

# THE CISTERCIAN ECONOMY

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# The Ideology

- The Desert
- Manual Labour



# Sources of Revenue

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- Land
- No tithes
- No churches
- No spiritualia
- No manors
- No mills
- No manorial revenues / serfs / labour services

# Administration

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- Granges
- Conversi
- Monks can visit granges but not stay long
- Granges within a day's journey of the abbey
- No dealings with lay people

# The evidence

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- Cistercians: EP, Capitula
- BUT no specific mention in *Apologia*
- Orderic Vitalis (tithes / manual labour)
- William of Malmesbury (manual labour)

# The debate

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- How soon did this 'ideology' emerge?
- Constance Bouchard, *Holy Entrepreneurs*
- Constance Berman, *Cistercian Evolution*

# When ....?

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- By 1119?
- By 1125?
- By 1132 (papal concession on *novalia*)?
- By 1134 (death of Stephen Harding)?
- By 1147 (Waddell's dating of *EP*)?
- By 1153 (death of Bernard)?

# Two reputations

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- Depopulation
- Clearance of new land

# The Desert

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- Walter Map

*Desert places they do assuredly find ... or  
make!*

# Depopulation at:

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- Sites (No monastery shall be constructed within cities, castles, manors ....) [EP]
- Estates (We may possess for our own use streams, woodlands, meadows, lands far removed from the dwellings of seculars) [Capitula]

# Depopulation: the evidence

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- Chronicles

- Charters

# Finding a site

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What were the problems?

What patrons would give

“An old country”

# Depopulation at abbey sites

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- Revesby (charter / Life of Ailred)
- Stoneleigh
- Byland (Historia)
- Pipewell
- Barnoldswick / Kirkstall (chronicle)
- Meaux (chronicle / DB)
- Rufford (charter)
- Combe

# Byland Abbey

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# Five sites

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- Calder (Cumbria) 1135-1138 (destroyed by Scots)
- Hood 1138-1142 (site too restricted)
- Old Byland 1142-1147 (site too close to Rievaulx and abandoned at the time of the merger of the Savigniacs and the Cistercians)

# Byland cont...

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- Old Byland a DB vill with a church; some relocation of population in 1142; in 1147 'redacta est in grangiam' – 'it was reduced to a grange'
- Oldstead / Stocking 1147-1177
- 1177- New Byland: the site required clearance and draining



# Kirkstall Abbey

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- 1147 founded at Barnoldswick by Abbot Alexander and monks of Fountains on a site granted by Henry de Lacy; vill and church
- Church destroyed and alternative arrangements made with the elevation of two chapels to the status of mother church
- 1152: move to Kirkstall (site of hermitage)

# Depopulation on estates and granges

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Sallay (Akerland grange) – men allowed to finish season before moving out

Kirkstall (Accrington grange) – inhabitants moved and vill 'reduced to a grange for the use of the monks'

Fountains (Baldersby grange, Cayton grange)

# DOMESDAY BOOK

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- Evidence of occupation in sites which become Cistercian
- The relationship between Cistercian settlement and DB waste

# The granges of Rievaulx and Fountains

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- 40% of granges coincide with DB waste

# Cistercians as colonizers

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- Stanlaw Abbey, charter of c. 1210

*It is allowed to them ... to place lay men in the vill called Acton (Cheshire) in order to cultivate the ground*

# Evidence

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- Charters granting permission to ASSART
- Charters granting one of the following:
  - terra vasta
  - brueria (heathland)
  - Spina (thorny ground)

# AND ...

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- Chronicle evidence for assarting
- Names (St Mary de Essartis = Warden; Neath's 'grange of the assarts')
- First appearance of place names in Cistercian cartularies
- Fines in Pipe Rolls for illegal trespass in forest

# Cistercian activities

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- Drainage of Fenland (Sawtry, Swineshead) and in ER (Meaux)
- Clearance of marshland (Louth Park, Kirkstead, Revesby)
- Land brought into arable cultivation
- Clearance and felling of woodland