

The Settle market charters

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The first market charter for Settle was granted in 1249 by Henry III (1216-1272) to Henry de Percy. The manor of Settle held by Richard de Percy was passed to his son Henry in 1258 as recorded in Charter Rolls [CChR, 1258].

Inspeximus and confirmation of a charter, whereby Richard de Percy gave to Henry de Percy, his son, for his homage and service, his manor of Bellum Alnetum and the town of Setel in Ribblesdale, to be held by the said Henry, his heirs and assigns, from the grantor and his heirs; witnesses, Sir Godfrey de Alta Ripa, Sir Henry de Dayvill, Sir Reinbald de Montibus, Sir Henry Teutonicus, Sir William de Dayvill, knights, Master Geoffrey de Larderria, canon of ...um, John, canon of Newborough, Ralph de Skipton, Herbert de Neweby, Robert de Stiveton, and Henry Carpenter.

Eventually the manor of Settle came into the hands of the Duke of Devonshire, whose seat at Chatsworth House is where a copy of a later market charter (1708) is kept – but not the original of 1249.

The National Archives record the full confirmation document (in Latin) in the Charter Rolls [TNA, C53/41] and Settle Town Hall hold a photograph of it. A pencilled translation is held by the West Yorkshire Archive Service [WYAS DB24/C4].

The King, to his Archbishops greeting. Know ye that we have granted and by this our charter have confirmed to Henry de Percy, son of Richard de Percy, that he and his heirs may have for ever a market every week on Tuesday at his manor of Settle. And that they may have there a fair every year, lasting for three days, to wit, on the vigil, the day, and the morrow of St Laurence, with all liberties and customs to such market and fair belonging, unless such market and fair be to the hurt of neighbouring markets and neighbouring fairs. Wherefore we will and firmly command, for ourselves and our heirs, that the aforesaid Henry and his heirs may have for ever a market every week on Tuesday at his manor of Settle, and that they may have there a fair every year lasting for three days, to wit, on the vigil, the day, and the morrow of St Laurence, with all liberties and free customs to such market and fair appertaining, unless such market and fair be to the hurt of neighbouring markets and neighbouring fairs as is aforesaid. These being witnesses: - the venerable father, P. Bishop of Hereford; Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester; Peter de Sabandia; John Maunsel, provost of Beverley; Paul Peyver; Geoffrey Despencer; Geoffrey de Langley; Ralph de Wauney; William Gernum, and others. Given by our hand at Merton in the xii day of April XXXIII year of our reign. (12th April 1249).

St Lawrence's day is August 10th.

For Charter Rolls after 1226 there are printed calendars (summaries), in English. The Calendar of Charter Rolls for 1249 gives the abstract [CChR, 1249].

April 12. Merton.

Grant to Henry de Percy, son of Richard de Percy, and his heirs of a weekly market on Tuesday at his manor of Setel, and of a yearly fair there on the vigil, the feast and the morrow of St. Lawrence.

The following item in the Close Rolls of 15 April 1249 [CR, 1249], a few days after the charter date, is a mandate to the Sheriff of York to read the charter in full session of the county court and henceforth cause the market to be held. The text is essentially that of the full charter.

15 April 1249

Pro Henrico filio Ricardi de Percy. - Rex concessit per Cartam Suam Henrico filio Ricardi de Percy, quod ipse et heredes sui imperpetuum habeant unum mercatum singulis septimanis per die (sic) Martis apud manerium suum de Setel', et quod habeant ibidem unam feriam

singulis annis duratum per tres dies, videlicet in vigilia in die et in crostino Sancti Laurencii, cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus ad hujusmodi mercatum et feriam pertinentibus, nisi mercatum illud et feria illa fuit ad nocumentum vicinorum mercatorum

et vicinarum feriarum; et mandatum est vicecomiti Eboraci quod predictum mercatum et feriam in pleno comitatu suo legi et decetero firmiter teneri faciat. Teste ut supra.

These legal documents were needed to give official approval, with shortened versions of confirmation and declaration in court in York recorded in the Calendars and Close Rolls.

Clay [1949] shows a photograph of the 1249 charter held by Percy and the Latin text, but not a translation. Clay says that the charter was discovered unexpectedly in Whitaker's own copy of the second edition of *The history and antiquities of the Deanery of Craven* acquired recently by Mr H.L. Bradfer-Lawrence.

The 1708 charter

A petition for a grant for additional markets was made on behalf of Richard Boyle, great grandson of the second Earl of Cork, who succeeded to the earldoms of Cork and Burlington in 1703, and to the lordship of the manor of Settle. The lengthy details of the full petition for a new charter as granted by Queen Anne on 26 May 1708 have been printed by Brayshaw and Robinson [1932, p.126].

The charter as granted is recorded in Patent Rolls [TNA C66/3464] because after 1517 the Charter Rolls were discontinued. Photographs of the four pages are held at Settle Town Hall. A copy of the new grant is held in the archives of Chatsworth House which inconsequentially differs slightly in expanding the first and last sentences. This 1708 charter is much more detailed than the grant of 1249.

