



THE PARISH OF AYTON

The figure presented by this parish as it lies upon the map is of a very irregular kind. If Easby which is a detached Township of Stokesley, were not subtracted from its south east corner, & Newton, which is a separate parish, were not extracted from about the middle of its northernmost side, the area occupied on the map might be described as an irregularly shaped four-sided figure with an angle projecting northwards at its North Eastern corner, and another projecting eastward from the northernmost portion of its east side. But both these places being withdrawn the area that is left has some resemblance to a stage[?] boot with the full leg sloping slightly to the westward of north & the toe pointing a good deal northward of east. Beginning at Nunthorpe Station the boundary line runs for two miles with a general direction of southwest, skirting Marton to a point called Sunny Cross. Leaving this it tends but with a most tortuous course, for more than two miles and a half, in a general S.S.West direction, skirting Stainton Parish for the first mile, and Tanton, a township of Stokesley, for the remainder of the distance. On reaching the river Leven it turns abruptly to the east, & runs more than a mile & half in that direction, at the termination of which stretch it turns abruptly to the north along the confines of Easby, & after half a mile it deviates again to the West, stretching away for fully two miles with only a little inclination to the North, until it strikes the Kildale boundary. Hence it winds a sinuous course of nearly a mile and three quarters in length and with a general North-East inclination striking the junction of the Kildale & Guisborough boundaries at Percy Cross. From the latter point, three miles to the W.N.West bring the perambulator back to Nunthorpe Station, including however the parish of Newton within the area delineated:-the definition of which parish, relatively to Ayton, may perhaps be more conveniently postponed until the end of the present notice of the Parish of Ayton.

The total Area included within the boundaries thus traced amounts to no less than 6394 acres, 1 rood, 35 poles; of which Great Ayton appropriates 3589 acres, 0 roods, 18

"TERRA COMITIS MORITONIENSES

In *ATUN*. ad geldum VI carucate & III caruce possunt esse. Ibi habuit Norman 1 Mancrium. Nunc habet Nigel de Comite. In dominio 1 carucata & VIII villani cum 11 carucis. Ecclesia & VI acre prati. T.R.E. valebat XL Solidos, modo XXX Solidos."

"TERRA ROBERTI MALET

111 Maneria. In *ATUN*, Aldred Edmundus Turorne, habuerunt 1111 carucatas terre ad geldum ubi 11 caruce possunt esse. Nunc habet Robertus ibi 1 carucatam et IX villanos cum 11 carucis et III acras prati. T.R.E. valebat XX Solidos, modo XXV Solidos & 1111 denarios.

Mancrium. In alia *ATUN* (Little Ayton), habuit Aschil 11 carucatas terre ad geldum & 1 caruca potest ibi esse. Robertus habet & wastum est. T.R.E. valebat X Solidos."

"FEODUM ROBERTI DE BRUIS

In *TORP*, VI carucate. In *MORTONA*, 111 carucate"

Of the King's Land, then, we see there were four Manors (Mancria), one of two Carucates in what is now Great Ayton; a second of the same extent in Little Ayton, a third of three Carucates in Tunstal, and a fourth in Nunthorpe which even if the enumeration in the Summary at the end of Domesday did not prove the matter it would be more than a fair inference from the entry under the head of the Brus Fee to assume - amounted to no less than six Carucates. This, as already implied in the preceding words, passed in virtue of the original grant, to Robert de Brus in 1187.

Of the Earl of Mortain's land was the manor of six Carucates in Great Ayton which was held by Nigel Fossard of the Earl; while of Robert Malet's land, in the same place, whereof there were originally three Mancria, there appears to be but one carucate noted,*

although from the summary it is clear there were three at least and, in Little Ayton, further Manor of two Carucates.

We have thus an extent Of 24 Carucates (leaving one unnoted) divided into no less than nine Maneria previously to the new apportionment by William, and it is safe to assume that at the least eight of these nine, if not all of them, remained when the Domesday Book was compiled. And it is not foreign to our purpose to remark that with the exception of Robert Malet's Manor in Little Ayton, which has the ominous word 'Wastum' applied to

* Note:-In such a case as this, where the three Mancria specified comprised no less than four Carucates, and the Royal grant disposes of but one Carucate, the natural assumption would seem to be that the surplus must have remained ungranted, or, in other words, still in Royal occupancy. But there is evidently some grave mistake here, and it is not easy, or indeed possible, to correct it. In the Summary at the end of the Volume, the enumeration is as follows:-"In *ATUN RO. MAL*. III car. Ibid *R.EX*. II car. *C0. MOR*, VI car. . . . In *TORP REX* VI car. In *ATUN RO. MAL* 11 car. In *ALIA ATUN REX* 11 car. . . . In *TONESALE REX*. III car", where we observe that Rob. Malet's fee in Great Ayton is state at 3 Carucates instead of at 4, as in the separate account of his lands in the body of the Volume. And even so one Carucate remains still to be accounted for. Further I must remark that I have taken the 'Atun' mentioned in connection with 'Alias Atun' to be Little Ayton equally with the latter, The distribution of the lands leaves no other supposition reasonable.

it, this portion of Cleveland seems to have presented a happier aspect than was the case with most other parts of the district:- Mortain's Manor in Great Ayton was only depreciated from 408 to 308 & Robert Malet's Manor there was enhanced in value from 20s to 25s 4d. As to the other[?] Maneria no means of contrast or comparison are afforded, but as most of them were on the Terra Regis it is easy to conjecture they had not been very sorely damaged[?], much less laid waste. I would here, before passing on to the notices of the Ayton lands which are found in Kirkby & the associated documents, advert very briefly to the following facts deduced from the Domesday record just given. First that the portion of the Brus Fee in Nunthorpe, identical with the lands enumerated among the Royal demesne, amounted to Six Carucates; second that the Earl of Mortain's lands in Great Ayton contained six Carucates which were subinfeuded by that Baron to Nigel Fossard, as were also the Mulgrave & other contiguous lands, and through whose descendants these said Mulgrave & other lands passed eventually to the Mauley's;(See Vol i. p.p.163, 164, 191, 192 etc.) third that Robert Malet had three Carucates (probably four) in Great Ayton and two more in Little Ayton; and fourth that while the balance of seven Carucates, making up the whole sum of lands in Ayton was Royal demain the six Carucates held by Mortain & the five (or six) by Robert Malet, reverted to the King (Henry 1) by forfeiture about 1104 or 1105.

