

Notum sit tam presentibus quam futuris
 quod hinc quencio y finalis concordia inter Rob^o Sal-
 defordia y Ric^o de pulford. Videlicet. quod ego Rob^o
 de aldeford dedi y gressi Ricardo de pulford y here-
 dibus suis ad tenendum de me y mea heredibus
 libere solute y quiete in feudo y hereditate totam
 meam terram quam habui in manu mea in illa die de
 eterna. quoniam finalis concordia duelli de terra de bruelena
 que in curia comitis contra comitem y barones suis det-
 minata fuit. hoc etiam vobis sciendum: vobis se defendere
 prefatam terram per xx. bonatis terre. p^o tanto seruicio
 p^o quanto cauidet terre se defendat in seruicio militum in
 eodem feudo. hinc etiam vobis sciendum: quod ego Rob^o Saldefordia
 cedo predicto Ricardo y nominata terra cum omnibus libertatibus que per-
 tinent ad prefatam terram in boscho y plano y turbariis. in pas-
 cuis y aquis. in pratis y pascuis in sanctis y pontibus. in portibus y
 unis. y in omnibus aliis libertatibus. hinc testibus. Thom^o de
 sco patricio. Thom^o frater domini Rob^o Saldeford. Sim^o brun-
 Ric^o de sancto. Will^o de chawarchi. hug^o filius Will^o de pul-
 Ric^o filius herberti. hug^o frater eius. Will^o filius hug^o de gous. hug^o de
 sancto. Ioh^o de sudand. Will^o clericus de chort. que hac carta
 scripta. y aliis op^o vlt^o 15.

PLATE 11: FINAL CONCORD RELATING TO LAND IN ELTON
c. 1170-80

The size of the original is 7" x 4½"

FINAL CONCORD BETWEEN ROBERT DE ALDFORD
AND RICHARD DE PULFORD RELATING TO LAND
IN ELTON, c. 1170-1180

MR. J. C. WOLLEY DOD of Edge Hall, Malpas, has kindly drawn my attention to an interesting charter from among the muniments of Major Trevor-Barnston of Crewe Hall, Farndon, relating to land in Elton near Ince, the date of which must be about 1170-80. Major Trevor-Barnston has been kind enough to allow a photograph to be taken of the original. This is reproduced, very slightly reduced, on the opposite page. A transcription of the deed in extended Latin and a translation follow:

Notum sit tam presentibus quam futuris quod haec est convencio et finalis concordia inter Rob' de aldefordia et Ric' de polford'. Videlicet. quod ego Rob' de aldeford' dedi et concessi Ricardo de pulford' et heredibus suis ad tenendum de me et meis heredibus libere et solute et quiete in feudo et hereditate totam meam terram quam habui in manu mea in illa die de eltuna. quando finalis concordia duelli de terra de biueleia que in curia comitis coram comite et baronibus suis determinata fuit. Hoc eciam vobis sciendum est vobis se defendere prefatam terram pro XVI bovatis terre. pro tanto servicio pro quanto tantundem terre se defendit in servicio militis in eodem feudo. Hoc eciam vobis sciendum est quod ego Rob' de aldefordia concedo predicto Ric' pre-nominatam terram cum omnibus libertatibus quae pertinent ad prefatam terram. in boscho et plano et turbariis. in pascuis et aquis. in pratis et pascuis in semitis in pontibus in pontibus et viis et in omnibus aliis libertatibus. His testibus. Thom' de sancto patricio. Thom' fratre domini Rob' de aldeford'. Sim' brun'. Ric' de Sanb'. Will. de chawarthin. Hug' filio Will' de pulf' Ric' filio Herb'. Hug' fratre eius. Will' filio Hug' de gous'. Hug' de Sanb'. Johe' de Sudand'. Will' clerico de thorint'. qui hanc cartam scripsit, et aliis multis.

