



## Communications.

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### TWO CHESHIRE DEEDS.

*Communicated by Wm. Fergusson Irvine.*

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The following two deeds are from the muniments of Ardern Strafford, Esq., of Claughton, Cheshire, who has kindly given his consent to their publication.

The first deed, which is undated, is interesting as throwing light on the early descent of the Masseys of Dunham. It is certainly earlier than 1278, as at that date the Rectory of Bowdon was appropriated to the Priory of Birkenhead, and the incumbents thereafter became vicars. It supplies us with the name of an early rector of Bowdon not mentioned in Ormerod. The names of two of the other witnesses, viz., Wm. de Carinton and Matthew de Hale, occur frequently in contemporary local deeds.

[*Circa* 1250]. To all the faithful, etc. Sir Geoffrey de Chedle sends greeting, etc. Know ye that I have conceded, etc., and quitclaimed to Agnes de Ruicroft and Hugh her heir and their heirs that they may assart and appropriate to themselves and have and enjoy all liberties pertaining to the

s<sup>d</sup> lands within the bounds as are set forth in the old charter which they have of Robert de Massy, father of the said Agnes, viz., from Hallestude extending towards Bruer' as far as the bridge which Alan de Tatton made over the Birkin, thence along the Birkin, descending unto the Bolin, and following the Bolin ascending as far as Hallestudecloc, and along that clough [cloc] to Blakelache.

Witnesses : S<sup>r</sup> William de Massy, Knight, Dom. W. de Massy, Rector of the Church of Boudon ; William de Carinton, Matthew de Hale, Robert le Welp', Richard de Massy, clerk, and others.

[1391]. Grant by Richard de Wevere, Vicar of Bowdon, and William de Massy, of Altrincham, to Elena, who was the wife of John de Rycroft, for her whole life, all those lands and tenements, with buildings, etc., which the s<sup>d</sup> Richard and William lately had by gift and feoffment from the aforesaid John de Rycroft, in the vill of Asshelegh, lying in a place called Rycroft. To have and to hold of the chief lord of the fee by such services as are due and customary.

And afterwards to Hugh, son of the aforesaid John, and his heirs ; with remainder to Matilda, sister of the s<sup>d</sup> Hugh, and her heirs ; with remainder to Johanna, sister of the said Matilda, and her heirs ; with remainder to Alice, sister of the said Johanna, and her heirs ; with remainder to Robert de Rycroft, of Lyverpole, and his heirs ; with remainder to Adam de Rycroft, of Chedulle, and his heirs ; with remainder to Robert, brother of the said Adam, and his heirs ; with remainder to the rightful heirs of the aforesaid John de Rycroft. [Usual warranty clause.]

Witnesses : John de Massy, of Tatton, William de Legh, Knights ; Edward de Massy, of Tymperley ; Richard de Massy, of Sale ; Robert de Assheton ; Robert de Massy, of Hale ; William the Waller [or Walker], and many others. Given at Rycroft, on the Tuesday before the Feast of St. Wilfrid the Bishop, 15 Ric. 2.

WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE.