

THE CARTULARY OF LEEDS PRIORY

By LESLIE SHERWOOD

INTRODUCTORY

THE cartulary of Leeds Priory (or, more accurately, a part of it), was presented to the Kent County Council anonymously in April, 1947.

In 1798, according to Hasted, the cartulary was in the possession of Sir Beversham Filmer of East Sutton Park; and it seems likely that this document was the one now in the Archives Office, and that it arrived at East Sutton through the agency of the Argall family. For the surviving portion of the cartulary has special relevance for the manor of Densted, in Chartham, which was held by the Argalls for some fifty years, from 1549 until early in the reign of James I.

The outer cover bears the inscription: "In thys booke emongest / other graunts ys registred the graunt of / the Tythes of Densted given unto the / Prior and Chanons of Leeds. And / the saide graunt confirmed by divers Archbishops of Caunterbury and by / the Deane and Chapter there. Whereby / the Manor of Densted ys freed from / the payment of all Tythes . . . / Memorandum that the Leaves / containd in this Booke were parcell / of an Auncient Lydger [?] belonging / to the monastery of Leeds." They *were*—so that the inscription was made, and perhaps also the cover was put on, after the manor of Densted had passed out of the possession of the Priory in about 1539. The leaves of this portion of the original cartulary are numbered from 1 to 12, and so were evidently regarded for the purposes of the numerator as an entity. Throughout the twelve leaves each of the nine references to the tithes of Densted (on folios 3a, 5a, 5b, 8b and 9b) is emphasized by a pointing finger in the margin.

The Priory itself, after its suppression in about 1539, reverted to the Crown, and thereafter passed to the St. Leger family, who retained it until 1573. By far the greater part of its possessions were settled by Henry VIII in 1541 on the Dean and Chapter of Rochester; but the possessions so bestowed did not include Densted, granted to the Priory by Hamo de Crevecoeur in 1262. This manor was in 1545 granted to John Tufton, who in about 1549 alienated it to Richard Argall of East Sutton Park, in whose family it remained until, early in the reign of James I, John Argall alienated it to Sir John Collimore. Meanwhile Richard Argall's daughter had become the wife of Sir Edward Filmer, lately of Otterden, but now of Little Charlton,

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East Sutton, and he in 1611 also acquired of John Argall her brother the manor of East Sutton.

It therefore seems not unreasonable to suppose that our portion of the cartulary formed part of the Argall muniments, and so, whether by accident or design, was transferred to Sir Edward Filmer when he took over the East Sutton estates from John Argall. Such an explanation would sufficiently account for Sir Beversham Filmer's possession of the "cartulary" in 1798.

The cover inscription, the folio numbers, underlinings, pointing fingers and marginal dates (in fact all marginalia except the original section headings) were added to the monastic manuscript, presumably in or about 1545, for the guidance of the, by then, secular landlords of Densted.

For the rest, the twelve leaves appear to have been written (though I make no claim to authoritative knowledge on this point) early in the 14th century. The leaves measure 30·5 by 20·8 cm. The ruling of the leaves gives 39 horizontal lines, of which the top one is left empty, and vertical lines on either side of each page leave an inner margin of about 2·0 cm. and an outer margin of about 2·8 cm.

There can be no doubt as to the incompleteness of the 12-folio book, since it begins in the middle of the recital of a series of grants confirmed by a person not specified, and breaks off in the middle of a sentence.

The following account is not offered as a detailed translation of the "cartulary": the intention is only to give a reasonably good idea of its contents, and to point the way for more detailed investigations to those who may be interested.

The section-numbers in the left-hand margin are my own. The headings in capitals are translated more or less literally from the Latin of the original.

ABSTRACT OF THE CONTENTS

1. [fo. 1a] Confirmations (incomplete at beginning) of:
 - (a) Advowson of church of St. John the Baptist, Wateringbury, and lands there granted by Bartholomew, son of Gilbert of Wateringbury.
 - (b) All grants of Gilbert and his ancestors, and a rent of 2s. for a road leading over land of the Canons to a wood of Bartholomew's.
 - (c) Grant from Roger, son of William of Wateringbury, of land in Wateringbury.
 - (d) Grant from Robert de Vere, son of Peter of Wateringbury, of 4 acres in Wateringbury.
 - (e) Grant from John of Evesham, clerk, of lands in Rainham and Borden and a watermill in West Rainham.

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2. [fo. 1b] COMPOSITION BETWEEN MONKS OF BATTLE AND CANONS OF LEEDS. N.D. [But c. 1250.]

