

Privileges granted to the Manor of Ravenstonedale by King Henry III in 1225

And **King Henry the third**, in the year 1225, being the eleventh year of his reign, reciting the privileges that had been confirmed to the said order (The Gilbertines of Watton) by his father **King John**, extends the same to other houses of that order then newly established, and grants as follows:

“Henry by the grace of God, etc, Know-ye, that we have taken into our hand, custody, protection, and defence, the house of Sempringham, and all the houses of that order (sixteen in number, of which Watton is expressed to be one) together with the masters, priors, canons and monks of the said order, and all their servants, tenants, lands and other possessions, as our special and free alms. Wherefore we will and firmly command, that they hold all their tenements well and in peace, freely and quietly, and intirely, and fully, and honourably, in wood and in plain, in meadows and pastures, in waters and fisheries and vivaries, in stream and strand, in forests, in mills, and in ponds, in tofts, and crofts, and under woods, in ways and in paths. And they shall be quit, as well themselves as their men, in city and town, in markets and fairs, in the passage of bridges and ports of the sea, and in all places throughout all England and Normandy, and through all our lands and waters, from toll, and pontage, and passage and pedage, and leftage, and stallage, and hidage, and carucage, and wardings, and works of castles and bridges and parks and walls and trenches, and taxes, and tributes, and armies, and services in the forests in all places where their possessions lie” (and particularly in Westmorland throughout the whole forest of Malrestang); “and from all gelds and dane-gelds, and woodgelds, and fengeld, and horngeld, and footgeld, and peny-geld, and trithingpeny, and hundredspeny, and from miskenning, and from thenage, and from headpeny, and buckstall, and trift; and from all fines, amerциaments and forfeitures, and aids, and wapentac, and cities, and trithings, hundreds, and shires, and thenementale; and from murder, and robbery and conspiracies, and outlawry, and hamsoken, gerithbreach, bloodwite, footwite, and forestall, and hengwite, and lairwite. And they shall be free from Scott, and wardpenny, and bordeshalfpeny; and from all carriage, and fumuage, and navage, and building, and all other kinds of work about the king’s houses; and from all aids of sheriffs and their officers, and scutage, and assises, and gifts, and summonses, and tallages, and frankpledges, and from borthevenlig, and all pleas, and plaints, and occasions, and customs, and from their beasts to be taken by distress, and from all earthly service and secular exaction. And their woods shall in no wise be taken for the aforesaid works or any other. And they shall have their own court and judicature, with sak and soke, and thol, and theam, and infangthief, and outfangthief, and flemensfrith, and ordel and oreste, within time and without, with all other free customs, and immunities, and liberties, and of all pleas, plaints, and quietances. And we do prohibit, that no sheffiff or officer, or other person, great or small, within their possessions shall presume to take any man, bind, beat, flay, or shed blood, or commit any other rapine or violence; or distrain their beasts on the lands of their said possessions; nor detain any of their bondsmen, fugitives, or chattels; nor in any way hinder their men coming to their mills; nor trouble them or their men for any custom, service, or exaction, or any other cause, in respect of their goods which their men can swear to be their own; but they shall be quit of all customs and exactions and occasions, and generally of all things in all manner of ways which do or shall belong to us, our heirs and successors: Except only the jurisdiction of life and limb. Also we grant to them in perpetual alms the amerциaments and forfeitures of their men of all pleas wheresoever they shall be judged, whether in our court or any other, so far as to us appertaineth. And if it shall happen that any of their men shall be condemned to death, or loss of limb, or perpetual banishment, the aforesaid canons and monks shall have all their chattels without any gainsaying: Saving to us by our officers the execution of the judgement of life and limb. And if any person shall claim any thing against any of the said houses in respect of their possessions, or vex or implead them in any wise, we prohibit that they answer not for any thing, nor enter into plea, and that no man cause them to be

impleaded, unless before us or our heirs, or before our justices itinerant". And he extends the said privileges to three houses of that order then newly founded (that is, after the grant of King John's charter above referred to).

King Edward the third, by his charter in the 4th year of his reign, reciting the charter of **King Henry the third** verbatim, confirms all the aforesaid privileges, and further grants them a freedom from pannage and murage; extending the same to another house of that order then newly founded, called the house of St Edmund of Cantegrigg.

And finally, **King Henry the sixth**, in the 16th year of his reign, reciting by Inspeximus the said charters of King Henry the third and Edward the third, confirms the same "by the advice and assent of the lords spiritual and temporal in parliament assembled"

Nicholson and Burn added "These grants of privileges being more full and ample than any other we have met with, and withal the original charter from whence our copy was taken having been destroyed by blowing up the tower of St Mary's at York as aforesaid, and no printed copy extant thereof that we know of, as have inferred a copy of king Henry the sixths charter in our Appendix, no. II

Source: Nicholson, Joseph & Burn, Richard. History of Cumberland & Westmorland, 1777 [*online at Archive.org*]