Be it known to men both present and future that this is an agreement and final concord between Robert de Aldford and Richard de Pulford. To wit, that I, Robert de Aldford, have given and granted to Richard de Pulford and his heirs, to hold of me and my heirs freely and discharged and quietly in fee and inheritance, the whole of my land at Elton which I had in my hand on that day when [there was] a final concord, relating to a judicial combat concerning the land of Byley, which was settled in the earl's court before the earl and his barons. This also should be known to you [omitting second *vobis*] that the aforesaid land is assessed at 16 bovates of land for as much service as a like amount of land is answerable for, in knight service, in the same fee. This also should be known to you that I, Robert de Aldford, grant to the aforesaid Richard the before named land with all the liberties that appertain to the said land, in woodland and open land and turbaries, in pastures and waters, in meadows and pastures in paths in bridges, in bridges and roads, and in all other liberties. These being witnesses, Thomas of Saint Patrick, Thomas the brother of the lord Robert of Aldford, Simon Brun, Richard of Sandbach, William of Carden, Hugh son of William of Pulford, Richard son of Herbert, Hugh his brother, William son of Hugh of Goostrey, Hugh of Sandbach, John of Siddington, William the clerk of Thornton who has written this charter, and many others.

The date of the charter can be approximately fixed by the names of the grantor and grantee. Robert de Aldford, the grantor, occurs

in documents about 1170 and 1180 and according to *Annales Cestrienses*, he died in 1184 (Rec. Soc. L. and C., Vol. XIV, p. 32). Richard de Pulford also occurs in several deeds, chiefly in the Dieulacres *Chartulary* (Wm. Salt Soc., Vol. IX, N.S.) between 1170 and 1190 and fades out about 1200.

A curious feature in the charter is the dating of the grant of the Elton lands by a reference to the date of the making of another Final Concord, which had been settled in connection with a judicial combat, about lands in Byley. The use of the word *duellum*, meaning what is frequently described as "trial by combat", recalls the fact that this was one of the privileges of the great Fee of Aldford. Ormerod (Vol. II, p. 754), prints a charter from Ranulf earl of Chester, the date of which must be about 1216, which confirmed to Sir John de Arderne knight, successor in title to Sir Robert de Aldford, all the Fee of Aldford with its appurtenances, "with sok and sac, toll and theme, infangtheof and outfangtheof and free duel in his court and ordeal by fire and water".⁽¹⁾

Another interesting point is the assessing, for the purpose of knight's service, of the granted lands in Elton, at "sixteen bovates of land". It would be interesting to know what the standard for knight service was in the Fee of Aldford. In Halton it seems to have been thirty bovates to the knight's fee.⁽²⁾

As to the witnesses, Thomas de Saint Patrick may have been a Nottinghamshire or Northamptonshire tenant of the Honor of Chester (Farrer, *Honors and knights Fees*, Vol. II, p. 224). Thomas the brother of Sir Robert de Aldford is a new name in the Aldford family so far as I know. Richard and Hugh de Sandbach add at least one generation to the Sandbach pedigree as printed by J. P. Earwaker in his *History of Sandbach*. Hugh son of William de Pulford are both new names in the Pulford pedigree; Richard son of Herbert and Hugh his brother are probably also members of the same family (Sitwell *Barons of Pulford*, p. 75, and Morris *Plantagenet Chester*, p. 482). I am indebted to Mr. Wolley Dod for this last suggestion.

W. F. IRVINE.

⁽¹⁾ Ormerod's translation is faulty; instead of "free duel", it should read, "liberty of holding the judicial combat". It is not intended to suggest that the judicial combat concerning the land of Byley took place in the court of the Fee of Aldford; as will be seen, the charter printed above definitely states that it was "settled in the earl's court before the earl and his barons".

⁽²⁾ Beaumont's *Arley Charters*, pp. 1 and 8; also Tabley MSS., LI under "Vill of Nether Tabley".