

BRIDGES
in the Chester County Pleas,
CHES 29/1–22
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Chester: Dee Bridge

The Roman fort at Chester was placed at the strategic location on the right bank of the Dee at the head of the estuary. From its inception, crossings would have been made to the left, ‘Welsh’ bank, by the military and civilians. Although Chester was abandoned, perhaps for centuries, it was restored by Ethelfleda, the Lady of the Mercians, as part of her programme of consolidation and settlement; and it was later hypothesised that she had started work on a bridge at Chester. Chester bridge is not mentioned as such in Domesday, but Handbridge, the settlement on the left bank is recorded, as Bruge.

The bridge here collapsed at least once (1227), and was washed away at least once (1279), and may have been of wood: but a substantial sandstone structure which has been dated stylistically to the 14th century, though may have been older, survived here until it was replaced in the 19th century by the present Grosvenor Bridge.

908 [*sub anno* 905]

Hoveden i 51

Anno DCCCCV. Civitas quæ Karlegion Britannice et Legaceastre dicitur Saxonice. jussu Etheredi ducis et Egelfledæ restaurata est.

Grose i 37

A MS. account of Chester, communicated by a friend, has the following passage relative to this bridge. “After the death of Elfleda, her brother Edward succeeded to the throne, who, fighting against the Danes, would have been taken prisoner, but for the unparalleled courage and activity of his son Athelstan. In the year after this engagement he visited his territories in Cheshire, and greatly secured them, by erecting fortresses at Thelwell and Manchester. He likewise finished the bridge over the river Dee at Chester, which was begun by his sister Elfleda, before which time there was a ferry for passengers under St. Mary’s Hill, at the Ship Gate.”

Chester bridge was a constant source of profit and of expense to the earls of Chester. In the national Exchequer accounts for 1159-1160 an expenditure of £20 on the bridge is recorded. The tolls of the bridge, the profits of the mills and the fishery on the bridge, formed part of the revenues of the county when the county was put out to farm; the expenses on repairs had to be borne out of those revenues.

[1129-1150]

CANEC 97: Cotton Faustina b ii ff. 8, 10v

Ex dono Randulfi comitis Cestrie trans pontem Cestrie de Betha de Bureswelles usque ad viam que venit de Pulfordia et de hac usque ad aquam et de aqua usque ad domos filiorum Huniz.

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*De dono Ranulfi comitis Cestrie locum in quo manent moniales Cestrenses cum pertinentiis suis.*⁷

1159-1160

Pipe Roll 6 Henry II i m.2 [7]

Terra Comitum Cestrie

Robertus de Monte Alto. 7 Sim' fil' Will'i. redd' Comp'. de firma t're Com' Cestrie.

...

Et in Opat' Pontis . Castelli [Cestrie] .xx. li'.

...

undated

Harley 2060 p.40^a: Orm ii 466 Abstracts of Charters relating to Cheshire Estates given to the Abbey of Pulton and Dieulacres: nos 12, 13

12. Roger de Gondville releases to the abbot of Pulton a gardem at the bridge of Chester, which he holds by the gift of Robert Pincerna. Witness, Robert the chaplain.

13. Robert Pincerna, of Engleby, gives the same garden to the abbot of Pulton, in pure alms, which he held from the fee of Simon, son of Herbert. Witness, Hugh de Boidela.

In 1227 the bridge fell.

1227

Annales Cestrienses [54]

mccxxvij

Item pons Cestrie totus cecidit

When the profits of the county were not put out to farm, the justice of Chester served with the powers of a viceroy in Cheshire and the adjoining sliver of Wales. John Lestrage, justice, in 1241, was specifically instructed that the bridge and mills were to be maintained out of the issues of the county, not the city, and that the expenditure should be overseen by a view of lawful men: evidently there was much to be done, as he then recorded an outlay of £38 14s 10½d.

27 May 1241, Westminster

Liberate Roll 25 Henry III m. 10 [53]

To John Extraneo, justice of Chester. Contrabreve to cause the bridge and mills of the city of Chester to be repaired as may be necessary out of the issues of the county, the cost to be credited by the view and testimony of lawful men.

25 December 1241–25 December 1242

⁷ From a confirmation of Richard I, dated 20 March 1190

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Pipe Roll E 372/86

*Compot^s Joh' le strange de cestrscir' a Natali d'ni anno xxvj. usq' ad Natale d'ni.
anno xxvij.*

...

*Et In repat'one pontis +ciuitat^s+ cestr'. & molendino^r xxxvij.lj'.xiijs' xd' ob'. p br'
R & p visum & test'. p^rd'cor R. & W.*

...

4 November 1246, Reading

Liberate Roll 31 Henry III m. 15 [91]

*Allocate to J. de Grey, justice of Chester, in the issues of co. Chester, 100 marks
pardoned to Roger de Monte Alto of the farm of the mills of Chester which the justice had to
pay at the Exchequer.*

However, in 1273-4 the citizens of Chester were allowed £30 by the Crown for repairing the bridge over the Dee after it had broken.

29 September 1273–29 September 1274

Pipe Roll E 372/120

*Rog^rm de grey. r' cp' de. Dccc.m'. de fir^a. Cestershir'. de anno s'cdo. p br'e .R.
anteq^a esset rex.*

...

Et p factura noui pontis inf^a. Castru' p^rd'cm .xviij.lj'.vij.s'.j.d'. & ob'. p idem br'e.

*Et Ciuib^s. Cest'e p dampnis q' sustinuerunt. occasione fractionis pontis ult^a aq^am de
dee. & ad ponte' illum repand' .xxx.lj'.p idem br'e.*

...

Guncelin de Badlesmere was appointed justice of Chester 16 October 1274. In his accounts for 1274-5 the receipts include £149 3s 4½d from the issues of the city of Chester, including assize rents, farm of the fishery on the bridge, customs from ships and boats, issues from the Midsummer and Michaelmas fairs, small tolls, pleas and perquisites.

The outgoings included £14 14s 6½d, as tithe from these receipts paid to the abbey of St Werburgh.

29 September 1274–29 September 1275

Pipe Roll E 372/119

*Comp' Gunceli'. de Baddelesm^re de exitib^s vill' & Com'. Cestr'. a festo S'ci Mich'is.
anno t^rcio Incipiente +q^o t^rpe .id. G. recep'. com' p^rd'cm. sic' ct^r.i'. R. seq'nti .i'. fir^a. de
Cestr' i'. R cpot^s+ usq' ad idem festu' Incipi^{te} .anno.iiij^{to}. reddit^s ad Scc^am. in qⁱndena
pasch'. anno q^arto. q' semp reddi debet ad eunde' t^rminu'. p statuta. R lib'ata ad scc^am.*

...

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Idem G. r' cp'. de Cxlix.lj'.iiij.s'.iiij.d; & ob'. de exitib^s Ciuitatis Cestr'. p p^rdictu' temp^s. videl' de redd'. ass'. firma. piscarie pontis c^suetudine nauiu'. & batillor^s exitib^s nundinar. in festo nat' s'ci Joh'is Bapt'e & S'ci Mich'is, minutis tolnetis. placitis & pquis'. sic' c^t in ix particular^s que'. p^rdict^s G. lib'auit in thesauro. Et de lxv.s'. & viij.d'. de q^adam purp^rstura & q^adam t^rra arabili locatis t^ansgressionib^s f'cis in d'nicis R ex^a. villam cest'e, fructu gardini .ex^a. castru' cest'e.

...

Et abbati. s'ce Werburge Cestrie p decima. ville & pontis cestrie .xiiij.lj'.xiiij.s'. & vj.d'. & ob'. p br'e R.

...

