CECILY CLARK

THE LIBER VITAE OF THORNEY ABBEY AND ITS 'CATCHMENT AREA'*

Gaudete et exultate quia nomina vestra scripta sunt in celis. 1

During the twelfth century there were entered on preliminary leaves associated with the gospel-book now known as British Library Add. MS. 40,000 2 name-lists which, although as yet unpublished, have long been recognized as constituting a confraternity-list, or liber vitae, of Thorney Abbey. 3

Assigning these name-lists to Thorney Abbey is only a first step towards their effective localization. The abbey stood, and its truncated remains still stand, on the north-western borders of Cambridgeshire, where that county marches with Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. 4 In the twelfth century there was at Thorney no 'community' apart from the abbey itself; contemporary witness agree in emphasizing the absence of any native, self-renewing lay settlement. 5 So, until some way can be found of localizing, not the book, nor the many scribes of the lists, but the several thousand people whose names those lists record, little of import can be said about name-patterns found here, least of all about the marked Scandinavian element. 6

Devising a technique for such a localization poses problems. The name-lists have no necessary unity outside their common association with Thorney Abbey. Entered in 'blocks' of widely-varying sizes by a multiplicity of hands working over the best part of a century - that is, from 1100 x 1112 to post-1176 - upon inspection they prove in part to date back at least to the early eleventh century. 7 Many of these blocks distinguishable by changes of hand and of ink are, besides, made up solely of unqualified single names impossible to link with specific people or specific localities.

If this confraternity-book were to represent a wholly random harvesting of pious intentions, its onomastic value would be limited. A priori, however, that seems unlikely. A candidate for confraternity normally attended an admission ceremony, usually held at the abbey itself; 8 and, with twelfth-century travel as it was, many people, it may be surmised, would have sought their spiritual benefits fairly near at hand.

Such an assumption, optimistic though it is, hardly forwards the investigation. An accepted method for determining the territorial affinities of a medieval community - that is, of the individuals composing it - is to analyze whatever topographical by-names appear in use among them. Here, unfortunately, by-names of all kinds, even Latinized patronymics, are far scarcer than in administrative records of like date 9 (because a confraternity-book was primarily an aide-mémoire for the dey, not for fallible humanity, impression was not unusual 10). By-names are not, however, totally lacking; and one must do the best one can with what one finds. 11

Such topographical by-names as do occur in these lists belong mainly to nobility and gentry. They fall into two main groups: those referring to continental places, and those referring to English ones. Self-evidently, the latter afford more straightforward evidence of territorial affinities within England, the point of most immediate concern to an anthroponymist. Distribution of these English topographical by-names proves far from random. A few forms - among them Bertune (Barton), Budintune (Doddington or Doddington) and Houctune (Houghton) - are admittedly too commonplace to be definitively identified in default of fuller evidence. 12 But, even with an ambiguous name-form, evidence from witness-lists and the like as to the name-bearer's associations will sometimes allow of tentative assignment to a
particular one among possible localities, analysis of such toponymical by-names as can, one way or another, be with fair confidence assigned to specific places shows certain counties as strongly dominated. In rough order of

Northamptonshire: Braybrooke (Braybrooke), Cantor (Cantor), Charwelton (Charwelton), Fardon (Fardun), Lidford (Lilfe), Lowick (Lowlick), Raunds (Rand), Singlesole (Singlesolel), Thornehouses (Tornehaga), Woodcroft (Werdkroft), and, by inference, also Denno, Milton Park (Miltonp), Peterborough (Borth) and Hatsfield (Hatsfield).

Lincolshire: Bicker (Biker), Fleet (Fleat), Lincoln (Lincol), Stamford (Stamford), Swaton (Swuton), Tydd St Mary (Titt), Wigtown (Wigtow).

Cambridgeshire: Coton (Cotes), Ely (Eli), Wadingley (Mediggele), Milton (Middletuna), Witchford (Wicherford), and, by inference, perhaps Longstanton (Stunt).

Huntingdonshire: Folksworth (Fulchesworpe), Glinton (Glattun), Huntingdon (Huntona, Huntbunge), Ramary (Ranesa), Yaxley (Jekesle), and probably Fen Stanton (Stant).

Not unexpectedly, the area most amply represented is that surrounding Thorney: the northern part of its own county of Cambs. and, clockwise, Hunts., whose border lies five or six miles to the south, Nthants., whose border lies two or three miles to the west, and the southern divisions of Linca., whose border lies three or four miles to the north. An outer area is also represented, but more sparsely:

Norfolk: Bass (Disco), Narford (Nerford, Nerford), Thetford (Teford), Walsoken.

Suffolk: Mendham (Mendam), Rumburgh (Rambur).

Rutland: Empingham (Empinghan).

Bedfordshire: Goldington (Golditun), Thorleigh (To Leie).

Hertfordshire: Pelham (Peleam), St Albans (de Sancto Alben).

Buckinghamshire: Desborough (Dusborgh).

Middlesex: London (Londin).

Warwickshire: Arden (Arden), Warwick (Warwirck), and possibly Hatley (Relt).

This preliminary survey, based only on English toponymical by-names, produces a geographical pattern featuring a core made up of Nthants., south Linca., north Cambs., and Hunts., this being fringed on its east, south and west by areas more sparsely represented, to wit, Norfolk and north Suffolk, Rutland, Beds., Herts., Buck., Mddax. and Warks. This is hardly a random distribution; nor, on the other hand, is the pattern simply centred upon the abbey.

