A CUMBERLAND FAMILY WITH ROOTS IN MEDIEVAL SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN ENGLAND: A STUDY OF GILBERT FITZ RICHER AND HIS DESCENDANTS

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ABSTRACT

The descendants of Gilbert Fitz Richer were prominent in both Scotland and northern England. These included such notables as Sir Gilbert Hay and Sir John Graham, both signers of the Declaration of Arbroath, as well as Gamelin the controversial thirteenth century bishop of St. Andrews.

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During the late eleventh and early twelfth centuries it was very common for families in what is currently northern England to intermarry and to own land in the border region of Scotland. The area in question, which encompasses modern day East Lothian, Roxburghshire, Berwickshire and Dumfriesshire, was land then claimed by both Malcolm Caenmore and his sons succeeding him as King of Scots as well as William Rufus, Henry I and Stephen of England. This no man's land would become an area immensely important to both nations.

In 1154 Henry II banished the Flemish from England and Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, had the foresight to offer them refuge. As a result, Berwick became the mercantile center of Scotland. The Flemish had been settling there since the reign of David I (1124-1153) who recognized the value of these merchants and craftsmen to the agrarian society of twelfth century Scotland. They were expert weavers and wool merchants, bringing this knowledge with them to Scotland, thereby making Berwick a center for these guilds and a major seaport to the continent (Duncan, 1975, pp.464, 497-501).

The newly reformed abbeys[2] (Robertson, 1862, pp.333-334) of this region also became major trade enterprises. The priories grew and benefited from the patronage of families such as the Bruces of Annandale, the Carricks of Galloway, the Stewarts who held the majority of lower Scotland and were the founders of Paisley Abbey, the Morevilles, hereditary Constables of Scotland, who founded and were the main benefactors of Dryburgh Abbey and the earls of Dunbar who gave large grants to Coldstream and Kelso. A few select monasteries became the recipients of the King's patronage such as Melrose, Scone and Dunfermline.

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[2] It was David I that brought major reforms to the monasteries and abbeys of Scotland. Although St. Margaret [his mother] had begun the change from the Celtic church to the Roman in calendar and feasts, as well as liturgical matters, it was her son that began the implementation of Roman rule on the Culdee churches and priories.

In this time of change a branch of one gentry family in Cumberland, who had originally served as stewards to Ranulf de Meschins[3] (Wilson, 1915, pp.106-107; Brownbill, 1916, pp.522-523), rose discreetly through marriages to become ancestral to many of the major families of Scotland.

Gilbert Fitz Richer

Gilbert Fitz Richer was one of the two sons of Richer de Boiville, Sheriff of Cumberland from 1106-1112. Gilbert first appears in a charter dated at Roxburgh on 24 June 1161, as a witness for Malcolm IV of Scotland confirming a grant made by his grandfather, David I, to Walter Fitz Alan, High Steward of Scotland. This grant conveyed the lands of Renfrew, Paisley, Pollok, 'Talahret', Cathcart, Dripps, Mearns, Eaglesham, Lochwinnoch and Innerwick to Walter Fitz Alan, as well as confirming the High Stewardship of Scotland to be the hereditary right of his descendants. Also included in this 1161 charter were various tofts of land, with 20 acres each, in several other royal demesnes including Inchinnan, Stenton, Hassendean, Legerwood and Birkenside[4] (Barrow, 1960, pp.225-226). In addition he also witnessed sixteen surviving charters of William I[5]. Gilbert Fitz Richer held land from Walter Fitz Alan in Kyle which is mentioned as a boundary in several grants of land (in Mauchline) given by Walter son of Alan to Melrose Abbey (Innes, 1837, pp.56-57, 67). It seems probable that this was the land known as Tarbolton which Adam, Gilbert's oldest son, later held. Gilbert Fitz Richer died 1174-1177 - after Uctred of Galloway and before Walter Fitz Alan, the steward. A quarter of a century after Gilbert's death in a fine of Alexander de Brankston[6], his great-grandson, Gilbert is denoted as "*Gill' Dispensatoris*". Whether he served as steward to Walter Fitz Alan is not conclusively stated but Gilbert was Walter's vassal making this a definite possibility. Gilbert married a daughter of Gilbert Aculf of Tymparon[7]; their union produced two known sons: Adam and Ralph, and a daughter, Eva, wife of William de Hay of Errol.

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3 The family progenitor, Godard de Boiville, was known as Godard Dapifer in charters at St. Bees.

4 The following attested the charter: "*Ernaldo episcopo Sancti Andree, Herberto episcopo de Glasgu, Johanne Abbate de Kelchou, Willelmo Abbate de Melros, Osberto Abbate de Jedd', Ansfrido Abbate de Neubothle, Waltero Cancellario, Willelmo et David fratribus Regis, Comite Gospatricio, Comite Dunecano, Ricardo de Moreuill', Gilleberto de Unframuill', Roberto de Brus, Radulfo de Solis, Philippo de Coleuill', Willelmo de Sumeruilla, Hugone Ridel, David Olifard. Waldevo filio Comitis Gospatricii, Willelmo de Moreuill', Baldewino de Lannarc, Waldevo filio eius, Liolfo filio Maccus, Roberto de Capella, Gileberto filio Richer, Roberto de Unframuill', Galfrido de Coningesburg, Jordano Ridel*". Thus Gilbert son of Richer is shown among some of the most prominent men of this period in Scotland.

5 One of these charters (Innes, 1846, pp.304-305) is a confirmation of a grant of the churches of Chamsy and Altermunin by David of Huntingdon, brother of William I, and is witnessed by "*Ricardo de Morewille constabulario, Ricardo Cumyn, Gilberto filio Richerii, Waltero de Berkeley, Willelmo capellano, Hugo clerico, Ricardo clerico*". Some of the witnesses are connected as Ydonea, a daughter of Richard Comyn, married the eldest son of Gilbert Fitz Richer.

6 PRO CP 25/1/180/2 no.35. See Appendix 1 for a transcript and translation of this document.

7 Gilbert Aculf of Tymparon married Gerilda of Dacre the daughter of Theobald of Dacre. They had a son, Adam Aculf as well as a daughter. In Henry II's confirmation to Carlisle (Wilson & Bewley,1903) it states "*Ex dono Ade Aculf terram illam totam quam tenuerunt Canonici in Tympauron de donacione Theobald avi sui et illam terram quam pater suus Gilbertus et mater sua Gerild eis dederunt de dominica mensa sua.*" As Adam Fitz Aculf he witnessed a charter of Richard de Moreville confirming Gillemorton to Edulf Fitz Uchtred (Innes, 1843, p.39).

Adam son of Gilbert Fitz Richer

Adam Fitz Gilbert, son of Gilbert son of Richer, was lord of Kilbucho[8] (Stringer, 1998, pp.103-104). Alan Fitz Walter granted to Adam son of Gilbert the lands of Torbolton, Preueic, Drumley and Milrefinlen for the service of one knight (Historical Manuscripts Commission, 1872). Between 1182 and 1207 he witnessed four charters for William I of Scotland. He also witnessed charters for the Stewart family and their retainers[9] (Innes, 1832, pp.70-71). In 1185 Adam son of Gilbert owed two marks (26s 8d) to have the right to six carucates of land in Kerston (Caistron) against Patrick son of Edgar.[10] In other words, he had paid for a Writ of Right to the land from the king, without which he could not get possession under English law; a year later Adam's debt to Patrick had paid in full.[11]

These same parties also appear in a confirmation by Patrick son of Edgar of a grant of 60 acres in Caistron conveyed by Adam son of Gilbert to his betrothed Agnes[12] (Fowler, 1878, pp. 133). Agnes was the daughter of Edgar, son of Gospatric earl of Dunbar (who was killed at the Battle of the Standard, 22 August 1138), by Edgar's wife Alice de Greystoke. It appears that the marriage between Adam Fitz Gilbert and Agnes had been contracted but the contract was broken and the marriage never occurred.[13] Adam later married Ydonea Comyn[14] (Innes, 1853, pp. 4-5), a daughter of Richard Comyn, justiciar, by his wife Hextilda of Tynedale. Adam and Ydonea had two known children (see Fig.1): Gilbert who became the chaplain of Hutton[15], and Christina who married Sir Henry Graham of Dalkeith.

Gilbert Fitz Adam Fitz Gilbert was originally chaplain of Hutton, a position to which he was probably appointed by whoever held the advowson at that time, possibly his own father. Professor Barrow (1978, pp.106) has suggested that he was later parson of Kilbucho and that he had two illegitimate children, Gamelin and Mariota. This is

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8 Stringer states "*It can surely be assumed that the donee was Adam lord of Kilbucho, even though his father Gilbert (son of Richer), a prominent Stewart vassal and a regular witness of William the Lion's acta, is not elsewhere styled dispenser (of the king's household?)*". Gilbert son of Richer and his descendents may have been stewards to Walter Fitz Alan and his son. This title was held by Gilbert Fitz Richer and his son Adam Fitz Gilbert.

9 He witnessed a charter of Malcolm Loccard, a vassal of the Stewarts, at Paisley Abbey as "*Adam filio Gilberti*".

10 Pipe Roll 31 Henry II

11 Pipe Roll 32 Henry II

12 The land in this charter is the equivalent of only half a carucate so either the amount of land was wrongly recorded in 1185 or the claim also included land elsewhere, as the 60 acres certainly passed to the Brankston family.

13 Agnes received half of Yanwath when she married Anselm son of Michael le Fleming de Furness, and he is said to have founded chapels at Drigg in West Cumberland and at Croscrake in Stainton par. Heversham Westmorland. He was living in 1210 and died before 1217 leaving a married daughter Helen (France, 1947).

14 Charter no. 5 of the Morton Cartulary shows that Ydonea was the sister of William Comyn, earl of Buchan as it states "*Willelmus Cumyn Comes de Buchane omnibus amicis suis et hominibus salutem. Sciant presentes et futuri me dedisse et concessisse et presenti carta mea confirmasse Ade filio Gilberti cum Ydonia sorore mea in liberum maritagium Blith et Ingolneston et le Halch*".

15 Gilbert the Chaplain of Hutton was in conflict with Walter, Parson of Sibbaldbie. Their dispute was not resolved until 1193 when the Pope ordered an inquiry. The verdict was that Adam son of Gilbert must give the church of Hutton in Dryfesdale to Jedburgh Abbey who also owned Sibbaldbie (n.81). This he did (no.78) and the grant was confirmed by King William (no.79 lost) and by Walter, bishop of Glasgow 1207-32 (no.80 lost) (Innes, 1843, pp.65-71).

supported by a charter of his sister, Christina daughter of Adam Fitz Gilbert, in the Glasgow Register where she states that her gift is being made for the souls of "*domini Ade filii Gilberti patris mei et Ydonee matris mee*", "*Henrici filii et heredis mei et uxoris sue et puerorum suorum*", "*Gamelini persone de Kelbechoc et Mariote sororis sue*", and "*Gilberti persone de Kelbechoc et pro animabus antecessorum meorum*"[16] as well as for the safety of her soul, the soul of Alexander II of Scotland and her three cousins, Walter Comyn, John Comyn of Badenoch and Alexander Comyn, earl of Buchan (Innes, 1843a, pp.127-128).