With this picture I proceed to say that the Kirkby Inquest notices (1284) are as follows:-"*TONSTALL, AYTON et BROWCHTON*. Dicunt etiam quod status villae de Tunstall, 111 car. terrae in Magna Ayton, X car. in Magna Browcheton, quae sunt de feodo domini de Mennell, (qui) non permittit ballivis domini regis tenere wapentagium: mutatur per eundem dominum Mennell, quia ubi consueverant dare amerciamentam, eas dare defendit.

*KILDAILL ... UPSALL, MYTHORPE.**

Hic XVI **

car. faciunt feodum; unde Willelmus de Percy de Kyldall tenet 111 feod. milit. de dicta haereditate (ie. Marmaduci de Thweng), . . . in *UPSALL, MITHORPE ET ARSUM UNUM FEOD.*, UNDE XII car. etc. (E) reddit per ann. ballivo domini regis pro fine XVI. *ESKEDALL, BARONIA DE MULGRAVE, MAGNA AYTON, MAGNA BROWCHETON ET TUNSTALL.*

*Note:-Mr Skaife subjoins a note here:- "An error for Nunthorp. In 31 Edward 1. Arnald de Percy held one Knights fee in 'Uppesale, Nunthorp et Arsum'. "

** Note:-Another error 'XII' being the correct reading.

Dicunt quod Prior et Fratres de Gromont etc Petrus de Malo Laeu tenet 1111" feod. milit. cum castro de Mulgrave de domino rege in capite; unde Nicholaus Meinell tenet unum feod. in Magna Ayton, Magna Browgheton et Tunstall; unde X car. terrae faciunt feod.; et reddunt ballivo domini regis pro fine 1Is Xld. causa custodiendi terr' Johanna Bayn de Browegheton, quae toto tempore dictus dominus in custodia custodit a tempore XII annorum non reddidet (*sic*); scilicet Hugo de Tunstall, tenens dicti Nicholai, de dicto feodo, reddit ballivo domini regis pro fine I Is.

MAGNA AYTON. Haeres Baldwini Wake, qui est in custodia domini regis, clamat habere marcatum in Magna Ayton et warennam, per cartam domini regis Henrici, et furcam, scilicet, qualiter, et a quo tempore, non potest inquiri.

AYTON PARVA. Radulfus de Malbis clamat habere furcam in Parva Ayton, et terras suas non gildabiles in eadem, quae sunt de honore regis."*

I n the Knights Fees (1316) we find -

DE FEODO PETRI DE MALO LACU

MAGNA ATON, MAGNA BROUTHON ET TONSTALL. "Nicholaus de Meignill tenet in eisdem I feod. , unde X car. etc.

DE FEODO ARNALDI DE PERCY

UPPEALE, NUNTHORP ET ARSUM. Arnaldus de Percy tenet in eisdem 1 feod. unde XII car. etc."

And in the Nomina Villarum only

"ATON. Henricus de Apelby.

NUNETHORP. Robertus Gre.""

The facts touching the succession of the Ayton lands which became patent to us from these extracts are briefly these:- the Lordship of the lands in Great Ayton which the Earl of Mortains in 1287, or at least a portion of them, continues in the Mauley's hands down to 1316, being subinfeuded however to the Mennills; that in Great Ayton, moreover, in 1278, the heir of Baldwin de Wake claims rights (market, warren & farca) which seem to be consistent only with possession of the superior Manor of that division of the parish;

Note:-To this Mr Skaife appends the following note:- "Undoubtedly an error for Ricardus. The name of Ralph does not occur in the Malbis pedigree. Sir Richard Malbis, of Acaster Malbis, was the head of the family at the date of this Inquest. On August :28 1179 (25 Henry II), Roger de Molbray and Henry de Munford released the capital message, 'et totam medletatem terrac de Eton' to Richard Malebisse (*York Corporation Papers*, II., 954)." The Eton here must, I think of necessity, be the lands in Little Ayton named in the text; & it is a fact of special interest as indicating the transmission of one portion Of 7 carucates of Royal domain noticed 'ust above as existing in Ayton in Domesday times.

**Note:-It should be noticed here that no mention occurs of Aton, Tunstall & Broughton among the vills named as in the Lordship of Peter de Mauley, that Nunthorp is dissociated from the name of Percy, & that Little Ayton & Tunstall are nowhere mentioned at all.

that in Little Ayton, at the same date, Richard de Malbis is the holder of lands which were not liable to the Tax called 'geldum' as having been, if not being still, royal domain; and that in Nunthorpe - where, as we bear in mind, the lands granted to de Brus had been situated. In 1287 William de Percy held lands, of the heir of Thweng, descended from Brus, certainly the same, therefore, as those of the original grant (& probably the same in point of extent also), which in 1302 continued to be held by Arnald de Percy de Kildale, & in 1316 have fallen into the hands of Robert Gre.