The following year's accounts show £16 tithes paid to the abbot; and 10 marks (£6 13s 4d) paid for the repair of the bridge and for constructing a brattice in the middle of the bridge. A brattice was a temporary wooden tower: this was an additional defence for Chester, as part of the expedition by king Edward into north Wales. A general call to arms had been issued 12 December 1276, the feudal host mustered for 1 July 1277 at Worcester. Badlesmere was in charge of recruiting and organizing in Cheshire. Chester itself was never in danger, and the royal army advanced to Flint, Rhuddlan, and then along the north Welsh coast towards Conway.

29 September 1276–29 September 1277

Pipe Roll E 372/121

Comp' Guncelini de Baldesmere Justic' Cestr' de exit' vill' et Com' Cestr' a festo s'ci Mich' anno .iiij^{to}. Incipiente usq' ad idem f'm incipiente Anno q'into. redd' ad Scc^arium in qui'dena Pasce anno .vj^{to}. qui semp debet reddi. ad eundem t^rminu' p statuta R' lib^a ad Scc^am.

...

Et Abb'ti Cestr' p decima ville & pont' Cestr' p idem temp^s xv.lj'. p idem br'e.

...

Et in repac'one & emendac'one pontis Cestr' & in construct'one vni^s bretach' in medio Pontis illius .x.m'r. p idem br'e.

...

Richard Lengineer, employed in the building of fortifications in Wales, undertook to pay £60 a year (as against the £50 usually offered) for the fishery on Chester bridge: but on St Werburgh's day, 1279, the sea inundated the lowlands at Stanlow and not only broke down but also carried away the bridge, and the contract was cancelled. The king turned to the citizenry of the city to rebuild the bridge at their own charges, and also (according to the Red Book of St Werburgh) abolished the idea that the county should use its own customary law rather than the common law of England (see Custom of Chester).

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3 February 1279

Annales Cestrienses [106]

[mcclxxix]

Item eodem anno mare erupit iij nonis Februarii die Sancte Werburge et multa mala fecit apud Stanlawe et alibi. Insuper pontem Cestrie confregit et asportavit cursum solitum supra modum excedens

13 November 1279 Westminster

Fine Roll 7 Edward I m.2 [119]

Grant to master Richard the engineer of the fishery of Chester from Michaelmas next for five years at the rent of 50l. a year, as other farmers thereof have rendered, and 100s. of increment, so that he render 60l. a year therefor for another term of five years, if he hold the same for such term.

Vacated because the writ was surrendered owing to the destruction of the bridge.

1280

Red Book of St Werburgh; Harley 2071; Orm i 194

1280. The king compelled the citizens of Chester to rebuild Dee bridge at their own charge, and to receive the common-law of England, "contra libertates sibi concessas."

In 1281 a new contract was made with Richard Lengineer: he was to pay the Exchequer £200 a year for three years for the rent of Chester mills and fishery; that he bear the costs of repairs, and of the causeway, but was allowed timber for the same from Delamere forest. This was a considerable enterprise on Lengineer's part, paying four times the previous rent, and undertaking the cost of repairs; evidently he was successful, as the king renewed the contract in 1284 for a further twelve years. The 1281 arrangement indemnified Lengineer against loss by fire; but that for 1284 extended the contract to loss by flood.

12 October 1281 Winchester

Fine Roll 9 Edward I m.3 [153]

Commitment to master Richard the engineer of the mills of Chester and the fishery in the water of Dee pertaining to the bridge over the water there from Michaelmas, 9 Edward I, for three years, at the rent at the Exchequer of Chester of 200l. yearly, so that he repair the same and the causeway there at his own costs, and by view of the foresters of la Mare take timber in that forest for the maintenance of the premises, and at the end of the term demise the premises in good condition; and if through war a garrison stay in Chester and grind his corn without toll, or if the king do the like, the toll shall be allowed in his farm, and if the mills perish through war or by fire and he be blameless, he shall not be held to repair the same.

26 September 1284 Overton

Patent Roll 12 Edward I m.3 [135]

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Appointment of master Richard the king's engineer to the custody of the king's mills at Chester and the fishery in the Dee belonging to the bridge on the far side of the water for twelve years from Michaelmas, 12 Edward I., for a rent of 200l., payable at the Exchequer at Chester, the said Richard to keep up the mills, causeway and fishery, and to have timber for the same from the forest of La Mare by view of the foresters there; with provision for the allowance in his rent of the value of any corn taken without payment for the garrison at Chester during war, or during tlu; king's stay there; and that he be not liable for repair in case of destruction by fire during war, or by flood.

26 September 1284 Overton

Fine Roll 12 Edward I m.3 [206-207]

Commitment to master Richard the engineer of the king's mills of Chester, and the fishery in the water of Dee pertaining to the bridge over the water there, from Michaelmas, 12 Edward I, for twelve years at the rent at the Exchequer of Chester of 200l. yearly; and he shall repair and maintain at his own costs the said mills and the causeway there and all that pertains to the fishery, and shall take timber therefor by view of the foresters of la Mare in that forest, and at the end of the term shall demise the premises in good condition; and if through war a garrison tarry in Chester and grind his corn without toll or if the king do the like, such toll shall be allowed in his farm; and if the mills perish through war or by fire, or the bridge or causeway be carried away by flood, he shall not be held to repair the same, provided that he be not in fault.

2 January 1285 Bristol

Charter Roll 13 Edward I m.31 [282-283]

In recompense for a messuage, seventy-five acres of land and twenty acres of waste which Nicholas Baret had in Little Overe in the king's forest of la Mare, worth by the year 47s. 6d., and which the said Nicholas surrendered to the king gift to the said Nicholas of ninety-five acres of land in Lache and common of pasture in all the king's moor and marsh of Salteneye with free access thereto, to be held by the said Nicholas, and his heirs, by rendering yearly at Midsummer, at the Exchequer of Chester 1d. in lieu of all service, suit and demand; grant also, of the king's special grace, that the said Nicholas and his heirs shall have husbold and heybold in the forest of La Mare, and shall have their demesne pigs there in time of mast quit of pannage, and that they may grind their demesne corn at the mills of Chester quit of multure; with quittance of toll through all the earldom (comitatum) of Chester, and of giving ale, called Tolsestre, to the castle of Chester.

In recompense for one messuage, one hundred and fifty-six acres of land, twenty-six acres of waste and wood, a fishery, common of pasture and other easements, which Ranulph de Sutton had in Sutton in the king's forest of La Mare, the said fishery, common and easements being worth 4 marks 2s., all which the said Ranulph surrendered to the king gift to the said Ranulph of the king's land (placeas) in Chester, whereon the king's grange and bovary (boveria) were situated, and of eighty-two acres of land and three acres of meadow of the demesne land of the castle of Chester within the island called Erleseye, by the following bounds, from the bridge of Chester down the Dee to Bohgton and around the Dee (in circuitu, de Dee) to Claverton ford and from Claverton ford to Neubold Dike and along the dike to Honebrigge and thence to the bridge of Chester with common of pasture in Saltneye and free access, as the king had while he had the foregoing lands, and with the bailiwick and issue of

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the hundred of Caldey, worth by the year 5 marks; to be held by the said Ranulph, and his heirs by rendering at the Exchequer of Chester at Midsummer 1d. in lieu of all service, suit and demand; grant also of privileges and quittances as in the last charter.