Reciprocal agreement between Odo, Abbot, and Monks of Battle, and Nicholas, Prior, and Canons of Leeds, regarding funeral rites (which are specified) for one another's dead.

3. CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN CHARTERS BY JOHN OF SANDWICH. N.D.

(a) Charter of Hugo de Kenebelle, granting land "apud Boclonde" and "de terra Widonis," for a rental of one pair of gilt spurs or 6d. a year. 30 marks of silver as "gersuma."¹

(b) [fo. 2a] Charter of Hugo de Kenebelle, granting land held of Hugo by Salomon, son of Edric of Stapinberghe, for which Salomon shall render annually to the Canons of Leeds 7s. 3d., 3½ fowls and 2 dozen eggs.

(c) Charter of John de Kenebelle, granting a rent issuing from land in "valle de Boclonde," viz. 4s. 8d. a year, with 2 fowls at Christmas and 9 eggs at Easter. For this charter the Canons paid 3½ marks.

The foregoing grants confirmed and the annual rental of gilt spurs remitted by John of Sandwich.

4. [fo. 2b] TITHES OF CHILDESTONE [IN BOUGHTON MALHERBE]. N.D.

Grant from William, son of Hamo [de Crevecoeur] of tithes of Childestone in corn, fruit, hay, poultry, calves, flax, pannage, lambs, fleeces, cheese, piglets and all other things pertaining to the lordship.

5. CONFIRMATION BY THEOBALD, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY. 1138.

Confirming grants of church of St. Mary, Woodnesborough, with tithes of "Sum'felda" and of Harthanger; church of St. Giles, Sarre, and half tithes of Canterbury castle; churches of St. Margaret, Rainham, St. Mary, Chatham, St. Mary, Lamberhurst and great and small tithes of Curtehope and Ewehurst [in Speldhurst]; churches of All Saints, [West] Farleigh, St. Peter, Teston, Holy Cross, Bearsted and of Chart; [fo. 3a] a mill and a virgate in Brasted, with a house and a half ("mansionem unam et dimidiam") in the market place there; 20s. [presumably of rent] in the marshes of Grain; and the tithes of Densted [in Chartham] and Childistune.

A fine paid to the lord on taking over a holding.

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6. CONFIRMATION BY HUBERT [WALTER], ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, OF FORMER CONFIRMATION BY THEOBALD. 1193.
Substantially the same as the foregoing, but with the addition of the church of St. Mary, Afinges, and land granted to the Priory by Elena, wife of Aufridus of Dover.
7. [fo. 3b] CONFIRMATION BY ARCHBISHOP ROBERT [KILWARDBY], OF CHURCHES GRANTED BY BARON [ROBERT] CREVECOEUR. 1272.
Churches of Leeds (with chapel at Broomfield), Chatham, Rainham, Goudhurst, Lamberhurst, Farleigh and Teston.
Embracing earlier confirmations by Archbishops William [Corboil], 1122, and Hubert, 1193.
8. [fo. 4a] CHURCH OF WOODNESBOROUGH. 1122.
Notice by Archbishop William of a grant through him by Ascelina, patroness of the benefice, of the church of Woodnesborough.
9. CHURCH OF SARRE. 1138.
Notice by Archbishop Theobald of a grant through him by Ralph Picot and Elias de Crevecoeur of the church of St. Giles, Sarre. The benefice to be held during his lifetime by one Norman, clerk, in recognition for which he shall render to the Canons 2s. annually.
10. CHURCHES OF GOUDHURST AND BOUGHTON. 1162.
Confirmation by Thomas [a Becket], Archbishop of Canterbury, of grants by Daniel de Crevecoeur and Henry de Bocton respectively, of churches of Goudhurst and Boughton [Monchelsea].
11. [fo. 4b] Confirmation of the foregoing by Archbishop Edmund [de Abingdon], 1234.
12. CHURCH OF BORDEN. 1173.
Confirmation by Archbishop Richard of a grant by Simon son of Peter de Borden of the church of Borden.
13. CHURCH OF BEARSTED. 1183.
Grant by Archbishop Baldwin of the church of the Holy Cross, Bearsted, for maintenance of lights (luminaria) and other ornaments in the Priory church.
14. TITHES OF CHILDESTONE.
Repetition of 4.
15. [fo. 5a] TITHES OF HARTHANGER [IN BARFRETON]. N.D.
Grant by Sibil de Watemle of a rent of 2s. in Ringilton [in Woodnesborough], and the tithes of Harthanger.
16. TITHES OF DENSTED [IN CHARTHAM]. N.D.
Grants by Emma de Horsburdenne and by John, lord of Densted, of the tithes of Densted.

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17. TITHES OF CURTHOPE. N.D.
Grant by Lambert de Scotney of all ecclesiastical rights in his lands of Curthope (due to the benefice of St. Mary, Lamberhurst). Confirmation by Archbishop Richard that all tithes of Curthope and Ewehurst due to the church of Lamberhurst, and therefore to the Canons of Leeds.
18. CONFIRMATION BY ARCHBISHOP THEOBALD. 1138.
Repetition of 5.
19. [fo. 5b] CONFIRMATION BY CANTERBURY CHAPTER. 1278.
Confirmation by John, Prior, and Convent of Christ Church, Canterbury, in consideration of the unvarying charity of the Prior and Convent of Leeds towards pilgrims and the poor, of grants of the church of St. Mary, Woodnesborough, with the tithes of "Som'feld" [in Selling ?] and Harthanger; church of St. Giles, Sarre; half the tithes of Canterbury castle; church of St. Mary, Allinges[?]; church of St. Margaret, Rainham; church of the Holy Cross, Bearsted, with the tithes of Strutton; church of St. Michael, Chart [Sutton]; 20s. in the marshes of Grain and the tithes of Densted; the tithes of Childestone and half the tithes of Leghes; 20s. from the church of Crundale; church of St. Mary, Goudhurst; church of St. Peter, Boughton [Monchelsea]; church of St. Mary Magdalene, Stockbury; church of St. Peter, Borden; church of St. Martin, Acrise; church of St. James, Elmleigh; church of St. George, Ham; church of All Saints, Chillenden.
20. [fo. 6a] Confirmation by Archbishop Robert of grant by Archbishop William, at request of King Henry I, of the church of St. Michael, Chart Sutton; and of grant by Archbishop Richard of all tithes issuing from the lordship of Chart, together with an annual pension of 20s., payable by the rector for the time being, for the support of sick Canons.
21. [fo. 6b] CONFIRMATION BY BALDWIN OF CHURCH OF ACRISE. 1185.
Confirmation by Archbishop Baldwin of a grant by William of Cosintone of the church of Acrise; and grant by Baldwin of an annual pension of 40s. from the church of Acrise.
22. CHURCH OF ESLINGES. 1193.
Confirmation by Archbishop Hubert [Walter] of a grant by Theobald, at request of Alicia de Eslinges [Eastling], wife of Ralph de Cycostri, of the church of Eastling.
23. [fo. 7a] PENSION OF THE SAME. 1205.
Grant by Archbishop Stephen [Langton], with consent of William

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de Eslinges, patron of the benefice, of an annual pension of 20s. from the church of Eastling.

24. PENSION OF STOCKBURY.

Confirmation (1193) by Archbishop Hubert of a grant by William, son of Helto, of the church of St. Mary Magdalene, Stockbury : Canons to receive 1 mark annually, payable by the vicar.

This pension increased c. 1237 by Archbishop Edmund [de Abingdon] to 10 marks annually.

25. [fo. 7b] CHURCH OF HAM. 1236.

Confirmation by Archbishop Baldwin of a grant by William de Norfucco, knight, lord of the manor (fundi), of the church of Ham.

26. CHURCH OF CHILLENDEEN.

Confirmation by Archbishop Baldwin of a grant by William de Northwico of the church of Chillenden.

27. PENSION OF THE SAME AND OF HAM.

Grant by Archbishop Edmund of an annual pension of 40s. from the benefice of Ham and of 8s. from Chillenden, for the use of the infirm.

28. CHURCH OF CRUNDALE.

Grant by Gunn. and Reulandus de Waluine of the church of Crundale, otherwise Dromewrda [Tremworth].

29. PENSION OF THE SAME.

Notice by Archbishop Richard of settlement of a dispute between Canons of Leeds and David de Tymbdene, clerk, and Walter, priest, over the church of Crundale, as follows :

Walter aforesaid, perpetual vicar of the said church, to pay to the said A[rchbishop] 2 seams [6 or 8 bushels each] of corn yearly, one seam to be retained by A[rchbishop], the other payable to the said Canons within 8 days of the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the event of Walter's decease, or of his taking monastic vows, A[rchbishop] to hold the church subject to payment of a annual pension of 25s. to the said Canons.