The next step must therefore be to try to explain the shape and extent of this area - from now on to be called the Liber Vitas 'catchment area' - or, if not fully to explain it, at least to explore the concept. The other major document surviving from Thorney Abbey, more explicit about the abbey's relationships with the lay world, is the early-fourteenth-century cartulary commonly known as the Red Book (Cambridge University Library, Add. MS. 3009/3021 = RB).

The briefest glance at this sets off ideas about the catchment area just postulated. In it documents are organized under county headings, and the counties concerned are, in order: Hunts. (where the bulk of the abbey's original endowment lay), Cambs., Nthants., Rutland, Warks., Lincoln and Beds. (in which is intercalated material relating to Norfolk), and Middax. Thus, the area represented by the abbey's territorial interests, although not wholly coinciding with that deduced from the English toponymical by-names figuring in the Liber Vitas, tallies with it fairly well. Considerably coarser in confraternity might perhaps, then, be supposed to have hailed mainly from districts where the abbey held land. There was, however, no easy way between feudal ties and confraternity: men enrolled in the Liber Vitas include, for instance, knights of Peterborough Abbey, for no other reason why the abbey held land, and which it drew candidates for confraternity was that the latter, in gratitude for the spiritual privileges extended to them, not uncomonomically made donations to it of parcels of land. These ambivalences notwithstanding, the careful layer evidence is compatible with Thorney Abbey's possession of a sort of catchment area, partly economic, partly social and spiritual, stretching some way north, a small way east and a good way south and west. Full study of this area would demand comparison between it and the spheres of interest centred upon each of the neighbouring abbeys, and so cannot here be attempted.

The pattern is not perfect: not every English toponymical by-name in the Liber Vitas falls neatly within the area postulated. Several clerics have by-names apparently linking them with Oxon. (Cold Norton Priory), Somerset (Muchelney Abbey), even Devon (if Panemuntum is correctly identified as Hempston). But this need not raise too great difficulties for the name of the monk of Muchelney, given in a Latinized ablative and grouped with four similar forms, might have been taken from some unknown witness-list; the other names might have belonged, say, to travellers made graciously free of a house where they lodged - all that is, being possibly on special terms with little bearing upon normal practice in regard to lay people. More perplexingly, two laymen - entered on f.12r alongside the Rauds and Traill families, both localized well within the area investigated - have by-names difficult to interpret otherwise than as referring to Salisbury, Glo. Other apparent discrepancies turn out less serious than at first sight might have appeared. Heiner 'of Bath' was sheriff of Linca. and also married to a daughter of the pre-Conquest Linca. landholder Archibald/Erkelbor. An Odo 'of Beverley' in all likelihood belonged not to Yorks., but to a Hunts. family of that name.

A by-name's bearing upon possibilities of localizing an individual or a family may sometimes therefore be independent of whatever immediate reference the name-form possesses. This prompts investigation, upon such a broader lines, or other sorts of by-name occurring in the Liber Vitas: continental nom d'origine, that is, and nicknames of various sorts. Upon examination, such by-names (whether or not intelligible or identifiable in themselves) often reveal their bearers as holders of specific English lands. Admittedly, many families' holdings were, from the present point of view, inconveniently widespread. The Red Book usually makes clear which estates underlay the Thorney connection (often ones peripheral to the donors' principal holdings) but, in so far as the Red Book's testimony has already been taken into account, this cannot constitute fresh evidence for demarcating the catchment area. It none the less underlines how closely the abbey's spiritual relationships with the lay world were bound up with its temporal and economic ones. Fortunately, there are many individuals and families independent evidence linking them firmly either with appropriate districts or, less conclusively, with other people so linked.
Some bearers of by-names remain, at least for the present, unidentifiable. 21 Among those whose territorial background can be established, nearly all appear in some degree linked with districts within the postulated catchment area. Exceptions are few: one involves the Chueuracht (Quièvrecourt) family, whose known connections seem limited to Notta and Leics. The main groupings echo those of the English toponymical by-names (and are given in the name order):

Northamptonshire: de Albincio with de Beam; ? de Barnewich; Chevene, with de Blakewich; de Claromonte with de Ferberal; of de Hunmorenc; de Coc' with de Gorram; Engaigne; de Filgueiro; de Grantamagnice; Ilede; de La Muce; Olliard; Ridol; de Waleruile.

Lincolnshire: de Creche with Barri and de Fisill; de Burglj; de Coc'; de Greli; de La Haie; de Munegoe; de Normauvile; de Nouville; de Quille; Pioz; de Ross; de Ur.

Cambridgeshire: ? de Ard'; ? Corbof; de Furnell; Tkeb; ? de La Mare; Olliard; General; ? with de Cheestas; ? de Perri; Pichard; Pioz.

Huntingdonshire: Disci; de Gissne; de Iuri; de Longuilla with de Alaff; Lusseriuric; de La Mare; Meilic; Pichard.

Suffolk: Bigot; Corbof; de Greli; de Greli.

Notland: de Stuitoilea.

Bedfordshire: ? de Ard'; de Belcamp; Hafo; de Broi; de Coc'; Engaigne; Faullug; ? Fert; ? de Furnell; Taliebois; de Traill with de Belese; de Weilebeuf with Coum.

Hertfordshire: de Broi; Chevenduit; de Coc'; ? Faulluum.

Middlesex: VIII-Donare.

Demonstration is necessarily less clear than with English toponymical by-names. Several families held, as shown, in more than one part of the Liber Vitae catchment area. Some had their main holdings outside that area (therefore not noted above) and only minor ones within it. That is to say, the evidence of these other sorts of by-name proves in general compatible with postulation of a catchment area such as has been delineated above but could be used on its own to argue for it.

Once the geographical pattern is accepted, certain other groups of entries can be seen as partly conforming to it. The earliest section, in the first column of f.10r, 22 includes ecclesiastical dignitaries of various dates from the late tenth century onwards. Apart from archbishops of Canterbury and York and the great Bishop of Winchester, these seem to be mainly regional. 23 There may be some evidence of evidence-bending, so that it would be safest to say only that these names are capable of regional interpretation. The name Remigius can hardly belong to any bishop other than the one of Droicthe on-Thames/Lincoln 1067-90, and so the name immediately following, Rodbertus, presumably indicates Remigius's successor, in office 1094-1123. By the same token, the entry Perarius episcopus probably denotes the bishop of Droicthe in office 1016-1034. The name Heribertus denotes the bishop of Thetford/Norwich in office 1091-1119. Among the abbots listed at the foot of this column, Baldunus ruled Bury 1066-1097, Aelis ruled Ramsey 1080-1087, and Toroldus ruled Peterborough 1069-1098. Geberhtus was abbot of Battle 1076-1095, and that was the house from which in the mid-1090s Eanred had been abbot of Thorney. Aelricus episcopus and Randulfus 'Pannelflamwardus' episcopus, although bishops of Durham 1042-1056 and 1099-1128 respectively, both had local connections, Agelric having retired to Peterborough and Ranulf possessing family connections in Huntingdon. 24

How far delineation of this catchment area 25 will further anthroponymical investigation remains to be seen. It ought, at all events, to enable such work to be more intelligently pursued.

Old Chesterton, CAMBRIDGE

NOTES


6. For Whitehaw's pioneer work on this topic, see n.3 above. It is hoped to publish separately the discussion of Scandinavian naming that formed the second part of the paper as delivered.

7. See Clark, 'BL.Add.MS. 40,000', 57; cf. Whitehaw, 'Scandinavian personal names', 131-42.

8. See Clark, 'BL.Add.Ms. 40,000', 56.


10. Reliance upon divine omniscience is elsewhere made explicit in phrases such as: 'ceterorum omni quantum nomina Deus scit, nomina ulcimerum omnium quantum nomina Deus scit, nomina mortuorum quantum nomina Deus scit, nomina incognitarum quantum nomina Deus scit, nomina interitae oblivionis quantum nomina Deus scit', etc. See the Verbruggen-buch der Abtei Reichenau, MGH: Libri memoriales et necrologia, nova
11. Identifications of places and of people will mainly be based upon documentation taken from Olof von Feilitzen's posthumous papers, entrusted to me by his academic executor, Dr Folke Sandgren, to whom I wish to express my gratitude. Von Feilitzen is not, of course, to be held responsible for any unwise use to which his material may have been put.


13. See below Appendix A, where relevant names (listed alphabetically by by-name) are discussed; cf. Clark, 'BL Add MS. 40,000', 62-4.

14. This cartulary has not as yet been even calendared; excerpts have however, been printed in various places, especially in Monasticon Anglicanum, II, 598-613. See also S.G. Raban, 'The property of Thorney and Crowland Abbeys: a study in Purchase and Patronage', Cambridge Phb 1972, 6-7; I am grateful to Dr Raban for permission to refer to her unpublished work.


16. Cf. Raban, 'Property', tables on 345-7 and map on 354; also Estates, tables on 92, 94-5, and map on 27.

17. Cf. Clark, 'BL Add MS. 40,000', 62-3, also 56.

18. In order to confine this paper within reasonable bounds, no attempt is here made to etymology or otherwise explain by-names in these categories; cf. below p.17.

19. Raban remarks on magnates' tendencies to grant away their own outlying estates with only scant regard for the recipients' convenience ['Property', 87-91, 94-5, 99].

20. See below Appendix B.

21. See below Appendix C.

22. Cf. Clark, 'BL Add MS. 40,000', 57, and references there given.


25. Between preparation of the original paper and that of the present version, my attention was drawn to a new French work embodying conclusions which, although based on types of evidence different from mine, are similar to my own put forward here. A late-thirteenth-century anniversary-list from the abbey of Saint-Pierre at Solignac (near Limoges) records grants made towards commemorations as coming mainly from within a Limoges-Châlus-Sussac triangle and being proportionately most numerous from the abbey's near vicinity; lay people commemorated there consisted almost entirely of local gentry [see Jean-Loup Lenaître, ed., Les Documents nécrologiques de l'abbaye Saint-Pierre de Solignac, Recueil des historiens de la France: Obituaires — série IV-8, 1 (Paris, 1964), 381-94, 567-610].
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Dating

Entries were made in the Liber Vitae in the following approximate order:
f.10r = 1100x1112; f.10v = 1112-1113; f.19v = 1101x1112; f.3r = 1115-1130; f.3r = 1130-1145; f.2r = ante 1130-1140; f.2v = c.1140-c.1155; ff.4v and 1tr = 1140-1145; f.1r and 12r = post 1176 [see Clark, 'BL. Add. MS. 40,000', 57-61]. These cases are concerned only in the present version of the LV.

Transcription

The OE characters $e$, $g$, $h$ and $p$ are represented; wynn and insular minuscule $g$ ($<g>$) are represented by $w$ and $g$ respectively. Abbreviated forms of first-names and of prebendaries are silently expanded. Capitalization follows, as far as is feasible, that of the MS. Spacing is normalized. Superscript insertions are enclosed between raised strokes. Emendation and conjectural expansion are shown by enclosing the relevant letters in square brackets.

