this and quite another volume has been lying in MS. since 1901 in our Society's Library at Leeds. The two volumes already published were very ably edited, and Introductions written for them, by Mr. W. Paley Baildon. This being the case, so far as an Introduction is concerned to the present volume, it would seem that but a few pages are necessary.

The matter for this volume, however, is not quite entirely drawn from the Rolls preserved in the Manor Court Offices at Wakefield. Not a few of the Rolls, or portions of Rolls, that once were in the hands of the lords of the Wakefield manor, have gone astray, and have found other resting-places. Among these is a considerable section of the Roll for the year 1286. This appears to have come into the possession of the Wilson family of Broomhead, near Bradfield, and, afterwards, from thence into the Phillipps' Library.

When certain Wilson MSS. were sold out of the late Sir Thomas Phillipps' collection, the Sheffield Reference Library was able to purchase this portion of the 1286 Court Roll, as well as an Account Roll of the graveship of Holne¹ of the year 1316. The former consists, as its careful transcriber, Mr. Hermann Thomas ² states, "of a number of membranes of fine vellum, sewn together head and foot," the writing being "in a clear, neat cursive hand," and "in an excellent state of preservation." The Court Roll—as the transcriber notes—"overlaps slightly in date those already published, but deals with different meetings of the various Courts from July 20th, 13 Edward I [1286] to September 29th of the same year." This MS., which we may call the "Sheffield MS.," is printed at the end of the present volume.

ANCIENT DESMESNE.

The tenants of the Manor of Wakefield "do not seem to have had the privileges of ancient demesne," writes Mr. Baildon, in his

¹ Holne.
² Keeper of the Records, Guildhall, London.
INTRODUCTION

Introduction to the first volume, published by our Society. Herein, I venture to think, he must be mistaken, for (1) they could not be impleaded out of the Manor, and (2) they were free from toll for all things concerning their husbandry. These were privileges characteristic of tenure in "ancient demesne." So far as freedom from toll was concerned, King Henry VIII, in the first year of his reign, made a grant exempting the Manor of Wakefield, and the towns dependent thereon, from payment of toll, on the principle that, by ancient custom, the tenants of the old demesne lands of the crown had been, and ought to be, free from such payment.¹

The privilege of being toll-free was confirmed on the accession of each king, which, as the author of the History of Halifax observes, shows that the tenants "durst not depend altogether on the custom," although it was such an ancient one.

DATE OF THE GRANT OF THE MANOR.

Regarding the charter containing the gift of certain churches to the Priory of Lewes, viz. Conisborough, Harthill, etc., which proves that the Manor of Wakefield was granted prior to the year 1121 to the Warrens by the King, the grant of the churches being confirmed by a charter dated in that year, it is strange that the names of the witnesses should have escaped the editor of Volume I.

Mr. Watson gives them in his History of Halifax as he took them from Archbishop Corbridge's Register at York, and these names Mr. Brown has kindly verified for me. They are Ralph de Waren, Hugh de Petroponte, Ralph de Playz, Robert de Frivele, Reginald de Waren, Adam de Puñg, Gwd. de Mencect, and William de Drossaio. So Watson gives them; but Mr. Brown reads Ralph and Reginald de Waren as Ralph and Reginald de Ware, and can not detect a missing final n, though there was probably a mark of contraction now indiscernible. There were two Warrens who respectively bore these Christian names living at this period, so that, I think, we may conclude, in spite of the omission of the final n, that these witnesses belonged to the family of William, the second Earl of Warren, who made the charter granting Conisborough, Halifax, and other churches to the monks of Lewes. The other variations in Mr. Brown's readings from those of Mr. Watson are trifling, e.g. Frivile, for Frivele, Puning for Puñg, Guydo de Mencect for Gwd. de Mencect. Mr. Baildon apparently hoped that the names of these witnesses might be some clue in deter-

¹ See Watson, Hist. of Halifax, p. 97.
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mining the date of the grant of the Manor of Wakefield and its dependencies to the Warren family. I must confess that these names do not seem to make one much wiser.

SERJEANT OR BAILIFF.

I am inclined to think that, page the Editor of Volume I, the word “serviens,” which occurs in the margin of the Rolls, is better translated by “bailiff” than by “serjeant,” and I have so translated it. In fact, John de Ravensfeld is often styled “bailiff” not “serjeant” in the Rolls.1 “Serviens” and “Ballivus” seem to be words indifferently used. In fact, sometimes—as Mr. Baildon admits—it is open to translate “serviens” as merely “servant,” and he gives the latter as an alternative in the case of William de Langfield.2 The duties of serjeants and bailiffs seem to have been very similar, and servientes appear, indeed, to have been, in most cases, the servants of the bailiffs.

On page 39 of this present volume we sometimes find “serviens” written in the margin, but the entry against it runs: “The Earl’s bailiff [ballivus] charges, etc.” It was the duty of the bailiff to make all attachments per se or by his deputies,3 and in these Rolls against all such records the word “serviens,” i.e. “bailiff,” is set down in the margin. Sometimes we find, as in the case of William the Taylur, that if “serviens” means serjeant, the latter was promoted to be a bailiff, but it is evident that this individual was indifferently described both as “serviens” and “ballivus.” On page 71, Volume II, a fine is remitted to him “because he is a ‘serviens,’” and yet we find that, at the same time, he was “ballivus,” bailiff of the soke of Wakefield, page 73, and on page 68, he was pardoned an offence because “he is the bailiff—ballivus”—of the liberty,” and in later Rolls “ballivus,” not “serviens” is written in the margin against all attachments, etc.

I can not, therefore, agree with the Editor of Volumes I and II in thinking that the “Serjeant seems to have been next in importance to the Steward.”4 I should rather say that the “Bailiff” held that honourable position.

1 See vol. i, p. 150, where cattle are said to have been delivered up by means of “John de Ravensfeld, the Earl’s bailiff.”
2 See p. 111.
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RASTRICK AND BRIGHOUSE.

I hope I shall not be hypercritical when I point out that on page vii of his Introduction to Volume II, the Editor of that volume has been guilty of a lapsus calami in speaking of courts at Rastrick and Brighouse as if they were distinct courts. It was one and the same court under different place-names.¹

The Editor of the first and second volumes of our Wakefield Court Rolls² says "there is no 'custumal' of Wakefield Manor." This may be true, but there are "Extents," or copies of "Extents," existing which give the "customs" of the Manor in a very considerable measure. These, which have not been previously referred to in connection with the Rolls, it is, I think, well for any one interested in the subject to pay a little attention to. Of the value of such "Extents" or "Computi" let F. W. Maitland, in Select Pleas in Manorial and other Seignorial Courts, published by the Selden Society, bear his evidence.³ He writes: "We are in good luck when we can compare a court roll with an extent; the one supplements the other; the extent tells us of the tenure and the status of the actors who appear on the court roll; the court roll shows us how great or how small is the influence which distinctions of tenure and of status have on the behaviour of suitors and litigants. The extent displays the manor at rest, the court roll the manor in motion; the one is statical, the other dynamical."

But are there any early Extents of the Wakefield Manor existing? Mr. Taylour has printed, in his History of the Rectorial Manor of Wakefield, an "Extent of Wakefield Soke, made on Christmas Day in the year of our Lord 1300," and he says, in reference to this document, that "the MS., from which the translation and the notes are transcribed, appears to be a copy." Whitaker gives, in Loidis and Elmote, an extract from this Extent, which is stated to be "from a roll formerly in the possession of the Rev. Brian Allott, of Bilham."

A Computus of the manor made in 1305 is an interesting document, and throws considerable light on the income derived from it by the lords who owned it.

This Computus was made by John de Doncaster, chief steward

¹ "Within the said lordship the King's Majestie hath Leetes kept yerelie in Halifax; and two other Leetes yerelie & three wekes Courtes beside Leetes in Wakefield; two Leetes at Brighous; & two at Burton; and one other Courte monethlie in the Borough Town [i.e. Wakefield] there." From a Survey of the Manor of Wakefield made 36, 37, Hen. viii.
² Vol. ii, p. xx.
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of the manor, who had the custody thereof, along with Master Richard de Haveringes, by virtue of a brief from the king, John de Warren, being under age at the death of his grandfather, John de Warren, Earl of Surrey, in 1304. Mr. Baildon remarks, in his Introduction to Volume II (p. 1), that “the Inquisition taken after the latter’s death, if any, has not been preserved.” “This is most unfortunate,” he adds, “as we might have had some interesting details of the Yorkshire property.” This Computus of 1305, however, gives, at any rate, some details in reference thereto that are worth, in my opinion, recording.¹

There is also, in the P.R.O., an Extent of the Manor of Sandai, made in 1309,² of which considerable use will be made in these pages.

Then we have portions of the same Extent of the manor made in 1309, which give full particulars relating to the graveships of Rastrick, Hipperholme, and Sowerby. The Extents of Rastrick, Hipperholme, and Sowerby are sixteenth century copies, made before 1585, of originals now apparently lost. These copies were transcribed by me many years ago in the Phillipps’ Library at Cheltenham, where they then were reposing.³

Mr. Watson, in his History of Halifax, gives extracts from yet another Extent made at Christmas, 1314.⁴ He, also, only had a copy before him, and he merely extracted therefrom certain particulars relating to Halifax parish. Then, lastly, in 1316, we have the Holne Computus, made by the Grave of that place, Adam Strakeys, and to the end of this is attached an interesting computus rendered by John de Amyas, regarding the market tolls of the town of Wakefield, the perquisites of the Court of the Burgesses there, and of the fulling mill, and of two water corn mills in the same town, together with the mills of Thurstonhawe [Thurstonland], Horbury, and Cartworth, all of which he farmed under the Earl. The roll is endorsed on the back, “Comptus Bailivi de Wakefel de et alienorum Ministerorum.”

Of all the Computi and Extents of the Manor of Wakefield, by far the most interesting rental, in my opinion, is to be found in a “Contrariant Roll,” dated 24th March, 15 Edward II [1322],

¹ See Appendix I.
² Duchy of Lancaster Surveys, 44.
³ Published by the Halifax Antiquarian Society, Record Series, vol. ii, 1914.
⁴ Watson, Hist. of Halifax, p. 140.
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on the occasion of the sequestration of the estates of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, who was executed the next day, March 25th, on account of his being the leader of the barons in their rebellion against the king. This Roll gives a very complete list of the names of the principal free tenants and their rents, the number of cattle in the various vacaries, the provisions and furniture stored in Sandal Castle, the horses and cattle there, armour and arms, etc. It also furnishes particulars of the rents of the free and neif tenants, and other particulars relating to the various graveships in the manor. It is a document that, I consider, is well worthy of being printed in full, some day, for our Society.

It is interesting to learn from these accounts what salary obtained in those days for a Chief Steward of a manor, the wages of foresters, and other officials.

THE EXTENTS OF 1309.

The Extent of Rastrick, and, presumably, those also of Hipperholme and Sowerby, were made at Wakefield on the Thursday next after the Feast of St. Matthew [September 21st], and that of Sandal on Tuesday after that of St. Faith [October 6th], 1309, before Ranulph de Folesham and his companions, the "auditors of Earl Warren's accounts."

FREE TENANTS.

The number of Free Tenants in Sandal was 10, of whom 8 held 31 oxgangs amongst them, ranging from 13 held by Master Robert of Ketelthorp to a minimum of 1 by some of the others. The oxgang is stated to have consisted of 14 [one case only], 12 or 10 acres, but 12 seems to have been the normal number in Sandal, while in Rastrick and Hipperholme it was, almost invariably, 14. In Sowerby it was 15, save in Warley in that graveship, where, the Extent tells us, it was 18, and in Soyland township, in the same graveship, it did not exceed 10. The difference, of course, was caused by the physical features of the district—the team of oxen in a flat country naturally ploughing far more acres in the course of a daywork than in a hilly one. The local "daywork" superficial measurement, even now—where it still survives—varies sometimes in townships adjacent to one another.

Turning to the Rastrick Extent, we find that there were 22 tenants—some of them joint tenants—who held oxgang land, and 44 who held acres [i.e. royldland], but, of these latter, 16 at least held lands under both tenures.
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There were in Rastrick and Fixby 11 oxgangs the tenants of which had to "make the mill dam at Wakefield, as often as shall be necessary." This signifies that all the oxgang land in this graveship was of the nature of villein land, but does not mean that some of the tenants who held them were not free men; but they were so as holding other land of a freehold nature. We read in Lyttelton's Tenures, under the heading of "Villenage" [Lib. ii, c. 111]: "Some free tenaunte holde theyr tenementes, after the custom of certaine manours, by such services [as e.g. making the mill dam], and theyr tenure is called tenure in villenage, and yet they be no villaines. For no land holden in villenage or villaine landes, or any custome rising of the lande shal never make free man villain." Thus, for example, in the Extent of the year 1314, quoted by Watson, we find that John del Okes held in Rastrick freely a toft as well as one of these eleven oxgangs, which were charged with the repair of the Wakefield mill dam.

According to the 1314 Extent, there were only 3 freemen in the town of Rastrick, while there were 9 in the town of Fixby. The rents paid by some of these freemen, and also their holdings, seem to have been small, especially in the case of Alexander del Okes, of Brighouse, who held one perch and paid 1d. a year. Perhaps, such as he held land also in other graveships.

In the Hipperholme Extent of 1309, there is a long list of free-men holding native, i.e. villein, land, 48 in all, and 54 tenants described as "natives." None of the 48 in this case held any of the oxgang land.

There were only two free tenants in Sandal who rented no oxgang land, and they only held 1½ acres between them. One of the holders of oxgang land also rented a toft containing half an acre at a rent of 8d. a year. A perch or rod, in these days—as the Extent tells us—consisted of 20 feet, 6¾ yards, but, in some places, we know it was 7 yards; and a "rood," i.e. a rod or perch of walling, even in our days in the neighbourhood of Halifax, is still of this measurement. In fact, the mile in Yorkshire used to be as long as is the Irish mile at present, the rod of seven yards being the unit on which it was based.

SERVICES AND RENTS OF FREEHOLD TENANTS.

These in the Sandal Extent are set down as homage, rents, customary payments for the keep of swine [called "Thistle-takes"], ploughing the lord's demesne lands, if the tenant pos-
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sessed a plough and team, reaping and suit of court, and, in one exceptional instance, making the mill dam at Wakefield. This villein service seems to have been put upon Master Robert de Kettelthorpe in respect of 12 oxgangs of land which had only been granted to him for the term of his life, and was not due for the rest of his land, which he “held freely.”

FREEHOLD RENTS.

The Editor of Volume II of our Rolls remarks in his Introduction that “freehold quit-rents were very common on north-country manors, and although they do not appear very prominently on these Rolls, there are a few instances.”

The Extents show that they were universal in the Manor of Wakefield. The free tenants in Sandal paid various yearly rents for their oxgangs, in some cases 2s. per oxgang, in others 1s. 1½d., in others 1s. 8d. Doubtless, as now, the quality of the land was a factor in fixing the rent.

In Sandal, the land let by “acre-tale” also varies in rent, being sometimes 4d., sometimes 4½d. per acre. In Rastrick and Hipperholme it is usually 4d. an acre, occasionally 3d.

THISTLETAKE RENTS.

The free tenants had also, throughout the manor, to pay at the feast of St. Andrew the “consuetudo porcorum”—the customary payment for keeping swine. In the Rastrick Extent we are told that “there are in the same place certain customs of pigs called ‘thistle-takes,’ two pigs at the Feast of St. Martin yearly, as is contained in the Rolls of Accounts for the time of King Henry.” All the jurors who swore the Extent of 1309 were amented because they had concealed the fact that this custom of claiming two pigs or their value held good there. This “thistletake” rent was exclusive of the charges made for pannage in the woods, for the Rastrick Extent goes on to say: “It is to be known also that the tenants of the graveship of Rastrick shall agist their swine in the Hipperholme wood, if they have any, and shall give pannage, viz. for each pig of their own breeding, 2d., and for each pigling, 1d., and for each pig bought, 3d.” This last payment of 3d. is explained in the Hipperholme Extent to be due on pigs bought to sell again, “whether they shall be feeding on acorns or not.” The term “thistletake” was usually shortened into “tak,” when it occurs in the Extents.
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The custom of swine was payable, the Sandal Extent tells us, as well by free as by neif tenants, and also the services of ploughing and reaping had to be rendered by both classes of tenants. In Sandal, the rents of the free tenants amounted to 39s. 9d. The ploughing services, five in number, rendered by the free tenants, were valued at 2d. each net, and the reaping services, six in number, 1½d. net. The tenants in Hipperholme paid every Easter 4d. if they had a full plough [team], and 1d. for reaping at Michaelmas. Similar payments have already been noted in regard to the Rastrick graveship. Mr. Baildon, in his Introduction to Volume II of our Rolls, does not seem to have realised that the ploughing and reaping, or the commuted payments for these services, fell on free tenants as well as on villein ones, as the Extents testify.

PLoughing the Lord's Demesne and Reaping His Corn.

One day's ploughing was required of the free tenants, provided they possessed a plough and team of oxen, and they were to have one meal, costing 1½d., and the service of ploughing was valued at 2d. beyond the cost of the meal. A free tenant had to find a man for one day to reap the lord's corn, and a meal was provided costing ½d., and the value of the service beyond the cost of the meal was, in this case, assessed at 1½d.

It is interesting to note that the service of ploughing was not at this time commuted at Sandal into a money payment, while in more distant graveships, such as Rastrick and others, it had been commuted into a money payment. Thus, in the Rastrick Extent, there is this “Memorandum”: “That every tenant holding lands in Stainland and Barkisland, who has a plough, shall give to the Earl yearly for one ploughing, 4d., and if he have half a plough he will give 2d., and if four neighbours have only one plough they will give to the lord for the ploughing boon 4d. in common.” The same terms are in the Extent stated to apply to Fixby, but nothing is said as to their application to Rastrick. The reaping boon was also, like the ploughing service, commuted in places distant from the lord’s demesne. Two houses in Rastrick were to give for reaping 3d. each, and “every house whence smoke issues” in Fixby “had to give for reaping 1d.,” and there “were four houses there,” each of which had to “give for reaping 4d.” In Hipperholme the tenants of the under-lords, viz. Sir Hugh de Eland, John de Stansfeld, and Richard de Hipperholme, had to
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give the same sums as those above-mentioned for ploughing, and, if they had fires on their hearths, towards the custom of reaping 1d. Nothing is said about the other free tenants in Hipperholme in regard to these boons, but, doubtless, they were liable to these services, though as they held immediately of the lords of Wakefield, while the others held indirectly, it was not thought necessary to mention the matter in this particular Extent.

It would appear that there was a considerable amount of sub-letting in the Manor of Wakefield. For instance, under Sandal, in the Computus of 1322, we find that all the freehold rents there are stated as being received from tenants of five individuals, viz. of Robert Atte-well, Thomas Coke, William del Okes, and John Skinner [pelliparius]. As the sum of the rents corresponds very nearly with that given in the 1309 Computus as payable by all the ten free tenants in that gravingship, it would seem that five of the latter were under-tenants. In Quarnby there was a mesne lord, John de Quarnby, lord of the manor of that ilk, and in Toot- hill there was also a small sub-manor, of which, in 1322, Thomas de Tothill was the lord. Their tenants were accountable for the quit rents due to the chief lord of Wakefield. The free tenants of Rastrick—no names given—in 1322 paid for half a year's rent, 13s. 9d. The tenants of Thomas de Thornton and of Henry Frankish in Stainland, for the same period, 8s. 8d., and 32s. was paid by the tenants of Hugh de Tothill, Henry de Northwode, Richard del Rokes, Adam de Steyncliffe [Stanciff], John de Shipedene, and those of Sir John de Thornhill, knt., who were the principal freeholders there, and others in Hipperholme. So was it in other graveships and townships. A receipt of 2s. 1d. issuing from a toft and three acres of land formerly assigned, by a deed of Earl Warren, for the sustenance of lepers, and let to one German Filcok, is an interesting item. German was a trader who had booths in Wakefield market.

The VILLEIN TENANTS.

The copyhold tenants in Sandal were 79, most of whom held oxgangs, but others were rented by their tale of acres. Their copyhold oxgangs consisted of 16, 15, 14, 12, and 10 acres, but the normal number seems to be 14. There were 33½ oxgangs in Sandal held by 26 copyhold or customary tenants, and about 403 acres—not oxgang land—held by 53 tenants. Two other neif tenants of the gravingship of Sandal paid rent only for houses and curtilages, and one appears to have been rented only on his swine. The
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Extent tells us that “all the neifs shall be tallaged at the Lord’s will, and shall give heriots, pay marchet, and lecherwite. They have to make the mill dam, and shall make suit at the lord’s mill and pay 1 vessel in 16 for the grinding of their corn. They shall give for every pig of their own rearing in the time of pannage, 2d., and for every pigling [hoggettus], 1d. And if they buy pigs after the Nativity of St. John, they shall give 3d., and for piglings, 2d.”

In Rastrick there are—the Extent says—“eleven oxgangs of land, each of which contains in itself 14 acres, which ought to make the mill dam of Wakefield, with other customs of the Soke of Wakefield, and as often as shall be necessary.” “Marchet” is thus referred to in the Rastrick Extent: “If any of the aforesaid neifs shall give his daughter in marriage, he shall pay fine according to the Earl’s will, and also for making his son a clerk. And if the Lord the Earl desire tallage or aid from his men and his tenants, they shall give aid.” The Hipperholme Extent also enjoins the payment of lecherwite, which the Rastrick one, accidentally, I suppose, omits. The Hipperholme and Rastrick tenants were all to grind their corn at Rastrick mill. The former, however, we know from other sources, had the opportunity of resorting to Shibden mill, which was dependent at first on that of Rastrick. The Sowerby tenants made use of the lord’s mills at Warley, Soyland, and Saltonstall.

RENTS OF COPYHOLD LAND.

The rents of the copyholders seem to vary with the number of acres contained in the oxgangs of which the holdings consisted. Thus Peter the Shepherd, in Sandal, paid 5s. 3d. yearly for a 14-acre oxgang, while Agnes de Ossete and John son of Male, for a 12-acre oxgang, paid 4s., and John Cokewald, for a 15-acre one, 4s., and so on. But some oxgangs, though consisting of the same number of acres, vary in their rents.

When the land was held by “acre-tale” the rent per acre was usually, if not invariably, 4d.

THISTLETAKE.

The “custom of pigs” was similar in its application to copyhold tenants as to the freeholders. The same demands were made upon both classes of tenants, and, in the summing-up of the Sandal Extent, the total receipts for the year, under this heading, “tam de liberis quam de nativis,” are totalled up to 23s. 3d.

¹ hoggett. A hogget seems to have signified a young pig, two years old.
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PLoughING AND REAPING.

These services correspond in the case of the neifs with those rendered by the free tenants, and do not seem to have been more irksome. If they had a plough [team] they had to plough one day in the year, having a meal value 1 1/4 d., the value of the day's work being priced at 2 d. if no meal was found. Also they had to reap, or each tenant had to find a reaper, one day in the year, who received a meal value 2 1/4 d.; the day's work, without food found, being valued at 1 1/4 d. These are the same figures as we have noted in the case of the freemen. In Rastrick and Hipperholme, where, owing probably to the distance of those graveships from the demesne lands, the services were commuted, the neifs, like the free tenants, paid 4 d. for a whole plough team towards the "custom of ploughing," and 1 d. for "the custom of reaping," chargeable upon every house that kept a fire on its hearth.

MAKING OF THE MILL DAM.