30. [fo. 8a.] Confirmation by Archbishop Hubert of a grant by Hamo de Valon [Valencia ?] of annual pension of 25s. from the church of Tremworth [i.e. Crundale], the advowson of the church being reserved to the said Hamo.

31. CONFIRMATION BY NICHOLAS, PRIOR, AND CHAPTER OF CHRIST CHURCH, CANTERBURY, OF CERTAIN TITHES AND PENSIONS. 1256.

Confirmation of the following pensions :

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From the church of St. Mary, Eastling	20s. p.a.
St. Mary Magdalene, Stockbury, 11 marks p.a.	
Chart Sutton	20s. p.a. (with a "cultura" in the parish, and the tithes of Chart and of Hedenesham).
Ham	40s. p.a.
Chillenden	8s. p.a. (with the tithes of Densted and "Stonpete marsh, which was Robert Malet's, with the land they possess there.")

[fo. 8b] Confirmation by Archbishop John [Peckham] of decisions given in favour of the Prior and Convent of Leeds over certain tithes and pensions, as follows:

32. DISPUTE BETWEEN LUCAS, RECTOR OF ST. MICHAEL'S, HARBLE-DOWN, AND PRIOR AND CONVENT OF LEEDS, OVER TITHES AND OTHER MATTERS. 1250.

Settled by Archdeacon of Canterbury at the instance of Pope Innocent.

Lucas claimed :

- (a) The tithes of a certain piece of land in the east of Helminge ("de Helminge versus orientem.")
- (b) The tithes of 10 acres of Helminge within his parish.
- (c) The tithes of lands of Alice and Margaret de Lese.
- (d) The tithes of Old Densted.
- (e) That the servants of the Priory residing in Old Densted should attend Harbledown church.
- (f) That divine service should not be celebrated any more in the Convent's chapel in Densted, to the prejudice of the parish church.

(g) The tithes of land granted to the Priory by Thomas de Densted. The Archdeacon ruled :

- (a) That Lucas should receive the tithes from the lands of Alice and Margaret de Lese, and that the servants of the Priory should attend his church.
- (b) That divine service should be celebrated in the chapel as and when the Prior and Convent pleased.
- (c) That perpetual silence should be imposed on the subject of Old Densted and the other tithes enumerated in the Rector's complaint.

33. [fo. 9a] MORE ON THE SAME SUBJECT AGAINST THE RECTOR OF CHARTHAM. 1277.

Dispute between Thomas of Canterbury, rector of Chartham, and the Prior and Convent of Leeds, over the great and small tithes

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and the burial of the dead in the manor of Densted, referred by the Prior and Convent from the court of the Dean of St. Mary of the Arches, London, to the Archdeacon's Court at Canterbury. Decision : Tithes and burial alike the right of the Prior and Convent, and perpetual silence imposed on the Rector ; but he and his successors to have the right to graze six cows and two-year heifers on the Convent's pasture in Densted, in the charge of the Convent's herdsman, free of charge.

34. [fo. 10a] PENSION OF CRUNDALE. 1225.

Decision of the Prior of Lesnes and the Prior and Archdeacon of Rochester (at the instance of the Pope), on a question raised by the Rectors of Crundale and Elmsted and certain other clergy of the dioceses of Canterbury of Rochester, over certain annual pensions.

John de Nerford, rector of Crundale, through Richard de Sanford, proctor, disputes with the Prior and Convent of Leeds an annual pension of 25s. payable out of the benefice of Crundale.

Decision in favour of the Prior and Convent.

35. [fo. 10b] EXECUTION OF THE SAME JUDGMENT.

The foregoing judgment corroborated, at the instance of the Prior of Lesnes and the Prior and Archdeacon of Rochester, by H. de Sandford, Archdeacon of Canterbury.

36. [fo. 11a] ANOTHER JUDGMENT ON THE SAME MATTER. 1283.

On renewal of the same dispute by Thomas, rector of Crundale, pension acknowledged by Thomas before the Archbishop's commissary (commissarius) at Canterbury to be the due of the Prior and Canons of Leeds.

37. TITHES OF GARDENS IN WOODNESBOROUGH. 1267.

Decision of the Prior of Rochester (at the instance of the Pope) on a dispute between the Prior and Canons of Leeds, rectors of the church of Woodnesborough, and Adam, vicar of the same, over the great tithes issuing from crofts and curtilages lying within the parish of Woodnesborough.

Decision : Prior and Convent to receive all great tithes of barley, hay, beans, peas and all sorts of corn from the lands in question, but to pay annually to the said Adam and his successors half the sum of barley and beans.