APPENDIX A: English topographical by-names

Turkill de ardene f.3r.

In 1086 a t-i-c in Warks.; sheriff in Staffs. [GB, fr.240v-241v; Morris, 43 n.16]; also Thorney Abbey's u-t in Sawbridge, Warks. [GB, f.222v]. His son and heir Seward granted the abbey lands in Pleck eno (Plecknowe) and Rupentunie (Ryon-on-Dunsmore), Works.; another son, Peter, took the cow there [GB, ff.238v, 416r; PNM, 150, 178-9].

Reinerus de bathe f.3r.

Bath, Somerset [DEPH, s.n.]
Sheriff of Lincs. c.1120-30 [Morris, 85 n.94, 86 n.95; Ordeixon Vitalia, VI, 16-17, 19, 50, 109]. LV shows him as a daughter of the TRE Lincs. landholder Archilbar/Erkelanob [GB, f.352v, as an ancestor of Roger Poitevin].

Rodbertus de bertuna f.2r.

Place uncertain [cf. DEPH s.n. Barton].

Evidently the R miles ... de Bertuna witnessing (at Melchbourne, Beds.) Alice de Clemonet's confirmation to Thorney Abbey of land in Raunds, Nthants. [GB, f.206v]. The Barton involved may be the apparently-unidentified one from which Alice, in a deed witnessed by a Robert de berth., surrendered rents to Thorney Abbey [GB, ff.206v-207r; PNC gives the deed under Nthants., but FCamb, 241, associates Robert with Barton, Camb.].

Odo "de beverlic" f.3v.

Beverley, EA Yorks. [PNY, 192-4].

A family of this name associated with Thorney Abbey held in Stanground, Hunts. [GB, ff.85v, 92v-93r, 108r, et c.]

Ellicus presbiter de biker' f.3v.

Bicker, Lincs. [DEPH, s.n.].

Roger filius Willelmi de braibroce f.2v.

Braybrooke, Nthants. [PNM, 110-11].

Entered beside the Cheneduit family [AppxB], whose quittance to Thorney Abbey of land in Charwelton, Nthants., he witnessed [GB, f.206r].
Ricardus de ferendonius f.2v; Farndon, Rthants. [PRNTh., 37, 113].

Rodbertus de ferendonius f.2v; Richard de F. witnessed the Cheneuult family’s Charwelton quiaclain [RB, f.206r].

Fulco de flei f.2v; Goe de flei f.2v; Fleet, Linces. [DEPN, s.n.].

Ricardus de flei f.1v; Richard de F., with sons F. and R. as witnesses, granted Thorney Abbey lands in Tydd St Mary, Linces., at the same time being craved by Roger de Munhenh [Appx8] and William de Ros [Appx8]: as Josce de F., he himself witnessed a grant concerning Tydd by W. de Ros [RB, ff.244r, 247r]. R. de F., when admitted to confraternity, granted the abbey lands in Chukcroft and Neulond, Linces. [RB, f.250r].

Gillebertus de fulcheseurde f.2r; Fulcheseurde f.2v; Folkestone, Hunts. [PRNTh., 186-7]; VCH Hunts., 111, 173-61.

Witness to the 1127 agreement made at Huntingdon between Thorney Abbey and Robert of Yaxley [RB, ff.145r-v]. On being admitted to confraternity, he granted Thorney Abbey land in Folkestone [RB, f.419v]. Later, he held the cowl at Crowland [Raban, Estates (see n.15), 41].

Swanus presbiter de glattun f.3v; Glatton, Hunts. [PRNTh., 187; VCH Hunts., 111, 177-28].

Hugo de golditun f.2v; Goldington, Beds. [PRNTh., 59-60].

Hugo de hantun e f.2v; 7 Northampton [PRNTh., 6; cf. DEPN, s.n. Hampton].

Gillebertus comes de hereford f.2r; Hereford, Hunts. [CF, VI, 498-9; cf. III, 242-4, and also M. Altschul & Bannlon family (Baltimore, 1965), 17-24; PRNTh., 225].

Gilbert, who succeeded to the earldom in 1136x1313 and died in 1152, is entered beside other members of the Clare family; he confirms a Traili [Appx8] grant to Thorney Abbey in Gwelond (Yeldon), Beds. [RB, ff.296v-299v].

Obsexuerus capellanus de hereford f.10v; Eadwine de Hereford? Hertford, Hunts. [DEPN, s.n. Houghton].

Adam de housctune f.4r; Place uncertain [cf. DEPN, s.n. Houghton].

A William de Hochtun witnessed a Thorney deed of ante 1112 concerning Charwelton, Rthants.; in 1124x1129 a royal chamberlain of that name held in Houghton Parva, Rthants. [RB, f.414v; HKE, II, 308, 397]. A Roger brother of W. de Hochtun witnessed the 1127 agreement made at Huntingdon between Thorney Abbey and Robert of Yaxley [RB, ff.145r-v].

Reinaldus de hundetoun f.10v; Huntingdon, Hunts. [PRNTh., 261].

Rodbertus de hundetonna f.3v; Robert de H., on the occasion 1131x1151 of his son Henry’s taking the cowl at Thorney Abbey, granted the monks two houses in the town [RB, f.419r].

Liber vitae of Thorney Abbey
his may be the name commemorated in the Cams. place-name Papworth Everard ([Camba, 8, 97, 195; PNC, 171]; for the Peverel connection, see also Stanton, First Century, 275).

Radulfus 'de milituna' f.10v.

Ricardus de nereford / nereforde f.2v (2x).

Willelmus de nicol' f.1v.