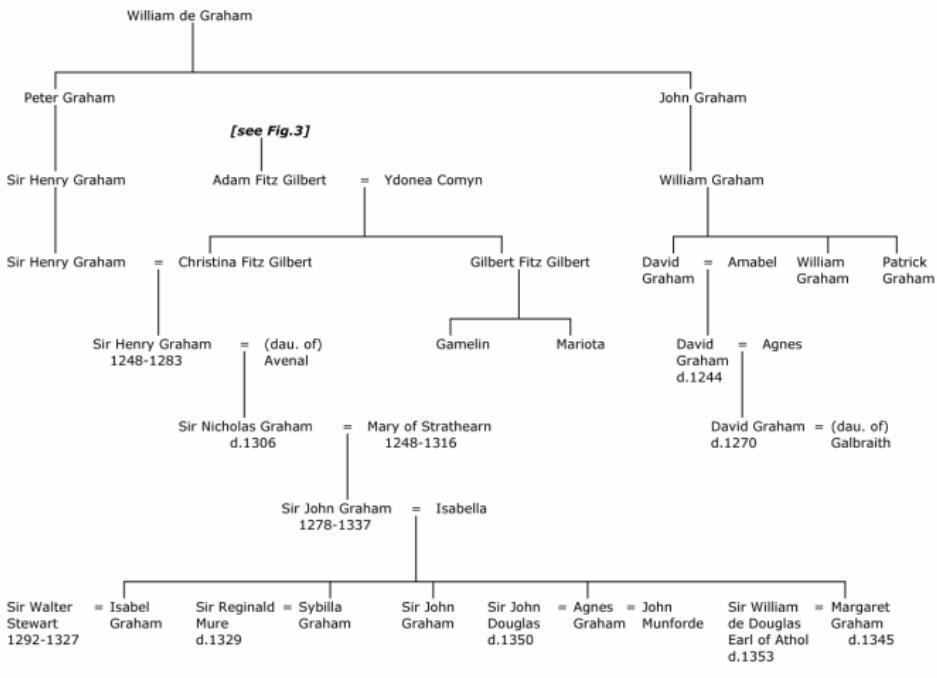


Fig.1 ***Graham family, and descendants of Adam Fitz Gilbert and Ydonea Comyn***

Gamelin was parson of Kilbucho and a chaplain of Pope Innocent IV in 1254; he also served as Chancellor of Scotland from 1250-1263. (Watt, 1977, p.85). During the minority of Alexander III of Scotland and the political turmoil this situation engendered, Gamelin's loyalties lay with the Comyns, his presumed grandmother's family, in their long standing conflict with the Durwards for power. In retaliation for Gamelin's opposition, the government under the Durwards, along with Henry III of England, tried to prevent Gamelin from receiving his appointment as Bishop of St. Andrews. In 1255, despite this opposition, he was consecrated on 26 December by William de Bondington, bishop of Glasgow, another man in political disfavour. For retribution, Gamelin was charged for the revenues which were lost while the seat of bishop was vacant, a demand which he quickly refused to pay. Not surprisingly, he

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[16] This translates as "*Sir Adam son of Gilbert my father and Ydonea my mother*", "*Henry, my son and heir, and his wife and their children*", "*Gamelin, parson of Kilbucho, and Mariota his sister*", and "*Gilbert parson of Kilbucho and for the souls of my ancestors*".

was exiled by the ruling party and was even refused a safe-conduct by Henry III of England. He fled by sea to France.

Gamelin went to Rome and on 20 July 1257 Pope Alexander IV ordered that he be given his rightful see of St. Andrews. The pope also decreed that those responsible for his exile be excommunicated but this Ban of Excommunication was never published in either England or Scotland. Gamelin returned to France and remained there as late as January 1258. In May 1258, when a settlement was reached between the Comyn party and Alexander III of Scotland, Gamelin returned to St. Andrews as bishop. He held this position until his death on 29 April 1271 (Duncan, 1975, pp.568-573).

Christina daughter of Adam Fitz Gilbert married Henry Graham, bringing as her dowry the property of Tarbolton. This transfer of property to Sir Henry Graham the elder was confirmed by James Stewart, High Steward of Scotland, as it had been confirmed to Adam son of Gilbert by Alan the Steward (Historical Manuscripts Commission, 1872). Henry Graham of Dalkeith, Christina's husband, was also sheriff of Edinburgh and as such witnessed several charters for William I of Scotland at the end of the twelfth century[17] (Lindsay, 1908, p.4). Their son, Henry Graham [d.1283], married an unnamed daughter of Roger Avenal who brought Abercorn and Eskdale into the Graham family's domain (Paul, 1904, Vol.VI, p.194). In turn, their eldest son and heir was Nicholas Graham who was declared an outlaw and rebel by Edward I[18] (Bain, 1884, No.1138); he married Maria of Strathern, daughter of Malise, earl of Strathern, by his wife Marjorie de Muschamp. Nicholas Graham died before 14 June 1306 and was succeeded by his son Sir John Graham. Sir John, who had originally sided with the Comyn family and supported Edward Balliol[19] in 1303/4, changed his position after his father's death in 1306 and supported Robert the Bruce as King of Scotland. He was one of the Sureties for the Declaration of Arbroath (Barrow, 1988, pp.424-428). Sir John de Graham died on 25 April 1337 leaving a son and four daughters. Two of the daughters married into the Douglas family, Sybilla Graham married Sir Reginald Mure and Isabella Graham was the second wife of Sir Walter Stewart, father of Robert II, king of Scotland by his first wife Marjory Bruce. This branch of the Graham family is shown diagrammatically in Fig.1.

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17 Henry Graham witnessed the confirmation charter of King William I of the gift of the Church of St. Cathan in Abruthven by Earl Gilbert of Strathern to the Church of St. John the Apostle in Inchafrray and the monks dwelling there. The charter is dated the 5th day of September 1199 at Scone.

18 *#1138. June 7, 1300.*

The king for the good service of Isabella widow of John de Vescy senior, to the late queen consort Alianora of good memory grants to her the lands of Nicholas de Graham a rebel, in Wooler and elsewhere in Northumberland, for her life. Pontefract. [Patent Rolls, 28 Edw. I, m. 15]

19 Edward Balliol (1282-1364) was the son of John Balliol the man whose claim to the Scottish throne had been upheld by Edward I of England. In 1295 John Balliol sought to unite his son, Edward, in marriage with Jeanne de Valois, niece of Philip IV of France. This event led Edward I of England to invade Scotland to depose John Balliol and make both John his son Edward Balliol prisoners in England. John Balliol was freed in 1299 and returned to his holdings in Picardy. Edward Balliol, however, remained in the custody of his grandfather, John de Warenne. In 1306 the Balliol lands in Scotland were taken by Robert the Bruce. Though Edward Balliol was never more than a pretender to the Scottish Throne, he was supported by all three English kings [Edward I, Edward II and Edward III] in his lifetime.

Eva daughter of Gilbert Fitz Richer

Eva the daughter of Gilbert son of Richer married William de Hay of Erroll who was butler of Scotland in 1171 (Paul, 1906, p.555; Easson, 1947a, pp.6-7; Thompson, 1841, p.313). He held the lands of Erroll in Perthshire through a gift from William I of Scotland that was granted between 1178 and 1182 (Paul, 1906, pp.555-556). He was the son of William de Hay by his wife Juliana, a sister of Ranulph de Soulis butler of Scotland[20] (Easson, 1947a, p.289). Eva and William de Hay butler of Scotland[21] (Innes, 1843a, p.28), granted one carucate of her *maritagium* in Pitmulin to St. Andrews for a half mark of silver, to be paid annually at the feast of St. Martin [11 November].[22] This land was confirmed after William de Hay's death by Eva as William's widow and by their eldest son, David de Hay, as son and heir[23] (Thomson, 1841, pp.313-314). See Fig.2 for their descendants.

In 1224, Alexander II of Scotland confirmed a gift of land in Flemingtoun given by Adam Fitz Gilbert to his nephew David de Hay (Paul, 1906, Vol. III, pp. 557). David married as his first wife Ethne[24] the daughter of Gilbert earl of Strathern by his wife Matilda D'Aubigny (Lindsay, 1908, pp.lix-lxi). Their son Gilbert de la Hay[25] (Dowden, 1903, pp.83-84) married Idonea Comyn the daughter of William Comyn earl of Buchan by his second wife Margery countess of Buchan. Nicholas de la Hay, son of

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20 This theory is presented in Paul's Scots Peerage as well. William de Hay is noted in the charter of Coupar Angus as making a gift for the souls of Malcolm king of Scots and his uncle Ranulph de Soulis. Ranulph de Soulis was Butler of Scotland before 1160 and he left no direct heirs. He was succeeded by his nephew Ranulph de Soulis the son of his brother William de Soulis. See Newbattle Charters nos. 37 and 38 (Innes, 1849, pp.29-30).

21 *Testibus his Johanne abate de Kelcho, Osberto abate de Jedd[eworth], Comite Waldeve, Comite Duncano, Ricardo de Moreville constabulario, Ricardo capellano, Philippo camerario, David Olifard, Willelmo de Veteri Ponte, Philippo de Coleville, Gilleberto filio Richardo, Willelmo de Haia pincerna, Gilleberto de Umframville. Apud Strivelin.*

22 *Willelmus de Haya pincerna regis Scocie omnibus sancte matris ecclesie filiis salutem. Sciant tam posteriti qua presentes me dedisse et concessisse Deo et Sancto Andree et hospitali in liberam et quietam elemosinam unam carucatam terre in Petmulyn quam cepi cum uxore mea A. festo sancti Martini proximo postquam rex Anglie in yberniam usque ad predictam xx annorum et post xx annos reddendo me et heredibus meis singulis annis pro omni servicio dimidia marca….*

23 *W. Dei gratia Rex Scottorum omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre sue clericis et laicis salutem. Sciant presentes et futuri me concessisse et hac carta mea confirmasse convencionem fecam inter canonicos de Sancto Andree et Eva que fuit uxor Willelmi de Haya et David filium eiusdem Willelmi de loquela que movebatur inter eos et predictos canonicos de terra de Petmulyn….*

24 *Omnibus Sancte Matris ecclesie filiis et fidelibus presentibus et futuris, David de Haya, salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse et hac carta mea confirmasse Deo et ecclesie Sancte Marie et Sancti Andree de Lundors et monachis ibidem Deo servientibus, in perpetuam et puram elemosinam, pro salute anime patris mei et matris mee, et pro salute anime et pro salute animarum uxorum mearum Ethne et Eve, et pro salute animarum fratrum et sororum mearum, antecessorum et successorum meorum, terciam partem piscarie recium meorum trahencium super sabulum de Glesbanin, et terciam partem piscarie recium meorum trahencium super rugesablun contra Colcric, salvis piscariis meis stantibus cum palo et sepi…*

25 That Gilbert de Hay was the son of David de Hay by Ethne of Strathern can be attested to by the witnesses to his charter to Lindores No.78 where it was witnessed by "*Dominus Rogero de Berkeley, Ricardo Cumyn filio Ricardo Cumyn militibus, Nicholao filio meo, Willelmo tunc capellano meo, Robert de Haya nepote meo, Malisio de Stratherne consanguineo meo, Galfrido de Keldelech, et multis aliis.*"

Gilbert and Idonea, and great-grandson of Eva Fitz Gilbert, was Sheriff of Perth[26] (Bain, 1884, no.347). Nicholas de la Hay died before June 1306 (Bain, 1884, No.1782). Sir Gilbert de Hay, son of Nicholas by his wife Johanna, was Constable of Scotland[27] (Barrow, 1988, pp.285), fought with Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn on 24 June 1314, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Arbroath on 6 April 1320. He had originally sworn fealty to Edward I at Aberdeen on 16 July 1296. He was in great debt by 1305 (Bain, 1884, No.1738) and got little recompense (only a rebate of £100) from Edward I. He joined Robert the Bruce in March 1306 and his loyalty never diminished throughout the rest of Gilbert's lifetime. Sir Gilbert de Hay, died in April 1333 and it is from Sir Gilbert that the line continued.

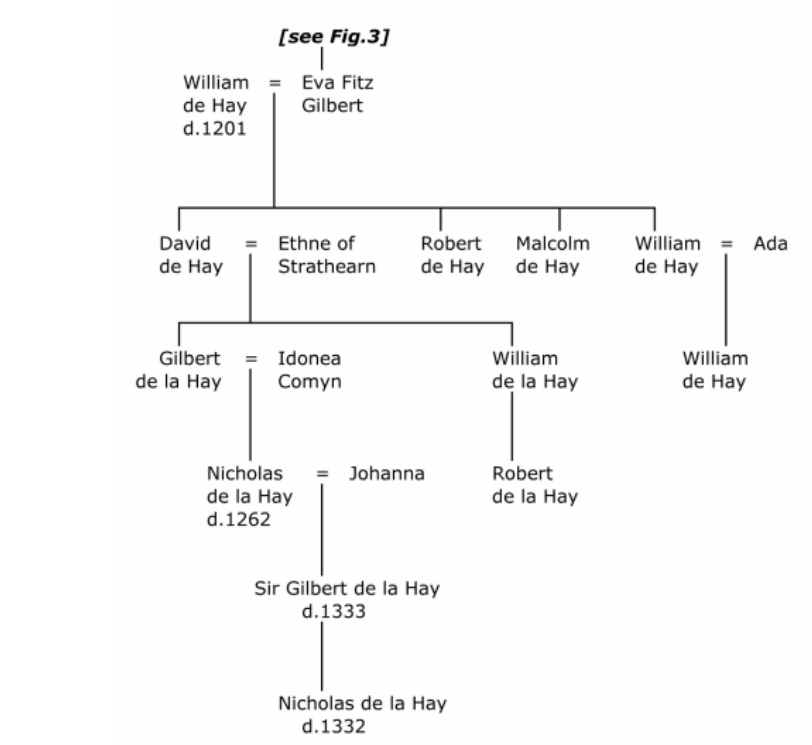


Fig.2 ***The de Hay family***

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[26] Gilbert de Hay held the position of Sheriff of Perth before 1262 and his son Nicholas de Hay held the office before 1288.

[27] Sir Gilbert de Hay was one of the small group of favourites of Robert the Bruce. He had been with the king since the start of his reign in 1306. In addition to being granted the Constableship of Scotland as an hereditary position, he was also granted large amounts of land in Aberdeenshire. His lands were also not subject to the paying of relief or any wardship when he died.

Ralph son of Gilbert Fitz Richer

The youngest son of Gilbert Fitz Richer was known as Ralph of Brankston. Ralph de Brankston first appears in documents c.1165-1178 as a witness to a charter of Richard, Bishop of St. Andrews[28] (Anderson, 1938, p.164) granting to Scone Abbey the tithes of the fishing there which was to be payable in food and cheese to the canons of the abbey[29] (Innes, 1846, p.30). As "*Radulfo filio Gilleberti*" he also witnessed a charter of Stephen de Bulmer regarding fishing rights on the River Tees to the monks of Rievaulx Abbey (Atkinson, 1889, p.221). In 1196[30], as Ralph de Bolesden, he owed the bishop of Durham 26s 8d. Ralph, as the son of Gilbert de Branchestona, granted the church at Brankestone to the monks of Durham, intending that the income should support the infirmary (Raine, 1852, Appendix DCCLXXIX). His seal is attached. His grant was confirmed on 4 February 1195 by Richard I of England[31] and by Philip, Bishop of Durham 1195-1208 (Barlow, 1945, p.147). In 1217 Pope Honorius III affirmed the gift (Bliss, 1893, p.47). Alexander de Brankston, son of Ralph, confirmed his father's grant to Durham Priory between 1196-1202 [32] (Raine, 1852, Appendix DCCLXXXVI).

Ralph de Brankston married Aldith[33] daughter of Ulkil de Bollesdon (Raine, 1852, Appendix DCCLXXII). Along with a '*Robertus de Bollesdune*', '*Ulkillus*' appears in a hand written list in the *Durham Liber Vitae* in the twelfth or thirteenth centuries (Raine, 1841, p.81; Thompson, 1923, f.52). Ulkil retired to the monastery at Durham as a

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[28] Richard was the Chaplin to Malcolm IV of Scotland. In 1163 he became the bishop elect and in 1165 was consecrated Bishop of St. Andrews. He held this position until his death c.13 May 1178, the date listed as his date of death in the *Durham Liber Vitae* (Raine, 1841, p.143).

[29] *Carta Ricardi episcopi Sancti Andree de decima piscarie de Scona.*

47. Ricardus Dei gratia Ecclie Sancti Andree humilis minister omnibus filiis sancte matris ecclesie salutem. Sciant omnes et absentes et presentes nos concessisse et in perpetuam elemosinam munimine presentis scripti confirmasse ecclesie Sancte Trinitatis de Scon et canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus decimam totius piscarie de Scona in annona et caseis in captionibus piscium et in omnibus aliis unde decima dari debet quocirca prohibemus et episcopali auctoritate interdicimus ne aliquis predicte decime eis partem absque consensu et voluntate eorum iniuste auserre vel detinere presumat. Testibus Matheo Archdiacono Adam de Roc, Roberto canonico Sancti Andree, Magistro Herberto, Alexandro capellano, Radulpho de Boiliston, Magistro Abraham etc.

[30] Chancellor's roll 8 Richard I No.254.

[31] Calendar of Charter Rolls, vol.4, p.324.

[32] *Confirmation by Alexander son of Ralph de Brankestun of the church of Brankestun. Witnesses: William de Ford, Robert de Hameldun [Humbleton], Robert de Cestrun, David de Holburn, Alan de Richmond, Walter de Hadinton, Herbert a physician, Merlin clerk of Brankestun, John de Haggerston (dead 1210), Robert Bruntoft, John de Lanton, Patrick de Cheswick, Alexander de Ord, William de Accle [Aycliffe], Richard Brown, William de Hesswell, Gilbert Burdon, Thomas le Mansel, Robert Cook & many others.*
(Raine, 1852, Appendix DCCLXXXVI. 1196 x 1202 (Chancellor's roll 8 Richard I)).

[33] *Gift by Ralph son of Gilbert & his wife Aldith daughter of Ulkil de Bollesdun to Durham Priory with the consent of their heir of a portion of land from the water called Milneforde to the path which leads to Saucrokes and from there to the stream which runs down to the mill to augment the half carucate they gave so that the monks may build a dwelling house with a barn and other offices. W: Alexander son of Ralph de Bollesdun, Geoffrey parson of Ancroft, William chaplain of Fennum [Fenham], Ralph chaplain of Lowick, Robert de Scremerston, Patrick de Cheswick, John de Haggerston (dead 1210), Adam de Goswick, Juhel, Adam & many others clerics & laymen.*
(Raine, 1852, Appendix DCCLXXIII. 1189 x 1202).

monk, as did his son Thomas de Bollesdon[34] leaving the majority of his estate to his daughter and her husband.

Ralph and Aldith made two grants of land in Bollesdon [Bowsden] to Durham Priory (Raine, 1852, Appendix DCCLXXIII). Both documents have his seal. Ralph died before 1202. He was survived by three children: two sons, Alexander de Brankston[35] and William de Brankston[36]; and a daughter who married Theobald de Scotton.

Alexander de Brankston's wife was Marjory, the daughter of Nigel de Moreville[37]. Alexander was one of four knights commissioned in 1213 to take a deposition for the King's Court (Thompson, 1922, p.46). In 1217 the Sheriff of Westmorland was instructed to restore the land of Margaret de Brankeston (Hardy, 1833, Vol.I, No. 375b). This occurs in a long list of similar entries of people who had opposed King John in the civil war of 1215 and who had later submitted to Henry III. The land is not named. This suggests that by then she was a widow and perhaps that Alexander had died in the war. Alexander de Brankston had three sons: William, Thomas and Richard; as well as two daughters: Agnes and Elizabeth.

William, son of Alexander de Bollesdun, confirmed the two grants of land in Bowsden made by his grandparents[38]. His seal is on the second of these and is a punning brank[39] between a star and a crescent inscribed *SIGILL WILELMI DE BRANEKIST*. He also witnessed a grant of land in Brampton c.1241. William was dead before 1242/3 when it is stated that the heirs of William of Bollisdon held Bollisdon and Brankeston for 75s. in socage of the barony of Muschamp.[40] The Brankston line continued with

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34 *Gift by Thomas de Bollesdun to Durham Priory of one silver mark from his mill of Bollesdun yearly for the souls of his father & mother. He states that Ulkil his father made him the heir of his town of Bollesdun before he professed at Durham so that he could die as a monk, and he repeats his earlier gift (see DCCLXX). W:Adam de Eccles, Richard de Coldingham (rector of Elvet 1175-98), Walter de Rasne (Rayne), Richard de Dunstable, Anger, Edward de Aldecambus (Old Cambus), William his brother, William his (the donor's) nephew, Walter de Ketton, Ralph son of Roger, John de Ketton, Joel de Bywell, Alan de Ferry [Hill], Alan chaplain, Alan de Finchale, Roger & Henry de Eccles & many others.* (Raine, 1852, Appendix No. DCCLXIX 1175 x 1198).

35 *Gift by Ralph son of Gilbert & Aldith his wife to Durham Priory with the consent of Alexander their heir of one carucate of land in Bollesdun, that is half a carucate of their cultivated land and half a carucate from their waste, with all that toft from the toft of Godfrey to the edge of town with pasture for five hundred sheep and twenty cows. W: Adam de Brankestun, William de Ford, Walter de Stainesby, Gilbert son of Walter, Roger de Hameldun (Humbleton), Robert del Maneir (Manners), Henry de Detchant, Robert de Hameldun (Humbleton), Richard de Twizel, Patrick de Cheswick, Adam & Morgan de Goswick, Alan brother of the prior (Bertram I 1189-1212), William de Jarrow, John de Ketton, Richard Brun (Brown), Arnis Dogge (Doig), William le mentur & many others.* (Raine, 1852, Appendix DCCLXXII. 1189 x 1202).

36 William is mentioned as a nephew of Thomas de Bollesdon. See Footnote 34.

37 PRO CP 25/1/249/2, nos 32, 34.

38 *Confirmation by William de Bollesdon to Durham Priory of all the land in Bollesdon which his grandfather Ralph & Aldith his wife gave them and which they held in that time and in the time of Alexander his father. W: Robert de Muscamp (III c1210-1250), Odinel de Ford, Robert de Akeld, Robert de Manerio (Manners), William de Rock, Robert de Clifford, William de Ulecester (Outchester), James de Holburn, Henry de Detchant, William de Cornforth, Alexander Marshall, Roland de Gatherick.* (Raine, 1852, Appendices DCCLXXIV, DCCLXXV. 1213 x 1243).

39 A brank is used to control a restive horse. It is a device which is placed in a horse's mouth. As horse's mouths are very sensitive, if you twist their lip then they will become very still. This is a way of controlling a large animal.

40 *Book of Fees*, part 2, p.1129.

the descendants of William de Brankston who were documented into the fourteenth century.

At his brother William's death, Thomas, son of Alexander de Brankston, became lord of Brampton and died before 1255/6 when his widow Beatrix took action at the assize to obtain her dower.[41] Their son William was then of age but died after 1277/8 without issue[42] making his nephew, Richard son of Richard son of Thomas, his heir. Although this second Richard had a son John living in 1334 and a daughter married to John de Crofton, he granted his property to William son of Simon de Brampton. William obtained the rectory of several churches and employed deputies to carry out the duties but was formally only a sub-deacon mentioned 1292-1346 (Ragg, 1922, pp.318-327).

Richard de Brankston, son of Alexander de Brankston, was known as Richard de Bollesdon after the land he held. His son, Ralph, quitclaimed half a carucate in Bollesdon to Durham Priory which had originally been given to them by Richard's grandparents Ralph de Bollesdon and his wife Aldith.[43] Ralph de Bollesdon was succeeded by his two sons Richard de Bollesdon and Alexander de Bollesdon.

Agnes de Bollesdon, daughter of Alexander de Brankston, married Hugh the son of John de Haggardson.[44] We have no further record of their issue.

Elizabeth de Brankston received the 60 acres in Caistron from her mother, Margaret de Brankston, as her maritagium[45] (Fowler, 1878, p.134). This was confirmed by John de Kestern as overlord of Caistron[46] (Fowler, p.134). Their son, John de Rodum, granted all that he held in Caistron to Newminster Abbey for the sum of one mark in

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41 PRO: JUST 1/979

42 PRO: JUST 1/980

43 *Quitclaim by Ralph son of Richard de Bollesdon to Durham Priory of half a carucate in Bollesdon which they were given by Ralph de Bollesdon & Aldith his wife (see DCCLXXII) and which they later gave to Richard his father with another half carucate in the waste for 20s rent yearly. He is unwilling and unable to sustain this service and for this quitclaim he received twenty silver marks in his great necessity on condition that he and his heirs hold the said half carucate from them for ever at a yearly rent of 6d and that it may not be sold given or pledged without their consent. Out of pasture for five hundred sheep and twenty cows belonging to the whole carucate he quitclaims pasture for three hundred sheep and ten cows and retains pasture for two hundred sheep and ten cows. He and his heirs to pay 5s to marry a daughter and 5s for a relief and 5s for aid with suit to the Priory at Fenham and Shoresworth. The dower of his widow is to be assigned from the half carucate that he retains. W: Sirs Robert de Clifford, William de Scremerston, Adam de Buckton, Patrick de Goswick, John son of Constantine de Goswick, Gilbert de Beal, Gilbert his son, William de Helton, Robert de Ripon, Hugh Romanus & others.* (Raine, 1852, Appendix DCCLXXVI. 1234 x 1250).

44 *Confirmation by Agnes daughter of Margaret de Bollesdun wife of Hugh de Hagardeston to Holy Island. of all the land given to them. W: Sir Robert de Muschamp (III c.1210-1250), Odinel de Ford, Robert de Manerio (Manners), William de Bollesdon, James de Holburn, William de Akeld, Robert de Ulcester (Outchester), Henry de Detchant, Samson de Coupland, Alexander Marshall, Walter de Witton, William de Hecstildishii (Hexham), Richard de Bollesdon & others.*
(Raine, 1852, Appendix DCLXXXII. 1234 x 1241).

45 *Sciant, etc. quod ego Mariota dedisse concessisse et hoc presentes carta meam confirmasse Henrico de Rodum cum Elizabeth filia mea lx acras terrae in territorio de Kestern, cum tofto et crofto quod Willelmus de Selekirke quondam de me tenuit.*

46 *…Johannes de Kestern concessisse et presentes carta meam confirmasse Henrico de Rodum et Elizabet uxori suae et heredes sui ……lx acras terrae in villa de Kestern….quas Marioria uxor Alexandri de Brankestone dedit praedicto Henrico cum Elizabet filia sua in liberium maritagium…*

his great necessity[47] (Fowler, pp.134-135). After John de Rodum the line is not again mentioned in connection with these lands.

Theobald de Scotton's unnamed wife, daughter of Ralph de Brankston, died before 1202. Theobald was probably a brother of Robert and Amabel of Shotton in Glendale. This Robert made two grants of land to Kelso Abbey both witnessed by his brother Theobald (Innes, 1846, Nos.362, 364). Theobald had three daughters who inherited his property: Christiana wife of John Marshall, Matilda wife of Dolfin and Amabel wife of Roger.[48] It seems that not only did Theobald start to use the surname Brankestone but, in at least one case, a son-in-law did also as Dolfin de Brankestone was a juror in 1251.

Between 1202-1208 Alexander de Brankston, son of Ralph de Brankston, was involved in a complicated land transaction with his brother-in-law, Theobald de Scotton[49]. The purpose of this fine is clearly to reorganize some of the family property following the death of Ralph. A second fine was also made between these parties at a slightly later time. It is not clear why a second fine was necessary as the wording of the earlier fine of 30 November 1202 is almost identical to the first. The second fine, however, is not endorsed[50] (Brown, 1897, p.74, No.196). Perhaps the fact that Adam son of Gilbert, Ralph's brother, was still alive in 1202 implied that the transaction could be challenged.

The nine carucates of land in Branxton mentioned in the fine were certainly in Northumberland but the other places were spread across northern England. A useful clue to their location is given in a charter of William de Brankestune who granted land at Branton (Brampton) in Westmorland, the sixty acres in Caistron and the one bovate in Coniscliffe to Lady Marjory de Brankestone (Fowler, p.133). All three places occur in the fine.

All the places listed in the fine as having been owned by Aculf Gilbert, father of the unnamed wife of Gilbert Fitz Richer, are associated with the barony of Greystoke in Cumberland. These include Tymparon and Stainton which are both in Dacre; the parishes of Dacre, Greystoke and Skelton are adjacent.

It is apparent that the descendants of Gilbert Fitz Richer made an impact on the history of both northern England and Scotland. The son of a sheriff of Cumberland, he became the progenitor of many Scottish patriots including Sir Gilbert Hay and Sir John Graham, both signers of the Declaration of Arbroath. Gilbert and his heirs were important vassals of Walter Fitz Alan, the first hereditary High Steward of Scotland. From land holdings in Cumberland, his family branched out all over lowland Scotland and into Northumberland. From beginnings in relative obscurity, Gilbert Fitz Richer's progeny rose to become the founders of great families on both sides of the Tyne.

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47 *1 marca bonorum et legalium sterlingorum in mea maxima necessitate.*

48 *Quitclaim of the advowson of the Church of Brancheston to Durham Priory by John Marshall de Brancheston & Christiana his wife and Matilda & Amabil daughters of Theobald de Brancheston, with confirmation of the charters of Ralph de Bollesdon & Alexander his son. W: Sir Richard & another Richard & Nicholas canons of Carham, Sir Walter chaplain, Sir Robert de Ros (lord of Wark), Stephen chaplain, Adam chaplain of Cornhill, Harold servant of Carham, Sir William chaplain, Richard de Carham, Simon deacon of Carham, Terry de Wark, Eustace de [Holy] Island.*
(Raine, 1852, Appendix DCCLXXX. 1202 x 1242).

49 PRO CP 25/1/180/2 no 35, Feet of Fines Northumberland and Durham, Newcastle upon Tyne Records Committee, Vol.10, No.46, p.22. See Appendix 1 for full text of the charter in both Latin and English.

50 PRO CP 25/1/261/5 no 136

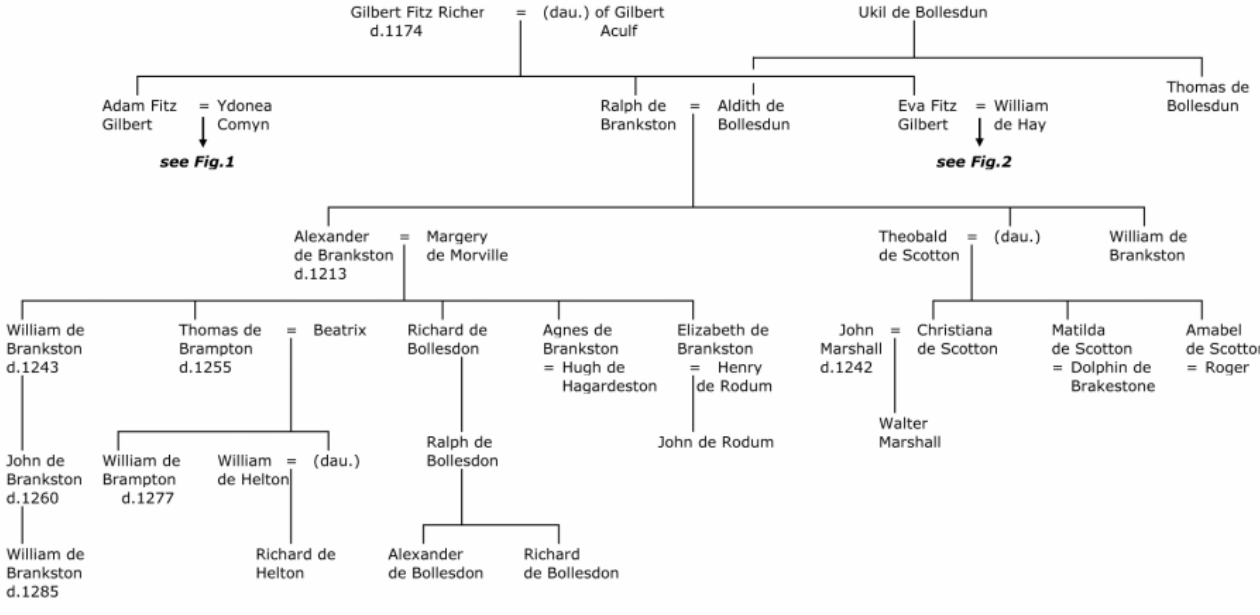


Fig.3 *Chart of Descendants of Ralph de Brankston from Ulkil de Bollesdon*

Appendix 1 Transcript and translation of deed between Theobald de Scotton and Alexander de Brenkeston (1208)[51]

Haec est finalis concordia facta in curia domini Regis apud Karleol in festum sancti Andrei anno regni regis Johannis decimo etc. Inter Theobald' de Scotton' pet' & Alex' filium Rad' de Brenkestona ten', de novem carr' terrae cum pert' in Brenkeston' & in Holthal'. Unde placitum fuit inter eos in presant curia, scil' quod predictus Theobaldus remisit & quietum clamavit totum jus & clamium quod habuit in predictis novem carr' terrae cum pert' de se & her' suis predicto Alex' & her' suis in perpet'. Et pro hac quieta clamantia & fine & concordia Alex' dedit & concessit predicto Theobaldo medietatem ville de Brenkeston' scil' Rogerum filium Ernoldi cum secta sua & tenemento, Martinum filium Henrici cum secta sua & ten', Gospatric filium Ormi cum secta sua & ten', Stephanum filium Edulfi cum secta sua & ten', Malcolmum filium Ulfkil cum secta sua & ten', Jacobum filium Gospatric cum secta sua & ten', Alex' Fabrum cum secta sua, & unum toftum cum pert' quod fuit Turnolfi filii Engred', & unam bov' terrae cum pert' quam Adam Carpentari tenuit in Brenkeston', & medietatem servitii Ad' filii Gillemichel de quarta parte ville de Brenkeston', & medietatem totius dominii in predicta villa scil' propinquiorem occidenti, & medietatem totius gardini scilicet propinquiorem aquiloni, & masagium cum pert' quod fuit Gill' Dispensatoris, & preterea predictus Alex' concessit predicto Theobaldo mesagium cum pert' quod fuit Ade Lorimeri, & masagium cum pert' quod fuit Hug' Messoris, in escambium pro medietate capitalis mesagii & medietatem totius servitii Stephani de Holthal' de tota villa de Holthal'. Hab' & ten' sibi & her' suis de predicto Alex' & her' suis in perpet' per servitium unam librae cymini reddendo inde annuatim scil' ad Pentecosten pro omni servito salvo forinseco scil' quantum pertinet ad predictam terram. Et pro hac concessione Theobald' remisit & quietum clamavit totum jus & clamium quod habuit in tota terra quae fuit Acof Gilleb' in Branton', & in Knoxhalecot, & in Steinton', & in LX acris terrae cum pert' in Kersthirn, & in unam bov' terrae cum pert' in Cunnigesclive super Teisam, & in dimidia carr' terrae cum pert' in magna Thorneton', de se & her' suis predicto Alex' & her' suis in perpet'. Et scient quod cirograph factum inter eosdem Theobald & Alexandr' coram Johe Norwich episcopo & Hug' Barbon & sociis eiis Judices itinerantibus in com' Ebor anno regni regis Johis quarto de predictes nove' carr' terrae cum pert' in Brankeston & Holthal cassatum est per illud cirograph.

This is the final concord made in the King's Court at Carlisle on the feast of St. Andrew in the tenth year of the reign of King John [30 November 1208] etc. Between Theobald de Scotton, plaintiff and Alexander son of Ralph de Brenkeston, tenant: of nine carucates of land in Brenkeston' [Branxton] and Holtal [Howtel, Kirknewton]: Namely that the said Theobald quitclaims all rights and claims that he has in the said nine carucates of land with appurt. from him and his heirs to the said Alexander and his heirs for ever. And for this quitclaim Alexander gives and grants to Theobald a moiety of the vill of Brenkeston', namely, Roger son of Arnold with his suit and tenement, Martin son of Henry with his suit and tenement, Gospatric son of Orm' with his suit and tenement, Stephen son of Eldulfus with his suit and tenement, Malcolm son of Ulfkil with his suit and tenement, James son of Gospatric with his suit and tenement, Alexander Fabrum [the Smith] with his suit, and one toft which was of Tunnolf' son of Engred' [Ing' 1202], and one bovate of land with appurt. which Adam the Carpenter [omitted 1202] held in Brenkeston', a moiety of the service of Adam son of Gilemichel from a fourth part of the vill of Brenkeston'; and a moiety of the whole demesne of the said vill namely the western portion, and a moiety of the whole garden namely the northern portion, and the messuage with appurt. which was Gilbert the dispenser's. And also the said Alexander grants to the said Theobald the messuage with appurt. which was Adam Lorimer's and the messuage of Hugh Messoris [the Hayward], in exchange for a moiety of the capital messuage; and a moiety of the service of Stephen de Holthal' from the whole vill of Holthal' [Howtel]. To have and to hold by the service of one pound of cumin annually at Pentecost, for all service except forinsec namely the amount due from the said land. And for this grant Theobald quitclaims to Alexander the land which was Acof Gilbert's [Acculf Gillebti 1202] in Branton [Brampton, Long Marton, Westmorland], Knoxhalecot [Knock-Salcock, Long Marton] and Steinton [Stainton, Dacre, Cumberland], sixty acres of land in Kersthirn [Caistron, Rothbury] and in one bovate of land Cuningesclive on Tees [Coniscliffe, co.Durham]; half a

[51] PRO: CP 25/1/180/2 no.35, Feet of Fines Northumberland and Durham, Newcastle upon Tyne Records Committee, Vol.10, No.46, p.22; see also PRO: CP 25/1/261/5 no.136.

carucate of land in Great Thorneton [Thornton Hall, Coniscliffe]. And know that the chirograph made between Theobald and Alexander before John Bishop of Norwich and Hugh Barbon [Bardulf 1202] and their associates justices itinerant in the County of York in the fourth year of the reign of King John of the said nine carucates of land with appurt. in Brankeston and Holthal is superseded by this chirograph.

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