Writing about Great Ayton, Mr Graves says, (Cleveland, P.195) "We are unable, at this remote period, to define the different Manors, noticed in the above extracts" - from Domesday namely, "nor have we any documents to show when they first became united.* It appears, however, from early and authentic records, that the present Manor of Ayton was granted, at a very early period, to Robert de Estuteville . . . In this family it continued till the 17 Henry III. when issue male failing it descended by marriage with Joan, daughter of Nicholas de Estuteville, to Hugh son of Baldwine de Wake, in which family it continued till the reign of Edward III., when John & Thomas, sons of Baldwine, sons of Hugh de Wake, dying without issue, Margaret their sister, Countess of Kent, widow of Edmund de Woodstock, Earl of Kent, became the next heir; from whom it afterwards descended to Sir Thomas Holland Knt, by marriage with Joan, daughter of the said Margaret, in whose right he came Earl of Kent. This Thomas died seised of this Manor 34 Edw.III., leaving Thomas, his son and heir; whose posterity enjoyed it for divers successions, till by marriage with Elizabeth, sister & coheir of Edmund Holland, Earl of Kent, it passed to the Nevilles, Earls of Westmorland, who had an occasional residence at Ayton, and continued proprietors here till 13 Eliz., when, on the attainder of Charles Earl of Westmorland, it became forfeited to the Crown. The Manor was afterwards granted by King James 1. to Sir David Foulis, of Ingleby Manor Knt., who sold it in the reign of Charles 1. to Christopher Coulson, dyer, & citizen of London. From the Coulsons it descended by marriage to the Scottowes, by whose descendant it was sold, in 1801, to Mr Henry Richardson, the present (1808) proprietor, and Lord of the Manor."

Some confirmation & illustration of one or more of the earlier statements in this extract may be obtained from the Whitby Chartulary, to the following effect. The first Robert del Mainil, with Stephen del Mainil, gave the church of "Hatun de Cliveland" with all its appendages, namely the Chapels of Neutan, Thorp (Nunthorpe), and Little Ayton

Note:-I think it is perhaps unsafe to assume in the face of the preceding extracts from the Inquest etc., that they became united at all (if indeed, united at all) at any early period. It is quite clear that for a space of more than 200 years after the date of Domesday the original Morton grant subinfeided to the Meynells by de Mauley continued to be distinct from the lands ultimately held by the heir of Baldwin de Wake. Mr Graves afterwards (p196.) remarks "The lands here have been long held in parcels" founding his remarks on the Meinill tenancy & the Wake rights as noticed by Kirkby.

to the Abbey of Whitby. The date is fixed by Charlton as 1123, on what precise authority I do not know,*

but, as the statement just given is derived from the List of Benefactions, which is in a very early hand, there could be little doubt of its being fairly approximate, even if there were not a confirmation of the grant by Henry I. (who died in 1135) still extant. ** And hence it is apparent that no long time could have elapsed after the forfeiture of the Mortain estates before the transference of this part of them to Fossard, & by him to Robert de Mainil as his sub-feudatory.†

But we have also, and, according to Charlton, dating from the year 1185, a charter by William de Estuteville,‡

* **Note**:-"In the year 1123, Robert de Mainill and his wife Gertrude, gave the church of Aton, with its chapels and other appurtenances, as also four oxgangs of land, and some housing, to the Monastery of Whitby, for a perpetual alms; but their Charter for this donation is not now to be found among our charters" (Whitby.p.78). The entry in the Memorial of Benefactions is "Ex dono Rob'te primi & Steph'a'i del Mainil eccl'iam de Hatun de Cliveland. cu' o'lb's appendiciis suis. Scilicet Capella de Neutun sub Otneberch. & Torp. & parva Hatun."

****Note**:-"Henricus Rex Anglie Eustac' filio joh'is & W. Espec & Bertramo de Bolemer & Ministris suis de Ebotaschira sal'm. Sciatis me concessisse & confirmasse deo & eccl'ie Sancte Petri & Sancte Hylde de Whiteby & monachis ibid'm deo S'uien'tib's Eccl'cam de Aton in Cliveland cum p'tin'suis in elemosinam p'petuam pro a'ia patris mei Regis Will'i etc. etc."

† **Note**:-l'here is at P. 58^b of the Whitby Chartulary a Confirmation of Robert de Mainil's grant of ton's statement in the text, is both curious & instructive; curious as involving a need of explanation which is not patent, & instructive as conveying the facts of the original grant. It runs thus:- "Notum sit omnibus auditoris litteras istas quod ego Stephanus de Bolemer Concedo & Monumento carte meae confirmo donacionem illam ecclesiae de Atuna curn III^{of} bovatas (ita) terre & mansis earum quam pia memoriae Robertus de Mainillo & uxor eius gertui dederunt ecclesie Sancte Petri & Sancte Hylde de Wyteby in liberam quietam & perpetuam elemosinam insuper ex parte mea supradicte ecclesie dono & concedo XXIII acras terre noviter ruptae pro salute anime meae & uxoris meae etc. . . . Hiis testibus Cutberto Priore de Giseburna. Herviseo Priore de Martona. Johanne filio Letaldi Canonico Sancte Petri. Bertam de Bulmer. Arnaldo de Perce. et aliis." Now merely glancing at the fact that each of the four bovates accompanying the original grant of the Church were built upon - "cum Mansis earum" - I have to notice that this [is] an unexpected circumstance that a Bulmer should have any power or interest in the matter of a confirmation of a grant by a Mailnil. Next the name of Prior Cuthbert of Giseburn limits the [date?] to a period not much before 1180 & not much after 1190. According to Dugdale (Baronage I. 592) Stephen de Bulmer, alive in 1168 was succeeded by Thomas de Bulmer before 1172, he by a Bertram de Bulmer alive in 1181, & he again by a Bertram de Bulmer, no date connected with whom is given. Thus no Stephen de Bulmer seems to have been in existence contemporary with Prior Cuthbert, & on the other hand Stephen de Maisnil (or Macnil or Meinell) was alive in 1179 dying 1189 "or before" (lb. Vol. 11 p.110). Contemporary with him, as was seen a line or two above a Bertram de Bulmer, who does sign as an important territorial lord. The inference then is, that the name Stephen de Bolemer, in the document just copied, is a scribe's error for Stephen de Maisnill; a supposition which renders explanation of any supposed Bulmer interest in Ayton unnecessary .