Haroldus canonici prior de normuna f.2v.

Hugo de peleam f.3r.

Herluinus de Rand' f.12r.

Rodericus de roculunda f.10v.

Aluredus 'de romburc' f.3r.

Albrece de rotei' f.10v.

In 1066 Rotelei (Ratley) was held by Thurkill of Arden [GDB, f.241v; above].

Rogerus 'filius comitis de salesberi' f.2v.

Entered in a block otherwise consisting of unidentifiable individuals.

Iohannes de Sancto Albano f.10v.

Rogerus de senglesol f.2v.

Ascelinus de sid' f.12r; Henric de sidam[m] f.12r.

Entered beside members of the Raunds family [above] of Nthants. and of the Traill one [Appx8] of Beds.

Petrus presbiter de stamford f.2v.

Turstanus de stamforde monitarius f.10v.

Guenter de stantun f.3r; Rodbertus de stant' f.1v.

Hunts., and Longstanton, Cams. [PNNH, 257; PNC, 183-4]. The later R. de S. may be the landholder of the name in Fen Stanton [VCH Hunts., II, 285].

Henricus de stif' f.1v.

Aimerio [pres]at of Sunuetum f.3v.

Magister Rannulfus decanus de tetford' f.5v.

In a deed of 1113x1151 Thorney Abbey granted St. George's church, Thetford, to Thetford Priory [RB, f.324v (witness-list omitted)].

Wurlicus presbiter de titt f.2v.

Land-grants to Thorney Abbey in Tydd were witnessed by W. and by Fulco, priestos of Tit [RB, f.244v].

Guilelmus flandremsis de tornehaga f.2r.

Godfriedus de Walscote f.2v.

A Master Gilbert of Walsoken later witnessed a Linca. deed executed by a successor of William de Ros [Appx8] in Thorney Abbey's favour [RB, f.244v].

Rodbertus de Warwic f.3r.

Warwick, Warks. [PWN, 259-60].

Entered in LV beside the Cehun family [Appx8] of Linca. An R. miles de Warwike witnesses Thomas of Arden's confirmation of his family's grants to Thorney Abbey [RB, f.283v].

Rogerus de Woodcroft f.11r.

Woodcroft, Nthants. [PNNH, 234].

Woodcroft was one of the lesser fees of Peterborough Abbey [King, 27].

Magister Willelmus de Wicheford f.2v.

Witchford, Cams. [PNC, 245-6].

Hugo de Wigeoft f.17r.

Wigford, Linca. [PDEP, s.n.].

Hugo miles Filius Roberti de Wigeof granted Thorney Abbey lands in Linca. [RB, ff.251v-252r]; he is entered in LV beside Albert de grell (Appx8). Various other bearers of the by-name also figure in the abbey's transactions [RB, ff.250v-251v].

APPENDIX B: Other by-names

For reasons of space, no attempt is here made to etymologize by-names or to identify places concerned (cf. above n.18). Such matters are to be fully treated in the projected edition of Olof von Felitzen's onomasticon to the LV. Meanwhile, especially for names d'origine, provisional reference may be made to G.Tengvik, Old English Names, Nomina Germanica IV (Uppsala, 1938) and to L.C.Lloyd et alii. The Origins of some Anglo-Norman Families, Harleian Society CIII (Leeds, 1951), and also, even though the two corpora do not greatly overlap, to von Felitzen's own onomasticon to the Liber Wintoniensis, in M.Biddle et alii, eds, Winchester in the Early Middle Ages (Oxford, 1976), 192-221.
Willelmus de Albinico f.2r (2x).

Lord of Belvoir, Leics., through his wife Cecily, daughter of Roger Bigod [Sanders, 12; also below], and sheriff of Rutland. In 1086 his father Main(c) Brito, entered beside him in LV, was a t-i-c in Herts., Nthants., and elsewhere [GBB, ff.145r, 153v-155r, 228r-236v]. W. granted Thorney Abbey lands in Pipewell and in Stoke Albany, Nthants. [RB, ff.205r-v; cf. PNNth, 171-2, 175-6].

Bernardus de Alfa f.3r.

Entered in LV beside the Longueville family [below] of Orton, Hunts. [Quetvart: PNNthu, 193-4]; probably the B. witnessing, as Roges of Orton’s man, the 1127 agreement made at Huntingdon between Thorney Abbey and Robert of Yaxley [RB, ff.145r-v].

Gosfridus de Ardi f.12r.

Entered in LV beside the Raunds family [AppxII]; perhaps linked with the Ernulf de Arde/Ards who as w-t of Count Eustace in 1086 held Trumpington, Cambs. and several manors in Beds. [GBB, ff.196r, 211r; FCamb, 219].

Arnoldus de barnaulle f.3v.

Families of the name held in Nthants., Leics. and elsewhere [RB, 332, 517].

Radulfus barri f.3r.

Entered in LV beside the Crehun family [below] of Leics.

Hugo de bellacampo f.2r: Mahault de belcamb f.3r: Merviel de belcamp f.3r.

H. de B., son of Oliver de B., granted Thorney Abbey land in Etone [RB, f.295v]; this identifies him as lord of Eaton Socon, Beds. [Sanders, 46]. A Maud was mother of Simon I de B. of Bedford [Sanders, 10]. Merviel de B., listed with the Crehun family [below], may have been Alan de C.'s wife [probably the M. de B. mentioned under Leics. in 1130 PR, 89].

Rodbertus de belcane f.3r.

Entered in LV beside the Traill family [below] of Beds.; probably the R. de Belcane witnesses ante lice a charter of theirs in Thorney Abbey’s favour [RB, f.414v].

Hugo le bigot f.3v: Roger le bygod f.10v: Rotbertus bigot f.10v.

Roger le B. held in Framingham, Suffolk, in 1071 and later was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk [Sanders, 46-7; Morris, 47 n.47]; he was present when c.1098 the Thorney Abbey saints’ relics were translated to the new church [English Historical Review LXXV (1970), 44]. His son H. was created earl of Norfolk c.1140 [CP, IX, 575-86].

Hugo de blacheuilla/blacheuilla f.2v: Radulfus de blacheuilla f.2v: Ricardus de blacheuilla f.2v: Warinus de blacheuilla f.2v: Willelmus de blacheuilla f.2v.

Warin de B. is the Quarterus miles attesting the Cheneduit family’s [below] quitclaim to Thorney Abbey land in Charwelton, Nthants. [RB, f.206r].

Goscelinus brito f.3v: Nigellus brito f.2r.

In 1086 G.B. was a t-i-c in Bucks. and Beds. [GBB, ff.152r, 217r]. N.B. is entered in LV beside the Ulweldeuf family [below] of Beds.

Rodbertus de broil f.1v.

He confirmed post 1176 his father Walter’s grant to Thorney Abbey, a gift in Chelser (Chelzing), Herts., and of tithes from Derhamewelle in la Lege; he witnessed others of the abbey’s Beds. deeds [RB, ff.296v-297r, also 295r; cf. PNNth, 216, and AppxA, s.n. la legil]. His grandfather, also Robert, witnessed the agreement made at Huntingdon in 1127 between Thorney Abbey and Robert of Yaxley [RB, ff.145r-v, cf.451r].

Roger de burun[n] f.10v.

In 1086 members of a Burun family were t-i-cs in Leics. and elsewhere [GBB, ff.362r-v, 375r-v].

Hunfridus de buane f.2r.

Entered in LV as avunculus of William de Albinico [above].

Willelmus "cun" f.2r.

Entered in LV as nepos of Ralph de Ulweldeuf [below].

Radulfus Cheneduit f.2v: Roger Chenedruit f.2v: Simon Chenedruit f.2v: Willelmus Chenedruit f.2v.

Landholders in Herts. and in Nthants. [WCH Herts., II, 240, 265; cf. PNNth, 46, and PNNth, 55]. In the mid 12th cent. Ralph C. quitclaimed to Thorney Abbey land in Charwelton, Nthants. [RB, f.206r].

Willelmus le chenteis f.2v.

Entered in LV apparently among associates of William Faverel [below] of Bourn (there seems little call to link him with a W. Centiensis/Centeis occurring in Suffolk records [Douglas, ed., Feudal Documents, 157, 172]).

Radulfus de cheunarchut f.3r.

Entered in LV beside the Longueville family [below] of Hunts.; but his own nearest links seem to be with Leics. and Notts. [Fees, 33, 517, etc.].

Hugo comes de claromontie f.2r.

Entered in LV beside his daughter Alice, who confirmed to Thorney Abbey various estates in Northants. [RB, ff.206v-207r, 229r].

Gunfridus de coe [?] f.10v: Sagar de cê [?] f.10v.

In 1086 the brothers Gunfrid and Sagar de Chocques were t-i-cs in Herts., Beds., Nthants., Leics. and elsewhere [GBB, ff.142r, 216r, 227v-228r, 369v, etc.; NHP, I, 20-53].

Reinaldus corbof f.10v.

Families of the name occur in Norfolk, Suffolk and Camb. [Fees, 127, 138, 200, 282, 346, 390, 403; FCamb, 58; see also B.Selden, Early East-Anghian Nicknames: Baburrihi Names (Lond, 1975), 20].
Robertus de Berghesbury f. 1185.

In 1166, held in Lincoln, London, and elsewhere. [Ba. f. 1185]

Robertus de Berghesbury probably a son of Hugh de Berghesbury, sheriff of Kent, and in 1166.

The family held lands in part of the...1066. [Ba. f. 1185]

Williams maister de Crefman f. 1170.

A family of the same name were holding.... [Ba. f. 1185]

William maister de Crefman by 5,000 a family of the name were holding 1066. [Ba. f. 1185]

Richard Fossard f. 1185.

A richard f. 1185, a richard f. 1185.

Richard Fossard, f. 1185.

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Richard Fossard, f. 1185.

A richard f. 1185, a richard f. 1185.
Willelmus de la mare f.1v.

A family of the name were hereditary constables of Peterborough Abbey; the same or another held land in Wood Ditton, Cambs. [King, 24, 32, 34; PCambs, 41-4]. A Ralph de la M. witnessed the 1127 agreement made at Huntingdon between Thorney Abbey and Robert of Yaxley and figured in another Hunts. transaction [RB, ff.145v-v, 417r].

Hugo melilene f.2r.

Entered in LV as brother of Gilbert of Folksworth [AppxA].

Roger de munbegun f.2r (de munubun f.3v).

Uncle of William de Ros [below], whose land-grant to Thorney Abbey he witnessed [RB, f.244r]; a landholder in Linucs. and elsewhere [VCH Lancs., f. 319-26; also Seals, 149].

Burchardus de muntenorenci f.2r.

Entered in LV as second husband of Thorneys's benefactor, Alice de Clermont.

Willelmus de la manue f.2v.

A landholder in Northants., he figures in LV and elsewhere among associates of William Peverel [below] of Bourn [Stenton, First Century, 275].

Reginaldus of normanuilla f.2v.

