

ART. XIII.—*Notes on Corney.* By The REV. W. S. SYKES,
M.A.

Read at Whitehaven, Sept. 14th, 1927.

IN 'Identification of some ancient places' *Transactions* xxvi, I carelessly omitted a reference to *Trans. N.S.*, xvi, p. 293, where there is an interesting grant by Henry f. Ketel de Corney.

"From the gate which is on the bank of Kirksletbeck and
"as far as the dyke over against the hill; and from the head
"of the dyke along the fence outside Startuues as far as
"Bla-sich; and then at the place where Bla-sich falls into
"Bracame-thatt-beck and following that stream as far as
"the dyke in the South side of Brachane-thait; and so
"along the dyke as far as Kirksletbeck; and along Kirks-
"letbec ascending up as far as the aforesaid gate.

The President of our Society then Editor of the *Transactions*, credited this grant to Corney, but in the absence of decisive marks felt compelled to point out that similar names occur elsewhere.

In the parish Tithe Award, the name Brackenthwaite does not occur but there are Brackeneay fields on Myreground farm. Bracken barrow near High Kinmont and Bracken hall in the north east corner of the parish have been considered but the ground marks do not agree. They would do so however if Myreground farm or some of its fields are taken as the Brackenthwaite, although the runner Bla-sich is not now known by name, and the larger stream has changed with the farm name to Myregroundbeck. There is also here one name of importance because it is uncommon in the neighbourhood—Starthouse field or wood is marked in the Tithe Award. The area described in the Charter contains roughly 120 acres in-

cluding the farms, or parts of them, called Whole-house farm and Mill, now united with Fold gate, Lamb ground, Myreground, Moorhouse Borrowdale ground and two cottages.

A correspondent, Mr. J. Southward of Newbiggin, Waberthwaite, informs me that the upper reaches of the River Anna do not bear that name but are called from the farms which they pass. So that Kirksletbeck may have been an older name of that now called Corney Hall beck. He has also pointed out that the boundaries described appear to commence at a point a little above the disused Whole House Farm, where a footbridge is marked on the 6 inch O.S. map in a footpath between Myreground and Foldgate. Near the bridge is an ancient walled-up gate in a direct line with a ditch or hollow way, leading to a deep gill, which after passing Lambground, extends to the moor. Inside the moor fence are the two cottages, Myreground Cottage and Crispin Cottage; close to the latter a runner descends the hillside to join the Myre ground beck [Bracam-thatt bec] in a long soft-bottomed field at the low end of which is the Start-house-wood. From this point [‘ south of Brachanethait ’] the bounds ascend the hill side and cross the Bootle road and descend by an ancient hollow way or road in the direction of Corney Mill. Then ascend Corney Hall beck to the footbridge.

The name of the donor Henry f. Ketel is even of more interest than the place. The Editor in C. and W. *Transactions*, considered it was uncertain to which family he belonged but referred to St. Bees, No. 68. This is a Charter of Daniel f. Daniel de Furness—and in a note one of the uncles of the donor is mentioned Marsillius de Furness.

The witnesses of No. 68 in addition to Henry f. Ketel include William de Boivil, who was owner of Kirksanton c. 1184-1210 and Richard de Boivil his younger brother, who was Rector of Whicham, and Waldeve, who

was Dean of Coupland later than 1190 and perhaps till between 1210-1219, and William cleric of Workington, who was appointed before 1201.

There is a grant by Alan f. Ketel to Cockersand of 7 acres in Seton. His witnesses include two of these, Henry f. Ketel and William de Boivil, and also Marsillius de Furness uncle of the donor of St. B. 68. The Prior of Cockersand enfeoffed William f. Roger of this land; he was the husband of Gunildha, daughter of Alan f. Ketel the donor.

Henry f. Ketel also made a grant to Cockersand, but unfortunately no witnesses are given. The suggested date is *c.* 1190-1200, namely within the period of the two foregoing charters. One portion of this charter has been referred to in my article on place names, and is in that part of the parish of Corney* which lies between Eskmeals pool on the west; the parish boundary on the south from the pool to Near Bank; then along the road to Skellerah and Gillfoot and past Barras meadow to Normoss. The charter says "thence to Malpas" *i.e.*, the Pool.

There is nothing to show whether Langley Park is included and I was inclined to think that the Park was the remaining third of the demesne, but my correspondent, Mr. Southward, says that from Normoss the natural line would be to meet the pool at Stockbridge; if he is correct, the third of the manor which was not disposed of by Henry f. Ketel—probably in the form of a lease and release to secure an annuity—was that surrounding Corney Hall, possessed later by Edward de Corney.

In any case the chief interest of this Charter lies in the fact that the Malpas or Eskmeals pool was the division between the demesne of Henry f. Ketel and that land which about 20 or 30 years earlier had been granted to the Abbey of Russyn by the brothers Benedict and Meldred de

* Later *i.e.* 1291, it is called Midel-argh *cf.* Midelton of the present day.

Penington, *i.e.* Skeldhow Moor. This gift was witnessed by Efwar f. Ulf and by Ketel his brother the two senior members of the family of de Caupland and also by the eldest son of each, Hugo f. Edward and Alan f. Ketel. So that it seems almost necessary to believe that the owner of two thirds of Corney, Henry son of Ketel and Alan f. Ketel, who witnessed a deed on one side of his demesne and made a grant on the other side of the same land for which Henry was a witness—were brothers.

Another portion of the grant of Henry f. Ketel to Cockersand was called Rauntrehefd. No such name occurs in Corney but Rowantree gill is given as a boundary mark in the Manor Roll of Birkby and there is a Rowantree How near Devoke. In St. Bees Illus. Doc. lxxiii, the Lindebeck which issues from Devoke water is described *c.* 1270 by Alan f. Richard de Caupland as separating his pasture called Frith-slack from the land of Austhwaite. So that Birkby was evidently part of the demesne of the De Caupland and Rauntrehefd, that portion near Devoke.

One other point arises out of the grants of Henry f. Ketel. His signature to Alan's gift seems to be *c.* 1184-90; his grant to Cockersand *c.* 1190-1200; Reg. St. B. No. 68 may be between that date and 1210, but the gift to S. John of Jerusalem seems later as it is witnessed by Thomas, who succeeded John as Rector of Bootle, as well as by Waldeve who was Dean of Coupland till *c.* 1219.

The position of the family of Ketel is intimately bound up with the district, and a large number of the most important documents in the neighbourhood between 1160-1220 are witnessed by one or more members of the family. Afterwards, from *c.* 1227, the most prominent signature is that of Sir John de Langliv-ergh, who by his title was the holder of the lands previously held by Henry f. Ketel, and who occupied till *c.* 1270 the same position in the County that the sons of Ketel did in the previous generation. The signature therefore of John f. Henry as

witness for Henry f. Ketel—one which occurs nowhere else—seems to add one more step in the history of the family of de Caupland.

Ulf de Caupland.