It may further be noted in connection with the Meinil ownership of property in Atun that there is another Charter, dated by Charlton somewhere between 1222 & 1244, by Stephen de Meinell giving granting confirming & quit claiming "Will'm Cokclun de Atona cum omni sequela sua" to God & the Church of Great Ayton and the Abbot of Whitby Rector of the said church, Adam de Hylton, William de Midylton & others being among the witnesses.

‡ **Note**:-Charlton p. I49. The charter itself is on p.17^b Of the Abbot's Book, and runs thus:- "Omnib's s'ce eccl'ie m'ris filiis p'sentib's; & futuris has litt'as visuris vel auditoris. Will' de Estatevill sal'. Nov'it unu' sitas v'ra me divino amoris intuitu & p' salute antme meac. . . . concessisse & hac mea p'sente carta confirmasse deo . . . eccl'iam de Atun' in Clifland cum 'b's p'tin' ad proprius usus p'd'cor' monacher' in p'petuam clemosinam. Teste G Archid' Clid' Petro Arched' Karl' omni

Reginal'Arund'& aiiis."

granting and confirming the Church at Atun in Clifland with all its appurtenances to the Abbey at Whitby; and in addition to that another Charter of a much later date by John, son of Hugh of Aton conveying certain grants to the Abbey, the first witness to which is a "Lord Robert de Stuteville".*

A further mention of Robert Stutevill, as Manorial lord in Great Ayton, is also found in connection with Guisborough Priory.**

He gave one carucate of land in Ayton to the Priory, & it is worth notice in passing that Nicholas de Meynill confirmed to the Priory just that quantity of land there, a fact which also leads to an inference to be noted a few lines lower. Still it seems to be impossible, with the means of investigation at our command, to trace either the steps by which, or the date at which, the right of the Stutevilles or Estutevilles to property in Ayton took origin, any more than what the Manor or Manors (or part of such Manor or Manors) really were over which such rights existed. A possible supposition is stated in the note subjoined. †
Much the same must be the statement concerning the connection of the Malebisse family with Little Ayton, some scanty reference to which is also found among the Whitby

* Note:-The grant is thus - "homagium & servicium Nicholai fil' Petri de Atona & heredum suorum cum tofto & tota terra quam dedi prescripto Nicholae & heredibus suis pro homagio suo & servicio in Villa de Aton sicut testatur in Carta quam praedictus Nicholaus habet de me tam libere etc." . . . the names of the Witnesses being as under - "Domino Roberto de Scutevill' (scribal error for Stuteville). Rogero de Bosco, milite suo. Hugone de Hotona. Reginaldo de Rosell'. Rad'o de Nevyll'. Will'o de Mauteby, Will' de Tocots. Rog' persona de Semar. Thoma capellano. Walt'de Hoton'. Walt' de Morton & multis aliis". Stuteville it will be observed is named Dominus, and is clearly a man of much distinction, Rozelles was no doubt connected with Nunthorp (see below in the notice of that parish), and the de Hotuns, de Maltby, de Morton, and so forth, are all local gentry. Robert de Stutevill is also a witness to another Charter, by Hugh son of Gerard of Ayton, granting certain specified lands in Ayton, to Whitby Abbey. This Charter is on p.4.4 of the Chartulary, Roger de Bosco being again an accompanying witness.

*Note:-"ATON. Robert de Stutevill gave one carucate of land here. Sir Nicholas de Meinil, lord of Fuerwelton (Whorlton) confirmed to them (the Prior & Canons of Guisborough) one carucate of land in this place" (Burton P. 341). No doubt the carucate confirmed by Nicholas de Meinil is that given by Robert de Stutevill.

† Note:-We find William de Stuteville, in I John, claiming "to have the Mannor of Walter Meisnill with its appurtenances, if it were in the King's hands" (Dugdales Baronage, 1 p.457) but who this Walter Meinill was is non-apparent, as also it is why Stuteville made the claim. Again, in the first extract from Kirkby given in the Text, only 3 carucates out of the 6 which constituted the Mortain Lordship in Great Ayton, are specified as being in the fee of "dominus de Mennell" (Nicholaus) there named. It is possible that the other three, with a portion of the Manorial rights touching the Church & its appendages, may have become de Estutevilles at, or nearly at the same time that the first Robert del Mainil became feudal tenant of the 3 carucates with their accompanying privileges just adverted to. This is, perhaps, the most reasonable, or even probable, hypothesis. Still it is no more than a supposition.

Charters; though it is as well to observe that Charleton's version of the object of the document in question and his remarks upon it seem hardly borne out by the facts.*

Mr Graves' notice of the connection of the Malebyses with Little Ayton is thus conceived:- "The Manor" - that of Little Ayton - "was soon afterwards" (that is after the date of Domesday) "granted to the ancient family of Malbisse; & was held of the King *in capite*, ut de honore. **

It was afterwards in the possession of the Lords Eure of Easby; and, after divers alterations, was purchased by Mr Henry Richardson, the present (1808) proprietor."

Of Nunthorpe the same Writer, (Cleveland p.204) mainly In connection with its medieval history, writes - "This place, with the hamlet of *Tunstall* lies about two miles to the North from the village of Ayton. It appears . . . to have been anciently written Thorp" - more correctly, 'Torp' - "and received its present distinguishing name from a small Cistercian Nunnery, which was first founded at Hutton, in the Parish of Guisborough, by Ralph de Neville, about the year 1162, and afterwards removed hither, when the place, from that circumstance was called *Nun-thorp* . . . The Manor was granted by the Conqueror to Robert de Brus, Lord of Skeiton,†

Note:-The deed in question is as follows:-"Omnibus hoc scriptum visuris vel audituris dominus Will's Malebs miles eternam in domino salutem. Noverit universitas vestra me in presentia domini J. (John; Abbot from 1214 to 1222) Abbatis de Whiteby & monachorum eius & aliorum multorum laicorum pro me & heredibus meis juratoriam prestitisse cautionem quod Ecclesia sua de Atona in Clivelandia nunquam prejudicium vel gravamen vel aliqui dampnum haebit per capellam de parva Atona sitam in parochia sua de Atona. Set si aliqua oblacio vel obvencio cuius cunque rei evenerit Matrivi ecclesie sua sine difficultate vel gravamine fideliter & integre restituatur. In cuius rei testimonium hunc scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus domino Willi' de Everley milite. Joh'e de Kereby. Andrea de Dunell'. Galfrido de Everley. Rogero vicario. Joh'e de Yrton. Hugone de Sartrino & multis aliis."