By 1160 a family of the name held in Linucs. [HMF, II, 176].

Gilebertus de nova uilla f.2v; Goifridus de nova uilla f.10v; Iohannes de nova uilla f.2v.

Gilbert and J. are entered in LV beside the Fleet family [AppxA] of Linucs. Branches of the Neville family held of Peterborough Abbey as well as in Linucs. [CP, IX, 478; King, 24].

Osmersus viii [enarii] f.3r (2x).

A leading member of the London patriciate [see S. Reynolds, in History LVII (1972), 354 and n.17].

Roger oliuard f.10v; Walter oliuard f.10v.

In 1086 R.0. held land in Cambs. and W. in Nthants.; the family also held from Peterborough Abbey by knight-service [YDB, ff.203v, 229r; King, 25]. Various men of the name witnessed Thorney Abbey documents [RB, ff.145v-v, 419v, etc.].

Hugo de ouille f.1lv; Simon de ouille f.1v.

S. de Ouiilla granted Thorney Abbey rents in Widridele, apparently in Nthants. [RB, ff.205v-206r]. Both H. and S. also had Linucs. connections [e.g., PR 1174-5, 149; PR 1180-1, 60].

Emma mater Alain de perci f.3v.

A daughter of Hugh de Port, the 1086 holder of Isleham and Snailwell, Cambs., manors held in 1166 by Alan de Percy [YDB, ff.199v-v; PCambs, 140, 150-2].

**Liber Vitae of Thorney Abbey**

Willelmus peurel f.3v; Willelmus peureel f.2v.

Respectively: William Peverel 'of Dover'; and his nephew, heir and namesake, 'of Bourn', who granted Thorney Abbey lands in Wilden, Beds. [RB, 297r, also 82r, 127r; Sanders, 19, 151; PCambs, 160-1, 182; cf. above s.n. Luniarium].

Hamo pichard f.2v.

A landholder in Cambs. and in Hunts., he appears in LV and elsewhere among associates of William Peverel [above] of Bourn [Stenton, First Century, 275; 1160-9 PR, 147, etc.].

Eustachius picot f.3r; Roger picot f.3r.

An R.P. occurs under Cambs. and Linucs. in 1130 [PR, 45, 112; PCambs, 124-5]. An E.P., probably descended from P. the 1086 sheriff of Cambs., in 1166 held land in Rampton, Cambs. [PCambs, 3, 192; RB, I, 368; cf. AppxA, s.n. Medigale].

Rogerus de pisii f.3r.

He figures in LV and elsewhere as an associate of the Creham family [above] of Linucs. ['The Fee of Creon', 163].

Matilda de port f.2v.

Entered in LV as wife of Ralph Cheneduit [above].

G. ridel f.10v.

Probably Geoffrey R. (ob.1120), the justiciar [DNB, s.n. Ridel].

Amechinus de ros f.2r; Willelmus de ros f.2r (2x).

W. de R., a nephew of Roger de Munbegun [above], when receiving spiritual benefits from Thorney Abbey, granted the monks land in Tydd St Mary, Linucs., witnesses to this including R. de M. and Josce of Fleet [AppxA] [RB, f.244r]. William himself figures as witness elsewhere [RB, f.233v].

Iohannes de Stuteruilla f.2v.

A major landholder in Nthants. and other Midland counties, he confirmed to Thorney Abbey pro fraternitate loci land in Wapa, Rutland [RB, ff.232r-v].

Yvar talebois f.3v.

Witness to a mid-12th-cent. confirmation to Thorney Abbey of lands in Beds.; probably a son of the Talebois enrolled on f.10r of the LV, and either son of or the same as the Talebois, witnessing the 1127 agreement made at Huntingdon between the abbey and Robert of Yaxley [RB, ff.295r, 145v-v].

Rodbertus de tiuile f.2r.

Entered in LV beside the Wildebeuf family [below] of Beds. Tiville families held land in Beds., Hunts., and Norfolk [HMF, III, 180-1, 265].

Willelmus de todenele f.10v.

Father-in-law of Roger Bigot of Framlingham [above], whose group of entries immediately precedes his. In 1086 the Tosny family were
major t-i-ecs in Herts., Norfolk and elsewhere, the caput of the
honour being at Flamstead, Herts. [GGB, ff.62v, 138r, 168r, 176r,
183r-v; LDB, 91r, 235r-236r; CP, XII/1 753-75].

Gesfridus de trealli f.3r; Gesfridus de trealli f.10v; Alu uxor Josfridi de
trealli f.2r; Walter de t[realie] f.12r; Willelmus de t[realie] f.12r.

Landholders in Beds. [W.Farrer, 'The Honour of Old Warden',
Publications of the Bedfordshire Historical Records Society XI (1927),
1-46]. Ante 1112 Geoffrey de T., whose confraternity-agreement
survives, granted Thorney Abbey land and tithe in Yelden, Beds. [RB,
ff.299v, 414v].

Hugo de uldebobo f.3v; Radulfus de uueldebuef f.2r.

As u- of the Beachamps, the family (otherwise de Uldebof) held
land in Beds., where they granted Thorney Abbey lands in Colnworth
and in Sandy [RB, ff.299r, and 295v, 303r-v, 319v, 319v].

Baldinus de uiri f.2v; Waleran de uiri f.2v.

The D'Oyry family of South Lincolnshire were benefactors of Thorney
Abbey and figure several times in RB [ff.247v-248r, 250r, 259r]; see further
K. Major, The D'Oyrys of South Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Holderness
(Lincoln, 1984).

Atselinus de walterului f.10v.