This service was the one distinctive service that marked off copyhold tenure from freehold. While even the free tenants had to plough and reap, at least one day a year, they had not at any rate to render this service of repairing and maintaining the mill dam at Wakefield.

Mr. Watson, in his History of Halifax, gives from the Extent of the Manor of Wakefield made in 1314, which he had the opportunity of seeing, "a list of the lands which were then bound to the repair of the mill dam." I think I may be excused for reproducing this. It runs as follows:

Sandal-cum-Criggleston.—34 1/4 oxgangs, and 400 acres.
Ossett-cum-Gawthorpe and Earlsheaton.—37 1/4 oxgangs, and 34 acres and a toft.
Stanley-cum-Wrenthorpe.—13 1/4 oxgangs, and 319 a. 1 r. 1 p.
Alverthorpe.—1 oxgang, and 32 1/4 acres.
Thornes.—2 1/4 oxgangs, and 32 acres.
Rastrick and Hipperholme.—8 oxgangs, and 90 1/4 acres.
Wakefield.—95 a. 3 r.1

In Volume II, p. 108, is an instance of the payment by a Stanley copyhold tenant of 4s. to a man whom he had hired for work on the mill dam. Of course, in the great majority of cases, the labour on the dam was done by proxy. This service was, I believe, entirely

1 See Watson, History of Halifax, p. 124.
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commuted in 1663, or thereabouts. On pages 169, 175, 178 of this volume there is an interesting case connected with a multure dish at Cartworth mill. The miller, in this instance, though successful at first in asserting his innocence, was eventually convicted.

ROYD LAND.

Royd Land, corrupted in its spelling about the sixteenth century from “rode-land,” was, of course, land that had been ridded of trees, enclosed, and brought into cultivation. In the Extents it is subdivided into old rode-land and new rode-land, and there seem to have been some differences in regard to the conditions of the tenures. At a Court, held at Wakefield, 1st April, 1307, an Inquisition found that certain land in Alverthorpe was “villein land, because it owes aid to the lord, and [the holder] has to be grave.” Asked if it is part of the villein bovates [otherwise oxgangs] they say it is not, “but it is called ‘rode-land,’ because it was cleared from growing wood.” In another case, relating to Sandal, Agnes de Ossete is recorded as surrendering two bovates, “and a bovate called ‘rode-land.’”

We find that tenants of “new land,” as distinguished from the old royd-land, paid higher rents than the latter were accustomed to pay. In the Sowerby Extent, while the former paid 6d. an acre, the latter were rented at 4d. These figures seem almost invariable, though sometimes the old rode-land is only priced at 3d. per acre. All the land held by acre-tale in the various graveships seems to have been of the nature of “rode-land,” as one would naturally expect it to have been.

There are very many other interesting points to note in the Court Rolls and in the Extents, but I fear that this Introduction has already grown to an inordinate length. In the Appendix will be found an interesting account, taken in 1316, from the Holme [Holmfirth] computus of the receipts and expenditure of John de Amias, the farmer, of the town, markets, and mills of Wakefield, and also one relating to Cartworth Mill of the same date. Mr. S. J. Chadwick, in his account of Kirklees Priory, gives an interesting note regarding the John de Amyas, who farmed the town of Wakefield, and other members of his family.¹

The text of this volume has been prepared by Miss Stokes—transcribed by her many years ago with great care and accuracy. I have checked her work with the original Rolls myself.

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The grateful thanks of the Society are due again to the Earl and Countess of Yarborough, Lord and Lady of the Manor. I have, moreover, to record my obligations to Messrs. Stewart and Chalker, Stewards of the Manor, for their readiness to permit me the privilege of, at all times, examining the Rolls, and to Mr. Gascoigne and Mr. Milner for their help and assistance in searching them.

The Rev. Carus Vale Collier, M.A., F.S.A., has very kindly compiled the Index — no trivial labour. Miss Stokes, moreover, who has copied and translated the Rolls at Wakefield so carefully, should not by any means be overlooked in our tribute of grateful recognitions.

Notes relating to the subject matter will be found at the end of the volume.

J. LISTER.