Charlton's notice of this document runs thus:- "In that same year, Sir William Malebys, Knight, having built a chapel at Little Ayton, not much to the liking or satisfaction of the Abbot and Monks of Whitby, promised for himself & his heirs, etc." as above and he then adds - "This chapel was afterwards ceded to the Mother Church of Aton, and came under the direction and management of the Abbot and Monks of Whitby" (p.159).

There are several statements involved in this (which moreover, are repeated by Graves, almost verbatim after Charlton) which seem to be purely gratuitous, and which would probably have been spared if the author had but recollected that the Chapel of Little Ayton was among the specified appurtenances of the Mother Church in the original grant by Robert de Mainil. What the actual occasion of the "juratoria caucio" just quoted may have been it is almost idle to speculate upon. Certainly not the building of a chapel, in Charlton's sense[?] whether "to the liking or satisfaction of the Abbot" or not, hardly the rebuilding of the original one; more probably some innovation on the uses of the old one, such as might result from its having been made by the act of William de Malebys what may be expressed by the phrase "more parochial" than it latterly had been, or even, to be used more as a private chapel, for the Malebys' own service, that is - than heretofore something of the sort may be almost presumed from the proviso about possible oblation or presentation.

"Note:-Mr Graves writes "by" - obviously a misreading for "of". He quote., the Kirkbv extract as his authority, and thus adds nothing to our actual knowledge.

t Note:-Correctly it would be "afterwards Lord of Skelton." Skelton did not become a part of the Brus appenage until 17 or 18 years subsequently to the period of his acquisition of Nunthorp- See Vol. I. pp 317, 318.

to be held of the King *in capite*, by military service, and descended by marriage to Marmaduke de Thweng, of whom*

William de Percy de Kildale in the reign of Edward I. held one Knight's fee in Nunthorp, Upsale, and Arsum. **

From the Percies, as *mesme* lords, the Manor descended, in the reign of Edward III. to Robert Conyers, Knight, by marriage with Juliana, daughter and heir of William de Percy." (Cleveland. P. 204, 205.).

In reference to the transference of the Hutton Priory to Nunthorpe & its endowment, Mr Graves remarks on the following page - "The lands within this Township seem to have been held in parcels at an early period, Ralph de Neville, in the reign of Henry II., gave two Carucates and one oxgang of land, with a mill in this township, to the Priory which he founded for nuns here, by the licence of Arnald de Percy, and Adam de Brus. (See note . . . last heading[?]). This grant, which constitutes no inconsiderable part of the original endowment, was confirmed by King Henry III. when the nuns were settled at Basedale in the parish of Stokesley. †

* Note:-It ought to be "of whose heir".Precept[?]L35[?] Oct31 p.41.

**Note:-It would be well to accept these statements with some little qualification. Thus, it is not matter of fact that Nunthorp descended to Marmaduke de Thweng in virtue of his marriage to one of the last Peter de Brus' sisters & coheireses (Lucia) in the same sense as Danby, Lealholm, Brotton, Yarm etc.did. The fact is Nunthorp had been long before sub-granted by an early de Brus to an early de Percy, & it is not so much as hinted at, much more named in the Brus Partition. One entry in the Monasticon (p. 251) is instruction on this head. It is "*THORP*. (that is, Nunthorp). Ralph de Nevil gave two Carucates and one oxgang of land, with a mill, in this township; which was confirmed to them" (the Nuns namely) by King Henry III. And Ernald de Perci and Adam de Brus gave licence for the said Ralph to found a priory for nuns here." Now as the Priory was transferred from Nunthorp to Basedale "towards the latter of King Henry II.", or about 1185 to 1189, we see that the de Perci interest in Nunthorpe was already existent and even of some standing, almost a century before the date of the succession of de Thwenge to his wife's share of the Brus property. Probably Percy became subinfeuded at Nunthorpe about the same time as at Kildale. In Vol.I. at p.306 it is seen that an Adam de Brus is concerned in 1170 with the lands of an Ernald de Perci, probably either the Ernald mentioned in the above extract or his uncle. The fact of possessing Neville's property in Nunthorpe is unexplained, but is doubtless due to family connections between him & the Perci who held of de Brus.

† Note:-Some little mediaeval information touching the lands (or a portion of them) held by the Priory in Nunthorpe (probably the same lands referred to in the text & originally given by Neville) may be gathered from a document in the Whitby Chartulary which records the fact & the terms of the settlement of a dispute between the Abbey of Whitby & the Priory of Nunthorpe. The writing in question is headed and runs as follows: -"*Lis Mota pro decimis de nunthorp*. - Omnibus has letteras etc. Serlo Archidiaconus Clyvelandie eternam etc. Noverit universitas vestra quod cum mota fuisset contraversia inter Rogerum Abbatem & Conventum de Whitby ex una parte & Susannam Priorissam & Conventam de Basedale ex altera coram me in Capitulo Clyvelandie super decimas garbarum de guleflat & plumtre flat in territorio de Nunthorpe et decimis Molendini dictarum Monialium in Nunthorp et decimis prate proprii earundem in dicto territorio quas quidem decimas dieti Abbas & Conventia pecierunt tanquam spectantes ad ecclesiam suam de Aton. Tandem lis coram me & aliis viris discretis amicabiliter sopita quievit. Ita videlicet quod predicti Abbas & Conventus decimas garbarum de plumtre flat & decimas predicti prati dictis monialibus ex dono suo imperpetuum dederunt & quietas clamaverunt. Predictae vero moniales decimas garbarum de Guleflat & molendini sui de Nunthorp Ecclesie de Aton devote solvent imperpetuum. In cuius rei testimonium etc." I would only remark on the above that Charlton has misread the name Guleflat and turned it into Ingleflat, and that I make no doubt that one or both the names might be found to be preserved in still existing field-names, and probably on the Nunthorpe Grange Farm.