In recompense for two messuages, two hundred and fifteen acres of land, six acres and a half of meadow, twenty-seven acres of waste, three gardens, one mill, certain fisheries, common of pasture and other easements, which Hervey de Bradeford and Robert his son had in Bradeford in the forest of La Mare, and which to the value of 31l. 11s. 10d. they surrendered to the king; gift to the said Hervey and Robert of two hundred and fifteen acres of land and six acres and two thirds of an acre of meadow of the demesne lands of the castle of Chester in Brewardeshalgh, Marleston and Lache within the following bounds, between the king's dike called Grenediche and the land of Ranulph de Parva Overe on one side and the dike of Marleston and the bounds of Lache on the other, with a fishery in the Dee by Brawardeshalgh, and a several pasture called Saltegres, common of pasture over the moor and marsh of Salteneye with free entry and exit, and of the bailiwick and issue of the office of keeper of the east gate of Chester with the houses and buildings built above and below pertaining to that gate, all which are worth by the year 15 marks, and of 8 marks of rent receivable yearly by the hands of Richard de Puleford and his heirs, and of a vacant place in the city of Chester by the house of William Orgayn; to be held by the said Hervey and Robert and their heirs by rendering at the Exchequer of Chester at Midsummer 1d.; grant also of privileges and quittances as in the last two charters.

In recompense for a messuage, a garden, fifty-five acres of land, five acres of meadow, thirty acres of waste, common of pasture and other easements, which Ranulph de Parva Overe had in Little Overe in the forest of La Mare, and which to the value of 101s. 18d. he surrendered to the king gift to the said Ranulph of eight-seven acres of land, three acres and the third part of an acre of meadow of the demesne lands of the castle of Chester in Marleston and Lache within the following bounds, from the dike of Marleston to the bounds of Hervey de Bradeford and Robert his son and thence to the bounds of Honebrigge and thence to the bounds of Eccleston and thence to the dike of Marleston, with free access over the land of Lache along the dike of Marleston to common of pasture of Salteneye, and of one mark of rent receivable by the hands of Richard de Pulford and his heirs, and of common of pasture over the whole moor and marsh of Halteneye, to be held by the said Ranulph and his heirs by rendering at the Exchequer of Chester at Midsummer 1d.; grant also of privileges and quittances as in the last three charters.

In 1285 or 1286 the king recognized the ancient practice that the bridge repairs were to be at the expense of the county rather than the city.

1285-1286

Harley f. 724 no 25 [385]

Exemplification of Records; about the Inhabitants of the County of Chester's being bound to repair the Bridge of Chester over the Dee, and the Citizens to be free: anno 14 R. Edwardi I. ... These Records were attested by Mr. Arthur Agarde, 21 Maij, A.D. 1608.

In April 1287 Lengineer recognized that he owed Reginald de Grey (the new justiciar) £40 silver for the farm of the mills and fishery due at Easter.

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22 April 1287: 3:143

Recognic'o

Mag'r Ric'us Ingeniator recogn' se deb'e Regin'o de Grey Justic'o Cestr' quad^aginta lib^as argenti de fir^a molendi'or & piscar' Pontis Cestr' de t'mi'o Pasche px' p'r'tito⁸, ad soluend' eid'm Regin' infra +octabas+ s'ci Joh' Bapt'e px' fut'as⁹ sine vlt'iori dil'one. Ad quam quide' su'mam pecu'ie d'co t'mi'o fidel'r faciend' s'n dil'one aliqua obligat om's t'ras & tenem'ta sua in Cestr', p'd'cus Ric'us ad voluntate' p'd'ci Justic', ita q'd ea cap' in manu' sua', h'eat & teneat imppetuu' s'n aliquo imped'mto & reclamac'oe p'd'ci Ric'i u'l hered' suor. si in p'd'ca soluc'oe deficiat

The question of the expense of maintaining the bridge was resolved in 1287-8, when it was agreed that the first 8 feet of earth and stone and the next 49 feet of woodwork actually adjoining the city were the responsibility of the city, but the remainder (and greater part) to be paid for by the country. The stone bridge that survived until the 19th century was of eight or nine arches.

1287-1288

16 Edward I Fines: Dkr xxviii v 9 [7]

The mayor and city of Chester to

The barons, knights and free-tenants of the county of Chester

Agreement to construct and repair and sustain that part of the bridge of Chester over the Dee nearer the township of Newbolt, containing in length of solid earth and stonework 8 feet, and contiguous thereto 49 feet of wood in the hollow of the bridge; the expense thereof to be shared by all the town and forinsec lands within the 52 hides reckoned to be liable to pay tax in Chester, according to Domesday Book. The county is burdened with the rest of the bridge.

In 1289 Richard Lengineer claimed exoneration from paying the full rent. An inquisition was held at Chester on 20 September 1289, and found that, in the very first year of the twelve year rental starting from Michaelmas 1284, while Richard was away helping the reconstruction of Caernarvon castle, there were such floods that the fish traps (*crate*) could not be fixed under the bridge, so that fish could only be caught by net, and that the weirs and granaries were uprooted and carried away: so Richard lost about £40 in damage. The next three years were no better: Richard was on the king's service in Wales and the weirs and the causeway were destroyed, costing him a further £60; and then, when he was away in the king's service at Trefallan the causeway was destroyed by flooding so that the mills could not grind, so that during the whole period he lost £54 multure.

⁸ Sunday 6 April 1287

⁹ Tuesday 1 July 1287

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20 September 1289: 5:319

Inquis' f'ca die Lune ante f'm s'ci Mich' Ap'li Anno regn' R^s E. xviiij¹⁰ ap'd Cestr' p sac^amentu' Alex' Hurell Steph'i Sarazyn Will' Forestarii Rog'i Dunfugil Ric'i de Prees, Ric'i Calf, Rob'ti Ryf, Joh'is Clerici, Will' Mulet, Rob'ti Vlkil, Will' de Welle, Rob'ti le Mouner, Joh' Wych' & Joh' le Hose, Qui diligent' exa'iati d'nt sup sac^amentu' suu' q'd postq^am d'ns Rex Molendina sua & piscariam pontis Cestrie Mag'ro Ric'o Ingeniatori ad f'mam duodecim annor t^adidisset, p'mo anno eiusd'm firme tante inundac'oes aquar supuenient' extit'unt dum id'm Ric'us fuit in s'uic'o d'ni R^s apd Kirnaruan, q'd c^ates piscarie sub^rs pontem p'd'cm atachiari [no' potu'nt] p q'd id'm Ric's nec aliquis ex pte ip'ius p maiori pte eiusd'm anni alit' q^am p retia piscare potuerunt, et q'd gurgites piscarie p'd'ce & g^anaria p'd'cor p inundac'oes p'd'cas extirpata & dissipata fuerunt sine culpa ip'ius Ric'i, vnde id'm Ric's de f'ma sua p'd'ca dampnu' & iacturam ad valenciam q^adraginta librar p id'm temp^s sustinuit D'nt & q'd p tres annos sequentes dum id'm Ric's p vices in s'uic'o d'ni R^s fuit in Wallia inundac'oes aquar gurgites p'd'ci vna cu' calceto ibid'm dissipata & asportata fu'unt absq' culpa ip'ius Ric'i & vnde id'm Ric's ad piscariam p'd'cam p id'm tempus dampnu' & iacturam ad valenciam sexaginta librar incurrit D'nt e' q'd p temp^s quo id'm Ric's fuit in s'uicio d'ni R^s ap'd Threffalan calcetum p'd'cm p huiusmodi inundac'oes aquar dirutu' & asportatu' extitit p quod Molendina p'd'ca Molere no' potuerunt vnde p hoc & p tales inundac'oes frequent' p totu' tempor' p'd'cm p'ter culpam ip'ius Ric'i p quod ip'e quo ad multuram p tempus p'd'cm dampn' & quinq^aginta & quatuor librar obtinuit.

Two months later the king granted Robert Crevecoeur £45 a year of the issues of Chester mills and bridge. Those payments continued for several years thereafter until 1301, when Robert was given a replacement source of income.

8 November 1289 Clarendon

Patent Roll 17 Edward I m.2 [328]

Grant to Robert de Crevequer of the custody, for life, of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, and 100s. yearly for the custody of the same, and likewise of 45l. yearly of the issues of the king's mills and bridge of Chester by the hands of the keepers or farmers thereof, in exchange for his quit-claim of a moiety of the manor of Saham, which moiety the king and queen formerly granted to him, for life, in exchange for his quitclaim to them of his land of Maillorsaxeneyth.