He witnessed a deed ante 1112 concerning Thorney Abbey's rights in
Charwelton, Warks. [RB, f.414v, also f.415v]. The family, whose
names are preserved in Orton Waterville, Hunts., were hereditary
stewards of Peterborough Abbey [King, 24, 32-3; VCH Hunts., III.
198-200].

APPENDIX C: Unidentifiable individuals

As yet no firm territorial links in England have been established for:

Gesfridus de angioio f.3r; Petrus de aretin f.10v; Robertus de caho f.2v;
Rodbertus de ierualen f.10v; Willelmus de lauer f.3r; Hugo de maul f.9v.

Rogerus de ormig' f.1v; Iohannes de rotomago f.3r; Rodbertus capellanus de
rotomago f.10v; Randulfus de war' f.10v; Alanus de uned' f.1v; Lewenru.

Rogmentum alein f.10v; Leoiiinus architectus f.10v; Simon bened' f.10v;
Armiichui[n] li blint f.3r; Radulphus buche f.12r; Hugo/Willelmus bernel f.2v;
Leoiiinus carpentarius f.10v; Godgkue uxor petri cementarii f.3r; Adane
constabularius f.2v; Guiterius coterei f.2r; Willelmus cruzepes f.1v; Leofric
dua f.5v; Albertus de engles f.3v; E[vine/Leuine/luiber f.9v, 5v;
Harold Frisien f.9v; Siual God' f.1v; Iohannes gurdan f.1v; Leoiiinus heort
f.3v; Atsere hofo f.10v [but cf. Appxo, n.n. hefede]; Willelmus kouerol f.9v;
Walter laceru[n] f.9v; Rodbertus languinu f.2v; A[lphon] lethewar f.5v;
Rodbertus mutus f.3r; A[ier] numallarius f.9v; Langliue 'num' f.10v;
Alricuris palmarius f.2r; Iohannes palmararius f.4r; Rainulfus le palmer f.5v;
Alifricus piscator f.3r; Bri[e/ricardus] ringolus/pictor f.3r; 5v; Ricardus
'Bid' f.10v; Willelmus ecot f.10v; Alman tinctor f.9v; Vulunei tobof f.10v;
Alanus valtrarilus f.3r; Iuu uenator f.2v; Alerk wort f.3r; Azo ybriue f.3v.

N.B. Not all occupational by-names have been included in the above list;
ecclasticall titles are excluded, and instances of 'cocus', 'tagifer',
etc., have been disregarded when context implies the individuals
concerned to have been dependants of a particular magnate.

The field-name suffix -ryd is undoubtedly a key word for those
interested in the history of the landscape in West Yorkshire. It has long
been recognized that it describes land newly cleared of trees, but its
particular attraction lies in the possibility that it use chronologically
might be defined with some precision. As it is one of the finest
field-name elements in the region, accurate information relating to its rise
and decline as a descriptive naming suffix, would clearly tell us more about
the whole question of woodland clearance in the Middle Ages.

It is already clear that riod was the everyday word for many of the
assarts mentioned in medieval documents. Such clearances, unlike the common
arable fields, were enclosed with fences of one kind or another, and
consequently it is frequently possible even now to locate their boundaries,
either on maps or in the present-day fields. Therefore the place-name
evidence, in conjunction with the archaeological and botanical evidence,
could be used to indicate where a particular clearance was carried out.
It can additionally provide information on a range of related topics, including
the size and shape of the assarts, the type of woodland removed, the nature
of the cleared ground, finally the use of land and, finally, the names
of people involved with it throughout its history. This is only possible,
however, if the assart can be identified with absolute accuracy.

The restricted distribution of the element, already discussed elsewhere,
is the result of a localised pronunciation of the more widespread OE *rōd*,
and the spelling is common from the 16th century at least. However, it
should not be assumed, simply because of this local distribution, that each
royd possessed characteristics common to the whole of the region.
In the Calder Valley, for example, a number of roys gave rise to distinctive
surnames in the period 1275-1375, but this did not happen in neighbouring
tributary valleys such as the Colne, even though the place-name element was
common there also. It seems likely that this had something to do with the
timings of the clearances, but there is also a clear inference that the
Calderdale roysords were the sites of settlements, or closely associated with
them from the very beginning.

If a major aim is to define more precisely when *rod* or *royd* came
into use and when it declined, one method must be to accumulate accurate data
on individual clearances in a variety of areas. It is, therefore, intended
to examine the histories of a number of well-documented roys in townships
to the north of the Calder. Initially, however, its seems workable referring
to a general conclusion which has already been advanced. It is said, for
example, that the element is a later term than OE *beorh*, first coming into
prominence in the twelfth century and markedly common by the 1300s, an
argument which hinges on the fact that most of the personal names it
combines with are Middle English in character.

This conclusion appears to be borne out in the evidence from the
Huddersfield area, for in the township of Almondbury, which has forty roys,
almost half fall into this category, e.g. Addcock Royd, Gib Royd, Daw Royd,
Hudd Royd of Huddersfield. In Wirk Royd, it is Wirk Royd. Even so it is by no means unusual in early
documents, to find *rod* linked with a distinctive personal name which is OE
or ON in character, e.g. Thorrothrod (Huddersfield), 7 Godwynderode (Elland),
and Ulfklerode (Kirkburton). 8 The most explicit name of this kind is probably
Levdurorode (Kirkheaton), described c.1200 as containing three acres
quas ipsa Wulchef tenuit. 10 Many other names of this type, such as
Adelwaldrode (Flockton), 11 or even Thorkilroyd (Thurstonland), 12 which