After the suppression of the Priory 27 Henry VIII. the premises at Nunthorp,* called Nunhouse Grange, were leased (31 Henry VIII.) by the King to William Snowball for the term of twenty one years, at the yearly rent of £6-13-4, and as appears from a record in the Augmentation office were afterwards granted by King Henry VIII., in *estate tail*, to Kings College Oxford."

Of Tunstall, Mr Graves merely says, (Cleveland, P. 208.) that in the reign of Edw. 1. it "was held by Nicholas de Meinell of Peter de Mauley, & he (ita) of the King *in capite*, as parcel of the barony of Mulgrave. The hamlet gave name to a resident family; for, according to Kirkby's Inquest, Hugo de Tunstall held certain lands here of the said Nicholas; for which he paid as a fine the sum of two shillings." The more modern additions to the annals of Ayton and its constituent members are scanty, and depend on uneventful details. "Great Ayton is a large & well-built village pleasantly seated in a fertile vale, about 1 mile south of Roseberry Topping, 3 miles N.E by East of Stokesley and 6 miles S.S.W from Guisborough. It consists principally of one broad street of a mile in length, divided by a rivulet which is crossed by a bridge of stone and two others of wood. At the extremity of the village is a square called High Green, a great portion of the east side of which is occupied by the Friends' Meeting house and a large Agricultural School. This School called "The North of England Agricultural School" was founded in 1841 by voluntary contributions among the Society of Friends; the principal donors being Thos. Richardson Esq., of Ayton, who gave £5000, E Pease Esq., Darlington, who gave £200, and several members of the Backhouse family who gave upwards Of £250. It is for the gratuitous education & maintenance of 36 boys & as many girls, the offspring of what may be termed the labouring classes of those connected with the Society of Friends by membership or otherwise. The boys receive a good English Education, and are taught the Science of Agriculture. The girls are trained for domestic purposes. The School is under the Supervision of the Friends of the Durham Quarterly Meeting. The building is extensive and remarkably neat, and there are 75 acres of land attached to it.

Ayton Hall, which formerly belonged to the Scottowes is now the seat of Thomas Graham Esq. It is an ancient structure of brick, with stone quoins. Cleveland Lodge, the residence of John Pease Esq. is a neat stone building, erected in 1844 by Thos. Richardson Esq.. Ayton House is occupied by James Eastham Esq.. There are several other good Residences in the Village.

The Ayton British School was founded in 1843 for 50 boys & 50 girls. The **building** was erected by subscription, & was to some extent endowed by the late Mr Thos. Richardson.

* [Note:-here missing]

Marwoods Free Grammar School is a stone building, erected in 1851 by George Marwood Esq. of Busby Hall. The old School, which was superseded by this, was founded in 1704 & rebuilt in 1786 on the site of an ancient building bequeathed by Michael Postgate.
*

In Postgate's School Captain Cook received the rudiments of his Education, at the expense of Thomas Scottowe Esq.**

"The Church of Ayton, dedicated to All Saints", †

says Mr Graves, is situated towards the western extremity of the village; it is an ancient structure . . . It is difficult to state the precise era of its foundation; the extract from Domesday leads us, however to conclude that it had its origin before the Conquest; though there is nothing about the present edifice that can claim so remote antiquity." (Cleveland, p. 197.) There is no doubt, however as to the approximate date of the present building, and as little as to the fact of its "Anglo Saxon" predecessor. The chancel arch, of two orders, of plain and somewhat early Norman work, together with another Norman arch, still existing over the South entrance within the much later porch, & somewhat more ornamented in the characteristic Norman style, with a very deeply splayed Norman light now giving into the modern vestry, and with the remains of an originally fine corbel table gracing both the North and South walls of the nave, to say nothing of traces of walled up circular headed arches in the North wall, & the unmistakeable characteristics of old Norman Masonry, are quite sufficient to justify the assumption that the Church was probably built before the middle of the twelfth century. ‡

* Note - "In the centre of the Village, near the bridge, there is a *School-house*; which, from an inscription over the door, appears to have been first built by the late Michael Postgate, Yeoman, in the year 1704, and rebuilt in 1785; with a small endowment, for the instructing of eight poor children, within the township, in reading, writing, & arithmetic. Adjoining to the School-house, there are three *poor-houses*, over the doors of which is the following inscription: "These Houses were built by voluntary subscription excepting Twenty Pounds, the interest of which, sixteen shillings a year, Is to be paid for ever by the Overseers of the Poor for putting two poor children to School; Built 1764". (Graves p.199.)

** Note:-Whellan's History & Topography of North Yorkshire, pp. 136, 137. The compiler at this point appends the following note. "Captain Cooks father was hind or farm-bailiff to Mr Scottowe, but he afterwards worked as a Stonemason. The house in which the Cooks resided at Ayton (probably built by the father) stands near the Red Lion Inn, and over the doorway are the figures and initials " 1755 J.G.C.'James and Grace Cook."

†Note:-In Whellan's Book, quoted from immediately above, Ayton Church is noted as dedicated to St. Mary, which is a mistake. The compiler proceeds as follows:- "it consists of a nave, chancel, porch, and square tower, in which are two bells. The greater portion of the structure is of remote origin, but the tower and a great part of the nave were rebuilt, and a new vestry added, in 1852, at the cost of George Marwood Esq, the patron & impropriator. . . . The chancel arch is enriched Norman, but its appearance is much marred by whitewash."

‡ Note:-There is perhaps but little doubt that remains of the earlier or Anglian building would be found in case of extensive repairs or removal of the existing walls of the nave, as has occurred in many like cases - notably in the case of Brompton Church near Northallerton, where the memorials of an earlier Ecclesiastical status, in the form of sculptured head stones with crosses or crucifixions, 'hog-backed' stones, stones carved with the old A. Saxon interlaced work, & so forth, were dug out of the foundations of the decayed mediaeval Church in rich abundance.

