

BRIDGES
in the Chester County Pleas,
CHES 29/1-22
© 2021 David Bethell

Warrington

The earl of Chester granted the Boydels, owners of Grappenhall and Lachford manors, the road at Lachford, with the crossing of the Mersey between Runcorn and Thelwall, and an implicit toll on all wagons crossing there.

[1194-1200]

Leycester Liber C f. 289v; CANEC 270 [268-269]

Ranulfus comes Cestrie — salutem. Notum sit vobis me concessisse Hugoni de Boydell cheminum suum de Lachford — cum passagio aque de Mersey inter Runcorne et Thelwall — et quod nulla biga per predictum cheminum et passagium transeat, nisi per predictum Hugonem et heredes suos

The Boydels remained in possession of the tolls well into the 14th century [Orm ii 457: *Inq.p. m. 20 Ric. II. Thomas de Boydell held in demesne as of fee, the manor of Dodleston, cum pert, (excepting lands which Cecilia, widow of William, son of Howell ap Owain holds in dower), from the King as Earl of Chester, in cap. by military service; Val. xx marks: also lands in Hanleigh, Stoke, Lacheford; the tolls of Warrington Bridge (cum passagio pontis de Warrington), Baddelegh, Newton, and Stockport. Robert Boydell son and heir.*] Nevertheless, we next find the pontage granted by the king in 1286 to William le Butler of Warrington, for four years, for the repair of the bridge.

13 March 1286, Woodstock

Patent Roll 14 Edward I m. 19 [229]

Grant to William le Botiller of Weringon of pontage for four years on goods passing over the bridge of Weringon, for the repair of the said bridge.

On Friday 12 December 1292 William le Butler of Warrington was stopped on the highway in Frodsham by Nicholas the chaplain of Frodsham, Richard son of Thomas Payn and Gaylard the bailiff of Frodsham, who seized his horse and six cloths of blue and camlet, and took them to the manor, keeping them until the following Sunday.

Gaylard explained that Payn had made a complaint against Butler; as Butler had no property within his bailiwick, Gaylard, as bailiff, had detained the horse and cloth for security. The seizure had been made in the burgage of one Henry son of Walter de Frodsham, and therefore within his jurisdiction, and not on the highway: Gaylard had acted according to the custom of the manor.

Butler said that Gaylard had made the seizure without giving him the details of the supposed complaint, nor had he specified where the supposed trespass had taken place.

BRIDGES
in the Chester County Pleas,
CHES 29/1-22
© 2021 David Bethell

Gaylard stated that Constance Byern, the lady of Frodsham manor, held the manor for life, by way of dower, the manor reverting to the Crown after her death: it was, however, essentially a royal manor.

7:327a: 7 July 1293

Froddesh^am

Nicol' cap' lls de Frodesh^am. Ric'. fil' Thom' Payn. & Gaylard ball's de Frodesh^am atach' fuerunt ad respond' Will'o le Botiler de Werinton'. de pl'o capc'ois catall'. Et vnde q' q'd die ven'is p^x^a post festu' s'ci Nicol' p^xi'o p^rt'it'.³¹ apd Frodesh^am in alta strata que'da' equu' suu' cu' .q^atuor +.sex+ pannis de bluetto & cameliu' cepunt & ad Man'iu' de Frodesh^am dux'unt & vsq' die' d'nicam sequ'tem cont^a vad' & pl'. detinuer't. q^ousq' &c'. Et vnde def'iorat^s est & da'pnu' h't ad valenc^am &c' & off't secta'.

Et p^rd'ci Nicol' & alij veniu't & defendunt vim &c'. q^ando &c'. Et d'cus Gaylard ut ball's de Frodesh^am res^d. p se & alijs. & dicit q'd cu' d'cus Ric's fil' Th' Payn. de q^adam t^ansgr' p^rfatu' Will'm s'i illata p vad' & pl' conq'stus fuerat eid'm Ac ip'e Will's nⁱ h'uit inf^a balli'am sua' p q'd potuit iusticiar' nⁱ t'm equu' p^rd'cm ut p^rd'cm est on'atu' districco'm p^rd'cam sup ip'm Will' ad res^d p^rd'co Ric'o. de t^ansgr' p^rd'ca in q^oda' burgagio Henr' fil' Walt'i de Frodesh^am s'cdm consuetudine' Man'ij illius fecit & no' in alta st^ata. Et ita aduocat distr' p^rd'cam esse iusta'. Et p^rfat^s Will' dicit q'd. d'cus Gaylard ad tale' aduocac'om admitti no' deb'. qⁱa dicit. q'd ncc^aio requi't q'd ball's ille qⁱ hi^s distr' fac'e debet p cont^actu v'l t^ansgr' q^acumq' h'eat noticia' q'd cont^act^s siue t^ansgr' illa f'ca sit inf^a iurisd'com sua'. Ita q'd debite exsecuc'om illa' pot'it demandare. Et p^rfat^s Gaylard in aduoc'oe distr' p^rd'ce ad secta' p^rfati Ric'i de t^ansgr' sibi f'ca conq'rentis, minime specificat vbi t^ansgr' illa si q^a fu'it, eid'm fuerat illata, Et petit iudiciu'. Et [blank]