Mandate in pursuance to the farmers of the said mills and bridge of Chester.

Mandate in pursuance to Reginald de Grey, justice of Chester, for livery of the castle.

In January 1290, at the inquisition after the death of Thomas de Orreby, his manor of le Lythe is referred to as Lythe beyond the bridge of Dee.

25 January 1290

Inq. p. m. ii 762 [463]: Thomas de Orreby

¹⁰ Monday 26 September 1289

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Writ to the same justice of Chester, 8 Jan. 18 Edw. I.

Chester. Inq. Wednesday the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, 18 Edw. I.

Maklesfeld forest. A forestership of a certain foot forester, held of the queen, worth 2s. yearly to be paid to the said Thomas by the hands of the same forester.

Goseword. The manor held of Peter de Arderne by finding a footman in the castle of Alderford with a hauberk and lance whenever the king makes his summons (citacionem) at Chester by reason of the army. Alice late the wife of Richard de Orreby his father is dowered of a third part.

Northclif. The manor and a third part of the fee of Pownehale, held of Edmund Fyton, doing service of 5s. 9 The 'Warlond' of the manor is bound to feed the queen's servants of Maklesfeld one day monthly, and the manor shall find two men for 'le haywerk,' when summons shall have been made for it in the hundred (court) of Maklesfeld. The said Alice is dowered of a third part.

Lythe beyond the bridge of De. 2 carucates land held of Peter de Dutton, doing service of 1 lb. pepper at the exchequer of Chester by the the said Peter. The said Alice is dowered of a third part.

Snelleston. 10s. rent held in exchange made with James de Aldithele for his land of Tatton.

Richard his son, aged 6, is his heir.

C. Edw. I. File 56. (18.)

8 April 1292 Westminster

Close Roll 20 Edward I m.7 [225-226]

To the bailiffs of Hereford. Order to cause Robert de Crevequoer to have from the ferm of that town 10l. for Easter term last of the 20l. yearly granted to him by the king for life from that ferm, for the release of the manor of Ditton that he made to the king and queen Eleanor, his late consort.

To the bailiffs of the hundred without the north gate of Oxford. Order to cause the said Robert to have 10l. for Easter term last of the 20l. yearly granted to him by the king for his life from the ferm of that town for the release of the aforesaid manor to the king and queen.

To Reginald de Grey, justice of Chester. Order to cause the aforesaid Robert to have 22l. 10s. 0d. for Easter term from the issues of the king's mills and bridge of Chester, as the king, in recompence for Robert's surrender and release of a moiety of the manor of Saham to the king and queen Eleanor, his late consort, granted to him the custody of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, and 100s. yearly for the custody thereof, and 40l. yearly from the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester for life, to be received from the keepers or fermors of the mills and bridges for a moiety of the manor aforesaid, as contained in the king's letters patent.

1 May 1294 Newington

Close Roll 22 Edward I m.10 [346]

To the fermors of the king's mills and of the bridge of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. for this quinzaine of Easter, as the king granted to him, in recompence for the surrender, grant and quit-claim that he made to the king of a moiety of the manor of Saham, the custody of the castle of Beston, co. Chester, for life, and 100s. yearly

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for the custody and also 40l. yearly from the issues of the mills and bridge, a moiety at the quinzaine of Easter and a moiety at the quinzaine of Michaelmas.

3 October 1295 Canterbury

Close Roll 23 Edward I m.4 [433]

To Reginald de Grey, justice of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d., for Michaelmas term last from the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester, in accordance with the king's grant to him, in recompence for the surrender and grant that he made to the king and Eleanor, his late consort, of a moiety of the manor of Saham, of 100s. yearly for the custody of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, which the king granted to him, and also 40l., yearly from the issues of the mills and bridges aforesaid, to be received in the quinzaine of Easter and [at Michaelmas] by equal portions for life.

7 April 1296 Berwick-on-Tweed

Close Roll 24 Edward I m.8 [477]

To Reginald de Grey, justice of Chester. Order to cause Robert de Crevequer to have 22l. 10s. 0d. for Easter term last from the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester, as the king granted to Robert, in recompence for his surrender and quit-claim to the king and queen Eleanor, the king's late consort, of a moiety of the manor of Saham, the custody of the king's castle of Bestane, co. Chester, and 100s. a year for the custody and also 40l. a year from the issues of the mills and bridge; aforesaid, for his life, as is contained in the king's letters patent.

14 October 1296 Kirkham

Close Roll 24 Edward I m.2 [495]

To the fermors of the king's mills and bridge of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. for the quinzaine of Michaelmas last from the issues of the mills and bridge, as the king granted to Robert for life, in recompence for his surrender of a moiety of the manor of Saham, the custody of the king's castle of Beston, co. Chester, and for its custody 100s. a year and also 40l. a year, to be received at the quinzaines of Easter and of Michaelmas from the issues of the mills and bridge aforesaid.

9 May 1297 Ermington

Close Roll 25 Edward I m.16 [28]

To the fermor of the king's mills and bridge at Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. from the issues of the mills and bridge for the quinzaine of Easter last, in accordance with the king's grant to him, in recompence for his surrender and grant to the king of a moiety of the manor of Saham, of the custody of the castle of Beston, co. Chester, for life, and 100s. yearly for the custody thereof and also 40l. yearly from the issues of the mills and bridge, one moiety at the quinzaine of Easter and the other at the quinzaine of Michaelmas.

16 October 1297 Westminster

Close Roll 25 Edward I m.3 [68]

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To the fermors of the king's mills and bridge of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d, for the quinzaine of Michaelmas of the 45l. yearly granted to him by the king from the issues of the mills and bridges for the custody of Beston castle (as at p. 28 above).

21 April 1298 Harrow

Close Roll 26 Edward I m.11 [156]

To the fermors of the king's mills and bridge at Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d, for the quinzaine of Easter last, in accordance with the king's grant to him, in recompence for his surrender and grant to the king of a moiety of the manor of Saham, of the custody of the castle of Beston, co. Chester, for life and 100s. yearly for the custody thereof and also 40l. yearly from the issues of the said mills and bridges, one moiety at the quinzaine of Easter and the other at the quinzaine of Michaelmas

19 October 1298 Jedburgh

Close Roll 26 Edward I m.2 [181]

To the fermors of the king's mills and bridge of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. for the quinzaine of Michaelmas last, in accordance with the king's grant to him of the custody of the castle of Beston, co. Chester, and for that custody of 100s, yearly and 40l. yearly from the issues of the mills and bridge [as at p. 28 above]. Vacated because otherwise below.

19 October 1298 Jedburgh

Close Roll 26 Edward I m.2 [181]

To the fermors of the king's mills and bridge of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. for the quinzaine of Michaelmas last, in accordance with the king's grant to him of the custody of the castle of Beston, co. Chester, and for that custody of 100s, yearly and 40l. yearly from the issues of the mills and bridge [as at p. 28 above]. Vacated because otherwise below.

19 October 1298 Jedburgh

Close Roll 26 Edward I m.2 [181]

To Reginald de Grey, justice of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. for Michaelmas term last from the issues of the mills and bridges of Chester, in accordance with the king's grant to him, in recompence for his grant to the king and queen Eleanor, his late consort, of the manor of Saham, of the custody of the castle of Bestane, co. Chester, and for the custody thereof of 100s. yearly and also of 40l. yearly from the issues of the said mills and bridges, a moiety at the quinzaine of Easter and the other moiety at the quinzaine at Michaelmas.