In a footnote in the third edition of *The history and antiquities of the Deanery of Craven* Whitaker [1878] says: 'There is the docket of a confirmation of a weekly market and annual fair at Settle to the earl of Burlington, dated May 24, 1708; Harl MSS. No. 2263, fol. 225'.

This confirmation is printed in Speight [p.83, 1892] and can be viewed online at archive.org [Manuscripts in the Harleian Collection, 1808].

A confirmation to Richard, Earl of Burlington, and his heirs, of an antient Weekly Market on Tuesday, and a Fair yearly held for three days on the Vigil, upon the day and on the morrow of St Lawrence within the manor of Setel in the County of York. And also a grant to him and his heires of several other new Faires to be held yearly within the town of Setel in the said county on the days following, vizt. – One Fair on the Tuesday next before Palm Sunday for the buying and selling all sorts of cattle, goods, wares, and merchandizes. Another on the 15th of April for sheep, another on Tuesday next after Whitsunday, for all sorts of cattle, goods, wares, and merchandizes, another on the 23rd June for lambs, another on the 12th October for sheep, another on the Tuesday next after the 16th day of October for all sorts of cattle, goods, wares, and merchandizes, and another on Fryday in every other weeke during three months successively, yearly, to begin on Fryday before Easter, for buying and selling all sorts of cattle.

According to Her Majestie's pleasure signified by Warrant, under Her Royal Signe Manual, countersigned by Mr Secretary Boyle, subscribed by Mr Solicitor Generall.

John Tench, Deputy to Thomas Gosling Esq.

A proclamation was made in 1709, a copy of which is attached to the 1708 charter copy held at Chatsworth House.

17th Oct: 1709 A Cobby of ye Proclamacon for Settle Fair

17th Oct: 1709 A Cobby of ye Agreement betwe

The Rt Ho(noura)ble Richard Earle of Burlington Cork Baron Clifford Lord Boyle Baron of Youghall Bandon Viscount Kinalmeaky and Dungarvan Lord Leivetenent And Custos Rotuloris of ye West Rideing of ye County of York In his Ma(jes)ties name doth strictly charge & Comand

1st That all and every person & persons that shall Repair, resort and come into this fair and Markett, doe well and Dutifully Observe and keep his Ma(jes)ties peace Laws & Statutes made, for ye Breach of Peace in Fairs & Marketts.

2nd That No person or persons attempt or presume to Ride or goe Armed, or to Carry weare or bear, any Armour, or Weapon, within ye liberty of and during the time of ye faire & Markett here holden, Contrary to ye Same Laws & Statutes (Except such as be attending on ye Steward of ye said Faire) upon ye paine of Forfeiting Such armour or Weapon, And further to be Imprisoned & punished, according to ye Laws and Statutes in that case made & provided.

3rd That all and every person & persons doe Bargaine & Sell Sound and Lawfull Goods, Chattles, wares and Merchandize, And use Lawfull & Allowed Weights & Measures, without fraud or deceit, upon paine of Forfeiting the Same Goods & Chattles, wares and Merchandize, Or ye value thereof.

4^o That noe person or persons bargaine or buy any horses, Geldings or Mares within & during the time of ye Faire aforesaid, Before true Testimony bee given of the Lawfull Owner, And thereupon be Entered in ye Toll book kept for this fair, according to ye Statute in ye case provided Nor take nor withdraw any Such Horses, Geldings or Mares or any other Goods, Chattles, Wares or Merchandize, Sold and bought within and during ye time of this faire, & Markett, before due Toll be paid for ye same, to ye Officer or Officers, appointed for ye receipt thereof, upon ye Like paine of Forfeiting ye Same, Horses, geldings, Mares, Goods, Chattles, wares, Merchandize, or ye value thereof.

5 And lastly If any person or persons have any wrong or Injury done to them by reason of any Contract, or bargaine, made within and during the time of this faire & Markett Lett 'em repaire to ye Steward thereof att his Chamber, And Informe their Cause, in Course of Law, And ye Same Shall be heard & Tried according to Law Justice & Equity.

God Save King George (~~Queen Anne~~) & the Rt Ho(nour)able Richard Earle of Burlington &c.

Brayshaw and Robinson [1932, p128] give the same text but the proclamation made at a later time is prefaced with

The Most Noble William Duke of Devonshire, Chief Lord of this Fair, In his majesty's Name does strictly charge and command

and finishes

God Save the King and the Most Noble William Spencer, Duke of Devonshire, The Steward, and Gentlemen attending him.

The proclamation was made at the market cross at the start of every fair.

Acknowledgements

The supply without charge of a copy of the 1708 charter and the attached proclamation held at Chatsworth House, in the Devonshire Manuscripts, by kind permission of the Chatsworth House Trust, archivist Aidan Haley, is gratefully acknowledged. Sothebys (Ms Kolila) and the Special Collections in the Brotherton Library at Leeds University (Dr Rebecca Bowd) have provided very helpful information.

References

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CChR, Calendar of Charter Rolls, 1258. 42 Henry III Edward I, vol. 2, 1257-1300
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