38. ANOTHER JUDGMENT ON THE SAME MATTER. 1284.

Dispute renewed by William, vicar of Woodnesborough, and again decided, in the Archdeacon's court of Canterbury, in favour of the Prior and Convent.

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39. [fo. 11b] TITHES AND PENSION OF CHART-NEXT-SUTTON. 1289.
Decision of Richard, Archdeacon of Canterbury, on a dispute between the Prior and Convent and Walter de Maldon, rector of Chart-next-Sutton, over a pension of 20s. a year payable out the great and small tithes issuing from the lands of William de Valencia in Chart-next-Sutton, and from lands in Hadenesham, formerly belonging to Roger de Schirland.
Walter to refer his claim to the Dean of the church of St. Mary of the Arches, London.
The Dean adjudged the Prior and Convent to be in the right.
40. [fo. 12a] AGREEMENT OVER TITHES OF SLEYHULL MARSH. 1288.
The Dean of St. Paul's, London, bidden by Pope Honorius to resolve a dispute between the Abbot and (Premonstratensian) Convent of Insula Dei on the one hand and the Abbot and Convent of Boxley and others of the dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester on the other, over certain tithes and other dues of the parish of Upchurch.
The Dean summons the Prior and Convent of Leeds, who dispute the right of the Abbot and Convent of Insula Dei to the tithes of Sleyhull marsh, and decides that the tithes shall be divided equally between the two parties.

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APPENDIX A

Edward I's Letters of Inspeximus of 12th June, 1285 (Archives reference A/G 47(62)) confirm the following charters :

1. Original endowment by Robert de Crevecoeur, granting the site of the Priory, with water and woodland, free of all secular obligations, and the forstal before the Priory gate.
2. Charter of Robert de Crevecoeur, granting all the churches on his hands, viz. Leeds (with the chapel at Broomfield), Chatham, Rainham, Goudhurst, Lamberhurst, [West] Farleigh and Teston.
3. Charter of Daniel de Crevecoeur, confirming the foregoing, and granting further 10 acres of land in free alms for the good of the soul of his sister Gunnor ; the land of Brocdena, a mill at Eastwode and land of Ordric Clamp adjoining the wood ; the church of Harleton and 2 virgates in the same vill, for the soul of Isabella his wife ; and twenty measures of salt a year.
4. Charter of Daniel de Crevecoeur, granting the mill of Brudescam.
5. Charter of Helyas de Crevecoeur, granting the church of Thanet [Sarre], the church of Eclingham and a carucate of land.
6. Charter of Helyas, granting 20s. from mills in Lamberhurst, to be expended in rites for his soul and the souls of his family ; also the tithes of mills, bakeries and orchards in Lamberhurst.
7. Charter of Robert de Crevecoeur, granting all rights in Chatham fair; leave to pasture cattle in his fright at Leeds; all the inheritance of Henry, son of Norman of Leeds; the right to catch hares and rabbits anywhere on their estates; the power to govern their own affairs in the event of the resignation or death of any of their Priors; and the advowsons of the churches of Leeds, Goudhurst, Lamberhurst, [West] Farleigh, Teston, Chatham, Rainham, Sarre and Halctune.
8. Charter of Hamo de Crevecoeur, confirming all grants of Robert his father, and of his ancestors; granting further pannage for ten pigs in the autumn in Bockingefaude wood, and the tithes of herbage and from a mill there; $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres at Herst [in Otterden ?], $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres with a messuage which were William de Villa's, 3 acres and three virgates of land, the gift of Simon Smith (Simonis Fabri); all the foregoing for the support of the poor and of guests.
9. Charter of Ascelina de Woodnesborough, granting the church of Woodnesborough.
10. Charter of Hugo de Bergestedie, granting the church of Bearsted.
11. 1276. Charter of Robert de Crevecoeur, son of Hamo the younger, confirming all the grants of his ancestors; granting further that the Canons should have the right of electing their own

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Prior, subject to the approbation of Robert and his descendants; granting leave to acquire land anywhere within the fee of Crevecoeur, and to distrain on arrears of rent; confirming the grant of Chatham fair.

The King confirmed all the foregoing grants, with the exception of Chatham fair, "which the said Prior and Convent have by their charter given to ourselves and our most beloved consort."

APPENDIX B

THE CREVECOEUR FAMILY

(based on a pedigree among genealogical papers in the Filmer collection, County Archives reference A/G 120).