This church was formerly endowed with rectorial rights, and in the year 1123 was given by Robert de Meynell & Gertrude his wife, together with the Chapel of Newton under Ornbach . . . to the Abbey of Whitby. This grant was confirmed by William de Estuteville, & King Henry II. . . . (See supra) At the dissolution it was reduced to a perpetual Curacy which was certified to the Governours of Queen Anne's Bounty at £14 per annum. It has since received several augmentations, which, with other dues, have increased the income to about £70 a year." (Graves, p. 198.)

To this Mr Ord adds - "The Church was valued in Pope Nicholas' taxation at £20; Nova tax, £9; in 1707, the curacy was certified at £14; and in 1818 at £70-10-10. The rector is entitled to a modus of 6s-8d a year, in lieu of tithes of a mulcture (sic) water corn-mill. It was augmented, in 1772, with £200; in 1786, with £200; in 1813, with £600; & in 1832, with £200, from Parliamentary Grant," (Cleveland, P. 412.) In the York Diocesan Calendar the Value is entered as amounting to £132.

"The rectorial rights, upon the dissolution of the Monastery, were granted by letters patent to the Duke of Suffolk; and in 28 Elizabeth came by purchase to the Marwoods of Little Busby." (Graves, p. 198) in whose family the patronage still remains.

The Vicarage house stands near the East end of the Church and is new since the date of Mr Ord's History. The Register Books commence in 1666; George Marwood Esq. of Busby Hall is Patron, & the Rev. Joseph Ibbetson the Incumbent.*

Since the commencement of this History a new church has been erected at Ayton, close to the East of the Parsonage. It consists of Nave with side Aisles, Chancel, Tower, with Main entrance to the West, protected by a covered Screen. The design and architecture of the Church are good, from the designs of Mess'. - of - Architects, although the general effect is detracted from by the undue shortness of the Chancel. Mr Marwood gave the site, and Mr Hopkins of Grey Towers, with Mr Isaac Wilson of Nunthorpe Hall have both been most liberal in their supply of funds towards the cost of the new building.

Touching the more recent history of Nunthorpe, Mr Graves, after noting the descent of the Manor to the Conyers family by marriage with Juliana de Percy in the reign of Edward III., (see supra) remarks that, "in the reign of Charles I. it passed from the Conyers, by marriage, to the Constables, and afterwards to the Bradshaws. Constable Bradshaw died in the year 1702, leaving a daughter Ann who married Wm. Plerson Esq.

* Note:-",Ayton *Curacy. Ded.* All Saints. Certified value £14. William Marwood Esq. Patron. Charged with *procurations* 7s 6d. *Synodals* 2s 8d.

Curates Stephenson. 1705 Geo. Spencer nom. by Sir H Marwood. 1715 Maurice Lisle, by the same. 1718 Peter Moone, by the same. 1723 Thomas Morley, by the same. 1727 Ralph Jackson, by Cholmley Turner Esq. 1747 Geo. Metcalfe, by the same. 1761 Anthony Hastewell, by Mrs Turner. 1794 Thomas Deason, by Wm. Marwood Esq. 1795. Wm. Deason, by the same." (Graves, p.198. n) To this list may be added [names missing].

of the Middle Temple, London, who, in right of his wife, became possessed of Nunthorp & other estates in the neighbourhood. Bradshaw Peirson, his son, succeeded; but, dying without issue in 1746, he left this and other estates, by will, to Edward Wilson Esq of Brokencourt [?] in the county of Derby, *for life, sans waste*; remainder in trust to his issue in tail; & on failure of such issue, to the issue of his cousin Winifred Langdale, wife of Victor Repinder in *tail-male*. Upon the death of Edward Wilson, without issue, James, the eldest son of Winifred Repinder succeeded to the estate, and, according to the tenor of the said will, assumed the name of *Bradshaw Pierson*. But, in order to cut off, bar, and destroy all *estate tail*, and all remainders and reversions, the said James Bradshaw Pierson and his son, in the year 1790, suffered a common recovery; & most of the estates have since been sold to different purchasers. *Nunthorp Hall*, with the Manor, and farm adjoining, was purchased by Mr Thomas Simpson the present (1808) proprietor & Lord of the Manor. The mansion, or Manor-house, is a strong stone edifice, with spacious apartments, which have been modernised and rendered commodious by some judicious repairs, by the present owner. This was formerly a seat of the Constables, and probably built about the time of Charles 1. Over a door, on the south end of one of the out-buildings there is a shield cut in stone, bearing the arms of Constable: viz. *quarterly gules and vair, abend or, charged with an orle*. " (Cleveland, p. 206.)

I only add to the above that Nunthorpe Hall is now the residence of Isaac Wilson Esq.

"Within a few yards to the North from the Mansion there is an ancient Chapel, dedicated to St. Mary; in which there was a chauntry, founded in the time of King Edward III. John de Nunthorpe, according to Torr's M.S occurs the first cantarist and was succeeded in the year 1338 by William de Marton, on the nomination of John Grethead.* This Chapel appears to have been originally private,**

' Note:-Mr Graves' note here is - "This family appears to have possessed considerable property at Nunthorp. About the year 1360 Robert Grethead granted 10 messuages and 12 -, with an oxgang of land, here to John Aklee, Chaplain of the Church of Saint George, in Newcastle upon Tyne, to be held of the lord of the fee by the due and accustomed fine.