Et p^rfat^s Gailard' dicit q'd q^aq^a d'na sua Constanc' de Byerne. teneat Man'iu' de Frodesh^am no'ie dotis, post obit' suu' d'no regi reu'tet^r. Et dicit q'd ball'i illius Man'ij semp hucusq' solebant fac'e h'i^s distr' ad secta' cui^scumq' de q^acumq' t^ansgr' siue c^actu. siue +infra+ lib'tate' d'ci Man'ij siue ex^a. f'cis, & querelas inde det'rminare. Et hoc pat^s est verificare p statu d'ni regis. si cur' consid' q'd absq' ip'o rege hoc facere debeat. Et petit iudiciu' s'lr

Ad iudiciu'

In 1305 the grant of pontage to Butler is repeated, for another five years.

10 April 1305, Westminster

Patent Roll 33 Edward I i m. 5 [334]

Grant, at the request of Thomas, earl of Lancaster, the king's nephew, to the good men of the county of Lancaster, of pontage for the bridges of Werington and Sonky for five years; to be taken by the hands of William le Bu[t]iller of Weryngton, and Robert le Norrays, or their deputies, on goods for sale beyond those bridges.

By K. on the information of J. de Benstede.

19 May 1305, Beause juxta Warrington

³¹ Friday 12 December 1292

BRIDGES
in the Chester County Pleas,
CHES 29/1–22
© 2021 David Bethell

Baines iv 405

The earliest mention of a bridge that has been met with is in a charter of William Butler, datum apud Beause juxta Weryngton, in festo St. Dunstani, Episc. 33 Edward I. (1304), “ pontem de Merse in Weryngton.”

The coroner of Bucklow hundred presented in March 1308 that John le Baxter of Warrington and Beatrix his wife had burnt down the houses of John Boydel next to Warrington bridge, and fled. Latchford and the three adjoining townships (Grappenhall, Thelwall and Appleton) were amerced a shilling each for licence not to have to come to present the matter to the county court. Baxter and his wife were to be outlawed, but paid a fine.

The name Latchford suggests that the road across the Mersey into Lancashire was previously fordable at that point, but the Mersey is a major river, and clearly merited a bridge.

20:394: 5 March 1308

iiij. s'.

Idem p^rs' q'd Joh'es Le Bakester +de+ Werington' & Beatⁱx vx' ei^s conbusseru't domos Joh'is de Boydel iux^a ponte' de Werington' & fug^ru't. Villat' Lacheford. Gropenhale. Thelewalle. Apilton'. De quib^s .iiij.s' p^u licencia commorand' domu'.

20:409: 5 March 1308

ex^r. iiij. s'.

Id'm Coron' p^rsentat q'd Joh'nes Le Bakester de Werington' +fecit fine'+ & Beatⁱx vx' ei^s conbusseru't domos Joh'is Boydel apud Laycheford iux^a ponte' de Werington' & fugieru't statim post factum & male credunt^r i'o exig' & vtlagent^r — Catall' nulla — De villat' Lacheford. Gropenhale. Thelewalle & Apilton' — .iiij.s' pro Licencia co'morand' domu'.

In July 1309 William le Butler came to Cheshire county court and claimed that on Monday 9 December at Kingsley, John son of Richard le Roter had assaulted him and killed his horse (worth £10). Butler claimed £20 damages. The jury found that Roter had indeed killed the horse, but had not assaulted Butler. Roter was gaoled; Butler was awarded 2 marks (£1 6s 8d) damages, but was amerced £1 for making a false claim about the assault.

21:701: 22 July 1309

p^r Gaiol'.

Joh'es fil' Ric'i Le Roter attach' fuit ad respond' Will'o le Botiler +de+ Werington' de pl'ito tⁿsg^r' Et vnde ide' Will'us p^u attorn' suu' querit^r q'd die Lune p^x^a post festu' s'ci Nich'i vlti'o p^rt^ritu'³² apud Kyngelagh' idem Joh'es in ip'm Will'm vi & armis insultu' fecit & quemda' equ' suu' p^rcii decem libr' Malic'ose int^rfecit & alia enormia intulit & cont^a pace' &c'. vnde dicit q'd def^riorat^s est & da'pnu' h'et ad valenc' xx. libr' & inde pducit secta' &c'