19 October 1298 Jedburgh

Close Roll 26 Edward I m.2 [181]

To Reginald de Grey, justice of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. for Michaelmas term last from the issues of the mills and bridges of Chester, in accordance with the king's grant to him, in recompence for his grant to the king and queen

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Eleanor, his late consort, of the manor of Saham, of the custody of the castle of Bestane, co. Chester, and for the custody thereof of 100s. yearly and also of 40l. yearly from the issues of the said mills and bridges, a moiety at the quinzaine of Easter and the other moiety at the quinzaine at Michaelmas.

9 May 1299 Stepney

Close Roll 27 Edward I m.13 [247]

To Reginald de Grey, justice of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. for Easter term last from the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester, in accordance with the king's grant to him, in recompence for his surrender and grant to the king and queen Eleanor his late consort, of a moiety of the manor of Saham, of the custody of the castle of Bestane, co. Chester, for life, and 100s. yearly for the custody thereof and also 40l. yearly from the issues of the mills and bridge, one moiety at the quinzaine of Easter, and the other at the quinzaine of Michaelmas. By the roll.

In 1299 Richard Lengineer's lease from the king of the farm of the mills and fishery of Chester bridge was made permanent for his lifetime, paying, as before, £200 a year.

11:428: 20 October 1299

Recognic'oes p Rege

Mag'r Ric'us Ingen', firmar' Molendinor & piscarie Pontis Cestr' +ex co'missione d'ni Reg^s+, venit in Scc^aio Cestr' die Martis p^x^o post festum s'ci Luce Ewang'le .anno.r'. R^s.E.xxvij^o.¹¹ & inuenit pleg' s'bscⁱptos ad soluend' +annuati'+, singul' annis, ad totam vitam ip'ius Ric'i, p firma p'd'ca ducentas libr', ad Scc^am Cestr', vid'lt, medietatem inde ad Pascha, & aliam medietatem ad festum s'ci Mich'is, & ad faciend', repand', & sustinend' sumptib^s suis, molendina & calcetu', & ad ea que ad p'd'cam piscariam p^tinent, quotiens emendac'oe & repac'one indigu'nt, Et ad hoc inuenit pleg' s'bscⁱptos, videlicet Almaricu' fil' & hered' p'd'ci mag'ri Ric'i Ric'm Molineals, de Com' Lanc'. Rob'm de Macclesfeld, ciuem Cestr', Will'm Gisors, Augustinu' de Hertrugge, Rob'm Vrkel, Joh'em Feure. Ric'm Calf, Rob'm le Meleward, Ric'm le Harpur, Henr' de Ridesdall, Ric'm de Stanlowe Will'm Godbrother, Rog'm Donfoghel.

28 October 1299 Westminster

Close Roll 27 Edward I m.3 [280]

To the justice of Chester, or to him who supplies his place. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. for Michaelmas term last from the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester, in accordance with the king's grant to him, in recompence for his grant to the king and queen Eleanor, his late consort, of the manor of Saham, of the custody of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, and for the custody thereof of 100s. yearly and also of 40l. yearly from the issues of the said mills and bridge, a moiety at the quinzaine of Easter and the other moiety at the quinzaine of Michaelmas, for his life.

¹¹ Tuesday 20 October 1299

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30 April 1300 Stamford

Close Roll 28 Edward I m.8 [350]

To Richard de Mascy, justice of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. from the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester for Easter term, in accordance with the king's grant to him, in recompence for his surrender to the king and queen Eleanor, his late consort, of a moiety of the manor of Saham, of the custody of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, and of 100s. yearly for the custody thereof and also of 40l. yearly from the issues of the mills and bridge for his life, one moiety at the quinzaine of Easter and the other at the quinzaine of Michaelmas

7 June 1300 Pontefract

Fine Roll 28 Edward I m.8 [428-429]

Order to all persons of the counties of Chester and Flynt and the cantred of Engelfeld to be intendant to Richard de Mascy to whom the king has committed the office of justice of Chester and the castles of Chester, Rothelan and Flynt and the county of Flynt with the farms, rents and other appurtenances and the purprestures and other things belonging to the king by reason of the king's forests in those parts, except the lead-mine of Engelfeld, and saving to the king wards, reliefs, escheats, marriages, dowers, advowsons of churches and vert and venison of the king's forests and parks in those parts, so that he cut down or sell no oak on this side the Dee without licence, to keep from the morrow of Michaelmas next for five years at the rent of 1,000 marks a year, keeping the said castles at his own costs in time of peace and paying the alms and fees underwritten due from the castle of Chester, as well ancient as new, to wit, to the abbot of St. Werburgh's, Chester, 15l. a year of ancient alms and 4l. granted to him of late by the king at the Exchequer of Chester in recompense of the tithes of the manor of Frodesham which the abbot used to receive and released to the abbot of Vale Royal, and to the prioress and nuns of Chester 24 marks a year of ancient alms and 4l. 11s. granted of late to them in recompense of the tithes belonging to their church of Ovre which they used to receive and released to the abbot of Vale Royal, and 105s. 2d. yearly granted of late to them from the rent of Middlewich in recompense of the tithes of Bradeford, Liteleovre, Sutton and Merton, which they used to receive and released to the abbot of Vale Royal, and 10s. yearly granted of late to them by the hands of the farmers of Middlewich from the same farm in recompense of 4 acres of land by Godesbach which they rendered into the king's hands, and to the lepers of Boughton 20s. a year of ancient alms, and to the hermitage of Hildeburghey 10s. a year of ancient alms, and to Robert, son and heir of Philip, the king's gardener of Chester, 4l. 10s. a year for the 3d. a day which he receives for his wages for keeping the said garden, and to the hospital of St. John, Chester, 4l. 10s. a year of ancient alms, and to the abbot of Stanlawe 20s a year of ancient alms, and to the friars preachers of Chester 13 marks a year of ancient alms, and all other alms and fees due there, and paying also yearly to Robert de Crevequeor 45l. for the 45l. granted to him for life from the issues of the mills and fishery of the bridge of Chester in recompense of his surrender and quitclaim to the king and his heirs of a moiety of the manor of Saham, and to master Richard the engineer 18l. 4s. of the 12d. daily granted to him for life at the Exchequer of Chester for service done and to be done, which two sums payable to the said Robert and Richard shall be allowed to the said justice in the said 1,000 marks.

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1 October 1300 Holme Cultram
Close Roll 28 Edward I m.3 [368]

To Richard de Mascy, jnstice of Chester. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 22l. 10s. 0d. for Michaelmas term last from the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester, in accordance with the king's grant to him, in recompence for his surrender and grant to the king and queen Eleanor, his late consort, of a moiety of the manor of Saham, of the custody of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, and of 100s. yearly for the custody thereof and also of 40l. yearly from the issues of the mills and bridge, for life, one moiety at the quinzaine of Easter and the other at the quinzaine of Michaelmas.

The first surviving chamberlain's accounts, for 1301-2, show Richard Lengineer in place, paying £200 a year for the mills, fishery and bridge; and 100s a year of ancient alms as tithe for the fishery being paid out to the abbot of St Werburgh's.

30 September 1301–29 September 1302
Chester Chamberlain's Accounts: no 1 [1, 5] ¹²

Account of William de Melton, Chamberlain of Chester, of all receipts and expenses, costs and deliveries made by the said William of the issues of the counties of Chester and Flint, from the morrow of St Michael in the 29th year of the reign of the lord king Edward, son of king Henry, unto the feast of St Michael next following, accounted in the 30th year of the reign of the same king

...
Receipts of the county of Chester
Farms or Rent certain

...
Of master Richard Ingeniator holding the mills, fishery, and bridge of Chester at fee farm all his life by the king's commission for 200l. to be paid yearly

...
Expenses and Disbursements of the Receipts aforesaid

...
To the lord abbot of St Werburgh taking yearly 100s of ancient alms constituted to him for the tithe of the fishery of Chester bridge, for the 30th year, 100s.

...

14 October 1301 Dunipace
Patent Roll 29 Edward I m.5 [610]

Grant to Robert de Crevequer, in compensation for 45l. a year out of the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester, and 20l. a year out of the farm of Hereford which he was receiving for life, of 65l. a year out of the farm of the town of Northampton, by the hands of the mayor and bailiffs of that town. Heretofore, in consideration of his quit-claiming to Eleanor, queen of England, the king's consort, and the king's heirs, the manor of Ditton and a moiety of the manor of Saham, co. Cambridge, which he held for life by the king's grant,

¹² CCA 7: PRO SC6 771/2

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the king granted to him for life the custody of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, 100s. for its custody and 40l. a year out of the issues of the said mills and bridge of Chester, 20l. a year out of the farm of the town of Hereford, and 20l. out of the farm of the hundred without the North Gate, Oxford; but the king, having now granted the county of Chester to Edward the king's son and his heirs the kings of England, and having assigned the said farm of Hereford with other farms, lands and tenements to Margaret, queen of England, the king's consort, in acquittance of her expenses, whereby the said Robert can no longer receive the said 45l. and 20l. a year, the king has made the above grant in compensation thereof. By bill of Exchequer.

16 August 1302 Westminster

Close Roll 30 Edward I m.8 [545-546]

To the mayor and bailiffs of Northampton. Order to pay to Robert de Crevequer 65l. yearly from the ferm of that town, as the king has granted this sum to Robert by his letters patent from the ferm of that town for life from 14 October, in the 29th year of his reign [Calendar of Patent Rolls, 29 Edw. I, p. 610], which grant the king made to him because the king had granted to Edward, the king's son, the county of Chester and had assigned to queen Margaret, his consort, the ferm of the city of Hereford with other fermes and lands in acquittance of certain of her expenses, by reason of which grants Robert was unable to receive 45l. yearly from the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester and 20l. yearly from the ferm of the city of Hereford, the king having previously granted to Robert — for the release and quit-claim that he made to him and queen Eleanor, his late consort, of the manor of Ditton and a moiety of the manor of Saham, co. Cambridge, which Robert held for life of the king's grant — the custody of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, and for its custody 100s. and 40l. from the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester, 20l. of the ferm of the city of Hereford, and 20l. of the ferm of the king's Hundred without the north gate of Oxford for life.

30 September 1302–29 September 1303

Chester Chamberlain's Accounts: no 2 [15, 75]¹³

Account of William de Melton, Chamberlain of Chester, of all receipts and expenses, costs and deliveries made by the said William of the issues of the counties of Chester and Flint, from the morrow of St Michael in the 30th year of the reign of king Edward, son of king Henry, to the feast of St Michael next following, in the 31st year

...
Receipts of the county of Chester
Farms or Rent certain

...
Of master Richard Ingeniator holding the mills, fishery, and bridge of Chester at fee farm all his life by the king's grant, for 200l. yearly at the said terms [Easter and Michaelmas]

...
Expenses and Disbursements of the Receipts aforesaid

...
To the lord abbot of St Werburgh taking yearly 100s of ancient alms constituted to him for the tithe of the fishery of Chester bridge, for the 30th year, 100s.

¹³ CCA 7: PRO SC6 771/2

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...

An entry in the ledger book of Vale Royal abbey in 1303 shows that Adam son of Adam, their bailiff of Weaverham, held his office as including the duty of summoning the feodaries in time of war and leading them to Chester bridge, and checking the muster there for defaults.

23 February 1303

Vale Royal Ledger Book f. 55

On Saturday next before the feast of St. Chad in the 31st year of the reign of King Edward [23 Feb. 1302/3], Adam son of Adam the bailiff of Weverham acknowledged by his fealty and homage that he holds all his freehold (except the land which he holds from the Earl of Lincoln, and the land which he holds from the abbot and convent by charter) [as] belonging to his bailiwick, to wit, of carrying the serjeants' staff to court, and doing in the lord's court what to the court belongs: to wit, making distrains, levying advowries, carrying writs within the boundaries of Cheshire, summoning the feodaries of Weverham in time of war, and leading them to Chester bridge, and there presenting defaults, to wit, at the muster. And all the aforesaid tenements he claims to hold from the lord of Weverham by the homage and service aforesaid, and by ancient tenure without charter. Also he claims to hold a certain tenement from the said lord of Weverham by charter, as his charter witnesseth.

4 September 1303 Banff

Patent Roll 31 Edward I m.13 [155]

Order to the mayor and bailiffs of the town of Northampton, to pay to Robert de Crevequer 65l. out of the farm of the said town and they shall have due allowance at the Exchequer. Some time ago Robert quit-claimed in fee to the king and Eleanor, the late queen consort, the manor of Ditton and a moiety of the manor of Saham, co. Cambridge, which he held for life by grant of the king, and the king granted to him the custody of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, and 100s. for the same, and 40l. out of the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester, 20l. out of the farm of the town of Hereford, and 20l. out of the farm of the hundred without the north gate of Oxford, yearly for life. The king afterwards granted to Edward his son the county of Chester to him and his heirs the kings of England; and assigned to Margaret, the king's consort, the farm of Hereford with some other farms, lands and tenements, in acquittance of her expenses; in compensation whereof the king granted him for life the said 65l. a year out of the farm of the said city from 14 October, 29 Edward I.

23 June 1304 Stirling

Patent Roll 32 Edward I m.2 [264]

Grant for life to Robert de Crevequer of 20l. a year out of the farm of the town of Derby. Some time ago, in exchange for Robert's quitclaim to the king, and Eleanor, sometime queen of England, the king's consort, of the manor of Ditton and a moiety of the manor of Saham, co. Cambridge, which he held for life by grant of the king, the king granted him for life the custody of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, and 100s. a year for that custody, 45l. out of the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester, 20l. out of the farm of the town of Hereford, and 20l. out of the farm of the hundred without the north gate of Oxford yearly. Afterwards

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the king granted to Edward his son the county of Chester, and assigned to Margaret, queen of England, his consort, amongst other things, the farm of Hereford. On 14 October, in the 29th year, in compensation for the 45l. from the mills and bridge of Chester and 20l. from the farm of Hereford, the king granted Robert 65l. a year out of the farm of the town of Northampton by the hands of the mayor and bailiffs thereof. On 21 June, in the 32nd year, the king granted to the above Margaret the above hundred, amongst other lands with which he heretofore dowered her, wherefore, in compensation for 20l. a year which Robert received therefrom, the present grant is made. By K. on the information of W. bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. Mandate in pursuance to the bailiffs and good men of the town of Derby. By K. on the like information.

By 1307 Richard Lengineer had been granted a pension of 12d a day for life out of the Exchequer at Chester.

1 October 1307 Lenton

Fine Roll 1 Edward II m.15 [5-6]

Order to all persons of the counties of Chester and Flynt and the cantred of Engelfeld to be intendant to Robert de Holand, to whom the king has committed during pleasure the office of justice of Chester and the castles of Chester, Rothelan and Flynt and the county of Flynt, with the farms, rents and all other appurtenances, together with the purprestures and other things belonging to the king by reason of the king's forests in those parts, except the lead-mine of Engelfeld, and saving to the king wards, reliefs, escheats, marriages, dowers when they fall in, advowsons of churches and vert and venison of the king's forests and parks in those parts, so that he cut down or sell no oak on this side the water of Dee without licence or order, at the yearly rent of 1,000 marks at the Exchequer; and he shall keep the said castles at his own costs in time of peace and shall pay the following alms and fees due from the castle of Chester both old and new, to wit, to the abbot of St. Werburgh's, Chester, 100s. a year of the 15l. yearly which the abbot asserts to be due to him and his church for the tenth of the farm of the city of Chester, and 4l. which Edward I granted to the abbot at the Exchequer of Chester yearly in recompense of the tithes of the manor of Frodesham which the abbot used to receive and released to the abbot of Vale Royal, and to the prioress and nuns of Chester 24 marks a year of ancient established alms and 4l. 17s. which Edward I granted to them in recompense of the tithes belonging to their church of Ovre, which they used to receive and released to the abbot of Vale Royal, and 105s. 2d. which Edward I granted to them yearly from the rent of Middlewich in recompense of the tithes of Bradeford, Litelovre, Sutton and Merton, which they used to receive and released to the abbot of Vale Royal, and 10s. which Edward I granted to them yearly by the hands of the farmers of Middlewich from the same farm in recompense of 4 acres of land by Godesbach which they rendered into the hands of Edward I, and to the lepers of Boghton 20s. a year of ancient established alms, and to the hermitage of Hildeburghey 10s. a year of ancient established alms, and to Robert, son and heir of Philip, the king's gardener of Chester, 4l. 10s. a year for the 3d. daily which he receives for his wages for the keeping of the king's said garden, and to the hospital of St. John, Chester, 4l. 10s. a year of ancient established alms, and to the abbot of Stanlawe 20s. a year of ancient established alms, and to the Friars Preachers of Chester 13 marks a year of ancient established alms; and he shall pay also all other alms and fees due there; moreover he shall pay yearly to master Richard the engineer (Ingeniatori) 18l. 4s.

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of the 12d. daily which Edward I granted to him for life at the Exchequer of Chester for his service; he shall pay also to the king beyond the said 1,000 marks 10l. of the 15l. which the said abbot of St. Werburgh's asserts to be due to him and his church for the tenth of the farm of the said city, touching which 10l. a discussion is pending undecided before the king and council; and the king shall cause allowance to be made to him at the Exchequer of the said 18l. 4s. payable to the said master Richard. By p.s.

3 September 1309 Langley
Close Roll 3 Edward II m.18 [184]

To the mayor and bailiffs of Northampton. Whereas the late king, in consideration of the release that Robert de Crevequer made to him and his wife queen Eleanor of the manor of Ditton and of a moiety of the manor of Saham, co. Cambridge, which he held for life of the said king's gift, granted to him the custody of the castle of Bestan, co. Chester, and for that custody 100s. and 40l. of the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester, 20l. of the ferm of the town of Hereford, and 20l. of the ferm of the hundred without the north gate of Oxford for his lifetime; and the said king afterwards granted to the present king the earldom of Chester, and assigned to Queen Margaret the said ferm of Hereford, together with other fermes, lands, etc., in acquittance of certain expences; whereby the said Robert was deprived of the said 45l. of the issues of the mills and bridge of Chester and the 20l. of the ferm of Hereford; in recompence wherefor the late king granted him 65l. yearly of the ferm of the town of Northampton for his lifetime, and commanded the said mayor and bailiffs to pay him that sum yearly at Michaelmas; the king, wishing to execute his father's mandate, orders them to pay the said sum out their ferm.

In November 1309 the new king Edward (II) the citizens of Chester came to an accommodation with him for £100 for the confirmation of their charters; £100 for some supposed contempt made by them to his grandfather, Henry III; £20 19s 2½d for the repair of Chester bridge; and 100s for the confirmation of some charter: and the justice was ordered to return any distraint that he might have made from them.

22:1108: 10 November 1309

Br'e d'ni Reg' pro ho'ib^s Com' Cestr'

Edwardus dei gr'a Rex Angl' D'ns Hib'n & Dux Aquit'; Justic' suo Cestr', vel eius locu' tenenti sal'tm Sciatis q'd ho'ies de Com' Cestr' quieti su't ad scc^am n'rm de .C.li', quas nob' debueru't p confirmac'one Cartar h'nda, Et de .C. li' quas; ijd'm ho'ies nob' debueru't p contemptu f'co d'no .H. q'nda' Regi Angl' auo n'ro, Et de .xx.li'.xix.s'.ij.den'.ob'. quos ijdem ho'ies nob' debueru't p repac'one Pontis Cestr', Et de .C.s'. quos ijdem ho'ies nob' debueru't p confirmac'one cui'dam Carte h'nda. Et ideo vob' mandam^s, q'd eisd'm ho'ib^s de denar' p'd'cis pace' h're pmittatis, Et dist'cc'oem si qua' eis ea occasione fec'itis s'n dil'one delib'etis eisd'm. T'. W. de Carleton' ap'd Westmon' .x. die Nouembr'. Anno .r'.n'.t'cio¹⁴

Per magnu' Rotulu' de anno pⁱmo in Salop'.

¹⁴ Monday 10 November 1309

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Hugh Goberd and Alan de Mollington were caught at night on the Dee by Chester bridge stealing wood and timber brought for the castle. They were taken to the king's prison, and then brought before the county court to be arraigned. But then the mayor and bailiffs of Chester arrived and said that, as Hugh and Alan had been taken within the liberty of the city, they should have been taken to the city prison, to be tried before the mayor — citing their royal charter. This reflects the similar dispute, then still unresolved (see above) as to whether and how much of the river lay within the jurisdiction of the city. Hugh and Alan were released by mainpern of Hugh de Covetley and Henry de Blackrod. Two months later Hugh Goberd and Alan appeared, but the case remained undecided because of the conflicting claims, and they were returned to gaol, but were again released, on mainpern of Robert de Bradford and Alexander Hurel for Hugh Goberd, and sir Robert de Pulford for Alan.

The de Pulfords had extensive rights under the Crown of all manner of incidents arising from the river, and would have a natural competing third interest in this case.

The following month, June 1310, Hugh Goberd and Alan appeared again, and were again mainperned, this time by Richard de Whetley and Henry de Blackrod, sheriffs of the city of Chester, to appear at the next court. However, the justice afterwards discharged them, at the instance of sir Robert.

22:555 [31 March 1310]

Manuc'

Hug' Goberd & Alan^s de Molynton' capti noctant' ad aquam de Dee iux^a ponte' Cestr' furantes & asporta't' boscu' p Castro d'ni Reg^s Cestr' puis' & in p'sona d'ni Reg^s Cestr' detent', tu'c coram Justic' Cestr' ducti fuerunt inde arrenand'. E[t] sup hoc ven' Maior & Balliui Cestr', & dicu't, q'd p'd'ci Hug' Goberd & Alan^s de Molinton' capti fueru't infra lib'tate' Ciuit' Cestr', infra quam lib'tate' quicu'q' capti fu'int p felonia vel p alia quacu'q' c'a ad p'sonam +d'ni. R^s + Ciuitat^s p'd'ce duci debeant & ibid'm detineri, & coram eisd'm Maiore & ball'is arrenari & iudicari, put d'ns .E. Rex p'r Reg^s nu'c eis p Cartam suam concesserit, ita q'd nullus Ball' seu Minist' d'ni Reg^s de aliq'o re infra lib'tate' Ciuitat^s p'd'ce em'gent' se int'mittere debeat, nisi in defectu Balli'or p'd'ce Ciuitat^s Et qa p'd'ci Hugo & Alan^s capti fuer't inf^a lib'tate' Ciuit^s p'd'ce, petunt eos ad lib'tate' suam &c' Et qa p'd'ca lib'tas ad huc no' e' allocand' nec infirmand', id'o dimittu't' p manucapc'oem Hug' de Coueteleg' & Henr' de Blakerode, ad habend' corpa eor ad px' Com', sub pena qua decet, &c'.