Witnesses, *Lord Robert Conyers, Knight, J. Grethead, J.de Eure, John de Maltby, Richard Waxander, William de Mowbray, Walter de Stainsby, Richard de Marton, cum multis aliis.* "

*Note:-It must be borne in mind that the chapel of Nunthorp is one of the three dependent on the Mother-Church of Ayton, & given with the said mother-church of Ayton, named in the original grant of "The first Robert del Mainil" to Whitby Abbey; and in a confirmation by Pope Honorius, to which Charlton assigns the date of 1226, we find among the other churches & chapels named as belonging to Whitby, this mention of Aton Church & its dependencies - "ecclesiam de Atona cum de parva attona & de Neutun capellis & capella de Thorp", where the only remark that need be made is that while the chapels of Little Ayton and Newton are, as it were, grouped together in the enumeration, that of Nunthorpe is placed by itself. But it is not easy to found any tangible inference upon so bare a fact. There is little doubt, perhaps that in a certain sense all these chapels - all chapels whatever, in short- were what Graves means by 'private', & in fact explains his words as meaning. But then it would be hard to say that the Mother Churches too were not 'private', in the same sense, originally. Most of them, if not all of the really ancient churches, "were built and (usually) endowed by the Lord of the Manor for the use of his tenants and domestics", and when they passed into the hands of an Ecclesiastical Community, as these Ayton Churches & Chapels did, it was an understood thing that the said Community kept up the services for the use of the tenants & domestics originally intended to be benefited by the erection of the Church or Chapel.

built and endowed by the Lord of the Manor, for the convenience of his tenants and domestics; the patronage of which, is still appendant to the Manor; it continued *donative*, and exempt from ordinary jurisdiction, till with the consent of the patron, it was certified to the Governours of Queen Anne's Bounty at £10-12s and on its augmentation, it became presentable as a perpetual Curacy; but does not enjoy the parochial rights of baptisms, marriages or burials." (Graves, P. 207.) "The Chapel was partly rebuilt in 1824. In 1833 the Perpetual Curacy was augmented from the Queen Anne's Bounty fund. The living, now worth £45, is in the joint patronage of Isaac Wilson and John Richardson Esqrs. ? W. R. I. Hopkins and in the incumbency of the Rev'd Joseph Ibbetson Vicar of Ayton." (Whellan, Vol II, P. 739.)

The Independents, Friends, Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists, also each have a Chapel at Great Ayton; and there is a brewery as well as some tanning carried on there.

The Whinstone Dyke runs along the ridge which in some sort furnishes a part of the boundary between Ayton and Newton, and it had been, especially of late years, extensively quarried to serve as road-metal which is taken hence in large quantities to mend distant roads. Thus besides the Langbargh Quarries there are other very extensive works of the same sort in Cliff ridge wood above the railway on the right hand side going north. Some increase of population dependent on this industry has consequently taken place as will be seen from the following table:-

	Population 1861	Population 1871	Population 1846
Great Ayton	1450	1515	1014*
(Inclusive of Tunstall)	Little Ayton 64	74	
Nunthorpe		195	137*

The estimated rental & rateable value stand thus.. -

	Estimated Rental	Rateable Value
	£	£
Great Ayton	6,036	5,399
Little Ayton	1,352	1,224
Nunthorpe	1,790	1,675

*Note:-Ord's Cleveland, PP. 418, 410.

As to the derivation of the local names of this parish, except in the case of Nunthorpe which has been already noticed, (Vol 1. p. 297. n) there is nothing better than surmise to offer. I am afraid Mr Grave's attempted etymology of **Ayton** can only excite a smile; the probability, perhaps, is that the pronunciation of the name as in "Canny Yatton" (where the y is merely carried on from the final sound of the proceeding word) conveys a hint as to the old form,*

and sound of the word; and if so the syllable **at** or **ate** is presumably the prefix, and not the simple vowel **A** only; in which case comparison with such local names as **Atelai**, **Ateberle**, **Ateclive** etc. (all Domesday names) is suggested, & noting the further name **Atingeham**, wherein the patronymic **Atting** may be assumed as one element, the first syllable in Hyton may very likely be a personal name, **amd** the personal name in question is abundantly supplied in the last of Old Teutonic appellations."

Tunstal or Tunstall I should refer to the ancient **Tun**, (In Anglo Saxon & cognate tongue) a hedge, fence etc. hence a place fenced round, with *steal stal, stael, place, stead, as a S suffix*

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* Note:-It may be remarked that, although Mr Graves' reading of 'Hayton' can have been met with by few among himself except as a modern mispronunciation), the form Attune, Atton and even Halton is by no means unknown in old records.

Thus in the Confirmation of Pope Honorlus quoted a little above the reading is "parva attona" and in Stephen's Charter given by Charlton at pp. 114, 115 the name that is now West Ayton is spelt Hatton. The form Hatun, which is probably what Graves had in mind, occurs twice in the Memorial of Benefactions. (See supra)

Note:-"Of the names derived from relationship some have probably been surnames and nothing more . . . In one or two cases, as in the names signifying father, the idea may have extended somewhat beyond mere relationship," as when Naaman's servants addressed him as "My Father". So also in the case of names having the meaning of ancestor there is no doubt present something of that sense of nobility which is always attached to ancient descent words with both. The above meanings seem to run through the range of the Teutonic name-system. The most common word with the former meaning is **ad or **at**, which Forstemann and other writers refer to Goth. *alta*, Old Fries. *atha, etha*, father. *Simple forms* Old Germ. **Atto, Ati, Adii, Atha, Ette**, 7th Cent. *Atta Leb. Vitae* - Eng. **Attoe, Atty, Addy, ETTY** -Mod. Germ. **Ade, Ette**; etc.

Great Ayton Northallerton

Aug 30 1875

My Dear Sir

I was from home when your letter arrived, I have been much engaged since.

The site was given by George Marwood Esqr of Busby Hall, the patron.

Built by. subscription; the Patron built the Chancel & contribute, to the nave part.

The Principal contributors are Mr K. Inurs['?'] Hopkins Esq' Isaac Wilson Esq' & James Emerson Esq' and the Vicar the Rev^d J.I Mess" Ross & Lamb of Darlington Architects.

I think these will be what you want

*I am yours faithfully
J. Ibbetson*

To the Rev^d

J. C. Atkinson