³² Monday 9 December 1308

BRIDGES
in the Chester County Pleas,
CHES 29/1–22
© 2021 David Bethell

Et p^rd'cus Joh'es venit & defendit vim & iniur' q^ando &c' Et dicit q'd ip'e p^rd'cis die & anno p^rd'co W[ill'o] nullu' insultu' fecit n^c aliq'm equu' int'fecit n^c aliq^a t^ansgr' ei fecit sicut ei inponit; & de hoc po[nit se sup] p^riam & p^rd'cus Will's similif' I'o p^rceptu' est vic' q'd venire fac' ad p^rx'm Com' xij. &c' p^r quos &[c' & qui] nec &c' Quia tam &c' — Postea continuato p^rcessu vsq' ad Com' die Martis in festo S^ce Kat'ine vir[ginis p^rx'] sequ'.³³ ven' ptes. & simil'r .xij. &c'. — Jur' de consensu p^rciu' el'ci. dicu't sup sacr'm suu'. q'd p^rd'cus Joh'es vi & [armis] quemdam equu' ip'ius Will'i int'fecit. ad dampnu' ip'ius Will'i. duar^r Marcar. set n'llm insultu' fecit p^rd'co Will'[o &c'] Ideo considerat' est; q'd. p^rd'cs Will's recuperet. u^rsus p^rd'cm Joh'em dampna sua. q' taxant^r. ad duas Marcas. et p^rd'cs Joh'es co'mittat^r Gaiole &c' Et q'd p^rd'cs Will's. p^rf'lo clam'. quo ad insultu'. sibi f'cm. & p^rt^r eqⁱ int'fecti in m'ia Damp^a Damp^a.ij.Marc'.

21:799: 2 September 1309

M'ie vij.s'.

Alan^s fil' Ric'i de Acton' +.xij.d'+, Will's de Halghton' +.xij.d'+, Ric'us fil' Ric'i de Wetenhale +.xij.d'+, Steph'us de Molend' +.xij.d'+, Will's fil' Rog'i de Valeys +.xij.d'+, Will's fil' Nich'i de Aluandelegh' +.xij.d'+, & Hugo de Cleyes +.xij.d'+, qa no' ven' in inquis' int' Will'm Le Botyler de Werinton' quer' & Joh'em Le Roter in m'ia

22:61: 7 October 1309

p^r e'

Jur^a int' Will'm le Botiler de Werinton' quer'; & Joh'em Le Roter de pl'ito t^ans ponit^r in resp'cu vsq' ad p^rx'm Com' p^r def'cu iurator qa nullus &c' I'o vic' h'eat corpa eor' &c' & p^rt^r illos tot & tales &c'

22:125: 25 November 1309

.m'ia.xx.s'.

Will'us le Botiler. de Werington' p fals' querel' u^s Joh'em fil' Ric' le Roter de pl'o t^ans in m'ia. ppl'm vic'

m'ia.ij.s'

Ric'us del Brom +xij.d'+ & Thom' de Lostok +xij.d'+ qa non ven' in inquisic'oe int' Will'm le Botiler de Werington' & Joh'em fil' Ric' de Kingeslegh' in m'ia

In 1310 pontage is again granted, to be collected by William le Butler, for another five years.

5 July 1310, Westminster

Patent Roll 3 Edward II m. 1 [326]

Grant, for five years, at the instance of Robert Darcy, to the good men of the county of Lancaster, towards the repairs of the bridges of Werington and Sonky, co. Lancaster, of pontage, of which William le Botiller of Werington and Robert le Norays, or their deputies, are to be the collectors.

By K., on the information of W. de Melton.

³³ Tuesday 25 November 1309

BRIDGES
in the Chester County Pleas,
CHES 29/1–22
© 2021 David Bethell

Roger son of Ralph de Latchford sued William le Butler of Warrington and John de Kirtlington for having assaulted him at Latchford. The defendants failed to appear, and the sheriff was ordered to capture them.

22:845: 4 August 1310

p^r. e'

Rog^rs fil' Rad'i de Lacheford'. op. se. u^s. Will'm le Boteler & Joh'em de Kirtelington' de pl'ito quar' vi & armis in ip'm Rog^rm apud Lacheford insultu' fecer' ip'm verb'auer' wln'auer' male t^actauer' & alia enormia &c' ad da'pm &c' & cont^a pacem &c'. Et ip'i no' ven' Et p^rcept' fuit vic' q'd attach' eos &c'. Et vic' mod' mand' q'd nich' h'nt in balli'a sua p^u quod &c', I'o p^rcept' est vic' q'd cap' eos si &c' & saluo &c' Ita q'd h'eat corp^s ei^s &c'

22:1006: 15 September 1310

p^r e'

Rog^rus fil' Rad'i de Lacheford op. se u^rs^s. Will'm le Botiler de Werington' & Joh'em de Kurtlington' de pl'ito q^are vi & armis in ip'm Rog^rm apud Lacheford insultu' feceru't & ip'm verber' Malet^actaueru't & alia enormia &c' cont^a pace' &c' Et ip'i no' ven' Et p^rceptu' fuit vic' q'd capet eos si &c' & saluo &c' Et q'd h'eret corpa eor^u hic ad hu'c Com'. &c'. Et vic' modo mand' q'd no' su't inuenti &c' I'o sicut alias p^rcept' est vic' q'd cap'. eos si &c' & saluo &c' Ita q'd h'eat corpa eor^u. ad px'm Com' &c'