22:679 [12 May 1310]

Man'.

condo'. p Justic'

Hug' Goberd & Alanus de Molynton' capti noctant' ad aq^am de Dee iux^a Ponte' Ciuitatis Cestr' furantes & asportantes boscu' p Castro D'ni Reg^s Cestr' puis'. Et qa qualif' ad eor delib'aco'em fu'it pcedend', ppt' clam' Maioris & Ball'ior Ciuitat^s Cestr', ip'os ad

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pⁱson' d'ni Reg^s eiusd'm Ciuitat^s clamanciu', no'du' consultu' est, Id'o ip'i remittunt^r Gaole Postea p^rd'cus Hug' Manucapit^r, p Rob'tm de Bradeford & Alex' Hurel Junior' essendi hic ad p^xm Com' sub pen^a qua decet. Et p^rd'cus Alan^s Manucapt^s e' p Rob' de Pulford Milit' ad habend' corp^s eius hic &c' sub pen^a qua decet. Postea. Justic' ad instanc'. Rob'ti de Pulford remisit eis p^rd'cam t^ansgr'. I'o ip'i inde quieti.

22:817: 30 June 1310

Hug' Coberd & Alan^s de Molyngton' capt' nocta't^r sup aqua' de Dee iux^a ponte' Ciuitat^s Cestr' furant' & asportant' boscu' & maerem' d'ni reg^s pro Castro Cestr' prouisu' manuc' p Ric'm de Whetelegh' & Henr' de Blakerod vic' Ciuitat^s Cestr' corp^s p corpe essendi ad p^xm Com' Cestr' ad respond' & satisfaciend' inde d'no Regi de t^ansgress' p^rd'ca, Et scid' q'd nich' dant de fine p manuc' h'nd' propt' derogaco'em lib'tat^s Ciuitat^s p^rd'ce

In 1314 Richard Lengineer received from Edward II a renewal of his lifetime lease of the mills and fishery on Chester bridge, at £200 per annum as before, with right to take timber to repair the mills, fishery and causeway from the royal forest of Delamere and woods of Hope and Lightwood.

22:1120: 2 July 1314

*Br'e d'ni Reg^s Mag'ro Ric'o Ingeniatore
Molend' de Dee*

Edwardus dei gr'a Rex Angl' D'ns Hyb'n & Dux Aquit' om'ib^s ad quos present' l're puen'int sal'tm Sciat^s q'd co'misim^s Mag'ro Ric'o ingeniatori n'ro Molend' n'ra Cestr', & Piscar' n'ram in aqua de Dee ptinente' ad pontem vlt^a aquam illam ibid'm cu' om'ib^s ad Molend'. & piscar' p^rd'ca p^rinentib^s Habend' ad totam vita' ip'ius Ric'i Redd'o inde annatim ad scc^am n'rm Cestr' ducentas lib^as, videl't vna' Medietate' ad Pasch' & aliam Medietate' ad f'm S'ci Mich', & d'cus Mag'r Ric' d'ca Molend' & Calsetum¹⁵ ibid'm & ea que ad d'cam Pyscar' ptine't faciet repabit & sustinebit in om'ib^s sup'tibus suis pp'is, quociens repac'oe & em'dac'oe indig'it, & id'm Ric' capiet Maerem' in foresta n'ra de la Mare & in boscis n'ris de Hope & Lytwode p visum forest' n'ror ibid'm put in eisd'm p loco & tempe oportun^o & conuenci^s h'ere pot'it ad construcc'oem & em'dac'oem ac sustentac'oem p'missor put r'onabilit' fu'it faciend', & in fine vite p'fati Ric', d'ca Molend' Calsetu' & ea que ad piscar' illam ptine't in bono statu bene co'structa & repata dimittet sine quocu'q' defectu r'onabili. Et si contingat nos vel alique' Ministror^u n'ror ad d'ca Molend' blad' moleri volum^s q'd p^rd'cs Ric'us capiat r'onabile' tolnetu' de h'oc blad' vel q'd tolnetu' illud ei sine impedim'to n'ri v'l Ministror^u n'ror quorcu'q' in fir^a sua p^rd'ca plenar' allocat^r. Si vero contingat p gwerra' seu p ignem pierint du' t'n id'm Ric' in Culpa non fu'it. Id'm Ric'us ad repaco'em eord'm iniuriam no' tenet^r In cui^s rei testimon' has l'ras n'ras fieri fecim^s patentes. T'. ven'abile p'r .W. Couentr' & Lych' Ep'o. Thes' n'ro apud Ebor s'cdo die Julij anno regni n'ri septimo.¹⁶

In 1315, the abbot of St Werburgh's showed to the king that the tithes that he was supposed to have been receiving from the issues of the city of

¹⁵ causeway

¹⁶ Tuesday 2 July 1314

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Chester had become unpaid. Referring to the records, it was found that in 5 Edward I, under Guncelin de Badlesmere, 1276-7, the abbot was allowed £15 for the tithes of the town and bridge of Chester; that in 6, 7 and 8 Edward I (1277-1280) under Leo son of Leo (the chamberlain) £45 was allowed; that for the half year from Midsummer to Michaelmas 11 Edward I (1283), under Reginald de Grey (justice) £7 was allowed; and that for 28 Edward I (1299-1300) under Richard de Massey £15 was allowed. The king therefore ordered Hugh de Audley, the new justice, to ensure that the tithes were duly paid.

27 April 1315

Recognizance Rolls 1 & 5 Edw II m.2d, 8 Edw II m.1d; Dkr xxxvi 514

It having been returned on a writ of certiorari, directed to the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer, on the petition of the abbot of St. Werburgh, praying to be reinstated in the possession of tithes formerly received by him and his predecessors of the issues of the city of Chester, that, in the account of Guncelinus de Badelesmere, justice of Chester, allowance was made for 15l. paid to the said abbot for tithes of the town and bridge of Chester for the fifth year of Edw. I.¹⁷, and in the account of Leo fits Leo 45l. was allowed for the said tithes for the sixth, seventh, and eighth years of the said King,¹⁸ and in the account of Reginald de Grey, from the Feast of St. John the Baptist, in the 11th year of the said King, to the Michaelmas following,¹⁹ 7l. were allowed for the tithes of the city and fisheiy of Chester, and in the account of Richard de Mascy, for the 28th year of the said King,²⁰ 15l. were allowed for the same; the Earl of Chester is commanded by the King's mandate of the 12th March, in the eighth year of his reign,²¹ to cause the said tithes to be paid according to ancient custom, who commands Hugh de Audley, justice of Chester, to pay the same, who orders sir Robert de Hemington, his deputy, to sec to the execution of the mandate.

Writ of the Earl of Chester to Hugh Audley, justice of Chester, setting forth a mandate of the King received by the said Earl to the effect that, whereas the Abbot of St. Werburgh by his petition had prayed the King to extend justice to him touching the payment of a tenth, which he, the said abbot, and his predecessors had been accustomed to receive of the issues of the town of Chester, and which had been discontinued after the delivery of the county to the said Earl; and whereas the King, by a return to his writ to the barons of the exchequer, had learnt that in the account of Guncelin de Badelesmere, justice of Chester, 15l. were allowed for the tithe of the town and bridge of Chester for the 5th year of Edw. I, and in the account of Leo-fitz-Leo for the 6th, th, and 8th years of Edw. I., allowance was made for 45/. for the same, and in the account of Reginald de Grey, from Michaelmas in the same year to the Michaelmas following, 7l. were allowed for tithes of the issues of the city and fishery of Chester, and in the account of Richard de Mascy, justice of Chester, 15l. were allowed for the same, he commands the payment to be made as of old. The writ orders the said Hugh to make the said payment who entrusts Robert de Hemynton, his deputy, with the execution thereof.

¹⁷ 1276-1277

¹⁸ 1277-1280

¹⁹ Thursday 24 June 1283 to Wednesday 29 September 1283

²⁰ 1299-1300

²¹ Tuesday 12 March 1315